



Vision
2050 **to**
CHANGE
THE
FUTURE

THE PEREGRINE FUND
2017 ANNUAL REPORT



On our cover: Ollie is a young Milky Eagle-owl hand-raised as an education ambassador at our World Center for Birds of Prey. His gaze, skillfully captured by volunteer photographer Jim Shane, expresses the spirit of our *Vision 2050*: optimism, curiosity, and the belief that this is our time to shine.

THE PEREGRINE FUND

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Friends

Nearly thirty years ago I was given a challenge by The Peregrine Fund's President, Bill Burnham—**save the Madagascar Fish Eagle**. To bring this incredible bird back from the brink of extinction we needed boots on the ground in this remote corner of the world to determine the nature of the problem and develop a conservation strategy to save this species. I was young and looking for a job, and Bill challenged me to raise the money to get this project off the ground. Within months I was awarded a grant and boarded a plane to Madagascar to work for one of the greatest conservation organizations on the planet. It was a gamble and a dream come true, but it was only the beginning.

Culturally and geographically, navigating Madagascar 30 years ago was much different than it is today. It was considered a wildly remote corner of the world, unaccustomed to Westerners and deeply dependent on unsustainable resource use. It became clear to me early on that this opportunity was much broader than developing a conservation, restoration, and management plan for the Madagascar Fish Eagle; it was about building relationships with local communities, listening to their needs, and supporting indigenous peoples in a way that honored their heritage and protected the habitats that all species relied on for survival.

The Madagascar Fish Eagle project was **the first successful community-based conservation effort in Madagascar—a game-changer in our field**—that's been successfully replicated by conservation organizations around the world.

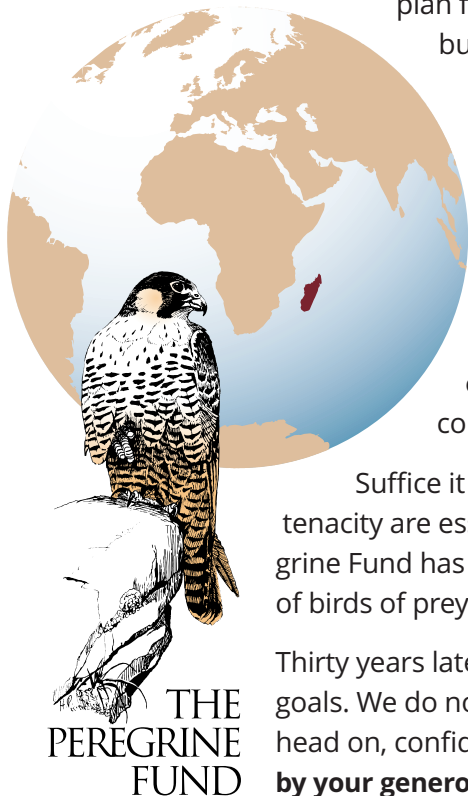
Suffice it to say, this project was risky. But risk and tenacity are essential components for change that The Peregrine Fund has used time and time again to ensure the survival of birds of prey and the ecosystems on which they rely.

Thirty years later, The Peregrine Fund still believes in audacious goals. We do not shy away from tough problems, we face them head on, confident in our expertise and experience, and **driven by your generosity and belief that a better world is possible.**



Madagascar, 1993; that's me standing on the left.

It was a gamble and a dream come true, but it was only the beginning.



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Today we are rolling out a bold new plan for our future—*Vision 2050*—that draws on past lessons and successes and applies them to emerging and accelerating conservation problems faced by raptors and communities around the globe. Together we are:

- Launching a mobile app for data collection and web-based analysis tools to serve raptor biologists and connect their research around the world. The Global Raptor Impact Network (GRIN) will identify trends that *inform conservation action in real time*.
- Applying strategies developed in Madagascar to *save the Darien rainforest in Panama*—one of the most biodiverse places on the planet and one of the last strongholds of the magnificent Harpy Eagle in Central America. Peregrine Fund biologists are working on long-term economic solutions in partnership with the Emberá and Wounaan people, who have lived in the Darien for millennia, to help protect their native heritage and habitats.
- Developing public-private partnerships with landowners, state-level agencies and sporting groups across the western United States to encourage and incentivize the use of non-lead ammunition. We aim to *prevent lead poisoning*, the leading cause of death for California Condors.
- Preventing the death of endangered and critically endangered African vultures through the formation of Rapid Response to Poisoning Teams. These teams, made up of park rangers and government officials, are trained to identify a poisoning incident, collect evidence, and dispose of the poisoned carcass to *prevent further poisonings*.

You will find these new developments among the 22 high impact endeavors described in detail in the following pages. **Thank you** for playing such an important role in changing the future for nature and humanity. Your generous and ongoing support is creating a brighter future for us all.

Vision
2050 TO CHANGE THE FUTURE



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard T. Watson, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Vision 2050

to
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is ambitious, specific, unifying, inspirational, measurable, and—most importantly—empowering to the people and communities who bring it to life.

What does success look like?



Raptor populations and their environments thrive



Human communities are enriched by our work and raptors are valued by all.



We are the world leader for conserving birds of prey.



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Our Core Values

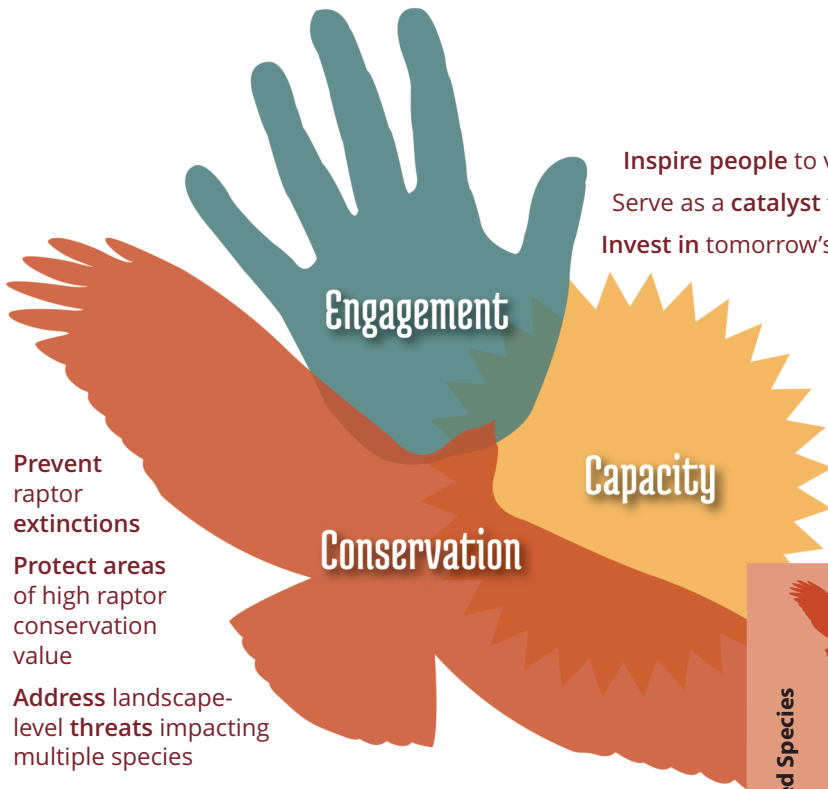
We cherish birds of prey.

Sound scientific knowledge is our foundation.

We embrace diversity.

Integrity is precious and paramount.

Saving birds of prey is our life's work.



Inspire people to value raptors and take action
 Serve as a catalyst for change
 Invest in tomorrow's conservation leaders

Assemble infrastructure, facilities, and people

Raise sufficient funds to execute actions, achieving measurable, timebound goals on an iterative five-year cycle

Prevent raptor extinctions

Protect areas of high raptor conservation value

Address landscape-level threats impacting multiple species

5-year action plans

CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

- Global Raptor Impact Network
- Recovering the Northern Aplomado Falcon
- Golden Eagle Conservation on U.S. Dept of Defense Lands
- Propagation at World Center for Birds of Prey
- California Condor Propagation
- California Condor Reintroduction
- North American Non-Lead Program
- American Kestrel Partnership
- Gyr Falcon and Tundra Conservation Program
- Andean Condor Conservation in Ecuador
- Impact on Andean Condors of Yawar Fiesta in Peru
- Ridgway's Hawk Conservation Project
- Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk Conservation
- Cuban Kite Project
- Orange-breasted Falcon Conservation
- Harpy Eagle Conservation
- Darien Landscape Conservation Initiative
- Saving Africa's Vultures from the Scourge of Poisoning
- Madagascar Conservation Project
- Philippine Eagle Conservation
- Critically Endangered Vultures in Central India
- Raptor Safe Initiative

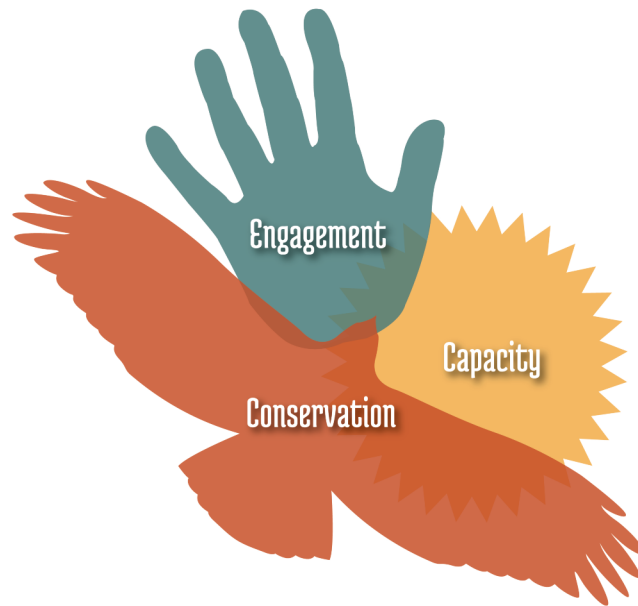
ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

- Global Engagement Strategic Plan
- Velma Morrison Interpretive Center Education Program
- Neotropical Raptor Network
- Neotropical Raptor Conservation Leadership Development
- Developing Africa's Raptor Conservation Leadership

CAPACITY OUTCOMES

- Development Strategic Plan
- Business Office
- Information Technology Strategic Plan
- Facilities, Maintenance & Construction, and Vehicles

	Endangered Species	Saving Places	Landscape Threats	Inspire Action	Catalyze Change	Leadership Investment	Infrastructure, Facilities, People	Funding
Global Raptor Impact Network	■	■	■					
Recovering the Northern Aplomado Falcon	■	■	■					
Golden Eagle Conservation on U.S. Dept of Defense Lands	■		■					
Propagation at World Center for Birds of Prey	■							
California Condor Propagation	■							
California Condor Reintroduction	■							
North American Non-Lead Program	■		■	■	■			
American Kestrel Partnership			■					
Gyr Falcon and Tundra Conservation Program			■					
Andean Condor Conservation in Ecuador	■		■					
Impact on Andean Condors of Yawar Fiesta in Peru	■			■				
Ridgway's Hawk Conservation Project	■		■					
Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk Conservation	■							
Cuban Kite Project	■							
Orange-breasted Falcon Conservation	■			■				
Harpy Eagle Conservation	■			■				
Darien Landscape Conservation Initiative		■		■	■			
Saving Africa's Vultures from the Scourge of Poisoning	■		■					
Madagascar Conservation Project	■	■		■	■	■		
Philippine Eagle Conservation	■		■	■	■			
Critically Endangered Vultures in Central India	■		■		■			
Raptor Safe Initiative			■					
Global Engagement Strategic Plan				■	■	■		
Velma Morrison Interpretive Center Education Program				■	■	■		
Neotropical Raptor Network				■	■	■		
Neotropical Raptor Conservation Leadership Development				■	■	■		
Developing Africa's Raptor Conservation Leadership				■	■	■		
Development Strategic Plan								■
Business Office							■	■
Information Technology Strategic Plan							■	
Facilities, Maintenance & Construction, and Vehicles							■	



*Look for these icons
on the following
pages to see how
each project fits as
a strategic outcome
of Vision 2050.*

Global Raptor Impact Network (GRIN)



Interface of the new GRIN smartphone app.

