

What can you do?

The good news is that Ospreys are very resilient, and this problem is easy to fix:

- ◆ Pick up all used baling twine in fields and on fence posts.
- ◆ Store used twine out of sight—in barns or in 45 gallon drums.
- ◆ Dispose of old baling twine safely out of reach of Ospreys.
- ◆ Spread the word—tell your friends and neighbors.
- ◆ The Ospreys will thank you!



Cattle in a twine-free field



Project Osprey



Photo: Kate Davis

We would like to hear from you.
If you would like to help or for more information please contact:
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You can watch some Osprey nest cams at:
<http://www.umt.edu/geosciences/faculty/langner/Osprey/index.htm>



Photo: John Armitage

Ospreys and Baling Twine



About Ospreys

- ◆ Also called fish hawks or fish eagles - 99% of diet is fish.



Photo: Erick Greene

- ◆ Once widespread in North America on rivers, lakes and estuaries.
- ◆ Ospreys nearly disappeared from the US during the 1950's - 1970's due to pesticides.
- ◆ After DDT banned in US in 1972, numbers of Ospreys increased.
- ◆ We are lucky that Ospreys have recovered and are now a common sight in Montana.

Baling twine and Ospreys

Ospreys line their nests with soft materials, such as moss, grass and lichen. They also love to pick up baling twine left in fields!



Photo: Gary Swant

An Osprey nest with lots of baling twine.



An Osprey nest blew down in a wind storm. It contained over 1/4 mile of baling twine!



Photo: Erick Greene

Why is it a problem?

- ◆ Baling twine easily tangles in the Ospreys' sharp talons.
- ◆ Baling twine can entangle and kill about 10% of the chicks and many adults.



Photo: Tyler Veto

This chick was tangled in a mass of baling twine and died in its nest.

This adult Osprey died hanging upside down from its nest.

