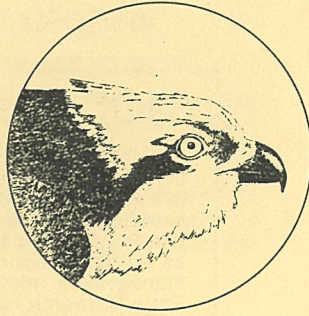


The International Osprey Foundation Newsletter



VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1984

Philippine Eagle

There are only 200 to 300 Philippine eagles (*Pitheocophaga jefferyi*), formerly known as the Philippine monkey-eating eagle, estimated to be still extant in the wild. Of the four observed pairs on Mindanao, none have successfully fledged young for the past several years. The problem is not usually with the egg, but in rearing the young once it has hatched, which is a direct result of the explosive destruction of Philippine's virgin rain forest.

As a result of a cooperative arrangement between The Peregrine Fund, the Philippine Bureau of Forest Development and the Philippine Conservation Fund, a plan has been approved to remove wild eggs from known nests in Mindanao and to hatch them in incubators at Baracatan, where the Philippine Eagle Captive Breeding Project is located.

The purpose of the removal of the wild eggs is to build up a population of suitably reared and conditioned individuals for breeding in captivity. Most of the Philippine eagles now in confinement were captured and handled in ways that rendered them useless as breeders. There are only two egg-laying females in captivity at this time, and no chick has yet been raised from any captive Philippine eagle.

The removal of these eggs will usually result in the wild pair re-laying so they can end up producing two or even three fertile eggs per year instead of one egg every other year, as in the case with a normally producing pair. If this type of manipulation works well for the Philippine eagle, as it has for the even more endangered California condor, then in three or four years, the project should have several properly conditioned pairs of eagles for breeding in captivity. The young produced from these captive pairs will be released into the wild and, along with an extensive program to halt the destruction of the forests, help stabilize a species of eagle found only in the Philippines.

ADVISORY BOARD CREATED

TIOF has been incorporated for over two years. During this time, the Foundation has worked hard to improve the communication between individuals studying ospreys and other raptors throughout the world. To that end, a series of regional osprey symposiums has been initiated which will culminate in an international symposium in 1986. This newsletter is published biannually and TIOF currently is working on a keyworded bibliography on ospreys.

To date, TIOF president Mark Westall has provided most of the guidance the Foundation has received. As the organization continues to grow, it needs a broader base of input from those professionally involved with raptor research. To gain this input, an Advisory Board made up of professionals in the field has been created which will act as a sounding board for ideas and give direction to the Foundation.

The Advisory Board will consist of seven members serving a two-year term. The chairman of this board will be elected by its members with the president of TIOF serving as an ex-officio member of the board. The responsibilities of the board will be to advise TIOF on various policies and programs of interest to the Foundation. Communication will be largely through correspondence, with an annual meeting normally held during the Raptor Research Foundation annual meeting.

If TIOF is to become a viable, useful tool for the preservation and study of birds of prey, it must have increased participation from those involved in raptor research. It is hoped that the creation of this Advisory Board will help TIOF achieve its goals.

HACKING CONTROVERSY

In the first issue of the TIOF newsletter (December '82), a new management technique for ospreys was discussed as a way of substantially increasing previously decimated populations or colonizing new areas. Although presented in a very positive manner, the article did raise the question of whether the "hacked" ospreys would survive and return to where they were fledged or to where the eggs were laid.

By early summer, a few scientists were raising serious questions. Not only were they questioning whether the program would work, but they felt no standardization was being followed and that possible negative impacts on donor populations were not being considered. Eventually, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was asked to establish "... guidelines to govern the collection, transfer and release of raptors for the purpose of hacking pre-flighted young in areas designated as release sites." The scientific community was buckling down for another controversy.

