

TOM J CADE professional biography (as of July 2011)

Tom Cade received his bachelor's degree in biology, with minors in English and anthropology, from the University of Alaska in 1951. His master's and doctoral degrees were earned at the University of California, Los Angeles between 1955 and 1957. He was an NSF post-doctoral fellow at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California in 1958 and in 1965-66, a NSF senior fellow at the Transvaal Museum, South Africa. He served as a professor of zoology at Syracuse University, Cornell University, and Boise State University, Idaho, retiring in 1993.

Tom's main subjects of study are birds, although he has a secondary interest in mammals and other vertebrates. He has researched a variety of topics ranging from natural history and zoogeography, to physiology and the effects of pesticides on non-target organisms. His primary focus is on the function of the living organism in its natural environment—how its morphology, behavior, and physiology fit it for a particular way of life. Much of his early work dealt specifically with the adaptations of desert birds for life under hot, arid conditions and culminated with an anatomical and behavioral explanation of how adult sandgrouse carry water in their breast feathers to nourish their young far out on waterless tracts of desert. Tom has also worked on the adaptive and evolutionary significance of torpidity in birds and mammals.

Tom's lifelong interest has been the birds of prey--falcons in particular. He is probably best known for founding The Peregrine Fund in 1970. In addition to field studies carried out in Alaska, Africa, Central America, Mauritius, and the southwestern United States, for more than 50 years he has been involved in solving the problems of breeding large falcons in captivity, with the aim of helping to preserve certain rare or endangered species (such as the Peregrine Falcon, Mauritius Kestrel, Aplomado Falcon, California Condor) by means of domestic propagation and the reintroduction of progeny to the wild.

Tom has published more than 200 articles and scientific papers on birds, mammals, and fish, and four books.