

COMMENTARY

The Journal of Raptor Research: A NEW BEGINNING

The end of 1986 marked the end of the first twenty years of The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. The beginning of 1987 launches the Foundation into the next twenty years and beyond. Since incorporation in 1966, the Foundation has grown from a charter membership of six to a current membership of more than one thousand, and the scope has become international.

The Foundation's first publication was a quarterly newsletter entitled *Raptor Research News*. The *News* became *Raptor Research* and evolved into a peer reviewed, quarterly publication in 1971. With this the first issue of 1987, the journal begins a new chapter in its history. The journal has a new title, a new Editor, a new format, and a new publisher. I am very honored and also very happy to have been chosen Editor. As an Assistant Editor, I have learned a great deal about scientific literature and its uniqueness. The new title, *The Journal of Raptor Research*, and the new format reflect the uniqueness of our journal among the annals of scientific literature. The new publisher, Allen Press, Inc., reflects the continued commitment of the Foundation to fostering professionalism and expansion of the journal and other publications. Another distinction of the journal has been its welcome of manuscripts from novice raptor enthusiasts as well as amateur and professional scientists. Each has something of value to offer raptor ecology, whether it is a fresh approach or the culmination of years of study.

A journal represents the standard upon which a professional society is judged. A growing journal is evidence of a growing organization, and the Foundation and the journal have continued to grow and improve. I am committed to increasing the quality of manuscripts printed and to keeping the journal distributed on a quarterly schedule. Average manuscript rejection rate is now 32%, and the number of manuscripts received for publication has steadily increased. The battery of reviewers for submitted manuscripts has also increased, as evidenced in the list appearing in this issue. The list will continue to increase in order to better evaluate the diverse subjects of manuscripts being received for publication. Finally, the journal is now distributed to thirty-one countries outside the United States, including numerous libraries and literary institutions.

The Foundation's publications have made great strides over the years in becoming established among professional ornithological literature. I hope that each member will continue to support The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., and publish in *The Journal of Raptor Research*. Your manuscripts will receive expeditious, quality reviews and professional editorial advice.—**Jimmie R. Parrish, Editor.**