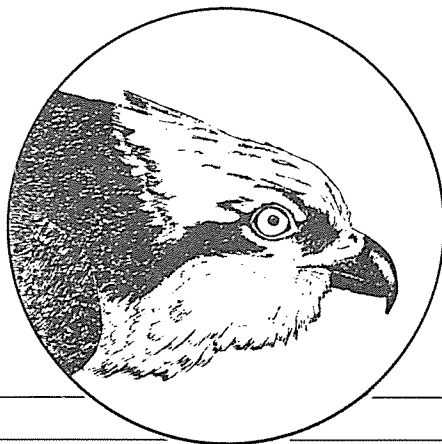


The International Osprey Foundation



Osprey Observer

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY, 1993

Annual meeting program will feature talk on bald eagles

Mark "Bird" Westall will speak about "The Bald Eagles of Southwest Florida" at the annual meeting of The International Osprey Foundation.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 14 at Sanibel Community Center.

Westall is project director of TIOF and chairman of the Lee County Eagle Technical Advisory Committee.

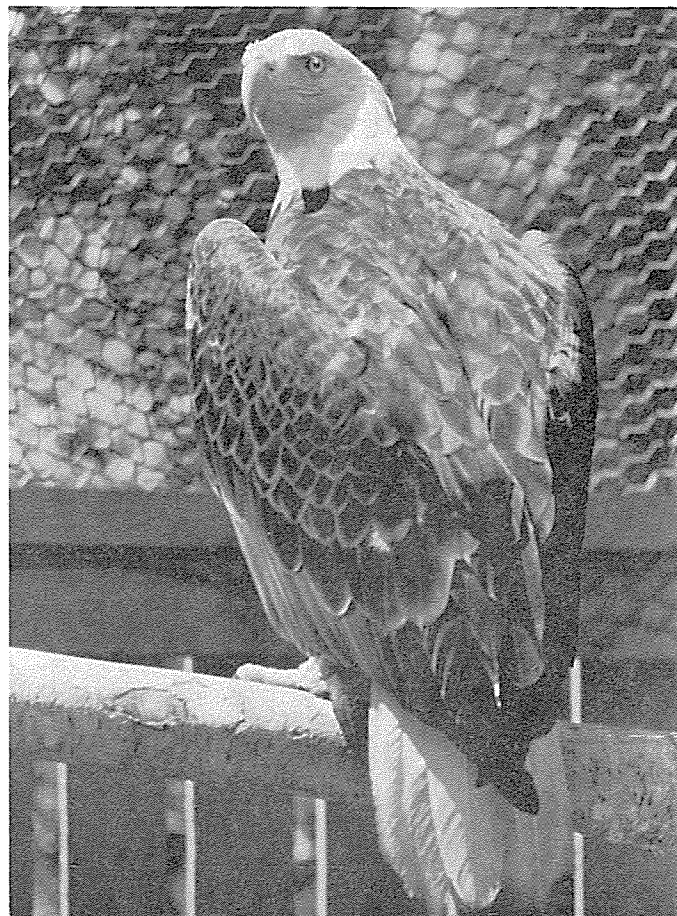
The bald eagle has made a dramatic come back since 1972, when the chemical DDT was banned. Its population in the lower 48 states has risen from 791 nesting pairs at that time to more than 3,000 in 1990, the most recent year for which data is available.

Now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is intent on changing the bird's status under the Endangered Species Act. But many conservation organizations feel it's too soon to downlist the bald eagle from endangered to threatened. Others disagree.

Westall will discuss the pros and cons of downlisting the bald eagle, its habitat and population in Southwest Florida and he will describe efforts underway in Lee County to protect this magnificent raptor. He will also present a slide show. Currently, there are about 32 eagle nesting territories in Lee County.

His talk will be preceded by a short business meeting. Also, the foundation's board will announce the recipient of the 1993 \$1,000 endowment for osprey research.

Members and non-members are invited to attend the meeting. A \$3 donation is requested of non-members.



This bald eagle photograph is from the archives of Sanibel resident Charles McCullough.

Help the eagles

The International Osprey Foundation is considering sponsoring a Friends of the Eagle group. Pending approval at the county level, group members would assist the Lee County Eagle Technical Advisory Committee with clerical and administration duties such as filing and computer input.

TIOF wants to gauge volunteer interest and is compiling a list of those willing to offer their help. A similar group has formed in Collier County.

Call Janie Westall at 472-5218 if you are interested.

