

Neotropical Raptor Network

Discovery of the first Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) Nest on the Western Side of the Andean Cordillera

by Ruth Muniz-Lopez

The first registered report of a Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) west of the Andean Cordillera in Ecuador occurred in 1970. Since then searches for a nest in the area have been made without any success. The humid forests on the northwestern coast of Ecuador are threatened due to exploitation of timber, an economic resource for the indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian communities living in the forest. Nevertheless, despite this substantial pressure and loss of habitat, **for the first time in South America**, we discovered an active Harpy Eagle nest in the north of Esmeralda Province, in

II NRC Updates Throughout!



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GRIN is Launched!!!

The NRN invites you to visit and become part of the Global Raptor Information Network (GRIN: <http://www.peregrinefund.org/GRIN.asp>) a new tool implemented by The Peregrine Fund. This virtual site is building-up a raptor database, including distribution, population state, bibliography and researchers who have published or have knowledge of any raptor species. Among other options, you can access species lists by zoogeographic zone, country, or search for related species accounts. Furthermore, those people involved in the study or conservation of raptors can access your information via a personal page, which displays their interests and research or conservation issues. The goal of this is to forge an interactive searchable database of raptor researchers and conservationists.

Hawk Mountain to Publish II NRC Proceedings

The full proceedings of the II Neotropical Raptor Conference will be published by one of the NRN's close collaborators, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. This is a very generous donation and an excellent publication opportunity for M.Sc. students and recent grads!

All registered conference attendees will receive a full copy of the proceedings.





western Ecuador. Although limited, due to the youth of the juvenile, the data that we have recorded are the only that exist at this moment for the species on the western flank of the Andean Cordillera.

The discovery of an active Harpy Eagle nest on the western flank of the Ecuadorian Andes is a first, not only in the natural history of Ecuador but of all South America.

The nest was found when a community member was searching for gold in a nearby valley, where the nest was located. He observed the adult female and the juvenile when the latter was approximately one month old and reported his finding in the community. The area is promising enough that some biodiversity investigation had already been made.

With some intermediates, this information came to SIMBIOE



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(Society for the Research and Monitoring of Ecuadorian Biodiversity) and we have begun monitoring the eagles in this area.

The nest is in a 12,000 hectare area of continuous humid tropical forest. The climate is equatorial, with an average temperature of between 23 and 26 degrees centigrade. It receives an average precipitation of more than 3,000 millimeters. The precipitation here always exceeds the temperature so there is no dry season, nor any physically dry days. The altitude varies between 200-220 meters above sea level. The distance of the nest from the closest community (with population over 300 people) is 4.82 kilometers. The culture in this area is Afro-Ecuadorian and their activities include agriculture, forest products, artisan goods and ecotourism.

Similar to the nests on the eastern slope of the Andes, the pair used a large tree to construct the platform of their nest, at 30 meters above the ground, in a depression in the ground. The tree species was a "carrá" (*Huberodendron* spp), a species used for woodworking and 84 cm in diameter.

The presence of invasive groups on the community land where the studies are being developed has made it difficult to continue the juvenile through his dispersal period, the conflict has made the area unsafe for monitors. Unfortunately, they were unable to confirm data dispersal data for this unique juvenile Harpy Eagle on the western flank of the Andean Cordillera.

The Juvenile:

A juvenile of approximately one year and three months was the occupant of this nest. During the eight months following we were able to data on its diet and behavior. We estimate the date of birth to be around December of 2003. During eight months we were able to observe the juvenile only 60% of the time was spent looking for it, the rest of the time it spent out of our sight. This is normal for a bird of this age, taking into ac-

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Raptor Related List Servers in the Neotropics by Sergio Seipke

List servers are a cheap, practical and easy way to communicate info throughout a broad audience of people interested in a similar topics. One of the primary list server types is operated on Yahoo! Groups. In this article we will go over the characteristics of the list servers dedicated to raptors in the Neotropics. The messages on several of these list servers are open to public viewing, while on others it is necessary to a member in order to view the postings. Although you may possibly be subscribed to some of these list servers, I doubt you are subscribed to them all; so I am including the websites and email addresses for each list server. I hope this brief review will be of help to you.

