



Range Map

(Provided by [Birds of the World](#))

OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus

Low

Conservation Status
Low Concern

FACT ONE



Ospreys are categorized as a raptor, or bird of prey. These skilled hunters have large, strong talons and sharply hooked bills.

FACT TWO



Ospreys have a reversible outer toe and barbed pads adapted for catching slippery fish in their talons.

FACT THREE



Ospreys are one of the few raptors that will migrate over water. In a lifetime, an osprey can log up to 160,000 migration miles!

FACT FOUR



Ospreys pair for life and usually return to the same nest every year to lay their eggs. They typically inhabit Long Island spring through fall.

For more information about the Osprey:

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/>



Overview

A North American raptor with the ability to dive to catch fish, the Osprey is a common sight along Long Island shorelines early spring through fall. Their large stick nests can often be spotted atop utility poles, artificial platforms or tree tops. The average lifespan for the Osprey is 15-20 years and they lay clutches of 1-4 eggs.

Life History

Osprey populations suffered a devastating crash from the 1950s-1970s due to the poisoning effects of pesticides. Exposure to pesticides such as DDT and PCBs resulted in the production of thin eggshells and loss of chicks. The species' decline was halted by pesticide bans and construction of artificial nest sites.

Status

Today the Osprey is a conservation success story as populations have increased every year since the 1972 U.S. DDT ban. However, natural nest sites are still negatively impacted by tree removal and shoreline development, and a growing cause of death for Ospreys is entanglement in fishing line and other marine debris.

How You Can Help

Observe your local nesting Ospreys from a distance and help maintain their natural habitat! Ospreys often mistake marine debris (ribbon, monofilament, twine, etc.) for new nesting material, but these debris can cause entanglement. Participate in a local beach cleanup and always be a good steward of our beaches.

After the 1972 U.S. DDT ban, populations rebounded, and the Osprey became a conservation success symbol as their population trend continues to increase.



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