



Seattle Pacific University

Blakely Island, Washington 98222

Thomas B. Crowley Laboratory

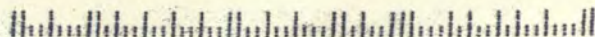
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The Blakely Quarterly

Spring, 1993, Issue #31, Ross F. Shaw, Editor; Clint Kelly, Contributing Editor



The ospreys have returned to Blakely Island.

The Osprey by Karrina M. Page Seattle Pacific University

Several osprey nests have been seen on Blakely Island in the past few years. Though the heavy windstorms of 1989 blew out several nests, an osprey pair were spotted this spring busily building one near the unused eagles nest on the shore of Spencer Lake. The spring class in "Birds of the Northwest" also observed osprey fishing at Horse-shoe Lake. How encouraging to see this marvelous bird finding a home on the island!

The osprey is the sole member of the family *Pardionidae*, for no other hawk but the osprey has a reversible outer toe like that of the owl. This flexibility enables the bird to obtain a secure grip on its prey. It is a fea-

areas. The bird almost always carries its prey nose forward like a shiny torpedo. It uses both feet, one before the other, when the catch is large.

Ospreys spend nearly a third of their day diving and bringing fish back to their nests. Daily they approach the limits of their energy, eating barely enough to balance what they expend hunting food for their families. When the food is brought to the nest, the female determines the proper bite size for her brood. After five or six weeks, the young can help themselves to the food when it is delivered.

When seen perched at a distance, it is usually the osprey's white breast that first catches the eye. Observed in flight from below, the bird's distinguishing features are its whitish underparts, the pronounced crook of its long wings and its dark carpal

times lacks breast mottling altogether.

An osprey's calls vary considerably, but a slow, whistled guard call (*kyew, kyew, kyew*) is frequently heard, especially when other ospreys are near. If the bird is disturbed, its sharp cheeping whistles may change from an annoyed *chewk! chewk! chewk!* to a frenzied *cheereek!*

Ospreys prefer tall, dead, limbless trees for their nests. Unfortunately, man has little use for such trees and there are very few ideal osprey nests as a result. Nests sometimes develop atop buoys and channel markers in busy harbors, or on power poles, radio towers and lighting structures along major highways. Osprey will even nest on specially built nesting poles in suburban backyards. Nesting flexibility indicates a highly adaptable bird.

While the nests of birds of prey commonly fall from their host structures as soon as the young have left, osprey nests are very stable. Consequently, osprey nests may be repaired or added to and used for many breeding seasons, while many other birds only use their nests one season.

Without the benefit of artificial nesting sites, the osprey's broad distribution is especially impressive. It is known on all continents, but seems to favor the salt marsh bays and estuaries of America and Africa, and a few of the larger, shallower lakes of Scandinavia and western North America.

The most favored locales have shallow water for ideal fishing and are plentiful in small islands where nests can be built safe from mainland predators.

In recent years, the increased use of pesticides has caused a sharp drop in North America's osprey population. It is now considered uncommon on the Washington coast, both sides of the Cascade Mountains and in Oregon. Those who have sighted this awesome bird are among the fortunate minority.

A group of ospreys have chosen



Horseshoe Lake Cabin is a beloved symbol of Blakely's rich history.

Horseshoe Lake Cabin Saved for Posterity

There aren't many lakes in the West a person can share with an osprey (see accompanying article), but Blakely's Horseshoe Lake is one of them.

And now you can sit on the porch of the restored log cabin and watch the magnificent birds fish in the lake, or the kids splash in the old swimming hole, and know that the idyllic scene will remain pretty much the same for many more years to come.

Thanks to donations of money and ability from the Blakely Island community, the cabin was rescued from decay this past winter. A hired craftsman, trained in traditional woodworking skills, joined with general laborers and volunteers to give Horseshoe Lake Cabin a new lease on life.

Located on the eastern shore of the lake, the cabin was built around the 1870s by some of Blakely's original homesteaders. Uniquely constructed of logs hand split in half, the structure was built on wood pilings that eventually rotted away.