NEOTROPICALRAPTORS is the name of our own list server, the list server for the Neotropical Raptor Network *"The NRN is a membership based organization aimed to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of people working with raptors in the Neotropics. Its goal is to aid the research and conservation of Neotropical raptors by promoting communication and collaboration among biologists, ornithologists, raptor enthusiasts and other conservationists working in the Neotropics."* The list-server was created by the Advisory Board to the Neotropical Raptor Network in October of 2004 and became active on the 15th of November of the same year. New members are continuously subscribing and it currently has a membership of about 165 people and organizations. The messages from this first year along with subscription information can be seen on the website. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/neotropicalraptors/>

Other list-servers that address Neotropical Raptors include:

FORORAPACES. Miguel Saggese and Lito Campos, both from Argentina, created the group on the 9th of August 2001. It is heralded *"A meeting spot for enthusiasts and students of raptors."* The official language of the list-server is Spanish, although there are also messages in Portuguese and other languages. Most of the subjects discussed include distribution, taxonomy and identification of raptors. There are also announcements regarding new literature, courses, conferences and employment opportunities. In the first half of 2005 it had an average of 21 messages per month. It currently has about 130 subscribed members, the majority of them Latin Americans.

Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fororapaces/>

Subscription: fororapaces-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

FALCOARIABRASIL is a *"Group for all those who want to discuss falconry in a positive and democratic manner."* It was created on the 25th of October 2005 by Samuel Ferreira from Brazil. The official language of the list-server is Portuguese, but there are also messages in English and some in Spanish. The group of more than 160 members receive a weekly summary of falconry news from around the world and a synthesis of the issues discussed in the principal falconry discussion groups. Many of the messages speak in a friendly and informal manner of experiences of falconers, including the management and captive breeding of Neotropical raptor species. In the first half of 2005 the members of this groups received an average of 300 messages per week! (But don't be scared away, its also possible to receive just the daily digests.)

Website: <http://br.groups.yahoo.com/group/falcoariabrasil/>



Photo: Jaime Jimenez

Subscribe: falcoariabrasil-subscribe@yahoogrupos.com.br

Although not restricted to the Neotropics, these other list-servers might also be of interest:

SATELORN. This list-server has 428 members and it was created on the 28th of September of 2001 by Bernd-U Meyburg (World Working Group on Birds of Prey), to help disseminate information on satellite telemetry techniques in ornithology and the results of their use in research for researchers and other interested in the publication of scientific papers on the subject.

Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SatTelOrn/>

Subscribe: RaptorCare-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

RAPTORCARE was created on the 4th of April, 2004. It has 242 members that discuss injuries and sickness of wild and captive raptors, as well as aspects of captive management issues such as diet and training. It is of singular importance to veterinarians and rehabilitators.

Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RaptorCare/>

Subscribe: RaptorCare-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

RAPTORRESEARCHCONSORTIUM is a list server restricted to graduate level researchers with an interest in raptors. The group helps disseminate information, news and opportunities among the roughly 90 members world wide.

Website: <http://www.geog.nottingham.ac.uk/raptor/>





Workshop on Raptor Census Techniques at the II NRC

**Keith L. Bildstein, Marc J. Bechard
& Sergio H. Seipke**



The Objective is to provide committed students and young researchers with insights into techniques currently use survey and monitor raptor abundance, distribution, and habitat use, and to train them in these techniques through a "hands-on" experience in the field. The workshop will focus on major types of survey techniques applied to both open habitats and forest, and will consist of a half-a-day lecture session, together with two days of field work in savannas and grasslands in south Misiones and north Corrientes (Argentina).

Lectures will include (1) **forest raptors survey techniques**: Forest vegetation structure and its implication on raptor detectability. Behavior and advertisement in forest raptors. Point counts from vantage points (soaring raptors). Pre-dawn auditory counts (under-storey raptors). Acoustic luring. Comparison among different techniques. Combining methods. Data collection. Analysis. Presentation of results. **Open-habitat raptors census techniques**: Vegetation and topography and their effects on detectability. Time of year and time of day and their effects on detectability. Size and behavior of the species involved and their effects on detectability. (2) Road survey methods, including species counted, types of data collected. (3) Survey Data management, analyses, and interpretation. Presentation and publication of results.

Field work will emphasize practical aspects of survey procedures and will be carried out after the conference. **Road surveys** from moving vehicles will be conducted along paved and dirt roads in southern Misiones and northern Corrientes.

Materials. Instructors will send copies of required readings in pdf files to attendees, and will provide counting materials (sheets, pens, notebooks, etc.). Transportation, meals, and housing during field aspects of the workshop will be covered by the **Hawk Mountain Sanctuary**. Attendees should bring their own binoculars.



Jaime Jimenez



Angel Muela

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Application procedure. Please email Dr. **Keith L. Bildstein** (bildstein@hawkmtn.org) stating in less than 250 words in English (a) why you would like to take part of this workshop, (b) your academic background and if you have conducted raptor surveys before, (c) how you intend to apply what you will learn in the workshop. Vacancies are limited and attendees will be selected on their merit.

