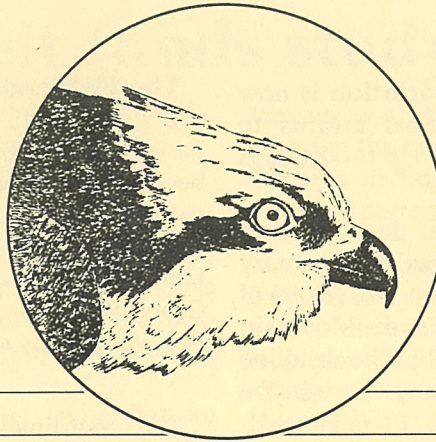


The International Osprey Foundation



Newsletter

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER, 1990

Ten years of data show highs and lows of Sanibel Island Osprey population

The International Osprey Foundation has collected ten years of nesting data which show that despite the ravages of an El Nino year, the Osprey population of Sanibel Island has continued to flourish. The number of occupied nesting territories has continued to grow and the island's Osprey population remains fairly stable.

"The figures show the Ospreys are producing more young each year, which means the population is maintaining healthy levels," notes Mark Westall, TIOF project director.

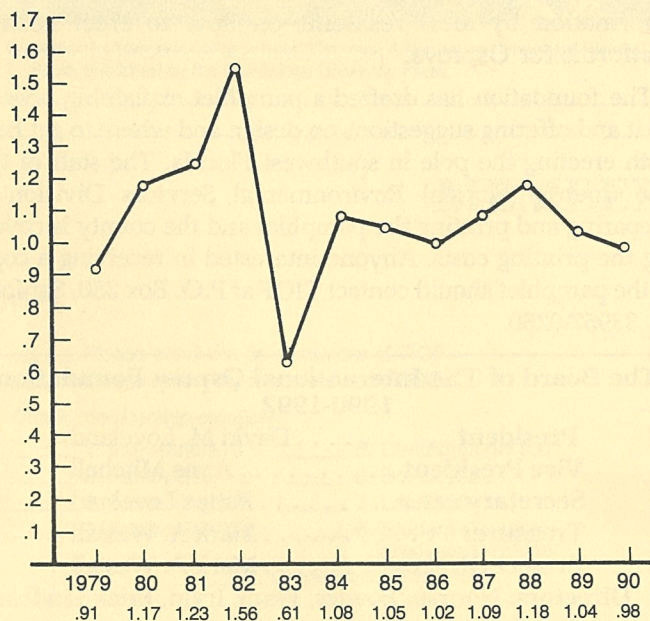
The island has a young per active nest ratio of 0.98 for

natural and artificial nests combined, which is within the 0.95-1.30 that's considered necessary for a stable population in the northern United States, where migratory Ospreys nest. In fact, Sanibel's birds could probably thrive on a lower young per active ratio because they are a non-migratory population with a lower mortality rate than migratory birds, said Westall.

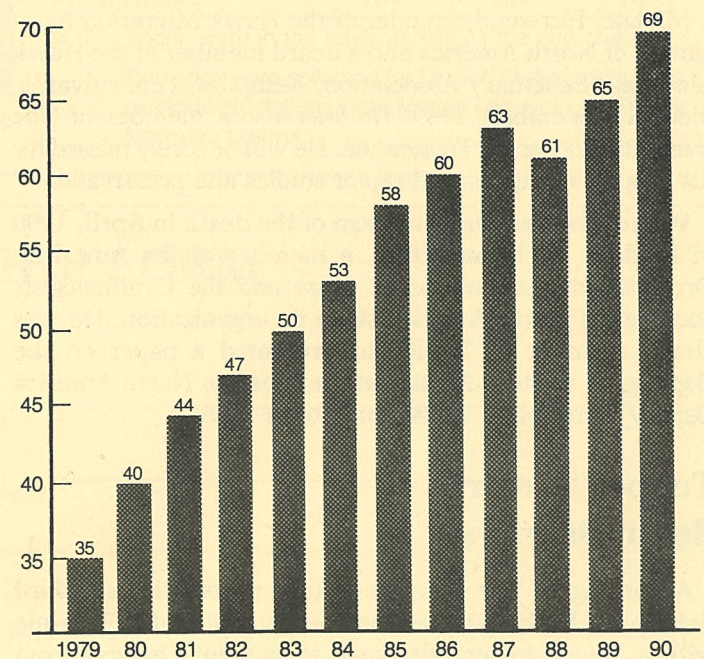
What's also helping the island Ospreys, he said, is the large number of artificial nest sites, which produce more young per active nest than do the natural sites.

YOUNG PER ACTIVE NEST 1979 - 1990

The effects of El Nino's record rainfall on the productivity of Osprey nests on Sanibel Island in 1983 are shown quite dramatically in this graph. In the winter of 1983, 28 inches of rain fell on Sanibel, 18 inches more than normal.



NUMBER OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES 1979 - 1990



Announcements

The Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association is now accepting applications for the 14th annual awards to support student research on birds of prey. Up to \$2,000 is available for one or two recipients.

Student applicants should submit a brief description of the research program (5 pp max), a CV, budget summary and details of other funding anticipated, plus two letters of recommendation to: James Bednarz, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Assn., Rt. 2, Kempton, PA 19529. The deadline is November 15, 1990. Applications from anywhere in the world will be accepted.

