

HELP OUR OSPREYS BY PICKING UP TRASH

Ospreys are notorious garbage collectors, which they use as nesting material. No one knows why ospreys do this other than trash is plentiful in the environment. Most ospreys collect natural nesting materials (sticks, algae, and grasses) from within view of their nest, which is usually along the shoreline. This is also where trash thrown into the water accumulates after storms and the ospreys readily bring that to their nests as well. One reason why ospreys may be attracted to certain types of trash is because they can see in the UV light spectrum making shiny plastics (plastic sheeting, bags, balloons, ribbon, rope, and other knickknacks) more desirable to them. While much of the trash they collect like broken toys, bottles, clothing, newspaper, candy wrappers, and shoes is harmless, some of it is deadly. Items like monofilament fishing line, twine, string, and ribbons, which are commonly found along the shore can strangle young nestlings and adults as well as entrap other birds and animals.

We can all help to reduce the amount of debris found along our shorelines. By reducing waste, reusing items, and recycling materials, we can make a serious dent in the amount of garbage in the environment. Another important way to help the ospreys is by participating in local shoreline cleanups and by picking up trash when you are out the lake. If you see items like deadly fishing line on the ground, pick it up and dispose of it properly. If we each do a little, together we can make a big difference.



Trash from Cayuga Lake.