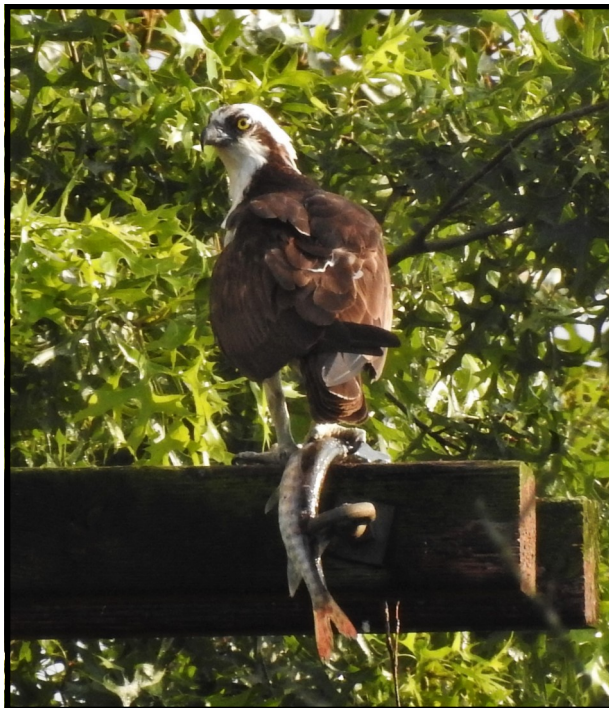


# 2023 OSPREY SEASON REVIEW

McDanel's Launch—North Shore, Moraine State Park—Portersville PA—Butler County  
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS!!!



We also appreciate and want to thank Moraine State Park, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and their staff for their support of the osprey cam. We are lucky to have such a beautiful view into their lives to provide and none of this would be possible without everyone's support. The osprey cam is offered as an educational tool to learn about and track the lives of a nesting pair of osprey and their offspring.



Dad on Lower Perch with Fish



Three Weeks of Growth



Mom On August 3, 2023  
Last Sighting of Season



# A NEW CAM

With snow on the ground in March, volunteers from ITG Networks and Moraine Preservation Fund installed a new cam and inspected the systems prior to Dad and Mom's return to the area.





# DAD AND MOM RETURN

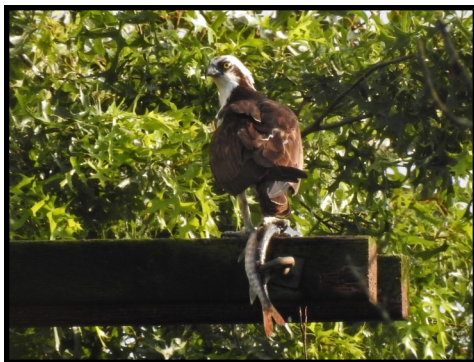
Dad returned on 3/18/23, within his normal timeframe. The platform was empty following the 3 fledges of the 2022 season so there was much work to be done. Normally, Mom returns within 1-3 days of Dad but this year, she didn't arrive until 6 days after his return. There were severe storms in the south and that may have contributed to her delayed return. It was a relief to see her in her favorite tree on 3/26/23.



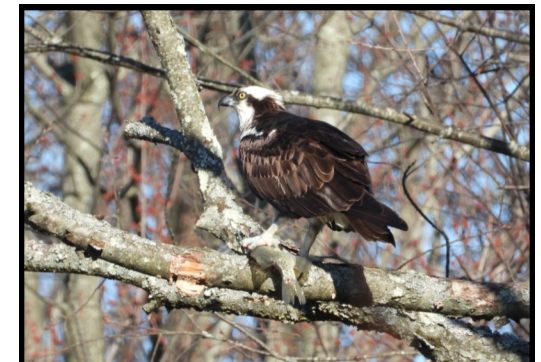
Dad Returns— 3/18/23



Mom Returns— 3/26/23



3/26/23—Dad brings a whopper to Mom on her first day



3/26/23—Mom with fish in tree



# EGGS AND HATCHES

	LAID DATE	HATCH DATE	'NAME'
<b>EGG 1</b>	4/15/23-9:51 am	5/24/23-10:25 am	O15
<b>EGG 2</b>	4/18/23-8:29 am	5/25/23-9:45 am	O16
<b>EGG 3</b>	4/21/23-7:53 am	5/27/23-5:22am	O17



First Egg  
4/15/23— 9:51 am



Second Egg  
4/18/23— 8:29 am



Mom in Labor with Third Egg  
4/21/23- 7:53 am



First Hatch—O15  
5/24/23—10:35 am



Second Hatch—O16  
5/25/23—9:45 am



Third Hatch—O17  
5/27/23—5:22 am



# THE KIDS

## O15 \* O16 \* O17



Dad brings a whopper for  
O15's first meal



Mom and the kids  
6/6/23



6/20/23– 10 fish delivered



6/08/23 Feeding  
Photo Credit: Walter McKinnis



Three weeks of growth  
6/13/23



5/31/23 Family of Five



6/13/23 Mom and the Kids  
Looking Out



6/25/23 Mom and the Kids  
Last Picture of Them Before Attack



# THE OWL ATTACK

On 6/30/23, a Great Horned Owl attacked the osprey nest at 1:35 AM at McDanel's Launch, Moraine State Park, killing all three chicks. The deaths occurred within 35 minutes and the owl stayed on the nest for the better part of 3-1/2 hours, consuming one of the chicks. The two other chicks were left on the nest, being removed by one of the parents on Sunday, July 2.



