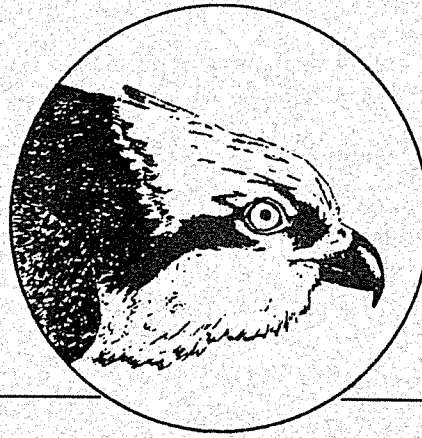


# THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION



# Osprey Observer

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

MARCH, 2002

## Birding guide to speak at TIOF annual meeting March 24

Birding guide Martin Packard will be the guest speaker at The International Osprey Foundation's annual meeting on Sunday, March 24. His talk will be entitled, "A Journey to Sanibel."

Packard first visited Sanibel in 1973 to bird watch. He visited annually thereafter until 1986 when he became a winter resident. For eight years he led private birdwatching trips as a fundraiser for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

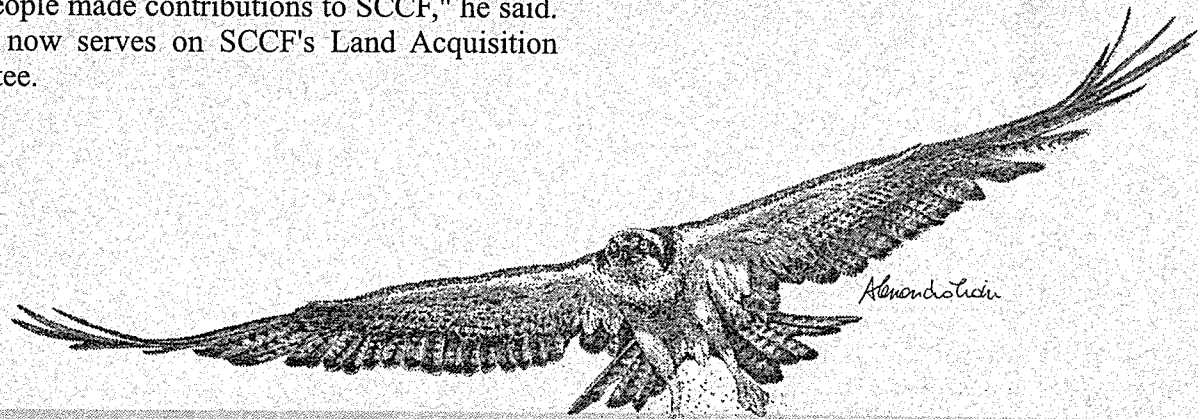
"It allowed me to indulge in my hobby and in return people made contributions to SCCF," he said. Packard now serves on SCCF's Land Acquisition Committee.

In the last five years his interests have turned to butterflies, which he considers more challenging than birdwatching.

"There's less to see and more detail to look for," he said.

A University of Michigan law school graduate, Packard is now a commercial Realtor. He is past president of the Art Museum in Grand Rapids.

The annual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Community House on Periwinkle Way, Sanibel.



### Another nesting season is in full swing

This is such an exciting time of year because it is another osprey nesting season here in south Florida! This is a thrilling time for all of us; it is truly an honor to have the opportunity to observe and monitor the ospreys, their nesting, the arrival of their chicks, and the chicks as they grow into adulthood.

I would like to begin our Newsletter for 2002 with the International Osprey Foundation's Mission Statement:

**"The International Osprey Foundation is dedicated to the continuing recovery and preservation of the osprey, others in the raptor family, wildlife and the environment as a whole."**

Ospreys are an "indicator species." If anything negative occurs in the environment, the osprey population plummets. When the partnership between predators and prey is operating efficiently, a balance is maintained in their populations. Predators depend upon prey for their food supply. In turn, the population of the prey is strengthened, as the sick and weak are taken out. This leaves the strongest ones to reproduce. Without predators, the numbers of the prey species would quickly overpopulate, causing overcrowding, disease, and starvation.

