

THE OSPREY: A REMARKABLE RETURN



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**WOW Day 4 is all about the reintroduction
of ospreys at Rutland Water Nature Reserve
and the story there so far.**

THE RUTLAND OSPREY PROJECT



Rutland Water Nature Reserve, which covers 1,000 acres at the western end of the Rutland Water reservoir, is home to the Rutland Osprey Project.

The nature reserve itself is an internationally important **wetland**, being formed of multiple lagoons spanning the site. In the winter months the reserve is home to over 25,000 wildfowl, including teal and wigeon!

OSPREYS IN RUTLAND IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Ospreys had become extinct as a breeding bird in the British Isles in 1916, with the last pair to be recorded breeding being in Scotland. Since the 1950's the population of ospreys in Scotland slowly began to recover.

In 1975, a brand new reservoir was being constructed, which would not only provide water, but offer recreational activities and create a nature reserve on the reservoir. Potentially, offering a perfect habitat for ospreys.

Although there were no breeding pairs of ospreys when the construction of the reservoir was finished, there were many records of ospreys passing over Rutland. Sightings of ospreys visiting Rutland have been recorded every year since 1976, the year the newly built reservoir was flooded. In an attempt to attract a pair of breeding ospreys, an artificial nest was erected in 1986.

Over the years that followed sightings were reported more regularly, but it wasn't until 1994 when the first two ospreys, a male and a female, spent the whole season at Rutland Water Nature Reserve. We were hoping they would return the next season and breed, but alas they didn't.

If we were going to see ospreys return to the skies of Rutland, we were going to need to intervene.

After lots of research was completed and data were closely looked at in 1995, the Rutland Osprey Project was set up in 1996 with the aim to **reintroduce** a population of breeding ospreys to Rutland Water Nature Reserve, with the help of a pioneering **translocation project**.



(C) John Wright



2 licences from governing bodies had to be granted before the translocation went ahead. As the translocation involved removing osprey chicks from the nest sites in Scotland and releasing them at Rutland Water Nature Reserve, permission had to be given from Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Chicks were removed from Scottish nests which had a brood of 3. At the time they were removed, the chicks hadn't yet fledged, so had to be carefully looked after in specially designed pens once they arrived in Rutland.



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Did you know: Ospreys are always more risky to translocate because they **migrate**, and are **specialists**. They also return to the place they fledged from.

Once at Rutland, the chicks were monitored 24 hours a day by a fully trained team of volunteers. Today, volunteers still play an important role in monitoring one of the current nest sites, Manton Bay, at Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

1996: the first 8 chicks were **translocated** and **released** at Rutland Water.

1999: 2 male ospreys, 08(97) and 03(97), that were both released as chicks in 1997, returned to Rutland for the first time!

2001: The first pair of ospreys bred and raised a single chick at Rutland Water, which included male 03(97) who was one of the original translocated chicks!

1996 - 2002: 64 osprey chicks had been translocated to Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

2005: a further 11 female osprey chicks were released in order to address a **gender imbalance**.

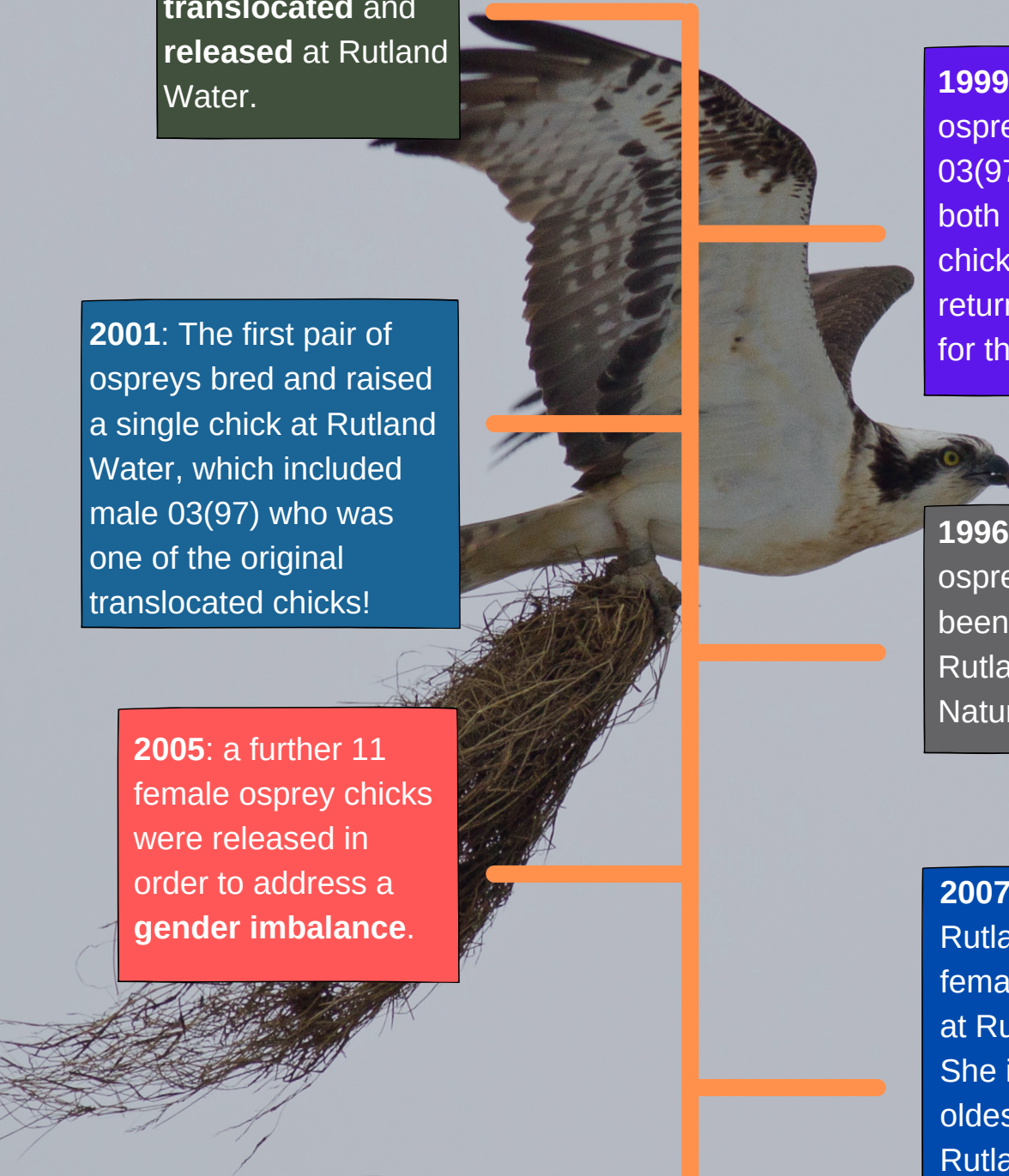
2007: the first Rutland-born osprey, female 5N(04), bred at Rutland Water! She is currently the oldest bird in Rutland's population at 16 years old.