At the printing of this newsletter however, the controversy has mellowed somewhat. The USFWS feels that sufficient guidelines already exist governing species listed under the Endangered Species Act and that similar guidelines are being followed concerning unlisted raptors such as ospreys. Last summer, a few previously "hacked" ospreys were finally seen returning to their release areas and, perhaps because of the questions raised, more care is being planned in the future to insure no negative effects will befall any donor population.

Disagreements in the scientific community are nothing new. Although basic, philosophical differences will always exist, open discussion, debate and "controversy" will quite often lead to better programs and policies in the end.

As mentioned in our first article last winter, the final program developed for hacking ospreys in North America will eventually become a useful, tested management tool utilized worldwide.

Request for Assistance

TIOF is in the process of creating a computerized file containing the color band sequences of all ospreys that have been color banded in the last decade. One purpose of this plan is to coordinate between current and future banders so that the same color band sequences are not used by both banders. A second objective is to be able to rapidly determine the specific origin of a color banded bird when sighted and to inform researchers when and where their birds were seen. It is intended that this be a service available to any osprey researcher or enthusiast. However, its success depends on obtaining accurate information from those who have color banded ospreys. So, if you have color banded ospreys, please notify John Hagan at the following address:

Campus Box 7617
Department of Zoology
N.C. State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-7617

TIOF Research Registration

One of TIOF's main objectives is to establish a line of communication between researchers and their colleagues in a variety of fields of raptor study. To date, TIOF has successfully enrolled 60 participants in its Research Registration Program, and has connected raptor experts in such fields as artificial nesting sites, behavior, banding, distribution, management, migration, population dynamics and telemetry. For a Research Registration Form and further information please write TIOF, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957.

Announcements

TIOF ANNUAL MEETING — The International Osprey Foundation will hold its annual meeting at 4:00 p.m., 26 February, 1984 at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Center on Sanibel Island, Florida for the purpose of electing officers and delivering an annual report of the Foundation's activities and future plans. All members are invited to attend.

Following the business meeting, there will be an evening program at 7:30 p.m. at the Sanibel Community Association Building, open to the public with a nominal donation at the door. The evening's activities will include an announcement of the newly elected board of directors, an auction of wildlife art from well-known artists, and a program on the plight of the Philippine eagle.

The program will be presented by Dr. Robert S. Kennedy, Director of the Raptor Information Center in Washington, DC, who has spearheaded the drive to try to save the Philippine eagle from certain extinction. Dr. Kennedy will present two short films which promise to be both educational and entertaining. (Note Philippine Eagle article on page 1.)

N.E. REGIONAL OSPREY SYMPOSIUM — Continuing with TIOF's program of increasing the lines of communication between osprey research teams through a series of regional symposiums, TIOF and the Raptor Research Foundation will co-sponsor a symposium focusing on osprey research in northeastern North America. The symposium will be held 23-24 October 1984, in Blacksburg, Virginia immediately preceding the RRF annual meeting.

The proceedings of the symposium will be published and it looks like this meeting should be well attended. Applications and abstracts are presently being received by the TIOF board and will be received through 31 August 1984. Please send inquiries or a title and abstract (less than 200 words) to Janie Westall, Program Chairperson, TIOF, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957 USA or phone (813) 472-5218.

1986 IOC Meeting — At the XVIII International Ornithological Congress in Moscow (August, 1982), the International Ornithological Committee accepted the invitation of the National Museum of Natural Sciences of Canada and of the Canadian ornithological community to hold the XIX Congress in Canada. The Congress will be held in Ottawa, Canada, from 22-29 June, 1986. The Committee elected Dr. Prof. Claus Immelmann (West Germany) as President of the Congress and designated Dr. Henri Ouellet (Canada) as Secretary-General.

Details about the general and scientific programs, field excursions, and other activities during the Congress will be available later. Those interested in participating in the Congress are urged to inform the Secretariat in order to obtain announcements and application forms. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary-General, Dr. Henri Ouellet, XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus, National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0M8.

