

REPORT:
CURRENT RESEARCH ON ACCIPITERS

Compiled by
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Steve Hennessy, PO Box 199, Logan, Utah 84321. Beginning (1973) a study of the effects of recreational activities upon nesting Cooper's Hawks as well as other aspects of accipiter biology. Also testing an auditory method of censusing nesting pairs. Master's study.

Alan Jenkins, 1460 East 520 South, Provo, Utah 84601. Planning to study Goshawk nesting using a time-lapse super-8 movie camera.

J. D. McGowan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. In 1970 the ADF&G initiated studies on Goshawks. Objectives of the program were to assess density and productivity of Goshawks in Interior Alaska. A light aircraft was used to locate potential nesting areas. Active nests were monitored to determine productivity. A total of 25 active nests have been monitored on the 170 square mile study area during the three years of study. Trapping and banding operations have resulted in the handling of 122 Goshawks since 1970. Additional data were collected including growth and development of young, fall movements, molting of adults, morphology, summer food habits and behavior of nesting adults. The ADF&G plans to continue Goshawk studies through the fall of 1973 after which the published data will be available for further investigation by University of Alaska graduate students.

Joseph Platt, Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84601. Conducting a nesting study of Sharp-shinned Hawks by means of telemetry. Both adults were followed daily from the hatching of the eggs until the young left the area three weeks after fledging.

Richard Reynolds, Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331. Just completed a four-year study of resource partitioning among the three accipiters in Oregon during the breeding season. Beginning in spring 1973, three additional years will be spent determining nesting densities in areas where the three species co-exist, differential migration, partitioning of resources during winter, and elucidating several questions raised during the first four years of research. Ph.D. study.

Charles Schwartz, Department of Biology, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho 83201. Planning a study and analysis of Cooper's Hawk breeding behavior utilizing both field observations and captive pairs. Two-year Master's study.

Noel and Helen Snyder, Box 21, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721. Have completed four years of a continuing study of the ecology and behavior of accipiters in the southwestern United States. The study covers nesting ecology of the three species, reproductive behavior of adults, behavior of young, growth and development, productivity, population trends, diet by sex and as a function of point in the breeding cycle, and diet as a function of altitude. Some experiments were done on hunting rates as a function of brood size with both natural and manipulated numbers of young, and of the ontogeny of the pecking response to red in young accipiters and how this response may relate to eye color changes in adults. About 70 eggs were analyzed for chlorinated hydrocarbons and heavy metals. The population will continue to be monitored and banded for several years to determine dispersion of young, age of first banding, longevity and related matters.

L. G. Swartz, College of Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. With students work has involved trapping, biopsying, banding, and releasing Goshawks for about three years in order to supplement whole-body pesticide data gathered from dead hawks brought in by the public and donated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A relatively low level cooperative effort with the studies of J. D. McGowan and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is expected to increase in importance beginning in 1973 when more intensive work on nesting and movements is planned.