

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

All life on the planet is, and perhaps always has been subjected to stresses caused by environmental changes. Our era seems to be one of accelerated changes due, in no small part, to very rapid expansion of human populations and influences.

That environmental modification by human activities is seriously threatening many species of wildlife is well recognized. High on the list of threatened species are several of our raptors. Recognizing that most wildlife is moving into a period of management by man and that its future will depend upon the efficacy of that management, a group especially interested in birds of prey incorporated Raptor Research Foundation in 1966.

PURPOSE

The Raptor Research Foundation was formed to fulfill a need for facts. There are relatively large areas in the biology of birds of prey in which little or no research has been done. There is strong evidence that some species of raptors are not adjusting to environmental changes and are in serious danger of extinction. It therefore seems imperative that the most efficacious means of quickly gaining the necessary knowledge to avert such extinction be immediately pursued. It is thought that an organizational approach to coordination of efforts is the best means. This approach is the immediate purpose of the Raptor Research Foundation.

STRUCTURE

The Raptor Research Foundation is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to stimulate, coordinate, direct, and conduct research in the biology and management of birds of prey, and to promote a better public understanding and appreciation of the value of these birds.

The business of the Foundation is conducted by a Board of Directors with the advice of an Advisory Board. This Advisory Board was elected by the Board of Directors in an attempt to bring together all interests in birds of prey. The Advisory Board includes ornithologists specializing in ecology, ethology, taxonomy, physiology, paleontology, parasitology, etc., wildlife managers, veterinarians, and falconers.

ACTIVITIES

Activities which use the name of Raptor Research Foundation must have the prior approval of the Board of Directors.

A major activity to date is the publication of RAPTOR RESEARCH NEWS which appears quarterly. In addition to extensive news on work with raptors, several articles on various types of raptor research have been included.

In order to develop the work of the Foundation, committees have been set up. These are as follows:

1. EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. Editing of RAPTOR RESEARCH NEWS or any other publications.
2. CAPTIVITY BREEDING COMMITTEE. Will coordinate breeding projects of cooperators and issue the B.P.I.E. (Breeding Project Information Exchange), aimed at eventual development of successful breeding techniques.
3. RAPTOR POPULATION COMMITTEE. Will coordinate activities and data of cooperators in various areas to assess changes in raptor populations.
4. RAPTOR BANDING COMMITTEE. To coordinate activities of raptor banders, aid in solution of problems of cooperators, and maintain a liaison with the banding offices.
5. BIO-TELEMETRY COMMITTEE. To exchange information of investigators using this technique.
6. RAPTOR PATHOLOGY COMMITTEE. To assemble information on diseases and injuries and their treatment in raptors.
7. PESTICIDE COMMITTEE. Monitor information on the level of pesticides in raptors and investigate effects of such poisoning.
8. RAPTOR ECOLOGY AND ETHOLOGY COMMITTEE.
9. RAPTOR PHYSIOLOGY and ANATOMY COMMITTEE.
10. RAPTOR TAXONOMY COMMITTEE.
11. EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. To collect and distribute information on the preservation of raptors.
12. BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE. Recording of published references pertinent to raptor research.
13. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. To contact potential members.
14. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE. Maintain a liaison with raptor workers on other continents.
15. FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE. Work on the financial support of the Foundation.