Raptors are especially valuable to people as an important source of rodent control. When something disrupts the food chain at the bottom, it is magnified at

*(continued on page 2)*

## Many hands help ospreys on Marco

On Marco Island, a newspaper columnist, the Boy Scouts and the island police department joined forces (with a little help from TIOF) to build two osprey platforms.

Chris Curle, of the Marco Island Eagle, wanted to help ospreys after she learned that a light pole that ospreys nested on had been torn down for development.

She contacted TIOF to learn how to provide suitable nests and with the help of Scout Troop 234 and the police, two new platforms were erected. One is on a channel marker in Landmark Bay; the other is on a dock piling near her home. True Value Hardware donated and cut the wood, Collier Fencing gave chain link fence to form a porous base on the platforms, the Boy Scouts assembled the structures and the police officers erected them.

According to Ted Below, with the Audubon Society of Collier County, as quoted in the Marco Eagle, ospreys built 38 nests around the island last year and fledged 43 chicks, down from 52 chicks the previous year.



*(continued from page 1)*

each succeeding level. When it reaches the top, the disturbance appears as a major environmental disruption. This makes raptors and other predators especially vulnerable when the food chain becomes unbalanced; this is why raptors serve as an important environmental barometer.

This year we will begin our 21st year of having a very active Nestwatch program on Sanibel Island, Florida.

It is always exciting for all of the Nestwatchers to get out early in the morning with their individual groups and check all of last year's locations and, along-the-way, look for newly-established nesting locations. Learning to interpret the osprey's different behaviors is perhaps the most fascinating aspect of nestwatching.

We have five groups of volunteers that will be checking over 100 nests every other week from

January until the end of May and maybe even into early June. Very exciting! Last year we fledged exactly 100 babies from these monitored platform nests and natural nests.

Unfortunately, we did lose a few babies as a result of bad weather, falling out of nests, and a few to unknown causes.

On behalf of all of the ospreys, I would like to thank each of the nestwatchers for participating in this program. It is a marvelous, rewarding program and particularly so because of the many enthusiastic, supportive volunteers.

Thank you for all of your efforts, and happy osprey watching!

Sincerely,  
**Tim Gardner,**  
President

### **TIOF life members**

Congressman and Mrs. Porter Goss  
Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz  
Dr. Harvey Rothstein  
Mr. Charles Rubright  
Mr. Jim Fowler, San-Cap Nature  
Calendar  
Ms. Margaret Smith

### **Way to go, R.I.**

Rhode Island ospreys broke records last summer with a dramatic increase in the number of active nests and young produced. Of 77 active nests, 65 were successful. The birds fledged 116 young.

According to the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, there were only about a dozen active nests in 1978 and about 16 chicks produced

### **Thanks, Audubon**

TIOF would like to thank the Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society for a donation of \$100.

Paul Andrews, Audubon president, said the organization uses donations from participants in its winter programs to help other organizations which share its concern for protecting wildlife.

### **TIOF Board**

Tim Gardner - president  
Anne Mitchell - vice president  
Inge Glissman - treasurer/secretary  
Mark "Bird" Westall - project director  
Jerry Nickerson - Webmaster  
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## Sanibel ospreys make full recovery

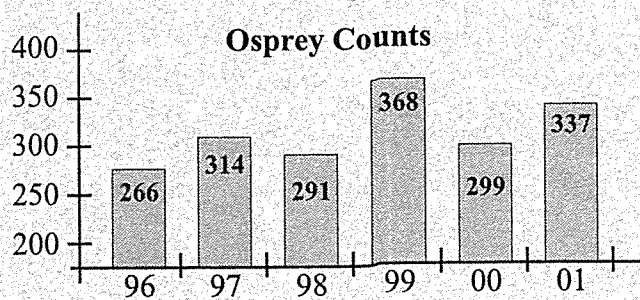
Some 69 active nests produced 100 osprey chicks during the 2001 nesting season on Sanibel, the highest number fledged in recent years.

The success of last year's nesting season indicates a full recovery from the 1997 season, when only 33 chicks survived. Red tide is thought to be a factor in the poor survival rate. Chick production has continued to rise steadily since that devastating year.

However, red tide has been reported in Southwest Florida's Gulf waters through much of 2001, and to date is still present, though seemingly not as severe as in 1997. It will be interesting to see whether red tide will affect 2002 nesting results.

