

SPRING 2010

THE PEREGRINE FUND
CONSERVING BIRDS OF PREY WORLDWIDE

Celebrating
40 years
• 1970 - 2010 •

2009
ANNUAL
REPORT



J. Peter Jenny
President and CEO


Celebrating 40 years

Forty years ago our mission was straightforward: reverse the precipitous decline of the Peregrine Falcon. Since then the world has become increasingly complex. Gone are the days when a species like the Peregrine could be released in large numbers across the United States without complicated legal mechanisms such as Safe Harbor and Experimental and Non-essential Populations.

During our first decade, our projects focused on individual species, enabling us to bore down to bedrock to understand each species' conservation needs. Over time, projects evolved to include multiple species, even entire communities. The Maya Project is an early example; based in the dry tropical forest of northern Guatemala, this ambitious study gathered new information over a 10-year period on nearly all birds of prey to be found. The groundwork was laid for us to embark on other community-level projects, most notably in Madagascar, where for 20 years we have researched and re-discovered species, trained students, and preserved important habitats, in partnership with local communities.

Over the last decade, our approach has been shaped by the virtually instantaneous exchange of information via the internet. Each day we find new tools for educating the public and sharing data with other researchers about lead exposure, diclofenac, Furadan, and dozens of other pressing issues. Yet given the many benefits of cyber-communication, we still believe that face-to-face interaction plays a crucial role, as evidenced by the success of our 2008 international conference "Ingestion of Lead from Spent Ammunition: Implications for Wildlife and Humans." Keeping this in mind, in 2011 we look forward to convening international researchers yet again for the conference "Gyrfalcons and Ptarmigan in a Changing World" to explore issues related to climate and other environmental changes in the Arctic.

Bringing diverse interests together to find common solutions is just one of the sturdy, "old-fashioned" tools we've built and developed over four decades. Although new technologies are great for sharpening and upgrading those tools, what's most important are the talented people who use them every day to address contaminants, habitat loss, and direct persecution of birds of prey. Their dedication has brought us to this milestone, and will continue to lead us far into the future.



A young Aplomado Falcon bred in Boise, Idaho, is prepared for release in West Texas.



Angie Salonikios

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Edited by Pat Burnham and Susan Whaley. Photo
Editors are Jack Cafferty and Travis Rosenberry.
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On the cover:

Jack Stephens, a long-time volunteer with our Arctic research, photographed two young Gyrfalcons in Greenland.





File photo

40 years

Forty years ago, The Peregrine Fund began its work with a simple mission to save the Peregrine Falcon from extinction. Today, we work around the world, conserving birds of prey faced with habitat loss, poisoning, and other challenges. Peregrine Fund founder Tom Cade remembers the past and looks toward the future.

When did you first become fascinated with birds of prey?

I was always interested in animals, small and large, from the time of my earliest memories around the age of four years. I still carry a scar on the tip of my left forefinger from the bite of a very angry thirteen-lined ground squirrel that I was trying to catch by pouring buckets of water down its hole. Later I learned how to trap these squirrels in a big tin can attached to a rat trap with wire mesh stretched over the spring release mechanism.

My abiding interest in raptors began at the age of nine when I read an article in the July 1937 issue of the National Geographic Magazine on hawks, owls, and falconry by the famous twins, John and Frank Craighead. Their photo of a trained Peregrine named Ulysses captured my attention. From that time on, I read everything I could get my hands on about birds of prey and falconry. About the same time, I took my first wild raptor for training from a nest on my grandpa's farm in West Texas. Unfortunately, it was a Cooper's Hawk, not a Peregrine.

October 5, 1970

Dear Sirs:
 Me and my friend have been studying birds, especially Peregrine Falcon. One day he came over and showed me a newspaper article about you trying to help save Peregrine. So we have been going around collecting money to help your project. I hope every thing works out alright.

Sincerely yours,
 Orin Starn and Jay Hart

and counting: a conversation with Tom Cade

What did you think when you received the first donations to help you save the Peregrine Falcon?

The Peregrine Fund developed as a natural growth from the unsolicited response of private citizens who began sending the Laboratory of Ornithology money “to help save the Peregrine.” The first two dollars came from two young supporters in California who took up a collection among their friends. Shortly afterward, the Massachusetts Audubon Society made a substantial contribution and our fund started to grow. I hoped one day to be able to repay them all with Peregrine Falcons re-established in then-vacant nesting areas.

What was the hardest problem you had to solve to achieve recovery of an endangered species?

I suppose the hardest problem for me was figuring out how to obtain the necessary funds to keep the operations of captive breeding and reintroduction going long enough for successful recovery. As a professor at Cornell University, my only experience in raising money was by the standard academic process of applying for research grants from the National Science Foundation and similar granting agencies. It soon became apparent that these science-supporting sources would not provide the amount of money that would be required.

I started looking elsewhere and soon discovered that help could be obtained from private patrons who were interested in conservation of the Peregrine, certain corporations and foundations, and quite a few conservation

organizations. When the Endangered Species Act came into existence in 1973, various state and federal agencies also became empowered to help, particularly the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management. To deal effectively with these various sources of support, four founders—Bob Berry, Frank Bond, Jim Weaver, and I—officially established The Peregrine Fund as a non-profit organization in 1974.

Looking back over 40 years, what is your proudest moment?

It probably was in the spring of 1980, when I climbed up into a nest box on a hack tower in the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey with Jim Weaver and helped him band three young Peregrines produced by a pair of our released birds. They were one of three broods successfully produced in the wild for the first time in eastern North America since the 1950s.

One of the pairs, which consisted of a female raised at Cornell and a wild Canadian male, nested at an historical cliff-eyrie in southern Quebec near the Vermont border. Looking at their three vigorous and perfectly developed young falcons made us realize that Peregrine Falcons could once again reproduce successfully in the northeastern environment because DDT residues and other chemical contaminants in the falcons’ prey were low enough to permit normal reproduction. I then understood that recovery of the Peregrine would be an accomplished fact in a few more years.

Of course, it was also a proud moment in August of 1999 when then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt came to the World Center for Birds of Prey to announce officially that the Peregrine Falcon was recovered in North America and had been removed from the list of endangered species.

What do you see for the future of The Peregrine Fund?

The Peregrine Fund grew to become much more than anyone originally envisioned. Today it carries out projects on raptor conservation all around the world, as well as continuing two major domestic projects on the endangered California Condor and Aplomado Falcon.

At the end of the last century, the staff, under Bill Burnham’s supervision, undertook a major effort to look into the future and to come up with a plan of operation for the 21st century. It involves greatly expanding our commitment to efforts carried out overseas, particularly in places like Southeast Asia and South America, where many species of endemic raptors are likely to need help in the coming decades.

It also provides for increased training and education of raptor biologists from foreign countries, while remaining vigilant in regard to developing problems in North America, such as those that likely will arise from the effects of climate change. These plans were reviewed several times by our board of directors and approved by them. They remain our best guideline for the future.



File photo

Tom Cade founded The Peregrine Fund in 1970 and serves on the board as founding chairman and director.



File photo



Willard Heck



Rick Watson



Cal Sandfort



Christi Hall



Cal Sandfort



Chris Parish



40 years is just the beginning. Here are the highlights, discoveries, first-ers, and victories that continue to shape The Peregrine Fund.

1970 Two boys sent money to founder Tom Cade at Cornell University to help conserve endangered Peregrine Falcons.

1973 First 20 Peregrine Falcons produced in captivity.

1973 Began assisting Mauritius Kestrel recovery.

1974 First release of captive-bred Peregrine Falcons to the wild.

1974 Established western flank of The Peregrine Fund at Fort Collins, Colorado.

1977 Began recovery of Northern Aplomado Falcon.

1978 Began study of Orange-breasted Falcons in Ecuador and Guatemala.

1979 Captive-bred Peregrines laid eggs in the wild for first time.

1980 First Peregrine Falcon released in the West breeds in the wild.

1981 Began assisting Gyrfalcon study in Iceland.

1984 Consolidated Cornell and Fort Collins facilities at World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho.

1986 First successful release to the wild of captive-bred Aplomado Falcons.

1986 Founded archives to collect and preserve history of American falconers.

1986 Construction of Gerald D. and Kathryn Swim Herrick Tropical Raptor Building.

1987 Released 2,000th Peregrine Falcon to the wild.

1987 Helped establish master's degree program in raptor biology at Boise State University, the first of its kind.

1988 Began Maya Project, a raptor study in Guatemala, Mexico, and Belize.

1990 Completed Peregrine Falcon releases in Eastern states.

1990 Established Madagascar Conservation Program.

1990 Began assisting recovery of Philippine Eagle.

1991 Began Pan-Africa Program to conserve Africa's rich diversity of birds of prey.

1993 Constructed Velma Morrison Interpretive Center.

1993 Built Peter and Conni Pfenner California Condor Facility and began California Condor recovery project.

1993 Re-discovered Madagascar Red Owl and Madagascar Serpent-eagle.

1994 Completed Mauritius Kestrel breeding program with successful recovery of the species.

1994 Established Hawaiian Endangered Bird Program.

1995 First breeding in the wild of Aplomado Falcons since 1952.

1995 First Harpy Eagle hatched at World Center for Birds of Prey.

1995 Expanded World Center for Birds of Prey to 580 acres with 300-acre donation.

1995 Began construction of Keauhou Bird Conservation Center in Hawaii.

1996 First condors released at Vermilion Cliffs site in Arizona.

1997 Helped create Madagascar's largest rainforest reserve on Masoala Peninsula.

1997 Established High Arctic Institute in Greenland to study Gyrfalcons, Peregrine Falcons, and other birds of prey.

1997 Completed release of Peregrine Falcons to the wild; total released numbered more than 4,000.

1997 First release to the wild of captive-bred Harpy Eagles.

1997 Won Energy, Agriculture, and Environment category at Smithsonian ComputerWorld Awards for innovative use of satellite tracking and mapping for Harpy Eagle conservation.

1999 Hosted international event to celebrate removal of the Peregrine Falcon from U.S. Endangered Species List.

1999 Began Global Raptor Information Network, an online encyclopedia of diurnal birds of prey.

2000 Transferred Hawaiian Endangered Bird Program to Zoological Society of San Diego.

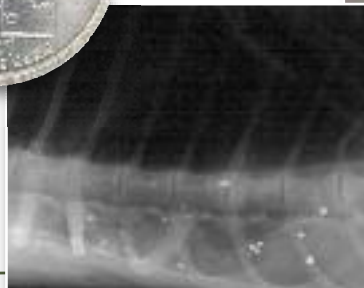
2000 Established Fondo Peregrino, first NGO focused on raptor conservation and research in Panama.