6/30/23 The morning after



7/2/23 Parent removes one of the chicks from the nest

## Timeline:

01:35 am—01:39 am—Initial attack, first chick is killed

01:37 am—01:45 Owl consuming, Mom does a fly by

01:54 am Second chick attacked

02:02 am Third chick attacked

02:46 am Mom on nest, strikes owl as it returns. Owl returns to nest

Owl remains on nest, consuming, until 03:24 am, leaving with one of the chick's heads

03:56 am—04:16 am Mom on nest, owl returns, she strikes the owl but it does little and the owl remains on the nest, consuming

04:53 am—05:00 am Owl on nest to rail, Mom on cam, calling out. Owl leaves at 05:00 am. Last time owl seen on nest

06:20 am Dad consumes part of a wing, Mom calling to him the whole time. She moved the wing.

7/2/23 A parent removes both chick's remain from the nest

7/5/23 The owl returned to the empty nest for a brief visit





7/5/23 Mom takes a moment

# THE REST OF THE SEASON



7/28/23 Mom last on cam



7/26/23 Mom and Dad on nest



Mom On August 3, 2023  
Last Sighting



7/22/23 Both still defending



A fledgling visits the nest



Mom on favorite tree



7/22/23 The nest



# THE OTHER NESTS

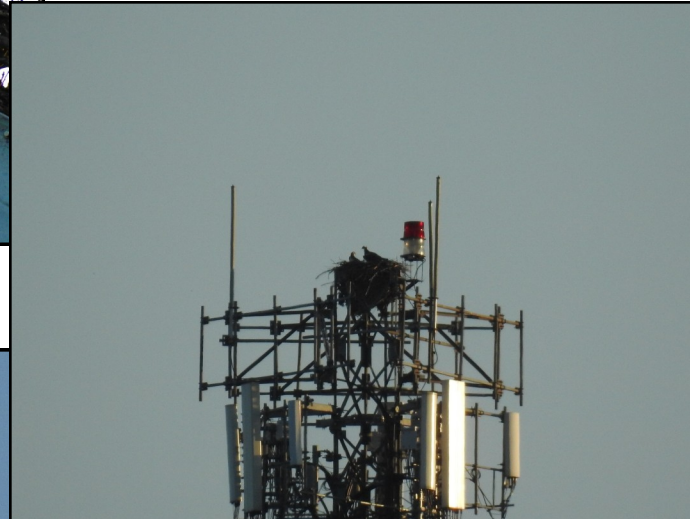
Despite the loss of chicks at the McDanel's Launch nest, there were success stories around the lake. Confirmation of five osprey nests on cell towers near the lake also found that at least 8 chicks were hatched across those nests. One of three chicks at the 528 cell tower nest did fall to its death as confirmed by a visitor who notified me of their finding. The lake obviously offers a wonderful territory for osprey and the continued growth of their populations in the area is clear.



528, 3 chicks (1 fell)



Route 19, at least 1 chick



Old 422, at least 1 chick



Fairground Market, 1 confirmed



Pilot, 2 chicks confirmed



**2003 - 2023  
HAPPY 20TH  
HATCH YEAR!**



Proceeds from the purchase of the V87 magnet (and all items in The Owlet Gift Shop) directly benefit Moraine Preservation Fund, Moraine State Park and projects within the park. Thank you for your support!

**DAVIS HOLLOW  
BALD EAGLE NEST**



Photo by Jim Fotia



Banding birds provides an invaluable way to study their life histories and chart changes in bird populations, including changes in range, population numbers, and migratory behaviors. All banded birds in the United States have to be banded with a silver federal band and secondary bands are color-coded by state. The Bird Banding Laboratory, run under the US Geological Society, supports the collection, curation, archiving, and dissemination of data from banded and marked birds. These data allow for developing effective bird science, management, and conservation. The lab, in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Service Bird Banding Office, administer the North American Bird Banding Program.

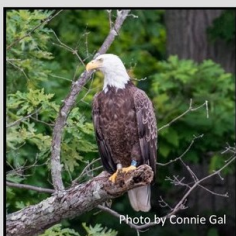


Photo by Connie Gal

V87 is the female of the resident pair of bald eagles that nest near the Davis Hollow Marina at Moraine State Park. Banded as an eaglet, we were able to learn that V87 was hatched on the Delaware River in NY state in 2003, making 2023 her 20th hatch year! The average life span of bald eagles in the wild is 15-25 years making this milestone a celebration of the healthy and productive environment available to all wildlife at Lake Arthur to successfully survive and breed.

"The recovery of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has been one of the great wildlife conservation stories in the history of both the state and the nation. Pennsylvania's nesting bald eagle population has increased steadily and dramatically in recent years. As recently as 1980, the state's known nesting population numbered only three pairs. In 1990, there were eight active nests, 48 in 2000, and by 2006 the number cleared 100 for the first time since DDT decimated Pennsylvania's nesting bald eagle population in the 1950s and '60s. The increases continued into 2008 when the state's nesting eagles numbered more than 150 pairs, more than 200 pairs in 2011, and more than 270 pairs in 2013."

- Pennsylvania Game Commission

# BALD EAGLES

The Propagation Area eagles hatched two eaglets this season.



The Davis Hollow pair hatched at least one eaglet.



Davis Hollow Male

Davis Hollow Nest

In 2023, we celebrated the female eagle at the Davis Hollow nest as she was hatched 20 years ago on the Delaware River in New York state. The average life span of bald eagles in the wild is 15-25 years making this milestone a celebration of the healthy and productive environment available to all wildlife at Lake Arthur to successfully survive and breed!