

An "Eagle Guard" Developed in Idaho.—The Snake River valley of southern Idaho, largely desert in character, apparently serves as a wintering ground for many of the large avian predators. The Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Swainson Hawk are all rather common in the area from the first of December to the last of March in normal years.

Since there are no trees except along the watercourses, perches are at a premium for these birds. They make use of the power lines that cross the area and thus constitute a factor in the interruption of service.

The field men of the Idaho Power Company have developed an "eagle guard," as shown in the accompanying photograph (fig. 47), which prevents birds from alighting on the cross arms. This installation is on the 20,000 volt line running from near Hagerman to Boise, a distance of about 100 miles. H. L. Senger, of the power company, informs me that some 3000 of these guards have been placed on poles on this line, at a cost of 10 cents a unit for materials and 10 cents a unit for installation.

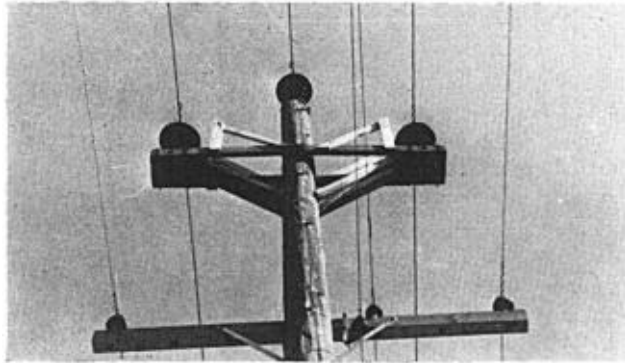


Fig. 47.—Eagle guard used on power line near Boise, Idaho.

The braces are made of two pieces of one-half by two inch boards cut to a standard size in the shops and nailed together at the peak. Nails are also driven into the ends in the shop, so that the lineman has only to place one end in position on the cross arm and drive the nail, then raise the other end into place and attach it. The installing is done without interrupting service, and is recommended only for those with steady nerves who are used to working around such equipment.

It is interesting to note that during the winters before the guards were installed, there were usually about fifty interruptions of service on this line on account of "shorting" by birds, in most instances eagles. These interruptions are now practically eliminated, with, of course, a considerable saving in bird life.

There are definitely localized areas where the birds cause trouble, which shift somewhat in different years. These shifts may correspond to changes in jackrabbit concentrations or other food factors, as the physical factors in the area must be fairly uniform from year to year.—WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Boise, Idaho, January 29, 1940.*

Siberian Peregrine Falcon in North America.—Recently I received a skin of a hawk collected on the Seward Peninsula, Alaska, near Cape Prince of Wales. I mentioned this, when I was in Washington, D. C., to my friend Major L. R. Wolfe and he at once requested that he be allowed to make an examination of the specimen. He has written to me under date of February 1, 1940, as follows: "It is identified as the Siberian Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus calidus*. A new form for North America is thus recorded. Dr. Herbert Friedmann, of the National Museum, examined the specimen with me and concurs in this identification. This form is characterized by less black on the cheeks, paler above and more white on underparts. As compared with three specimens of *Falco p. calidus* in the National Museum, of same sex, adult birds taken in winter and spring, your specimen is a counterpart in nearly every detail. When compared with the series of *Falco p. anatum*, the outstanding characters of *calidus* are: all upper parts much lighter, more slaty blue-gray, lacking the brownish color of the North American form; the throat, breast and belly are whiter and lack the buffy or fawn colored tinge; a third character is, you will note, that the black mustache mark on *calidus* extends down as an oblong marking while the white strip extends nearly to the eye (fig. 48).