

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS IN MASSACHUSETTS:  
SUMMARY OF 2010 CENSUS**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes data collected during a coastwide census of American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) in Massachusetts during the 2010 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. Along the Atlantic Coast, it nests on coastal beaches from Florida to Nova Scotia. Although the species has expanded its breeding range northward and increased in abundance in New England over the past 50 years, this likely represents a recolonization of formerly occupied habitat (Forbush 1912, Griscom and Snyder 1955). 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 network of full-time and seasonal biologists and coastal waterbird monitors, beach managers, researchers, and volunteers. These cooperators also conduct annual censuses of Piping Plovers and terns in Massachusetts (Melvin 2011, Mostello 2011).

Observers censused adult oystercatchers during or as close as possible to a designated census period of 22 - 31 May 2010, in order to minimize double-counting of any birds that moved between multiple sites during the breeding season. The 2010 census period was the same as in 2005-2009 and was intended to closely target the peak of oystercatcher nesting statewide, when breeding pairs might 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 as 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. For purposes of this census, fledglings were defined as chicks that survived to  $\geq 30$  days of age or were able to fly, whichever occurred first. We also asked cooperators to report numbers, locations, and dates of assemblages of post-breeding oystercatchers.

## RESULTS

Observers reported totals of  $\geq 402$  adults and  $\geq 193.5$  pairs of American Oystercatchers at 93 sites in Massachusetts in 2010 (Table 1), from a total of 264 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 4 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 (38 pairs exclusive of Tuckernuck and Muskeget islands), Lower (Outer) Cape Cod (37.5 pairs), Martha's Vineyard (37 pairs exclusive of Nomans Land Island), 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 (25 pairs), Tuckernuck Island (10 pairs), North Monomoy Island, Chatham (10 pairs), South Monomoy Island, Chatham (8.5 pairs), Minimoy Island, Chatham (6 pairs), Penikese Island, Gosnold (6 pairs), Eel Point, Nantucket (6 pairs), Ram Island, Mattapoissett (5 pairs), and Snake Island, Winthrop (5 pairs) (Table 1).

Statewide, at least 124 chicks were reported to have fledged from 160.5 pairs for which productivity could be determined, for an overall productivity of 0.77 chicks fledged per pair in 2010.

MassAudubon staff surveyed on foot the entire shorelines of Naushon, Pasque, and Nashawena islands on 24-26 May and of Cuttyhunk Island on 9 June, but found only single pairs of oystercatchers at Cedar Island on Naushon and Barets Rock on Nashawena. These results suggest that few oystercatchers were missed by past surveys of these islands that focused primarily on sections of shoreline considered likely or potential nesting sites for Piping Plovers, Least Terns, or Common Terns. Perhaps coyotes have discouraged nesting by oystercatchers along the many miles of shoreline of these four largest of the Elizabeth Islands.

The largest reported post-breeding concentrations of oystercatcher adults and fledged chicks were 52 birds at South Beach, Chatham, on 13 August; 50 birds (35 in one flock) at Coatue on Nantucket on 11 August; and 34 birds at North Beach, Chatham, on 5 September.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our sincere thanks to the many biologists, seasonal shorebird monitors, beach managers, landowners, and volunteers who participated in monitoring and protection efforts for American Oystercatchers and other coastal waterbirds in Massachusetts in 2010. This work was carried out by cooperators from state and federal agencies, local municipalities, county government, private conservation groups, and universities. We especially thank the many individuals who collected and submitted the data that are summarized in this report.

