

London Osprey Monitoring - May 2023 Update

Thanks to reports from London Osprey Monitors, we have a preliminary picture of Osprey activity so far this year. The first reported Osprey arrival was a bird at White Oak and Dingman seen on April 1 and the first pair on a nest was observed at Labatt Stadium on April 2nd. Subsequent observations showed arrivals at other nests, and the following table outlines the situation in early May,

Location	Status	Notes:
Hudson Boatworks	Active - On Nest	
Clarke Rd & Fanshawe	Active - On Nest	
Airport - Dakota Pl	Active - On Nest	Osprey on 3 rd tower, goose on 1 st tower
Gospel - Fanshawe Pk	Active - On Nest	New Nest
Tower - Highbury	Active - On Nest	New Nest
Sovereign & Belleisle	Active - On Nest	New Nest
River Rd Tower	Active - On Nest	Osprey Rebuilt nest this spring
Adelaide -S Thames	Active - On Nest	New Nest on tall chimney
Labatt Stadium	Active - On Nest	City workers disturbed incubation
TD Waterhouse Stadium	Active - On Nest	
White Oak & Dingman	Active - On Nest	Nest rebuilt
Gainsborough & Hyde Pk	Active - On Nest	Nest rebuilt again
Windermere Ball Park	Active - On Nest	Goose on Kilally ESA platform
Greenway	vacant	No new nesting material
Kilally ESA	Goose on nest	
CBM Fanshawe Pk	Nest gone	Sticks removed
Millar Berry Farm Tower	Possible	Nest removed but Osprey seen on the tower
Windermere at Richmond	Vacant	Nest removed
Windermere - Soccer Field	Vacant	

There have been a lot of changes in Osprey Nesting this season, but the total of 13 active nests is very similar to last year. In some cases, nests were removed by owners of the structures and frame “defeaters” put in place. For the most part, the Ospreys built new on top of the frame. In two cases, Canada Geese occupied the Osprey nest before the Osprey returned, but the Ospreys simply rebuilt nearby. We have some interesting new nests: the Baptist tower nest on north Highbury, the London Gospel tower on Fanshawe Pk and the tall Chimney close to the Adelaide Street bridge over the south Thames.

Where we have an Osprey staying consistently on a nest, it is labelled “Active”. In many cases the Osprey is sitting low in the centre of the



New Nest Construction - Adelaide St Bridge- Mike Channon Photo

nest in May, and this suggests she is sitting on eggs. In late June and early July, we hope to see young birds.

Other Osprey News:

Last year in mid- July, a male Osprey was found dead on Hyde Park Rd near Gainsborough. We thought it might be from the nearby nest. However, we now know this corresponded to the disappearance of the male Osprey at the more distant Labatt Stadium, H was likely the unfortunate bird. This year there is an active pair at Labatt, so we believe the widow found a new mate. Recently, the City of London decided to do some work on the lights below the Labatt stadium nest during the nesting season. (Contrary to undertakings given in 2020). The female was frightened from the nest for about half an hour. Thanks to Osprey monitors, the City workers were alerted, work stopped (or was finished) and we have assurances that all work near the nest in the future will be during the off season.

For Nature London Members:

The Spring Edition of the Cardinal has a wonderful article on page 24 entitled “Osprey Life at Labatt Park” by Susan Berry including some great Glenn Berry pictures.

June is an important month as we hope to see young birds. In the case of the very high nests, this may be difficult, but once the young are as large as the adults we have a chance to count them. Please keep us informed of Osprey developments.

- Ric and Sandy Symmes - Nature London Osprey Monitoring Coordinators