



# BOOKS FOR BANDERS DONALD S. HEINTZELMAN



FALCONIFORM REPRODUCTION; A REVIEW. Part 1. THE PRE-NESTLING PERIOD.

By Richard R. Olendorff

Raptor Research Report No. 1., Raptor Research Foundation, c/o Biology Department, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D. 57069.

1971. Pp. 112. \$2.50.

Banding birds is one of the many tools used by ornithologists. Another is the technical literature. Any EBBA member seriously investigating birds knows the importance of searching the literature for information pertaining to his topic. He also knows how time consuming this task is! Thus, when anyone conducts a good literature search on a subject, and makes this bibliographic information available to other workers, all are in his debt.

Olendorff's review of the periodical literature dealing with falconiform reproduction through the pre-nestling period appears to be fairly complete for the major journals, but contains little material from regional periodicals. The cut-off date for searching the periodical literature seems to be December of 1967 although this is not clear in the text. With one or two exceptions, books are not included in this review. Moreover, at least some important raptor literature from major journals was overlooked or omitted in the preparation of this book.

The text, written in a narrative style, is a general overview of the subject with particular emphasis on the following major topics, with many sub-topics included: anatomy and morphology, territory, the breeding cycle --- generalities, nesting success, preincubation behavior, nests and nesting, eggs and egg laying, incubation, hatching, and summary.

Despite the omission of some important literature from the major journals, which means that readers must use the book with caution, this work nevertheless will be of enormous value to persons studying the breeding biology of raptors. It is recommended to anyone interested in these birds.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

THE HAWKS OF NEW JERSEY

By Donald S. Heintzelman

Bulletin 13 - New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N.J., 1970. Pp. 103.

\$2.00 Postpaid.

The Hawks of New Jersey is a recent publication of the New Jersey State Museum and is available for \$2.00 Ppd., from the museum at West State Street, Trenton, N.J. 08625. Donald S. Heintzelman is the author. A series of pen and ink sketches by Dr. Earl L. Poole and sixteen out-

standing photographs of raptors ranging from a pair of kestrels to a truly magnificent adult bald eagle are included. Some are taken by G. Ronald Austing, some by the author, both well known wildlife photographers. Within the 103 pages of this bulletin there are also two maps, four tables and other selected photographs. A glossary of special terms and a list of references for further reading is an added bonus.

When the average person thinks about the State of New Jersey the picture of a highly industrialized, heavily populated state located next to New York comes to mind. In this setting it is hard to visualize the presence of many birds of prey. These birds are generally associated with open space or deep woods. However, when one takes a closer look at New Jersey they find open space and deep woods and along with them come the raptors.

The Hawks of New Jersey takes you from the wooded hills of northern New Jersey to the sandy beaches of Cape May Point and along the way gives you a thumbnail sketch of the fossil records of hawks and puts you right in the center of present day controversy ranging from habitat destruction, loss of entire species due to the presence of persistent pesticides in the environment and thoughtless gunning.

The interwoven systems of food chains and food webs are explained fully with emphasis on the role of pesticides as the current villain in the decline of such species as the peregrine falcon, the osprey and the bald eagle. In the recent past all three of these very interesting birds of prey were regularly recorded within the state, but are now disappearing from the scene largely due to the overwhelming use of pesticides.

At the modest price of \$2.00 per copy, I feel that Bulletin 13 would be a welcome addition to the library of both birders and non-birders as it covers much more than just the mere identification of birds of prey. As a complete revision of Dr. Leon Hausman's "The Hawks of New Jersey and Their Relation to Agriculture" which was first published in October 1928, The Hawks of New Jersey is as current as your daily news-cast in its coverage of the many changes that have occurred in hawk nomenclature and in our knowledge of raptor ecology since that date.

--Reviewed by Gerald S. Mersereau, 9 Main Street, Ext. Box 321, Tariffville, Conn. 06081.

AMERICAN HAWKING

By Hans J. Peeters and E. W. Jameson, Jr.

Privately published at 13 Oakside, Davis, Ca. 95616. 1970. Pp. 150+. \$25.00

For better or for worse, there has been a tremendous increase in popularity in falconry or hawking in the United States in recent years. Thus, a book has been needed on the status of the art in this country. This book fills this need. The authors are quick to point out, however, that hawk



conservation must be the primary consideration for modern falconers. They also clearly state that hawking definitely is not a hobby. Unfortunately, too many falconers in this country fall into that category. Nevertheless, the authors are to be commended for their position, and particularly for their warning that the endangered Peregrine Falcon should be flown only by experienced falconers. I respect their concern, but once any animal is on the rare or endangered list nobody has the right to use those animals for an activity as unnecessary as hawking!

American Hawking is well written and printed, and contains numerous sketches scattered throughout the text. The book provides detailed information regarding the many techniques which are necessary to properly keep hawks in captivity and use them for falconry. This information also is of considerable value to persons who may be faced with caring for a wounded hawk or owl which may be turned over to them by authorities. There are six full page color plates by Hans J. Peeters which are attractive and well printed.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

#### AFRICAN BIRDS OF PREY

By Leslie Brown

Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass. 1970. Pp. 320. \$8.95

For anyone interested in raptors, Africa is a paradise with 89 species of diurnal bird of prey and 31 species of owls. In this book Leslie Brown provides an almost unbelievable amount of superb ornithological and ecological information on the predatory birds of Africa. Among the topics discussed in the book's 24 chapters are ecological and distribution problems, numbers of African birds of prey, effects of predation, territory and regulation of raptor numbers, breeding season and food supply, and many more topics. This book is a major contribution to raptor literature and doubtless will become a classic. The text is fascinating reading and the 23 black and white photographs which illustrate the volume are superb. Additional maps and charts add to the overall value of the book. I urge all raptor enthusiasts to purchase this important book. It is clear why Mr. Brown has been held spellbound by African birds of prey for over 25 years!

