



W · I · N · G · S · P · A · N

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of RRF:

Having dutifully attended every RRF meeting since 1973 and having served the foundation under such capable presidents as Richard "Butch" Olendorff, Jeff Lincer, Gary Duke, Dick Clark, and Mike Collopy, I now find myself in the driver's seat. Since taking over as president five months ago, scarcely a day has passed that I have not found the RRF in my thoughts or on my computer screen in front of me. The world has indeed become a smaller place, thanks to the age of electronic mail. And now RRF has come to a fork in the road and we must decide what direction to take.

For much of the first two decades, RRF has endured its beginnings and its growing pains within the confines of the North American continent. It would be all too easy to turn inward and stay the easy path. After all, things are improving for the raptors on our continent. Bald eagles have been downlisted in 1995, and there is talk of completely delisting the peregrine falcon! California condors are breeding exceptionally well in captivity, and experimental reintroductions are taking place. Cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks, peregrine falcons, burrowing owls, and screech owls, to name but a few species, are successfully foraging and breeding in urban habitats throughout North America. Rehabilitation centers have sprung up everywhere, giving second lives to sick, injured, and orphaned raptors. Educational programs on television and in our schools, nature centers, and parks focus on children as the future stewards of raptor populations. Birdwatchers now number in the millions in North America.

So, while we must not get too comfortable and let our guard down, the prospects for birds of prey living within continental North America appear to be bright. But this is not necessarily so for raptor populations in other parts of the world. Continents such as Africa, South America, and even Asia have serious economic and human population problems to deal with; raptors do not constitute a major concern for starving people. While some birds of prey, like the black kite in India, adapt well to the agricultural and urban landscapes stretching across the countryside, many more species will simply disappear with the loss of wetlands and tropical forest.

So what can RRF do to help? According to the very first article in our bylaws, the purpose of our foundation is "...to stimulate the dissemination of information concerning raptorial birds among interested persons worldwide and to promote a better public understanding and appreciation of the value of birds of prey." We have indeed made some headway with our quarterly scientific journal, a semi-annual newsletter, and our annual meetings. But in my opinion, we must become even more global. Even though our membership approaches 1,200 and represents 53 countries, the vast majority of our members reside in North America. We need more members and hence, representation from those countries where raptor populations are in serious trouble. The RRF meeting in Canterbury, England in 1993 was a start, and the upcoming October meeting in Urbino, Italy (the country with the largest number of RRF members outside of North America) should attract strong participation from raptor enthusiasts of Euro-Asian origin. I



encourage you to attend our overseas conferences, forge new friendships and professional collaborations, and help fan the flames of grassroots' activism to achieve a common goal--the world-wide conservation of raptor populations.

As an important step toward greater globalization, the RRF board of directors voted unanimously at its last meeting in Duluth, Minnesota, to restructure itself as follows: 3 North American Directors (anywhere in U.S. and Canada), 1 Director from Eurasia, 1 Director from the Southern Hemisphere (including Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean), 1 Director from outside North America, and 6 At-Large Directors (from anywhere). Under this proposed structure, all RRF members would be allowed to vote for all Director positions. This restructuring, of course, requires a change in our bylaws and thus, within a few weeks, you as an RRF member will receive a ballot to vote for or against it. As an RRF president looking outward and not inward, I fervently hope that you support the restructuring.

On to other matters. Earlier this spring you received the new edition of *The Kettle*. This is the last one because in 1997, RRF will take up partnership in Ornithological Societies of North America (OSNA), and all our members will be listed in the next edition of *The Flock*. Further solidifying our reputation as a science-based organization is our upcoming joint meeting with the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in Boise, Idaho, in August. Having attended a number of AOU meetings as well as two excellent RRF meetings previously held in Boise, I am confident that this historic joint conference will be well-run, well-attended, and certainly fun for all. I hope to see you there, and I look forward to the rest of my term as your president.

David M. Bird

THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.
(FOUNDED 1966)

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TREASURER: Jim Fitzpatrick

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Wingspan is distributed twice a year to all RRF members. It is also available to non-members for a subscription rate of \$10 per year. *The Journal of Raptor Research* (ISSN 0892-1016) is published quarterly and available to individuals for \$30 per year and to libraries and institutions for \$50 per year from: The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 12805 St. Croix Trail, Hastings, MN 55033 USA. Add \$3 for destinations outside of the continental United States.

Persons interested in predatory birds are invited to join The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. Send requests for information concerning membership, subscriptions, special publications, or change of address to: Jim Fitzpatrick, Treasurer, 12805 St. Croix Trail, Hastings, MN 55033 USA.

RRF ELECTION RESULTS, 1995

by David M. Bird

A total of 329 ballots was received for the election of directors in 1995, representing only a third of the membership. Since the directors and officers represent your views for the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., I hope that future elections will attract a considerably larger number of voters. I also noted that 51 ballots were partly spoiled because some voters did not read the ballot properly! Congratulations go to Pat Kennedy and Cesar Marquez Reyes for becoming Directors-at-Large, to Michael McGrady as our new International Director, and to Karen Steenhof as the representative for the U.S. Pacific/Mountain Region. I would like to thank all those who enthusiastically ran as candidates in the election, especially Jim Bednarz. Unfortunately, my U.S. geography was a little off when I placed Jim as a candidate in the Pacific/Mountain Region. Rather than delaying the RRF election process and costing my centre at McGill University several hundred dollars to rerun the election, Jim chose to resign from the election and run in 1996. I apologize to him for the error and thank him for his kindness and consideration. Finally, on behalf of RRF, I would like to thank outgoing directors, Jim Bednarz, Josef Schmutz, and Isabel Bellocq for their services to the organization, and I urge them to stay involved.