## LITERATURE CITED

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**Table 1. Results of 2010 survey of American Oystercatchers in Massachusetts.**

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>
<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	0	0	0	0	FWS
Plum Island town beaches, Newburyport/Newbury	0	0	0	0	FWS
Parker River NWR, Newbury/Rowley	1 <sup>f</sup>	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	0	0	0	0	DFW
Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester	nd <sup>g</sup>	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>h</sup>	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Logan Airport, Boston	2	1	2	1	MAS
The Graves, Hull	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Green Island, Hull	2	1	nd	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Little Calf Is., Hull	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Calf Is., Hull	4 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	≥ 3	2	C. Trocki / NPS
Outer Brewster Is., Hull	2	1	nd	0	C. Trocki / NPS

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>
Middle Brewster Is., Hull	2	1	nd	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Great Brewster Is., Hull	4	2	≥ 2	2	C. Trocki / NPS
Little Brewster Is., Hull	0 <sup>j</sup>	0 <sup>j</sup>	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Shag Rocks, Hull	0 <sup>k</sup>	0 <sup>k</sup>	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Lovell Is., Boston	0 <sup>l</sup>	0 <sup>l</sup>	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Gallops Is., Boston	nd	nd	nd	nd	C. Trocki / NPS
Georges Is., Boston	0	0	0	0	C. Trocki / NPS
Rainsford Is., Boston	4	2	1	2	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	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Peddocks Is., Hull	nd <sup>m</sup>	nd	nd	nd	C. Trocki, NPS
Sheep Is., Weymouth	6	3	1	3	C. Trocki / NPS
Grape Is., Weymouth	0 <sup>n</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	0	0	0	0	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	2	1	0	1	C. Trocki / NPS
<b>SOUTH SHORE</b>					
The Glades, Scituate	0	0	0	0	MAS
Third Cliff, Scituate	0 <sup>o</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Fourth Cliff, Scituate	0	0	0	0	MAS
Humarock Beach, Scituate	0	0	0	0	MAS
Rexhame Beach, Marshfield	0	0	0	0	MAS
Duxbury Beach, Duxbury/Plymouth	0	0	0	0	MAS, Duxbury

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>
Saquish, Plymouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Plymouth Long Beach, Plymouth	0	0	0	0	Plymouth
Ellisville, Plymouth <sup>p</sup>	0	0	0	0	MAS
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	0	0	0	0	MAS
Little Island Beach, Falmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Chappaquoit Beach, Falmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Black Beach/Sippewisset, West Falmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Woodneck Beach, W. Falmouth	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Devil's Foot Island, Falmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Acapeskett 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	1	1	WBNERR
South Cape Beach, Mashpee	2 <sup>q</sup>	0	0	0	WBNERR
New Seabury, Mashpee	0	0	0	0	WBNERR
Rock Landing/Maushop Village, Mashpee	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Popponesset 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	Barnstable

