WHY HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL?

We keep our finger on the pulse of raptor populations, and take swift conservation action when we see species in decline. By operating the largest, coordinated network of migration sites in North America, we collect the critical population data to track trends and work with our partners to focus research and conservation efforts where they are needed most. Our migration network has employed over 2,000 field techs throughout the years, helping kickstart biology careers and providing many with their first hands-on raptor research experience. HawkWatch’s nesting, wintering, and migration research have played key roles in protecting raptors by filling knowledge gaps and directing nationwide conservation efforts.

We also understand the importance of community awareness. We take our “raptor ambassadors” into classrooms and out into the public to build passion for the natural world, increase awareness around environmental issues, and foster new generations of biologists and conservationists.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HAWKWATCH?

That’s the question we set out to answer last January in surveys we sent to donors, volunteers, and our own staff and board. More than 350 people responded, and we are happy to report that the vast majority (85%) feel we are doing a great job raising awareness around raptor conservation. However, our respondents also identified a couple of critical challenges the organization faces in the coming years, namely: addressing the growing and myriad risks to raptor populations, while working to ensure sustainable long-term funding.

We want to thank everyone who participated, and to let you know we value your feedback and are incorporating it into our strategic plans. We look forward to raising the visibility of raptors and the threats they face by increasing our geographic reach, filling knowledge gaps, and more effectively communicating the importance of our work.
As we look forward to 2018, we reflect on the friends, experiences and accomplishments of the past 12 months, and what it means for the future. We were honored to once again host the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) conference this past year in Salt Lake City, Utah. The conference covered 6 days of presentations, field trips, workshops and social events and included 330 scientists, students, government officials and raptor enthusiasts from all around the world. Topics of discussion covered a wide range of issues including energy development, contaminants, education initiatives, endangered species, and a variety of raptor conservation and research projects that are underway.

One of the conference keynote speakers was Andre Botha with the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa, who described the devastating decline of African-Eurasian vultures and the recent international initiative to develop and implement a comprehensive conservation action plan. The decline of African vultures is perhaps the most urgent and critical raptor conservation issue in the world, and HWI is working in partnership with the University of Utah to gather data and develop plans for the conservation of seven species in Ethiopia and the horn of Africa. A global perspective is critical to addressing the underlying issues of vulture decline. We welcome this international initiative and are excited to contribute to the effort.

The RRF conference underscores the importance of education, collaboration, and partnerships for conservation that transcend borders, habitats, and cultures. The birds we study and want to protect travel thousands of miles across national boundaries and the threats they face are not limited to a single location or habitat type. To understand population trends and sound the alarm when a species is in serious decline, we must monitor raptor migration as HWI does in western North America and then work collaboratively with policy makers, land owners, and the general public to implement conservation plans. This past year we have used this approach of collaborative research, citizen science, and conservation actions with our partners to protect and learn more about the declining American Kestrel, Flammulated Owl, Short-eared Owl, and Golden Eagle.

None of our research and conservation work would be possible without the ongoing support of individual donors and institutional sponsors. At HawkWatch International, we depend upon our members, volunteers, partners, donors and sponsors that support our research and education programs, and give us the energy and resources that we need to protect raptors and our shared environments. In 2014 we launched the Save Our American Raptors (SOAR) campaign to raise $4.9 million from all sources over 3 years. This has been the foundation of our annual operating budget and we are pleased to report that we have surpassed that goal as we close out 2017! We are grateful for all of the support and look forward to the new year with optimism and dedication to our shared mission.
Whether donating their time through bird docent and education programs or citizen science and research programs, the breadth of our work is only made possible through the extensive and amazing group of volunteers that we have the great privilege of working with each and every day. More than just volunteers, these individuals are our friends and family. Thank you all so much for your commitment to raptor conservation!

2016-2017 VOLUNTEER NUMBERS

315
TOTAL NUMBER OF HWI VOLUNTEERS

24,941
TOTAL HOURS WORKED BY VOLUNTEERS ON HWI PROJECTS

$639,048
TOTAL IN-KIND AMOUNT DONATED THROUGH VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Fun Facts
- Volunteers donated a total of 64,449 miles last year, the equivalent of 2.5 trips around the sun!
- Volunteers donated 1,039 days of their time—that’s 2.8 years worth of service!