SWAINSON'S HAWK MORTALITY IN ARGENTINA

In January 1996, researchers involved in cooperative studies of Swainson's hawks wintering in the La Pampa region of Argentina recorded several separate incidents of hawk mortality. These incidents involved 103 to 2729 hawks per site, with a total of over 4000 dead hawks recovered from an approximate 250 square km area. The research team believes that a conservative estimate of actual numbers killed within the La Pampa area of hawk concentration is 15,000 to 20,000 hawks. About 90% of the birds recovered were in adult plumage. Based on direct observation and interviews with farmers, chemical insecticides were identified as the cause of mortality. The primary chemical associated with mortality is an extremely potent organophosphate insecticide, Monocrotophos. This agent is highly toxic to birds and can kill directly by skin contact or secondarily through consumption of contaminated insects. The agent is used to control grasshoppers, the primary prey of wintering Swainson's hawks. Monocrotophos is not registered for any uses in the United States or Canada.

If this situation continues unchecked and the annual loss rate is 15,000 to 20,000 birds, largely adults, dramatic population declines will likely be observed on North American breeding areas within five to 10 years. The estimated total number for the species is 400,000 to 500,000 individuals. In response to these incidents, the National Institute of Science and Technology of Argentina, The Institute for Wildlife and Environmental Toxicology, and the Environmental Protection Agency are developing a cooperative investigation of alternative pesticides for use in grasshopper control during the 1996-97 season. These institutions and others--including the USDA Forest Service, USDI National Biological Service, and Canadian Wildlife Service--are also cooperating to monitor the situation. For more information, contact: Brian Woodbridge, USDA Forest Service, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, phone: 916-842-6131, fax: 916-842-6327.

RRF'S SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RAPTORS

Urbino, Italy, October 2-5, 1996

RRF will hold its Second International Conference on Raptors in Urbino, Italy, October 2-5, 1996, at the University of Urbino. Urbino is located in central Italy, just 30 km west of the Adriatic Sea at Pesaro. It is located in the eastern farmed foothills of the Appenine Mountains. Urbino is a beautiful, small, medieval, walled city, graced in the center by the magnificent Duke's Palace, which now houses a fine museum and offers visitors much to see.

Urbino is also relatively easy to get to; it is an hour and a half by car south of Bologna, and is conveniently reached by train via Pesaro (the closest train station). From the Pesaro station, buses make the 35-minute run to Urbino throughout the day. The major gateway cities for air travelers are Milan, Rome, and Venice, which are all major tourist destinations in their own right. As there will be significant savings with the group discount air tickets for RRF conference attendees, participants planning to fly should check these offers before booking on their own.

This meeting will cover all aspects of birds of prey. The official languages of the conference are English and Italian; simultaneous translation of the major sessions is planned. Papers, posters, films, and videos are all welcome for presentation. The deadline for receiving abstracts is August 1, 1996.

The scientific sessions tentatively planned are Behavioral Ecology, Asian Raptor Studies, Conservation and Management Techniques, Genetics, Migration and Dispersion, Population Ecology, Patterns of Raptor Diversity in South America, and Toxicology, as well as the General Session and several special sessions, including "Management of European Vulture Populations" and "Trade and Captive Breeding of Raptors."

Three symposia will be held as well. The first is "Raptors and Energy Development," a major symposium on the interaction of raptors with energy-related activities and infrastructure. This theme will be addressed through major topical reviews, short papers, and posters, to present state-of-the-art knowledge of such interactions as well as available solutions. The symposium will be chaired by Patricia Kennedy, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1474, phone: 970-491-6597, fax: 970-491-5091; e-mail: patk@picea.cnr.colostate.edu, and Thomas Krueger, Via Eulambio 14A, 34072 Gradsica d'Isonzo, GO, Italy, phone: 39-481-960918, fax: 39-481-99876. The proceedings will likely be published. Those interested in contributing are asked to contact the chairs as early as possible.

The second symposium is tentatively entitled "Status and Conservation of Italian Raptors." This will be an important national event to better understand and manage raptor populations in light of our increasing knowledge. For more information on this symposium, contact the conference organizers in Urbino. The third is the "European Osprey Symposium," which is being sponsored and organized with The International Osprey Foundation (TIOF). This symposium will include a morning session of presentations on the status of ospreys and management possibilities throughout Europe and the Mediterranean, and an afternoon session to develop a cooperative management plan for the species.

For more information contact Mark Westall, TIOF, PO Box 150, Sanibel Island, FL 33057 USA, phone: 941-472-5218, fax: 941-472-6833.

Other sessions will be held as well: "round-tables" on various topics, "taxon-meetings," a moderated film and video session, an art gallery and exhibits, as well as a social reception and banquet. Attendees may take two different field trips to local points of raptor interest, as well as longer trips. Organized visits of the city will be available, and potentially other destinations depending upon participant interest.

An excursion to the Republic of San Marino will take place on Friday afternoon, including a guided visit to the city, its points of interest, and a raptor flight demonstration, as well as a film and discussion of the benefits of such demonstrations. This excursion has been offered by the Republic's authorities, and there will be an official welcome, aperitif, and social dinner for all the conference's participants.

Participants with special needs or requests (e.g., disabilities, small children, etc.) are asked to contact the conference organizers as soon as possible. More details on the conference will be coming out in the Second Circular in May as will information on abstract submissions and registration. Additional information can also be obtained from the Conference Committee Chairperson, Massimo Pandolfi, Istituto di Scienze Morfologiche, Via Oddi 21, 61029 Urbino, Italy, phone: 39-722-328033, fax: 39-722-329655.

SPECIAL SESSION ON HUMAN IMPACTS AND REHABILITATION PLANNED FOR URBINO CONFERENCE

As part of RRF's Second International Conference on Raptors, a special session on "Impacts of Human Activity and Rehabilitation on Raptors" is being planned. The aim of this session is to examine how human activity affects/threatens the survival of birds of prey worldwide and the ways in which rehabilitation can help mitigate these impacts. Papers that evaluate how rehabilitation can enhance the survival of individuals and populations, increase our knowledge of biological and behavioral aspects that are difficult to study in the wild, and aid in the development of techniques that can later be applied to achieve conservation objectives are of particular interest, as are papers documenting behavior and general activity after release. Students wishing to present original data on these topics are encouraged to participate. People interested should contact: Davide Csermely, Dip. Biologia Evolutiva e Funzionale, Univ. Parma, 43100 Parma, Italy, phone: 39-521-905632, fax: 39-521-905657, e-mail: DACSERM@PRFSIO.BIO.UNIPR.IT

BOISE RRF BUSINESS MEETING CHANGED !

