

RAPTOR POPULATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1968

by Don Adolphson
Keystone Route, Box 669
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
and George Jonkel
1848 Dakota Ave. S.
Huron, South Dakota 57350

Information in this report is from 1968 unless stated otherwise. We wish to thank the contributors from the various states. The states are listed alphabetically and species reports thus are at random throughout. Canadian province information follows the state reports.

Hopefully this information can be followed in the future by additional reporting from more locations. We think this will acquaint some of you with other workers' information and encourage you to cross-change information.

Alaska, southeast (Bald Eagle). Observer: U. S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife--Department of the Interior and the Forest Service--Department of Agriculture, have signed an agreement to insure greater protection for Bald Eagles of southeast Alaska, where the largest numbers of this species live. Terms of the agreement will be carried out through the regional forester for the Forest Service and the game management agent in-charge for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Both are stationed in Juneau.

The major feature of the agreement is the close cooperation of the two agencies in protecting nest areas where timber sales, road construction or other operations by man are planned. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will locate and mark all eagle nesting trees within and adjacent to eagle nesting areas. The Forest Service will include clauses and specifications in timber sale contracts and special use permits to protect nest trees from destruction.

The population of nesting Bald Eagles in southeast Alaska was estimated by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife at between 10,000 and 15,000 after a survey of nests in 1966. The total number of Bald Eagles is unknown; 2,772 were counted in the 48 contiguous states in a wildlife study conducted earlier this year.

Southeast Alaska offers some of the most desirable Bald Eagle habitat with its 13,000 miles of salt water shoreline and its rain forests of sitka spruce and western hemlock in the lower elevations. During the 1966 survey, almost all Bald Eagle nests were

located within 200 yards of salt water or along major mainland rivers.

Although this area has not yet been extensively marred by man, it has not been untouched. Between 1785 and 1910, Sea Otters were exterminated in southeast Alaska. Salmon fishing began about 1878 and decline in salmon stocks began to be noticed during World War II. In recent years, pesticides have been used in a few isolated areas.

Bounty hunting, too, once menaced the Bald Eagle. Alaska was paying \$2 per bird when the bounty system was rescinded by the territorial legislature in 1952. Annual reports of the Alaskan territorial treasurer showed that 128,273 bald eagles were killed and presented for bounty from 1917 to 1951.

Alaska, interior. James H. Enderson reports that nesting of Peregrine (about 30 nests seen) and Gyrfalcon (about 7 nests seen) were about normal on two of the rivers in Alaska. No specific data yet available.

L. G. Swartz states that spring migration in 1967 was poor for all species but 1968 was very good. Migration is variable from year to year in the Fairbanks area, but in 1968 Marsh Hawks and Harlan's Hawks were very abundant, closely followed by Rough-legged Hawks, Goshawks, Kestrels, and Peregrines. Merlins were not very abundant and Sharpshins were uncommonly seen. Sharpshins were observed during the breeding season but no nests found. Two nests of Merlins found with one nest containing two eggs when deserted and the other nest fledging five young. Nestings of Harlan's were normal with one nest found fledging three young.

Alaska, except southeastern portion. David Roseneau, Anchorage, sent the following report: The Peregrine Falcon population is apparently stable during migration and seems to remain stable during nesting with about 1.5 young fledged per nest. Pigeon Hawks population is good during migration and nesting and Harlan's Hawk is probably normal to former years during nesting. Goshawks may be on the upswing due to increase in food supply (hares and ptarmigan) in some areas. Rough-legged Hawks are remaining about the same with 35 nests having two to six young and averaging about four young fledged per nest.

Colorado, north-central area. Carl D. Marti reports nesting Great Horned Owls (13 nests, 2.40 young per nest), Barn Owls (4 nests, 4.80 young per nest), Burrowing Owls (19 nests, 3 to 8 young per nest), and Long-eared Owls (3 nests, 3 young per nest).

Colorado and Southern Wyoming. James H. Enderson comments that Prairie Falcons are normal from former years during the winter and the nesting season (35 nests average about 1.5 young per nest). Ferruginous Hawks seem to be decreasing from former years during migration and are up slightly from previous years,

but still way down during nesting (four nests found but no data on success). Peregrine Falcons nest in only a few very old and favorable localities and were normal to former years at time of visit (seven nests but fledging not known). Golden Eagles normal from former years during migration and nesting (about 12 nests, no data on young).

