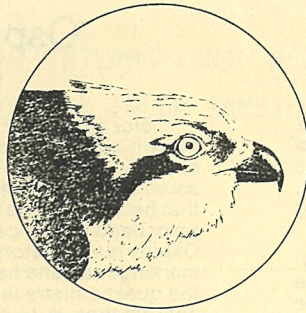


# The International Osprey Foundation Newsletter



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

JUNE, 1983

## Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean Osprey Symposium

June 3-5, 1983 marked the first in a series of regional symposiums concerning Osprey research in North America. Held on Sanibel Island, Florida, the purpose of this meeting was to open lines of communication and to coordinate research activities between biologists and wildlife managers working with Ospreys in Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, North and South Carolina, and the Caribbean.

After the keynote address was presented by Dr. Jeff Lincer, President of the Raptor Research Foundation, the thirty-seven participants heard eleven papers from throughout the southeastern U.S. and participated in four round-table discussions concerning "hacking", color-banding, Caribbean Ospreys, and intraspecific behavior. The papers presented were:



Dr. W. L. Webb explains unique design of tripod at Osprey Symposium

- M. A. Westall** — Status of Osprey Research in the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean
- R. E. Whittemore** — Historical Overview of Ospreys at the Mattamuskeet NWR
- J. M. Hagan** — A North Carolina Osprey Population: Social Group or Breeding Aggregation?
- S. R. Phillips, M. A. Westall, P. W. Zajicek** — The Winter of 1983: Poor Productivity for Ospreys on Sanibel Island, Florida
- T. E. Beddow** — Recovery of Natural Nesting Osprey in the Tennessee Valley
- D. A. Hammer and T. E. Beddow** — Hacking Osprey in the Tennessee Valley
- M. W. Collopy** — Parental Care, Productivity, and Predator-Prey Relationships of Ospreys in Three North Florida Lakes: A Preliminary Report
- W. L. Webb and A. H. Lloyd** — Design and Use of Tripods as Osprey Nest Platforms
- P. D. McLain** — "The Osprey - A Success Story" (film)
- J. P. Reinman** — The Status of Osprey Populations of the Central and Northern Gulf Coasts of Florida

**R. D. Brown** — Carolina Raptor's Osprey Hacking Project

**O. L. (Sonny) Bass** — Progress Report on the Osprey Population in Everglades National Park: A Decreasing Population

The round-table discussions proved to be very productive with the creation of TIOF's first two committees for special projects. Mark Westall (chairperson), Jim Wiley, Art Renfro and Sonny Bass were appointed to the Caribbean Osprey Research Committee and John Hagan (chairperson), Don Hammer and Dick Brown were appointed to the Color-Banding Committee. Please check elsewhere in this newsletter for pertinent information concerning these committees.

Needless to say, this first regional Osprey symposium was an overwhelming success. The increased communication and exchanging of ideas demonstrated that meetings of this type are worthwhile and necessary. TIOF is currently planning the next regional symposium for Osprey research in northeastern North America to be held during the fall of 1984. We are looking for an easily accessible location within the region and a responsible person to head the local planning committee. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Hope to see you in 1984.

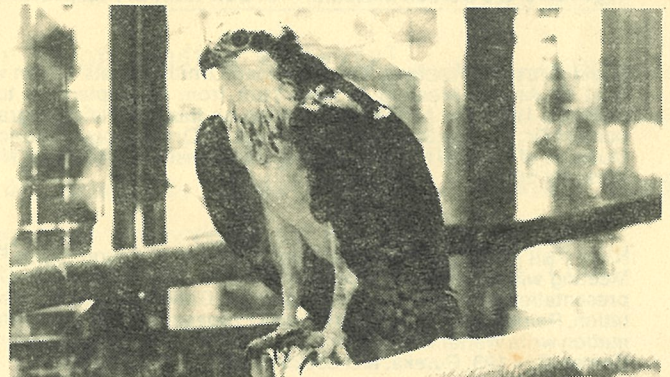
## TIOF President, Treasurer Attend IOC Meeting

Moscow State University, Moscow, USSR was the site of the XVIII International Ornithological Congress held in August, 1982. TIOF was represented at this meeting by President Mark Westall and Treasurer Paul Zajicek for the purpose of establishing contact with individuals within countries otherwise difficult to reach and to renew acquaintances made previously.

Of particular interest were several symposia covering various topics such as "Strategies of bird conservation" (Covener: V. Flint, USSR), "Birds, pesticides and other pollution" (Covener: R. W. Risebrough, USA), "Ecology of raptors" (Covener: I. Newton, UK) and one round-table discussion entitled "Birds of prey" organized by V. Galushin (USSR).

