

An article in **Wildlife's** Sept/Oct 1987 issue by J.A. Zak Ball describes the discovery and observation over a week of at least one peregrine falcon in Tchipite Valley in Sequoia/Kings Canyon NP. Zak writes about the five-person research team effort, "humbly titled The Kings Canyon Peregrine Expedition of 1987."

In 1970 only two peregrines were known to nest in California and no nests were known in the Sierra Nevada. About 400 birds have been reintroduced into the wild since 1977, and nearly 80 pairs are now known to nest in the state. Discovery of this falcon is the first evidence that reintroduction efforts have succeeded in that section of the Sierras.

Zak is raptor biologist for the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, which has been responsible for the captive-breeding and reintroduction of this endangered species.

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Specific issues of the so-called Gaia hypothesis were discussed in a March conference in San Diego that brought 162 researchers together under the auspices of the American Geophysical Union – reports of which reached **Park Science** from Gary Davis, NPS Research Scientist at Channel Islands NP. Paul Ehrlich discounted the Gaia theory in a keynote address but recognized its importance in calling attention to the interconnectedness of the entire global environment. Others cited specific research that they claim contributes to the view of Earth as a living organism. The father of the Gaia theory, British scientist James Lovelock, writes: "Organisms do not just 'adapt' to a dead world determined by physics and chemistry alone. They live with a world that is the breath and bones of their ancestors and that they are now sustaining."

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