SYMPOSIUM ON WILDLIFE HABITATS — A symposium, *Wildlife 2000: Modeling Habitat Relationships of Terrestrial Vertebrates*, will be held 7-11 October 1984 at Fallen Leaf Lodge (Stanford University's Sierra Camp near Lake Tahoe). It will provide scientists and managers with an up-to-date synthesis of issues in the development, testing, and application of models that predict responses of wildlife to habitat changes. Technical presentations will be given in six non-overlapping sessions. Posters will also be presented; some will be included in the symposium proceedings to be published promptly in journal format. Registration will be limited and applications filled in order of receipt. Interested persons may obtain registration materials from Dr. Jared Verner, Program Chair, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 2081 East Sierra Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, U.S.A.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE — The third annual conference of the newly formed National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association will be hosted by the Kalamazoo Nature Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan from 22 - 26 February 1984. The goal of the conference is to enable wildlife rehabilitators from all over North America to share information, skills and techniques on how to successfully raise and release many species of wildlife. The public is invited to attend. Topics to be considered include rehabilitation of vertebrates (except fish), wildlife-related aspects of veterinary medicine, optimum caging, and natural history as related to wildlife rehabilitation. Papers presented will be published in the symposium proceedings, which will be for sale. For more information, write to: Patricia Adams, National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference, c/o Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 North Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 USA.

New Books Available

BALD EAGLE / OSPREY PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of the 1st International Bald Eagle/Osprey Symposium, held in Montreal in 1981, is now available. Entitled "Biology and Management of Bald Eagles and Ospreys", the 250 page volume includes 32 refereed papers. For order forms, write to David M. Bird, Macdonald Raptor Research Centre, Macdonald College of McGill University, 21,111 Lakeshore Rd., Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec H9X 1C0. All profits go to Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.

RAPTOR MANAGEMENT IN ALASKA AND WESTERN CANADA

Copies of the "Proceedings of a Symposium and Workshop on Raptor Management and Biology in Alaska and Western Canada", which was held in 1981, are now available from the editors: Wilbur N. Ladd, USFWS, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503; Philip F. Schempf, Raptor Management Studies, USFWS, P.O. Box 1287, Juneau, AK 99082; or NTIS, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22151.

The 335 pages of the proceedings contain 37 papers that address a variety of topics such as: Federal, State and Provincial Raptor Programs, Bald Eagle Studies, Status of Raptors in Canada and Alaska, Raptor Studies in Alaska, Management of Raptors, Techniques for Raptor Management and Study, and Workshop — A Raptor Management Plan for Alaska and Western Canada.

"NESTING RAPTORS in Southwestern Alaska

Status, Distribution, and Aspects of Biology" by David P. Mindell, 1983. BLM-Alaska Technical Report 8. 59 pp. Free while supply lasts from Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 701 C Street, Box 13, Anchorage, AK 99513.

GOLDEN EAGLE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The seventh publication in the National Wildlife Federation's Scientific and Technical Series, the *Working Bibliography of the Golden Eagle and the Genus Aquila* is now available. This is the third bibliography produced through the Raptor Information Center. Copies of the first two bibliographies, the *Working Bibliography of Owls of the World* and the *Working Bibliography of the Bald Eagle* are still available from the NWF for \$9.00 (plus \$1.55 for postage and handling). The cost of the new bibliography is \$14.95 plus postage.

The Golden Eagle bibliography contains over 3,400 references on the ten members of the genus *Aquila*. All references are keyworded by subject, species and geographic location. The bibliography includes a forward by the late Leslie H. Brown, an introduction to the genus, and indices to species and geographic area. Also included is a brief list of occurrence records for North America.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Scanning the Globe

Tiran Island

There is a small, 19 square mile island near the Sinai Peninsula, in the Gulf of Aqaba that has been of great strategic importance to the countries of Egypt and Israel. This island, known as Tiran Island, has more recently received international recognition as a sanctuary for rare birds, including one of the largest breeding colonies of ospreys outside the United States.