Connecticut (Osprey). Researchers at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center studied Osprey nesting success in Connecticut this spring. They believe that embryos from Connecticut may have been killed by some pollutant obtained by the adult from its environment and passed on to the eggs. Each embryo died as yolk was being drawn into the body. A colony near the mouth of the polluted Connecticut River has declined from 150 to 10 nesting pairs in the last 14 years.

Renowned ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson predicts that if the rate of decline continues, fish hawks will be gone from Connecticut by 1971--and he suspects pesticides may be responsible.

Florida, south. E. A. Dieffenbach reports Red-tailed Hawks seen to be increasing from former years during the migration periods. During 1968, of the three nests found, one fledged three young, one nest destroyed by fire, and the other nest had two eggs that did not hatch because of pesticides in the eggs.

Florida, central east coast. Lon E. Ellis states that during migration all raptor species were down from former years except Red-tailed Hawks. Cooper's and Sharpshin Hawks were very low. During the nesting season Osprey (11 nests, one young per nest), Short-tailed Hawk (one nest, 0 young), Cooper's Hawk (no nest found), Bald Eagle (six nests, 0.50 young per nest), Great Horned Owl (one nest, one young) and Barred Owl (one nest, one young) seen to be decreasing from former years. Nesting Red-tailed Hawks (six nests, 1.20 young per nest) and Red-shouldered Hawks (ten nests, 2.50 young per nest) were normal with former years. Kestrels raised an average of 1.50 young per nest from three nests.

Iowa. Kurt Ohlander, Des Moines, reports that the number of Red-tailed Hawks are about normal during migration (a few more seen during fall) and nesting (two nests, average of two young per nest fledged). Sparrow Hawks were normal during migration periods and nesting with one nest fledging three young. More Sharpshin Hawks were seen during fall migration than usual and spring migration was about normal. Harlan's Hawks seem to be increasing during migration periods. The Peregrine Falcon is definitely becoming more rare in Iowa with sections of the state which used to hold six or eight eyries now decreased to one or two eyries. Eagles are common in some sections of the state, from late fall to early spring. Cooper's Hawks were normal during migration periods and nesting with one nest fledging three young.

Illinois, west shore Lake Michigan area. Mahlon K. Mahoney sent in the following report of the 1967 migration at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, located 45 miles northwest of Chicago, Illinois.

Hawk Migration Data, 1967

Species (First/Last)	No. Seen	Monthly Percentage of Total Seen											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sharp-shinned (5/17 10/14)	4					25					50	25	
Cooper's (4/19 9/6)	3				33	33					33		
Red-tailed (All Year)	212	5	6	10	4	6	3	4	7	10	16	17	12
Red-shouldered (All Year)	39	10		3	8	15		15	21	21	5	2	
Broad-winged (4/15 12/5)	13				46	23			8	8			15
Rough-legged (1/16 12/27)	17	6									12	35	47
Marsh (1/16 11/7)	4	25			25						25	25	
Osprey (4/15 10/12)	4				75						25		
Falcon, Per. (8/22 12/19)	4								25		25		50
Hawk, Sparrow (All Year)	9			22	11	11			11		11	12	11

From Dillon, "A Bird Census on a Restricted Site in Northeastern Illinois," *The Audubon Bulletin*, Number 146, June 1968: 17.

Massachusetts, Westport River and Sloceen River, 1967 and 1968 (Osprey). Jo and Gil Fernandez report that they have been conducting a survey of Osprey in the last nesting site in Massachusetts for five years. In 1967 there were 16 pair which produced 8 young. In 1968 there was an increase to 22 pair back and Rhode Island had 3 young produced for the first time in many years. The Osprey in Massachusetts used 21 nests and had an average of 1.09 young per nest. There were 30 young in 12 nests, 8 nests had eggs no young and one nest no eggs or young. The increase in production was probably due to new pairs returning and protection from predators by placing metal guards around nesting trees. Complete nest failure occurred in those nests which had failed before and may be due to pesticide residue or thin-shelled eggs due to pesticides. The rivers have only slight pollution. Nest platforms are going to be erected to replace trees blown down this year.

Michigan (Bald Eagle). Observer: Sergej Postupalsky, Royal Oak, Michigan (Information from *North Woods Call*, Roscommon, Michigan).

