

**2005 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation
hosted by the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay
October 12-16, 2005**

Submitted by:

Dan Varland, Conference Committee Chair, Raptor Research Foundation
Bob Howe, Director, Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, University of Wisconsin,
Green Bay, and *John Jacobs*, Neville Public Museum of Brown County

Co-hosts:

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Neville Public Museum of Brown County,
and the Bay Area Bird Club

Venue:

Regency Suites Hotel and KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI
Primary Contact: Kari Moody, Marketing and Promotion Sales Manager

Number Registered Attendees: 132 and **Volunteers:** 28

Program Book: The program book was printed at the University of Wisconsin
Green Bay (UWGB) Copy Center. Extra program books were sold for \$5 each.
We printed an additional 50 program books.

Financial: A profit of \$8,905.08 was for RRF on the conference (see pp 7-8).

Organizing Committee: Committee members communicated by email and
telephone, including periodic conference calls. Conference call costs were paid
for by the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity and originated from that location.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Bob Howe, Local Committee Chair | Cofrin Center for Biodiversity |
| Kim McKeefry | Cofrin Center for Biodiversity |
| Angela Matz | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |
| Dan Varland | Rayonier Inc. |
| John Jacobs | Neville Public Museum of Brown County |
| Noel Cutright | We Energies |
| Don Van Duyse | Bay Area Bird Club |

Chair, Scientific Program: Angela Matz

Chair, One-Day Special Session: *Raptors and Education:* Kate Davis, Raptors
of the Rockies

Special Presentations:

Keynote Address: *The Recovery, Management, and Future of Wisconsin's
Peregrines*, by Greg Septon, Society of *Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus*, Ltd.
(following opening remarks, Thursday morning)

Special Presentation: *In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*, by Jim Fitzpatrick, Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center, Hastings, Minnesota and John Fitzpatrick, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY (late Saturday afternoon, following the paper session)

Special Presentation: Live raptors with a narrative about each, by Marge Gibson, Raptor Education Group, Antigo, WI (during the banquet Saturday evening)

Special Lecture: *Raptors as Predator Models in Ethology*, by Alberto Palleroni, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (at the Friday evening barbeque)

Outside Financial Support (Sponsorships): Contacts were made by Noel Cutright

Peregrine Level (\$1,000)

We Energies
American Transmission Company
Xcel Energy
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
Raptor Education Group

Merlin Level (\$500)

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

Kestrel Level (\$100-200)

Madison Gas & Electric
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
Marge and Don Gibson
Aluma-Form/Dixie Electrical Manufacturing Company
Bay Area Bird Club
Brown County Izaak Walton League
Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative

Total Donations = \$6,400

Outreach: Announcements were printed in newsletters: *Wingspan* (RRF), *Ornithological Newsletter* (OSNA), *The Wildlifer* (The Wildlife Society). One-page announcements were sent to more than 20 colleges and universities in Wisconsin.

Web Site Presence. RRF Webmaster Carl Marti maintained information on the conference, which included: a one-page meeting announcement (beginning one year prior to the meeting), sponsor names and their contribution levels though not specific amounts (6-8 weeks prior), the scientific program (3 weeks prior), and the meeting program book (1 week prior). On-line registration was not available.

Email. Two email announcements regarding the 2005 conference were sent to the membership: one in June to correct an error in the email address of Angela

Matz in the circular and a second in September reminding people of the upcoming meeting and asking attendees to bring auction items.

Registration:

Registration Circulars. Registration circulars were printed at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay (UWGB) Print Shop, then shipped to Allen Press in Kansas for distribution to the RRF membership. The circulars were mailed to the members as an insert with the March 2005 issue of the *Journal of Raptor Research*. Allen Press, which handles printing and mailing of the Journal, handled this; they required that the circular be in their hands one week prior to mailing. The phone number at Allen Press is 1-800-627-0326.

Mailing the circular to members resulted in considerable savings over direct mailing. Total cost was \$238 (\$0.045 per insert, with 1,047 inserts; a “make-ready” charge of \$190). Registration circular mailing cost for meeting in Bakersfield in 2004 was \$438 and was \$915 for the meeting in Anchorage in 2003.

Registration fees in 2005, shown below, were somewhat higher than they were in 2003 and 2004. Also, for the Green Bay meeting, student registration fees were not increased as the conference start date drew closer. It was thought this would encourage student involvement in the meeting and that it was a fairer approach for this group. We thought that students would be less likely to become aware of the conference until they arrived for fall classes when registration deadlines for lower fees had passed.

| | Registration Time | | |
|---|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| | Early | Mid | Late |
| 2003 in Anchorage, AK & 2004 Bakersfield, CA | | | |
| Member | \$110 | \$125 | \$145 |
| Non-member | \$120 | \$135 | \$155 |
| Student | \$60 | \$75 | \$95 |
| 2005 in Green Bay, WI | | | |
| | June 30 | Sept 15 | After Sept 15 |
| Member | \$120 | \$135 | \$155 |
| Non-member | \$130 | \$145 | \$165 |
| Student | \$65 | \$65 | \$65 |

^a One-day attendees were charged registration fees of \$60 or \$45 (students).

