

## NOTES, NEWS, AND QUERIES

**Editorial Notes.** A policy on recording dates of receipt of papers and of publication has been established. Each paper on publication will bear the date of its receipt by one of the Editors. Each issue will report on the publication date of the preceding issue. We will attempt to keep the period of time from submission until publication to a minimum. Some of the papers in this and the next issue were a backlog of papers received before the new format was planned so the average publication interval should be shortened. Publication dates of the 1971 volume of *Raptor Research News* were: 5(1) April 7, 1971; 5(2) August 9, 1971; 5(3) January 3, 1972; 5(4) April 7, 1972; 5(5-6) June 24, 1972.

**NOTICE. Conference on Raptor Conservation Techniques.** The Raptor Research Foundation in cooperation with the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, is sponsoring a symposium on the status of wild populations and on captivity breeding of birds of prey, to be held at Fort Collins, Colorado, 18-21 March 1973. Papers on the following topics are invited: Population inventories, Productivity studies, Investigations of the effects of biocides and industrial wastes (PCB's) on raptor populations, Population management and conservation, and Captivity breeding of raptors by individuals, academic institutions and zoological gardens. The scope of the conference is worldwide and contributions from abroad are expected. Anyone wishing to present a paper or to attend should contact Dr. Richard R. Olendorff, 3317 Olympus Drive, Bremerton, Washington 98310 U.S.A., or Dr. Byron E. Harrell, Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., c/o Biology Department, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069 U.S.A. The deadline for submitting abstracts is October 15, 1972.

**C.B.S. Airs Raptor Conservation Film on "Animal World."** A very informative and well-produced half-hour television program about birds of prey was aired February 20, 1972, on "Animal World," a semi-popular C.B.S. network series. The three-part program was filmed on location in Alaska and at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

The first part dealt with the Seward Peninsula Gyrfalcon and Rough-legged Hawk work of David G. Roseneau and Wayman "Skip" Walker, both students of Dr. L. G. Swartz of the University of Alaska Department of Biology. Field biology and the significance of the studies were emphasized.


The second part was about Goshawk studies undertaken by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in southeast Alaska. Scenes depicted locating Goshawk nests from light aircraft by Jerry McGowan, a biologist with the Alaska

Department of Fish and Game, and banding young Goshawks by McGowan and Terry Bendock, an assistant from Seattle, Washington.

The last seven or eight minute segment opened with the 1971 Colville River trip of James D. Weaver, Stanley A. Temple and Paul Spitzer of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. The footage was excellent and showed the research in progress, including the finding of thin-shelled Peregrine eggs and young Peregrines dead in an eyrie. A statement by Temple brought the conservation message to the audience quite well.

The program ended with discussions of eggshell thinning with Dr. David Peakall and a prognosis for the future of the Peregrine by Dr. Tom Cade, Research Director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Cade's statements centered around the possibilities of captivity breeding.

The staff of C.B.S. and all of the researchers involved deserve a great deal of commendation for the excellent film they prepared. We must get our message to the public in this or similar ways if we expect any action to be taken with regard to protecting the birds of prey. The "Animal World" program reaches a major segment of the American public.



**Predator Control and Related Problems.** The Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environmental, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Appropriations held four days of hearings in 1971 on the killing of Golden and Bald Eagles in Wyoming last summer. The proceedings of these hearings are available free of charge from the United States Government Printing Office through Senator Gale W. McGee of Wyoming, the Chairman of the Subcommittee. Simply request them from Senator Gale W. McGee, United States Senate, Committee on Appropriations, Washington, D. C. 20510.

It would be difficult even to summarize the contents of this 218-page document. The following is a listing of some of the more pertinent testimonies. I emphasize that nearly the whole document concerns eagle problems.

The first two days of the hearings, June 2nd and 3rd, 1971, involved the deaths of eagles from thallium sulfate poisoning. Included in the testimony of June 2nd is an evaluation of the legal status of interstate shipment of certain poisons and a discussion of pending legislation concerning governmental control of pesticide marketing. These matters were handled by William D. Ruckelshaus, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency. A team from the Department of Interior headed by Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, testified about the actual killings in Wyoming. Included are discussions of thallium sulfate and 1080 as predator control poisons, autopsy reports of the eagle carcass analyses, and the status of federal laws concerning eagles. Dr. Charles Loveless made statements concerning the ranges of Bald and Golden Eagles; population estimates and migratory habits were also discussed. Charles H. Lawrence, Chief, Division of Management and Enforcement, told of the federal investigations being carried out at that time in Wyoming. The incredible testimony regarding the misuse of thallium

makes interesting, but sad, reading.

