

## NOTES, NEWS, AND QUERIES

**Protection Bill Introduced in Congress.** "A bill to extend to hawks and owls the protection now accorded to bald and golden eagles," (H.R. 5821) was introduced in the House of Representatives on March 10 and was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The bill was introduced by Rep. Dingell (D-Mich.), along with Reps. Conte (R-Mass.), William D. Ford (D-Mich.), Karth (D-Minn.), McCloskey (R-Calif.), Moss (D-Calif.), Nedzi (D-Mich.), Obey (D-Wis.), Saylor (R-Pa.), and Udall (D-Ariz.).

The Society for the Preservation of Birds of Prey is asking groups to help sponsor the distribution of 20,000 fliers in support of the bill. RRF was asked but declined since it is general policy not to take a Foundation position on controversial issues. It is policy, however, to provide as much information as possible on both sides to our members.

Elsewhere in this issue there is a paper by Tom Cade which incidentally was prepared and received before we learned about this bill. He believes "that **total protection** of the Peregrine will only hasten its total extinction in North America," and that falconry can have an important role in the management of populations. That falconry is not provided for in the bill is indicated by the S.P.B.P. material: "When asked about the future of falconry in the United States, Dingell somewhat reluctantly admitted 'it doesn't look too good.' He said that under the bill, all holders of valid falconry licenses would be allowed to retain their birds. However, no harvesting of raptors from the wild would be permitted after the passing of the bill and there would be no specific provision for the practice of falconry. The transfer and sale of native raptors would also be prohibited. In twenty or thirty years, few captive raptors will still be living, so the legal possession of hawks and owls by private ownership would become non-existent."

We will include more information and comments as they become available.

**Quiet for Condors.** Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton has refused to extend an oil drilling permit in the Los Padres National Forest, a principal nesting area of the California Condor.

The condor, the nation's largest bird with a wingspread of

up to nine feet, is extremely sensitive to noise. The slightest amount of noise may drive the bird permanently from its nest. Since there are estimated to be only 60 to 80 condors left in California and since the majority of them nest in the Los Padres Forest's Sespe Sanctuary, Morton's refusal to allow the U. S. Royalty Oil Corporation to continue to drill for oil there is good news indeed. [From *Conservation News* 36(4):13, Feb. 17, 1971.]

**DDT and the Court Squeeze.** The U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has tightened the squeeze to ban DDT by ordering William D. Ruckelshaus, administrator of the new Environmental Protection Agency, to issue cancellation notices on all of its remaining uses. The January 7 court decision also ordered Ruckelshaus to further exercise the new agency's pesticide regulatory authority which it assumed from Agriculture and decide if DDT is enough of an "imminent hazard" to public health to ban all interstate shipments.

The court made it clear that the public does indeed have a say in determining what pesticides are safe or not safe to use—decisions that the Agriculture Department and pesticide manufacturers conveniently made in the past. Judge David Bazelon, part of the three-judge panel which arrived at the decision, added that though courts previously "treated administrative policy decisions with great deference," they no longer will "bow to the mysteries of administrative expertise."

The decision is the result of a suit filed against the Agriculture Department and its Secretary, Clifford Hardin, by the Environmental Defense Fund, the Sierra Club, and West Michigan Environmental Action Council and the National Audubon Society in October 1969. Conservationists are hoping that Ruckelshaus will yield to the overwhelming evidence documenting DDT's tragic effects on fish and wildlife and take the kind of constructive action which Agriculture stubbornly resisted. [From *Conservation News* 36(3):8, Feb. 1, 1971.] [On March 17, Ruckelshaus announced that he did not consider the health hazard as proved.]

**New Jersey's Hawks Thoroughly Explored in State Museum Bulletin 13.** From the dawn of recorded history—and no one knows how many milleniums

before—hawks and other birds of prey have awed and inspired men.

In "The Hawks of New Jersey," the New Jersey State Museum's Bulletin 13, author Donald S. Heintzelman briefly outlines the history of man's relation with hawks and tells much more about birds of prey. Though completely protected in our state, some species face extinction.

In 104 pages, "The Hawks of New Jersey" includes two maps, four tables and 86 of the finest available hawk photographs and drawings as well as a glossary of special terms and selected references for further reading.

State Museum Bulletin 13, in clear, readable language, stresses the ecological role of hawks in nature, particularly emphasizing the role of predators in food chains and food webs.

Besides exploring the fossil record of hawks, it explains how they are affected by pesticides, habitat destruction, and shooting. It provides a guide to hawk migrations in New Jersey, explaining where and why they occur, and presents life history sketches of all hawk species recorded in New Jersey.

A key and other aids to hawk identification, along with copious illustrations, also enhance the Bulletin's value to the general public.

Author, Donald S. Heintzelman, Curator of Ornithology at the State Museum since April 1969, formerly served as Associate Curator of Natural Science at the William Penn Memorial Museum, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He holds an A.B. degree from Muhlenberg College and has done graduate work at Lehigh University.

Much of his professional life has been devoted to the study of birds of prey, and many of his explorations searching for birds have been recorded on color slides and films.

Bulletin 13, "The Hawks of New Jersey," is available for \$2.00 (postpaid). Make check or money order payable to Treasurer State of New Jersey and mail order to New Jersey State Museum, W. State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, Attention Publications. [News release from N. J. State Museum, April 1, 1971.]

**SPBP Pamphlet.** A six page pamphlet entitled "Birds of Prey, Valuable Members of the Wildlife Community" has been published by the Society for the Preservation of Birds

of Prey (P. O. Box 293, Pacific Palisades, Calif. 90271). They sell for \$4/100 (\$1.50 Resource Dept. rate; \$5 Foreign rate).

**Owl Sanctuary.** Florida Atlantic University gives a hoot. Next week, The Audubon Society will officiate when the campus becomes a Burrowing Owl sanctuary.

“Our owl population has grown and prospered along with the university,” said Roger Miller, vice president for administrative affairs. (AP, Boca Raton, Fla.; *Mitchell (S.D.) Daily Republic*, April 19, 1971.)

**A Source of New Members.** Fran Hamerstrom has hit upon a source of contacts for potential members. She saved up the request cards for reprints of a raptor paper she had written and sent them on to the office to have a brochure sent to those not already members. Perhaps others who have published papers on raptors recently could help in this way.