

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

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About

The Osprey is no stranger to fame and attention - its pursuits have been followed closely by nestcams in the locations where it breeds: Speyside and Perth in Scotland, Cumbria and East Midlands in England, and also in Wales in the Dyfi Valley. There are public viewing points at these places, so you can catch a glimpse of this majestic bird. A migratory bird, it is present in Britain in summer. Ospreys eat fish, catching them in spectacular fashion as they dive towards lakes and lochs, stretch out their talons and scoop them out of the water with ease.

How to identify

The Osprey is a black and white bird which could be mistaken for a seagull at a distance. On closer viewing, its body is dark above and white below, and its wings have dark patches and are angled at the 'wrist'.

Where to find it

A rare breeding bird of parts of Scotland, Cumbria, the East Midlands and Wales, Ospreys can be spotted fishing at large bodies of water across the country during migration.

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Species information

i **Common name**
Osprey

Latin name
Pandion haliaetus

Category
Birds
Birds of prey

Statistics
Length: 56cm Wingspan:
1.6m Weight: 1.5kg
Average Lifespan: 9
years Breeding: Female
Ospreys begin to lay their
eggs in late April.
Incubation period: 5-6
weeks (35-43 days)
average being 37 days
Age at first breeding: 3-5
years Number of eggs:
Usually 3 Colour of eggs:
blotched reddish-brown

 **Conservation status**
Classified in the UK as an
Amber List species under
the Birds of Conservation
Concern review and listed
under CITES Appendix II.

Related links

When to find it

Cumbria Wildlife Trust saw the return of the Osprey at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve this year.



- 📌 [Cumbria Wildlife Trust osprey nest cam](#)
- 📌 [Support ospreys at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve in Cumbria](#)
- 📌 [Read the Foulshaw Moss osprey blog - Cumbria Wildlife Trust](#)

How can people help

Ospreys were severely persecuted across Europe in the past, but thankfully are beginning to increase in number today. To ensure they have continued success, The Wildlife Trusts work closely with farmers and landowners to promote wildlife-friendly practices. We are working towards a 'Living Landscape': a network of habitats and wildlife corridors across town and country, which are good for both wildlife and people. You can support this greener vision for the future by joining your local Wildlife Trust.

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