

BOOK REVIEW

Collected Papers in Avian Paleontology Honoring the 90th Birthday of Alexander Wetmore. 1976. Storrs L. Olson, ed. Smithsonian Contr. to Paleontology, no. 27, 211 pp.

There is considerable of interest in this volume for the student of raptors. Most exciting is a paper by O. Arredondo on "The great predatory birds of the Pleistocene of Cuba." Giant fossil Barn Owls (*Tytonidae*) have been known for some time from various West Indian islands. Now we learn that in Cuba at that time there were two such Barn Owls, a vulture as large as the Andean Condor (*Vultur*), an eagle bigger than a Golden Eagle, and, perhaps most remarkable, a strigine owl bigger than any living species; it is thought to have stood about a meter tall! It is most remarkable because the wing bones show that it must have been flightless or nearly so. Apparently some of the mammals that swarmed in the West Indies at that time must have been as clumsy as today's "guinea pigs," a relative of some of them.

Another paper describes the oldest known fossil owl. From the Paleocene of Colorado, it seems to have been somewhat intermediate between the present families Strigidae and Tytonidae. An osprey from the Miocene of California is assigned to a separate species but may have been ancestral to the living one.

Dean Amadon

BALD EAGLE LITERATURE WANTED

The National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Information Center is creating a computer-based, working (i.e., keyworded) bibliography on the Bald Eagle. An attempt is being made to include all existing literature, both published and unpublished. Information on extant bibliographies and sources of unpublished literature (reports, theses, dissertations, etc.) is especially being sought. If you have pertinent articles that you wish to be included, please send them to: Mr. Bill Clark, Director, Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, 1412-16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036. Thank you.

PEREGRINES BEAT ALL ODDS IN MORRO ROCK STRUGGLE

(News Release, Department of Fish and Game, 9 July 1977)

Somewhere in the air surrounding Morro Rock, a fledgling Peregrine Falcon is learning the "tricks of the trade" from its foster mother.

It may not seem like much, but for biologists at the Department of Fish and Game it is cause for celebration. It is the culmination of an intense but troubled effort to salvage one of only ten active peregrine nesting sites known in the state. The Peregrine Falcon is an endangered species.

"I consider it a great success, because without man's efforts that young peregrine would not be there today," said Robert D. Mallette, associate wildlife manager-biologist and the department's expert on raptors. "And the information we've learned from this operation will help us in our future efforts to increase the peregrine population in California."

Morro Rock in San Luis Obispo County is an ecological reserve, because for years a single pair of Peregrine Falcons has nested on its rocky ledges. The site is so critical that in recent years a human guard has been hired to protect the nesting site