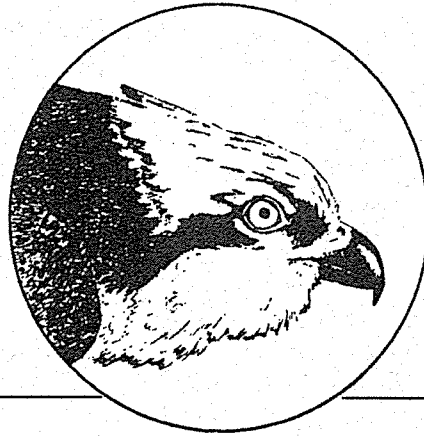


THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION



Osprey Observer

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

MARCH, 2003

P. J. Dietschel of CROW to be keynote speaker at osprey foundation annual meeting March 30

CROW staff veterinarian P.J. Dietschel will talk about the growing incidence of wildlife injuries when she gives the keynote address at TIOF's annual meeting.

Dietschel, who joined Sanibel's Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife in November, 1998, said the volume of critters CROW handles has increased nearly 100 percent in that time. Last year, CROW treated 3,400 critters found injured around Lee County. That was 500 more than the previous year. Ospreys make up a small part of the total, but not an insignificant one.



P. J. Dietschel prepares an injured hawk for feeding at CROW.

"They are difficult patients," says Dietschel. "There are unique aspects of rehabbing ospreys, which I will talk about." For instance, they are hard to feed in captivity. "We always cringe a bit when we get one in."

Dietschel will show slides to illustrate her talk, which will be geared to introducing people to CROW and its work. She said she'll allow time for questions afterwards.

Dietschel is a native of

New Mexico who studied at Colorado State Veterinary School. She's been a wildlife rehabilitator for 20 years. Before coming to Sanibel on an externship - and then getting hired - she worked at a facility that handled about 8,000 animals a year.

The annual meeting will take place Sunday, March 30 at Sanibel Community House, Periwinkle Way, starting at 7 p.m.

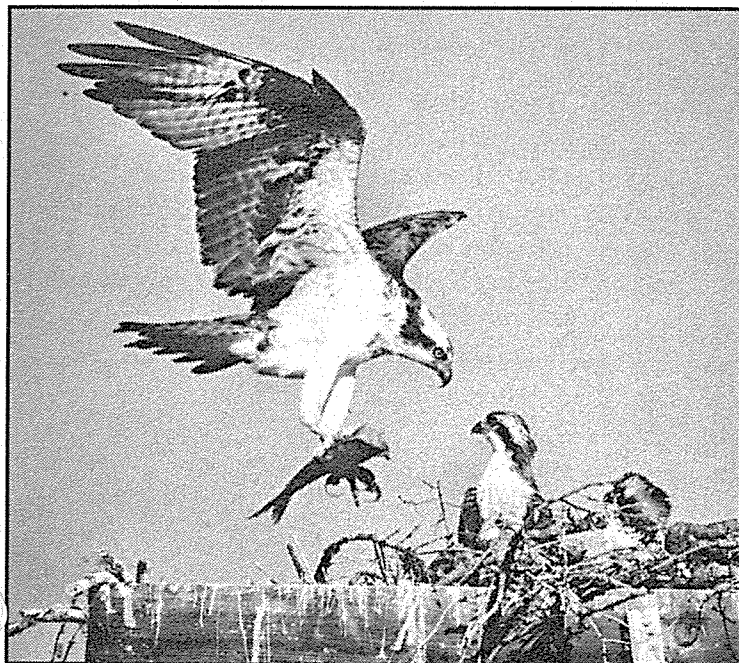
There will be a brief board meeting prior to the program. Admission is free for TIOF members. A

Keep an eye out for banded ospreys

It's been about 14 years since TIOF last banded any osprey chicks.

Now project director Mark "Bird" Westall would like to know if any of those birds are still around.

If you spot an osprey with a band or bands, please take note of the color(s), which leg the bands are on, and e-mail the information to ospreys.com or