A total of 132 people registered for the conference (see below); 117 of these for the 3-day conference and 15 for one day only.

| | Number | % of total | Cumulative % |
|---------------------------------|--------|------------|--------------|
| Registered Early (June 30) | 24 | 18 | 18 |
| Registered Mid (Sept 15) | 58 | 44 | 62 |
| Registered Late (after Sept 15) | 17 | 13 | 75 |
| Registered During Conference | 33 | 25 | 100 |
| Total | 132 | 100 | 100 |

Conference fees (i.e., registration, BBQ, and banquet) were processed by the Cofrin Center. Pre-conference payments were allowed by check or money order. On-site registration, the day before and during the conference, was allowed by check, cash, or credit card. (Note: it was not discovered until the conference got underway that on-line payment by credit card was possible through the university).

Refunds – one no show but no refunds were given

Guests. Guests of registrants paid \$10 each to attend the opening reception (ice breaker) and poster session.

Social Events.

Opening Reception. This event was held in the Regency Suites Atrium on Wednesday, October 12, from 6:00-9:00PM. Registration was held concurrently from 5:00-9:00PM. A cash bar and food was provided; food costs were covered by the registration fees.

Poster Session and Reception. The poster session was held in the Conference Center Lobby on Thursday, October 13, from 5:30-8:30PM. Thirteen posters were on display; they were taped to the walls with blue painter's tape rather than mounted on poster board on free standing easels. A cash bar and food were provided; food costs were covered by the registration fees.

Barbecue: The barbecue was held indoors at the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity on the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay campus from 6:00 until 9:00PM on Friday, October 14. Conference attendees were shuttled by bus or drove separately to the Cofrin Center, a 10-minute drive from the Regency Suites. We had planned to shuttle folks with a double-decker bus owned by the KI Center (fee of \$100), but this option fell through when the bus had mechanical problems a few days prior to the conference. The KI Center informed us of the problem and arranged for transportation by black-and-yellow school bus. Food was provided at the barbeque by the university food service, and included hamburgers, grilled chicken, and bratwurst. A cash bar was provided. The barbeque was \$20 per person and was not covered by the registration fee.

Two highlights of the barbeque were:

An opportunity for attendees to take a self-guided tour of the Cofrin Center's Richter Museum of Natural History, one of Wisconsin's most significant collections of animal specimens for scientific research and education. Museum curator Tom Erdman was present to comment on the collections and answer questions.

A one-hour lecture by Harvard's Alberto Palleroni, *Raptors as Predator Models in Ethology*

Banquet:

The Regency Suites asked for 3 days advance notice on the number of banquet meals needed for the banquet. We made arrangements with the hotel to notify them 2.5 days early, which was after the first break on Thursday, opening day. An announcement was made during the conference opening remarks that banquet ticket sales would close following the first break. A total of 72 meals were identified as needed by the deadline (70 for ticket purchasers and two for students receiving awards at the banquet); 80 meals were ordered in case others came forward asking to purchase banquet tickets before Saturday evening.

No additional banquet tickets were sold. The extra eight tickets were given away after the ivory-billed woodpecker presentation about a half-hour before the banquet.

Banquet ticket sales summary.

| | Number of tickets | Number Registered | % of total |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Total sales prior to attendee arrival | 57 | 98 | 58% |
| Cumulative total by cutoff in ticket sales ^a | 70 | 124 | 56% |

^a 10:30AM, October 12 (first day).

The banquet was held in Ballroom B at the Regency Suites on Saturday, October 15. The banquet ran from 6:00PM until 10:30PM (see schedule below). Dinner was served at 8:00PM instead of 7:00PM as initially planned because we were informed music would begin for a wedding party in a room adjacent to ours at 8:00PM. We were concerned the music from the wedding party might be an issue during the RRF program.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 6:00-7:00PM | Social with silent auction |
| 7:00-8:00PM | President's Welcome; Awards; 15-minute program with live raptors by RRF member Marge Gibson ^a |
| 8:00-9:30PM | Dinner and completion of silent auction. |
| 9:30-10:30PM | More Socializing |

^a included a Red-tailed Hawk, a Turkey Vulture, a Saw-whet Owl, two Great Horned Owls - one showed feather damage from West Nile Virus; the other was the late Fran Hamerstrom's 40-45-year old lure owl, Portirio.

