

HOMECOMING! ...And then there were FIVE!

An Osprey Rescue Story

*Thanks to:
TIOF,
CROW,
and
SANIBEL
FIRE &
RESCUE*



Photography courtesy of:

Penny Albright



*3:00 pm Once upon
an April afternoon,
in a lighthouse not
so far away, an
Osprey family was
waiting for a food
delivery ...*

*The father, and the Founder of
the Feast was out searching
for fish.*



Perry Albright



3:45 pm That same
afternoon, in a
quiet Cape Coral
neighborhood, two
osprey fledglings
had fallen from
their nest.



The nestlings were picked up by CROW and examined for injuries. When they were found to be OK, CROW called the TIOF Hotline and requested assistance in renesting the birds. An examination of the area & nest revealed that due to the presence of live wires, the nestlings could not be renested in their natal home. Further exploration of the surrounding area was made, but no suitable trees were found to provide an alternative nest there.



TIOF informed CROW about the renesting problem and offered to search for an appropriate foster family for the nestlings. For these chicks to have a chance to grow up and fledge successfully, a nest with a single nestling, the same age as the new orphans would be needed.



4:30 pm TIOF immediately reached out to its network of Volunteer Nest Monitors for a list of possible foster nests. A team of observers then went to visit the prospective nests. There were several to choose from. Upon visiting all of the nests that were thought to have only one chick, most had two and one even had three! It was getting dark, so the team returned home to study nest photos recently received.

8:00 pm The search continues, looking through photos recently sent to TIOF by Penny Albright, we discovered just what we were looking for, a single fledgling, only a little bit older than our orphans. BINGO! The orphan's new home would be at the Sanibel Lighthouse Nest. Now, after hours, a message was left for CROW to pick up the next morning.





11:00 am. The call came in from CROW that the orphan reneesting would take place in about 30 minutes thanks to our friends at Sanibel Fire & Rescue!



At the arrival of the ladder truck the lighthouse family lifted off the nest. The adult female hung around to watch what was happening to her home.



*CROW
rehabber
introduces
the
orphaned
fledgling to
her new
home.*



*Before the ladder
fully pulled away, the
female osprey was
back to find out
what had happened
to her home.
Surprise!! Yes,
there are two new
fledglings in her
nest!*



*She begins by
talking to them.
Looks like they
are exercising
their wings
after their long
ride in the
rescue boxes.*

*"I don't know how this happened, but this is how we do things in this nest."
This Lighthouse Mom takes charge of her new brood and starts by sheltering
them from the hot sun.*





*What??
I have how
many more
mouths to
feed??*



Less than 24 hours from the time we heard about the orphaned nestlings, TIOF and their partners, CROW and Sanibel Fire & Rescue, were able to help snatch victory from a potentially dire situation. Two orphaned fledglings will be able to grow to adulthood in their new home.



*It's all about the birds!
TIOF thanks everyone who
made this rescue possible.
Special thanks to Penny
Albright for providing TIOF
with terrific photos
and information about the
continuing status of this
special Osprey family.*