How can scientists prioritize conservation actions for all 586 raptor species on Earth? What tells us if a species is stable or endangered? The answers are complex, and even the world's most complete, up-to-date inventory of species is compiled from reports published years or even decades ago.

Eliminating that time lag could revolutionize conservation, setting a new pace for recognizing species declines...



Our Impact:

We launched the world's first online database of diurnal raptors in 2005, forming a community of professional raptor biologists and students around the globe who contributed published work. This database, the Global Raptor Information Network, is the foundation of the new Global Raptor Impact Network, a more robust platform for contributing, analyzing, and sharing current data.



Critically endangered species don't have time to wait, especially those faced with rapidly growing threats like poison, electrocution, land development, and climate change. Accelerated threats must be met with accelerated tools to find and respond to populations in crisis.

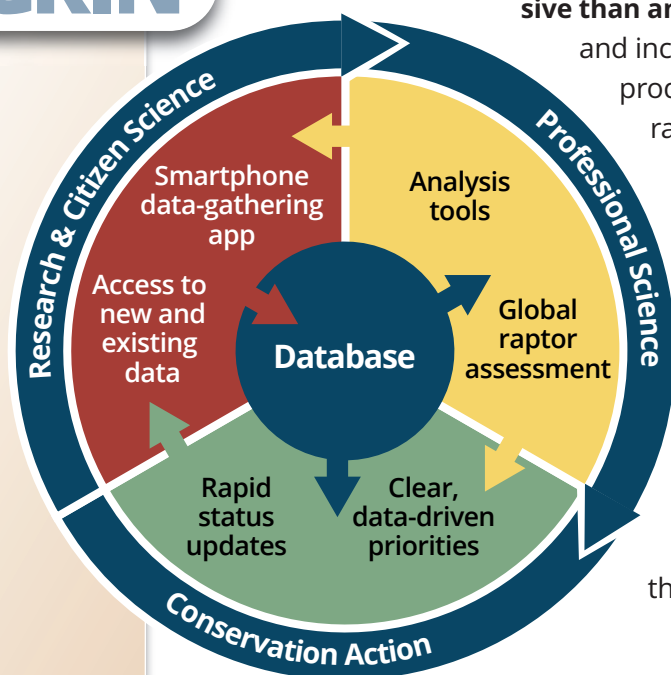
Our new **Global Raptor Impact Network (GRIN)** will unify raptor data into a single, nimble network that is large enough to **identify threats and population trends in real time**.

We helped launch the African Raptor DataBank as a pilot program in collaboration with Habitat Info and other partners to collect data over a five-year period. More than 180,000 data points were collected via a smartphone app by dozens of scientific and conservation groups across the African continent. With this new information, a striking amount of lost habitat, hotspots of poisoning and electrocution, and sites with the best remaining habitat were mapped. **The result: six African vulture species were uplisted**, some to Critically Endangered status, on the Red List published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Subsequent funding and attention to the plight of Africa's vultures increased significantly.

Based on the success of the African Raptor DataBank, we are now scaling it up for global use as GRIN. A beta version of the smartphone app was released to researchers at the 2017 Raptor Research Foundation conference, and developers plan to launch the new website in 2018. Besides serving as a collection point for new, real-time data, GRIN will house and safeguard historical data to provide a baseline for tracking population trends over long time periods.

Already, the data collected through GRIN is more comprehensive than any data set currently existing for raptors, and includes first-time global data sets on lifespan, productivity, diet, and habitat. We can accurately map the range, demography, and behaviors of raptor species and identify trends quickly.

The ability to recognize trends across a broad landscape or a set of species is especially valuable. For example, the catastrophic decline in Asian vulture populations was difficult to quantify with the data-gathering systems of the 1990s. If a similar catastrophe occurs now, GRIN will enable us to quickly assess the trend and sound the alarm.



01/2018



North American Non-Lead Partnership



Hunters and anglers often have the deepest and most respected voices within the chorus of support for wildlife in North America. Showing pride in their heritage—protecting the delicate balance of predators, prey, and scavengers—sportsmen and women contribute more than a billion dollars each year toward conservation.

When wildlife is under threat, hunters are among the first to notice and act. That's why we're alerting them to a safer choice of ammunition...



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Our Impact:

To protect the wild California Condors in the Grand Canyon area, we have collaborated with state wildlife managers over the last 10 years to create incentives for hunters to use non-lead ammunition. **More than 80% of deer hunters** on Arizona's Kaibab Plateau now take voluntary actions to prevent exposure.

We have a tradition of working with partners across the west ever since our Peregrine Falcon releases in the 1970s. When we held our groundbreaking **2008 symposium** "Ingestion of Lead from Spent Ammunition," they eagerly participated to see the latest research and contribute their broad experience.

We proposed and secured a formal partnership with **The Oregon Zoo, the Institute for Wildlife Studies, and three states. Two hunter groups** have also confirmed their recognition and support.

01/2018

Hunters are heroes for scavenging animals, particularly in winter when a gut pile or carcass can prevent starvation. Unfortunately, the smallest trace of lead ammunition in that valuable food source causes unintended side effects. Unlike monolithic solids such as all-copper bullets, lead bullets scatter into microscopic fragments. Scientific evidence from numerous sources shows that lead-tainted meat is by far the primary source of lead poisoning in wildlife. An animal that eats lead is sickened and can die slowly from failure of the central nervous system—certainly not the aim of an informed, ethical shooter.

Lead was routinely included in paint, fuel, and even food prior to medical discoveries in the last century. And as residents of Flint, Michigan, can attest, ending exposure to this preventable threat is a major undertaking with high stakes—protecting the health of our most vulnerable. Those vulnerable residents include raptors like eagles and vultures whenever remains of shot animals are left in the wild. **Even the mighty California Condor, with its nine-foot wingspan, can die after eating lead from ammunition residues.**



Copper ammunition (left) does not fragment like lead-based ammunition.

The North American Non-Lead Partnership is committed to working with hunters to end lead poisoning of wildlife by increasing the use of non-lead ammunition. The hunting community took steps in 1991 to manage the use of lead shot for waterfowl, with positive results for Bald Eagles and game animals alike. To expand on that protective effect, we're asking shooters for a simple, voluntary fix: switch to non-lead ammunition for instances where meat or a gutpile might be left for wild animals to scavenge.

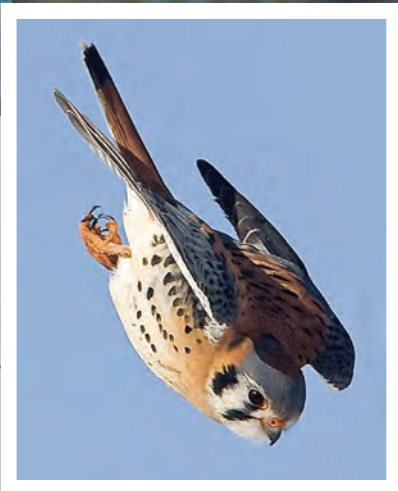
In addition to advocating for this voluntary switch, the partnership supports ongoing research about lead exposure pathways. Sound science is one of the pillars of American hunters' conservation ethic, and the partnership's roots are in long-established, well-respected scientific organizations.

The partnership does not seek to ban lead ammunition, firearms, or hunting. Its singular focus is safeguarding wildlife—an achievable goal with the help of hunters, America's first conservationists.

American Kestrel



Kevin Smith



Rob Palmer

American Kestrels are North America's most plentiful falcon, guarding cityscape ledges or hovering over rural roadsides to hunt rodents and insects. This small falcon is familiar even to casual observers, but a look at population levels reveals a perplexing mystery: continent-wide, kestrels have declined by nearly half since the 1960s.

Researchers have yet to find the definitive threat—or threats—that are making this “common” species uncommon. As the global specialist for birds of prey, we have united researchers to develop the “big picture” before it’s too late...



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Our Impact:

In its sixth year, the American Kestrel Partnership enrolled 500 more nest boxes and logged almost 3,000 nest observations.

Our webcam offers a 24/7 view inside the nest box of a wild kestrel family during breeding season at our headquarters in Boise, Idaho. Viewers log observations and help create one of the most thorough databases of any raptor nest site.

We interacted in person with more than 1,800 people across four countries and fourteen US states in 2017, spreading the word about kestrel declines and recruiting new partners.

School children in the Dominican Republic helped us test new lesson plans this year. We also initiated an English-language curriculum for broad use across North America, and partnered with Telluride Mountain School in Colorado to tailor the lessons.

1/2018

The American Kestrel ranges from the Yukon to Tierra del Fuego, so compiling a “snapshot” of kestrel life requires a veritable army of observers. Fortunately, kestrels are cavity-nesters and readily inhabit nest boxes during the breeding season, making observation relatively simple so that virtually anyone can contribute data to our continent-wide study. “Citizen scientists” are the eyes, ears, and hearts of the American Kestrel Partnership, contributing countless hours and enthusiasm and creating an international community throughout the Americas to unite people based on love for their backyard falcon.

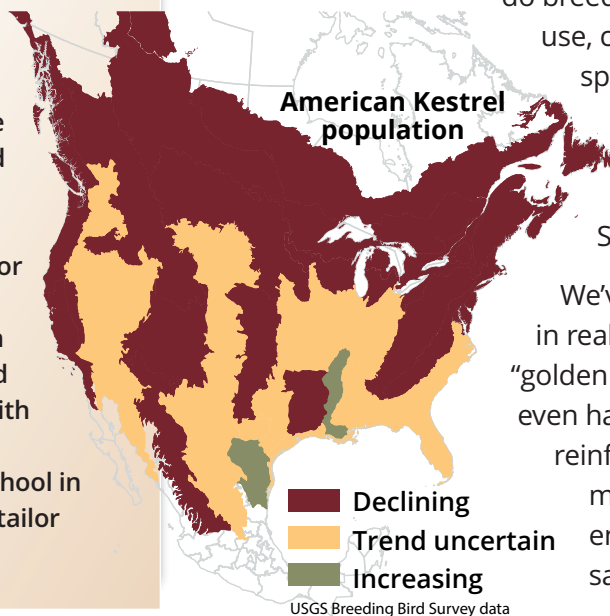
Although many local nest box programs exist, the American Kestrel Partnership is the only coordinator of an international network of professional and citizen scientists, managing a single database to look for far-reaching trends that could explain population declines.



Jim Strane

Now with five years of data, we have narrowed our inquiry to go beyond simple “head counts” and delve into questions about the kestrel’s life cycle. Are adults returning after winter to breed? Are they dying at high rates during breeding, migration, or over-wintering? Are they breeding less often, or failing when they do breed? And, critically, how are they affected by land use, contaminants, climate, predators, and other species? To find answers, our colleagues at Boise State University and UCLA are conducting genetic analyses using feather samples gathered by our partners throughout North and South America.

We’ve also discovered that in nest box studies, just as in real estate, location is key. Nest boxes are not the “golden ticket” to halting population declines, and could even harm wildlife if placed incorrectly. These findings reinforce our focus on responsible nest box placement and standardized, consistent monitoring to ensure that American Kestrel boxes are placed in safe locations.



