

**SUMMARY OF 2009 CENSUS OF  
AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This report summarizes data collected during a statewide census of the American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) in Massachusetts during the 2009 breeding season. This census was conducted by observers affiliated with a statewide network of cooperating agencies and organizations. The American Oystercatcher is a large, strikingly colored shorebird that nests on coastal beaches along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida. Although the species has expanded its range and increased in abundance in New England over the past 50 years, its range extension northward along the Atlantic Coast may well be a recolonization of formerly occupied habitat (Forbush 1912). On a continental scale, the American Oystercatcher is one of the most uncommon species of breeding shorebirds in North America and is designated a *Species of High Concern* in the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan (Brown et. al. 2001).

### **METHODS**

Data on American Oystercatcher abundance, distribution, and reproductive success were collected by a coast-wide group of cooperators that included full-time and seasonal biologists and coastal waterbird monitors, beach managers, researchers, and volunteers. This is the same group that conducts annual censuses of Piping Plovers and terns in Massachusetts (Melvin 2010, Mostello 2010).

Observers censused adult oystercatchers during or as close as possible to the designated census period of 22 - 31 May 2009, in order to minimize double-counting of birds that might move between multiple sites during the breeding season. The 2009 census period was the same as in 2005-2008 and was intended to closely target the peak of oystercatcher nesting statewide, when breeding pairs may be most accurately censused. Abundance was reported for each site both as total number of adults (pairs, single birds, or groups of apparently unpaired birds) and number of breeding pairs (pairs of adult birds with nests or chicks or that exhibited territorial, courtship, or distraction behavior at a site). Birds were not tallied as “pairs” at frequently monitored sites if there was no evidence of nesting or sustained territorial or courtship behavior. Instead, such birds were tallied in “Total Adults”.

Cooperators were asked to report numbers of young fledged for each pair, if known. Chicks were considered to have fledged if they survived to  $\geq 30$  days of age or were able to fly,

whichever occurred first. We also asked cooperators to report numbers and locations of large assemblages of post-breeding oystercatchers and the dates they were observed.

## RESULTS

Observers reported totals of 382 adults and 178.5 pairs of American Oystercatchers at 87 sites in Massachusetts in 2009 (Table 1), from a total of 229 sites surveyed (Tables 1, 2). The discrepancy between total number of adults and number of adults comprising pairs is due to observations made during or near the time of the census period of single adults and groups of 2 to 5 adults that appeared to be unpaired or for which pairing status could not be determined. The largest numbers of breeding pairs were reported from Nantucket (39.5 pairs exclusive of Tuckernuck and Muskeget islands), Martha's Vineyard (35 pairs exclusive of Nomans Land Island), Lower Cape Cod (33 pairs), and the Boston Harbor Islands (20 pairs) (Tables 1, 2). Individual sites with the largest numbers of pairs were the Coskata-Coatue area of Nantucket (26 pairs), Tuckernuck Island (10 pairs), North Monomoy Island, Chatham (8 pairs), South Monomoy Island, Chatham (8 pairs), Eel Point, Nantucket (7.5 pairs), Minimoy Island, Chatham (6 pairs), Ram Island, Mattapoisett (6 pairs), Penikese Island, Gosnold (6 pairs), and Snake Island, Winthrop (5 pairs) (Table 1).

Statewide, at least 69 chicks were reported to have fledged from 154.5 pairs for which productivity could be determined, for an overall productivity of 0.45 chicks fledged per pair in 2009.

Relatively few observers submitted reports of post-breeding concentrations of adult and fledged hatch-year oystercatchers. The largest reported post-breeding concentrations of oystercatchers were 51 birds at Coatue, Nantucket on August 24, 2009; 18 birds on August 5 at Tern Island, Chatham; 13 birds on September 7 at Eel Point, Nantucket; and 11 birds on August 7 at Esther's Island, Nantucket. Reports of post-breeding counts of oystercatchers were not submitted for the traditional concentration areas of South Beach Island and Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge in Chatham.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our sincere thanks to the many biologists, seasonal shorebird monitors, beach managers, landowners, and volunteers that participated in monitoring and protection efforts for American Oystercatchers and other coastal waterbirds in Massachusetts in 2009. This work was carried out by cooperators from state and federal agencies, local municipalities, county government, private conservation groups, and universities. We especially thank all the individuals who collected and submitted the data that are summarized in this report.

