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EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS FOR TELEMETRY PROJECTS: SUMMARY OF A WORKSHOP

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TECHNICAL EDITOR

A workshop on experimental design of telemetry projects and analysis of telemetry data was held at the 1985 Raptor Research Foundation Symposium on Management of Birds of Prey held in Sacramento, California. Speakers stressed the need for careful research design, thorough knowledge of study area and telemetry hardware to be used, flexibility and luck. Design and analysis techniques for mortality, home-range, habitat, migration, predation, dispersal and demography studies were discussed.

The workshop was divided into two sessions: technical aspects of design and analysis, and application of techniques in the field. Speakers addressing field applications were asked to focus on examples of actual study designs and problems. Expanded reference sections accompany individual summaries and include general, theoretic and field study references. While many of the studies discussed involve hypothesis-testing research, exploratory techniques and situations are also treated. Perhaps less fashionable than hypothesis-testing, exploratory studies are a part of scientific investigation and, as such, can benefit from thoughtful experimental design and careful data analysis.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of R. R. Olendorff and J. M. Scott in organizing the workshop, and The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., for providing the opportunity and funding to make it possible. Reviews by L. David Mech, Gary C. White and Jimmie R. Parrish greatly improved the manuscript. Special thanks to the Condor Research Center for serving as intermediary in the editing process.

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Editor's Note: Pages 125-146 of this issue represent summaries of material presented at the 1985 Telemetry Workshop.