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>
Mussel Point, Barnstable	2	1	0	1	MAS
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	Barnstable
Long Beach, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS
Craigville Beach, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS
Squaw Island and Causeway, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS
Sea St. / Keyes Beach, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	MAS
Kalmus Park, Barnstable	0	0	0	0	Barnstable
Lone Tree Creek, Yarmouth	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Gray's Beach, Yarmouth	2	1	0	1	MAS
Great Island, Yarmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Seagull Beach / Radio City, Yarmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
Bass River Beach, Yarmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
West Dennis Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
South Village Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Miramar Beach (Swan River), Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Chapin Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Mayflower Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Corporation Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Howes St. Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Cold Storage Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Sesuit Harbor Beach, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Coles Pond / Crowes Pasture/Quivett Neck, Dennis	0	0	0	0	Dennis, MAS
Wings Island, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Paine's Creek, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Mant's Landing, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Robbins Hill Beach, Brewster	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>
Saint's Landing, Brewster	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Breakwater Landing, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Point of Rocks Landing, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Town Beach, Brewster	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Ellis Landing Beach, Brewster	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Linnell Landing Beach, Brewster	0	0	0	0	MAS
Crosby Landing Beach, Brewster	0 <sup>r</sup>	0	0	0	MAS, DCR
Bank St. / Merkel Beach / Wychmere, Harwichport	0	0	0	0	MAS
Red River Beach, Harwich	0 <sup>s</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Allens Harbor, Harwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
Saquatucket Bluffs and Shores, Harwich	0	0	0	0	MAS
<b>LOWER CAPE</b>					
Forest Beach, Chatham	0 <sup>t</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Chatharbor Lane, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Cockle Cove / Ridgevale Beach, Chatham	0 <sup>u</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Pleasant St. Beach, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Harding Shores, Chatham	0	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	20	10	2	10	FWS, MAS
South Monomoy Island, Chatham	17 <sup>v</sup>	8.5 <sup>v</sup>	7	8.5 <sup>v</sup>	FWS, MAS
"Minimoy Island", Chatham	12	6	10	6	FWS, MAS
South Beach, Chatham	9 <sup>v</sup>	4.5 <sup>v</sup>	7	4.5 <sup>v</sup>	MAS
Morris Is. dredge spoil, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Tern Island, Chatham	2 <sup>w</sup>	1	2	1	MAS
Clafin Landing / Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Linnell Lane, Chatham	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>
North Beach Island, Chatham	2	1	0	1	Chatham
North (Nauset) Beach, Chatham	4	2	0	2	Chatham
North (Nauset) Beach, Orleans	0	0	0	0	Orleans
Nauset Spit (Heights), Orleans	4 <sup>x</sup>	2 <sup>x</sup>	0	2 <sup>x</sup>	Orleans
New Island, Eastham	2 <sup>x</sup>	1 <sup>x</sup>	0	1 <sup>x</sup>	Orleans, NPS
Skaket Beach, Orleans	0	0	0	0	Orleans
Rock Harbor (north side), Orleans	0	0	0	0	MAS
Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	0	0	0	0	NPS
Nauset Light Beach, Eastham	0	0	0	0	NPS
First Encounter Beach, Eastham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Boat Meadow, Eastham	0	0	0	0	MAS
So. Sunken Meadow Spit, Eastham	0 <sup>y</sup>	0 <sup>y</sup>	0	0	MAS
Marconi Beach / LeCount Hollow, Wellfleet	0	0	0	0	NPS
Lieutenant Island, Wellfleet	2	1	0	1	MAS
Indian Neck / Field Point, Wellfleet	0	0	0	0	MAS
Jeremy Point/Great Island, Wellfleet	4	2	0	2	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, Provincetown / Truro	0	0	0	0	NPS

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>
Race Point - North, 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	4	2	0	2	ACOE
Long Beach Point, Wareham	0	0	0	0	MAS
Little Harbor Beach, Wareham	0 <sup>z</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Cedar Island, Wareham	2	1	0	1	MAS
Ram Island, Marion	2	1	1	1	MAS
Little Island, Marion	2	1	1	1	MAS
Gravel Island, Marion	2 <sup>aa</sup>	1 <sup>aa</sup>	0	1	MAS
Haskell Island, Marion	2	1	2	1	MAS
Planting Island, Marion	2	1	0	1	MAS
Stewarts Island, Marion	4 <sup>bb</sup>	nd <sup>bb</sup>	nd	nd	MAS
Rock Is., Sippican Harbor, Marion	nd	nd	nd	nd	DFW
Bird Island, Marion	12	6	7	6	DFW
Strawberry Point, Mattapoissett	2	1	≥ 1	1	nd
Ram Island, Mattapoissett	10	5	≥ 2 <sup>cc</sup>	5	DFW
South Shore Marshes WMA, Fairhaven	2 <sup>dd</sup>	1 <sup>dd</sup>	1 <sup>dd</sup>	1 <sup>dd</sup>	DFW, MAS
Wards Rock, Fairhaven	2 <sup>dd</sup>	1 <sup>dd</sup>	nd <sup>dd</sup>	0 <sup>dd</sup>	DFW
Mirey's Neck, Fairhaven	2	1	2 <sup>ee</sup>	1 <sup>ee</sup>	MAS
Unnamed Island, Fairhaven	4	2	≥ 2 <sup>ee</sup>	2 <sup>ee</sup>	MAS
Pea Island, Mattapoissett	4 <sup>ff</sup>	0	nd	0	DFW
Fish Is., Fairhaven	0	0	0	0	DFW
Round Is., Fairhaven	0	0	0	0	DFW
West Island-Northeast Pt., Fairhaven	2	1	nd	0	DFW
West Island-Northwest Pt., Fairhaven	2	1	nd	0	DFW