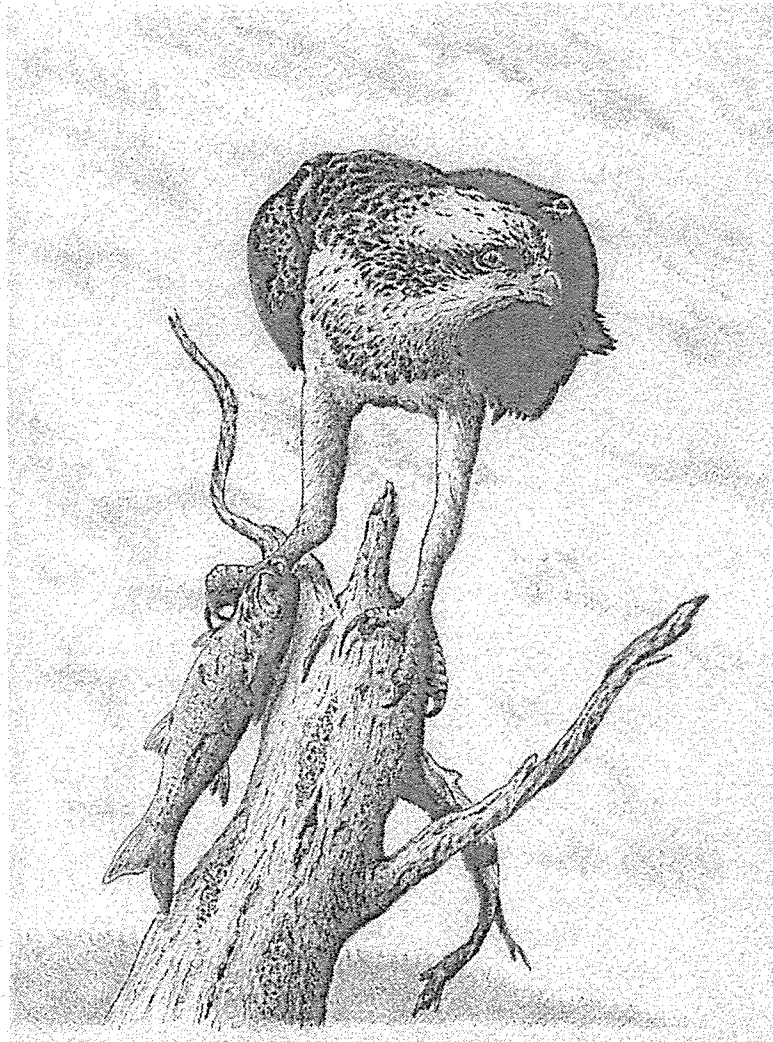


This osprey bringing fish to its chicks was photographed in Polson, Montana, by Pamela Moriarty in July 2002.

Letters

I live over on the bay side of the island (Sanibel) and have enjoyed watching a pair of ospreys nest on the chimney of two different homes over the past two years. That is, until this winter. After each nesting season the chimneys were capped. It was somewhat disheartening to see them searching for a place this fall. I have a coconut palm in my backyard that they often meet at and sit side by side. (I did notice a couple of ospreys here in the summer but don't know if they are the same ones). Are there any plans to install a platform in this area? Will look forward to a reply.

M. White



Alison de la Cruz

Island osprey population healthy

Sanibel produced 96 osprey chicks in 2002, a healthy number that indicates a stable population.

That's a similar number to those fledged in the past four years, which have ranged from 89 to 100.

Nestwatch volunteers checked 87 nests last year, 37 natural and 50 on platforms.

From our guestbook

"This website is so great! It's so cool that you want to save the ospreys! I am only 12, but I understand how important the preservation of our wildlife is. Ospreys are my favorite thing in the whole world and I thank you for helping to save them. Good luck in the future!"

Heather Clever, Mohave Valley, AZ

TIOF online

TIOF has a new web address.
Visit us at www.ospreys.com

Web sites worth watching

North American Migration Flyways
www.birdnature.com/flyways.html

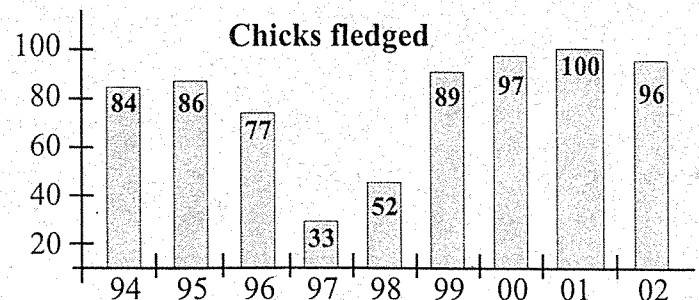
Cape Coral osprey cam and eagle cam
www.capecoralgov.org

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

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Ospreys around Southwest Florida

Pine Island

Report area: My 24 nests were spread over a 12 mile area which included 19 sites in St. James City and Pine Island Center on Pine Island and 5 sites in Matlacha.

Of these 24 sites, 11 were manmade poles w/ wooden platforms, 5 were manmade poles with dish attachments, 2 were platforms attached to radio towers, 2 were in light poles, and 4 were in trees.