Through HawkWatch, I’ve met incredible birds and incredible people.
Thank You!

Chad Anderson
Dylan Anderson
Elisabeth Anderson
Rachel Anjewierden
Michelle B
Barbara Bagnasco
Emma Baker
Gretchen Baker
Istvan Balazs
Darlene Batian
lan Battersman
Melanie Battistone
Jenna Baumgart
Joe Beman
Rebecca Bonebrake
Marley Bramble
Carel Brest van Kempen
Will Britton
Dustin Brown
Winston Brundige
Heidi Buchi
Brett Bunkall
Renee Burkley
Jessica Buskirk
Scott Bye
Jennifer Canar
Isaura Carballo
Joe Cerdini
Rachael Cervantes
Emma Chandler
Toby Chipman
Ollin Choi
Eva Christensen
Leroy Christensen
Charlie Clark
Kim Clark
Andrew Cliburn
Laurie Conlon
Brandy Conrad
Michelle Cordier
Kelly Cosgrove
Julia Curtis
Keean Dann
Tucker Davidson
Cal Deberand
Kaycie Deem
Steve De La Pena
Lauren diBicari
Margaret Dowling
Jim Dowling
Deborah Drain
Vance Drain
Colter Dye
Marian Eason
Nick Eason
Cavett Eaton
Barb Eastman
Steve Eberthard
Eric Ethington-Boden
Lewis “Hook” Ershler
Vini Exton
Caileigh Felker
Dane Ferrell
Paul Forster
Michael Frazier
Tessa Galland
Sophie Gauthier
Kevin Georg
Scott Gibson
Greysen Gill
Roy Gill
Gerri Giglio
Chris Goetz
Jesse Gomez
Kenley Gottleb
Kathryn Grandison
Daniel Green
Ellen Grim
Justin Grover
Gail Grow
Izzy Guzman
Natasha Hadden
Marcy Hafner
Jenness Hanson
Devon Harbaugh
Darrell Hatch
Helen Haskell
Ginger Hauschild
Kristina Haycock
Steve Heinrich
Maggie Hallerude
Tonya Hill
Amanda Holt
Bruce Holt
Jessie Holt
Kenna Holt
Sammy Holt
Suzi Holt
Shaila Hood
Lindsay Hooker
Meg Horner
Alan Howard
Matt Howard
Doug Hunter
Tana Hunter
Teresa Hyatt
Lisa Jasumback
Mark Jasumback
Madeline Jensen
Rachel Jensen
Daniel Johnson
Earl Johnson
Josh Johnston
Kiersten Johnston
Benjamin Jones
DJ Jones
Laura Jones
Jessica Jones
Joseph Jones
Joshua Jones
Michelle Jones
Shane Jones
Tom Jones
Suzanne Jones
Becky Joplin
Laurie Joseph
Natalie Kaddas
Avery Kane
Joanna Kane
Mike Kane
Philip Kavouriaris
Zachary Kermitz
Tom Kimbrough
Mackenzie “Mac” Kincaid
Mike King
Karina Kirchoff
Nancy Kiser
Aimee Kite
Shelly Kremer
Steve Kuhn
Doug Hunter
Laurel Ladwig
Liz Larsen
Jared Law
Keane Law
Sonya Law
Gail Lea
John Leavitt
Dave Lehman
Anthony Lewis
Leah Lewis
Alisa Light
Jenny Locke
Laura Lockhart
James Loveless
Kumara MacLeod
Mary Malmquist
Mike Malmquist
Keeli Marvel
Tony Mastracci
Lindsey McBride
Jordan McCormack
Tessa McNamee
Kay Millar
Mikalann Miller
Matthew Mills
Elbertine Miner
Josh Mitchell
Jeremiah Mollman
Allison Moon
Monica Morales
Brandon Morgan
Tish Morris
Anastasia Morse
Nancy O’Toole
Natalie Wilkins-Tyler
Johnson Williams
Kathie Valentine
Marianne Van
Anwerp
Tyrell Clarence “TC” Walker
Valerie Walker
Sara Veillette
Brenda Vernon
Rich Vernon
John Veillette
Ceeanna Zulla

