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## DEDICATION

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Walter Spofford earned his living as a professor of anatomy, but had a lifelong passion for birds of prey. An early survey by Walter helped to curb the pernicious practice of shooting eagles from aircraft. In later years, he annually surveyed and studied the few scattered pairs of Golden Eagles nesting in the northeastern United States. On one such occasion, he took the late Leslie Brown and me to former nest sites in the Adirondacks of New York. After Walter and wife Sally moved to Arizona, they were in true eagle country. I recall toiling up a mountain slope with “Spoff” as he sought a secure place to set free a young eagle he had nursed back to health and vigor.

Walter’s most lasting legacy may well prove to be the unstinting encouragement he gave to young students of raptors. On the last occasion I was in the field with him, he drove out of his way to pick up two chaps who were eager to share a field trip with him. He was equally thoughtful in making his data available to authors. The account of the Golden Eagle in Palmer’s volumes on American raptors contains many items sent to him by Spoff. Always, his wife, Dr. Sally Spofford, a published ornithologist in her own right, was at his shoulder with her insights and indispensable support.

What an appropriate gesture to dedicate this volume on the Golden Eagle to that devoted “raptorologist,” Walter Spofford.—**Dean Amadon, Lamont Curator of Birds, Emeritus, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY 10024 U.S.A.**