Munir Virani



Lily-Arison
Rene de Roland



Christina Kleberg



Angel Muela



2000 More than 1 million acres enrolled in Safe Harbor Program for Aplomado Falcons.

2000 Established project to conserve Ridgway's Hawk and other birds of prey in West Indies.

2000 Began field studies to determine cause of population crash of vultures in South Asia.

2000 Constructed Neotropical Raptor Center in Panama for Harpy Eagle propagation.

2001 First released California Condor lays egg in the wild in Arizona.

2001 Captive Harpy Eagles transferred from Idaho to new Panama facility.

2002 Aplomado Falcon conservation program expanded to West Texas.

2002 Gerald D. and Kathryn S. Herrick Collections Building constructed to house archives, library, and specimen collection.

2002 First Neotropical Raptor Conference and Harpy Eagle Symposium held and online Neotropical Raptor Network developed.

2002 Assisted in declaration of Harpy Eagle as Panama's national bird.

2003 First successful fledging of a wild-hatched California Condor in Arizona in a century.

2003 Discovered cause of Asian vulture crisis to be diclofenac, a veterinary drug used to treat ailing livestock.

2004 Results of diclofenac study released to South Asian authorities at Kathmandu Summit and published in *Nature*.

2005 Hosted first annual Harpy Eagle Day festival in Panama.

2005 Participated in award-winning documentary about vulture crisis, *The Last Flight*.

2006 Governments of Nepal, Pakistan, and India banned manufacture and use of diclofenac.

2006 Re-discovered Madagascar Pochard and identified new lemur species.

2006 First releases of captive-bred Aplomado Falcons in New Mexico.

2006 Design for Idaho state quarter featuring Peregrine Falcon unveiled at World Center for Birds of Prey.

2006 Finished propagation portion of Harpy Eagle conservation program; releases and monitoring to continue.

2006 Second Neotropical Raptor Conference held in Iguazu, Argentina.

2006 Confirmed lead fragments from spent ammunition in deer remains as principle source of lead exposure to condors.

2007 Completed construction of Archives of Falconry's Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Falconry Heritage Wing devoted to Middle Eastern falconry heritage.

2007 First release of captive-bred Orange-breasted Falcons to the wild since 1980.

2008 Convened first international conference to investigate effects of ingesting spent lead ammunition on wildlife and humans.

2008 Final adult pair of Harpy Eagles in captivity released to the wild in Panama.

2008 Presented evidence of rifle bullet fragments in venison as a health risk to humans.

2008 Enrolled 10,000 acres in Safe Harbor Program, bringing total to 2.1 million acres of Texas habitat for Aplomado Falcons.

2009 Construction began on new outdoor California Condor exhibit at World Center for Birds of Prey.

2009 Celebration marked 10th anniversary of removal of Peregrine Falcon from U.S. Endangered Species List.

2009 World Center for Birds of Prey celebrated 25th year in Boise, Idaho.

2010 Support 19 conservation programs involving more than 34 species in 26 countries.

Celebrating
40
years
• 1970 – 2010 •



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE affect Gyrfalcons and other wildlife in the Arctic, especially ptarmigan that the falcons rely on for food? Are populations of Gyrfalcons and ptarmigan affected by the Earth's changing climate?

Scientists, policy analysts, land managers, and conservationists from around the world will address these and other pressing questions at a conference in early 2011 convened by The Peregrine Fund, Boise State University, and the U.S. Geological Survey and sponsored by Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi and others.

"Gyrfalcons and Ptarmigan in a Changing World" will be held from 1 to 3 February 2011 at Boise State University. Rick Watson, Peregrine Fund vice president and conference organizer, said the goal is to explore the many and complex ways in which climate change may affect the Arctic ecosystem by focusing on the Gyrfalcon and its prey. "If we can identify specific steps to take on behalf of the Gyrfalcon, we can potentially help conserve many of the species inhabiting that region," he said.

As top predators, birds of prey are excellent indicators of environmental stress. In the 1960s, the plight of the Peregrine Falcon signaled the dangers of DDT, a pesticide that affected reproduction in many birds,

including the Bald Eagle. After DDT was banned and The Peregrine Fund's 30-year reintroduction program began, the Peregrine recovered and was removed from the U.S. Endangered Species List.

Similarly, the Gyrfalcon may be a good indicator species for the Arctic, where the effects of global climate change are expected to be greatest. This bird of prey—the largest of all falcons—is not currently endangered but total population numbers appear to be dropping. Ptarmigan, a primary food source for the Gyrfalcon, also is well-suited to the Arctic's harsh conditions. The conference will explore how climate change could affect the Gyrfalcon's ability to migrate, nest, reproduce, and compete for ptarmigan and other food. It also will identify what steps may be required to address such changes.

Registration and additional information is available at: http://www.peregrinefund.org/Gyr_Conference/index.html

ROY E. DISNEY, who served on The Peregrine Fund's board of directors for 22 years, died on 16 December 2009 at age 79 in Newport Beach, California. He served as chairman of the board from 1990 through 1992.

"He was one of our most beloved members," said J. Peter Jenny, president and CEO of The Peregrine Fund. "He and his family have been among our most ardent supporters."

Roy was a well-known conservationist and had a particular interest in birds of prey. He met the late Morley Nelson of Boise—an international raptor expert, falconer, and former Peregrine Fund board member—during the filming of *Perri the Pine Squirrel*, a 1957 film that follows the life of a pine squirrel through the seasons of her life. Roy was a cam-

eraman and Morley flew a Goshawk for the film.

Later, Roy met Peregrine Fund Founder Tom Cade during the production of the 1968 documentary *Varda the Peregrine Falcon*, which reflected Roy's desire to save the falcons from extinction. Roy's associations

with Tom and Morley led to his becoming a member of The Peregrine Fund board.

A nephew of Walt Disney, Roy played a key role in revitalizing The Walt Disney Company and its animation legacy during his

56 years with the company. He had a hand in several artistic and box-office hits, including *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Lion King*. Roy's first years were devoted to working on nature films, which also included *The Living Desert* and *The Vanishing Prairie*.



Gyrfalcons and Ptarmigan
IN A CHANGING WORLD
1-3 FEBRUARY 2011 • BOISE, IDAHO • USA

A NEW OUTDOOR EXHIBIT for a pair of California Condors will open to the public in June at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey.

The exhibit will provide the only opportunity to see live California Condors on display in the United States outside of California. The 25-foot-tall structure is designed and constructed using state-of-the-art materials that allow unobstructed views of the enormous birds. A cliff scene, complete with a cave-like nesting structure at the rear of the exhibit, mimics the condors' natural habitat in remote locations like the Grand Canyon.

While planning for the exhibit, The Peregrine Fund developed a new 20-year plan for the World Center for Birds of Prey. This overall vision adds outdoor exhibits and space for flight demonstrations, and a Hawk Walk weathering area. The next phase will be con-

struction of an interpretive trail and lookout allowing visitors of all ages and abilities to enjoy native wildlife, the sage-steppe ecosystem, and scenic views of the Treasure Valley and Boise foothills.

The World Center for Birds of Prey is home to the world's largest captive flock of endangered California Condors. Each year, young birds raised in Idaho are transported to northern Arizona for release to the wild. The new exhibit is designed to encourage the pair of condors to breed and lay an egg in the nest cave, with the goal of releasing the young condor in Arizona and adding to the growing wild population.

The display will feature interpretive panels detailing the dramatic decline and the subsequent ongoing recovery of the California Condor and the important role that scavengers like the condor play in cleaning up the environment.



California Condors will be visible from three different elevations at the visitor center's new exhibit opening in June 2010.

Other details:

Size: 2,760 square feet, with views of the birds on three sides

Materials: 2-inch diamond-shaped, stainless steel mesh

The unique design incorporates the use of only six steel columns and a cable roof structure to maximize viewing opportunities. Three different elevations allow alternative views of the impressive birds.

Large boulders and trees serve as perches in the front of the exhibit, while ledges and overhangs on the cliff provide additional perching areas.

The design, both tall and deep, will allow adequate room for the condors to show off their impressive 9.5-foot wingspan.

The estimated \$200,000 project is being funded by private donors.

2009 Mission Accomplishments

Restore rare species through captive breeding and release

Forty years ago, Tom Cade and The Peregrine Fund staff had to create, invent, and innovate day by day as they figured out how to produce birds in captivity and successfully release them to the wild. In 1999, this ground-breaking work was rewarded with removal of the Peregrine Falcon from the U.S. Endangered Species List.

Today, The Peregrine Fund continues to refine the science of captive breeding and release, providing leadership around the world in efforts to save rare birds of prey from extinction.

In 2009, The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Idaho produced California Condors and Aplomado Falcons for our ongoing work to restore

these species in the United States. The results are exciting. A self-sustaining population of Aplomado Falcons remains stable in South Texas, allowing us to focus on falcon releases in West Texas and New Mexico. Each year brings us closer to seeing these inhabitants of open Southwest grasslands removed from the Endangered Species List.

We continue to see progress in the California Condor recovery in the Grand Canyon, although lead poisoning from spent lead ammunition remains a significant challenge to species recovery. In 2009, we began assisting development of a hunter-awareness program in Utah to safeguard condors that are now foraging there. The program is modeled on the cooperative Arizona program that has resulted in hunters taking voluntary steps to significantly reduce the condors' exposure to lead in that state.

Internationally, The Peregrine Fund worked with numerous partners to raise, release, and monitor captive-bred birds in the wild, including the Philippine Eagle, Harpy Eagle, and Orange-breasted Falcon. These signature species of the rainforest symbolize our commitment to preserving global biodiversity for future generations.

Improve capacity for local conservation

Since the beginning, The Peregrine Fund has been committed to the principle that effective conservation is local. We train and support students, organizations, and emerging biologists in countries where birds of prey are endangered and where local solutions are necessary to save them. We have worked in 64 countries on behalf of 102 species in the last 40 years.

The Peregrine Fund makes significant contributions to global expertise in raptor biology through its support of students around the world. Their research and graduate projects help advance our understanding of raptor biology and contribute to the development of sound conservation strategies. In 2009, students from Central America and South America studied many threatened species, including the Andean Condor and Galapagos Hawk, and in Africa, students are performing vital work that may help us stem the alarming decline in vulture populations.

In Madagascar, local communities are essential partners in protecting birds of prey and other species found nowhere else on Earth. The work is difficult. Simply reaching remote areas on crude roads and trails is challenging enough, but maintaining trust and cooperation among local people is a true measure of our ability to succeed amid political and economic instability, as we have done there for 20 years.

In Central America, The Peregrine Fund has recruited and trained field workers from the indigenous Embera and Wounaan communities. After meeting with 1,200 local people, a five-year agreement was signed in 2009 to sustain education campaigns and activities that instill the value of the Harpy Eagle and conservation of its habitat in the people who live and work among the birds.

