

OSPREY

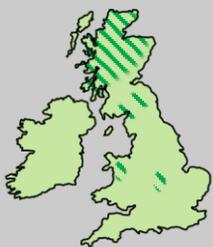
The western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a diurnal bird of prey that is best known for preying on fish.

They are highly widespread, found worldwide on every continent except Antarctica. The British population is very small, with no more than 250 pairs estimated. These are almost exclusively found in Scotland, migrating to Africa during the winter months.

Ospreys have several characteristics and behaviours that help them to hunt and catch fish, and are their own unique genus of raptor.



British Population



Between 200 - 250 UK breeding pairs estimated

Numbers increasing due to conservation efforts

■ Found here (sparse)

Size & Weight



Head to tail - 52 to 60 cm

Wingspan - 150 to 170 cm

Weight -
1.2 to 2 kg

Lifespan



10 years
Wild average



25 years
In captivity

Main Diet



Fish, up to 16 inches long, are their main diet, and it very rarely takes other prey.



Small mammals



Small birds

Osprey - Page 2

Just over 100 years ago, the osprey had been made extinct in the UK. Persecution by egg and skin collectors meant there were no birds left breeding in Britain.

It wasn't until the 1950s when these birds naturally reached British shores again, and until conservation efforts began in 1976, there were only a dozen pairs.

By the new millennium, ospreys had been re-introduced to parts of England and Wales, thanks to the effort of several wildlife trusts, and about 250 pairs were estimated in 2011.



Colouring Page

Use the photo above as a guide to colour in an osprey!





Match the Facts

Ospreys are highly adapted to catch fish. For example, their wings are long and slender, meaning it's easier for them to fly out of water.

Can you match the adaptation with its benefit?

Adaptation

Two talons face forward and two face back, with each toe covered in short, stiff spikes

Thick and oily, tightly packed plumage

Valves in their nostrils, which close when they enter water

Always carries a fish with their head facing forwards

Benefit

More aerodynamic, meaning they can fly faster

Stops water entering their body

Can get a better grip onto fish, which are wet and slippery

Prevents the body from getting too wet

Osprey - Page 4

Crack the Code

Use the code to decipher the sentences below, and find out some more facts about ospreys! The first one has been started for you.

A = ○	E = ∪	I = ⊙	M = ⊗	Q = ●	U = ∇	Y = ⊖
B = ⊠	F = ∇	J = ∇	N = ◻	R = ◻	V = ✕	Z = ◆
C = ▲	G = ◻	K = ✕	O = ★	S = ⊙	W = ◻	
D = ⊕	H = ◆	L = ∪	P = △	T = ◆	X = ∇	

⊠ ⊙ ∪ ∪ ⊕ ⊙ ◻ ∪ ★ ★ ⊙ ∪ ▲ ★ ∪ ★ ◻ ⊙ ∪ ⊙ ⊕

Ospreys may B R E E D I N _____

⊙ ∇ ▲ ▲ ∪ ⊙ ⊙ ∇ ∇ ∪ △ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ○ ◆ ◆ ⊙ ○ ▲ ◆ ★ ◆ ◆ ∪ ⊙ ⊙

⊙ ★ ⊙ ∪ ◆ ⊙ ⊙ ∪ ⊙ ∪ ⊙ ◻ ∪ ∪ ⊙ ∇ ★ ⊙ ▲ ∪ ◆ ◆ ∪ ⊙ ◆ ★

⊕ ⊙ ★ ▲ ◆ ◆ ∪ ⊙ ⊙ ∇ ∇ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ◻ ⊕ ◆ ◆ ∪ ◻ ⊙ ◆ ∪ ⊙ ∪ ⊙ ◆

◆ ∪ ∪ ∪ △ ◆ ★ ◻ ∪ ▲ ★ ∪ ∪ ⊙ ⊙ ⊕ ★ ◆ ◆ ∪ ⊙

They may use _____

○ ⊙ ◆ ⊙ ∇ ⊙ ▲ ○ ∪ ⊙ ⊙ ◆ ∪ ⊙ ∇ ★ ⊙ ◻ ∪ ⊙ ◆ ⊙ ◻ ◻
