

# Outdoor Recreation

*is*

# Outdoor Education

## Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife Osprey

### Osprey

Wheeling high above the clear, shallow water, a quick bird hovers, folds its wings and plunges feet first downward. Within seconds the bird emerges, shakes excess water from its plumage and rotates a captured fish head forward for the least wind resistance.

The successful predator then circles above its feeding ground several times, slowly gains altitude and disappears over the horizon. The magnificent fisherman is the American osprey. It looks like a smaller version of the bald eagle with a characteristic "crook" in its wings and a dark eye stripe.

Ospreys are a cosmopolitan species found in North America, South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia. Since they live entirely on fish, osprey naturally prefer to dwell in the vicinity of lakes, seacoasts or rivers where they can find an abundance of prey.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

888-248-6866