The 1996 RRF Business Meeting will take place at 5:00 PM on Thursday, August 15, not 10:00 AM, Saturday, as previously announced.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE

by Toru Yamazaki

In 1980, golden eagle researchers from all parts of Japan met in the Suzuka Mountains to cooperatively study the Japanese golden eagle. This cooperative effort obtained the first clear descriptions of the eagle's life history. The research team recognized that golden eagle research and conservation were impossible without this type of cooperation and nationwide information exchange. Therefore, in 1981, the Society for Research of the Golden Eagle was organized. The Society is the first non-governmental organization devoted to a single species in Japan.

Until the 1950s, the golden eagle was thought to live only in a few remote areas such as the Japan Alps. However, recent surveys have shown that eagles live in mountainous regions throughout the country. The total population of golden eagles in Japan is currently only about 300. Most habitats of the golden eagle have been exposed to environmental destruction such as large-scale development, deforestation, and afforestation of conifers. Because of such habitat destruction, decreases of wild prey, and poaching, the golden eagle is an endangered species in Japan. The Society believes it is essential to promote research and conservation of the golden eagle. The golden eagle represents the abundant nature of Japan, and this wonderful natural treasure must be saved for future generations. The Society for Research of the Golden Eagle is dedicated to this purpose.



Kazunari Sudo -- Society for Research of the Golden Eagle

Japanese Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos japonica*)

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

The Society consists of 150 members from all over Japan. All members are involved with the Society's research and conservation programs. The Society's activities are organized by a secretary, directors for each project, and area committees from each prefecture. For emergency or other special activities, project teams are created on an as-needed basis. Society activities are financed by membership fees.

The Society's principal activities include publication of the journal, *Aquila chrysaetos* (papers are published in Japanese with English summaries), publication of a newsletter, exchange of data and references among members, international information exchange, cooperative surveys and research on the Japanese golden eagle and other raptors in Japan and in other countries, conducting symposia, promotion of conservation-related research, cooperative projects with other wildlife and nature organizations, and support for enforcement of established conservation techniques. In the future, the Society plans to survey unexplored habitat, establish cooperative projects with the Department of Environment and Department of Culture, promote the use of scientific information in management programs, and continue all of its current activities, with emphasis on research, conservation, and international information exchange.



Kazunari Sudo -- Society for Research of the Golden Eagle

Repairing a Golden Eagle Nest

To learn more about the Society for Research of the Golden Eagle, its activities, or its publications, contact: Toru Yamazaki, 482-57, Yuki-hata, Yasu-cho, Yasu-gun, Shiga Prefecture, 520-23 Japan.

NEW RAPTOR RESEARCH ORGANIZATION FORMED

The Middle East Falcon Research Group (MEFRG) has been created to provide a common forum for the exchange of information and coordination of collaborative research programs among experts involved and concerned with falcons and falconry in the Middle East. MEFRG will promote research on health and diseases in falcons, field studies on wild falcons, improvement in the management of captive falcons, public awareness programs relating to falcons and falconry in the Middle East, and a better understanding of falconry as part of the Arab cultural heritage.

MEFRG held its inaugural meeting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in March 1995. In November 1995, the group held a three-day workshop, also in Abu Dhabi, that emphasized falcon medicine; saker falcon taxonomy, research, and conservation; and public awareness of falcons and falconry. About 50 experts from 10 different countries attended the workshop, including several RRF members. As a result of the workshop, MEFRG members agreed to: collaborate in surveys to identify the main causes of sickness and death of falcons and continue the collection of biomedical data; promote the use of preventative medicine and better husbandry and management of captive falcons; conduct studies on the effects and types of stresses in captive falcons; continue to collect blood samples to clarify the taxonomic relationships of the saker falcon; establish contact with other field biologists who are monitoring saker falcon populations; produce literature and videos for falconers; conduct feasibility studies for a falcon hospital in Abu Dhabi Emirate, including a public awareness center; and encourage establishment of an Arab falconers association.

The group plans to hold more regional workshops on falcon medicine, falcon biology, and falconry and conservation issues. In addition, the group plans to publish joint papers on falcons and falconry, the proceedings of its conferences and workshops, and a quarterly newsletter, *Falco*. Those interested in learning more about MEFRG's activities may contact: Dr. Jaime Samour, MEFRG Chairman, National Avian Research Center, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, phone: 971-2-319317, fax: 971-2-349154.

CALIFORNIA CONDORS TO BE RELEASED IN ARIZONA

This spring, up to 10 captive-reared California condors will be released into the wild in the Grand Canyon area of northern Arizona. The young condors to be released were raised at the Los Angeles Zoo and the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The release site is about 30 miles north of Grand Canyon National Park. The proposed release will occur under the auspices of the Endangered Species Act's "non-essential, experimental population" designation. This allows the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service to treat condors in the program as threatened and develop regulations for management of the new population that are less restrictive than mandatory prohibitions covering endangered species. The release program will be managed by The Peregrine Fund, Inc. Currently, there are 103 California Condors in existence, 14 in the wild in California and the rest in captive breeding programs.

RAPTOR STUDIES DISCUSSED AT INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN INDIA

by J. E. Cooper

From 12-15 February 1996, the Bombay Natural History Society organised and hosted the Salim Ali Centenary Seminar on the Conservation of Avifauna of Wetlands and Grasslands. The Seminar commemorated the life and work of Dr. Salim Ali, the famous Indian ornithologist who was born in 1896 and died in 1987.

One of the sessions at the seminar was devoted to raptors, and this attracted a good audience of delegates from many parts of the world. The session was chaired by Mr. William Clark (USA) and Professor Vladimir Galushin (Russia), both recognised authorities on raptor biology. Ten papers were given and are listed at the end of this report. John and Margaret Cooper (UAE) discussed the impact of CITES on raptor research and suggested that the regulations concerning "recognizable derivatives" could be detrimental and inhibitory when scientists needed to send specimens, such as small samples of blood, from one country to another.

