

# Conference Report

## Raptor Research Foundation 2010 Annual Conference

### **Raptors in a Changing World**

Fort Collins, Colorado USA  
September 22-26, 2010



Prepared by: Judy Scherpelz, Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

Host: Rocky Mountain Raptor Program (RMRP)

Co-Host: EDM, International, Inc.

Location: The Marriott Hotel, Fort Collins, Colorado

Numbers Attendees: Total = 261  
RRF Members: 119  
Students: 36  
Non-members: 46  
Single Day: 59  
Complementary: 5

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## Meeting Planning Organization

### Local Committee

Judy Scherpelz, Local Committee Chair  
Libby Mojica, RRF Conference Committee Chair  
Dan Varland, RRF Conference Committee  
Rick Harness, EDM, Int'l.  
Susan Harness, RMRP  
Kevin Kritz, USFWS  
Lisa Winta, RMRP

### Scientific Program Committee

Jim Bednarz, Chair  
James Dwyer, Committee Member

## Conference Schedule

### Board of Directors meeting

Wednesday 8am-5pm

### Papers

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 23-25

### Symposia

Thursday: Raptor and Human Conflicts (1/2 day)  
Friday: Raptors and Zoonotic Infections (1/2 day)  
The Role of Banding in Raptor Conservation: Past, Present, & Future (full day)  
Saturday: Raptors and Energy Development (full day)  
Raptors in Education (full day)

Thursday: Plenary Speaker: Dr. Pat Shipman, Pennsylvania State University “What is a Bird? An Evolutionary Approach”

Friday: Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bruce MacDonald, AECOM Environment, Fort Collins, CO, “Perspectives on Climate Change”

### Thursday Evening Special Presentations:

Rob Palmer – Bald Eagles vs. Starlings, and Other Local Raptors  
Nick Dunlop – Flocking Behavior of European Starlings Under Attack by Peregrine Falcons  
Panel discussion (David H. Ellis, Miguel D. Saggese, Isabel C. Caballero, R. Wayne Nelson, Ana Trejo, Susana Seijas, Facundo Barbar, and Agustin I. Guaglia)– The Pallid Color Morph of *Falco peregrinus cassini*: A History of Former Studies, a Summary of Recent Work, and Projections for Future Work

RRF Business Meeting  
Saturday 3:30-5pm

## Publicity and Outreach

### Conference Registration Circular

Judy Scherpelz and the Local Committee prepared the registration circular as a website. It was posted on the RRF and conference website [www.rmrp.info](http://www.rmrp.info). This decision was based on a report from OSNA that all but 3 RRF members receive email notifications from OSNA/RRF. In the interest of conserving resources and funds, the decision was made not to mail a paper copy of the circular. This was posted on the website in February 2010.

### Program Book

The Local Committee prepared the program booklet for publication. 300 booklets were printed by Mountain Media of Fort Collins. Judy Scherpelz negotiated a discounted price of \$1530, or \$5.10 per booklet. The booklets were 96 pages plus full color front and black and white back cover. Each participant was given a program upon registering. Additional programs were sold for \$6 each.

## Sponsors and Vendors

The sponsorship goal for the conference was set at \$6,000, which would help RRF to cover the expenses of planning and implementing the conference. The goal was 'guarded' given the difficult economy and reduced funds available from potential sponsors. Total sponsorships equaled \$6,700.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$2,000
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Assoc., Inc.	\$1,200
Thunder Basin Coal Company (Arch Western)	\$1,000
Marathon Oil Company	\$ 500
High Plains Power	\$ 500
Poudre Valley REA	\$ 500
Yates Petroleum	\$ 500
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory & US Forest Service	\$ 500
<b>Total Sponsorships</b>	<b>\$6,700</b>

### In-kind Support

Colorado State University Dept. Wildlife Biology	\$1000+ for van rental
New Belgium Brewing Company	Friday Night Social Donated Beer for social events
Cotleigh Brewing Company	Donated Beer for Saturday Banquet Cocktail hour
USGS Fort Collins Science Center	Use of 3 laptop computers
Heartland Hosting	Created and hosted conference website

Sponsors were acknowledged in the conference program booklet and on the conference website.

