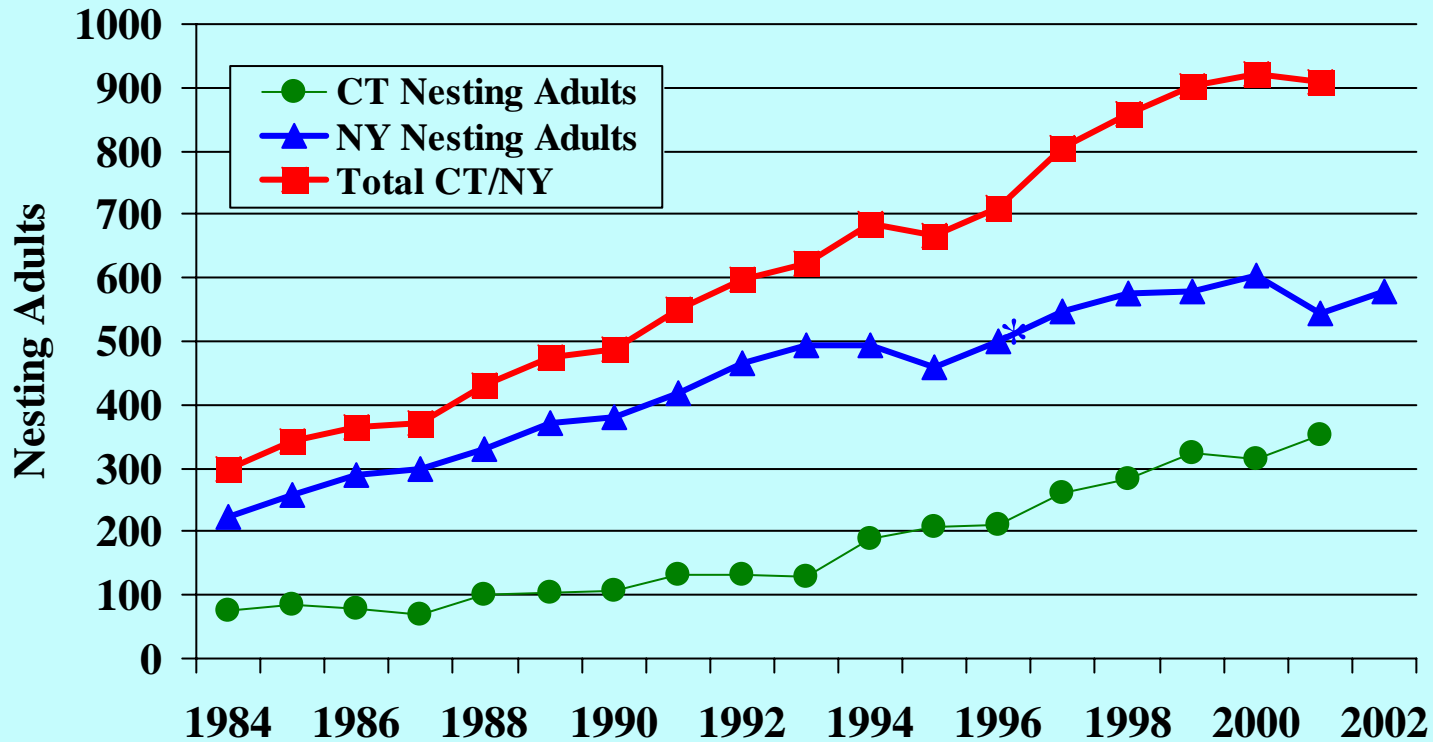


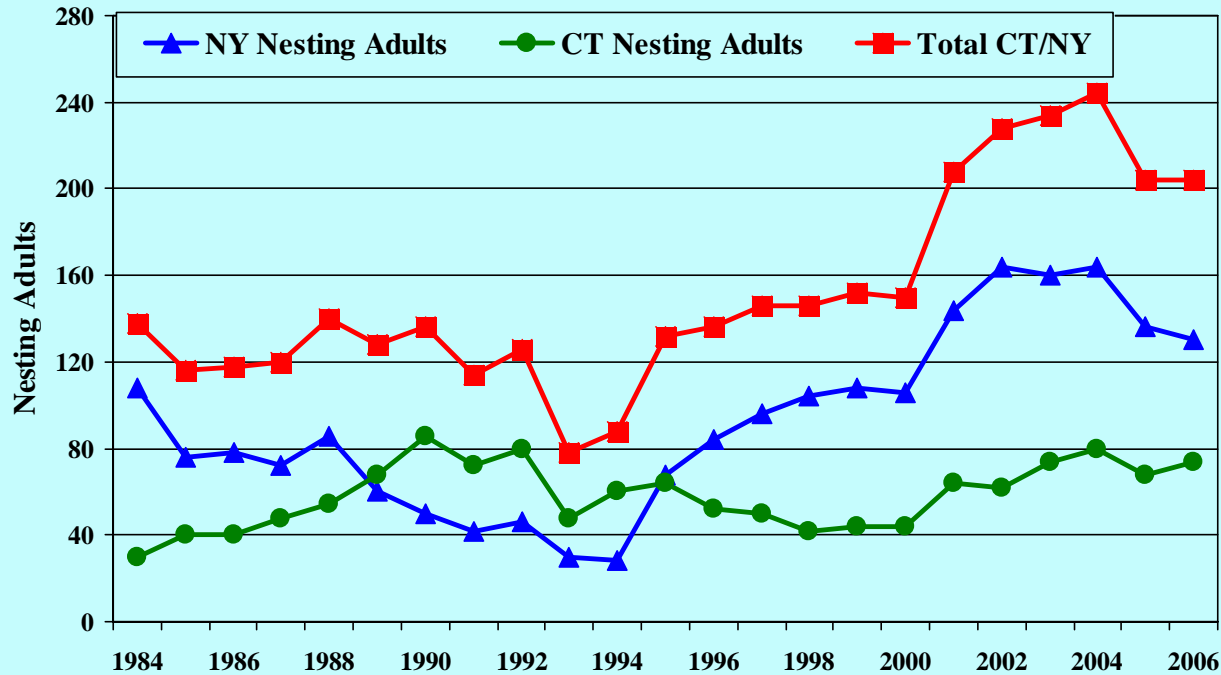
Osprey Nesting Adults



CT DEP, Wildlife Division, and NYSDEC
*1996 NY number is an estimate.

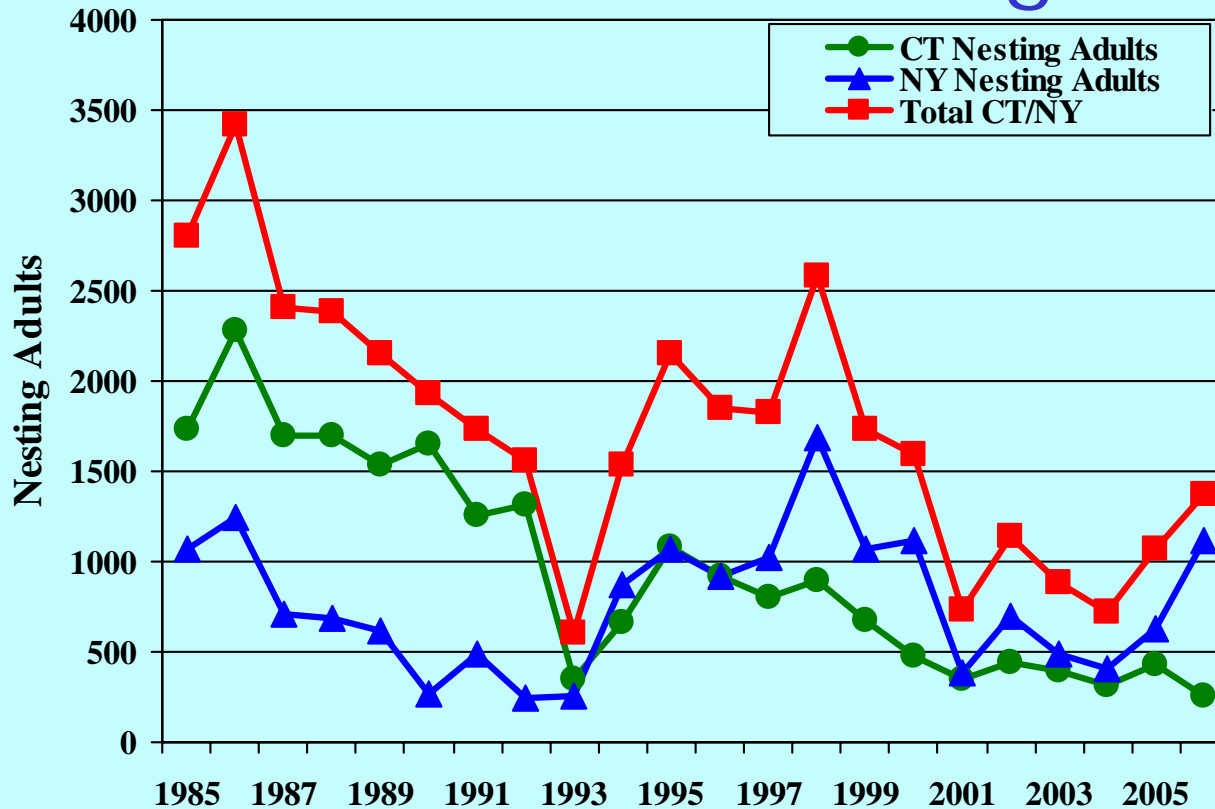
The osprey population around Long Island Sound fell sharply during the 1950s and 1960s due to the effects of pesticides, particularly DDT. Since the ban on DDT, which occurred during the 1970s, and the placement of nesting platforms in wetlands all along the Sound, the osprey population has been making a recovery. Since it is no longer an endangered species, state conservationists have stopped tracking the bird's numbers.

