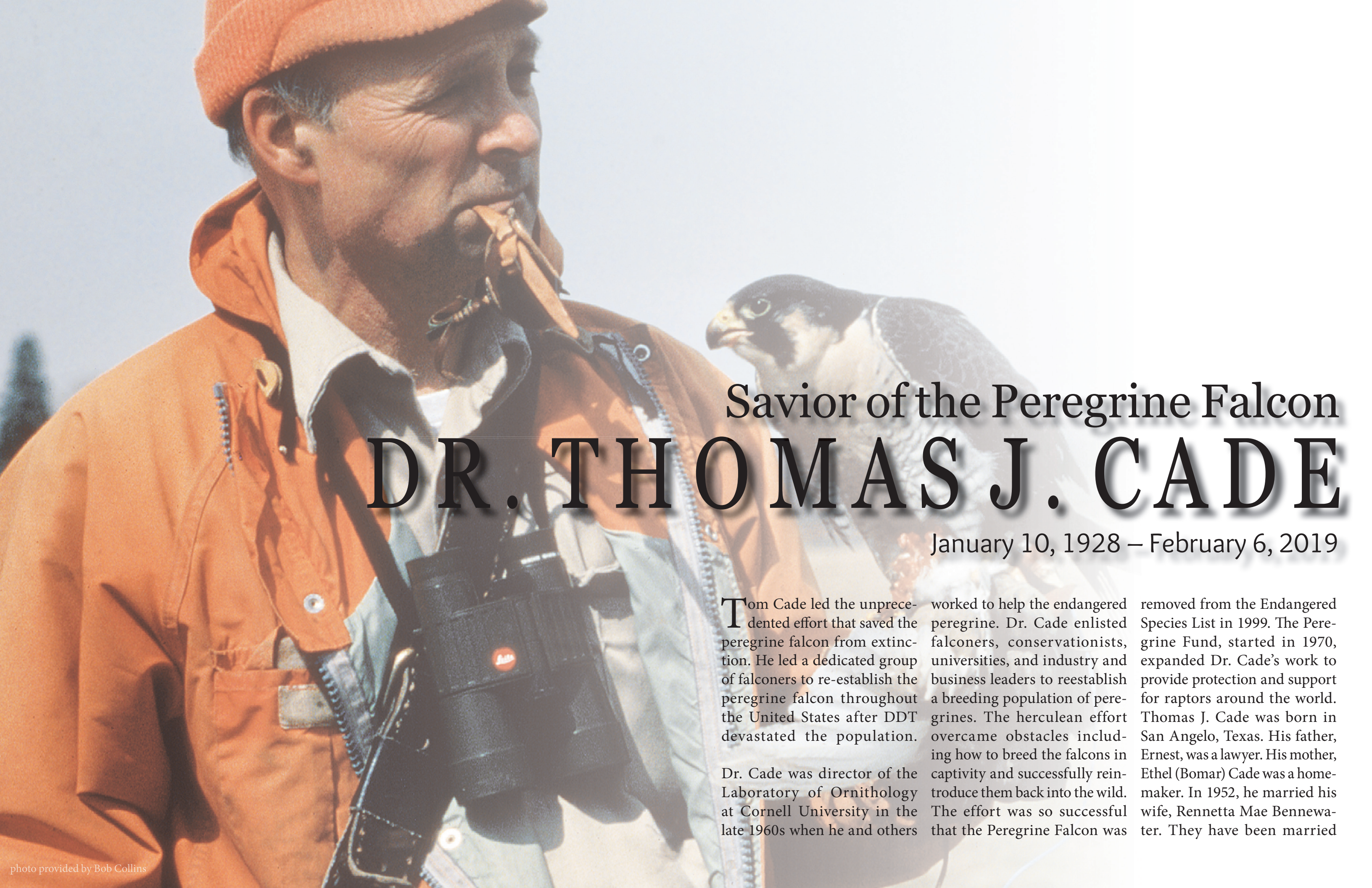




Savior of the Peregrine Falcon DR. THOMAS J. CADE

January 10, 1928 – February 6, 2019

Tom Cade led the unprecedented effort that saved the peregrine falcon from extinction. He led a dedicated group of falconers to re-establish the peregrine falcon throughout the United States after DDT devastated the population.

