

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This spring I'm taking up the task that prompted me to seek the RRF presidency: preparation of an action plan to guide the foundation's activities. To me, this is about reflecting upon the past 30 years, making conscious decisions about what we want to accomplish, and outlining a course of action to get us there. Most basically, it's an answer to the question, what do we want RRF to be?

What do you like about RRF? What would you change? What do we do well, that's worth continuing? What do we do less well, that we should leave behind, or leave to others? What have we never attempted that would more fully express RRF's mission: "to stimulate the dissemination of information concerning raptorial birds among interested persons worldwide and to promote a better public understanding and appreciation of the value of birds of prey."

I'll give you an example: I wish RRF had the ability to publish scientific papers in *The Journal of Raptor Research* without requiring authors to pay page charges. Right now, today, page charges are an absolute necessity; we couldn't publish our journal without them. Our editors have done a wonderful job within the constraints of RRF's budget to waive or reduce page charges, on a case-by-case basis, for those with the greatest financial need. But, I wish we didn't have to ask anyone to pay for helping us accomplish our mission. How much money would RRF have to gather into its endowment to cut page charges in half? How much to eliminate page charges entirely? How long would it take to raise the funds, and who should do the fund-raising? What funding sources would contribute to this goal? Do we want to attempt this? And, how much longer will page charges even be a consideration, as we contemplate an electronically distributed journal? Let's map it out.

This exercise is about defining our future. It's about strengthening connections between RRF and our daily activities as scientists, habitat managers, educators, and conservationists. It's about giving new expressions to the vision of RRF's founders, and helping to breathe life into ideas at the core of why you chose to work with birds of prey.

As the plan comes together in the months ahead, there will be many opportunities to review and comment, to add, delete, and change. But I'd like to hear from you now, at the beginning. This plan isn't just about me, our directors, or our officers: it's for and about all of us. What do you want RRF to be?



Best regards,

Lenny



## RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC

### OFFICERS

President: Leonard Young                      Secretary: Joan Morrison  
Vice-president: Ted Swem                      Treasurer: Angela Matz

### DIRECTORS

Eurasian: Fabrizio Sergio	At Large #1: Jemima Parry-Jones
Southern Hemisphere: Nick Mooney	At Large #2: Clint Boal
At Large Outside North America: Ruth Tingay	At Large #3: Michael W. Collopy
North American #1: Steve Hoffman	At Large #4: Carol McIntyre
North American #2: Gary Santolo	At Large #5: John A. Smallwood
North American #3: Laurie Goodrich	At Large #6: Daniel E. Varland

For more information about the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. (founded in 1966), please visit the RRF website at: <http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/>.

Persons interested in birds of prey are invited to join the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF). *Wingspan* is mailed twice each year to all members of RRF. It is available to non-members at a subscription rate of US\$10 per year. Members also receive *The Journal of Raptor Research* (ISSN 0892-1016), which is published quarterly. For membership and subscription information, please contact: Ornithological Societies of North America, 5400 Bosque Boulevard, Suite 680, Waco, TX 76710, USA; 1-254-399-9636 (phone); 1-254-776-3767 (fax); [business@osnabirds.org](mailto:business@osnabirds.org) (email); <http://www.osnabirds.org> (web).

### **2007 changes in officers and directors**

#### **Election Results**

President-elect: Leonard Young re-elected to a second term as President to begin on January 1, 2008 for two years. He is also completing the second year of his first term as President.

Vice President: Ted Swem; out-going VP is David Bird

Director-at-Large Outside North America: Ruth Tingay, re-elected

Director North America #2: Gary Santolo, re-elected

Director-at-Large #2: Clint Boal, elected; out-going is Eduardo Iñigo-Elias

Director-at-Large #5: John Smallwood, re-elected

#### **Officer Appointments**

Secretary: Joan Morrison was appointed by the Board; out-going is Angela Matz

Treasurer: Jim Fitzpatrick stepped down after serving many years as RRF treasurer; the Board appointed Angela Matz as in-coming treasurer

Many thanks to all of the out-going Officers and Directors!!!

**Editor's Note** – Thanks to these individuals who contributed material for this issue of the *Wingspan*: Emilie Berthiaume, Chris Briggs, Kate Davis, David Frank, Greg George, Laurie Goodrich, Judy Henckel, Charles Henny, Gene Jacobs, Karla Kinstler, Mike McGrady, Libby Mojica, Sabine Schaefer, Janusz Sielicki, Jeff Smith, Scott Stender, Ruth Tingay, Susan Toussaint, Dan Varland, Lenny Young.

*Wingspan* welcomes contributions from RRF members and others interested in raptor biology and management. Contributions may be submitted by mail (Petra Bohall Wood, *Wingspan*, PO Box 6125, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506 USA) or email ([rrfwingspan@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:rrfwingspan@mail.wvu.edu)). Email is preferred and for long contributions, please send as an MS Word attachment.

Deadline for the next issue is **14 August 2007**.

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
2007 ANNUAL MEETING**

***Kettling on the Kittatinny***

**12-16 September 2007**

**Held in conjunction with  
The Hawk Migration Association of North America**

**Hosted by  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association**

**At the Holiday Inn Conference Center  
Fogelsville, Pennsylvania**



The Raptor Research Foundation 2007 annual meeting will be held from 12 to 16 September at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, just west of Allentown and a half-hour drive from the world-renown Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) and will be hosted by Hawk Mountain.

The conference dates, September 12-16<sup>th</sup> are timed to enjoy the peak migration of broad-winged hawks, osprey, and other raptors through eastern Pennsylvania with daily counts of over 1,000 birds possible at several nearby lookouts. The meeting will be held at the Fogelsville Holiday Inn Conference Center (<http://www.hilehighvalley.com>), just off of Interstate 78, a major east-west highway in eastern Pennsylvania, and strategically located near the base of the Kittatinny Mountain, a world-renown flyway, and only one half-hour from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. A conference field trip to Hawk Mountain will be held on Friday afternoon to allow all attendees to view the migration, visit with staff, and explore this historic site for raptor conservation.