Conduct scientific research and environmental education

The agricultural pesticide DDT was a serious environmental threat by 1970. The chemical interfered with reproduction in Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, and other birds, causing them to disappear from the landscape. Since then, the plight of birds of prey has warned us of new threats to our environment.

The Peregrine Fund discovered in 2003 that the veterinary drug diclofenac was responsible for the tragic collapse of vulture populations in South Asia. The drug was banned for veterinary use in 2006 and restoration projects are under way. In Africa, we are assisting efforts to stem the misuse of Furadan to kill lions and other animals preying on livestock. Vultures and other scavengers also are poisoned when they feed on the chemical-laced carcasses, causing large-scale die-offs.

Our research has helped prove the link between another toxin, lead, and its risk to birds, other wildlife, and humans. In 2009, we published the proceedings of our landmark conference on the effects of ingesting lead fragments from spent ammunition. The book was widely distributed; it contributes to the ongoing discussion about how to deal with this serious threat to California Condors, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and its risk to humans.

Each year, more than 30,000 people hear our conservation message through tours

and activities in the visitors center at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey. In 2009, construction began on a large outdoor exhibit for a pair of California Condors, with completion expected in spring 2010. The display will feature details about the dramatic decline and subsequent recovery of the condors and the important role they play in cleaning up the environment.

Conserve habitat

From the grasslands of Texas to the rainforests of Madagascar, habitat protection is a key component of raptor conservation. The Peregrine Fund is actively involved around the world in efforts to protect and restore the landscapes that endangered birds of prey require for food and shelter.

In Madagascar, in partnership with local communities, we are developing protected areas to safeguard habitat for the endangered Madagascar Fish Eagle, Serpent-eagle, and Red Owl, as well as many other endemic species that depend on the same habitat.

The forests of the Philippines are being destroyed at alarming rates, as they are in many places across the globe. The Philippine Eagle is seriously challenged by loss of habitat, but recent efforts offer hope that this mighty bird can be saved from extinction. In 2009, seven Philippine communities declared 7,000 hectares of eagle nesting habitat as conservation sanctuaries and approved local laws to protect the birds.

Current Operations: 2010

Conservation Programs: 19

Species: 34

Countries: 26

2009 Project Summaries

California Condor Restoration

■ **GOALS:** Establish a self-sustaining population of California Condors in the Grand Canyon/Arizona Strip regions of northern Arizona and southern Utah in cooperation with state and federal agencies, tribes, local communities, and the private sector.

■ **2009 RESULTS:**

The Peregrine Fund's captive flock of California Condors at the World Center for Birds of Prey numbered 54, including 13 chicks produced in 2009. Seventeen condors produced 24 eggs, all fertile. Overall, there was 100% fertility, 68% hatchability, and 95% chick survival. All chicks hatched at the World Center for Birds of Prey were reared by their parents.

Several changes were made to improve the propagation facility and behavior of the birds. Trap cages, food door shrouds, and nest box barriers were installed along with ramps to the higher perches to prevent young from perching on the ground for extended periods. A new visual barrier fence with viewing windows minimized disturbance of breeding pairs. The water delivery system was reconfigured and large calf and sheep carcasses were introduced as a food source.

Eight captive-bred condors were transferred to the flight pen at the Vermilion Cliffs release site, and 14 birds were released in 2009. Although newly released condors are intensively monitored and aggressively hazed away from unsafe roosts to avoid predation, three birds were killed by coyotes. Two additional condors were added to the "missing and presumed dead" category, and three died of lead poisoning.

Six pairs in the wild exhibited breeding behavior. The earliest-ever recorded lay date occurred on 17 February 2009. Two wild-bred chicks, one in the Grand Canyon and one in the Vermilion Cliffs, were visually confirmed in May and July.

Field staff monitored the daily movements and activities of condors, a task that grows more difficult as the free-ranging birds expand their territory. Seven condors wore satellite tracked PTT/GPS transmitters, which were especially valuable for locating concentrations and activities of condors in difficult-to-access canyon regions.

The Peregrine Fund continues to focus on lead exposure detection and treatment, which requires capture and blood tests for all members of the wild flock. Most of the 74 free-flying birds were tested at least once, with 59 birds showing lead exposure, up from 50 the previous year. Thirty-

six condors were treated for lead poisoning through February 2010.

To increase the use of non-lead bullets among hunters, The Peregrine Fund assisted the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Utah Division of Wildlife with educational and promotional activities. Eighty-five percent of hunters voluntarily used non-lead ammunition or hauled out their lead-tainted carcasses and gut-piles during the season in Arizona.

The proceedings of the conference on ingestion of lead from spent ammunition held in May 2008 were published online and in book form. More than 600 books were distributed free of charge to conference delegates, members of the lead working group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, representatives of state childhood lead poisoning prevention programs, and selected individuals.

a day in the
field



California Condors soar over a snowy landscape near the release site.

Eddie Feltes

A field biologist quickly learns that anything can happen, but we also know that the show must go on. Each winter, we attempt to trap and test every condor for lead poisoning when it returns to the release site at the top of Vermilion Cliffs after the big game hunting season.



This winter was unusual, with severe storms leaving snowdrifts up to six feet high. After one such storm, Field Manager Eddie Feltes reported that the road up to the release site was impassable. The normally straightforward task of getting food to the birds was now a difficult problem.

We frantically searched the internet and local newspapers for used snowmobiles and called all of our cooperators for help. We were able to borrow two ATVs with snow tracks and, thanks to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, purchase a used snowmobile. Special thanks also to the Bureau of Land Management, Deutsche Optik, and Swiss Link.

I dropped off the snowmobile and fashioned a sled for hauling condor food, then headed out to fetch the ATVs. Next morning, we set out up the mountain with all three units but soon lost the snowmobile and an ATV to mechanical problems. In the meantime, we received an old snow cat from the Arizona Game and Fish Department. “It hasn’t been running for 10 or 12 years, but you’re welcome to give it a go,” they said.

Thanks to the good advice of an uncle, I knew we should test the repaired equipment at the Field House where we had tools and warmth before heading to the field. One pull... two pulls... pull the choke... three pulls... and that’s when the pull cord broke off inside of the housing of the snowmobile. I tried to keep a good attitude, but I had never repaired one of these cords. As so often happens, we found new abilities in ourselves and two hours later, I was driving a snow cat behind the snowmobile in what felt like a ride through the clouds. It didn’t last long. The snowmobile was soon buried in a snow bank.

“Take a deep breath,” I said to myself, as I squeezed out of the tiny snow cat. While struggling to get the machine back under way, we noticed a lovely blue hue to the snow below the engine—oil. The oil cap had come unscrewed and all we had to do was put it back on. However, the cap, coated with oil, had shot out of hand and lodged under the engine, utterly inaccessible. “Take a deep breath,” I repeated, and grabbed the tool kit. We were soon back on the road. Don’t worry—we didn’t leave the oil there. When Eddie pulled away, the machine’s track shot the oily snow directly into the door of the snow cat.

About half-way up the slope, I stopped to check the load. The condor food was gone! We lost our load somewhere along the way. “Take a deep breath,” I said again.

Later that afternoon, upon finally reaching our destination, one of the field crew alerted us to a transmitter in mortality mode—a young condor had died. “Take a deep breath,” I thought to myself, but this time, I just couldn’t say the words. Our work is a series of unpredictable events that we respond to day by day. While most days are far less exhausting, there have been many difficult problems to solve over the years. But we solve them, one by one. The condors themselves are a hardy bunch, so we take our cues from them and observe, adapt, and overcome. This approach to wildlife conservation is called adaptive management, and we are getting pretty good at it.

**“Take a deep
breath,”
I thought to
myself, but
this time, I
just couldn’t
say the words.**



*Chris Parish
is the Field
Director of
the California
Condor
Program.*

a day in the field

I realized how lucky I was to have been delayed by the annoying flat tire and bellowing cows to experience this moment.

For the third day in a row, I drove 65 miles from our West Texas field house to the Moon Ranch to begin another long day of driving through the beautiful Chihuahuan Desert to search for Aplomado Falcons. It was just 6:15 a.m. when the first delay of the day occurred—a flat tire. I fixed the flat and continued down the dusty ranch road, stopping frequently to look at the large expanse of yucca grasslands, the favored and very important habitat of the Northern Aplomado Falcon.

At one of my favorite vantage points on the ranch, I was studying the landscape with a spotting scope from the back of my truck when a large herd of Angus cattle grazing in the distance decided to stampede my way just to make sure I was not the feed truck. I tried to get the truck moving in time, but the cattle quickly had me surrounded. I climbed back into the bed of the truck and finished scanning the grassland while the cows serenaded me with loud hollers, hoping for food.

I used the scope to slowly sweep across the area—a raven, a meadowlark, a hawk, a FALCON. Instantly I knew this is what I was looking for! The excitement swept across me like it has for so many years. I could just make out its snow white crop and black belly band—an adult! I decided to risk running out there for a closer look and hoped it would not leave while I was not watching. About 400 meters away, I set up in the shade of a large yucca and felt I could finally relax and enjoy this falcon through the scope. It was indeed an adult female and I tirelessly watched her for the next hour. She did not move. Another half hour passed and she still sat perched. I felt certain that she must have a nest nearby. What I wanted to see—and was not going to leave until I did—was her being joined by a male.

Finally, the female began to bow and call enthusiastically and I

Aplomado Falcons often nest inside yuccas to deter predators.



Chris Parrish

was sure a male was about to join her. From the north and maybe 100 meters high, an adult male Aplomado appeared carrying in his feet a small prize, her lunch. He brought her some sort of bird for which he undoubtedly had worked very hard.

For the next five minutes, this beautiful pair sat shoulder to shoulder. She ate and he preened his feathers without a care. As quickly as he arrived, he left. She cleaned her beak, rubbing it back and forth on the yucca stalk, and flew a very short distance to the top of another yucca, looked around briefly and settled, barely visible, onto a NEST! It was then I realized how lucky I was to have been delayed by the annoying flat tire and bellowing cows to experience this moment.

During this eight-day survey my two colleagues and I drove more than 4,000 miles. We relocated nine known pairs and added this new pair to our nesting list in West Texas. This information will be critical to support de-listing of the endangered Aplomado Falcon. We are now one pair closer to that important event.



Brian Mutch is one of the lead field biologists with the Northern Aplomado Falcon Restoration Program.

Northern Aplomado Falcon Restoration

■ **GOALS:** Re-establish viable wild populations of the Northern Aplomado Falcon through the release of captive-bred young and ultimately see the species officially de-listed; monitor released falcons and document pairs and productivity; monitor levels of environmental contaminants in released falcons and their progeny; gain new information and insight about the species through scientific investigation and publish results.