## LITERATURE CITED

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**Table 1. Results of 2009 census of American Oystercatchers in Massachusetts.**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Total adults<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>No. chicks fledged<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. pairs with fledge data<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Source<sup>d</sup></b>
<b>NORTH SHORE</b>					
Salisbury Beach - North, Salisbury <sup>e</sup>	0	0	0	0	DCR
Salisbury Beach - South, Salisbury <sup>e</sup>	0	0	0	0	DCR
Woodbridge Island, Newburyport	nd <sup>f</sup>	nd	nd	nd	nd
Plum Island town beaches, Newburyport/Newbury	0	0	0	0	FWS
Parker River NWR, Newbury/Rowley	0	0	0	0	FWS
Sandy Point State Res., Ipswich	0	0	0	0	FWS
Crane Beach, Ipswich	0	0	0	0	TTOR
Coffin's Beach, Gloucester	0	0	0	0	DFW
Wingaersheek Beach, Gloucester	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Ram Is., Manchester	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
North Gooseberry Is., Salem	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Coney Is., Salem	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Cat Is., Salem	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Revere Beach, Revere	0	0	0	0	MAS
Winthrop Beach, Winthrop	0	0	0	0	MAS
Yirrell Beach, Winthrop	2	1	3	1	MAS
<b>BOSTON HARBOR</b>					
Snake Is., Winthrop	10	5	nd <sup>g</sup>	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Logan Airport, Boston	4	2	0	1	MAS
The Graves, Hull	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Green Island, Hull	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Little Calf Is., Hull	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Calf Is., Hull	4	2	nd	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Outer Brewster Is., Hull	2	1	0	1	C. Trocki / NPS

<b>Location</b>	<b>Total adults<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>No. chicks fledged<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. pairs with fledge data<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Source<sup>d</sup></b>
Middle Brewster Is., Hull	2	1	0	1	C. Trocki / NPS
Great Brewster Is., Hull	4	2	nd	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Little Brewster Is., Hull	2	1	0	1	C. Trocki / NPS
Shag Rocks, Hull	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Lovells Is., Boston	2	1	0	1	C. Trocki / NPS
Gallops Is., Boston	2 <sup>h</sup>	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Georges Is., Boston	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Rainsford Is., Boston	2	1	1	1	C. Trocki / NPS
Spectacle Is., Boston	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Thompson Is., Boston	2	1	0	1	C. Trocki / NPS
Hangman Is., Quincy	3 <sup>h</sup>	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Peddocks Is., Hull	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Sheep Is., Weymouth	4	2	nd	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Grape Is., Weymouth	2 <sup>i</sup>	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Slate Is., Weymouth	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Bumpkin Is., Hingham	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Langlee Is., Hingham	2	1	0	1	C. Trocki / NPS
Ragged Is., Hingham	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Sarah Is., Hingham	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Button Is., Hingham	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
<b>SOUTH SHORE</b>					
Third Cliff, Scituate	0	0	0	0	MAS
Fourth Cliff, Scituate	0	0	0	0	MAS
Rexhame Beach, Marshfield	0	0	0	0	MAS
Duxbury Beach, Duxbury/Plymouth	7 <sup>j</sup>	1	0	1	MAS, Town of Duxbury
Plymouth Beach, Plymouth	0	0	0	0	Town of Plymouth
Ellisville, Plymouth <sup>k</sup>	0	0	0	0	MAS