Pat and Clay Sutton, noted authors and naturalists, will deliver the keynote address on Thursday morning entitled “Raptors in Time and Space” and have a book-signing of their new book on Cape May Birds and Birding later in the day. The keynote will be followed by concurrent scientific sessions Thursday including a special symposium on the American Kestrel. Saturday’s program includes a special symposium on the status of North American Raptors with presentation of trends derived from raptor migration counts and other sources. Social gatherings are planned for each evening, including the Thursday night poster session and reception. A special evening reception is planned for Friday night at Muhlenberg College’s Science Center, a newly designed *green* building, and the Acopian Center for Ornithology. A raptor art show will be held in conjunction with this event with many of the premier Pennsylvania wildlife artists invited to participate (others are welcome too, contact local committee). The annual banquet is planned for Saturday night.

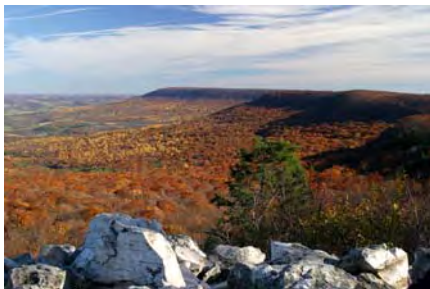
Day trips are available on Wednesday and Sunday to several migration watch sites including Hawk Mountain, Bake Oven Knob, and all the broad-winged hawk hot spots. Early morning warbler walks are planned for before the conference each morning, and a three-day post-conference trip to Cape May for hawk-watching and birding is planned. Other field trips include a

canoe trip on the scenic Lehigh River and a trip to the home of John James Audubon, Mill Grove. Non-birding family members may visit the nearby Dorney Amusement Park, Crayola Factory, the Velodrome and other Lehigh Valley attractions. The conference center website provides information on many nearby sites.

For further details on all conference events check the Conference web page or contact local organizing committee chair Laurie Goodrich ([Goodrich@hawkmtn.org](mailto:Goodrich@hawkmtn.org)). Registration information will be mailed to all members in March and on-line registration links will be available at the conference webpage at [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org).



Pat and Clay Sutton, Keynote Speakers for the 2007 RRF conference, are authors of "How to Spot an Owl" and "How to Spot Hawks and Eagles" and have spent over 20 years watching hawks in Cape May New Jersey.



View from Hawk Mountain (Jeff Schmoyer photo)



Looking North from Hawk Mountain (North Lookout with owl decoy HMS collection)



Visitors at North Lookout, Hawk Mountain (NLO on clear day, Shawn Carey photo)

## 2007 Conference Silent Auction Donations needed!

We are asking all RRF members to consider donating an item for the Silent Auction which will be held during the conference to help defray the costs of the conference. Items can be brought to the conference by attendees or mailed to RRF Conference Silent Auction, c/o Laurie Goodrich, 410 Summer Valley Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961. Please include your name and address for the acknowledgement letter. Please also email the Silent Auction chairs of what you are bringing so they can plan to include it. Notice of items you are bringing and any questions can be directed to the Silent Auction Committee Co-chairs, Arlene Koch, [davilene@verizon.net](mailto:davilene@verizon.net); or Todd Katzner, [tkatzner@asu.edu](mailto:tkatzner@asu.edu). Possible auction items include raptor photographs, artwork, books, t-shirts, gift items or any other bird or raptor related item. (Any authors want to donate a signed volume?). Thank you in advance for your contribution!

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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### 2007

#### **September 12-16**

Raptor Research Foundation 2007 Annual Conference – Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, USA

#### **September 19 – 23**

Peregrine Conference – Poland (Piotrowo/Poznan)

We are happy to announce a conference we are organizing about the Peregrine. The Conference is organized by 4 organizations from 4 countries of Europe - Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania. Everyone interested is welcome to participate. More information is at: <http://www.peregrinus.pl/conference2007.php>. Should you have any question, comment or request, please, do not hesitate to contact us at: [conference@peregrinus.pl](mailto:conference@peregrinus.pl) -- Janusz Sielicki

#### **October 9-13**

Raptor Research Foundation's 2007 Eurasian Conference – Batumi, Republic of Georgia

Hosted by the Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife (GCCW) and the Directorate for Environment & Natural Resources of Adjara, the meeting will coincide with the peak of raptor migration at the Eastern Black Sea coast. Preliminary meetings and workshops will take place 9-10 Oct, and the main meeting will be 11-13 October. Plenary address by Dr. Keith Bildstein on Oct 10. Post-conference fieldtrips will begin 14 October. Learn more about RRF's 5<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Conference at the website: <http://www.gccw.org/conference/index/html>



#### **October 11**

The European Raptor Monitoring Scheme (TERMS) – Batumi

TERMS was first recommended by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) at the Seville meeting in 2001 but had since averted. The goal of TERMS is to oversee and harmonise the collection, regular updating and publication of international population estimates for raptors in Eurasia. The proposed programme is to encourage the standardisation and coordination of raptor monitoring methods and hopefully encourage the collection of population estimates in regions or countries where currently little information exists. TERMS was formally approved and supported by the RRF at the Mexico meeting in October 2006. The first working group meeting will be held at the RRF Eurasian meeting in Georgia, October 2007. For further information please contact Phil Whitfield ([phil.whitfield@natural-research.org](mailto:phil.whitfield@natural-research.org)) or Ruth Tingay ([ruth.tingay@natural-research.org](mailto:ruth.tingay@natural-research.org)).

## **2008**

### **September 22-28**

Raptor Research Foundation 2008 Annual Conference – Missoula

The educational organization Raptors of the Rockies will host the Raptor Research Foundation Conference in 2008 in Missoula, Montana. Dates are from September 22-28, and the venue will be downtown at the Holiday Inn Parkside. The University of Montana will co-host, and we will have related events all week plus numerous field trips in the area. Events include a Birds and Art Show, Film Festival, and dedication to John and Frank Craighead.