Aplomado Falcon



After an absence of at least forty years, a stable Aplomado Falcon population thrives along the Gulf Coast thanks to our breeding and release program, in partnership with landowners and collaborators. So why is this falcon still on the U.S. Endangered Species List?

The wild population has yet to exceed the recommended threshold of 60 pairs. We found the root problem, then adapted our strategy...



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Our Impact:

We found 39 Aplomado Falcon pairs this year—one more than last year—and confirmed nesting by 32 of those pairs. In habitat with good nests (26 on our nesting platforms), productivity was normal: 55 young hatched.

We replaced a record 25 nesting boxes this year and repaired 35 others. Two boxes are on properties that didn't have them before.

We designed and tested an aluminum version of our highly successful nest box.

Fabrication is more expensive, but the new ones will weather better than wooden boxes, keeping long-term labor and repair costs low. We'll phase them in over the next five years.

We enrolled another 8,000 acres in "Safe Harbor," a partnership that encourages land owners to make their properties accessible for conservation.

Unlike Peregrine Falcons that range across a variety of habitats, Aplomado Falcons depend on wide-open grasslands with mature yucca plants for nesting, ample migrating birds as prey, and a balance of other predators. Intact grasslands had become so scarce that in 2013 **we stopped breeding and releasing Aplomado Falcons and focused our efforts on finding and nurturing habitat.**

Overgrown brush is an enemy of healthy grasslands because it crowds out yucca, the falcons' preferred nesting plants, and harbors predators like Great Horned Owls. Brush removal is difficult and expensive, but the benefits for falcons and other species are significant. We now advise agencies on grassland restoration and are seeking private landowners who can commit to the same actions. Our priority is restoring areas with recently-abandoned Aplomado territories, or occupied territories where brush is beginning to encroach.

To offset a lack of yucca plants, we erected dozens of barred nesting platforms. Pairs using them raise as many young as pairs in yucca nests, and twice as many as pairs nesting on brush or the ground!



Dave Allen, allenswildlife.com

Our advanced computer analysis, the "Aplo-model," confirms that **our approach is working: reproduction along the Texas Gulf coast is ample to sustain a growing population in suitable habitat.** With a current total of 39 breeding pairs, the Aplomado Falcon is well on its way to reaching the de-listing goal of 60.

How will we continue to grow the population? **Expanding habitat is key.** Although the Aplomado is a medium-sized falcon, it requires a relatively large area to nest and raise young. Roughly a third of the population and its habitat still lacks formal protection, and rapid development in the Lower Rio Grande Valley could pose a threat. Fortunately, we've spent decades stitching together a patchwork of private lands, public parks, and wildlife refuges. So far we have enrolled 2.25 million acres within the falcon's historical range, with a fraction currently suitable for Aplomado Falcons.

Next year we will gather partners to share the latest knowledge and refine this species' recovery plan, which was first drafted in 1990.

08/2017

California Condor



Alan Clamplit



Long before humans arrived in North America, these finely tuned scavengers relied in part on hunters—sabertooth cats and other large predators—for carrion. Condors' clean-up role hasn't changed, but new hunters to the scene can unintentionally leave behind a deadly contaminant: lead from spent ammunition.

Despite our efforts to recover this critically endangered species through captive breeding, release, and monitoring, preventable lead poisoning stands in the way. But like these giants of the sky, we're learning to rely on hunters...



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Our Impact:

Our California Condor breeding program began in 1996 at our facility in Boise, Idaho. Young condors are transported to release sites in Arizona, California, and Baja, Mexico.

We have re-established a free-flying population that now numbers 82 condors ranging from the Grand Canyon north into Utah. We annually test every condor we can trap. Last season, 87% tested positive for lead exposure, and we treated 33 condors for extremely high lead. Two did not survive.

Twelve pairs in the Arizona-Utah flock showed breeding behavior this year, and nine laid eggs. Four hatched chicks, and three of the chicks survived.

The public can see the first free flights of captive-bred juveniles from our Vermilion Cliffs release site each September. Year-round, our Condor Cliffs exhibit in Boise, Idaho, offers a closer look at these impressive birds.

1/2018

The California Condor is a hardy species that survived mass extinctions of the last Ice Age, yet **the entire population was reduced to just 22 individuals** by the 1980s. Scientists suspected that lead poisoning played a role in the species' decline, and recent research by The Peregrine Fund confirmed that over half of all condor deaths are due to this one preventable cause. The 'aha' moment occurred when we x-rayed deer harvested with common lead-based bullets. A constellation of tiny fragments, too numerous to count, appear in the tissue surrounding the bullet's path. Not only do California Condors ingest this lead, it's evident that many other species, even humans, may be exposed to lead-tainted meat. Like the canary in the coal mine, the California Condor has alerted us to an unforeseen and preventable hazard.



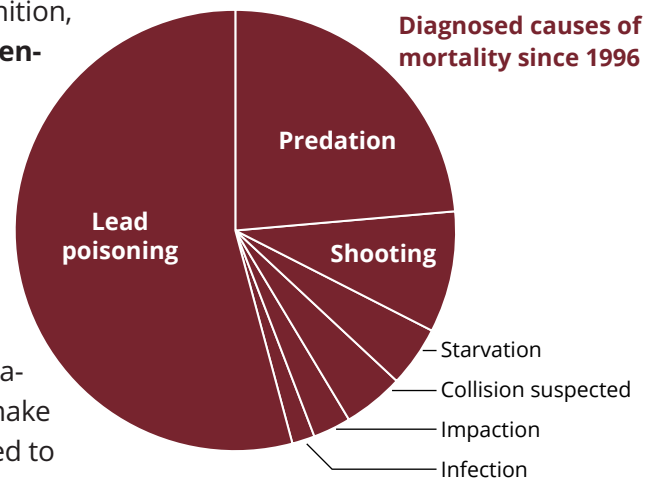
Chris Parish

By switching to non-lead ammunition, **hunters can eliminate the potential for lead exposure to any animal.**

Thanks to our work with Arizona and Utah wildlife agencies over the last decade, more than 80% of deer hunters on Arizona's Kaibab Plateau now take voluntary actions to prevent exposure. Their conservation ethic will inspire others to make the switch to copper, but we need to spread the message to a wider audience.

To accomplish this, we are uniting to form a **North American Non-Lead Partnership**, whose sole purpose is to reach hunters, shooters, and other sporting and conservation groups with information about preventing lead poisoning.

The world population of California Condors continues to grow slowly, with **446 now in existence.** More than half live in the wilderness, ready to fill their niche as skilled scavengers if only we can make their world a little safer.



California Condor Conservation Breeding



Hana Weaver



Marti Jenkins



By the time most California Condors mature to reproductive age at about six years, they have encountered a wealth of dangers in the wild. Surviving predators, accidents, and toxins is no guarantee of breeding success though—condors' first nesting attempts often fail before the chick is old enough to leave its nest cave, and chicks that do fledge depend on their parents for a year or more. Usually, a condor pair in the wild raises a single offspring every other year.

Nature has set the stage for condor populations to grow very slowly, so our breeding program is essential...



Our Impact:

We manage the world's largest captive population of 52 condors—15 pairs, five unpaired adults, 15 chicks, and two on view at our visitor center. In 25 years, we've raised 257 California Condors. Those that aren't well-suited for release continue as breeders or join our education staff at the World Center for Birds of Prey.

Inbreeding is one of the potential drawbacks of working with such a small population. With advice from geneticists, we adjust the pairings when appropriate and transfer or exchange viable eggs with other facilities.

Many bird species will produce a new egg if the first one is removed early in the season. We shift the original eggs to condors whose genes are already well-established in the wild population. Our "single dads," one 34 years old and the other 26, are experienced parents, and allow us to double the production of chicks with preferred genes.

California Condors would almost certainly be extinct if not for breeding programs, which started in the 1980s with the last 22 condors removed from the wild. The Peregrine Fund was invited by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to breed condors at its World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho, beginning in 1993. We work closely with partners coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including the three zoos that breed condors (Los Angeles, San Diego, and Oregon). Together we set annual goals for the number of condors to be produced, and designate where the previous year's chicks should be released.

By controlling risks like predators, accidents, and food contamination, we enable our captive breeders to consistently achieve success rates above 90 percent. More than half of all California Condors raised in breeding programs, 16–20 young each year, come from our facility in Boise and are divided among several release sites, including the one we manage near the Grand Canyon.



Our propagation specialists are experienced field biologists with a keen awareness of condor behavior and social structure. They create conditions that not only keep condor parents secure and content, but also prepare the young hatchlings to become wild survivors.

Because condors are highly intelligent and curious, they can

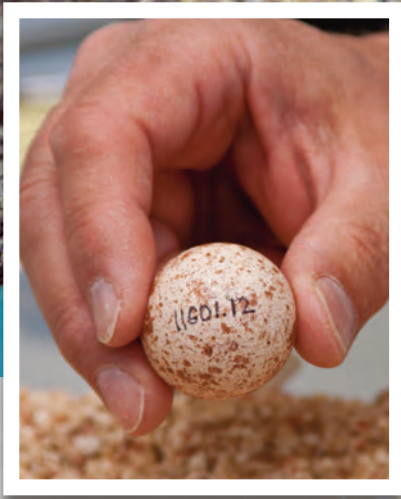
rapidly learn to associate humans with food rewards. This can spell disaster for a condor, especially one destined to fly free near a high-tourist area like the Grand Canyon. To keep our young condors from becoming familiar with humans, we design their enclosures so they rarely see or hear people. We even employ a small herd of goats to clear nearby brush rather than using mowers!

Thanks to the success of condor breeding programs, four of the original 22 are so well-represented in the wild population's genetics that they are no longer needed for breeding. **Those hardy, long-lived birds returned to the wild homes they inhabited forty years ago to live their remaining years with hundreds of free-flying descendants—no longer the "last" of their kind.**

Conservation Breeding



Jeannie Konkel



Paul Spurling

A single, fertile egg can hold the fate of an entire species inside its fragile shell— a fact woefully apparent to our founders as they struggled almost 50 years ago to coax a viable egg from the Peregrine Falcons entrusted to them. Even more rare and precious were the tiny eggs laid by the last four Mauritius Kestrels in our care a few years later.

Those early experiences led to breakthroughs in biology and species recovery, and they also laid the foundation for **The Peregrine Fund: raptor breeding experts and, more importantly, dedicated people who find a way no matter how daunting...**



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Our Impact:

Our current breeding population at the **World Center for Birds of Prey** consists of 15 Taita Falcons and two Northern Aplomado Falcons, as well as 52 California Condors.

Taita Falcons (photo, right) are exhibiting signs of decline in their native East Africa. As we learn more about this species' habitat, needs, and threats, we are establishing a breeding protocol in case a restoration project becomes necessary.

We have assisted partners around the globe in establishing their own breeding programs. In Hawaii, for example, we hatched numerous endangered songbirds in captivity for the first time, then transferred the facility to local partners.

We support the **Philippine Eagle Foundation** in its restoration efforts, using our breeding and release experience with large forest eagles like the Harpy Eagle to advise their biologists.

01/2018

Since hatching our first Peregrine Falcon in 1973, we have served as the global expert in captive propagation of endangered birds of prey. **Those last four Mauritius Kestrels were the forebears of a now-thriving population, and the lessons we learned have been handed down as well.** Altogether our staff has reared more than 3,000 Peregrine Falcons, 2,000 Northern Aplomado Falcons, and 250 California Condors—plus 18 other species from Harpy Eagles to American Kestrels. Today we manage the world's largest captive population of California Condors, the most endangered bird in North America.



