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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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os·prey  (ös prē, -prā)

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n. pl. os·preys

1. A fish-eating raptor (*Pandion haliaetus*) found almost worldwide, having plumage that is dark on the back and mostly white below. Also called *fish hawk*.
2. A plume formerly used to trim women's hats.

[Middle English *osprai*, from Anglo-Norman *ospreit*, from Medieval Latin *avis praedae*, bird of prey : Latin *avis*, bird; see **awi-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Latin *praedae*, genitive of *praeda*, booty, prey; see **ghend-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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osprey

Pandion haliaetus

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[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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