SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 25-27, 1992

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY

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Raptors and Owls (Falconiformes et Strigiformes - Aves) from the Archaeological Excavations in Bulgaria

Abstract submitted - paper not to be presented

All archaeozoological data about diurnal and nocturnal raptors (vultures, eagles, falcons, hawks, and owls) from Bulgaria are presented. Four thousand six hundred and eighty-five bones and bone fragments of birds are collected from 29 archaeological sites in the country. In 16 of them, 77 bone remains (1.64%) of raptor birds are established. They cover a very lengthened period - from the Upper Paleolithic (c. 31,900 years B.P.) to the Medieval Ages (12th century A.D.). The species composition is wide. It contains 21 species - 17 raptors and 4 owls. The most numerous are the Griffon Vulture and the Towny Owl, registered in 4 settlements. The Golden Eagle, the Eagle Owl, the Goshawk, and the Buzzard are established in 3 sites. Some interesting rare birds as Lammergeier and Bonelli's Eagle are proved for two settlements. Among other species are the Black Vulture, Lesser-Spotted Eagle, Saker Falcon, Hen Harrier, Honney Buzzard, Hobby, Kestrel, Red-Footed Falcon, Little Owl, Long-Eared Owl, etc. The Lammergeier, Black Vulture, and (?) Red-Footed Falcon are disappeared and 12 (13) species are endangered and rare species in the recent Bulgarian avifauna.

All of these wild birds have shared the home of settlements of the ancient men since deep antiquity. Some of them have been used for various purposes, but the great number belongs to indifferent species-companions of man during his historical development on the Bulgarian lands.

Brandt, Carol B. (Zuni Archaeology Program, Zuni, New Mexico)

Preserving Traditional Crops in Rural Indigenous Communities: An Example from the Pueblo of Zuni

Present Day Interactions with Plant and Animal Species
Friday, March 27, Room 3027, 9:40 A.M.

In the last one hundred years the Pueblo of Zuni in west-central New Mexico has been confronted with a reduction of traditional lands, the introduction of a cash economy, and the destruction of valuable farmland. Crops that once sustained the Zuni people are now threatened with extinction. To prevent the loss of these resources, the Traditional Zuni Crops Project was undertaken in the Fall of 1991. The goals of this project are to document crop diversity on the Zuni preservation and to collect donations of traditional Zuni crops for preservation in a tribal seed bank. Fifty households were interviewed concerning crops grown from year to year in their fields and gardens, as well as the source of seed stock for each crop variety. The survey found that those traditional crops that are more common in the Zuni community are those that are closely associated with the Zuni religious activities and ceremonial calendar. Attitudes towards sharing seed through a tribal seed bank were also documented, revealing the role of seed in many of the winter ceremonies. This data emphasizes that traditional crops are perceived by the community as an important cultural resource, integral to Zuni cultural identity. Insights such as these are an important preliminary step in designing a local seed bank program that will be able to serve the community in ways that the people recognize as being appropriate and useful.