

SASKATCHEWAN FALCONRY ASSOCIATION RAPTOR BANDING — A SUMMATION

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The purpose of this report is to summarize the results to date of the Saskatchewan Falconry Association's banding program. The banding was carried out from 1960 through 1967 and was somewhat sporadic. The program has since been terminated and the efforts centralized under the supervision of Mr. Richard W. Fyfe, Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton. Some data previously published by Houston (1967, 1968) have been included for continuity. Detailed observations on nesting habits of some of the species banded have been published previously by Fox (1964) and

Sealy (1967), while others have been filed with the Prairie Nest Records Scheme. Our observations of food remains at the nest do not differ from those of other observers and will not be presented at this time.

In the period 1960 through 1967 the Association banded 267 raptorial birds of 14 species (see Tables 1 and 2). Ten of these banded birds have subsequently been recovered, all within a year of banding.

The owls appear to exhibit little movement from the nest site, and have a heavy mortality within their first six months of life. The Great

Table 1. Summary of S.F.A. Raptor Banding.

Species	Yng-Adt.	Number Banded	Number Recovered	Recovery Rate	Brood Size at Banding	Comments
Turkey Vulture	2 - 0	0	0	0		courtesy of A. Deutscher
Red-tailed Hawk	30 - 0	1	.03	1.5 (1 - 2)		
Swainson's Hawk	7 - 1	0	0	1.5 (1 - 3)		juvenile cannibalism in 3 of 4 nests
Ferruginous Hawk	17 - 0	0	0	3.0 (2 - 3)		
Golden Eagle	6 - 0	1	.16	1.5 (1 - 2)		
Bald Eagle	2 - 0	0	0			courtesy of F. Heidelbauer
Marsh Hawk	50 - 0	2	.04	4.0 (1 - 5)		juvenile cannibalism noted twice
Prairie Falcon	45 - 1	0	0			14 courtesy of J. Campbell
Peregrine Falcon	0 - 2	0	0			entangled in duck bait-traps
Pigeon Hawk	10 - 1	1	.10			
Sparrow Hawk	31 - 0	0	0			of 28 spring migrants, 64% females
Great Horned Owl	42 - 1	4	.09	2.0 (1 - 3)		
Burrowing Owl	9	0	0			
Long-eared Owl	10 - 1	1	.09	3.3 (2 - 5)		
14 Species	261 - 6	10	.37	2.4		Totals and Means

Table 2. Summary of Recoveries to June 30, 1968.

Species	Banded	Recovered	Status
Red-tailed Hawk	11 July '60 Cando	17 Jan. '61 Alabama	-1 found dead
Golden Eagle	3 July '65 Big Muddy	25 Nov. '65 Kansas	D found dead
Marsh Hawk	9 July '60 Battleford 1 July '61 Battleford	1 Sept. '60 New Mexico 22 Jan. '62 Oklahoma	D injured -1 found dead
Pigeon Hawk	5 July '60 Kindersley	6 Feb. '61 Shaunavon	-1 found dead
Great Horned Owl	9 June '60 Battleford 6 June '61 Battleford 11 June '61 Battleford 13 June '67 Dewar Lake	14 Aug. '60 Battleford 28 Dec. '61 Battleford Fall '62 Battleford 19 Mar. '68 Foremost, Alta.	D found dead D shot 1 shot -1 found dead
Long-eared Owl	30 June '60 Battleford	11 July '60 Battleford	D found dead

Key: -1=less than one year of age
D=recovered within same year as banded

Horned Owl banded at Dewar Lake and recovered near Foremost, Alberta, is an exception.

The Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Marsh Hawk all show a southerly migration and all were recovered in the southwestern United States.

The falcons appear to have a lower mortality rate than the other species banded, with only one recovery from the 89 individuals of four species banded.

The mean recovery rate, disregarding the owls, was approximately two per cent and represents recoveries from only four of 10 species banded. Only 20 per cent of the recovered birds were reported as "shot", the bulk being reported as "found dead". Brood size in our sample does not differ markedly from that in the literature, suggesting that our activities had little effect upon the nesting success of the birds involved.

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