

Request for information. I am at present attempting to put together a paper on the use of man-made structures as nest sites by Great Horned Owls. I would appreciate hearing from fellow members, in as much detail as possible, the use of structures by Great Horned Owls in their respective areas. In addition I would appreciate hearing from anyone knowing of further sources of this information (from other individuals outside of RRF and/or in the literature). Bruce R. Wolhuter, 2109 Kentucky, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Taking of feather samples. After actively taking part in the battle of the pesticides for the last few years, I was interested in supplying samples for the detection of pesticide residues in the feathers of raptors thought to be endangered by these biocides.

Not agreeing with a suggestion to remove a deck, or central feather from the tail, I decided the sample should be taken in such a manner as not to weaken the structure of the tail as a flight mechanism.

Since the decks "lock" the tail and give support to the total "fan" by over-lapping the outer feathers, I decided to take a half of each outer feather of the tail. This has been done in several cases with seemingly no harm to the flight abilities of the bird. The quills remain in the tail muscle to support the remaining quills and backup the neighboring feathers where the angle at spread is the least.

Two passage Peregrines were sampled in this manner, trained and flown hard to determine the results. No detrimental effects could be ascertained during several days flight. Lon Ellis, Merritt Island, Florida.