Piping Plover Nesting Adults



Piping plovers are small shorebirds that nest on beaches as well as in dune grasses. Their nesting and reproduction are threatened by human intrusion, storm tides, and predators, and they are listed as an endangered or threatened species. Since protection and monitoring efforts began in 1984, nesting success has improved, resulting in more returning adults. State wildlife officials credit public education campaigns, including symbolic stake and string fencing, and signs teaching residents about beach bird habitats, for improving habitat and increasing populations. In CT, 2006 rainy weather in the spring kept people off the beach early in the plover nesting season and their eggs were able to hatch without disturbance resulting in 79 chicks reaching flying stage, the highest fledgling count since CT DEP counts began. Plovers winter along Atlantic and Gulf coasts from North Carolina to the Yucatan Peninsula.

Least Tern Nesting Adults

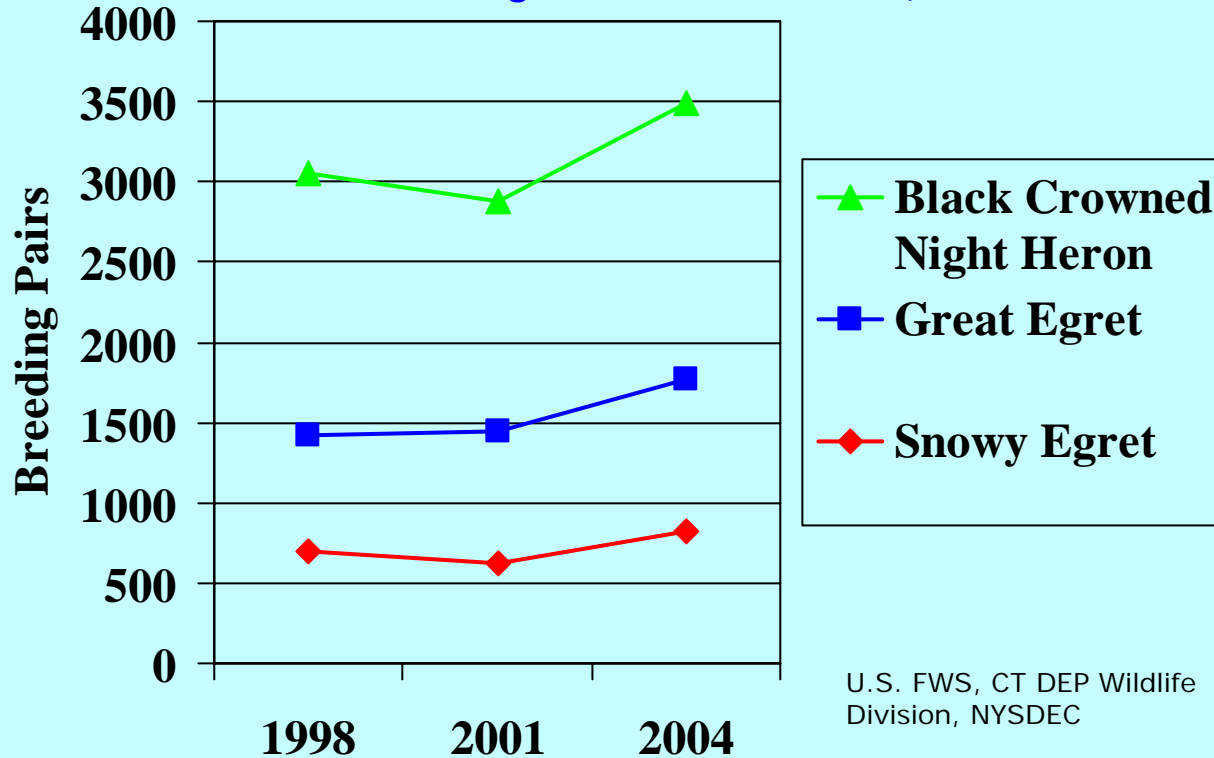


CT DEP, Wildlife Division, and NYSDEC

Least terns winter along coasts from Mexico southward to southern South America. They live in large colonies on the beach where they plunge into the waters for food. Wildlife and human disturbances, and strong tides can disrupt their nesting sites, but they can quickly recolonize to other beaches within the Sound's shoreline or neighboring beaches in Long Island, New York City, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. In CT, the least tern population has generally declined since the 1980s; New York's population is starting to increase again in the last few years, possibly because of public education campaigns to encourage habitat protection.

Colonial Foraging Birds

Estimated breeding pairs of three waterbird species in CT and NY (including the Sound, NYC harbor sites, and Long Island's south shore)



Colonial waterbirds, particularly long-legged wading birds noted here, nest primarily in groups on islands along the Atlantic coast. They typically nest within scrub-shrub and woodland habitats, and often feed on estuarine fish and invertebrates in nearby salt marshes. Nesting data (i.e., breeding pairs) is provided above for three species that feed in tidal marshes: Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons. Included here is information for all of Long Island, the Connecticut coast, and the New York City harbor sites. Note: A data estimate was used for a missing Brother Island count in 1998.