**SPECIAL OFFER**—*An extensive Bibliography on Falconry, Eagles, Hawks, Falcons and Other Diurnal Birds of Prey.* Copies numbered 201-300 of this 244-page, 7,492-entry bibliography were not distributed in order. These 3-volume sets of the limited edition of 1,000 copies are now for sale for $9.50 postpaid (original price $10.00). Less than 70 copies (all numbered in the 900's) will be left when this group is gone. Indices for these three volumes, a lengthy addendum to the first three volumes, and an update volume from 1968-1974 are now in preparation, but there are no plans to reprint the first volumes. Soon these will be available only on the secondhand book market. If interested in one or several copies of Volumes 1, 2, and 3, please send $9.50 for each set ($11.00 Air Mail) to Richard R. Olendorff, 8921 Braeburn Drive, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

**Proposed Dam on Missouri Will Harm National Eagle Refuge.** A plan is being developed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for the increase of hydroelectric production on the Missouri. It is an effort to meet rising peak energy loads. Peak loads occur at those periods of high demand such as a hot summer afternoon when everyone's air conditioner is running or during an early evening in winter when families return home from work and school.

The hydropower program has no proposals for construction. It is a feasibility study presently considering environment, economic and social impacts. The plan, however, would involve the construction of additional generating units in each of the main stem dams except Gavins Point. It also includes the building of small dams (reregulation structures) to catch the increased flow below Fort Peck in Montana, Garrison in North Dakota and Fort Randall on the South Dakota-Nebraska border. The Corps hope to complete the study by Sept. 30, 1976.

*The National Eagle Refuge.* On Dec. 19, 1974, just over a 1000 acres of Missouri River bottomland near Pickstown, S.D. was turned over to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be operated as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Dedication of the Karl E. Mundt National Wildlife Refuge culminated a nationwide project to secure permanently the wintering site of nearly 15% of all the American Bald Eagles located in the lower 48 states.

The National Wildlife Federation and 7-Eleven Food Stores Division of Southland Corporation joined together to raise over $200,000 to acquire title to 818

acres of land and to obtain conservation easements covering another 305 acres along the Missouri River two miles below the Fort Randall Dam.

This area has been heralded by federal wildlife authorities as one of the most vital Bald Eagle roosting grounds in the nation and is the wintering home for up to 300 Bald Eagles.

Historically, reports the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), South Dakota has long been a favorite winter nesting site for the northern Bald Eagle. Until 1956, the nation's symbol could be found every 10 miles or so along stretches of the Missouri River which remained unfrozen during the hard midwest winters.

Construction of the Fort Randall Dam in 1956 changed this pattern. When previous roosting areas behind the dam were flooded, says the NWF, the cottonwood roosts just below the dam became even more attractive to the eagles. The water, flowing regularly through the dam, keeps the river open for one to six miles downstream even in sub-zero weather.

The stretch of water is heavily populated with a wide variety of fish including shad, carp, buffalo walleye and catfish. This unique combination of food and open water plus the large stands of cottonwoods along the west bank of the river makes the area one of the most important draws for wintering eagles in the lower United States.

Wildlife officials have felt for some time that our nation's symbol needed a winter sanctuary. Even though they've been protected since 1782 [Ed.—error], the Bald Eagle's range, which once extended over most of the nation, has steadily declined. This can be traced to habitat destruction, malicious or unintentional shooting and use of persistent pesticides.

The sanctuary contains some of the last Missouri River bottom lands in all of South Dakota, remaining much as it was when Lewis and Clark explored the region in the early 19th Century.

Besides Bald Eagles, the site of the new refuge also supports a wide variety of other wildlife. The cottonwoods that provide roosting sites for the eagles also provide shelter for whitetail deer, Bobwhite Quail, cottontail rabbit, Wild Turkey, fox, coyote, oppossum, raccoon and an occasional bobcat. Muskrat, mink and beaver can be found in and around the river and its tributaries. Prairie Chickens sometimes come down off the nearby prairie hills to winter in the Missouri River flood plain lands of the refuge.

Additionally, this stretch of the Missouri below Fort Randall Dam is believed to be the last remaining spawning grounds of the giant paddlefish in South Dakota. The flowing water and gravel beds paddlefish require to reproduce were eliminated as the reservoirs were filled.

*A Controversy Arises.* The potential for an environmental controversy has arisen. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is developing a plan to establish additional hydroelectric facilities on the Missouri River main stem dams in an effort to meet rising peak energy loads.

One of the reregulation structures involved would be located just downstream from the Eagle Refuge.

The S.D. Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks (GFP) and their North Dakota and Nebraska counterparts, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation and the S.D. Environmental Coalition, have all registered opposition to the proposal.

In a letter to the Planning Division Chief of the Corps of Engineers in Omaha, the GFP addressed itself in part to the negative impacts posed by the proposed reregulating structure below Fort Randall Dam. Some detrimental effects they foresee include: (1) material damage to an important eagle wintering area due to flooding, bank erosion and soil saturation, (2) elimination of the last stretch of Missouri River wholly within the South Dakota boundaries, (3) loss of major spawning areas for walleye and sauger, as well as the last known paddlefish spawning area in the state, (4) loss of a fishable population of game fish and elimination of boating and other recreation due to daily water level fluctuations of 10 feet and flow velocities ranging from 5 to 25 feet per second, and (5) bank erosion, loss of sand bars, willow covered islands and one wooded island.

The proposal, states the GFP, "provides little benefit to fish and wildlife or the environment." The letter says, "It seems that we again are called upon to give up more of our outdoor quality for others to enjoy a higher standard of living."

