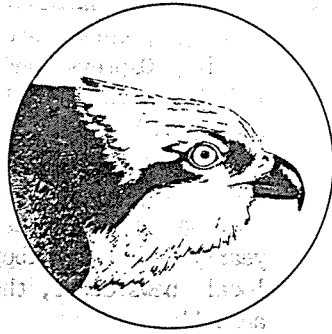


The International Osprey Foundation Newsletter



Osprey Observer

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

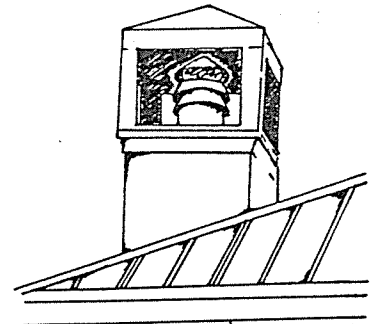
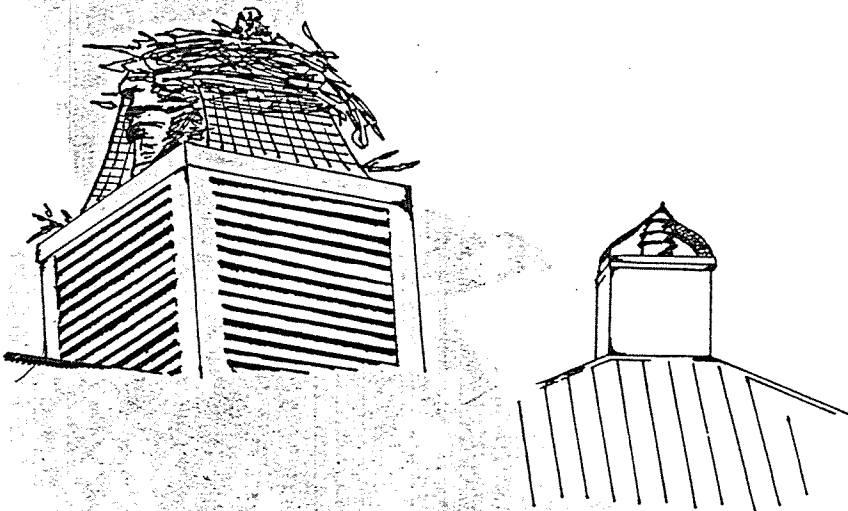
FEBRUARY, 1988

USEPPA OSPREYS

A burgeoning population of Ospreys on Useppa Island has been unable to find enough suitable nesting sites. The result: many birds have nested on the chimneys of homes, effectively preventing those homeowners from using their fireplaces in the winter months for fear of harming these magnificent birds of prey.

Last year, Useppa Island Club and TIOF member Gordon Kiddoo asked TIOF for help with the problem, and after visiting the island at the members' invitation, TIOF president Mark Westall spoke to an interested group and suggested erecting artificial nest platforms to lure the birds away from the chimneys and placing aluminum roof guards over the chimneys to discourage the birds from re-nesting there. Westall also banded the accessible chicks and recorded the Useppa Osprey population.

Platforms are now in place, complete with birds, and some residents also followed Westall's suggestion about the chimney roof guards. Westall plans to visit the island sometime in late March to record the Osprey productivity and band as many young as possible.



Far left and center; Earlier efforts to discourage the birds by covering chimneys with mesh failed. Above; The method which has proven effective. Graphics by David Loveland.

ANNUAL MEETING AND FILM

The annual meeting of The International Osprey Foundation will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at Sanibel Community Association, Periwinkle Way, and will be followed by a film, "Return from Forever", featuring the Osprey.

TIOF's newly-elected president David Loveland will be introduced by retiring president Mark Westall and new board members will be elected to fill five vacancies. A slate of nominees will be presented by the board and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Members wishing to remain on the board are Frank Irvin, Pattee Loveland, Anne Mitchell, Mark Westall, David Loveland and Dr. Bill Webb.

The film, by Hawkwind Productions, producers of Bird Watchers World, a weekly television show, is about the re-introduction of Ospreys to an area where their population had declined.

Members and non-members are urged to attend. A donation of \$2.50 is suggested for non-members.