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

#### EAGLES

By Leslie Brown

Arco Publishing Co., Inc. New York, N.Y. 1970. Pp. 96, \$3.95.

Eagles are among the most spectacular and interesting birds in the world, with approximately 59 living species distributed around the globe where they occupy an amazing number of ecological niches. In size, they range from the spectacular Harpy Eagle of the Amazonian jungles to the diminutive Nias Island Serpent Eagle, European Booted Eagle, African

Ayres\* Hawk-Eagle, and the New Guinea race of the Little Eagle. In seven fact filled chapters, Leslie Brown, world authority on eagles, provides highly informative non-technical information about most of the 59 eagle species with emphasis on their behavior, size, habitats, etc.

In addition to the well written text, which is an important overview of the eagles of the world, this book is beautifully illustrated with 16 color photographs and over 60 black and white photographs, plus various drawings and diagrams. Anyone interested in birds of prey will want to own this fine book which is a real bargain at \$3.95. The author and publisher have made an important contribution to raptor conservation by making this book available to the public at such a modest price.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

#### EAGLES KING OF BIRDS

By Carina Eaglesfield Milligan

Exposition Press, Jericho, N.Y. 1970. Pp. 97. \$10.00.

If you're looking for a mediocre hodgepodge ". . . of fascinating facts and legends about the KING OF BIRDS" (the quote is from the book's dust jacket) this is it! Although the volume does contain some interesting information, the whole history of man's long association with eagles and other birds of prey has been told much more thoroughly by Mary Louise Grossman and John Hamlet in Birds of Prey of the World. The author obviously is not a biologist, and most of her text is devoted to art and history related subjects involving the use of eagles as symbols, etc. The one chapter dealing with the biology of the Bald Eagle was not even written by the author herself! Rather, it is an edited version of an article written by Frederick Kent Truslow which appeared in the January 1961 issue of the National Geographic Magazine.

Particularly annoying to me is the author's atrocious and incomplete systematic listing of the eagles of the world. She does not know, for example, that the Order Raptores long ago was divided into the Order Falconiformes for diurnal birds of prey (eagles included) and into the Order Strigiformes for Owls. The quality of the black and white photographs illustrating this volume also leave much to be desired. They range from fairly good to very poor, and there are more of the latter than the former.

I doubt that any informed person would consider spending the ten dollars which the publisher hopes to receive for this book.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

#### ADVENTURES WITH EAGLES

By David Hancock

Wildlife Conservation Centre, Saanichton, Brit. Columbia, Canada. 1970. Pp. 40 Soft covers, \$1.95.

EBBA members who enjoyed John Holt's articles about banding eagles also will enjoy this anecdotal account of the adventures of biologist David Hancock, and his wife Lyn, as they studied the breeding biology of the Bald Eagle in British Columbia. Numerous interesting black and white photos illustrate this little book.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

## BIRDS OF PREY

By Glenys and Derek Lloyd

Grosset &amp; Dunlap, Inc. New York, N.Y. 1970. Pp. 159. \$3.95.

This book, part of the Grosset All-Color Guide series, is a non-technical overview of the birds of prey of the world. It is profusely illustrated with 220 color illustrations by Ken Lilly. They are adequate and readers certainly could identify many species by reference to them. The text is readable and interesting, but it contains some errors, at least one of which is serious. Sub-lethal pesticide residues accumulating in the tissues of raptors do not cause sterility, as stated in the text. Rather, they commonly lead to the well documented thin eggshell syndrome which has brought some of our finest raptors to the brink of extinction.

In general, this book provides a good account of many of the birds of prey of the world. EBBA members might find it suitable as a gift for junior or senior high school students, or for other persons who wish to read a non-technical book about American and foreign birds of prey.

--Rev. by Donald S. Heintzelman, 629 Green Street, Allentown, Pa. 18102

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Minutes of the Council Meeting, (Committees) (Location) CONT'D FROM PG. 181  
Accommodations for rooms, meetings, banquet can be handled by the Island B. Motor Lodge just outside the Isl. B. State Park gate.

Finance(R. French)- Under the most trying conditions and with the original copy lost(in a suitcase) R. French gave this report from memory. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept his report with thanks and adopt the proposed budget with following recommendations 1) an amount be given to Mrs. Rose's son for helping with EBBA News mailing. 2) any person joining after June 1971 is charged for half a year's membership. 3) a student classification in our membership ends with receiving a Bachelor degree. Dues increases were approved unanimously; Active, from \$4.00 to \$6.00; Sustaining from \$7.50 to \$10.00; Life from \$100.00 to \$125.00.

Publication(R.Pyle)- The response to the banding summary is a little less than last year but it is expected that the total numbers banded is about the same. A motion was made, sec., and carried that this banding summary be separated from the publications comm. so this comm. can be freed for other needed efforts.

Nominating Committee(D. Bordner)-(For slate of officers and council, see pg. 181, minutes of annual meeting). A motion was made, sec. & carried to accept the above slate for the coming year 1971-2.

Conservation(Ray Hendrick) This comm. sent 24 telegrams to legislators regarding conservations possible effects on bird-banding. Of IMMEDIATE concern were wilderness preservation, backing of proposed house bill to protect ALL birds of prey. Report was accepted with thanks.

Auditing(Roy Frock)- Audits of the books made on April 1, 1971. All was found to be in order.

Memorial Grant(Will Merritt)-Ten applications were received. Motion was made, sec. and carried to follow recommendations of this committee to select=Donald E. Kroodsmas "Song Development in Bewick's Wren" in his research project leading to a doctoral degree at Univ. of Oregon.

Minutes further cont'd on page-210