



Newsletter #4

Neotropical Raptor Network (NRN) (RRN) Red de Rapaces Neotropicales

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Translations by Magaly Linares unless otherwise noted

October 2007

The Black-chested Buzzard-eagle in a Large Urban Center in Southeastern Brazil

By Luiz Fernando Salvador Jr
Neotropical Research-Grupo de Estudo para a Conservação da Fauna Neotropical

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In 2005, researchers involved in raptor conservation at Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, discovered the reutilization of an abandoned nest by a pair of Black-chested Buzzard-eagle (*Buteo melano-leucus*). The mostly stick nest is located in the Serra do Curral mountain ridge, an area heavily degraded by urban growth and mining activities. According to the locals, the first sightings of Black-chested Buzzard-eagles occurred the early 80s. However, in the late 90s members of SOS Falconiformes (Centro de Pesquisa para a Conservação das Aves de Rapina Neotropicais) and collaborators made the first official observations and started collecting data on the reproductive biology and diet



Black-chested Buzzard-eagle at 56 days old

of these raptors. They followed the reproductive activities of several pairs during the 1996, 1997 and 2000 breeding seasons. These birds were not seen after 2001 when a fire halted further nesting at-

tempts in the area. The data from these observations was published only in journals with limited circulation.

In 2005, researchers

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Figure 1. Young Forest Falcon



Raptors of the Southern Peruvian Amazon

By Ursula Valdez, University of Washington

For many biologists, the study of forest raptors is considered a big challenge. As we all know, raptors not only have low population densities (many scientists are always worried about a large enough sample size), but they are even harder to find in dense and tall rainforests.

It is not uncommon to see surprised and concerned expressions when I mention that I study forest raptors. In particular, I remember my very first ornithological meeting back in 1996. As a new master's student, I was excited about the opportunity of

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Swallow-tailed Kite Rescue and Rehabilitation By Jennifer O. Coulson, President and Conservation Chair-Orleans Audubon Society, translated by Sergio H. Seipke

During our long-term study on the population biology of Swallow-tailed Kites breeding in Louisiana and Mississippi, my husband Tom and I have encountered Kites in need of rescue and rehabilitation. One of the first debilitated Kites we encountered was found three miles off Louisiana's coast in the Gulf of Mexico on a menhaden fishing boat. The young Kite was attempting to make its first migration when he crash landed on the boat. The Kite's head and wings drooped, and he weighed half the mass of a healthy Kite. He passed parasitic worms (a nematode of the genus *Sinhymanthus*, formerly *Dispharynx*) but was too weak to endure worming treatment. After the Kite gained enough weight, we wormed him with fenbendazole several times. Within a few weeks, he was almost ready for release all he needed was a little conditioning.

We exercised him in an open field three times a day by flying him on a long line attached to the jesses (leather leashes fitted on his legs). After the first few days of flight train-

ing, the Kite was flying effortlessly on a 50-foot line, so we added a small weight to the line. This weight training helped the Kite gain strength rapidly. When we released him, he flew off with great powerful strokes, out of sight and without a backward glance.

This Kite certainly would have died from his parasitic infection had



we not intervened. The tissue-destroying nematode parasite he was infected with can be lethal to birds. It imbeds in the lining of the upper stomach (proventriculus), often destroying it, and interferes with digestion. I wondered how deadly and prevalent this parasite might be to Kites, so we started collecting and screening fecal samples from nestlings and adults during banding and radio-tagging. Some radio-tagged Kites carried this parasite and lived normal lives, but a fledgling and a nestling from two nests died from complications attributed to this parasite.

My favorite rescue story began when a six-day-old nestling miraculously survived falling from his nest, 100 feet above the ground. The grounded nestling was discovered in a pile of pine straw by the homeowner's collie. When I arrived, the nestling was concussed and vomiting. I quickly administered an anti-inflammatory agent (corticosteroid

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Tracking of a Crowned Solitary Eagle fledgling in the semi-arid region of Argentina by Miguel Angel Santillán and José Hernán Sarasola (CECARA) Center for the study and conservation of raptors in Argentina



Crowned Solitary Eagle (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*) banded fledgling at a nest in *Prosopis caldenia* tree (*Prosopis caldenia*).