Nineteen sites out of 24 showed some activity during the season. 15 (out of 19) produced chicks, a total of 30 chicks fledged. I had 5 nests that (each) produced 3 chicks.

Bonnie Edmond

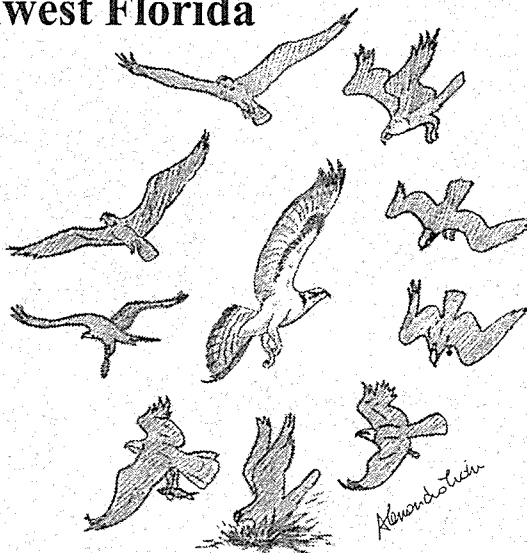
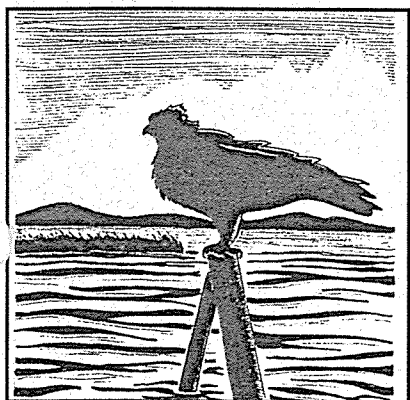
Marco Island

There are approximately 51 active nests according to Ted Below, Audubon president, who with his wife monitors the ospreys and most of the shore bird population.

In and around Marco and the Ten Thousand Islands, the osprey population is one of the few species that has increased over the past five years and now has leveled off at a good number.

*Chris Curle
Marco Island*

Source: 2002 nesting season reports



Pine Island (2)

Platforms: 20
Natural nests in Norfolk pines: 8
Chimney nests: 2
Dock tables: 1
Channel markers: 1
TOTAL: 32
Active sites: 29
Birds fledged: 40

We had a dramatic increase in eagles this year and the osprey were often fighting with them for their fish. There was an increase this year in the time it took ospreys to return to their nests with fish. When I was out on my boat it was common to see ospreys drop their fish into the water in order to escape one or two eagles. I am not sure if there were also fewer fish for them to catch.

I had four nests that I assumed were abandoned when, much to my surprise, on a visit in early April there were two or three large chicks.

I had a great year. In addition to watching these birds up close and for long periods of time, I also enjoyed photographing them and meeting lots of people who had great stories to tell me about the birds, early days on the island, as well as their problems with the osprey.

Let's hope that a group doesn't surface who wants to stop the growth of ospreys and eagles!

Marsha Perlman

Channel markers

May 28, 2002 — "The ospreys have pretty much all fledged and left their nests. Occasionally we see some activity at the nests - mostly the youngsters looking for a parent to bring something to the nest. If you watch you sometimes see chicks getting a flying or a fishing lesson from a parent - great fun the watch.

Major thanks to all of you who contributed to the osprey watch by filling out the osprey tracking forms we kept in the wheel house of the Lady Chadwick.

Tracking was especially exciting during late April and early May when the chicks fledged"

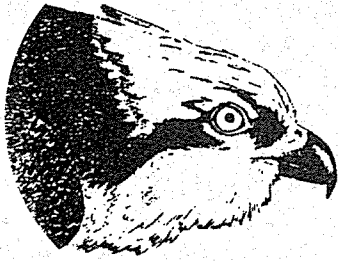
*Stuart Stauss,
Captiva Cruises Osprey Watch,
Channel markers,
Pine Island Sound*

Stauss reported that his data is incomplete but that a total of nine nests on channel markers are known to have fledged 10 chicks, possibly 12.

Thanks to LCEC

The board of The International Osprey Foundation would like to say a big "thank you" to Lee County Electric Co-op for all its help over the years with out nesting program. LCEC is always ready to erect new osprey platforms, generously donating the poles and materials as well.

LCEC's assistance goes way back - to when TIOF had a chick banding program, by offering the use of its cherry picker.



