

OSPREY FACTS

You'll find ospreys near any body of water – lakes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs or even fish hatcheries.

Ospreys fly above the water looking for fish. When they spot one, they dive down and catch the fish in their talons.

Osprey can only dive into water about 3 feet deep.

Ospreys eat mostly fish, but sometimes they eat lizards, insects, muskrats or even squirrels.

Ospreys mate for life.

Ospreys build large nests from sticks. The nests sit atop telephone poles, docks or trees. Their first nest is small, but they return to the same nest every year and add more sticks to it. After a few years, the nest can be big enough for a human to sit in.



Ospreys lay between one and five eggs each season. The eggs don't hatch all at once though. The first egg hatches a few days before the last. The oldest and biggest chick bosses the other chicks around.

Ospreys feed their chicks with bits of mashed up fish.

Ospreys migrate from Canada to South America every year, flying 6,000 miles or more.

The oldest known North American Osprey lived to be 25 years old.

OSPREY Q&A

How many eggs can ospreys lay at a time?

- 6-10 eggs
- 1-5 eggs
- 20 eggs
- 50 eggs

How do osprey look for prey?

- They call the prey using hooting sounds
- They sneak quietly along river banks
- They crawl unseen and pounce the prey
- They fly above the water and dive down to catch the prey using their claws

Mother ospreys feed their babies with___?

- Crushed eggs
- Dead animal meat
- Letting them fend for themselves
- Bits of mashed up fish

What is an osprey's nest made of?

- Made of sticks
- Made of clay
- Made of soil
- Made of sand

Where would you find an osprey?

- Lakes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs and fish hatcheries
- Woodlands
- Deserts and dry lands
- Mountains and forests

Where do they usually make their nests?

- On top of telephone poles, caves and trees
- On top of telephone poles, docks and burrows
- On top of electric poles, docks and trees
- On top of telephone poles, docks and trees

What will ospreys eat if there are no fish?

- Lizards, birds, muskrats and squirrels
- Lizards, insects, muskrats and dogs
- Lizards, insects, muskrats and squirrels
- Lizards, insects, caracals and squirrels



Watch Richmond's own osprey couple at
www.richmondospreycamera.com
Presented by Friends of the James RiverPark
www.jamesriverpark.org