Workers braved one of the Island's harshest winters in a while to jack up the cabin and replace the rotten bottom "crib log." Blakely Island cedar logs, donated by Seattle Pacific University, were transformed into hand split shakes for the roof and sawn into lumber for a new floor and porch.

Lance Douglas, who remembers sleeping in the cabin as a boy, plans to check the state archives in Olympia for a homestead patent on the place, one more step in preserving this unique period in Blakely's past.

His wife, Lynne Douglas, regrets the loss of many log structures on the Island. She recently talked to a woman who lived in the Horseshoe Lake Cabin as a little girl and shares her delight at the restoration. "She believes those memories of the past should be respected," says Lynne. "It's romantic to be able to sit there and reflect on how it used to be, where the shed, barn, root cellar and garden were and where they hauled their water from."

Horseshoe Lake Cabin joins the Spencer Cabin and the School

Blakely Island Rainfall Results in Campus Reroofing

Idaho flagstone and other rustically natural materials were used in the construction of SPU's Blakely Island Campus. This spring the University's Plant Services personnel have been busy repairing and refurbishing exterior portions of the facility, particularly the roof, to protect and preserve its beautifully indigenous look.

The work included new rain gutters, relocation of downspouts, replacement of water-damaged plywood, sealing of leaks and cracks and reducing the amount of glass in the atriums. The latter has the added benefit of keeping the wooden furniture within from drying out and fading.

Materials used for the project included a "self-healing" roof membrane that seals itself whenever damage occurs.

Blakely Endowment Finds Strong Local Support

Now four years old, the Friends of Blakely Island Endowment exceeds \$16,000 thanks to continuing contributions from several Blakely residents.

The science faculty at SPU are grateful for the funds which help meet the operational and programming costs of the Blakely Island Campus and the Thomas B. Crowley Laboratory.

Summer Activities at Crowley Laboratory

Summer Field Studies. Studying the environment Blakely-style has never been more popular. For the fourth year, Seattle University and Seattle Pacific University are jointly sponsoring a slate of summer courses on the Island taught by professors from both institutions. This year's classes will be full to capacity.

The summer session runs from June 14 to August 13 and will include students from a number of different colleges, as well as teachers from public schools.

Marine Science. Students from several western states will converge on SPU's Blakely Campus for a class in marine science education this summer. Led by Professor Fred Rabe, a specialist in the field, the class is a cooperative effort between the University of Idaho and Washington State University.

Oceanography. Another Blakely class with a waiting list is "Ocean Environments," taught by SPU Professor Ray Myers. The class is open

Campus Briefs

\$10 Million Library Under Construction. SPU's new 62,000-square-foot automated learning center will open in the fall of 1994. Besides offering the latest technology in information access, the library will accommodate half a million volumes. The project will be completed in time for an expected rise in undergraduate enrollment which could reach a record 2,500 students by the end of the century.

SPRINT Teams Mobilize. Several SPU student teams are headed for the Christian mission field this summer. Under the auspices of SPRINT (Seattle Pacific Reachout International), they will be traveling to five sites: Sierra Leone, Youth for Christ; Uganda, sixth year, work with orphans; Romania, third year, work with orphans and youth summer camps; Duffield, Alberta, Vacation Bible School with the Paul's Band Indian Tribe; and Camp Kirby, Samish Island, Washington, summer camp for inner-city girls.



A team of SPU students will spend part of their summer with orphans in Uganda.

Graduates Hear Former Missouri Governor. Commencement 1993 in the Seattle Center Arena featured special guest speaker The Honorable John D. Ashcroft, a two-term governor from the state of Missouri.

Ashcroft is a practicing attorney in corporate law and in 1992 was appointed chair of President Bush's national Commission on America's Urban Families. He received an honorary degree of doctor of laws from Seattle Pacific.

Also recognized, with an honorary degree of doctor of humane letters, was Bruce Kennedy, former CEO of Alaska Airlines. Kennedy is a member of the Executive Advisory