



days at  
Dunrovin

March 2019

**Ranch  
Talk**



## Waiting for Harriet and Hal

The ospreys' nest sits cold and lonely and covered with nearly a foot of snow. But it is March. While our eyes still take in winter, our hearts have turned to spring. With fingers crossed and with worried frowns, we start the countdown to their return.



**It really is demented, this giving one's heart to a couple of ospreys.**

What can we be thinking? They care nothing for us. They are totally unaware of our existence. Our little webcam portal into the intimacies of their family life is nothing more than background to them. We go unnoticed in their world. They never think to wave a wing at us or blink a knowing eye.

And what about their long absence? Their own survival is always in question. Will they come back? Were they hurt down along the Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season? Will one arrive and not the other?

What can we be thinking? Why do we do this to ourselves? Let me see. By my count, we have four to five more weeks until the waiting becomes almost unbearable, as the worrying and the wonder play with our emotions and whip us into a ball of anxiety that will not unravel until they have both safely touched down. Yep, it really is crazy.



# The Countdown Begins



Ranch Manager, Kelli, didn't get it at first. She arrived in the middle of winter. She simply looked at ranch owner SuzAnne with a sly smile and began rolling eyes whenever SuzAnne spoke of Harriet and Hal.

Oh great, she thought. I move all the way from Washington State to work my tush off for a crazy old lady in love with a couple of birds who fly away every year.

That was BEFORE she was in the pasture one spring day when Harriet flew in and took center stage at the ranch. Oh, yes, Harriet had Kelli in her talons as easily as she is able to catch fish in the Bitterroot River. No more rolling eyes from Kelli. Hers are glazed and pinned to the skies by the end of March.

## Getting the Ranch Ready for Their Arrival



### Step 1

Go up to the nest to take down the bird feeders, maintain the equipment, and clean the dome to the web camera.



### Step 2

Install a "goose be gone" decoy to keep the Canada Geese from stealing the nest before the ospreys return.



### Step 3

Worry until Harriet arrives; do not stop worrying until Hal returns. Then start worrying about the weather.

Yes, it is indeed a crazy endeavor committing ourselves to be part of the year-to-year, day-to-day lives and adventures of the Dunrovin ospreys' family and nature's drama.

**And, let's face it. Crazy sometimes means crazy good.**

**Broadcast: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Location: \_\_\_\_\_**