■ **2009 RESULTS:**

The Peregrine Fund produced 116 young from 29 pairs of captive Aplomado Falcons at the World Center for Birds of Prey. No young were held back to augment the captive breeding population, now totaling 45 pairs. In 2009, 31 falcons laid 297 eggs, of which 48% were fertile. Of those, 82% hatched and 99% survived to release age.

During the field season, 116 Aplomado Falcons were released to the wild from four sites in New Mexico and three sites in West Texas. The overall rate for successfully reaching independence was 64%. Two new sites, named Delk and Cole, were activated on lands west of Deming, NM, administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and New Mexico State Land Office.

Survey efforts in South Texas

were focused on determining occupancy in all known territories; 81 falcons were observed from 15 April to 13 May. For the past five years, the South Texas Aplomado population has remained stable at between 32 and 39 pairs with no releases taking place. We are confident that this population segment now represents a self-sustaining population. Surveys revealed 11 pairs of falcons in West Texas and two falcon pairs and five other individuals in New Mexico.

Thirteen new nest structures were installed: four on Matagorda Island, one on San Jose Island, and eight in the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Field staff maintained 26 nest structures to ensure they were suitable for use during the nesting season. Structures on Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge were modified to create a vertical opening that prevents larger non-target bird species access to the nests, an effective and simple design change for future construction.

The final year of Peregrine Fund support for monitoring a small population of Aplomado Falcons in Chihuahua, Mexico, revealed that due to extensive habitat destruction the number of occupied nesting territories dropped to 10 and overall productivity was one of the lowest rates in 18 years of monitoring. *Factors influencing habitat use by migratory grassland birds in Chihuahua, Mexico* was published.

Public Education

■ **GOALS:** Promote conservation through increased membership, knowledgeable decision-making, and developing a passion for raptor conservation among the general public. Preserve the history of falconry worldwide and encourage the role of falconers in supporting raptor conservation and research.

■ **2009 RESULTS:**

The Education Program reached 32,000 people through on-site and off-site educational programs, including 7,450 students in school-endorsed programs. More than 26,000 people visited the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center and participated in programs with our 24 avian ambassadors, including a new Teita Falcon. Thirty-one off-site events impacted 5,200 people, including presentations to schools throughout Idaho and Oregon.

A celebration to mark the 10-year anniversary of the delisting of the Peregrine Falcon from the U.S. Endangered Species List included an exhibit of Nick Dunlop photographs. The World Center for Birds of Prey also celebrated the 25th anniversary of its establishment in Boise, Idaho, with a public event that drew 550 visitors.

Ninety-nine volunteers contributed 6,412 hours to the education program by working in the gift shop, conducting tours of



Young visitors learn to distinguish among types of birds of prey.

Jack Caffery

the interpretive center and Archives of Falconry, and performing other tasks.

Construction began on a new outdoor exhibit for a pair of California Condors that will open in spring 2010. An interactive display, “Discover Birds of Prey,” was completed inside the interpretive center. Scheduled programs for live bird demonstrations began and now include daily indoor flight programs. Outdoor flight programs in October were expanded to four days a week and continued to draw crowds.

The Archives of Falconry held the second spring rendezvous for falconers featuring a special exhibit of John Moran’s hoods from eight collections, representing 30 years of artwork. Two new displays were created in 2009: a tribute to Morley Nelson’s lifelong work which resulted in the commemorative renaming of the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in his

honor; and falconry and the use of dogs as represented by images from various historical times and cultures around the world. A Facebook page was created with information and photos of the Archives and collections and quickly drew hundreds of fans.

The Peregrine Fund’s website received an average of 308,000 page views per month, with the Explore Raptors section receiving the top ranking. Ten e-newsletters and announcements were distributed to more than 9,500 online subscribers.

A webcam was installed at a Peregrine Falcon nest for the first time in downtown Boise, in partnership with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Fiberpipe, and linked to The Peregrine Fund’s website, doubling web traffic and attracting wide public and media attention. The wild falcon pair produced four eggs, three nestlings, and two successful fledglings.

Library and Global Raptor Information Network

■ **GOAL:** Make available up-to-date information on the biology and conservation status of the world's diurnal raptors to anyone with access to the Internet. Our comprehensive ornithological library and reprints service provides access to important scientific literature to anyone with an email account. Together, these services significantly enhance raptor conservation worldwide by providing reliable and accessible information to researchers, decision makers, and other conservationists.

■ 2009 RESULTS:

The Global Raptor Information Network was used by 65,589 online visitors in 2009. Its bibliography, an online database of information and news on all species of diurnal birds of prey, was extended to 40,715 records, with more than 12,000 searchable keywords. The library supplied 1,471 scientific articles by email as pdf files from its collections in response to 381 requests from researchers in 32 countries.

The library acquired new books and journals through purchases, exchanges, and donations, with a market value of approximately \$66,916. More than 600 technical journal issues were acquired from university libraries participating in the American Library Associ-

ation's Duplicate Exchange Union. The computerized catalogue grew by 1,182 reprints, bringing the total to 20,038 titles. There were 817 books and reports added to the library, for a total of 21,011 in the catalogue. By subscription or exchange, the library received 187 technical journals, 49 conservation magazines, and 110 newsletters.

Links to nearly 1,000 raptor organizations, raptor databases,

hawkwatch sites, technical journals, and species-specific websites were expanded and maintained. Reciprocal links to the Global Raptor Information Network and favorable reviews were created by numerous other organizations, including the American Ornithologists' Union, Oxford University Library, Tree of Life Web Project, and U.S. Geological Survey Raptor Information System.

Scientific Publications and Presentations

■ **GOALS:** To present the results of research studies to scientific forums, governmental agencies, and interested lay groups.

■ 2009 RESULTS:

The Peregrine Fund staff and associates published 28 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters or theses, and three popular articles.

This brings the searchable bibliography of Peregrine Fund publications on the website to 1,235 titles, including five books, nine manuals, 30 book chapters, 63 dissertations and theses, 347 peer-reviewed papers, seven book reviews, 395 reports, 222 popular articles, 41 newsletters, and 79 abstracts.

A major accomplishment was publication of the 390-page book of proceedings from the May 2008 conference, *Ingestion of Lead from Spent Ammunition: Implications for Wildlife and Humans*. There were 63 presentations, including 53 original papers.

Staff gave scientific papers at conferences on toxic effects of lead on wildlife (Germany); human exposure to lead from venison (Atlanta, Georgia); Madagascar Fish Eagles (Scotland); The Peregrine Fund's work on eagle conservation (Spain); overview on conservation status of eagles of the world (Spain); and The Peregrine Fund's conservation work (UK).

Presentations also were given on the abundance and distribution of raptors in the Andes (Colombia), action plan for Harpy Eagle conservation (Panama), Neotropical Science and Student Education Program (Missouri), environmental education as a tool for conservation (Idaho), Madagascar Pochard (UK), Madagascar Cuckoo-Hawk (Madagascar), and condors and lead ammunition (U.S.).

GRIN is fantastic. You have assembled an extremely valuable data base – super!

Michael, Germany

Thank you so very much for your fantastic efforts. Please know that you are really helping to make a difference in raptor and owl conservation.

David, Global Owl Project

You don't have any idea how much I thank you for this article!

Tsvetomira, Bulgaria

Thank you very much for this! It was impossible for me to find them elsewhere.

Soledad, Argentina

Your work is highly appreciated and awaited for many ornithologists and bird conservationists throughout the globe! You are doing right things!

Mikhail, Ukraine

It is amazing how quick you are back to me with what I asked for!

Freddy, Cuba

Amazing service as usual.

Damian, Ireland

Thanks to you and The Peregrine Fund, I can learn about raptor migration systems of the world.

Matias, Argentina

The Peregrine Fund library amazes me.

Fabio, Brazil

I'm very grateful for every exposure my Gray Falcon gets, thank you very much for putting it on the GRIN website.

Jonny, Australia

I wish you Happy New Year! Your emails with attached publications were among the happiest emails I received in the previous year!

Ivailo, Bulgaria

a day in the field

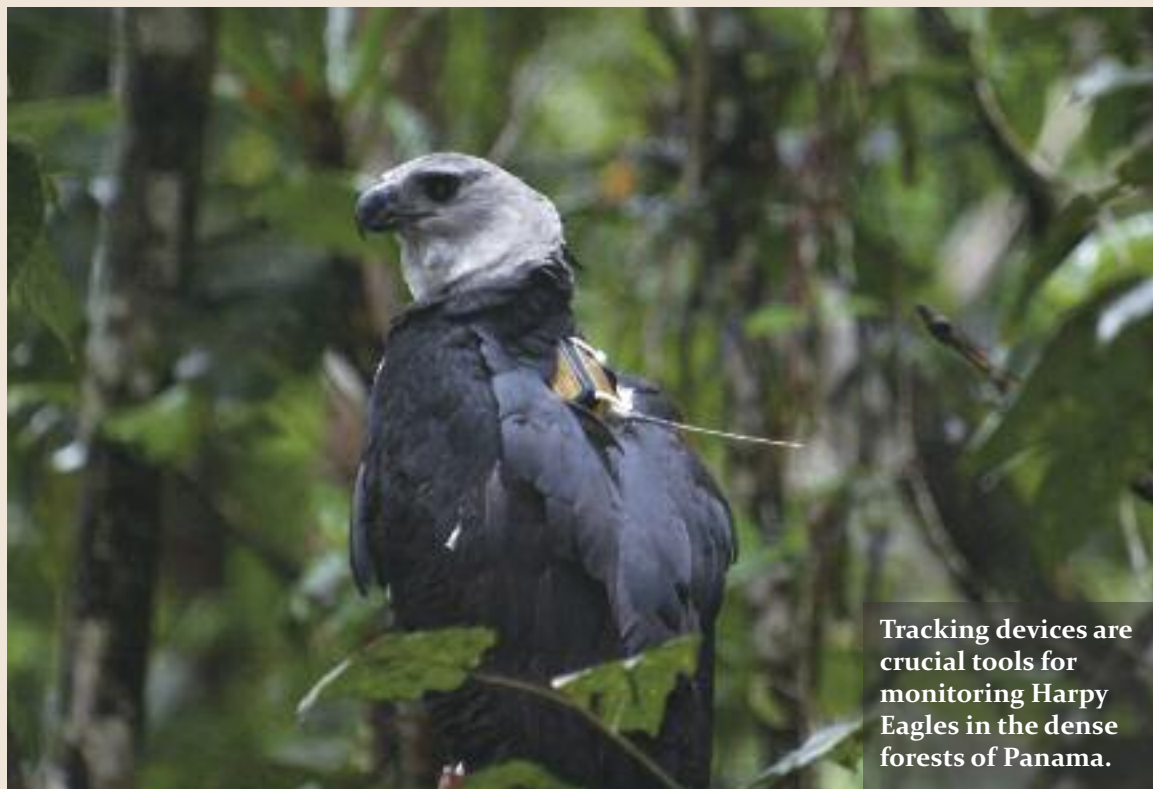
For five days, two field technicians from the local Embera/ Wounaan community and I had been following a Harpy Eagle called KC (known locally as Nepono, the word for flower in the Embera language). Carrying essential equipment, enough food, and a lot of resolve, we invested hours monitoring this captive-bred female Harpy Eagle as she traveled through the tropical rainforest of Darien in Panama. Each day, we collected essential information about the species' requirements to improve our conservation and management efforts for the Harpy Eagle in the Neotropics.

