



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, ranging from nesting to history. 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 for each section 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. 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...



3) Osprey Migration

So, we've learnt about Osprey nesting and the next topic is all about Osprey migration. There are 3 new activities to do at the end of topic again.

Ospreys migrate in spring and autumn, making a long journey to and from their nesting grounds. In the UK, Ospreys travel south for the colder months, typically to countries in West Africa, such as The Gambia, Senegal or Guinea Bissau, though some travel shorter distances, for example, to Portugal.

Satellite Tracking

Much of what we know about Osprey migration is through satellite tracking. This is where the Ospreys have a small tracker attached to their back which releases a signal, showing us their location. This allows us to see where they travel to, how long the journey takes, and which direction they go. A good way to learn more about satellite tracking is on the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation website - www.roydennis.org/satellite/. Look at the map to see the journey of some satellite tracked Ospreys from Scotland.

The Journey

Unfortunately, only a small number of Ospreys survive their first year (around 30%), partly due to the difficult nature of their migration. Their journey can reach around 4000km-5000km each way, and some go dangerous routes, for example, over the Bay of Biscay. Travelling over large bodies of water can put them at high risk as they can get trapped in bad weather systems, leading them to drown.

Travelling Ospreys often have other challenges to face too, from crossing the Sahara, to young birds learning to fish. Often they will break up the journey by having long "stopover" periods at reliable fishing sites on the way, for example, in Poole Harbour.





3) Osprey Migration



Joanna Dailey

Young Ospreys

Ospreys migrate independently, rather than travelling as a group, meaning that juvenile Ospreys do not learn from their parents where to travel to. Their first migration is therefore risky, still developing their flying ability, fishing skills, and which route to take to their new “home”.

After their first migration, young Ospreys spend time finding their new wintering grounds, where they will stay for an extra year. They do not return to the UK the next year as the mature adults do, as they are not yet ready to breed themselves. Instead, they stay in their wintering location, maturing and developing their skills, ready for when they return 2-3 years later.

When the young birds return to the UK for the first time, they will typically return back slightly later in the season, missing the opportunity to breed. Instead, they look out for available nests and partners, exploring potential territories. If they return again the year after, they are more mature and prepared for the nesting season.

Wintering Grounds

While abroad, Ospreys have a new environment that comes with new challenges. There is a higher risk of predation (being eaten) in their wintering grounds than in the UK, but the fishing opportunities are good.

Out of breeding season, Ospreys are more sociable, and can be found in groups of around 30-40 individuals at good fishing sites, such as Gunjur Quarry (pictured) in The Gambia. Although they are usually unrelated individuals, they are comfortable in each other’s company, unlike when they are in the UK, where they are much more territorial.



Joanna Dailey



3) Activities

A) Dot to Dot - Complete the drawing of an Osprey using the dots. Remember to colour it in afterwards!



B) Poetry - Use the information you have learned to write a poem from the point of view of an Osprey on migration. Try researching the countries they travel through and winter in to add extra detail.



C) Word Scramble - unscramble the letters to reveal words related to Ospreys and migration. This activity is more tricky, so remember to ask for help if you need it.





OSPREY INFORMATION PACK



3) Activity – Dot to Dot





3) Activity – Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to find the words that relate to Ospreys and migration...The first letter has been given to help!

1) LVJUNIEE J.....

2) GTNOIMIAR M.....

3) SOPYER O.....

4) LATNOS T.....

5) GEISNTN N.....

6) LGIHTF F.....

7) URNYJOE J.....

8) FIARCA A.....

9) HIGSFNI F.....

10) VATRLE T.....



3) Word Scramble – ANSWERS

1) LVJUNIEE JUVENILE

2) GTNOIMIAR MIGRATION

3) SOPYER OSPREY

4) LATNOS TALONS

5) GEISNTN NESTING

6) LGIHTF FLIGHT

7) URNYJOE JOURNEY

8) FIARCA AFRICA

9) HIGSFNI FISHING

10) VATRLE TRAVEL