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News and Reviews

Resolution #87-01 Earth Day

WHEREAS, the quality of soil, water, atmosphere and biosphere continue to decline,

WHEREAS, public awareness of the problem has also declined since that of the late 1960s,

AND WHEREAS, much of this awareness arose from the celebration of Earth Day on 22 April 1970, nearly 20 years ago,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. will actively contact other environmentally-oriented organizations to urge them, and work with them, to attempt to increase public concern about the aforementioned declines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public events, e.g., "Earth Day," be scheduled to assist in this effort, potentially as a rejuvenation and celebration of the first Earth Day.

THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

Jeffrey L. Lincer, President
The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.

Raptor Management Techniques Manual by B. A. Giron Pendleton, B. A. Millsap, K. W. Cline, and D. M. Bird (Eds.). 1987. 420 pp. Published by the National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C. $30.00. (Available from the Federation, 1421 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266. Add $2.75 postage charge and specify item # 79780).

The manual is a nice concept for presenting material that can be added to through time. For this, the volume is in loose-leaf binder style with plenty of room for additional sections. At the same time, however, pages are numbered sequentially so additional sections would have to be numbered separately and new material could not be inserted within specific sections. But, I am getting ahead of myself without first commenting on the format of content.

There are four sections separated from each other by colored tabbed pages. They are: Introduction, Field Research Techniques, Management Techniques, and Laboratory Research Techniques. Each section has a variable number of chapters that in turn vary in length and content. It is worth mentioning a number of these chapters to give a flavor for content breadth.

The Introduction contains chapters on raptor literature, aging and sexing techniques, and federal laws that relate to raptor management. The Field Research section has six chapters dealing with surveys, food studies, habitat evaluation, capturing and marking, and assessment of reproduction. The Management section contains four chapters on disturbance impacts, habitat management, and augmentation of wild populations. Lastly, the Laboratory section has six chapters dealing with systematics, physiology, toxicology, pathology, and captive breeding (the last seems to be sort of an afterthought as it may not best be placed here).

Each chapter is an outline of the absolute wealth of knowledge, or lack thereof, for that topic. Each chapter has its own literature cited section and for the Laboratory Research Technique section alone I counted over 400 literature citations (doubtless some of the same ones were repeated in the different chapters). This, however, is a gauge to the amount of relevant material brought together in one place.

Some chapters contain considerable amounts of material that appear in other publications and, in fact, chapters in alternate publications are by the same authors as those in the Techniques Manual. Three publications that quickly came to mind as I read certain chapters (and I think raptorphiles should be aware of the other publications) were.

Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine, 1986, M. Fowler (ED.), Saunders, Philadelphia, PA; *Estimating Numbers of Terrestrial Birds,* 1981, C. J. Ralph and J. M. Scott (EDS.), *Studies in Avian Biology*, No. 6, Cooper Ornith. Soc., Allen Press, Lawrence, KS; and *Inventory and Monitoring of Wildlife Habitat,* 1986, A. Y. Cooperrider, R. J. Boyd, and H. R. Stewart (EDS.), U.S. Bureau of Land Manage., Wash., DC. I do not point out this overlap as a negative, because one of the functions of the Manual is to bring all this material together in one place, but rather I mention it to draw attention to other sources with some similar material of interest. On the other hand, many chapters (e.g., Raptor Literature) are largely fresh, original material.

I was unable to establish a cutoff date for gathering of material, but I would mention three additional sources of literature that should be added to the list of sources covering raptor information in Table 1.1. *Avocetta* is published in Italy and contains numerous raptor articles. Two devoted entirely to raptors are *Gabar* (not only the genus of hawk in Africa, but an acronym for "Growth and Biology of African Raptors") published out of southern Africa, and *Australian Raptor Association News* published out of New South Wales, Australia.

My preference on content of the Manual would have been to add two additional chapters. Migration counts is covered in about four-fifths of a page and seemingly for the amount of effort and people involved with this technique as a way of assessing and managing raptors, the topic deserved a several page chapter. Additionally, in the Laboratory Research Techniques section a separate chapter dealing with biochemical methodology—genetics, DNA studies, trace element studies, to mention a few topics—seems well in order since during the past 5 yrs there have been numerous such studies. The number of papers is only going to increase annually in years to come.

My impression was that the overwhelming amount of information was derived from or oriented toward diurnal raptors and that more data on nocturnal raptors might have been desirable (perhaps the partitioning of information is as it should be, however, since there are about 280 species of diurnal raptors not counting "condors" and about 150 owl species). Regardless, however, of whether one is interested in diurnal raptors or nocturnal raptors, or whether one includes the "American condors" with these taxonomic groups, the manual is a must. It comes in a handsome red binder about 70 cm across the back and only about three-fourths full of pages so there is plenty of room to add new "techniques" as they emerge.—**Clayton M. White**

Southeast Raptor Management Symposium and Workshop.—The National Wildlife Federation and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University will host the Southeast Raptor Management Symposium and Workshop 14–16 Sept. 1988 in Blacksburg, Va., at the Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education. Participating states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Symposium workshops will encourage participants to discuss regional issues related to raptors and to develop management recommendations.

Sessions on 14 September will focus on raptor status reports, legal protection for raptors, public education, population ecology, restoration, and predation. On 15 September, land use, protection and management will be discussed, as will survey and monitoring techniques. A habitat management workshop will be offered and that evening a raptor identification workshop will be conducted. Brainstorming sessions designed to identify regional raptor issues and proposed recommendations will conclude the symposium on 16 September.

The symposium is the fourth in a series of five regional symposia sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation's Institute for Wildlife Research. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is hosting this symposium. Proceedings of the symposium will be published as part of the Federation's Scientific and Technical Series.

For more information, contact the National Wildlife Federation, Institute for Wildlife Research, 1400 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266 or call (703) 790-4268.