

PATHOLOGY COMMITTEE

The services of qualified medical personnel with an interest in the diseases of birds of prey have long been the request of falconers, research biologists, and other individuals maintaining birds of prey. It is hoped that the Pathology Committee of the Raptor Research Foundation will fill this void and be of value to those of you who have a need for our services.

The members of the Pathology Committee have volunteered their professional abilities and facilities to further the knowledge of diseases of birds of prey, and in this way make a contribution to all persons interested in the health and welfare of raptorial birds.

The goals of the committee are to investigate disease problems in birds of prey and, through timely reports in *Raptor Research News*, convey its findings to the readers.

The committee members will assist in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases incurred in birds of prey and perform necropsy examinations of birds that have died. These services are offered without cost to the individual submitting the specimen.

Several members of the committee have expressed an interest in consulting with wildlife researchers in planning and developing research projects.

The geographic distribution of committee members throughout the United States will provide somewhat local contact and relatively short transportation distances for specimens submitted for necropsy. It also permits committee members to become familiar with local climatic and environmental conditions that are pertinent to local disease prevalence and epidemiology.

The advantages in the formation of this committee are many and varied: (1) It provides a "clearing house" on a somewhat local scale for medical questions. (2) It will provide committee members with persons of similar interests for consultation and referrals. This in effect will provide the local bird owner with a composite opinion of disease etiology and treatment of choice. (3) It will be a mechanism by which medically qualified persons can communicate with each other and then corrolate their findings and recommendations and present them to the readers of *Raptor Research News*. This will be accomplished by a semi-annual report of diseases encountered in the previous time period.

Your support in submitting specimens and questions to the committee members will provide the necessary stimulus for this needed dialogue in the literature.

Pathology Committee Members

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[Editor's Note: A five page necropsy questionnaire form and shipping instructions for specimens are being mailed to all RRF members. Non-members may obtain two copies of the questionnaire, a list of the committee members, and shipping instructions for \$1.00.]