In 1968 there were 84 active nests with 27 nests in the lower peninsula and 57 in the upper peninsula. One of the most productive nests in the lower peninsula may be lost this year (1968) as a result of tree cutting operations.

In 1967 the entire Bald Eagle breeding population numbered just over 100 pairs, with most in the upper peninsula. Only 51 known eaglets were raised last year in 93 active nests.

Postupalsky notes a "very significant difference in reproductive success" between nests near the shores of the Great Lakes and those inland. Only one of the 17 Great Lakes nests was productive last year. Inland areas showed 34 successful pairs out of 75 which nested.

Research indicates that residues from "hard pesticides" such as DDT, in the Great Lakes, is gradually rendering eagles sterile. Since the buildup in pesticide levels in Great Lakes fish is now assuming serious proportions, eagles which feed on fish are among the first to show the effects.

The Royal Oak man feels, however, that shooting is still the greatest single cause of mortality among adult eagles. "A few eagles, particularly young birds, get caught in traps," he said. "Beaver and otter sets are particularly dangerous because they are set to drown their victims." Those caught in land traps can usually be released. Bald eagles continue to decline, says Michigan's foremost expert on the big birds.

Michigan, state-wide (Osprey). Observer: Sergej Postupalsky, Royal Oak, Michigan (Information from *North Woods Call*, Roscommon, Michigan).

There were 61 active nests located this spring (1968) with 36 of them in the upper peninsula. In 1967 there were 64 located. Artificial platforms, designed and paid for by Stephen M. Stackpole, of Grosse Pointe Shores, an Audubon member, were placed in Fletcher Floodwaters for two winters. Fifteen pairs of birds were nesting in the Alpena County water with 13 of them using the platforms. The highest previous count was 13 in 1964. At the Deadstream Swamp on the Missaukee-Roscommon County line, six pairs of Osprey are nesting and five pairs are using the platforms. Osprey, an endangered species in Michigan, slipped badly in the nesting season at Fletcher Floodwaters, the major stronghold in northern Michigan. The 15 active nests which contained 41 eggs in late spring, resulted in a successful hatch of only 11 birds, according to Al Valentine, president of the Alpena Thunder Bay Audubon Club. Hopes were high in the spring when 13 pairs built nests on special metal platforms that are predator-proof and were put up by the

Audubon Society in the 12,000 acre flooding in Montmorency and Alpena counties. Pesticides are suspected as the cause of the low hatching success.

Michigan, central. G. T. Wallace reports that Sharpshin Hawks, Cooper's Hawks and Red-shoulder Hawks were down from former years during the spring and fall migration. During fall migration Red-tailed Hawks were up from former years. Accipiters, Red-shoulder Hawks and Barred Owls are decreasing in nesting but Red-tailed Hawks are increasing.

Michigan, Leelanau County 1964-68. William C. Scharf reports that in a four year spring migration study, substantiated by data which he will get into print, Kestrels are decreasing from former years; Turkey Vultures, Broadwing Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks are increasing and Red-tailed, Goshawk, Sharpshin and Cooper's are about normal. The Osprey and Bald Eagle are no longer the common nesting species they once were and the Peregrine and Merlin never were common.

Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin (Osprey). Observer: Ernest Swift, *Michigan Out-of-Doors*, June, 1968.

In 1966 the North Central Audubon Council conducted a study of the Osprey in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. To the unscientific mind, one factor shows up in the report. Of 237 Osprey nests located, 148 were active. The increase averaged out .37 young per nest. In regions where Osprey were more prosperous, the clutch will be three eggs. In other words, instead of 55 young from 148 nests, the number should approach 500.

And if there are 500 nests, which in all likelihood the region could support, the total young would be 1,500. A potential of 1,500 young instead of 55 . . . no wonder the Osprey and other birds are disappearing.

Further observations were: "Our present indications are that the Osprey population is very rapidly declining. Not only are the birds reproducing very poorly but few adults are actually present to reproduce. A total of 291 adults were seen in the midwest during the summer of 1966. Because of the few adults seen, there is a very poor probability that the Osprey population will be able to pull itself out of its decline, even if the birds can raise up to three young per nest."

"One of the main reasons for this decline of our birds of prey is the fact that very few of the young are raised each year. The reason is still a mystery."

