

TIOF 2025

THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION

Preserve ~ Research ~ Educate

Annual Report and Newsletter

2025: Resiliency and Recovery

It Takes A Village 2025

2025 Monitoring Highlights

Ding Darling Osprey Pole

2025 Monitoring Charts

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Key Take-aways - Island by Island

Thank you Life Members

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2025: Resiliency and Recovery to Pre-Hurricane Ian Levels!

Last year, TIOF reported that osprey nest productivity in Southwest Florida was rebounding after significant nest destruction and ecological changes from Hurricane Ian (2022) and Hurricanes Milton and Helene (2024). We can now report that the 2025 data indicates that overall osprey breeding productivity has returned to pre-hurricane levels. This season's successful reproductive rate can be attributed to the osprey's resilience, TIOF efforts to build and install nesting platforms and favorable environmental conditions.

Most nests had 2 chicks (51%), with 1 chick in 43% and 3 chicks in 6% of nests—a pattern not seen since before Hurricane Ian. This season also saw a higher percentage of hatched chicks reaching fledging. Other than a brief, early red tide event, there were no significant weather or water quality challenges, and no extreme weather events occurred. The osprey nesting success observed this season is largely due to favorable environmental conditions and an adequate food supply.

The dedication of the nest monitors—traveling by car, kayak, and bike—was crucial to this success, and the TIOF Board would like to express its sincere gratitude for their commitment.



More 2025 Osprey Monitoring Highlights

TIOF nest monitors collected data on 161 nests across Sanibel, Captiva, Pine Island, and Fort Myers Beach. Key take-aways from the 2025 season:

- 132 chicks were reported to have successfully fledged this season in the monitored areas. This number is significantly higher than the 88 chicks that fledged in 2024 and the 119 chicks that fledged in 2022, the season prior to Hurricane Ian.

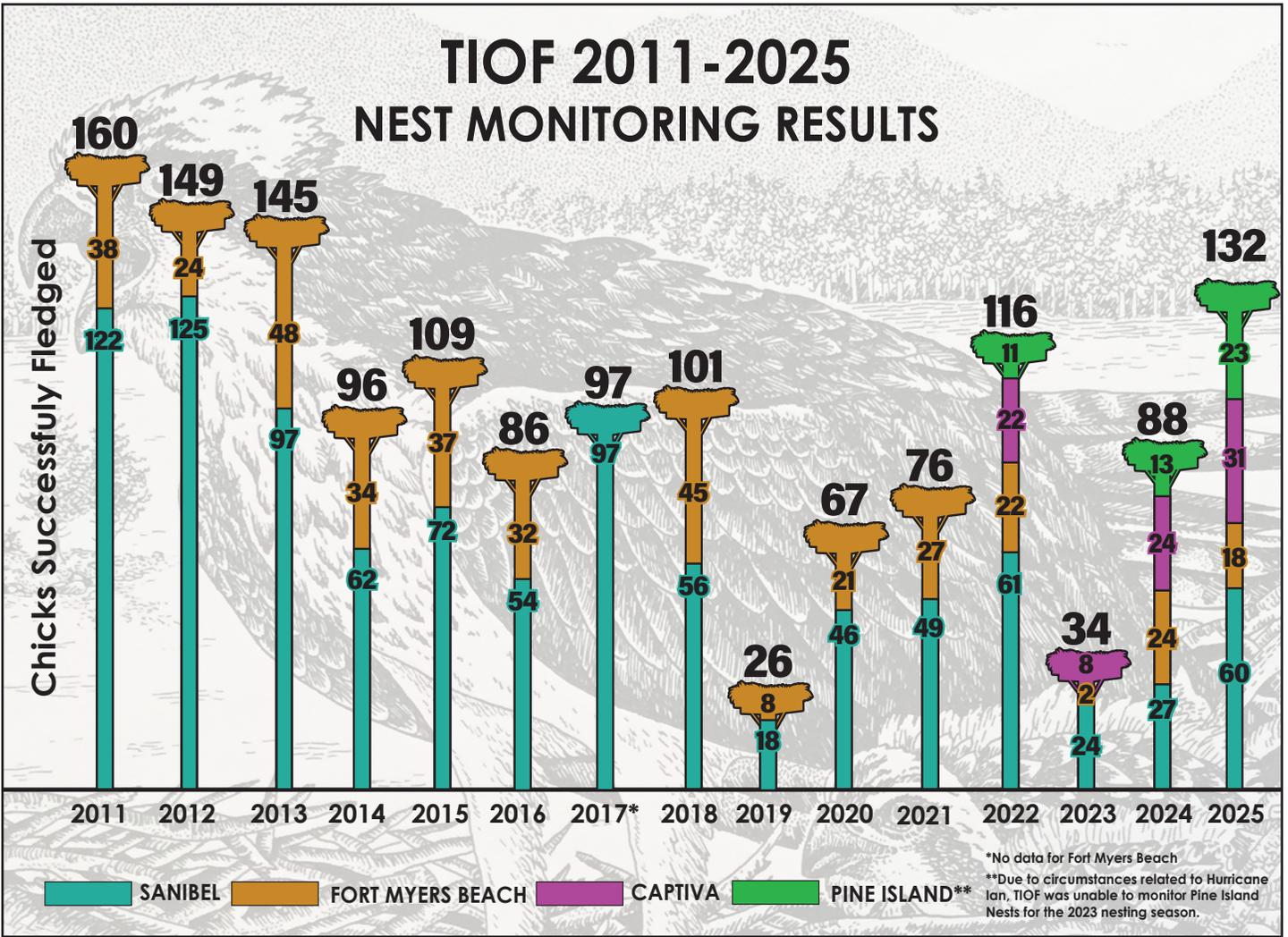
- Overall productivity of active nests that went on to be successful this year increased to 89% up from 55% in 2024.