Missoula is located in west-central Montana, in a line between Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. It is the hub of five valleys and the confluence of three major rivers, including the Clark's Fork of the Columbia. In a very scenic setting, Missoula boasts one of the finest biological sciences departments in the country at the University of Montana. Cultural and natural opportunities abound. Nearby are two National Wildlife Refuges, the National Bison Range, Avian Flight Lab, Avian Science Center, and Montana Waterfowl Foundation.

For more information, contact Kate Davis, Local Committee Chairperson [raptors@montana.com](mailto:raptors@montana.com); [www.raptorsoftherockies.org](http://www.raptorsoftherockies.org); (406) 829-6436

## **2009**

### **September 29 – October 4**

Raptor Research Foundation 2009 Annual Conference – Scotland

The RRF 2009 annual conference will be held overseas for the first time, to reflect the global interests of its membership. Hosted by the Scottish Raptor Study Group, this event will be held in an exclusive hotel in the small town of Pitlochry, central Scotland, with a full program of scientific presentations, workshops and seminars. Social events include the hire of a nearby castle



Along the road to Skye - © R. Tingay

for an evening party, and fieldtrips will include the spectacular west coast island of Mull for eagles, otters and lochs. Conference website:

<http://www.rrfconferencescotland2009.org/>

Registration will open on this website in December 2007. As the conference is limited to 300 delegates, priority will be given to Scottish Raptor Study Group and RRF members, so please ensure your membership is up to date! For further details contact local organizing committee chair RUTH TINGAY (EM: [dimlylit100@hotmail.com](mailto:dimlylit100@hotmail.com)).

### **Get Involved with RRF!!**

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Raptor Research Foundation, please contact an Officer, Board of Directors member, or Committee chair. There are many opportunities with varying levels of time commitments. Elections for Directors and Officers occur every year; throw your name in the hat. Participate on a committee; the many RRF committees are always looking for additional members!

### **Conference Committee Chairperson Needed: 2009-2013**

Dan Varland has served as Conference Committee Chair since 2003 and plans to step down after the 2008 annual meeting in Missoula. RRF is seeking someone to take this position who will serve on the conference committee with Dan through 2008. It is hoped that this individual will serve as chair for five or more years, beginning in 2009 and lasting at least through 2013.

The main responsibilities for the Conference Committee Chair include working with the RRF Board and President to: 1) locate organizations willing and able to host the annual meeting; 2) secure a financial agreement between the host organization(s) and RRF; and 3) work with the local committee to ensure a successful meeting according to RRF annual conference guidelines.

A decision is to be made by the RRF Board on the new Conference Committee Chair by August 2007. If you are interested in the position or would just like to serve on the committee for a year or two, contact Dan Varland (email: [daniel.varland@rayonier.com](mailto:daniel.varland@rayonier.com); phone: 360-538-4582).

### **Chair needed for the RRF resolutions committee!**

RRF seeks a replacement who, through the resolution process, will help express the will of the RRF and its membership. Interested individuals should contact RRF President Lenny Young or Secretary Joan Morrison.

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## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2006 MEETING**

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**2006 Annual RRF Meeting** was held in conjunction with the North American Ornithological Conference in Veracruz, Mexico. There were 1743 registrants, 770 of them students. The program included 4 plenary lectures, 336 papers in 23 symposia, and 899 contributed papers (368 oral papers and 531 posters). Many conference participants enjoyed the Veracruz River of Raptors by visiting the hawk migration count sites at Cardel and Chichicaxtle organized by ProNatura Veracruz.



Welcome social at 2006 NAOC  
© Scott Stender, Digit Productions



RRF member, Scott Stender, photographing visitors at the Chichicaxtle Migration site. Photo by Petra Wood.



Founders of the Cardel hawk counting site: Jeff Smith, HawkWatch International, Ernesto Ruelas of HMANA and Cornell Labs, and Laurie Goodrich of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Photo by Kate Davis.



The IV NAOC logo was designed by Julio César Montero. The three birds depicted (counterclockwise, from top) are representatives of three important ecological components of the Veracruzian avifauna: the Mexican Sheartail (*Doricha eliza*), a year-round resident endemic to central Veracruz and the Northern tip of the Yucatán Peninsula; the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) a species with year-round and migrant populations, and the Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) a Neotropical migrant species with transient populations in spring and fall.

Scenes from the Veracruz River of Raptors  
© Scott Stender, Digit Productions





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## News from the RRF Awards and Grants Committee

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### 2006 RRF Award Committee Report by Petra Bohall Wood, Chair

#### The William C. Andersen Student Presentation Award

The recipient was Émile Berthiaume, Sherbrooke University, for her presentation “Should Detectability Be Included in Hawk Count Population Trend Analyses?”

Dan Varland coordinated this award through the NAOC presentation award committee.

#### The James R. Koplín Student Travel Award

RRF contributed its travel award to the NAOC pool of student travel funds. 114 students that presented at NAOC were awarded travel funds from this pool of funds.

#### Amadon and Tully Grants

Committee: Carole Griffiths (chair), Joelle Gehring, Robert Rosenfield

Amadon grant:

Michael A. Palladini, Master’s Candidate, Department of Wildlife, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

"Cooper’s Hawk foraging ecology in an interior ponderosa pine forest: response to experimental restoration treatments at an Adaptive Management Area."

Tully grant:

Ricardo Pérez, Master’s Student (Estudiante de maestría), CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center), Turrialba, Costa Rica

"Distribution of birds of prey in Montecristo National Park, Santa Ana, El Salvador," (“Evaluación del rol de las aves rapaces en el mosaico de habitats naturales y perturbados del parque nacional Montecristo y su zona de influencia, durante la estación reproductora 2007, Santa Ana, El Salvador”.)

#### Hamerstrom and Cade Award Committees

Nomination Committee: David Andersen (chair), Patricia Kennedy, Steve Redpath, and Eduardo Inigo-Elias

Selection Committee: Clint Boal (Chair), Brent Bibles, Buzz Hull

Recipient: Dr. Charles Henny, US Geological Survey (see below)

*Application instructions and deadlines for RRF grants and awards are available on the RRF website.*

**The 2006 Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award**  
by Clint Boal, Chair

Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom contributed significantly to the understanding of raptor ecology and natural history through their long term ecological studies, and by presenting that information through both technical and popular outlets. In honor and recognition of Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom, the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., established an award based on scientific contributions and productivity. This award is to recognize individuals for significant contributions to the understanding of raptor ecology and natural history.

