

## The Countdown for the Ospreys Begins



### The Annual Dunrovin Osprey Cycle

Late MARCH or early April

- Harriet arrives
- Her mate arrives independently
- They reunite and restore their nest
- They mate

Late April or early May

- Harriet lays 1 to 3 eggs
- They take turns incubating the eggs

Late May or early June

- The eggs hatch in close succession
- The chicks rapidly grow

Late June or early July

- Scientists band the chicks

Late July or early August

- Chick "helicopter" above the nest

Early to mid August

- Chicks fledge (fly from the nest)
- Male continues to feed chicks

Mid to late August

- Harriet migrates to winter home
- Male stays to feed chicks

Late August to mid September

- Chicks migrate south
- Male migrates last

Mid September thru late March

- ♦ Dunrovin misses the ospreys



# The Eyes of March!

Shakespeare made famous the term “ the ides of March” referring to the full moon that falls on the middle of March which is when Cesar was murdered in Rome. Here at Dunrovin we are much less concerned about when March’s full moon occurs than about seeing the distinctive eyes of Queen Harriet Osprey upon her return in late March or early April to the ranch for another breeding season. In five of the past eleven years, Harriet has arrived at the nest before April 1st and she has always arrived by April 3rd.

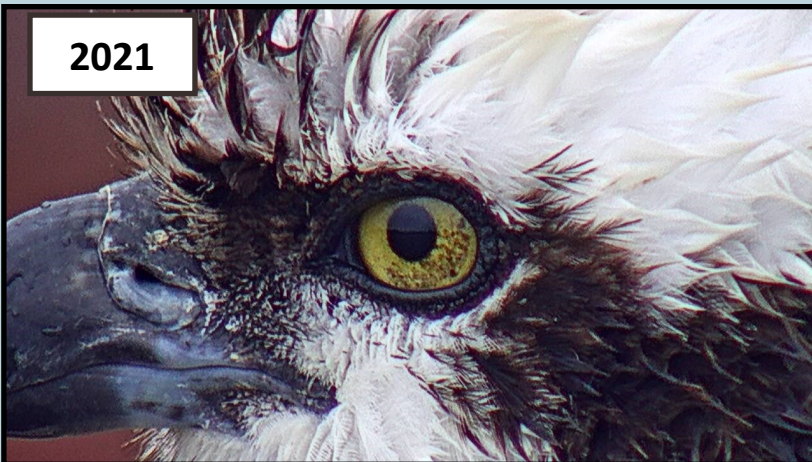
**2016**



**2019**



**2021**



Harriet has numerous black flecks in the irises of both her right and left eye. This is the distinguishing feature that Dunrovin uses to positively identify her each year. The number of flecks in her eyes has been increasing each year. They do not seem to impact her sight as she has always been a very successful huntress.

It is difficult to distinguish individual ospreys. Females are about 25% larger than males and often have a necklace of dark feathers on their breast.

We at Dunrovin look for the pattern of dark feathers on the birds heads, chests, and legs to try to tell one bird from the others. Harriet’s unique eyes make her easy to identify with the use of the zoom feature on the web camera.

We have estimated that Harriet is at least 15 years old this year. Ospreys live from 15 to 20 years.