## High on ospreys

More than 330 ospreys were spotted during the 2001 Audubon Annual Christmas Bird Count on Sanibel and Captiva Islands, Florida. Some other species, including gulls, also had high counts for the day.



## Research endowments

TIOF has awarded \$13,000 in endowments since the grant program began in 1990. Deadline for application is Jan. 31 each year. For details, write TIOF at PO Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957.

Previous recipients:

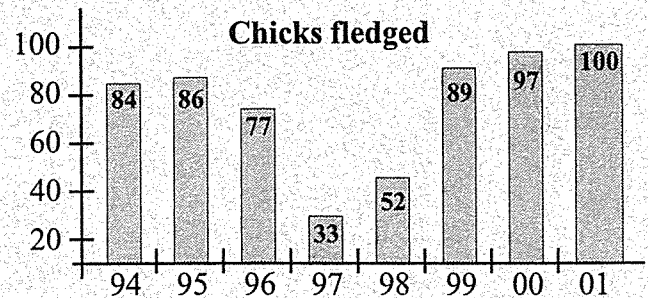
**2000 - Frank Quamen**, College Of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point for project, "Factors Influencing Nest Site Selection and Reproductive Success Of Ospreys In Wisconsin"; also **Michelle Donaghy Cannon**, Jonesboro, Arkansas, for project, "Ecological Correlates and Benefits of Cooperative Polyandry in the Galapagos Hawk."

**1999 - Sarah M. Karpanty**, State University of New York at Stonybrook, for "A Survey of the Diurnal Raptor Communities of Four Reserves in Madagascar."

**1998 - Dale Trexel**, University of Minnesota in St. Paul, for a study, "Genetic Population Structure in the Swainson's Hawks".

**1997 - Todd Katzner**, Arizona State University for raptor conservation studies in North-Central Kazakstan, home of four eagle species.

**1996 - Irina Utekhina**, Institute of Biological Problems of the North Magadan State Preserve in N.E. Siberia, for aerial surveys



## Web sites worth watching

[www.enature.com/](http://www.enature.com/)

This is a GREAT web site run by the National Wildlife Federation. It has all the Audubon Field Guides with search capabilities and a way to sort by zip code -- and much more besides.

[www.ospreys@sancap.com](http://www.ospreys@sancap.com)

This, of course, is the official Web site of The International Osprey Foundation. It contains lots of great osprey photographs from around the world, instructions for constructing an osprey nesting platform, and information about the species. Be sure to check out our Guest Book to see what others are saying about our Web site, and please sign in yourself.

of ospreys and Steller's sea eagles in N.E. Siberia since 1991.

**1995 - James Berkelman**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences for "Habitat Requirements of the Madagascar Fish Eagle"; and **Kimberly J. Fernie**, a Ph.D. candidate at McGill University, Dept. of Natural Resource Sciences, Wildlife Biology Program for study titled, "Effects of Electromagnetic Fields Generated by Powerlines on Avian Reproduction and Development".

**1994 - Lauren N. Gilson**, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. Grant to fund radio transmitters and field housing in study, "Behavioral Strategy Selection in Juvenile Ospreys at Gascade Reservoir".

**1993 - Ruth Anne Elbert**, University of California, Davis, for project, "The Use of Avian Indicator Species to Monitor Environmental Mercury Exposure." Study area: Clear Lake, Calif.

**1992 - Michael McMillian**, University of West Florida, for studies into the effects of pesticides on reproduction on Lake Istokpoga, Fla.

**1991 - David J. Green**, Simon Frazer University, Vancouver, Canada, for study of female osprey production decisions and male parental effort.

**1990 - Gustavo Danemann**, Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, Marine Biology Dept., La Paz, Mexico, for study of ospreys in coastal lagoons of Baja California, Mexico.



The International  
Osprey Foundation  
Sanibel

### T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Our popular T-shirts in white, 100% cotton feature a large osprey head in brown with yellow eye. Price is \$15 each including shipping. The Ikki Matsumoto poster depicts an osprey.