The recipient of the 2006 Raptor Research Foundation's Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award has spent over 35 years studying the effects of environmental contaminants on wildlife species, especially birds of prey. His research has been not only outstanding, but broad-based in the field of ecotoxicology, having actively pursued an understanding of the effects of different contaminants as they emerged. He has been a true leader in ecotoxicological research, readily sharing information and encouraging the research of others. Furthermore, through outreach efforts, he has made significant strides in internationalizing ecotoxicological research, especially in collaboration and publication with researchers and issues in Russia and Mexico.

The recipient has worked with numerous species, including forays with mammalian species, but his life-long interest in raptors is reflected in the proportion of his papers focusing on falconiforms. Although he has studied a variety of raptors throughout his career, his research has largely focused on those species first found most susceptible to environmental contaminants; Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Ospreys. It is for his extensive work with Ospreys in particular that the recipient is recognized as an expert.



As his career progressed, the recipient has persistently stayed current on emerging contaminants issues and maintained an incredibly high rate of productivity. He currently has over 170 published papers, and his co-authors is almost a who's who list of raptor researchers. He is a longtime member of the Raptor Research Foundation and a regular participant at the Foundation's annual meetings. His contribution to raptor ecology and natural history, especially to our knowledge of ecotoxicological influences and impacts on birds of prey is a credit to the Raptor Research Foundation. It is with great pleasure we are able to recognize Dr. Charles Henny as the recipient of the 2006 Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award.

(Chuck Henny; photo by Susan Henny)

**A Note from Chuck Henny**

While at the North American Ornithological Conference in Veracruz, several people pointedly suggested that I attend an "early session", which aroused my suspicions! Nevertheless, receiving the Hamerstrom Award left me speechless and humbled.

Receiving an award named for the Hamerstoms is special because I knew them personally. I first met Hammy and Fran (I remember it like yesterday) on Assateague Island in the fall of 1967 while trapping Peregrine Falcons with a friend. They came driving down the beach in an old Volkswagen bus with their Great Horned Owl and lots of other paraphernalia adorning the roof and inside the bus. Their Osprey study in Sonora, Mexico got me interested in working there. The Hamerstoms provided strong leadership to the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) and were great examples and mentors to the many young members who knew them.

Now that some time has passed, there are a few thoughts that I would like to relay to members of the RRF. Times have certainly changed since my career in research started 36 years ago. I was hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1970, the week after the first Earth Day. At that time, DDT was not banned, and no Endangered Species Act or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency existed--it was really not that long ago!

The environmental situation was ripe for change, and the USFWS had the perspective and new personnel to broaden its activities beyond the usual studies of ducks, geese and a few other species. In 1972, I asked pilot-biologists, who had previously only flown duck and goose surveys, to fly nesting Osprey surveys in Chesapeake Bay in 1973, and other locations (including Mexico) later. They enjoyed flying the Osprey surveys, and it put them in the air (where they wanted to be). They used the same basic procedures that were used in duck surveys, including a double-sampling component for determining an air-to-ground adjustment factor which yielded a total population estimate. These early Osprey surveys, conducted in the 1970s when populations at many locations were devastated by contaminants (especially DDT), now provide the important baseline for current population comparisons.

I have enjoyed most aspects of my research, especially the friendships with raptor biologists developed over the years. However, field assessments of pesticide applications and investigations of mining operations and industrial sites often resulted in finding dead birds (including raptors) or documenting reduced reproductive success, especially in earlier years. Testifying at hearings became part of the job, and it was often the most difficult for me. Suffice it to say, I always felt that our field studies, conducted with many excellent co-workers over the years, were important and that it was critical to do the best job possible. This attitude made it easy for me to come to work every day. It has been a most exciting career, and what a unique time period to be working in the field of environmental contaminants research. I plan to continue research a bit longer to complete several projects.

Indeed, the Hamerstrom Award is very special to me and I am most grateful and honored to receive it.

Charles J. Henny  
November 22, 2006

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## **Eagle Conservation Alliance Forms** **by Mike McGrady**

Thirty-two specialists from 10 countries on four continents met in Oropesa, Spain (24-28 October 2006) to discuss the alarming worldwide situation for eagles. Of the 74 currently recognized eagle species, 32 (43.2%) are listed as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered by the IUCN-World Conservation Union (2006 Red List). Eagles play an important role in the balance and

functioning of ecosystems and are sentinels for environmental change. People's interest in eagles also reflects the wonders of nature, freedom and, in some cultures, spirituality. The meeting combined brief scientific presentations and working groups to identify what is known as well as new means to enhance eagle conservation.

As the workshop discussions proceeded, it was realized that there was value in forming a consortium of like-minded eagle specialists who would integrate their knowledge, scientific expertise and other resources to benefit wild and captive eagles. The participants formed the 'Eagle Conservation Alliance' (ECA), with a mission of 'acting to conserve eagles worldwide'. The ECA's mission will be met by: enhancing the management of existing populations; recovering and, when appropriate, reintroducing eagles to nature; conducting basic and applied research; providing advice and technical support; developing and distributing education materials; communicating and sharing news; fundraising for priority initiatives; and building capacity (training) in science and eagle management. Working groups on communication, research and husbandry/management identified priority activities to be initiated in the coming year. Species that will benefit include serpent and hawk eagles, the Spanish Imperial eagle and the Philippine eagle, among others.

The workshop (organized by Drs. Juan Manuel Blanco and Ursula Hofle) was co-sponsored by the Aquila Foundation/Center for Studies of Iberian Raptors, SeaWorld/Busch Gardens-Conservation Fund, Zoological Society of San Diego, Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center, Fort Worth Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo and the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park.

