

On The Comeback Trail...

When I was young, you *never* saw a Bald eagle. And Osprey were quite rare to observe... I can remember my excitement at spotting one as a little girl. Bounties, DDT and a general dislike of predators as competitors led to decimated populations. Seal populations were almost wiped out from hunting. These three species, the Osprey, the Bald Eagle and the Harbor Seal are featured this month as they are now fairly common residents despite their earlier difficulties.

Osprey are now seen regularly throughout their range... an everyday sight in Croatan. Bald Eagles are not an uncommon sight either, on Croatan Beach, in Croatan neighborhood trees, as well as overhead. Get to know the silhouettes in flight to tell them from Turkey and Black Vultures. You may also see a little not so friendly competition between the two fishing species...

Harbor Seals are now common winter residents in the Chesapeake Bay as evidenced by their numbers observed during a Virginia Aquarium boat trip. The close-ups are from basking seal on Croatan Beach near Camp Pendleton.

A picture is worth a thousand words and I would rather share these amazing photos than to spout biology that you can easily look up on the internet. I hope you are inspired to learn more about these Croatan neighbors that are "Back from the Brink"... The Harbour Seal photos are mine, as well as the Bald Eagle in a pine tree on Fort Raleigh Drive. The remainder of the Bald Eagle and Osprey photos are from our amazingly talented photographer neighbor, Patrick McLaughlin. I have taken the liberty of cropping a few to fit the page and hope he will forgive me



the liberty I took... Hope you enjoy them!





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