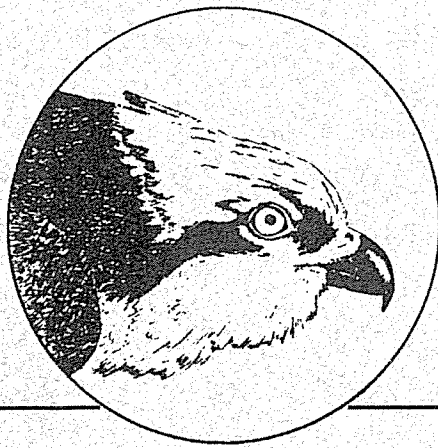


THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION



Osprey Observer

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

DECEMBER, 1996

TIOF 1997 CALENDAR

January 4

Orientation for old and new nestwatch volunteers, Tarpon Bay Research Center
9 AM

January 11

1997 Nestwatch season begins

January 31

Deadline for TIOF endowment applications

March 16

Annual Meeting

TIOF ONLINE

Worldwide subscribers to America Online can now learn about the foundation or message us at TIOFSANCAP@aol.com.

Kudos to Lee County Electric Corp. for Osprey Program Award

For its efforts to keep ospreys from injuring and killing themselves on power lines, Lee County Electric Co-op has been recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The co-op has received an Environmental Citizen Award.

Ospreys, which like good visibility from their nests, often build them on the co-op's utility poles. That has led to electrocution when twigs and other materials used in nest building touch on the live wires.

Working with citizen groups - including the International Osprey Foundation - the co-op helps put up alternative nesting sites using old power poles, or occasionally provides fiberglass platforms atop power poles, well clear of the lines.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the end of a hectic year I want to take this opportunity to thank our many supporters, including our board of directors. The board's tireless efforts and invaluable guidance have helped us take a giant step toward fulfilling our role as an international organization.

TIOF recently conducted a symposium on European and Mediterranean ospreys as part of the Raptor Research Foundation's Second International conference held in Urbino, Italy. We were able to provide a forum for the European researchers to get together and discuss their

situation collectively, and will be producing a set of proceedings to summarize the results.

Our role was widely recognized by the European community and we look forward to being able to assist them in overcoming the many problems faced by osprey in the eastern hemisphere. (By the way, we will accept special donations to help defray the costs of our participation in the conference.)

Again, thanks to everyone who helped make this possible, most notably our project director Mark Westall and his wife Janie.

TIOF in Worldwide Spotlight at Raptor Conference



The International Osprey Foundation was represented at the Raptor Research Foundation's 2nd International Conference in Urbino, Italy, in October by TIOF president David Loveland and project director Mark "Bird" Westall.

TIOF, a co-sponsor of the event, held a symposium on ospreys at which Westall presented a paper entitled, "The Use of Artificial Nesting Platforms to Augment Osprey Populations and Educate the Public about Environmental Awareness".

It was truly an international event with speakers from Sweden, Belarussia, the UK, Poland, the Red Sea, Corsica, and Portugal among others.

(See Message from President)

Osprey Glossary

Adult Description: 21 - 25 inches long (almost eagle sized), males and females look alike, dark chocolate mantle with white chest (which can be somewhat streaked with dark brown), white head with a broad brown mask from eyes down cheeks and neck, eyes yellow, bill and talons black.

Immature Description: very much like adults, but brown upperpart feathers look as if the tips were dipped in cream colored paint, eyes are orange, fledglings will be adult sized.

Mating Behaviors: male will land completely on female's back.

Incubating: only the adult bird's head (at most) will be seen sticking above nest's edge.

Nestling: young in the nest, will beg loudly (sometimes constantly) for food, may observe aggressiveness between siblings.

