

Diversity, a news journal for the plant genetic resources community (published by Genetic Resources Communications Systems, Inc., 727 8th St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003), has published a 20-page summary of the May 9-11, 1988 Beltsville Symposium XIII, on Biotic Diversity and Germplasm Preservation – Global Imperatives, held at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Md. While most of the coverage dealt with germplasm utilization, collection, and data management, attention also was given to threatened habitats. Rodrigo Gamez from the Center for Investigation of Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Costa Rica, described Central America's and Mexico's focal position in world history as a center of biotic diversity and the current disruption of ecosystems there as a result of rapidly growing population, complex political and socioeconomic pressures, and ignorance of sustainable agriculture and forestry practices. Disappearance of irreplaceable germplasm may well occur, he predicted, depending on how successful is the conservation of the wide range of habitats and cultural traditions typical of the area. "This task," he said, "will be attainable only if perceived as a shared responsibility of Central American, Mexican, and industrialized nations."

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A female peregrine falcon named Red-Red, born at Cornell University's peregrine breeding facility in Ithaca, NY, and released two years ago at Acadia NP in Maine, made page 420 in Vol. 241 of *Science* when she gave birth recently at the NY Hospital-Cornell Medical Center – the result of a whirlwind romance with a city slicker who "literally swept her off her feet" in the Naked City.

The raptor romance was reported because of its part in the resurgence of the endangered peregrine in the eastern United States, where 67 known nesting pairs now compare favorably to the situation 8 years ago, when no such nesting pairs were known there.

Red-Red chose to nest in the Cornell-affiliated Medical Center in Queens on a ledge between the 24th and 25th floors on the building's east side, using the nearby open spaces and water as hunting area for providing her two babies with all the pigeons, starlings and sparrows they need.

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News of two new publications comes from the California Native Plant Society. *Conservation and Manage-*

ment of Rare and Endangered Plants, edited by Thomas Elias, director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, is somewhat of a minor publishing miracle. It became available for distribution less than one year after the conference at which its collection of papers were delivered. Its 640 pages include abstracts, bibliographies, index and illustrations and record the proceedings of the largest conference ever held in North America to address rare and endangered plants. ISBN 0-943460-11-5 (clothbound) is \$45; ISBN 0-943460-12-3 (softbound) is \$24.95.

A new, expanded edition (1988) of *Terrestrial Vegetation of California*, edited by Michael G. Barbour and Jack

Major of U/Cal/Davis has already sold out its first printing, and a second printing became available in August 1988 for \$57.50 plus tax and shipping (ISBN 0-943460). This 1,036 pp. illustrated volume is the standard reference work and includes the famous, large-format A.W. Kuchler *Vegetation Map of California*, full color, showing distribution of 54 vegetation zones.

Both books may be ordered from the CNPS at 909 12th St., Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95814. (916) 447-2677.

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