

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board met at SDSU in Brookings, South Dakota on February 23. George Jonkel was added to the Board, and terms were set as follows to provide for future regular elections for three year terms: Springer, 1 year, Hunter, 2 years, Jonkel 3 years, Harrell 4 years. The Board felt a need for a more formally organized structure and established four offices and held elections. The officers elected are listed on page 14.

The members discussed and voted for changes in the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to agree with tax exemption requirements. These were passed and copies have been sent to the appropriate tax office.

It was decided that new projects that are involved with birds obtained by permits through the Foundation for the breeding project should be evaluated; a form for the prospective cooperator to fill out was discussed and has since been prepared. The Board will evaluate any such proposal and when desirable, refer it to one or more Advisory Board members. The original associates in the breeding project had earlier developed a policy that birds obtained through the Foundation not be used for falconry, a policy since confirmed by the Board of Directors. This of course does not mean that birds otherwise obtained and used for falconry be excluded from the project. It is hoped that planning can be adequate so that requests for permits can be reasonable and that obtained birds can be well kept and be fully used by the program.

Other matters discussed included the newsletter and committees. It is hoped that committees can be appointed in the near future to move forward certain special areas of raptor research (summary by B. E. Harrell).

BREEDING PROGRAM INFORMATION EXCHANGE

In the initial organization of the Raptor Research Foundation those involved with the breeding program exchanged information by means of a round-robin method of sending carbon copies of their letters to the other participants. There are now more participants and a number of others who would like to keep up on this information. The Raptor Research News does not take the place of these exchanges for the News is not issued often enough, there is sometimes a delay from the time of preparation until it is in the mail, and the News is probably not the best place for the occasional thoughts that may be stimulating to another cooperator but would ordinarily end up under the editors' red pencils as too long or too hypothetical for many of the readers.

With these thoughts in mind we have set up a system of handling this information. Cooperators in the breeding project will be asked to type up their thoughts and observations on duplicator masters and to mail them to a central source by the first of the

month. These will be duplicated, assembled, and copies sent out to all cooperators and to those members who write us that they wish to be on this mailing list. Any material received after the deadline will be saved for the next month. Before each Raptor Research News comes out the preceding material will be abstracted and reported in the News. It is felt that such an abstract will probably take care of most people's needs and the R.B.P.I.E. will retain its necessary informality.

We are fortunate to have the cooperation of Tom Dunstan, a graduate student working in raptor research at the University of South Dakota, who will take care of the mechanics of the system.

Workers already involved in the breeding project will receive duplicator masters and requests to submit monthly comments. If you are beginning a breeding project, please request masters from Mr. Tom Dunstan, Zoology Department, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. Dak. 57069. For those who feel that the quarterly abstract of information appearing in the News is insufficient, please send a card asking to be put on the mailing list for the B.P.I.E. to Mr. Don Hunter, Centerville, S. Dak. 57014.

BREEDING PROJECTS

Purpose, Problems, Progress, and Potentialities

For thousands of years man has formed associations with birds of prey. He has identified himself symbolically and emblematically with them and their observed or imagined prowess. He has employed them as hunting allies, and even as military allies but never has he developed a technique of inducing them to reproduce regularly in captivity. Perhaps he recognized no necessity to try very hard. After all many were considered in competition with hunting and farming man and were doing well in spite of persistent persecution. But now some are not doing so well in spite of protection. It is hoped that there are yet time enough and numbers enough to allow the acquisition of an understanding of the biology, ecology, and ethology of these threatened species sufficient, at least temporarily, to stave off extinction. The efforts necessary to achieve this goal are worthwhile to some of us who have the appreciation and motivation and hopefully the understanding of the problems and what it will take to solve them. The response by very knowledgeable persons to our invitation to participate in Raptor Research Foundation is a source of considerable personal satisfaction.

The captivity breeding projects are receiving high priority as it is felt that success in developing these techniques will provide, among other things, a most useful research tool. An important byproduct, we think, will turn out to be the uncovering of problems both biological and psychological that might otherwise go unnoticed until too late. To equate captivity behavior with wild behavior is certainly dangerous since behavior is to some degree at least related to environment. However, patterns have