The Crowned Solitary Eagle (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*) is considered endangered, although its conservation status is still unknown. Researchers point to habitat loss and direct persecution by humans as the most serious threat to the population but none of them has been thoroughly investigated. One of the main factors that limit the analysis of these causes is the limited knowl-

edge about the ecology and biology of the species, as well as its habitat and envi-

ronmental needs. Without this data, it is difficult to talk about habitat fragmentation, demography and abundance of the species.

With the intention of learning about dispersal and migration patterns, researchers from CECARA, University of La Pampa, Argentina, placed a satellite transmitter on a Crowned Solitary Eagle fledgling before it left the nest in a semi-arid region in central Argentina. This was a collaborative research effort from members of CECARA, Lorenzo Sympton (Andino- Patagonic Natural-

More information about CECARA and these projects can be found at www.cecara.com.ar

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The Peregrine Fund Biologists Release Captive-bred Orange-breasted Falcons for the First Time

The Peregrine Fund/Fondo Peregrino Panamá

Rare Orange-breasted Falcons bred in captivity have been released for the first time to the wild in their traditional territory in Belize to bolster a small and isolated population thought to number fewer than 35 pairs in all of Central America.

Early in July, six chicks were placed in a hack box and will be fed until they are able to successfully pursue and capture prey on their own.

This has been one of the most difficult species The Peregrine Fund has ever tried to breed in captivity, said Pete Jenny, president and CEO of The Peregrine Fund. We're very pleased that, after 20 years of work, we're finally in the position of having enough birds to undertake this first release.



Chick in Belize - Marta Curti

The falcons were bred and raised in captivity by Robert Berry, a research associate and founding board member of The Peregrine Fund, at his breeding facility in Wyoming. A 21-year effort to propagate Orange-breasted Falcons reached important milestones with the first successful hatch of four falcon chicks in 2006 and seven chicks in 2007. The Peregrine Fund remains the only facility to successfully breed

this species in captivity.

The Orange-breasted Falcon has grown increasingly rare as its habitat in Central and South America is impacted by human development. The birds have vanished from extensive portions of their previous range in Central America, for reasons that scientists don't fully understand.

The study of captive-bred falcons in the wild provides us with a unique opportunity to understand what limits the species distribution and abundance without negatively impacting the wild population, Jenny said.

These beautiful, medium-sized falcons once resided in tropical forests from southeastern Mexico through Central America to Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay and northern Argentina. Orange-breasted Falcons may be one of the most sparsely distributed falcons in the world. They feed on smaller birds and bats, pursuing them at high speeds and catching them in the air. The falcons generally nest on precipitous cliffs like the Peregrine Falcon and occasionally in emergent trees. The Orange-breasted Falcon has a white



Pair at the breeding facility in Wyoming - Robert Berry

throat, orange upper breast and legs, and yellow toes and skin exposed around the eye, which stand out in sharp contrast to its black head and back. Their huge feet and long toes make them the most powerfully armed of all falcons relative to body size.

Field work is coordinated and carried out by Angel Muela and Marta Curti, biologists at The Peregrine Fund's field office in Panama.

Further information may be found at the following web sites:

www.globalraptors.org/grin/SpeciesResults.asp?specID=8033

or www.birds.cornell.edu/obf

North Star to Award PTT at the III NRC

North Star Science and Technology, LLC will sponsor the 2009 Third Neotropical Raptor Conference in Bogotá, Colombia. The company will provide an opportunity for a single research project on Neotropical raptors to acquire 3 battery powered PTTs for free. For program details visit

www.neotropicalraptors.org/2009NRC.location.i.htm

Visit www.northstarst.com for additional information on the company and the PTT units. North Star has teamed in this effort with the Neotropical Raptor Network to provide expert advice and to convene a review committee to assess applications for this award and to select the awardee.

Application materials should include contact information and a not-more-than-three-page narrative that includes a full budget for the project including the awarded PTTs. Proposals are due by 15 July 2008. The

award will be announced no later than 15 October 2008, and the PTTs will be presented to the awardee at a special ceremony during the Third Neotropical Raptor Conference in Bogotá, Colombia, in January/February, 2009.

