

## Osprey 48D returns home

While this bird has no official pet name, people at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Wildlife Division were happy to see the return of Osprey 48D.

The band color and code combination are unique from those used in other states to help distinguish birds released in Illinois. Birds are grouped by age and separated for transport to the respective release sites. 48D is the band code on this particular bird.

Why is everyone happy with this recorded sighting? According to IDNR Wildlife Biometrician Patrick McDonald, 48D is the first bird released through the osprey recovery project to successfully return back to Illinois. He also returned with a mate. "Prior to this year, a total of 56 chicks (25 from Lake Shelbyville) have been released between various sites in the state. 48D was released from Lake Shelbyville in 2017, and his return is significant because this is the first one on record to make it back. The mortality rate for birds of prey (raptors) during the first year of release is very high due to disease, predation, and other factors," commented McDonald.

He added, "Ospreys are a migratory bird and travel to their winter grounds in South America. This usually begins in September. Ospreys spend their first two winters in South America before returning to the area they fledged from." In 48D's case, he was released near the Sullivan Marina hacking site. A hack site is the location where osprey chicks are released. "The return home with a mate gives us hope of rebuilding the osprey population in Illinois," noted McDonald.

Osprey are listed as endangered in Illinois, so IDNR began this recovery project in 2013 at Anderson Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area near Astoria, Illinois to help increase the osprey population in hopes of delisting the species. In 2014, IDNR established release sites at Lake Shelbyville. The Anderson Lake project was moved to Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area near Canton, Illinois in 2016. Twelve chicks are set to be released this year between both sites.

"Working with Lee Mitchell of the Army Corps of Engineers and Terry Oldham at Shelby Electric Cooperative, as well as other partners, allows us to collectively pull together resources and experienced individuals to produce a successful program. The return of 48D gives us reason to be excited!" exclaimed McDonald.



*Shelby Electric Cooperative donated poles and labor to help build hacking stations like this one (photo above) and nesting platforms (photo below) at various spots on Lake Shelbyville.*

*Osprey 48D is the first recorded bird to return to Illinois.*



According to Wikipedia, an osprey is a large raptor, reaching two feet in length with a wingspan of six feet. Also known as a sea hawk, river hawk, or fish hawk, the osprey is a fish-eating bird of prey.



*Pictured above are the subtle changes in the appearance of the current exterior (A) to the new exterior (B) when the work is completed. Energy efficient windows and the addition of a drive-up window are the planned improvements.*

## Building updates to begin this fall

Originally constructed in 1959, the Shelby Electric Cooperative headquarters building has seen very few changes over the years. This fall, updates to the 60-year-old structure will focus on energy efficiency, member convenience, and modernization of the facility. Employee safety is an issue that will be addressed, along with improvements for handicap accessibility. The renovation project will be contained to the front part of the south building and will impact the lobby, existing community room and restroom facilities, along with all exterior windows and doors of the south building.

“It was apparent to us that we are working with a structure with good bones and a location that serves our members’ needs quite well,” said Josh Shallenberger, President/CEO. “However, in looking at the aging condition of the facility along with better space utilization that could come from doing these improvements, we determined it appropriate to move forward with updating the building.” The architects that have drawn up the plans for the improvements have confirmed the existing building is structurally sound.

The lobby of the building will see the most change. Extending from the newly situated lobby will be a drive-up addition for member convenience (as seen in picture B above). Currently, during busy days of the month, up to 100 members per day come into the lobby to conduct cooperative

business. The current community room is frequently used for employee meetings and new technology will be incorporated to allow for remote training opportunities.

During construction, Shelby Electric Cooperative members will be asked to use the north building east-facing entrance that serves as the entrance for Shelby Energy. Electric and PWR-net personnel will be available to assist you at this temporary location. The current night drop box will be located in front of Shelby Energy’s office during construction. Hours of operation will remain the same, 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Keep an eye on the co-op’s social media pages for current work status. We appreciate everyone’s patience through this process. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 217-774-3986.



**P.O. BOX 560**  
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**Phone: 217-774-3986**  
**or 1-800-677-2612**  
**Pay-by-Phone:**  
**1-855-385-9981**  
**www.shelbyelectric.coop**  
**twitter.com/YourCoop**  
**facebook.com/YourCoop**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

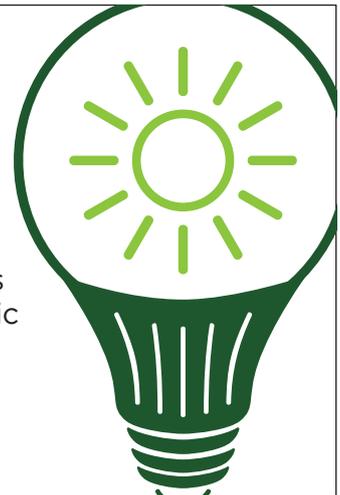


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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Cookware Tip:** Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: *energy.gov*



## Shelby Electric Cooperative Coloring Contest Winners



**Max Mayer**  
Age 4 - 6



**Quentin Porter**  
Age 7 - 9



**Coralee Whitney**  
Age 10 - 12

*Member Services Intern Faith Wheeler presented each winner their prizes.*

**T**his year our annual coloring contest provided kids, ages 4-12, with three easy steps to help reduce pollution! We were blown away by the 41 submissions that we received!

