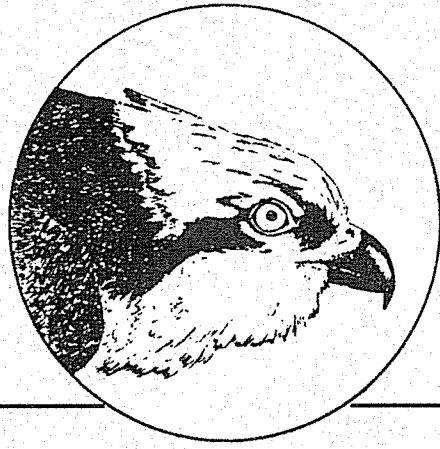


THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION



Local Newsletter

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY, 1999

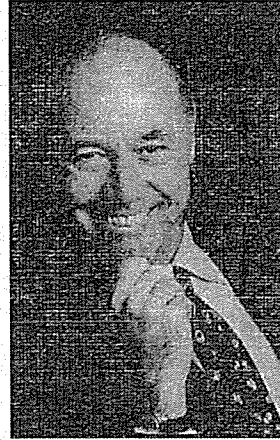
Annual meeting features FGCU environmentalists

Two environmentalists from America's newest university, Florida Gulf Coast University in Lee County, will be the featured speakers at TIOF's annual meeting on Sanibel on Sunday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Sanibel Community Association on Periwinkle Way.

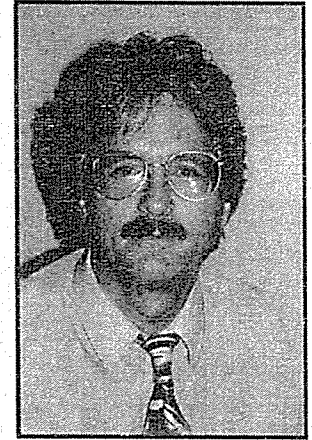
Peter Blaze Corcoran, professor of environmental studies and environmental education, and Edwin M. (Win) Everham III, assistant professor of environmental studies will talk about the university's environmental education program.

Prof. Corcoran is past president of the North American Association for Environmental Education. He has served on the boards of many conservation organizations and is involved in environmental education globally. Maine Audubon Society named him Teacher of the Year in 1996.

Dr. Everham gained his Ph.D. from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. His dissertation was titled "Hurricane Disturbance and Recovery: An



Peter Blaze Corcoran



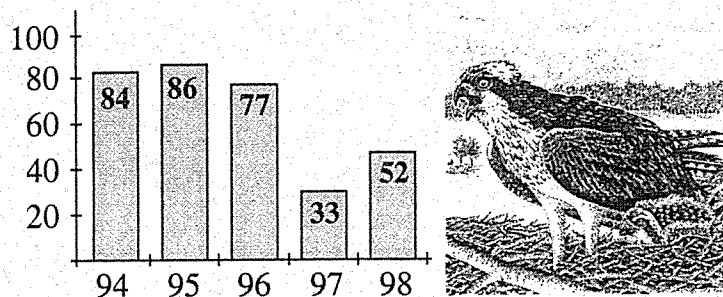
Edwin M. Everham III

Empirical and Simulation Study in the Luquillo Experimental Forest, Puerto Rico".

A video about Georgian Bay ospreys will also be shown. The foundation will conduct a short business meeting that will include re-election of five board members. An update on the 1999 osprey nesting season so far will be presented as well.

TIOF annual meeting
Sunday, March 21 • 7 p.m.
Sanibel Community Association

Island osprey nests more successful in 1998



Sanibel's nesting osprey rebounded somewhat in 1998, after a worrying 1997 season when the number of chicks fledged dropped to 33, less than half the usual number.

The 1998 total was 52 chicks fledged, still well below previous years' production, but it was heartening.

No one is quite sure what caused the drop in 1997, but one theory is that a persistent red tide outbreak that killed off many good-size fish in the weeks up to the nesting season left females undernourished and therefore less productive.

So far in this 1999 nesting season, the osprey pairs appear to be active and productive, according to volunteers who monitor the island nests from January through May and sometimes beyond, until the last chicks can fly.

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 exhibit 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. Fledging is 8 weeks after hatching.
4. Post fledging can last a few days to several weeks after first flight.

Calendar donation

Our thanks go to Jim Fowler, publisher of the Sanibel-Captiva Nature Calendar, for his donation of \$100 to the International Osprey Foundation. Fowler gave \$100 each to his 10 favorite environmental organizations in Southwest Florida in 1998 to mark the 10th anniversary of his calendar.

