

A SURVEY OF BREEDING OSPREYS
Pandion haliaetus
IN NORTH-EASTERN COASTAL NEW SOUTH WALES
1980 TO 1982

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Ospreys were surveyed on 560 km of coast in northern New South Wales during 1980 to 1982. Fifteen nests were found with fourteen pairs attempting to breed (one nest per 37 km of coastline). At least thirteen young fledged, four from three pairs in 1980 and eight from five pairs in 1981 (1.6 young per successful nest). The diet was mainly fish, but included cuttlefish, crustaceans, a reptile and a mammal. The breeding cycle (nest building to fledging) occupied the months June to October. Nests were placed in tall dead trees, usually within one kilometre of a major water body, in eucalypt open forest/woodland, swamp forest and grassland (pastures). Details of breeding activity, nests, clutch size, sexual dimorphism, diet and threats to breeding success are presented.