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“This book is an invaluable contribution to our current understanding of raptor migration and the population status of raptors in North America. The work synthesizes a wealth of information on hawkwatch counts, migration patterns, population trends, and the conservation status of North American raptors. The most exciting outcome of this collaborative effort is the emergence of the Raptor Population Index as a quantitative tool that can be used to improve our ability to more accurately assess the status of raptor populations. Raptor biologists and enthusiasts alike will appreciate this contribution to raptor conservation.”

MICHAEL W. COLLOPY
Executive Director, Academy for the Environment, University of Nevada, Reno

“This book is a pioneering attempt to summarise the results of raptor counts made at migration watchsites in North America over the past several decades. It provides a valuable assessment of the continental population trends and conservation status of different species, and highlights some recent changes in migratory behaviour associated with climate change and other factors. The authors and editors are to be congratulated in producing such a readable and fascinating account that will help stimulate further expansion of this branch of ‘citizen science’.”

IAN NEWTON, OBE FRS
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Monks Wood, United Kingdom

“Few species play as special a role in human perceptions of ecosystem integrity and the health of natural environments as do raptors. This book demonstrates how tracking their populations provides practical information for assessing biodiversity change in time and space, an urgent task in the face of rapid global change. Bildstein et al. demonstrates how science, statistics, public participation, and continental coordination, acting together, can lead to the effective dissemination of monitoring results. It is a wonderful example that must be followed.”

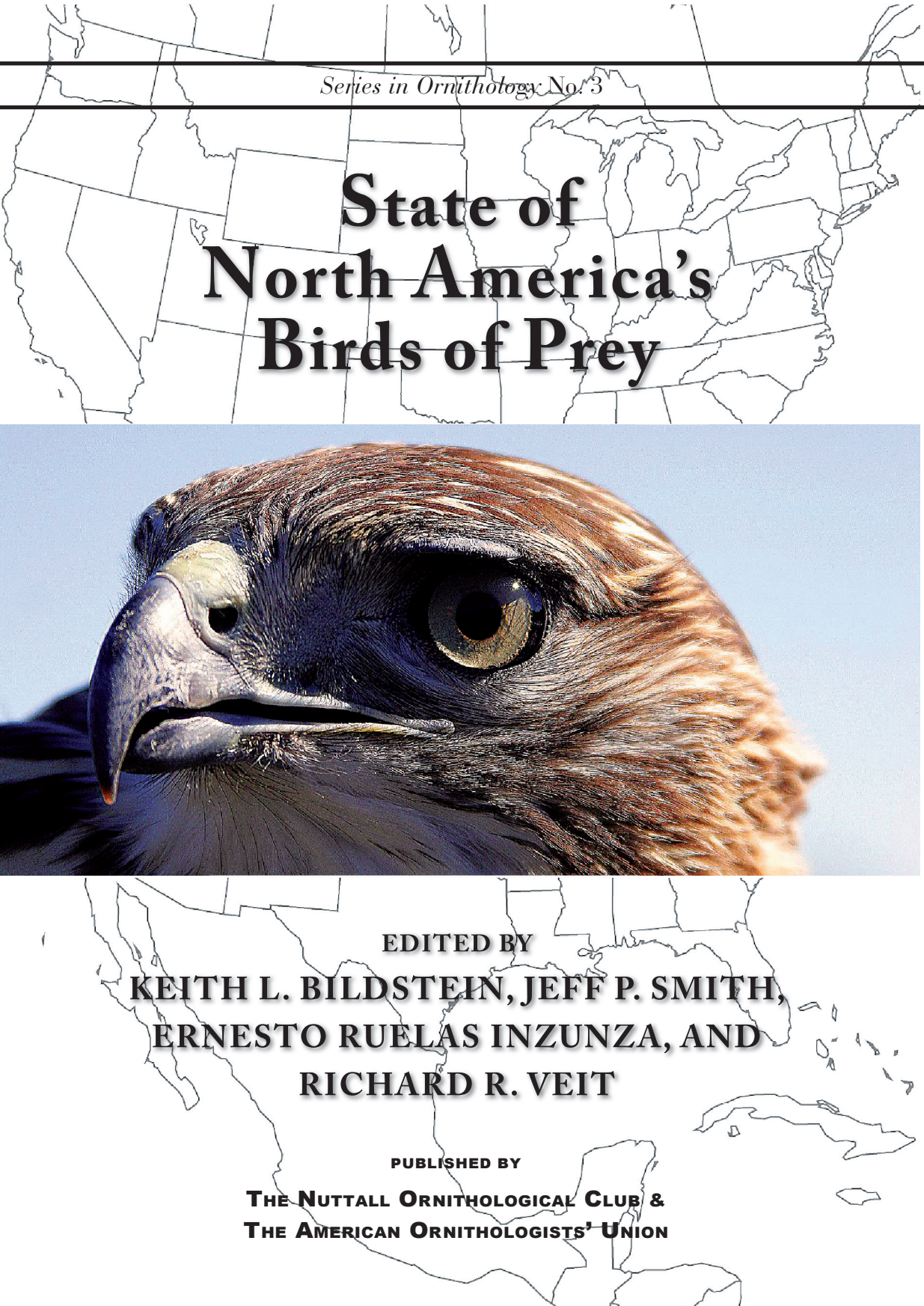
MIGUEL FERRER
Estación Biológica de Doñana, Sevilla, Spain

SERIES IN ORNITHOLOGY

This volume is the third in a series of avian monographs published jointly by the Nuttall Ornithological Club—the oldest natural-history society in North America, and the American Ornithologists’ Union—the largest ornithological society in the world.