It was at those meetings that Westall and Zajicek were able to meet Dr. B.-U. Meyburg, Chairman of ICBP's World Working Group on Birds of Prey (see ICBP article) and several other scientists from Finland, East Germany, USSR and Poland. Dr. Wojtek Król of Poland has since become an integral source of communication concerning Osprey research in eastern Europe.

All in all, the contacts made at the IOC meeting will lay the groundwork for establishing TIOF as a central clearinghouse for Osprey research throughout the world.



THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION  
OSPREY COLOR BANDING QUESTIONNAIRE

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( )- \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you used color bands on Ospreys? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you plan to color band in the future? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you know of others who are color banding Ospreys? If so, please write their names and addresses on the back of this form.

IF YOU HAVE COLOR BANDED OSPREYS, PLEASE CONTINUE:

5. When did your color banding activity take place? \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Have you used multiple color bands (more than one color band per leg)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7. Check the colors that were used:

_____ black	_____ light blue	_____ pink	other _____
_____ white	_____ dark blue	_____ purple	_____
_____ light green	_____ orange	_____ brown	_____
_____ dark green	_____ red	_____ silver (USFWS band)	_____

8. Did any of the bands bear engraved codes? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, band color \_\_\_\_\_; code color \_\_\_\_\_.

Please indicate range of codes used: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Indicate height of bands used, in centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_



10. Was any single color always placed on the same leg or same position on a leg? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If Yes, indicate position: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Briefly, what is (was) the purpose of your color banding activity? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Could you provide TIOF, at a later time, with the following information on each Osprey you have color banded? 1) color sequence, 2) date banded, 3) place banded.

13. Please use the reverse of this form if you have any comments you would like to make concerning color banding Ospreys, or the idea of developing a central file.

## Westall Appointed to Executive Committee

Mark Westall, President and founder of TIOF, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the International Council for Bird Preservation's World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls as coordinator for Ospreys. The appointment, which runs until 1986, was made by Dr. Bernd-Ulrich Meyburg, Chairman of the Working Group.

This working group is the oldest of the working groups established by the ICPB. All of these working groups also belong to the Species Survival Commission (SSC, formerly Survival Service Commission) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

The main purpose of this working group is to advise ICBP on problems relative to birds of prey (including all falconiformes and strigiformes). The aims so far identified by the group are:

1. To assemble sufficient information for the Working Group to determine the status of birds of prey.
2. To identify threatened, endangered and rare species of prey and establish priorities for action where necessary.
3. To promote and advise on research and conservation (including education) measures.
4. To assemble and maintain information on the legal status of birds of prey.
5. To promote the production of guidelines relative to problem areas in the raptor management (captive breeding, re-introductions, reproduction manipulations, etc.).
6. To identify and inventory critical habitat, in particular, for endangered, treated and highly specialized species.
7. To assemble and maintain information on captive raptors of taxa which are acutely endangered, threatened (rare) and very little studied.
8. To assemble and maintain information on skins and eggs of acutely endangered, threatened (rare) and very little studied bird of prey taxa in public and private collections.

The Working Group is one of the most highly recognized organizations in the world concerning birds of prey, and it is indeed an honor for President Westall to be appointed to its Executive Committee. Anyone interested in learning more about this Working Group should contact the TIOF office.

## Osprey Color Banding Questionnaire

Color banding of Ospreys has become a popular practice among those biologists studying the species. Discussions on color banding at the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean Osprey Symposium, sponsored by TIOF, Raptor Research Foundation and others, suggested that better coordination among banders is needed so that the same color band sequences are not used by different biologists. Since the Osprey is a migratory and extremely mobile species, such overlap of markings can and has led to confusing data. Therefore, response to the questionnaire in this newsletter by color banders is essential if coordination is to be accomplished. Information will be used to document which color sequences may be available to new banders. Also, with these data on hand, TIOF will be able to quickly determine the origin of a color banded bird when sighted and promptly inform the bander of the sighting.

By developing a central file of color banded Ospreys, we have a unique opportunity to help one another keep track of the birds banded, and learn something about large scale movements of this species. If you have color banded Ospreys, or are considering color banding, please complete and return the questionnaire to:

**John M. Hagan**, Chairperson  
TIOF Color Banding Committee  
c/o Box 5577  
Department of Zoology  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27650

## TIOF Research Registration

One of TIOF's main objectives is to establish a line of communication between researchers and their colleagues in a variety of fields of raptor study. To date, TIOF has successfully enrolled 60 participants in its Research Registration Program, and has connected raptor experts in such fields as artificial nesting sites, behavior, banding, distribution, management, migration, population dynamics and telemetry. For a Research Registration Form and further information please write TIOF, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957.