Our sixth day was amazing. Rutilio Calderón, Darisnel Carpio, and I got up at around 5 a.m. to make coffee and take a light breakfast before starting a new journey into the wild. It was very cold and the heavy mist concealed the singers of different melodies that, combined, produced a delightful recital. At 6:30 a.m., we turned on the telemetry, but no signal was received. At the end of the previous day's work, KC was only 500 meters away, so we felt confident that we would find her quickly. Rutilio and I headed into the forest. It was Darisnel's turn to stay behind to take care of the campsite.

An hour later, we picked up her signal from the top of a small hill. Based on this signal, we knew that KC was in the valley, so we headed down as quietly as we could through very dense under-story. The beep, beep, beep sound that came from the receiver grew louder with each step, so we knew that KC was close. We took off our heavy backpacks, and Rutilio and I continued our careful searching. These cryptic forest eagles are never easy to locate, and here the forest was very dense, making it even harder.

Eventually, we spotted KC, camouflaged in an Espave tree. She was intently staring straight at a three-toed sloth, which was partially hidden in a nearby tree by branches and vines. She took her time, moving from branch to branch watching the

After four long hours, she jumped to the branch where the sloth was taking refuge.



Tracking devices are crucial tools for monitoring Harpy Eagles in the dense forests of Panama.

Angel Muela

sloth. After four long hours, she jumped to the branch where the sloth was taking refuge. This moment was incredibly exciting, as it is extremely rare to witness how the Harpy Eagle hunts.

In a tense moment, the sloth let himself fall, probably as an escape strategy. Immediately, KC jumped to a closer branch, then flew directly to the ground and captured her prey. Ten minutes later, she flew with the prey in her talons to a Ficus tree. "Woauu," was Rutilio's reaction. His face showed how immensely he enjoyed his first experience observing a hunting Harpy Eagle. Full of renewed energy, we headed back to camp and left KC eating her meal. As a surprise, Darisnel had made lunch for us—delicious tuna with onions, Chinese soup, and rice.

That afternoon, we located a nice place to camp close to the river, and far enough away from KC to not disturb her. We told Darisnel about our observations and with astonishment he said, "Well, that's our Nepono!"



José de Jesús Vargas González is the project coordinator for the Harpy Eagle Conservation and Research program.

Harpy Eagle Conservation, Research, Propagation, and Release

■ **GOALS:** Conserve Harpy Eagles and their habitat through a combination of environmental education, increased involvement from local communities, and basic research aimed at testing scientific hypotheses about their ecology in the Pacific region of Darien Province in Panama. Develop methods to predictably breed Harpy Eagles in captivity and release them to the wild in such a way that they survive and breed; refine and adapt these methods to potentially be used with other large forest raptors worldwide; boost viable wild populations of Harpy Eagles through release of captive-produced young in suitable areas of Panama and Belize.

■ 2009 RESULTS:

In February, staff transported a captive-bred Harpy Eagle from Panama City to the indigenous community of La Marea in Darien for an experimental release. The goals were to determine whether the captive-bred female forms a stable mating pair with a wild male; measure survival of a captive-bred eagle released to the wild and study movement, dispersal, and behavior with wild eagles; develop guidelines for reintroducing endangered tropical raptors to the wild; and increase knowledge to contribute to the conservation goals of the program. The female

was released in March and observed hunting for food and interacting with wild eagles, dissipating fears that she would be killed by wild individuals when visiting their territories.

Education activities included an environmental campaign in two Embera communities to inform them of the experimental release and the importance of Harpy Eagle conservation. A five-year agreement was reached with local communities to continue education campaigns and develop activities to integrate traditional and scientific knowledge and empower the communities in conservation. Before signing the new agreement, the program coordinator met with 1,200 people from seven indigenous Embera and Wounaan communities to evaluate the previous agreement and seek approval for a new one.

Human persecution was the main cause of Harpy Eagle mortality, with reports received of three juvenile Harpy Eagles injured by lead pellets outside our study area. Two birds died and one was successfully recovered and released in Soberania National Park.

Field staff visited 26 Harpy Eagle nests to determine breeding status. Nineteen nests showed no signs of breeding activity, five nests had juveniles, one had a chick, and one was under construction. The occurrence of juveniles destroying the nest was documented. When the juveniles begin flight practice, they jump on the nest, flap their wings, and

hold on to nest branches, causing the nest to collapse.

Two new nests were located with the Habitat Suitability Model, a systematic method that uses geographic information system software, topographic layers, playback calls at observation points, and location of emergent trees, particularly those of the *Bombacaceae* family because all nests previously located in the Darien province were constructed in this species.

Searches were conducted on foot and by boat on 182 days to locate and monitor two wild eagles tagged with VHF transmitters in Chepigana.

Training and workshops were conducted for local technicians and volunteers assisting with the Harpy Eagle project. They will collect data on the vegetation structure of the microhabitat used for hunting by juvenile eagles, monitor breeding status and search for new nests, and assist with radio telemetry monitoring.

Volunteers from Panama, United States, Canada, and Spain regularly monitored Harpy Eagles that had been released to the wild after hatching at the Neotropical Raptor Center. Information was collected on behavior, prey items taken, and movement patterns.

A wild, sub-adult female Harpy Eagle that had been shot in Darien, Panama, was brought to our facilities for care. After a month, she was released in Soberania National Park where she continues to do well.

West Indies Program

■ **GOALS:** Prevent the extinction of the Grenada Hook-billed Kite, Ridgway's Hawk, and Cuban Kite by training and equipping nationals to manage these endangered species; develop local conservation capacity through training and education of government and nongovernment personnel and students in the Dominican Republic; and incorporate the ecological requirements of raptors into the design and management of protected areas.

■ 2009 RESULTS:

The experimental "assisted dispersal" project in Dominican Republic was repeated with four Ridgway's Hawks moved to the Loma La Herradura release site. Three young hawks, fitted with radio transmitters, fledged successfully and were observed soaring a few kilometers from the release site. Another possible release site was scouted due to some security issues at the Loma La Herradura site.

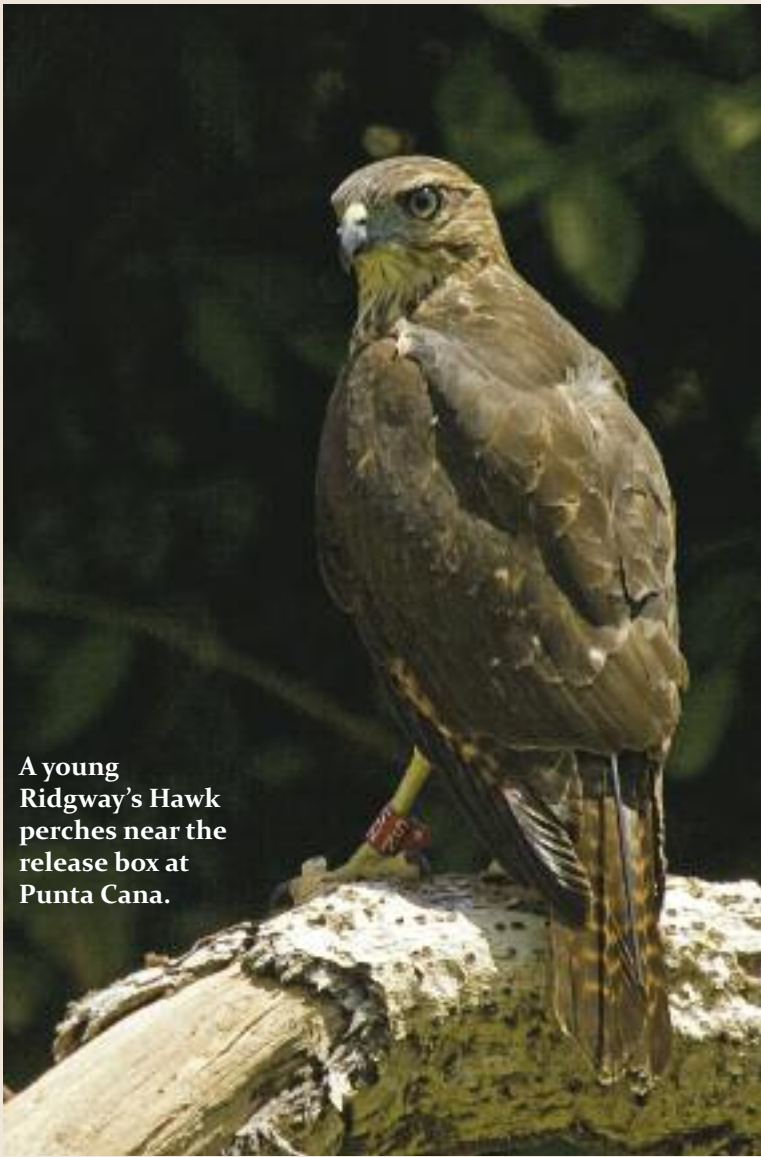
A new release site was established at Punta Cana, a private company with a large land holding in eastern Dominican Republic. Four

hawks were moved to the site. Three successfully fledged and were observed beginning to hunt in July. One is still being tracked at Punta Cana, where it has been observed eating a bat, insects, and lizards.

The Peregrine Fund built local capacity for raptor conservation by supporting and training a biologist and field assistant, who have, in turn, provided training to several park guards and local persons from communities bordering Los Haitises National Park. We supported education campaigns conducted by Hispaniola Ornithological Society focusing on conservation of the Ridgway's Hawk. Presentations were given to resort staff and public schools at Punta Cana and resort staff at Cap Cana, and public schools around Pedro Sanchez near the Loma La Herradura site.

The transmitter of a hawk that had been released in 2008 was tracked to a house and collected from the residents. Feathers and wings from the hawk were found outside of the house. The persons never admitted to killing the hawk, but the evidence was fairly conclusive they had a hand in its death.

Three young hawks, fitted with radio transmitters, fledged successfully and were observed soaring a few kilometers from the release site.



A young Ridgway's Hawk perches near the release box at Punta Cana.

Dario Fernández Bellon

We finished the release box the next day and prepared to hoist it up into a tree, which is easier said than done.

