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**A Checklist of the Birds of Afghanistan**, containing a comprehensive review of the status, distribution and ecology of the birds of Afghanistan is currently being prepared by M. Beaman, S. C. Madge, and C. Waller. The authors would appreciate receiving any unpublished records or other suitable material for inclusion in the work. These should be sent to **Mr. S. C. Madge, Springholme, 2, Caudle Hill, Fairburn, nr. Knottingley, W. Yorkshire, England**. Contributions will of course be fully acknowledged.

The winner of the first annual **Hawk Mountain Research Award** was James C. Bednarz of Iowa State University, for his study "Status and habitat utilization of the Red-shouldered Hawk in Iowa."

The Board of Directors of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association announces its second annual award of \$250 for support of raptor research. The Hawk Mountain Research Award is granted annually to a student engaged in research on raptors (Falconiformes). To apply, students should submit a description of their research program, a curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation by 31 October 1978 to: **Mr. Alex Nagy, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Route 2, Kempton, Pennsylvania 19529**. A final decision will be made by the Board of Directors in February 1979.

Only undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a degree granting institution are eligible. Projects will be judged competitively on the basis of their potential contribution to improved understanding of raptor biology and their ultimate relevance to conservation of North American hawk populations.

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The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, to avoid uncertainty and preserve general usage, has validated *Geositta peruviana* Lafresnaye, 1847, and the subspecific name *paytae* Ménégaux and Hellmayr, 1906, and has suppressed *Anthus paytensis* Lesson, 1837, (usually considered a *nomen dubium*), which Zimmer had revived believing it a senior synonym of *Geositta peruviana paytae*, but as to which Vaurie was dubious (see *Bull. Zool. Nomencl.* 34 (pt. 4): 205–212, February 1978).

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A computer program that analyzes bird banding and recovery data has been developed to compute great circle distances and compass directions from one point to another on the earth's surface. The input data are the latitudes and longitudes of the points, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service data format. For any grouping of such distance and direction data, the program also computes the mean distance and direction, the latter by the method appropriate for circular data. Measures of dispersion are also given, as is a statistical test (the Rayleigh test) for a "preferred" mean direction, and other quantities useful for other statistical analyses. Geographic locations between 19° and 59° north latitude and between 52° and 125° west longitude may be printed on a rectangular coordinate system 8.0 × 12.1 in (20.3 × 30.7 cm) in size, with an indication of the frequency of data at each plotted point. This coordinate system is such that a transparent overlay of a U.S. Army map of this portion of North America may then be placed atop the computer printout. A detailed description of the program is available at no charge from its developers: **Jerrold H. Zar and William E. Southern, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115**. Copies of the source program and/or deck (in FORTRAN IV) may be obtained, at cost, from the department of Computing Services, Northern Illinois University.

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