REVIEW

Proceedings of the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean Osprey Symposium.—Mark A. Westall (Editor). 1984. The International Osprey Foundation, Sanibel, Florida: viii + 132 pp., $16.00. Send orders to (TIOF), P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, Florida 33957.—This publication presents the papers given at the first of a series of regional symposiums on Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* research, sponsored by The International Osprey Foundation TIOF). The purpose of this symposium was to bring together those involved in research or management of Ospreys in the southeastern U.S. and Caribbean in order to assess the status of Osprey research in these regions and to share information.

Included in these proceedings are 10 of 11 papers presented at the symposium on Sanibel Island, Florida during 4-5 June 1983, as well as one additional paper. Overall, papers are informative and address relevant subject matter, though few are rigorously scientific. The 11 papers fall roughly into four overlapping categories: (1) status reports of regional research, (2) population status reports, (3) theoretical research, and (4) recovery and management. Authors represent a variety of institutions ranging from government agencies, universities, TIOF, to private conservation organizations.

Two status reports on regional research attempt to assess the state of Osprey research in the southern U.S. and the Caribbean. Westall constructed a table to present published Osprey research in the southeastern U.S., but it showed only the location, year(s) and citation for these studies. A summary of the specific subject matter examined and the results of these studies, as well as the status of the Osprey population studied, would be more informative. Wiley's painstaking review of the scant literature on Caribbean Osprey populations brought him to the dissatisfying but challenging conclusion that Osprey distributions and breeding status are all but unknown in this area. Both he and Westall emphasize the need for research on Ospreys in the Caribbean, not only for the sake of the resident subspecies, *P. h. ridgwayi*, but also for the North American migrants (*P. h. carolinensus)* which winter there. Wiley's suggestion that some *P. h. carolinensus* may attempt to breed in the Caribbean as subadults is interesting because (1) it has always been believed that migratory North American Ospreys spend their first one to three *non-breeding* years at their wintering grounds, and (2) it raises the possibility of these two subspecies interbreeding, and therefore whether or not they are truly subspecies.

Three population status reports examine reproductive success and the factors affecting it in specific Osprey populations (two in Florida, one in North Carolina). All of these long term (5-10 year) monitoring efforts establish baseline data important both for the detection of changes in the population studied, and for comparisons to other Osprey populations.

Two papers presented from universities were preliminary reports previewing theoretical research. Both of these studies have since been followed up and have yielded interesting results (but that's another review). Hagan, of North Carolina State University, discusses several hypotheses which may account for colonial nesting in Ospreys. He is attempting to determine whether coloniality is an evolved behavior with a fitness advantage through intraspecific interaction, or if it is an artifact of other factors influencing the choice of nest site. Collopy, of the University of Florida, studied the affects of foraging site quality on Osprey reproductive success. He found that differences were manifested not in daily prey delivery rates to the nest, but in the effort (time and energy) that it took to procure prey. This resulted in increased abandonment early in the season of nests located near less productive lakes.

Four papers were presented on increasing local Osprey populations by (1) use of platforms to increase existing nesting effort and success, and (2) hacking out young Ospreys

obtained from other, healthy populations to establish more breeding pairs in the area. Both of these techniques yielded positive results. The details of constructing nest platforms and guidelines for the successful hacking of young Ospreys are presented in detail.

As the technical title and format of this publication suggest, it is probably of most interest to those with a specific research or management interest in Ospreys or other raptors. To them it will be useful to learn who is studying what aspect of Ospreys and the techniques they are employing, as well as for the productivity data it offers for comparison to other populations. Likewise, directions for the construction of nest platforms, and details on the procedures for hacking young Ospreys will be useful to managers, conservation organizations and raptor rehabilitation centers. However, this is not a "hard-core" scientific publication. Several of the papers are presented not by scientific researchers, but by people who have become involved with Ospreys out of a genuine concern for the well-being of the species. Indeed, editor Westall hoped that these proceedings would be of interest "not only to those working with Ospreys, but to the rest of the world as well."—**Natasha C. Kline**, Department of Biology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124.

Florida Field Naturalist 15: 83-84, 1987.