Working in tropical regions has its pluses with all the interesting biodiversity and cultures to observe and experience, but one major drawback is the travel time required to visit these regions. To reach Dominican Republic, I flew to Los Angeles on an evening flight from Boise and then took the red-eye flight to Miami, where I caught the early morning flight to Santo Domingo. I was met by Jorge Brocca, CEO of the Hispaniola Ornithological Society, our in-country collaborators on the Ridgway's Hawk Project, and Dario Fernández Bellon, who was hired to operate the second release site at Punta Cana, an exclusive resort and community.

My mission: to assist with our experimental "assisted dispersal" project to save the Ridgway's Hawk from extinction. We were going to take several 50-day-old birds from their nests in Los Haitises National Park, the only place they are known to exist, and relocate them to a release box where they could fledge in protected habitat on private land.

However, Jorge and Dario said the birds weren't as young as they had been led to believe. We had to move quickly before the young hawks in the park fledged from their nests. We immediately left for Punta Cana, which is short in distance (175 miles) but long in time. Driving in Dominican Republic is one of the most heart-pounding experiences I have had in my many years traveling abroad. You have to be super-aggressive just to defend a position on the asphalt due to the road conditions and traffic, and most main roads aren't marked, so one has to ask for directions frequently.

Five hours later, we arrived at Punta Cana late in the evening and learned that young birds being monitored in the park were already fledging. Finding them would be more challenging.

Time was critical and ticking by quickly—we still had to select a site, make a release box, and set the box up in a tree. We briefly looked for a suitable site on Punta Cana property before nightfall, then resumed our search in the morning. We narrowed it down to two choices and began building the box, despite a shortage of supplies and materials. At least there was power for electrical tools. We finished the release box the next

a day in the
field

day and prepared to hoist it up into a tree, which is easier said than done. I climbed 45 feet up and found a place that had a good feel and was logistically convenient. We worked all day

and through the night to set up the site. I was physically drained from pulling an all-nighter, but relieved.

Staff from Los Haitises National Park arrived early in the morning with three young hawks, which we outfitted with radio transmitters and placed in the box by mid-morning. After a week acclimating to their new surroundings, all three hawks were successfully released. One dropped its transmitter and was observed on two occasions, one was later found dead of unknown causes, and one is still being radio tracked at Punta Cana, where it has been observed eating a bat, insects, and lizards.



Russell Thorstrom is Director of the Madagascar and West Indies Projects.

a day in the field



Orange-breasted Falcons inhabit difficult, steep terrain in tropical forests.

Marta Curti

The air was heavy with smoke; we tasted it with every breath, we smelled it in our clothes. Blackened stumps—remnants of trees that still carried the tell-tale marks of having been chopped down before being burned—were everywhere. My co-worker, Yeray Seminario, and I stood at the base of a large limestone cliff that jutted out from a patch of unburned forest, and did our best not to inhale as we searched for the pair of Orange-breasted Falcons that has been nesting at this site in Guatemala since at least the early 1990s. Doubting they would be here, we sat down to wait anyway. Truthfully, a big part of field work is waiting—waiting in the heat, waiting in the cold or rain—waiting for the animal you are studying to do something. So we were prepared to sit for hours until a bird appeared—or not.

Yeray, our co-worker Angel Muela, and I have been studying the birds in this area for years and each year more of the forest is lost to ranching and agricultural uses (both legal and illegal). Increase in the region's human population coupled with a lack of resources has taken its toll on the people, the forest, and its wildlife and has certainly made our job more challenging. Rutted roads, that in the rainy season more closely resemble mud pits than highways, become even more damaged by heavy trucks hauling out lumber. We have encountered road blocks set up by not-so-upright citizens trying to conceal their illegal activities. We have even received outright threats, being told once that we would become “vulture food” if we passed into a certain area.

As I was thinking about all this while waiting for the birds to show up, three men rode by on bicycles. We recognized each other immediately. Two years before, Fernando, and his sons, Samuel and Manuel, had been traveling

this same road and found us digging our car out from the muddy quagmire it was stuck in. They stopped to help. Hours later, night set in and the car still wouldn't budge. Despite our assurances that we would be okay, they waited with us until help arrived.

Truthfully, a big part of field work is waiting—waiting in the heat, waiting in the cold or rain—waiting for the animal you are studying to do something.

Now, having said our goodbyes, I watched these men riding away through the smoldering landscape, and was hit by the contrasts of just this single day: feeling saddened by a forest destroyed, but uplifted remembering the kindness of strangers; feeling frustrated by problems beyond our control

and humbled by the realization that the challenges we face at work, those living here face on a daily basis.

As for the falcons, we didn't have to wait too long before we heard the familiar *cack* of an Orange-breasted Falcon calling. We quickly located the pair and, to our surprise, two young fledglings. Despite everything, this pair survived and raised young. Like I said, it was a day of contrasts—starting out with doubt and now, ending with hope.



Marta Curti is a field biologist with the Neotropical Raptor Conservation Program.

Orange-breasted Falcon Program

■ **GOAL:** Ensure conservation of the Orange-breasted Falcon in Belize and Guatemala by locating and surveying wild-nesting pairs, and adding genetic diversity from captive breeding; and assess the effects of isolation and low genetic flow between populations.

■ 2009 RESULTS:

Artificial insemination was used at the captive propagation facility in Wyoming to produce five chicks. Two chicks were held for the captive breeding stock and three were released to the wild in Belize.

The three captive-bred birds were released using a modified tame hacking procedure. All the birds were fitted with short-life transmitters to monitor their whereabouts during the critical early stages of release. Two surviving birds remained at the hack site and both were observed catching insects and one was seen taking avian prey. The young falcons achieved independence and dispersed from the hack site three months after release.

A video camera was installed at a nest in Tikal National Park to obtain data on breeding and

Students supported by The Peregrine Fund's Neotropical Science and Student Education Program		
	Country	Bird
Renzo Piana PhD, Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), UK	Peru	Diurnal forest raptor species
Victor Escobar PhD, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC), Chile	Chile	Andean Condor
Maximiliano Galmes PhD, Universidad Nacional del Comahue (UNCOMA), Argentina	Argentina	Crowned Eagle
Marcus Canuto MSc, Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto (UFOP), Brazil	Brazil	White-necked Hawk, other diurnal raptor species
Edwin Campbell MSc, Universidade Federal de Mato-grosso do Sul, Brazil	Panama	Harpy Eagle
Jose Luis Rivera MSc, University of Missouri, St. Louis, USA	Ecuador	Galapagos Hawk
Mari Cruz Jaramillo MSc, University of Missouri, St. Louis, USA	Ecuador	Galapagos Hawk
Saskia Santamaria BSc, Universidad Nacional de Panama, Panama	Panama	Harpy Eagle
Andrea Calispa BSc, Universidad Central de Ecuador, Ecuador	Ecuador	Andean Condor
Francisco Denes MSc, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil	Brazil	White-collared Kite, Gray-headed Kite
Sergio Seipke Non-thesis, Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP) Argentina	Argentina	White-collared Kite

chick rearing behavior. All known active nest sites were visited throughout the breeding season. In Guatemala, a new breeding pair was found just 3.4 km away from another active eyrie. In

Belize and Guatemala, a total of 25 historical territories are known, 17 were occupied, and seven fledged young, although three additional territories were observed from the air. A heli-

copter survey in the southern Maya Mountains revealed three new pairs with fledglings. Field staff visited a sink hole in the Chiquibul Forest where a pair of falcons was observed.

Neotropical Science and Student Education

■ **GOAL:** Empower biologists to study and conserve species in the Neotropics by recruiting, funding, and supervising students to work on raptor species of concern; provide scientific leadership to Peregrine Fund research programs throughout the Neotropics.

■ 2009 RESULTS:

The Peregrine Fund provided grants and supervision to nine students conducting thesis research projects in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Panama, and Ecuador. Grants supported studies of the Andean Condor, Crowned Eagle, White-collared Kite, and the Grey-headed Kite. A systemic census of the Andean Condor population of northern Ecuador was completed.

The Galapagos Hawk was surveyed on three islands, collection of survival data was completed, and a new Master of Science student was recruited to study the hawk's diet after removal of goats that had altered the native landscape.

Data entry of Harpy Eagle propagation, home range, and dispersal in Panama was completed and a database developed.

a day in the field

Keith and Marc jumped out of the moving car like super heroes, blanket in hand, and flung it over the trapped vulture as they gently wrestled it to calm.

In the heart of Kenya's Masai Mara Reserve, four tourist vans were watching vultures feed on a dead wildebeest.

The hissing and gagging cacophony of the vultures, which are one of the most highly threatened groups of raptors in the world, set the mood of a Tarantino movie. I was with collaborators Keith Bildstein and Marc Bechard, who were helping me to trap vultures so we could attach miniature cell-phone transmitters that would help us understand their movement patterns, critical in developing a conservation strategy. Poisoning and human-caused habitat change are the biggest threats to vultures in Africa.

We scanned the horizon for lions. Thankfully none were around, as we were not equipped to deal with snared lions! We drove up to each van to let the tourists know what we were up to and were greeted with perplexed, unflappable faces all around with only one elderly lady showing any hint of excitement.

I slowly steered towards the vulture feeding frenzy. The aim was to herd vultures on one side using the car as a blind while sneaking onto the carcass from the other to set the trap on the wildebeest. This particular one was extremely smelly and as I worked inches away from its head, my face was covered in flies. Every so often, I am convinced that

these carcasses talk to me. "How many did you catch today, Munir?" they seem to say. I made a mental note to thank them in my publications for allowing me to use them to trap vultures.

I jumped back into the car, and as we drove away, the vultures ecstatically raced back towards their ravishing feast and began tearing into the flesh. As I maneuvered the car away from the carcass, Keith excitedly yelled, "We have one!" I spun the car around and headed back for the vultures. We had caught a Rüppell's, one of Africa's largest and most beautiful of vultures. Keith and Marc jumped out of the moving car like super heroes, blanket in hand, and flung it over the trapped vulture as they gently wrestled it to calm. We were nervous about the fact that we had an audience, but luckily everything was choreographed to perfection, almost sheer elegance. The other vultures stood some distance away watching the performance as Keith and Marc



painstakingly walked with the Rüppell's to the vehicle.

While I recovered the trap, I could hear thundering applause that got louder and louder. As I looked up, there were at least seven tourist vans with numerous heads popped over the roof giving us a standing ovation while cameras clicked away in frenzy! Not accustomed to this, I took my cap off, did a courtesy bow and said, "Thank you, thank you very much." I got into the car, smiling ear to ear as we drove away to the shade of a nearby tree to attach the transmitter and release the Rüppell's Vulture.



African White-backed Vultures in the Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya.

Munir Virani

Pan Africa Raptor Conservation Program, East Africa

■ **GOALS:** Build local capacity for raptor research and conservation in Africa by focusing on threatened and declining species and their ecological needs.

