

BREEDING PROJECT INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Number 5 of the B.P.I.E. was issued on March 26, 1968, and Numbers 6, 7, and 8 were sent out on July 26. To maintain the informality of the exchange each number is now headed with a statement "This is not a publication."

In No. 5 Fran Hamerstrom reported on the method of artificial insemination used with her Golden Eagle in Wisconsin. She describes the equipment and technique in some detail. She also comments on sexing raptors by examination of the prolapsed oviduct, a technique that should be of value to banders and others.

Joe Simonyi reports in No. 6 on work with Peregrines and Red-tailed Hawks at Hornby, Ontario, Canada. He gave some general suggestions on the care of the birds including the use of live quarry and the use of a dark room in the day and light at night so he can work more with them in the evening. His Peregrine laid one egg May 19, 1967, which she incubated; it was infertile and removed June 11, but the bird did not recycle. He has been able to manipulate light and change time of molt in his Red-tails. The female in winter had been exposed to increased light. A male from an outdoor aviary was added in mid-January, and both birds were nest building in February. He attempted to stop the cycle by exposing them to natural (10 hour) light. Although the room was very cold eggs were laid on February 25 and 27 which were being incubated when the report was submitted.

Don Hunter commented on the proposed registry in No. 7. He discussed possible methods of marking the birds and developing a recording system of card questionnaires. We want as many suggestions as possible, and will therefore quote this section completely.

"We are also developing a questionnaire type report card whereupon standardized information, as well as, unique information may be systematically recorded. In addition to obvious information such as species, age, quarters, diet, etc., we have listed the following information as possibly important: Eyess or wild caught adult or sub adult? (Haggard or passage.) Handling of bird; manned or not manned; flown or not flown? Lighting, both natural and artificial? Temperature in quarters; daily fluctuation; mean? Date birds placed together? Which one first in quarters and for how long in advance? Behavior of both sexes? Coincidence of molt with egg production and/or light period changes either natural or artificial? Diet? Eggs? Fertile or infertile? Dates of laying? Dates of hatching? Natural or artificial incubation? Temperature of incubation? Analysis of cause of infertile eggs? Dead embryos? Chemical analysis? Status of young? Fed by hand or by parents? Diet? Present status? Registry number of young?"

In No. 8 Richard D. Porter and Stanley N. Wiemeyer of Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland, report on extensive work on American Sparrow Hawks from which 131 young were produced by 43 pairs in 1967. They made observations on the effect of the size of pens (if too small, unsuccessful), isolation (adjoining pens better), wild trapped vs. nestling (none), manning (unnecessary), pairing (not difficult), disturbance (must be minimal), and food (no cannibalism with finely ground rodent and chicken parts). We look forward to seeing the full published report on this work.