

WOODWORKING FOR WILDLIFE

OSPREY NEST PLATFORM



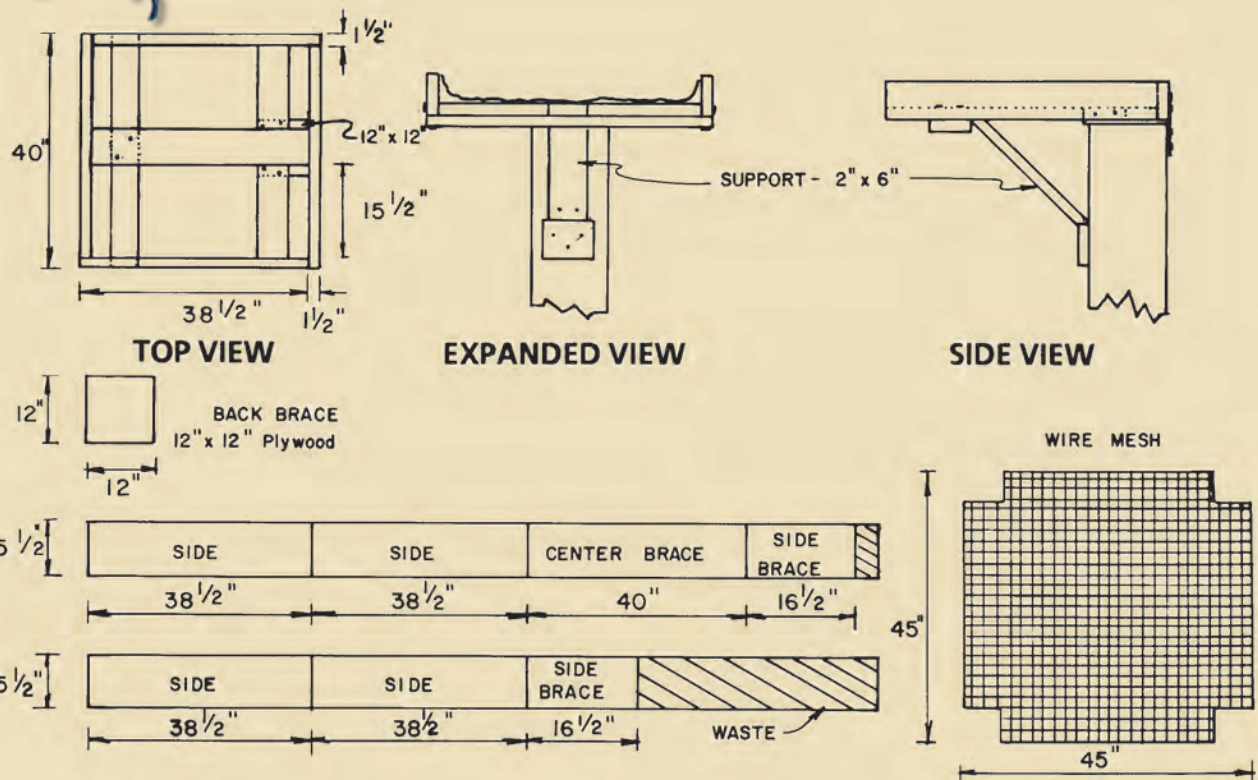
Ospreys are, as a result of restoration and natural expansion of traditional populations, being seen in Mississippi.

Nest platforms can be constructed wherever there is an adequate supply of fish. Developed or intensively used areas and sites near fish hatcheries should be avoided. Platforms can be placed over water or inland at least 30 feet beyond the water's edge. The height of an inland nest should always exceed the height of any nearby trees or 20 feet, whichever is greater. Over water, the platform should be more than 15 feet high. For all structures, use metal flashing as a predator guard.

Platforms can be placed on old utility poles in open habitats or on solid snags adjacent to a shoreline.

An inexpensive alternative is simply to turn a firm, hardwood pallet upside down and, with proper bracing, fasten it to the top of a utility pole. Use a 6- to 8-inch-diameter utility pole. Poles are often available from local utility companies.

The nail and bolt holes should be pre-drilled to prevent splitting. The wire mesh is nailed to the platform. The whole structure is treated with wood preservative and stained brown. Steel braces are bolted to the platform. Lag screws are used to secure the platform to the pole. Some sticks should be wired into the nest to help stimulate use by ospreys.



LUMBER:

- One 12" x 12" x 1/2" exterior plywood
- Two 2" x 6" x 12' cypress boards
- One 20' or 30' cypress support post
- One 2" x 6" x 4'0" cedar board

ADDITIONAL NEEDS:

- Forty galvanized 40D nails
- Four 1/8" x 1" x 30" steel strapping
- Eight 3" x 1/2" bolts with washers and nuts
- Eight 4" x 1/2" lag screws

Welded wire, 2" x 4" mesh

Plans from *Woodworking for Wildlife* Compiled by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the Arkansas Forestry Association