Hello and welcome to RVRI’s 5th annual newsletter. This year is quickly coming to a close and with the fall field season behind us, it is time to focus our efforts on report and manuscript preparation, public presentations, and of course, fundraising. Spring will be upon us before we know it (late March for our work here in Missoula) marking the beginning of yet another field season. As field biologists we love nothing more than being out in the field, but we also recognize the importance of writing up our findings for science and for the larger purpose of conservation. We could never accomplish all that we do without the continued generosity of many financial supporters, collaborators, and friends.

These last five years seem like a “flash-in-the-pan.” Where does the time go? Yet, when we consider what has been accomplished in the short amount of time since our inception, we couldn’t be more pleased.

From our fall raptor migration and Golden Eagle research along The Rocky Mountain Front, to our Missoula area Osprey and Swainson’s Hawk projects, we are in the field nearly year-round and our work has drawn international attention from researchers, conservationists, and educators. For example, our Golden Eagle research will be part of an upcoming episode on the National Geographic Channel.

Indeed, we have been busy and have no intention of slowing down. Since 2004 we have banded a total of 934 raptors, comprised of 14 species, including 130 Golden Eagles, 132 Northern Goshawks and 111 Ospreys. The number of Golden Eagles rivals that of any similar study in the world. Many raptor species show signs of declining. The causes are likely numerous, but most of the available evidence points to human-caused impacts to the environment and raptor habitats as a major contributor to the declines. However, we are only now beginning to scratch the surface in terms of truly understanding the extent of these impacts and developing effective ways of mitigating them. Most of our research projects are multi-faceted, long-term studies that specifically address human-caused impacts on raptors.

In response to these concerns, a growing number of researchers are calling for more long-term, in depth studies. We

(continued on page 12)
RVR has been applying vinyl wing-tag markers (blue with white alpha-numerics) on all captured Golden Eagles since 2004, and to date roughly 130 migrant eagles have been wing-tagged and banded from our stations. This technique is considerably more effective than banding alone as a means of identifying individuals and receiving return information. These encounters are helping us learn more about Golden Eagle migratory ecology, such as, where migrants are wintering and summering, how far they travel, how long they live and the cause of individual eagle mortalities. In 2009, four of our wing-tagged eagles were encountered. Two were remotely photographed while feeding at bait stations in New Mexico and Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada; two were sighted feeding on road-killed deer near Lincoln, MT.

After getting the “thumbs up” from ranch manager Jim Nielson, we conducted foot surveys of the utility poles on the ranch and documented the remains of dozens of electrocuted raptors. It was clear this was a large scale problem and not limited to just a few poles. We contacted our friend David Lopez, operations specialist with Mesa Electric Cooperative (MEC). We showed David what we had discovered. David explained the federal laws and regulations that do not adhere to the standards for pole inspection. After discussing this with MEC, we were able to get the utility company to work with us. We agreed to change the utility poles to those that were not hazardous to birds. We also contacted the local Audubon Society and other organizations to let them know that we were trying to do our part to protect the raptors. It is important to protect the raptors as they play an important role in the ecosystem. By taking these steps, we were able to help protect the raptors and the environment.
**Education**

R VRI continues to offer free, hands-on outdoor educational workshops for local school groups, youth homes, college students, community organizations, the general public, and for charitable events. We feel that ‘the informal, non-traditional classroom’ is a great way to augment conventional approaches to learning, while exposing students to a very unique outdoor education experience. We are able to involve students from a variety of backgrounds and circumstances in all aspects of raptor research, and introduce them to key ecological principles, raptor ecology, and conservation biology.

**Raptor View's Education Curriculum**

RVRI offers a comprehensive educational curriculum designed and written by Noel Nies-Nesmith, as part of her Masters Degree in Education. Noel deftly merges field research techniques and classroom learning into an informative, fun and complete format designed primarily for middle and high school age students.

Schools and youth groups that have participated in our educational programs include:

- Missoula Youth Homes (MYH), Seeley-Swan High School, Willard Alternative High School, Flagship Youth Program, WORD (Summer Arts and Leadership Camp), Clark Fork Watershed Education Project, Natural History Center and others. All of these kids are enthusiastic and have experienced a unique view into wildlife conservation that few kids ever see.

