



## Volunteers Needed to Monitor Ospreys for Mass Audubon's Cape Cod Osprey Project

The return of the Osprey is one of the greatest conservation stories of the last 30 years. In the early 1970's there were as few as 10 nesting pairs of these fish-eating birds of prey in Massachusetts. Now that number is over 400 pairs statewide. Cape Cod has also seen resurgence with an estimated 50 pairs nesting on Cape Cod. Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary are developing the **Osprey Project** in Cape Cod, **to monitor nesting ospreys and their reproductive success and census the population.** Volunteers are needed to assist with osprey nest observations. Volunteers will record important milestones including when birds first arrive, nest building, incubating eggs, hatching, fledging of chicks, and departure.

In addition to monitoring nests across Cape Cape, Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary will be addressing the needs of nest sites in **Barnstable Harbor's Great Marsh.** Poles with nesting platforms have been erected here over the last 20 years, but many have fallen into disrepair and there is no consistent approach to repair them. In response to this need, we will map and repair existing nests and install new ones in the Harbor. **The sanctuary is seeking help from volunteers to "adopt" a Barnstable Harbor osprey nest site and monitor the bird's activity.** Our goal is to support a robust population of osprey on Cape Cod and to present data and conclusions for public awareness and understanding.

*For more information please contact Mark Faherty at 508-349-2615- email [mfaherty@massaudubon.org](mailto:mfaherty@massaudubon.org) or Ian Ives at 508-362-7475- email [longpasture@massaudubon.org](mailto:longpasture@massaudubon.org)*