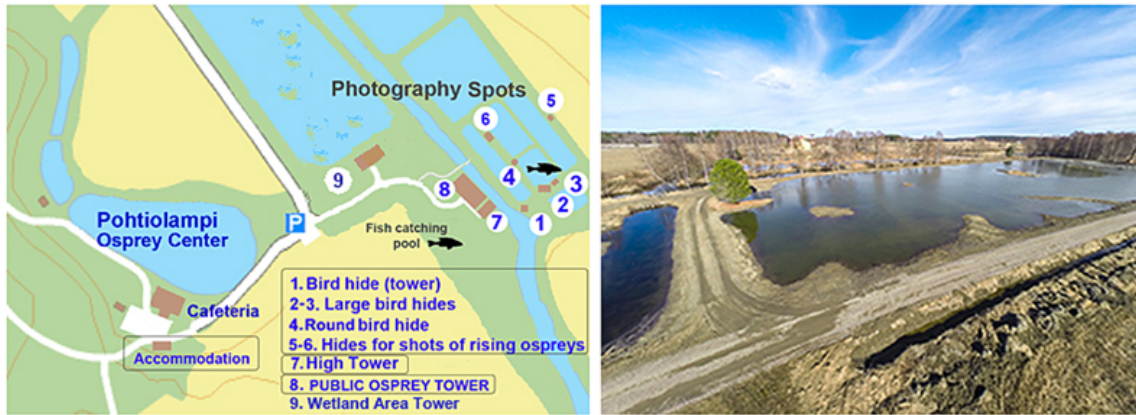




**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AT THE WETLAND AREA TOWER**



The new **Wetland Area Tower** is a new tower for birdwatchers and photographers at the Wetland area. It is located at the southern side of the wetland area. There are 10 separate photography spots, which are available also for wheelchair users. You can book (for yourself and your photography fellows) 1-10 photography spots in advance with our online booking system. If there are free spots available, you can rent photography spots also at Pohtiolampi Cafeteria during opening hours.

1. Prices of photography spots are on the Photography/Instructions –page. If there are several photographers in the group, the fee will be charged from all group members.
2. After payment and signature in the Cafeteria you will receive a key chain that shows the number of your window/spot.
3. Park your car in the parking area of the Osprey’s watchtower. The Wetland Area Tower is about 30 m of the parking area.
4. There are not a solid camera stands with “bird hide mount” at each photography window. So, your own camera stand is needed. The distance from camera to the wetland bird can vary from 10 meter to 150meters. In every photography window there are some sandbags for camera.
5. The photography window is locked. You will receive the key of the photography window in return to your signature from the Cafeteria of the Osprey Center. After your photography session you should lock the window again and return the key to the cafeteria.
6. Please respect the birds by going into the tower immediately after you arrive - this way the disturbance to the birds can be minimized. You should never hang around outside the tower to e.g. have a cigarette or chat with your companion. You can exit the tower to enjoy a meal or coffee, go to the toilet etc. if you remember to check that there are no birds at prey in the area.
7. Please avoid any unnecessary noise when moving inside the tower. This way you respect the other possible photographers or viewers in the public part of the tower at the time, and, most of all, you respect birds. However, you can silently discuss with the photographer next to you, if you keep in mind that the tower is not soundproof.

8. Before you can place your camera's lens into the slot of the cover curtain, make sure that no birds are close to the tower.
9. Only when the bird has vacated you can place your camera into the shooting position. Nature photography takes patience! When adjusting your camera's position you must also bear in mind that the lens (lens hood) must not be placed too far outside the window. The front lens should only barely extend outside the cover curtain (max 5 cm!).
10. Please make sure that the cover curtain does not have any slots through which the bird can see your face. The windows have semipermeable membrane surfaces that prevent the bird from seeing directly inside the tower. However, do not place your face or your hands too close to the glass surface, as your movement can be detected by the bird in spite of the covering membrane.
11. Photography should take place always on the birds' conditions, not yours! Also remember that there will be, in almost every case, other photographers and viewers around. If you discard these instructions, they could lose their opportunities, too.
12. Please observe the birds arriving at the wetland area very carefully. Only when the bird has clearly started eating or taken off to plunge into the water can you shift your camera more quickly.
13. Before you exit the tower, make sure that there are no birds flying over the wetland area.
14. There are dozens of photographers visiting Pohtiolampi during the summer, so it is important that you ensure that the birds can stay there without any disturbances. If you chose to discard these instructions, you might be able to take a great shot or two, but simultaneously you would cause even the more trusting birds individuals to behave very cautiously. The most sensitive birds can start avoiding the wetland area entirely due to just a few camera disturbances. Please remember to behave in a respectful and careful manner.
15. Please pick up any trash you have left behind! The next photographer will most likely attend the watchtower only a few hours after you.
16. In case you notice any troublemakers in the area during your photography session (delinquents, fish thieves, or any kind of attempt of mischief), please notify us immediately by calling +358 400 499 395 or +358 40 528 3030. Apart from you and the other photographers at the photography spots, there should be, in principle, no other people at the wetland area, except the maintenance staff who clean the area on weekdays.

**Good luck with your photography session. Remember that birds are challenging photography targets! Welcome back!**

Finnish Osprey Foundation  
& Taigabird Ltd