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Feather-Drying Osprey



This past weekend (June 16-17) included some rain in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties. An osprey is seen atop a tree in this three-county area as he dries his feathers. These three photos show different phases of his drying process. Before the first photo was taken, the bird was seen only as a big bunch of unrecognizable feathers in the top of a very high tree.



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The osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is listed as a Species of Special Concern only in Monroe County. Permits are required throughout the state to remove a nest for these wonderful raptors, however, and a replacement structure must be erected to mitigate the removal of the nest, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Photos by Jeff M. Hardison © June 18, 2018 at 8:48 a.m.