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Osprey Population Survey and Productivity

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Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
PERFORMANCE REPORT (July 1, 1992 - June 30, 1993)

Project:	Nongame & Endangered Species Investigations	No:	WE99R-2
Study:	Bird Conservation	No:	IV-4
Job:	Osprey Population Survey & Productivity	No.	A,B

Personnel:	Dana Bradshaw, Mitchell Byrd, Karen Terwilliger	<u>Costs</u>	
		Total:	\$9,400
		State:	\$2,350
		Fed'l:	\$7,050

Status/Recommendations: On schedule, continue study

Summary

Intensive status and distribution surveys for nesting ospreys have ceased due to their increasing population and subsequent decrease in priority status. No formal osprey monitoring project was conducted, and no osprey young were collected for reintroduction programs in other states. A cooperative agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard to schedule maintenance and repair operations after the nesting season has been very successful, with complete cooperation in Virginia waters resulting in reduced chick and egg losses from human disturbance. Numerous nesting complaints were handled by staff and contractors this year, and twenty to thirty nesting information packets and platform designs were provided to interested landowners.

Objective A: To measure hatching and fledging success of a sample of osprey nests representative of all the major estuaries as well as the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Findings

No formal osprey monitoring project was conducted this year due to labor intensive manpower requirements and low priority due to cost effectiveness.

Objective B: To coordinate the transfer of young ospreys from Virginia to other states involved in reintroduction programs for this species.

Findings

No young were collected for reintroduction programs in other states due to the labor intensive manpower requirements and low priority due to cost effectiveness. A significant amount of correspondence with the public pertaining to nest location, structure erection, and rehabilitation needs. Coordination with the Coast Guard and other federal, state, and local agencies was required to inform and educate them about the protection status of the species.