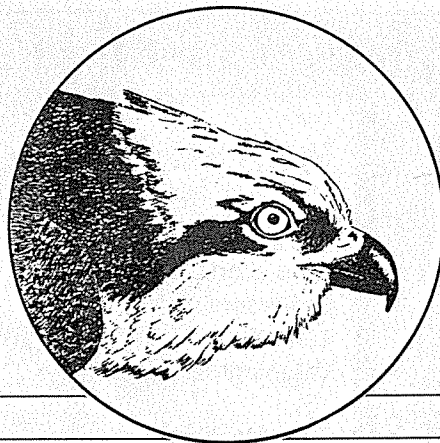


The International Osprey Foundation



International Newsletter

SANIBEL, FL

DECEMBER, 1991

Canadian researcher is awarded the 1991 TIOF grant

David J. Green, of the Behavioral Ecology Research Group, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, is the recipient of The International Osprey Foundation's 1991 research grant. Green is a graduate student at Fraser.

He will use the \$1,000 grant toward expenses incurred in studying the Osprey population in the Kootenays, British Columbia. His study will investigate the proximate mechanisms mediating female Osprey reproductive decisions and determine what limits male parental effort during the breeding season.

Female decisions as to timing and egg laying, which control degree of asynchrony, can also influence sibling aggression, and both sexes can therefore play an important role in determining the fledgeling success of a brood.

According to Green, "In many species of bird, nestlings may be killed by their larger siblings, either as a result of overt aggression or dominance enforced by starvation.

"Osprey broods with greater hatching asynchrony have

reduced sibling aggression and increased quality of food distribution among nestlings. Sibling aggression is also mediated by food availability. Male Ospreys, who provide all food to females and nestlings from courtship until nestlings fledge, can therefore limit aggression by increasing food delivery to the nest."

TIOF seeks grant applications by December 31

The International Osprey Foundation is seeking applications for its third annual grant to support research activities of a graduate student focusing on Ospreys. Work on other raptors may be considered.

The award recipient will be expected to provide a report on the research and use of funds within a year of receiving the grant.

Applicants should submit a proposal outlining the project and the intended use of the funds by December 31, 1991. The project description should be no more than two pages. Send an itemized estimate of expenses and the name, address and telephone number of the graduate supervisor.

Send applications to: TIOF, Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957-0250.

Green plans to measure the food-gathering efforts of male ospreys with three- and four-chick broods under various weather conditions. He will also study the role of courtship feeding in the reproductive strategy of the Osprey.

International data on raptors is sought

The Raptor Migration Registry Project has been initiated to compile information on all spring and fall raptor concentration sites internationally. An attempt is being made to gather data on all regularly monitored sites; international data are particularly desired.

Anecdotal observations are also sought from poorly

known areas that may indicate the presence of migration corridors.

To obtain data sheets and information on this project, write to Daniel Brauning, Raptor Registry Project, c/o Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Route 2, Kempton, PA 19529, USA.

TIOF supports bill to protect exotic birds

At least 8 million birds are taken from the wild each year for the pet market, the majority to satisfy U.S. and European demand.

A 50% mortality rate during capture is common for many bird species due to wasteful and inhumane capture techniques, according to the Defenders of Wildlife.

More than 67.5 million birds were imported into the United States from 1980 to 1988, of which 1.3 million were dead on arrival, died in quarantine or were refused entry (usually killed) because of disease.

The International Osprey Foundation is supporting the Defenders of Wildlife in backing the Wild Bird Protection Act, which was introduced into both houses of Congress in June, 1991. It has seven Senate co-sponsors and 97 House co-sponsors and is expected to be heard in the 1992 session.

On the right is a letter of support TIOF sent to the Defenders of Wildlife. Add your name to the many groups and individuals endorsing this proposed legislation by writing to your congressman and senator, mentioning the bill by its number, H.R. 2540/S.1219.

May 24, 1991

Ms. Julie York
Education Coordinator
Defenders of Wildlife
1244 Nineteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. York:

Recently the proposed Exotic Wild Bird Act submitted by your organization was presented by our Project Coordinator, Mark Westall, to our Board of Directors for consideration. The Board wholeheartedly and unanimously endorsed the intent and scope of the draft bill. If we can be of any help in getting it passed, please let us know.

Sincerely,
THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION



David M. Loveland
President

Chesapeake Ospreys under scrutiny

The revival of Chesapeake Bay's Osprey population after near extinction from DDT has been much lauded in the past decade. But now the numbers, which tripled after the pesticide was banned, have leveled out and may even start to diminish.

It is felt the Chesapeake may not have enough fish to support its Ospreys at current levels.

Dr. Mitchell A. Bird, of the Biology Department at the College of William and Mary, said from a high of 1.45 chicks fledged per nest in the late '70s, the rate has

dwindled to .92 young per nest. This is the lower limit of what will sustain the population, he said.

In an article in The Chesapeake Bay Magazine, John Page Williams reported that lack of nesting habitat and adequate food are part of the problem. Also, some DDT has been detected in eggs from Mobjack Bay, where the number of young Ospreys has been low for the past five years.

Though the situation is far from critical, it does bear watching, since this is recognized as one of the largest concentrations of Ospreys in the world.