**Coming this summer 2010 “Osprey Cam” FINALLY**

At last we look forward to Osprey Cam this spring/summer of 2010. We had some technical challenges in 2008 and then, in 2009, the Osprey didn’t nest at the camera platform. We feel confident that all will come together for us this 2010 breeding season.

This is part of our on-going Osprey Project and will be a perfect fit with Noel’s raptor education curriculum. We can think of no better way to introduce area students of all ages to Osprey ecology. The education aspect of the Osprey Project really took off during the summers of 2008 and 2009 and was remarkably successful with over 300 kids from a variety of youth based organization participating. We are very excited about 2010 and incorporating Osprey Cam into this on-going, long-term research and education project.

Very special thanks to:

- Ryan Alter of Alter Enterprises, who has generously donated his technical know how. Paul Nisbet with Vani’s who arranged for the donation of the camera, David Lopez of Missoula Electric Coop, Eric Ashcroft of A & S Electrical, Jim and Marcie Valeo with nest platform access, and last but by no means least Dave Taylor and Rob Magana of Dave Taylor Roofing for fabrication and installation of camera mount.

**Day in the field**

RVRI donates a day in the field for local community fundraisers, charitable events and other non-profit organizations. The day is spent working with RVRI biologists on one of our research projects. Most trips are to fall raptor migration and Golden Eagle research site. Participants assist directly in all aspects of our field work. We enjoy sharing our research and are glad we can help. Our days in the field have brought in donations of up to $1,000.

**Groups and charities include:** The Natural History Center, AniMeals, Missoula Children’s Museum, Missoula Carousel Association, Footloose Montana, Jayden Summerfield Fund, NPR Public Radio, YMCA (Christine Doyle Fundraiser), Jodi Marshall Fundraiser, Traveler’s Rest Preservation and Heritage Association and others. Please feel free to contact us if you think we can help.

**Research**

**FALL MIGRATION AND BANDING RESEARCH FROM NORA RIDGE**

This fall we successfully completed our fourth season of banding and observation from Nora Ridge along the Rocky Mountain Front (RMF) in west-central Montana. This project is part of an ongoing effort to monitor trends in raptor populations of the northern Rocky Mountains, with an emphasis on Golden Eagles.

The 2009 season was our most challenging season to date, due to extended bouts of extreme weather conditions in late September and early October. Record low, freezing temperatures, atypical east winds, low clouds obscuring the nearby ridges and snow accumulations of more than a foot kept both counters and trappers off Nora Ridge for more than two weeks during the peak Golden Eagle migration. The east winds and socked-in cloud cover caused the normally predictable flight of migrating raptors along the western flanks of Nora and surrounding ridges to be much more spread out and lower in altitude than usual, making counting and trapping most difficult.

In spite of the weather, our trapping team was in full force and highly motivated. Our team included RVRI executive director Rob Domenech and returning trappers, Tyler Veto, Vince Slabe and Stephen “Step” Wilson. We were fortunate to add new comer Brooke Tanner to the RVRI team. Brooke is an expert raptor handler and rehabilitator, whose hard working nature and shared compassion for wildlife made her a welcomed addition to the team. Finally, we were happy to have Bryan Bedrosian with us for most of peak season. Bryan brings high energy, unique skills and experience to the team. This year he brought his newly designed mini nest launchers, which proved invaluable for catching eagles during the bad weather when we were off the ridge for extended periods of time.
**GOLDEN EAGLE AND FALL RAPTOR MIGRATION COUNT FROM NORA RIDGE**

The Nora Ridge count was headed up by veteran raptor migration specialists Fred and Cathy Tilly, whose skills, stamina and overall expertise are truly invaluable to this project. As previously mentioned, this season saw the most difficult weather conditions on record for this study. Unable to reach the ridge count site during the bouts of extremely bad weather, Fred and Cathy took up the count from the highway 200 pull out, located just north of Nora Ridge.

**Count Totals**

Observations were conducted from September 11 through October 30. During this period, six days were suspended due to impossible weather conditions and seven days were cut short due to bad weather. A total of 1,848 raptors were counted in 268 hours of observation, comprised of 17 species, including Turkey Vultures. The Golden Eagle total came in at 862 and comprised 46 percent of all observed migrants. Our highest count in one day occurred on October 12 when Fred and Cathy tallied 144 raptors, including 110 Golden Eagles.

