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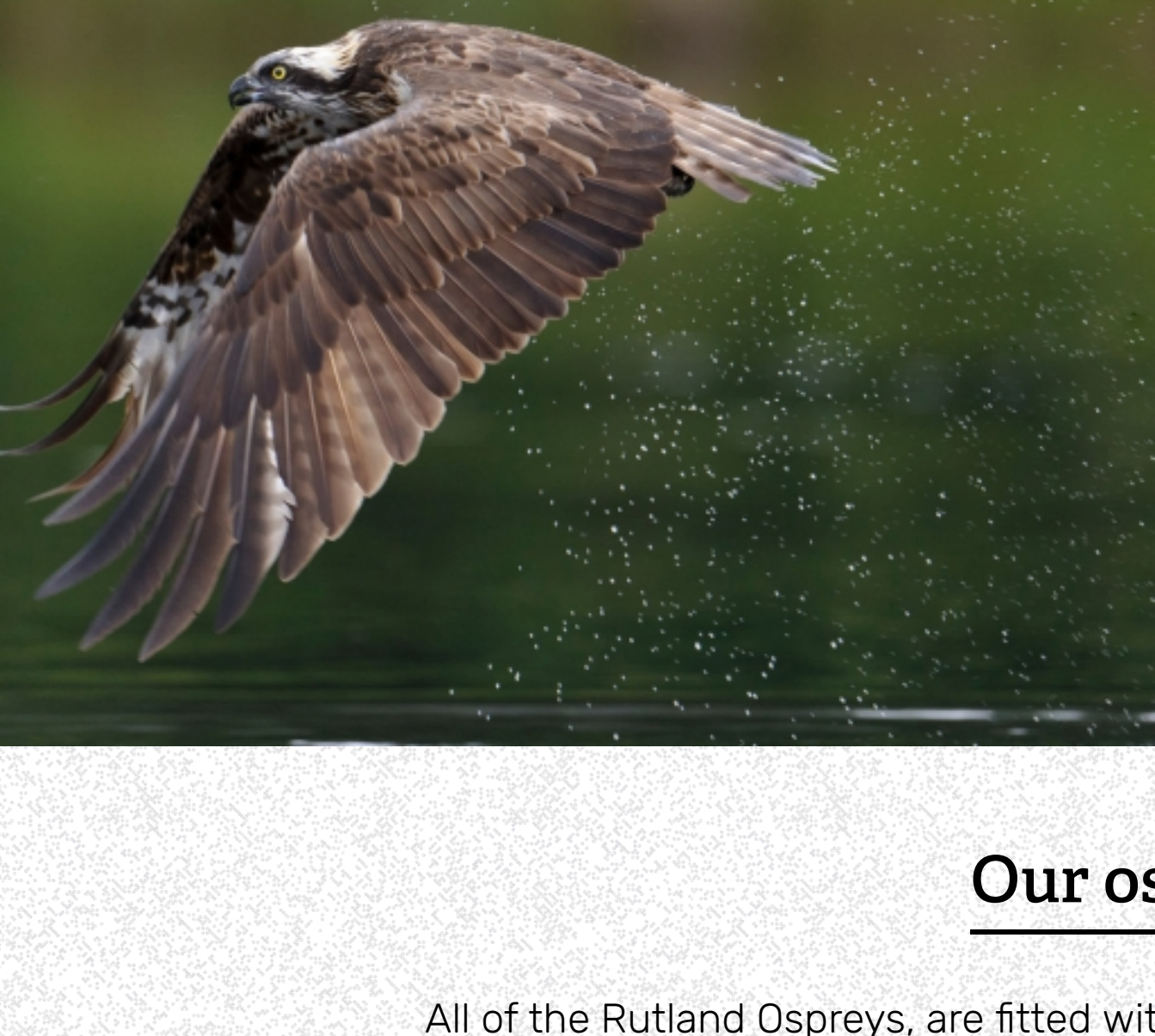
About the Rutland Ospreys

<p>1.5 metre wingspan</p>	<p>3,000 miles migrated every spring</p>
<p>6 fish caught to feed a family</p>	<p>209 chicks fledged from Rutland Water</p>

Back from the brink

The Osprey was once a common sight in the UK. Intensive persecution and habitat loss during the 18th and 19th centuries led to the extinction of Ospreys as a breeding bird in England in 1847. A fragmented population remained in Scotland with breeding last recorded in 1916. Ospreys were still sighted as passage migrants and in 1954 the natural re-colonisation of Ospreys in Scotland began with individuals thought to have been Scandinavian in origin.

The re-colonisation of Ospreys in Scotland was slow and it was predicted it would take over 100 years before they were once again breeding in England. Thanks to pioneering conservation efforts, Ospreys have made a triumphant return to the UK, in what is widely celebrated as an incredible conservation success story. You can be part of that story.



LYNDON VISITOR CENTRE

Visiting the Rutland Ospreys

Meet our team of osprey experts, enjoy our shop and visitor centre, walk through the stunning Lyndon Nature Reserve and see the ospreys on their nest.