William Clark drew attention to the need for improved field identification of Indian raptors and the paucity of relevant publications. Using museum material and working closely in the field with Indian ornithologists and a talented artist, he had been able to help rectify this omission. His talk was illustrated with magnificent slides of birds and coloured plates.

Three Russian-speaking scientists then presented papers, each in English. Nataly Kubareva (Russia) discussed the results of her work on nesting raptors in northern steppe areas. Sergei Skiyarenko (Kazakhstan) described aspects of illegal trade in raptors in his country and the successful arrest of those involved in illicit capture and movement of sakers, *Falco cherrug*. Vladimir Balushin's paper on the status of raptors in India drew attention to the very large numbers of birds of prey, particularly the India white-backed vulture, *Gyps bengalensis*, and pariah kite, *Milvus migrans govinda*, that now live and breed around New Delhi: the speaker attributed this largely to the tolerance shown by Indians to birds in their midst.

There followed three papers by Indian ornithologists on the status of various species, including harriers *Circus* spp. A lecture by Abrar Ahmed highlighted the illegal trade in raptors that still takes place in India. Mr. Ahmed outlined recommendations for remedying the situation: these included closer checks on airports and appropriate legal action but also the rehabilitation and re-employment of traditional trappers. The final paper was presented on behalf of Roger Clarke (UK) who was unable to attend: his work in the Velavadar National Park, the largest winter harrier roost in the world, has been linked with studies in England, and important information has been gained on the habitat requirements of raptors, especially harriers.

The session on raptors was one of the most successful at the Seminar. Birds of prey are important sentinel species and can serve as useful indicators of the health of ecosystems. Many raptors depend upon grassland or wetland and study of these birds, on an international basis, is essential if such habitats are to be managed and conserved.

Salim Ali Centenary Seminar on the Conservation of Avifauna of Wetlands and Grasslands

February 14, 1996

Technical Session IV, Conservation of Raptors

1. Cooper, M. E., and J. E. Cooper (Abu Dhabi). The impact of CITES on research on raptors.
2. Clark, W. S. (USA). Advances in field identification of Indian raptors.

3. Kubareva, N. Y. (Russia). Unexpected paradox: negative consequences of protection of small forest spots for raptors nesting along a northern steppe limit in European Russia.
4. Sklyarenko, S. L. (Kazakhstan). Rare raptors of Kazakhstan, with comments on illegal trade in raptors.
5. Galushin, V. M. (Russia). Bird of prey populations in grassland and agricultural habitats of northern-central India.
6. Prakash, V., and J. Samant (India). Status and distribution of resident raptors in India.
7. Ganesh, T., and P. Kanniah (India). Preliminary analysis of changes in population of wintering harriers in Andhra Pradesh India.
8. Akhtar, S. A., Bombay (India). Harriers of the Velavadar National Park, Dt. Bhavnagar, Gujarat.
9. Ahmed, A., and A. R. Rahmani (India). Illegal trade of raptors in India.
10. Clarke, R. (UK). The implications of cross-habitat use by grassland raptors.

(*Editor's note:* Persons wishing further information about the seminar may contact: John E. Cooper, National Avian Research Centre, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, fax: 971-2-349154)

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA RAPTOR SPECIES ACCOUNTS

In two centuries of American ornithology, only three comprehensive references have been completed on North American birds. The most recent of these, A.C. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, was begun in 1912 and is now out of date. Now, at long last, a modern reference series is in progress. *The Birds of North America*, a joint effort of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the American Ornithologists' Union, is a series of concise, authoritative accounts of the birds that breed in North America. The accounts are intended to furnish reliable information on avian biology and to stimulate new studies by providing selected references and indicating gaps in present knowledge. The series is being published as 18 volumes, each containing 40 accounts; accounts are available only through subscription to the entire series. Publishing began in 1992 and is anticipated to be complete in 2000-2002. For subscription information, contact: The Birds of North America, Subscriber Services, 810 10th Street E, PO Box 1897, Lawrence, KS 66044, phone: 800-627-0629, fax: 913-843-1274.

To update RRF members, the following table provides information on the status of each of the raptor species accounts. For accounts still in preparation (as of February 1, 1996), the address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the lead author are provided to facilitate inquiries and information exchange.

Species	Status*	Author / Address / Phone (p) / Fax (f) / E-mail (e)
Turkey Vulture	3	David Kirk, Canadian Wildlife Service, 100 Gamelin Boulevard, Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3, Canada, 819-459-2983 (p), 819-953-6212 (f)
Black Vulture	3	Neil Buckley, Dep. Zoology, Univ. Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0086, 802-656-2922 (p), 802-656-2914 (f)

Species	Status*	Author / Address / Phone (p) / Fax (f) / E-mail (e)
California Condor	3	Lloyd Kiff, The Peregrine Fund, 5666 Flying Hawk Lane W, Boise, ID 83709, 208-362-3716 (p), 208-362-2376 (f)
Osprey	3	Alan Poole, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1195, 215-299-1042 (p), 215-299-1182 (f), poole@say.actnatsci.org (e)
Swallow-tailed Kite	1	Kenneth Myer
White-tailed Kite	1	Jeffrey Dunk
Snail Kite	1	Paul Sykes, Jr.
Mississippi Kite	3	James Parker, Aerie East Environmental Foundation, RR 3, Box 3110, Holley Road, Farmington, ME 04938, 207-778-9437 (p)
Northern Harrier	2	Bruce MacWhirter
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Laurie Goodrich, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, RR 2, Box 191, Kempton, PA 19529-9449, 215-756-6961 (p), 215-756-4468 (f), ecology@hawkmtn.org (e)
Cooper's Hawk	1	Robert Rosenfield
Northern Goshawk	3	John Squires, USDA Forest Service, 222 22nd Street S, Laramie, WY 82070-5299, 307-742-6621 (p), 307-742-0397 (f), /s=j.squires/ou1=r02f06a@mhs-fswa.attma (e)
Common Black Hawk	2	Jay Schnell
Harris' Hawk	1	James Bednarz
Gray Hawk	3	Rich Glinski, Arizona Dep. Fish and Game, 2221 Greenway Road W, Phoenix, AZ 85023-4399, 602-789-3570 (p), rglinski@gf.state.az.us (e)
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Scott Crocoll
Broad-winged Hawk	2	Laurie Goodrich
Short-tailed Hawk	3	Karl Miller, Dep. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Univ. Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0430, 904-392-4851 (p), 904-392-6984 (f)
Swainson's Hawk	3	Sidney England, Dep. Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology, Univ. California, Davis, CA 95616, 916-752-2432 (p), 916-752-5808 (f), asengland@ucdavis.edu (e)
White-tailed Hawk	1	Craig Farquhar
Zone-tailed Hawk	3	Rich Glinski, Arizona Dep. Fish and Game, 2221 Greenway Road W, Phoenix, AZ 85023-4399, 602-789-3570 (p), rglinski@gf.state.az.us (e)
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Charles Preston
Ferruginous Hawk	1	Marc Bechard
Rough-legged Hawk	3	Ted Swem, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, 1412 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701, 907-456-0441 (p)
Io (Hawaiian Hawk)	3	Ken Clarkson, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 44, Hawaii National Park, HI 96718, 808-967-7396 (phone), 808-967-8568 (f)
Bald Eagle	3	James Fraser, Dep. Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321, 703-231-6064 (p), 703-231-7580 (f), fraser@vtvm1.cc.vt.edu (e)
Golden Eagle	3	Michael Collopy, USDI National Biological Service, 3200 Jefferson Way SW, Corvallis, OR 97330, 503-750-7307 (p), 503-750-7329 (f), collopym@ccmail.orst.edu (e)