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>
Stony Cove, Fairhaven	2	1	nd	0	LCE
West Island - Southeast (DCR and town), Fairhaven	0	0	0	0	LCE
Long Is. (Hoppy's Landing), Fairhaven	0	0	0	0	LCE, DFW
Winsegansett Heights, Fairhaven	2	1	0	1	LCE
Angelica Rock, Fairhaven	2	1	nd <sup>gg</sup>	0	LCE
Fort Phoenix St. Res., Fairhaven	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
New Bedford Harbor, New Bedford	2	1	nd	0	DFW
Nonquitt, Dartmouth	0	0	0	0	MAS
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	2	1	0	1	MAS
Allens Pond (Timmy's Rock), Dartmouth	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Gooseberry Neck, Westport	0	0	0	0	LCE
Horseneck Beach, Westport <sup>hh</sup>	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	0	0	0	0	MAS
Uncatena Island, Gosnold	0	0	0	0	MAS
Naushon Island, Gosnold	2 <sup>ii</sup>	1 <sup>ii</sup>	nd	0	DFW, MAS
Weepecket Islands	4	2	nd	0	DFW, MAS
Pasque Island-Robinson's Hole	0	0	0	0	DFW, MAS
Pasque Island-Cobbly	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 fledged data <sup>c</sup>	Source <sup>d</sup>
Pasque Island-Quick's Hole	0	0	0	0	DFW, MAS
Nashawena Island-Quick's Hole	0	0	0	0	DFW, MAS
Nashawena Island – Barets Rock	2	1	nd	0	DFW, MAS
Nashawena Island-Canapitsit	0	0	0	0	DFW, MAS
Cuttyhunk Island, Gosnold	2	0	nd	0	DFW, MAS
Penikese Island, Gosnold	12	6	nd	0	DFW
<b>MARTHA'S VINEYARD</b>					
Eastville Beach, Oak Bluffs	0	0	0	0	MAS
Harthaven, Oak Bluffs	2	1	0	1	MAS
Sylvia State Beach , Oak Bluffs <sup>jj</sup>	4 <sup>kk</sup>	2 <sup>kk</sup>	0	2 <sup>kk</sup>	MAS
Sylvia State Beach, Edgartown <sup>jj</sup>	2	1	1	1	MAS
Sarson Is., Oak Bluffs	2 <sup>kk</sup>	1 <sup>kk</sup>	0	1 <sup>kk</sup>	MAS
Little Gravel Island, Oak Bluffs	2	1	0	1	MAS
Big Gravel Island, Oak Bluffs	4	2	3	2	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	3	3	MAS
Chappaquiddick Point Beach, Chappaquiddick	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Caleb Pond, Chappaquiddick	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Cape Pogue Elbow/The Narrows, Chappaquiddick	8	4	4	4	TTOR
Little Neck, Chappaquiddick	6	3	5	3	TTOR
Arruda's Pt./The Jetties, Chappaquiddick	2	1	1	1	TTOR
Leland/East Beach, Chappaquiddick	6	3	0	3	TTOR
Wasque, Chappaquiddick	0	0	0	0	TTOR
Norton Point Beach, Chappaquiddick <sup>ll</sup>	4	2	0	2	TTOR
Norton Point Beach, Edgartown <sup>ll</sup>	8	4	3	4	TTOR
