

2018

Osprey survey and nestling banding 2018 - Lynnhaven River watershed Virginia Beach, Virginia

R. F. Lukei Jr.
The Center for Conservation Biology

C. D. Matthews

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OSPREY SURVEY AND NESTLING BANDING 2018
LYNNHAVEN RIVER WATERSHED
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA
BY
THE CENTER FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
VIRGINIA AQUARIUM AND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER
FEBRUARY - JULY 2018



Photo - Crystal Matthews

Researchers:

Crystal D. Matthews, Curator of Birds, Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center

Reese F. Lukej, Jr, Research Associate, The Center for Conservation Biology

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2018 was the sixth Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) breeding season that the partnership of The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) and the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center (VAMSC) have conducted a survey and banding of nestlings on the Lynnhaven River in Virginia Beach, Virginia including Broad Bay and Linkhorn Bay. Researchers were Crystal Matthews, Curator of Birds at VAMSC and Reese Lukei, Jr, volunteer Research Associate at CCB. Access to the Lynnhaven River was by VAMSC boat piloted by boat captains Jeff Thompson and Maureen Fender. Assistance to tree based Osprey nests at First Landing State Park was by Robert Brown.

On the Lynnhaven River the first returning Osprey to their breeding nests is in mid-February as observed from land by Reese Lukei, Jr and by citizens who have Osprey platforms on their property. In 2018 of the 105 identified Osprey nests located within the Lynnhaven River watershed 52 were on platforms installed by private citizens, which speaks notably to their contribution and importance to the Osprey.

One concern in recent years has been and continues to be the disappearance of osprey nestlings from nests, especially in the Little Neck/Thalia area. It is suspected that predation by Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) is the principal reason, but thus far only partial evidence has been collected. In 2017 the leg of an Osprey nestling banded purple 10/D was found by a property owner in her yard in Little Neck four days after being banded, and a pair of juvenile osprey wings was found on the back porch of a resident in Little Neck. In 2018 an Osprey nestling banded purple 41/D on June 27 was observed dead on the edge of its platform nest by the property owner on July 15. The next morning the Osprey nestling was gone.

2018 NEST STRUCTURES ON LYNNHAVEN RIVER

	Number	Percentage
Private Citizen Installed Platforms	52	49.5
Coast Guard Channel Markers - Lighted	9	8.6
Coast Guard Channel Markers - Not Lighted	14	13.3
Boat Lifts	3	2.8
Live Trees	10	9.5
Dead Trees	13	12.4
Top of Boats	2	1.9
Pilings	1	1.0
Gazebo	1	1.0
Total	105	100.0%

OSPREY NESTS DISTRIBUTION 2018, 2017, 2016

	WESTERN LYNNHAVEN	EASTERN LYNNHAVEN	LINKHORN BAY	INLET	BROAD BAY FIRST LANDING	TOTAL
ACTIVE NESTS						
2018	27	12	9	7	27	82
2017	24	13	9	5	21	73
2016	24	10	3	5	21	63
NOT ACTIVE						
2018	8	3	1	3	2	17
2017	6	3	2	3	3	17
2016	7	5	5	3	5	25
NOT CHECKED						
2018	0	2	1	0	3	6
2017	0	1	0	0	5	6
2016	0	1	0	0	3	4
FAILED						
2018	12	4	1	1	4	22
2017	17	11	1	2	2	33
2016	13	6	0	0	2	21
CHICKS TO FLEDGE AGE						
2018	31	21	11	7	28	98
2017	9	2	4	9	32	56
2016	13	4	4	9	11*	41

* - Insufficient data from First Landing State Park nests

BANDED

2018	5	12	5	3	7	32
2017	5	2	1	6	5	19
2016	3	2	2	4	1	12

Active nest was deemed to be a nest where there was active nest building activity and adult Osprey observed incubating

Failed nest was deemed to be a nest where nestlings were observed then at subsequent date no nestlings were in the nest