The Second Annual ECA Workshop will take place in September 2007 at Africam Safari, Puebla, Mexico. Individuals interested in more information on ECA should contact Juan Manuel Blanco ([uhofleh@wanadoo.es](mailto:uhofleh@wanadoo.es)), Frank Carlos Camacho ([fcamacho@africamsafari.com.mx](mailto:fcamacho@africamsafari.com.mx)) or David Rimlinger ([Drimlinger@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:Drimlinger@sandiegozoo.org)).

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**HALL OF FAME AWARDS VISUALLY IMPAIRED OWL WHO HELPED BRING  
SPEECH TO AUTISTIC CHILD**

*Also Names Famed British Researcher "Champion of Owls"*

HOUSTON, *Minn.*— An owl who motivated an autistic child to begin speaking and the man who founded the world's first and foremost owl conservation organization were inducted into the World Owl Hall of Fame at the Festival of Owls in Houston, Minnesota on March 2, 2007.

Owly, a short-eared owl from Alaska, started on his career path as an educator when he crashed headlong into the floodlight of a fishing boat out on the open ocean during his first migration. After winning over the crew of the boat and the villagers of Saint Paul Island as they all came together to care for the injured raptor, Owly traveled by plane to the Bird Treatment and Learning Center in Anchorage, where he received more specialized care.

Owly's physical injuries healed first; his psychological healing did not really begin till he was moved out of the clinic and into the stimulating environment of volunteer Barbara Doak's

sunroom cage in her home. While watching birds at the nearby birdfeeders, he became animated and began to eat on his own for the first time since his injury. It soon became apparent, though, that vision problems sustained during his crash would be permanent, leaving him unable to see well enough to live in the wild again. He then accepted a new job as an educator, working with the treatment center's staff as an ambassador for his kind.

Owly's easygoing temperament makes him an excellent choice for educating blind and partially sighted people, who can relate to his handicap. But perhaps Owly's biggest achievement came on an occasion when his audience included an autistic child. He was able to connect with this child, apparently, as no human had: the little boy, previously considered to be without language capabilities, ran up to his teacher and spontaneously began asking questions about Owly, astounding parents and teacher alike.

Barbara Doak, Owly's handler and keeper, sees him as a very special individual. "He's a very polite, nice, bird," says Doak. It was Doak's son Dan who suggested she submit a nomination for Owly for the World Owl Hall of Fame's Lady Gray'l Award. When Dan was told that Owly had won, he responded, "I have never known such a famous owl before, let alone one so modest."

Owly has made so many connections—connections that warm people's hearts to all owls. In his 14 years of work so far, he has touched the lives of 9,800 people, both in the city of Anchorage and in remote villages requiring flights in small aircraft. And yes: he has also been back to visit the people of Saint Paul, who worked so hard to save his life.

Tony Warburton, Honorary President of the World Owl Trust in Cumbria, England, is the winner of this year's Champion of Owls Award. Warburton has dedicated the past 40 years of his life to owls. His interest in the creatures sparked when as a young lad he was out collecting firewood with his grandfather and caught sight of his first tawny owl. He had a voracious appetite for all books about wildlife, and his "Observer's Book of Birds" got a particularly hard workout. He was especially enthralled by a portrait of a somewhat "spooky" Barn Owl on page 115 of this book, and from there his interest in owls snowballed until in 1982, with two friends, he co-authored the first monograph to be published about this bird, the result of almost 40 years of combined fieldwork by the authors.

Warburton's extensive work on behalf of owls has included over 1,000 conservation lectures with live owls throughout the UK and Finland, four decades of owl research, countless magazine and periodical articles, and hosting wildlife programs on British and Dutch television that often focused on owls. Given his work, it's no wonder that this man is considered the forefather of owl research, conservation, and rehabilitation in the United Kingdom.

Over the years Warburton has founded several organizations to help owls through captive-breeding programs in concert with habitat protection and restoration. In 1972 he created the British Owl Breeding and Release Scheme which succeeded in releasing over 1,600 captive-bred Barn Owls as well as many other species back into the wild once suitable habitat had been restored. In 1987 he created the World Owl Centre, the world's first Owl Conservation Breeding Centre to open to the public, with 80,000 to 93,000 visitors per year. And perhaps the capstone of his achievements was to found the World Owl Trust, to work to save owls on an international scale. The Trust now has over 3,000 members worldwide and has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippine government to manage the Philippine Owl Conservation

Programme in that country. The agreement led to the first breeding of the rare Philippine Eagle Owl in captivity in 2005 and again in 2006, resulting in a much greater understanding of the species overall, knowledge which can now be used to help this highly endangered species in the wild.

Unquenchable enthusiasm has been the hallmark of Warburton's work and personality. He has inspired countless others to follow in his footsteps and strike out on their own in the name of owls. At age 71, he has no intention of ever retiring, for he says, "The battle is far from won as yet!"

"To say I am honored to receive the award is the understatement of the year," says Warburton. It has special meaning to him since it is an award judged by his peers. Katherine McKeever and Robert Nero, both of Canada and recipients of the 2006 Champion of Owls Awards, are people that Warburton looks up to, and he is humbled to be named for the same honor.

The purpose of the World Owl Hall of Fame is to bring public recognition to owls and people who are going to extraordinary lengths to make this world a better place for owls. Sponsors of the 2007 hall of fame are Buteo Books, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Festival of Owls, the Global Owl Project, the Manitoba Great Gray Owl Fund, Natural Heritage Books, Northwoods LTD, the Owl Research Institute, owlstuff.com, the Raptor Education Group, Inc., Ron Buck's Worth Framing, and Stith Recording.

Karla Kinstler, Director of the Houston Nature Center and coordinator of the Festival of Owls and World Owl Hall of Fame, finds immense satisfaction in the work. "Being able to give proper recognition to the Hall of Fame winners with the help of our sponsors and judges is just an incredible thing. I get the honor of meeting and spending time with the cream of the crop of the world of owls—I couldn't dream of anything more exciting!"