TIOF research grant honor roll

The International Osprey Foundation awards a \$1,000 research grant each year. Donations for the endowment fund are always welcome. Here are the grant recipients to date:

1992 — Michael McMillian, graduate student at the University of West Florida, Pensacola, for studies into the effects of pesticides on reproduction at 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 studying ospreys in the coastal lagoons of Baja California, Mexico.

Sanibel's ospreys produced 88 chicks in 1992

Sanibel's ospreys are doing well. According to the 1992 nest survey, conducted by TIOF's volunteers, there are 80 occupied nest sites on Sanibel. Sixty-two of these sites had active nests that produced 88 fledgelings.

The volunteer monitoring program is now in its fourth year. The island is split into territories, each the responsibility of a volunteer group. There are seven such territories.

Last year, in addition to 14 fledged chicks from seven active nests, Group E reported a great horned owl chick being produced in what was traditionally an osprey nesting site! (See chart.)

1992 Nesting Season Summary

TEAM	OCCUPIED SITES	ACTIVE NESTS	FLEDGED
A	8	5	9
B	20	14	22
C	11	9	10
D	9	8	11
E	8	7	13
F	9	7	14*
G	15	12	9
Total	80	62	88

* plus one great horned owl



Pre-season service calls

Before the osprey nesting season got underway, volunteers got involved in some housekeeping on the birds' behalf. They checked artificial nest platforms for damage and wear and tear and made the necessary repairs. Volunteers have also fixed aluminum sleeves around nest poles to deter raccoons. Here they're seen preparing to fix a new platform to a pole. Pictured are Mark Westall, Norman Bowles, Tim Gardner and Hartley Kleinberg. Photo by Charles McCullough.

Playing tag with vultures

If you spot a black vulture with a colored vinyl streamer on its wing, make a note of the streamer color and location of sighting. And if you have binoculars handy, write down the

alpha-numeric code from the streamer.

Several hundred black vultures around Florida have been wing-tagged and the information you have is valuable to researcher Richard Thompson.

Please report tagged vultures to Thompson at 227 North Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (904.681-7459). (Source: Florida Ornithological Newsletter.)

TIOF T-Shirts available

We've recently taken delivery of these spiffy new Osprey Foundation T-shirts, modeled here by TIOF president David Loveland, left, and secretary Norman Bowles. The shirts are 100 percent cotton and, as you can see, we have redesigned them to better display our osprey logo. They come in white only. The design is in black and the osprey's eye is depicted in anatomically correct yellow. Photo by Janie Westall.

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

COST: \$10 each + \$2.50 per T-shirt
for postage and handling

NAME _____

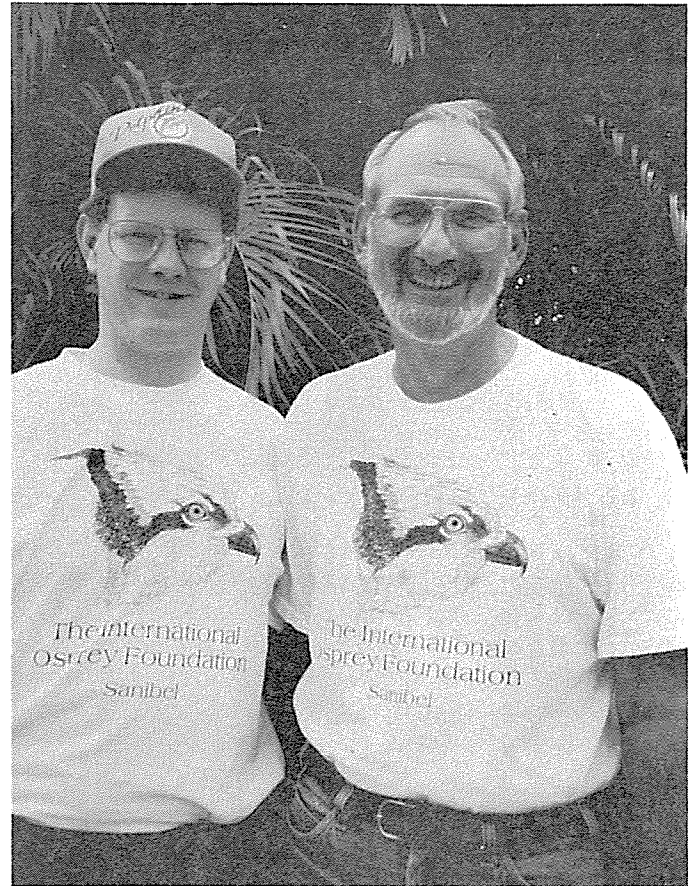
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

QUANTITY: Medium ____ Large ____ Small ____

Total T-Shirts _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Send with check or money order to:
TIOF, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957



Chimneys continue to attract nesting ospreys

As the osprey population in South-west Florida continues to thrive, any high structure that offers purchase for twigs and other nesting material becomes more and more attractive to the birds. That's especially true of those flat-topped chimneys seen on many recently-built homes.