<b>Location</b>	<b>Total adults<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>No. chicks fledged<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. pairs with fledge data<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Source<sup>d</sup></b>
Sagamore Beach, Bourne and Sandwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
Scusset Beach State Res., Sandwich	0	0	0	0	MAS, DCR
<b>UPPER CAPE</b>					
Mashnee Dike, Bourne	0	0	0	0	ACOE
Bassetts Island, Bourne	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Black Beach/Sippewisset, West Falmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Woodneck Beach, W. Falmouth	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Acapesket Beach, Falmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Menauhant Beach, Falmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Menauhant Yacht Club Beach, Falmouth	0	0	0	0	WBNERR
Washburn Island, Falmouth	2	1	0	1	WBNERR
South Cape Beach, Mashpee	0	0	0	0	WBNERR
New Seabury, Mashpee	0	0	0	0	WBNERR
Rock Landing/Maushop Village, Mashpee	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Popponeset Spit, Mashpee	0	0	0	0	MAS
Town Neck Beach, Sandwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
Springhill Beach, Sandwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
East Sandwich Beach, Sandwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
Scorton (Neck) Creek, Sandwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
Scorton Shores, Sandwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
Sandy Neck, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	Town of Barnstable
Sampson's Is.-Dead Neck, Barnstable	2	1	0	1	MAS
Bone Hill Road, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS
Dowse's Beach, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	Town of Barnstable
Long Beach, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS
Craigville Beach, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS
Squaw Island, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS

<b>Location</b>	<b>Total adults<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>No. chicks fledged<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. pairs with fledge data<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Source<sup>d</sup></b>
Sea St. / Keyes Beach, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS
Kalmus Park Beach, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	Town of Barnstable
Mussel Point, Barnstable	2	1	0	1	MAS
Gray's Beach, Yarmouth	2	1	0	1	MAS
Seagull Beach / Radio City, Yarmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Great Island, Yarmouth	2	1	0	1	MAS
Bass River Beach, Yarmouth	nd	nd	nd	nd	MAS
West Dennis Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Chapin Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Mayflower Beach / Town Landings, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Howe St. Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Corporation Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Sesuit Harbor Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Quivett Neck / Coles Pond / Crowes Pasture, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Miramar Beach (Swan River), Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Cold Storage Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Town of Dennis, MAS
Wings Island, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Paine's Creek, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Robbins Hill Beach, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Saint's Landing, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Point of Rocks Landing, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Town Beach, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Ellis Landing Beach, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Linell Landing Beach, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Crosby Landing Beach, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS, DCR
Bank St. / Merkel Beach / Wychmere, Harwichport	0	0	0	0	MAS
Red River Beach, Harwich	0	0	0	0	MAS



Location	Total adults <sup>a</sup>	Total pairs <sup>a</sup>	No. chicks fledged <sup>b</sup>	No. pairs with fledge data <sup>c</sup>	Source <sup>d</sup>
Allens Harbor, Harwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
Saquatucket Bluffs, Harwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
<b>LOWER CAPE</b>					
Forest Beach, Chatham	2 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Cockle Cove / Ridgevale Beach, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Pleasant St. Beach, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Harding Shores, Chatham	2 <sup>m</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Harding Beach, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Harding Beach Point, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
North Monomoy Island, Chatham	16	8	0	8	FWS, MAS
South Monomoy Island, Chatham	16	8	3	8	FWS, MAS
“Minimoy Island”, Chatham	12	6	1	6	FWS, MAS
South Beach, Chatham	8	4	2	4	MAS
Morris Is. dredge spoil, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Tern Island, Chatham	2 <sup>n</sup>	1	0	1	MAS
Claflin Landing / Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
North Beach Island, Chatham	4	2	0	2	Town of Chatham
North (Nauset) Beach, Chatham	0	0	0	0	Town of Chatham
North (Nauset) Beach, Orleans	0 <sup>o</sup>	0	0	0	Town of Orleans
Nauset Spit (Heights), Orleans	2	1	0	1	Town of Orleans
New Island / Nauset Cove, Orleans	0	0	0	0	Town of Orleans
Skaket Beach, Orleans	0	0	0	0	Town of Orleans
Rock Harbor (north side), Orleans	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
First Encounter Beach, Eastham	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	2	1	0	1	NPS
So. Sunken Meadow Spit, Eastham	2 <sup>p</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Marconi Beach / LeCount Hollow, Wellfleet	0	0	0	0	NPS