Ben Sweet
Steph Szasmacy
Mike Tallon
Jessica Taylor
Lauri Taylor
Liz Taylor
Jeremy Telford
Kristin Telford
Maureen Thompson
Jady Tippets
Deanna Tubbs
Robert Tubbs
Kathie Valentine
Marianne Van
Anwerp
Tyrell Clarence “TC” Walker
Valerie Walker
Sara Veillette
Brenda Vernon
Rich Vernon
John Veillette
Ceeanna Zulla
LONG-TERM MONITORING

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

CONSERVATION
Color Bands and Kestrels

KN is a female American Kestrel captured as an adult in January 2015 and outfitted with a color band by our science staff. She's a city bird, raised and now nesting in an urban habitat. Since her initial capture, we have spotted KN nearly a dozen times over the years in the same general location. Although she hasn’t covered a ton of ground, these re-sightings paint an important profile for KN that is allowing us to glean insight into the behavior and movements of her life. For example, we have learned the area is suitable habitat for her and other Kestrels year-round—since we have not seen her using nestboxes, there are likely some non-box cavities (trees or buildings/other structures) where she may be nesting—and this bird is successfully navigating the urban landscape and avoiding threats such as commuter trains that pass by frequently, domestic cats that roam the area, and other daily threats.

Over the past few years, we have deployed 486 color bands and 1,134 USGS federal bands as part of our on-going research on American Kestrels. They are a declining species, but the cause remains a mystery. Color bands are one tool in a multifaceted approach to study their behaviors and fill in knowledge gaps. Specifically, color bands help us study how much space Kestrels use and how well they survive. You can help these efforts by keeping an eye out and reporting banded birds when out and about, or even dedicating time to survey for banded birds.

Learn more about our American Kestrel Study and how to get involved at www.hawkwatch.org/kestrels.

Learn more about our Golden Eagle research at www.hawkwatch.org/eagles.

"Color bands dramatically increase the chances that a live bird sighting will give us valuable data on individual movements and survival."
- Steve Slater, Conservation Science Director
Migration Monitoring is a Critical Conservation Tool

HawkWatch International began as a migration monitoring organization more than 30 years ago, and our migration network remains a key component in much of what we do today. The primary objective of our migration research is to track long-term population trends of diurnal raptors through annual counts. The power and utility of the network, and long-term monitoring in general, is that it allows identification of patterns in regional raptor populations both over time at individual sites and at larger scales. Declines in counts or passage rates for a species or group of species at the regional level can highlight the need for focused research or management attention at local scales, while increases may indicate the success of management or conservation efforts.

Monitoring the status of any wildlife species at the continental scale, much less a group of species, is a monumental task that requires a coalition of partners with a common goal. Luckily for raptors, hawk watching is a popular activity, especially in the eastern U.S. where over 70% of North America's watch sites are located. In the east, some of the oldest watch sites in the country, including Hawk Mountain and Cape May, have counted migrating raptors for over fifty years.

Learn more about our migration research and find directions to visit one of our HawkWatch sites at www.hawkwatch.org/migration.

Raptor Population Index: 2016 Analysis

The Raptor Population Index (RPI) was created in 2004 by project partners HawkWatch International, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Hawk Migration Association of North America, and Bird Studies Canada. The goal is to centralize migration count data from across the continent, analyze data from the many sites in a standardized and statistically robust way, and share results with the public. In 2008 RPI published State of North America's Birds of Prey, a ground-breaking book that examined population trends for raptors species based on data from 21 watch sites.

This past year, the RPI team completed a 2016 analysis including data and trends from 62 sites (see map), a significant growth from 21 sites in 2008. One notable large-scale finding from this analysis is that in the past 10 years there are major declines in migration counts at a high proportion of eastern watch sites, regardless of species. This could indicate region-wide declines in populations, but it also could indicate a shift in the number of birds that are migrating in the region or a shift in the distances they migrate—what migration ecologists call ‘short-stopping’. HWI scientists Neil Paprocki and Dave Oleyar, along with RPI colleagues, published a paper in 2016 addressing this issue for Red-tailed Hawks by comparing migration trends (RPI data) and winter trends (Christmas Bird Count data). We found that in many areas where we see migration count declines, we see an increase in numbers counted during the winter—evidence of migration shifts in this species. Another notable finding is that while we see more declines than expected in the east, we see more increasing trends for species counted in the west over the last 10 years. This could reflect an end to drought conditions in some western areas, and a resultant bump in raptor survival and productivity.