We began trapping from September 16th through October 25th (weather permitting), for a total of 19 trap days on the ridge, compared with 34 days in 2008. As previously mentioned, the extreme, winter like weather conditions, greatly reduced the number of trap days on the ridge. We banded a total of 67 raptors, including 22 Golden Eagles this season, only four caught on Nora Ridge. Thanks to Bryan Bedrosian’s mini net launchers, we were able to continue capturing Golden Eagles from below the ridge. With Bryan’s help we were able to band 18 Golden Eagles using his new system.

Highlight captures included:

- Our second recapture of Golden Eagle 629-51808 (see page 12 for full story). Capture of a wing-tagged Golden Eagle C-109, which was caught on Bedrosian’s net launcher about two hours prior! The eagle was released near the foot of the ridge and came down on our pigeon lure less than an hour after release. The eagle was fed during processing which suggests to us that eagles continue with business as usual after banding. This supports previous data indicating these marked eagles are not inhibited by wing-tags. Thanks to everyone for making the fall 2009 successful in spite of the adverse weather.

**BANDING SUMMARY, NORA RIDGE**

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Compared to young Golden Eagles, adults are far less studied on migration with satellite telemetry. This is largely due to the difficulty of capturing wary adults. We can learn more about Golden Eagle migratory ecology as a whole by studying adults, as they are proven survivors and have completed their migratory journeys many times over.

Long-term point count surveys of migrating Golden Eagles on the Rocky Mountain Front flyway (RMF) indicate declines in both total fall and spring Golden Eagle annual counts over the past 15 years and suggest the rate of decline has been increasing. This trend is more pronounced in the spring point count totals and may be due, in part, to an increase in mortalities occurring on wintering grounds in the Lower 48. In order to slow Golden Eagle population declines, it is imperative to understand the current fall and spring migration routes, stopover areas, winter range movement patterns, and potential hazards within these areas.

Threats to migrating eagles in the form of power line electrocution, poisoning, shooting, lead contamination due to fragmented rifle bullets in carrion and gut piles, vehicle collisions, habitat degradation and others have been ongoing for many years. In addition, wintering ground destinations such as Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas have been subject to rapid and severe impacts from the oil and gas development boom of the last decade. Furthermore, large scale wind farm developments are also a concern, especially when located along migration routes and wintering areas. Indeed, threats to Golden Eagles have clearly increased and may have reached the point where reproduction is unable to keep up with increasing mortality.

To help us learn more, we have instrumented a total of six adult Golden Eagles with satellite transmitters over the past three years. These units are expensive, $2500 per transmitter, plus the Argos costs to manage the data bringing the total to roughly $4500 per year for one eagle! Our eventual goal is thirty transmitters, but due to the high costs, we have to take it incrementally. Please let us know if you want to help us raise funds for this very worthwhile project.

This technology allows us to track the daily movements of our eagles, during migration, and while on wintering grounds. Once back on summer range we cut the tracking back to a few days a week, until September, when we start all over again. Please see map (facing page) for spring and fall migration routes, from wintering grounds to summer ranges and back down to wintering areas. We excluded the other three eagles, as the map was too cluttered, due to the limited space we have to use in our newsletter. (See our website for periodic updates and maps)

Our partners of this project are Bryan Bedrossian with Craighead-Beringia South, Melanie Smith, GIS analyst with Audubon Alaska and Doug Bonham with Wildlife Computers. Their passion, dedication and expertise, has been essential to the successes of this project. Thank you!
**Golden Eagle Research Projects 2009**

**Determining Gender in Golden Eagles**

Morphological measurements such as wing-chord, tail length, body weight, etc., have proven to be reliable indicators in determining gender for several raptor species. In many raptors, females are often measurably larger than males, when we consider simple descriptors such as mass and wing-chord. However, this is not always the case with Golden Eagles. By collecting DNA and comparing it to our suite of morphological measurements, we hope to identify the most accurate technique for sexing Golden Eagles in hand.

**Foot Volume**

David Ellis is arguably the leading authority on Golden Eagle Ecology and Natural History in the world today. We were of honored when David approached us to see if we could put to the test his innovative idea for sexing Golden Eagles. David’s idea was simple; if you place the foot in a beaker of water, the female foot would displace measurably more water than the male foot. As you might imagine, this is not the easiest procedure, gently immersing the foot of a wild Golden Eagle in a beaker of ice cold water. However, we have worked the technique out and preliminary results are very promising, accurately predicting the gender of all eagles tested!