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Lieutenant Island, Wellfleet	2	1	0	1	MAS
Indian Neck / Field Point, Wellfleet	0	0	0	0	MAS
Jeremy Point/Great Island, Wellfleet	2	1	0	1	NPS
Duck Harbor, Wellfleet	0	0	0	0	NPS
Bound Brook, Wellfleet	0	0	0	0	NPS
Ryder Beach, Truro	0	0	0	0	NPS
Pamet Harbor-South, Truro	0	0	0	0	MAS
Pamet Harbor-North / Corn Hill Beach, Truro	0	0	0	0	MAS
Pond Village Beach, Truro	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Pilgrim Beach / Beach Point, Truro	0	0	0	0	MAS
Ballston Beach / Newcomb Hollow, Truro	0	0	0	0	NPS
Longnook Beach, Truro	0	0	0	0	NPS
Highland Beach, Truro	0	0	0	0	NPS
High Head / Head of the Meadow, Truro	0	0	0	0	NPS
Race Point - South Beach, Provincetown / Truro	0	0	0	0	NPS
Race Point - North Beach, Provincetown	0	0	0	0	NPS
Provincetown Harbor	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Long Point/Wood End, Provincetown	0	0	0	0	NPS
<b>BRISTOL COUNTY</b>					
Stony Point Dike, Wareham	2	1	0	1	ACOE
Long Beach Point, Wareham	3 <sup>q</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Little Harbor Beach, Wareham	2	1	0	0	MAS
Ram Island, Marion	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Rock Is., Sippican Harbor, Marion	2	1	0	1	DFW
Bird Island, Marion	8	4	5-6 <sup>r</sup>	4	DFW
Strawberry Point, Mattapoissett	2 <sup>s</sup>	1 <sup>s</sup>	nd	0	nd
South Shore Marshes WMA, Mattapoissett	2	1	nd	0	DFW

<b>Location</b>	<b>Total adults<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>No. chicks fledged<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. pairs with fledged data<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Source<sup>d</sup></b>
Nasketucket Point, Mattapoissett	0	0	0	0	DCR
Ram Island, Mattapoissett	12	6	2	6	DFW
Pea Island, Mattapoissett	0	0	0	0	DFW
Fish Is., Fairhaven	0	0	0	0	DFW
Round Is., Fairhaven	2	1	nd	0	DFW
Wards Rock, Fairhaven	0	0	0	0	DFW
West Island - southeast shore (DCR and town), Fairhaven	0	0	0	0	LCE
Long Is. (Hoppy's Landing), Fairhaven	2	1	0	1	LCE
Winsegansett Heights, Fairhaven	2	1	0	1	LCE
Angelica Rock, Fairhaven	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Fort Phoenix St. Res., Fairhaven	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Round Hill Beach, Dartmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Salters Pond, Dartmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Demarest Lloyd State Park, Dartmouth	0	0	0	0	LCE
Little Beach/Barney's Joy, Dartmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Allens Pond (Timmy's Rock), Dartmouth	2	1	0	1	MAS
Gooseberry Neck, Westport	0	0	0	0	LCE
Horseneck Beach, Westport	0	0	0	0	LCE, MAS
Westport River	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Acoaxet, Westport	0	0	0	0	TNC-RI
Cockeast Pond, Westport	0	0	0	0	TNC-RI
Richmond Pond, Westport	0	0	0	0	TNC-RI
Bay Point, Swansea	0	0	0	0	A. Waring
<b>ELIZABETH ISLANDS</b>					
Nonamesset Is., Gosnold	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Naushon Island, Gosnold	0 <sup>t</sup>	0 <sup>t</sup>	0	0	DFW
Weepecket Islands	3	1	nd	0	DFW

