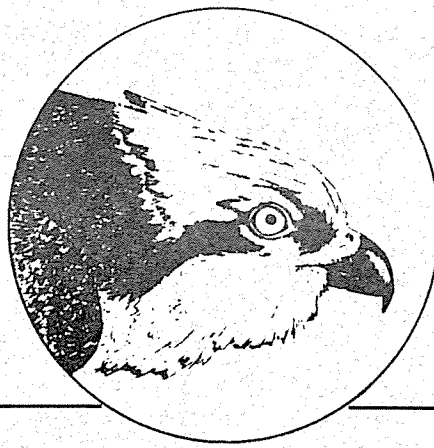


THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION



Osprey Observer

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

JUNE, 1995

Foundation Awards Not One But Two Grants in 1995

With nine worthy applicants from which to choose, The International Osprey Foundation board awarded \$1,000 endowments to two researchers this year, instead of the usual one. They are:

James Berkelman, a Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences.

Berkelman's project, entitled "Habitat Requirements of the Madagascar Fish Eagle" aims to identify areas of suitable Madagascar fish eagle habitat for protection and re-introduction. It also aims to prevent the extinction of the species and to conserve the wetland habitat it shares with other endangered birds, such as the Bernier's teal.

About The TIOF Grant

The endowment is awarded March 31 each year. The deadline for application is January 31. For endowment application information, or to support the endowment program, write:

International Osprey Foundation
P.O. Box 250 Sanibel, FL 33957

He has completed the first season of the study and measured habitat characteristics of the area used by eagles compared to randomly selected areas not used by the eagles.

Berkelman will use the funds for living expenses in the field during his project, which is estimated to cost \$5,282.

Kimberly J. Fernie is 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."

She will monitor wild kestrels breeding under EMF and non-EMF conditions and breed captive kestrels under similar conditions.

Fernie will compare 100 wild kestrel pairs using nestboxes erected on hydro poles around McGill University at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, with control nestboxes. She estimates her study to cost \$32,100.



TIOF CALENDAR

December 10

Nestwatch Volunteer Appreciation and Welcome Back Party

January 6

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

January 13

1996 Nestwatch season begins

January 31

Deadline for TIOF endowment applications

Help Needed With Display Case

A beautiful carving of an osprey by wildlife artist George Weymouth, formerly of Sanibel, has been donated to TIOF by Mrs. Ernest B. Wright, of Captiva.

Now we need a display case for the delicate work of art that is so detailed it can be shown as an educational exhibit when we attend area wildlife events.

A case made from plexiglass or another unbreakable material would be best since it will have to be transported from time to time. Is there a TIOF member who would undertake to design and make such a case? If so, please call the Westalls at 472-5218.

Tripod Platforms Need Extending - Ideas Welcome

Those tripod nesting platforms that have worked so well in the wetlands area off Dixie Beach Boulevard are now being overshadowed by tall trees. Ospreys like to nest where they have a clear view of the water, so these

platforms are not prime homesites any more.

We're looking for ideas for raising the height of these platforms. If you think you can help, call Mark Westall at 472-5218.

Thanks to Nestwatch Volunteers

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 1995.

(See 1995 nesting results, page 3)

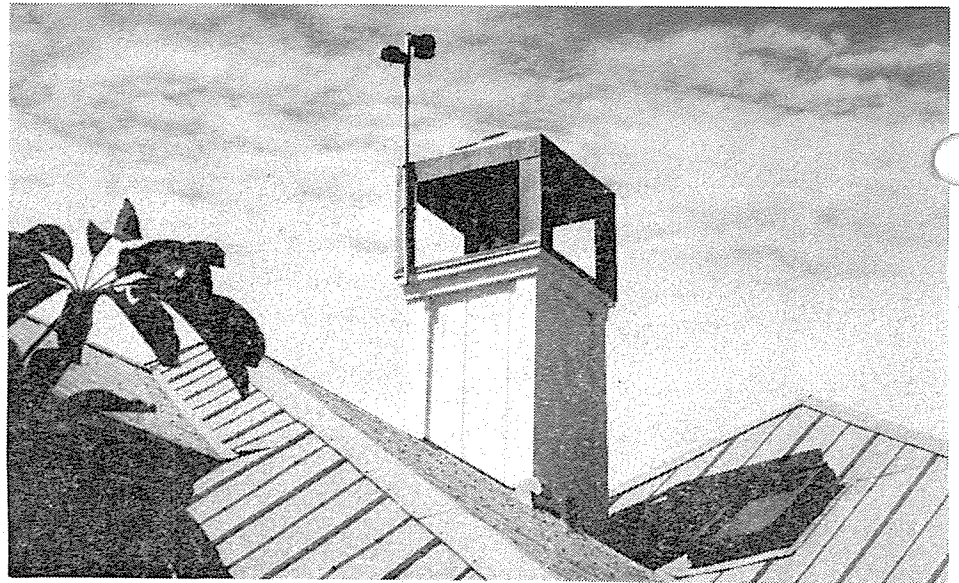
Someone Has An Eye On Your Chimney !