Books available

"Birds of Prey," ed. by Ian Newton and Penny Olsen, 1990, 240 pp., 250 color photographs, contributions by 50 biologists, ISBN 0-8160-2182-1, is available for \$40 (Canada, \$50) from Facts on File, Inc. 460 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016.

* * * *

The World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls' publication, "Birds of Prey Bulletin #4" (1991), a collection of 28 new and original studies by 41 authors from 20 countries worldwide, is available at \$25 (or equivalent in cash). The price includes postage by surface mail. Add \$15 for air mail. Write: R.D. Chancellor, Hon. Secty., WWGBP, 15b Bolton Gardens, London SW5 OAL, U.K.

Keep lookout for banded Ospreys, Falcons

Osprey and Peregrine Falcons have been banded in various midwestern states with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands and a black leg band with a silver alpha-numeric code. Will anyone sighting any of these birds report the date, location, leg with color band and alpha-numeric code to the Bird Banding Lab, Laurel, MD 20708, and also to Mark Martell, The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota, 120 Fitch Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

World conference on raptors and owls set for Berlin next May

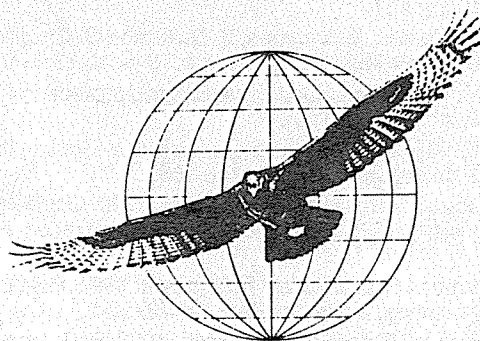
The World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls will hold its Fourth World Conference in Berlin, Germany, May 10-17, 1992.

The conference will take place in the Science Communication and Conference Center of Humboldt University, about 25 miles from the center of Berlin.

The scientific program will run May 10 through May 15 with papers and discussions on 10 principal themes. Films and slides will be shown in the evenings.

During the conference, full day excursions will be available to ornithological sites in the new federal province of Brandenburg. Participants from other countries have the opportunity to take part in a one-week raptor tour through Hungary, led by Laszlo Haraszthy.

After the conference, on May 16 and 17, a two-day excursion is offered to areas in the new federal province of



Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, including the Muritz area, which has the highest concentration of Ospreys and White-tailed Sea Eagles in central Europe.

For registration applications, write: World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls, 15b Bolton Gardens, London SW5 OAL, England.

Ospreys faring well in European USSR

Vladimir Galushin, writing in the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls newsletter (June, 1991), reported that Osprey nesting communities of 50-100 pairs are stable in favorable environments in North Byelorussia, Rybinsk Reservoir on Upper Volga, Baltic Republics, Volga Delta. His report was on The Status and Protection of Birds of Prey in the European Part of the USSR. Galushin was updating data published in his "Handbook of Birds of the Western Palearctic" in 1980.

Field observations

The Florida Field Naturalist 19(1):25-30, 1991, reports that Osprey fledgeling production at St. Marks NWR was up to .98 young per nest versus an "alarmingly low" 0.11 last year (JR4); 55 flying (mostly adults) at Lake Disston, Volusia County, on June 17 (HS1) may indicate a breeding aggregation in the area.

Nest robbing reported; information sought

The Lesser Spotted Eagle Research and Conservation Project reported in June, 1991 that several clutches of Osprey eggs were stolen in Mecklenburg, Germany. In one nest the robbers substituted painted goose eggs. Lesser Spotted Eagle eggs were also taken in the same district.

The World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls is seeking clues which might lead to the culprits and also help in preventing similar incidents.

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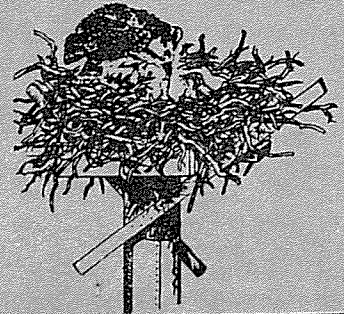
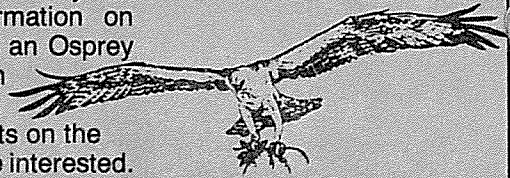
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Osprey platforms and their construction

TIOF receives many requests for information on how to construct an Osprey nesting platform and is pleased to offer pamphlets on the subject to anyone interested.

The pamphlets were printed by the Lee County, Florida, Division of Environmental Sciences in cooperation with TIOF. They contain details of materials needed and seven steps for construction of a platform.

If you would like a pamphlet, write TIOF, Platform Pamphlet, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957-0250.



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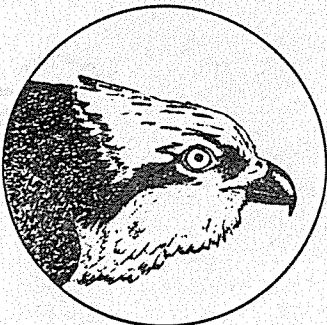
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