One thing is certain, collaborative efforts such as RPI are necessary for conservation to be effective on large scales. HWI is proud that our network continues to fill an important need for raptor monitoring in western North America, and we are proud be a partner in RPI and many other collaborative efforts.

2016 MIGRATION NUMBERS (from our 9 sites)

716,447 total birds counted of 27 different species
1,665 total birds banded of 13 different species
4,919 total visitors to the sites
Eagle Vehicle Strike Study

An estimated 6,000 Golden Eagles die each year. For a species that does not start reproducing until 5 years of age, and then only produces 1-2 chicks in years when the conditions are just right, every bird is precious and each death can have multi-generational effects on their populations.

HawkWatch International began researching Golden Eagles over 20 years ago when we started a study on nesting raptors in the Great Basin. We quickly learned of the devastating impacts cheatgrass was having on eagle productivity, and worked with land managers to safeguard relatively robust nest areas. But habitat degradation is only one of many survival challenges eagles face, others include an overall shrinking habitat from human development, a dwindling prey base and more competition for prey, wind farms and electrocution, lead poisoning and other contaminants, shooting, and vehicle collisions when eagles scavenge carcasses along roadsides.

Vehicle collisions are of particular interest to us, because we see opportunity to reduce mortality by working with wind farms to remove carcasses along roadways as a potential “mitigation offset” option. When a wind farm kills an eagle they are encouraged to “offset” that loss through conservation action. Currently, the primary offset option for wind farms is retrofitting “risky” power poles to help prevent electrocution. But what about areas where electrocution is a relatively low risk to eagles or few retrofitting options exist? For the past three years, we have been conducting research in vehicle roadkill hotspots to study the factors influencing vehicle strike risk for eagles when feeding on roadkill. The end goal is to present our final report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and put into place another viable mitigation offset option for wind farms to help address the vehicle collision problem. When our research is completed, wind industry and conservationists will be better equipped to save eagles from an unfortunate and unnecessary fate!

We want to thank our project partners and funders: UAMPS, Puget Sound Energy, Avangrid Renewables, American Wind Energy Association, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Vanishing Vultures, an African Study

What would the world look like without any vultures? They play a significant role in keeping our ecosystem healthy and reducing the spread of disease by feeding on dead animals, but over the past two decades their populations have declined catastrophically. So without them, what would happen?

These are questions that post-doctoral researcher Evan Buechley set out to answer five years ago when he began studying African vultures in Ethiopia, home to the highest diversity of vultures anywhere in the world. He has been working to fill knowledge gaps and lay the groundwork for conserving vultures in Ethiopia, and throughout Africa, by focusing on their two greatest threats: poisoning and electrocution.

Evan approached HawkWatch International last year to partner with the University of Utah and help continue the study. We saw the importance of this research not only to saving the vanishing vultures, but to the larger impacts on human health and disease prevention—nearly every continent on the planet has vultures and needs them for their ecosystem services. We quickly jumped on board.

This past fall, Evan and team spent three months in Ethiopia conducting 2,000 miles of road and point surveys, counting over 3,100 vultures. They also conducted hundreds of interviews with locals to learn about their perceptions of vultures and potential threats to wildlife around the country. This data is being used to identify key habitat for vultures and develop conservation management plans that will allow us to work with our partners and government agencies to help prevent extinction.

In a country where 3 million people are facing a hunger crisis each year, the challenge will be how to make vulture conservation a priority. Human health and vultures are interconnected, and that is the story we intend to share.

