

Foreword

This is the RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Welcome to the 2nd edition of the *Raptor Management Techniques Manual*, now renamed *Raptor Research and Management Techniques*. I can think of no more appropriate undertaking for The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. (RRF) than to update this terrific reference, first published by the National Wildlife Federation in 1987. RRF's purpose is to stimulate the dissemination of information concerning raptorial birds among interested parties worldwide and to promote a better public understanding and appreciation of the value of birds of prey. Thus, no other endeavor could be more central to RRF's *raison d'être*, or more expressive of the manner in which knowledge within our profession is carefully passed from one generation to the next. The foundation of our professional capability is and always will be technique: the methods we apply to craft our investigations and management programs, to understand and conserve birds of prey.

Editors David Bird and Keith Bildstein, experts in their own right, have assembled a distinguished team of authors. The techniques they have synthesized are the product of hundreds of lifetimes of hard-won experience, thousands upon thousands of hours of trial and error, and tedious experimentation. As the ballet master,

George Balanchine put it, "*Behind every good idea lies horrible, exhausting work. You knock your brains out and nothing comes. ... But after you've worked hard enough, the work gradually starts taking shape.*" (Volkov 1985, page 199 in Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky: Interviews with George Balanchine*. Simon and Shuster, New York, New York, USA.). Take advantage of the experience gathered in these pages. For established practitioners, this is a tremendous resource to brush up on technique and review recent developments. For those at the start of their careers, this is a toolbox with which to build a life's body of work, implements shaped for your use by those who have walked the road you are standing on.

I am proud and delighted that RRF has taken on responsibility for this manual. I thank the National Wildlife Federation for the legacy they have passed to us, congratulate David and Keith on a job well done, and bow in appreciation to the authors who have made this 2nd edition a reality.

LEONARD YOUNG, President
The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.