More information is available on the internet:

Bird Treatment and learning Center: [www.birdtlc.net](http://www.birdtlc.net)

World Owl Trust: [www.owls.org](http://www.owls.org)

World Owl Hall of Fame: [www.globalowlproject.com](http://www.globalowlproject.com) and click on "Hall of Fame"

Festival of Owls: [www.houstonmn.com/owlfest.htm](http://www.houstonmn.com/owlfest.htm)

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## Guinea Vulture Sanctuary a First in Africa



Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – 20 November 2006 – The Republic of Guinea has just created the first vulture sanctuary in Africa. This new protected area of approximately 450,000 ha in the Fouta Djallon Highlands has been established to conserve one of the few remaining vulture populations in West Africa.

The populations of the six vulture species found in this huge area have almost totally collapsed. According to Guy Rondeau, co-ordinator of the raptor conservation programme set up by the NGO *Africa Nature International*, "Vultures are vanishing from the skies of West Africa primarily because of human persecution, through slaughter for traditional medicine and fetishism and hunting for bushmeat. Indirect poisoning from poisoned carcasses used by livestock herders seeking to control problem animals (jackals, lions, hyenas, etc.) is also responsible for a significant share in the drastic decline in numbers". Other likely contributory factors are the acute shortage of carcasses largely because of the almost complete disappearance of large game in West Africa combined with more effective animal husbandry practices resulting in a healthier livestock. The role of diclofenac, the NSAID used in veterinary medicine behind the vulture crash in South Asia, is also under investigation.

Recent surveys confirming the seriousness of the regional decline have also located a few rare relict vulture populations in Guinea, Mali and Gambia, whose numbers are also dwindling. Under the *Duga* Programme (from "vulture" in Bambara), the regional West African vulture conservation programme established by Africa Nature International, in co-operation with the NGOs *Fauna and Flora International* (FFI) and the *Endangered Wildlife Trust* (EWT - Birds of Prey Working Group) and in collaboration with *Guinée Écologie*, the member country NGO of the *BirdLife International* African Partnership network in Guinea, the priority is to stabilize the populations in these rural refuges, which are not currently protected.

Accordingly, Guinea, which is home to the main relict population in the subregion, created the first sanctuary in Africa specifically for the protection of vultures during September 2006. "Because West African societies set such store culturally by these giants of the air, the sanctuary has been particularly welcomed by local communities, especially since they have been intimately involved in establishing it and setting its boundaries", stated Dr Daniel Pouakouyou, FFI programme manager.

"The aim of the Fouta Djallon vulture sanctuary and those planned for Mali and Gambia, is to conserve these relict populations, with a view to eventually rebuilding the regional populations" – André Botha, EWT - Birds of Prey Working Group Manager. In addition to the conservation actions planned for the sanctuary (protection, vulture restaurants, population monitoring, research), national information and education campaigns will be launched to address the recurrent problems of persecution and poisoning.

According to Christine Sagno, Director General, *Water and Forests* in Guinea, "the vulture sanctuary, which aims to maintain the vultures' important role of disease control and prevent the loss of certain touchstones and taboos for local communities, is a primary component of the Integrated Management of the Natural Resources of the Fouta Djallon Highlands Project (GEF-FAO) managed by the African Union".

**For further information:**

Guy Rondeau, Co-ordinator, *Duga* Programme  
 Afrique Nature International  
[www.afnature.org](http://www.afnature.org), [g.rondeau@afnature.org](mailto:g.rondeau@afnature.org)



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS and BRIEF NEWS ITEMS

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### **Raptor Survey Request** **very important to participate!!!**

The Raptor Information System is a free, Internet-based catalog of over 38,000 references about the biology and management of birds of prey. The collection includes reprints of published papers and a significant amount of "gray literature" in the form of popular articles, theses, dissertations, unpublished government reports, and progress reports. The system is provided by the U.S. Geological Survey.

We have developed this survey to gain insights from the community of users and potential users of this library resource as we consider changes to the system. It important to understand how these changes could affect library users and what services matter the most to them. We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to respond to the nine survey questions via the web link found at <http://ris.wr.usgs.gov>. Thank you!

### **Workshops**

RAPTOR WORKSHOP: A 5-day workshop entitled "Introduction to Raptor Field Techniques" will be held 11-15 June 2007 in Stevens Point, WI by Eugene Jacobs of the Linwood Springs Research Station and Loren Ayers of the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. Receive first hand experience working with live raptors: capturing, handling and banding techniques, broadcast call surveys, tree climbing and rappelling, habitat sampling techniques, telemetry equipment and more. Cost is \$425 and space is limited so register early. For more information and registration form, visit <http://www.RaptorResearch.com>

### **Technician Opportunities**

RAPTOR RESEARCH TECHNICIAN (1) - needed to assist with a field study of Mississippi- and Swallow-tailed Kites. The research will be focused on demography, causes of nesting failures, and habitat use of both kite species in the White River National Wildlife Refuge (Big Woods) in the southeastern part of Arkansas. Technician is needed from approximately **early May 2007 until mid August 2007**. Primary duties will include nest searching, trapping, safe tree climbing, setting up video cameras at nests, and radiotelemetry. Additional duties include behavioral observations and vegetation sampling. Preference will be given to applicants with prior tree climbing, nest searching, and radiotelemetry experience. A tolerance for working long hours under adverse field conditions is required. Use of personal vehicle is required. Salary will be \$1100 - 1500/month, depending on experience; housing and per diem will be provided. Please, send a brief letter of interest and a resume along with names and contact information (phone number and e-mail address) of three references to: [Sabine.Schaefer@smail.astate.edu](mailto:Sabine.Schaefer@smail.astate.edu) (preferred); or by mail to: SABINE SCHAEFER, Department of Biological Sciences, Arkansas State University, P.O. Box 599, State University, AR 72467. Early application is advised as position will be filled as soon as



a qualified individual is found. Please, feel free to e-mail me regarding questions about this position.

