



# Osprey fascinating facts

- Latin name:** Pandion haliaetus.
- Colour:** Brown & white feathers with yellow eyes (amber when young).
- Wingspan:** 1.5m (bigger than a buzzard but smaller than an eagle).
- Diet:** Freshwater and saltwater fish. Once caught, they carry fish head-first in their talons while flying to make sure they remain aerodynamic.
- Habitat:** They are found on every continent apart from Antarctica. They nest and roost near rivers, estuaries, lakes and coasts where they are within easy flying distance to catch fish.
- Mileage:** Ospreys fly thousands of miles a year on migration. They return to the UK to breed between March and September. Ospreys spend the winter in warmer climates, migrating to southern Europe and west Africa.
- Breeding age:** From three years old.
- Eggs:** Usually three.
- Nest:** Large eyries built with sticks on trees or man-made structures.

## Why are there so few in the UK?

Relentless persecution by people over hundreds of years made them locally extinct. Now slowly starting to recover thanks to translocation projects and careful conservation.