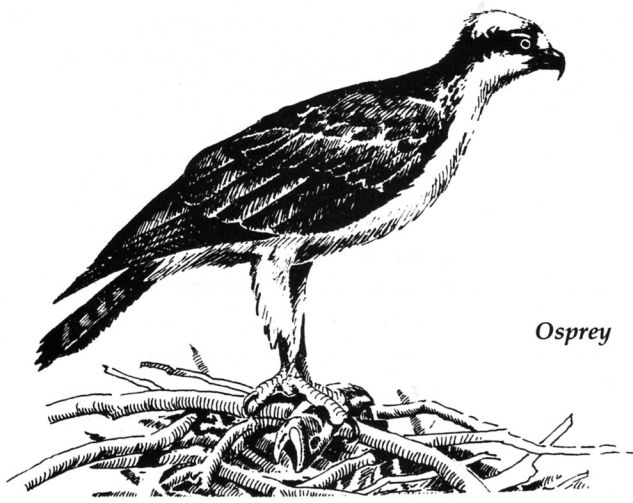


SECTION C - WETLANDS and ADJACENT UPLANDS



Osprey

Osprey

Plan 17 (page 51)

The use of agrochemicals (primarily DDT and related compounds) and habitat alteration caused a serious decline in Osprey breeding activity in Pennsylvania. For decades, no breeding Ospreys could be found in Pennsylvania.

In 1979, researchers directed by Dr. Larry Rymon, at East Stroudsburg University (and sponsored by the Game Commission, Pennsylvania Chapters of the National Audubon Society and the Wild Resource Conservation Fund), implemented a program to restore ospreys to breeding status in Pennsylvania. Since 1986, ospreys are once again breeding in Pennsylvania. At the same time, due to recovering Chesapeake populations, ospreys are expanding their breeding range up the Susquehanna. Though still classified as threatened, Ospreys are once again being seen throughout most of Pennsylvania.

Nest platforms and poles can be constructed wherever there is an adequate supply of fish. Developed or intensively used

areas and sites near fish hatcheries should be avoided. Platforms can be placed over water or inland at least 30 feet beyond the water's edge. The height of an inland nest should always exceed the height of any nearby trees or 20 feet, whichever is greater. Over water, the platform should be more than 15 feet high. For all structures, use metal flashing as a predator guard.

Platforms can be placed on old utility poles in open habitats or on "topped" super canopy pines, or on solid snags adjacent to a shoreline.

Plan 17 is a diagram of an Osprey nest platform. An inexpensive alternative is simply to turn a firm, hardwood pallet upside down and, with proper bracing, fasten it to the top of a utility pole. Use a 6 to 8" diameter utility pole (preferably a cedar pole). Poles are often available from local utility companies.

Prothonotary Warbler

Plan 1 (page 31)

This warbler is orange-yellow with wings and tail that are slate-blue. This beautiful songbird is rare in Pennsylvania. It has been reported from Crawford, Erie, Union, Westmoreland and southwestern counties.

It nests most frequently above water in flooded woodland bottoms, wooded swamps and beaver flowages. The nest is typically an abandoned downy woodpecker hole in a dead willow or aspen snag in standing water.

Most people don't realize that this beautiful woodland warbler is rather adaptable and will also use bird houses.

If you live in lowland hardwood forest habitat within the range of this warbler, try using the bird house Plan 1. Use a 1¹/₄" diameter hole. This will exclude use by house sparrows. Place the house on a shaded snag or post in shallow woodland pools or in oxbow ponds of river bottom habitat, 3 to 5 feet above water level. If predator guards are used on free standing posts, nests can also be placed on adjacent shoreline habitat with the hole facing the open water. Prothonotary Warblers will also nest in these bird houses if they are placed on the sides of homes or outbuildings that are near water.