**Wing-loading**

In general to determine wing-loading, we utilize wing area and body mass measurements. Wing-loading is known in many species of raptors, but not in Golden Eagles. This research will add insight into Golden Eagle aerodynamics and behavioral ecology.

**Eagle Lead Project**

Lead poisoning in raptors, especially Bald Eagles has been well documented. A ban on lead shot for waterfowl hunting was initiated in 1991 to remedy this problem. However, mounting evidence suggests that the problem persists and the source of the contamination is coming from gut (offal) piles left behind by hunters. Golden Eagles are opportunistic feeders, known to scavenge offal piles. To date we have lab analyzed blood from 70 Golden Eagles and have found that more than 50% of our sampled eagles had elevated blood-lead levels. This fall 2009 we added another 22 individuals to our sample size, bringing our total to 92. These samples are currently being analyzed for lead by University of Montana chemist Dr. Heiko Langner.

**Blood Pathogen Project**

Our good friend and colleague Bryan Bedrossian with Craighead-Beringia South put us in contact with toxicologists Dr. Alan Slosberg, with Kinner Veterinary Institute, Israel and Dr. Wilson Rumbea with the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, Michigan State University. In short they have developed a system whereby they use severe dime sized dried blood spots to analyze for environmental toxins, as well as bacterial, viral and organotypic blood pathogens. We are excited about this recent collaboration and are anxious to see what they discover.

**Stable Hydrogen Isotope Project**

Every fall, thousands of northern latitude raptors migrate through Montana on their annual journey from breeding and natal areas to wintering grounds. Understanding where that raptor originated is our main question. By utilizing innovative sampling techniques, RVRI has been able to more accurately estimate that “place of birth.” Specifically, an isotope of hydrogen, called deuterium, was selected due to the ratios of deuterium changing consistently with latitude. With this technique we only need to take a “thumb-sized” feather sample, which can then be analyzed to determine the ratio of deuterium. By sampling only juvenile birds, whose feathers are grown in the nest, we can estimate the individual bird’s natal origin.

We sampled fall migrant juvenile Golden Eagles and Northern Goshawks from 2004 -2007 have collected 58 and 35 samples, respectively. We have analyzed the data and will finish writing up our results this winter for publication. Please see our website for updates on all these projects.
Recaptures, band returns and re-sightings of previously banded and marked birds are generally referred to as “encounters.” Encounters give small pieces of information to researchers to learn about the fate of the individual and possibly more about the species as a whole. This fall 2009 we had a very exciting encounter, our second ever recaptured Golden Eagle, only it was the same bird from 2008!

Golden Eagle number 629-51808 seems extraordinary and his story gives testimony to a Golden Eagle’s ability to survive under adverse circumstances. First captured and banded Oct 4, 2004 and estimated to be a three-year-old male. He was recaptured Oct 25, 2008 and again Oct 9, 2009 using road-killed deer. In 2004 it was noted that the eagle had preexisting injuries, including a fractured beak, lacerated tongue and three broken toes on the left foot rendering it useless for grasping. Our best educated guess is that bird was involved in collision with a vehicle while feeding on road-killed deer. However, if it was injured, this bird definitely beat the odds!

Although this is a success story in many ways, perhaps his run is nearing an end. Blood tests in 2008 revealed very high blood-lead levels; 2009 levels were low. However, in 2008 the eagle was captured at the end of open-rifle hunting season; in 2009 the capture was prior to the start of the season. Maybe this is why the lead levels were lower this season?

Nonetheless, our eagle’s body condition was markedly worse in 2009 than in 2004 and 2008. His weight was two pounds lighter, feather condition was poor and the beak was overgrown and cracked in a number of places. Could this be the cumulative effect of lead exposure over time, or some other cause(s)? At eight-years-old this eagle should have been in its physical prime. It may be though, that eagle 629-51808 will surprise us once again and turn up under our net in the future.

**National Geographic Channel Films with Raptor View**

This fall 2009 we were approached by National Geographic to be part of the filming for an upcoming episode of “Dangerous Encounters” with Dr. Brady Barr on the National Geographic Channel! The feature spotlights “scenic” predators of the American West. After learning about our long term Golden Eagle research, they felt it would be perfect for their production. They were mainly interested in the capture of a Golden Eagle via net launcher. This made it a bit more feasible, as Bryan Bedrosian (founder of Trapping Innovations), friend and research partner on several projects with Raptor View, had recently designed his “new” mini-net launcher system. Bryan’s launcher was ready in the nick of time for the fall Golden Eagle migration. He had brought a new unit up to Lincoln to test it in the extreme field conditions found on the Front.