Other Volunteers and Support:

A total of 44 volunteers helped in a variety of ways, including staffing the registration desk, serving as assistants in the conference rooms, helping with setup and transport before and after the conference, driving vans for social events and field trips.

Fifty-one items were donated for the silent auction, at an estimated market value of \$1275. Some of the photographs and handcrafts did not get much bidding. Books did well.

Vendors

Vendors used the conference as an opportunity to display products and services of value to RRF members. Vendors were charged \$100 for table space; those companies that gave donations for sponsorships were provided vendor space free of charge (2 sponsors took advantage of that offer). Tables were set up in the foyer area immediately outside of the conference rooms. Vendors included:

Thunder Basin Coal Company	\$0
Tri-State	\$0
Kaddas Enterprises	\$100
Buteo Books	\$100
Trapping Innovations	\$100
Cornell Books	\$0 (small book display only)
BlueSky Helicopters	\$100
Tyco Electronics	\$100
Power Line Sentry	\$100
Nick Dunlop (photography)	\$100
Rob Palmer (photography)	\$100
Rocky Mountain Raptor Program	\$0 (waived)
<b>Total fees</b>	<b>\$800</b>

## Registration

The registration fee covered admission to all scientific sessions, a program booklet, local Fort Collins information, a tote bag, a mug, coffee breaks, the Wednesday night Icebreaker, and the Thursday night Poster Session Reception. One-day fees of \$80 were offered, and a reduced fee of \$50 was offered to educators attending the Raptors in Education symposium on Saturday.

Friday night's BBQ dinner at New Belgium Brewing Company, the Saturday night banquet, and most field trips required additional fees. Registration fees were waived for RMRP staff (7 total), 1 corporate sponsor, 2 keynote speakers and two invited speakers in the Education Workshop. In addition, 3 lifetime RRF members received the registration fee waived as a benefit. Student volunteers were allowed to attend sessions in exchange for volunteering at

least ½ day (1/2 day of volunteering for ½ day of attending sessions at no charge).  
Approximately 10 volunteers attended portions of session at no charge.

Registration Desk

Colorado State University Conference Services provided the on-line registration services for \$5345.77, plus 1527.23 in credit card fees (3% charged on all credit card transactions). This included developing and maintaining the on-line registration portion of the website, and also included telephone and email support for those RRF members needing additional help. Registrants were sent email confirmation and information about hotel accommodations. The conference website included details on options for travel and hotel choices. Weekly reports on registration numbers were sent to the local committee beginning April 2010.

On-line registration stopped the Friday preceding the conference. People were allowed to register by telephone on Monday and Tuesday of conference week. Registration opened at the Marriott in the hall immediately outside of the conference rooms noon-6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22. The registration desk was open Thursday and Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Saturday 7 a.m. – noon. The desk was staffed at all times by RMRP staff and volunteers. The desk was equipped with extra program booklets, conference materials, conference-at-a-glance sheets, general office supplies, mugs, totes, RRF conference logowear, and a cash box. The RRF manual *Raptor Research and Management Techniques* was offered for sale at the discount price of 40.29 per copy. Twenty copies were provided by publisher David Hancock (Hancock House Publishing) for the conference; he was reimbursed at \$16.17 per copy. The Marriott provided a secure room for the silent auction items – all valuable items from the registration area were locked inside the silent auction room at night. There were no problems of theft or trespass.

