

OSPREY NEWS

SANIBEL ISLAND

January 2021



TIOF LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT NESTING SEASON !

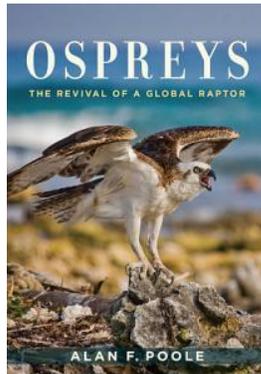
While the 2020 Osprey nesting season was a challenging one for both human nest monitors and the nesting ospreys, The International Osprey Foundation (TIOF), is looking forward to better nesting season results in 2021.

The migrating ospreys started arriving to join the current resident osprey population in December, 2020 and January 2021. Many new platforms have been built by TIOF construction crews, and several are already occupied by happy osprey pairs. TIOF nest monitors have reported numerous sightings of the birds setting up housekeeping and preparing the nests for their chicks.

With our improved water quality and increasing fish stocks, there is every reason for a hopeful projection for the 2021 nesting season.

TIOF GRANT RECIPIENT TO SPEAK AT AUDUBON WEBINAR

Did you know that a 3 1/2 month-old osprey fledgling has been known to fly continuously for 40-50 hours over the Atlantic Ocean during the very first 1,250 mile leg of its migration? This is only one of the amazing facts revealed in Alan Poole's book, *OSPREYS: The Survival of a Global Raptor*. The osprey species has had an amazing history indeed. It is one of the only species that can be found all over the world with the exception of the polar regions. Interestingly, the movement of this species around the globe is the opposite of the migratory history of the human race. The osprey started its global journey in North America, ending up in



Africa. Homo sapiens originated in central Africa, migrating around the world from there. Poole spent years researching these facts for his book with the help of a grant from TIOF. He has documented the presence of two groups of osprey here in southwest Florida. While they do not have genomic differences, there is definitely a resident population in addition to the migratory birds who arrive here from South America each spring. He has confirmed that the osprey's singular food preference is fish.

Whether it be menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, or mullet in the waterways around the Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge and the Baltic Sea, the exclusivity of the osprey's reliance on fish make it an indicator species for the health of the environment upon which it depends. The success of the osprey species is directly linked to fish availability, and thus water quality. Whether fighting harmful algae blooms or over-fishing, the human race bears an enormous responsibility to insure the health of all waterways worldwide. TIOF is proud to be co-sponsoring this lecture with SanCap Audubon on February 25, 2021. Alan Poole will be speaking at this event which will be virtual due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The link to this webinar may be obtained at san-capaudubon.org. TIOF would like to encourage all of its members to take advantage of this great opportunity to hear from one of the world's most foremost authorities on the osprey.



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This male osprey is taking off to look for dinner while the female remains on the nest to guard her eggs.