The islands' osprey population is becoming very adaptable to human presence and competition for nesting sites is fierce. Any place that offers a high vantage point is a potential nesting site for a determined pair of birds.

Those high places can include your chimney - as a number of Sanibel homeowners have discovered.

And if the ospreys lay eggs, you're stuck with an unusable fireplace for the winter and spring - until the chicks are reared and leave the nest.

Even then, you'll need two permits to remove the nest: a federal permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services and one from the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. In addition, the agencies require you to erect a replacement nesting structure "of comparable or better quality than the one removed or destroyed" in the immediate vicinity of the old nest if possible.



A chimney guard like this will deter even the most determined ospreys from nesting on your smokestack.

That seems like an awful lot of trouble. It's clear that keeping the birds off your chimney in the first place is the best policy. This can be done by installing a chimney cap that sloughs off nesting materials. It's a design originally developed for use on Useppa Island and since used successfully on several Sanibel homes.

The International Osprey Foundation has brochures detailing the design

of these chimney guards, along with Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission guidelines for nest removal and platform construction.

Remember, prevention is better than the cure. Act now, before a new nesting season gets underway in December.

For more information, write TIOF, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957 or call Mark Westall, 472-5218.

Anatomy of an Osprey Nest

A nestwatch volunteer shared with us an excerpt from a book about Hawk Mountain by Arthur Cleveland Bent. In it, Bent gives a list of the materials found in ospreys nests.

- ✎ Barrel Hoops
- ✎ Seaweed
- ✎ Masses of Kelp
- ✎ Corn Stalks
- ✎ Parts of Oars
- ✎ A Broken Boat Hook
- ✎ Tiller of a Boat
- ✎ A Small Rudder
- ✎ Large Pieces of Fish Net
- ✎ Pieces of Rope (some 20 feet)
- ✎ A Toy Boat with Sail
- ✎ Small Ax with Broken Handle
- ✎ Feather Duster
- ✎ Deck Swab
- ✎ Blacking Brush
- ✎ Boot Jack
- ✎ Rubber Boot
- ✎ Several Old Shoes
- ✎ Old Pair of Trousers
- ✎ Straw Hat
- ✎ Part of an Oilskin Sou'wester
- ✎ A long Fishing Line with Sinker and Hooks attached, wound on a board
- ✎ Old Bottles
- ✎ Tin Can
- ✎ Rag Doll
- ✎ Shells
- ✎ Brightly Colored Stones
- ✎ Small Fruit Basket
- ✎ Part of an Eel Pot
- ✎ Small Worn Out Door Mat
- ✎ Bird Wings
- ✎ Cattle Bones
- ✎ Sheep Skulls

TIOF Board

The membership of The International Osprey Foundations re-elected the following board members at the annual meeting March 26:

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 and Tad Sturgis. Erick Lindblat resigned due to other commitments.

In Memory of Frank Loy Irvin

We were saddened by the death May 25, 1994, at the age of 74, of Frank Loy Irvin of Sanibel, a former International Osprey Foundation board member.





**Photographs by
Claudia Burns**

Above left: A pair of ospreys busy building a nest at the start of the season. Above right: It's a long wait for an osprey parent sitting on the nest. Right: Two chicks, identifiable by the cream mottling on their wings, watch for a parent's arrival with food.