Our methods are widely published, and have in fact enabled others to breed birds of prey around the world, both for falconry and for scientific and conservation pursuits. No other organization, however, has the facilities and experience to breed a variety of raptors at a similar scale—a scale that could be called upon if a raptor species suffers catastrophic decline. As threats to birds of prey increase across the globe, we are constantly refining our skills in case extreme measures are needed to prevent extinction.

Conservation breeding is not always the best solution, however; it requires careful laboratory controls, round-the-clock staff, transportation of young birds to wild release sites, and field attendants to support young birds as they learn to hunt and defend themselves—all at a heavy financial cost that may not show positive results for years.

For some species, early intervention can curtail the need for intensive conservation breeding. In the Dominican Republic we perfected a new technique of relocating young Ridgway's Hawks from their parents' nests to a safer territory before they learn to fly. This "assisted dispersal" approach has resulted in an entirely new, self-sustaining population of hawks, buying us time to address the threats that had reduced their numbers, like human persecution and habitat loss.

Gyr Falcon



David Anderson



Roy Toft



The Gyr Falcon is a raptor of extremes: not only is it the largest falcon on Earth, it's also one of the few animals adapted to harsh Arctic winters. Unfortunately, it is also considered the North American bird species most vulnerable to climate change.

Like polar bears and harp seals, Gyr Falcons can only survive in cold climates. Against a backdrop of shifting prey availability, fluctuating weather, and competition from other species moving northward, the Gyr Falcon's survival is uncertain. **Knowing that intervention may be necessary someday, we are learning all we can now...**



Our Impact:

Over four years, our cameras at Gyrfalcon nests have amassed a collection of more than a million photos—the largest photo data set of any raptor study.

In 2017 we published *Applied Raptor Ecology: Essentials from Gyrfalcon Research* to standardize methods for gathering data. Not only does this simplify comparison of results across borders, it applies universally to any raptor study—not just Gyrfalcons.

2017 was the inaugural year of the Polar Raptor Databank, a web-based tool for data storage, synthesis, and collaboration that enables us to look for population trends throughout the Arctic, not just individual study areas.

In our fourth year of fieldwork on Alaska's Seward Peninsula, we added another graduate student to increase our data-gathering capacity. Three students counted ptarmigan along 140 miles of roads, surveyed 500 cliffs via helicopter, and installed 13 more nest cameras in addition to visiting 17 Gyrfalcon nests from the ground.

01/2018

Fascination with Gyrfalcons is deeply rooted in The Peregrine Fund's history: Tom Cade, our founder, was among the first to publish research about them. Later, our long-term studies in Greenland revealed new information about the species. As climate change concerns began to mount, we already had the unique expertise, partnerships, and data to address the unknown. We hosted an international conference in 2011, then convened the Tundra Conservation Network to connect partners from all eight Arctic countries and multiple disciplines.



Roy Toft



Collaboration is vital for saving this species, which has been studied in isolated pockets for centuries thanks in part to the Gyrfalcon's popularity with falconers. We launched the Polar Raptor Databank in 2017 to collect historical and new data in a secure repository, and concurrently published *Applied Raptor Ecology*, a manual that sets standards for gathering comparable, high-quality data. From anywhere in the world, researchers can now record unlimited observations and access real-time analysis tools. As data are accumulated and shared, ecologists can then answer questions about global population trends and identify factors that have the greatest impact on Arctic raptors.

Our fieldwork is contributing surprising findings to this body of work using motion-activated cameras at Gyrfalcon nests on Alaska's Seward Peninsula. Observing prey items in the photos, we have found that Gyrfalcons rely heavily on ptarmigan, but also adapt their diet when ptarmigan numbers decrease. Cameras documented one female Gyrfalcon moving her young out of a falling nest and carrying it to a new location. We also met some "visitors" to the nests, including grizzly bear, red fox, wolverine, and ravens.

Our fieldwork will continue long-term, as will collaboration with researchers worldwide who are invited to a Symposium on Arctic Raptors at our headquarters in 2020. Ultimately, we will synthesize all shared knowledge about Gyrfalcons into an adaptive management plan to energize conservation action around the world. Acting on sound science, together we will be the difference between survival and extinction for this icon of the Arctic.

Andean Condor



Sebastian Kohn



Harold Stiver



With its more than 10-foot wingspan, a soaring Andean Condor is truly magnificent. The ancients depicted it in art more than 4,000 years ago, and five modern countries revere it as a national symbol. But despite its cherished status, this majestic New World Vulture species is declining throughout its vast range from Colombia to Tierra del Fuego, and the northernmost populations are Critically Endangered.

Like other vultures around the world, Andean Condors are often at odds with changes in human customs. Our research is pointing out ways...



Our Impact:

Our tracking data show that 90% of Andean Condor nest sites are on private property outside Ecuador's National Protected Areas. Condors forage mainly on ranches (red dots, right), where they are most likely to clash with humans.

From Colombia to Argentina, we support and advise students on conservation projects and catalyze international collaboration.

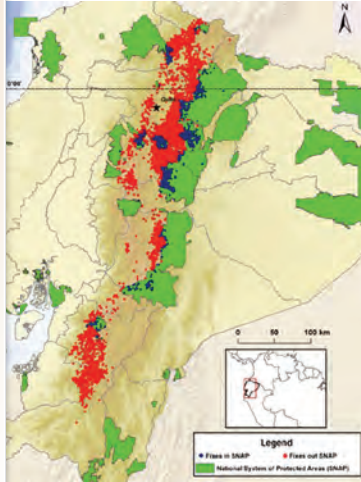
In-depth interviews with shepherds, farmers, merchants, doctors, artists, and others give us insight into attitudes toward condors, which helped in designing a traveling exhibition in Chile.

Only three of the 14 known nest sites in Ecuador were active in 2017, but we observed parents feeding two young—a chick and a one-year-old juvenile—at the same nest. This is the first time this behavior has been seen in condors.

In 2017 we trained 90 park rangers, 15 officials, 35 high school students, and 45 volunteers in ecological monitoring, surveying, and field research to assist with Andean Condor conservation.

01/2018

Several thousand Andean Condors were reported in Ecuador a century ago, but today we know of just 100. **Fortunately, our efforts show that it's not too late:**



since 2012 we've found 14 nests, compared to the single nest that had been monitored prior to our study. We gained a wealth of data (left) from nine telemetry-tagged birds, which will help justify immediate conservation measures. Of 31 condors whose blood we tested, all were in good health. And we learned that inbreeding has not occurred, thanks to gene flow between two sub-populations.

The most significant threats are from ranchers who shoot or poison condors in the belief that the birds attack cattle. Although hungry condors have been known to occasionally kill young calves, our studies

show they prefer carrion if it's available. Competition for carrion is stiff, however, because of feral and free-roaming dogs. Lead exposure may be another threat; we found high levels in condors from Argentina.

These factors are compounded by the species' naturally slow reproductive rates. Andean Condors need at least seven years to mature before they mate, after which successful pairs only raise a single chick every other year. Productivity can't keep pace with mortality, making the population extremely vulnerable.



The Andean Condor has advantages that bode well for its recovery. Residents and tourists in South America are genuinely interested in saving this cultural treasure, and we've reached millions in documentaries and with a new Spanish-language website (investigacioncondorecuador.com). We partner with Ecuador's Ministry of Environment, and lead the Andean Condor Conservation Network, a continent-wide research consortium.

In time, we hope to preserve habitat for the Andean Condor that will also protect key watersheds and maintain the biodiversity of the Amazon Basin, fulfilling this species' ancient role in Andean myth as a symbol of health and immortality.

Yawar Fiesta—deadly to Andean Condors



Cecilia Larrabure



Cecilia Larrabure

Every July, villagers in southern Peru celebrate independence from Spanish colonial rule. Known as Yawar Fiesta or “Blood Festival,” the event attracts tourists to witness a life-or-death struggle: a wild Andean Condor, symbolizing the Inca people, is tied on the back of a bull representing Spain. A matador then goads the two frightened animals into a bloody fight.

Andean Condors are already in steep decline. This long-lived bird, an icon of Peru’s cultural heritage, urgently needs protection...



Our Impact:

We partner with Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad (CORBIDI) and the Peruvian Forest Service (SERFOR), both of whom are committed to eliminating the negative impacts of Yawar Fiestas on Andean Condors.

In 2018 we hope to provide grants to two students and recruit volunteers to find, document, and film Yawar Fiestas, trapping locations, and treatment of the condors. Footage will be used to create short documentaries.

Our plans include conducting a pilot program in three communities, providing teacher training and educational materials for students of all ages. Our message will focus on the importance of condors in Andean culture and folklore, as well as protection of the species.

We'll engage local leaders as well, and train police to safely deliver injured Andean Condors to authorized rehabilitation centers.

01/2018

We don't yet know how many villages hold Yawar Fiestas, but current estimates suggest that 60 wild Andean Condors are trapped every year for the spectacles. The birds are typically kept in unsafe conditions for several days, paraded through the streets, and fed alcohol before the main event. Those that live through the ordeal are released, but it's unknown whether they survive or for how long.

Although Peruvian law forbids the capture of wild animals, the festivals are carried out under the leadership of local mayors, police, and priests. Peruvians revere the Andean Condor as sacred, symbolizing a god descending from the heavens to fight in their behalf. **Most are not aware that the ritual harms or kills the condors.** And with the enticement of tourist money, we believe the number of communities hosting Yawar Fiestas is growing.



Cecilia Larrabure

Our data from Ecuador and elsewhere shows Andean Condors already in decline, poisoned or shot primarily by ranchers in retaliation for livestock deaths. (Although condors feed mostly on carrion, they are able to occasionally kill calves.) **Since Andean Condors only raise a single chick every other year, losses related to Yawar Fiestas are simply not sustainable.** Condors fly vast distances, and it's likely that the toll from Yawar Fiestas affects the entire population, which ranges from Colombia to Tierra del Fuego. Our immediate task is to determine how many festivals take place, and the impact they have on the species as a whole. Our partners, staff, students, and volunteers are poised to do the necessary fact-finding in July of this year by attending numerous fiestas to observe, document, and film.

With this information in hand, we hope to influence local officials and train them to protect Andean Condors. We'll also design and launch an outreach program this year appealing to Peruvians' desire to protect their cultural heritage and respect condors, while offering a new perspective about the species' precarious existence. We'll conduct a pilot program in three communities, evaluate the effectiveness, then adjust as needed and expand throughout the region until we achieve **our goal: ending the trapping of Andean Condors for Yawar Fiestas.**

Harpy Eagle



David L. Anderson

Jose Vargas



With their long, curved beaks and talons the size of grizzly bear claws, Harpy Eagles are among the largest and most powerful eagles in the world. These commanding birds swoop through the rain forests of Latin America, routinely picking up prey weighing more than 15 pounds—and sometimes equal to their own weight.

As Panama's national bird, the Harpy Eagle is a "flagship" species—an emblem of a fragile ecosystem whose fate depends on us...



Our Impact:

Since 2000 we have found and monitored 56 nest sites in Panama. In 2017, five previously unknown nests were reported to us by local people.

Harpy Eagles prefer pristine, mature forest for nesting. Our tracking data allow us to pinpoint those areas for conservation.

We reached more than 2,000 people this year at the annual Harpy Eagle Festival in Panama City. We began the festival years ago to educate the public, realizing that people were shooting Harpy Eagles. Continuing these outreach efforts is important as new people move into the region.

01/2018

Although Harpy Eagles maintain healthy populations in South America, **the outlook is troubling in Central America, where in most countries they are listed as Critically Endangered.** New roads, mining, slash-and-burn farming, and forest fires threaten to destroy intact rain forests that are crucial to their survival.

