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BOOK REVIEWS

Eric Hosking's Owls. Eric Hosking with Jim Flegg. 1982. 169 pages, with numerous photographs, many in color. Pelham Books, London, 12.95.

Owls have fascinated Britain's leading photographer of birds for many years. In 1945 he did an earlier book "Birds of the Night" with C.W. Newberry on owls of the British Isles which contained many black and white photographs. This newest addition contains many photographs of owls from England as well as photographs of zoo kept owls in special settings. Also included are many photographs taken by Mr. Hosking during travels to Australia, Africa and elsewhere. The text is extensive and informative. The book contains the best broad coverage photographic illustrations of Old World members of the Order Strigiformes. Some of the species pictured, such as the West African fishing owls (*Scotopelia*), are little known and considered very rare. — Dean Amadon.

Vanishing Eagles. Test by Philip Burton, illustrations by Trevor Boyer. 1982. 140 pages, numerous color plates, maps, and other illustrations. Eagle Star Insurance Co. No price available.

This work provides a more formal vehicle for Mr. Boyer's artwork accomplished on consignment to the Eagle Star Insurance Co. Thirty-three of the world's known eagles are depicted in color illustrations. Some of the species represented are declining, some are more or less stable in numbers, and others, such as the Bald Eagle, perhaps recovering. Some of the paintings are very good and only an occasional illustration appears a bit garish or overly dramatic. Some of the black and white illustrations of habitat are quite charming. Dr. Burton is best known as editor and co-author of a standard reference on the owls of the world. In this work he has provided a full and authentic text. It is recommended to anyone desiring a visually striking introduction to the eagles. The book is available from the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds who co-sponsored the publication. — Dean Amadon.

Vogelwelt Schleswig - Holsteins Band II - Greifvögel. V. Looft and G. Busche. 1981. Numerous photographs, many in color. Karl Wachholtz Verlag, Neumünster, West Germany. 35 DM. In German.

Translated "The Birds of Schleswig-Holsteins District, Volume II - Raptors", the book contains a great deal of interesting and new information. For example, one photograph depicts two Common Buzzards (*Buteo buteo*) engaged in combat in the snow over a dispute of ownership of nearby carrion. The combat eventually led to the death of one of the participants. Another photograph depicts 4 "brancher" Peregrines adjacent to a buzzard nest used by the adult Peregrines.

Understanding the Goshawk, 1981. R.E. Kenward and I.M. Lindsay (eds.) Proceedings of a conference sponsored by the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, 29 September - 1 October 1981, Oxford, United Kingdom. 195 pp. (Available from: Ian Lindsay, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, OXFORD OX1 3PS, U.K., for 8.00 sterling, postpaid. Make all checks and international money orders payable to: "British Falconers' Club Conference Account.")

The 21 papers in these proceedings are divided into seven sections: systematics, population trends and human impacts, pollution, population dynamics, behavior, predation and management, and veterinary medicine and domestic breeding.

In the section on systematics, Jan Wattel concludes that *Accipiter gentilis* has evolved "from

generalized scavengers and catchers of slow prey, by way of smaller sparrowhawks, to sparrowhawk-like goshawks. . . , and finally to the larger predator" which was the subject of the Oxford conference.

Population trends and human impacts are discussed in four papers concerning western Europe in general, the Netherlands, Britain, and Bavaria. Papers in other sections also give population data from Finland, Sweden, and West Germany. No papers deal specifically with the Goshawk outside of western Europe, though many of the problems and concepts are applicable throughout the species' range.

Generally, western European Goshawk populations declined in the 1950s and 1960s, mainly due to toxic chemicals used in agriculture. "Prohibition of the most persistent pesticides was followed by a rapid increase in Goshawk numbers in all countries," according to Heribert Kalchreuter of West Germany. This bright outlook is corroborated by Johan Thissen for the Netherlands where suitable habitat has been extended by reforestation, food availability has increased (primarily pigeons), persecution by man has declined, and use of persistent pesticides has been banned.

The Goshawk has recolonized Britain following complete extirpation earlier in this century. The current population (estimated at 60 pairs) apparently has resulted from escaped falconry birds or birds deliberately released by falconers — not from dispersal from continental Europe. The paper by Mick Marquiss concerning this remarkable recovery is one of the highlights of the conference proceedings.

Use of the Goshawk as a bioindicator of chemical contamination is discussed by Hermann Ellenberg and Jorg Dietrich of West Germany. They present methods for using raptors as bioindicators, a determination of whether bioindication is a useful concept, and a recommendation that chemical analysis of raptor feathers be used more extensively as a non-destructive assay of heavy metal contamination throughout the world. Two Finnish papers look at other environmental factors which affect Goshawk breeding, particularly the importance of food availability. Goshawk feeding behavior is discussed in two papers by Per Wid'en (activity patterns of wild Goshawks) and by Nick Fox (hunting strategies of trained Goshawks).

The next section of "Understanding the Goshawk" consists of several review articles concerning using trained Goshawks for research, trapping techniques, methods of assessing Goshawk predation, and diseases of Goshawks. The last several papers concern using Goshawks as foster parents for young Peregrines and captive breeding of Goshawks (only 8 pages total). A closing list of participants and their addresses should be useful to Goshawk researchers throughout the world.

"Understanding the Goshawk" leaves the reader with the impression that European Goshawks are reproducing well in most countries within their range, but that some local populations require continued monitoring and protection. Also, the species has a large following of competent researchers who seem very dedicated to ensuring that the status of the Goshawk continues to improve. As an in-depth analysis of the biology and management of an important forest-dwelling raptor, this publication comes highly recommended by this reviewer.