Noted Ornithologist Dr. Jerome Jackson Is The Featured Speaker March 20

Dr. Jerome Jackson, professor emeritus at Florida Gulf Coast University and Mississippi State University, author and broadcaster, is the featured speaker for The International Osprey Foundation’s annual meeting on Sunday, March 20 at 7 p.m. He will speak about ospreys and other raptors.

Dr. Jackson is noted for his research on the Ivory Billed Woodpecker about which he wrote a book, “In Search of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker.” The bird was thought to be extinct since the mid-20th century but there have been reported sightings as recently as 2005 and 2006 in Arkansas and Florida.

During his career, he has taught natural history, ornithology, mammology, biogeography, field zoology for educators, ecology and natural history of coastal environments, among others. He is host of WGCU’s public radio show, “With the Wild Things.”

A short business meeting will precede Dr. Jackson’s presentation. The meeting will be at The Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. Parking is available. All are welcome to attend. A $3 donation is requested of non-members.

Nest Watchers Needed

TIOF nest watchers need help. We would love to hear from anyone willing to spend a couple of hours alternate weeks during osprey nesting season which begins in January.

We need volunteers for Sanibel and we would like to start monitoring Captiva osprey nests too.

If you’re interested or need more info, contact nest watch coordinator Debbie Friedlund, at SanibelFL@Hotmail.com.

Nest Watch Data

It was not the best nesting year for Sanibel ospreys, but 2015 produced 72 fledglings, 10 more than last year. A total of 94 nests were monitored.

On Fort Myers Beach, where 24 nests were monitored and two later abandoned, watchers counted 37 chicks, of which three were on one nest.

Two eaglets fledged in Gulf Pines, Sanibel, and two fledged for the second year on a residential street on Fort Myers Beach, after taking over an osprey nest on a Norfolk Island Pine.

TIOF Increases Research Grants

The board of The International Osprey Foundation voted in January to increase its annual grants to amounts from $2,000 to $5,000 per candidate depending on the merit of the research project. Grants are awarded for osprey and other raptor-related research in the United States and worldwide.

Grant applications are due each year by January 31. For guidelines, go to our website at www.ospreys.com. To apply, send details of the project to: The International Osprey Foundation, PO Box 250, Sanibel Island, FL 33957.

2015 Nest Watch Results

Sanibel

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Fort Myers Beach

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Nest Count</th>
</tr>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>37</td>
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Osprey and chick in nest, drawing by Alessandro Troisi, Italy
Research Grants
Total $4,500

TIOF made the following grants, each for $1,500, in 2015:

Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARC), Gainesville, Florida - To expand on the reddish egret research begun in 2014. Two transmitters fitted to reddish egrets at the “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel are producing coordinates for a large number of locations indicating nest, roost and foraging sites. The Sanibel project is part of a larger scale project ARC began by tagging eight reddish egrets in the lower Florida Keys with the help of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Objectives include determining the particular physical features of the reddish egret’s foraging habitats, which are thought to be so specific as to limit the distribution and breeding productivity of this steadily declining population. The grant “enabled the tagging” of three more reddish egrets to “jump-start the program to tag three more on the refuge in 2015.”

Marla Steele, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas - To support dissertation research on the habitat and movement ecology of globally vulnerable Pallas’s fish eagle. In the past three years, Steele has conducted Pallas’s fish eagle habitat use surveys with The International Osprey Foundation’s support, and deployed three GSM-GPS transmitters on juveniles. She is helping to compile a historical database of the eagle’s range and distribution to potentially relist the species as endangered. The project is a joint effort with the National University of Mongolia, the Mongolian Ornithological Society and the Bombay Natural History Society.

Regan Dohm, University of Wisconsin, Madison - For graduate research for a master’s thesis investigating the impact of wind farm construction on the abundance and behavior of raptors. Dohm interned at the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory on the annual raptor migration study. Dohm also interned at the International Crane Foundation, collecting data in support of ongoing research regarding endangered whooping cranes.

Inge Glissman, treasurer/secretary of TIOF, and her husband Henry attend many Sanibel Island events to promote The International Osprey Foundation. They are seen here at Baileyfest in October 2015.

Jack Spruill, one of our members living in Hampstead, NC, reports a nest that not only fledged triplets last summer, but the chicks showed uncommon courtesy to each other.