The greatest concentration of Harpy Eagles in Central America can be found in Darien Province, Panama, where The Peregrine Fund has been working since 2000 on one of the longest projects ever conducted for the species. Our insights into breeding, dispersal, habitat, diet, and causes of mortality are pivotal in mapping the future of this long-lived, charismatic eagle.

We haven't worked alone, though—for 17 years we have partnered with local communities in our Darien work. Every year we train Emberá and Wounaan technicians and volunteers who not only conduct field work and help us mount transmitters (below), but also spread the word within their communities about the value of Harpy Eagles. Emberá and Wounaan people have inhabited the Darien for time immemorial, and their ability to manage development from outside forces is essential to preserving their homeland along with the eagles' habitat. Our support for the people of Darien is crucial, and assisting with sustainable jobs and education is an integral part of our conservation approach.

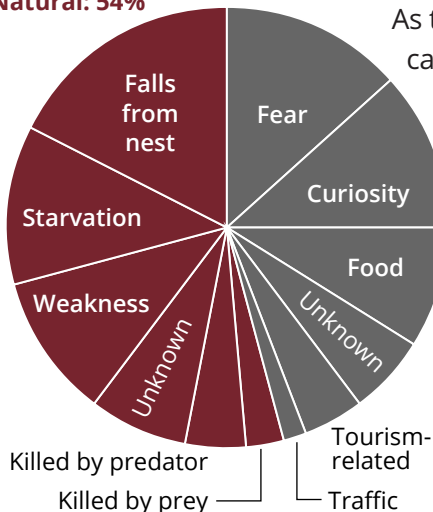


David L. Anderson

Harpy Eagle mortality

Human-caused: 46%

Natural: 54%



As the first organization to ever establish a program to breed Harpy Eagles in captivity and release them to the wild, our familiarity with the species is unmatched. But we have more to learn to conserve the Harpy Eagle in the chaotic years ahead. We need to understand the degree to which various types of human disturbances affect the eagles' ability to hunt, establish territories, and reproduce. If factors like habitat fragmentation, tourism, agriculture, and road building limit the population size, **we must have solid data to advocate effectively for preserving this high-demand landscape.**

Our newly-launched Darien Conservation Initiative, which aims to preserve four million acres of rain forests in Panama, is firmly grounded on the relationships we've cultivated for nearly two decades of studying and conserving Harpy Eagles.

Saving Rain Forest for Humans and Harpy Eagles

Darien Conservation Initiative



Deep in the innermost reaches of Panama, on the border with Colombia, lies the Darien Gap—the largest and wildest remaining stretch of rain forest north of the Amazon. Indigenous peoples have lived traditionally in the area for millennia, and the largest population of Harpy Eagles in Central America nests in the forest's towering native trees.

Situated on the bridge between North and South America, the Darien and its inhabitants are at geographic and historic crossroads. **By blending their traditional values with sustainable modern livelihoods we will empower them...**



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Our Impact:

The Darien has four million acres of intact rain forest—a combination of national protected areas and lands owned by the indigenous Emberá and Wounaan people. We are assisting them in creating associations to maintain control over their lands.

In the past 17 years we have employed 35 Emberá and Wounaan men and women as field technicians in conserving Harpy Eagles, and supported the formal education of more than 55 Emberá and Wounaan students.

In 2017, we assisted in building aviaries to raise chickens in four villages; in three villages we built nurseries where 1,500 native tree seedlings were planted (right).

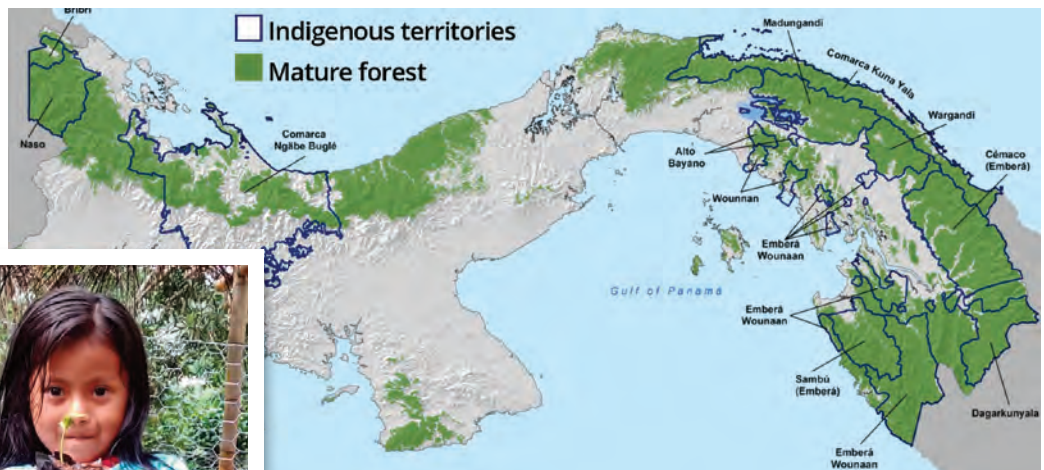
Panama's Ministry of the Environment is a trusted partner, thanks to our long-term Harpy Eagle work and the reputation we've earned as researchers in Central America since beginning the Maya Project in 1988.

01/2018

The Darien region is home to 54 raptor species as well as jaguars, tapirs, ocelots, and critically-endangered cotton-top tamarins. With a fifth of its plants found nowhere else and thousands of plant and animal species to be discovered, **Darien is one of the most biologically rich places on earth—a biodiversity “hotspot.”**

We have studied the threatened Harpy Eagle in Darien since 2000, when we also established Panama's first non-governmental organization for raptor conservation. For many years, we also raised and released Harpy Eagles and conducted public education and outreach in Panama, and our studies on wild populations are ongoing. Our friends throughout the country provide us an intimate understanding of the complex pressures on the Darien and its inhabitants. Now, we are prepared—together—to meet an accelerating threat: land development.

As decades-long civil conflict in neighboring Colombia comes to a peaceful end, forces are organizing to develop Darien. *Colono-campesino* land invasions, slash-and-burn agriculture, and uncontrolled cattle ranching are cutting into the forest. At the same time, indigenous Emberá-Wounaan communities are entering the 21st century cash economy, abandoning traditions that have allowed their coexistence in native ecosystems, and adopting unsustainable agricultural practices.



David L. Anderson

To meet these challenges, we are creating economic incentives that encourage forest preservation and improve access to education. These initiatives meet human needs and protect the rich biodiversity of Darien.

For example, **soon we will expand and improve shade-grown coffee and cacao plantations to support jobs that don't harm the rain forest.** We already assist with chicken coops and plant nurseries to provide food and discourage the hunting of bush meat.

We pioneered community-based conservation nearly thirty years ago in Madagascar, also a biodiversity hotspot. So far, we have helped 11 communities there organize to manage local resources, expanded the country's national protected areas by more than a million acres, and supported the education of hundreds of people as conservation leaders. Our experience of “saving raptors, enriching lives” at various scales around the world gives us high expectations for Darien.

Orange-breasted Falcon



Robert Berry

Above: Transported to Belize by private charter, four fledgling captive-bred Orange-breasted Falcons are placed in a hack box, cared for by attendants and a resident pair of adult falcons prior to independence in the fall.

Right: 2010 released captive-bred male B1, superstar of The Peregrine Fund's restoration project in Belize, attracted a wild mate at the hack site and produced seven young before disappearing in 2017. He was replaced by his son P29.



Robert Berry

Always rare and widespread because of its specialized habitat requirements, the Orange-breasted Falcon now occupies only four percent of its historical range in Central America, limited to the Maya Mountains of Belize and along the Mirador Cordillera in Guatemala. Our surveys disclose that despite large areas of apparently suitable habitat, this falcon's numbers are in steep decline with fewer than 20 territorial pairs remaining now isolated by 1500 km from a few pairs in the Darien of Panama and the little-known population in South America.

If current trends continue, extinction of the remaining Central American population may occur in less than a decade. As the only captive breeder of Orange-breasted Falcons, we are poised...



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Robert Berry

Above: Adult female named Caya (B1's mate) feeds her captive-bred foster child along with her own progeny (note tiny radio transmitter).

Our Impact:

In 2017 we surveyed 26 (10 by helicopter) of the 32 historic territories in Belize and Guatemala. Thirteen were occupied, and five fledged a total of 11 young.

One occupied territory—an artificial nest box at our hack site—is now populated by P29 (B1's son) and 047 from Tikal Park, 55 miles distant, highlighting the paucity of recruitable adult falcons.

We have released 50 captive-bred Orange-breasted Falcons with Panama origins since 2007 to bolster the small population and add diversity. They are surviving and breeding with wild mates.

Our new widely-distributed poster, along with educational programs focused on school children and their parents, seeks to change the culture away from viewing raptors as vermin and end persecution of all raptors in Belize.

1/2018

Orange-breasted Falcons appear to have unique survival advantages: they nest on towering cliffs in rugged and remote mountain habitat that they occupy year round. They care for their young three times as long as other falcon species. They have long reproductive lives of 10 or more years, similar to other falcon species, and yet our recent banding studies indicate that **the life expectancy of an adult Orange-breasted Falcon is just 2.57 years.**

Help save the Orange-breasted Falcon!

The Orange-breasted Falcon is a rare and beautiful brood species, vital to Belize's birding tourism and economy. Only a few dozen pairs remain in Central America, mostly all nesting in the Maya Mountains of Belize. The Mountain Pine Ridge is one of a few places in the world where you can see them.

Please help us change the prejudice against birds of prey. Hawks and falcons benefit people by controlling large numbers of rats and mice. Orange-breasted Falcons winter in husband-and-wife communities and cities like San Francisco and Redwood City, where they are helping save them by releasing captive-bred birds into the wild (see Living Bird article for more information.)

survive their lives as they are unafraid of humans and easily killed!

The Peregrine Fund has reversed the falcon's decline for three decades and we are helping save them by releasing captive-bred birds into the wild (see Living Bird article for more information.)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
 This spectacular falcon is declining because of illegal shooting!
 We are losing the battle to save them!
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Please tell your friends and family not to shoot beneficial hawks and falcons, but to enjoy them as thousands of birders and tourists do in Belize.
2. Contact a birding friend to help you see an Orange-breasted Falcon.
3. Report your sightings (band color and number if banded) to eBird.org

What are we doing?

Research
 About 1000 hours of field research in 2017. Occupied territories in Belize, Guatemala, and Panama. We are currently conducting a genetic study of the species to understand its population structure and to identify individuals that may be at risk of inbreeding.

Captive Breeding
 The Peregrine Fund maintains the only captive Orange-breasted Falcon breeding colony in the world. We have raised 44 birds in Belize in the past 10 years. The majority of photoshopped the breeding birds, and their offspring are currently in the program. Some are being released.

Released and Free
 STILL IN PROGRESS
 Nesting of the 50 birds released in the remote Mountain Pine Ridge, Belize, is currently underway. We are currently monitoring the birds and their offspring. We are currently monitoring the birds and their offspring. We are currently monitoring the birds and their offspring.

We believe the cumulative effects of habitat alteration, fragmentation, human conflicts, and natural predation together help explain the large diminution in the species' range and continuing local decline. We can confirm that this once mountain species now leaves the sanctuary of its mountain home to hunt invasive feral pigeons and collared doves in the surrounding lowlands and cities, where all raptors are persecuted as vermin.

To help bolster this small declining northern population, each spring we conduct an arduous three-month long hack of captive-bred unrelated juveniles bred at our Wyoming facility—no small feat, since this species has proven to be the most difficult of falcon species to breed in captivity. Despite unforeseen high mortality, our captive-bred birds and their progeny are now breeding with wild mates, designed to increase genetic diversity, fitness, and future productivity.