Please send proposals no later than 15 July 2008 to:

Dr. Keith L. Bildstein
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
410 Summer Valley Road
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
Bildstein@hawkmtn.org

A Survey of the Grey-backed Hawk in Northwestern Peru

By Renzo Piana and F. Hernán Vargas The Peregrine Fund/Fondo Peregrino Panamá

With a small population and a range restricted to Western Ecuador and extreme Northwestern Peru, the Grey-backed Hawk (*Leucopternis occidentalis*) is listed as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Peruvian legislation. In the last 50

years in Ecuador, the hawk population has had a high rate of decline because of habitat fragmentation due to agriculture. In 1995, Hernán Vargas estimated that the number of breeding pairs in Ecuador was less than 500. At present, BirdLife International estimates that the Ecuadorian population may range between 250 and 999 individuals. As forest fragmentation continues, the population may still be declining.

largely unknown. The species was first recorded in 1979 inside the former Zona Reservada de Tumbes on what is now part of the Cerros de Amotape National Park (CANP).

Between 6 and 13 June 2007, we visited several locations at the CANP. The main goals of this survey were:

- 1) locate populations of the Grey-backed Hawk in Northwestern Peru
- 2) develop ideas about its abundance and distribution
- 3) assess its conservation status in order to design a PhD research project for Renzo Piana
- 4) and evaluate possible associations between habitat types and the occurrence of the Grey-backed Hawk.

The survey was mainly focused in the Western side of the CANP. We visited this area because ornithologists, birdwatchers and park rangers had reported observing the Grey-backed Hawk in the

in exposed branches approximately 15 to 20 meters high. The area where we observed these two hawks is less than 10 km away from the Ecuadorian

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***Leucopternis occidentalis* observed at Quebrada Faical on June 9, 2007 - Hernán Vargas**

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In Peru, no population estimate exists for the Grey-backed Hawk and its abundance and distribution are

largely unknown. The species was first recorded in 1979 inside the former Zona Reservada de Tumbes on what is now part of the Cerros de Amotape National Park (CANP). Between 6 and 13 June 2007, we visited several locations at the CANP. The main goals of this survey were:

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The survey was mainly focused in the Western side of the CANP. We visited this area because ornithologists, birdwatchers and park rangers had reported observing the Grey-backed Hawk in the park, particularly at Quebrada Faical. On 8 June 2007 we reached the El Caucho Research Station (recently constructed by the Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA) in order to facilitate research and conservation action inside this protected area). On 9 June, we walked along the Faical creek and at about 09:00 we observed two Grey-backed Hawks, probably an adult female and an adult or juvenile male. The birds were silent and perched on one side of the creek

border. This creek is in steep, hilly terrain with temporal and permanent water courses in the lower parts and steep slopes covered with dense, tropical dry forest. Trees over 15m in height are abundant and are usually covered by epiphyte plants, locally known as salvajina (*Tillandsia* spp.).

After our successful encounter with the two hawks at Quebrada Faical, we continued our survey southwards. We surveyed five other locations by car and finally visited Quebrada Hormigas in the southern limit of the CANP. We visited this quebrada because of a report of one Grey-backed Hawk by an expedition of British ornithologists in 2000. We

Deforestation by goats



reached the small town of Fernandez, rented horses and donkeys and were guided by a local for the final part of our expedition. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a Grey-backed Hawk at Quebrada Hormigas and at other locations south of Quebrada Faical.

The finding of only two individuals during our six-day survey suggests that the species has only a marginal distribution in extreme Northwestern

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Peru or that we failed to detect Grey-backed Hawks because of extremely low population density. Since the species is known to be more common in Southwestern Ecuador, we should carry out surveys close to the Ecuadorian border in the northwestern region of the CANP. We also need to survey the more humid sector of the central and southern part of the CANP. Our survey was carried out during the dry season (June) and future surveys should also be conducted during the rainy season (late December to April). It is important to estimate the population of the Grey-backed Hawk at Quebrada Faical and other areas near El Caucho Biological Station where the species is frequently reported. For these reasons (and in order to understand the factors affecting



and limiting the abundance and distribution of the Grey-backed Hawk in Peru), Renzo Piana will conduct more detailed research in the next three years as part of his doctorate studies at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. This research will be supported by The Peregrine Funds Neotropical Science and Student Education program. If future surveys ascertain that the species is rare in Peru then conservation efforts would

need to be focused on habitat preservation in Ecuador.

