

The 2023 Osprey Season Has Begun



Harriet Arrived 4/2/23



Swoop Arrived 4/9/23



1st egg laid 4/21/23



3 eggs laid by 4/27/23

What Has Happened Already?

- Harriet arrived on April 2
- Swoop Arrived on April 9
- They refurbish the nest
- They mated many times
- Harriet laid 1st egg on April 21
- Harriet laid 2nd egg on April 24
- Harriet laid 3rd egg on April 27

What Will Happen Next?

- Eggs should hatch around 5/31
- Swoop needs to bring lots of fish to feed 3 chicks and Harriet
- If there is insufficient food, older chicks may attack the youngest chick and it may not survive
- Scientists may band the chicks around the end of June
- Chicks will begin to fly around the end of July.
- Swoop feeds the entire family until they migrate away.
- Harriet will be the first to migrate .
- Chicks will migrate by mid - September.
- Swoop will migrate last.

Every Year Presents a Different Challenge!

Harriet has been using the Dunrovin nest at least since 2010. Through those years she has faced many challenges. In 2014, the river flooded at a critical time and her mate Ozzie was unable to bring sufficient food for their three chicks so the youngest died. Then Ozzie was killed by a bald eagle trying to steal a fish he had caught. Luckily it was late enough in the season that Harriet was able to feed and protect the remaining two chicks until they fledged. One of those chicks was photographed three years later along the Gulf of Mexico.

It is impossible to know what challenges they will face as their summer at Dunrovin unfolds.



The chicks literally grow before your eyes, transforming from little “bobble heads” that must use all of their strength to control their tiny bodies and line up to be fed by Harriet.



Soon they take on the appearance of miniature prehistoric dinosaurs with bulging crops full of fish after each meal. It is little wonder that people sometimes refer to birds as dinosaurs that didn't go extinct!



By the end of summer, the chicks are nearly the size of the adults as they “helicopter” over the nest in preparation to fly and fight over every fish the adults deliver to the nest for them.