Thanks, Nestwatch volunteers

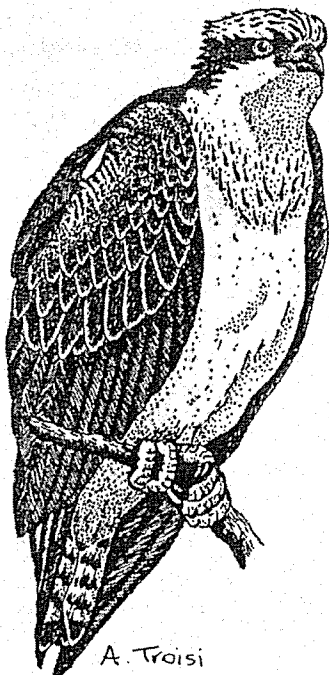
Many thanks to the volunteers who every two weeks during the osprey nesting season - that's January through May or longer - check nests, coo over fluffy chicks, puff up with pride when they fly, and generally keep track of what's happening with island ospreys.

We love you one and all.

Erecting an osprey platform

Many Sanibel residents have erected nesting platforms on their property and have been successful in attracting these magnificent birds to their own backyards where they have the joy of watching the ospreys build nests, lay and incubate eggs, feed their young, and, finally, send them off on their own.

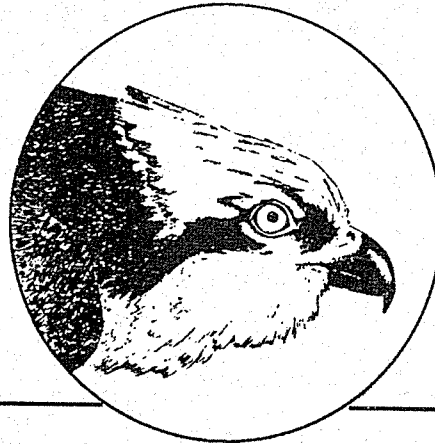
For information about design, construction and erection of platforms, contact TIOF at P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957.



TIOF Board

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THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION

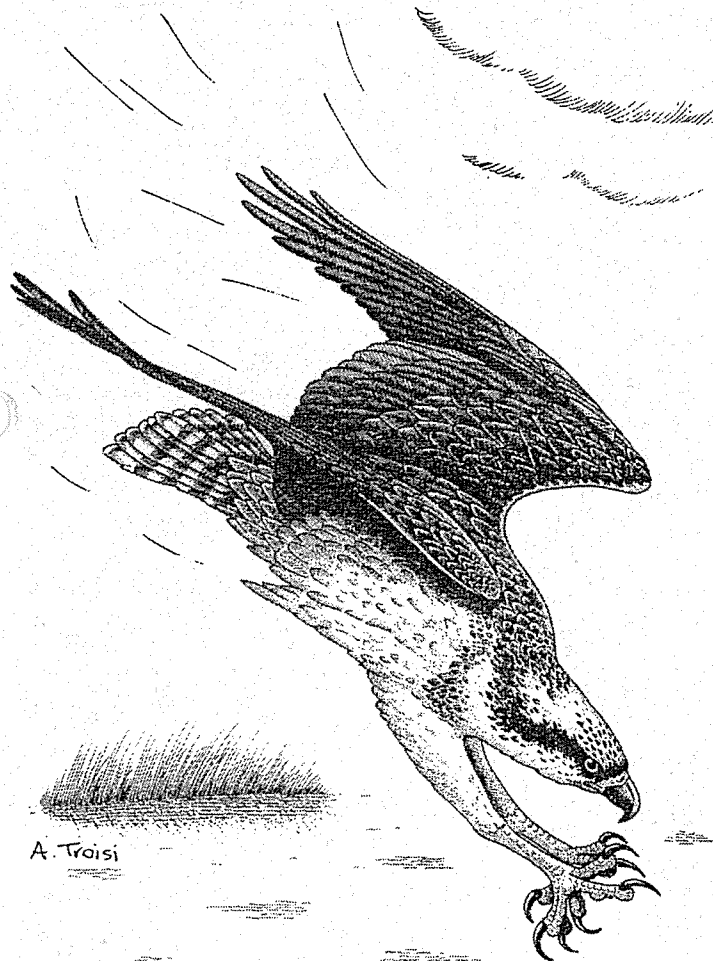


International Newsletter

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY, 1999

A new millennium for raptors



Alessandro Troisi

TIOF thanks Alessandro Troisi, a naturalist / artist of Rome for use of his fine osprey drawings in this newsletter.

