

# A History of Ospreys Activity Sheet



## Introduction

Like many of the UK's other birds of prey, the population, or number of Ospreys, in the UK has fluctuated and they haven't always been easy to see, and they even were once made extinct as a breeding bird in the UK.

Today, Scotland holds the majority of the UK's population, with there being over 400 breeding pairs, but that wasn't always the case.

**ACTIVITY** Fill in the blanks and answer the questions of to build up the Ospreys' historical timeline.

10 – 15 million years ago: \_\_\_\_\_ showed Ospreys existed at this time.  
(Think about how we know other animals for example dinosaurs were discovered)

1200 – 165 BC: Old Testament mentions Ospreys among lists of birds not to eat.

1609: Shakespeare mentions Ospreys in one of his plays. What was the play called and what was the quote?

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1700 – 1900: During this period the population of Ospreys in the UK dropped dramatically. Can you suggest three reasons why their population declined?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_: In this year, Ospreys became extinct as a breeding bird in England and Wales, with the last breeding pair being recorded in Somerset.

\_\_\_\_\_: The population of Ospreys hung on in Scotland for a while longer, but eventually they were thought to become extinct here too in this year.

1954: This year marked a very important year for Ospreys in the UK – can you find out why?

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**Activity** Many other species of birds and other animals have become extinct over the years. One famous one was the Dodo which became extinct in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Can you name three other species that have become extinct and give a brief summary as to why?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_