The International
Osprey Foundation
Sanibel

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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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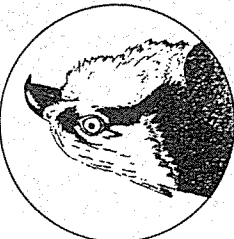
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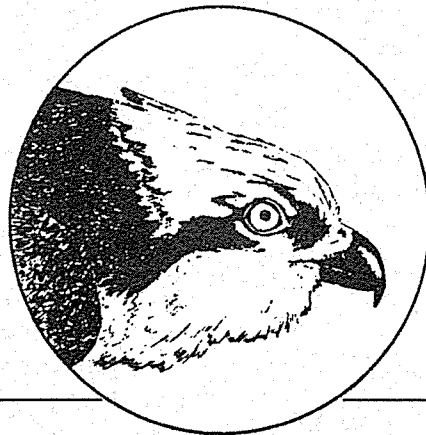
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THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION



International Newsletter

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

MARCH, 2003

West Nile Virus affects U.S. raptors

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine received reports last summer from all over the Midwest about raptors sick or dead from the West Nile virus.

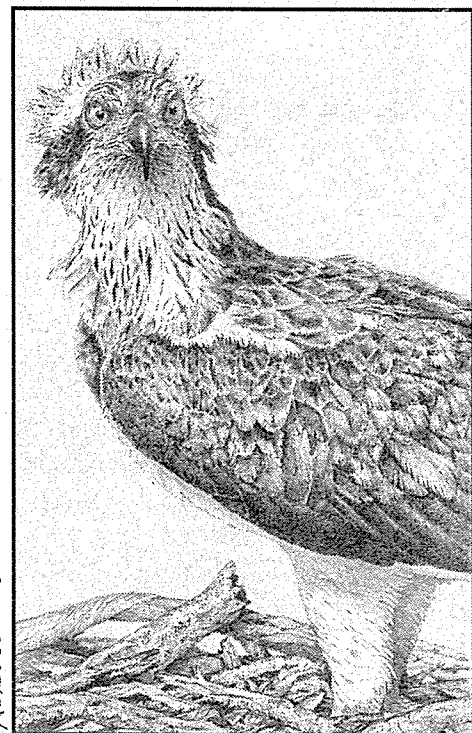
Confirmed cases of West Nile virus causing death in raptors in Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Minnesota were reported, said Dr. Pat Redig, The Raptor Center's director.

Kathryn A. Converse, wildlife disease specialist with the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wis., said her organization had received reports of in-

creasing numbers of raptors being picked up sick or dead in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Iowa. "Ohio has reported well over 100 great horned owls and red-tailed hawks, and each of the other states have estimated dozens of birds," she said.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, each of the contiguous states except Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Washington had suspected or confirmed cases of West Nile virus in birds as of Aug. 21, 2002. Raptor species reported to the Centers for Disease Control's West Nile Virus avian mortality database include bald

(continued page 3)



World raptor conference set for May 18-23 in Budapest

At the invitation of BirdLife Hungary, the 6th World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls will be held May 18-23, 2003 in Budapest, Hungary. All persons interested in Falconiformes and Strigiformes are invited, whether or not they are members of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls.

The keynote address at the opening of the conference will be given by Prof. Ian Newton on "Population Limitation in Owls". Prof. Claus König will give another keynote

address entitled "Are Owls 'Stepchildren' in Ornithology?" The paper will point up the gaps existing in our knowledge on owl biology and taxonomy.

Prof. Claus König and Ingrid König will present two of their films, "Owls in the Mist" on a new Montane forest Screech Owl in Argentina, and "Extremadura - Land of Storks and Vultures."

The conference will take place in the Hotel Agro Conference Centre in Svabhegy, the highest point of the hilly district of Buda, with a panoramic view of Budapest and on the edge of forest full of bird life.

Info: E-mail: wwgbp@aol.com
Internet: www.Raptors-International.de/; and
www.egroups.com/group/raptor-conservation/

- Registration fee is Euros 350/US.300/ GBP 210/HUF 85.00 effective January 2003.
- After March 31, registration will be Euros 410 / US\$360/GBP255/HUF102,000.
- All enquiries should be addressed to: WWGBP, P.O. Box 52, Towcester NN12 7ZW, England
Tel. and Fax: ++44-1604-86 23 31
- E-mail: wwgbp@aol.com and robin.chancellor@virgin.net

Osprey Bibliography

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 recent articles was drawn from that database, <http://nighthawk.boisestate.edu/ris/> in January 2003 and includes publications listed since TIOF's March 2002 newsletter was published.

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TIOF online — TIOF has a new web address.

Ospreys return to their old Kentucky home

In 1986, Kentucky had its first successful osprey nest after about fifty years without a single documented nest.

An osprey restoration project, started in the early 1980s in Kentucky, is proving to be very successful, especially at Lake Barkley.