Species	Status*	Author / Address / Phone (p) / Fax (f) / E-mail (e)
Crested Caracara	3	Joan Morrison, Dep. Wildlife and Range Sciences, Univ. Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, 904-392-4851 (p), 904-392-6984 (f), jlmorris@grove.ufl.edu (e)
American Kestrel	3	John Smallwood, Dep. Biology, Montclair State Univ., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043, 201-655-4397 (p), 201-655-7047 (f), smallwood@saturn.montclair.edu (e)
Aplomado Falcon	3	Dean Keddy-Hector, Box 723, Kyle, TX 78640, 512-858-1732 (p)
Merlin	1	Navjat Sodhi
Prairie Falcon	3	Karen Steenhof, USDI National Biological Service, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705, 208-384-3485 (p), 208-384-3493 (f), ksteenho@eagle.idbsu.edu (e)
Gyr Falcon	1	Nancy Clum
Peregrine Falcon	3	Nancy Clum, The Peregrine Fund, 5666 Flying Hawk Lane W, Boise, ID 83709, 208-362-3716 (p), 208-362-2376 (f)
Barn Owl	1	Carl Marti
Western Screech Owl	3	James Belthoff, Dep. Biology, Boise State Univ., Boise, ID 83725, 208-385-4033 (p), 208-385-3006 (f), jbelthoff@claven.idbsu.edu (e)
Eastern Screech Owl	2	Frederick Gehlbach
Whiskered Screech Owl	3	Frederick Gehlbach, Dep. Biology, Baylor Univ., Waco, TX 76798-7388, 817-755-2911 (p), 817-755-2969 (f), fredgehlbach@bayloruniv.edu (e)
Flammulated Owl	1	Archibald McCallum
Great Horned Owl	3	Dwight Smith, Dep. Biology, Southern Connecticut State Univ., New Haven, CT 06515, 203-397-4621 (p)
Snowy Owl	1	David Parmalee
Northern Hawk Owl	3	James Duncan, Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, 1007 Century Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4, Canada, 204-945-7465 (p), 204-945-1365 (f), mbcdc@lic.gov.mb.ca (e)
Northern Pygmy Owl	3	Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute, PO Box 8335, Missoula, MT 59807, 406-549-7626 (p)
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	3	Roy Johnson, Johnson and Haight Environmental Consultants, 3755 Hunters Run S, Tucson, AZ 85730, 520-298-8418 (p/f)
Elf Owl	3	Susanna Henry, USDI Bureau of Land Management, 3150 Winsor Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85365, 520-726-6300 (p), 520-344-5422 (f), shenry@az0033wp.azso.az.blm.gov (e)
Burrowing Owl	1	Elizabeth Haug
Barred Owl	3	Paul James, 3211 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 5W6, Canada, 306-787-9058 (p), 306-787-9544 (f), jamesp@meena.cc.uregina.ca (e)
Spotted Owl	1	Rocky Gutierrez
Great Gray Owl	1	Evelyn Bull
Long-eared Owl	1	Jeffrey Marks
Short-eared Owl	1	Denver Holt
Boreal Owl	1	Gregory Hayward
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Richard Cannings

*Status (as of February 1, 1996): 1 = published, 2 = completed, in press, 3 = in preparation

(Editor's note: This report was excerpted and adapted from materials received from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Special thanks to Jean Peck for compiling author information.)

1995 RRF ANNUAL MEETING
Duluth, Minnesota, November 1-4, 1995

by Mike Kochert

RRF held its 1995 annual meeting at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, Duluth, Minnesota, from November 1-4, 1995. Registered attendance was 335. Jerry Niemi was chair of the local organizing committee, and Lynne Olson coordinated local arrangements. The meeting was highlighted by field trips to Hawk Ridge and Sax-Zim Bogs. Duluth welcomed the participants with some blustery November weather.

Dan Varland, scientific program chair, assembled a stimulating assortment of papers for the general scientific program. Joann Hanowski arranged the poster session. The program comprised 70 papers and 19 posters, including 3 symposia and a workshop. Former U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson was the plenary speaker. The general sessions included papers on the peregrine falcon in the 1990's, migration ecology, breeding biology, human impacts on raptors, and behavior. Symposia on "Ecology and Conservation of Sharp-shinned Hawks," convened by Bob Rosenfield, "A Comparison of Raptor Responses to Forest Management - A Holarctic Perspective," convened by Gerald Niemi, and "Ecology and Toxicology of Great Lakes Bald Eagles," convened by William Bowerman, ran concurrently with the paper sessions. Additionally, the meeting included a well attended evening video and film session and a half-day workshop on eagle ageing conducted by Bill Clark and Pete Bloom.