Dr. Cade was director of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University in the late 1960s when he and others

worked to help the endangered peregrine. Dr. Cade enlisted falconers, conservationists, universities, and industry and business leaders to reestablish a breeding population of peregrines. The herculean effort overcame obstacles including how to breed the falcons in captivity and successfully reintroduce them back into the wild. The effort was so successful that the Peregrine Falcon was

removed from the Endangered Species List in 1999. The Peregrine Fund, started in 1970, expanded Dr. Cade's work to provide protection and support for raptors around the world. Thomas J. Cade was born in San Angelo, Texas. His father, Ernest, was a lawyer. His mother, Ethel (Bomar) Cade was a homemaker. In 1952, he married his wife, Rennetta Mae Bennewater. They have been married

ever since and have five children, Maria Jo, Brian, Cheryl, Thomas Alan and Ernest Drew.

After serving in the Army in 1946 and 1947, Tom studied peregrines at the University of Alaska where he received his Bachelor's Degree in biology in 1951. He earned a master's degree at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1955 and his PhD there in 1957.

Tom began experimenting with breeding kestrels and peregrines after joining the faculty at Syracuse University. Cornell recruited him in 1967 and accepted his condition that Cornell builds a falcon breeding barn to further his

“No one who sees a peregrine falcon fly can ever forget the beauty and thrill of that flight!”

goal. Meanwhile, Dr. Cade, with Frank Bond, Bob Beery, and Jim Weaver, started the Peregrine Fund, which has since worked helping scores of species in 65 countries.

Tom was the organization's founding chairman. In the 1980s, the Peregrine Fund relo-

cated to Boise, Idaho and established the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey. Dr. Cade finished his career at Boise State University, retiring in 1993.

In a 1980 interview with the New York Times, Dr. Cade gave a simple explanation

for his life's work: “No one who sees a peregrine falcon fly can ever forget the beauty and thrill of that flight!”

