

THE OSPREY OBSERVER

Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife

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Following a highly successful season, members of our osprey family set off on their migration during the first two weeks in September.

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Congratulations Grandad Aran!

Another Glaslyn hatched osprey has successfully raised chicks for the first time.

Blue KS1 was the middle of the 2018 brood, and was nesting this year at the Bolton Estate in North Yorkshire with her un-ringed mate. They successfully raised a male and female chick together. We are especially thrilled because this is the first of Aran's offspring known to be breeding. Congratulations to everyone involved with the first osprey nest in Yorkshire in modern times.



2023 Calendar



Our 2023 Glaslyn Ospreys calendar features 13 stunning photographs and interesting facts from the 2022 season. It is now available to purchase from our online shop and will also be on sale at the Pont Croesor Visitor Centre when we open for the Winter Birdwatching Weekend (26 & 27 November).



Safe travels Glaslyn ospreys

Mrs G was the first of the Glaslyn Osprey family to leave, we last saw her on Thursday 8 September and the following morning the two youngest Glaslyn juveniles began their journey south.



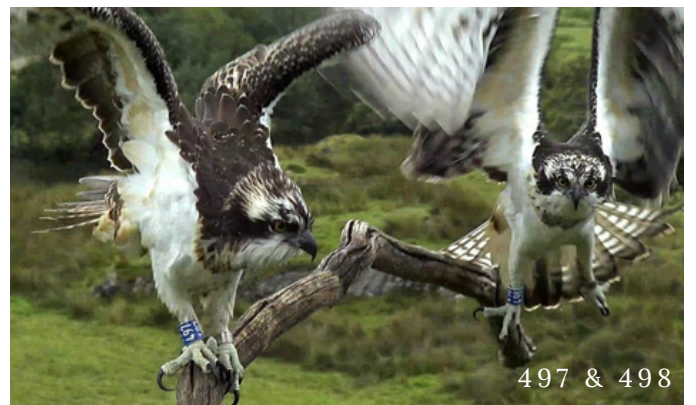
MRS G



498 & 499

Interestingly, the three remaining members of the Pont Croesor Osprey family were seen for the last time that same day. Aran and the eldest juvenile, Blue 497, remained at the nest site for a few more days, giving visitors to Pont Croesor the opportunity to see a late osprey.

Tuesday 13 September and Aran was last seen on camera at the nest site the same day. However, he was then photographed at a favourite fishing spot on the estuary by volunteer Gail Edgley. We wish our ospreys a safe journey and we are already looking forward to their return next spring.



497 & 498



ARAN

The last sightings from the Glaslyn cameras were:

Mrs G - last seen 8 September at 08:58

498 - last seen 9 September at 08:32 (age 105 days)

499 - last seen 9 September at 08:53 (age 102 days)

497 - last seen 13 September at 09:54 (age 110 days)

Aran - last seen on our nest cameras on 13 September at 16:28, and then photographed on the estuary on 15 September at 15:45.

A season to remember



Message from the Chairman of the Board of Governors Gwyn Harrison

Yet another successful season at Pont Croesor came to a close in September. After the disappointment and heartache of last year, the return of Mrs. G and then Aran came as an enormous relief to everyone. The appearance of Mrs G over the Pont Croesor site was an especially momentous occasion for me as, after being involved with the Glaslyn ospreys for the past 18 years, it was the first time that I could claim to having been the first to see her on her return!

Three successful chicks on the Glaslyn nest, the breeding success of the pair on the nearby Friends of the Osprey (Pont Croesor) nest and success elsewhere in the valley has been an important milestone in the story of the Glaslyn Ospreys. Who could have imagined back in 2004 that one day, ospreys would be seen almost filling the sky above the Visitor Centre.

The new John Parry hide, completed in March and opened by Iolo Williams , provided a perfect platform for so many of our visitors to observe the birds on the Pont Croesor nest.

Thanks to you all for your continued support and kindness throughout this season. Your generous donations, via CAF Donate, PayPal, Just Giving, monthly standing order donations, cheque, cash or card donations at the Visitor Centre, are greatly appreciated and are vital towards our survival. Every penny goes to support the Glaslyn Ospreys charity. We really can't do it without you!

Gwyn is pictured in the Hide with Iolo Williams on the day of the official opening



Winter visitors

In November we look forward to the return from Iceland of the Whooper Swans to their wintering grounds in the Glaslyn Valley. An injured bird (pictured) who remained on the Glaslyn throughout the summer, making appearances from the Porthmadog Cob right up to Pont Aberglaslyn bridge on occasions, will hopefully be reunited with the herd. The bird has been given the name Droopy, because of its injured wing. Thanks to Elfyn Lewis for the fantastic picture

KA5 / Roli

Here is KA5/Roli hatched at Llyn Brenig 2019 who visited the Glaslyn nest in August. He has been seen at Glaslyn a few times over the past two years and is getting more like his mother, Blue 24, as he matures.



Meet the Team

We are launching a new Osprey Observer feature in this edition to introduce some of our dedicated volunteers who play such a vital role in the work of Glaslyn Ospreys. Our volunteers are the backbone of the project and without them we simply could not deliver our essential work for wildlife conservation.

