

THE BREEDING BIOLOGY OF THE OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* ON THE NORTH COAST OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Received: April 2005

Observations were made at nine nests of the Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* in the Clarence Valley, north-east New South Wales, from 1991 to 1996 for a total of 213 hours over 172 nest visits. Details of the breeding behaviour (nest sites, nest construction, courtship display, mating, egg-laying and incubation, brood size, nest defence, fledging, breeding success, post-fledging) are presented. Breeding occurred in winter with most nestlings fledging in spring and occasionally early summer. Nests were defended against potential predators of eggs and chicks such as the White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* and Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*. Over 30 per cent of diurnal incubation was carried out by the male, despite him being the sole food provider during the incubation and early nestling stages.