



**Leicestershire
& Rutland
Wildlife Trust**

World Osprey Week Day 1



**OSPREYS: AN
INTRODUCTION**



(C) Alberto-Benito-Ruiz

OSPREYS: A FACTFILE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Pandion halieatus



DESCRIPTION:

Ospreys are one of the UK's largest **birds of prey**. Adult ospreys have mostly brown upperparts and the breast is white with some brown streaking, which is more apparent in females. **Juvenile** ospreys' **plumage** varies slightly to the adults, and have a white tip to the end of their brown feathers on their upperparts. Ospreys have a brown mask covering their eyes, which are yellow in adults and orange in chicks.

WINGSPAN: 1.3 to 1.8 m

WEIGHT: Approx. 1.4 kg

DIET: Fish - **piscivorous**

HABITAT: Land based, near a water body such as lake, river or sea.

CLUTCH SIZE: 1 to 4 eggs



Did you know: female ospreys are up to 20% bigger than males.



(C) Cumbria Wildlife Trust

ADAPTATIONS



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



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Each animal on the planet is well suited to its **habitat**. This is because they have some brilliant **adaptations** which help them survive.

Ospreys are no different, and are formidable **predators** when it comes to fishing.

EYES:

- Ospreys have excellent eyesight, 19x better than our own, which helps them see below the surface of the water!
- They have a **transparent nictitating membrane** (almost a third eyelid), which protects the eye from the impact of diving into the water.



BEAK: • Curved and very sharp beak, which helps tear up the fish.



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TALONS & FEET:

- Sharp, curved talons.
- Reversible toe, which they can **rotate**. This helps them keep hold of the fish.
- **Spicules**, which make their feet look scaly. Used for gripping the fish.

MUSCLES:

- Strong, powerful muscles which help the osprey lift the fish out of the water.

BREEDING



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Ospreys usually pair up for life or until one of the pair doesn't return to breed. They are mostly **site faithful** and return to breed close to where they fledged from.

In March, ospreys return to the UK to breed. In April, the eggs are laid, which are **incubated** and kept warm by females.



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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 because of their high protein diet.

At around 7 to 8 weeks old, chicks will start stretching and strengthening their wing muscles ready for **fledging** sometime in June or July.



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DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

Plumage: all of a bird's feathers.

Juvenile: used to describe immature adults.

Predator: an animal which hunts other animals.

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

Scientific name: each species of animal and plant is given a Latin name, to allow people all over the world to identify it.

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

Site faithful: used to describe individuals, which are associated with a particular area.

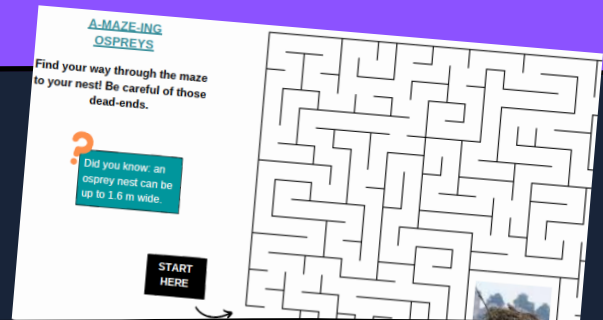
Habitat: the environment a species lives in.

Zygodactylism: a birds foot, which has two toes facing forward and two facing backwards - like an osprey when it rotates one of its outer toes.

ACTIVITIES

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!



OSPREY POP-UP GRID CHALLENGE

Choose and print out one of the pictures of an osprey from the selection given and draw a 5x5 grid on your photo. Try to recreate the piece on the grid below by drawing one square at a time. Once finished can you design a background?



OSPREYS: A FACTFILE

Fill in the gaps and match the term to its definition to create your very own osprey factfile.

Ospreys are one of the UK's _____ birds c
_____ of up to 1.8 m long. Ospreys can
from mid-March to early September, during which
to raise up to _____ chicks.

Ospreys are the only bird of prey to exclusively fee
_____. In order to catch their prey, os
very remarkable _____, some of whic
_____, sharp and curved _____
_____ one their outer toes.