- 29 new nests were identified this season including platforms repaired or installed by TIOF.

This data shows that recovery from a major event like Hurricane Ian takes about three seasons. This timing is consistent with the three-year rebound seen after the severe red tide event in 2018 and provides insight into the ongoing recovery & resilience of these raptors. This resurgence underscores both the adaptability of the ospreys and the value of strategic support provided by TIOF.



TIOF 2011-2025 NEST MONITORING RESULTS



DATA TYPE	SANIBEL	CAPTIVA	FT. MYERS BEACH	PINE ISLAND	TOTAL
NESTS MONITORED	94	22	18	27	161
NEWLY IDENTIFIED NESTS	19	4	3	3	29
OCCUPIED NESTS (2 ospreys present)	60	18	13	17	108
ACTIVE NESTS (incubation activity)	46	18	11	15	90
NESTS WITH CHICKS	39	18	11	15	83
SUCCESSFUL NESTS (nest with fledglings)	38	17	11	15	81
# OF CHICKS HATCHED	61	32	19	23	135
# OF CHICKS FLEDGED	60	31	18	23	132

Key Take-aways 2025 Island by ISLAND

On Sanibel, 94 nests were monitored. (compared to 98 in 2024)

- While there was a slight decrease in the number of nests this year, 63% of those nests were occupied by pairs of adult ospreys and 46 of those nests (76%) subsequently became active. 83% of the active nests were successful with at least one fledged chick. As might be expected.
- There was a significantly larger number of chicks observed on Sanibel this season, (61 nestlings compared to only 40 last season). The number of fledged chicks is also significantly better than last season (60/61 versus 27/40 in 2024).
- These data indicate that the recovery of osprey nesting success on Sanibel is growing and is following patterns of recovery previously documented by TIOF.

On Pine Island, 27 nests were monitored. (compared to 30 nests in 2024)

- Despite the slight reduction in the total number of nests observed, 94% of the active nests were successful with at least one fledged chick.
- 23 chicks were hatched and all of them fledged this season compared to only 16 chicks and 13 fledglings in 2024. Most nests had 2 chicks (51%), with 1 chick in 43% of the nests and 3 chicks in 6% of the nests - a pattern not seen since before Hurricane Ian.
- Although historical data remains limited for Pine Island because there was no monitoring on Pine Island in 2023 right after Hurricane Ian, the data now suggests a recovery trend toward pre-hurricane levels.

On Fort Myers Beach 18 nests were monitored. (compared to 20 nests in 2024)

