

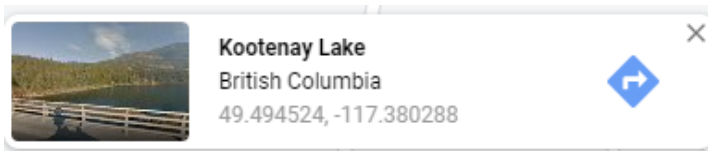
Kootenay Lake Osprey Nest Monitoring

Information & How-to Guide

Getting Started

Select a Site

- Find a nest on your own or have FoKLSS assign you a nest on the main body of the lake.
- If you monitor your own nest, record the geographic **coordinates** of the site.
 - **Google Earth:** Hover your mouse over the site. Coordinates appear at bottom of screen.
 - **Google Maps:** Click on the site. Coordinates pop up at the bottom of screen (pictured below)



Monitoring Preparation

Don't forget...

- Always go monitoring with a friend and tell someone where you're going and with whom.
- Ensure you have a pair of Binoculars or spotting scope.
- Always bring a data sheet and writing utensil.
- Be sure to give adequate and respectful space to observe from and keep the nest location private.

Steps for monitoring osprey nests

Timing of visits

- **First visit:** between May 25 and June 10. At this time, nearly all Osprey are incubating and they are easy to survey.
- **Second visit:** between July 22 and 31. This is the time to count early-hatched young that may fledge before August. Observations should last at least 5 minutes, during which time chicks will usually, move around in some way – heads pop up or wings are spread.
- **Third visit:** between August 15 and 25. This is the final count of young before late-hatched fledge. Some young may be flying at this time.



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Observing Nests

What to look for when observing nests:

- Osprey sitting low in a nest usually indicates that the bird is incubating eggs or brooding small young. Because we are using non-intrusive survey methods we cannot confirm the contents of a nest. The female will appear to be lying on her belly and her back will be horizontal.
- Nests that were occupied in May and June will likely have young present in July and August. Chicks are very adept at remaining inconspicuous in the nest.
- Chicks are nearly full-grown before they leave the nest and can be distinguished from adults by their red/orange eyes and speckled backs and wings. By this time, male and female can be easily differentiated by the presence or absence of a scattering of dark feathers across the top of the chest.
- Watch for any young testing their wings while standing in the nest as this would indicate that they are close to fledging.
- Be aware that early fledgers may be out of the nest and close-by during the August visit.

Submitting Your Data

Send your data to FoKLSS

- Email your scanned data sheets or Excel files to info@friendsofkootenaylake.ca.
- If you would like to mail your data sheets, email or phone us for our most recent mailing information!

