

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus
Order: Accipitriformes
Family: Pandionidae



Description

Ospreys are large, distinctively shaped hawks, with slender bodies and long, narrow wings. In flight their wings form a distinct 'M' shape. Ospreys are brown above and white below. They have piercing, bright yellow eyes.

Diet

Ospreys are the only hawk on the continent that eats almost exclusively live fish.

FUN FACT

Did you know ospreys are nicknamed **"Fish Hawk"** due to their diets?

Habitat

Ospreys are found near water, either fresh or salt, where large numbers of fish are present. May be most common around major coastal estuaries and salt marshes. They nest on elevated nest sites free from predatory mammals.

Migration

Resident to long-distance migrants. Most ospreys that breed in North America migrate to Central and South America for the winter.

Nesting

Clutch Size: 1-4 eggs
Number of Broods: 1 brood
Incubation Period: 36-42 days
Nestling Period: 50-55 days
Egg Description: Cream with reddish brown spots.



FUN FACT

Did you know ospreys' talons can bend backwards so that there are 2 claws pointing forward and 2 in reverse on each foot. No other raptors have this ability.



-  Breeding
-  Migration
-  Winter
-  Year-round



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