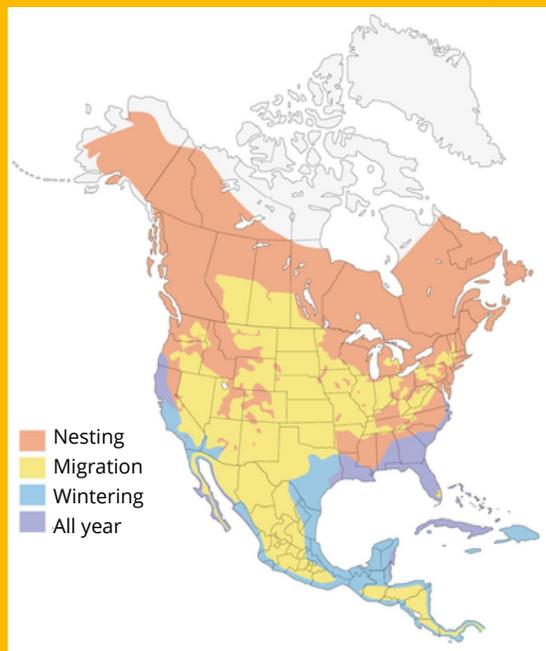
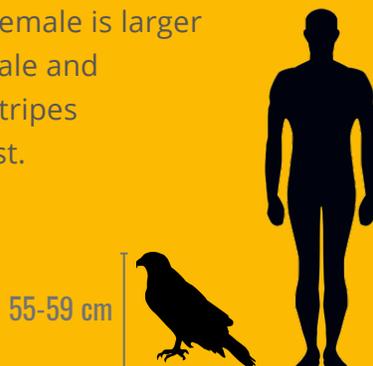




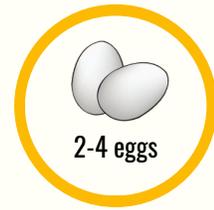
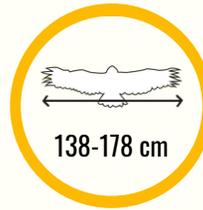
IDENTIFICATION

It has a white breast lightly striped with brown and long, narrow, dark-brown wings. Its white head is slightly crested, with a black band across the yellow eye. Its pale underwings distinguish it from other large birds of prey. Seen in flight, their wings form an "M"-shaped fold and a black spot is apparent on the wrist. The female is larger than the male and has more stripes on her chest.



Osprey

Balbuzard pêcheur, *Pandion haliaetus*



ECOLOGY

Nutrition

The survival of this bird is closely linked to the presence of watercourses, since it feeds almost exclusively on fish. It catches fish close to the water's surface, since it can't dive deep, but that doesn't stop it from submerging itself completely underwater! Occasionally, it feeds on fish in farmed ponds weighing up to 1130 g.

Breeding

The nest consists of a massive structure made up of branches up to 3 meters high. It is placed on a large tree, an electricity pylon or a rock in the middle of a stream. Generally, only the two oldest fledglings take flight at around 7 to 8 weeks of age. The youngest, smaller and less combative, often starve to death before fledging. The young depend on their parents for 2 to 3 weeks after fledging.

DISTRIBUTION

It frequents large bodies of fresh and salt water all over the world: lakes, rivers, seashores and so on. Individuals living farther north nest near running water, as lake water freezes too early in these northern regions. It breeds in Canada and the northern United States, then migrates to the southern coasts in winter.

STATUS AND POPULATION

The species' population has been increasing since the 1970s.¹ Like many birds of prey, it was greatly affected by the use of pesticides such as DDT in the 1950s. Its long-life expectancy and ability to use artificial structures have enabled its survival. Today, it is considered safe.²

¹ Canadian breeding bird survey , 2016

² Wild species of Canada report, 2015