RSPB, LOCH GARTEN ABERNETHY
OSPREY UPDATES

28/03/26

Place your bets!
What day do you think we'll be expecting our Ospreys back? It could be any day now.
So will it be early on 28th March, the same date as last year (6th April), or will KL5's well-known tardiness take the win for late April? Comment your guesses below.



05/04/26

She's home... 🦅
But who is it? 🧐
This afternoon, a female osprey returned to Loch Garten and immediately began making herself at home 🏠
But here's the surprise... it's looks like Asha!
Asha left the nest last year after the intense clashes between KL5 and Brodie. She was later replaced by an unringed female who held the territory for the rest of the 2025 season, so it's quite unexpected to see her back at Loch Garten.

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN, ABERNETHY

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN ABERNETHY
OSPREY UPDATES

Things could get very interesting if last year's resident female also returns. And with uncertainty still surrounding which male will show up (KL5 or Brodie?), this season is shaping up to be one to watch...
Stay tuned 👀
https://youtu.be/nJyLhWhyWBw

11/05/26

A new female... and the return of KL5? 👀
A quick text update for you this week, we've been inundated with messages from people wanting to know what's been happening!
Yesterday evening, another unringed female landed on the nest and immediately seemed at home. However, this isn't Asha... it's the same unringed female who took up residence on the nest last year!
She returned again early this morning, but things ramped up mid-morning when, out of nowhere, two birds appeared on the nest, a male and a female, with the male attempting to mate. And yes, you guessed it... KL5 is back! Well, we can't confirm it's him with absolute certainty, but it looks very likely.
KL5 lost his colour ring last year and now only has a metal BTO ring. In the footage, you can just make out that this bird has a metal ring and not a colour one. While that strongly suggests it's him, we'll need to wait until he lands close enough to the camera to read it before we can confirm for sure, as there are a some other birds in the area that have no colour ring.
Where is Asha?
Asha was last seen very early on Monday morning, and we haven't seen her since. Last year, she left the Loch Garten nest following all the fighting between KL5 and Brodie, and wasn't seen again for the remainder of the season. It's possible she established herself at another nest elsewhere, so although she briefly returned last week, it now seems likely that Asha has moved on again.
As always, never a dull moment, so make sure you keep up to date with all the latest comings and goings! We'll bring you another update next week, but why not pop into the Nature Centre and enjoy the drama in person, and find out more about the amazing wildlife and conservation work across RSPB Abernethy

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN, ABERNETHY

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN ABERNETHY
OSPREY UPDATES

https://youtu.be/NrE_GV66XeI

28/04/26

We have.... An EGG?! 🥚
In a bizarre turn of events here at Loch Garten, after not seeing our resident female Osprey for around 9 days, she returned this afternoon, and laid her first egg!
It's been a strange couple of weeks for us here. After KL5 and our resident female looked to be settling down, our female then left for an unknown reason, last seen on Sunday 19th April. KL5 has remained settled at the nest, doing lots of nest building, skydancing and bringing in some huge fish, often waiting with them either for our female to return, or perhaps for a new female to pass by...
But then, just as we were starting to wonder, this afternoon our resident female arrived back around midday today, and if that wasn't surprise enough, at 16:17 she laid an egg!
Just when you thought you had seen it all...
Now there is still a lot that could happen. Was our female on another nest (maybe with KL5?) and got kicked off, so laid here? Is the egg viable? Will KL5 accept it, or go full 2024 and remove it from the nest? We haven't seen him back to the nest with her and the egg yet, so it will be interesting to see how it plays out...
We also thought it was time we gave her a proper name... so please say hello to Myrtle!
Last year, we had a list of names for children to choose from in the Nature Centre, and Myrtle was one of the most popular. It's in relation to a special plant found in the bog that surrounds our osprey nest, and one of our team's favourite plants - Bog Myrtle

https://youtu.be/ZIbN-e_hFSo

14/05/26

Osprey update! 🚨🦅
Firstly, apologies for the delay in this Osprey update! As always, there's been lots happening, and with some staff illness alongside the team doing