**Registration Fees:**

	Before 7/16		7/16-8/15		After 8/15
Member	\$	170.00	\$	190.00	\$ 220.00
Non-Member	\$	205.00	\$	225.00	\$ 260.00
Student	\$	110.00	\$	110.00	\$ 130.00
Single Day Fees (Thu, Fri & Sat)					80.00
Sat. Education Symposia (one day only)					50.00

### Registration Detail:

	<b>Number Registered</b>	<b>% of Total Registrants</b>
3/25/2010	4	
4/9/2010	6	
5/17/2010	15	
7/6/2010	54	21%
7/16/2010		cutoff for early registration
7/30/2010	116	44%
8/12/2010	135	52%
8/15/2010		cutoff for late registration
8/20/2010	170	65%
8/26/2010	180	
9/3/2010	196	75%
9/10/2010	218	
9/16/2010	232	
9/20/2010	237	91%
9/21/2010	244	
9/25/2010	261	

## **Presentations**

A separate table immediately outside of the conference rooms was set up with a laptop computer and three flash drives. Presenters were asked to download their presentations onto the computer (via flash drive) and presentations were renamed based on the name of the presenter and the time of the presentation; these were organized in folders labeled by Room number, date, and morning vs. afternoon. The Session Moderators then downloaded the sessions onto a flash drive, which were then loaded onto the laptop designated for each room. No one was allowed to use their own computer for projection. This procedure helped to maintain compatibility and proper functioning of all AV equipment. Difficulties occurred when presenters failed to provide their presentations in a timely manner. The suggestion was made for future conferences that presenters be **REQUIRED** to provide their presentations a given amount of time prior to the presentation time (for example, two days prior) or they will not be provided PowerPoint support.

Three laptops were provided free of charge for use during presentations by the USGS Fort Collins Science Center.

## **Social Events**

### Ice-breaker Reception Wednesday 6-8pm

The Ice-breaker Reception had about 158 people registered. It featured light hors d'oeuvres and a keg of donated beer from New Belgium Brewing Company. It was held in the hotel outdoor pavilion, just outside of the conference rooms. 170 registered for the icebreaker.

### Poster Session and Reception Thursday 5-7pm

The Poster Session was held in the Windsor Room, across the hallway from the conference rooms. It featured light hors d'oeuvres and a keg of donated beer from New Belgium Brewing Company. Poster boards and easels were used to display 29 posters.

### New Belgium Brewing Company BBQ - Friday 6-8pm

More than 145 people registered for the BBQ, which was catered by All Occasions Catering, and was hosted by the New Belgium Brewing Company in their private tasting room. More than 175 people attended. Although the food ran out quickly, there was enough beer to go around – everyone had a great time. Transportation was provided via three 12-passenger vans from CSU, driven by CSU students. Several trips were required to transport everyone to New Belgium, and then return back to the Marriott, although the staggered timing of arrivals and departures helped in handling the large crowd. The venue and beer was donated by New Belgium.

### Banquet - Saturday 7-11pm

The banquet was held in the Marriott hotel and catered by the hotel kitchens. The cocktail hour 6-7pm featured “Beers of Prey” donated from Cotleigh Brewery in the U.K. The banquet was attended by 130+ people; it featured awards, In Memoriam presentations for Ed Henckle and Carl Marti, and Native American dancing as entertainment. We offered chicken, salmon, and a vegetarian option; however, since we did not have the menu determined at the time of registration, we ordered 12% vegetarian; the remainder was split 70% chicken, 30% salmon. I recommend that the food choice be indicated as part of the online registration process. There was some confusion among attendees about menu choices, and thus some people were served late because they waited for extra salmon (The Marriott staff was very accommodating with this). There were some noise issues during the banquet from neighboring events that made it difficult to hear the presentations.

### Early Career Raptor Research Lunch

The local committee coordinated a venue for the ECRR group to meet for lunch. Participants were responsible for paying for their meals. 54 registered for this event. The ECRR committee chair organized the details of this event.

## **Field Trips**

There were many changes in field trip registrations throughout the conference week.

