

## NEWS AND REVIEWS

### *Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.* LIFE MEMBERS

#### DEAN AMADON

Born in Milwaukee in 1912, Dean Amadon had already shown a strong interest in birds and mammals by the time his parents moved to the more congenial surroundings of a farm in western New York in 1919. It was a hard life, and trapping of furbearers not only augmented the family's meager income but also gave Dean many opportunities to escape into the outdoors. His fascination with wildlife and raptors continues in retirement after a distinguished career with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. In his first 1943 paper on raptors entitled "Experiences with the Great Horned Owl," Dean described his thrill when walking through the leafless woods to a maple sugar camp where a Great Horned Owl flushed from its nest in a tall Beech tree. The thrill was still there recently when Dean saw his first Great Gray Owl at close range in Yosemite National Park.

Dean Amadon entered Hobart College to study under E.H. Eaton, author of the classic work on the birds of New York State. Dean received his Ph.D. degree from Cornell University working under Arthur Allen, the first professor of ornithology in the United States. Dean interrupted his graduate work during the depression to join the Connecticut Fish and Game Department for two years and completed his degree in 1947. His thesis research dealt with the systematics and evolution of the Hawaiian Honey-creeper. Dean joined the American Museum of Natural History in 1937, when he was hired by Frank M. Chapman.

Amadon has conducted field work in Australia, eastern Africa, and South America in addition to North America and Hawaii. His first paper on the systematics of raptors showed that the subspecific status awarded to the Osprey of New Caledonia Island was not warranted.

Dean authored the often quoted "Eagles, hawks and falcons of the world" with Leslie H. Brown in 1968. Dean is still absorbed today producing outstanding works on raptors and systematics. He recently coauthored "Hawks and owls of the world; a distributional and taxonomic list." Working with Lester Short, he is currently evalu-



ating old and new concepts in speciation. His largest ongoing project is an annotated bibliography of all the major works (primarily books) on falconiform and strigiform birds, in collaboration with Richard R. (Butch) Olendorf. Dean's extensive collection of raptor books, probably the largest such collection in the world, serves as a most valuable resource in this effort.

It is with great pleasure that the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. counts Dean Amadon a life member. Serving as Past President of the American Ornithologists' Union and as retired chairman of the Department of Ornithology of the American Museum of Natural History, are only some of the high profile accomplishments made by this gentle unassuming man with an intense interest in birds in general and raptors in particular. Added to this is a kind regard for students of ornithology; a special example for our profession.

## 1990 TULLEY MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER

**Cynthia Sills**

**Cynthia Sills** was born in Syracuse, New York where she grew up swimming and riding competitively. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. At the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. Cindy is currently working on a Master of Science degree in ecology at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho. Her thesis is entitled "Effects of Supplemental Feeding on Hatching Synchrony in Burrowing Owls." Her goal is to continue her education and earn a Ph.D. in wildlife nutrition. Cindy's primary interest is in feeding aspects of secondary consumers.

Besides working with burrowing owls, Cindy has assisted a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Idaho with his study on the ecology of tundra swans in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. Also, she has worked with American kestrels in North Dakota for the U.S.D.A. Grasshopper Management Program and Colorado State University. She has floated down the Thelon and Hanbury Rivers in the Thelon Game Sanctuary, Northwest Territories, Canada, conducting undergraduate research on caribou feeding habits through a course at Colorado State University, Boulder. Cindy has also been a Forest Service assistant wilderness ranger and a laboratory technician for a U.S.D.A. Barley Research Station and a M.S. project in rapeseed digestibility in cattle.

**VULTURE RESEARCH.** Vulture Researcher, Alison Cook, is collecting folklore, stories, legends, rituals, and ceremonies involving vultures worldwide. Please write me, send me your phone number or call collect. 2111 Mirabeau Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 282-0651 or 523-3795.

## 1990 LESLIE BROWN MEMORIAL GRANT RECIPIENT

**Andrew R. Jenkins**



**Andrew Jenkins** was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1966, and lived in England until 1976, when he emigrated to South Africa with his family. He completed his schooling in Johannesburg and registered at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg in 1984. In 1988 he received a B.Sc. honours degree in Zoology under the supervision of Professor Gordon Maclean. His honours research involved a comparative study of bill morphology and seed selection in a community of granivorous birds. He joined the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town in 1989, to pursue graduate studies on the distribution and habitat preferences of the Peregrine Falcon in South Africa, supervised by Professor Roy Siegfried.

He has had a lifelong interest in birds, especially raptors, and much of his spare time at high school and during his undergraduate years at university was spent on his own amateur studies of Black Eagles and peregrines, and assisting professional research on raptors in South Africa and Namibia.

The **National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association** announces its small grants program. This program makes available two \$1,000 research grants in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Each may be applied to one large project or several smaller research projects each totaling less than \$1,000.00. Applicants must demonstrate financial need and submit a typewritten proposal that includes: name(s) and resume of personnel involved, objectives of the project, a brief description of how the project will be carried out, a brief literature review and an itemized budget.

An annual report on progress is required. It is expected that those receiving NWRA support will present the results of their projects at an NWRA national meeting within 2 years of receipt of the grant.

The deadline for submitting proposals for research grants is *December 15* of each year. Recipients will be announced at the NWRA annual meeting in February and in writing.

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association also invites nominations for two awards. The **Lifetime Achievement Award** is given to an individual whose primary identification is with rehabilitation of wildlife and who has contributed to this field in a major way for many years. The **Significant Achievement Award** is for a person who has made a major contribution to the field within the last two years. Examples of such contributions would be the presentation of a research finding, or organization of a program, with a major theme in wildlife rehabilitation.

Each award consists of plaque, \$100, and free registration at the NWRA conference where the award will be presented. The deadline for submitting nominations for the awards is *December 15* of each year. Proposals and nominations should be sent to: **Mark Pokras, DVM, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, Wildlife Clinic, 200 Westboro Road, North Grafton, MA 01536.**