

NEWS AND REVIEWS

Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. LIFE MEMBERS



Morlan W. Nelson
(Photo by Frank M. Bond)

Morlan W. Nelson, known as Morley by many, is one of the most recent life members of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. Morley became Honorary Life Member of the Foundation in 1990, but he has been a colorful member of the Foundation for many years.

Morley's interest in raptors started 65 years ago. His "world view" toward nature was influenced by a special ingredient which many great conservationists share, the hands on experience of nature. Morley "manned" a Red-tailed Hawk to hunt rabbits on the old home ranch along the Cheyenne River in North Dakota. He was fascinated with the speed of animals in his childhood. He felt the graceful speed of his old racing horse "Slim" through the seat of his pants, admired the coordination of his ball-catching dog "Buster." He watched in awe the fall of descending teals, wings folded—to him at the time the fastest action on the planet. One day, Morley's admiration for things natural reached a new plane. The hiss by a falcon extending its wings was audible split seconds before a powerful blow sent a teal reeling. The diving falcon rolled on its back at the short end of a hook in the sky, it took the falling teal and carried it off into the north wind.

Morley became professionally involved in raptor re-

search and conservation in 1946, at a time when it was not fashionable to speak out for raptors. He worked under the tutelage of Angus M. Woodbury and William Bailey at the University of Utah. Once recovered from a battle wound incurred in the mountains of Italy, Morley joined the research arm of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, in Boise, Idaho. He maintained his interest in raptors as an avocation while working as a snow surveyor.

Morley played an important role in natural history films produced by Walt Disney Productions, *Wild Kingdom*, *Paramount*, and films produced by his offsprings Norm, Suzie and Tyler. Since Morley retired 21 years ago, he has devoted his time to running the family ranch, producing nature films on his own, and to speaking on the topic of raptors to those who invite him and to all who would listen. In the 1960s he was instrumental in convincing the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton, and the Governor of Idaho, Cecil Andrus, to establish the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area. There, much of his study and filming of Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons took place. He is currently working on a book, "The cool north wind," in which he reveals the events in his life which have molded his personal views and philosophy.

1991 Annual Meeting. Nearly 250 members of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., from 35 U.S. states, 4 Canadian provinces, and the countries of Chile, United Kingdom, Mexico and Japan attended the 1991 Annual Meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on 6–10 November 1991. The Scientific Program Committee, chaired by M. Alan Jenkins, and the Local Committee, chaired by Keven Colbert, both at the G.M. Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville, efficiently organized a board meeting, 2.5 d of scientific presentations (see below), a general business meeting, field trips and a banquet with award presentations.

The meeting was introduced by Peter Dunne, New Jersey Audubon Society, who hailed past accomplishments and identified future challenges in raptor conservation in a most stimulating and entertaining way. Field trip choices included visits to the G.M. Sutton Avian Research Center, the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie, the Oxley Nature Center and the Tulsa Zoo, where a raptor show was conducted by Walter C. Crawford's Raptor Rehabilitation and Propagation Project at the Tyson Research Center of Eureka, MO.

The Saturday night banquet "took attendants to another continent." Traditional Arabian food was enjoyed by participants perched on Persian carpets. Hungry souls sat wide-eyed, listening attentively to Steve Sherrod's instructions on how to use one's thumb to move food in the proper direction through the palm of the right hand. The mood was further set by an Arabian desert tent and falcons on blocks. Entertainment was provided by a Turkish-American youth ensemble from New York City who performed Turkish folk music and dance.

At the banquet some very deserving award recipients were announced. Richard R. Olendorff, better known to his colleagues as Butch, received the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., President's Award. This award had been given to only three other recipients in the 25 year history of the Foundation. Butch currently serves as Co-Leader for Applied Research and Governmental Affairs at the Raptor Research and Technical Assistance Center, and as the leader for the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, birds of prey research. In addition to over 35 publications, Butch is well known among raptor researchers for his extensive bibliography on diurnal birds of prey, published in the 1970s. This bibliography has motivated other bibliophiles to produce bibliographies on raptors. Within the Foundation, Butch served as publications editor from 1971–76 and as secretary from 1975–76. He also served as president from 1977–81 and on the board of directors from 1980–82. He was the primary organizer for the megaconferences held in conjunction with the Raptor Research Foundation conference in Sacramento in 1985. This conference attracted over 1000 raptor researchers from many parts of the world.

The President's Award was not the first major honor Butch has received for conducting and guiding research on raptors. For example, in 1988, a \$300 000 endowment fund was established in Butch's name at the Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. The Richard R. Olendorff Raptor Endowment Fund is used to further the University's raptor research program. This includes studies of clinical techniques, causes of and cures for raptor diseases and raptor rehabilitation methods with provisions for the support of graduate students.

