



Audubon Connecticut Osprey Cam Gives an Up-close Look at Nature

PRESS RELEASE-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greenwich, Conn. — April 28, 2017 — Audubon Connecticut (ACT), the state office of the National Audubon Society, is pleased to announce that two Ospreys have made a nest and are currently sitting on four eggs on ACT's newly built Osprey platform in Greenwich, Connecticut. The nest is being streamed live for all to enjoy on the Audubon Connecticut Live Osprey Cam online at ct.audubon.org/act-osprey-cam.

The camera is providing an exciting chance to observe these incredible migratory birds—to watch as the eggs are incubated and, hopefully, as young chicks are fledged. With more than 18,000 web page views since the camera launched on March 2nd, these nesting Ospreys have captured attention from web visitors from across the country and even across the pond in the UK, Norway, and Israel. The camera is growing in popularity in classrooms, giving children a unique opportunity to get a live, up-close look at nature. It is also a great teaching moment to show what can be done when people come together to protect nature and the environment.

In the 1960s, coastal development and the use of DDT reduced the Osprey population dramatically—there were fewer than 150 active nests by 1969 (down from more than 1,000 nests in the 1940s), and the number dropped to fewer than 10 active nests in the state by 1974. Thanks to strong advocacy by many concerned citizens and organizations, including Audubon, DDT was banned in the 1970s, and a steady increase in the Osprey population has taken hold in Connecticut and in other states where the species breeds during the spring and summer.

“Osprey are a great feature of Connecticut’s shoreline and a sure sign that spring has arrived. Healthy populations of Osprey is one of the great conservation success stories of the modern era,” remarked Audubon Connecticut’s Director of Bird Conservation, Patrick Comins. “Restored from the brink of local extinction, Ospreys now inhabit more than 400 active nests in Connecticut—thanks to the hard work of scientists, volunteers, and grassroots action. Unfortunately, we are still witnessing troubling environmental occurrences, such as the presence of litter in Osprey nests. This is a good reminder that all of us can do more to create bird-friendly communities by reducing the amount of harmful materials put out into the environment.”

Even though their numbers have rebounded, the Ospreys are indeed still letting us know that we need to take better care of the planet. For some unknown reason, this species is compelled to collect and use trash as nesting material. The pair on the ACT cam is no exception and is serving as a reminder of the importance of proper trash disposal and the need to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Audubon Connecticut and the Osprey Cam viewers are excited to see what is in-store for this pair next! One of the birds has been recognized as having a band, number 0928-09512, which was placed on the bird when it was a young chick on June 30, 2009, at Point Lookout, New York. The first of the four eggs currently in this nest was laid on April 11th. If all goes well, we can expect to see hatchlings as early as mid-May.

The installation of this camera, ct.audubon.org/act-osprey-cam, was made possible by a generous anonymous donor. Additional in-kind assistance was provided by the Riverside Yacht Club and Atlantic Marine Construction, along with the Menunketuck Audubon Society and Audubon volunteers. To explore more featured Audubon-related video, audio, and web cam links, visit Audubon Live! at ct.audubon.org/audubon-live.

Contact: Patrick Comins, Audubon Connecticut Director of Bird Conservation, 860-977-4469, pcomins@audubon.org (Video footage available upon request, also see www.youtube.com/AudubonConnecticut)

Audubon Connecticut, the state office of the National Audubon Society with more than 9,000 members in the state, works to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through education, research, conservation, and legislative advocacy for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity. Through our network of nature centers, protected wildlife sanctuaries, and local, volunteer chapters, we seek to connect people with nature and inspire the next generation of conservationists. Learn more at AudubonCT.org.