South Beach, Edgartown	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 fledged data <sup>c</sup>	Source <sup>d</sup>
Edgartown Great Pond / Jobs Neck / Crackatuxet, Edgartown	2	1	0	1	MAS, MVLB
Oyster Pond, Edgartown	2 <sup>mm</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Watcha Pond, W. Tisbury	0 <sup>nn</sup>	0	0	0	MAS
Tisbury Great Pond / Quansoo, Chilmark	4	2	3	2	MAS, MVLB
Black Point Pond, Chilmark	2	1	0	1	MAS
Long Point, Chilmark	0	0	0	0	TTOR
Chilmark Pond, 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	0	0	0	0	MAS
Long Beach, Aquinnah	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Menemsha Beach, Chilmark	0	0	0	0	MAS
Nashaquitsa Pond, Chilmark	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Edy's Island, Chilmark	2	1	nd	0	MAS
Moshup Beach, Aquinnah	0	0	0	0	MVLB
Philbin Beach, Aquinnah	0	0	0	0	MAS
Dogfish Bar, Aquinnah	2	1	2	1	MAS
Lobsterville Beach, Aquinnah	0	0	0	0	MAS
Cedar Tree Neck, West Tisbury	0	0	0	0	MAS
Lambert's Cove, West Tisbury	0	0	0	0	MAS
Great Rock Bight Preserve, Chilmark	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Sepiessa Point Reservation, West Tisbury	0	0	0	0	MVLB
West Tashmoo, Tisbury	2	1	0	1	MAS
East Tashmoo, Tisbury	0	0	0	0	MAS
Wilfred Pond Preserve, Vineyard Haven	0	0	0	0	MVLB
Mink Meadows, Vineyard Haven	0	0	0	0	MAS
Northern Pines Shores, Vineyard Haven	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Lagoon Pond / Maciel Marine, Tisbury	2	1	0	1	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>
Nomans Land Is.	6	3	nd	0	FWS
<b>NANTUCKET</b>					
Great Point / The Galls	4	2	0	2	TTOR, FWS
Coskata-West Beach <sup>oo</sup>	6	3	1	3	TTOR
Coatue	28	14	8	14	NCF
Coskata-East Beach <sup>pp</sup>	0	0	0	0	TTOR
The Glades / Coskata Pond	10	5	1	1	TTOR
Coskata Inlet / The Haulover <sup>qq</sup>	6	3	2	3	NCF
Wauwinet	0	0	0	0	MAS
Squam Pond	0	0	0	0	MAS, NCF
Quidnet / Sesachacha Pond	0	0	0	0	MAS
Low Beach	0	0	0	0	Nantucket
Surfside	0	0	0	0	Nantucket
Hummock Pond	0	0	0	0	NCF
Madaket Beach	0	0	0	0	Nantucket
Smith Point/Esther Island	4	2	0	2	Nantucket
Eel Point	12	6	10	6	NCF
Dionis Beach	0	0	0	0	Nantucket
Jetties Beach	0	0	0	0	Nantucket
Ram Island, Polpis Harbor	2	1	0	1	NCF
Medouie Creek	2	1	0	1	NCF
Quaise Point	2	1	2	1	Nantucket
Jacksons Point	nd	nd	nd	Nd	nd
Little Neck, Madaket <sup>rr</sup>	0	0	0	0	NCF
Monomoy, Nantucket <sup>ss</sup>	0	0	0	0	NCF
Nantucket Field Station	0	0	0	0	NCF