■ **2009 RESULTS:**

The Peregrine Fund supported and trained Kenyan students in field studies at Lake Naivasha to document how land-use changes along the shoreline affect African Fish Eagle densities, and evaluate the risk of heavy metal contamination in the lake's food chain. Five VHF-radio transmitters were attached to fish eagles to learn about survival, habitat use, and causes of population fluctuations at the lake. In collaboration with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, six East Africans were trained in raptor survey techniques.

We helped develop Kenya's Raptor Working Group to increase public awareness about the need to conserve Kenya's raptors. The group organized International Vulture Awareness Day in Nairobi with educational material reaching more than 2,000 people and media coverage reaching many more. A Raptor Conservation Photography workshop at Lake Naivasha inspired ninth-graders

of a Nairobi school to do more for wildlife conservation.

With a grant from The Peregrine Fund, South African biologists conducted a survey of breeding populations of the rare and poorly-known Teita Falcon. The team found three new pairs in the most southern extent of the species' range, bringing the total known population in South Africa to seven breeding pairs.

A Teita Falcon Workshop was sponsored by The Peregrine Fund at the 12th Pan African Ornithological Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Three priorities were identified: review the species' global status; measure the stability and breeding success of known core populations; survey suspected high nesting density areas; and, as appropriate, upgrade the species' conservation status.

The Peregrine Fund supported a study in Cameroon on the impact of changing land-use in savannas on raptor diversity and abundance. More than 50 raptor species comprising more than 5,000 individuals were observed. Results reveal the importance of the Northern Cameroon floodplain, much of which is not protected, for raptors. Regional movements are an important feature of the extremely dynamic raptor communities in this region. Vul-

tures, especially the African White-backed Vulture, have become rare and localized.

In collaboration with student Corinne Kendall of Princeton University, 14 GSM (cell-phone) telemetry units were attached to three species of vultures in the Masai Mara National Park to understand foraging behavior and survival. Preliminary results showed the importance of the Masai Mara as a feeding ground. Vulture wing-tagging continued to generate awareness about vultures through public participation in this research project.

Kenya's largest Rüppell's Vulture colony was monitored for the eighth year, showing populations remaining stable since 2002.

In collaboration with South Africa's Endangered Wildlife Trust, we conducted a survey in Kenya's Rift Valley, which showed that 86% of power poles posed an electrocution risk to 17 of 24 large bird species in Kenya. We are working with power supply companies to reduce this risk.

To promote raptor research and conservation across the entire continent, we helped establish the African Raptor Network list server and website (www.africanraptors.org) as a platform for African raptor biologists and enthusiasts to share knowledge, research, and concerns pertaining to African raptors.

Results reveal the importance of the Northern Cameroon floodplain, much of which is not protected, for raptors.



Munir Virani, Ph.D., is the Director of the Pan Africa Program.

Madagascar
Serpent-eagles
successfully
fledged two
young... the first
time serpent-
eagles have been
recorded laying
a two-egg clutch
and fledging two
young.

Madagascar

■ **GOALS:** Assist in developing national capacity for conservation through training and education of Malagasy personnel and building infrastructure; aid in conserving biodiversity and tropical forest and wetland ecosystems by creating protected areas; prevent the extinction of raptor species through management, and train and equip Malagasy nationals to manage endangered species.

■ 2009 RESULTS:

The Peregrine Fund completed the ground work to establish three new protected areas under Madagascar's Protected Areas System at the Manambolomaty Lakes and Tsimembo Forest, Tambohorano, and Bealanana. Work included building national and local capacity for conservation and science.

Manambolomaty/Tsimembo is a breeding stronghold for the Madagascar Fish Eagle and other endangered wetland species and has been protected for several years by our award-winning community-based conservation project; the site now has a provisional protected area status, which is expected to be declared permanent as soon as government operations return to normal following the 2009 coup. Annual fish eagle productivity monitoring in the

Antsalova region revealed 27 territorial pairs, including 11 pairs at Manambolomaty Lakes. In Tambohorano, three new fish eagle pairs were documented, making a total of eight territorial pairs at this proposed protected site.

Biodiversity inventories, stakeholder agreements, and environmental and social impact studies were completed at Bealanana, a forest-wetland-grassland mosaic landscape that supports endangered Madagascar Serpent-eagles and Red Owls, and at Tambohorano, another wetland of importance to Madagascar Fish Eagles, as part of the process of making them protected areas. Both sites are awaiting a decree for provisional protected area status and are among 19 sites in Madagascar given priority to receive this status. Also as part of this process, The Peregrine Fund worked with local communities to manage their natural resources and monitor human use and impact on fish stocks, forests, and other resources.

From tree nurseries operated and supported by Peregrine Fund technicians, 1,000 and 4,000 seedlings were planted at the Manambolomaty Lakes and Tambohorano sites, respectively, for re-forestation. As mitigation, 1,700 orange trees and 300 coconut trees were given to Tam-

bohorano and Veromanga communities, respectively.

The Madagascar Pochard, a diving duck rediscovered by The Peregrine Fund in 2006 with a global population of 20 individuals, was monitored and a temporary site was identified for captive propagation in Antsohihy by the collaborating partners, The Peregrine Fund, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Three pochard clutches were collected from the nesting pochards and 24 ducklings hatched at the field site were transported to the temporary facility at Antsohihy. Due to security issues arising from the lawless state of the country, the young ducks were moved to a safer holding site at Ankara-fantsika National Park.

A nesting attempt by Madagascar Serpent-eagles successfully fledged two young that were radio-tagged for study, the first time serpent-eagles have been recorded laying a two-egg clutch and fledging two young. This pair of serpent-eagles nested again in September and fledged one young. Observers documented an unsuccessful nesting attempt by radio-tagged Madagascar Red Owls, which lost their chick when a strong storm snapped off the branch containing the nest.

Frédéric Larrey



a day in the
field



Madagascar Serpent-eagles were once thought extinct. This female and her chick are now carefully observed by The Peregrine Fund's biologists in Madagascar.



Lily-Arison René de Roland is the Madagascar Project National Director.

To see a Madagascar Serpent-eagle at a nest is an exciting observation, even for a seasoned Malagasy field biologist. The first nest of this species was discovered on Masoala Peninsula in northeastern Madagascar in 1997. Last September, we documented only the seventh known nesting attempt of serpent-eagles, at a field site known as Bemanevika in northwestern Madagascar, where our local biological technicians located a nesting pair.

I eventually dragged myself slowly back to my tent to rest, hoping the damage was temporary.

The following month, I left my office in the capital city of Antananarivo and drove directly to Bemanevika, a roughly 700-kilometer drive that takes two to three days, depending on weather and road conditions. I arrived at the campsite in the evening and planned to visit the nest early the following day. As I was heading towards the serpent-eagle nest in the early morning hours, I

slipped while crossing a river near my tent. I jarred my lower back, causing such severe pain that I couldn't move for several minutes. I eventually dragged myself slowly back to my tent to rest, hoping the damage was temporary. It was a very difficult experience and I was extremely disappointed that it had occurred in the field.

My co-workers suggested I leave the field immediately to be checked out, but I insisted on passing by the serpent-eagle nest before heading back to Antananarivo. It was so important to me to see the site, even if I didn't see a bird at the nest. Fortunately, I was able to walk slowly and cautiously with a support branch and the help of our technicians. It took me two hours to cover the 500 meters to the nest site, where I was pleasantly surprised to see the adult female on the edge of the nest feeding one nestling.

Our local biological technician, Moise, decided to climb the nest tree to take some photos of the young. Serpent-eagles are extremely secretive birds, and we were surprised to see the adult female remain on the edge of the nest to guard her young when Moise was within one meter of the nest. She remained at the nest site perched on one of the supporting branches of the nest and allowed Moise to capture her, enabling us the rare opportunity to band and fit her with a radio transmitter for future research work on this pair. A few minutes later, Moise was on the ground with the adult female.

In that moment of admiring and holding the serpent-eagle while we banded and radio-tagged her, I completely forgot about the pain in my back. It was a tremendous gift for me as it is so rare to see this mysterious forest bird, but even more exciting and special to see her in hand and hold her.

Since the diclofenac ban, the overall rate of decline in numbers of occupied nests of Long-billed Vultures has dropped from over 20% to about 8% a year.

Asia-Pacific: Philippine Eagle, Asian Vulture Crisis

■ **GOAL:** Conserve raptors in jeopardy and gather new information on little-known species while building local capacity for conservation of biodiversity through training and support of students. Conserve the Philippine Eagle and its habitat by assisting the Philippine Eagle Foundation to establish protected areas and restore the species. Help ensure survival of critically endangered *Gyps* vultures in South Asia by providing technical support and advice, measuring and tracking population trends, preventing exposure to diclofenac, increasing public awareness, and developing local capacity for conservation.

■ 2009 RESULTS:

The Philippine Eagle Foundation received financial support and guidance from The Peregrine Fund to conserve the endangered Philippine Eagle and its habitat. Research progressed when the first wild eagle to be tagged with a satellite transmitter was released in eastern Mindanao. The bird is tracked with precision to understand its habitat use and home range. Population surveys were expanded to cover most of the eagle's his-

toric range, with results revealing low or no densities of breeding birds at Leyte, Samar, and Luzon. Restoration suffered setbacks when one of two young eagles released to Mt. Kitanglad in 2008 was shot and killed and the other had to be recaptured. In preparation for future releases, a comprehensive education drive was begun targeting grade schools and upland communities around Mt. Kitanglad. Nine schools and communities were visited in 2009. The "School for Nature" initiative interacted with 509 students from seven schools in southern Luzon and 1,059 students from nine schools in Mindanao. Each of seven municipalities in Eastern Mindanao declared 7,000 hectares of eagle nesting habitat as conservation sanctuaries and approved local laws to protect the birds.

In India, the numbers of occupied nests of critically endangered Oriental White-backed and Long-billed Vultures were measured to evaluate the effectiveness of a 2006 government ban on the manufacture and sale of the veterinary drug diclofenac. Diclofenac is toxic to vultures, a discovery made by The Peregrine Fund in 2004, and caused a catastrophic population crash in just 10 years. Research focused on measuring breeding activity of



Long-billed Vultures because very few nests of Oriental White-backed Vultures remain in the wild. Since the diclofenac ban, the overall rate of decline in numbers of occupied nests of Long-billed Vultures has dropped from over 20% to about 8% a year. Nesting colonies in protected areas showed more stability than those in non-protected areas. The situation also appeared stable at the Long-billed Vulture colony in Pakistan, although more long-term data are needed. The Peregrine Fund supported a study on the Oriental White-backed Vul-

ture in Nepal, where nests have declined by 46% since 2002.