The reasons apparently contributing to the decline are: poisons in the fish that kill the birds or make their eggs infertile; water pollution and subsequent lack of suitable food

fish in waters near nesting sites; decline of suitable nesting areas; animal or bird predation, and shooting, sometimes by well-intending persons who think they are protecting other animals.

Minnesota (Summary of Bald Eagle-Osprey Status Report, 1968).
Chippewa National Forest, Cass Lake, Minnesota. John E. Mathisen,
Wildlife Biologist.

Bald Eagle and Osprey nesting populations of the Chippewa National Forest have been evaluated for the sixth consecutive year. Since we were able to use an airplane for both Eagle and Osprey observations, our data are more complete than for any previous year. The Osprey flights were made possible through the excellent cooperation of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The nests were observed twice from the air. The first check, during the incubation period, indicated if the nest was occupied. The second check of previously occupied nests showed if young were present. In no case were incubating birds unduly alarmed by the aircraft, and only one or two flushed from the nest.

Bald Eagle Nesting Data, 1968

District	Known Nests	Observed Nests	Active Nests	Successful Nests	Number of Young
Bena	37	26	14	7	11
Blackduck	11	9	6	5	11
Walker	14	12	4	4	7
Remer	8	4	3	2	3
Marcell	10	7	4	3	3
Cass Lake	36	25	12	7	9
Cut Foot Sioux	26	22	9	5	6
Forest Total	142	105	52	33	50
Percent		74%	49%	63%	1.5/nest
Projected Forest Total			69	43	64

For the first time we have fairly reliable evidence of the wintering area of Chippewa eagles. Mr. Frank Ligas of the National Audubon Society trapped and color-marked wintering eagles in Union County, Illinois. Four reports of color-marked eagles on the Chippewa were received during the first part of April. Five nestlings were banded by Dr. Al Grewe and a student assistant.

Comparison of Bald Eagle Nesting Data, 1963-1968

Year	Known	Observed	Active Nests*		Successful Nests		Young Per Nest
	Nests	Nests	No.	%	No.	%	
1963	48	31	20	64	6	30	1.7
1964	55	46	30	65	12	40	1.2
1965	76	58	39	67	22	56	1.3
1966	107	70	52	74	19	61	1.5
1967	135	67	49	73	21	55	1.4
1968	142	105	52	49	33	63	1.5

*Only active nests with known outcome were used for calculating nesting success.

Twenty-one new Osprey nests were found since the 1967 survey. Eight had blown down since last observed, bringing the total number of known osprey nests on the Chippewa to 73. There are undoubtedly many more Osprey nests to be located. They are difficult to find compared to eagle nests and their preference for dead trees makes an up-to-date inventory exceedingly difficult because they are prone to wind destruction.

Results of Osprey Survey, 1968

Known Nests	Observed Nests	Active Nests	Successful Nests	No. of Young	Young Per Nest
		No.	%		
73	56	40	71	13	1.5

Although a large proportion of the Osprey nests were occupied (71%), the success rate was quite low (32%). Seven of the unsuccessful nesting attempts were a result of blowdown, but the other twenty were from unknown causes.

Projection of these data to include all of the 73 nests indicates only 25 young Ospreys were produced in 1968.

Minnesota, northern area. Thomas C. Dunstan compiled the following table on nesting Osprey from eleven counties including the Chippewa National Forest.

Osprey Nesting Success in Minnesota from 1963-68

Year	Known Nests	Obs. Nests	Active Nests		Successful Nests		No. of Young	Brood Size	Blow-downs
			No.	%	No.	%			
1963	16	16	14	87.50	14	100.00	21	1.50	1
1964	21	15	13	86.66	13	100.00	22	1.69	0
1965	29	15	15	100.00	14	93.33	23*	1.64	1**
1966	58	23	22	95.65	19	86.36	25	1.35	3
1967	119	98	60	61.22	36	60.00	59	1.64	8***
1968	132	107	79	73.83	50	63.29	81	1.62	8****

*not including one electrocuted nestling

**active

***five active

****seven active

Montana. John Seidensticker reported that the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit personnel, under the direction of Dr. John Craighead, are in the process of preparing technical papers on the status and breeding biology of the Red-tailed Hawk, Great-horned Owl, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Prairie Falcon in south-central Montana.