In our surveys, we also found other raptor species which are good representatives of the dry forest of Northern Peru: an adult Pearl Kite (*Gampsonix swainsonii*), a juvenile Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*), an adult Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) and several Short-tailed Hawks (*Buteo brachyurus*). In addition, we also saw several raptor species of wider distribution in Peru including three individuals of Variable Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*) and were surprised with the relatively high abundance of the Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*). Although the CANP is protected area, we also observed herds of domestic cattle and goats roaming all over the park and grazing on native trees, which is likely causing the conversion of forest into grasslands.

Buzzard-eagle Continued from Page 1...

from Neotropical Research (Grupo de Estudo para a Conservação da Fauna Neotropical) recorded new nesting activities in the cliffs of the Serra do Curral. Copulation, nest repair and prey delivery behaviour was observed in June 2005. Feeding and later territorial interaction between the pair and a juvenile Black-chested Buzzard-eagle were recorded. The juvenile was probably hatched at the Serra do Curral the previous year, which suggests their return to the area during the 2004 breeding season. The biology and behavior of the species in Belo Horizonte was determined through 383 hours of observation. We described the copulation patterns and role of each sex in nest assistance, prey deliveries, territory defense and parental duties. We also quantified the diet and characterized the development of the single chick hatched in 2005 until it was 80 days old.

During this study, we documented some important aspects concerning

the biology of the species in a highly degraded and modified environment. We observed the involvement of both parents in all reproductive activities, the sharing of incubation duties and the opportunistic character of their domestic diet which was mainly composed of Rock Pigeons (an introduced species) captured over slums, in populated neighborhoods and even downtown. The birds rigorously defended their nesting territory against human presence and the 2004 juvenile. Another important achievement was the tagging of the chick by researchers from SOS Falconiformes while still in the nest with a CEMAVE (Centro Nacional de Pesquisa para a Conservação das Aves Silvestres - IBAMA) ring. This will be important for future studies related to home range, dispersal patterns and territory use of the birds.

Unfortunately, there was no reproductive activity in the Serra do Curral nest during 2006, probably related to the presence of researchers the previous year. This absence suggests that the species, although familiarized with

constant human presence in the area where they live; are extremely sensitive to human intervention in their nesting territory.

No more nests have been located along the entire extension of the Serra do Curral. The use of vehicles and available funding has limited the researchers ability to do field work.

The Neotropical Research Group has submitted a paper to Revista Brasileira de Ornitologia on the 2005 nesting study. The hope is that it will increase the search efforts to locate other nests along the entire extension of the Serra do Curral. We will continue to monitor the nesting territory used during 2005 in order to identify possible patterns of its use by immature birds and adults and systematically collect data on the general biology of *B. melanoleucus* in the urban environments of Belo Horizonte. In addition, we intend to establish management measures that can provide the conditions needed to maintain the reproductive activity of these fascinating raptors in the third largest city of Brazil.

Eagle Continued from Page 2...

ist Society, Bariloche, Argentina) and Marc Bechard (CECARA, Boise State University, USA). The transmitter was donated by North Star Science and Technology Inc. during the II Neotropical Conference in Iguazu, Argentina, June 2006. This project is funded by The Peregrine Fund, Migres Foundation and Tierra Natura Foundation.

The field work was completed in January 2007 (summer in the Southern hemisphere) at Los Ranqueles farm property of the Urquiza Family in Paso de los Algarrobos, 186 miles west of Santa Rosa, La Pampa.

This work is part of a major Crowned Solitary Eagle Ecology and Conservation project in central Argentina. Since 2002, nests have been monitored to observe the parent's behavior and prey brought to the nest

during the reproductive period and to monitor if the domestic cattle are being targeted as part of their predatory behavior.

An environmental education campaign is being implemented among the local residents with talks at rural schools and surveys among residents and workers at the area. This is so that we can find out what their feelings towards the species are and collect information about nest locations. Brochures have been distributed and a documentary titled Crying Eagle has been made for use at schools. This is the story of a child (Fernando) and his relationship with a Crowned Solitary Eagle. This documentary was made possible through an award from the National Film and Audiovisual Arts Institute of Argentina (INCAA) and the Sub-secretary of Culture of the government of La Pampa.



Crowned Solitary Eagle fledgling with transmitter.

The movements of this female Crowned Solitary Eagle can be followed at: www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=200



Cali Solaro and Maximiliano Galmes (left) and Jose H. Sarasola (right) at the School Home N°48 de Single Árbol.