### **For Sale**

**RRF Publications, Pins, and Decals** – Back issues of *The Journal of Raptor Research* (TJRR) Vol. 1-30, all Raptor Research Reports, and RRF pins and decals may be purchased directly from RRF (Jim Fitzpatrick, Carpenter St., Croix Valley Nature Center, 12805 St. Croix Trail S, Hastings, MN 55033, USA; email: [jim@carpenternaturecenter.org](mailto:jim@carpenternaturecenter.org)). Some older issues are not available. See <http://biology.boisestate.edu/raptor/JRR.htm> for details and prices. Orders for 4 or more issues receive a 30% discount. Vol. 31+ of TJRR may be purchased from Ornithological Societies of North America (5400 Bosque Blvd, Suite 680, Waco, TX 76710, USA; phone: 1-254-399-9636; email: [business@osnabirds.org](mailto:business@osnabirds.org); web: <http://www.osnabirds.org>).

**For Exchange or Sale:** The Peregrine Fund Research Library has several thousand duplicate ornithological journals and books for exchange or sale at reduced prices. Complete listings of these titles can be found on TPF's website (URL: <http://www.peregrinefund.org>) under "Research Library." All proceeds from the sales of these items are applied to new acquisitions for the Research Library, or to support our free PDF program, which has now been used by ornithologists in 49 countries. For more information, contact TRAVIS ROSENBERRY (EM: [library@peregrinefund.org](mailto:library@peregrinefund.org)) or LLOYD KIFF (PH: 208-362-8250).

### **Raptor Books and Publications**

#### **Migrating Raptors of the World: Their Ecology And Conservation**

by Keith L. Bildstein, Cornell University Press (October 2006), 344 pages.

Book Description: Many raptors, the hawks, eagles, and falcons of the world, migrate over long distances, often in impressively large numbers. Many avoid crossing wide expanses of water and follow "flyways" to optimize soaring potential. Atmospheric conditions and landscape features, including waterways and mountain ranges, funnel these birds into predictable bottlenecks through which thousands of daytime birds of prey may pass in a short time. Birders and ornithologists also congregate at these locations to observe the river of raptors passing overhead (as did hunters in the United States in the past and in some countries even today). Keith L. Bildstein has studied migrating raptors on four continents and directs the conservation science program at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania, the world's first refuge for migratory birds of prey. In this book, he details the stories and successes of twelve of the world's most important raptor-viewing spots, among them Cape May Point, New Jersey; Veracruz, Mexico; Kéköldi, Costa Rica; the Strait of Gibraltar, Spain; and Elat, Israel. During peak migration, when the weather is right, the skies at these sites, as at Hawk Mountain, can fill with thousands of birds in a single field of view. Bildstein, whose knowledge of the phenomenon of raptor migration is comprehensive, provides an accessible account of the history, ecology, geography, science, and conservation aspects surrounding the migration of approximately two hundred species of raptors between their summer breeding sites and their wintering grounds. He summarizes current knowledge about how the birds' bodies handle the demands of long-distance migration and how they know where to go. *Migrating Raptors of the World* also includes the ecological and

conservation stories of several of the world's most intriguing raptor migrants, including the Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Western Honey Buzzard, Northern Harrier, Grey-faced Buzzard, Steppe Buzzard, and Amur Falcon.

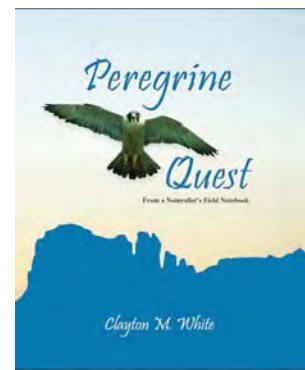
About the Author: Keith L. Bildstein is Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science at the Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. He is the author of *White Ibis: Wetland Wanderer* and coeditor of *RaptorWatch: A Global Directory of Raptor Migration Sites*.

### **Forthcoming Report -- The State of North American Birds of Prey**

On 12-16 September, the Raptor Research Foundation and Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) will meet together in Fogelsville, near Allentown, PA. The meeting will include a special symposium on raptor migration designed to highlight the unveiling of a new technical report being prepared by the Raptor Population Index (RPI) Project (see <http://www.hmana.org/rpi>) a collaborative partnership among HMANA, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and HawkWatch International, with additional oversight from a science-advisors committee comprised of representatives from the USGS Division of Biological Resources, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The report, copies of which will be distributed to all conference attendees, will include chapters (1) outlining the goals and objectives of the RPI Project, (2) summarizing current knowledge of raptor migration geography in North America, (3) presenting population trends gleaned from raptor migration watchsites across the continent (including western, eastern/Midwest, and Gulf Coast regional summaries--all datasets organized in a public-accessible, centralized, continental database system, <http://hawkcount.org>), and (4) conservation status reports for individual species that combine information from migration watchsites, Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, and other relevant datasets and analyses. The long-term goal of RPI is to publish similar continental status and trends reports every two to four years, while maintaining current summaries of related migration-watchsite trend analyses and conservation status assessments on the RPI web site for public access. Please consider joining the RPI partners, HMANA, and RRF at the conference and pick up your copy of the initial report. -- Submitted by: Jeff P. Smith, Ernesto Ruelas, and Keith L. Bildstein

A new book available by Clayton M. White, **PEREGRINE QUEST**, From A Naturalist's Field Notebooks, (ISBN-13: 978-1-888357-09-6, ISBN-10: 1-888357-09-7), \$32.95, Full Color Images Throughout, 7 X 10, Hard Bound, Dust Wrapper, 2006, & 416 Pages. Available from: [www.westernsporting.com](http://www.westernsporting.com); 1 (888) FLY-HAWK in USA

This is the story of a naturalist who spent 50 some years studying the peregrine falcon in its various breeding locations around the world such as, Utah, Alaska, South America, Australia, Fiji, etc. The peregrine is a cosmopolitan species that really is only absent as a breeder from a few areas in the world. Because many populations of falcons are migratory, the species in reality probably occurs in over 80% of the globe at one time or another. The narrative is taken from Clayton White's field notes and relates experiences that took place during his 50 years of global travel. The story integrates the ethics of landscape stewardship along with information about the falcon itself in various geographic locations.