The following regular 1991 awards were also presented. The Tom Cade Award recognizes an individual who has made significant advances in the area of captive propagation and reintroduction of raptors. This year's award went to Jim Weaver, of New Mexico, for the leadership and dedication he exhibited in connection with the Peregrine Fund's Peregrine Falcon reintroduction program.

The first Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award recognizes an individual who has contributed significantly to the understanding of raptor natural history. The 1991 award went to Valerie Gargett for her long-term studies of the Black Eagle (*Aquila verreauxii*) in Zimbabwe. This work culminated in her recent 279 page book entitled "The Black Eagle," published jointly by Acorn Books, Randburg, South Africa and Russell Friedman Books, Halfway House, South Africa. Valerie currently resides in South Australia. The award was accepted on Valerie's behalf by Fran Hamerstrom.

The James R. Koplín Travel Award is given to a student who is the senior author on the paper to be presented at the meeting for which travel funds are requested. This year's award went to James R. Duncan for his paper, entitled "Breeding Dispersal of Great Gray Owls in Manitoba and Minnesota."

The William C. Anderson Memorial Award is given to the student who presents the best paper at the annual Raptor Research Foundation Meeting. This year's award was presented to David Plumpton of Texas Tech University for his paper entitled "Nest Site Selection by Burrowing Owls in Colorado."

The Stephen R. Tully Memorial Grant is given to support research, management and conservation of raptors, especially to students and amateurs with limited access to alternative funding. This year's grant of \$600.00 was awarded to Neal D. Niemuth, of the University of Wyoming, and Keith J. Merkel, of Wisconsin, for their work on small mammal densities as an estimator of Saw-Whet Owl abundance. This award was accepted by Gerald R. Craig on the recipients' behalf.

The Leslie Brown Memorial Award is given to support research and/or the dissemination of information on raptors, especially to individuals carrying out work in Africa. The 1991 award was presented to John D. Foss, who is a graduate student at Boise State University studying the Rio Bio-Bio rainforest ecosystem in southern Chile. The

ecosystem and the resident Pehuenche Indians are threatened by a dam and associated hydroelectric developments. This award is traditionally given to workers in Africa but in 1991 no African proposal was received for this award. This award was accepted by Fabian M. Jaksić on John's behalf.

The Dean Amadon Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions in the field of systematics or distribution of raptors. No award was made this year.

The Membership endorsed the following resolutions:

- A) Whereas Geddes Resources Ltd. of Canada plans to develop a large open-pit copper mine at the confluence of the Tatshenini and Alsek Rivers in British Columbia; and
Whereas the watershed supports some 15 raptor species as well as grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, Dall sheep, mountain goats, and a variety of other wildlife; and
Whereas the mine could result in heavy truck traffic passing through the Chilkat Bald Eagle preserve, which supports thousands of eagles during the fall; and
Whereas the area is important as a recreational and wilderness area.
Therefore, be it resolved that the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., Board Members, Officers, and General Membership request that the responsible authorities require a thorough study of the potential impacts of this project, and permit the project only if the wildlife, wilderness and recreational values of the area can be protected.
- B) Whereas decisions made in Washington, DC may have profound effects on wild bird populations, and on the practice of bird conservation and ornithology; and
Whereas accurate information on the effects of these decisions can result in decisions which are better for wild birds, conservationists and ornithologists; and
Whereas there currently are no professional ornithologists in Washington, DC who represent the ornithological community and specialize in providing accurate ornithological information to decision-makers.
Therefore be it resolved that the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., Board Members, Officers, and General Membership support the concept of joining with other ornithological groups in establishing an ornithological council (subject to procedural and financial details), with a Washington, DC office that will provide information to Washington, DC decision-makers.
- C) Whereas forest alteration is depleting the remaining mature forests in the western United States; and
Whereas there is concern that populations of the Northern Goshawk may be declining in some of the altered areas
Therefore be it resolved that the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., Board Members, Officers, and General Membership:
1. Support the efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, as exemplified by the Southwestern Region, to maintain goshawk populations in the forests for which it is responsible.
 2. Urge Congress to appropriate funds to assist federal and state agencies immediately to conduct further research to determine the status and requirements of goshawks.
 3. Recommend the establishment of management guidelines to sustain viable populations of goshawks and all other native forest fauna and flora throughout the western United States.
- D) Whereas the 1991 Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., annual meeting was a well planned and well attended conference; and
Whereas the local committee, chaired by Keven Colbert, did an excellent job of selecting accommodations, finding sponsors, and planning the banquet and field trips; and
Whereas the scientific committee, chaired by Alan Jenkins, selected and organized a well-rounded and informative collection of oral and poster papers.
Therefore be it resolved that the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., Board Members, Officers, and General Membership give their thanks and appreciation to the members of the local and scientific committees for making the 1991 annual meeting a splendid event.