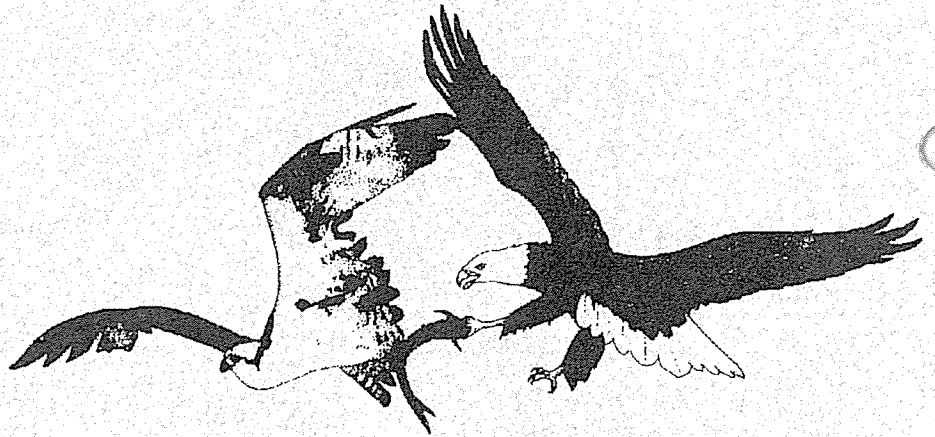
Brooding: adult bird will appear to be standing or crouched low over the nest.

Shading: Adult bird is in the same position as brooding, but is more visible with the wings spread out.

Feeding Behaviors: female will tear flesh from the fish which the male has brought, and she will feed the nestlings piece by piece; young may not always be visible during feeding.

Fledgling: nestling after first flight, lots of wing exercise before fledging.

Post Fledgling: period when young are still under parental care but are free-flying.



Nesting Sequence

1. Egg-laying can occur anytime during the third week of December through the first week of April.
2. Incubation is then 35 days.
3. Fledgling is 8 weeks after hatching.
4. Post fledging can last a few days to several weeks after first flight.

At the Conference

Daniel Schmidt, of Germany, left, is pictured at TIOF's symposium at the Raptor Research Conference in Italy, along with David Loveland, TIOF president, center, and Mark Westall, project director. Schmidt, who is involved in osprey conservation in Germany, occasionally visits his friends the Glissmans, on Sanibel. Inge Glissman is a TIOF board member.



TIOF Board

President: David Loveland
Vice President: Anne Mitchell
Treasurer and Project Director: Mark "Bird" Westall
Secretary: Inge Glissman
Members: Norman Bowles
Carolyn Herman
Hartley Kleinberg
Jerry Nickerson





A Welcome Donation

Jim Fowler, publisher of the Sanibel-Captiva nature calendar, left, presents a check for \$565 to David Loveland, president of The International Osprey Foundation. It was Fowler's seventh donation to a local conservation organization and it represents some of the proceeds from the 1995 calendar.



TIOF Research Grant gives "wings" to Siberian researcher

Irina Utekhina, who has been conducting aerial surveys of ospreys and Steller's sea eagles in N.E. Siberia with micro-lite aircraft since 1991, was chosen to receive the 1996 TIOF endowment award.

Utekhina, a Ph.D. candidate with the Institute of Biological Problems of the North Magadan State Preserve in N.E. Siberia, will use the \$1,000 grant for travel and operation expenses in her study, which has been ongoing since 1983. Her total budget is \$17,400.

Here's the line-up of recipients since our endowment program began in 1990:

1995 - James Berkelman, a Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences for project entitled "Habitat Requirements of the Madagascar Fish Eagle"; and **Kimberly J. Fernie**, a Ph.D. candidate at McGill University, Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences, Wildlife Biology Program. Her three-year study is titled "Effects of Electromagnetic Fields Generated by Powerlines on Avian Reproduction and Development".

Here is the line-up of recipients since our endowment program began in 1990:

1994 - Lauren N. Gilson, a graduate student in raptor

biology at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. Grant to fund radio transmitters and field housing in her study entitled "Behavioral Strategy Selection in Juvenile Ospreys" at Cascade Reservoir.

