

points, the breeding areas, and the necessary Piping Plover guardian techniques for individual beaches. If you can spare one day or more to help out, please contact me at the Island Nature Trust at 566-9150.

PLOVER GUARDIAN WORKSHOP HELD:

by Jackie Waddell

The March 18th workshop was a wonderful, educational, training event. Stephen and Joanne Flemming came over from Fundy National Park to provide guardians with a great deal of information on plover biology, the organization of the program, and to get input from those that were there. We had a total of only seven guardians and four others, but there was one new volunteer and another from two years ago returned. A total of seven others that answered the questionnaire indicated they were interested in participating this year. Seven others had verbally indicated they plan to help out. This totals only 21 people that have contacted me with a definite "yes". I know there are more "out there"! Please, please, please contact me soon at 566-9150 so that we can get everything organized. Otherwise I can't help you get started on the best beach and helping us protect this bird that is in such peril. The birds themselves will return to the beaches in late April and early May. We have only a month to get ourselves organized and cover the 13 or more breeding beaches.

We plan on having a quick get together in June to find out who is where and what's going on in the plover world. If you would like to learn more, place your name on the contact list by calling the Island Nature Trust at 566-9150.

OSPREY NESTING PLATFORMS:

by Peter J. Ewins, CWS

Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) have been increasing rapidly in many parts of North America since the early to mid-1970s, when organochlorine pesticides were withdrawn from widespread use. In the Great Lakes region and elsewhere these increases have been facilitated greatly by people installing artificial nest structures, particularly in areas where preferred natural nest sites are now scarce (e.g. large, old trees with dead tops).

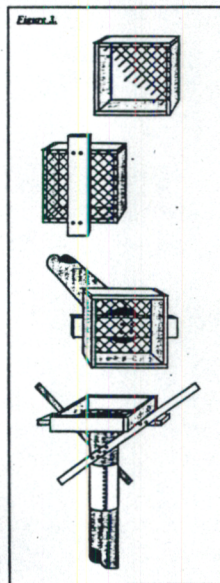
So goes the opening paragraph of a new book Artificial Nest Structures for Ospreys - A Construction Manual by Peter J. Ewins, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Branch - Ontario Region, Environment Canada, 25 St. Clair Ave. East, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1M2.

This design is one of 14 found in this informative book. Neville

International Osprey Foundation Design

This design is similar to Figure 1, but is slightly simpler to construct, and uses chain-link fencing as the nest base. See Figure 3 for construction details. For further details on this design, or on the Sanded Tripod (see Figures 10 and 11), contact: International Osprey Foundation, P.O. Box 250, Samsel, Florida 33957-0250, U.S.A.

- Step #1**
Nail the four frame boards together
- Step #2**
Staple the chain link fence to the top of the platform frame.
- Step #3**
Nail the base board across the middle of the platform frame.
- Step #4**
Turn entire platform over so that the base board is on the bottom. Mount the platform on the top of the pole using the 6 inch nails, before the pole is placed upright.
- Step #5**
Mount the brace boards on opposite sides of the platform, with one end attached to the pole and the other end attached to the base board, extending a few feet above the platform.
- Step #6**
Wrap the sheet of aluminum around the pole so that it will be at least 10 feet above ground level after the pole is placed. (This acts as a guard against raccoons climbing the pole into the nest.)
- Step #7**
Plant the pole at the chosen location. To help attract Ospreys to the platform, place a few sticks (no larger than 3/4 inches in diameter and 18 inches long) within it.



List of Materials

- 4-2' x 4'-2" P.T. boards (Frame)
- 2-2' x 4'-6" P.T. boards (Braces)
- 1-2' x 6'-4" P.T. board (Base board)
- 1-3' square chain link fence
- 1-3' square of aluminum sheet
- 4-6' galvanized leg bolts or nails
- Assorted galvanized nails & staples as needed