expectancy, taken to be a constant for adults of all ages. This last assumption is justified by the fact that essentially none of the birds live long enough to die of old age, and so the causes of mortality affect all breeding-age birds in the sample in about the same way.

When a curve of the form of equation (1) is fitted to the recoveries of the second row of table 2 (recoveries of Prairie Falcons omitting returns and foreign retraps) by using a maximum likelihood method, the best fit is achieved with $L_0 = 10.2$ and $r = 0.422$. The reciprocal of 0.422 is a point estimate of the life expectancy of an adult Prairie Falcon in the wild—about 2.4 years—considerably less than the four-year life expectancy computed in the same manner for the breeding-age Peregrine (Shor 1970). It confirms the impression obtained by comparison of the recovery data for the two species in table 3.

It is difficult computationally to obtain an estimate of the statistical confidence of this point estimate directly from the maximum likelihood computation. However, a feel for the value can be obtained by finding the effect of statistical fluctuations in the number of birds recovered each year on the value of r computed by making a least squares fit to the data. Through this approximate scheme, 95 percent confidence limits of about 2.0 and 2.8 are derived for the life expectancy of a Prairie Falcon. Both these values are much less than the four years derived for the Peregrine, so it can reasonably be concluded that the life expectancy of an adult Prairie Falcon in the wild is considerably less than that of the Peregrine.

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Reference Cited

Shor, W. 1970. Peregrine Falcon population dynamics deduced from band recovery data. Raptor Res. News 4(2):49-59.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE – 1976 MEETING
OF THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION

As approved by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting in Boise last November, the 1976 meetings will be held at Ithaca, New York, home of Cornell University, with Dr. Tom Cade serving as local chairman. Cosponsoring organizations include the Laboratory of Ornithology and the Peregrine Fund. The meetings will commence on Friday, October 29, and run through Monday, November 1. The Ramada Inn in Ithaca will serve as conference headquarters, with some activities planned for the Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods. A call for papers and other details will be forthcoming in future announcements.