

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**RAPTOR ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
FEDERAL AID PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-33-1

PROJECT NR.: 8.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PERIOD: 1 July 2002-30 June 2003

PROJECT TITLE: The status of peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons and other raptors, and factors influencing their populations statewide.

**The Status of Alaska Raptors
And Factors Influencing Their Populations**

Project Objectives

Statewide

Objective 1: Conserve and enhance Alaska's raptors to provide for a wide range of uses for the greatest benefit of current and future generations of Alaskans.

Objective 2: Monitor populations of raptors by assessing abundance and productivity.

Objective 3: Determine the number of raptors taken from the wild by falconers.

Project Activities (Federal Aid Objectives)

Statewide:

Analyze falconry reports and estimate the number of raptors taken from the wild.

Accomplishments:

Fifty-one falconers held Alaska permits in 2003; 30 Master, 11 General and 10 Apprentice class. Nine raptors were taken from the wild for falconry; 4 Gyrfalcons, 2 American Kestrels, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, and 1 Northern Goshawk (see Figure 1 for comparison with prior years). A total of 45 raptors were held by Alaskan falconers in 2003; 25 Gyrfalcons, 7 Northern Goshawks, 6 Peregrine Falcons, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 American Kestrel, and 1 Golden Eagle. Eight Alaskans held captive breeding permits. These captive breeders had 44 Gyrfalcons and 4 Peregrine Falcons in their propagation projects. Thirteen Gyrfalcons were produced in FY2003; 8 were transferred to Alaskan falconers, 4 to Alaskan captive breeders, and 3 were transferred out of state to captive breeders or falconers.

Unit 20

Assist U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other cooperators in completion of population survey of peregrine falcons on the Tanana River in June 2004.

Monitor abundance and productivity of golden eagles in the Central Alaska Range.

Accomplishments:

ADF&G Biologists John Wright, Steve Dubois and Jack Whitman coordinated with Bob Ritchie, ABR Inc., and Hank Timm of Tetlin NWR to survey 520 km of the Tanana River for American Peregrine Falcons. ADF&G surveyed from Fairbanks to Nenana, ABR from the Robertson River to Fairbanks, and Tetlin NWR from Tetlin Crossing to the Robertson River. Thirty-nine pairs and 5 single peregrines occupied sites in early June 2003 (see Table 1 for historical comparison). Seventy nestlings were produced in 2003, or 1.7 young per pair for all territorial pairs. The number of occupied territories and young produced were similar to 2002. The peregrine population on the Tanana appears to be leveling off after growing from 1986 to 1998.

Biologist Steve Arthur, with NPS biologist Carol McIntyre, conducted surveys of Golden Eagles in the Dry Creek, Sheep Creek, Rogers Creek and Wood River drainages of the central Alaska Range. Five nests were occupied by pairs of Golden Eagles in May 2003, and 7 nestlings were observed in June. Observations of nest structures indicates there may be 12-15 nesting territories in this area. In 2002, following a crash in the snowshoe hare population, only 1 pair of incubating eagles was observed and no young were produced.

Other activities funded by federal aid on this project:

ADFG provided funds to assist the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, ABR, Inc., and Tetlin NWR in an aerial survey of Bald Eagles on the Tanana River in May 2003. The survey included the main river channel between Fairbanks and the Tetlin Bridge east of Tok. Between Fairbanks and the Robertson River, 30 sites were occupied, and an additional 20 empty nest structures were observed. In the Delta to Tetlin Bridge section, where surveys have been conducted most years since 1978, 18 sites were occupied (similar to the 19 observed in 2000; see Figure 2 for historical comparison).