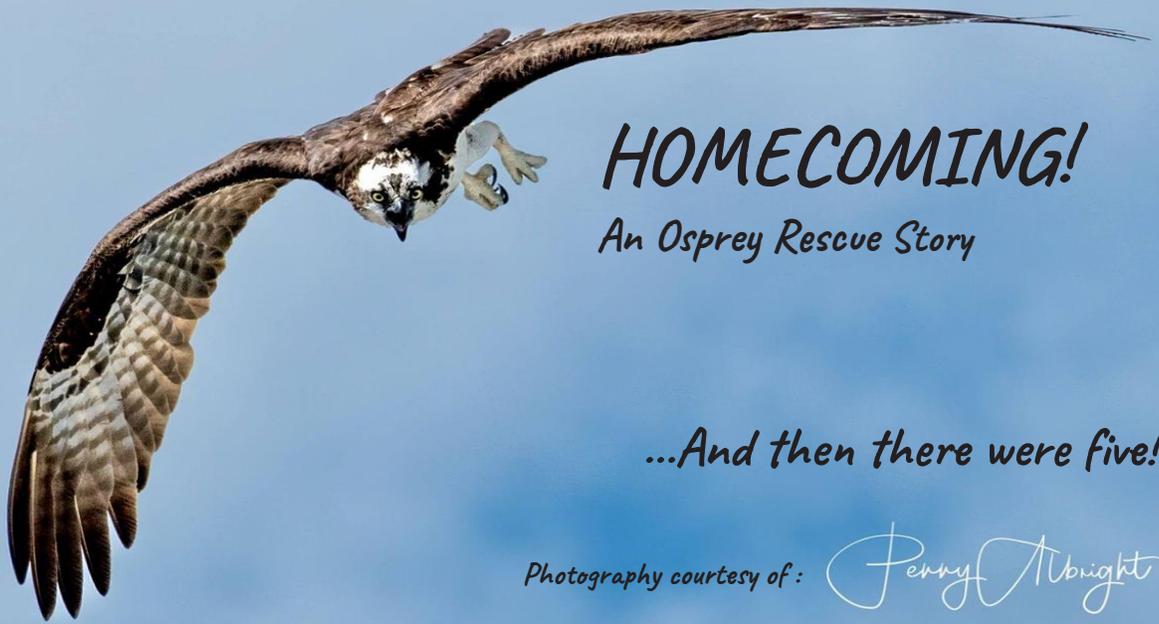
- In the previous 2024 season, the number of fledglings (24) and the overall productivity (88%) on Estero Island-Fort Myers Beach was higher than in what was observed in the pre-hurricane 2022 season (22 fledglings, 79% overall productivity) indicating a return to pre hurricane levels. Importantly, all of the active nests this season were successful with at least one fledged chick.
- The number of chicks that hatched (19) and the 18 that fledged in the 2025 season was 75% of what was observed in 2024.
- While this decrease may reflect seasonal variability, a contribution from loss of natural nesting sites and redevelopment and construction due to continuing hurricane recovery cannot be ruled out.

On Captiva island 22 nests were monitored. (compared to 29 nests in 2024)

- 18 nests were occupied by an adult pair of ospreys, and 100% of the occupied nests went on to be active nests.
- 94% of the active nests were successful with at least one fledged chick.
- 32 chicks were hatched on Captiva this season and 31 of them fledged, compared to only 26 chicks and 24 fledglings in 2024.
- The 31 fledglings in the current season continues to be higher than the 24 fledglings last year, making an overall productivity rate of 97% in 2025. These data confirm that osprey nesting levels continue to improve on Captiva.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE 2025



HOME COMING!

An Osprey Rescue Story

...And then there were five!

Photography courtesy of: *Perry Albright*

1



3:00 pm Once upon an April afternoon, in a lighthouse not so far away, an Osprey family was waiting for a food delivery ...

2



The adult male, and the "Founder of the Feast" was out searching for fish.

3



3:45 pm that same afternoon, in a quiet Cape Coral neighborhood, two osprey fledglings had fallen from their nest.

4



The nestlings were picked up by CROW and examined for injuries. When they were found to be OK, CROW called the TIOF Hotline and requested assistance in renesting the birds. The area near the nest included the presence of live wires. The nestlings could not be renested in their natal home.

5

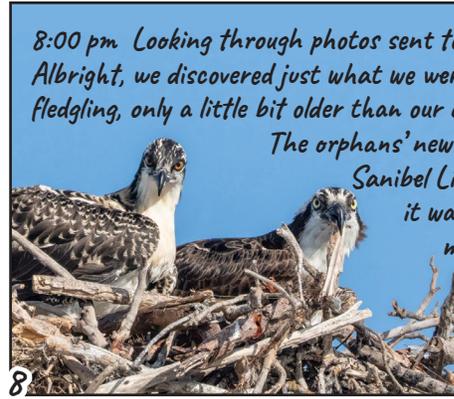
TIOF informed CROW about the renesting problem and offered to search for an appropriate foster family for the nestlings. For these chicks to have a chance to fledge successfully, a nest with only ONE nestling, the SAME AGE as the orphans, would be needed.

