

HAWK TRUST NEWS

The last six months have been busy ones for the Hawk Trust. The aviaries and birds are, hopefully, soon to be moved from Hungerford to a new site in Shropshire on the border between England and Wales where there is scope for further expansion. With eight species of raptor regularly nesting near the new headquarters, some in good numbers, there will be excellent opportunities for carrying out combined field and laboratory studies.

On November 4, 1978, the Trust held a conference on the "Behavioural Ecology of Birds of Prey" at the meeting rooms of the Zoological Society of London. Papers included "A Study of Polygyny in Hen Harriers in Orkney" by Mr. N. Picozzi, "Patterns of Predation by Peregrines Breeding in Northern Scotland" by Mr. D. Weir, "Territory Usage by Tawny Owls" by Dr. A. R. Hardy, "The Role of Vultures as Scavengers" by Dr. D. Houston, and "The Hunting Strategies of Raptors" by Dr. N. Fox. There were also several short communications on more general aspects. It was an interesting and enjoyable day and drew raptor enthusiasts from far and wide together under one roof to discuss recent advances. Details of the proceedings of the conference, which will be published in 1979, can be obtained from the Hawk Trust, P.O. Box I, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0QE.

Research during the last year has concentrated mainly on the bioenergetics of the Kestrel and on the growth and development of this and other species, but other studies have been undertaken including a bacteriological and haematological survey. This year the Trust successfully bred Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*), Buzzards (*Buteo buteo*), Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*), and Tawny Owls (*Strix aluco*) in connection with research projects.

James S. Kirkwood

ABSTRACTS OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

NOCTURNAL, PREROOSTING AND POSTROOSTING BEHAVIOR OF BREEDING ADULT AND YOUNG OF THE YEAR BALD EAGLES (*HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS ALASCANUS*) ON THE CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST, MINNESOTA.

Nocturnal roosting behavior of nesting Bald Eagles and associated young of the year was studied during the 1974-1976 nesting seasons within the 6,475 km² Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota. Direct observations of 14 patagial color tagged young, 2 radio tagged young, and adults from 8 nesting efforts were made at and away from nest trees during nocturnal, twilight, and diurnal time periods. Roosting behavior of eagles closely coincided with nocturnal time periods defined by the nautical twilight standard (sun 12° below horizon). Eagles were inactive (as recorded via Noctron IV night vision scope) during these roosting periods. Multiple regression analysis determined that length