

# ***Fish and Game Asks Dead Hawks and Owls***

Alaskans can help wildlife scientists by bringing in any hawks or owls they happen to find dead in the field. Each year numerous hawks and owls die of natural causes. Occasionally trappers accidentally catch birds of prey in their traps.

"These birds are valuable sources of information," says Jerry McGowan, the Department of Fish and Game's upland game bird biologist. "We are interested in obtaining as many specimens as possible," McGow-

an continued, "so that we can add to what little we know about these Alaskan birds."

McGowan pointed out that it is illegal to shoot any bird of prey, or to keep them either dead or alive without a permit from the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fish and Wildlife and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Such permits are issued to museums, zoos, and scientific or educational institutions, but not to individuals for their own purposes.

Please take any dead hawk, owl, or eagle you see to your local Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife Service office.

"If such a bird is found near Fairbanks call 452-1531 and I will pick it up," McGowan said.

"This is one small way that Alaskans can help to protect and manage a class of wildlife that has been greatly misunderstood and abused in the smaller states. Hopefully we can do a better job of caring for hawks and owls in Alaska."