

World Migratory Bird Day Observation 8th May, 2021

Ospreys are fairly common in the Bulkley Valley. They arrive here from their wintering grounds in the southern US, West Indies and South America in late April and by early May they are already checking out their old nests.

There are several prominent Osprey nests in the area that are easy to observe, including one out by the Smithers Airport, one near the end of Smithers Main Street, by the old washed out bridge and one out in Quick near the truss bridge over the Bulkley River. All these are on man-made platforms put up by BC Hydro or, in the case of the Quick nest, the local Highways contractor as formerly this pair used to nest on one of the cross members of the bridge itself.

Today, being World Migratory Bird Day, Evi and I, after checking out the birds at Covert Lake, a favourite birding spot, drove across the Quick bridge and parked so we could watch the Osprey nest there.

As we drove across the bridge we could see that an Osprey was sitting on the nest and after parking we could see another one sitting on a branch nearby, as if on guard.

As we ate our lunch in the car we watched the nest. After a while the bird sitting in the nest flew off down river and the one standing guard took over incubation duties.

Within a short period of time the bird that had left flew back to the nest and copulated with the sitting bird, then also flew to perch on a branch close by.



Osprey nest near the Quick Bridge



The Attending Male

From these observations we could deduce that the sitting bird when we first arrived was the male and that the couple are still at the egg laying stage.

Mel & Evi Coulson