a stellar job keeping the busy nature centre running, finding time for an update has been at a premium. This is a long-ish one... 👀
We left the last update just after our newly named female, Myrtle, had laid her first egg after returning from being MIA for 9 days.
Unfortunately, as perhaps expected after such a long absence, the egg was always in a precarious position. The following morning, while Myrtle was away from the nest, we saw KL5 go full “2024 mode” and destroy the egg during nest cupping.
Of course, that was sad to see, but it wasn’t entirely unexpected. The good news was that Myrtle stayed around, and we began to see her and KL5 really bond again. There were lots of fish handovers (including some impressively sized catches from KL5!), successful mating, and generally very settled Osprey behaviour.
Then, on 1st May, Myrtle laid her second egg. However, with so little time having passed, it again seemed likely the egg would be rejected... and sure enough, on the morning of 2nd May, KL5 ejected it from the nest.
Myrtle then laid a third egg on 4th May, but once again KL5 removed it the following morning.
So... why does KL5 keep removing the eggs?
There are a few theories, but the most likely explanation is that KL5 and Myrtle were simply out of sync. After Myrtle disappeared for 9 days and then returned laying almost immediately, it’s likely KL5 had not fully switched from territory defence and nest-building mode into incubation mode.
Male Ospreys rely heavily on timing and behavioural cues during the breeding season, and because the pair bond had effectively been interrupted, the early eggs may not have “fit” with where KL5 was hormonally and behaviourally at that stage.
This was particularly noticeable in the nest cupping behaviour we saw, a very normal part of nest preparation in male Ospreys, but unfortunately not ideal when there’s suddenly an egg present!
Once eggs are fully accepted, males usually become far more careful and attentive around them. Frustrating as it was to watch, this kind of behaviour is actually fairly typical in situations where breeding attempts become disrupted or pairs fall temporarily out of sync.
The usual clutch size for Ospreys in Scotland is three eggs, but when eggs are lost or destroyed it’s common for the female to lay additional eggs to

compensate. So after the first three were lost, all eyes were on Myrtle, would she keep laying, and if she did, would KL5 finally accept them? Thankfully, on 7th May, Myrtle laid her fourth egg, and this time, instead of nest-cupping it into the bog below, KL5 gently stood over the egg and began incubating! 🎉
Myrtle then laid a fifth egg on 10th May, leaving us with two intact eggs currently being diligently cared for by both birds.
So yes, as always, it's been drama-packed at Loch Garten! But things have thankfully settled down again, and everything is now looking much more promising. With an average Osprey incubation period of around 37 days, all eyes will now be on around 13th June, when we'd expect the first egg to hatch
https://youtu.be/beyyWPiUfqk

18/05/26

Where is KL5?
No sooner had we posted an update saying how lovely and settled things seemed to be, wildlife has once again thrown us another twist to keep us guessing.
What's happened?
Quite simply, we haven't seen our male Osprey KL5 for over four days now. Of course, these are wild birds, and any one of thousands of things could have happened, so there is very little point speculating about where he is or what may have happened to him, especially as he could still return at any moment.
KL5 is ringed, but as he has lost his colour ring, even if he is seen elsewhere or photographed, it's very unlikely anyone would be able to identify him.
In the meantime, Myrtle is still sat tight on the nest, diligently incubating her two eggs. However, with no male to provide food, it means she has now gone for a long period without eating.
What happens next?
Assuming KL5 doesn't return (though we still have everything crossed that he will), it is likely that hunger will soon force Myrtle to leave the nest to fish for herself. While the eggs can survive a few hours without incubation, leaving them unattended for any length of time increases the risk that

they may no longer be viable, as well as exposing them to potential predation.
Even if Myrtle is able to feed and return to continue incubating, without a male to provide regular food deliveries and share vital incubation duties, it sadly becomes very unlikely this will be a successful breeding season.
What are you doing to help?
While this is incredibly difficult to watch, we must remember that this is nature in the raw. We are privileged to be able to follow these birds through both the highs and lows of a breeding season, without interfering with their natural behaviour, however hard and heartbreaking that can sometimes be.
At present, there is no evidence to suggest that KL5's disappearance is linked to human activity, so as difficult as it is, we will continue to watch and allow nature to take its course.
For now, all we can do is hope. Myrtle continues to show remarkable resilience, and until there is certainty otherwise, we will keep everything crossed for KL5's safe return.