photo provided by Bob Collins

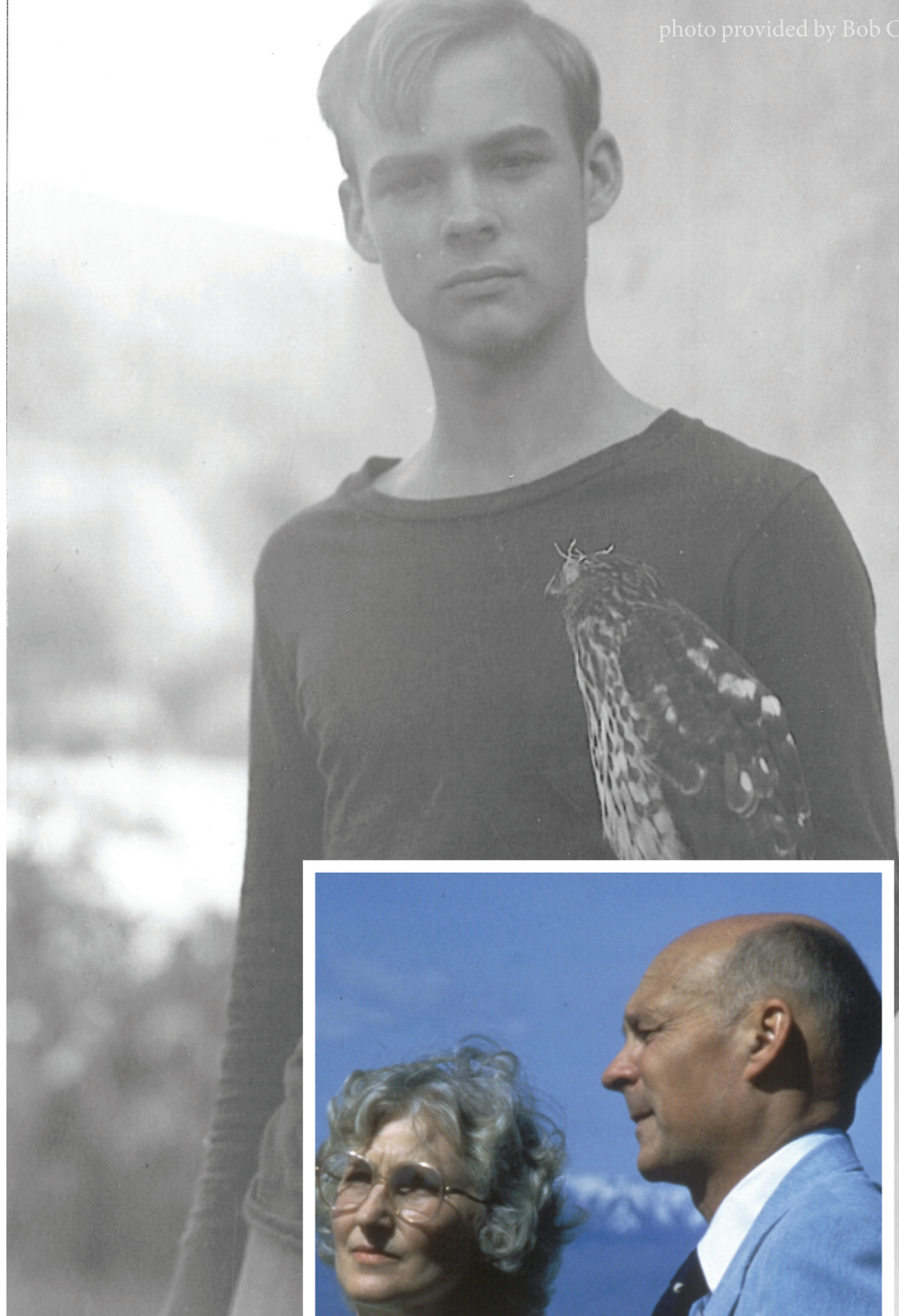


photo provided by Bob Collins

Tom Cade

A LIFE IN SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

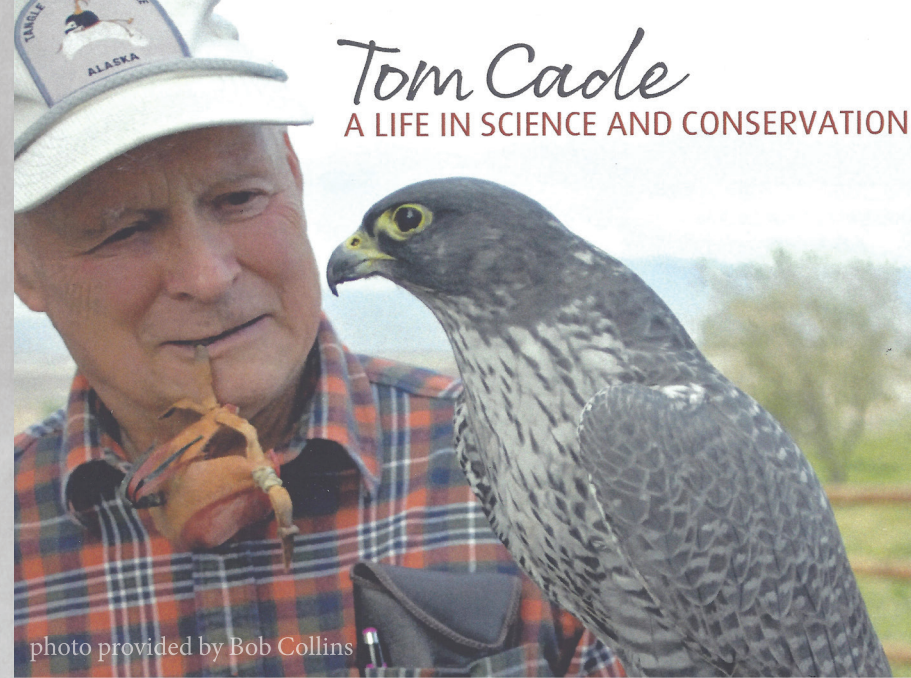


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“Once you float the Utukok, you can never forget it!”

