

## REVIEW

**Wise as an owl: a resource and teacher's guide to birds of prey** by Lisa Langier. The Peregrine Fund, Inc., Boise, ID U.S.A. 76 pp.

This information package was compiled for teachers as a resource guide for students of all ages. The two sections of the guide deal with raptors and the effects of human actions on the environment. It includes a glossary, references, other potential resources and addresses of organizations dealing with raptors. There are descriptions for the construction of nest boxes and nest platforms, including diagrams and measurements.

Section one represents an excellent source for information on raptor morphology, feeding strategies, nests, migration and life span. It defines what a raptor is, and describes where to find raptors and how to identify them. The information on vision, hearing, smell and feeding strategies is particularly interesting, and is presented in a straightforward manner. There are a variety of activities, such as suggestions for art projects, poems and word puzzles, that allow the study of raptors to move beyond the constraints of a science classroom.

The guide deals with the conservation of raptors and environmental ethics. This material is directed toward older students. Raptor conservation through habitat protection, captive breeding and release, and other techniques are described. Four case studies investigate raptor conservation. Thirty-three questions are presented, in conjunction with the case studies. These questions deal not only with raptor conservation but with the larger issue of conservation of all species and habitats.

This guide, if supplemented with some other resources, provides an excellent information source for teachers investigating raptors with their students. However, it is not without problems. Some descriptions have the potential to cause confusion. A labelled drawing of a feather is incorrect. In the section on identifying raptors, the author describes one group as "buteos or hawks" and another group as "accipiters." The writing, in general, is clear and straightforward, except for some repetition. At some points in section one the author assumes that the user has no previous knowledge of raptors—a good assumption in an introductory guide. At other points the author assumes a more advanced state of knowledge. An example of this is a description of the Golden Eagle that states that Golden Eagles have feathers on their legs to the end of the tarsi. There is no explanation given of what the tarsi are. This inconsistent writing would necessitate that a teacher use other sources to add to the information in this guide. These few minor flaws do not detract from the overall product and a teacher would benefit from having this guide in her or his library.—**Jeffrey D. Smith**