Record numbers of nesting ospreys were documented the summer of 2002 during an annual Lake Barkley Osprey Nesting Survey starting at Barkley Lodge near Cadiz, Ky. This summer public participants assisted in counting 115 ospreys in the Kentucky portion of Lake Barkley. Sixty-five of the ospreys observed were adults and 49 were young ospreys hatched this year. One osprey was too far away to age.

Last year's survey totaled 89 ospreys including 46 adults, 37 young and six un-aged. Of 33 nests counted this season, at least 25 produced young ospreys.

So far only a few pairs of ospreys are known to nest throughout the rest of Kentucky.

The Lake Barkley Osprey Nesting Survey, conducted each summer in early July, is open to the public on an advance registration basis for a limited number of participants. The survey is conducted in cooperation with the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Most ospreys depart Kentucky for their southern wintering areas during the last part of September through early October.

Research endowments

TIOF has awarded \$16,000 in endowments since the grant program began in 1990. Deadline for application is Jan. 31 each year. For details about applying for the \$1,000 grants, write:

TIOF at P.O. 250, Sanibel, FL 33957 or e-mail tim@islandwater.com

Previous recipients:

2002 - Ruth E. Tingay for "Population Dynamics and Behavioral Ecology of the Critically Endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle: Implications for Conservation."

2001 - Dr. Mark Martell and Michael McMillian

2000 - Frank Quamen

and **Michelle Donaghy Cannon**

1999 - Sarah M Karpantuf • 1998 - Dale Trexel

1997 - Todd Katzner • 1996 - Irina Utekhina

1995 - James Berkelman and Kimberly J. Fernie

1994 - Lauren N. Gilson • 1993 - Ruth Anne Ebert

1992 - Michael McMillian • 1991 - David J. Green

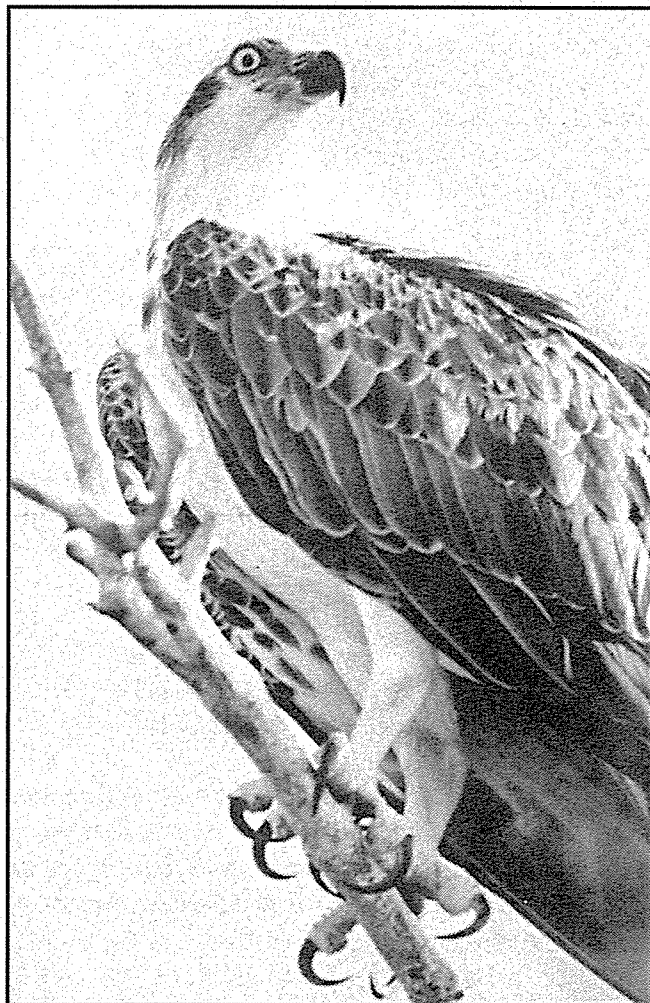
West Nile Virus (continued from front page)

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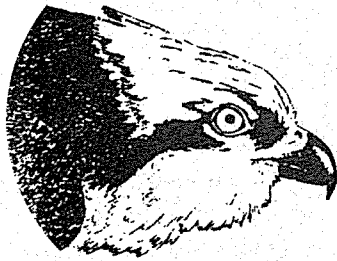
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This perched osprey was captured on film at Seawater Farms, Eritrea. The photographer was Jugal Kishor Tiwari, an ecologist there.



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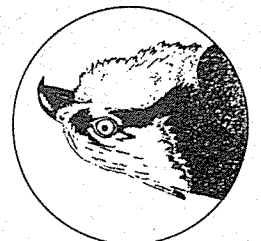
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