Media Advisory

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**Richmond’s popular Osprey pair hatch first egg of 2018**

Rosie and Richmond, avian reality stars of the Bay Area’s first live-streaming Osprey nest camera, welcomed their first hatchling at 8:26am on May 9th. This pair of Ospreys reunited after a winter season spent apart and returned to their previous nesting site with a commanding view of San Francisco Bay. They have been improving their nest on the City of Richmond’s historic Whirley Crane next to the SS Red Oak Victory Ship in Richmond’s Shipyard 3 (Potrero Point). OnMarch 31, Rosie laid her first egg of the season and then laid two eggs during the next several days. [Golden Gate Audubon’s Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/GoldenGateAudubon/) will soon post an opportunity to vote for the chick’s name.

Osprey lay two to four eggs in a typical nesting season. Parents take turns incubating the eggs which each take between 36-42 days to hatch. The new chick and future siblings will remain in the nest for nearly two months until they are able to fly, at which point they take short flights but return to the nest regularly for another 6-8 weeks beyond their fledging date. Last year, Rosie and Richmond reared two chicks. One of them successfully fledged, but the other sustained a fatal injury shortly after fledging.

Golden Gate Audubon installed dual livestreaming nest cameras on the Whirley Crane in 2017. First launched to the public on March 29 last year, they quickly drew tens of thousands of enthusiastic Osprey watchers to <http://SFBayOspreys.org>. The remotely-controlled, high-definition livestreaming cameras provide close-up and wide-angle views of the nest and environs along with vocalizations by the birds and sounds of the local environment. Infrared illumination switches on after sunset allowing for nocturnal nest viewing without disturbing the Ospreys.

This season, a brand new feature on the livechat page of the SFBayOspreys.org website enables the public to help identify the various the kinds of fish caught by Rosie or Richmond, along with manmade objects they may bring to the nest. The accumulated data set is now visible for everyone, including secondary school teachers and their students, to analyze. More lessons are available for teachers to download free of charge. Golden Gate Audubon Society hopes that this dramatic insight into the life of our own local Ospreys will inspire STEM (science-technology-engineering-math) learning related to ecology and wildlife and that everyone following the Ospreys will take a greater interest in local birdlife and become active stewards of local watersheds that both wildlife and humans share.

The growth of the Osprey population along San Francisco Bay in recent years is an uplifting story, proving that some of nature’s wildest creatures can co-exist with people and share our urban shorelines. In 2017, volunteers monitored dozens of active Osprey nests around the edge of the Bay. The City of Richmond, where this nest is located, has become an Osprey hotspot with more than a dozen active nesting pairs that fledged 23 Ospreys last season. In April, the City of Richmond declared the Osprey as its official city bird.

*The SF Osprey Cam at* [*http://sfbayospreys.org/*](http://sfbayospreys.org/) *was created by Golden Gate Audubon to further its mission to protect native bird populations and their habitats and to engage people to experience the wonder of birds and to translate that wonder into action.* [*https://goldengateaudubon.org/*](https://goldengateaudubon.org/)