6





4:30 pm TIOF reached out to its network of Volunteer Nest Monitors for a list of possible foster nests. A team of observers then went to visit all of the prospective nests BUT ...most nests had 2 nestlings and one even had 3! Since it was getting dark, the team returned home to study nest photos recently received.



8:00 pm Looking through photos sent to TIOF by Penny Albright, we discovered just what we were looking for, a single fledgling, only a little bit older than our orphans. BINGO!
The orphans' new home would be at the Sanibel Lighthouse Nest. Since it was now after hours, a message was left for CROW staff to pick up the next morning.



11:00 am (the next morning) the call came from CROW that the re-nesting would take place in about 30 minutes thanks to our friends at Sanibel Fire & Rescue!



With the arrival of the ladder truck, the lighthouse osprey family lifted off the nest. But, the adult female hung around to watch what was happening to her home.



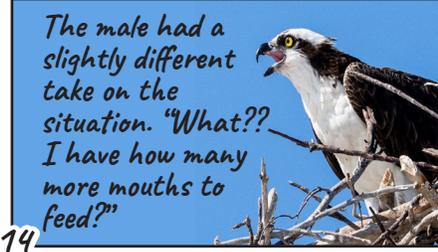
The CROW rehabber introduces one of the orphaned fledglings to her new home.



Before the ladder fully pulled away, the adult female osprey was back to find out what had happened. **Surprise!!**
There were two new fledglings in her nest!



"I'm not sure how this happened," she thought, "but this is how we do things in this nest." Then Lighthouse Mom took charge of her new brood. She started by sheltering them from the hot sun.



The male had a slightly different take on the situation. "What?? I have how many more mouths to feed?"



Less than 24 hours from the time we heard about the orphaned nestlings, TIOF and their partners, CROW and Sanibel Fire & Rescue, were able to help snatch victory from a potentially dire situation.



It's all about the birds!

TIOF thanks everyone who made this rescue possible. Special thanks to Penny Albright for providing TIOF with terrific photos and ongoing information about the continuing status of this special Osprey family.

P R E S E R V E

TIOF is proud to partner with the Ding Darling Wildlife Society to honor Toni Westland upon her retirement from the refuge. One day in May, at the Bailey Tract, TIOF's Team, joined by Toni and Ann Marie Wildman, raised a new osprey pole and platform. Decor items like sticks & moss were added for "curb appeal." Within minutes, an osprey came to inspect the new digs. While May is typically the end of nesting season on Sanibel, it is significant that ospreys were taking note of this new nesting opportunity where none had been before. Be on the look out for chicks next spring at this newest addition to osprey nesting habitat on Sanibel.

Come visit the only "high-rise" housing unit allowed on Sanibel, a home for OSPREYS at the Ding Darlings's Bailey Tract on Tarpon Bay Road.

Wines for Wings Fundraiser Soars in Support of Osprey Habitat Restoration



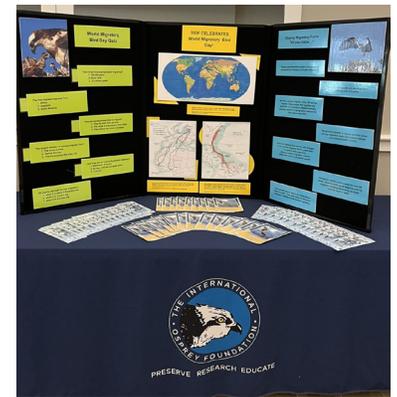
On Sunday, March 16, The International Osprey Foundation (TIOF) welcomed supporters to “Wines for Wings,” a special fundraiser held at The Community House in Sanibel, Florida. The event, part of TIOF’s Hurricane Recovery Project, raised critical funds to help restore Osprey nesting sites damaged by recent storms.

Guests enjoyed a thoughtfully selected assortment of wines from regions along the Osprey’s migratory routes, accompanied by light fare, a silent auction, and a moving short film about Ospreys and their local significance. The event offered an engaging way for attendees to connect with TIOF’s mission and learn more about the resilience of the island’s Osprey population.

Tickets were available in advance for \$35 and at the door for \$50, with the first 100 guests receiving a complimentary, TIOF-engraved wine glass—a fitting memento of an evening dedicated to wildlife conservation.

