occurred in 1946-50. He noted that for Peregrine, European Sparrowhawk, and Golden Eagle, "frequency of egg breakage, scale of decrease in eggshell weight, subsequent status of breeding population, and exposure to organic pesticides are correlated." He also presents further interesting information.

Joe Hickey, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, has initiated a similar investigation on this continent. In a letter he writes, "we currently are having D. W. Anderson visit various museum egg collections in order to get some standardized statistics on egg-shell weights prior to 1940. Dan started in the San Francisco area where he measured 3225 eggs in 940 clutches. He is currently in L.A., will work both coasts, and expects to concentrate on 20 species of raptorial and fish-eating birds. We do not expect this survey to encounter any appreciable numbers of sets collected after 1940 for the species of interest to us."

BREEDING PROJECTS

Last year we were happy to report that several projects had produced eggs, albeit infertile, with the exception of Ron Austing's Red-tails which produced not only fertile eggs but raised the young. The problem as related to the falcons, particularly the large species, seemed to be one of obtaining fertile eggs. This year, as reported in the April issue of Raptor Research News, fertile eggs had been obtained by an identical technique from a pair of Peregrines (Beebe) and a pair of Prairies (Kendall). We have since learned that Olendorff's American Kestrels laid eggs which hatched. We have then it seems gone quite a way toward solving the problem of obtaining fertile eggs. We regret however that we must report that all young died either shortly after hatching or within two weeks, as we have learned (unofficially) was the case with the American Kestrels. It appears that while we have taken a giant step forward, we still have much to learn about incubation and nutrition. Brief resumés of the above projects and their outcome in 1967 are given below.

Beebe's Peregrines. As reported in the last issue, a second set of four eggs was laid after the infertile first set of four was taken from this pair of Peale's Peregrines. Three of these proved fertile, two hatched, and the third was fully developed but did not get out of the shell. Both of the live hatched young died within two days of hatching. The cause of death is not as yet known. Laboratory tests are being made and the exact cause of death may yet be determined. It is suspected that parental diet or low humidity or a combination of both may be the cause. There appeared to be some difficulty experienced by the chicks in getting out of the egg. We hope to have a more extended report in the next issue.

Henry Kendall's Prairie Falcons. The pair of Prairie Falcons was subjected to the same management procedure as were the Beebe Peregrines. Here too the first set of eggs was infertile, the second, fertile. Young were hatched but were apparently killed by the parent birds. There was one variant in this project in that

day old cockerel chicks were fed to the parent birds, which may have been a contributing factor in the unfortunate behavior. We are not in receipt of a detailed report on this project.

Olendorff's American Kestrels. This project involves a pair of kestrels that was unsuccessful last year in producing fertile eggs but this year hatched young which lived for two weeks before expiring.

(Summary by Don Hunter)

RAPTOR POPULATIONS

South Dakota Population Survey. An appraisal of the data so far received indicates that there was a substantial loss of nests in the western part of the state due to late spring storms, particularly as concerns ground nesting hawks, e.g., Marsh Hawks and Ferruginous Hawks. There was some loss also apparent in tree nesters due to the same cause. It appears that most of the nesting territories were again occupied so that no decline in breeding population is evident in the areas studied.

Red-tails had another good year in eastern South Dakota, but with some loss of nesting trees due to human destruction. Prairie Falcons had less success than last year with an average of less than four per eyrie. An unusual amount of rain made access to several eyries next to impossible. At one eyrie five large downy young were found shot and the adults nowhere in evidence. These too were presumably shot. Golden Eagles also had fair success. We are checking a report of one eyrie with three young.

John Flavin reports a rather severe loss of Ferruginous nests in his banding area, presumably due to the late storm. Also, and this is of concern to us, he reports that of the three Richardson's Merlin (Pigeon Hawk) nests he found, NONE raised any young. We have unconfirmed reports that this little falcon is rapidly disappearing from the area of former relative abundance in Saskatchewan. We think this warrants immediate attention and we would appreciate population observations, either nesting or migration counts, from any part of the range. (Summary prepared by Don Hunter.)

PRIVATE POWER COMPANY JOINS FIGHT TO SAVE THE BALD EAGLE

A private power company has joined the battle to save the national bird, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said today. The Northern States Power Company of Minneapolis, Minn., has adopted rules to protect the American bald eagle on 30,000 acres along the St. Croix River in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In a letter to Earl Ewald, president of the company, Secretary Udall wrote: "The people of the United States are indebted to you and to your company for adopting a policy which will give protection to nesting areas and migration routes of the bald eagle along the St. Croix River."