

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus



LOCATED

The osprey tolerates a wide variety of habitats nesting in any location near a body of water providing an adequate food supply. It is found on all continents except Antarctica.

POPULATION

During the mid-20th century osprey populations suffered great losses due to widespread use of the pesticide DDT. After the usage, DDT and other pesticides were banned. This helped them recover greatly.



PREDATORS

An adult osprey does not have many predators but great horned owls and bald eagles were spotted killing adults, while raccoons will definitely steal and eat eggs and babies.



DIET

The osprey's diet consist almost exclusively of fish. It possesses specialized physical characteristics & exhibits unique behavior to assist in hunting & catching prey.



BEHAVIOR

The osprey searches for fish by flying on steady wingbeats and circling shallow bodies of water. It often hovers briefly before diving into the water to catch a fish. It has an amazing 80% accuracy at catching prey. Ospreys are built for this!!



IDENTIFICATION

The osprey is very large, shaped like a hawk. It is brown above, white below, overall it is the whitest raptors. It has a white head with a broad brown stripe through the eye.