Field Trips were sponsored by the following organizations:



Behind the Scenes Tour of the Ornithological Collection - Denver Museum of Nature and Science - 5  
 Dinosaur Ridge Hawkwatch Visit - Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory - 10  
 Pawnee Buttes National Grasslands – Fort Collins Audubon Society - 7  
 Rocky Mountain National Park - 12  
 Rocky Mountain Raptor Program - 7  
 Soapstone Prairie Nature Area – City of Fort Collins Natural Areas - 7  
 Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service --2  
 National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository – 31  
 National Wildlife Research Center - 23

Field Trip	Participants	Fee
Denver Museum of Nature and Science	5	\$20
Dinosaur Ridge Hawkwatch	10	\$25
National Eagle Repository	31	Free
National Wildlife Research Center	23	Free
Pawnee Buttes	7	Free
Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR	2	\$30
Rocky Mountain Raptor Program	10	\$5
Soapstone Prairie Natural Area	7	\$30
Rocky Mountain National Park	12	\$30

## Items for Giveaway/Sale

### Totes

Ordered 275 Cost: \$1117.50  
 Gave 265 to participants, 9 to volunteers  
 Sold 1 x **\$4.68**

### Mugs

288 total Cost: \$787.40  
 Gave away 265 to participants, 16 to volunteers, 2 broken  
 Sold 5 x 6.56 = **\$32.80**

### T-shirts

Ordered: 125 Cost: \$696.50  
 39 sold for \$12.18 = \$475.02  
 32 sold for \$8.43 = \$269.76  
 Total: **\$744.78**  
 34 given to volunteers, 20 gave to Rick Harness to give to sponsors and etc.

### Vests

Ordered 25 Cost: \$521.50  
 Sold 9 x \$32.80 = \$295.20, Sold 2 x \$25 = \$50  
 Total: **\$345.20**  
 Leftover: 14 , 4 others were special ordered by participants

Raptor Management Books

Received 20: cost: \$323.46

Sold 18 x \$40.29 = **\$725.22**

2 given to RMRP

Program Booklets

Ordered 300: Cost \$1530

Gave 265 to participants, 1 to Jim Bednarz

Sold 6 x \$6 = **\$36**

Gave 6 to Rick Harness, Gave 14 to volunteers or used by committee

Income from Sales: \$1888.68

Income from Silent Auction: \$1233.73

## Financial Summary

Detail in Appendix A.

<b>Income</b>	
Vendors	\$ 800.00
Sponsors	\$ 6,700.00
Registration Fees	\$ 41,500.00
Field trips	\$ 675.00
Socials/Ban	\$ 8,387.00
cancellation fees	\$ 40.74
Sales/auction	\$ 3,122.41
RRF Start-up	\$ 1,500.00
	<b>\$ 62,725.15</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
CSU Registration	\$ 6,874.00
Friday Social	\$ 3,001.40
Field Trips	\$ 418.46
Office supplies/misc	\$ 416.21
Conf logo items	\$ 3,264.90
WRC books	\$ 323.46
Printing	\$ 1,530.00
Banquet Entertainment	\$ 500.00
Keynote travel	\$ 509.74
Keynote honorarium	\$ 500.00
Marriott - breaks, banquet	\$ 23,173.98
	<b>total \$ 40,512.15</b>

Income - Expenses	\$ 22,213.00
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RRF Start-up funds	\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total Profit</b>	<b>\$ 20,713.00</b>

