

Post-fledging observations of Ospreys in Western Australia

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Juveniles from three pairs of Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* in Western Australia were monitored during the post-fledging period (2022-2024). The study focussed on the time the juvenile birds remained in the vicinity of the nest, when they became proficient in catching fish and their departure time from the nesting area. These details were compared with findings made in New South Wales and South Australia. Observations indicated that some immature birds from the previous breeding season remain in the natal area for up to 14 months and their presence is largely tolerated by the breeding adult birds. They were even present when the next season's chicks hatched and fledged. In the process details were recorded about behaviour, foraging, roosting and plumage. Juvenile Ospreys were observed practising their hunting skills on schools of small inedible fish.

Keywords: Osprey; post-fledging; roosting; foraging