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RAPTOR RESEARCH NEWS

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This newsletter has been planned as a medium of information exchange between persons interested in any aspect of research on raptors. To be successful in this aim we are sending out this first issue to as many people as we can that may be interested. If you are interested, we hope that you will tell others that may also be interested that you will affiliate with the Foundation or at least subscribe to the newsletter, and that you will send items of interest for the newsletter of research on hawks and owls so that it can really be a medium of information exchange.

The Raptor Research News will be sent to each member of the Foundation; the membership consists of the Board of Directors, the Advisory Board, and Associate Members. Associate membership is open to anyone who makes a financial contribution for a particular calendar year. A calendar year subscription to the newsletter is also available for \$1.00. Contributions or subscriptions should be sent to The Raptor Research Foundation, Centerville, South Dakota 57014. An application for tax exempt status on contributions has been applied for.

This newsletter will appear during the months of January, April, July, and October. Material for the issue should be in the hands of one of the editors before the 15th of the preceding month.

A Short History of The Raptor Research Foundation

The idea of some sort of organization of persons interested in raptors in a broad sense had been talked about for some time. Existing organizations which include concerned people were considered too general (ornithological societies) or too specialized (falconry associations). It was felt that an organization devoted exclusively to the birds of prey would be desirable. It was also felt that the number of concerned people was getting larger and that the changes going on in the status of many species of birds of prey and their environment justified an organizational approach. The Foundation began in an informal way in 1965 and with the support of others was formally organized later in the year by Donald V. Hunter, Jr., an attorney from Centerville, South Dakota, who has long been interested in the biology of birds of prey and in falconry; by Dr. Byron E. Harrell, an ornithologist at the University of South Dakota at

Vermillion, who is currently conducting and supervising research on birds of prey; and by Dr. Paul F. Springer, Leader of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at South Dakota State University at Brookings, who adds a broad background in wildlife management to the organization. A Certificate of Incorporation was issued by the Secretary of State of the State of South Dakota on February 11, 1966. Bylaws of the Foundation have been drawn up and approved, and application for tax-exempt status for contributions has been made.

One of the most important activities at present began before the formal organization, as a cooperative effort to develop methods of breeding birds of prey in captivity by Hunter, Frank Beebe, Harold M. Webster, G. Ronald Austing, Richard Fyfe, and others. If some of the disastrous population changes continue, it is best to develop some of the necessary techniques while birds are available. It is also clear that some types of scientific research will only be possible with, or greatly aided by, birds in captivity.

The first general meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation was held in Madison, Wisconsin, on September 2, 1965, following an international conference on Peregrine Falcons; a report on this meeting prepared by Dr. David Hancock of the University of British Columbia is summarized in this newsletter. A second general meeting was held in Centerville, South Dakota, on November 26, 1966, at the time of a national falconry meet; a report on this meeting prepared by the editors is also included in this newsletter.

The Foundation is organized and incorporated as a Non-Profit Corporation. The number of incorporators who became the original Board of Directors was kept small initially to enable them to meet frequently enough to expedite the activities of the organization. In order to broaden the limited base provided by a small board, a larger advisory board has been authorized. The Directors hope that the Advisory Board will be representative of the wide variety of backgrounds of those interested in raptors. It is planned to call upon such advisors as appropriate and occasionally send questionnaires to them as a basis for making policy decisions. It is hoped that with this arrangement the organization can function in a practical but still representative fashion. A number of people are being invited to join the Advisory Board. We plan to publish a list of the members of this board in the April newsletter.

A policy on projects which use the name of the Foundation is being developed. One important aspect of this is related to the obtaining and the legal status of birds used in the breeding project. It is the policy of the Board of Directors of the Foundation that in order for a project to be given permission to use the name of the Raptor Research Foundation, approval by the Board must be obtained. We are making up a form on which proposals may be made. The reason for this is to provide a file of purpose and program of sponsored projects to give continuity to the effort and afford

protection for the Foundation and the investigators. In the future we hope to have sufficient money to make small grants to support research.

Other aspects of the Foundation are being developed as time permits. We look forward to your comments, criticism, and suggestions.

The First General Meeting, September 2, 1965, Madison, Wisconsin

The time and place of this meeting were chosen because of the international gathering of raptor researchers attending the Peregrine Conference of the preceding four days. Thanks are here offered to Dr. J. Hickey and the University of Wisconsin for the facilities provided to our group.

Persons attending the Raptor Research Foundation Meeting were:

Chairman: Don Hunter, South Dakota

David Hancock, B.C., Canada	Lucille F. Stickel, Patuxent, Md.
Frank Beebe, B.C., Canada	W. H. Stickel, Patuxent, Md.
Richard Fyfe, N.B., Canada	Morlan Nelson, Idaho
Joe Simonyi, Ontario, Canada	Steve Herman, California
Fran Hammerstrom, Wisconsin	Granger Hunt, Texas
Fred Hammerstrom, Wisconsin	Hans Herren, Switzerland

Discussion topics. Since time was limited and since considerable time of the Peregrine Conference had been devoted to the general lines of Raptor Research needed, the meeting was primarily concerned with breeding raptors in captivity.

Bibliography and previous related research. A list of person and literature references was volunteered by the members. By necessity these are incomplete in detail and by no means exhaust the topic. The most notable point here is that there is undoubtedly a great wealth of references and particularly of persons with unpublished pertinent information which must be gathered up, correlated, evaluated and made available to all concerned.

Prestwick's book, "A Record of Raptors Bred in Captivity" is a fine introduction--a reference to many successful breeding attempts. However, this compilation refers only to published accounts of successful attempts--it omits references to failures which may well contribute as much as successes in our early stages of investigation. Furthermore, considerable work has been done since the book was published.

The discussants were agreed that the Foundation should undertake the initial responsibilities of bringing together and correlating as much of this published and unpublished data as possible so it is