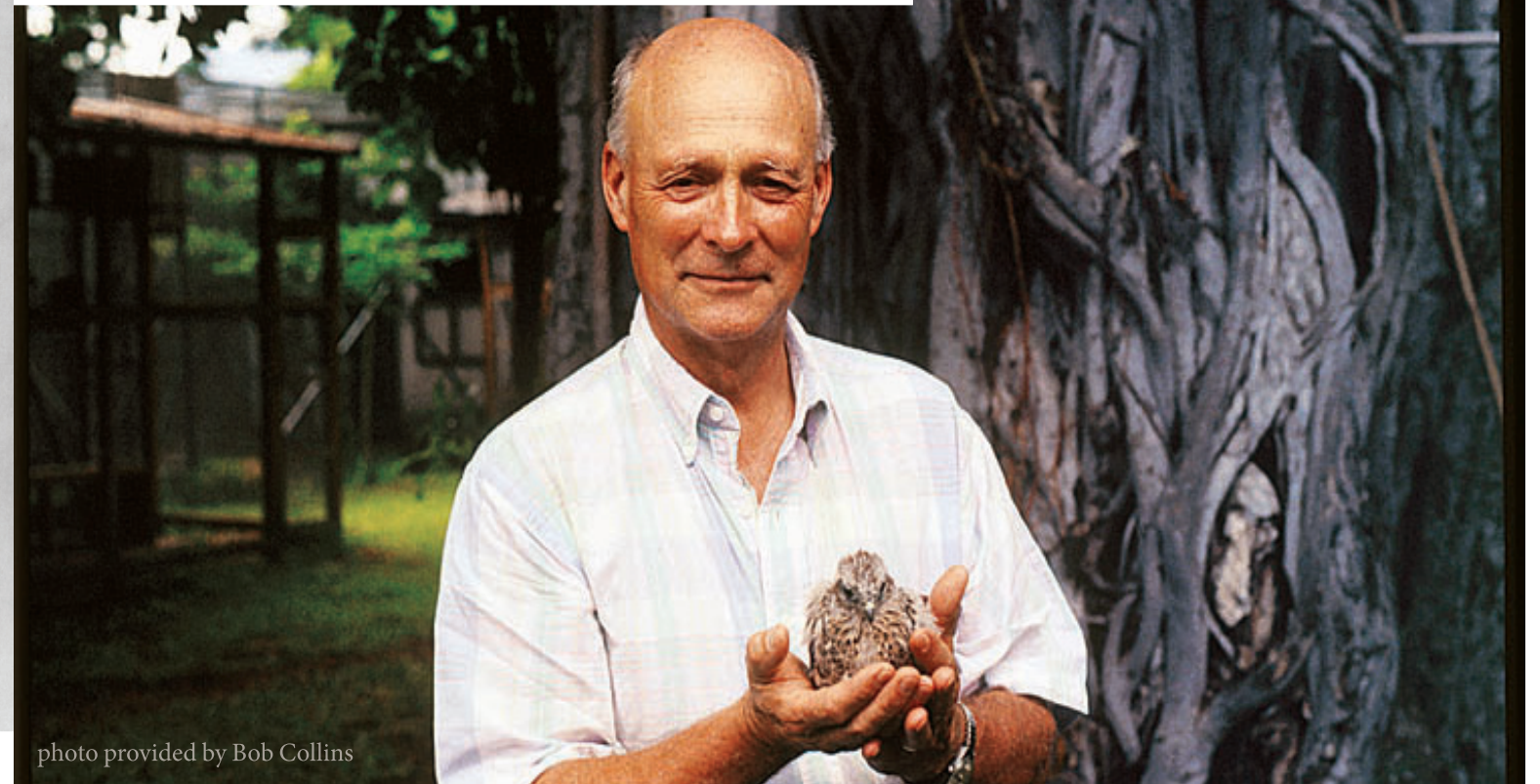


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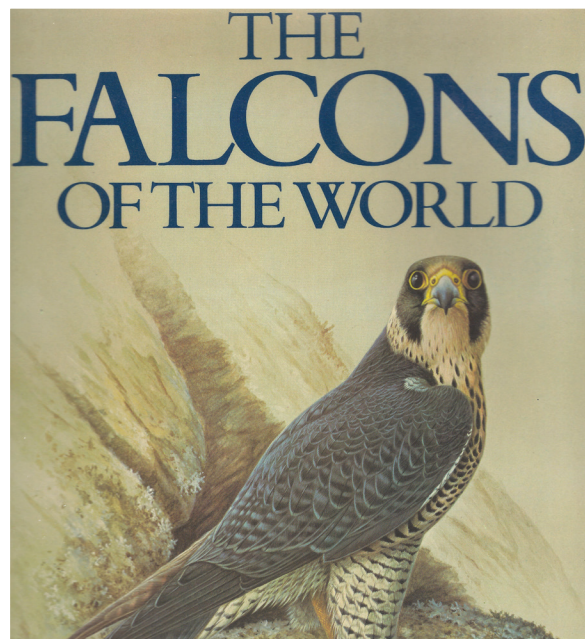
Tom Cade loved Alaska. At a recent dinner during a meeting of The Peregrine Fund's Board of Directors, Tom remarked that he enjoyed his time in Alaska so much that, but for family and educational opportunities, he likely

would have remained in Alaska for the rest of his life. In his autobiography, *A Life in Science and Conservation*, Tom fondly describes his float trip adventures on the north slope despite their life-threatening dangers. He writes “Once you float

the Utukok, you can never forget it!” Tom's float trips along the Yukon and the Colville established benchmarks for peregrine and gyrfalcon research. This book is worth reading for the Alaska adventures alone. In his recent book *Peregrine*



Peregrine Fund is conducting a long term study of the effect of climate change on raptors, principally the gyrfalcon. During that trip, John Earthman hosted Tom and an experienced talented team of raptor biologists for a memorable crab feast. the failure of the local guide to return for him caused him to hike over 40 miles overland across the island back to Gambell while eating dried sealskin and seabirds. He had received his first scientific grant, \$500, from The Arctic Institute of North America for his bird study of the island. He, with others, published approximately six scientific papers as a result of that grant – which, he writes, was a better dollar for dollar value than anything he had done since.



Falcons of the World, co-authored with Clayton White and James Enderson, Tom describes peregrine populations, or lack thereof, on Diomed Islands, St. Lawrence Island, the Pribilof Islands, the Seward Peninsula, North American Tundra Peregrines, Anatum Peregrines, and Peale's Peregrines.

Tom returned to the Seward Peninsula in 2015 where the

Tom talked about that dinner for months! Tom's adventures on St. Lawrence Island in the early 1950s were remarkable. His study of the seabird colonies,

The first publication Tom ever did was on the Peregrine. While a student at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks, he found an eyrie at Chena Bluffs. He published a note in the Auk in 1951 on the diet of the Peregrine on the Tanana River. Tom was hooked on the study of Peregrines in Alaska.

One might say that his love of Peregrines in Alaska led him, eventually, to save them from extinction.

Bob Collins

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