The South Dakota Environmental Coalition is more specific in its charges, according to a letter to the Omaha District Corps head, dated May 15, 1975. The Coalition alleges that "If the proposal to construct the reregulation structure were implemented, approximately 100 acres of the new refuge would be lost due to the increased flow velocity and fluctuations. The mature cottonwoods . . . would likely die as a result of increased ground water fluctuations and ultimate root saturation. The fishery resource along the 13 miles of affected river would be virtually eliminated because of the velocity of flows and the block of upstream migrations. A current study sponsored by the University of Missouri concerning food habits and daily activities of the eagles has indicated that the birds make extremely heavy use of the fish resource along the river adjacent to the refuge. With this food source eliminated, the birds would no doubt disperse, thereby eliminating the establishing objective of the refuge, as well as rendering the eagles more vulnerable to indiscriminate exploitation."

The Corps of Engineers preliminary studies indicate the project is economically feasible. A study of the principle areas of environmental concern has been initiated to determine the proper course of action, according to a recent status report.

Additional time is being allowed for "detailed economic, social and environmental impact studies, which in turn provide the basis for alternative plan and trade-off evaluation," the report says.

The Corps is seeking to complete the over-all study covering all issues and op-

portunities by Sept. 30, 1976. They hope to prepare a document suitable for Congressional action by that time. Details dealing mainly with the environmental aspects of the issue have been presented here. Those people desiring further information might contact one or more of the several agencies and organizations involved.

(From *Eco-Forum* 2(5):1-2, July 1975; originally from South Dakota Extension Service *Environmental Newsletter,* August 1975.)

**Peregrine Comeback Attempted on East Coast.** Dr. Stanley Temple slowly edged his way up the 75-foot iron ladder, carefully balancing a large cardboard box in one hand. Joined by Dr. Tom Cade at the top, the two biologists plucked the cargo of four screeching fluff balls from the box and deposited them in the large moving company carton. The new residents of the tower were four 12-day-old Peregrine Falcons, hatched at the highly successful captive breeding facility at Cornell University, and released as the first effort to reintroduce the Peregrine to the East Coast. Though once fairly common along the eastern seaboard, the Peregrine was exterminated east of the Rockies in the 1960's, principally due to the use of DDT. Now, through the joint efforts of the U. S. Army, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cornell University, and others, attempts are being made to bring the world's fastest bird back to its native habitat.

The initial East Coast falcon release recently occurred on top of an old howitzer-testing tower at Aberdeen Proving Ground, an Army ordinance-testing facility in eastern Maryland. The three females and one male were released on Carroll Island, formerly an open-air test site for a variety of "military chemicals," but now considered devoid of pesticide and other chemical residues. Aberdeen ecologist Dr. F. Prescott Ward also emphasizes that the 584-acre island is ideal habitat: plenty of food, well-protected from human intrusion, and a relatively pristine area. The downy nestlings will be fed—principally minced quail and pigeon—and cared for 24 hours a day by Dr. Temple and two Army personnel until mid-summer, when they have fledged and are hunting for themselves. The birds are color-banded and are also "wired for sound," fitted with tiny transmitters to provide scientific feedback on the Peregrines' home range, migration patterns, prey species, mortality, and, hopefully, eventual reproductive success.

Later this summer, additional Peregrines will be released in upstate New York near Cornell, and in the Catskills, and in Massachusetts and several sites in the Rocky Mountain states. Additionally, a western breeding facility for Peregrine Falcons has been established under the direction of Cornell's raptor staff at a research site in Colorado in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Young Peregrines raised there are scheduled to be returned to western wild areas in the near future. (From *Conservation News* 40(14)6-7, 1975.)

**Saving the Eagle with a Computer.** Laws have been enacted, construction projects halted, habitat preserved, pesticide use restricted, hunters fined–all for the sake of the American Bald Eagle. Soon a computer will be added to the growing list of efforts to save the nation's symbol from extinction. The National Wildlife Federation's executive vice president Thomas L. Kimball has announced the establishment of a computerized eagle data bank at NWF's Washington, D.C., headquarters. "Information that may be vital to the survival of the eagle is now scattered in libraries and laboratories across the nation," says Kimball. "Pesticide effects discovered in a laboratory on the east coast may never come to the attention of a scientist studying the same bird in the Pacific northwest."

The National Wildlife Federation decided there was an "imperative need" for a one-stop clearinghouse of eagle information, after it turned 1,100 acres of South Dakota land over to the federal government for an eagle refuge last December. The new NWF data bank, utilizing both microfilm and computer information retrieval systems, will be created with the aid of an $85,000 grant from the Exxon Company, U.S.A., of Houston, Texas. It will be directed by an ornithologist who will join the NWF staff on a permanent basis. One of the first tasks of the data bank will be to pinpoint all eagle nesting and roosting sites in the "lower 48" states, with a view to acquiring and protecting some of them from further human encroachment.

Bald Eagles were once found all across the United States. There are still an estimated 6,000 of them in sparsely-settled Alaska, but in the contiguous states their number has been reduced to about 2,000 northern Bald Eagles and only about 600 southern Bald Eagles. The southern Bald Eagle has been placed on the U. S. endangered species list. Until 1940, when Congress outlawed the killing of eagles, many were shot by farmers and ranchers as predators. Since then their population has been cut down largely by destruction of habitat and by pesticides entering their food chain. By 1973 only eight states–Virginia, Maryland, Wisconsin, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington–had more than 25 nests. "Eagles just aren't very tolerant of man," explains Kimball. "If they are to survive, we are going to have to make some accommodations. By collecting everything that is known about how and where they live and making it available to experts in and out of government, we should be able to preserve this bird that is so much a part of the national tradition." (From *Conservation News* 40(18):10-11, 1975.)