

# Foreword

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As one who never tires of the presence of Bald Eagles in our Alaskan environment, it is a particular pleasure for me to introduce this unique book. I feel confident you will share my enthusiasm as you read through *Bald Eagles in Alaska*. The book is unique because almost all of the authors are long time Alaskans who know Bald Eagles, not as an endangered species, but as an integral part of the avifauna of the 49th state. Chapters in this text present a range of topics on culture, conservation and management as well as sound scientific data. Various papers cover the Alaska habitat from the northern rainforest to the treeless Aleutian Islands. Diverse human attitudes are presented from the Tlingit Indians to the bounty hunters; from the modern conservationists of Haines to the ambitious people of New York who are trying to replace their diminished eagle population with Bald Eagle stock from Alaska. In short, *Bald Eagles in Alaska* offers the best portrait that has ever been assembled in the status and ecology of Bald Eagles in Alaska.

Photo: Governor Hammond (left) and Chancellor Lind (right) enjoy a good laugh at a Bald Eagle Research Institute meeting in Juneau, Alaska. Photo by Scott Foster.



You can read from cover to cover or browse here and there from chapter to chapter. In either case, you will have a rewarding experience whether you are a casual reader, a biology student or a raptor scientist. As a bonus, you will get a bit of a sense of the enthusiastic reverence Alaskans (and some neighbors from Canada and other states) feel for their land and its resources. The genesis of this fine volume was at a Juneau conference in November, 1990, hosted by the American Bald Eagle Research Institute of the University of Alaska, Southeast (UAS). The objective was to produce a

reader to complement the correspondence study course in Bald Eagles offered by the biology department at UAS and to produce a compendium of the most current information on Bald Eagles of Alaska and Yukon for use by the scientific community and enjoyment of the general public. My thanks to all the splendid authors who present their work here and my warmest regards to all the Bald Eagle enthusiasts who read this book.