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SERIES IN ORNITHOLOGY NO. 3 • NORTH AMERICA’S BIRDS OF PREY • BILDSTEIN ET AL.



Each autumn millions of raptors migrate past more than 100 raptor migration watchsites in North America. Migration counts have tracked declines in raptors in the DDT era, as well as rebounds since then.

In 2003, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the Hawk Migration Association of North America, and HawkWatch International pledged to work together to create a Raptor Population Index (RPI) that would provide conservation status reports of North America’s birds of prey based on counts from a network of watchsite counts.

There is much good news. Populations of most North American raptors are increasing, and only one, the California Condor, remains on the federal Endangered Species List. That said raptors remain vulnerable as humanity continues to co-opt more land and impact climates globally.

State of North America’s Birds of Prey presents the results of the first RPI report.

**STATE OF
NORTH AMERICA'S
BIRDS OF PREY**



Frontispiece. The view to the East from the North Lookout at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, central Pennsylvania, where season-long counts of migrating raptors have been underway since 1934. (Photo by Shawn Carey, copyright © Shawn Carey.)

Cover photo: Red-tailed Hawk close-up by John A. DiGiorgio (copyright © J. A. DiGiorgio).

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ERNESTO RUELAS INZUNZA, AND
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Table of Contents

<i>From the Editors</i>	vii
PREFACE	1
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	3
CHAPTER 1. A Brief History of Raptor Conservation in North America	<i>Keith L. Bildstein</i> 5
CHAPTER 2. Raptor Migration in North America	<i>Laurie J. Goodrich and Jeff P. Smith</i> 37
CHAPTER 3. Long-term Monitoring: The Raptor Population Index in Principle	<i>David J. T. Hussell and Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza</i> 151
CHAPTER 4. The Raptor Population Index in Practice	<i>Christopher J. Farmer and David J. T. Hussell</i> 165
CHAPTER 5. Trends in Autumn Counts of Migratory Raptors in Northeastern North America, 1974–2004	<i>Christopher J. Farmer, Ronald J. Bell, Bruno Drolet, Laurie J. Goodrich, Else Greenstone, David Grove, David J. T. Hussell, David Mizrahi, Frank J. Nicoletti, and Jason Sodergren</i> 179
CHAPTER 6. Trends in Autumn Counts of Migratory Raptors in Western North America.....	<i>Jeff P. Smith, Christopher J. Farmer, Stephen W. Hoffman, Gregory S. Kaltenecker, Kent Z. Woodruff, and Peter F. Sherrington</i> 217
CHAPTER 7. Trends in Autumn Counts of Migratory Raptors around the Gulf of Mexico, 1995–2005	<i>Jeff P. Smith, Christopher J. Farmer, Stephen W. Hoffman, Casey A. Lott, Laurie J. Goodrich, Joel Simon, Cecilia Riley, and Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza</i> 253
CHAPTER 8. Raptor-migration Watchsite Descriptions	<i>Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza</i> 279

CHAPTER 9. Conservation Status of North America's Birds of Prey	
<i>Christopher J. Farmer, Laurie J. Goodrich,</i>	
<i>Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza, and Jeff P. Smith</i>	303
CHAPTER 10. The RPI Website	<i>Jason Sodergren</i> 421
CHAPTER 11. The Future of Raptor-migration Monitoring	
<i>Keith L. Bildstein, Jeff P. Smith, and Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza</i>	435
CHAPTER 12. Recommended Methods for Population Monitoring at	
Raptor-migration Watchsites.....	<i>Erica Dunn, David J. T. Hussell,</i>
<i>and Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza</i>	447
Glossary	461

From the Editors

This symposium volume, which focuses on population studies of migrating raptors, is the third in what we expect will be a long-running series that presents some of the best in ornithological literature by combining the resources of the Nuttall Ornithological Club (NOC) and the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU).

The NOC is the oldest of the existing bird clubs, having started in the Boston area in 1873. It published quarterly *Bulletins* from 1876 through 1883 and began a *Memoirs* series in 1886, the most recent of which was released in 2000. The NOC's *Publications* series started in 1957 and has produced 28 book-length treatments of a variety of ornithological topics; most of these books are still available (www.mcz.harvard.edu/Publications/nuttall.htm).

The AOU was founded in 1883 and has grown to become the largest ornithological society in the world, with more than 3,500 members. It has produced a variety of publications during its history, the most important being its quarterly journal *The Auk*. From 1964 to 2004, the AOU's series *Ornithological Monographs* produced 53 book-length treatments on a wide variety of topics; many of these monographs are available on the AOU website (www.aou.org). Starting in 2004, *Ornithological Monographs* shifted to smaller (usually fewer than 100 printed pages) but more regular (3 or 4 times a year) coverage of ornithological research and conservation. As such, the development of the cooperative *Series in Ornithology* provides scientists with a publication outlet for ornithological works that are too large for the current version of *Ornithological Monographs*.

Authors who wish to have their work considered for *Series in Ornithology* should contact the appropriate editor (see www.aou.org or www.noc.org) for information about the process involved in getting from first draft to final product. We hope that you enjoy this in-depth examination of raptor migration and that *Series in Ornithology* will become a regular part of your reading future.

*John Faaborg
Richard R. Veit*