Swainson's Hawk project wins 1998 TIOF endowment grant

Dale Trexel, a master's degree candidate in the Conservation Biology Program at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, was selected to receive the 1998 endowment award from The International Osprey Foundation.

The grant will help Trexel in his study entitled *Genetic Population Structure in the Swainson's Hawks*.

TIOF has awarded \$10,000 in endowments since the grant program began in 1990. Deadline for application is Jan. 31 each year.

Eilat conference set for 2000

Focusing on the lessons learned in past centuries and the needs of the new millennium to ensure raptors' continued survival, Raptors 2000 Conference is scheduled for April 1 - 8, 2000, in Eilat, Israel.

This meeting is under the auspices of the International Birdwatching Center in Eilat, the Raptor Research Foundation and the World Working Group for Birds of Prey. It is sponsored by Israel Nature Reserves Authority, Keren Kayemet LeIsrael and Society for Protection of Nature.

The meeting will include keynote speaker, scientific symposia and discussion sessions, student competitions, drawing and photographic exhibitions, video and film sessions and field trips. The official language of the conference and the printed materials will be English.

Eilat is on the northernmost point of the Gulf of Eilat on the Red Sea, in the Syrio-African Rift Valley, a principal migration route for hundreds of millions of birds wintering in Africa and breeding in Europe and Asia.

In the spring more than three million birds of prey, of more than 30 species, take advantage of rising warm air above the Eilat Mountains.

Call for papers is March 30, 1999 and deadline for submission of papers is Sept. 1, 1999.

For suggestions for scientific symposia or sessions, contact Dr. Reuven Yosef, Raptors 2000, IBCE, P.O. Box 774, Eilat 88106, Israel, or e-mail: ryosef@BGUMAIL.BGU.AC.IL/

For more information, contact the Conference Secretariat at 1 Nirim St., P.O. Box 9352, Tel-Aviv 61052, Israel, tel. 972-3-638-4444 or e-mail: raptors@ortra.co.il/

Here is the line-up of recipients.

1997-Todd Katzner, a graduate student at Arizona State University for raptor conservation studies in North-Central Kazakhstan, home of four eagle species.

1996 - Irina Utekhina, a Ph.D candidate with the Institute of Biological Problems of the North Magadan State Preserve in N.E. Siberia, for aerial surveys of ospreys and Steller's sea eagles in N.E. Siberia since 1991.

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" (continued on page 2)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, maintains a Raptor Information System database of 32,000 articles. The following bibliography of 1998 articles is drawn from that database.

According to Mary Jean Cowing, her department does not consider itself a document delivery service, but it can make a modest number of copies for the public, the cost payable by Visa and Mastercard only.

"We only copy those documents not covered by copyright restrictions," she added. For more information, contact her at (208) 426-5218, phone or fax.

The website: <http://www.ris.idbsu.edu/egi-bin/risearch/>

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Clark, W.S. 1998. **First North American record of a melanistic osprey.** Wilson Bulletin 110:289-290

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Elliott, J.L., M.M. Machmer, C.J. Henny, L.K. Wilson and R.J. Norstrom. 1998. **Contaminants in ospreys from the Pacific Northwest; I. Trends and patterns in polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and -dibenzofurans in eggs and plasma.** Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology 35:620-631.

Gilson, L. N. 1998. **Evaluation of neck-mounted radio transmitters for use with juvenile ospreys.** Journal of Raptor Research 32:247-250.

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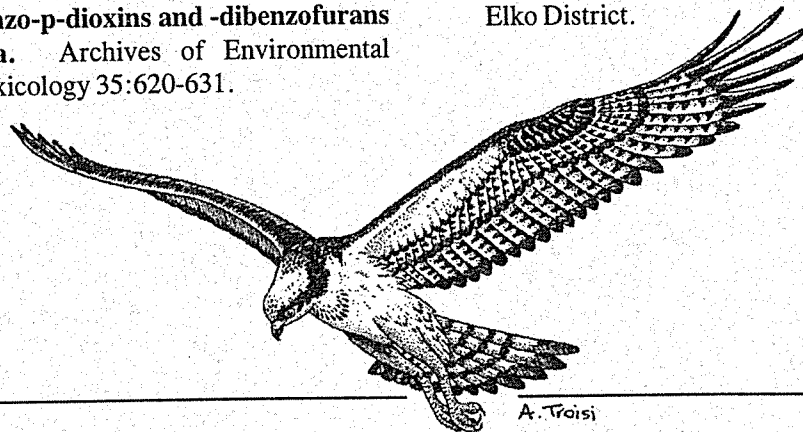
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A. Traisi

(Swainson's Hawk from page 1)

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".

