

## Young osprey sent back to the wild



**(left) Rehabilitator, Martin Tyner force-feeding a combination of Pedialyte and crushed fish to an emaciated osprey found near Minersville Reservoir, (right) now ready for release after 6 weeks of gaining both weight and attitude.**

With one adult osprey found dead along the shoreline with severe damage to one wing and the other adult missing for over a week, two Osprey chicks were left without parents and were starving until Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Power came to their rescue.

Their nest was on a platform erected near the Minersville Reservoir shoreline by Utah Power. The platform, built atop standard power poles, gives the osprey a safe place to roost and nest.

UDWR biologist Keith Day went to the site and rode a crane lift provided by Utah Power to reach the two abandoned chicks. One chick still strong enough to fly, escaped efforts to help him, but may be in serious trouble because it probably didn't know how to hunt yet. The other however so emaciated having lost over 50% of its body weight, was feared may not survive and was turned over to the Southwest Wildlife Foundation to try and save it.

SWF rehabilitator, Martin Tyner had to force feed the osprey a combination of crushed fish and pedialite several times a day for the first week in his care. He feared the bird would not survive the first week of rehabilitation and that it hadn't eaten in for days prior to his receiving it.

"This bird was a fighter, he did good" Tyner said. "Basically, it was up to him. As long as he wanted to survive, I kept stuffing food down him." After a week of frequent force feedings the young osprey began to eat small pieces of fish and eventually pull his own meat from the fish.

After about 6 weeks he was full and firm and anxious to be set free. He was released back at the Minersville Reservoir with a small audience to wish him well. The staff at the park continued to look after him and throw dead fish along the shoreline for it to eat until it sharpened its hunting skills.