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For Immediate Release

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Celebrity Osprey pair lay first egg of 2021

The Bay Area's most famous avian couple kicked off their fifth consecutive year of parenting together as Rosie—the female Osprey on Golden Gate Audubon Society's [live nest cam](#)—laid her first egg of 2021 at 7:12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24.

She and her mate Richmond have produced three eggs each year since the launch of the live nest cam in 2017 along the Richmond shoreline. Their remaining eggs are likely to be laid within six days of the first one.

A [video clip](#) of this first egg being laid is available on YouTube.

"Rosie and Richmond inspire us on so many levels," said Glenn Phillips, Executive Director of Golden Gate Audubon Society. "We're delighted to see them reunite each year at this same nest site. We're awed by their dedication as parents. And we're grateful to see how their species has recovered from near-extinction with the help of environmental protections."

Once the eggs are laid, the Osprey pair will take turns incubating the eggs for about 36-42 days, with hatching likely in mid-May.

The two Ospreys have spent the past month re-building their nest on the 75-foot-high cabin of a WW2 shipyard crane located in the Rosie the Riveter World War 2 Home Front National Historic Park. Rosie had flown south—possibly to Mexico or Central America—for the winter while Richmond remained in the Bay Area.

Over the past five years, the pair has developed a dedicated group of fans around the world—adults, children, wildlife biologists, and even a respiratory nurse from France

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who turned to the Osprey family for solace during the early, exhausting days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Beyond solace and enchantment, though, the Osprey cam is also contributing to science. Fans use the video footage to identify every single fish brought to the nest by Rosie and Richmond—700 fish in last year's nesting season!—providing data both on Osprey feeding behavior and on Bay Area fish populations.

Sometimes known as seahawks, Ospreys have a wingspan that can stretch from five to six feet. Their numbers plummeted in the 1960s and 70s due to the pesticide DDT, which caused the shells of their eggs to thin and break. With the start of the modern environmental movement and the banning of DDT, Osprey populations gradually recovered and expanded into the Bay Area, which was not a traditional nesting site for them. Today more than 50 Osprey nests have been documented along San Francisco Bay.

Live streams of the nest cam are viewable at sfbayospreys.org, along with Osprey information and lesson plans for educators. Daily highlights from the cam are posted on the SF Bay Ospreys [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Photos and video footage of Rosie and Richmond are available. Nest cam volunteer Craig Griffeath, who organizes the fish identification project, is also available for interviews. Contact Ilana at (510) 301-5573 or idebare@goldengateaudubon.org to arrange an interview.

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