



Conserving Raptors and Our Shared Environment

2016-2017

Annual Report



photo by Cherin Spencer-Bower
@cherinwildfilms



American Kestrel
photo by Will Britton

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.

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.



Sharp-shinned Hawk
photo by Ken Chamberlain

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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."

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.



Paul Parker
Executive Director



Natalie Kaddas
Board Chair



Volunteer Profile

Meet Sophie Gauthier

When Lewis and Clark University freshman Sophie Gauthier returns home to Salt Lake City this winter break, she will be spending her time a little differently than most of her peers—working with raptors. Sophie is a bird docent who began volunteering with HWI last spring. She became interested in raptors during her freshman year at the Waterford School when HWI staff brought a live hawk into her biology class as part of HWI's informal science education program, "Raptor Biology Through the Seasons."

Despite the fact that Sophie now lives in Portland, Oregon, she remains committed to sharing her passion for raptors with others. "Through HawkWatch, I've met incredible birds and incredible people. I've been able to educate the public about birds I love, while still learning more about these birds each day," Sophie said.

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

TOTAL HOURS WORKED BY
VOLUNTEERS ON HWI PROJECTS

24,941



HOW MUCH WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

\$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. }

HWI VOLUNTEERS

Thank You!

Chad Anderson	Laurie Conlon	Kenley Gottleb	Daniel Johnson	Dave Lehman	Brian Perkes	Ben Sweet
Dylan Anderson	Brandy Conrad	Kathryn Grandison	Earl Johnson	Anthony Lewis	Sheri Perkes	Steph Szasmacy
Eliabeth Anderson	Michelle Cordier	Daniel Green	Josh Johnston	Leah Lewis	Cordell Peterson	Mike Tallon
Rachel Anjewierden	Kelly Cosgrove	Ellen Grim	Kiersten Johnston	Alisa Light	Sandy Peterson	Jessica Taylor
Michelle B	Julia Curtis	Justin Grover	Benjamin Jones	Jenny Locke	Danielle Phillips	Lauri Taylor
Barbara Bagnasacco	Keelan Dann	Gail Grow	DJ Jones	Laura Lockhart	Samantha Phillips	Liz Taylor
Emma Baker	Tucker Davidson	Izzy Guzman	Laura Jones	James Loveless	Jody Plant	Jeremy Telford
Gretchen Baker	Cal Deberand	Natasha Hadden	Jessica Jones	Kumara MacLeod	Barbara Polich	Kristin Telford
Istvan Balazs	Kaycie Deem	Marcy Hafner	Joseph Jones	Mary Malmquist	Bruce Pope	Maureen Thompson
Darlene Batatian	Steve De La Pena	Jenness Hanson	Joshua Jones	Mike Malmquist	Terri Pope	Jady Tippets
Ian Batterman	Lauren diBiccari	Devon Harbaugh	Michelle Jones	Keeli Marvel	Will Potter	Deanna Tubbs
Melanie Battistone	Margaret Dowling	Darrell Hatch	Shane Jones	Tony Mastracci	Brandon Ransom	Robert Tubbs
Jenna Baumgart	Jim Dowling	Helen Haskell	Tom Jones	Lindsey McBride	Shon Reed	Kathie Valentine
Joe Beman	Deborah Drain	Ginger Hauschild	Suzanne Jones	Jordan McCormack	Heather Reynolds	Marianne Van
Rebecca Bonebrake	Vance Drain	Kristina Haycock	Becky Joplin	Tessa McNamee	Leah Richardson	Anwerp
Marley Bramble	Colter Dye	Rachel Hayes	Laurie Joseph	Kay Millar	Don Ries	Kristin Vanstaveren
Carel Brest van	Marian Eason	Sarah Hecocks	Natalie Kaddas	Mikalann Miller	Jean Robinson	Jessica Van Woeart
Kempen	Nick Eason	Steve Heinrich	Avery Kane	Matthew Mills	William Robinson	Brenda Vernon
Will Britton	Cavett Eaton	Maggie Hallerude	Joanna Kane	Elbertine Miner	Randi Rollins	Rich Vernon
Dustin Brown	Barb Eastman	Tonya Hill	Mike Kane	Josh Mitchell	Jolene Rose	John Veillette
Winston Brundige	Steve Eberthard	Amanda Holt	Philip Kavouriaris	Jeremiah Mollman	Holland Rupp	Sara Veillette
Heidi Buchi	Eric Ethington-	Bruce Holt	Zachary Kermitz	Allison Moon	Vivian	Tyrell Clarence "TC"
Brett Bunkall	Boden	Jessie Holt	Tom Kimbrough	Monica Morales	Schweggenburger	Walker
Renee Burkley	Lewis "Hook" Ershler	Kenna Holt	Mackenzie "Mac"	Brandon Morgan	Ben Sears	Valerie Walker
Jessica Buskirk	Vini Exton	Sammy Holt	Kincaid	Tish Morris	Wendy Sears	Melissa Ward
Scott Bye	Caileigh Felker	Suzi Holt	Mike King	Anastasia Morse	Steve Seibel	Megan Weinandt
Jennifer Canar	Dane Ferrell	Shaila Hood	Karin Kirchoff	Alisha Mosloff	Mike Shaw	Casey Weissburg
Isaura Carballo	Paul Forster	Lindsay Hooker	Nancy Kiser	Bret Mossman	Sherree Sheide	Benjamin West
Joe Ceradini	Michael Frazier	Meg Horner	Aimee Kite	Melissa Nissonger	Dan Sherman	David Wheeler
Rachael Cervantes	Tessa Galland	Alan Howard	Shelly Kremer	Bryant Olsen	Scott Shively	Brittany Wildman
Emma Chandler	Sophie Gauthier	Matt Howard	Steve Kuhn	Ric Otero	Francesco Simeone	Becky Williams
Toby Chipman	Kevin Georg	Doug Hunter	Laurel Ladwig	Nancy O'Toole	Christina Slade	John Williams
Ollin Choi	Scott Gibson	Tana Hunter	Liz Larsen	Kate Owens	Brian Smith	Natalia Wilkins-Tyler
Eva Christensen	Greysen Gill	Teresa Hyatt	Jared Law	Patrick Parker	Marie Soderbergh	Nathan Wright
Leroy Christensen	Roy Gill	Lisa Jasumback	Keane Law	Kathy Paulin	Jim Spencer	Paul Zuckerman
Charlie Clark	Gerri Giglio	Mark Jasumback	Sonya Law	Melissa Payne	Linda Stearns	Ceeanna Zulla
Kim Clark	Chris Goetze	Madeline Jensen	Gail Lea	Matt Pendleton	Nelia Storey	
Andrew Cliburn	Jesse Gomez	Rachel Jensen	John Leavitt	Mary Pendergrast	Caleb Stroh	



