



For Immediate Release

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Name Those Osprey Chicks!
Golden Gate Audubon launches contest to name young avian celebrities

Now that there are two live, squirmy, hungry chicks starring in the Bay Area's first live Osprey nest cam, there's an obvious question: *What to call them?*

So Golden Gate Audubon Society, which launched the Osprey nest cam at the end of March, is holding a contest to name the two baby birds.

Osprey fans have through Sunday night, May 21st, to submit names for the chicks at <http://goldengateaudubon.org/naming> or the BayOspreys Facebook page. Names will be winnowed down to a few finalists by managers of the nest cam, after which everyone will have a chance to vote for the two winning names.

"It's been amazing to have such close-up views as these chicks emerged from their eggs this past week," said Cindy Margulis, Executive Director of Golden Gate Audubon. "It's equally amazing to see the love and fascination they've inspired, not just here in the Bay Area but from viewers around the world."

The first chick hatched on Friday, May 12. The second emerged on Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day. Their nest is located 75 feet above the Richmond shoreline, on top of the Whirley Crane, a decommissioned World War 2 maritime crane. Two high-definition video

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cameras mounted on the crane allow 24/7 views of the nest from both a close-up and a wide angle.

The young Ospreys will spend 50 to 55 days in the nest before they fledge (learn to fly). Both parents will take turns feeding them and attending the nest to warm the chicks and protect them from predators such as eagles and ravens. The biggest potential threats to nestling Ospreys are predation, exposure, and lack of food.

While a successful hatch of Osprey eggs may seem routine, that has not always been the case. In the 1960s and 70s, Osprey populations plummeted and the species was threatened with extinction when the pesticide DDT made Osprey egg shells so thin that they broke during incubation.

It was thanks to the federal government's ban on DDT that Ospreys were able to resume hatching young successfully. And it's thanks to government clean water regulations and continuing Bay restoration work by many agencies and nonprofits that San Francisco Bay today supports the fish populations that Ospreys need to survive.

Watch the live nest feed at <http://sfbayospreys.org>. Or keep up with highlights from the nest on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bayospreys/>.

NOTE: Media can download photos of the Osprey chicks and video of the second chick hatching in a Dropbox folder at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/76ubz0a90neszwm/AAD_2X0inZ5wn7uVa2pzZw6Qa?dl=0. This is a private Dropbox for media use ONLY.