<b>Location</b>	<b>Total adults<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>No. chicks fledged<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. pairs with fledge data<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Source<sup>d</sup></b>
Pasque Island-Robinson's Hole	0	0	0	0	DFW
Pasque Island-Cobbly	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Pasque Island-Quick's Hole	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Nashawena Island-Quick's Hole	1	0	nd	0	DFW
Nashawena Island – Barets Rock	2	1	nd	0	DFW
Nashawena Island-Canapitsit	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Cuttyhunk Island, Gosnold	2	1	nd	0	DFW
Penikese Island, Gosnold	12	6	0	5	DFW
<b>MARTHA'S VINEYARD</b>					
Eastville Beach, Oak Bluffs	0	0	0	0	MAS
Harthaven, Oak Bluffs	2	1	2	1	MAS
Sylvia State Beach / Sengekontacket Pond, Edgartown and Oak Bluffs	2 <sup>u</sup>	1 <sup>u</sup>	0	1	MAS
Sarson Is., Oak Bluffs	0 <sup>v</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Little Gravel Island, Oak Bluffs	2	1	0	1	MAS
Big Gravel Island, Oak Bluffs	6	3	3	3	MAS
Haystack Island, Edgartown	0	0	0	0	MAS
Cow Bay, Edgartown	0	0	0	0	MAS
Eel Pond / Little Beach / Lighthouse Beach, Edgartown	6	3	0	3	MAS
Chappaquiddick Point Beach, Chappaquiddick	0	0	0	0	MAS, MVLB
Caleb Pond, Chappaquiddick	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Cape Pogue Elbow/The Narrows, Chappaquiddick	6	3	0	3	TTOR
Arruda's Pt./The Jetties/Little Neck, Chappaquiddick	6	3	2	3	TTOR
Leland/East Beach, Chappaquiddick	2	1	0	1	TTOR
Wasque, Chappaquiddick	0	0	0	0	TTOR
Norton Point Beach, Chappaquiddick <sup>w</sup>	4	2	0	2	TTOR
Norton Point Beach, Edgartown <sup>w</sup>	6	3	7	3	TTOR
South Beach, Edgartown	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd

<b>Location</b>	<b>Total adults<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>No. chicks fledged<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. pairs with fledge data<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Source<sup>d</sup></b>
Egartown Great Pond / Jobs Neck / Crackatuxet, Edgartown	4	2	0	1	MAS
Oyster and Paqua Ponds, Edgartown	0	0	0	0	MAS
Watcha Pond, W. Tisbury	0	0	0	0	MAS
Tisbury Great Pond / Black Point Pond / Quansoo, Chilmark	4	2	4	2	MAS, MVLB
Long Point, Chilmark	2	1	0	1	TTOR
Chilmark Pond-East, Chilmark	2	1	2	1	MAS, MVLB
Lucy Vincent Beach, Chilmark	0	0	0	0	MAS
Stonewall Beach	2	1	0	1	MAS
Squibnocket Beach, Chilmark	2	nd	nd	0	MAS
Long Beach, Aquinnah	0	0	0	0	MAS
Menemsha Pond, Chilmark	2	1	nd	0	MAS
Nashaquitsa Pond, Chilmark	2	1	0	1	MAS
Edey's Island, Aquinnah	2	1	0	1	MAS
Moshup Trail Beach / Philbin Beach, Aquinnah	0	0	0	0	MAS, MVLB
Dogfish Bar, Aquinnah	4	2	0	2	MAS
Lobsterville Beach, Aquinnah	2	1	0	1	MAS
Cedar Tree Neck/Lambert's Cove, West Tisbury	0	0	0	0	MAS
Great Rock Bight Preserve	0	0	0	0	MVLB
Sepiessa Point Reservation	0	0	0	0	MVLB
Tashmoo, Tisbury	0	0	0	0	MAS
Wilfred's Pd. and Mink Meadows Beach, Vineyard Haven	0	0	0	0	MAS, MVLB
Northern Pines Shores, Vineyard Haven	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Lagoon Pond / Maciel Marine, Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs	2	1	2	1	MAS
Nomans Land Is.	6	3	1	1	FWS
<b>NANTUCKET</b>					
Great Point / The Galls	4	2	0	2	TTOR