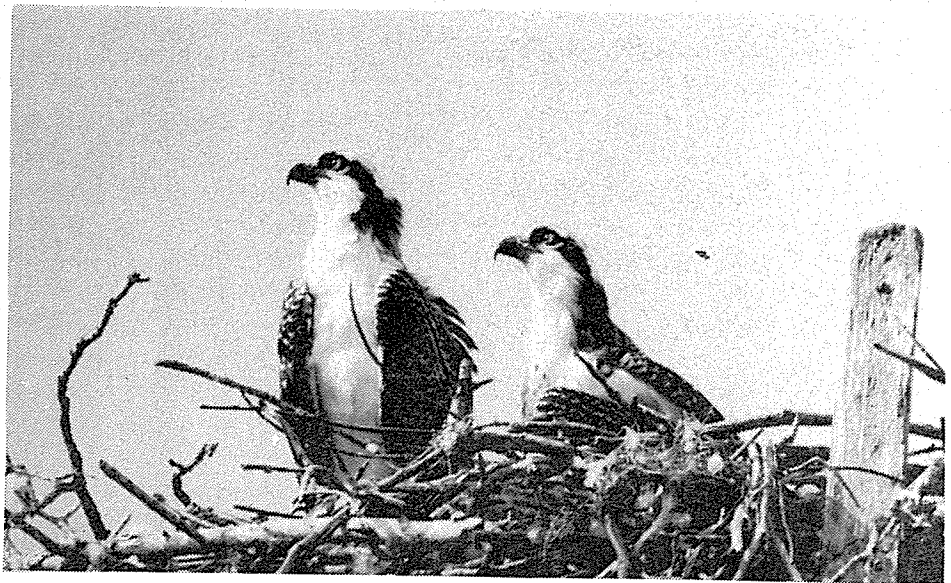
**Build It and They
Will Come**

TIOF board member Norman Bowles had been watching a pair of ospreys hanging around near his home in Gulf Pines for some time. They looked a likely pair for setting up housekeeping, but didn't seem to be able to find the right spot.

Norman decided to erect a platform in hopes of eventually attracting the birds to nest there, so he arranged to have a nesting pole installed on his property.

The ospreys knew a good thing when they saw it and within hours had started bringing in sticks.

Today, Norman is the proud "godfather" of two chicks which fledged successfully. The now vacated platform has become a hangout for other neighborhood ospreys. Looks as though there could be fierce competition for it next nesting season.



The New Generation

By the first week of May this year, more than 50 osprey chicks had fledged and at least 38 healthy-looking babies, still dependent on their parents for food, looked likely to follow suit in the following weeks.

The total for the 1995 nesting season was preliminary at press time, since there are a few late bloomers. However, if all the young survive and leave the nest, the total could be around 100 young ospreys added to the island population.

In addition, three horned owls were reared in one osprey territory. That's not the first time for the owls.

In 1994, about 82 chicks were produced in 51 platform nests, 15 natural nests and three on chimneys!

**New Home for
Osprey Family**

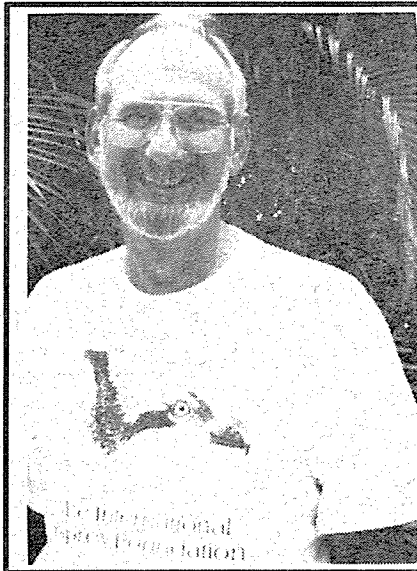
Many of you will have been watching with interest the outcome of the osprey nesting activity on Summerlin Road near Shell Point Village Boulevard. As you may recall, a pair of ospreys built a nest the year before on the overhead sign, but their efforts were unsuccessful.

A platform was erected by the Lee County Department of Transportation with the help of TIOF research director Mark Westall. A pair of ospreys quickly set up home there and laid eggs, but their efforts failed to produce any fledglings.

Chances are they will try again next season and, with more experience, may succeed in raising a family.

TIOF Goes Online!

As of April 20
TIOF joined the
information superhigh-
way. Worldwide
subscribers to America
Online can now learn
about the foundation or
message us at
TIOFSANCAP
@aol.com.



TIOF T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

COST: \$12.50 each. Includes shipping & 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

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 | |

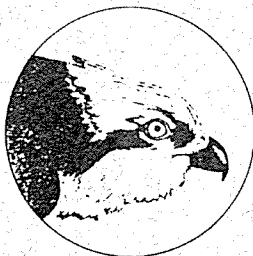
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTRY _____

ALL MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
MAIL TO: TIOF • P.O. BOX 250 • SANIBEL, FL 33957, USA



TIOF
P.O. Box 250
Sanibel Island, FL 33957
(941) 472-5218

Please Forward

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SANIBEL, FL.
PERMIT NO. 2