

BREEDING PROJECT INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The B.P.I.E. was initiated as a substitute for an earlier round-robin circulated among a number of persons with breeding projects. The first eleven numbers of the Exchange were sent to a limited mailing list. As announced in the last issue of the *News* the special mailings are discontinued; however, we are continuing the numbering of reports that are appropriate to this area that are printed in the *News*. For the convenience of our readers a list of the reports in previous B.P.I.E. issues are listed below. Additional copies of these are being prepared; past requests for copies are being filled shortly. New requests will be honored until July 1, after which we will not attempt to keep a supply available. We hope that anyone requesting these who has not previously given more than the minimum RRF contribution will help to defray the costs.

- BPiE 1:2-4, Donald V. Hunter--various species; Oct. 1967
- BPiE 1:5-13, Richard R. Olendorff--American Kestrel; Oct. 1967.
- BPiE 2:2-3, Ryan B. Walden--various species; Nov. 1967
- BPiE 3:2, James Enderson--Peregrine, Prairie Falcon; Jan, 1968
- BPiE 3:3-4, Jimmie White--Harris Hawk, American Kestrel; Jan. 1968
- BPiE 3:6, Fran Hamerstrom--Golden Eagle; Jan. 1968
- BPiE 4:2-3, Richard Fyfe--Peregrine Falcon; Feb. 23, 1968
- BPiE 4:4-13, Henry Kendall--Prairie Falcon; Feb. 23, 1968
- BPiE 5:1-4, Fran Hamerstrom--Golden Eagle; Mar. 26, 1968
- BPiE 6:1-5, Joe Simonyi--Peregrine, Red-tailed Hawk; July 26, 1968
- BPiE 7:1, Donald V. Hunter, Jr.--registry; July 26, 1968
- BPiE 8:1-2, Richard D. Porter, Stanley N. Wiemeyer--American Sparrow Hawk; July 26, 1968
- BPiE 9:1-2, Jimmie White--Harris Hawk; June 3, 1969
- BPiE 10:1, R. J. Hutchings--British Kestrel; June 3, 1969
- BPiE 11:1, Donald V. Hunter, Jr.--information request; Goshawk; July 26, 1969

B.P.I.E. No. 12. Ronald Stevens (Fermoye Lodge, Costelloe, Co. Galway, Ireland) on Peregrine Falcon breeding project (written August 27, 1969). There are no results from attempted captivity breeding this year. I attribute this to my falcon's being only in her third year and to the fact that she is a passerger.

I have pleasure in supplying the information your circular letter calls for, as follows:

1. Diet. Two or three month old chickens with occasional pigeon.

Hawks are fed as much as they can eat daily but are made to pick every bone clean.

2. Breeding quarters consist of a wooden shed 40 feet long by 18 feet wide and 16 feet high from floor to eaves. It has six barred windows, three on the east side and one on each end, each 6½ feet high by 4 feet wide. The sixth window is on the west side and is of the same height but 6 feet wide. The sills of the lowest windows are 6 feet from floor level. The floor is of concrete overlaid with sand. This shed is now divided equally to accommodate 2 pairs. There is a bath 3 feet square cut into the concrete in each division. One tap with connecting pipe serves each bath. The perching ledges at each window have a cement surface. Cement also frames the nesting ledges. There are two nesting ledges in each division which are placed nearly at the height of the eaves. The nesting ledges consists of shallow wooden trays three feet square. They are fitted annually with clean turves of peat about 2½ inches thick which are fitted in one piece over turf mould 1 inch deep.

3. In one division is the intermewed passage falcon, described above. I received her from India as a red falcon in 1967. Her chosen mate is from two tiercels. He is an intermewed eyass, hatched 1965, of the type *F. p. peregrinus*. So, in appearance, is the falcon. In the other division is an American Tundra passage tiercel trapped 1968. His red falcon, imported from India, escaped early this year. The sliding door over one of the nest ledges, which gives access from the outside for the taking of eggs or young, shrunk and fell out leaving an aperture through which she escaped.

4. No artificial light.

5. The shed is completely isolated. No disturbance.

6. The two tiercels have been trained and flown. The falcon was well manned before being put into the shed. All three hawks are tame and steady. None is imprinted.

