BOOK REVIEW

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Holarctic Birds of Prey. Edited by B.-U. Meyburg, R.D. Chancellor, and J.J. Ferrero. 1998. World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls, Berlin, Germany. 680 pp., numerous figures and tables. ISBN 84-605-7398-2. Paper, $35.—In conjunction with ADENEX (Asociación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza y los Recursos de Extremadura), the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls (WWGBP) held a conference in Badajoz, Spain, from 17–22 April 1995. Of the 100 or so oral and poster presentations, 59 are included in this proceedings (16 in Spanish, 43 in English), which is organized into eight parts: "Molecular Systematics of Holarctic Birds of Prey and Owls" (3 papers), "Breeding Biology of Raptors" (7), "Biology and Conservation of Diurnal Raptors" (26), "Supporting Raptor Populations in Danger of Extinction via Captive Breeding" (4), "Biology and Conservation of Holarctic Owls" (5), "Raptors: Contamination and Development" (4), "Socioeconomic Aspects of Raptor Conservation" (3), and "Migration of Birds of Prey" (7). Rather than attempt to mention all of the papers, I will note a few (among the many) that I found to be especially interesting.

Papers by Michael Wink and associates present data on molecular systematics of hawks and owls based on the cytochrome-*b* gene. The latter paper (with P. Heidrich) contains two notable tidbits: (1) the genetic distance is 5–7% between Little Owls (*Athene noctua*) from Israel versus Europe, suggesting that two species are involved; and (2) the "white-faced scops-owls," formerly regarded as two taxa of *Otus*, actually are closer to *Asio* and belong in the genus *Ptilopsis*.

Among the handful of contributions from North America, Charles Henny presents a review of chemical contamination that focuses on falconiforms, James Enderson et al. provide an overview of the captive-breeding program for Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) in the U.S.A. and Canada, and Keith Bildstein challenges raptor biologists who study migration to form partnerships with mainstream ecologists and conservation biologists to broaden efforts to understand raptor migration on a global scale. Another thought-provoking paper, by Clayton White and Lloyd Kiff, discusses how efforts to list the Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and to avoid delisting the Peregrine Falcon potentially weaken the Endangered Species Act by clouding the definition of "endangered" and by lowering the credibility of biologists who study these species. This paper should be read by everyone interested in the conservation of rare and threatened species.

Jeff Watson reports that Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in western Scotland take a higher diversity of prey species than those in eastern Scotland and have concomitantly lower reproductive success. The difference in diet results from reduced numbers of medium-sized herbivores in western Scotland. Watson suggests that Golden Eagles do best when a few species of prey of favored size are "particularly abundant" and that they fair poorly when forced to widen their diet to include species outside of the preferred range of prey size. Ian Newton reviews migration patterns of falconiforms in the western Palearctic, drawing a correlation between migration distance and diet. Raptors that specialize on birds and mammals tend to migrate short distances and winter in the Palearctic, whereas those that eat mainly cold-blooded prey (i.e., reptiles and invertebrates) are long-distance migrants that winter in sub-Saharan Africa.

Holarctic Birds of Prey continues the line of worthwhile publications on raptor biology edited by Chancellor, Meyburg, and their associates and produced by the WWGBP. As such, it would make a valuable addition to one's library.—**Jeff Marks, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812 U.S.A.**