

RAPTOR POPULATION COMMITTEE

George Jonkel sent out a memorandum to those who checked this interest on our questionnaire. This memo encouraged the reader to monitor migratory and nesting populations in their areas. In order to reach others we are enclosing a copy of the form sent out with this issue of the News. The committee hopes that cooperators can fill these out at the end of the nesting season and send them to Don Adolphson, 2611 Lawndale Drive, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57701.

RAPTOR BANDING COMMITTEE

Peregrines. A number of banders are undoubtedly saving a feather or two from the raptors you trap and band in the hope that this material will some day be analyzed for pesticide residues. (At least one European lab is extracting hard pesticide residues from a single feather from each specimen.) Dan Anderson, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc., 53706, has just gathered a substantial number of feathers from Peregrine museum specimens. If you wish to help add to this collection, which may be extremely valuable in years to come, please send him right rectrix No. 2 (the tail feather next to the middle feather on the right hand side of the bird), or a feather as near to this location as possible [see Editor's Note below]. The label should include age, sex, date, place, and your name. I always include band number on such labels, as banding records are on permanent file. Just keep the feather clean, put it in an envelope, and mail it to him with the label.

Snowy Owls. Look under the alula (bastard wing) for a possibly new ageing method. Of course, use other ageing methods in conjunction, or we won't be testing my hunch that birds of the year still may carry brown, juvenal feathers at this point. If you will send me one feather (the darkest one over two inches long from the alula) labeled as for Peregrine feathers above, I would be glad to summarize and report on the material.

Fran Hamerstrom
Plainfield, Wisconsin 54966

Editor's Note. (re. collection of feathers from living raptors for pesticide analysis.) Unlike some other birds, particularly the Columbiformes, raptors do not readily regrow feathers which have been pulled out of the follicles. While sometimes a perfect feather does replace the pulled out feather, often the follicle is damaged to a degree that no feather is ever again grown from this follicle. Often even when a feather is regrown it is defective. Therefore it is recommended that