The business meeting was presided over by President Mike Collopy. Election results were announced, and updates were given on the 1996 joint RRF/AOU meeting in Boise in August and the RRF Eurasian conference in Urbino, Italy in October 1996. The 1997 meeting in Savanna, Georgia and the 1998 meeting in La Paz, Mexico were announced. The conference ended with the Saturday night banquet. Awards were presented, and out-going President Mike Collopy passed the baton to David Bird, who took over the helm as President. The new President then gave one of his combination slide show/roasts of some of our well-known RRF members.

1995 RRF AWARD RECIPIENTS

by Petra Bohall Wood, Chair, Awards Committee

Tom Cade Award (Selection Committee: Brian Walton, Chair; Steve Sherrod; Jack Barclay; Christian Saar) Recipients: **Dr. Patrick T. Redig**, leader in development of a captive breeding population of peregrine falcons and contribution to the Midwest peregrine release program, and **Dr. Harrison "Bud" Tordoff**, leader of the Midwest peregrine falcon release program.

Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award (Selection Committee: David Andersen, Chair; Rick Knight; Karen Steenhof) Recipient: **Richard W. Fyfe**, for his significant contributions to raptor ecology.

James R. Koplín Travel Award (Selection Committee: Petra Bohall Wood, Chair; Pat Kennedy; John Smallwood) Recipient: **Daniel R. Ardia**, State University of New York, Syracuse, "Effect of time of day and weather on survey route efficiency for non-breeding American kestrels."

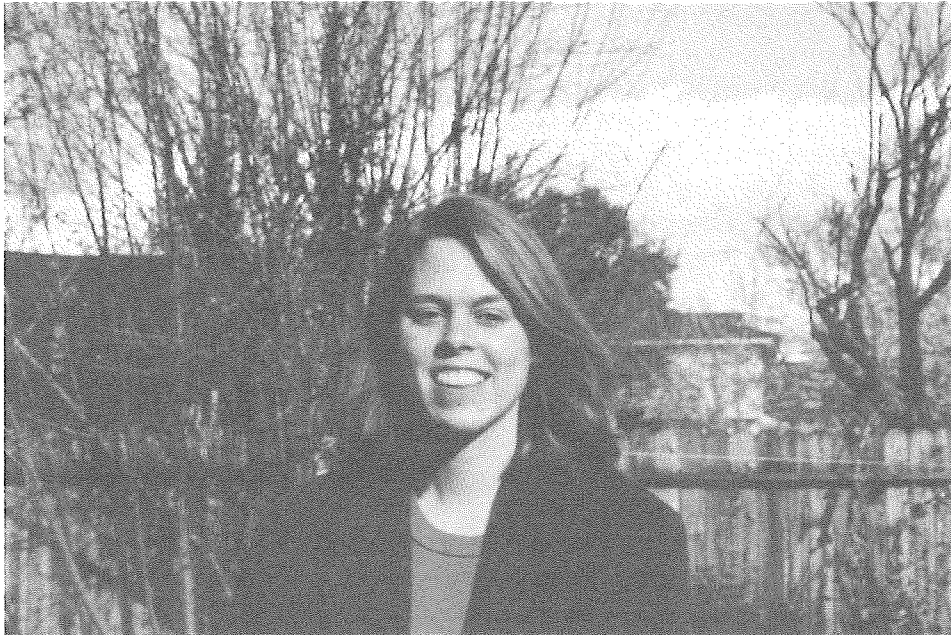
William C. Anderson Memorial Award (Selection Committee: Laurie Goodrich, Chair; Jim Bednarz; Isabel Bellocq; Pat Kennedy; John Smallwood; Petra Bohall Wood) (34 student oral presentations and 9 student

poster papers were on the program) Presentation Recipient: **Andrew King**, Boise State University, "Effects of experimental food addition on the post-fledging movements of burrowing owls in southwestern Idaho." Presentation Honorable Mentions: **Loren Ayers**, University of Wyoming, "Development and evaluation of an aerial sightability model for nesting ferruginous hawks in south-central Wyoming," **Patricia Hall**, Northern Arizona University, "How much is enough: the information needed to delineate northern goshawk home ranges." Poster Recipient: **Peter Thomas**, McGill University, "Effects of low-flying military aircraft on the reproductive output of osprey."

Stephen R. Tully Memorial Grant (Selection Committee: Alan Jenkins, Chair; Robert Rosenfield; Kimberly Titus) Recipient: **Wendy Kuntz**, University of Nevada, Reno, "Regional variation in the vocalization patterns of Mexican spotted owls."

Leslie Brown Memorial Grant (Selection Committee: Jeffrey Lincer, Chair; Dean Amadon; Gary Duke; Richard Howard; A. Kemp) Recipient: **Simon Thomsett** for his proposal, "Eagle Hill conservation awareness and education project." This is for a school in the Embu District of Kenya where the teachers remember and admire Leslie Brown's work.

1995 STEPHEN R. TULLY MEMORIAL AWARD



Wendy A. Kuntz received a bachelor's degree in zoology from Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, and is currently pursuing a master's degree at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her thesis involves examining the vocalization patterns of the Mexican spotted owl in New Mexico. In addition to being one of the first attempts to identify a "dialect" pattern in owls, the populations she is studying are also part of a long-term project looking for genetic variation, and as a result any observed vocal variation can be correlated with genetic variation. Before turning to graduate studies, Wendy had a diversity of experience in both research biology and conservation organizations. Recently she worked in Hawaii as a field assistant studying endangered forest birds and in Idaho examining the reproductive success of the Swainson's thrush and western tanager.

THE STEPHEN R. TULLY MEMORIAL GRANT

by M. Alan Jenkins

The Stephen R. Tully Memorial Grant of the Raptor Research Foundation was established at the RRF's annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, in late 1983. The grant honors the memory of Steve Tully, who died in an automobile accident in 1978, at age 21. Steve was a falconer with an enthusiastic interest in raptor biology. A Colorado resident, Steve was married to Babette (*nee* Cranson) another early RRF member. It was a measure of Steve's dedication to raptors that he was searching for his trained red-tailed hawk after the accident when he died of internal hemorrhaging before he received treatment for his injuries. I knew Steve and Babette at the time of his death and was saddened to learn of the raptor world's loss of such a young and enthusiastic soul. His family and friends established the grant in homage to him and to perpetuate the conservation and study of the raptors he loved in life.

