

INJURIES, INFECTIONS, AND ANTIBIOTICS

Those working with raptors are often confronted with problems of injured birds, at least we have had a procession of injuries brought to us mainly the result of gunshot wounds or collisions with wires. We would like to pass on our observations in hope that they may be of help to someone and to encourage others who have hints on raptor therapy to report to the News.

The first danger in wounds is of course infection. Broken bones are often, probably usually, accompanied by infection to both the bone and the soft tissue of the break area. If the infection can be controlled, the bone will heal in a surprisingly short time. As a result of conversations with Col. MacIntyre of the Air Force Academy, Dr. Morgan Berthrong of Colorado Springs, and Dr. Eric Awender of Freeport, Illinois and Dr. Myron C. Krominga, DVM of Centerville, S. Dak., we have used the following procedure with success. Cleanse wound to remove foreign material but take care not to aggravate or increase the injury. Set bone if practical (if bone is anywhere near proper position we leave it alone). Treat locally with antibiotic combination. We have used successfully a product designed for treatment of mastitis in cow udders, injecting directly into the wound periodically (twice a day). Administer orally one to two hundred thousand units of penicillin G. Tablets may be powdered and picked up on the food or hand administered wrapped in a piece of meat. Continue for seven to nine days. The diet of course should be nutritionally complete. We are, wherever possible, staying away from injectables, as evidence indicates that raptors are sensitive to shock from their use. Many broad spectrum antibiotics would undoubtedly be useful, but due to our lack of experience with them in raptors and the apparent danger in their use we recommend caution. There is evidence of vitamin depletion accompanying use of antibiotics, so use should continue only as long as is necessary.

We might add that birds that are crippled may, none the less, be of value to research projects. (Report by Donald V. Hunter, Jr.)

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY RAPTOR RESEARCH

The editors request that our academic friends prepare brief reports on current and recent raptor research activities at their schools.

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. Dak. Work on raptors is under the supervision of Dr. Byron E. Harrell in the Zoology Department. Harrell is President of the Foundation and Co-editor of the News. He is working on tape-recorder playback techniques for studying owls and cooperates with Don Hunter's breeding project at Centerville, South Dakota. Currently Mr. Rory N. Vose is working on a predator-prey study of Screech Owls and radioactively tagged White-Footed Mice for a Ph.D. thesis. Mr. Thomas C. Dunstan has nearly completed an M.A. thesis on the ecology of the breeding