

## Writing styles – Ideas for English teachers

It is interesting to compare the writing styles used by a scientist and a novelist.

Below are two extracts for books, the first in a scientific publication, and the second in a novel. Both are about the osprey.

### Discussion points

In what ways are the scientist and the novelists similar, and what ways are they different. How does each convey a "picture" of an osprey? Which is most effective?

### Activity

Watch a video clip (Use the video link) Write your own description of an osprey

## Science

The book "Rutland Ospreys", written by Tim Mackrill, has a scientific description of the Osprey

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Pandion haliaetus</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>55 - 62cm</b>
<b>Wingspan</b>	<b>145 -180cm</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>1.2 -2.0kg</b>

## Description

### Plumage

Brown upper parts contrast with white underside, with variable brown streaks on the breast. Head is white with a distinctive brown band running through the yellow eye. Females are generally larger and darker than males.

### Diet

Exclusively fish, caught with specialised talons from on, or just beneath, the water's surface after a spectacular dive.

### Breeding and Life Expectancy

Most ospreys do not breed until they are 3 - 5 years of age. They can live until their twenties and usually remain faithful to the same mate and nest site each year.

Females lay a clutch of three eggs, which take 35 - 40 days to hatch.

Young fledge when they are 7- 8 weeks of age

## Writing styles – Ideas for English teachers cont.

### The Arts

**Sky Hawk** by **Gill Lewis** is a wonderful story about ospreys.

In her book there is a description of someone seeing an osprey for the first time

*(Chapter 5 , paragraph 1)*

*At first all I could see was the head of a bird above the pile of sticks, a creamy head with a brown stripe across the eye. Then the rest of the bird appeared. It was huge, with dark brown wings and a white belly. There was something prehistoric about it, like a beast of a lost world, too big for this landscape.*

*Osprey I whispered, I could hardly believe it.*