

# FEEDING BEHAVIOUR OF THE OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* ON THE NORTH COAST OF NEW SOUTH WALES

GREG P. CLANCY

Zoology and Ecosystem Management, University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales 2351

Present address: PO Box 63, Coutts Crossing, New South Wales 2460 and National Marine Science Centre, Bay Drive, Coffs Harbour, New South  
Wales 2450. gclancy@tpg.com.au

*Received: 7 April 2005*

The feeding behaviour of the Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* was studied at feeding grounds, feeding perches and nests in the Clarence Valley, north-east New South Wales, from 1991 to 1996. Foraging behaviour was found to be similar to that of Northern Hemisphere birds. Although birds were found to take mostly living fish, one record of possible scavenging was made. The male Osprey was the main provider during the breeding season, bringing food to the nest for the female and nestlings. Details of hunting, delivery of food to the nest area, eating behaviour, courtship feeding, food solicitation, and interspecific competition are presented.