[Find out more](#)

Our ospreys

All of the Rutland Ospreys, are fitted with two rings that allow us to identify the individual. The first one, on their left leg, is a metal ring, and the second, on their right leg, is a blue Darvic ring and each ring carries a unique set of numbers or code. As it wouldn't be appropriate to recapture adult Ospreys to read the ring number on the metal ring, the number on the blue ring is enlarged enough to be read using a telescope or a camera with a suitable lens.

We refer to all of the Ospreys by their ring number, in order to avoid anthropomorphism, as all our Ospreys are wild birds, but we have made an exception and named the breeding female at the Manton Bay nest, Maya. One of the Rutland Ospreys is also fitted with a lightweight satellite tracker, giving us an invaluable insight into the movements of an Osprey.

Ospreys at Rutland Water

In 1996, a translocation project began, which involved moving Osprey chicks from nests in Scotland and releasing them at Rutland Water with the aim to create a self-sustaining breeding population of Ospreys in central England.

The project reached a milestone in 2001, when 03(97), a male Osprey that had been translocated to Rutland Water Nature Reserve in 1997, raised a single chick with a metal ringed female from Scotland, close to the reservoir. This was the start of a huge conservation success story. Today, over 200 young Ospreys have fledged from nests in the Rutland Water area since the first chick in 2001.

We now have a self-sustaining population, with some fledged individuals even breeding in other parts of England and Wales. Most of the nests are situated on private land, however, one pair breed at Rutland Water Nature Reserve in Manton Bay, which can be viewed from a couple of bird hides at the Lyndon Visitor Centre and Nature Reserve. You can find out more about some of our Ospreys below.

Maya and 33(11) - Manton Bay

The Osprey nest in Manton Bay has been in use since 2007, but has been occupied since 2010 by the same female bird, presumably from Scotland, which we have nicknamed 'Maya'.

Maya arrived in the summer of 2009, and spent the summer bonding with a Rutland-fledged male Osprey, 32(05). The pair did not breed, but both returned in 2010. Unfortunately, in 2010 two male Ospreys went missing from Rutland, and 32(05) was one of them. However, she managed to pair up with a male Osprey, 5R(04) which was holding territory at the Manton Bay nest, and they successfully raised three chicks in 2010. At the time, Maya did not have a name and she was always referred to as the Manton Bay Female. Over the next few seasons, it was decided it would be easier to talk and write about her, and for people to relate to her if she had a name, and eventually we settled on Maya. Not only is it a lovely name, but it contains the first and last two letters in **Manton Bay**, and comes from the Greek Maia, who was the goddess of spring.

Over the three years (2010 to 2013) that Maya and 5R(04) bred together, they successfully raised 11 chicks. Of those 11 chicks, five of their young have since returned to Rutland!

In 2014, unfortunately, 5R(04) failed to return to Rutland after his migration. After weeks of anxious waiting, she came to realise, as did Maya that he was not going to come back. Ospreys face many challenges on migration, so sadly, we won't ever know what happened. With plenty of unpaired males in the area, Maya paired up with male 28(10) and did actually lay three eggs. But the nest suffered persistent intrusions from 33(11), and as a result, 28(10) was chased off and 33(11) took over the nest, kicking the eggs out in the process. After a while 33(11) and Maya did form a bond, but it was too late in the season for them to breed.

As we see Maya every day on the live webcam, we have come to know her very well as an individual. All Ospreys have unique, distinguishing characteristics, and Maya can easily be identified by the distinct markings on her head and face, in particular the brown cross that is visible on the back of her head. She has now raised 31 chicks since she first bred in 2010 and has provided us with a fabulous insight into the lives of breeding Ospreys.

33(11) fledged from one of the offsite nests in 2011 and his parents are male 03(97) and an unringed female. 33(11) was the only chick to fledge from that nest that year, so he did not have to compete for food, consequently becoming a strong, healthy juvenile and adult.

33(11) returned to Rutland for the first time as a two-year-old on 11th May 2013. He was first spotted in Manton Bay, by Project Officer Paul Stammers and volunteer Mick Lewin, then later was seen back at his natal nest, Site B. In 2014, he returned on 13th April and immediately began pestering Maya and 28(10) in Manton Bay. He did not give up until he chased 28(10) away and claimed the nest.

In 2015, both Maya and 33(11) returned to Manton Bay and bred successfully, raising three chicks, two of which have returned. 33(11) appears to enjoy spending time on the nest, more so than other males and will quite often take over incubation duties. Since 2016, they have raised an additional 17 chicks, including a record breaking four chicks in 2019 and 2020!

