

only once before. The proposal attracted wide support among bird lovers and conservationists. Cade's Peregrine Fund now has a budget of \$175,000, about half of which comes from private sources.

The biological basis of the restoration plan has been widely discussed. At a conference convened in February 1974

by the National Audubon Society and attended by federal officials, the strategy decided upon was to introduce peregrines of as diverse a genetic background as possible, allowing nature to select out the most suitable in place of the lost population.

In line with this policy of maximum ge-

netic heterogeneity, Cade obtained peregrines from Scotland and Spain as well as Canada to serve as breeding stock.

By the end of last year the Peregrine Fund had raised 229 falcons, of which 133 have been released. A breeding population in the wild has not yet been established, but the goal seems within reach.

Old Boy System Produces Geologic Survey Chief

Some 5 months after the Carter Administration requested the resignation of the previous Director of the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS)—a move that prompted a hue and cry among geologists that the survey was being "politicized"—the Administration has finally picked a new chief. He is Henry William Menard, a veteran Scripps Institution of Oceanography geology professor who was prominent in gathering data about the Pacific Ocean floor in the 1950's that, together with similar data for the Atlantic, led to the theory of sea-floor spreading. Menard is also known for having published some spicy views both on oil drilling policy and science-government relations.

However, the outstanding thing about the choice of Menard, whom other senior geologists describe as an extremely respected colleague, is that he is "one of the boys" and will doubtless be considered fully credentialed as a scientist to run one of the country's oldest and most "apolitical" federal science agencies.

This is not to say that Menard is a stranger to Washington: he has served on several National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panels, including the study of the impact of the Florida everglades jetport, the committee on science and public policy, the commission on natural resources, and the committee that advises the Council on Environmental Quality on offshore oil policy. Menard has also served on a President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) panel that studied the impact of the Santa Barbara oil spill. Since his political activities seem to have been confined to the traditional confines of PSAC and the NAS, Menard's appointment should soothe the fears of some senior geologists that the Carter Administration would put an unqualified hack in the job.

Geologists who are studying Menard's background for auguries of the future seem most interested in the fact that Menard will be the first USGS director to be an expert in marine, rather than land, geology and resource exploration. In part, this is seen as a sign of changing trends in the field, where marine geology has exploded rapidly since the late 1950's. But it is also relevant to some of USGS's developing responsibilities.

For instance, the USGS now advises the Bureau of Land Management on the geologic and financial soundness of industry bids for offshore oil drilling leases; the USGS also regulates offshore drilling activities once licenses have been issued. While the most controversial drilling for oil, which will be off the Eastern seaboard of the United States, has been held up by the courts, it is widely believed that the volume of drilling in this area will mushroom in the near future.

Menard will also inherit a controversy now going on

within the Administration over whether the USGS or some other agency—the ocean mining office in the Department of the Interior or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Department of Commerce—will regulate deep ocean mining of sea floor minerals—another future resource activity.

USGS could also have expanded marine responsibilities as a result of final passage of the Outer Continental Lands Act amendments now before Congress. Some versions of the amendments, which have so far only passed the Senate, have altered USGS's role by ordering it to conduct some actual offshore drilling. Finally, USGS has an important new land-based activity: responsibility for earthquake prediction, for which its budget for fiscal 1978 is a whopping 167 percent higher than that for fiscal 1977.

The Menard appointment also is a sign of how well the Carter Administration is faring in attracting top-ranked scientists to its team, and whether this has been hurt by the clumsy firing of Vincent McKelvey, a career USGS official and the first director whose appointment was terminated by an incoming President since the survey was founded in 1879 (*Science*, 23 September 1977).

As it promised, the Administration followed the traditional procedure of requesting a slate of qualified names from the NAS and selecting the survey director from among them.

However, conversations with several people involved in the NAS search say that Menard's name was not among the original five to be sent to the Administration by the NAS last September. It is not known what exactly followed, but some people who were either on that list or close runners up, such as Charles Drake of Dartmouth College and Creighton Burke of the University of Texas at Austin, apparently discouraged feelers from the Administration as to whether they were interested in accepting the post. It is not known whether Randolph W. Bromery, the black ex-USGS geologist now at the University of Massachusetts who was rumored at one time to be the lead candidate, was indeed approached about the USGS directorship.

Thus, the Carter Administration has succeeded in attracting a very reputable scientist for the USGS job, and one who, by all accounts, will handle the job in a responsible, probably low-key manner. At least Menard does not seem to be today's equivalent of John Wesley Powell, the red-bearded, one-armed veteran of the battle of Shiloh, who conquered the Colorado river and did other daring things, developing his own political following, before becoming USGS director in 1881.—DEBORAH SHAPLEY