Learn more about the Vanishing Vultures study and get the latest updates at www.hawkwatch.org/vultures.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CITIZEN SCIENCE

EDUCATION

Washington State University students visiting the Chelan Ridge HawkWatch
photo by TC Walker
HawkWatch International has been using our research data inside classrooms for many years to provide informal education on science and math. Statistics and data analysis are our specialty. Our scientists use these tools every day, and this provides us a great opportunity to show students the connection between learning science in school and using science in professional careers.

For many students, and even some teachers, just mentioning the words “data analysis” is enough to induce dread and panic. Teachers often struggle to find data sets that grab their students’ attention, and as a result students struggle to understand how to analyze and use data. “It can at times be a challenge to inspire students to see the real life applications of the concepts covered in a classroom,” said Nicholas Lang, a biology teacher at Snow Canyon High School.

Recently, we began using our Golden Eagle data on movements and mortality to show real world examples and get students excited. After discussing issues related to the decline of Golden Eagle populations, such as competition for resources, environmental contaminants and climate change, students are asked to consider questions that integrate those ecological concepts with statistics. For example, what kind of data could we collect to address the potential causes of decline in Golden Eagle populations? And then once we have those data, how can we use them to develop solutions to reverse this decline?

“It was great to show the students the importance and relationship between math and science. The activity with the data was a great way to let the students make connections between what trends they saw and speculate as to the cause,” said a teacher from Pine View High School.

Raptors In the Classroom

When you picture a career in science, what comes to mind? Over the past 30 years of providing raptor education programs, we’ve learned that many students struggle to “think outside the lab.” So how do we change that perspective? Our favorite way is to take a group of students on a beautiful hike to the top of a HawkWatch site. “My students expected stuffy, uptight scientists and instead got really chill, knowledgeable people who were happy to answer questions and teach them so much,” said Kristin Birdzell, a teacher from Elko High School.

While at the site, students have the opportunity to apply the biology, ecology, and math concepts they have learned in the classroom while they work alongside our biologists to collect important data on raptor populations. Then, if all goes well, a lucky few even get the opportunity to release a banded raptor back into the skies. It’s an experience that many teachers, including Birdzell, have simply called priceless. “They walked away with an entirely different view of science, birds, and the importance of both.”

Raptors Out of the Classroom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016-2017 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NUMBERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>645</strong> TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 415 School Education Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 230 Community Outreach Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong> RAPTOR AMBASSADORS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artemis, Western Screech Owl</td>
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<td>Aymara, Swainson’s Hawk</td>
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<td>Calurus, Red-tailed Hawk</td>
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<td>Galileo, Short-eared Owl</td>
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<td>Goose, Peregrine Falcon</td>
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<td>Kotori, Great Horned Owl</td>
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<td><strong>41,656</strong> TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED</td>
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The Short-eared Owl courtship flight is one of nature’s most fascinating aerial displays. Male owls rise up in a spiral before descending toward the ground as they clap their wings under their bodies, making an audible and visual display meant to attract females. It is precisely this behavior that is allowing us to conduct the first-ever, broad-scale population assessment of Short-eared Owls. By focusing efforts during the courtship period of the breeding season, we are able to increase our likelihood of finding, counting, and monitoring their populations.

The owls primarily rely on large, intact native grasslands, shrublands, and wetlands for breeding and survival. These habitats are shrinking across the landscape and causing population declines among the species. With only a few studies on the owls available and a lack of sufficient survey data, we are unable to determine the extent to which their populations have declined over time, or even what their total populations are. In 2016, HawkWatch International and partners collaborated to begin a citizen science project to conduct count surveys and start collecting population data throughout Utah and Idaho. The project expanded to Nevada and Wyoming in 2017, and this year, thanks to a State Wildlife Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the project has expanded again to include eight western North American states.

We want to thank the 332 citizen science volunteers who donated their time for this project!

Western Asio flammeus Landscape Study (a.k.a. Project WAfLS) partners include:

- HawkWatch International and Utah Department of Wildlife Resources (Utah)
- Intermountain Bird Observatory, Idaho Fish & Game, and University of Idaho (Idaho)
- Nevada Department of Wildlife (Nevada)
- University of Wyoming Biodiversity Institute (Wyoming)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (California)
- Owl Research Institute (Montana)
- Klamath Bird Observatory (Oregon)
- Washington Department of Fish and Game (Washington)

Learn more about the study and find the latest updates at www.hawkwatch.org/seow.

