

CAPTIVE BREEDING OF AUSTRALIAN RAPTORS

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ABSTRACT

Records are given of ten diurnal raptor species bred in captivity in Australia.

SUMMARY OF BREEDING SPECIES

Captive breeding of raptors has seldom been attempted in Australia, and progeny of those species bred are not used to replenish endangered species as they are in North America (e.g. Cade *et al.* 1977). The progeny are sometimes used for research (Olsen & Olsen 1980a, 1980b; Fleay 1968) but most are not.

Ten have produced young or fertile eggs in captivity (*Table 1*).

At Willmot, N.S.W., a permanently injured female Little Eagle (*Hieraetus morphnoides*) was allowed to roam free in a large open-fenced area and was visited by a wild male. They built a nest and successfully fledged young in 1981 (J. Stopford, pers. comm.).

Some other species have produced eggs of unknown viability in captivity. With the exception of the Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*), and Grey Falcon

Table 1: Australian raptors bred in captivity.

Species	Breeder	Location
Pacific Baza (<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>)	D. Fleay	Brisbane, Qld.
Whistling Kite (<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>)	D. Fleay	Brisbane, Qld.
	Taronga Park Zoo	Sydney, N.S.W.
Brahminy Kite (<i>Haliastur indus</i>) × Whistling Kite	D. Fleay	Brisbane, Qld.
Australian Goshawk (<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>)	P. & J. Olsen	Sutton, N.S.W.
Grey Goshawk (<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>)	D. Fleay	Brisbane, Qld.
Wedge-tailed Eagle (<i>Aquila audax</i>)	D. Fleay	Brisbane, Qld.
	Taronga Park Zoo	Sydney, N.S.W.
	Sir Colin McKenzie Fauna Park	Healesville, Vic.
Swamp Harrier (<i>Circus approximans</i>)	Taronga Park Zoo	Sydney, N.S.W.
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus macropus</i>)	J. Robinson	Adelaide, S.A.
	P. & J. Olsen	Sutton, N.S.W.
	Melbourne Zool. Gardens	Melbourne, Vic.
	Sulman Falcon Centre	Bahrain
Brown Falcon (<i>Falco berigora</i>)	P. & J. Olsen	Sutton, N.S.W.
Australian Kestrel (<i>Falco cenchroides</i>)	P. & J. Olsen	Sutton, N.S.W.
	Melbourne Zool. Gardens	Melbourne, Vic.

(*Falco hypoleucus*), all 24 diurnal Australian raptors and all Australian owls are currently held in captivity.

D. Fleay (Fleay 1968 & pers. comm.) has bred all species of Australian owl except the Rufous Owl (*Ninox rufa*), i.e. the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Boobook Owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*), Barking Owl (*Ninox connivens*), Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*), Grass Owl (*Tyto longimembris*) and Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*).

Most captive breeding attempts with diurnal raptors have been made with permanently injured birds. Few have been removed from the wild solely for that purpose. We know of no attempts to artificially inseminate raptors in Australia.

At our Sutton, N.S.W. facility, we use a number of unreleasable raptors for research and had the following breeding results in 1981 (Table 2):

Table 2: Breeding success of captive raptors at Sutton Facility in 1981.

Species	Why unreleasable	Breeding result
Australian Goshawk (<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>)		
6	Injured wing	Young
1?	Injured tarsi	
Black Falcon (<i>Falco subniger</i>)		
	Injured wing	Nil
	Injured wing	
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus macropus</i>)		
h	Injured wing	Infertile eggs
15	Hand raised	
9	Injured wing	Infertile eggs
14	Hand raised	
9	Injured wing	Young
1	Hand raised	
Brown Falcon (<i>Falco berigora</i>)		
9	Missing wing	Fertile eggs
1	Missing wing	
1	Injured wing	Fertile eggs
1	Injured wing	
Australian Kestrel (<i>Falco cenchroides</i>)		
1?	Injured wing	Young
	Injured wing	

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