First Harpy Eagle Chick Hatched at The Lymington Foundation by Linda Wittkoff

The pairing of two Harpy Eagles succeeded in 2004, drawing the attention of authorities and researchers to the breeder in the interior of the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. However the eggs laid either disappeared or were destroyed before hatching. In 2006, the transfer of two eggs to the Lymington Foundation facilities was authorized by IBAMA. The eggs were artificially incubated. Only one proved fertile and the resulting chick died the evening of hatching.

In March of this year, we received another egg which proved fertile. Extra care was taken for the successful hatching and survival of this chick. This wouldn't have been possible without the con-



tribution of our technical staff, biologist Erica Pacifico and veterinarian Juliana Sinhorini, both trained at the University of Sao Paulo. Or without the invaluable, almost daily communication and orientation of 3 persons of the Peregrine Fund, Magaly Linares, Saskia Santamaria, and Cal Sanford a specialist in raptor breeding based in Boise Idaho. The female chick was named Bunny, after the Easter bunny, because she hatched on Easter morning. At 97 days she weighed 4.882 kg.

She will not be kept here at Lymington as our focus is on the breeding of blue macaws.

Raptors of Southern Peru Continued from Page 1...

meeting senior raptor researchers and eager to receive advice on my future research. I was quite disappointed when I mentioned my plans to work with forest raptors in the Amazon to an experienced raptor biologist and he told me, You are ambitious and naïve, but good luck and you better be prepared for a real pain in the neck. I still pursued the endeavor despite the comments and because of my immense curiosity for raptors (and my natural stubbornness). Yet, I have to admit that he was absolutely right! In my first ventures into the rainforest of Peru, I spent endless hours walking along the trails hoping to find a raptor. I literally had a sore neck from looking up into the canopy, hoping to spot at least a silhouette. Many days would pass until I saw a raptor and many times it was just a glimpse of a bird flying extremely fast, or a shadow disappearing in the dense vegetation. Where were all those previously reported species in one of the world's most biodiverse regions?

It did not take me long to realize that I needed to learn a lot from previous work in similar ecosystems. The Proyecto Maya reports and J.M. Thiollay's pioneering research became my primary source of information and a model for my work.

It has been 10 years since my first explorations searching for raptors in southeast Peru, and I can finally say that I have gathered records of about 95% of all the raptor species reported for the whole region. These records are the result of nest observations, auditory surveys, surveys from above the canopy, trapping efforts and occasional sightings. The major-

ity of records come from lowland tropical rainforest where I have been conducting research since 1997.

Large species such as the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), Crested Eagle (*Morphnus guianensis*), Black-and-white Hawk-eagle (*Spizastur melano-leucus*), Ornate Hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*) and Black Hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) have been recorded in lowlands of Manu Na-



tional Park, Los Amigos River Conservation Area and near the mouth of the Tambopata River in lowland rainforest of the Madre de Dios region in Peru. Most of these species have been recorded during surveys conducted from above the canopy, spotted when crossing large gaps in the forest and during boat trips on rivers. In Manu and Los Amigos Conservation Area, elusive species such as Bicolored Hawk (*Accipiter bicolor*), Tiny Hawk (*A. superciliosus*) and Forest Falcons (*Micrastur*) have been attracted to conspecific calls using playback surveys. During trapping attempts in the forest interior using ground and canopy mistnets as well as balchattris, I have been able to capture a total of 10 species of raptors. Among those are Collared Forest Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*), Lined Forest Falcon (*M. gilvicollis*), Barred

Forest Falcon (*M. ruficollis*), Buckley's Forest Falcon (*M. buckleyi*), Slaty-backed Forest Falcon (*M. mirandollei*), Ornate Hawk-eagle, White-browed Hawk (*Leucopternis kuhli*), Slate-colored Hawk (*L. schistacea*), Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) and Black Caracara (*Daptrius ater*).

In the past three years while working in Los Amigos River, I have documented reproductive activity of 10 raptor species either by finding a nest or evidence of young birds in the area and in one case by finding a developed brood patch on one of the captured individuals (White-browed Hawk). In 2005 I found the first ever-known nest of a Buckley's Forest Falcon and for two consecutive nesting seasons I followed the development of the eggs and nestlings until fledging time. I also observed the Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*), Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*), Bicolored Hawk and Tiny Hawk building nests or incubating between October and February and observed the last two species with older nestlings in April and May.