**LONG-TERM
MONITORING**

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SCIENCE & RESEARCH

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CONSERVATION

Banded Kestrel
photo by Scott Bye

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.



Color Bands and Eagles

DN is a female Golden Eagle nestling banded in 2017 at about 40 days old in the West Desert, along the Nevada/Utah border. She was a healthy, young eagle weighing 2.9 kg with a tail length of 345 mm. Her parents have been nesting in the area for many years with several successful clutches. Thanks to funding and support from the Department of Defense, our goal is to put out 500 color bands on Golden Eagle nestlings over the next 3-5 years. The large, silver alphanumeric code on the blue band can be read from a distance, increasing the chances of re-encountering the bird while still alive, and without having to recapture it or outfit it with expensive tracking devices. Unlike Kestrels, Golden Eagles are much more reclusive and sensitive to human presence, and therefore less likely to be seen again after banding. We are focusing on eagles in areas where we hope to detect the birds through motion-sensitive cameras installed at desert water features, trapping stations, and on roadkill as part of our Eagle Vehicle Strike study. This information will allow us to study where young eagles travel to after leaving the nest, their dependence on water, if they scavenge on carcasses along roadways, and, more generally, what types of risks they face as they navigate the landscape.

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.

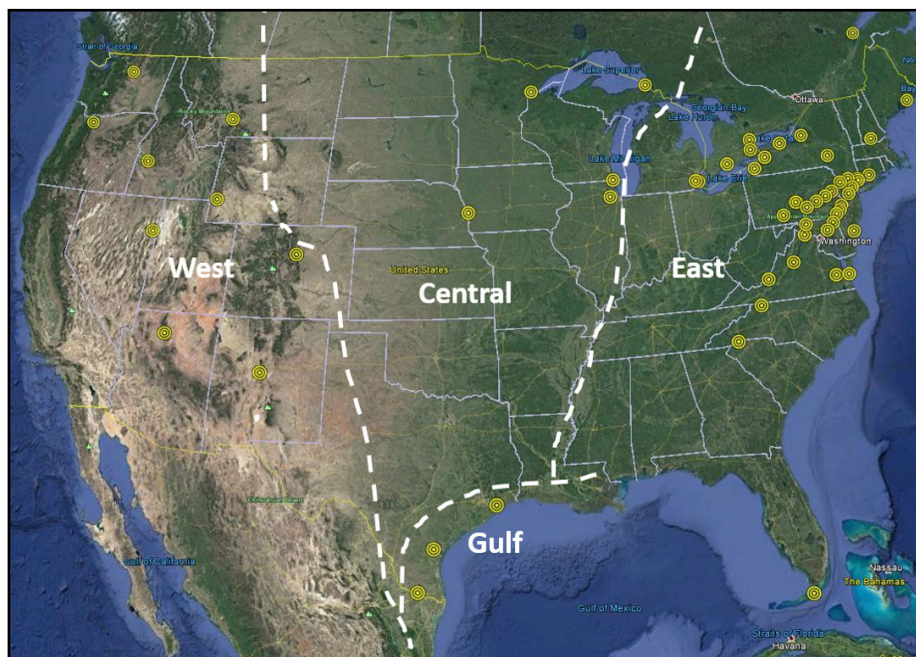
Learn more about our migration research and find directions to visit one of our HawkWatch sites at www.hawkwatch.org/migration.