2020: since 2001, 188 chicks have fledged from nest sites in Rutland.

2021: the 25th anniversary of the Rutland Osprey Project, which now has a stable breeding osprey population.



Did you know: male 03(97) (pictured) became known as Mr Rutland as he raised 32 chicks in his life!



OTHER OSPREY TRANSLOCATIONS



POOLE HARBOUR OSPREY PROJECT, DORSET:

- 5-year translocation project which began in 2017.
- 60 osprey chicks are planned to be released at Poole Harbour in Dorset.
- They currently have a resident female, CJ7, occupying a nest.

TUSCANY, ITALY:

- 2006 - 2010: 32 osprey chicks collected from nests in Corsica, released in Tuscany, southern Italy.
- 2011: first successful breeding attempt.

SPAIN:

- 2003 - the first few chicks were moved from Scotland, Finland and Germany, to Spain.
- First bred in 2005.

KEY WORDS OF THE DAY

Reintroduce: bringing an animal or plant back to a place.

Licences: permissions from authority bodies to allow the reintroduction to happen.

Translocation: moving an animal or plant from one place to another.

Wetland: a type of habitat, where the land is covered by water, for example marshes and lakes.

Brood: the number of chicks in a nest.

Monitored: watching of the chicks to make sure they are safe and to learn more about them.



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ACTIVITIES

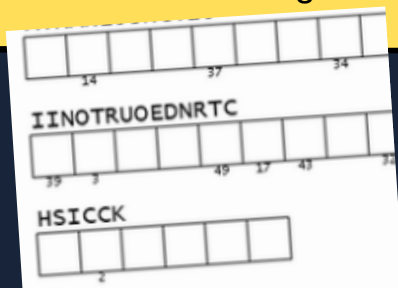
ORDER OF EVENTS

Reorder the statements given, in order of events for a translocation project to be successful.

1. Check and ring birds before they leave.
2. Select osprey nests from which to remove a chick.
3. Obtain licence from authorities to move birds.
4. Build artificial platforms for birds to rest on, and in the future, breed.
5. Build pens at destination.
6. Train volunteers to monitor newly arrived chicks.

HIDDEN MESSAGE WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Can you find the hidden message in this puzzle after unscrambling letters to form words relating to today's topic?



OSPREY DOT-TO-DOT BY NUMBERS

Connect the dots to draw your own osprey and colour in your final pictures!



Contact Us:

Abi Mustard (Osprey Information Officer, Rutland Osprey Project, LRWT) -
amustard@lrwt.org.uk

Liv Cooper (Projects Coordinator, Birds of Poole Harbour) -
bophhq@birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk

ORDER OF EVENTS

The following statements all describe key parts of the translocation process, but are all mixed up! Can you suggest the right order of events?

1. Check and ring birds before they leave.
2. Select osprey nests from which to remove a chick.
3. Obtain licence from authorities to move birds.
4. Build artificial platforms for birds to rest on, and in the future, breed.
5. Build pens at destination.
6. Train volunteers to monitor newly arrived chicks.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



OSPREY DOT-TO-DOT BY NUMBERS

Connect the dots to create and colour in your very own osprey!

TRANSLOCATION DOUBLE PUZZLE

ATLANLOSNTIO

	14			37			34		1	22			

IINOTRUOEDNRTC

39	3			49	17	43		32	48	41	42	46	44

HSICCK

	2					

ORSPSEY

		13	4	15	16	

DRUTANL

45	5	21	33	24		10

TODNSCAL

30	20	35		7	40	36	

RSEELEA

	47		29	8	31	38

OTOMIRN

	18	9		6	11	

EUSSCSC

23	26	27	28	19	12	25

First unscramble the letters which form words related to Day 4 of WOW and then work out a hidden message using the numbers each of which correspond to a letter.

1	2	3

4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

11	12	13	14	15	16

			J			
13	17	18		19	20	21

22	23

24

							F		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		32	33

						V					
34	35	36	37	38	39		40	41	42	43	44

			J				.
13	45	46		47	48	49	