4th World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls. This conference will be held from 10–17 May 1992 in Berlin. Up to 31 December 1991, the Registration Fee is US\$110.00 (£75.00), and thereafter US\$135.00 (£90.00). For further information, apply to the World Working Group on Birds of Prey (15b Bolton Gardens, London SW5 0AL, Great Britain or Wangenheimstr. 32, 1000 Berlin 33, Germany).

The Scientific Program will comprise the following paper sessions (and conveners): The Systematics and Taxonomy of Raptors: With Emphasis on Contemporary Methodology (C.M. White and A. Kemp), Population Studies: Aspects of Long-term Changes in Numbers and Distribution of Raptors and Owls (A. Kostrzewa and V. Galushin), Declining

Raptor Populations: Their Biology and Conservation (B.-U. Meyburg and R.D. Chancellor), Environmental Contaminants and Raptors (R.W. Risebrough), Biology and Conservation of the Large Falcons in the Subgenus *Hierofalco* (T.J. Cade, W. Baumgart and C.M. White), Population Ecology of Owls (E. Korpimäki and H. Pietiäinen), The Biology of Extirpated, Rare or Lesser Known Owls (R.J. Clark and H. Mikkola), Tropical Rain Forests and Raptors (J.-M. Thiollay), Reintroductions of Eagles, Vultures and Other Raptors (J. Love and M. Terrasse) and Trapping, Marking and Radio-tagging Techniques (R. Bögel and R. Kenward).

Due to the recent fundamental political changes, it is now possible to offer excursions from Berlin to the new federal states of Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (in the former German Democratic Republic or "East Germany") which have hitherto been virtually inaccessible to ornithologists from the West and where there are good chances to observe White-tailed Sea Eagle, Osprey, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Hen Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Red Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Great Bustard, Black Stork.

MANUSCRIPT REFEREES

The input of the referee in evaluating manuscripts submitted to a journal represents a fundamental aspect that is unique to the process of science. Referees rely on at least two of the Mertonian norms that characterize the behavior of scientists: universalism and disinterestedness. Referees make a concerted effort not to let the reputation of the author influence their judgement. Referees furthermore make an effort, as much as humanly possible, to remove their own personal beliefs and to judge a contribution based on its own merit in a professional manner.

The recommendations of the referee greatly influence the nature of the published material that appears in this journal. During my tenure as editor I have noted several times great similarity in the recommendations of a manuscript by different referees. Despite being geographically separated and having different educational backgrounds, the referees responded in a remarkably similar way to aspects of a manuscript. This suggests a convergence and consistency in biological thinking that is refreshing. I have furthermore been impressed by the care taken by referees to be constructive in their criticism. Referees, who are on the whole very busy people, allow additional work for which they receive too little credit creep into a primary position on their work list. The time lag from receipt of a manuscript to response by referees greatly influences a journal's publication delay. A review of the periods from submission to acceptance, published at the end of each manuscript, reveals that the referees mentioned below have done very well. The Foundation is indeed grateful for their selfless support in reviewing one or more (*) manuscripts for the *Journal* in 1991.

Thomas G. Balgooyen, Sam Barry, Alan D. Barth, Marc J. Bechard,* Steven R. Beissinger, Keith L. Bildstein,* David M. Bird, Pete Bloom,* Gary Bortolotti,* Tom Bosakowski, Reed Bowman, Joseph B. Buchanan, Evelyn L. Bull,* Tom Cade, Susan B. Chaplin,* Dick J. Clark, Jack Clinton-Eitniew, Charles T. Collins, Michael W. Collopy, Alison G. Cook, Walter Crawford, Gary E. Duke, Wade L. Eakle, David H. Ellis, Dave L. Evans, Paolo Fasce, Glen Fox, Alan Franklin, Jim Fraser,* David L. Goldstein, Dan N. Gossett, Fran Hamerstrom, Al H. Harmata, Floyd E. Hayes, Chuck J. Henny,* Fernando Hiraldo, Denver W. Holt, C. Stuart Houston,* David C. Houston, G. Chris Iverson, Ronald E. Jackman, Fabian M. Jaksic,* Paul C. James, Jaime E. Jiménez, Paul Kerlinger, J. Tim Kimmel,* D. W. King, John S. Kirkley, Mike N. Kochert, Josef Kösters, Eduardo Lander, Jeffrey S. Marks, Carl D. Marti, W. Bruce McGillivray, Carol L. McIntyre, Brian A. Millsap, Vicky J. Meretsky, Jim A. Mosher, Joe R. Murphy, Juan José Negro, R. Wayne Nelson,* James R. Phillips, Sergej Postupalsky, Charles R. Preston, Patricia P. Rabenold,* Pat T. Redig,* Paul M. Roberts, Ricardo Rodriguez-Estrella, Robert N. Rosenfield, James L. Ruos, C. Hoagy Schadt, John A. Smallwood, Neal G. Smith, Mark Stalmaster, Dan E. Varland, Clay White.*