Out of all the entries, Max Mayer (6) of Elwin; Quentin Porter (8) of Pana; and Coralee Whitney (12) of Windsor put their coloring skills to work and were named winners in Shelby Electric Cooperative's 2019 coloring contest. Our three winners took home a medal, \$15 gift card, and a reusable light bulb tumbler.

Every child who entered the contest received a certificate and a reusable, color-changing straw in the mail. "This has been such a fun experience to have the opportunity to get involved with the surrounding areas that Shelby Electric Cooperative serves! The kids did such a great job!" said Member Services Intern Faith Wheeler who organized the contest for the cooperative.

For more information about Shelby Electric Cooperative's youth programs, visit the "Community" tab at [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

## Grand Prize Winner



*Mike Bauman, Tower Hill, was the grand prize winner of \$250 Shelby Electric Dollars awarded at the 81st annual meeting. He really enjoys coming to the Cooperative's annual meeting festivities and was excited when his name was drawn for the grand prize. Bauman said he has waited patiently for 18 years to have his name drawn. Pictured from left, cooperative President/CEO Josh Shallenberger and Bauman.*

## Mark your calendar

**Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloonfest at Lake Shelbyville**  
October 11 - 13



*Hot air balloons will visit Lake Shelbyville Columbus Day weekend. Find more details by searching Lake Shelbyville Balloonfest on Facebook.*

**Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day**



**REAL LIFE REAL POWER**

# Getting real with Marla and harvest safety

National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 15 – 21. This serves as a great reminder to prepare for this harvest season. Anyone in our local, rural communities can be affected as large, slow-moving vehicles become more present on our roads. Every driver can plan to allow a little extra time for delays and slower moving traffic.

The autumn combination of working long hours, having less hours of daylight, and the use of large equipment can lead to dangerous situations. In 2017, farmers were ranked eighth in the list of the most dangerous jobs (civilian jobs with highest fatality rates) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics/U.S. Dept. of Labor. Farmers can use the pre-harvest time to check that the lighting on all their equipment is in good working condition and slow-moving vehicle signs are securely in place.

Shelby Electric Cooperative wants to remind farmers and the communities we serve that accidents related to electricity can be prevented. Take the following steps to decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:

- Making time for a brief tail-gate safety meeting can prevent injuries and much more loss of time due to an accident. Remember, not everyone helping with harvest will be aware of the location of electric lines and equipment.
- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.

- Use caution when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always lower equipment extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call the cooperative right away.
- Save our number in your phone now: 217-774-3986.
- If your equipment does hit a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.
- If the equipment that has made contact would catch on fire, jump off the equipment with your feet together without touching the ground and equipment at the same time. Then, keep your feet together and hop or shuffle to safety.

Friends and family can always provide a well-deserved break by bringing a drink or snack to the field. We wish all our members a safe and healthy harvest.

~Marla Pruemer,  
Communication Specialist

Sources: [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org) and  
Cornhusker Public Power District

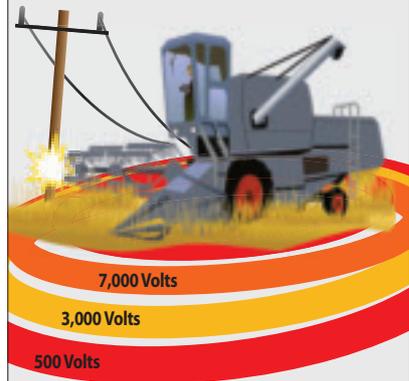


**KNOW WHAT TO DO**



*if in a Farm Accident with Power Lines*

If the equipment you are in hits a utility pole, the surrounding area can become energized.



- **STEP POTENTIAL** is voltage between the span of one step.
- Voltage is highest at the source and fades as the energy moves across the ground.
- Stepping on two different voltages at the same time may electrocute you.
- If you see a downed line, the safest place is inside the cab or on the equipment.

**EVEN IF YOU DO NOT TOUCH POWER LINES...YOU CAN STILL BE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED.**