

## OSPREY PLATFORMS

Osprey Nesting Platforms have been placed at two sites, one at each end of Osprey Lake. They were erected with the hope that we might attract a nesting Osprey to the Oxbow. Ospreys migrate through the Oxbow every Spring and Fall. While they nest within 50 miles of the Oxbow area, we have not found any nesting here or nearby. By putting up platforms we hoped to entice them to try. It hasn't worked! The poles follow standard successful designs, and we think there are enough fish available to feed a growing family, but something is missing.

Ospreys can be extremely tolerant of people near the nesting pole, sometimes nesting in busy parking lots and heavily used beaches. But maybe for the migrants in this area the level of human disturbance is too much.

Another possibility, to explain our lack of success, is the amount and quality of available nesting material. Ospreys, like Bald Eagles, build strong sturdy nests from fairly large sturdy sticks. The Oxbow floodplain is not necessarily a great source of building material. Fallen sticks are not abundant here and those that do fall from trees tend to float away in floods. The sticks that end up in the Oxbow tend to be sticks that have floated in from somewhere else. These floating sticks are often waterlogged and show signs of rot. They may not be strong enough to use in nest building. They may not be the best nest building material.

The platforms still perform a valuable function and serve as perches for hunting raptors and during floods are often occupied by Great Blue Heron looking for a dry spot to stand and survey their surroundings.

**For more information, visit [www.oxbowinc.org](http://www.oxbowinc.org) or call 812-290-2941.**

**For assistance in the event of an emergency, please call 911 (make sure you advise you are in Indiana) or the Dearborn County Sheriff's Dispatch at (812) 537-3431.**