

TWO BANDING RETURNS FOR GOLDEN EAGLE AND PEREGRINE FALCON

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Recoveries of two banded birds, one a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysoetos*) and the other a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) — have recently been reported to me by the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland.

The Golden Eagle was banded as an immature and released near Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, Canada, on September 23, 1965. That bird, a photograph of which appeared in the *Blue Jay* (publication of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society) (23 (4)), had been given to me a week earlier by an employee of the Taltson Power Station near Fort Smith. Golden Eagles have been observed nesting in the area.

On October 24, 1965, a Golden Eagle was observed at close range by Mr. Monte Lund on his ranch 20 miles east of Roy, Montana and it appeared that the bird was incapable of flight. The eagle was found dead the following day and upon closer examination Mr. Lund spotted the band I had placed on the bird's leg a month earlier. Mr. Lund informed me that there had been quite a migration of eagles through the area at the time. The eagles had been observed feeding on grasshoppers and on the entrails of hunter-killed deer. The distance between Fort Smith, N.W.T. and Roy, Montana is roughly 1000 miles and the eagle had covered the distance in about a month.

A much longer migration ended in January, 1966 when Mr. Julio Juarez killed a Peregrine Falcon in his yard in India Muerta, Province of Chaco, Argentina. That bird had been banded on July 29, 1965 as a nestling along the Thelon River, N.W.T., where I was engaged in wolf studies. Dr. Gardiner Bump, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife scientist stationed in Buenos Aires, spotted an article in a local newspaper, dated 18 January 1966. The editor of the newspaper reported that the falcon had been chasing domestic chickens.

The distance between the point of banding on the Thelon River and India Muerta is roughly 9000 miles.

The falcon, one of two in the aerie, was still covered with down, at the time of banding. Judging from my records collected in other years on the Thelon River, I would estimate that the young falcons would have been capable of flight towards the end of August. If the falcon had left the nest site at that time it must have flown an average of about 2250 miles for each of the four months it lived after fledging to reach the farm of Julio Juarez.

James Enderson (A Breeding and Migration survey of the Peregrine Falcon, *Wilson Bull.*, 77(4) pp. 327-339) has summarized banding recoveries of migrant Peregrines. Many of these migrants, believed to originate in northern areas in Canada and banded in the fall in the United States, have been recovered in the West Indies and Central and Southern America. Because of the northern location of the banding site of the Peregrine Falcon under discussion, I believe that the Thelon River bird's migration constitutes a record for the species and ranks high on the list of long distance migration flights of birds.

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INFORMATION WANTED

The Whistling Swan is being studied by members of Johns Hopkins University and the Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fish in the Chesapeake Bay area. Birds have been trapped and banded and marked with a dark purple color. If you see a Whistling Swan marked with purple please send date and place of sighting along with dye pattern of the coloring to Dr. W. J. Sladen, Johns Hopkins University, 615 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21205 or to SNHS, Box 1121, Regina.