



# Friends of Osprey

NEWSLETTER  
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## WEBSITE



We are excited to announce the launch of our brand-new website. This site will be a source of information about the activities of Friends of Osprey and the work that is being done to protect the species. There is also information on some of the more famous birds who you have come to know and love. There is of course a link to join Friends of Osprey, donate to the work being done or just to send us a message. The web site can be found at

<https://friendsofosprey.com.au>

## NESTING SEASON 2022



this year's chicks at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGFY4B2SCpU>.

As well as the Port Lincoln chicks we know there are at least two eggs on Tumby Island but the overcast weather has meant that the camera's solar panel is not keeping up and we have lost transmission from that site. Reports from Friends at Arno Bay indicate there are most likely eggs at that nest. Other sites have significant activity but we have no way of confirming eggs so we will have to wait a little longer for results.

## UPDATE ON SATELLITE TRACKING IN 2021

Osprey (Ervie) has been on the wing (fledged) for about 44 weeks (308 days) and remains around Port Lincoln. Whilst Ian suspects he is independent from his parents (for food) and this is confirmed by sightings, this attachment to familiar hunting and foraging habitat gives him a considerable survival advantage. The tracking data and flight statistics over the past 7 days for Ervie include; Osprey travelled 85.4km, maximum altitude = 726 mts, average altitude = 26.4 mts, maximum speed of 68 km/hr and average speed of 2.4 km/hr (Ervie1). The very low average speed is not unusual given that Ospreys spend much of their time sitting around and still hunting from favourite perches and elevated observation structures.



This female Osprey (Phantom) has been on the wing (fledged) for 39 weeks (273 days) and has been independent from her parents for 186 days (26.5 weeks). This Osprey has settled into the American River / Pelican Lagoon / estuary on Kangaroo Island for a little over 6 months with at least 16 preferred and consistent hunting and foraging locations identified in the vicinity of the Pelican Lagoon Conservation Park and adjacent productive wetlands. Whilst the map is quite busy with tracking points, preferred hunting habitats and sites, the Osprey spends considerable time around the dark / black areas around American River. Survival of this Osprey is looking promising with significantly improved chances of reaching adulthood given the emerging patterns of habitat use. The tracking data and flight statistics over the past 7 days



include; Osprey travelled 66 km, maximum altitude = 1,418 mts, average altitude = 24 mts, maximum speed of 80 km/hr and average speed of 1.69 km/hr (Price2). The maximum altitude data is interesting however there were 2 very high but short flight events (Alt 1,418mtrs and 985mtrs) and it appears the bird may have taken

advantage of the rising air thermals and lift created by the mallee vegetation and winds being directed upwards when it hits the high cliffs along the north coast.

## REPORTED SIGHTINGS

A juvenile male from the Price Platform (pictured) has remained within the nesting territory and has been observed and recorded at Wills Creek CP recently. This Osprey was colour banded on the 14 December 2021 and the report is a great example of the value citizen science monitoring. Photo taken by Colin Rogers on 22 July 2022 at Price Salt Fields. Note the yellow and blue bands on the



Ospreys legs. The behaviour of this bird is in contrast to other Osprey young that become independent and leave the nesting territories in about February / March.

Regular reports are also received for Calypso (Blue Band 2019 Hatch) who is frequently seen with a partner in the Tulka area near Port Lincoln.

Friends of Osprey are reporting around 30-40 sightings a month through the Friends of Osprey Facebook page and direct messages. This information is being collated and is proving very useful in developing a good understanding of the behaviours and territories of birds across the State.

## PLANNING FOR PLATFORMS, TRACKING AND COLOUR BANDING

Planning for 2022/23 work in artificial platforms, Satellite Tracking and Colour banding is well under way. More artificial platforms are planned for 2023 and materials have been ordered, however the final locations of these are yet to be decided. Each of these sites are in response to birds nesting in unsafe situations such as telecommunication towers, channel markers, predation risks or where there are birds ready to breed and no suitable nest sites available. Each site will take some time to gain the necessary government planning approvals and the FoO Group are confident they can get the work happening. The priority sites on Eyre Peninsula at this stage include; Tulka, Coffin Bay (Mount Dutton Bay CP and Black Springs), Streaky Bay, Arno Bay and Sleaford Bay areas. Discussions are also underway for a pole platform at Port Neill where a pair have shown interest and nest building activity on a make-shift platform. An artificial platform is also planned for 2023 at Edithburg/Cowbowie Bay on Yorke Peninsula.

Four satellite trackers have been received ready to be fitted in November/December depending on available chicks. The trackers are planned to be fitted at Port Lincoln, Price, Kangaroo Island and Streaky Bay.

Colour Banding is also planned, and Ian has been able to secure a new sequence of Bands ready for that work.

## COMMITTEE

At this stage we would like to introduce the Committee who are making this work happen. The website has a more in-depth introduction and our Committee Members are:

Patron: Janet Forster

Chair: Honourable David Speirs MP

Vice President: Ian Falkenberg

Secretary: Fran Solly

Treasurer: Anita Corbran

Committee Members: Kylie Correll, Pia George, Bazz Hockaday, Ian Hodson and Kirsten Rough