B.P.I.E. No. 13. Jimmie White (5741 Myra, Cypress, Calif. 90630) third report on Harris Hawk (see BPIE 3, 9) (February 16, 1970). Feb. 16, 1969: The birds have carried green grass and other greenery to nest, mostly oxcallis. Feb. 20: Having fed chicken necks almost exclusively all winter except casting once a week or every 7 days, it is time to change to live food. I feed day old chicks two days, nothing the third day or one day chicks and one day young rats, always nothing the third day. Feb. 24: Male observed carrying sticks to nest 8:00 AM. Feb. 27: Both birds carrying sticks.

Mar. 1: Birds observed breeding 1 time 9:00 AM. Mar. 24: The breeding pair are extremely nervous and very active all of the time, constantly flying from perch to nest, walking across the nest, then from perch to perch again. Sometimes the male will crouch in the

nest and call the female. She will come over to the edge of the nest and look in but I haven't seen her in the nest except carrying and arranging sticks and grass. Birds are not mating as often as last year or as many times per mating. Mar. 25: Birds observed mating 10:45 AM; single mating only. Wind blowing. Birds extremely nervous.

Apr. 2: Birds observed mating 6:30 PM; single mating only. Apr. 3: Birds observed mating 8:30 AM, single mating. Haven't observed more than single mating this year. Last year birds mated silent, this year they both always call very low. Apr. 4: Female observed setting on nest for about 30 minutes. Both still working on nest. Apr. 5: Birds observed mating 11:00 AM, single mating. Male jumped from edge of nest where mating took place into nest itself and set about 5 minutes. Apr. 7: Female was observed setting on nest from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM. The male constantly bringing sticks and helping her arrange them. At 10:10 AM the female left the nest and crouched on the edge of the nest where the male mounted her. They mated for about 1 minute calling softly all the time. They are still only mating 1 time. Apr. 8: Birds observed mating 6:00 AM and again at 10:00 AM both single matings. No eggs yet. Female carrying greens (grass and other green plants) and placing them in the bowl or sides of the nest. The male has never been observed carrying greens to the nest, dry sticks only. Apr. 10: Birds observed mating 6:00 - 6:45, 7:30 all single matings. The only preliminaries seem to be flying around the cage very fast and almost constantly with little or no pause between flights, from perch to perch with low calling about every 2 to 3 seconds. It seems the same kind of call they use when mating except only about 1/3 as loud. Birds observed mating 4 times from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM, all single matings. No contact was made on at least 2 of the first matings. Apr. 13: Bird laid first egg about 12:00 AM. She did not sit on the egg. Apr. 15: Second egg laid between 5:30 AM and 10:00 AM. After mating singly the female sat on the nest from 5:30 to 10:00, then she left the nest. Apr. 17: Bird laid 3rd egg about noon. The female began to sit steadily after the 2nd egg. Sometimes the male goes up and sits on the inside slope of the nest. The books say the male incubates the eggs too. He didn't last year, but maybe their instinct is getting clearer with practice or maybe it is age.

May 1: Birds are still carrying greens to nest, mostly oxcalia. There are only 3 or 4 types of plants growing in the aviary this time of year so there's not much choice. May 3: Female still sitting on nest. She is sitting alone the same as last year. But age, parenthood, or experience seems to be working on the male. For he will sometimes sit on the eggs for 5 to 10 minutes when the female leaves. May 16: Have been checking eggs every day at 5:00 PM. Today at 5:00 PM one eyass was half out of the egg, another had a hole about as big as a dime pecked through the egg. The other egg

seems to be rotten as it sloshes when shook. If tomorrow is warm I will try to take some pictures of the young. May 17: Took some pictures of the young birds. They can hardly hold their heads up. The parent birds did not feed the babies until late the second day. May 18: I took more pictures today. Young seem much stronger today and they can hold their heads up for a short time. The parent bird shows no aggression to me even when I hold the young in my hand. May 19: The female seems to be the only one feeding the young again this year. The male only brings the food to the nest. May 20: Male seems to be more aggressive this year and more protective of his territory. Today he somehow got a talon through the crack in the split bamboo wall separating the 2 cages and caught and held one of the eyass of last year by the wing and wouldn't let go until my wife heard strange noises and went out and called and made the male let go. May 25: Today I was in the bedroom when my shepherd began to bark; and as she is quite intelligent and almost never barks, I went out to the back yard. The male Harris had somehow gotten his foot through the wall and had a mature female Harris by the breast. After calling to him 3 or 4 times he let go. I immediately went in and made the wall solid. May 30: The young birds are 2 weeks old today. The feathers are beginning to show through the down and they are about 1 inch long now. The parents are still carrying greenery to the nest. They show a definite preference for baby chicks over rabbit, beef heart, or rats either grown or babies. I have also tried chicken necks, quail, both grown and babies, and they still seem to prefer baby chicks with either kind of quail next.