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$9.1 Federal Share = \$27.5 Total Costs = \$36.6

Submitted by: John Wright, Wildlife Biologist III

Wild Raptors Taken in Alaska for Falconry

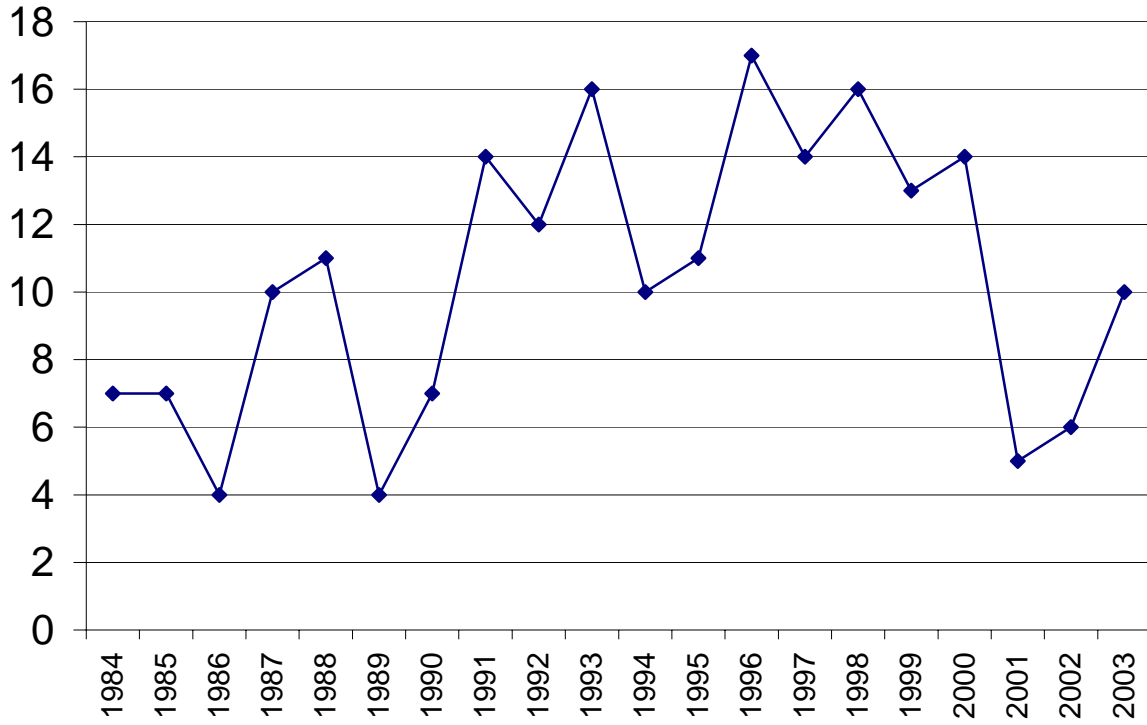


Figure 1. Wild raptors taken in Alaska by falconers, 1984-2003.

