



1. True or False. Ospreys have a reversible outer toe. *J. Shankenberg*  
a) True b) False
2. The average osprey lifespan is  
a) 2-3 years b) 5-10 years c) 7-15 years d) 15-30 years
3. When hunting ospreys use which of the following techniques  
a) Swim and grab prey with their beaks b) Hover and dive into the water for prey c) Wait on the shoreline until a fish swims past then grab it d) Dip a toe in the water and use it to lure fish over
4. True or false: Ospreys mate for life.  
a) True b) False
5. Ospreys migrate to which of the following places in the winter  
a) The Arctic Circle b) Africa  
c) Europe d) Central and South America

**ANSWERS ON THE REVERSE SIDE!!**

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# NATURE QUIZ

## Answers...

1. a; 2. c; 3. b; 4. a; 5. d

### HERE IS THE LOW DOWN...

- True.** Ospreys have the ability to rotate their outer toe. This allows them to grab fish with two toes in front and two behind. They often use this toe to rotate a fish until it is facing the same direction they are flying so that it is more aerodynamic and easier to carry.
- Although reports vary, the usual lifespan for ospreys is in the range of **7 to 15 years**. As normal with many species, their lifespan in captivity is usually longer than in the wild. The longest-lived osprey on record was 23 years old. It was banded in the 70's and was found to have died in the late 90's.
- Hover and dive into the water for prey.** When an osprey is hunting and it spots prey, it will stop and hover in mid-air while it lines itself up. If it thinks it will be able to grab the fish, it then dives straight down into the water in an attempt to grab it. In a study done on osprey hunting, it was found that at least 1 in 4 dives caught a fish.
- True.** Ospreys will not only mate for life, but they will also come back to the same nest every year for as long as both partners are alive. Here in the wetland we have an osprey nest that has been used for the last 15 years, either by one or two pairs of birds.
- Central and South America.** When breeding season is over and their chicks have left the nest, the osprey parents will leave the nest and split up. They then will head down to a variety of locations anywhere from Florida to the amazon rainforest where they spend the next few months. In 2008 an osprey was recorded to have flown 2300 miles in 13 days, from the east coast of North America all the way down to French Guiana in South America.

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