Past Tully Grant committees were chaired by William A. Burnham (1983-86), Lisa Langelier (1987-88), James H. Enderson (1989-91), and M. Alan Jenkins (1992-95). Most past committee chairs and many of the committee members knew Steve, were Colorado residents, and are falconers.

The purpose of the Tully Grant is simply stated to "support research, management and conservation of raptors, especially to students and amateurs with limited access to alternative funding." Throughout the years the grant has been able to fulfill its obligation, giving the award to the following researchers:

1986	Vicky J. Meretsky	University of Arizona
1987	Kelly Hogan	Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
1988	Gian Basili	Colorado College
1989	Dale K. Ward	Boise State University
1990	Cynthia Sills	Idaho State University
1991	Neal D. Niemuth Keith J. Merkel	University of Wyoming Marshfield, Wisconsin
1992	Martha J. Desmond	University of Nebraska
1993	Elise V. Schmidt	University of Nevada
1994	Robert Warnock	University of Saskatchewan
1995	Wendy A. Kuntz	University of Nevada

In 1996, Kim Titus replaced me as committee chair. It's my ambition that all Raptor Research Foundation members will support him and the committee with an additional donation to the Stephen R. Tully Memorial Grant fund each year to accompany their dues payment. I know I will, and I challenge you to do likewise.

1996 GUIDELINES FOR RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION AWARDS

by Petra Bohall Wood, Chair, Awards Committee

Some changes have been made to RRF awards for 1996 partially due to the earlier date for the joint annual meeting with the AOU. Major changes include:

- All application deadlines are **June 10**.
- The RRF Andersen Award for student presentations and posters will not be given this year because all students presenting can apply for the AOU presentation and poster awards.
- The Dean Amadon Award has become the Dean Amadon Grant that will support current research on raptor systematics or distribution.
- The new chair of the Koplín Travel Award committee is **Patricia Hall**. Thanks, Pat, for taking on this responsibility.
- The new chair of the Tully Grant committee is **Kimberly Titus**. Kim has been a member of the committee for several years; thanks, Kim, for your past and future contributions. Out-going chair, **Alan Jenkins**, has done an outstanding job and deserves many thanks.

Awards to Recognize Significant Lifetime Contributions

The RRF has two awards to recognize individuals for their significant contributions to the field of raptor biology. The awards committees rely on RRF members to nominate qualified individuals for each of these awards. All raptor biologists are eligible for nomination, however, they must be nominated by an RRF member. Selection of each recipient will be based on the quality of their life's work and on their contributions to a specific area of raptor research or management. The award for each is an engraved plaque presented at the RRF annual meeting. Contact the award chair for nomination requirements.

The *Tom Cade Award* recognizes an individual who has made significant advances in the area of captive propagation and reintroduction of raptors. Contact: Dr. Brian Walton, Predatory Bird Research Group, Lower Quarry, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064 USA.

The *Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award* recognizes an individual who has contributed significantly to the understanding of raptor ecology and natural history. Contact: Dr. David E. Andersen, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, 200 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Avenue, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 USA.

Student Recognition and Travel Assistance Awards

The following RRF awards are designated for promising students who participate in the Annual Meeting.

The *James R. Koplín Travel Award* is given to a student who is a member of RRF and who is the senior author of a paper or poster to be presented at the meeting for which travel funds are requested. The award is \$100. Application materials include: 1) copy of conference paper abstract; 2) itemized budget of costs associated with attending the meeting and an explanation of how the expenses not covered by this award will be met; and 3) a letter of recommendation, preferably by the student's major professor, evaluating the applicant's academic abilities, the significance of the research being reported, the student's contribution to this research, and the potential for future contributions by the student to the field of raptor biology. Contact: Patricia Hall, 436 David Drive E, Flagstaff AZ 86001 USA.

The *William C. Andersen Memorial Award* will not be awarded in 1996.

Grants

Raptor biologists can apply for the following prestigious RRF grants.

The *Dean Amadon Grant* for about \$200 will be given to support research in the field of systematics or distribution of raptors. For details Contact: Dr. Clayton White, 161 WIDB, Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602 USA.

The *Stephen R. Tully Memorial Grant* for \$500 is given to support research, management and conservation of raptors especially to students and amateurs with limited access to alternative funding. The award is given in memory of Steve Tully, a young raptor biologist, who lost his life in an automobile accident in 1978. To apply, send a proposal (no more than 5 pages) outlining your background, the study or project goals and methods, your anticipated budget, and a list of other funding sources, both requested and received. Contact: Kimberly Titus, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 240020, Douglas AK 99824 USA.

The *Leslie Brown Memorial Grant*. In memory of one of the most inspired and productive raptor biologists of recent decades, the RRF provides a grant for up to \$1,000 to support research and/or dissemination of information on raptors. Proposals concerning African raptors will receive highest priority among proposals of otherwise equal merit. Applicants must send a resume, specific study objectives, an account of how funds will be spent, and a statement indicating how the proposed work would relate to other work by the applicant and to other sources of funds. Contact: Dr. Jeffrey L. Lincer, Sweetwater Environmental Biologists, Inc., 3838 Camino del Rio North, Suite 271, San Diego, CA 92108 USA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

1996

August 13-17

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Boise, Idaho**

Contact: Marc Bechard or Alfred Dufty, Department of Biology, Boise State University, Boise, ID 83725, phone: 208-385-3530, fax: 208-385-3006, e-mail: rbibecha@idbsu.idbsu.edu or adufty@claven.idbsu.edu

October 2-5

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Urbino, Italy**

Contact: Massimo Pandolfi, Istituto di Scienze Morfologiche, Universita di Urbino, Via Oddi 21, 61029 Urbino, Italy, phone: 39-722-328033 or 39-722-327893, fax: 39-722-329655

1997

February 5-9

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM:
BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF
OWLS OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

Contact: James Duncan, Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, 1007 Century Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4, Canada, phone: 204-945-7465, fax: 204-945-1365, e-mail: mbcdbc@lic.gov.mb.ca