New York, southeast and Bergen County, New Jersey. Stiles Thomas reports that the Red-shouldered Hawk is apparently gone as a breeding bird from Bergen County, New Jersey, and the Barred Owl is gone altogether.

The Fyke Nature Association's 10th Annual Hawk Watch, 1968 at Mt. Peter, New York (elevation 1,200 feet), counted 7,183 raptors during 18 days of observation in September, 1968. The Quarry in Upper Montclair counted 6,903 Broad-winged Hawks and 8,031 total through the 29th, in 23 days of observation. The table on the following page gives results by species for September of 1968 and former years at Mt. Peter.

New York (Observations of Falcons and Hawks in Allegany and Stueben Counties, New York). James T. Ross, 118½ Hornell St., Hornell, New York, 14843.

The following report gives an account of migratory and resident raptors observed by the author from September, 1967, through June 27, 1968. The report was submitted to Alfred University, Alfred, New York.

Falcons

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*). One sighting during fall migration, October 15, Bath, New York. Immature female.

Summary of Mt. Peter Hawk Watch, 1968

September, 1968

Date	Shp Sh	Coo per	Red T	Red Sh	Brd Wing	Bld Egl	Mar sh	Osp rey	Per Fal	Pig eon	Spar row	Un Id	Total	Hr
1968	85	11	43	12	6645	-	26	56	3	1	235	66	7183	142
1967	33	4	43	6	756	-	18	30	-	-	130	43	1063	127
1966	29	7	18	1	1321	-	18	46	-	-	280	22	1743	114
1965	162	21	37	9	1508	-	30	128	3	2	401	69	2370	137
1964	116	12	19	-	3489	4	16	86	-	-	101	48	3891	126
1963	62	7	19	2	1428	-	29	31	-	2	199	74	1852	134
1962	44	8	8	12	3701	-	16	58	3	1	157	32	4030	142
1961	37	5	29	5	1113	1	23	12	1	2	68	38	1347	-
1960	61	2	9	-	1293	1	8	24	-	-	55	70	1528	-
1959	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1781	-

October and November, 1968

Date	Gos	Shp Sh	Coo per	Red Tld	Red Sh	Brd Wing	Ro Leg	Bld Egl	Mar sh	Osp rey	Per Fal	Pig eon	Spar row	Un Id	Tot	Hr
1968	-	244	7	269	50	13	-	-	1	32	24	1	3	98	803	116½
1967	1	127	2	108	7	61	1	-	15	10	4	5	134	62	537	74½
1966	1	135	18	195	43	72	-	-	21	14	1	3	258	26	787	83
1965	-	206	18	161	53	24	-	-	36	17	1	1	72	65	654	-

Season Totals (August-November)

1968	-	327	18	312	62	6658	-	-	1	58	80	4	4	333	128	7986	258½
1967	-	160	6	151	13	817	1	-	33	40	4	5	264	105	1600	201	-
1966	-	164	25	213	44	1393	-	-	39	60	1	3	538	48	2530	197	-
1965	-	368	39	198	62	1532	-	1	66	145	4	3	473	134	3025	202	-

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Two sightings, mature male, April 15, immature female, November 30. Both birds were probably on passage.

Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). This bird is a permanent resident in counties and can be described as being fairly abundant. One nest was observed in which a brood of four were hatched. Most observers in this area feel that it is decreasing in numbers, however.

Accipiters

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). The author was given a mature female Goshawk that had been shot off a nest during spring turkey season. The location of the nest is Canastota, New York. There are supposedly no other records of breeding birds in this county (Steuben) for the last 10 years. Another nest was located near Palmers Pond and was reported to be active for two years prior to this spring; however, upon searching the area the nest tree (Beech) had been cut down. After talking to several residents this writer feels that the Goshawk is more common than imagined in this county. It is more often simply labeled a Cooper's Hawk.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). This hawk seems to be rapidly disappearing from the area. Only one active nest was found after extensive searching. At this site the writer was unable to make a brood count. The parent birds appeared to be preying exclusively on starlings and grackles as these feathers were found in abundance throughout the surrounding area.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*). No sightings or evidence of nesting in this area.

Buteos

Red-tail Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). A local resident found in abundant numbers throughout both counties. This writer observed 12 nests of which only five were active for this year. In all nests the usual brood count of two was observed save for one nest which had three young--two females and one male.