I will end my report now as I see no point in repeating myself. All of my observations in last year's report (BPIE 9) seem essentially the same as this year. I will give the weights of all 4 eyass for a later date. Feb. 10, 1970: The first eyass are now almost 2 years old and they weigh—Male-1 pound 10 ounces; Female-2 pounds 5 ounces. Second eyass are now almost one year old and weigh—Male-1 pound 8 ounces; Female-1 pound 9 ounces. I will end my report for 1969 with four eyass successfully raised in 2 years and a chance of more next year.

B.P.I.E. No. 14. Jimmie White, second experiment, first report on Harris Hawk (Feb. 16, 1970). May 23, 1969: I acquired a 3 year old female Harris. She was extremely tame and completely docile. She is larger and stockier than my original mature female. I will number these birds to make writing easier. I will call the original mature female number 1 and the new one number 2. May 24: No. 2 bird comes to food immediately, the others are sort of indifferent in spite of going hungry every 3 days. No. 2 doesn't seem to be aggressive,

she just sort of stays off on a corner perch by herself. May 25: No. 2 seems to be trying to establish a territory. She is beginning to call back to the pair in the next cage and I found the male with his foot through the wall holding No. 2 by the breast. I made him turn loose and she didn't seem hurt by the experience. May 27: No. 2 seems to be trying to establish a territory around the nest I built, and she seems to be making overtures to the young male from last years breeding. I have 4 birds together in the same cage so that they will have a more natural selection, but I am having trouble getting males. I have 2 mature females, one three years and one two years, and what I believe to be a male and a female from last years breeding. All of these birds are in the same cage together, first to try and give them a wider and more natural selection and second I am hoping to keep them from trying to establish a territory these by being less aggressive especially toward a male if and when I get one or more. May 28: No. 2 seems to be getting more aggressive. She has clearly become boss of the cage. I am going to watch her carefully and if she crabs or fights with any of the other birds I will separate her. She is already crouching on the nest and calling at me when I come to the door of the cage. May 29: Bird No. 2 is sitting on the nest for short periods of time. She will sit in the nest cavity and sort of roll around then reach out and move the nest material with her beak. She sort of piles the sticks and grasses around her. I found $\frac{1}{2}$ a flash light battery in the nest today. May 31: I put a plastic egg in the nest No. 2 has been using. The egg is joined at the middle, it presses together. After 4 hours I checked and one of the birds had separated the halves of the egg and moved the halves about 4 feet apart and 4 feet from the nest.

June 5: I was loaned a male Harris. At least I assume by the size it is a male. I will call this male No. 2; he weighs 1 lb. 13 oz. and female No. 2 weighs 2 lbs. 5 oz. June 7: Birds observed sitting together. No crabbing or fighting has been observed. June 9: Male No. 2 and Female No. 2 were separated from the other birds. June 16: Female went into a freak molt and seems to have lost the ability to fly. If I go into the cage to catch her, she runs around the ground and will not fly. I think this is a combination of molt and being overly fat.

July 1: By now birds have taken nest apart down to the platform. There is not even a twig left. Some of the sticks have been carried as much as 10 to 12 feet away from the nesting platform. July 20: Female is now partly jumping and partly flying up on to the low perches. July 23: Female seems to be getting better and better at flying, I guess she will be OK later.

Aug 1: Female seems to be fully recovered but too late for the nesting season this year. Aug. 10: Put pair No. 2 back in flight cage with 4 eyass to spend the remainder of the summer and part of the winter.

Dec. 25: Placed pair No. 2 in nesting cage together. No fighting or great excitement observed. Dec. 26: Birds observed sitting together and roosting together. Dec. 27: Birds observed sitting and roosting together. Dec. 28: Birds observed sitting and roosting together. I will stop this report now and begin on the 1970 one shortly.