

NEWS AND REVIEWS

1990 Annual Meeting. Members of the *Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.* enjoyed a productive meeting in Allentown, Pennsylvania, from 24-28 October. Thanks to the hard-working local committee, organized by Hope Carpenter and Judy Wink, the meeting went smoothly.

The first day was filled with presentations about the relationship between Great Horned Owls and their prey. The focus on the Great Horned Owl was prompted by the organizers' concerns over local interest groups pressuring the Game Commission to remove the Great Horned Owl from the list of Pennsylvania's protected wildlife.

On the second day, at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, participants watched migrating vultures, accipiters, buteos, eagles and harriers parade along the Appalachian "folds." The migrants were few in number which gave the hawkwatchers plenty of opportunity to discuss the merits of various brands of binoculars, the pros and cons of the resolutions to be voted on, and the 1991 annual meeting in Tulsa. The sun smiled on the group perched on the ancient sandstones and conglomerates, outcrops to which the human anatomy could conform only so long, forcing people to mix.

Three resolutions were endorsed by the membership. These resolutions were as follows:

- A) Whereas many raptors and avian prey species migrate between areas of varying pesticide application; and
Whereas these migrations often expose the species to pesticides; and
Whereas there is potential for this exposure to have an impact on these migrating species; and
Whereas there is a need for dependable data on which to base wise conservation, management and political decisions;
and
Whereas there is a lack of relevant data and it is necessary to more adequately characterize the level of impacts on the migrating species.
Therefore be it resolved that the *Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.:*
1. Encourages the necessary investigations of pesticide fate and effects as they relate to migrating raptors and prey species.
 2. Encourages the proper conservation, management and political decisions based on the findings.
 3. Distributes this resolution to appropriate individuals, agencies and organizations.
- B) Whereas loss of habitat has been cited as an important cause of the historic Bald Eagle decline; and
Whereas many shoreline habitats are rapidly being converted to housing developments and industrial sites; and
Whereas a comprehensive nationwide survey of the security of Bald Eagle nesting, roosting and perching habitat has not been completed; and
Whereas, small populations of wild species are generally at greater risk of extinction than larger populations; and
Whereas some eagle populations are still very small; and
Whereas the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.I., is the key federal agency charged with the responsibility of protecting endangered species and their habitats in the U.S.; and
Whereas adequate protection of endangered birds and other species requires a long-term, rather than a short-term, planning horizon.
Therefore, be it resolved that the *Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.*, strongly supports the concept of regional recovery teams and urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S.D.I., to proceed with the revitalization of these teams.
Be it further resolved that the *Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.*, urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S.D.I., to:
1. Consider any changes in Bald Eagle status on a regional basis.
 2. Give substantial weight to the professional input of the regional recovery teams.
 3. Direct the team leaders to meet and further develop criteria for assessing and protecting the viability of Bald Eagle populations, emphasizing the security of their habitat; and
 4. Direct the team leaders to initiate the above action during fiscal year 1991.
- C) Whereas many current forestry practices involve management of forests primarily for timber production which often leads to neglect of non-timber components and a decrease in biodiversity, as well as to both local and global environmental degradation; and
Whereas the membership of the *Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.*, recognizes that these practices seriously affect the long-term survival of the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), and there exists a possibility that continued removal of mature and old-growth forest will lead to the eventual loss of the Northern Spotted Owl.
Therefore, be it resolved that the *Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.:*
1. Applauds the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its decision to list the Northern Spotted Owl as "threatened."
 2. Urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to intervene on behalf of the owl, as pursuant to their obligations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

3. Encourages the preservation of old-growth forest ecosystems and that these ecosystems be integrated into surrounding forest lands.
4. While the *Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.*, is concerned that the recommendations of the Interagency Scientific Committee for conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl may allow a greater reduction in Northern Spotted Owls than permitted for a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, we recommend that at least minimum provisions of the report be accepted as an initial step for the protection of the Northern Spotted Owl. The recommended two-part conservation strategy (of protection and monitoring) must be implemented immediately. Research must be undertaken to devise forest management practices that would permit survival of the owls.

New officers were elected at the meeting. Betsy Hancock, who also chairs the committee on rehabilitation, took over as secretary when Jim Fraser retired after many years of dedicated service. Jim Fraser assumed Lynn Oliphant's chairmanship of the committee on conservation. Lynn Oliphant and his committee have raised nearly \$10,000 which, combined with the World Wildlife Fund's contribution, provides funds for the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.

Three winners of awards were announced at the meeting. Financial support in the amount of \$1000 was given to Andrew Jenkins, from the University of Cape Town, for his study on the "Behavioral ecology of the Peregrine Falcon in South Africa." Tim Kimmel, from Pennsylvania State University, received an award for the best student presentation entitled "Evaluation of a habitat model for directing a census of Northern Goshawks in Pennsylvania." Bryan Kimsey, from eastern New Mexico, was awarded the Koplín Travel Award for his paper entitled "Differential migration of small accipiters through northeastern Nevada."

See you in Tulsa on 6-10 November 1991!

Request for Assistance in Locating Marked Bald Eagles. Since 1985, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has banded and color marked 114 eaglets along the Texas Gulf Coast. Each eagle wears a standard metal band, a color band and two patagial markers. The right patagium is marked with a yellow tag bearing letters and numbers T 1 to T 114 on the ventral surface, and a black spot on the dorsal surface. The left wing is marked with a light blue tag bearing a yellow spot. The wing markers usually can be seen only with the eagle in flight. Anyone seeing these eagles is asked to please send the date of observation, exact location, color of leg band, which leg color band is on, and a description of patagial markers to the **Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20708** and to **David W. Mabie, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 715 South Bronte, Rockport, TX 78382.**

Recent Reports Available. A Copy of "Amphibians and reptiles in the diets of North American raptors," by David A. Ross, is available free of charge. This 33-page Wisconsin Endangered Resources Report (#59) is based on a computer search of over 200 journals. Write to: **Bureau of Endangered Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.**

A copy of "Behavior and productivity of nesting Prairie Falcons in relation to construction activities at Swan Falls Dam," by Anthonie M.A. Holthuijzen, is available free of charge. This 77-page final report is the result of a cooperative study between the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Power Co., and Pacific Gas and Electric Co. Write to: **Idaho Power Co., Box 70, Boise, ID 83707.**