September 21-23

**FORUM ON WILDLIFE TELEMETRY:
INNOVATIONS, EVALUATIONS, AND
RESEARCH NEEDS
Snowmass, Colorado**

Contact: Jane Austin (jane_austin@nbs.gov) or Pamela Pietz (pam_pietz@nbs.gov), National Biological Service, Northern Prairie Science Center, Jamestown, ND 58401, phone: 701-252-5363, fax: 701-252-4217.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

RESEARCH ASSISTANT Assistant to Dr. Nick Fox, Director of Falcon Management and Research, The National Avian Research Center, Abu Dhabi. Based at The Falcon Facility in rural West Wales, the assistant will work as part of a small team. We would prefer you to have a degree in zoology, good computer skills (e.g., MS Office, Access, DTP, and Internet) and good communication skills. Working in a busy modern office, you will handle very varied phone and fax enquiries, prepare reports, maintain budgets, and help co-ordinate our geographically diverse research projects. Some travel to Europe, the Middle East, and central Asia will be required. Practical abilities with falcons and farming would be nice but are not essential. Above all, we need a cheerful, self-motivating person capable of doing a professional job under extremely variable working conditions. For further details, please contact: Mr. Chris Eastham, The Falcon Facility, Penllynin Farm, College Road, Carmarthen, Dyfed, SA33 5EH, Wales, UK, phone/fax: 44-1267-233864.

VOLUNTARY FIELD ASSISTANTS We may have one or two places to work alongside our contracted local biologists working in Kazakhstan and Mongolia on saker falcons and in Pakistan on lugger falcons during their field seasons. For further details, please contact: Mr. Chris Eastham, The Falcon Facility, Penllynin Farm, College Road, Carmarthen, Dyfed, SA33 5EH, Wales, UK, phone/fax: 44-1267-233864.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

"UNDERSTANDING THE BIRD OF PREY" This comprehensive new book on the biology, captive management, breeding, training, and rehabilitation of raptors by Nick Fox features 147 color photographs and 290 other illustrations. The

book emphasizes the integration of modern biological science with the practical skills of traditional falconry and aviculture. It may be purchased directly from the publisher: **Hancock House, 1431 Harrison Avenue, Blaine, WA 98230-5005, phone: 800-938-1114, fax: 800-983-2262, e-mail: hancock@uniserve.com**

ASSISTANCE OFFERED

FREE RADAR EQUIPMENT! Raytheon 3500 radar unit with all accessories. Used to count migrating raptors. New retail price \$7300. Best offer or free as tax deductible contribution if your organization qualifies and you pay freight. Inquire: **David H. Ellis, Institute for Raptor Studies, HCR 1, Box 4420, Oracle, AZ 85623, phone: 520-896-3226.**

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

ENTERTAINING SLIDES SOUGHT FOR BOISE CONFERENCE Based on the feedback I received, everyone seemed to enjoy my brief

narrated slide show at the last two RRF meetings. While I do have plenty of my own, I am seeking slides of humorous situations involving birds of prey and the people who study them for a sequel to be given at the banquet of the RRF meeting at Boise this summer. The slides do not have to represent well-known persons in raptor biology (however, that does tend to make them more delicious!). I will return all slides to donors. Please send them to me at the address below before July 1, 1996. Depending on the response, I may have to be selective. **David M. Bird, McGill University, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3V9, Canada.**

SAKER FALCON MORPHOLOGY Any information concerning the morphology of the saker falcon, *Falco cherrug*, is required for a M.Phil./Ph.D. degree. Measurements from live specimens and study skins, photographs, published or unpublished literature. Every little bit of information would be greatly appreciated. Please send any contributions to: **Chris Eastham, National Avian Research Center, Penllynin Farm, College Road, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA33 5EH, Wales, UK, phone/fax: 44-1267-233864, e-mail: narc@celtic.co.uk**

WINGSPAN CONTRIBUTIONS

The Raptor Research Foundation wishes to thank the following people who contributed material to this issue of *Wingspan*: **Laurence Barea, David Bird, John Cooper, Davide Csermely, Chris Eastham, David Ellis, Jim Fitzpatrick, Nick Fox, Pat Hall, Alan Jenkins, Mike Kochert, Thomas Krueger, Mary McFadzen, Glen McMaster, Jean Peck, The Peregrine Fund, Alan Poole, Karen Steenhof, Petra Bohall Wood, Brian Woodbridge, Julie Yamamoto, and Toru Yamazaki.**

Wingspan welcomes contributions from RRF members and others interested in raptor biology and management. Articles and announcements should be sent, faxed, or e-mailed to: **Leonard Young, Editor, 5010 Sunset Drive NW, Olympia, WA 98502-1576 USA (phone/fax: 360-866-8039; e-mail: wingspan@msn.com).** The deadline for the next issue is 22 August 1996.

RECENT THESES ON RAPTORS

Barea, L. P. 1995. HABITAT USE, DIET, AND NEST SITE SELECTION OF FOREST-DWELLING NEW ZEALAND FALCONS (*FALCO NOVAESEELANDIAE* GMELIN 1788). M.S. Thesis, Waikato Univ., Hamilton, New Zealand.

McFadzen, M. E. 1995. MORTALITY AND BEHAVIOR OF PRAIRIE FALCONS DURING THE FLEDGING-DEPENDENCE PERIOD. M.S. Thesis, Utah State Univ., Logan. 77pp.

Yamamoto, J. T. 1995. STUDIES ON ORGANOPHOSPHORUS INSECTICIDE EXPOSURE AND TOXICITY IN WILD AND CAPTIVE AMERICAN KESTRELS (*FALCO SPARVERIUS*). Ph.D. Diss., Univ. California, Davis. 171pp.

DULUTH RRF T-SHIRTS AND MUGS STILL AVAILABLE !

T-shirts and coffee mugs from the Duluth (1995) RRF Annual Meeting may be purchased for \$10 each. Send a check to: Jim Fitzpatrick, 12805 St. Croix Trail, Hastings, MN 55033 USA. For T-shirts, be sure to specify size (S, M, L, XL).



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