

Osprey Nest Relocation

Owen Tuepker & Antonio Mancha

Nickerson Camp

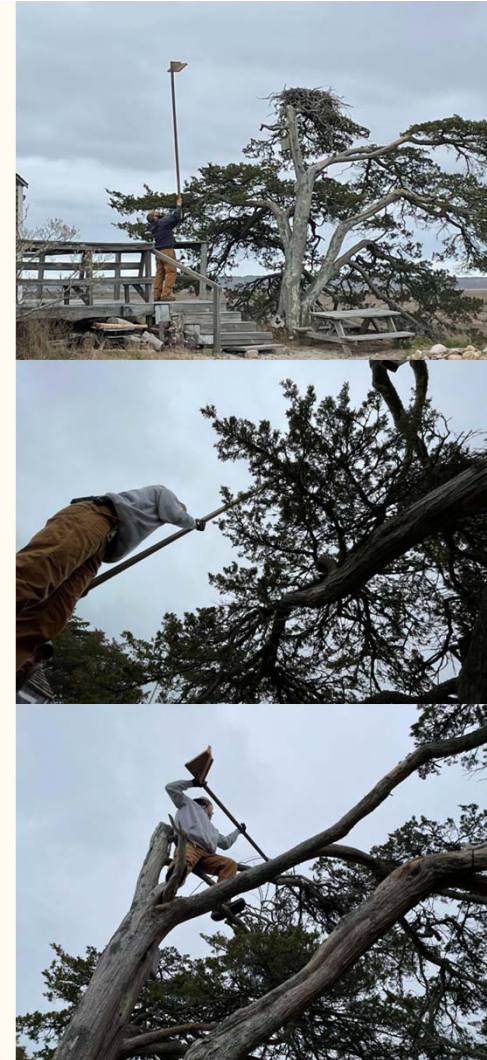
Brief Introduction

An Osprey nest was initially found approximately 2 weeks prior to its relocation on 04/26/2023. The nest was observed on the Nickerson camp and rested on an old tree where it was in constant contact with the homeowners. The owner, Todd Nickerson, wanted the nest to be removed and placed on a pole due to its close proximity to the house. Chris Walz was then hired to construct and install a new osprey pole in the marsh where the pair of nesting ospreys could move. This is where NRO's Antonio Mancha, Owen Tuepker and Josh Kelleher assisted in the relocation of this nest. The pole was constructed and placed on site within two hours while the ospreys successfully relocated the next day.



Initial Assessment of the Nest

The osprey nest can only be moved or tampered with if no eggs are present meaning an assessment must be done. If eggs are present within the nest then special permitting, done by the U.S. fish & wildlife services in a 45 day period, must be obtained however for the Nickerson camp that was not the case. To start the assessment a long wooden pole with a mounted mirror is raised to nest height in order to scout for eggs. Initially we couldn't reach the nest due to its height so NRO Owen Tuepker (safely) climbed the stable branches of the tree to get a closer look. He reported no eggs were present which meant that we could now proceed to use the opposite end of the large pole to carefully dislodge the nest from its placement. After the nest hits the ground a team from Mass Audubon works together to collect the usable components for when the nest is reconstructed.



Construction of the Osprey Pole

Chris Walz under his company name The Beard with Binoculars got to work constructing the Osprey pole after the nest was dislodged. These poles are installed deep into the marsh meaning they have built in a particular way in order to remain stable in a very unstable environment. The materials used must only be wood in which we used a 6x6 base, 2x4's/2x6's as supports and a pallet to hold the newly constructed nest. Once construction is completed we start the process of transporting it to its final destination. The total construction time took approximately 2 hours; however, Chris Walz usually has these components prepped before arriving on location.



Site Preparation

Once the location for the Osprey pole is determined we must now dig into the marsh where the pole will reside. This process is specific as a 3 foot hole with a 10 inch diameter is dug in addition to a 2 foot sloped trench for easier installation. Once this is completed the pole is transported to the location in order to be installed. But first, the new nest now must be constructed.



Nest Reconstruction

Osprey build their nests in a very particular way and we must do our best to recreate that in order for the Osprey to successfully relocate. A pallet is affixed to the tip of the pole and larger branches, which were scavenged from the pre-existing nest, are affixed as a sort of foundation. We then form the body of the nest with smaller scavenged branches as well as marsh grass and other rack to fill voids. Once this is done the nest is complete and the Osprey pole is ready to be installed.



Installation

Installing the pole into the marsh requires extra care, it will remain stabilized in the marshes unstable environment through all seasons of the year. Its construction will help the Osprey pole remain upright through all sorts of acclimate weather, high sustained winds and tides which can be severe through the fall and winter months.



Completion

Once completed we now must allow the Osprey to take to the new nest. There is always a chance that the Osprey will reject the nest, however a few days after the installation the Osprey claimed the new nest as their own which they will hopefully return to year after year.



Thank You!

