



# CENTRAL MAINE POWER

An AVANGRID Company



[cmpco.com](http://cmpco.com)

## Osprey Nest FAQs

**OVERVIEW:** Many species of wild birds (most notably, osprey) find Central Maine Power's (CMP) electric structures attractive to perch on and occasionally build their nests on or in. Structures include distribution poles, transmission structures, and substations. Unfortunately, this can sometimes create a risk of fire, electrocution to the bird, and/or a power outage. To minimize these risks, CMP takes a proactive approach to managing birds and their nests.

### What does CMP do to proactively manage birds and their nests on its structures?

CMP proactively works to prevent outages or structure damage from birds by conducting regular surveys and inspections of structures and identifying risks from nests. We install animal guards on energized equipment to prevent bird electrocutions, delay work around a nest until the nest is inactive, relocate nests from energized structures to platforms, trim nests, re-engineer structures to create more separation between energized and grounded parts, and/or install deterrents.

### Does CMP collaborate with wildlife experts to do this work?

CMP consults with State and Federal wildlife agencies to ensure we meet all regulatory requirements and to obtain a permit when one is required.

### I'm concerned a nest on a CMP structure may be at risk.

#### Who should I report it to?

Call **800.750.4000** to report your concern or visit the CMP website at [cmpco.com](http://cmpco.com) to report by email. If the pole is easily and safely accessible, include the pole number (located on a placard on the pole near eye level) and the nearest address to the pole.

### Who should I call if an osprey or other bird's nest is on fire?

Call 9-1-1 immediately. Dispatchers will contact Central Maine Power directly to ensure the fire can be extinguished safely.

### What do I do if I see an injured or deceased bird on a power line or utility pole?

To report an injured or deceased bird on a CMP utility pole, call the outage reporting line at **800.696.1000** to have a line crew dispatched to the location.

If you find an injured bird that's not on an electric structure, visit [mefishwildlife.com](http://mefishwildlife.com) for a list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

### Are osprey a protected species?

In the United States, osprey are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The state of Maine is fortunate to have the habitat and resources to support a robust osprey population. The osprey has never been listed as a species of special concern in the state. CMP consults with U.S. Fish & Wildlife and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for nest removal/relocation processes and best practices.

### Why can't Central Maine Power install more platforms where osprey can safely nest on the poles?

Because of the risks posed to osprey and equipment, CMP would rather dissuade birds from nesting on its structures altogether, however, there are occasions where a nesting platform is the best solution for both bird and customer. There are many factors involved when evaluating a platform installation:

- Having proper easements on the property.
- Ensuring the equipment mounted on a pole isn't crowded by a nearby platform.
- Platforms often require sturdier poles due to their weight.
- Considering impacts on local neighborhoods or abutters.

### How can I learn more about ospreys?

The osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a medium to large-sized, diurnal bird of prey. Once classified as an endangered species under the Federal Endangered Species Act, it is no longer a listed species in the U.S. and can be readily observed nesting along coasts and large inland water bodies.

Osprey are primarily fish-eating (piscivorous) and will nest close to foraging areas. Ideally, osprey will build nests on natural structures such as snags (a dead tree that remains upright) and treetops near bodies of water. Utility poles and other similar man-made structures mimic ideal osprey nesting locations.

Osprey migrate, leaving New England in the fall and traveling to their overwintering grounds. Once spring comes around the following year, the osprey will return north and begin building their nests.

While the birds are out of state, Central Maine Power removes the empty nests to inspect the poles and equipment and, in some cases, install deterrents. When the osprey return in Mid-March, they will find a new and safer location where they can establish their nest.



To learn more about ospreys  
in our state, visit  
[mefishwildlife.com](http://mefishwildlife.com)



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