

MARION COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

STEVE EDWARDS, DIRECTOR

214 E. MAIN ST.

KNOXVILLE, IA 50138

641.828.2213

YOUNG OSPREY TAKE FLIGHT

Two young ospreys that were planned for release within the State of Iowa as part of the Iowa Osprey Project were gifted to Lake Red Rock and the Gladys Black Raptor Learning Site for release. The Marion County Conservation Board had contracted with the Iowa DNR during the years 2005-2008 to release Osprey to compliment restoration efforts along the Des Moines River Watershed, but had fulfilled that contract in September of 2008. These two young birds were brought to Iowa in mid July from Northern Minnesota and cared for at Saving Our Avian Resources in Dedham, Iowa for some minor medical issues. As time progressed, the young Osprey at the other restoration sites were fledging and taking territory of their nest structure. With last minute notice of getting these birds for release, MCCB staff, IDNR staff, osprey supporters and volunteers pulled together to make this happen. The two birds were released and took to the sky August 12 and are preparing for the upcoming Fall migration to South and Central America sometime in mid September.

Osprey photos courtesy of Ron Huelse.