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>
Tuckernuck Island	20	10	13	10	TLT
Muskeget Island	≥ 2 <sup>tt</sup>	≥ 1 <sup>tt</sup>	nd <sup>tt</sup>	0	MAS, R. Veit (CSI)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>≥ 402</b>	<b>≥ 193.5</b>	<b>≥ 124</b>	<b>160.5</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 ≥ 30 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; Barnstable = Town of Barnstable, CSI = College of Staten Island; DCR = Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; Dennis = Town of Dennis, Duxbury = Town of Duxbury; 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; Nantucket = Town of Nantucket; NCF = Nantucket Conservation Foundation; NPS = National Park Service; Orleans = Town of Orleans; Plymouth = Town of Plymouth; 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> At Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, one oystercatcher was observed flying south along the outer beach east of parking lot no. 5 on 23 May 2010.

<sup>g</sup> nd = no data reported

<sup>h</sup> At Snake Island, Winthrop, two of five pairs of oystercatchers observed on 11 June each had one unfledged chick.

<sup>i</sup> At Calf Island, Hull, a third pair of oystercatchers was observed on 7 July, but is not included in the census totals because of the late date.

<sup>j</sup> At Little Brewster Island, Hull, although no oystercatchers were observed during or near the 22-31 May census period, one adult was observed feeding on 23 June.



<sup>k</sup> At Shag Rocks, Hull, although no oystercatchers were observed during or near the 22-31 May census period, two adults were observed feeding on 5 August.

<sup>l</sup> At Lovell Island, Boston, although no oystercatchers were observed during surveys on 11 and 23 June and 2 and 28 July, six or seven adults were observed feeding on 18 May, prior to the census period.

<sup>m</sup> Peddocks Island, Weymouth, was not surveyed during or near the 22-31 May census period. One adult oystercatcher was observed feeding there on 16 June.

<sup>n</sup> At Grape Island Weymouth, two adult oystercatchers were observed feeding on 2 July.

<sup>o</sup> At Third Cliff, Scituate, groups of three and four oystercatchers were seen foraging "early in the season".

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

<sup>q</sup> At South Cape Beach, Mashpee, two non-territorial oystercatchers were observed roosting on the bay side near the jetty on 23 May. No oystercatchers were seen on South Cape Beach before or after this observation.

<sup>r</sup> At Crosby Landing, Brewster, although no pairs of oystercatchers were observed during an entire season of Piping Plover monitoring, single oystercatchers were observed flying along the shore on 30 April and 26 May.

<sup>s</sup> At Red River Beach, Harwich, although no oystercatcher pairs were observed during an entire season of Piping Plover monitoring, oystercatchers were occasionally seen flying by.

<sup>t</sup> At Forest Beach, Chatham, although no territorial pairs were present, oystercatchers were often observed foraging in the saltmarsh behind the beach.

<sup>u</sup> At Ridgevale Beach, Chatham, although no territorial pairs were present, oystercatchers were observed foraging in the saltmarsh behind the beach early in the season, for example seven adults on 11 April.

<sup>v</sup> At South Monomoy Island, Chatham, a pair of color-banded oystercatchers (YE54 and YE69) that nested unsuccessfully, subsequently renested with different mates. YE54 renested with an unbanded bird on South Monomoy. YE69 moved to South Beach and renested with color-banded bird YE60, which had previously nested unsuccessfully on South Beach with an unbanded bird. These 5 birds (YE54, YE60, YE69, 2 unbanded birds) are tallied as 3 adults and 1.5 pairs for South Monomoy and 3 adults and 1.5 pairs for South Beach. For state and in-state regional tallies for *Total adults*, *Total pairs*, and *No. pairs with fledge data*, they are collectively tallied as 5 adults and 2.5 pairs.

<sup>w</sup> On 22 April 2010, 18 adult oystercatchers were observed foraging on the tidal flats between Tern Island and North Beach Island, Chatham.

<sup>x</sup> The pair of oystercatchers that nested unsuccessfully on New Island, Eastham, is believed to have subsequently renested on Nauset Spit, Orleans. This pair is included in *Total adults*, *Total pairs*, and *No. pairs with fledge data* for both sites, but is tallied only once in statewide totals.

<sup>y</sup> At South Sunken Meadow Spit, Eastham, two oystercatchers were observed copulating on 11 and 13 May and then flying north. No further breeding behavior was observed at this site, and no oystercatchers were observed here after 18 May.

