

The Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge recently repaired an osprey nest near your house.

If you are interested in supporting osprey recovery efforts we are always looking for people to monitor the nests, or you can make contributions to buy materials to repair nesting platforms.

Ospreys are members of the hawk family. Their Latin name, *Pandion haliaetus*, means "sea eagle." A "fish hawk," ospreys hunt for food by flying over the shoreline, marshes and lakes in search of prey. When they spot their prey they dive with talons outspread, splashing into the water. If the osprey catches a fish, it will adjust the fish in its talons so it is facing forward and fly back to the nest.

Ospreys are about the size of an eagle with females being larger than the males. Both have similar coloring, dark brown, with white below and a spotted breast. The wing has a distinctive bend at the "wrist" and they are often mistaken for gulls from a distance.

The nest of an osprey is constructed of sticks, seaweed, and driftwood; just about anything they can find. The nests are typically built atop high structures such as trees, utility poles or man-made nest perches.

The Osprey population declined drastically in the 50s and 60s due to the use of pesticides but they have made a significant comeback to the delight of birdwatchers everywhere. A migratory bird, ospreys return to Cape Cod from the south during the months of April and May. They summer with us here and return south in the fall.



If you are interested in monitoring an osprey nest contact:

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

508-457-0495 ext 101

www.waquoitbayreserve.org

To make a tax deductible contribution to help repair osprey nests:

Friends of Mashpee NWR (put **Osprey** in the Memo)

PO Box 1283

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