

September 20, 2022

London Osprey Monitoring 2022 Report

The 2022 Osprey nesting season around London exhibited an unusual degree of change. Four nests were removed by the tower owners on Fanshawe Park Rd., Gainsborough at Hyde Park, Sovereign at Tartan, and Dingman at WhiteOak. Three communication tower operators installed metal pyramid frames to defeat the Osprey, but at Gainsborough and Dingman towers, the Ospreys simply rebuilt their nest beside the frame. We recognize that these towers are private property but hope that some design changes can be worked out so the owners can conduct their business safely and reliably while accommodating these wonderful birds in our community.

Western University had to remove a nest to replace the stadium lights. However, Western and its contractors got expert advice, and successfully substituted a new platform on the very day their Ospreys returned. The new platform was promptly occupied and successful. Western did a great job and set a "bird friendly" standard. The City of London has indicated a similar willingness to accommodate the Ospreys when they replace the stadium lighting at Labatt park.

The platform at the Greenway Waste Treatment plant was very popular and successful in 2021, but for some reason unknown, the nesting pair did not return in 2022.

The early goose got the nest in the ballpark at the east end of Windermere Rd. However, Ospreys evicted the goose on the nearby platform at the entrance to Kilally Meadows, and they raised two young. An Osprey was seen sitting low on the nest in the soccer field at Windermere and Adelaide through the Spring, but no young birds emerged from that location.

New Osprey nests were discovered at Sovereign at Belleisle, and another on River Road near Gore Rd. but we are uncertain about the number of young fledged from those nests. Tall towers like these are a challenge for monitors as it is very difficult to see into the nest or detect young. We had similar problems with several other tall communications towers around the city but in some cases monitors had a chance to identify the full size young birds in July by their red eyes and white trim on the back feathers.

London Osprey Nesting in 2022

Nest Location	Young Fledged	Notes
Clarke & Fanshawe	2	Active
CDM on Fanshawe	0	Nest removed
Hudson Boatworks	2	Active
Airport -Huron & Dakota	2	Active
Tartan & Sovereign	0	Nest removed, not active
Sovereign & Bellisle	?	New Nest, late discovery, Active
River Rd & Gore Rd	?	New nest, active, young not seen

Windermere & Adelaide	0	Active, Female on nest, no young seen
Windermere Ball Field	0	Goose occupied nest early
Windermere at Kilally	2	Active
Windermere & Richmond	2	Windermere On the Mount, Active
TD Waterhouse (Western)	1 +?	Active
Gainsborough & Hyde Park	1 +?	Active
Labatt Stadium	3	Active, First to fly from the nest
Greenway Park	0	No Ospreys nesting this year
Dingman & White Oak	?	Active nest, no young seen
Millar Berry Farm	<u>2</u>	Active
TOTAL	17 +	

This year we had several nests removed by tower owners, and significant difficulty counting the young birds in July. Despite the removal activity, we had 12 active nests through the nesting season. Unfortunately we were unable to confirm the number of young birds fledged in some locations. If we had the typical 2 fledglings/active nest, we could have as many as 8 more young Ospreys and a total similar to 2021.

Year	Young to Fledging Age	Active Nests
2022	17+	12
2021	23	11
2020	19	10
2019	16 +	8+
2018	16	10
2017	13	8

Active nests are ones where adult birds were observed remaining on the nest in April, May and June (but may or may not fledge any young birds)

On July 9th, 2022, Nature London held a successful Osprey walk and talk session at two locations in the City. Participants were able to see the adults at work and the hungry young birds in the nest at the entrance to Kilally Meadows. Osprey information was distributed and later published in the summer edition of the Cardinal.

London Osprey Monitoring is a Nature London program activity. As coordinators of this activity, we would like to extend our thanks to all those who contributed information about Osprey activity around the city this year. We look forward to an interesting and successful Osprey season in 2023.

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Osprey Monitoring Coordinators