

WHAT IS BALING TWINE?

- Thin plastic rope
- Used to bind bales of hay
- Can be orange, blue, pink, or green



- Takes 50+ years to decompose!

THE PROBLEM:

Sometimes used baling twine gets left out



Osprey construct their nests with sticks, soft moss, and grass

They pick up baling twine to put in their nests



Can you spot the orange baling twine in the Osprey nest?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 1 Pick up used twine!
 - * Secure twine in trucks and trailers
 - * Dispose of twine where Osprey can't get it!
- 2 Organize a local twine clean-up day!
- 3 Help spread the word about baling twine and Osprey!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Owl Research

Institute

<https://www.owlresearchinstitute.org/osprey-and-baling-twine>

Montana Osprey Project

<https://hs.umn.edu/osprey/>

CSKT Wildlife Management

<https://csktnrd.org/wildlife>

Raptor View Research Institute

<https://www.raptorview.org/osprey-project.html>

Osprey & Baling Twine

 Danger for Osprey!



Montana's
Mission Valley

WHAT ARE OSPREY?

Osprey are large black and white raptors that live near rivers and lakes and eat mostly fish.

Wingspan = 5 to 6 ft



Osprey used to be an endangered species until the pesticide DDT was banned in 1972 and populations rebounded.

Now Osprey are more common!



‘Charlotte’ and ‘Charlie’ on their nest in Charlo, MT.

In 2021, one of their chicks died from being tangled in baling twine.

WHY IS BALING TWINE DANGEROUS FOR OSPREY?

Adults and young can get tangled in baling twine in the nest



They may become injured, unable to move, or fall and dangle from the nest



Baling twine causes Osprey to die slow, painful deaths from starvation, injuries, infection and immobilization

About **10%** of Osprey chicks will die from being tangled in baling twine

OTHER BENEFITS OF PICKING UP TWINE

- Keeps environment clean and protects other wildlife
- Protects livestock from accidental ingestion, leading to internal blockages
- Keeps farm equipment from getting damaged

