

Ospreys to benefit from construction of 2 new nesting platforms in Maple River State game area



For his Eagle Scout project, Boy Scout Aaron Rustem and members of troop 763 from Mason, MI took on the task of building 3 osprey nesting platforms. Two of the platforms were installed at the Maple River State Game Area. One was placed in Unit A west of U.S. 127 and the second was placed in Unit C on the east side



of the road. The third platform was given to the Wildlife Division for future use. The project included fundraising to purchase the materials for the platforms and work days to construct and then install.



The installation took place on February 5, 2011. The weather was comfortable with highs in the 20's. Each site posed different issues. At the first site a layer of ice had formed over about 1 ½ inches of water. Making the site rather wet to work on. Underneath this was



another 18 inches of ice to drill through. The upper portions of the legs were attached first and then the platform set on the ice to determine the locations of the holes to be drilled. Nest material was placed on the platform to encourage nest building by the ospreys. When the holes were drilled and the lower legs set, the platform was lifted and set into sleeves installed on the lower legs.



The site on the west side of US-127 did not have any water over the ice, but the group had to carry materials through about a foot and one-half of snow. After a brief rest the platform was installed in the same manner as the first. It is hoped that these platforms will provide additional nesting sites for ospreys at this wetland area.



Late in April of 2011 reports have come in about a pair of ospreys seen on the platform in Unit C. In addition a picture was taken of one standing on the edge.



Scout Aaron Rustem and members of troop 763 from Mason, MI