“We have had triplet ospreys in the past,” Spruill wrote. “The most remarkable thing about these 2015 triplets is how well they got on together.

“As a contrast, in 2014 we had twins in the same nest in which the stronger sibling eventually caused the death of the weaker one.”

Spruill added, “But for these 2015 triplets, even after they began to fly, they would land together in apparent harmony. For example, in (a) photo taken on July 20, 2015, two siblings chose to land on the same perch pole even though they each had other choices.” Spruill put these perch poles up mainly for the osprey.

He noted how, in one video, two of the well-behaved triplets stayed back while the third was fed by their parent.

“These were model children! I hope they will return here in 2017. Maybe we can get them elected to public office.”

He notes that his photographs and videos were taken on his iPhone “shooting on a hand-held basis through my spotting scope.”

The mother and her three well-behaved chicks in Hampstead, NC

photo by Jack Spruill

Linda Sturgis, a longtime supporter and nest watch volunteer with The International Osprey Foundation on Sanibel died in July 2015.

She and her late husband Tad Sturgis were TIOF members for more than 25 years and he was a board member for several years.

Thanks to CROW
The International Osprey Foundation last year gave $500 to CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife) on Sanibel, in recognition of the fact that many of CROW’s patients are ospreys.
Oldest Breeding Osprey in U.K. Likely Dead

Lady, the oldest breeding osprey ever recorded in the United Kingdom, is likely to be dead, according to rangers at the reserve where she spent 24 summers.

Scotland’s most famous bird of prey failed to reappear at her nest at the Scottish Wildlife Trust’s Loch of the Lowes Reserve, near Dunkeld, Perthshire, George Mair of The Scotsman newspaper, reported on April 10, 2015.

Then on April 16, 2015, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported that Lady’s mate of recent years, known as Laddie, had mated with a new female and the pair united to chase off two other female intruders who tried to move in to the area.

Lady, who fledged a record 50 young in her remarkable life, would be 29 years old – about three times the average lifespan for her species.

Staff at the reserve had hoped she would return for a 25th successive year and attempt to breed once again. But their hopes seem to have been dashed.

In 24 years, the latest she returned from her annual migration to West Africa was April 7. They have now conceded the most likely explanation is that she has died.

Meanwhile another, younger female has settled on the nest with Lady’s five-year-old mate, Laddie.

Jonathan Pinnick, assistant manager at the reserve, said, “There is still no sign of Lady and we are now at the point where we have to accept that unfortunately she hasn’t made it back. In all her years, she has never been this late.

He said, “There was a big influx of birds arriving late over the last couple of days due to weather conditions holding them up, but Lady is not one of them.”

“We can’t say categorically that she has died, but it is likely. Generally speaking, birds will return to their nest if they can.”

Lady was never ringed or tagged, so it is unlikely staff will ever discover her fate.

Pinnick added: “Some people believe older birds maybe reach a point where they decide it is too much bother to migrate, particularly if they are not breeding. It is possible Lady may have decided not to migrate this year, having not had any chicks last year and with her advancing age.”

Lady has been a wildlife phenomenon, producing a record breaking 71 eggs and fledging 50 chicks in her lifetime.

Female ospreys live an average of eight years and produce about 20 chicks in that time.

More than a million fans around the world watched her annual dramas via the Scottish Wildlife Trust’s nest cam.

In 2010, she amazed everyone by coming back from the brink of death to successfully bring up chicks, and she has regularly had to oust female rivals.

The current resident male, Laddie, was Lady’s fourth partner and nearly six times her junior.

The pair successfully fledged two chicks at the nest. The most recent, a female named Blue YZ, hatched in 2013 but failed to survive her first year.

Laddie returned to the nest on 21 March and started to tidy up for the annual return of his mate. Thousands of birdwatchers became excited when a female landed on the nest on 31 March, but it wasn’t Lady.
The International Osprey Foundation
Sanibel

T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Our popular T-shirts in white, 100% cotton, feature a large osprey head in brown with yellow eye. Price is $15 each, including shipping.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
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Quantity: Small ______ Medium ______ Large ______ Extra Large ______
Total T-Shirts ______ Total Amount Enclosed $ ______

Send with check or money order to:
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7. Life $500 ______
8. Student (to Undergraduate level) $8 ______
9. Corporate: $25 or more

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