1993 - Ruth Anne Elbert, Ph.D. candidate in ecology at the University of California, Davis, for project, "The Use of Avian Indicator species to Monitor Environmental Mercury Exposure". Study area: Clear Lake, California, close to an old mercury mine.

1992 - Michael McMillian, graduate student at the University of West Florida, Pensacola, for studies into the effects of pesticides on reproduction on Lake Istokpoga, Florida.

1991 - David J. Green, Behavioral Ecology Research Group, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, for studies into female osprey production decisions and male parental effort.

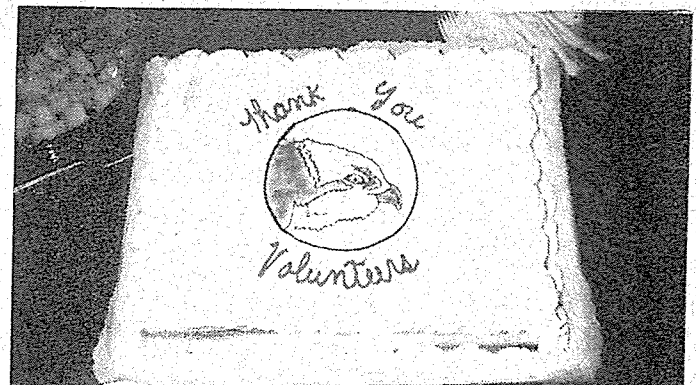
1990 - Gustavo Danemann, thesis researcher with the Seabird program at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, Marine Biology Dept., La Paz, Mexico, for study of ospreys in the coastal lagoons of Baja California, Mexico.

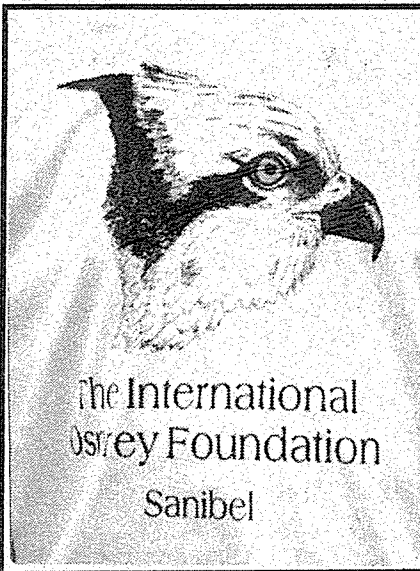
This Takes the Cake



To all the nestwatch volunteers who braved wind, rain, heat and sandspurs, a big thank-you for another successful nesting season.

Some 45 volunteers in six groups monitored more than 80 nests in 1996.





TIOF T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Our popular T-shirts in white, 100% cotton are still available. On the front is a large osprey head in brown with anatomically correct yellow eye. Underneath is TIOF's name. They make great gifts or souvenirs of Sanibel, so treat yourself, friends, and family to one and support TIOF at the same time.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Quantity : Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ Extra Large _____

COST: \$12.50 each. Includes shipping & handling.

Total T-Shirts _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Send with check or money order to:

TIOF ♪ P.O. Box 250 ♪ Sanibel, FL 33957

MEMBERSHIP FORM

_____ Please enroll me as a member of TIOF

_____ Please renew my membership in TIOF

Check Membership Category:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Individual - \$10 | _____ 5. Contributing - \$100 |
| _____ 2. Family - \$15 | _____ 6. Donor - \$250 |
| _____ 3. Sustaining - \$25 | _____ 7. Life - \$500 |
| _____ 4. Supporting - \$50 | _____ 8. Student (To Under-graduate level) - \$8 |
| _____ 9. Corporate - \$25 or more | |

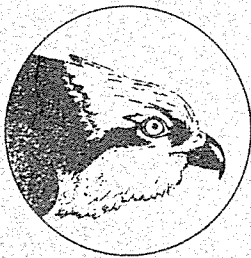
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ALL MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
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