Cyndee Anthony is one of our newest volunteers who joined us earlier this year. Cyndee, who is from the USA, lives on the Llyn peninsula with her partner Andy.



How did you get involved?

We moved here from Africa, where we both worked, earlier this year. I had been working for some years in public health in Nigeria and Ethiopia. Andy had a property in Gwynedd so we had been regularly visiting North Wales and Snowdonia, where we enjoy hiking and kayaking. I had seen the yellow road signs advertising the Osprey project and always wanted to call in. After we moved here permanently, I had time to find out more. I saw the details on the web site and applied to become a volunteer.

Why did you want to help out?

I have always had a great interest in wildlife - and was fortunate to go on numerous safaris when in Africa. I wanted to learn more about the ospreys and get involved in the local community. I didn't have any detailed knowledge about the birds when I started but there has been great support and I have learnt so much since May when I began volunteering. Heather and Gwyn, as well as Mick, Avice, Gill and all the volunteers, are so very knowledgeable and were so kind and encouraging to me to get me up to speed!

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

The story of Mrs G and her dynasty is a great story to tell and I have become passionate about it. I love sharing the information with our visitors and seeing how amazed people are to hear about how the birds have returned here for so many years, the challenges of their long migration and how the number of breeding birds in the Valley has increased. Plus I have truly enjoyed getting to know the volunteers and the people of North Wales and its visitors!

Would you recommend volunteering at Glaslyn Ospreys?

Certainly! Everyone is helpful and friendly and new volunteers are made to feel very welcome. I'm so pleased I decided to get involved and hopefully, have helped play a part in sharing the fantastic Glaslyn Osprey story with our visitors this season.

For more information about volunteering go to
www.glaslynwildlife.co.uk/volunteering



BELOW: MRS G IN ONE OF HER
FAVOURITE LOOKOUT 'POSTS'



Mrs G's Glaslyn Gallery

Mrs G was spotted fishing on the estuary near Porthmadog in August by Chris Wood. Chris saw her with a large flounder around 19.25 one evening and she arrived back at the nest site with it at 19.46. Thanks for sharing your images with us Chris.



ABOVE: MRS G AT NIGHT

Welcome to Pont Croesor

We were delighted to welcome Dora Clarke, Head of Marketing and Communications with Osprey Charging Network, to Pont Croesor. A new sponsorship partnership with the company, one of the fastest growing UK networks of rapid Electric Vehicle Charging points, was launched earlier this year.



Interpretation boards and telescopes in the new hide have been kindly funded by the company along with two new picnic benches.

Visitor Centre Manager Heather Corfield is pictured showing Dora the Glaslyn Family Tree at one of the new picnic benches.

Laskavo prosymo. Croeso. Welcome.



There was a warm welcome at Pont Croesor for families from Ukraine who are living in the local areas.

They were given a tour of the site and volunteers explained the fascinating story of Glaslyn Ospreys.

During their visit Aran delivered a fish on the nest for Mrs G which was seen by the visitors on the live screens in the Visitor Centre and Hide.

Conservation Without Borders

It was great to welcome Sacha Dench and the Conservation without Borders team to the Glaslyn Osprey Visitor Centre. You can follow their journey on the Flight of the Osprey expedition to Ghana this autumn on their Facebook page.



Afon Glaslyn Osprey Adventure



Glaslyn Ospreys volunteer and fund raiser Gail Edgley has launched a new blog sharing details of her wildlife encounters and adventures. The first describes a thrilling osprey 'close encounter' along the Glaslyn river bank with one of this year's fledglings.

Thank you Gail for sharing your story and we look forward to hearing more from you over the winter months.

Here are some extracts from the blog:

...After some considerable time of swimming and wading along, the landscape began to open out... Time was passing and I began to feel very weary... Next thing all my senses woke to their very peak and all the weariness dropped away from me as I heard a familiar thrilling sound ahead and immediately I knew 'Osprey'! And not only that but a juvenile shouting for food!! with single chipping beyond it ... Then two dulcet alarm calls...

...The chick continued to call and ruffle its feathers in short spates... To watch it clearly and hear its shrill loud voice close-by was a joy I drank in at every moment...

...The youngster gave one more chorus shouting for food, stretched briefly then took off. Only instead of flying off in a straight trajectory across the fields to the nest, it once again swooped down low over the water ... in my direction!

Winning images



WILDLIFE WINNER – GAIL EDGLEY
“GREY HERON WITH FISH, OAKHAM”



SECOND PLACE – LAURENCE MADOUR
“KINGFISHER, SPINNIES ABEROGWEN”



LANDSCAPE WINNER – GAIL EDGLEY
“SNOWY SNOWDON STANDING STONE”



SECOND PLACE – ELEN WILLIAMS
“AUTUMN SUNSET OF THE MOELWYN”

All four winning images from our 2022 Photography Competition feature on the back page of our new 2023 Glaslyn Ospreys calendar.

Congratulations to our winning photographers and thank you to judges Ellyn Lewis and Tony Russell who had the difficult job of choosing these worthy winners from the many entries.



LEFT: GAIL EDGLEY
RECEIVES HER PRIZE
FROM HEATHER
CORFIELD

RIGHT: LAURENCE
MADOUR RECEIVES HIS
PRIZE FROM HEATHER
CORFIELD

