

Preface

In 1987, the Raptor Information Center of the National Wildlife Federation published the *Raptor Management Techniques Manual*. The work, which was edited by Beth Giron Pendleton, Brian Millsap, Keith Cline, and David Bird, was a 420-page manual consisting of 19 chapters divided into three sections: Field Research Techniques, Management Techniques, and Laboratory Research Techniques. Each chapter was authored by one or more experts in the field, and each was reviewed by two independent referees. Priced at \$25 U.S., the book sold out quickly. Although the *Raptor Management Techniques Manual* was published in binder format with the expectation that individual chapters would be updated and replaced as warranted, this never occurred. The Raptor Information Center was disbanded in the 1990s.

In 2000, the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) approached the National Wildlife Federation and was given permission to pursue the publication of a thoroughly updated version of the manual. RRF then asked the two of us to solicit authors for individual chapters, edit the new work, and oversee its publication. The book before you, *Raptor Research and Management Techniques*, is the result of these efforts.

When we as editors took on this task, our aims and objectives were to produce a comprehensive work that reflected the state of the art in raptor research and management techniques, and to increase the geographic scope of the book beyond North America. We also wanted to produce a high-quality, attractive, and reasonably priced book that would be used globally by raptor researchers and conservationists and natural-resource managers. Unlike its predecessor, *Raptor Research and*

Management Techniques is a bound work that is loosely modeled after the highly acclaimed *Bird Census Techniques*, second edition (2000) by Colin Bibby, Neil Burgess, David Hill, and Simon Mustoe. *Raptor Research and Management Techniques* is not intended to be an all-inclusive manual or detailed “how-to” book, but rather a review of the field with up-to-date information on various techniques that is designed to provide readers with a general overview of the field. That said, each chapter has numerous references that will direct readers to additional sources for details and cautions regarding various field and laboratory techniques and management tools.

The first four chapters, one each on the raptor literature, raptor systematics, raptor identification, and study design, data analysis, and the presentation of results, provide a general overview of the field of raptor research. The next ten chapters provide insights into field-study techniques, including surveying and monitoring, behavioral studies, diet analysis, habitat sampling, accessing nests and assessing nest success, capture and marking techniques, and spatial tracking. Four additional chapters provide information on the energetics, physiology, pathology, and toxicology of raptors; five more cover reducing management and researcher disturbance, mitigation, captive breeding, the augmentation of wild populations, and rehabilitation. The work concludes with chapters on public education and legal considerations. Although the book focuses on questions of importance to management and conservation, the scientific approach laid out at the beginning of the work, and the field and laboratory study techniques described thereafter, provide researchers with important tools for

better understanding the basic biology of the birds as well.

We use the recommended English names of birds (Gill and Wright 2006, *Birds of the World: recommended English names*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, USA) throughout, together with their binomials (at first mention) in each chapter. The appendix provides an alphabetical list of the recommended English names of all diurnal raptors and other birds mentioned in the text, together with their binomials.

We view the publication of *Raptor Research and*

Management Techniques as a way to enhance standardization in the field, and in so doing, increase our ability to compare our findings with those of others. We also view the book as a way to share both past successes and failures, and to speed improvement in our research and management techniques. Overall, we hope that like its predecessor, *Raptor Research and Management Techniques* will stand the test of time and help those who study and manage birds of prey protect them better.

DAVID M. BIRD and KEITH L. BILDSTEIN



*We dedicate this volume in memory of our mentors,
Richard “Butch” Olendorff and Frances “Fran” Hamerstrom.*