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SF Bay Ospreys, Rosie and Richmond Welcome their First Two Hatchlings of 2019

WHAT: First two hatchlings of 2019 for Osprey Webcam stars Rosie and Richmond

WHERE: Richmond, CA SFBayOspreys.org

Richmond, CA. –

Rosie and Richmond – the two avian celebrities at the center of the Bay Area’s first live Osprey nest cam – are due for some big congratulations. They hatched their first chick on May 8 at 6:57 p.m. The second chick arrived less than 24 hours later, shortly before 6 p.m. on May 9. The pair are still incubating their third egg, which is expected to hatch within the next few days.

“The growing community of S.F. Bay Osprey fans is thrilled to welcome Rosie and Richmond’s first two chicks of 2019,” said Cindy Margulis, Executive Director of Golden Gate Audubon Society, which launched the 24/7 live video feed of this nest in 2017. “Over the next two months, we can all watch these youngsters close-up as they grow, explore their nest, and learn to fly.” A short video of the second chick emerging can be seen here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Unmir4kFASo&feature=youtu.be>. Rosie stands aside to offer a clear view and Richmond flies in to witness the event.

The SFBayOspreys.org community is temporarily calling the chicks Alpha and Beta. Golden Gate Audubon will hold a naming contest sometime after the third chick emerges. Watch for more details on the Live Chat page of SFBayOspreys.org or the SF Bay Ospreys Facebook Page.

The Osprey nest, which is monitored by two HD live-streaming cameras, is located 75 feet above the ground on the Whirley Crane, a historic decommissioned World War 2 crane in Richmond's Shipyard 3. People can view the live video feed at <http://sfbayospreys.org>, which also offers information on how to help Ospreys thrive, downloadable lesson plans for teachers of grades 6-12, a live chat about the Ospreys, and an interactive public community science project identifying the fish and human-made items brought to the nest.

Rosie and Richmond's first egg was laid on March 31st. The hatchlings spend 50 to 55 days in the nest before fledging (flying for the first time.) Both parents will take turns feeding and warming the chicks and will protect them from predators such as eagles and ravens. The biggest potential threats to nestling Ospreys are predation, exposure, and lack of food. After fledging, young Ospreys will regularly return to their nest for a few weeks, receiving provisions from their parents, while they learn to catch their own fish.

Rosie and Richmond have been terrific parents so far and successfully raised all three chicks from last year's brood. While a successful hatch of Osprey eggs may seem routine, that has not always been the case. In the 1960s and 70s, Osprey populations plummeted and the species was threatened with extinction when the pesticide DDT made Osprey eggshells so thin that they broke during incubation.

After the federal government banned DDT, Osprey numbers rebounded and the species has expanded its nesting range to San Francisco Bay. Ospreys began nesting along the Bay for the very first time in the early 2000s, and this year there are more than 40 active nesting pairs along the Bay.

Since Golden Gate Audubon launched the live video feed in 2017, more than 90,000 people have visited <http://sfbayospreys.org>. The live chat section of the web site has become a friendly and busy online community with participants sharing Osprey observations, screen shots, and humor, and answering questions from newcomers to the site. The interactive community science project is also on the live chat page <http://sfbayospreys.org/live-chat-new2/>

Watch the live nest feed at <http://sfbayospreys.org>. Or keep up with highlights from the nest on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bayospreys/> .

About Golden Gate Audubon

Golden Gate Audubon has been protecting Bay Area birds, other wildlife, and our region's natural habitat since 1917. We conserve and restore wildlife habitat, connect people of all ages and backgrounds with the natural world, and educate and engage Bay Area residents in the protection of

our shared, local environment. Golden Gate Audubon is sustained by contributions from members and supporters throughout San Francisco and the East Bay. SFBayOspreys.org is a signature project of Golden Gate Audubon.