

## INJURIES, INFECTIONS, AND ANTIBIOTICS

Those working with raptors are often confronted with problems of injured birds, at least we have had a procession of injuries brought to us mainly the result of gunshot wounds or collisions with wires. We would like to pass on our observations in hope that they may be of help to someone and to encourage others who have hints on raptor therapy to report to the News.

The first danger in wounds is of course infection. Broken bones are often, probably usually, accompanied by infection to both the bone and the soft tissue of the break area. If the infection can be controlled, the bone will heal in a surprisingly short time. As a result of conversations with Col. MacIntyre of the Air Force Academy, Dr. Morgan Berthrong of Colorado Springs, and Dr. Eric Awender of Freeport, Illinois and Dr. Myron C. Krominga, DVM of Centerville, S. Dak., we have used the following procedure with success. Cleanse wound to remove foreign material but take care not to aggravate or increase the injury. Set bone if practical (if bone is anywhere near proper position we leave it alone). Treat locally with antibiotic combination. We have used successfully a product designed for treatment of mastitis in cow udders, injecting directly into the wound periodically (twice a day). Administer orally one to two hundred thousand units of penicillin G. Tablets may be powdered and picked up on the food or hand administered wrapped in a piece of meat. Continue for seven to nine days. The diet of course should be nutritionally complete. We are, wherever possible, staying away from injectables, as evidence indicates that raptors are sensitive to shock from their use. Many broad spectrum antibiotics would undoubtedly be useful, but due to our lack of experience with them in raptors and the apparent danger in their use we recommend caution. There is evidence of vitamin depletion accompanying use of antibiotics, so use should continue only as long as is necessary.

We might add that birds that are crippled may, none the less, be of value to research projects. (Report by Donald V. Hunter, Jr.)

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY RAPTOR RESEARCH

The editors request that our academic friends prepare brief reports on current and recent raptor research activities at their schools.

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. Dak. Work on raptors is under the supervision of Dr. Byron E. Harrell in the Zoology Department. Harrell is President of the Foundation and Co-editor of the News. He is working on tape-recorder playback techniques for studying owls and cooperates with Don Hunter's breeding project at Centerville, South Dakota. Currently Mr. Rory N. Vose is working on a predator-prey study of Screech Owls and radioactively tagged White-Footed Mice for a Ph.D. thesis. Mr. Thomas C. Dunstan has nearly completed an M.A. thesis on the ecology of the breeding

Osprey population in a county in northern Minnesota. Another M.A. thesis which is nearing completion is on the local population of raptors in a part of southeastern South Dakota by Mr. Daniel J. Call. Both Mr. Dunstan and Mr. Call anticipate working on raptors in their Ph.D. work. Recently completed theses include a study of Bald Eagle populations wintering in South Dakota and breeding in northern Minnesota (Ph.D.) by Dr. Alfred H. Grewe, Jr., now at St. Cloud State College, Minnesota, and a breeding study of Great Horned Owls in a part of southeastern South Dakota (M.A.) by Mr. John Behrends, now at Mankato High School, Mankato, Minnesota. Another study was made of the territory of Screech Owls by the use of tape recorder playback by Mr. Eugene Bawdon, now at Eastern Arizona Junior College, Thatcher, Arizona. In addition, some banding of raptors is conducted and arrangements are being made to begin some pesticide analyses. (Report by B. E. Harrell)

#### GOLDEN EAGLE COOPERATIVE STUDY\*

Cutting through the ignorance and mistrust that have too often split conservationists and eagle-shooting ranchers into warring camps, the National Audubon Society and the National Wool Growers Association have joined in a study to bring new understanding to the problem of how to protect sheep rancher's livestock without endangering the survival of the golden eagle. The Wool Growers and Audubon, along with the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, will undertake the one-year study to get factual data on the golden eagle and the threat it poses to ranchers.

A policy committee has been established, with representatives from the three organizations, to review the research project and the personnel selected for carrying it out. Carl W. Buchheister, President Emeritus of the National Audubon Society, will be the Society's representative on the committee.

In his final months as president of the National Audubon Society, Mr. Buchheister worked to improve relations between conservationists and the Wool Growers by traveling to their headquarters in San Angelo for talks and inviting them to do the same in New York City. During the meetings, which were both formal and informal, it became clear that the rancher is more of a conservationist than many people--especially easterners--give him credit for, because of his dependence on natural resources. To portray him as a killer who likes to poison or shoot eagles is to misrepresent him. At the same time, Mr. Buchheister found it necessary to point out to the ranchers that the Audubon Society is not composed of "sentimental bird watchers" flatly opposed to all controls on all predators. Rather it is composed of people who believe in the rancher's right to protect his property, as well as in the eagle's right to survive.

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\* Quoted from the National Audubon Society's "Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide," Vol. 8, No. 4, Feb. 15, 1967.