OSPREY NESTLINGS BANDED 2018

DATE	NEST #	IDENTIFICATION	PURPLE BAND	USGS BAND
6-14	4039	PF Jett	27/D	1088-04828
6-14	4039	PF Jett	28/D	1088-04829
6-14	5859	PF Lynn Acres	29/D	1088-04830
6-14	5859	PF Lynn Acres	30/D	1088-04831
6-20	481	PF Arris	31/D	1088-04832
6-20	3732	CM #5 Outside Inlet	32/D	1088-04833
6-21	4030	PF Long Creek	33/D	1088-04834
6-21	4030	PF Long Creek	34/D	1088-04835
6-21	4342	PF No Wake	35/D	1088-04836
6-21	4342	PF No Wake	36/D	1088-04837
6-21	4342	PF No Wake	37/D	1088-04838
6-27	6313	PF Jim & Pam	38/D	1088-04839
6-27	6313	PF Jim & Pam	39/D	1088-04840
6-27	5856	PF Yeates Lane	40/D	1088-04841
6-27	5856	PF Yeates Lane	41/D	1088-04842*
6-27	5856	PF Yeates Lane	42/D	1088-04843
6-28	5263	PF Quisenberry	43/D	1088-04844
6-28	5263	PF Quisenberry	44/D	1088-04845
6-28	3971	Boat Lift Broad Bay	45/D	1088-04846
7-5	4330	CM #14 Broad Bay	46/D	1088-04847
7-5	6836	CM #16 Broad Bay	47/D	1088-04848
7-5	6836	CM #16 Broad Bay	48/D	1088-04849
7-5	3971	Boat Lift Broad Bay	49/D	1088-04850
7-5	5884	PF McCullough	52/D	1088-04853
7-5	5884	PF McCullough	53/D	1088-04854
7-11	5512	CM #25 Western	54/D	1088-04855
7-11	5512	CM #25 Western	55/D	1088-04856
7-11	5512	CM #25 Western	56/D	1088-04857
7-11	790	CM #31 western	57/D	1088-04858
7-11	3950	PF Bray Road	58/D	1088-04859
7-11	3950	PF Bray Road	59/D	1088-04860
7-11	3950	PF Bray Road	60/D	1088-04653

PF = Platform, CM = Channel Marker

* = Purple banded 41/D suspected to have been killed on nest by Great Horned Owl July 15

Weather had a significant impact on our ability to band nestlings in 2018 season. Either storms or just too windy to safely approach the nests to remove the nestlings. Nestlings are banded between age of 30 to 40 days old.

FAILED OSPREY NESTS 2018, 2017, 2016

Failed nest as defined for this report was an active nest in which nestlings were observed as to have hatched and later determined by observation that there were no nestling in the nest.

	2018	2017	2016	2018 Chicks Lost
INLET				
3890 Pilings Outside	CH	X	CH	
4031 CM #11	X	X	CH	2
BROAD BAY				
4329 CM #13	X	X	CH	3
4333 PF Haversham	X	CH	CH	3
7156 CM #13 Bay Island	X	NA	NA	3
5263 PF Quisenberry	CH	X	CH	
4331 PF White Box	CH	CH	X	
1615 PF Bay Island	CH	CH	X	
No # Boat Top	X	NN	NN	
LINKHORN				
4341 PF Cavalier	X	X	X	
EASTERN LYNNHAVEN				
4039 PF Gorog	X	X	X	3
487 PF Dix Creek	X	X	X	3
4301 PF Flag	X	X	NA	
5855 PF No Wake	X	X	NA	2
4039 PF Jett	CH	X	X	
4300 PF Pagoda	CH	X	X	
4831 PF O'Connell	NC	X	X	
5872 PF Sandy Point	CH	X	NA	
5854 PF Little Haven	CH	X	CH	
5856 PF Yeates Lane	CH	CH	X	
3950 PF Bray Road	CH	X	CH	
6313 PF Jim & Pam	CH	X	NA	
WESTERN LYNNHAVEN				
460 PF Keeling Cove	X	X	X	3
6343 PF Keeling Cove Tree	X	X	NA	
452 PF Deans	X	X	X	3
453 PF Humes	X	X	X	
461 PF Mach	X	X	X	3
4041 CM #23	X	X	CH	3
4042 PF West Little Neck	X	X	CH	1
466 PF Near CM #41	X	CM	X	3
7119 Boat Lift	X	NA	NA	2
7121 Boat Top	X	NA	NA	

