

## OSPREYS AT FRIEDENAU DAM

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On Sunday morning 2nd November 1997, while lazily flicking a fly for reluctant bass, I saw an adult Osprey circle low over the hill across the narrow tongue of water I was fishing, near the north end of Friedenau Dam, Windhoek district. The bird circled a few times and then swooped down to plunge into the water about 30 m from me. It emerged a second later, flapping vigorously to lift itself and a bass of about 25 cm out of the water. The bird flapped to a dead tree some 200 m away, where it settled and started to eat its catch.

While watching the Osprey feed, a shadow passed over me. Circling above were two more Ospreys, one adult and one immature. They thermalled up until they were almost out of sight, then circled for about 10 minutes before starting a gentle glide towards the south end of the dam, where they disappeared. The perched bird meanwhile continued to feed. It was not disturbed by a troop of baboons passing under its tree, nor by a pair of Fish Eagles passing high overhead and calling. The Osprey was still slowly feeding some two hours later when I left the dam.

I have seen a single Osprey on almost all my visits to Friedenau Dam in the summer months. This, however, is the first occasion on which I have seen more than one bird.

