

Sources of financial support. Since the Raptor Research Foundation is being set up as a non-profit corporation it will be able to accept monies (tax deductible) from granting agencies, business and private donors.

This aspect and the policy of the Foundation will be dealt with at a later date.

The discussants at this meeting were unanimously in support of a foundation to guide and stimulate scientific interest in the raptorial birds. The world plight of the Peregrine Falcon and other raptors which was reviewed at the Peregrine Conference certainly pointed out the great need for further investigation.

(Prepared by David Hancock, Zoology Department, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.)

The Second General Meeting, November 26, 1966, Centerville, S. Dak.

This meeting was held because of the presence of a number of interested persons at a national falconry meet. Twenty-six persons were present from various places in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Don Hunter presided. Those present introduced themselves, and for background information Hunter read the material printed in the Foundation brochure.

Breeding project. Brief informal reports were made by those present who were involved with the breeding project. Progress was reported by Frank Beebe and for Ron Austing (by Hunter). Longer reports on these are reported elsewhere in the News. Henry Kendall reported on his plans for a breeding project with Peregrines and Prairie Falcons. He also reported on experiences with two hand-raised male Red-tailed Hawks which might be useful in artificial insemination experiments since they would undergo copulatory behavior with a little stimulation while held in the hand.

Dr. Heinz Meng reported that he obtained a first year wild caught Red-tailed Hawk in 1946 and that since the fourth spring it has laid 2 or 3 eggs each spring. Since these were infertile he replaced the eggs with wild-obtained eggs of Red-tailed Hawks, Goshawks, Prairie Falcons, and even chickens which she incubated. Last year when the eggs were removed she laid 2 eggs three weeks later. This definitely indicates recycling in a captive bird. He described a new breeding house 30 x 15 x 10 feet at the eaves. Two passage birds that were taken in 1964 were put in the breeding chamber in May 1965; last spring the birds were seen to bow to each other and the male was seen to take food to the female who took it.

Bob Berry described his experiences with Goshawks kept in a 25 foot high 30 foot long building which had inside and outside chambers. The female did not accept the male; however, she built

a nest and would incubate, and she raised a young Red-tailed Hawk which was substituted in the nest. He would like to obtain an adult male. Beebe offered an adult male European Goshawk.

Don Hunter reported on experiences with Peregrines. No eggs were produced but by changing the lighting both birds were brought into the molt at the same time; the female of Arctic origin and the male of Irish origin ordinarily molt at different times.

Jack Mavrogradato said that 30 years ago he had a four year old Goshawk which laid four eggs after two others were taken earlier. He also pointed out that it might be important to remember that in falcons the male usually picks out the site and that the female adds to it.

Beebe mentioned that five years ago he had a male European Goshawk and a Swedish first year female. He put them on blocks with a larger block between where the food was placed and the jesses just long enough to reach the food but not reach each other. They were then placed together. In April the male was carrying sticks and arranging them; nothing more happened since the female was lost in an accident. He felt that the initial relationship was very important.

Several people commented on food. Meng felt that perhaps the maturity of the birds fed to the falcons was important; he uses pigeons and chicken heads, as much as they can eat. Beebe uses chicken heads and avoids town pigeons because of the uncertainty of what they have eaten. Hunter has frozen six-week old chicks which have never had any DDT exposure; the chicks are also taken off feed containing coccidiostat (an anti-coccidia drug) six days before they are killed.

Population studies. Hunter mentioned his raptor survey in South Dakota reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Harrell mentioned briefly that several students were working on population studies in South Dakota. Beebe has been interested in the Queen Charlottes in British Columbia; during this past year he visited 3 or 4 new islands and he now knows of over 80 eiries although he is quite sure that he is not finding all of them. Mavrogradato thinks there is a slight upturn in British Peregrines since there has been a decrease in the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons.

Information exchange. Problems in this connection were discussed. This newsletter is an attempt to alleviate some of these.

Education and public relations. Hunter reported on an educational project on an Indian reservation which is reported elsewhere. Beebe reported that there are slides and movies of his breeding project which will be shown on TV in British Columbia.

A number of other subjects were discussed including pesticides. Fran Hammerstrom mentioned some greatly improved recent techniques for determining concentrations.

(Prepared by the Editors)