## Appendix A. Financial Detail

### INCOME

Vendors		
Tyco		\$ 100.00
Buteo Books		\$ 100.00
Nick Dunlop		\$ 100.00
Rob Palmer		\$ 100.00
Trapping Innovations		\$ 100.00
BlueSky Helicopters		\$ 100.00
Kaddas Enterprises		\$ 100.00
Power Line Sentry		\$ 100.00
		<b>\$ 800.00</b>
Sponsors		
USFWS		\$ 2,000.00
Yates Petroleum		\$ 500.00
High Plains Power		\$ 500.00
Arch Western (Thunder Basin)		\$ 1,000.00
Rocky Mtn Bird Obs./USFS		\$ 500.00
Tri-State		\$ 1,200.00
Marathon Oil		\$ 500.00
Poudre Valley REA		\$ 500.00
		<b>\$ 6,700.00</b>
Registration Fees		
Icebreaker /Reg	160 x 0	\$ -
Icebreaker Guests	10 x \$15	\$ 150.00
Banquet	124 x \$38	\$ 4,712.00
Behin Scenes Ornith	5x\$20	\$ 100.00
Dinosaur Ridge	10 x \$25	\$ 250.00
National Eagle Rep	27 x 0	\$ -
NWRC	23 x 0	\$ -
Pawnee Buttes	9 x 0	\$ -
Rocky Mtn Ars NWR	3x30	\$ 90.00
RMRP	5x\$5	\$ 25.00
Soapstone Prairie	7 x \$30	\$ 210.00
Friday Night Social	141x \$25	\$ 3,525.00
Cancellation fees	2 x \$20.37	\$ 40.74
Early Career RR Lunch	54	\$ -
Friday only reg	4 x \$80	\$ 320.00
Early mem reg	72 x \$170	\$12,240.00
Late Mem reg	21 x \$220	\$ 4,620.00
Mid Mem reg	26 x \$190	\$ 4,940.00
Non-Mem early	16 x \$205	\$ 3,280.00
Non-Mem late	20x \$260	\$ 5,200.00
Non-Mem mid	10 x \$225	\$ 2,250.00
Saturday ED Symp	7 x \$50	\$ 350.00
Complimentary Reg	8x0	\$ -
Single Day Reg	43x\$80	\$ 3,440.00

Student Early reg	9 x \$110	\$ 990.00
Student late Reg	12 x \$130	\$ 1,560.00
Student mid Reg	15 x \$110	\$ 1,650.00
Rocky Mtn. Natl Park	12 x \$30	\$ 360.00
Sat. Reg	4 x \$50	\$ 200.00
Exhibitor (Parker)		\$ 100.00
		<b>\$50,602.74</b>
RRF Start-up Funds		\$ 1,500.00
Sales of conference items		\$ 1,888.68
Silent Auction		\$ 1,233.73
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$62,725.15</b>

#### EXPENSES

CSU Office of Conference Services		
\$20.37 x 261 registered part.		\$ 5,316.57
credit card fees		\$ 1,527.23
Ribbons 85 x \$0.10		\$ 8.50
meal tickets (photocopies)		\$ 1.70
name badges 10 x \$2		\$ 20.00
Friday Night Social		
All Occasions - BBQ (budgeted for 146)		\$ 3,001.40
New Belgium Beer (donated)		\$ -
Field Trips		
van rental and gas (donated by CSU)		\$ -
RMBO field trip		\$ 173.46
RMRP field trip		\$ 25.00
Field trip lunches \$5 x40 + tip		\$ 220.00
Office Supplies and Misc		
RMRP/Walmart - office supplies		\$ 13.35
timers		\$ 97.40
Walmart - office supplies		\$ 57.97
Hobby Lobby - setup supplies		\$ 118.62
podium lights		\$ 22.73
shipping		\$ 41.45
RMRP credit card charge		\$ 64.69
RRF Conf Logo items		
Mugs and Totes		\$ 1,904.90
GO West T-shirts		\$ 696.50
HP Creations - vests		\$ 663.50
Keynote Speaker Pat Shipman		
Pat Shipman Plane Ticket		\$ 260.80
Pat Shipman shuttle, per diem		\$ 248.94
honorarium		\$ 500.00
Sales Hancock –Techniques Manual books		\$ 323.46
Printing Mountain Media - programs		\$ 1,530.00
Banquet Iron Family Dancers		\$ 500.00
Marriott Catering + room rental		\$23,173.98

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

**\$40,512.15**