Bald Eagle Pairs, Tok to Delta, Tanana River, 1978-2003

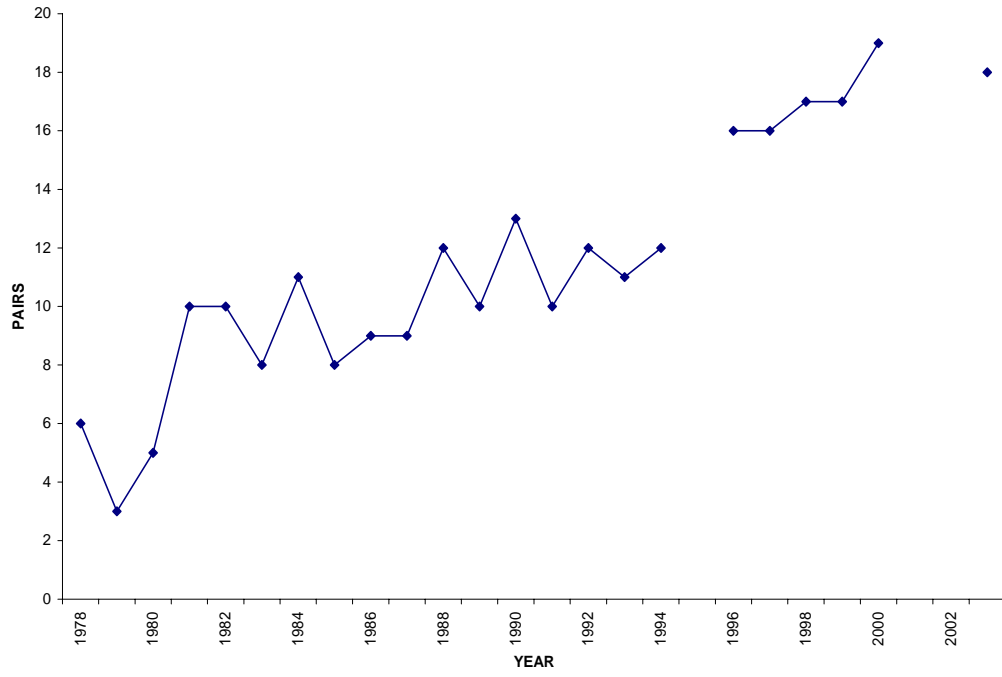


Figure 2. Number of Bald Eagle nesting pairs on the Tanana River between Delta and Tetlin Bridge, 1978-2003.

Table 1. Occupancy, nesting success, and productivity of American Peregrine Falcons on the Tanana River, Alaska, 1968-2003^a.

Year ^b	Occupancy		Productivity				
	No. Single Adults	No. Pairs	No. Successful Pairs	% Successful Pairs	Minimum No. Young	Young/ Total Pairs	Young/ Successful Pair
1968	0	12	11	92	23	1.9	2.1
1970	0	6	6	100	16	2.7	2.7
1971	0	4	3	75	9	2.3	3.0
1972	0	4	3	75	7	1.8	2.3
1973	0	4	4	100	8	2.0	2.0
1974	0	2	1	50	1	0.5	1.0
1975	1	2	0	0	0	0.0	--
1976	2	0	0	--	--	--	--
1977	0	3	1	33	1	0.3	1.0
1978	0	4	3	75	6	1.5	2.0
1979	3	3	2	67	4	1.3	2.0
1980	0	4	2	50	5	1.3	2.5
1981	0	5	5	100	12	2.4	2.4
1982	0	5	3	60	8	1.6	2.7
1983	0	5	4	80	11	2.2	2.8
1984	1	4	2	50	4	1.0	2.0
1985	0	4	3	75	5	1.3	1.7
1986	2	5	4	80	12	2.4	3.0
1987	0	8	5	63	10	1.3	2.0
1988	1	12	9	75	16	1.3	1.8
1989	0	15	11	73	29	1.9	2.6
1990	3	15	9	60	29	1.9	3.2
1991	0	20	16	80	38	1.9	2.4
1992	3	25	16	64	38	1.6	2.4
1993	1	26	19	73	62	2.4	3.3
1994	1	27	24	89	74	2.7	3.1
1995	2	34	25	74	65	1.9	2.6
1996	5	26	17	65	44	1.7	2.6
1997	3	33	28	85	70	2.1	2.5
1998	2	38	32	84	91	2.4	2.8
1999	1	39	28	72	84	2.1	3.0
2000	2	38	26	68	67	1.8	2.6
2001	5	44 ^c	24 ^c	77	64 ^c	2.1	2.7
2002	4	40	26	65	61	1.5	2.3
2003	5	39	27	69	66	1.7	2.4

^a Surveys from 1968–1984 included sites from Tanacross to Fairbanks (Site Nos. 181–471), 1985–1991 and 1996 includes sites from Tetlin Crossing to Fairbanks (Site Nos. 93.5–471), 1992–1995 and 1997–2003 includes sites from Tetlin Crossing to Nenana (Site Nos. 93.5–613). Off-river site Nos. 232.5 and 236 were not checked from 1996–2002 and off-river site No. 93.5 was not checked in 1996 or 2003.

^b Sources of data: 1968–1978 (Roseneau et al. 1981); 1979–1990 (USFWS, Endangered Species, Fairbanks, Alaska, unpublished data); 1991–1994 (Bente and Wright 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995); 1995 (P. Bente, unpublished data; Wright and Bente 1999); 1996–1998 (Ritchie and Rose 1997, 1998, 1999); 1999 (Ritchie et al. 2000); 2000 (Ritchie et al. 2001).

^c Only 33 sites were revisited during productivity surveys: 24 pairs of 31 sites with pairs were successful (76.7%)