DNA analysis of blood samples from the Orange-breasted Falcon's entire range is underway at the University of Wyoming, and we're partnering with Cornell's eBird to create models, map habitat, and help identify relatedness, population status, and guide future research.

We search for new pairs while monitoring known territories both on foot and by helicopter, including in the Darien region of Panama, a biodiversity "hotspot" where we also conserve Harpy Eagles. We plan to assist Darien's local communities to **create economic alternatives to forest destruction, benefiting raptors and numerous other species including the Orange-breasted Falcon.**

Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk



Russell/Thorstrom

Even before Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the entire recorded population of Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawks was just 75 individuals in the 2017 breeding season. We feared the worst after the hurricanes in September, wondering if any bird could survive sustained winds of 155 mph.

Sifting through the remains of the flattened forest in January, we found a small miracle: 19 Sharp-shinned Hawks survived. With few nest trees remaining and very little prey, we've mounted a rescue mission...

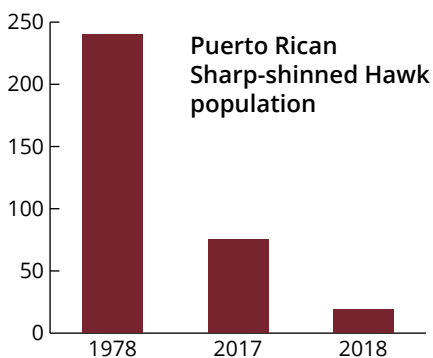


Our Impact:

Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawks were added to the U.S. Endangered Species List in 1994. We have surveyed the population annually since 2015 and observed 75 individuals in four locations, all in forests above 750 meters elevation.

A baseline study from 1978–1985 estimated a total population of 240 individuals spread across five locations.

Although the hawks' situation is dire, it's not the worst we've seen; we recovered the Mauritius Kestrel, another island endemic, from just four individuals in the 1980s. Captive breeding, releases, and nest box management with local partners have increased the population to more than 800.



03/2018

Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawks don't migrate, nor are they found anywhere beyond their island stronghold, in habitat depleted by human land use. The hawks depend entirely on the dense mountain forests of this Caribbean island for nesting and hunting. Like Sharp-shinned Hawks on the American mainlands, they are agile fliers, but they're smaller and have brighter plumage.

Of the 19 hardy survivors, nearly all are paired; but despite being well into the 2018 breeding season, only one pair is building a nest or showing signs of egg-laying. Their chance of success is extremely low. Hurricane Maria decimated the forests, actually stripping the leaves off the relatively few trees left standing. The majority of mature trees were blown down, uprooted, or snapped off, leaving only palm trees and tree ferns. Without foliage, any nestlings that might hatch won't be sheltered from heat, rain, or predators.



Russell Thorstrom

Even adult birds are subject to starvation because their main prey—small birds like tanagers, warblers, and vireos—also depend on adequate forest habitat. In such difficult conditions, it's unlikely that any of the remaining Sharp-shinned Hawks are healthy enough to breed successfully.

Our first step will be providing supplemental food to prevent starvation and enable the surviving hawks to lay eggs. As eggs appear—hopefully this spring—we'll carefully move them into incubators to hatch in a secure, climate-controlled conservation breeding facility on the island. Since these hawks normally produce a second set of eggs if the first set is lost, we'll be able to raise chicks in the safety of our facility without compromising the wild parents' success. The young we

raise, ideally 5–10 adult pairs, can produce future young for release as nearby forests are restored by local partners. Given the scale of devastation in Puerto Rico's forests, we estimate a full recovery could take up to 20 years.

Few organizations have the expertise or resources to respond to an emergency of this scope, but The Peregrine Fund has returned numerous raptor species from the brink. We expect to learn a great deal in Puerto Rico. This rescue operation will hone our skills for a future of extreme weather and ever more threatened island species.

Ridgway's Hawk



Thomas Hayes

When The Peregrine Fund began investigating the Ridgway's Hawk, only about 300 remained. This charismatic species' habitat was lost to human development, restricting the remnant population to the small Los Haitises National Park on the northeastern coast of the Dominican Republic. A single forest fire, virus, or hurricane could have caused its extinction in the blink of an eye.

A closer look revealed a daunting collection of threats, requiring us to dig deeper than ever for creative solutions...



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Our Impact:

In 2017 we recorded 123 pairs of Ridgway's Hawks raising 106 young in Los Haitises National Park. We relocated 25 young to Puntacana Resort. Since 2013, 22 wild-hatched young have fledged at Puntacana.

We trained six new volunteer field technicians, raising our local workforce to 23.

We reached more than 1,800 people through school presentations, teacher and youth training workshops, and door-to-door visits in 20 communities.

Over 100 people attended Ridgway's Hawk Day at the Santo Domingo Zoo, and over 70 students and teachers celebrated by visiting the Punta Cana release site.

Another 55 power poles have been retrofitted, for a total of 215 now adapted to prevent electrocutions.

We treated 68 nests for botfly parasites, resulting in more than four-fold greater success than for untreated nests!

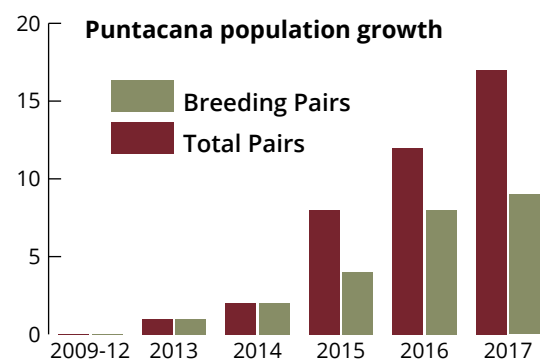
Habitat loss was just one of the many threats impacting Ridgway's Hawks. They were also being shot by people protecting their chickens. To make matters worse, botfly infestations frequently killed nestlings, resulting in reproductive rates that could barely sustain this fragile population.

This "perfect storm" of threats called for an equally perfect storm of innovation. We began by testing a technique called *assisted dispersal* to effectively "transplant" young hawks to new, safer territory and expand the species' range. At the same time, we informed residents in both areas that the hawks typically eat reptiles and small rodents — not chickens — and offered free cages to protect young poultry from all predators. Our school visits, printed field guides, and media interviews are changing attitudes towards Ridgway's Hawks and other raptors. We also hire and train residents as field technicians, and purchase locally-made handicrafts to offer in our gift shop, effectively stimulating the local economy while showing how conservation benefits birds *and* people.



Marta Curti

Once we knew assisted dispersal could work, we discovered a new problem: electrocution by power lines. We quickly partnered with the local utility company to retrofit power poles surrounding the new territory at Puntacana Resort and Club, where our "transplanted" population now thrives. The Grupo Puntacana Foundation promotes ecotourism and conservation programs, directly benefiting hawks.



Botfly infestation is a more complex problem, but at nests where we applied a pesticide, **nestling survival rates increased more than four-fold.** This intervention is crucial for restoring the Ridgway's Hawk population while our researchers look for the causes of this ecological imbalance. Botflies are an emerging threat to species throughout the Caribbean, and our discoveries now will contribute to future conservation needs.

1/2018

African Vultures



Percy Mitchell, oocphotography.co.za



Munir Virani



More than any other continent, Africa is known for a circle of life revolving around massive herds of migrating animals hunted by fierce predators. Vultures are critical to that circle as efficient “eco-janitors.” Without them, diseases like rabies go unchecked, and the price is high—as demonstrated by a surge in human rabies deaths since south Asia’s vulture populations began to crash in the 1990s.

Vulture numbers across Africa have plummeted for more than a decade. Against a backdrop of development, poaching, and poisoning incidents, we are racing...



Our Impact:

In 2017 our team trained more than 200 rangers, police officers, and community group members from 23 organizations in northern Kenya to safely respond to poisoning incidents.

Thanks to data from our African Raptor Database (ARDB), eight of Africa's 10 vulture species are known to be Endangered or Critically Endangered. Since 2014, ARDB has amassed 174,000 records from 38 African countries.

Collaborating with the Endangered Wildlife Trust, we launched the African Wildlife Poisoning Database. Interactive maps allow monitoring and analysis of poisoning trends much faster than previous paper records (sample screen below).



01/2018

As demand for power, food, and material goods escalates throughout Africa, The Peregrine Fund has risen to meet new threats to vultures. Chief among them is wildlife poisoning. Livestock owners use poison to target predators like lions and hyenas, inadvertently killing vultures and other scavengers. Poachers deliberately kill vultures to avoid having their crime scene exposed by circling birds.

In 2017 we began *Stop Poisonings Now: Empower, React, Deter*—a campaign to reduce poisoning at the grassroots level. Trainees learn to prevent the spread of poison from an incident, recover evidence, report to authorities, and raise awareness. They inform us of new poisoning methods and incidents, so we can tailor future responses and understand why people use poison. One of our trainees even saved a girl's life when poison was used to attempt suicide.

We have collected poisoning data since 2005 and share it in the African Wildlife Poisoning Database, which has recorded 272 poisoning incidents in 15 countries,



Darcy Ogada

and the deaths of more than 8,000 animals of 40 different species. **However grim, this data-gathering is the crucial spark for funding and action.**

We tag and track vultures (left) to understand their movements. Not only can we learn where vultures are most likely to encounter poison, but our data are also valuable to energy developers in proper siting of new wind farms. Vultures are one of the few bird species for which tracking data is available in Kenya, giving conservation a credible voice on this rapidly-changing continent.

Another outstanding example of data-driven results is the

African Raptor Databank (ARDB), a smartphone app used by biologists to record raptor sightings. Using ARDB, partners helped us document declines of up to 80% in eight African vulture species, justifying their uplisting to Endangered or Critically Endangered. **The status upgrades sounded the alarm internationally, prompting multiple organizations to redirect funds and staff.** The shared databank concept is so powerful that we expanded it to our new Global Raptor Impact Network so we can assess all 586 raptor species worldwide.

Madagascar



Lily-Arison Rene de Roland



Islands are some of the most richly diverse places on Earth, home to life evolved in isolated, unique habitats. Madagascar, the world's fourth-largest island, boasts 310 bird species in an area the size of Montana and Idaho combined. More than half of those species are found nowhere else.

The Peregrine Fund went to Madagascar in 1990 to search out rare, endangered birds of prey, and we found them—even some that were thought to be extinct.

To conserve those species, we had to devise radical new ways of empowering local people...



THE PEREGRINE FUND

to
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Our Impact:

In 2017, one of our three community conservation areas, Bemanevika, was the third to be recognized as a Ramsar site—a wetland noted by the United Nations as significant “not only for the country... but for humanity as a whole.”

Among our three conservation areas, we have assisted communities in planting more than 215,000 saplings to restore forests and establish plantations for food and jobs.

We have fostered an educated, professional staff of more than 30 Malagasy people, many with advanced degrees. They contribute scientific knowledge and lead their communities in conservation.

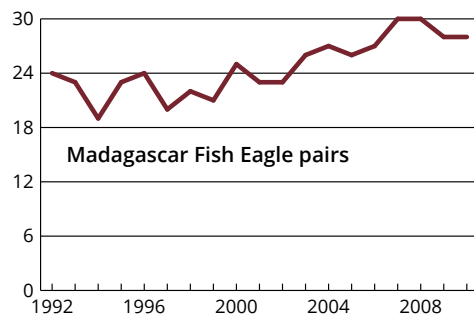
With nearly 30 years proving the concept in Madagascar, we're ready to transplant community-based conservation to the Darien region of Panama—another vital biodiversity hotspot where indigenous communities have a vested interest in conservation.