Because of constant military occupation and thus, limited human access, the island has been maintained as a de facto wildlife refuge. Shalom Su-Aretz, of Israel's Nature Reserve Authority, monitored the osprey population on Tiran for nine years and has worked hard to protect the island's wildlife.

Now, other organizations, such as the International Council for Bird Preservation and TIOF are moving to have the island officially designated as a nature reserve. The Israelis have suggested that an international wildlife sanctuary be established there. But the Egyptians recall that while Israel was in control, there was no talk of internationalizing Tiran, and so the Egyptians have no inclination to do so now. If a sanctuary is established, they believe it should be Egyptian.

And so the debate goes on. Because of the extreme political tensions in the region, the future of Tiran and its wildlife is uncertain, but it is hoped that perhaps someday, Tiran will become an oasis of peace and tranquility amongst all the turmoil.

New Hampshire Ospreys

Historical records suggest that New Hampshire's osprey population always has been concentrated in the area of the state north of the White Mountains. While nesting ospreys at Lake Umbagog were documented as early as the late 1800's, there is little data to indicate specific numbers of nesting pairs over the years.

The New Hampshire Endangered Species Program, a cooperative project of the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, initiated an investigation of the current status of the state's osprey population in 1980. Ground and aerial surveys to date have located 18 nests and 13 osprey pairs in the vicinity of Lake Umbagog and the Androscoggin River. Observation at several other locations suggest the possibility of additional breeding pairs, but to date no nests have been located in these areas.

Reproductive success of the known breeding pairs is well below that required to maintain the long-term stability of the population. Only two known young fledged in New Hampshire in 1980, and none in 1981. In 1982, the most successful year documented thus far, the Umbagog/Androscoggin ospreys fledged only six young.

Continued monitoring, habitat protection and investigation of the reasons for reproductive failure are crucial to the future well-being of New Hampshire's osprey population. Endangered Species Program personnel have secured agreements with landowners and land managers to protect nest trees and their immediate surroundings during timber operations. Research on the population's reproductive problems and the development of management strategies to enhance production remain high priorities.

TIOF

P.O. Box 250
Sanibel Island, FL 33957
(813) 472-5218



Address Change Requested

WORLD CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY

The Peregrine Fund has been looking around during the last two years for just the right location for The World Center for birds of Prey. With the help of a grant from Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc., the World Center will be located near Boise, Idaho which is just a short distance north of the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area.

The closeness of the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area and the large population of nesting prairie falcons, golden eagles and other raptors in southern Idaho were major inducements to locate near Boise. In addition, Boise State University has expressed a keen desire to develop an institutional affiliation with the World Center so that it will be possible to have some academic functions associated with the new center as well.

It is hoped by those of us at TIOF that the World Center will help to achieve one of our major objectives: to increase the communication and cooperation between raptor researchers throughout the world.

Aplomado Falcon

The aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*) occurs in grasslands and open savannahs throughout the neo-tropics from Isla Grande at the southern tip of Argentina and Chile to the northern fringes of the Chihuahuan Desert in Texas, New Mexico, and (historically) Arizona. Within the last 70 years, the species has drastically diminished in numbers in the northernmost parts of its range, to the point where it is presently one of the rarest North America Falconiformes. Next to the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), the aplomado falcon is perhaps the most likely raptor to disappear entirely from the United States in the near future.

Historical records indicate that the aplomado falcon was both widespread and relatively common in suitable habitat north of Mexico in the mid-to late 1800's. Egg collecting and reductions in nest site availability are commonly cited as factors that contributed to the Aplomado falcon's decline, but generally, habitat changes in North America seem primarily responsible, such as the overuse of forage by livestock and the suppression of range fires.

The aplomado falcon is presently listed as extirpated in Arizona by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, endangered in New Mexico by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, and threatened in Texas by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The species is not federally listed even though such listing appears warranted, and may be necessary to spawn the types of management necessary to re-establish a viable population in North America.

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