Location	Total adults <sup>a</sup>	Total pairs <sup>a</sup>	No. chicks fledged <sup>b</sup>	No. pairs with fledge data <sup>c</sup>	Source <sup>d</sup>
Coskata-West Beach <sup>x</sup>	4	2	1	2	TTOR
Coatue	26	13	9	13	NCF
Coskata-East Beach <sup>y</sup>	0	0	0	0	TTOR
The Glades / Coskata Pond	10	5	0	5	TTOR
Coskata Inlet / The Haulover <sup>z</sup>	8	4	1	4	NCF
Wauwinet	0	0	0	0	MAS
Squam Pond	0	0	0	0	MAS
Quidnet / Sesachacha Pond	0	0	0	0	MAS
Low Beach	0	0	0	0	Town of Nantucket
Surfside	0	0	0	0	Town of Nantucket
Hummock Pond	0	0	0	0	NCF
Madaket Beach	0	0	0	0	Town of Nantucket+
Smith Point	0	0	0	0	Town of Nantucket
Esther's Island	6	3	5	3	Town of Nantucket
Eel Point	15	7.5 <sup>aa</sup>	2	7.5 <sup>aa</sup>	NCF
Dionis Beach	0	0	0	0	Town of Nantucket
Jetties Beach	0	0	0	0	Town of Nantucket
Polpis Harbor area <sup>bb</sup>	6	3	1	3	NCF, Town of Nantucket
Jacksons Point	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Little Neck, Madaket <sup>cc</sup>	0	0	0	0	NCF
Monomoy, Nantucket <sup>dd</sup>	0	0	0	0	NCF
Nantucket Field Station <sup>ee</sup>	0	0	0	0	NCF
Tuckernuck Island	20	10	9	10	TLT
Muskeget Island	6	3	1	3	CSI –R.Veit
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>178.5</b>	<b>69-70</b>	<b>154.5</b>	

<sup>a</sup> Observers censused adult oystercatchers during or as close as possible to the period 22 - 31 May. *Total adults* includes pairs, single birds, and groups of apparently unpaired birds. *Total pairs* are defined as pairs of adult birds with nests or chicks or that exhibit territorial, courtship, or distraction behavior at a site.

<sup>b</sup> *Chicks fledged* are defined as chicks  $\geq 25$  days of age or observed in flight, whichever occurs first.

<sup>c</sup> *Numbers of pairs with fledge data* includes all pairs for which it was determined how many chicks fledged, including pairs that did not nest, pairs that nested unsuccessfully, and pairs with broods from which no chicks fledged.

<sup>d</sup> Key to source abbreviations: ACOE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; CSI = College of Staten Island; DCR = Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; DFW = Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; FWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; LCE = Lloyd Center for the Environment; MAS = Massachusetts Audubon Society; MVLB = Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission; NCF = Nantucket Conservation Foundation; NPS = National Park Service; TLT = Tuckernuck Land Trust; TNC-RI = The Nature Conservancy - Rhode Island Chapter; TTOR = The Trustees of Reservations; WBNERR = Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

<sup>e</sup> For this report, Salisbury Beach-North is defined as the length of beach from the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border south to the center of the town of Salisbury Beach; Salisbury Beach-South is the length of beach from the center of the town of Salisbury Beach south to the Merrimac River.

<sup>f</sup> nd = no data available

<sup>g</sup> At Snake Island in Boston Harbor, 2 unfledged oystercatcher chicks were observed on June 17, 2009.

<sup>h</sup> On Gallops Island, Boston Harbor, 2 adult oystercatchers were observed feeding on June 3. On Hangman Island, 3 adults were observed loafing and feeding on June 4.

<sup>i</sup> At Grape Island in Boston Harbor, 2 adult oystercatchers were observed feeding on June 4, 2009.

<sup>j</sup> At Duxbury Beach, in addition to the breeding pair that was reported, 2 to 5 other adult oystercatchers were observed in salt marsh northwest of The Gurnet throughout the breeding season.

<sup>k</sup> Ellisville includes both Ellisville State Park and the private beach along the south side of Ellisville Harbor.

