

day old cockerel chicks were fed to the parent birds, which may have been a contributing factor in the unfortunate behavior. We are not in receipt of a detailed report on this project.

Olendorff's American Kestrels. This project involves a pair of kestrels that was unsuccessful last year in producing fertile eggs but this year hatched young which lived for two weeks before expiring.

(Summary by Don Hunter)

### RAPTOR POPULATIONS

South Dakota Population Survey. An appraisal of the data so far received indicates that there was a substantial loss of nests in the western part of the state due to late spring storms, particularly as concerns ground nesting hawks, e.g., Marsh Hawks and Ferruginous Hawks. There was some loss also apparent in tree nesters due to the same cause. It appears that most of the nesting territories were again occupied so that no decline in breeding population is evident in the areas studied.

Red-tails had another good year in eastern South Dakota, but with some loss of nesting trees due to human destruction. Prairie Falcons had less success than last year with an average of less than four per eyrie. An unusual amount of rain made access to several eyries next to impossible. At one eyrie five large downy young were found shot and the adults nowhere in evidence. These too were presumably shot. Golden Eagles also had fair success. We are checking a report of one eyrie with three young.

John Flavin reports a rather severe loss of Ferruginous nests in his banding area, presumably due to the late storm. Also, and this is of concern to us, he reports that of the three Richardson's Merlin (Pigeon Hawk) nests he found, NONE raised any young. We have unconfirmed reports that this little falcon is rapidly disappearing from the area of former relative abundance in Saskatchewan. We think this warrants immediate attention and we would appreciate population observations, either nesting or migration counts, from any part of the range. (Summary prepared by Don Hunter.)

### PRIVATE POWER COMPANY JOINS FIGHT TO SAVE THE BALD EAGLE

A private power company has joined the battle to save the national bird, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said today. The Northern States Power Company of Minneapolis, Minn., has adopted rules to protect the American bald eagle on 30,000 acres along the St. Croix River in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In a letter to Earl Ewald, president of the company, Secretary Udall wrote: "The people of the United States are indebted to you and to your company for adopting a policy which will give protection to nesting areas and migration routes of the bald eagle along the St. Croix River."

As its contribution toward efforts to save eagles, the company recently adopted a policy which states:

"The bald eagle, emblem of our nation, is in danger of becoming extinct. Northern States Power Company and its subsidiary, United Power and Land Company, have adopted a policy which will provide protection for the nesting areas and migration routes of this bird. Approximately 30 thousand acres of wilderness river land owned by Northern States Power Company and its subsidiary, United Power and Land Company, will be subject to the following rules and regulations . . ."

These include: showing all known nests and their buffer zones on maps used in management of the lands; limiting activities within 130 feet of any known active nest; establishing a 660-foot buffer zone around known active nest trees; saving old-growth pine trees in the buffer zones; prohibiting foot trails or other developments that would make nest sites more accessible to humans; providing special management consideration for areas which might be active nest areas, and exercising extra precaution in using insecticides near known nest sites and along waterways. (U.S. Department of Interior News Release.)

INDIAN RESERVATION IN MINNESOTA BECOMES EAGLE SANCTUARY

American Indians, who still prize eagle feathers for ceremonial status, are joining the fight to save the national bird from extinction. The Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Tribe has designated its 400,000-acre reservation in north-central Minnesota as a Bald Eagle Sanctuary.

The Chippewa lands are on an important eagle migration route and have several active nests. Rare except in Alaska, bald eagles are one of the species Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has designated for management and study under the Endangered Species Act of 1966.

The sanctuary will be dedicated May 12 in ceremonies that also signal the completion of a wildlife marsh restoration project on the reservation.

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And then, there'll be the eagle feathers. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has a standing order from some Indian tribes for feathers of eagles that die in the sanctuary. Donation of the feathers is permissible as long as they are used only for ceremonial purposes. (U.S. Department of Interior News Release.)