Young of all the species of Forest-falcons were captured between late February and early April. These young individuals were different from the adults in plumage, eye and cere color.

While the dense Amazonian rainforest is indeed a challenge for raptor biologists, using a combination of methods of detection and capture allowed me to find the secretive species and is allowing me the opportunity to learn more about their ecology and natural history. In the years to come I hope to complete more detailed studies on raptor assemblages in the Amazon and to understand their specific roles in this diverse and complex ecosystem.

Book Announcements

The first Field Guide by Sergio H. Seipke to the Raptors of South America is on its way!

South America, is home to 96 species of raptors and in some places as many as 45 species co-exist! This diversity presents a challenge for field researchers, managers of conservation units, birdwatchers and others who are trying to identify these birds in the field.

I started toying with the idea of writing a field guide for South American raptors more than 10 years ago. I had first thought of working on a field guide to the raptors of Argentina, my home country. Since Argentina has 65 species, more than 2/3 of the species in South America, why not work a little harder and write a field guide that could be used across the entire continent?

The Field Guide to the Raptors of South America will be published by the Princeton University Press. It will be about 500 pages and will include over 100 color plates, updated range maps of all species and more than 200 color photographs. The main goal of the work is to present (a) field marks and other identification information which has been verified in the field; (b) illustrations depicting all known plumages, including accurate flight silhouettes; and (c) photographs of selected plumages of all species of raptors occurring in the continent.



NEOTROPICAL RAPTORS, 2nd Neotropical Raptor Conference Proceedings, Iguazú, Argentina, June 2006

Published in July 2007 by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on behalf of the Neotropical Raptor Network. The 365-page book contains 29 complete papers and 80 bilingual abstracts with numerous black-and-white photos, figures, and tables.

The book (the first to focus entirely on Neotropical birds of prey and owls) offers new information on the group's natural history, breeding biology, migrations, rehabilitation, and conservation. Written by experts in

the field and designed to enhance our knowledge of birds of prey in what is arguably the most raptor-diverse biogeographical realm in the world, **NEOTROPICAL RAPTORS** will be of interest to raptor biologists, conservationists, and enthusiasts everywhere.

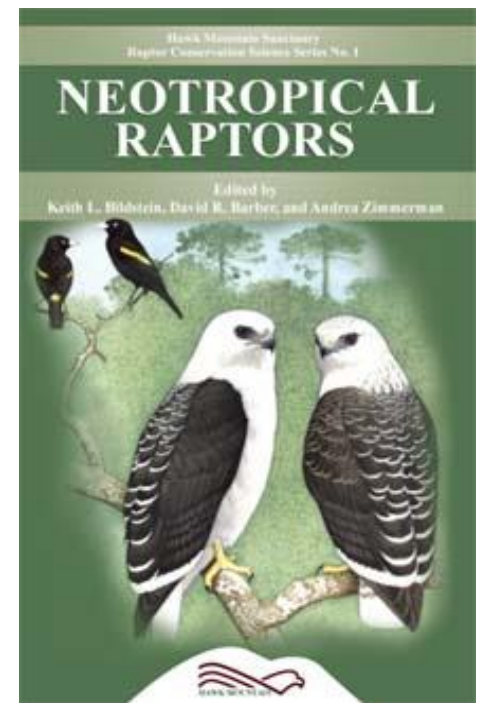
Edited by Keith L. Bildstein, David R. Barber, and Andrea Zimmerman
365 pages, 8.75 x 5.87, softcover.

Order from:

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
Bookstore

1700 Hawk Mountain Road
Kempton, PA 19529 USA
1-610-756-6000

\$28.00 (including surface mail)