<sup>l</sup> At Forest Beach, Chatham, 2 adult oystercatchers were observed foraging in salt marsh on May 30, 2009.

<sup>m</sup> At Harding Shores, Chatham, 2 adult oystercatchers were observed foraging in salt marsh on June 2, 2009.

<sup>n</sup> At Tern Island, Chatham, an additional 4 adult oystercatchers were observed foraging "early in the season".

<sup>o</sup> At North Beach-Orleans, 10 adult oystercatchers were observed along the Pochet section of the beach on June 29, 2009, after the "Father's Day" storm.

<sup>p</sup> At South Sunken Meadow Spit, Eastham, 2 oystercatchers were observed foraging; no breeding activity was observed.

<sup>q</sup> Long Beach Point, Wareham was first surveyed in 2009 on June 6. Three adult oystercatchers were observed on that date, but observations did not suggest that any of the birds were paired. On June 13, 6 adults were seen here.

<sup>r</sup> At Bird Island, Marion, it was uncertain if pair #4 fledged 1 or 2 chicks.

<sup>s</sup> Strawberry Point, Mattapoisett, was surveyed only once, on June 13, 2009. An apparent pair with pre-nesting scrapes was present on that date.

<sup>t</sup> At Naushon Island, no oystercatchers were observed at the following sites during a survey on June 25, 2009: Tarpaulin Cove (ground survey), West Beach and Crescent Beach (scanned from boat 200 feet offshore).

<sup>u</sup> Although a second pair of oystercatchers was seen copulating along the Sengekontacket Pond side of Sylvia State Beach, there was no indication that they established a territory or nested there.

<sup>v</sup> At Sarson Island, Oak Bluffs, 2 adults were seen on May 16 but not again; observers reported that it was unlikely that nesting occurred there.

<sup>w</sup> Norton Point Beach, formerly linking the main island of Martha's Vineyard with Chappaquiddick Island, was breached on April 17, 2007. In this report, we distinguish between Norton Point Beach-Edgartown and Norton Point Beach-Chappaquiddick, which were still separated by a channel in 2009.

<sup>x</sup> Coskata-West Beach refers to the beach along the Nantucket Sound side of Coskata, from the south end of The Galls south and west to the boundary of Coatue.

<sup>y</sup> Coskata-East Beach refers to the beach along the eastern (Atlantic) side of Coskata.

<sup>z</sup> Coskata Inlet is the inlet from Nantucket Harbor into Coskata Pond.

<sup>aa</sup> At Eel Point, Nantucket in 2009, 11 of 15 adult oystercatchers were color-banded, allowing recognition of individual birds. Two adults from 2 separate pairs were believed to have been depredated by a Peregrine Falcon. Their mates repaired. One adult from a third pair disappeared on May 28; its mate re-paired with a different bird for the remainder of the season, hence the count of 7.5 pairs.

<sup>bb</sup> "Polpis Harbor area", Nantucket includes Medouie Creek, Ram Island, and Quaise Point.

<sup>cc</sup> Little Neck is at north side of entrance to Hither Creek, Madaket, Nantucket.

<sup>dd</sup> "Monomoy" on Nantucket Island is at the northeast side of The Creeks, Nantucket town.

<sup>ee</sup> At the UMass Nantucket Field Station, oystercatchers were observed roosting and feeding during the breeding season in 2009, but no evidence of nesting was observed.



**Table 2. Regional abundance of American Oystercatchers in Massachusetts, 2009**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Total adults <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs</b>	<b>Sites censused</b>	<b>Sites with oystercatchers<sup>a</sup></b>
North Shore	2	1	10	1
Boston Harbor	47	20	27	15
South Shore	7	1	8	1
Upper Cape	10	5	49	5
Lower Cape	72	33	38	14
Bristol Co.	41	19	27	12
Elizabeth Islands	20	9	7	5
Martha's Vineyard <sup>b</sup>	78	38	39	24
Nantucket, Tuckernuck, Muskeget	105	52.5	24	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>178.5</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>87</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes both paired and unpaired adults.

<sup>b</sup> Includes Nomans Land.