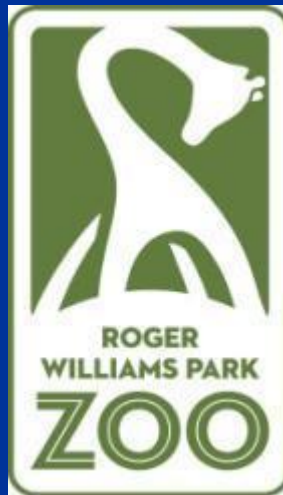


Bringing the Burying Beetle Back to Nantucket

The 20 year Effort to Establish the American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus* Olivier) to Nantucket Island, Massachusetts



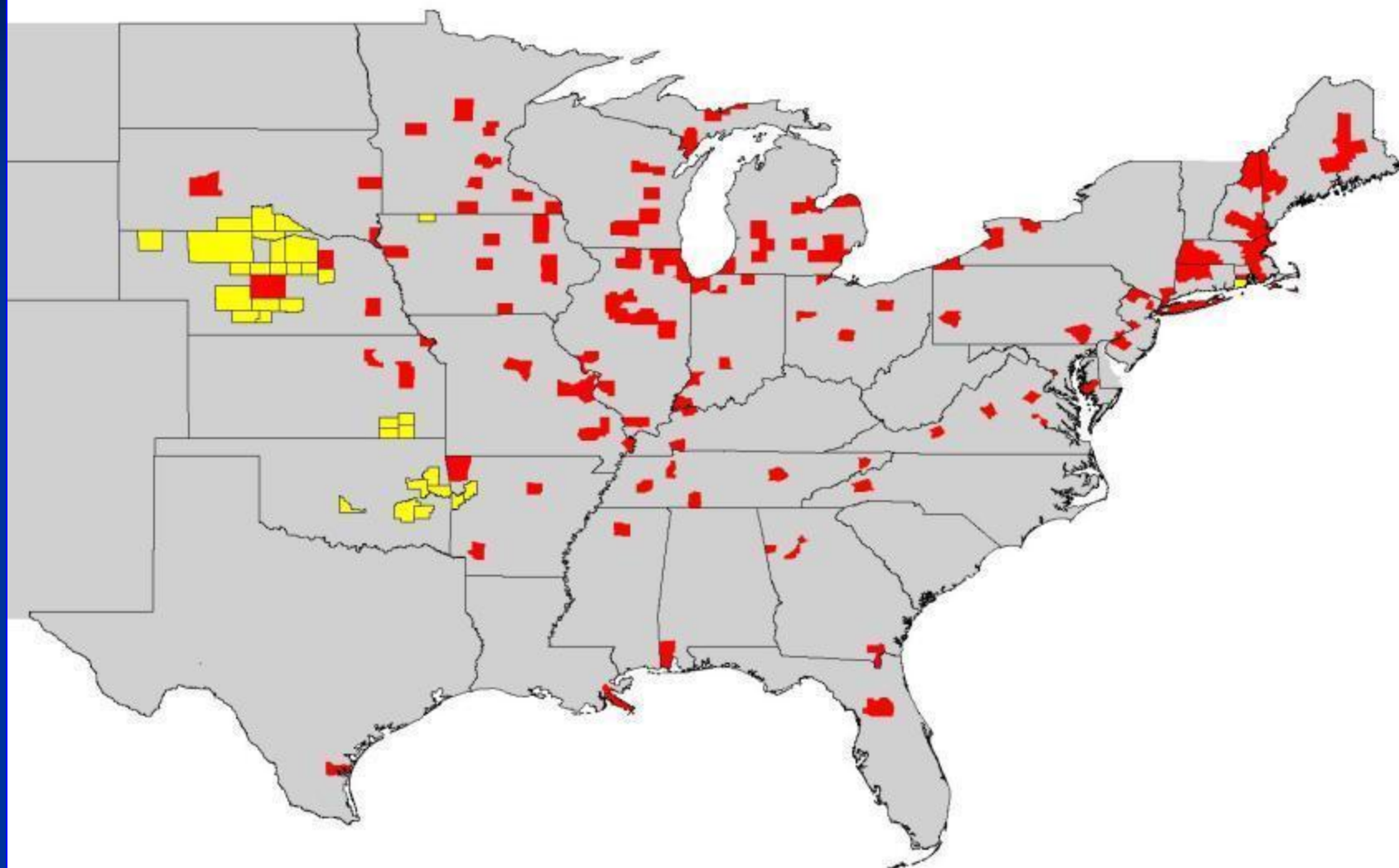
American burying beetle

(Nicrophorus americanus)









Reasons for the ABB's Decline?

- Disappeared from 90% of its former range
- Habitat loss and Habitat fragmentation
- Species composition change
- Species loss (Passenger pigeons, Heath hens, Carolina parakeets)
- Less resource / More competition
- Pesticides
- Lite Pollution/Bug Zappers

Recovery Plan

Listed by the USFWS as Federally Endangered Species in 1989

- Monitor wild populations
- Maintain captive populations
- Initiate and continue a pilot reintroduction effort (Penikese Island, MA)
- Prioritize areas and conduct surveys for additional populations
- Conduct additional reintroductions and manage new populations







Roger Williams Park Zoo

American Burying Beetle Project History

- RWPZ received its first colony in 1994 to breed and supply beetles for a new USFWS reintroduction effort on Nantucket Is. MA.
- Since 1994 RWPZ has produced over 5000 beetles
- 2800 beetles released on Nantucket from 1995-2006
- 2006 *N.americanus* became the first insect to be given Species Survival Plan (SSP) status by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
- 2006-Present: Continue to annually monitor the reintroduced population













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19-Year Captive ABB Summary

■ Total larvae produced:	6671
■ Total beetles eclosed:	5131
■ Total males:	2629
■ Total females:	2486
■ Larvae success rate:	77%
■ Adults eclosed from wild larvae:	193
■ Avg. days from brood start to wander:	17 days
■ Avg. days b/n wander & eclose:	43.95 days
■ Avg. days between eclosures:	3.9 days
■ Avg. brood duration:	74 days

Release Sites 1995-2006







Over 2800 ABB's Released from 1994 to 2006



Numbers of ABB's Released

Year	Number of Beetles	Number of Broods
1994	48	26
1995	130	76
1996	19	12
1997	122	68
1998	38	31
1999	193	106
2000	250	125
2001	386	193
2002	637	319
2003	322	161
2004	423	214
2005	324	162
2006	31	21
Total	2,923	1,514