Broad-wing Hawk (*Buteo playpterus*). According to some authorities, this hawk is becoming more abundant in the eastern states. It has been recorded nesting on the northern borders of Pennsylvania but at this time no nests or birds were observed in this area.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). Said to be fairly common; however, I recorded it only once in the field and found no evidence of nesting in this area.

Osprey

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). This hawk can be seen with some certainty in the vicinity of the Almond Dam. No evidence of nesting in the surrounding area can be found, however.

(Editors' Note: Mr. Ross would like any information any reader has on Merlin's as a breeding bird in New York State.)

New Jersey. Greg K. Ivins states that nesting Red-tailed Hawks (3 nests, 1.33 young per nest); Sparrow Hawks (1 nest, 2.00 young per nest); and Screech Owls (1 nest, 2.00 young per nest) are about normal as compared to former years. Long-eared Owls (6 nests, 0.83 young per nest) and Barn Owls (2 nests, 0 young) seem to be decreasing in nesting.

New Jersey (Osprey). Area--7 mile Beach, Cape May County; observer: Joseph A. Jacobs, 1928 Hillcrest Avenue, Pennsauken, New Jersey.

Forty-four nests had incubating birds this season (1968). These 44 pair raised 10 young, two nests raised 2 each and 6 nests raised 1 each. My observations indicate that this population is having a difficult time finding enough food.

New Jersey (Bald Eagle). Area--Cumberland County. Observer: Joseph A. Jacobs, 1928 Hillcrest Avenue, Pennsauken, New Jersey.

This season there were only 2½ pair of Bald Eagles present during nesting season in all of New Jersey, all in Cumberland County.

One pair hatched 1 young but two weeks later the nest was deserted and the birds were not seen again. This pair of eagles have experienced this same fate before. This nest is in a remote area and I never saw any sign of human disturbance.

The other pair didn't nest; at least I failed to find a new nest and although I saw them in the vicinity of their old nest, they didn't use it.

The single bird maintained a nest and was always seen near it or on it for ten weeks when she found a mate--too late for this season. The two birds remained at the nest site for two weeks, long enough, I hope, to imprint the new mate with the site.

All my observations are made through a 30X Balscope. I never disturb any of the birds I observe. I never approach the nest trees until the birds are finished for the season, or in the case of the Osprey until the young are nearly ready to leave the nest; then I band them.

Pennsylvania, southeastern. Robert B. Berry states Cooper's Hawks were common breeding resident in late 40's but last known nest found was in 1954. There has been no summer record since then. They are occasionally seen during fall migration and are rarely seen during winter months. A male immature was sighted on January 9, 1969, which is the first one seen for several years.

South Dakota, southeastern area, 1968. Thomas C. Dunstan reports that 11 Great-horned Owl nests had an average of 1.90 young per nest which is considered a normal year.

South Dakota, western. Tony Luscombe banded an average of 4.5 young Prairie Falcons in six nests. New nests were found in the area for the first time in four years.

South Dakota, western half. Observer: Don Adolphson

Swainson's Hawk--Eleven nests were found during the 1968 season. Ten nests were successful and fledged an average of 2 young per nest.

Red-tailed Hawk--Twenty nests fledged an average of 2.5 young per nest. One of the nests was located on a cliff in the Badlands and the others were in trees.

Ferruginous Hawk--Three nests fledged an average of 2.66 young per nest. One nest was located on a haystack, one on a sand dune, and the other 20 feet high in a cottonwood tree.

Golden Eagle--USFW found 21 nests that fledged 35 young in Butte and Harding Counties, South Dakota. Eagles were also fledged from 10 nests in Stanley, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Custer and Fall River Counties.

Marsh Hawks--Six nests were found and only two were successful. One fledged four young and the other five young. The other nests were drowned out in June because of heavy rains.

Great-horned Owl--Twenty-six successful nests were located in western South Dakota and fledged an average of 1.96 young per nest. One nest had four young, 4 nests had three young, 14 nests had two young and 7 nests had one young. Four other nests were unsuccessful.

Short-eared Owl--One nest was found in a sage brush clump in Butte County. The nest had 5 eggs but only fledged one young.