01/2018

Like its neighboring island of Mauritius, where we had helped restore the Mauritius Kestrel from just four survivors, Madagascar had a wealth of diversity but little infrastructure for understanding or protecting it. Of the 24 raptor species on the island, 14 are endemic—found nowhere else—and of these, two had not been seen for more than 60 years. Our biologists re-discovered both, plus a missing duck species, and even found four previously unknown lemur species!

Discoveries are thrilling, but preserving species in perpetuity is a complex undertaking. Habitat alone is not enough; human pressures call for human vigilance, and **this realization, reinforced by our success, resulted in a rapid paradigm shift for conservation worldwide.**

Our early insights came from people living near degraded wetlands where we found Madagascar Fish Eagles struggling to survive. Sustainable village traditions



were being violated by newcomers, and residents could protect neither their own livelihoods nor the wildlife. **We helped form the first local association in Madagascar with legal authority to enforce limits on resource use.** Under a new federal law, the community was empowered, the eagle population stabilized, and today those wetlands are a pristine habitat supporting wildlife and people.



Lily-Arison Rene de Roland

Working with local associations keeps raptor conservation at the forefront. For example, we supply fiberglass canoes so that fishermen no longer make dugout canoes from mature trees, preserving choice nest sites. We distribute special fishing nets, reducing the use of nets that ensnare and kill fish eagles. Reforestation projects provide food for people and habitat for wildlife. Community wells, hydroelectric power, eco-tourism, honey production, and schools are all made possible by our simple philosophy of “saving raptors, enriching lives.”

We now work with 11 local associations close to our raptor conservation sites, and the benefits reach beyond individual villages; **together, we have added almost a half million acres of habitat to the country's National Protected Areas**—equal in size to Great Smoky Mountain National Park in the United States.

Asian Vultures



Munir Virani

Vultures are masters at scouring the landscape to quickly pinpoint fresh carcasses—a critical food source for them, but a bacteria-laden hazard to humans. Vultures’ adaptations—high stomach acidity, crushing bill strength, and featherless heads for staying clean—guarantee efficient clean-up, so disease-spreading scavengers like rats, feral dogs, and flies don’t multiply.

From the mid-1990s, vulture populations throughout south Asia crashed with up to 99% of some species literally dropping dead without explanation. Finding the cause was grim, difficult work, but we persisted...



THE PEREGRINE FUND

Our Impact:

In 2003 we discovered the cause of millions of vulture deaths: diclofenac sodium, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for ailing cattle.

That year we opened the first vulture “restaurant” in south Asia to provide diclofenac-free food. Several have since been established by communities who value vultures and benefit from tourists who come to see them.

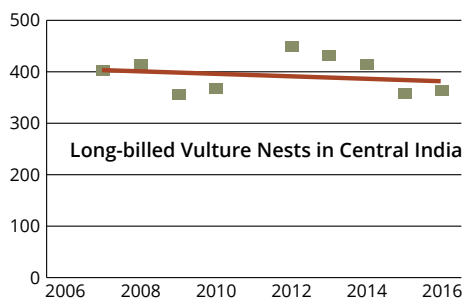
Nepal, India, and Pakistan banned the drug for veterinary use, thanks to our findings and advocacy with partners: the Bombay Natural History Society, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Nature Conservation Pakistan, and Bird Conservation Nepal.

As part of Saving Asia’s Vultures from Extinction (SAVE), a consortium of organizations, we annually measure conservation impacts at vulture breeding colonies in India.

Three vulture species in Asia were destined for extinction in less than a decade, a catastrophe unprecedented since the loss of billions of passenger pigeons in the last century. Peregrine Fund biologists struggled to understand how tens of millions could die so rapidly, and through meticulous forensic investigations discovered the answer in 2003: an inexpensive, readily-available drug called diclofenac sodium had been introduced in the region for treating sick cattle. Consuming even small traces of diclofenac in cattle remains causes rapid kidney failure in vultures. Since only four percent of an estimated 500 million cattle in India are for human consumption, the availability of carrion for scavengers is significant.

The Peregrine Fund advocated along with conservation and government partners to ban veterinary use of diclofenac in Nepal, Pakistan, and India, and bans

were enacted three years later. To measure the bans’ effects, we monitor 450 pairs of Long-billed Vultures in the Indian states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The population stabilized in the five-year period after the ban was enacted, leading us to believe a positive trend had begun; but **more recently we’ve observed declines, pointing to a need for vigilance and further action.**



Munir Virani

Diclofenac is still available for humans, and can easily be misused for treating livestock. At least seven other veterinary drugs on the market are potentially toxic to vultures, and new drugs may appear without thorough testing. We work closely with partners in south Asia who are identifying vulture-safe alternatives and encouraging tighter regulation of toxic veterinary drugs. We also track 13 Bearded Vultures (photo above) to study their habits and territories, and we support graduate students throughout south Asia to increase our capacity to deal with future crises.

In 2017, the **United Nations Convention on Migratory Species** recognized The Peregrine Fund in a Raptors Memorandum of Understanding. The Convention seeks to halt population declines of 15 vulture species across Africa and Eurasia and recommends 124 actions for countries to restore numbers by 2029.

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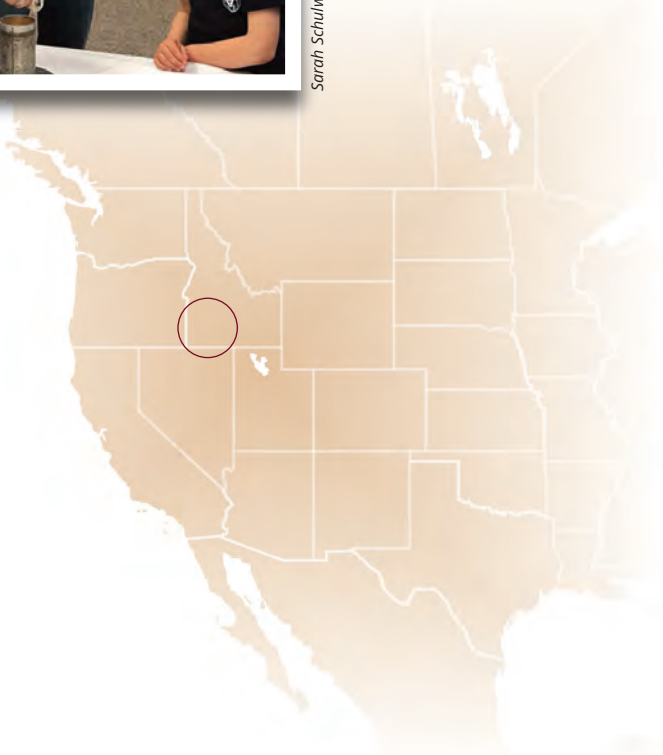
Education at the World Center for Birds of Prey



Jeffrey L. Armstrong



Sarah Schulwitz



The World Center for Birds of Prey is the heartbeat of The Peregrine Fund's education program. Situated in one of the most densely populated raptor regions in the world, it is an international destination for 50,000+ people a year. Visitors experience raptors up close and personally through live, daily raptor demonstrations and interactions with staff, volunteers, and exhibits that create a deeper understanding of these incredible birds and our role in conserving them for future generations.

We're influencing people's attitudes, emotions, knowledge, and behaviors about raptors and wild places....



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Our Impact:

7,000+ guests come nose-to-beak with raptors, hawks, falcons, and owls as they swoop just inches overhead at Fall Flights, an annual sold-out event that's become a family tradition for visitors throughout the region.

The Center provides free school tours for more than 5,000 students annually engaging students in STEM learning that focuses on the scientific method through the lens of The Peregrine Fund's global conservation projects.

The travel website Trip Advisor ranks our visitor center as number two in the top 130 'things to do' in Boise, and USA Today rated it as the top attraction in Idaho.

Center programming would not be possible without generous community support from: Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, Idaho Power, Albertsons, U.S. Bank, and other generous individuals and businesses.

01/2018

The Peregrine Fund's vision is to create a world where birds of prey are valued by all humans. Our Visitor Center serves as the foundation for empowering guests to save raptors and find solutions that protect wild places we all need for survival.

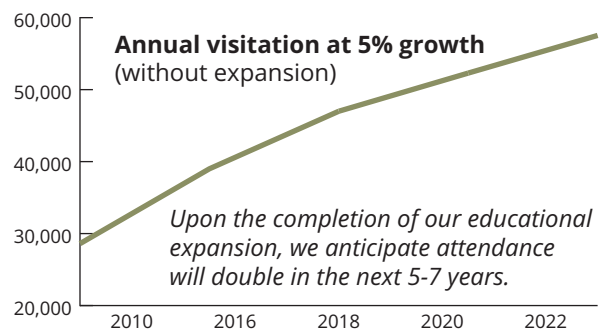
At the World Center for Birds of Prey, visitors come nose-to-beak with raptors from around the world while learning about conservation work The Peregrine Fund leads on a global scale to save each species. When people have the opportunity to experience one of our avian ambassadors up close, an emotional connection can form that changes attitudes toward conservation in a positive way.

The recovery story of the Peregrine Falcon is one of the greatest conservation success stories of all time. It is a story of people coming together to tackle an environmental problem that affects us all. **The message is clear—we have the power to save species when we work together.** The World Center for Birds of Prey has shared this empowering message with nearly one million visitors since opening our doors in 1994.



As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2020, The Peregrine Fund has renewed our commitment to education and public engagement. The World Center for Birds of Prey is expanding our footprint to showcase our international conservation work in partnership with local communities and increase exposure to native raptors and conservation efforts that promote coexistence between humans and the natural world, with wise stewardship of the land.

To learn more about our educational expansion, please contact Heather Meuleman, Campaign Director, at hmeuleman@peregrinefund.org or 208.362-2840.



Global Engagement



Nyambayar Barbayar



Paul Spurling



More than half of all raptor species worldwide are in decline, and the causes almost always point to rapid growth of human populations. To prevent extinction, it's more urgent than ever to inspire, teach, and connect with people of all ages, in every corner of the globe. The fate of raptor species is in their hands.

People value birds of prey and want to protect them, but they need The Peregrine Fund as a catalyst, empowering them...



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Our Impact:

Our social media reach now exceeds 100,000 people around the world. Followers see diverse content, from video of California Condor releases to entries in our juried photo competition.

Almost 10,000 people receive project updates in our e-newsletter, **Notes from the Field**.

Live raptors at our World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho, greeted more than 40,000 people last year, a new record.

Seven of our projects provided support and training to 40 students in 2017. Nine graduated with degrees, leading the way toward our goal of **establishing a raptor biologist in every country on earth.**

Our membership has grown consistently, even during economic downturns, and members are giving more generously than ever. Last year, **member donations exceeded \$1 million for the first time.**

01/2018

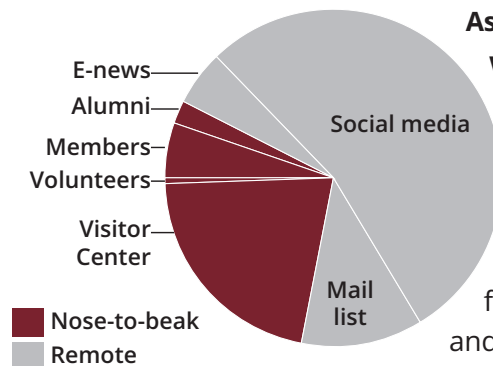
As our scientists have traveled to the far reaches of the globe, we have made important discoveries about birds of prey; but **equally important are fresh insights into human behavior.** We know, for example, that people are intensely curious and sometimes shoot raptors to get a closer look. We have learned that people who come to understand a raptor's role and life history will gladly make accommodations that allow them to thrive. And finally, we've found that when raptors are part of a holistic picture that includes economic incentives — like local jobs, ecotourism, education, or sustainable food — people become champions for birds of prey.



