



Media Advisory

Embargoed until March 29

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Golden Gate Audubon launches Bay Area's first live streaming Osprey nest camera

Wednesday, March 29 at 10 a.m.

Bay Area residents will get an astonishing view into the life of a pair of Ospreys, thanks to the launch of our region's first live streaming Osprey nest camera.

Before nesting began this spring, Golden Gate Audubon Society installed two high-definition streaming video cameras at an Osprey nesting spot on the historic Whirley Crane in Richmond. The live video stream -- viewable at <http://SFBayOspreys.org> -- will allow Bay Area residents and people around the world to enjoy intimate views of an Osprey pair as they raise young over the next several months. The perspective on the nest affords a close-up view of Osprey family life, while also providing a breathtaking view of S.F. Bay throughout the day. At night, the cameras switch to infrared mode so the sleeptime rituals of the family will be viewable too.

Golden Gate Audubon will hold a press conference with the Mayor of Richmond and other key supporters by the Whirley Crane nest site on Wednesday, March 29 at 10 a.m. to introduce this exciting project. Project leaders, volunteers,

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and allies will be available for media interviews. The location is Shipyard 3 at 1322 Canal Blvd. in Richmond.

“Ospreys are successfully nesting along the edges of San Francisco Bay for the first time in recorded history,” said Cindy Margulis, Executive Director of Golden Gate Audubon. “The presence of these charismatic raptors highlights the environmental progress that’s been made in our region, and underscores the opportunities for people to help Ospreys prosper here. We believe that witnessing the life of an Osprey family along our urban shoreline can inspire the whole community to protect Ospreys and other Bay Area wildlife.”

Nest and wildlife cams have become a media phenomenon in recent years: Last year, a nest cam focused on Bald Eagles in Washington D.C. drew over 63 million views. The Bay Area’s Peregrine Falcon cameras have been popular for a while too. However, the unique vantage point of the Whirley Crane nest will thrill wildlife watchers as the Ospreys are raising their family on historic real-estate, with a commanding view of the Bay and the S.F. skyline from the nest camera.

Ospreys are one of nature’s wildest raptors, yet they are now choosing to breed near people – even using human-made structures like the World War 2-era Whirley Crane. While Ospreys historically nested along Northern California lakes, none had been documented nesting on the Bay’s edge before the 1990s. Their numbers started growing in the 2000s, and by 2016 there were 42 known Osprey pairs nesting and 51 new Osprey fledglings joined the summer population last season.

Golden Gate Audubon’s new Osprey nest cams will operate 24/7. Since it’s still early in the nesting season, Bay Area residents will be able to observe ongoing bonding and

courtship, followed by the incubating/hatching/fledging drama that will play out over the next several months.

Information about Ospreys and how local residents can help them is available on the web site that hosts the nest video stream, SFBayOspreys.org.

Golden Gate Audubon has also developed a set of free, downloadable lesson plans for secondary school teachers, using the nest cam to inspire enthusiasm for wildlife and ecology and interest in STEM (science/technology/engineering/math).

SFBayOspreys.org also hosts a chat room where Osprey fans can ask questions and share observations.

Note: Video clips and still images from the Osprey nest cam are available for media use at <http://goldengateaudubon.org/osprey-media>.

The March 29nd press conference will take place along the Richmond shoreline in the area known as Shipyard 3, at 1322 Canal Blvd., Richmond 94804 (near the foot of the Whirley Crane by the Port of Richmond building).

GGAS Executive Director Cindy Margulis, key allies, and volunteers who have helped install the nest cameras will be available for interviews at the press conference. The Mayor of Richmond will speak. Project allies who will be present include the Richmond Museum Association, which operates the SS Red Oak Victory ship just next to the Whirley Crane in Shipyard 3, and representatives from Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park. Media are invited to tour the SS Red Oak Victory following the press conference, too.

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