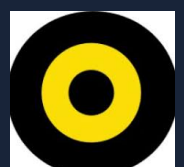


OSPREYS: AN INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Day 1 of World Osprey Week (WOW)! Today, learn all about what an osprey is and what makes them such special birds.



WHAT IS AN OSPREY?



Did you know: female ospreys are bigger than males?

Wingspan: between 1.3 and 1.8 m

Weight: ~1.4kg

Bird of prey

Adults have yellow eyes

Brown backs

Brown eyemask

White underneath

They only eat fish!



Ask an adult to hold their arms out straight. This is roughly how big ospreys are with their wings spread out (**wingspan**)!

A HUNTING OSPREY



Ospreys are experts at catching fish! To help them catch the fish, ospreys have some very special things, or **adaptations**. Here are just a few of them:

1. **Eyes** - ospreys can see fish through the water's surface. They have much better eyesight than us!
2. **Curved beak** - their beaks are curved and very, very sharp. Brilliant for eating.
3. **Strong wings** - ospreys can catch fish up to half their bodyweight (2 bags of sugar) so they need their wings to be powerful to lift off out of the water.
4. **Sharp talons** - needed to keep hold of the fish!

Did you know: an osprey catches a fish approx. 1 in every 5 dives?

BREEDING



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Ospreys usually pair up for life and return to the same nest each year.

Ospreys can lay up to 4 eggs, which need to be kept warm until the chicks are ready to hatch.



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2020-Apr-30 10:50:06



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After 35-42 days the eggs will start to hatch! Osprey chicks are very small and weak to start with, but grow really quickly.

At 7-8 weeks old, osprey chicks will fly for the very first time!



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KEY WORDS OF THE DAY

Wingspan: the length of an osprey from wing-tip to wing-tip.

Adaptation: things which helps an animal or plant live in its environment.

Incubation: the process where female birds sit on their eggs to keep them warm, until they are ready to hatch.

Talons: a 'claw' of an animal - particularly birds of prey.

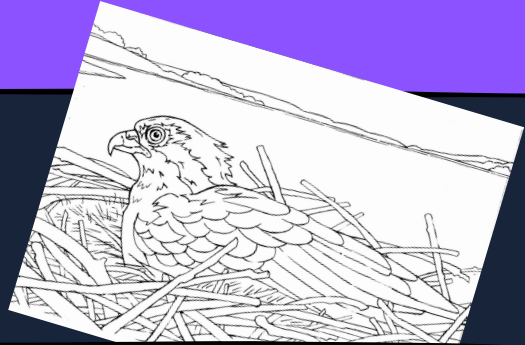
Bird of Prey: a large bird, which mostly hunts other animals.

Fledge: when a chick flies for the very first time.



ACTIVITIES

Get creative, and colour in the pictures 'Osprey Family' and 'Osprey Incubating'! We would love to see these, so feel free to send them in.



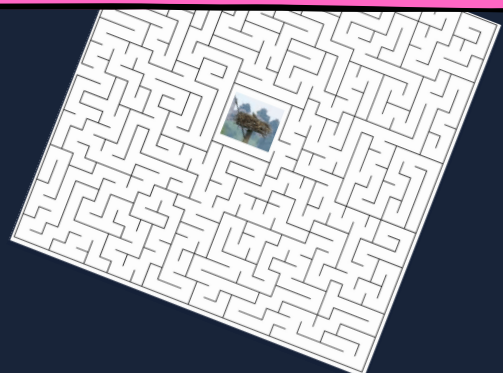
Fact File: Fill in your very own fact file for ospreys using all the information provided during the week.

An osprey is a _____ with a wingspan of up to _____.

Ospreys are one of the few species of birds that only eat _____. They have some fantastic _____ which help them catch their prey.

Ospreys are one of the UK's _____ birds of prey, due to becoming _____ as a breeding bird in England in _____ and later in Scotland in _____. This was because humans _____ is _____ as well as other reasons. _____ is _____ the UK, but thanks to some _____ to other parts _____.

A-Maze-ing Ospreys: Find your way through the maze to reach your nest, but be careful you don't get lost along the way!