## Announcements

**Second Symposium on African Predatory Birds — August 21-27, 1983** The Natal Bird Club invites you to a symposium on African predatory birds. It is intended that the symposium deal with predatory birds in Africa, particularly the large ones. Most discussion will probably center on raptors and seabirds, but contributions on other large predators will be welcome. The problems facing large predators in Africa has been chosen as a theme, i.e. the fact that many are rare, threatened, poorly known and live in areas heavily contaminated by pesticides.

Four sessions are planned:

1. The role of captive breeding in conservation.
2. The effects of pesticides, particularly in the 3rd World.
3. The energetics of large predatory birds.
4. The biology of poorly known and rare species.

The symposium will be held at the Golden Gate National Park in the Orange Free State, South Africa. For air travellers, Golden Gate is best reached from Bloemfontein. Delegates are advised to bring warm clothing.

Accommodation reservations can be made directly at the National Park Board, P.O. Box 787, Pretoria, 0001, or by the symposium organizers, c/o Durban Museum, P.O. Box 4085, Dryban, 4000.

**AOU Annual Meeting** The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its Annual Meeting in New York from 26 September to 1 October, 1983. For further information on this scientific program, contact Dr. George Barrowclough, Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024.

**RRF Fall Meeting** The 1982 Raptor Research Foundation's Fall Meeting will be held on December 2-4 in St. Louis, Missouri. Oral presentations will fall under five headings: General topics, Rehabilitation, Reintroduction, Education and Propagation. For more information write Walter C. Crawford, Jr., R.R.P.P., Inc., Tyson Research Center, Box 193, Eureka, MO 63025 or call (314) 938-6193.

**Raptor Management Information System** The Raptor Management Information System (RMIS) is a collection of published and unpublished papers, reports, and other works on raptor management and human impacts on raptors and their habitats. It currently consists of nearly 2,500 original papers, 160 keyworded notecard decks comprised of 15,000 key paragraphs from the original papers, and a computer program to retrieve partially annotated bibliographies by species, by keyword, or by any combination of keywords and/or species. A geographical index is under development, and new papers are added as they are received. Originally designed to facilitate land-use planning and decision making by government agencies and industry, the RMIS has since grown into a powerful research and environmental assessment tool for scholars, students, consultants, as well as land managers and their staff biologists. For more information write Dr. Richard R. Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, U.S.A., or phone commercial (916) 484-4701 or through the Federal Telephone System 468-4701.

**1986 International Ornithological Congress** At the XVIII International Ornithological Congress in Moscow (August, 1982), the International Ornithological Committee accepted the invitation of the National Museum of Natural Sciences of Canada and of the Canadian ornithological community to hold the XIX Congress in Canada. The Congress will be held in Ottawa, Canada, from 22-29 June, 1986. The Committee elected Dr. Prof. Claus Immelmann (West Germany) as President of the Congress and designated Dr. Henri Ouellet (Canada) as Secretary-General.

Details about the general and scientific programs, field excursions, and other activities during the Congress will be available later. Those interested in participating in the Congress are urged to inform the Secretariat in order to obtain announcements and application forms. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary-General, Dr. Henri Ouellet, XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus, National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0M8.

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## FINANCIAL REPORT July 1, 1981 — June 30, 1982

INCOME	
Membership .....	\$ 3827.00
Fund Raising .....	1086.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$ 4913.00</b>
DISBURSEMENTS	
Membership .....	\$ 456.04
Administrative .....	147.21
Office Supplies .....	163.19
Fund Raising .....	374.21
Travel: 1981 RRF Fall Meeting .....	390.00
Osprey Captive Breeding Project .....	93.15
Sanibel Artificial Nesting Project .....	240.00
Education .....	122.50
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS .....</b>	<b>\$ 1989.30</b>
<b>BALANCE, JULY 1, 1982 .....</b>	<b>\$ 2923.70</b>

## July 1, 1982 — June 30, 1983

INCOME	
Membership .....	\$ 3210.00
Fund Raising .....	280.00
Southeastern US and Caribbean Osprey Symposium fees .....	726.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$ 4216.00</b>
<b>BALANCE JUNE 30, 1982 .....</b>	<b>\$ 2923.70</b>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$ 7139.70</b>
DISBURSEMENTS	
Membership .....	\$ 136.92
Administrative .....	146.00
Office Supplies .....	41.61
Fund Raising .....	284.00
Travel: XVIII OIC Meeting .....	2219.85
Osprey Captive Breeding Program .....	188.68
Education .....	109.25
Newsletter .....	249.40
Southeastern US and Caribbean Osprey Symposium .....	916.49
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS .....</b>	<b>\$ 4292.20</b>
<b>BALANCE JULY 1, 1983 .....</b>	<b>\$ 2847.50</b>

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

\_\_\_\_ Please enroll me as a member of TIOF

\_\_\_\_ Please renew my membership in TIOF

Membership categories are:

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

NAME (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

All memberships and donations are tax-deductible

## Scanning The Globe

Special Project Committee for Caribbean Ospreys The Ospreys breeding in the Caribbean make up a separate subspecies, (*Pandion haliaetus ridgwayi*). These birds breed mostly in the Bahama Islands, Cuba, the coastal islands of Quintana Roo and Belize, and perhaps, as far east as the Virgin Islands.