Auction. Conference participants brought 24 items to the silent auction, raising \$802. Particularly noteworthy were the 3 mounted and framed photos provided for the auction by Gordon Court, who also donated photos to the auction at the RRF meeting in Anchorage.

Field Trips: Field trips were coordinated by John Jacobs. Field trip leaders included John Jacobs, Noel and Seth Cutright and members of the local Bay

Area Bird Club. All trips were successful; people saw hawks and owls up close and personal and flying. The weather was generally pleasant.

| Field Trip/Date | Location | # Participants | Transportation |
|---|---|----------------|---|
| Saw-whet Owl Banding/Thursday evening, Oct. 13 | Linwood Springs Research Station, near Stevens Point, WI | 23 | 36 passenger Coach bus |
| Hawk Migration – Lake Michigan ^a /Sunday morning & afternoon, Oct 16 | Cedar Grove Banding Station; Harrington Beach State Park; Concordia College | 10 | 2 passenger vans rented from Enterprise |
| International Crane Foundation & Saw-whet Owl Banding/ Sunday afternoon & evening | Cranes: Baraboo, WI; Owls: same as above | 8 | 2 passenger vans rented from Enterprise |
| Falconry Demonstration | Appleton, WI | 8 | 1 passenger van from UWGB and 1 car |

^a included a 2-hour visit to the Cedar Grove banding station; arranged by Noel Cutright for field trip participants.

Scientific Program: The scientific program included 59 scientific papers grouped into 11 sessions, one of which was a 15-paper session entitled *Raptors and Education*. All papers were presented in PowerPoint format. Presentations were loaded onto dedicated laptops and checked before the sessions by Angela Matz. Session personnel included a session chair, a technical person to troubleshoot PowerPoint problems, and a person to run the lights.

Three laptops and three PowerPoint projectors were provided by the Cofrin Center at no charge. The KI Center provided each room with a screen (\$25/day) and an AV cart (\$7/day).

The scientific program also included 13 poster presentations which were presented by authors on Thursday evening, October 13.

Sales: T-shirts and extra mugs were sold.

Vendors: In mid- to late-August, invitations were made by email to potential vendors. Some vendors that were notified sent brochures which were displayed at the registration desk. Buteo Books was present with items for sale at the conference. Vendor fees were not charged. In light of low response to the first notification, a second email was sent to vendors who had set up exhibits at The Wildlife Society's annual meeting held in Madison, Wisconsin in September. Although none of these vendors attended the RRF conference, some expressed an interest in doing so in the future; several sent brochures and other materials for display at the conference.

Financial Report:

| Raptor Research Foundation 2005 Annual Meeting Budget | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|---|--|
| Income | | | | |
| Registration fees (recorded) | 14,050.00 | | | |
| Banquet fees | 1,525.00 | | | |
| Field trips | 1,253.00 | | | |
| T-shirts/mugs | 320.00 | | | |
| Silent auction | 802.00 | | | |
| RRF seed money | 1,500.00 | | | |
| Sponsorships/donations | 6,400.00 | | | |
| Barbeque | 1,540.00 | | | |
| Total Expected Income | 27,390.00 | | | |
| Deposited Income as of 3/3/2006 | 25,258.56 | | | |
| EPRI deposit (after 3/3/2006) | 1,000.00 | | | |
| Total Deposited Income | 26,258.56 | | | |
| Balance (Expected Income - Deposited Income) | 1,131.44 | | part of this balance was used for cash payments - see below | |
| Expenses | | | | |
| KI Center (facilities + catering + banquet) | 6,920.42 | | | |
| Banquet (included in above) | | | | |
| Barbeque | 1,270.00 | | | |
| A/V and poster board rental | 303.84 | | | |
| Keynote speaker | 500.00 | | | |

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| Expenses ctd. | | | | |
| Field trips | 720.16 | | | |
| t-shirts | 500.00 | | | |
| Mugs | 1,250.33 | | | |
| Totes | 985.00 | | | |
| Printing | 783.72 | | | |
| Postage | 88.12 | | | |
| Supplies | 792.89 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Subtotal - Documented expenses as of 3/3/2006 | 14,114.48 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Cash payments and uncollected income | 1,131.44 | cash payments include air fare for Palleroni, gas for field trips, miscellaneous expenses, refunds for banquet, etc. | | |
| Documented expenses after 3/3/2006 | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Payment - Bay Area Bird Club | 500.00 | | | |
| Payment - WSO | 500.00 | | | |
| Field trip (car rental payment) | 239.00 | | | |
| Speaker fee (Palleroni) | 500.00 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total Expenses | 16,984.92 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Income - Expenses | 10,405.08 | this payment includes \$1500 in seed money | | |
| | | | | |
| Profit to RRF (excludes \$1,500 seed money) | 8,905.09 | | | |