

"BUMBLEFOOT"

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Mr. Schwartz (*Raptor Research News* 2(1);10-25, 1968) is to be congratulated for an experimental approach to testing cures for foot infections. My experience has been so different from his, in particular his statement that he believes that a wound virtually guarantees an infection. I have not found this to be the case.

My training is in biology with a veterinary minor, and throughout the years I have probably flown, held, nursed or hacked well over 100 raptors, and have seen my share of foot wounds. First let me describe the failures I can recall: a Rough-leg with porcupine quills, and a pole-trapped Horned Owl, had such serious foot infections that we could not save them.

One Golden Eagle I "treated" at Morley Nelson's suggestion. She had some nasty-looking corns. I daily gave her a human multi-vitamin pill and switched her from a beef heart to a varied diet. She recovered in about ten days. My usual treatment, which has been highly successful, has been as follows: leave the blood plug in the wound and keep the wound away from water--no bathing, or exposure to rain or snow. If the wound is on the bottom of the foot, I supply a fresh hay-bale perch. I was taught never to operate unless indicated and this training has stood me in good stead. It has worked.