They are generally considered a common resident in the region, but other than occasional notes concerning individual nests during single visits by an observer, no organized, systematic analysis of the status of this subspecies has ever been undertaken.

The Special Project Committee for Caribbean Ospreys, which was created at the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean Osprey Symposium last June, has set up a few guidelines that will lay the groundwork for establishing the status of this subspecies of Osprey. These guidelines are:

1. First of all, contact those individuals in the United States who would know the whereabouts of Osprey concentrations in the Caribbean or would know others living there who would have this information.
2. Concurrent with this would be the establishment of a communication network with individuals, universities and governments in the Caribbean concerning this subspecies of Osprey.
3. After establishing where the concentrations of nesting Ospreys are located, initiate a bi-annual survey to ascertain the reproductive status of these colonies.
4. Once this is accomplished, as interest grows in the region, more intensified monitoring of sample populations could be started and reported upon.

The status of these birds of prey in the Caribbean has been neglected for much too long a time and it is the goal of this Special Project Committee to look at this subspecies of (*Pandion Haliaetus*) more closely before it is too late. The committee is comprised of Mark Westall (chairperson), Jim Wiley, Art Renfro and Sonny Bass. Any information you may have that could help this committee achieve its goal would be greatly appreciated. Send correspondence concerning this project to any of the committee members or to the TIOF office.

**DDT in Zimbabwe** According to W.R. Thomson, Provincial Warden of Wankie National Park in Zimbabwe, DDT, Aldrin, Dieldrin and other related compounds are being applied in ever increasing quantities in Zimbabwe and several adjacent countries. During 1982, the application rate for DDT in Zimbabwe was approximately one metric ton per 390 sq. km. This application rate amounts to 96% of the average rate used in the United States during the heyday of its use, 1956-1970.

An overall analysis of egg-shell thickness for the African Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) shows that DDT residues are averaging over 60 p.p.m. and that 81.5% of the eggs produced today are 10% thinner than those produced prior to 1964.

There are no comparative studies available on the African Fish Eagle, but its congeneric cousin, the American Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), showed signs of reproductive failure when DDT residue levels exceeded 30 p.p.m. and when egg shell thinning was greater than 10%.

It is felt by some of Zimbabwe's senior agricultural scientists and administrators that "we have to have food in our bellies and shirts on our backs and if the cost of that achievement is the loss of our Fish Eagles, our Peregrines and other birds of prey which we never see anyway, then that must be the cost we should be prepared to pay . . ."

Although many third world countries are being faced with heavy pesticide contamination and are already exhibiting reproductive failure, there is still time to initiate their programs to halt the seemingly imminent destruction of their natural fauna and habitat. If these programs are to succeed, however, greater interest and participation by the Western World will be necessary.

(Editor's note: Much of the world's production of DDT occurs in American Factories.)

**Status of Rare Raptors in the USSR** The second edition of the Red Data Book of USSR includes eighteen species of birds of prey and one owl. Of particular interest to this newsletter, the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is considered rare with population declines. Probably not more than two thousand pairs inhabit the European part of USSR and less than ten thousand pairs inhabit the USSR as a whole. Measures to increase Osprey populations with the help of artificial nesting platforms are being taken, however.

The other species of birds of prey listed are Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*), Shikra (*Accipiter badius*), Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Steppe Eagle (*Aquila rapax*), Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Palla's Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*), White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Steller's Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*), Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*), Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*), Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and Blakiston's Fish Owl (*Ketupa blakistonii*).

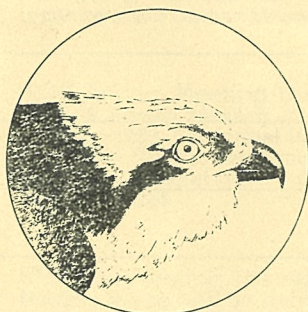
### EDITORS NOTE:

Even before TIOF's newsletter existed, several of you suggested that you would be interested in contributing newsworthy information from time to time that would help let others know what is being worked on concerning Ospreys or other birds of prey. Now that the newsletter is a reality, we at TIOF would be very pleased to hear from you.

From the first two newsletters, you should have an idea as to the content and size of articles we can use. We would also be interested in receiving any suggestions or "Letters to the Editor" for the newsletter. Suggestions will not be printed; "Letters to the Editor" will. I look forward to hearing from you.

## TIOF

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