
MICHIGAN OSPREY

Dear Michigan Educators,

Welcome to the Education Component of the Michigan Osprey satellite tracking research. We hope you see the value of this marvelous Michigan program. Permits were granted by the USFWS for telemetry tracking of our Ospreys based on several research goals. They include recording the migratory pathways of Michigan Ospreys, stop over locations, wintering grounds, foraging habits, and hazards of their journey while within the United States borders as well as when they leave our protection.

The primary goal of this program is educational outreach.

We view the use of our tracking program as an innovative method for teaching a variety of subjects which we believe will offer the opportunity for you to enhance your lesson plans. Our on-going research of the native Michigan Osprey population is in near real-time and provides for a “high-tech” educational experience.

Michigan Osprey offers interactive classroom programs and presentations suitable for young students as well as for older pupils and adults...PLUS CURRICULUM.

Michigan Osprey also provides an opportunity for your students to earn Community Service credits by assisting us “in the field” with our research. We’ll provide the necessary equipment (scopes, binoculars, etc.) as well as instruction on monitoring and reporting activity at nearby nesting sites. (There is also the possibility of an “up close and personal” experience with a young Osprey during banding.)

The education component of this program will:

- Involve local students and teachers in the satellite tracking projects which demonstrate the similarities and differences between Michigan Ospreys with satellite-tracking and other birds being tracked in the United States.
- **Create opportunities for teachers to plan unique lessons in biology, environmental science, ecology, math, geography, government, history and other areas.**
- **Link schools and students from the countries along the migration flyways between North and South America and put students in touch with those from other regions and countries.**
- Provide an exciting way to **connect students to the natural world through computer technology.**
- Allow exposure to the natural world with the goal of creating future conservationists. The more our youth become involved in wildlife, the more likely they will be to adopt long term habits that support our ecosystems.
- **Create a unique method** to network with and educate students who may have limited or no direct contact with the natural world.

We are always open to new ways to educate students and may be able to provide specific information to support your curriculum objective.

We hope you take advantage of this unique educational opportunity and will allow us to show you how fun and informative it can be!

Preparing Our Future Conservationists

In this day of electronic filtering and reduction of personal communications we have witnessed a disconnect between our youth and nature. Lack of exposure to the natural world is not confined to our children but extends into their families, friends, and educational opportunities. This program is not a short unit of learning but provides a lifetime of education.

A large number of Michigan's nesting Ospreys are within the greater Detroit area and are easily visible to the trained eye. This means that as the tracking program is local, it can be as up close and personal as we want to take it. One just needs to know how to look for them ... when and where.

Ospreys are world-wide residents of every continent except Antarctica. Their numbers declined dramatically in Michigan during the DDT era, reaching endangered status by 1972. Due to hunting, pollution, pesticides, and habitat loss no Ospreys were known to be nesting within southern Michigan.

Due to their loss an effort was made in 1998 to reintroduce them by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Association, Detroit Zoological Society and DTE Energy. This program was highly successful and by 2013 we identified over 50 nesting pairs in the southern portion of the Lower Peninsula.

Through man's intervention, what was once missing due to human mistakes have now returned in large numbers. These magnificent raptors will continue to soar over southern Michigan skies if we practice good stewardship of our natural resources. Hence, we need the next generation of conservationists to be aware of the past and to understand how to protect the future.

Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan / Michigan Osprey

How we can help you incorporate the Osprey program into your curriculum:

- Present interactive and age appropriate programs for both students and adults
- Provide curriculum and support for student groups in and out of the classroom
- Access to interactive near real-time tracking data of the Osprey movements during migration

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After retirement as a public school educator Barb became involved as a volunteer and then coordinator of the Osprey Reintroduction Program held at Kensington Metropark. She trained under Sergej Postupalsky, Ornithologist and Wildlife Biologist, who has researched Michigan Ospreys for five decades. She currently bands and identifies Ospreys suitable for carrying GPS satellite/GSM transmitters. Barb works along side the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and coordinates the efforts of governmental agencies, societies, corporations, etc. while securing funding for the GPS transmitters.