

June 20, 2015 Bird Walk with Brad Barnwell

Just a quick bit of information on the June 20 bird walk. Although only three people showed for the 7:30 AM walk we had a good time and were able to spot 33 species just in the visitor center parking area and from the footbridge over Cole Creek. The highlight of the walk for me was when I set up the scope on the bridge and focused on the Osprey nest. Up until now we could only confirm two juvenile Osprey, but after a few fly-ins with food by the parents my wife spotted a third juvenile feeding and we were able to get a good look at all three juveniles with the scope. So now we will keep an eye on the whole family of five and see how they fare in the next few weeks.

The juveniles have been flapping/exercising their wings and they are about the same size as the adult male. I don't think it will be too much longer before the juveniles take flight. When that happens they will still stay near the nest and be dependent on the parents for food for a short time.

Some basic information on the Osprey:*

- The first year birds will migrate south and will not return until their 2nd or 3rd year and will probably not successfully breed until they are 3 year olds.*
- Records on certain tagged birds reveal they can live as long (in extreme cases) as 32 years of age, but it seems 18 y.o.a. is a more probable life span than 32 years.*
- Length 21-24"
- Wingspread 54-72" The female is larger than the male
- Weight: Males 2 lbs 10 oz. to 3 lbs 8.5 oz.; Female 2 lbs 12 oz. to 4 lbs 3.75 oz.
- Incubation: 34-40 days
- Juveniles fly at : 49-56 days

*Sources: "Stokes Field Guide to Birds, western region" 1996 and "The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds" 1991 by John K. Terres