Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527550

3.3(h)(2)
6.2(d)
3.5(c)

CONFIDENTIAL

ORD-2007-74

16 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit [redacted] Re Basic Bird Support Capability, [redacted] and Staff

REFERENCE: ORD-1992-74 (Progress Report #1)

1. The attached Progress Report accurately represents the R&D that has taken place since the recent initiation of the contract. As planned, bird procurement and facility construction has constituted the primary activity. Both efforts have exceeded expectations. As indicated in the referenced report, bird capture required more than 2,000 miles travelling in remote regions with improvised techniques for capture. The addition to the staff of a former employee of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has aided considerably in bird procurement and initial domestication. The expected hiring of [redacted] (who has an M.S. degree in Ornithology) will provide valuable scientific assistance to the project. The bird holding and training facilities have been expanded considerably--largely at company expenses. Photos of the new facilities are being provided. The sensory discrimination experiments are currently underway, and two red-tailed hawks have been conditioned to respond to a 6 Hz tone and to discriminate a triangle from other random geometric figures. Response generalization to these stimuli will be evaluated in accordance with the bird's conditioning rate.

2. The proposed experimental program was discussed with [redacted] and his staff. The program includes laboratory studies of target cue discrimination (both auditory and visual) as well as field training for generalization from a building model or simulation to a real life-size building in an environment to which the bird has never been exposed. It is [redacted] task, on the basis of our discussion, to write up the experimental program in detail and to forward same to sponsor for final approval.

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
AND METHODS INVOLVED

E2 IMPDET
CL by [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527550

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527550

SUBJECT: Visit to [redacted] e Basic Bird Support Capability, [redacted] and Staff

3. Taking all factors into consideration, there are no apparent problems associated with the project, and current progress is ahead of schedule.

[redacted]
LSR/ORD/DD/S&T

Attachment:
ORD-1992-74

Distribution:
Original - LSR & D/ORD
1 - LSR CHRONO
1 - ORD REG.

LSR/ORD/DD/S&T/[redacted];3658

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527550

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527550

P ect 13-3951-001
Progress Report #1
March 18 - April 18, 1974

GRD # 1992-74

LEARNING BEHAVIOR OF BIRDS BY STIMULUS GENERALIZATION

Most of the effort during the first month was expended in collection of raptors. The present inventory includes two Red Tail Hawks, four Harris Hawks and four Great Hroned Owl eyess. [redacted] in one telephone conversation stated that he will be able to supply us with two Red Tails that are conditioned to controlled flight. [redacted] is interested in the Prairie Falcon and indicates that it might be equal to or superior to the Peale Falcon. The Peale Falcon is the maritime species of the Peregrine and is on the endangered species list. Through a reference in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department we obtained the name of [redacted] Ornithologist, [redacted] for contact as a Prairie Falcon supplier. In a telephone conversation with [redacted] he seemed willing to send us two Prairie Falcon eyess in about 30 days. Moreover, he volunteered to send us tow Lanner Falcons for conditioning behavior experiments and for audio frequency testing.

We have requested the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to modify our permit to increase the number of raptor species to include several falcons and the Black Headed Vulture. We also have conversed with the Department of Interior concerning issuing of a Federal permit. Applications are forthcoming. We have covered an area from South of Austin, Texas to Laredo, Texas on a belt approximately 50 miles wide in the pursuit of birds. The estimated number of miles covered was 2,000.

To help us in the collection of birds and in training exercise we employed a former employee of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and are presently making arrangements with [redacted] in Ornithology to join us in early June.

Our plans are to increase the number of Harris Hawks, Red Tails (eyess and adults) and to obtain black headed vultures and falcons.

A muse for containment of owls is near completion. Two flyways or operant conditioning indoor areas have been completed. We have managed to maintain a continuous supply of mice for use in nutrition of birds and for positive reinforcement of behavior.

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527550

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527550

Presently we are in the process of conditioning two Red Tail Hawks to fly 20 feet from a perch to a black triangular target paired with a tone at 6,500 hertz. The speaker is located at the target site. These birds are responsive and are at the stage of conditioning where discrimination training can be practiced.

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527550