The afternoon of June 2nd included an analysis of sheep losses to predators by Francis J. Mulhern, Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service. Tables show that 15,000 lambs and 200 sheep were killed by eagles in Wyoming in 1969 and 1970 according to the sheep ranchers reports to the Cooperative Crop and Livestock Reporting Service and the Department of Agriculture. Several people from various protectionist groups also testified that afternoon. Mrs. Barbara Dobas of the Murie Audubon Society of Casper, Wyoming, gave a statement on the status of eagles in Wyoming. Alexander Sprunt, IV, Director, Research Department of the National Audubon Society, testified concerning studies of eagle-sheep relationships in Texas and presented a prepared statement of position from the National Audubon Society. Similar testimony from a number of other sources continued on June 3rd, 1971.

The second part of the hearings was held on August 2nd and 3rd, 1971. They involve the shooting of nearly 800 eagles from aircraft in Wyoming. The whole two days were taken up primarily by the testimony of James O. Vogan who was employed as a helicopter pilot to fly gunners on eagle and coyote killing forays. The testimony is very descriptive and even includes photostats of Mr. Vogan's tally sheets of eagles and coyotes killed and money paid by ranchers as bounties.

I would very much encourage those interested in this matter to request a copy of the document. It is a storehouse of information and a monument to the inequities existing in the current laws and management practices relating to predators. By obtaining a copy and commending Senator McGee for his work on this issue, you can let Senator McGee know your position (briefly) and get a lot of valuable information in the process.

**Raptor Banders—Organize!** Anyone interested in information about an organization for raptor banders please call or drop a card to the following organizers: William S. Clark, 7800 Dasset Court, Apartment 101, Annandale, Virginia 22003 (Ph. 703-941-5324) or Robert Wilson, Clover Lane, Randolph Township, New Jersey 07081 (Ph. 291-895-2259).

A questionnaire will be sent to you by return mail.

We want to know what raptor banders want from such an organization before we proceed. Possibilities at present are to set up a separate organization, establish a raptor banding organization under Raptor Research Foundation, or the combined regional banding journals (if they combine), or to drop the idea completely if no one is interested.

The purpose of such an organization would be the interchange of information on raptor trapping techniques, results, and studies. Also a raptor banding ethic will be established through editorials and article content. *William S. Clark.*

[Editorial Note: The Banding Committee of Raptor Research Foundation under its first Chairperson, Dr. Frances Hamerstrom, prepared a number of reports including an important one in the U. S. Bird Banding Laboratory *Memo*

to *All Banders* (MTAB 14; also see RRN 5(3):79-80, 1970). We hope that the Committee might be considered as the mechanism for such cooperative efforts. —B.E.H.]

**Bird Treaties Signed with Japan, Mexico.** The U. S. Government recently signed a bilateral agreement in Tokyo to protect 189 species of birds that fly between the Japan and the U. S., mainly from Alaska. The treaty, which provides preservation of migratory habitats and sets a ban on the import and export of birds that are considered endangered, is hoped to curtail some of the alarming decline in Japanese migratory birds.

While 76 percent of the 424 species of Japanese birds are migratory, a recent survey by the Japanese Government's environmental agency reported that the migratory bird population was down significantly. For instance, the survey reported that only 5,000 wild geese had been sighted in 1971, a tenth of the number recorded in 1953. The survey also pointed out that heavy industrial encroachment in Japan had reduced the number of traditional wintering places for the birds from 149 to 27.

Among the species that fly between the two countries and are endangered are the Short-tailed Albatross, the Peregrine Falcon, and the Aleutian Canada Goose.

In ceremonies held in Mexico City on March 10, the U. S. and Mexico formally ratified amendments to the 1936 Migratory Bird Convention which extends extra protection especially from wanton shooting, to 32 new families of birds.

Included are the six families that contain all the birds of prey. Also, the amendments now give the U. S. government authority to arrest persons caught taking any of the following endangered species: American and Arctic Peregrine Falcon, Brown Pelican, California Least Tern, California Condor, Hawaiian Crow, Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel, and Florida Everglade Kite.

The amendments increase from 31 to 63 the families of birds protected under the treaty with Mexico. Among the new families added, 11 were already protected in the U. S. under the 1916 Migratory Bird Treaty with England, acting for Canada. Also, some of the species were protected already under individual state laws.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel Reed emphasized that "the amendments will, in effect, provide for much needed uniform protection all across North America, including Mexico." He pointed out, however, that some species, such as crows, magpies, and horned owls, may require population control under certain nuisance. The treaty also provides for the use of certain raptors in the sport of falconry. (From *Conservation News* 37(9):13, 1972.)