28/05/26
Osprey Update 🚨🦅

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN, ABERNETHY

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN ABERNETHY
OSPREY UPDATES

It's now been over 2 weeks since we last saw KL5. Given the length of time he's been away at such a crucial moment, we expect that he has unfortunately met his end. But without him being recovered reported, we will never know for sure.
So what happened to Myrtle?
She held on as best she could, incubating the eggs, but after 6 long days of no food she had to go fishing.
In the meantime, while she was away from the nest, new unringed male came in and started making himself at home, and when arranged the nest, kicked the final two eggs out.
Myrtle was away from the nest for around a week, and during that time, a couple of unringed males have been fighting for the nest, and most recently, a new, very pale male seems to have aserted himself as the dominant male on our nest.
Just as we started to wonder about Myrtle as well, and whether she had maybe found another nest or started to head south, last night she reappeared! Quickly wanting to make an impression, our new pale friend brought in two fish for her in around 30 minutes, and has continued in a similar vein today, bringing in another three fish.
So what will happen next?
Unfortunately, it is far too late for them to have a successful breeding season this year, but this is a really encouraging sign that another male has taken to the nest so quickly, and Myrtle is getting on board. Hopefully, for the remainder of this season, these two will hang around, strengthen their bond, and defend the nest from any intruders.
As always, never a dull moment, so make sure you stay tuned and find out what happens next!

https://youtu.be/MBpF4AUdvV4

07/07/26
Time for an Osprey Update!
It's been a few weeks since our last Osprey digest and - for the most part - that's because our lovely new residents have been peacefullg playing house.

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN, ABERNETHY

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN ABERNETHY
OSPREY UPDATES

This new 'Pale male' has reliably been bringing healthy brown trout in every day: waiting patiently for hours for Myrtle, and skydancing as soon as she arrives to deliver her dinner.
Myrtle has been playing it coy though - some weeks we see her consistently, and some she'll not be spotted for days at a time. But still, she lets this male woo her.
This male is so good in fact that on one occasion after Myrtle decided she didn't want the fish he'd dropped off, he patiently waited until her appetite came back, and delivered it the moment she asked for it. How sweet!
This last week, however, some drama has unfolded. It looks like an old favourite is back: Asha!
Where did she come from? Did she find new nesting territory? Did it get disrupted? Your guess is as good as ours!
Her and Myrtle have had a few scraps over the nest, meaning poor Pale Male has had two girls to impress.
We're all curious to see how this unfolds - which female osprey will claim dominance and get the guy?
Stay tuned!

https://youtu.be/exS7BBK7M54

09/07/26

Time for an Osprey Update!
It's been a few weeks since our last Osprey digest and - for the most part - that's because our lovely new residents have been peacefullg playing house.
This new 'Pale male' has reliably been bringing healthy brown trout in every day: waiting patiently for hours for Myrtle, and skydancing as soon as she arrives to deliver her dinner.
Myrtle has been playing it coy though - some weeks we see her consistently, and some she'll not be spotted for days at a time. But still, she lets this male woo her.
This male is so good in fact that on one occasion after Myrtle decided she didn't want the fish he'd dropped off, he patiently waited until her appetite came back, and delivered it the moment she asked for it. How sweet!

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN, ABERNETHY

RSPB, LOCH GARTEN ABERNETHY
OSPREY UPDATES

This last week, however, some drama has unfolded. It looks like an old favourite is back: Asha!
Where did she come from? Did she find new nesting territory? Did it get disrupted? Your guess is as good as ours!
Her and Myrtle have had a few scraps over the nest, meaning poor Pale Male has had two girls to impress.
We're all curious to see how this unfolds - which female osprey will claim dominance and get the guy?
Stay tuned!

Between 16th July and August 26, The visitor centre and most of the Abernathy Forest has been closed due to Forest Fires. The Staff from the project have been assisting in this, so reports on Ospreys have understandably been in short supply, Unfortunately the cameras also failed during this period, so accurate information about the comings and goings is not available.