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## RECENT THESES ON RAPTORS

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The U.S. Geological Survey's Richard R. Olendorff Memorial Library greatly appreciates receiving a copy of each thesis abstracted in *Wingspan*. This allows the Library to make theses available to scientists and managers worldwide through its Raptor Information System (RIS, see *Wingspan* 7(1):16). Please send theses to: Olendorff Memorial Library, U.S. Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Snake River Field Station, 970 Lusk Street, Boise, ID 83706, USA.

**Berthiaume, E. 2006. Incorporating detectability in hawk counts population trends analysis using a double-observer approach. MSc Thesis, Université de Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada. 53 p.**

Today, hawk counts of migrating individuals are done worldwide and are seen as a useful tool for hawk population management. However, with the recent creation of different monitoring projects such as the Raptor Population Index, it becomes crucial to evaluate the reliability of hawk counts data. Rigorous monitoring of animal abundance implies an evaluation of the detectability associated with the survey methods used, but still little has been done in the case of migrating hawk counts. The goal of this study was to evaluate the extent to which variation in weather and raptor behavior can affect the detectability of migrating hawks and, consequently, the assessment of long-term population trends. We used a double-observer approach to evaluate detection probability at the *Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac* in Quebec, Canada. Population viability analysis was then performed on historical raw counts and on counts adjusted for detectability, to evaluate how detectability affect the assessment of extinction probability of diurnal raptors populations. The detectability of migrating raptors ranged between 75% and 90% and was mainly influenced by weather and flight altitude. High-flying hawks were easier to detect on a clouded sky than on a blinding sunny sky. Optimal detection probability was associated with hawks flying at eye level. Detectability dropped with an increasing flight altitude or for hawks flying below the eye level of the observer. Probability of detection was higher for larger hawks and for hawks migrating in a cluster. No observer effects were found. No differences were found in the quasi-extinction probability of a species when accounting for detectability but this could be the result of the wide confidence intervals associated with our short time series. We suggest repeating the double-observer method used here at other hawk watch sites to generalize our results to other locations and to longer data sets.

**Briggs, C.W. 2007. Survival and Nesting Ecology of the Swainson's Hawk in Butte Valley, CA. M.Sc. Thesis, University of Nevada, Reno. 99 pp.**

A long-term dataset enabled us to investigate the survival, reproductive success and recruitment of Swainson's Hawks in Butte Valley, California. We were able to assess survival and reproduction before and after mass die-off events in Argentina due to monocrotophos, a pesticide used to control grasshopper outbreaks in agricultural fields. We also were able to examine correlations between these die-off events and population parameters of this population. Survival estimates demonstrated a strong quadratic effect, with survival decreasing from 1979

through 1996, and increasing thereafter, when monocrotophos was limited. There also was a relationship between survival and average annual reproductive success, showing that those individuals that produced greater than 2 fledglings/year had decreased survival, indicating a possible trade-off between survival and reproduction. Reproductive success was shown to be related to the male and male experience, while nest productivity was related to the female and measures of female experience. Landscape level variables measured during this study had relatively little impact on either measure of reproduction. Finally, we used multistate models in Program MARK to account for recapture probability across years to examine individual and population recruitment compared to reproductive success to examine the assumption that reproductive success is a reasonable predictor of fitness. On both scales we found that reproductive success was a reasonable and significant predictor of recruitment, supporting the assumption that fledgling success is a reasonable predictor of recruitment.

**Mojica, E.K. 2006. Migration, home range, and important use areas of Florida sub-adult bald eagles. MS Thesis, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.**

Long distance movements of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) have prevented a thorough documentation of their migration when monitored with traditional methods of banding and radio telemetry. I used satellite telemetry to determine diurnal and nocturnal important use areas (IUAs), migration routes, stopover sites, and home ranges of 69 migratory and non-migratory Florida sub-adult Bald Eagles. I located 151 daytime IUAs in 20 states and provinces, and 50 nocturnal roosts in 8 states and provinces. There was no difference in coarse home range size of migratory eagles between sexes in winter or summer (2-way ANOVA sex x season). Coarse home ranges were larger in winter ( mean = 25,218 km<sup>2</sup>, 95% CI: 13,015 – 37,421) than summer ( mean = 6,166 km<sup>2</sup>, 95% CI: 2,696 – 9,637;  $F_{1,64} = 4.03$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). Eagles made equal use of Coastal Plain ( $n = 24$ ) and Appalachian Mountain ( $n = 26$ ) migratory routes during the first migration north. I recommend conserving nocturnal roosts and undeveloped shoreline forest within IUAs for sustained recruitment of Florida Bald Eagles.

[Graphical information of important use areas (thesis appendices) for these eagles will be available in a few months at: <http://myfwc.com/eagle> ]

*To learn more about what RRF is doing for raptor conservation and for RRF members, check out the minutes from the RRF business meetings. Minutes from the annual business meeting held at the annual conference, as well as minutes from quarterly email agendas, are posted on the RRF website.*

**Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.  
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are open for the **2007 RRF Election** for the following directors, to serve a three-year term (2008-2010) beginning on January 1, 2008

Director, North American #1 (U.S. & Canada)  
Director At-Large #1 (no geographic restriction)  
Director At-Large #4 (no geographic restriction)  
Director, Southern Hemisphere (all of the southern hemisphere, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean)

Qualifications for each position:

Current regular, honorary or life member  
Resident of the representative geographical district (if applicable)  
Communicate and vote on official business by email  
Attendance at the annual board meeting during the annual conferences (President and Vice President), and as often as possible during the term (Directors)

Terms and duties of Directors are described in the bylaws at the RRF website:

<http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/>

If you are not putting forth your own name, please have the candidate's approval before submission. To be included on the ballot, the candidate must submit a biography for the position by **May 15, 2007**.

For submission and requirements of the candidate's biographical sketch contact Nomination Committee Chairman, Judith Henckel, online at [ednjudy@epix.net](mailto:ednjudy@epix.net) or by mail 1752 Robin Hood Road, Mt. Bethel, PA 18343 USA.



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