

## THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC., YEAR-END REPORT

This was another year of firsts! We broke the 700 member number for starters and, for the first time distributed a comprehensive Membership Directory (named "The Kettle", of course). Dick Clark and his crew did an especially good job on that directory and we thank them for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty. As usual, the annual meeting (in Blacksburg, Virginia, this year) was the highlight of the year's activities. Roughly 300 raptor enthusiasts attended a very well-organized and smoothly-run conference held at the Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Papers ranged from topics on Condors to Screech Owls and the workshops provided valuable hands-on technique experience, e.g. transmitter attachment to eagles, etc.

The banquet was well-attended and lots of fun, with full credit going to Jim Fraser and his fellow organizers. A special thanks goes to Jim's wife for the music and dancing of an Appalachian fiddle-plucking and boot-stomping ensemble. The Andersen Award for Best Student Paper, again, went to the east Canadians working out of McGill University. Reed Bowman won the honor this year for his presentation of his M.Sc. results entitled "Behavior of Widow and Replacement Mates in Wild American Kestrels." Congratulations also go to the runners-up, Andre Lavigne ("Growth of Nestling Kestrels in Relation to Dietary Facts") and Nicole Vanderheyden ("Investigations into the Hematology of Captive American Kestrels"). And no, their major Professor, David Bird, wasn't on the selection committee!

Next year's RRF conference to be held in Sacramento, California promises to be one of the biggest ever. But don't let the length of the conference scare you. The program has been arranged in such a way as to allow participants to pick and choose the various symposia and meetings of particular interest. Frankly, sunny California at that time of year, i.e. November 2 - 10, 1985, is enough to entice most folks for the duration. It promises to be a momentous occasion in raptor conservation history. For more information, write to: Dr. Richard R. Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

The Conference Guidelines Committee composed of Toni and Dave Bird, myself, Ed and Judy Henckel, Butch Olendorff, Nancy Venizelous and Jim Fraser has been very active in promoting excellence in RRF meeting organizational efforts. A manual and questionnaire on this subject are now in rough draft format and we are very interested in your comments. Please send them to Dr. Bird (at Macdonald Raptor Research Centre, Macdonald Campus of McGill University, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec H9X 1CO). I am pleased to announce that the 1986 RRF meeting will be in Gainesville, Florida, under the direction of Dr. Michael Collopy. We are now looking for bids for the 1987 conference from places located in either the mid-west or far west. Applicants will need: a central meeting place capable of housing roughly 500 participants; easy access to major transportation centers, and; a good pool of hard-working volunteers. Send your bid to Dr. Bird at the above address.

One of the topics of intense discussions, especially among Board members was the journal, both as to format and timing. Specific changes have been implemented, including the formation of a working committee of associate editors, which will help with the manuscript review process. I am confident that by early 1985, *Raptor Research* will be going out on time. Furthermore, I personally like the new professional format, thanks to the efforts of our volunteer editor, Dr. Clayton White and his part-time Assistant Editor, Jimmie Parrish.

I am more than pleased to tell you that RRF memberships have reached 770, our highest ever, with more and more international members joining us each year. It is not just the journal publication you support with your annual dues, but also a strong voice in raptor conservation, encouragement of young scientists to pursue excellence in raptor research and management, and the establishment of research grants and awards for dedication to raptor conservation. Most important, your involvement supports a solid network of diverse individuals and organizations with identical objectives in mind and heart. Let's shoot for a thousand members for the end of 1985. Join (or rejoin) our swelling ranks!

As an update on Directors and Officers, the Board decided to keep me around for another year, as your President. Sadly, we could not cajole our hard-working, devoted Secretary for the past two years, Ed Henckel, to renew his post, but happily for RRF, Jim Fraser has consented to take on this tedious task. The results of your ballots are in: Jim Mosher and Martin Böttcher remain in their positions of Eastern and International Directors, respectively, and Rich Howard won his bid for the At-Large #3 Director's slot. Congratulations to all and a hearty thanks to our outgoing At-Large Director, Mark Fuller, for a job well-done and his encouragement for "new blood" in the organization.

Warmest wishes for success in the new year. See you in Sacramento next fall!

Jeff Lincer  
PRESIDENT

**MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION**

The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., expresses sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their continued support of the Foundation and its objectives.

**HONORARY MEMBERS** — Founders of The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.

Byron Harrell  
Don Hunter

George Jonkel  
Paul Springler

**LIFE MEMBERS**

Dean Amadon

Friedrick O.P. Hechtel

**SUSTAINING MEMBERS FOR 1984**

Daniel J. Brimm  
James E. Doyle

Robert M. Weintraub

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS FOR 1984**

Jae Abel  
Leslie P. Arelt  
R. T. Bell  
Karen S. Bollinger  
Gary Bounholdt  
Jim Brett  
Michael P. Coffeen  
William G. Coleman  
Eric B. Cummins  
Stuart Elliott  
Joseph Eoff  
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Roy A. Geiger, Jr.  
Nancy F. Green  
Carrie A. Griffith  
Claire H. Hager  
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Paul Kerlinger  
Michael A. Lavelle  
Library, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute  
Lee Merrick  
Bill Meyer  
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C. Pierre Thoumsin  
Richard F. Waechter  
Donald Yarnell

**THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE — NOVEMBER 1985.** The 1985 Raptor Research Foundation International Meeting and Symposium on the Management of Birds of Prey will be held at the capital Plaza Holiday Inn in Sacramento, California, November 2 - 10, 1985. Highlights of this 20th anniversary meeting of the Foundation will include 1) the Second RRF Conference on Raptor Conservation Techniques — Twelve Years of Progress, 1973-1985, 2) a Western Hemisphere Meeting of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey (ICBP), 3) the Second International Vulture Symposium, 4) a Western North America Osprey Symposium, 5) a Workshop on North American Candidate Endangered Raptors, 6) an International Symposium on Raptor Reintroduction, and 7) a Symposium on Raptor Rehabilitation, Captive Breeding and Public Education. For more information contact Dr. Richard R. Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, or Nancy Venizelous, San Francisco Zoological Society, Stoaat Boulevard at the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco, California 94132.

