

Osprey population in a county in northern Minnesota. Another M.A. thesis which is nearing completion is on the local population of raptors in a part of southeastern South Dakota by Mr. Daniel J. Call. Both Mr. Dunstan and Mr. Call anticipate working on raptors in their Ph.D. work. Recently completed theses include a study of Bald Eagle populations wintering in South Dakota and breeding in northern Minnesota (Ph.D.) by Dr. Alfred H. Grewe, Jr., now at St. Cloud State College, Minnesota, and a breeding study of Great Horned Owls in a part of southeastern South Dakota (M.A.) by Mr. John Behrends, now at Mankato High School, Mankato, Minnesota. Another study was made of the territory of Screech Owls by the use of tape recorder playback by Mr. Eugene Bawdon, now at Eastern Arizona Junior College, Thatcher, Arizona. In addition, some banding of raptors is conducted and arrangements are being made to begin some pesticide analyses. (Report by B. E. Harrell)

#### GOLDEN EAGLE COOPERATIVE STUDY\*

Cutting through the ignorance and mistrust that have too often split conservationists and eagle-shooting ranchers into warring camps, the National Audubon Society and the National Wool Growers Association have joined in a study to bring new understanding to the problem of how to protect sheep rancher's livestock without endangering the survival of the golden eagle. The Wool Growers and Audubon, along with the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, will undertake the one-year study to get factual data on the golden eagle and the threat it poses to ranchers.

A policy committee has been established, with representatives from the three organizations, to review the research project and the personnel selected for carrying it out. Carl W. Buchheister, President Emeritus of the National Audubon Society, will be the Society's representative on the committee.

In his final months as president of the National Audubon Society, Mr. Buchheister worked to improve relations between conservationists and the Wool Growers by traveling to their headquarters in San Angelo for talks and inviting them to do the same in New York City. During the meetings, which were both formal and informal, it became clear that the rancher is more of a conservationist than many people--especially easterners--give him credit for, because of his dependence on natural resources. To portray him as a killer who likes to poison or shoot eagles is to misrepresent him. At the same time, Mr. Buchheister found it necessary to point out to the ranchers that the Audubon Society is not composed of "sentimental bird watchers" flatly opposed to all controls on all predators. Rather it is composed of people who believe in the rancher's right to protect his property, as well as in the eagle's right to survive.

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\* Quoted from the National Audubon Society's "Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide," Vol. 8, No. 4, Feb. 15, 1967.

Having conceded that much to each other, they decided to commission a study which would first dig out some of the missing facts --hopefully to point the way to better answers to the problem. With the approval of the Audubon Society and the Wool Growers Association, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will appoint a team of investigators who have experience in the habits of sheep and in the habits of the golden eagle. The work of the investigators will be closely supervised by the policy committee to reassure objectivity in the study. They hope to carry the study through a winter-spring lambing season, from Texas north to Montana.

RAPTOR RESEARCH AND THE NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM

A letter from Dr. David B. Peakall remarks on the following which should be of use to our members.

"It seems to me that our two organizations could be of mutual assistance to each other. The North American Nest Record Card Program has been organized to collect, analyze and distribute information on the breeding biology of birds. One of the important functions of this program is to act as an environmental monitoring system by measuring breeding success of birds on a continent-wide basis. Naturally one of the most interesting groups, judging by the marked decrease in the last decade, are the birds-of-prey. They are also one of the most difficult groups since their nests are not found and examined in large numbers.

"We hope that members of your organization will complete cards --a few are enclosed--on all active nests found. It would also be extremely valuable if they would also fill out cards on nests from previous seasons if they have detailed records. It would not be necessary to be specific as regards location of the nest, merely the state would be enough. I hope that you will be willing to publish an appeal for records in your newsletter.

"The data collected on hawks from all sources by the nest record card program will be available to any serious worker in the field."

We hope that many of our members will cooperate in this venture. Please request cards from, and return them to:

North American Nest-Record Card Program  
 Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
 33 Sapsucker Woods Road  
 Ithaca, New York 14850