Design seems to be the main problem and it's one that can easily be solved, if the homeowner is willing.

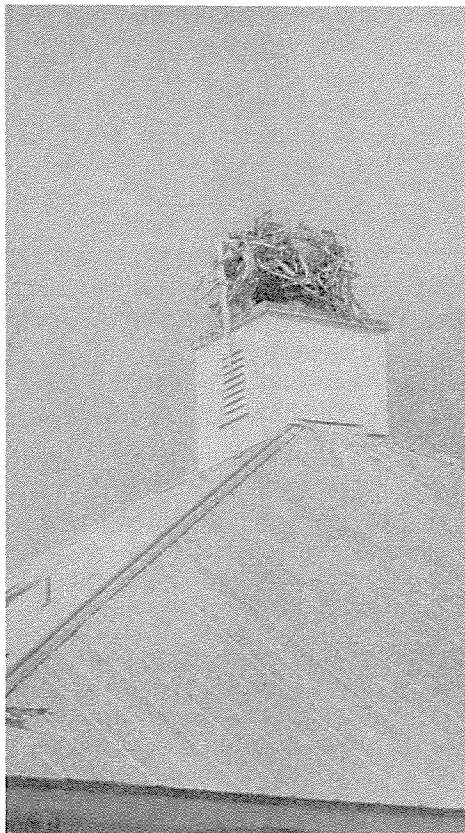
Ideally, the potential problem will be addressed before construction begins. Choose a design that will slough off the birds' dropped sticks. If the home is built already, a chimney guard can be added without too much expense. In either case, TIOF's project director Mark Westall is happy to give help and advice on design aspects (telephone 472-5218).

Besides making a mess, nesting ospreys can cause a real dilemma. Once there are eggs in the nest, the

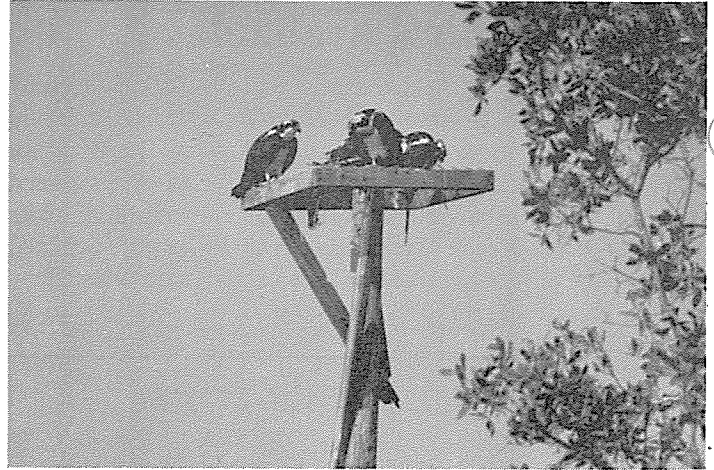
homeowner has no alternative under the law than to allow the protected birds to complete their nesting cycle. That, of course, means they cannot destroy the nest or use their fireplace.

Simply making such structures untenable may not be the entire answer, however. Sometimes it's necessary to provide an alternate nest site to deter ospreys from seeking out other unsuitable locations. In time for this nesting season, The Friends of Barefoot Beach collected \$400 from residents for a nest platform for a pair that last year had nested on the chimney of a home in the community. The ospreys knew a good thing when they saw it and soon switched their efforts to the platform. Now The Friends are considering more platforms in the Bonita Beach community.

TIOF has brochures available describing how to build such platforms. Write or call Westall for a copy.



Flat-topped chimneys like this provide prime nesting opportunities as osprey populations continue to grow.



The wrecking crew

The nest above, on the Wildlife Drive in the "Ding" Darling Refuge, was home to these three fledgelings last spring. But after some taking off and landing practice, the young birds reduced it to a bare platform within days (right). Three chicks is quite a handful for most osprey parents. Photo by Doug Sedgewick.

Osprey Foundation Board, 1992-94

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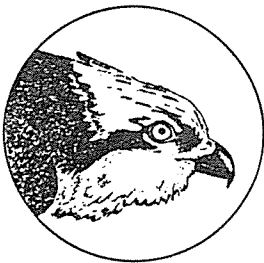
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ALL MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.
MAIL TO: TIOF, P.O. BOX 250, Sanibel, FL 33957, U.S.A.



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