

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

the desired feather be cut off which will be replaced at the next molt in normal sequence. One more word of caution: while the bird will probably not suffer significant reduction in flight ability with only the loss of one tail feather, the loss of more certainly would. Also the feathers give partial support to adjacent feathers; those next to removed feathers are more vulnerable to breakage. Use of common sense is indicated in taking feathers for the above worthy purpose. (DVHJr)

CAPTIVITY BREEDING COMMITTEE

Reports of Successful Captivity Breeding Attempts. We have a report that Tony Schramm, a young man in Washington state, was successful in raising a young Peregrine from parents in captivity this year. We hope to be able to publish details at a later date.

Henry Kendall of St. Louis, Missouri, was successful this year in captivity breeding Prairie Falcons. Two males and a female were fledged. Five eggs were laid; apparently only three hatched. It is understood that a complete account of this successful attempt will be published elsewhere at a later date. An account of Kendall's last year near success was reported in the B.P.I.E. last fall. The following section is a report of the feeding of his birds before and during incubation which is of high interest.

Don Hunter
Centerville, S. Dak. 57014

Notes on Food Preferences of Captive Breeding Prairie Falcons. For the past two years, about a month prior to egg laying time (April), I have made a point of giving my breeding pair of Prairie Falcons a wide variety of food, ranging from small birds, chickens and pheasants to squirrel, beef heart and lean beef, amply fortified with Vionate (a vitamin and mineral supplement). This year, a daily capsule of wheat germ oil was also given both birds during this period. Obviously, this program of feeding was designed to insure potentially healthy chicks.

At this stage of the breeding cycle, the adult birds showed no particular food preferences, at least as far as I could discern. About the same amount of food was consumed daily and the falcon (a 1962 eyass) and the tiercel (a 1964 eyass) maintained a weight of 32 oz. and 20 oz. respectively, when on the full feed program.

During the egg laying and incubation period, which can cover as long as 45 days (as it did this year when five eggs were laid), mainly chicken was fed that was sprinkled with the Vionate supple-