



The Lake District Osprey Project Project Update 2016/17

The Lake District Osprey Project is a partnership between the Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) with fantastic support from many volunteers.

Cumbrian Ospreys

In 2001 a pair of ospreys nested beside Bassenthwaite Lake and became the first wild osprey to breed in the Lake District for over 150 years. The birds were encouraged to stay with the help of a purpose built nest provided by the Forestry Commission and the Lake District National Park. Once the eggs were laid, wardens kept a round the clock watch to prevent disturbance and deter egg thieves, and a pair of ospreys have been visiting the nest ever since.

Latest news...

Last year's breeding pair, KL and Unring successfully raised one precious chick, Bega, who began her hazardous migration southwards to Africa in early September.

After loitering for a few days around Foulshaw in the South Lakes, Bega started her journey in earnest, flying via the Atlas mountains and along the coast of West Africa to reach the rich fishing estuaries of The Gambia and Senegal.

Meanwhile, her elder sibling, No 14, hatched in 2013, took a more easterly route over the centre of the Sahara desert to reach his winter destination. Spring 2017 got off to a good start – female KL arrived on 28th March and male Unring on 30th March. Eggs were laid on 11th, 14th, 17th of April. The first chick hatched on Thursday 18th May and a second on Friday 19th May, and the third on Monday 22nd May. A full clutch!

All three chicks have now fledged and are flying and fishing over the lake prior to their migration.

No 14 our 'Star' traveller, who hatched 2013, spent winter 2016 in Bioko. He reached Cumbria on April 16th. Since then he has been flying all over South Lakes but does not seem to have met a partner.

Back in Cumbria, the camera systems at the nest site have been upgraded and now include functions to pan, tilt and zoom, which will add an exciting new dimension for web-cam viewers. Visitors will also be able to enjoy much improved viewing at the Lower Viewpoint at Dodd Wood following an extensive trim to the trees through the winter.

The success of this conservation project is dependent on the protection of their habitat for feeding and nesting, and on wardens keeping a round the clock watch to prevent disturbance and deter egg thieves.

This vital conservation work could not happen without your donations. Thank you for helping to protect this wonderful species.

**For the latest news visit
www.ospreywatch.co.uk**