The Peregrine Fund updated and maintained the web-based Asian Vulture Population Project, which has developed into an important information resource for conservationists to locate and monitor remaining colonies throughout South Asia. By December, 31 individuals and organizations had contributed data from 103 sites.

A research grant was awarded for surveys of the little-known Pallas's Fish Eagle in Mongolia. The study revealed a decline in the



A Long-billed Vulture soars over the majestic forests of Bandhavgarh National Park, India.

Munir Virani

Raptor Conservation Genetics Research

■ **GOALS:** Use molecular genetic data to compare individuals, populations, and species to assess phylogenetic relationships, gene flow, and genetic diversity among birds of prey. Provide recommendations for conservation priorities. Assist in scientific investigations and publish results to further our understanding on issues related to conservation of birds of prey.

■ **2009 RESULTS:**

Using samples collected at Padre Island, Texas, from 1985 to 2007, nearly 300 individual Peregrine Falcons were genotyped to investigate levels of genetic diversity over time and estimate the effective size of the migratory population. Genetic results suggest that the migrant population is stable and that there is no sign of decline in the breeding population over the sampled time period.

The phylogeographic structure of Peregrine Falcons throughout their global distribution was investigated to provide information for subspecies and population level questions. Approximately 3,000 base pairs of sequence data for each sample were generated for 33 of 64 total falcon species within the family

Falconidae. Once all species are analyzed, the result will be the most thorough phylogenetic study on falcons to date, useful for evolutionary-based questions and management decisions.

The screening of genetic markers was launched to investigate the genetic stability of Aplomado Falcon populations in South Texas and elsewhere.

Study continued on investigating the variability at a specific gene in Gyrfalcons called the melanocortin 1-receptor gene (MC1R) that helps regulate plumage color. Results will be used to investigate adaptation relative to plumage type and geographic distribution.

The Gyrfalcon and Peregrine Falcon nest site turnover project generated genotypes from samples collected from 2006 to 2009 in Thule and Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. The data will be used to study turnover rates and site fidelity in these two areas.

In collaboration with Farah Ishtiaq from the Wildlife Institute of India and Chris Bowden from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, a project was initiated to genotype the entire captive population of Oriental White-backed, Slender-billed, and Long-billed Vultures in India and Pakistan. Results will be used to help make breeding recommendations to maximize

levels of genetic diversity and reduce inbreeding in the captive population.

Samples were obtained from all representative species in the New World Vulture family and evolutionary relationships among species were identified.

The mitochondrial DNA study of Harpy Eagles was completed in collaboration with Heather Lerner to investigate population structure and diversity and published in the Public Library of Science journal *PLoS ONE*. Minimal genetic structure was observed between Panama and South America, suggesting connectivity across the Isthmus of Panama.

In collaboration with Ruth Tingay and others, genetic methods were used to address the conservation status of the Madagascar Fish Eagle. Results published in the journal *Molecular Ecology* found that low levels of neutral genetic variability have been maintained in the population for hundreds to thousands of years, as opposed to being the result of a recent population decline, or bottleneck. Results suggest that efforts to prevent fish eagle extinction should be directed toward maintaining habitat and reducing human persecution.

Once all species are analyzed, the result will be the most thorough phylogenetic study on falcons to date, useful for evolutionary-based questions and management decisions.

number of formerly occupied sites, with impacts resulting from hydroelectric dams depleting river flows and habitat, overfishing depleting food supplies, and a drought making both problems worse. Additional study is needed before conservation interventions are recommended.

The Peregrine Fund received a grant from the Trust for Mutual Understanding to run a training workshop in raptor research and management during the Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network conference in Mongolia in 2010.

We thank the many individuals, non-profit organizations, foundations, universities, and agencies who assisted us in 2009.

Aplomado Falcon Program

Ing. Erique Baeza
Bureau of Land Management
Cinda Cole
Jimmy and Suanne Delk
Department of Defense at White Sands Missile Range
Brad Kelley
Dr. Alberto Lafon
LightHawk
Alberto Macias
Bobby and Lynda McKnight
Jon and Jackie Means
Meridian Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Scott Higer
Clay and Jody Miller
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New Mexico Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
New Mexico State Land Office
The Port of Brownsville
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National Park Service
Phoenix Zoo, Dr. Kathy Orr
The Raptor Center, Dr. Pat Redig
Maggie Sacher
Salt River Project
Southern Utah's Coalition of Resources and Economics
Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
University of Idaho
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
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Forest Departments of Madhya
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Philippine Eagle Foundation
Royal Society for the Protection of
Birds, U.K.
Shailendra Tewari of Tigers Den
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in memory...

If you would like to make a bequest or donation in memory of a loved one, please contact our membership office at (208) 362-3716.

We received donations in memory of the following individuals in 2009:

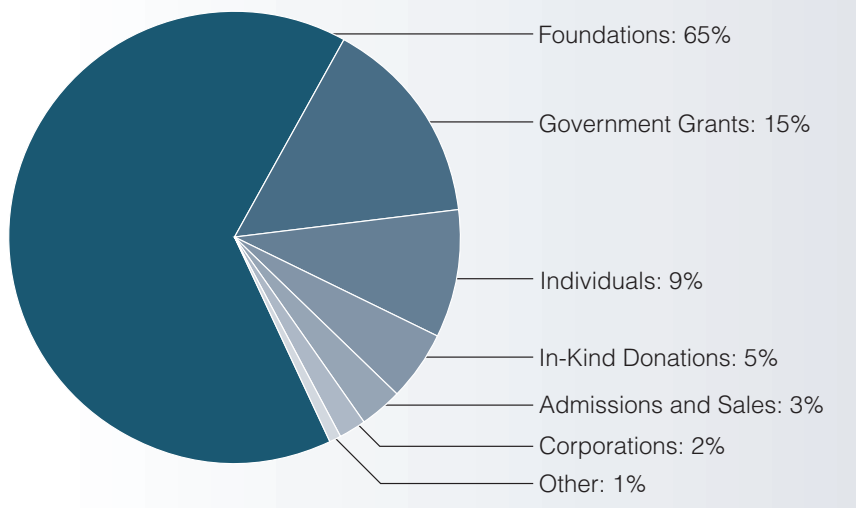
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The economic situation this fiscal year presented additional challenges to The Peregrine Fund. It was apparent by the second quarter of the year that the economic climate would have a significant impact on both contributions received as well as investment income. Difficult decisions were made proactively to cut expenses, including decreases in employee salaries and benefits, with the goal of keeping expenditures within estimated revenue projections while at the same time continuing critical programmatic work. As a result, cash operating expenses were reduced by more than \$1,300,000 from the original budgeted amounts.

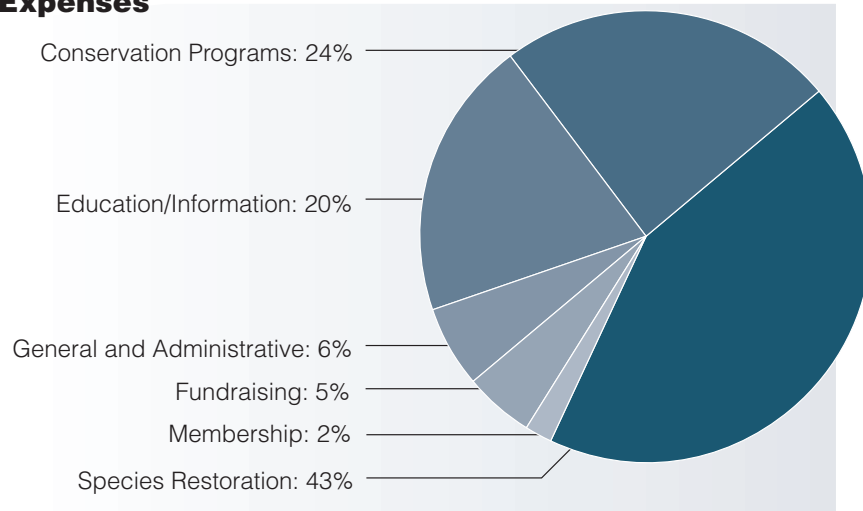
The year ended with an increase in Net Assets of \$604,751. This result includes an increase in pledges receivable over the prior year of \$1,256,956 — representing promises to give that will be received over the next three years, but that were not available to cover expenses during fiscal year 2009. Also included is a loss on endowment investments of \$185,943.

A copy of the complete audited financial statements may be obtained by contacting The Peregrine Fund.

Income (excluding investment income/loss)



Expenses



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

ASSETS	2009	2008
Cash and cash equivalents	1,469,630	936,238
Pledges receivable	1,686,956	430,000
Grants and other receivables.....	122,887	651,195
Inventory, prepaids, and other assets	80,870	101,574
Property and equipment (net of depreciation)	5,210,421	5,414,366
Archives collection	2,253,977	2,167,563
Endowment assets	9,132,925	9,779,067
	<u>\$19,957,666</u>	<u>\$19,480,003</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES	2009	2008
Accounts payable	86,000	75,916
Accrued taxes and expenses	44,050	181,222
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>130,050</u>	<u>257,138</u>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted.....	17,157,734	17,829,818
Temporarily restricted	2,669,882	1,393,047
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>19,827,616</u>	<u>19,222,865</u>
	<u>\$19,957,666</u>	<u>\$19,480,003</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

REVENUES

Contributions	5,230,500
Government grants	973,800
Admissions and sales.....	172,431
Other	41,258
Loss on endowment investments.....	(185,943)
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$6,232,046</u>

EXPENSES

Program services.....	4,875,121
General and administrative.....	359,267
Fundraising and membership	392,907
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$5,627,295</u>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS.....\$ 604,751

Together
we can make
history—again.

In 1999, we made history! The Peregrine Falcon was removed from the U.S. Endangered Species List, thanks to 30 years of unwavering vision and commitment by The Peregrine Fund. It remains one of the most successful conservation projects in history.

But our work wasn't done. Like Peregrine Falcons, colorful **Aplomado Falcons were missing from the landscape.** They were last seen in the American Southwest in the 1950s.

Using three decades of tried-and-true experience, The Peregrine Fund began releasing Aplomado Falcons in Texas and New Mexico. Fifteen years later, the birds are showing **strong signs of recovery.**

Some 2010 Expenses:


Food for breeding
falcons and chicks:
\$37,000

West Nile Virus
vaccine:
\$2,000

Monitoring equipment
for one release site:
\$500

Construction
materials for each
release tower:
\$2,000

Your gift matters!

A photograph of an Aplomado Falcon in flight, showing its wings spread wide. The bird has a blue-grey back and wings with dark spots, and a white underbelly with a yellowish-brown throat. It is flying over a grassy field.

Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*): the only falcon remaining on the Endangered Species List in the U.S.

photo by Cal Sandfort

Please contribute.
www.peregrinefund.org



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Interpretive Center (208) 362-8687
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