



# WORLD OSPREY WEEK



## INFORMATION PACK

Join Birds of Poole Harbour in learning about and celebrating Ospreys during World Osprey Week (23rd - 28th March) and beyond! There's a topic each day to learn, while having fun. There are activities associated with every topic and they each have badges to give a guide to who the activity is suitable for (see below). The banners on each page are coloured as follows: yellow for topics, purple for activities, blue for activity answers. If you have any questions regarding the topics, activities or indeed anything else Osprey related, you can easily get in touch with us at [bophhq@birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk](mailto:bophhq@birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk). We will respond as quickly as possible!



*Increasingly Advanced*

**Why Ospreys?** It's a very exciting time for Poole Harbour and the South Coast as this year we have the potential to have the first nesting Ospreys in southern Britain for 180 years. Birds of Poole Harbour have led an Osprey Translocation Project in the harbour since 2017, partnered with the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and Wildlife Windows. We hope that everyone can get on board with the project and match our enthusiasm for these amazing birds. Enjoy learning about their interesting lives and history...



## 1) Introduction to Ospreys

In topic 1, we are getting to know a bit about Ospreys in general. A good way to work through the information is through creating mind maps - write "Ospreys" in the centre of a piece of paper and use lines stemming from the centre to connect different facts and ideas across the page. Remember to use lots of colour and to add drawings, and you can even cut out and stick the photos from this booklet in too! Once you have worked through the information, head to the next activity page, where you will find a few ways to consolidate what's been learned. There is a glossary section for potential new words!

Ospreys are a beautiful bird of prey with a wingspan of ~1.5m. They are easy to recognise through their dark brown and white plumage. They have a distinctive dark brown eye-mask which they have from when they first hatch. In flight, they can be mistaken for a large gull, but their hunting behaviour gives them away.

### Diet

Ospreys are the only bird of prey that exclusively eats fish, meaning that they are sometimes referred to as a "Fish Hawk". Their ability to fish is impressive, diving from heights of around 50ft to make a catch. They will feed on both saltwater and freshwater species of fish.



### Did you know?

Another name for a bird of prey is a *raptor*.

### Location

European Ospreys are migratory, meaning that they travel large distances to reach their breeding territories. Ospreys are a highly widespread, residing, at least for some part of the year, on every continent apart from Antarctica. Ospreys that breed in the UK typically winter in West Africa, making their journey around 4000km long!





## 1) Introduction to Ospreys

### Nests

Ospreys that breed in the UK return to their nests in Spring, usually between the middle of March and the middle of April. As Ospreys eat fish, the nests are usually close to a body of water, meaning that the male Osprey can catch fish to feed to the chicks while they grow, as well as feed the female. Ospreys will often return to the same nest each year, and usually around the same date too! They have large nests which they build up every year.



Jason Fathers

Most of the nests in the UK are currently in Scotland, positioned at the top of large pine trees. However, some breed on man-made nests on tall poles!

### Did you know?

Female Ospreys are bigger than males!

### History

Despite being one of the most widespread birds globally, Ospreys have had a difficult past. Through the actions of humans, Osprey numbers in Europe reached very low numbers and, in the UK, they were thought to be extinct as a breeding bird in 1916. Fortunately, they have made a comeback and there are now over 300 pairs in the UK!

Simon Kidner



### Glossary

**Plumage** - the collective term for a bird's feathers

**Migration** - seasonal movement from one area or country to another

**Continent** - One of the world's large expanses of land

**Extinct** - no living members of the group left



## 1) Introduction Activities

A) Colouring Sheet - Colour in the Osprey! For further learning add facts about the Ospreys appearance.



B) Wordsearch - Find all the Osprey associated words (answers on the blue-headed sheet after)



C) Have a first look at Osprey webcams online. Birds of Poole Harbour have a new Osprey webcam and we have to keep an eye on this nest to see if any Ospreys turn up - can you help us? Let us know if you spot anything! [www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/osprey/osprey-webcams/](http://www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/osprey/osprey-webcams/)

The webcam at Rutland Water (thanks to the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust) and is great to watch as it has nesting Ospreys (Maya and 033). It can be found here - [www.lrwt.org.uk/wildlife/rutland-ospreys](http://www.lrwt.org.uk/wildlife/rutland-ospreys)







## A) Activity – Colouring





## B) Activity – Wordsearch

A	O	S	P	R	E	Y	I	D	G	C	W
F	C	D	F	Z	S	G	R	F	K	O	N
R	F	G	C	J	X	G	G	B	S	O	R
I	S	W	F	I	S	H	U	S	I	V	U
C	F	A	M	U	F	D	E	T	D	D	M
A	L	L	A	P	C	R	A	P	T	O	R
Y	I	P	S	I	F	R	G	D	J	T	T
P	G	M	K	V	G	N	B	H	N	Y	A
R	H	N	S	I	B	D	I	V	E	U	L
N	T	D	M	T	E	E	C	T	U	G	O
S	C	O	T	L	A	N	D	V	O	I	N
X	S	F	Q	S	C	N	E	S	T	K	S

OSPREY

MIGRATION

DIVE

FISH

AFRICA

RAPTOR

NEST

SCOTLAND

TALONS

EGGS

FLIGHT

MASK

Wordsearch - Find all 12 words that are linked to Ospreys as fast as you can! If you are learning with other people, why not work together or have a race?



## B) Activities – ANSWERS

A	O	S	P	R	E	Y	I	D	G	C	W
F	C	D	F	Z	S	G	R	F	K	O	N
R	F	G	C	J	X	G	G	B	S	O	R
I	S	W	F	I	S	H	U	S	I	V	U
C	F	A	M	U	F	D	E	T	D	D	M
A	L	L	A	P	C	R	A	P	T	O	R
Y	I	P	S	I	F	R	G	D	J	T	T
P	G	M	K	V	G	N	B	H	N	Y	A
R	H	N	S	I	B	D	I	V	E	U	L
N	T	D	M	T	E	E	C	T	U	G	O
S	C	O	T	L	A	N	D	V	O	I	N
X	S	F	Q	S	C	N	E	S	T	K	S

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Did you manage to find them all?