- <sup>z</sup> At Little Harbor Beach, Wareham, two adult oystercatchers were observed feeding regularly throughout the season., beginning in April. They were suspected to be birds nesting on islands in Wareham or Marion.
- <sup>aa</sup> Gravel Island in Sippican Harbor, Marion, was first visited on 22 June. A pair of oystercatchers was present on that date, with no indication of nesting; it is possible these birds had nested elsewhere in Sippican Harbor. They were still present on Gravel Island when it was visited on 4 and 9 July.
- <sup>bb</sup> Stewarts Island, Marion, was not surveyed until 22 June, when four adults were observed loafing there. They did not behave defensively, but were different birds than those on Gravel, Little, and Ram islands.
- <sup>cc</sup> At Ram Island, Mattapoisett, two approximately 3 week-old chicks and two fledged chicks were present on 13 July, the last date this site was visited.
- <sup>dd</sup> In Fairhaven on 30 May, a pair of oystercatchers with two, 10-14 day-old chicks was observed at Wards Rock, and a pair was observed at South Shore Marshes Wildlife Management Area.
- <sup>ee</sup> Surveys of Mirey's Neck and Unnamed Island, Fairhaven, on 1 August determined that at least four chicks fledged from the three pairs that were observed at these sites on 22 June.
- <sup>ff</sup> At Pea Island, Fairhaven, four oystercatchers were observed on 30 May during the only survey there. They did not act territorial, perhaps because of the presence of four people sitting inside three foot-high rock walls built on the best potential nesting habitat on the island.
- <sup>gg</sup> At Angelica Rock, Fairhaven, two adult oystercatchers and one downy chick were observed on 17 May during the only visit to the island.
- <sup>hh</sup> For purposes of this compilation, Horseneck Beach, Westport, includes all of the state, town, and privately owned sections of beach there.
- <sup>ii</sup> At Cedar Island, Naushon, one pair of oystercatchers was observed on 25 May during a survey of the entire shoreline of Naushon Island. No oystercatchers were observed during an 8 June survey of Tarpaulin Cove, Robinson's Hole Beach, West Beach, Crescent Beach, and Kettle Cove.
- <sup>jj</sup> For purposes of this compilation, Sylvia State Beach includes both the ocean-side beach and the adjacent shoreline of Sengekontacket Pond along the west side of the Oak Bluffs-Edgartown road.
- <sup>kk</sup> At Sylvia State Beach, Oak Bluffs, pair 1 nested on the Sengekontacket Pond shore side. Pair 2, whose nest was depredated about 22-23 May, was suspected to have renested on Sarson Island; it is included in *Total adults*, *Total pairs*, and *No. pairs with fledge data* for both sites, but is tallied only once in statewide and in-state regional totals.
- <sup>ll</sup> Norton Point Beach, formerly connecting the main island of Martha's Vineyard with Chappaquiddick Island, was breached on 17 April 2007. This report distinguishes between Norton Point Beach-Edgartown and Norton Point Beach-Chappaquiddick, which remained separated by a channel in 2010.
- <sup>mm</sup> At Oyster Pond, Edgartown, on 20 May, two adult oystercatchers were observed loafing on the pond side of the cut, but exhibited no nesting behavior.
- <sup>nn</sup> At Watcha Pond, West Tisbury, two oystercatchers were seen on 8 June and 9 July, four on 11 July, and five on 16 July.

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

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

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

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

<sup>tt</sup> Muskeget Island was not visited during the 22-31 May census period. Five adults were observed on 21 June. On 30 June, an apparent pair of oystercatchers was observed on the eastern side of the island, along with both large and small oystercatcher tracks and a large number of opened mussel shells, suggesting that this was a pair that had hatched at least one chick earlier in the season.

**Table 2. Regional abundance of American Oystercatchers during the breeding season in Massachusetts, 2010**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Total adults<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Total pairs</b>	<b>Sites surveyed</b>	<b>Sites with oystercatchers<sup>a</sup></b>
North Shore	3	1	12	2
Boston Harbor	40	20	24	11
South Shore	0	0	11	0
Upper Cape	10	4	54	5
Lower Cape	75	37.5	44	11
Bristol Co.	72	32	39	23
Elizabeth Islands	22	10	12	5
Martha's Vineyard <sup>b</sup>	82	40	43	24
Nantucket, Tuckernuck, Muskeget	≥ 98	≥ 49	25	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>≥ 402</b>	<b>≥ 193.5</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>93</b>

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

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