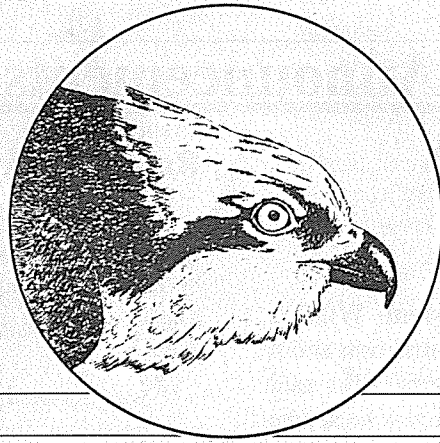


The International Osprey Foundation



International Newsletter

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

DECEMBER, 1993

Mercury exposure study wins 1993 Osprey Foundation Grant

Ruth Anne Elbert, working on a project entitled "The Use of Avian Indicator Species to Monitor Environmental Mercury Exposure," has been awarded The International Osprey Foundation's 1993 Endowment.

Elbert is working toward a PhD in Ecology under the direction of Professor Daniel Anderson at the University of California, Davis.

She will use the \$1,000 grant to test whether mercury exposure in osprey on Clear Lake, California, is related to distance from an old mercury extraction mine and to biological and reproductive parameters.

She seeks to determine what areas of the lake are being fished

TIOF research grant honor roll

1993 - **Ruth Anne Elbert**

1992 - **Michael McMillian**, graduate student at the University of West Florida, Pensacola, for studies into the effects of pesticides on reproduction at Lake Istokpoga, Fla.

1991 - **David J. Green**, Behavioral Ecology Research Group, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, for studies into female osprey production decisions and male parental effort.

1990 - **Gustavo Danemann**, thesis researcher with the Seabird Program at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja, California, Marine Biology Dept., La Paz, Mexico, for studying ospreys in the coastal lagoons of Baja California, Mexico.

by different pairs of ospreys. To do that, she is using radio transmitters. Her study will involve capturing birds along the mercury gradient, fitting them with transmitters and collecting feathers for analysis. This is the second year of the study.

The grant is awarded March 31 each year. The deadline for applications is January 31. For endowment information, or to support the proposed studies, contact the foundation at P.O. Box 250, Sanibel Island, FL 33957.

This year, a number of worthy applications were received. Unfortunately, the foundation can award only a limited amount of money each year.

Brian Millsap to address annual meeting March 20 on Sanibel

The annual meeting of The International Osprey Foundation will be held Sunday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sanibel Community Center, Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island, Florida.

The eight-member board of directors

is up for re-election during the business segment of the meeting.

This will be followed by a presentation by Brian Millsap, director since 1989 of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Non-Game Wildlife Program. Millsap's

talk will be entitled, "Birds of Prey: A State Prospective."

Millsap recently was appointed to the board of the Raptor Research Foundation. He also has served on the National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Information Center.

Announcements

Seeking information on Siberian raptors

Dr. David H. Ellis, USFWS, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Maryland, is seeking information about gyrfalcon and snowy owl mortality in Siberia. Ellis said the deaths of these species in northeast Siberia may be severe and preventable.

He knows of no wide scale study but has learned that these raptors often suffer broken legs when captures in steel leg-hold traps at snow-free trap sites set for Arctic foxes. One trapper reportedly took 300 owls in one winter.

Ellis said padding jaws on steel traps is not the ultimate solution because traps are visited only semi-monthly.

Anyone knowing of similar problems elsewhere or practical solutions or ideas for field testing are urged to contact Dr. Ellis at USFWS, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Marriam Lab., 11510 American Holly Drive, Laurel, MD 20708-4019 (301-498-0292 or 301-776-2597).

Aquaculture report delayed

The Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission has delayed a final decision on the report entitled "Proposed Policy Concerning Lethal Take of Depradating at Aquaculture Facilities."

A one-year study, to review pertinent literature and to research lethal and non-lethal field techniques, is currently under consideration.

Bald eagle nestwatchers wanted

About 20 bald eagle nestwatchers will be hired as private contractors to the State of Arizona for the 1994 nesting season (Jan. - June). Nestwatchers, camping in the field, will work in teams of two collecting information on nesting activities and monitoring human activity near nests. Pay is \$45 per day on a 10-day on, four-day off schedule. Some will start in early January, most in February. The season will end in May or June.

Applicants must be able to provide their own camping equipment and transportation. A high clearance vehicle or 4x4 is advised. Applications should be in by December. Call or write: Greg Beatty, Nongame Branch, Arizona Game & Fish Dept., 2221 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023, tel. 602-789-3512.

Raptor-Link in Russian and English

A newsletter about Russian birds of prey and owls is bilingual in English and Russian and is delivered to both Russian and western readers simultaneously. Called Raptor-Link, it is the first newsletter ever to appear in Russia.

It was formed to bring together Russian and western ornithologists and encourage raptor research in the former USSR.

Raptor-Link will focus on birds of prey and owl distribution and ecology; expeditions and current studies within the former USSR.

The thrice-yearly independent publication is edited by Eugene Potapov for the Russian Working Group on Birds of Prey and for professional and amateur ornithologists worldwide. Financial assistance for Russian subscribers has been provided by the Peregrine Fund.

An annual subscription (in pounds sterling only) costs 5 pounds in the UK, 6.50 pounds in Europe and 8 pounds elsewhere.

For more information, contact Eugene Potapov, c/o Edward Grey Institute for Field Ornithology, Dept. of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1, 3PS, UK; tel. 0865-271133; fac 0865-310447.

Wingspan seeks contributors, subscribers

The Raptor Research Foundation's recently-founded semi-annual newsletter includes information about research, management and protection as well as job and meeting announcements, grant notices and news of people who work with raptors.

To contribute to Wingspan, contact Karen Steenhof, Editor, Raptor Research and Technical Assistance Center, Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705.

Subscriptions are free to RRF members and \$10 per year for non-members. To subscribe, write Jim Fitzpatrick, c/o Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center, 12805 St. Croix Trail, Hastings, MN 55033.

Raptor specimens needed for exhibit

The Science Museum of Minnesota is seeking donations or loans of frozen raptor specimens for mounting for a planned traveling exhibit. Contact Rick Jannett, Science Museum of Minnesota, Biology Dept., 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul, MN 55101, tel. 612-221-9429.

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Comments sought on new biological survey

A new **National Biological Survey** is to be created within the Department of the Interior. It will consolidate the biological research and inventory activities of the Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, as well as smaller contributions from five other Interior bureaus.

The NBS will report to Assistant Secretary for Fish & Wildlife and Parks.

The Department of the Interior is requesting comments about the proposal from the scientific community. To

receive details, write: National Biological Survey Proposal, Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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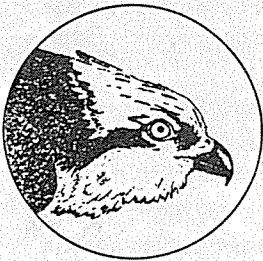
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