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

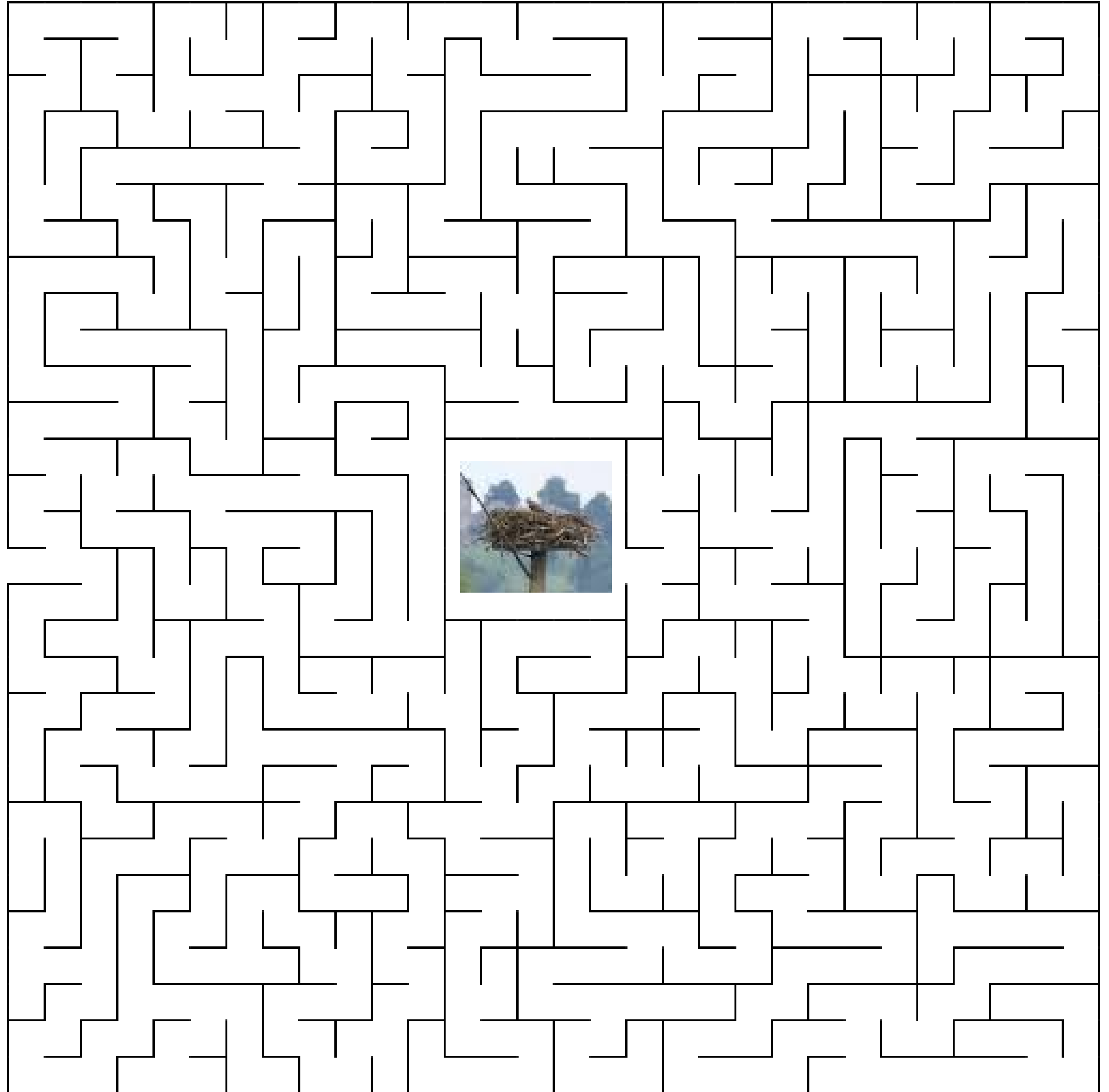
A-MAZE-ING OSPREYS

Find your way through the maze
to your nest! Be careful of those
dead-ends.



Did you know: an
osprey nest can be
up to 1.6 m wide.