### Reviewers for *Raptor Research*, 1984

The subject matter of manuscripts received for publication in *Raptor Research* is very diverse. Numerous individuals throughout the year have generously given of their time and expertise by acting as reviewers for manuscripts submitted for publication. The Editorial Staff expresses its sincere appreciation to the individuals listed below, who, through their efforts as reviewers, have helped to raise the standards and quality of the journal. Those individuals who have contributed reviews of two or more manuscripts are indicated by an asterisk.

David M. Bird\*, Douglas A. Boyce, Tom J. Cade\*, Richard Clark\*, William S. Clark, Michael W. Collopy, Gary E. Duke\*, James H. Enderson\*, Philip K. Ensley\*, David L. Fischer, Glen A. Fox, Mark R. Fuller\*, James A. Gessaman, Frances Hamerstrom, Frederick Hamerstrom\*, Al Harmata\*, Steve Herman, Jerome A. Jackson, James R. Karr\*, Lloyd Kiff, Michael N. Kochert\*, Carl Marti\*, David P. Mindell, James A. Mosher\*, Helmut C. Mueller\*, Joseph R. Murphy, Richard R. Olendorff\*, Lynn W. Oliphant\*, David B. Peakall, David T. Rogers, Jr., Steve K. Sherrod\*, Joseph K. Scheiring, Gordon R. Ultsch, F. Prescott Ward, Robert C. Whitmore\*, Stanley N. Weimeyer, E. William Wischusen\*, Neil Woofinden.

**ANDERSEN AWARD** — The third annual William C. Andersen Memorial Award for the best student paper was presented at the Raptor Research Foundation Annual Meeting in Blacksburg, Virginia, on 27 October 1984. The winner was Mr. Reed Bowman of the Macdonald Raptor Research Centre of McGill University for his paper "Behavior of Widow and Replacement Mates in Wild American Kestrels."

Students wishing to be considered for the 1985 Andersen Award must indicate their eligibility when submitting abstracts. Eligibility criteria were published in *Raptor Research* 16(1):30-32. Questions regarding the 1985 award should be directed to: Dr. Robert Kennedy, Director, Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, 9412 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

**The Macdonald Raptor Research Centre of McGill University is offering 4 to 6 non-salaried** summer student internships with free residence (not board). Internships provide experience in public education, care and rehabilitation of captive raptors as well as **an opportunity to pursue personal research**. Interested candidates should submit two letters of recommendation, a resumé of experience and interests, and an unofficial transcript of college academic records by April 1, 1985 to: Dr. David M. Bird, Director, Macdonald Raptor Research Centre, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste-Anne de Bellevue, Québec H9X 1C0, Tel: 1-514-457-2000, ext. 345.

**BIOLOGY OF THE PEREGRINE AND GYRFALCON IN GREENLAND.** By William A. Burnham and William G. Mattox. Meddelelser om Gronland, Bioscience 14, 1984: 25 pp., 12 figs., 12 tables. Dkr. 46.75 excl. of VAT and postage. — This paper presents the results of 10 years of study (1972-1981) in western Greenland that took place primarily in the region of Sondre Stromfjord. The study is still ongoing. Much of the data were hard won, especially in the early years. Frequently the researchers had to make week long treks with 25-35 kilos of gear in back packs just to gather data on 2-3 eyries. I still have vivid memories of trudging over the landscape with the survey crew in 1975; backpack so heavy and feet so sore I could hardly walk after a one week trek. Over 40 researchers were involved in data gathering and 9 organizations provided some support. Within this report the bulk of the data deals with the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Of the 17 pages containing biological data 9 were devoted to peregrine biology, 3 to Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) and the remaining 5 to such topics as migration, banding recoveries, chemical pollutants, and interspecific competition. The biologies presented are not unlike that of both species elsewhere in their circumpolar ranges with but a couple of exceptions. The 2 species were not found to occupy the same cliff simultaneously (although they did in 1984). Part of their discussion attempts to explain why this would have developed in the historical sense. They speculate that food densities as well as the distribution of nests of the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), which Gyrfalcons usurp for nesting, have been important factors in the dispersion of the 2 species.

A second departure from general peregrine biology was the findings on food habits. While peregrines are noted for their catholic diets this was not the case in Greenland. Four species made up about 90% of the diet in 1973. This probably results from the fact that there just are not large populations of many species to prey on at inland localities. In some ways it is disappointing that so much data were lost by not checking food remains in eyries more thoroughly. For all years of the study productivity was recorded at each eyrie and in most cases young were banded. 1973 was the only year reported with food data. Why weren't food remains systematically collected while in the eyrie? Had such data been collected a better idea of regional food differences, yearly prey fluctuation and biomass consumption at each eyrie may have emerged. Overall, considering the physical and logistic restraints encountered by field parties, this study is a credit to the authors and an important addition to raptor biology. — Clayton M. White.