Set-up as a last minute venture and with a very strict timetable, we had only two days to film a successful capture of an adult Golden Eagle. This is no easy feat, even when there isn’t the added stress of filming for a nation-wide TV show! In the end, with the hard work of the dedicated RVR field crew and Bryan’s new launcher, we were able to capture two adult Golden Eagles for the show!

Brady’s passion for wildlife was soon evident, when we saw how thrilled he was just to see an eagle flying; he practically leapt from the moving vehicle! Brady and the film crew were genuinely interested with all aspects of our Golden Eagle research, but quickly became fascinated with the Golden Eagle Blood-Lead Project. He saw this as a preventable conservation issue and one that viewers would find interesting. With an annual viewer base of more than five million viewers, we are very excited that this program will help bring awareness, on a global scale, to the conservation challenges Golden Eagles are facing in this modern world.
Research (continued)

Osprey Research 2009

Missoula is located along the Clark Fork River, just downstream from one of the largest Superfund sites in the country. For more than 100 years, heavy-metal contaminants from mining operations have accumulated behind the Milltown Dam. These contaminants include mercury, arsenic, lead, cadmium, zinc and copper. The dam has been removed and we are continuing our study, now going on its fourth year, to see how the ecosystem and the Osprey respond to this change.

As top predators that feed exclusively on fish, Ospreys serve as biological indicators, i.e. “canaries in the coal mine” of the health of the aquatic ecosystems. By testing Ospreys for contaminants and monitoring the health of local populations, we can gauge the level and extent of the contamination present in these ecosystems. RVRI's Osprey research project presents an ideal opportunity to establish baseline data for pre- and post-dam removal contaminant levels, as well as using Ospreys as “bio-sentinels” for other Montana watersheds.

We are proud to be partnering with several local experts, University of Montana researchers Dr. Heiko Langner and Dr. Johnny Moore (Environmental Biogeochemistry Lab) and Dr. Erick Greene (Division of Biological Sciences and Wildlife Biology), to closely examine the causes, locations and possible effects of mining-related contaminants on Ospreys and the ecosystems that support them.

To date we have accessed 36 nests and have sampled and banded 111 nestlings. Results are troubling, with many of our nestlings showing mercury levels 100 times higher than what would be considered toxic in humans.

Ospreys have the habit of incorporating unusual materials into their nests. Ospreys serve as biological indicators, i.e. “canaries in the coal mine” of the health of the aquatic ecosystems. By testing Ospreys for contaminants and monitoring the health of local populations, we can gauge the level and extent of the contamination present in these ecosystems. RVRI’s Osprey research project presents an ideal opportunity to establish baseline data for pre- and post-dam removal contaminant levels, as well as using Ospreys as “bio-sentinels” for other Montana watersheds.

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In Montana the Swainson’s Hawk (SWHA) is a “species of special concern.” As a grassland specific species, they are dependent on open prairie-like landscape to survive. Unfortunately, it is this specific grassland habitat, required by SWHA and other prairie dependant species that is being threatened through widespread development of the Missoula Valley grasslands, which spans roughly from Reserve Street west to Frenchtown.

Over the last three years, we have found that the number of known SWHA breeding territories has declined. In 2006 and 2007, we located 12 active territories; currently only five of those territories are active. Although, numerous factors may be contributing to this; we view subdivision sprawl and related development as the main cause. In a few short years we have literally watched several nesting locations and hunting areas transformed into residential and commercial developments. To date, we have banded 35 individuals and marked 26 with uniquely color-coded leg bands. These colored bands allow us to identify and track individuals, while learning more about breeding behavior, territoriality, nest site fidelity and survival.

In 2009, Five Valleys Land Trust (FVLT) and Five Valleys Audubon (FVA) approached RVRI regarding our SWHA project and sought our input on some specific subdivisions and the possible impacts on local SWHAs. We are now working with these organizations to reach out to developers and land owners to help conserve some of this critical, remnant prairie-grassland habitat.