WESTERN LYNNHAVEN - FAILED (Cont)

4027	CM #49	X	X	X	3
456	PF Stanton	X	X	X	
4035	PF B LynnCove	CH	X	CH	
4036	PF D Lynn Cove	CH	X	CH	
401	CM Red/Green	NN	CH	X	
455	PF Keeling Drain	CH	X	CH	
4305	PF Tripod	NA	X	CH	
458	PF Wilson	NA	NA	X	
5266	PF Lighthouse	CH	X	NA	
790	CM #31	CH	X	X	
459	PF Arrowhead	CH	X	X	
481	PF Arris	CH	CH	X	
6445	PF Arrowhead	CH	X	X	
	Nestlings lost 2018				40

CM = Channel Marker, PF = Platform, X = Nest Failed, CH = Chicks in Nest, NA = Not Active, NN = No Nest
 NC = Not Checked

OSPREY NESTS NO LONGER IN PLACE

NUMBER

- 4031 CM #11 Storm destroyed on May 15, 2018
- 4027 CM #49 Storm destroyed in early July 2018
- 4332 Dead Tree Tree removed during property improvement in May 2018
- 6789 Gazebo Dilapidated structure on dock removed
- 401 CM Red/Green Channel marker appeared to be destroyed by weather
- No # Boat Top Boat owner removed nest while adults appeared to be incubating



2018 PARTIAL FAILURE IN OSPREY NESTS

This listing is of nests where we had observed eggs and/or chicks that were not in nest later in the breeding season. Number of eggs or chicks missing in these nests.

			Lost
LYNNHAVEN INLET			
3732	CM #5 Outside	2 nestlings on May 10 - banded 32/D June 20	1
4032	CM #7 Inside	3 eggs on April 19 - one nestling June 20	2
4030	PF Long Creek	3 eggs on April 19 - 33/D, 34/D banded June 21	1
BROAD BAY			
5263	PF Quisenberry	3 eggs on May 3 - banded 43/D, 44/D June 28	1
4330	CM #14	3 eggs on May 3 - banded 46/D July 5	2
3971	Boat Lift	3 eggs on May 3 - banded 45/D (6/28), 49/D (7/5)	1
LINKHORN BAY			
5884	PF McCullough	3 eggs on May 3 - banded 52/D, 53/D July 5	1
EASTERN LUNNHAVEN			
4039	PF Jett	3 chicks on May 10 - banded 27/D, 28/D June 14	1
4300	PF Pagoda	3 eggs on May 10 - 2 nestlings on June 14	1
5872	PF Sandy Point	2 eggs on May 10 - 1 nestling July 11	1
5859	PF Lynn Acres	3 nestlings on May 10 - banded 29/D, 30/D June 14	1
5854	PF Little Haven	2 nestlings on May 10 - 1 nestling June 24	1
WESTERN LYNNHAVEN			
4035	PF B Lynn Cove	3 eggs on May 17 - 1 nestling June 14	2
4036	PF D Lynn Cove	3 eggs on May 17 - 2 nestlings June 14	1
5266	PF Lighthouse	1 egg, 2 nestling May 17 - 2 nestlings June 20	1
4044	CM #29	3 nestlings on May 17 - 2 nestlings June 20	1
790	CM #31	3 nestlings on June 20 - banded 57/D July 11	2
481	PF Arris	2 nestlings on May 17 - banded 31/D June 20	1
 Number of eggs or nestling lost in partial failure nests			 22