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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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Check Membership Category:

- |                                  |  |
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| ____ 3. Sustaining - \$25        | ____ 7. Life - \$500                             |
| ____ 4. Supporting - \$50        | ____ 8. Student ( To Under-graduate level) - \$8 |
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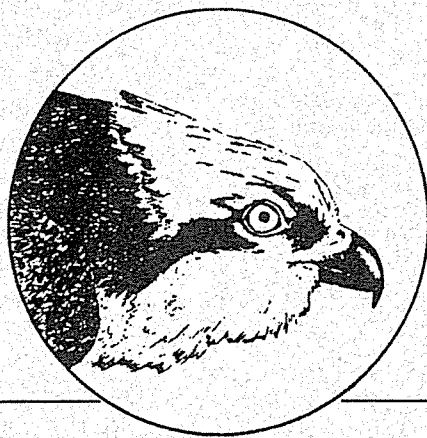
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# THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION



## International Newsletter

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

MARCH, 2002

### ARE SOUTH FLORIDA OSPREYS MIGRATORY?

The answer is 'yes'... and 'no'

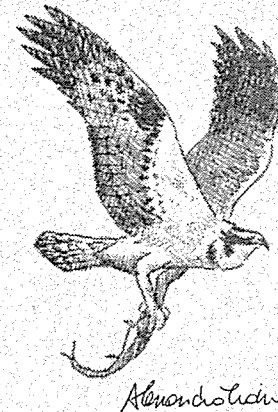
By Mark "Bird" Westall,  
TIOF Project Director

When Mark Martell began using GPS transmitters to monitor osprey migration patterns about seven years ago, several interesting patterns emerged from his studies. For example, specific flyways were more accurately identified and Cuba was discovered as a major layover site for many ospreys on their long trek to South America.

But conventional wisdom had established that South Florida ospreys were non-migratory and year-round residents of the sunshine state. That was until Martell was invited down to Lake Istopoka near Sebring, Florida, by Mike McMillian. McMillian is a past recipient of The International Osprey Foundation Research Grant and has worked with ospreys at the lake for many years now. Four female birds were trapped at the lake in the late '90s and towards the end of July all four left South Florida and migrated to South America.

This revelation generated much excitement at the headquarters of TIOF on Sanibel Island, Florida, and the next year Martell, McMillian and other associates trapped three birds (two females and a male) here on Sanibel. One female went up the west coast and spent the summer at Tampa Bay and the other stayed at the Port St. Lucie Lagoon on the east coast. The male spent the entire summer around Sanibel.

Work is continuing, but the boundaries separating the ospreys which migrate from those which do not have become much more difficult to identify. This just shows that there is always something more to learn about these magnificent birds of prey.



### Urbino proceedings available

The twelve original papers presented at the International Raptor Conference in Urbino, Italy, in 1996 have been published in Die Vogelwelt. The papers relate to various osprey research projects in Europe.

Copies of Die Vogelwelt are available for Euro 20,000 (plus overseas postage), by contacting: e-mail: [vertrieb@AULA-Verlag.de](mailto:vertrieb@AULA-Verlag.de); or by writing AULA-Verlag, Industriepark 3, D-56291 Wiebelsheim, Germany, tel: +49 (0)6766/903-141; or fax: +49 (0)6766/903-320

### Raptor meeting set for October 24-27, 2002 in Panama City

The Peregrine Fund and Fondo Peregrino Panamá invites scientists, conservationists, resource managers, falconers, representatives of zoos, government and non-governmental organizations, and other persons and institutions with an interest in research and/or conservation of birds of prey in Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in a meeting to share knowledge, interests, and concerns and help develop a network of practitioners in the fields of raptor conservation, research, captive-breeding, and falconry.

The meeting will include:

- A one-day symposium dedicated to Harpy Eagle research, conservation, and captive breeding
- A symposium dedicated to raptor migration in the Neotropics
- A workshop to develop a network of practitioners in the field of raptor research and conservation.

For information contact: Neotropical Raptor Conference, The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID 83709, USA, Tel: 208-362-3717; Fax: 208-362-2376; E-mail: [tpf@peregrinefund](mailto:tpf@peregrinefund)

Reservations at the Holiday Inn, Panama City, may be made by calling 507-206-5555 or by e-mail to [mmancuso@holidayinnpanama.com](mailto:mmancuso@holidayinnpanama.com).

The United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, maintains a Raptor Information System database of articles and papers.

This bibliography of 2001 articles is drawn from that database, <http://nighthawk.boisestate.edu/ris/>

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