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



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 to be a partner in RPI and many other collaborative efforts.

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**

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CITIZEN SCIENCE

.....

EDUCATION



Washington State University students
visiting the Chelan Ridge HawkWatch
photo by TC Walker

Raptors In the Classroom

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 Out of 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.”



645

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

- 415 School Education Programs
- 230 Community Outreach Programs

2016-2017 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NUMBERS

6

RAPTOR
AMBASSADORS

Artemis, Western Screech Owl
Aymara, Swainson's Hawk
Calurus, Red-tailed Hawk
Galileo, Short-eared Owl
Goose, Peregrine Falcon
Kotori, Great Horned Owl

41,656

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED

Volunteers Across the West Work to Protect the Short-eared Owl

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.

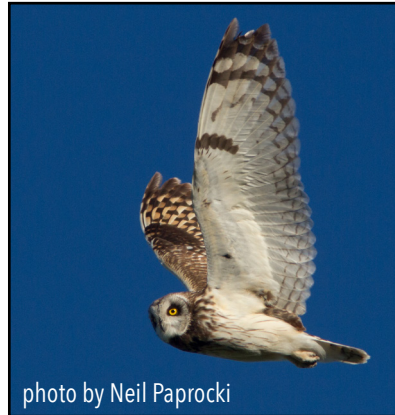


photo by Neil Paprocki

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 Arid Landscape Study (a.k.a. Project WALS) 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.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Conservationists

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.



photo by Nikki Wayment

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.



Galileo Joins the Team

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.



Remembering Yaki

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.



2017 RRF Conference

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.

HELP US TAKE RAPTORS TO CLASSROOMS AND PEOPLE TO RAPTORS

\$15 feeds one Raptor Ambassador for a week

\$150 pays for one school education program

\$360,000 pays for our entire education department for one year



RAPTOR
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION
2017
Salt Lake City, UT

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PROFESSIONAL & CONTRACT SERVICES

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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.

www.hawkwatch.org/professionalservices



photo by Joseph Eisaguirre

Building Coalitions for Conservation

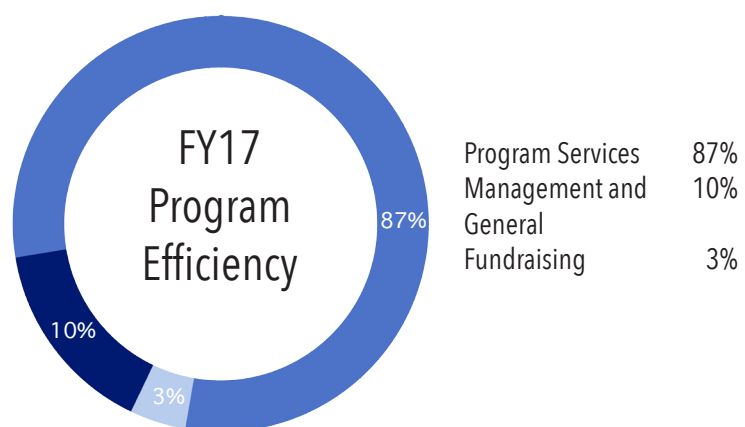
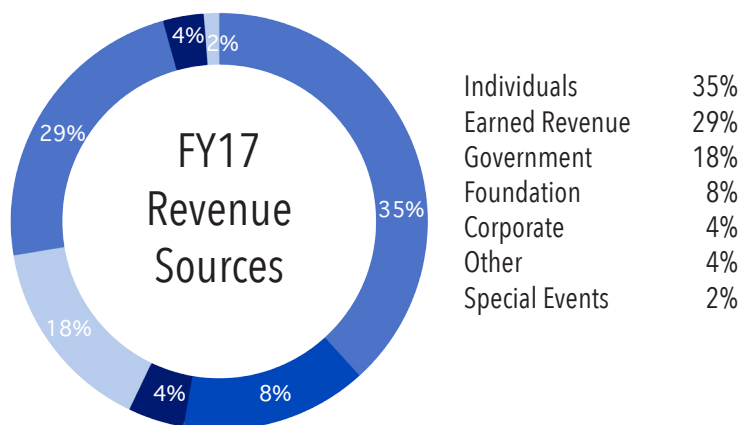
In collaboration with Kidd Biological Inc. and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, HawkWatch International traveled to Nome, Alaska during the summer of 2017 to assist in a study tracking the movement ecology of breeding Rough-legged Hawks.