- 03(97) - Mr Rutland**
- 30(05), S1(15), 4K(13) - Satellite Tracking**

History of the Rutland Osprey Project

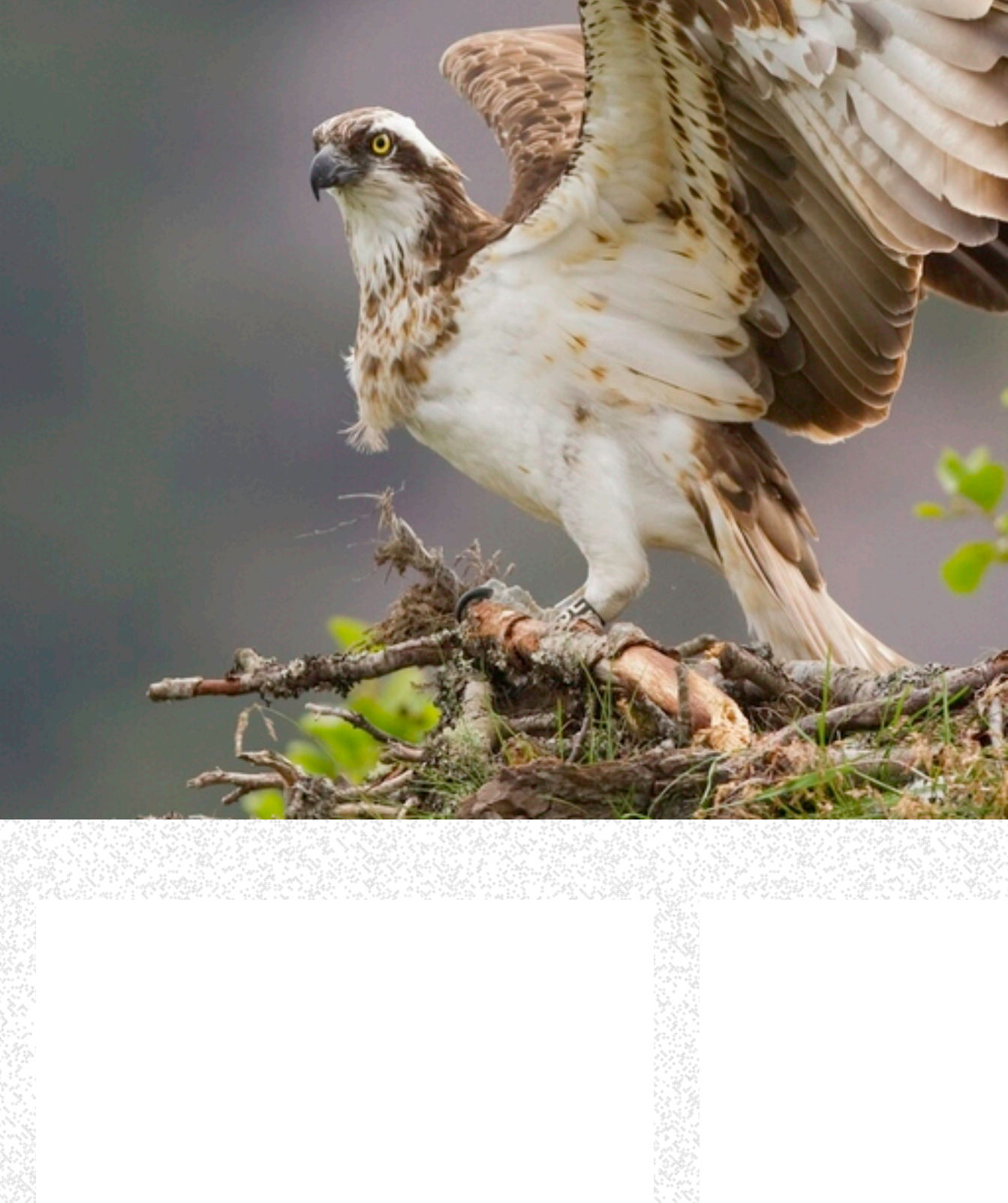
Ospreys have been using Rutland Water as a stop-off during their migrations to and from Scotland for many years, almost as long as the reservoir has existed. However, despite a healthy and growing Scottish population, it was estimated that it could take at least 150 years for Ospreys to naturally re-colonise the whole of the UK. With some pioneering efforts and outstanding stakeholder working, the Rutland Osprey Project, which is managed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, in partnership with Anglian Water, was about to change all this, and see Ospreys soaring over central England once more...

- Background**
- Ospreys at Rutland Water**
- Taking flight**
- The story so far**

Make a donation to the Rutland Ospreys

Any contributions will go towards the work we are doing to protect ospreys in Rutland

£ 10.00 [Donate now](#)



FIND OUT MORE

About Ospreys

Ospreys are an incredible bird of prey. They live exclusively on fish, have a wingspan of just over 1.5 metres and can turn one of their toes a full 180 degrees! They dive into water feet-first to catch fish, using powerful talons to catch their prey. A journey in the UK migrate south to Senegal and the Gambia - and they do this without their parents. They can live for around 20 years.

[Find out more](#)

Osprey Cruises

One of the most exciting ways of seeing Ospreys at Rutland Water is to take a guided trip aboard the Rutland Belle.

Osprey Education

The Rutland Ospreys form an excellent starting point for school children to engage with all areas of the school curriculum, and we link...

Rutland Ospreys Blogs

All the latest updates from the Rutland Ospreys