Imagine growing up in an area so urban, so polluted with noise and light that you have never really seen the night sky or heard the sounds of wildlife around you. It’s something we hear frequently from the high school students from Los Angeles who participate in our Forest Owl Study—an effort to learn more about how small, cavity-nesting owls are impacted by climate change. “This expedition gave me the chance to see what nature looks like when it is free of technology, distractions, and human adjustments,” said one student.

Funded by the Durfee Foundation, a special “Ignite” program gave 18 high school students from LA the chance to spend two weeks learning to identify trees, owls and habitats for these cavity-nesting birds, and how to catch owls and take important measurements. “The Earthwatch experience was amazing because I got to work together with new people to make a change in our environment. I learned the importance of field work and data collection for scientific research such as this one. I became more familiar with nature itself and the creatures that live in our environment.”

Our Forest Owl Study was ranked among the top 10 Earthwatch expeditions of 2017! And isn’t just limited to high school students. Last season we also welcomed a group of nine high school teachers from around the country who not only participated in our research, but also learned about how to lead groups of teens on citizen science expeditions. In total, 54 participants took part in the study during 2017, ranging in age from 14 to 73.

Learn more about the study and sign up for your expedition at www.hawkwatch.org/forestowls.
Did you know that HWI is one of the only organizations in the country that has a Short-eared Owl as a raptor ambassador? Rescued by Utah-based wildlife photographers Ron Dudley and Mia McPherson, Galileo joined the our education team in November of 2016 after an unfortunate collision with a barbed wire fence. He is named for the Italian astronomer Galileo, who looked towards the heavens—a name we find pretty appropriate for such a divine looking little owl. During this past year, Galileo has already reached 8,510 people through 122 education programs, working to build awareness around the conservation needs of Short-eared Owls.

Yaki served as an HWI raptor ambassador for more than 15 years, representing North America’s smallest falcon, the American Kestrel. Yaki was found on the doorstep of a wildlife rehabilitation center in 2002, and came to HWI after injuries to her left wing did not heal correctly. During her tenure, Yaki helped share the beauty and fortitude of the American Kestrel with more than 70,000 people. She also helped us educate the public about the declining populations of these tiny but fierce falcons. We are all so thankful for the time that we were able to share with her. We will miss her dearly. Fly free, sweet Yaki.

We were honored to host the 2017 Raptor Research Foundation conference in Salt Lake City last year (the last time the city hosted the conference was in 1982). HawkWatch International welcomed 330 of our colleagues from around the world as we presented on the latest raptor research and data, with the goal of collaboration and collective conservation. A third of the participants were students and early career raptor biologists, making this one of the youngest conferences on record. To welcome all of our former migration crew members, we held a social hour and got to catch up with two generations of HawkWatch migration crew alumni (pictured here). Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the 2017 conference! The 2018 conference will be held in Africa.
PROFESSIONAL & CONTRACT SERVICES
Professional Services for Smart and Sustainable Development

In 2010, we began offering Professional Services to lend our knowledge and expertise to agencies, industry, and the general public on wildlife and land management issues. By keeping our mission at the forefront of our contract services, we set a high standard and ensure the projects we accept are working to protect birds of prey. All revenue generated through Professional Services is funneled back into our research, allowing us to use the latest science and data to not only guide raptor conservation with our partners, but to offer outstanding raptor and avian services tailored to our clients’ needs. Some of our current and former clients include the U.S. Department of Defense, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, sPower, Wasatch Wind, Enyo Energy, Utah’s largest open pit mine company, Talisker, and Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems.

Sustainable Property Holdings (sPower) contracted HawkWatch International two years ago when they purchased the Latigo Wind Park, to help them navigate eagle and other bird and bat issues that may arise at wind farms. The 60 MW Latigo project near Monticello, Utah includes 27 turbines and produces enough clean energy to power about 12,000 average sized homes each year. HawkWatch International is a proponent of renewable energy, but we understand all power production comes at a cost. Wind turbines pose a risk to eagles and other large raptors. Due diligence must be taken before building wind farms to avoid critical flyways that birds use, and perform ongoing surveys to shut down turbines when eagles are nearby. HawkWatch contracts with sPower to complete avian studies at the wind farm and watch for raptors during daylight hours on the wind farm property. By acting as their sentinels, we are helping to protect eagles, while also minimizing disruption in this energy production project.