START
HERE



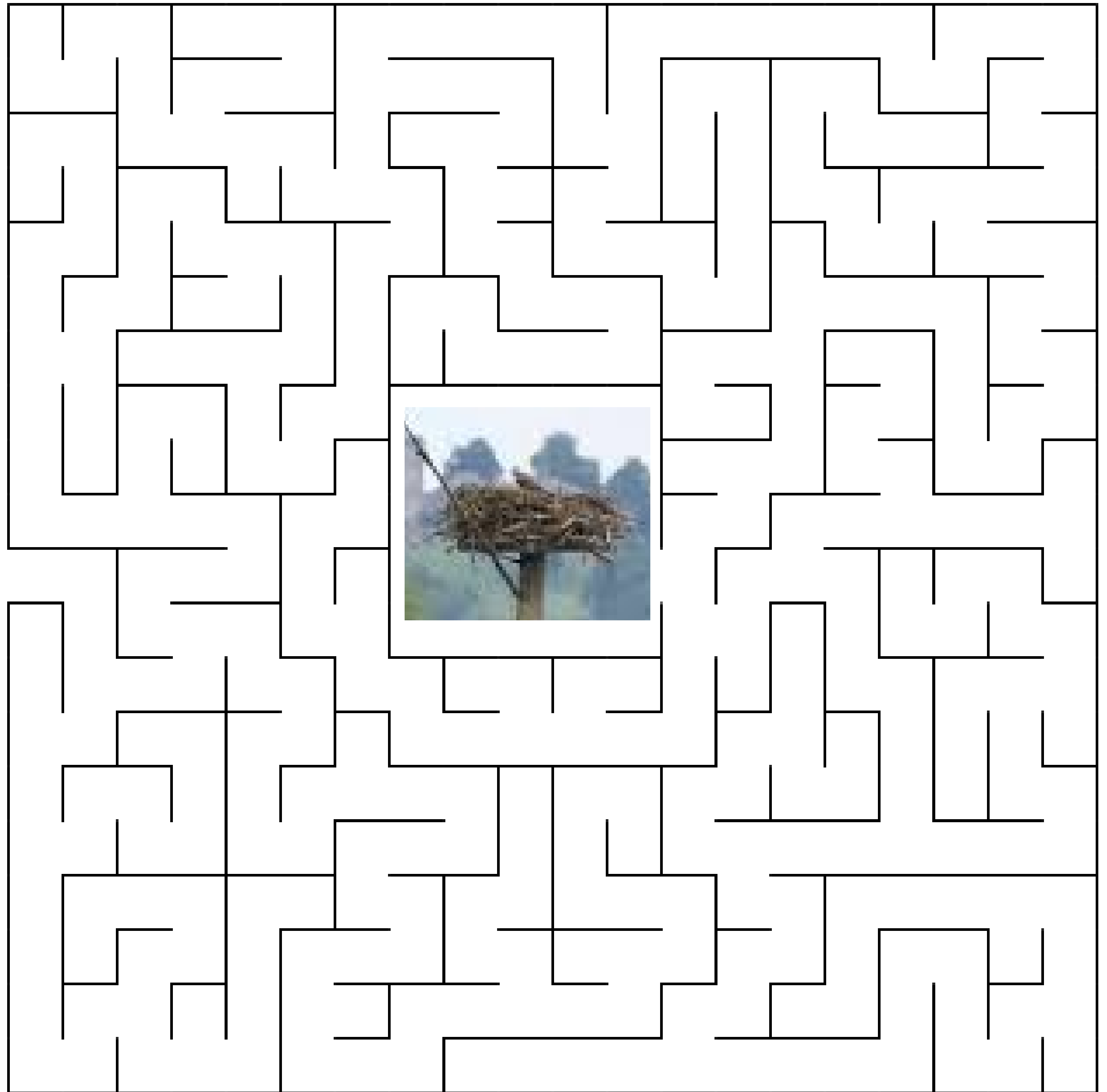
A-MAZE-ING OSPREYS

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Did you know: an
osprey nest can be
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**START
HERE**





SMITH



OSPREYS: A FACT FILE

Fill in the gaps using the words jumbled together below! Refer to the information packs for help.



An osprey is a _____ with a wingspan of up to _____. Ospreys are one of the few species of birds that only eat _____. They have some fantastic _____ which help them catch their prey.

Ospreys are one of the UK's _____ birds of prey, due to becoming _____ as a breeding bird in England in _____ and later in Scotland in _____. This was because humans collected their _____ as well as other reasons. _____ is the stronghold for ospreys in the UK, but thanks to some amazing work ospreys have been _____ to other parts of England for example _____ and _____.

Ospreys are a _____ species, which means they spend the spring and summer in the UK and the autumn and winter in countries such as _____.

Gambia

eggs

Scotland

reintroduced

migratory

adaptations

fish

Rutland Water

1916

bird of prey

1.8m

1847

extinct

Poole Harbour

rarest