Scientific name _____

Zygodactylism _____

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Visit our website: www.lrwt.org.uk/rutland-ospreys



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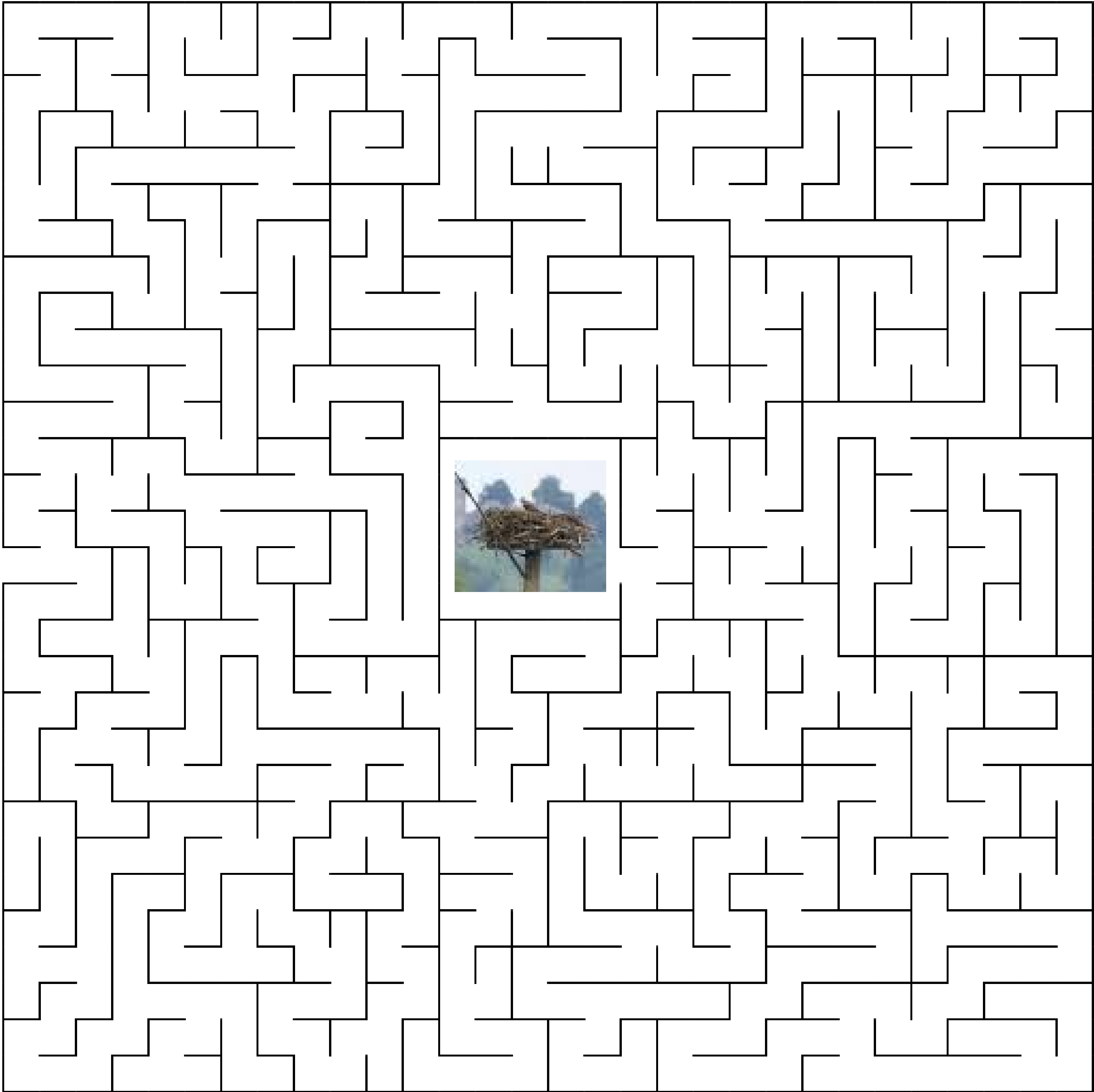
A-MAZE-ING OSPREYS!

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



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POP UP GRID CHALLENGE

Choose and print out one of the pictures of an Osprey from the selection given and draw a 5x5 grid on your photo. Using the materials you have, try to recreate the piece on the grid below by drawing one square at a time. Once finished can you design a background?



















OSPREYS: A FACT

FILE

Fill in the gaps using the words referring to the information pack to help you! Then match the term with its definition.



Ospreys are one of the UK's _____ birds of prey, having a _____ of up to 1.8 m long. Ospreys can be found in the UK from mid-March to early September, during which time, they are able to raise up to _____ chicks.

Ospreys are the only bird of prey to exclusively feed on fish - they are _____. In order to catch their prey, ospreys have some very remarkable _____, some of which include; very good _____, sharp and curved _____ and the ability to _____ one their outer toes.

Scientific name

A birds foot, which has two toes facing forward and two facing backwards.

Zygodactylism

All the feathers on a bird.

Plumage

Animals which eat other animals.

Predators

Each species of animal and plant is given a Latin name, to allow people all over the world to identify it.



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