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.

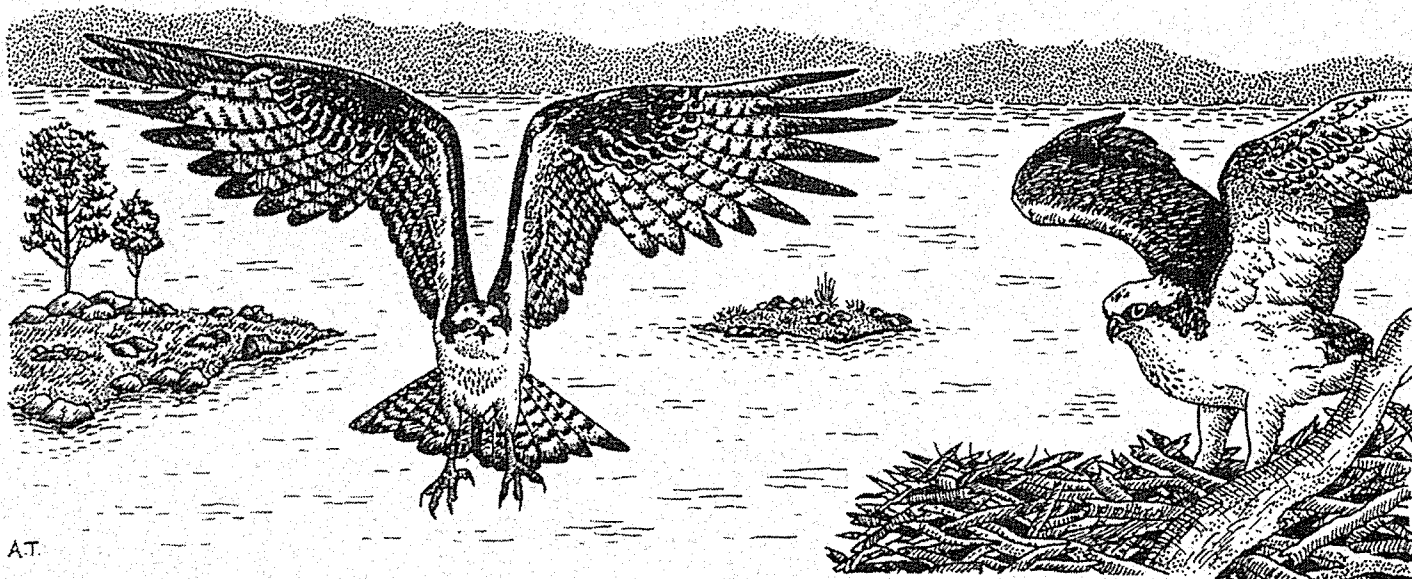
1992 - **Michael McMillian**, graduate student at the University of West Florida, Pensacola, for studies into the effects of pesticides on osprey reproduction on Lake Istokpoga, Florida.

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

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Alessandro Troisi

Ospreys online

TIOF can be found on the internet at

<http://www.sancap.com/osprey/tiof/.htm> or

e-mail us at [ospreys@sancap.com/](mailto:ospreys@sancap.com)

Here are some more raptor related websites you may want to check out:

<http://www.salamander.com/~rrp> (Raptor Resource Project, peregrine falcons, with new osprey section)

<http://www.bethel.edu/Majors/Biololgy/Osprey> (Photo

pages of on-campus set-up of aluminum osprey nesting pole

<http://www.nu.com/eagles/eagles/htm> (Camera on nesting eagles)

<http://www.nspco.com/nspbird.htm> (Camera on nesting peregrine falcons).

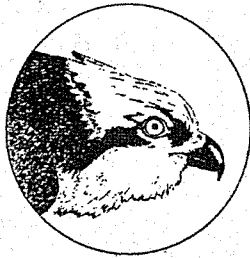
Thanks to Ray Herman for telling us about these websites.

Urbino proceedings in progress

Proceedings from the Osprey symposium held during the Raptor Research Foundation's Conference in Urbino, Italy in 1996 are being prepared for publication in Germany and should be available this summer.

The proceedings will contain about a dozen papers, some presented during the conference, others solicited afterwards.

Write TIOF at P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957, USA, no earlier than this summer if you are interested in a copy.



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