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.



photo by Neil Paprocki

FY17 Financial Statement



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**



Board Profile

Meet Barbara Polich

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!

Ways to GIVE

There are many ways to support HWI and help protect the birds of prey we all love and respect. To learn more or to make a donation, visit us online at www.hawkwatch.org/support or call us at 801-484-6808. You can also view our HWI Store and Wish List online.

THANK YOU!

DIRECT CONTRIBUTION

Use the enclosed envelope or make a secure, online donation through our website.

- Become a HWI Member
- Make a one-time gift
- Become a monthly supporter
- Make a charitable gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
- Give a gift membership
- Adopt-a-Hawk for yourself or a loved one
- Make an In Honor or In Memory tribute gift for a loved one

LEGACY/PLANNED GIFT

Gifts made in perpetuity to support our endowment.

- Remember HawkWatch International in your will or living trust
- Beneficiary designations: leave a portion of your life insurance or retirement plan assets to HWI

WORKPLACE GIVING

Ask if your workplace matches gifts or participates in these easy ways to give.

- Corporate matching gifts—visit www.hawkwatch.org/support/matching
- EarthShare—visit www.earthshare.org
- Combined Federal Campaign—HWI's designation number is 11899

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!

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In Memory / Honor

Gifts that were made in memory or in honor of a loved one during the last year.

IN MEMORY OF

Pam Avery
Kathy Kinzig
Jonathan Masin
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Chris Street

IN HONOR OF

Patricia Aldrich
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Thank you to our corporate, foundation, and government funders who have supported our work this past year through grants, employee matching programs, and charitable contributions.

Aetna	Foundation
African Bird Club	Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Ruby Mountain
American Wind Energy Association	Rye Diner and Drinks
Antczak Polich Law	Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts and Parks (ZAP)
Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi	Schaffner Family Foundation
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EarthShare	SWCA Environmental Consultants
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Enyo Renewable Energy	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
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Conservation and education is a collective effort. We are grateful to work with our many partners toward our mission of protecting raptors and our shared environment. Sometimes there are too many to list, so we apologize for anyone we left out.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum	The Nature Conservancy
Alta Environmental Center	National Park Service	Tracy Aviary
American Kestrel Partnership, The Peregrine Fund	Natural History Museum of Utah	UCLA-Bird Genoscape Project
Anchorage Audubon Society	Nueces County, TX	USDA - NRCS
Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi	Nevada Department of Wildlife	U.S. Bureau of Land Management (special thanks to SLFO and CCFO)
Audubon of the Rockies	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	Central
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Nez Perce Tribe Wildlife Program	U.S. Department of Defense (Dugway Proving Ground and Hill Air Force Base)
Bird Studies Canada	North Central Washington Audubon	Djibouti Nature
Boise State University	Western Working Group of Partners in Flight	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bridgerland Audubon Society	City of Pateros, Washington	U.S. Forest Service
Brigham Young University	Portland Audubon	University of Idaho Society for Conservation Biology
New Mexico Audubon	ProNatura Veracruz	University of Utah
Clark Planetarium	Raptor Inventory Nest Survey (RINS)	Utah Birders
Discovery Gateway Children's Museum	Raptor Research Foundation	Utah Department of Natural Resources
EarthWatch Institute	Red Butte Gardens	Utah Department of Transportation
General Dynamics	Salt Lake Center for Science Education	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Gila Conservation Coalition	Salt Lake City International Airport	Utah's Hogle Zoo
Global Owl Project	Salt Lake City Library	Utah State Board of Education
Grand Canyon Association	Salt Lake City Parks and Open Space	Utah State University - Remote Sensing and GIS Lab
Great Salt Lake Audubon	Salt Lake Climbers' Alliance	Sustainable Power Group
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory	Salt Lake County Parks and Open Space	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Hawk Migration Association of North America	Southwestern Research Station (American Museum of Natural History)	Weber State University - Department of Zoology
Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership	Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter	
Intermountain Bird Observatory	Teton Raptor Center	
Kent Keller, citizen eagle monitoring specialist	Thanksgiving Point	
Kittitas Audubon		
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MISSION

To conserve our environment through education, long-term monitoring , and scientific research on raptors as indicators of ecosystem health.

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Golden Eagle
photo by Neil Paprocki



Rough-legged Hawks
photo by Neil Paprocki

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We can't do it without you. Donations from supporters are critical to our raptor conservation and education efforts. Become an HWI member by donating online, or use the enclosed envelope.



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