Building Coalitions for Conservation

In collaboration with Kidd Biological Inc. and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, HawkWatch International traveled to Nome, Alaska during the summer of 2017 to assist in a study tracking the movement ecology of breeding Rough-legged Hawks.

An understudied species that may serve as a “climate change indicator,” the Rough-legged Hawk undertakes an annual migration that brings them from the arctic regions of Alaska and Canada to the contiguous United States and back again. This annual migration can result in an individual bird traveling 6,000 miles in a single year! During the summer of 2017, two breeding adults were successfully trapped and outfitted with GPS-transmitters, two other breeding adults were re-sighted still wearing transmitters deployed in 2016, and 11 nestlings from six breeding territories were color banded—all part of a collaborative effort to support ongoing work documenting Rough-legged Hawk migration movements and breeding success.
Operating Revenue and Expenses
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets
Income
Public Support $1,745,066
Earned Revenue $747,466
Net Investment Return $92,830
Total Income $2,585,362

Expenses
Program Services $2,032,668
Supporting Services $297,388
Total Expenses $2,330,056

Operating Revenue Over Operating Expenses $255,306

Statement of Financial Position
Assets & Liabilities
Assets $2,601,527
Liabilities $125,782
Total Net Assets $2,475,745

Net Assets (at beginning of year) $2,415,490
Net Assets (at end of year) $2,475,745

Changes in Net Assets $60,255
How were you first introduced to HawkWatch International and what led to your support?
I became aware of HawkWatch International through my birdwatching activities in the community. I began to support the organization because it was engaged in the science that is critical in informing decision makers on the underlying issues affecting raptors. It was clearly an organization that was making a difference, heading out to those remote migration sites and counting one bird at a time! Most simply, I believe in what HawkWatch is doing.

How does the organization stand out from other conservation groups?
Not every organization can brag about having beautiful raptors at their office. Those gorgeous, rehabilitated educational birds are a standout. Looking into those amber or orange eyes reinforces why you are trying to protect them. There is always an awe by people who have the opportunity to see one of their education birds up close.

How has the organization changed and/or adapted over the years while you have been on the board?
It is such a privilege to be on the board of HawkWatch International. Each member is passionate about the success of the organization and gives generously to support the mission. The board consistently reviews the goals and works hard to ensure that we are using resources in the optimum manner. HawkWatch has certainly gotten more technologically innovative, and we have added more and more partnerships with other organizations and governmental entities to achieve our goals. We need to all work together to address the issues and threats not only affecting raptors, but the entire global ecosystem.

How does HWI reflect your values as a conservationist?
I love that the organization’s conservation efforts are grounded in science, in education, and in developing public awareness. The HawkWatch staff understands that conservation is a complex issue, and leverages their partnerships to enhance its ability to make a difference.

What would you say to someone who is considering giving their support to HWI?
Please give! Your support will be deeply appreciated, and most importantly the dollars will be “stretched” by a dedicated staff to support the stewardship of our environment and the beautiful raptors who inhabit it. You will be giving a gift to future generations!
HWI SUPPORTERS Thank You!

Through their membership support and gifts of $50 or more from July 2016 to June 2017, these individuals, companies, and foundations invested in HWI’s critical mission to conserve raptors and our shared environment. HWI is proud to honor and include these individuals in our Community of Raptor Supporters! Regardless of gift size, we are thankful to all of our many contributors who support our work. We apologize for anyone we may have missed in this list. If you have a correction, please contact us at (801) 484-6808. Thank you!

Eagle Member ($1000+)
Val Antczak and Barbara Polich
Paul Beebe and Carol McNaughton-Beebe
Igor Best-Devereux and Cynthia Conner
Kevin Bradburn
Winston and Ann Brundige
Tim Buchanan and Michaela Mezo
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Cynthia Conner
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Rough-legged Hawks
photo by Neil Paprocki

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