In 2010, we will be ramping up our SWHA with help from FVLT and FVA, to fill in survey gaps on the Grass Valley. In addition, we will include the surrounding open hillside country, as reconnaissance surveys in 2009 turned up some territorial adults. It is our goal to get as close to a true SWHA census possible in the Missoula Valley. This important information will be crucial if we are to preserve our remaining local breeding population of SWHA, as well as other Missoula Valley prairie dependant species.

Aerial image of known Missoula Valley Swainson’s Hawk nesting sites
- possible, X - defunct, • - existing

**Research (continued)**

**Partnerships & Collaborations 2009**

RVRI continues to develop partnerships and collaborations with other professionals in order to build on our research and expand our educational outreach. It is impossible to express how crucial these relationships are to our work. They develop out of a common interest and passion for raptors, their health and environment. And as often happens, professional relationships turn into lifelong friendships.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of these individuals and organizations:

Our sincerest thanks and appreciation go to Bryan Bedrosian with Craighead-Beringia South; David Ellis; Dr. Alan Shlosberg; Denver Holt with Owl Research Institute; Erick Greene and Heiko Langner with University of Montana; Jim Lish with Oklahoma State University; Kate Davis with Raptors of the Rockies; Ken Wolff of Grounded Eagle Foundation; Melanie Smith, Geographic Information System specialist; Pete Sherrington of Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation; Ryan Alter of Alter Enterprises; Steve Hoffman; Montana Audubon; Jim Sparks, Bureau of Land Management; Steve Kloetzel, The Nature Conservancy; Pat Shantley, Helena National Forest and Doug Bonham with Wildlife Computers.

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**Swainson’s Hawk Nesting Project**

**Research (continued)**
Here we recognize those foundations, organizations, businesses and individuals who have supported us through monetary donations, professional expertise and volunteer support. Without all these generous contributions RVRI wouldn’t be able to accomplish all that we have.

**ORGANIZATION & FOUNDATION SUPPORT**

- Bureau Land Management
- Charlotte Martin Foundation
- Cinnabar Foundation
- Clark Fork Coalition
- Craighead-Beringia South
- Fanwood Foundation
- Fledgling Fund
- Five Valleys Land Trust
- Helena National Forest
- International Osprey Foundation
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- S.E.C. Charitable Corp.
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Montana
- Wildlife Family Trust
- Wildlife Computer
- Yellowstone to Yukon

**BUSINESS SUPPORT**

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- Candy Goff-Bookkeeping
- Dave Taylor Roofing
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- Masspau Electric Cooperative
- Montana Ace Hardware
- Montana Water Trust
- Northwestern Energy
- Quality Supply
- R.E.I.
- Salmon Logging
- Vann’s

**INDIVIDUALS**

From assistants in the field, to detailed lab analysis and everything you could imagine in between; individuals make it happen. We wouldn’t make it happen without their support. As always, we make an effort to recognize everyone. Thanks to all of you!

- Aiden Moon
- Amanda Omesh
- Anicka Katrina-Hathaway
- Becky Lamax
- Bob Walker
- Bonnie Snavely
- Brooke Tanner
- Bryan Bedrosian
- Charlie Simpson
- Christa Weathers
- Dave Taylor
- David Lopez
- Denver Holt
- Eric Greene
- Heiko Langner
- Fred and Cathy Tilby
- Jennifer Calder
- Jessica Kato
- Jerry and Jane Densel
- Jill Learned
- Jim Lish
- Jim and Marci Ydeo
- Katie McKalp
- Kathy Gray
- Kathy Townsend
- Kelly Castlebeny
- Matt Seidensticker
- Matt Young
- Melanie Smith
- Nate and Whitney
- Schwaub
- Pat Little
- Pat Stanley
- Paul Nisbet
- Rob Dillon
- Rob Magana
- Ryan Alter
- Stan Lucier
- Stephen “Step” Wilson
- Steve Hoffman
- Tim Good
- Tim and Noel
- Nezmi
- Tyler Veto
- Victoria Parks

Mary Fay of Last Chance Audubon with Golden Eagle

Brooks and Brian with adult Golden Eagle ready for release

Fully extended crop on an adult female Sharp-shinned Hawk

RVRI Team poses with Golden Eagle (above)

Stephen Wilson with Eagle C-105 (below)

Brian Bedrosian with Common Raven

Tail of Harlan’s Hawk

Light morph Harlan’s Hawk

Dark morph Harlan’s Hawk