The success of the evening would not have been possible without the help of dedicated volunteers and the generous support of our event sponsors: Bank of the Islands, Kingfisher Vacation Rentals and Real Estate, Sanibel Captiva Trust Company, and the Sanibel Captiva Audubon Society.

TIOF extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, donated, and volunteered. Together, we are giving local Ospreys the safe habitats they need to thrive.



Thank you Life Members! You are the life-blood of TIOF!

Mr. & Mrs. William Alquist

Dwight Andersen

Dianna Andrews

Chris & Mike Attardo *

Kathryn Brintnall*

Cathy Cioffi & Tom Tighe*

Nancy Clark

John and Libby Conrath

Lori Covert

Yvonne De Jesus

Evelyn Ann Dodson

Emma Doras*

John Dubuque

Diana Funchion*

Dr. Jorge Galante

Jens Gamperl

Theodore Gasteyer

Mariel & Porter Goss

Phyllis Gresham

Jim & Gay Griffith

Linda Griffith

Dr. Stanley Grogg*

Linda Hooper

Martha & James Kannry

Brenda Kinnaman

Nancy & Peter Koury

Mr. & Mrs. David Ladd

David M. Loveland

John MacLennan

Eugene I. Majerowicz

Jill McCormack

Lucie McKinney

Lisa McLennan

Merry Merryfield & Jim Columbo

Jack Metz Memorial Fund

Ernst Muhlemann

Gordon Neese

Ann & Kent Nelson

Sally Noriega*

Gary Pokrant

Dick Preservati

Barbara Riordan

RJW Foundation

Harvey Rothstein

Charles Rubright

Judy Samelson & Bill Schawbel

SanCap Nature Calendar

Carmen Sanches

Sanibel Captiva Audubon Society

Cynthia Schlough

Sheila & Jim Schnell*

Don Scott

Lee & Gene Seidler

Mrs. Margaret Smith

Roy & Donna Smith *

Rita & Robert Southern

Judith & Gerald Specht

Gina Stancel

Butch Terpening

The Hindu Temple of Florida

The Westerhaug Family

The Wilshire Charitable Foundation

Susan & Bob & Tucker

Brena & Sam Tishler

Kathy & Tad Tomita*

Judy Waterman

Wendy & Roddy West

John Wolf, Jr.

* indicates Life Members who made initial or additional contributions to TIOF by August 30, 2025.

**Send any corrections to contact information to:
TIOF Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957



A Letter from the President...

Dear Members of The International Osprey Foundation Family,

As many of you know (from my previous letter to the membership), after much thought and reflection, I have decided to step down as President of The International Osprey Foundation. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this remarkable organization, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside so many dedicated individuals who share a passion for the preservation of ospreys and their habitats.

During my tenure, I have sought to further our mission to **Preserve – Research – Educate** by expanding and redefining programs that strengthen TIOF's impact. Together, we have:

- Developed comprehensive training materials for our nest monitor program.
- Redesigned the TIOF website to better reflect our mission and improve accessibility.
- Established the **Osprey Information Hotline** to respond to emergencies and share best practices.
- Expanded community awareness of TIOF's mission through outreach and partnerships.
- Updated and broadened organizational communications, including newsletters and email
- Launched and grew TIOF's social media presence, amplifying our voice in conservation.
- Coordinated the numerous requests for pole and platform repairs and followed up with nest maintenance and installations after the last 5 hurricanes that damaged our islands.



These steps have helped us build stronger connections within the community, respond more effectively to osprey needs, and share the inspiring story of this incredible species.

Looking ahead, I want to let you know that TIOF is poised to move in a new direction. We have discovered that maintaining TIOF, as it is currently structured, is not sustainable. Therefore, I am working with the TIOF Board to find a solution that will allow the mission of TIOF to continue, albeit in a different way. I have every confidence that we will find a way to insure the continuance of our mission, to preserve and protect ospreys.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your support, dedication, and shared commitment to our mission. As I have written so many times over the years, "It takes a village..." I leave my role with a heart full of gratitude and pride in what we, the TIOF "villagers," have accomplished together.

With warmest regards,

Kathryn Brintnall

President, The International Osprey Foundation



TIOF

P.O. Box 250
Sanibel Island, FL 33957

Please Forward



Come partner with us to achieve common goals!

- 300+ members, 5 continents, 26 countries
- Preserve & Protect Ospreys World-wide
- Over \$105,000 grants awarded internationally to date
- Builds/Maintains/Monitors Osprey Nests & Platforms; Data on Osprey Watch database
- Advocacy: Science-based input to policy-makers to counter existential threats



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