South Dakota, eastern half. Observer: George Jonkel

Swainson's Hawk--Thirty-one nests were found. Seven of these were successful and fledged 16 young. Of the 24 nests not successful, most had blown down from wind up to 115 miles per hour over much of the area under observation. Swainson's seem to be the

most common nesting hawk in eastern South Dakota. The best time to band young Swainson's in South Dakota is about the middle of July. No nests were visited before that time but were observed from a distance.

Red-tailed Hawk--One nest was located and fledged one young.

Ferruginous Hawk--Two tree nests and two ground nests were located. The tree nests were not successful but the ground nests fledged. One had three young and the number in the other was not known. The best time to band young Ferruginous Hawks in South Dakota is about July 1st.

Marsh Hawk--One nest was located and was not successful.

Great-horned Owl--Of four nests located, two were successful and fledged a total of three young.

Texas, Panhandle. Doug Grayson, White Deer, Texas, sent the following report. During the 1968 fall migration there were not as many Red-tailed Hawks seen as usual but many more Prairie Falcons were seen. During the nesting season about 35 raptor nests were checked. The Red-tails fledged about one young per nest and the Swainson's Hawks fledged about four to five. There were not as many Red-tails and Great-horned Owls nesting as in former years but Swainson's and Ferruginous Hawks were increasing in nesting. Sparrow Hawks nesting is about normal to former years and one Golden Eagle nest was spotted. Red-tails are becoming scarce in the area with Swainson's and Ferruginous taking over the old Red-tail nests and areas.

Wisconsin, statewide. Observer: North Central Audubon Council

The Osprey survey in 1967 located 75 known pairs. Nesting success falls below the normal, or pre-pesticide levels.

Canada, Hudson Bay Area. Charles Jonkel reports in the Hawley Lake (or Sutton Lake), Ontario, near Hudson Bay Coast, Winisk, a Bald Eagle nest and a Golden Eagle nest 100 feet from the Bald Eagle nest, were observed in Hawley Lake gorge by John Hopkins and Roger Wolfe. No young fledged from the Bald Eagle nest but two young Golden Eagles were observed the first week of July. Local Indians say that this is the first time that Bald Eagles have been seen at Hawley Lake.

At North Twin Island, James Bay, Charles Jonkel and Brian Knudsen found Jaeger and Rough-legged Hawks, rare during July, 1968. Some owl pellets found, but no owls seen.

At Cape Churchill, Manitoba, Charles Jonkel found during September and October, 1967, that Snowy Owls were very abundant (five to eight could be seen most days along a 20-mile road) but

no Gyrfalcon were seen. During September, October and November, 1968, Snowy Owls were not as abundant (two or three seen most days) but three white phase Gyrfalcon were seen. Lemmings and Ptarmigans seemed equally abundant in both 1967 and 1968. Both species seem to be near the peaks of their cycles (if they have cycles) or at best, were quite abundant.

At Cape Henrietta Maria, Ontario (from Hook Point to Winisk), Charles Jonkel and Richard Russell made observations during September, 1967, and September, 1968. Short-eared Owls were extremely abundant in 1968--often 4 to 6 could be seen at one time and on one occasion 14 were observed in a small area. During September, 1967, they were not as abundant. Marsh Hawks were very abundant in 1968, especially along coastal areas and willows. One Snowy Owl was observed in 1968 but none in 1967. A Peregrine was seen in 1968, but several were observed in 1967. One Rough-legged Hawk was observed in 1968. Microtines seem more abundant in 1968 and Willow Ptarmigans were very abundant in 1968, but even more abundant in 1967. The Short-eared Owls seem not interested in Ptarmigans, and the Ptarmigans did not take cover when the owls were flying. The Ptarmigans seemed extremely frightened of the Peregrines and would scatter from Marsh Hawks.

Canada, Prince Edward Island. The Fish and Wildlife Division, Prince Edward Island sent in the following report. Although they stated that information on their raptors is very limited they believe that Eagles (no species given), Buteos, and Peregrine Falcons are decreasing from former years during migration, but Snowy Owls seem to be increasing. Accipiter, Kestrel, Merlin, Gyrfalcon and Great-horned Owls are about normal. During the nesting season, Eagles (no species given) one nest found with one young. Buteos are decreasing; Osprey are normal to decreasing; Harriers are normal to increasing; and accipiters, Kestrel, Merlins, Great-horned Owls and others are normal from former years.