

Protocol for the Osprey Nest Monitoring Project

Locating a nest site and finding a vantage point:

Use the OspreyWatch website (www.osprey-watch.org) to identify or report a nest site to monitor under the Delaware Fish and Wildlife Monitoring Group. Nests near homes, workplaces or volunteer organizations are ideal so that it is easy to continually visit the site throughout the breeding season.

Keeping the birds safe is more important than data collection, so please only observe nests that can be viewed using binoculars from a distance that does not cause the birds to flush.

What you will need:

- Binoculars or spotting scope
- Data sheets and volunteer logs
- Clipboard
- Field guide
- Hat/sunscreen
- Internet access and a computer

Time period and observation schedule:

- Begin observing in early March and look for birds building nests or landing on platforms. Observe until the chicks have fledged in the summer or the adults have abandoned the nest without success.
- Nests should be observed at least once every two weeks. It is best to observe during calm weather for clear viewing.
- Observations can take place any time of day before twilight and should span a minimum of 10 minutes.

Data Collection:

- At each observation, complete the fields on your data sheet, paying particular attention to key events to document on your activity reports.
- After each observation, visit www.osprey-watch.org to enter your data online. See the User Guide for more detailed guidance on how to enter data. Enter nesting diaries and activity reports throughout the breeding season.

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