Donatien Randrianjafinosa

Truly empowering people challenges us to reach out in meaningful ways... and **with 586 raptor species and billions of people on the planet, our outreach must take many forms.** Face-to-face and “nose-to-beak” interactions are ideal, so whenever possible we let raptors speak for themselves in classrooms and communities near our projects and at our visitor center in Boise, Idaho. When personal contact isn't possible, we count on video, photography, and vivid storytelling to connect people with birds of prey.

Sometimes our outreach doesn't involve a bird at all; instead we provide basic needs like fishing nets, chicken coops, tree seedlings, career training, tuition, and connections to government resources. We call this approach “saving raptors, enriching lives,” because it offers a way to make room for raptors by improving opportunities for people, their communities, and the next generation.



As The Peregrine Fund nears its 50th year, we're reflecting on the millions of lives

we've already touched along the path to conserving Peregrine Falcons, California Condors, and hundreds of other species. Confident that we can again change the future, we're calling on all of our “alumni,” from members to students to birdwatchers and beyond, to support raptors while we can still act to prevent extinction.



Investing in Tomorrow's Conservation Leaders



Gonzalo Ignasi

Alex Ospina



Studying raptors requires a rare set of traits: an obsession with birds, the grit to find and document them in rugged conditions, and the discipline to analyze and publish credible results.

Because conservation hinges on scientific rigor, we seek out and encourage the kind of peer-reviewed, published work taught by universities—but that level of education is not easily accessible to everyone. **Exceptional students around the world need our support in becoming scientists and leaders...**



THE PEREGRINE FUND



to
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Our Impact:

Since 1970, students receiving our support have earned **116 advanced degrees**, including 28 Doctorates and 88 Master's or equivalent degrees. They have graduated from more than 45 universities in 15 countries.

In 2017 alone, we provided financial and/or logistical support and training to **40 students associated with seven of our projects** from East Africa to Alaska. Seven students graduated with Master's degrees, and two with Bachelor's degrees.

In 1987 we helped launch a Master's program in raptor biology at Boise State University, the first of its kind in the world.

We connect students and professionals by providing stipends for travel to international conferences like the Neotropical Raptor Conference. In 2020, we'll bring students from around the world to Boise when we host the Raptor Research Foundation conference.

01/2018

Higher education is at the very root of The Peregrine Fund; in fact, Cornell University was our first home, established in a breeding barn by Professor Tom Cade when he joined the faculty there in 1970. Academic rigor informs every one of our strategies, and like all teachers **we look for opportunities to nurture students' curiosity, resourcefulness, and connection to a global community.**

Our projects provide invaluable experience for motivated students. In Pakistan, student Jamshed Chaudry has witnessed first-hand the catastrophic decline of the region's vulture species and participated in the recovery efforts. In Kenya, Washington Wachira studied Crowned Eagles and spoke at the prestigious TED



Global Platform (left) on his love of birds. In Argentina, Amira Salom based her thesis on interviews with local people about their perceptions of birds of prey.

With our guidance, students turn field experiences into career-changing results: Dr. Lily-Arison René de Roland was our very first master's-level student in Madagascar and has since completed doctorate and

post-doctorate work, received recognition as a Disney Conservation Hero, and serves now as National Director of our Madagascar project. Dr. Hernan Vargas, director of our Neotropical Science and Student Education program, started with limited opportunities in the Galapagos Islands and got his "big break" with a Peregrine Fund grant to study raptor biology at Boise State University. He now directs the studies of dozens of students throughout Central and South America. With our support, Nyamba Batbayar studied raptor biology at Boise State University and went home to found the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia.

Most students we assist go on to influential positions in their home countries, serving in wildlife management, government agencies, and other non-profits. As local residents, they can navigate cultural norms that might present obstacles to a foreigner. When conservation crises occur, these in-country partners are trained and ready to respond.

Our students are so valuable to the future of raptors that we've formalized our mentoring plans with **one audacious goal: to establish a raptor biologist in every country in the world.** We're focusing on Africa and South America because of their fast-growing economies and high demand for education. Threats to raptors and other biodiversity are rapidly increasing on both continents, meaning our students' impact is likely to be significant and long-lasting.

Office Locations

Headquarters
World Center for Birds of Prey
 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane
 Boise, ID 83709
 United States of America
 email: tpf@peregrinefund.org

Arizona Field Office
 P.O. Box 6123
 Marble Canyon, AZ 86036

Africa Field Office
 P.O. Box 45111
 Nairobi, Kenya 00100

Madagascar Field Office
 B.P. 4113
 Antananarivo (101)
 Madagascar

South America Field Office
 Casilla 17-17-1044
 Quito
 Ecuador

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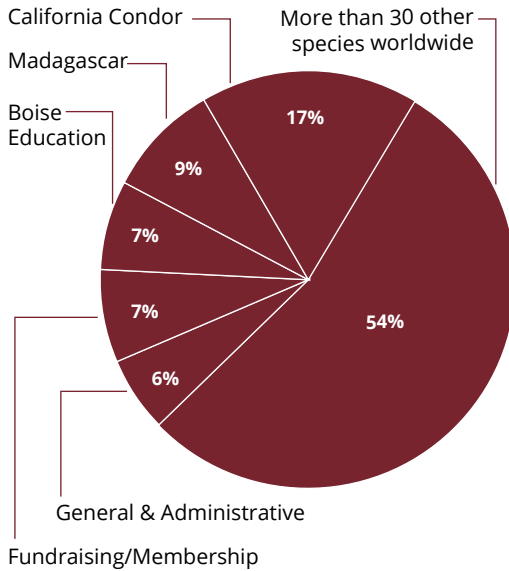


Financial Statement

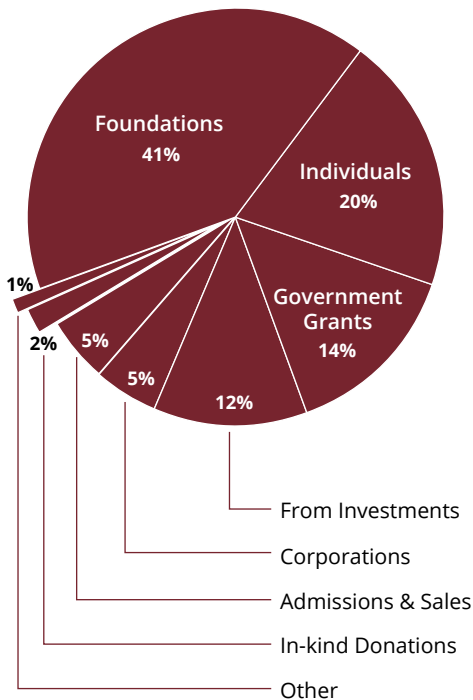
The Peregrine Fund's complete audited financial statements may be viewed on our website, www.peregrinefund.org or a statement may be obtained by contacting The Peregrine Fund, Accounting, 5668 W Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID 83709.

Expenses

Conservation Programs (total): 87%



Revenues



Statement of Activities FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30

UNRESTRICTED OPERATIONS

Revenues	2017	2016
Contributions utilized (note 1)	4,001,147	3,994,107
Government grants	773,238	794,338
In-kind revenues	81,063	82,295
Admissions and sales	255,140	226,077
Board designated funds utilized (from investments)	631,200	656,000
Other	31,703	25,629
Total unrestricted revenues, gains, and other support	5,773,491	5,778,446

Expenses

PROGRAM EXPENSES	2017	2016
5,202,931	4,962,737	
SUPPORT SERVICES EXPENSES		
Administration	351,623	585,474
Fundraising and Membership	457,227	506,629
Total support services expenses	808,850	1,092,103
Total expenses-operations	6,011,781	6,054,840

OPERATING REVENUES OVER EXPENSES (238,290) (276,394)

NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Capital

Contributions utilized to purchase fixed assets	147,187	200,737
Depreciation on Fixed Assets	(254,436)	(300,073)
Gain on asset disposition	6,062	3,500

Endowment/Board Designated Funds

Board designated - bequests and in memorium	94,062	1,028,680
Investment income (loss)	1,760,610	1,391,917
Board designated funds utilized (from investments)	(631,200)	(656,000)

Pledges and contributions designated for future years

Pledges and contributions	271,740	1,104,834
Prior year's revenue used in current year	(877,704)	(178,121)

TOTAL NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES 516,321 2,595,474

Increase (decrease) in net assets 278,031 2,319,080

Net assets at beginning of year 22,462,433 20,143,353

Net assets at end of year 22,740,464 22,462,433

Note 1 - Contributions utilized in 2017 includes current year contributions of \$3,123,443 and prior years' contributions released from restrictions of \$877,704

Statement of Financial Position AT SEPTEMBER 30

Assets	2017	2016
Cash and cash equivalents	522,528	860,123
Grants receivable	167,358	62,433
Promises to give and other receivables	275,980	977,146
Inventory, prepaids, and other assets	119,480	132,621
Property and equipment (net of depreciation)	3,975,133	4,076,320
Archives collection	2,648,952	2,648,952
Investments, Endowment and board designated	15,266,539	14,057,127
TOTAL ASSETS	22,975,970	22,814,722

Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	91,737	72,039
Accrued payroll and taxes	143,769	269,325
Deferred Revenue	-	10,925
TOTAL LIABILITIES	235,506	352,289

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	21,413,308	20,493,798
Temporarily restricted	1,227,156	1,868,635
Permanently Restricted	100,000	100,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	22,740,464	22,462,433

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 22,975,970 22,814,722



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 Edward G. Bourne
 Karen D. Brender
 Dorothy A. Clifford
 Frank T. Curtin
 Marie A. DeAngelis
 Cynthia Ferguson
 Esther Garnsey
 Edward F. Gerrity
 Gerald & Kathryn Herrick
 Denise Kodner
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Almost 50 years ago, our founders resolved to save Peregrine Falcons from extinction. Their life's work is a legacy we all enjoy each time we glimpse one of these magnificent birds in the wild.

The Peregrine Fund's planned giving society

You, too, can give the gift of raptor conservation by including The Peregrine Fund in your estate plans. You will join a special group of donors who receive permanent recognition at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, invitations to special events, and recognition in the annual report (unless you wish to be anonymous).

Your bequest, annuity, or other planned gift further strengthens the foundation of all our conservation work, giving future generations the tools they'll need for a changing world.

Please let us know when you include The Peregrine Fund in your plans. Use the form at www.peregrinefund.org/legacy-circle, e-mail us at legacycastle@peregrinefund.org or call 406-388-7717.

Members and donors are the lifeblood of The Peregrine Fund, and we respect and appreciate everyone who contributes to our mission. To protect your privacy, we are not publishing a general membership list in our annual report.

We welcome your calls and emails if you have questions about your membership. Linda Behrman, our Director of Membership, is available at 208-362-3716 or lbehrman@peregrinefund.org.





Leadership Council members remain crucial to our success by giving \$1,000 or more annually. In addition to regular member benefits, they receive a personalized desktop paperweight, invitations to board meetings and special events, an annual conference call with the President, one Gift Membership to give, a behind-the-scenes tour at the World Center for Birds of Prey, quarterly updates from the President, and recognition in the annual report. Learn more at www.peregrinefund.org/leadership-council.

- | | | | | | |
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| Kelly Browne | Rebecca Gaples and Simon Harrison | J. Peter and Barbara Jenny | Diann MacRae | Mark Rockefeller | Christie Van Cleve |
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