Support for this award comes from Carl Zeiss Optical, Inc.

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"Bald Eagles in Alaska" is the title of a symposium to be held November 8-10, 1990 in Juneau, Alaska. It will discuss what is known of bald eagle history, ecology, management and value to man in Alaska and adjacent Canada.

For information contact Phillip F. Schempf, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 21287, Juneau, AK 99802 (tel. 907-586-7243 or James G. King, 1700 Branta Road, Juneau, AK 99803 (tel.) 907-789-7540.

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Up to 20 seasonal biological technicians will be hired between February 15 and July 15, 1991 to help with research in the **Snake River Birds of Prey Area** near Boise, Idaho. Raptors, prey and vegetation will be studied.

For information on how to apply, contact Michael N. Kochert, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Avenue., Boise, ID 83705.

The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service will be 25 years old this fall. It has been located at 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, MD 20814 since 1983. It has become the repository for reports and publications on natural resource education material including theses and reports from the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, research documents from the Endangered Species Grant Program, Endangered Species technical bulletins, Recovery Plans and many other publications.

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The coordination and conduct of basic and applied raptor research and technology transfer is one of the benefits of a newly-established **Raptor Research and Technical Assistance Center** at Boise State University.

Close ties will be maintained between the center and the graduate programs of the academic institutions involved. The focus during the 1990's will be studying the impacts of military activities in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area and meeting the raptor habitat management needs of the Bureau of Land Management throughout the western United States.

The center comprises seven cooperating entities: Bureau of Land Management, Boise State University, University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Peregrine Fund.

For more information, contact Richard R. Olendorf, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705 or Tom J. Cade, Dept. of Biology, Boise State University, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83726.

Obituaries

Michael Harwood, founder of the Hawk Migration Association of North America and a board member of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Kempton, Pennsylvania, died in November, 1989. He was also a member of The International Osprey Foundation. He will be sorely missed for his support of raptors and raptor studies and preservation.

We are also saddened to learn of the death in April, 1990 of Frederic N. Hamerstrom, a member of the American Ornithologists Unions for 51 years and the Ornithologists Societies of North America since its organization. He was also a member of TIOF and presented a paper on the Ospreys of western Mexico at the Western North America Osprey Symposium in Sacramento in 1985.

Teepee towers deter Ospreys

According to The Peregrine Fund newsletter, standard flat-topped hacking towers have been replaced in Virginia with a "teepee tower" designed to prevent Ospreys from nesting on them. The nesting Ospreys were keeping peregrines from using the hacking towers.

County helps produce pamphlet on Osprey platforms

The International Osprey Foundation is often asked for information by local residents on how to erect nesting platforms for Ospreys.

The foundation has drafted a pamphlet explaining how to do it and offering suggestions on design and where to get help with erecting the pole in southwest Florida. The staff of the Lee County (Florida) Environmental Services Division is preparing and printing the pamphlet and the county is covering the printing costs. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the pamphlet should contact TIOF at P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957-0250.

The Board of The International Osprey Foundation 1990-1992

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TIOF's first grant funds study in Baja

Applications being sought for 1991 funds

Gustavo D. Danemann, a thesis-researcher with the Seabird Program at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur, Marine Biology Department in La Paz, Mexico, was awarded The International Osprey Foundation's first grant.

Danemann, 27, a native of Argentina, who has an undergraduate degree in marine biology, received \$1,000 early this year to assist his study of Ospreys in the coastal lagoons of Baja California, Mexico.

His study projects required 28 days of field work between

January and May of 1990 at a number of lagoons. He is studying the breeding ecology, philopatry and dispersion of Ospreys in this area and the effect of nest density on breeding performance.

A second grant of \$1,000 will be available in 1991 and applications are now being accepted. Graduate students with a research project which may qualify for consideration may submit a proposal outlining their project and the intended use of the funds. Applications must reach TIOF by November 15, 1990.

Send applications to: The International Osprey Foundation, Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, Florida 33957-0250, USA.



Illustration by Margaret LaFarge from "Ospreys: A Natural and Unnatural History" by Alan F. Poole, published by the Cambridge University Press.

Sanibel Island Ospreys PRODUCTIVITY DATA FOR SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA - 1990

	NATURAL NESTS	ARTIFICIAL NESTS	COMBINED TOTAL
Occupied nests	31	38	69
Occupied nests destroyed	0	0	0
Active nests	20	36	56
Active nests where no. of eggs was unknown	20	36	56
Young fledged	17	38	55
Productive nests	10	19	29
% of active nests which were productive	50	53	52
Young/occupied nest	0.6	1.0	0.8
Young/active nest	.85	1.06	.98
Young/productive nest	1.70	2.00	1.90
Young banded	NA	NA	NA

NOTE: Young were in the nests as late as the end of June.

Two eggs were collected for Dr. Jeff Lincer conducting pesticide studies for Mote Marine Lab and Lee County Mosquito Control.

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All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.
 Mail to TIOF, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957, U.S.A.

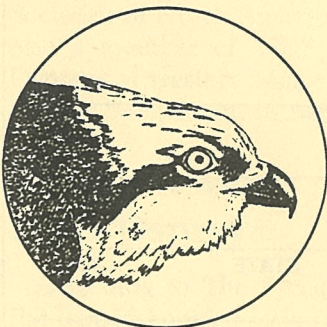
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