
Introduction

Wayne County Airport Authority is committed to maintaining a safe environment for the flying public. Recently we have observed an increasing presence of osprey at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), which poses a significant risk to aviation safety. Although no osprey currently nest at the airport, we have identified multiple nests on nearby utility and communication towers. In response to this safety concern, we established the Osprey Public Safety Initiative. We are seeking to collaborate with stakeholders to implement effective osprey management strategies and we invite your organization to join us in this important initiative.

Goal

The goal of the Osprey Public Safety Initiative is to mitigate aviation hazards associated with osprey nesting near DTW.

Proposed Actions

1. The DTW wildlife team is comprised of biologists from Wayne County Airport Authority and the United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services and will act as a liaison throughout the program to provide technical guidance on osprey management.
2. Collaborate to remove *unoccupied* osprey nests from towers within a 5-mile radius of DTW before the start of the 2025 osprey breeding season (April).
3. After nest removals, collaborate to install nest exclusion devices on towers within a 5-mile radius of DTW before the start of the 2025 osprey breeding season (April).

Anticipated Outcome

- Improved public safety: Decreased risk of human injuries and fatalities from aircraft collisions with osprey.
- Prevent damage to aircraft: Osprey collisions with aircraft can necessitate expensive repairs and lead to loss of revenue due to flight disruptions.
- Optimized utility and communication operations: Preventing structural damage, costly service interruptions, maintenance delays, and safety hazards caused by nesting osprey.
- Support osprey conservation efforts: Minimize the risk of osprey injuries and fatalities caused by osprey-aircraft collisions.

Next Steps

By working together, we can develop a balanced approach that improves safety at DTW, enhances utility- and communication-tower operations, and supports osprey conservation. We look forward to discussing this proposal further and exploring how we can collaborate to achieve these shared goals.

Contact Information

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