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and dexamethasone) intramuscularly and placed him in a brooder. Early the next morning the nestling was tracking his head from side to side so I gave him a higher-than-normal dose. Within 2 hours he was sitting up, eating and acting like a healthy nestling. A couple of days later, Tom and I approached the homeowners about returning the nestling to his nest. The nest was intact and still had an older chick present. The homeowners were concerned that the nest tree was unsafe to climb, so they would not give

us permission. We decided that the next best course of action would be to foster the nestling into a nest with only one chick of approximately the same age. It took us a while to locate such a nest that was in climbable tree. In the meantime, to avoid imprinting the Kite, we fed him with a Kite puppet and housed him within sight of a non-releasable adult Swallow-tailed Kite we were caring for. Twice, weather prevented us from placing the nestling into a nest. Tropical Storm Allison caused many nests to fail, reducing our pool of potential foster nests. Finally, when the nes-

tling was 24 days old, we were able to place him in a foster nest containing one 27-day-old nestling. We monitored the nest for 8 hours a day and observed the parents feeding both nestlings almost immediately. We never observed any aggression between the nestlings. When the nestlings fledged, we were able to see the parents bringing food to both fledglings. Kenneth D. Meyer of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute has also successfully used this fostering technique for a Swallow-tailed Kite nestling brought to a rehabilitation center.

Recent Articles on Neotropical Raptors compiled by César Sánchez.

Copies can be sent as PDFs via email:

harpyhaliaetus@yahoo.com

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To join the NRN
please send an email to
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interest in Neotropical raptor research
and conservation.

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The NRN is a membership-based organization. Its goal is to aid the research and conservation of Neotropical raptors by promoting communication and collaboration among biologists, ornithologists, raptor enthusiasts, and other conservationists working in the Neotropics.

Conferences and Meetings

2ND LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON PROTECTED AREAS Bariloche, Argentina, September 30 to October 6, 2007. For more information contact rlc-congresoparques2007@fao.org or visit: <http://congresolatinoparques2007.org/>

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S 5TH EURASIAN CONFERENCE (Batumi, Georgia) 9-13 October 2007. Hosted by GCCW and DENRA. www.gccw.org/conference/index

6TH INTERNATIONAL ZOO & WILDLIFE RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON BEHAVIOR, PHYSIOLOGY & GENETICS Leibniz Institute for Zoo & Wildlife Research & the European Association of Zoos & Aquaria (Berlin, Germany) 7-10 October 2007. To foster an exchange of ideas among international specialists from many disciplines working with free-ranging & captive animals. www.izw-berlin.de/de/veranstaltungen/index.html?6th-IZW-

WORLD OWL CONFERENCE 2007: Owls, Ambassadors for the Protection of Nature in their Changing Landscapes BirdLife The Netherlands, Global Owl Project, & World Owl Trust (Groningen, Netherlands) 31 October - 4 November 2007. www.worldowlconference.com

7TH INTERNATIONAL ZOOLOGY SYMPOSIUM Topes de Collantes, Sancti Spiritus, Cuba. November 12-17, 2007. For more information contact Dra. Daysi Rodríguez Batista, E-mail: daysitarb@ecologia.cu

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Hotel Villa del Rio, Valdivia, Chile, November 13-16, 2007. For more information visit: <http://www.ceachile.cl/congreso/>

11TH CONFERENCE OF THE MESOAMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION Cocoyoc, Morelos, Mexico, 26-30 November 2007. For more information visit: www.socmesoamericana.org or <http://www.cib.uaem.mx/smbcmex/>

4TH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN FLIGHT CONFERENCE (McAllen, Texas, USA) 13-16 February 2008. Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats & People. Focus on international connections of all sorts that further bird & habitat conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere. www.partnersinflight.org/events/2008_mcallen.htm

12TH ARGENTINEAN MEETING ON ORNITHOLOGY San Martin de los Andes, province of Neuquen, Argentina, 5-8 March 2008. Information is available at the official site for the meeting at: www.rao.org.ar Contact information info@rao.org.ar

INGESTION OF SPENT LEAD AMMUNITION: Implications for Wildlife & Humans The Peregrine Fund (Idaho, USA) 13-15 May 2008. To consolidate understanding of implications of wildlife & human ingestion of lead ammunition residues, so that such information can guide its regulation. www.peregrinefund.org/lead_conference

3RD NEOTROPICAL RAPTOR CONFERENCE Bogotá, Colombia 2009: Please stay tuned for more upcoming information through the Neotropical Raptor Network! www.neotropicalraptors.org



It's a Boy!!!

Cameron Ellis, the previous NRN coordinator, and his fiancée, Erin, have just celebrated the arrival of a beautiful, healthy, baby boy named Wyatt. Wyatt arrived on July 6th at 23 inches, 9 pounds, 2 ounces.

**Congratulations to
Cameron, Erin and
Wyatt!!!**