

1983

## News, Notes, Comments

North American Bird Bander

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### A gratifying report

Betsy Jones

A Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), injured in the fall of 1981 in coastal New Jersey, rehabilitated and released in May of 1982, was trapped at Portsmouth, VA in December 1982 by bander Tom Nichols of Virginia Beach, VA.

The hatching year male Peregrine was found by 2 young fishermen at the southern tip of Long Beach Island on 11 October 1981. The bird had a severely fractured wing and was brought to the "Wild Birds" Rehabilitation and Research Center in Surf City, NJ.

Immediate therapy to combat shock was instituted. Federal and State officials were notified and authorization to transfer the seriously injured falcon to North Jersey Raptor Care Center in Andover was requested and received. When the bird's condition was stable, the Peregrine was delivered to John Gumbs, Director of NJRCC.

Using an innovative surgical technique which he developed, Mr. Gumbs realigned the fractured ulna by installing a space age plastic pin to join together the two severed sections of bone. After seven months of recuperation and gradually increased exercise and flight, the young male was released with another recuperated female Peregrine at Island Beach Park, to join the northbound migration with others of the species. At the time of release, I banded both birds and attached white paper tape tail markers.

Nine months later, on 26 December 1982, Tom Nichols, a bander-researcher, trapped the young male on a dredge spoil island at Portsmouth, near Virginia Beach, VA. (Mr. Nichols released the Peregrine minutes after the capture, taking only enough time to record weight, wing measurements, and other pertinent data.) The bird was in excellent physical condition and was actively hunting when captured. Since Peregrine's prey is frequently as large as a duck and Peregrines approach speeds up to 200 mph in their stooping attack, the surgical procedure was obviously a success. Mr. Nichols was unaware of the former injury and surgical repair until he contacted me to obtain the banding particulars.

Mr. Gumbs, Mr. Nichols, and I were delighted with the results of our efforts. And our falcon is still flying out there, wild and free, plastic pin and all.

325 S. First St., Surf City, NJ 08008

### Grants and Awards Program — National Wildlife Rehabilitation Assn.

The Honors, Awards and Grants Committee of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association would like to announce the initiation of a small grants program. We expect \$1000.00 to be available beginning 1 July 1984 which could be used to support a single \$1,000.00 project or several smaller projects that add up to \$1,000.00, depending on the qualifications of applicant. Funds will be available for a project in the field of wildlife rehabilitation *only*, applicants must demonstrate financial need, and applicants must submit a typewritten proposal which includes name(s) and resume of personnel involved, objective of project, a brief statement of literature review, a brief description of how the work will be carried out, and an itemized budget. An annual report on progress will be required.

The committee has also established three awards as follows:

**Lifetime Achievement Award**— This would be to an individual whose primary identification is that of a wildlife rehabilitator who has contributed to the field in a major way for many years. The awardee will receive a plaque, \$100.00 and free conference registration. The award will be presented at the conference.

**Significant Achievement Award**— This would be to a person who has contributed something of significant merit to the field of wildlife rehabilitation within the last 2 years. Contribution can be a research finding, publication, organization of a program, etc., as long as the major theme is that of wildlife rehabilitation. The awardee would receive the same benefits as the Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Keynote Award**— This award would pay travel and lodging expenses for one keynote speaker for each annual conference. The speaker would be selected by the host committee for the annual conference.

Suggestions of individuals who might be appropriate awardees and proposals for grants should be submitted to: Dr. G.E. Duke, Department of Veterinary Biology, College of Veterinary Medicine, 295 Animal Science/Veterinary Medicine Bldg., 1988 Fitch Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.

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## Earthwatch Expeditions

**Earthwatch** is a non-profit organization that recruits interested amateurs to join prominent scholars and fund research expeditions all over the world. Since 1971 it has arranged for more than 5,700 people to help out on expeditions in 30 states and 55 countries. More than 80 projects will be sponsored this coming year.

Each of the following ornithological expeditions has spaces for volunteers. No past experience is necessary — just a willingness to learn and to share the tax-deductible costs of the expedition. Volunteers will be working side by side with professionals, seeking solutions, exploring frontiers of knowledge — part of a team cooperating to get the job done.

### TROPICAL BIRDS OF PANAMA

**Dr. James R. Karr**

**Site: Parque Nacional Soberania, Panama**

**9-24 March 1984**

**13-28 July 1984**

Set up and tend mist nets at study sites. Identify, weigh, band, and release captured birds. Monitor microclimates and foods. Survey each study plot's bird species.

### WILD WADERS OF SENEGAL

**Dr. Patrick J. Dugan**

**Site: Parc National des Oiseaux, Djoudj, Senegal**

**14 February - 1 March 1984**

**28 February - 15 March**

Count waders, observe feeding patterns, collect and sort prey, record data on chicks.

### THE COCOS ISLAND FINCH

**Dr. Thomas Sherry and Tracey Werner**

**Site: Cocos Island, Costa Rica**

**8-28 February 1984**

**1-31 March 1984**

**1-30 April 1984**

**1-31 July 1984**

**1-31 August 1984**

**1-30 September 1984**

Set up and tend mist nets; band adults and nestlings; assess food abundance; record feeding strategies.

## SEABIRD COLONIZATION

**Richard H. Podolsky**

**Site: Kilauea Point, Kauai, Hawaii**

**12-24 February 1984**

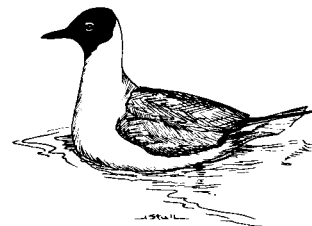
Monitor prospecting albatross, observe courtship and nesting behavior, and monitor the birds' nesting success island-wide. Experiment with factors affecting the birds' attraction to and behavior at the site, such as removing all decoys for one day.

**For further information** write to EARTHWATCH, 10 Juniper Road, Box 127, Belmont, MA 02178.

## Research grants

The Eastern Bird Banding Association and the Western Bird Banding Association are each offering a research grant of \$250 in aid of research using bird banding techniques or bird banding data. An applicant should submit a resumé of his or her banding or ornithological background, the project plan, and a budget to the joint selection committee chairman: Robert C. Leberman, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677.

No formal application forms are available, and the amount requested should not exceed \$250. The deadline for receipt of applications is 15 March 1984.



## Rehabilitation up-date

The Laughing Gull, reported on in NABB 7:165, did indeed return this spring (1983) in almost adult plumage, with full hood, eye ring, red bill and legs, but a large amount of black in the retrices.

Betsy Jones