Falconry Legislation Workshop at the II NRC by Adrian Reuter

As part of the II Neotropical Raptor Conference that will take place in Iguazu, Argentina on the 11-14 of June, 2006 we are coordinating a workshop on the regulation of falconry.

There are thousands of practicing falconers from many different parts of the world, and currently there is a notable increase in interest for the sport in areas with little history of it, such as Latin America.

That fact makes it necessary to provide adequate regulation in these areas, so that it is practiced seriously and ethically, respecting the applicable national and international laws while assuring that its practice does not have negative impacts on the populations of wild birds that are used in the sport.

This workshop intends to share information, points of view and experiences that contribute to the development of fundamental approaches to falconry legislation that are in keeping with legal regulations and the conservation of nature.

The workshop will be divided into two parts. The first will consist of presentations on diverse issues by experts from different countries (USA, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, Brazil? etc) and it will include baseline information and considerations for the attendees, especially those in whose countries the legal framework for falconry has not been fully developed or it could use renovation. The second part of this workshop will be a case study of Argentina, where the current falconry situation will be discussed and considerations for the development of a legal framework will be made. Although this case study focuses on Argentina, it will undoubtedly have bearing on other Latin America countries.

We think that this exercise will set up interesting information bases and provide a useful set of tools to all those interested in falconry and the sustainable management of natural resources. Also, this forum along with the large number of experts, managers and enthusiasts involved with raptors that will attend this event will make for an excellent opportunity to develop contacts and discuss pertinent issues.



Letter From Brazil

Dear NRN,

I must start this message saying that I am very happy and honored to be in contact with the Peregrine Fund and that I admire its work immensely. I hope our center is someway a bit like you when you started back in the seventies: in small beginnings, but will grow....

CENAR – Centro Nacional da Ave de Rapina. CENAR was a dream come true. All my life I had wanted to work with raptors. I have a big passion for these birds and a few years ago, I made a drastic change in my life. I sold everything I had in the big city life and left the rat race for good. I bought a small hotel in a beach paradise and started the center aiming helping those that nobody helps here in the country. The first aim was to do rehabilitation work, founding the first raptor center in the country. As we started our work here the spectrum of our work somehow broadened.

Do you remember when I first contacted you? I didn't have any support. Today our work is getting some visibility and some companies are starting to help. That will give us a new kick and I hope our work will get a new rhythm...

CENAR is not a commercial breeding center like CEREFALCO from Fredy and Carlos or ENFALCO from Ronivon. We want to be a Raptor Center. We are a project that belongs to a NGO called AMAR – Ave da Mata Atlântica Reabilitada (Rehabilitated Bird of the Atlantic Rainforest)

We have three primary lines of work :

- 1) **Rehabilitate** and reintroduce the raptors that pile up in horrible conditions in the state general rehabilitation Centers
- 2) **Promote** environmental education using birds of prey.
- 3) **Reproduce** and reintroduce rare birds of prey that are mentally or physically incapable of returning to the wild.

I am also sending the logo of our project (CENAR). The logo of our NGO (AMAR) has the silhouette of a Harpy eagle, which shape was taken from a picture of a Harpy Eagle The Peregrine Fund has in Panama.

Sincerely,

Samuel Ferreira
CENAR – Centro Nacional da Ave de Rapina



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...Raptor Related List Servers (continued)

Subscribe: raptorresearchconsortium-subscribe@yahogroups.com

With an impressive 940 members RAPACES-IBERICAS is the giant of raptor list-servers. It was created in June of 2004, for the "Exchange of observations, news, information, ideas and proposals on the observation, study, management and conservation of diurnal and nocturnal birds of prey on the Iberian Peninsula, Balearic Islands and parts of northern Africa." It represents the maximum potential that these list-server can reach.

Website: <http://es.groups.yahoo.com/group/rapaces-ibericas/>

Subscribe: rapaces-ibericas-subscribe@yahogroups.com

Whatever the language, number of members and number of messages per month (or day!), all these list servers serve the common goal of putting as much possible information and expertise in reach in an efficient and effective manner. Of course maintaining a high quality of information discussed is a responsibility shared by the members.

One of the main advantages is that these list servers are free. It is also remarkable the quickness with which the messages reach all members (a matter of seconds). The moderators, those who configure and manage the discussion groups, have interesting management options, including options that allow the mailing of attached files such as: photos, sounds, video, PDFs and electronic newsletters. The websites of the list-servers can store photo albums, online files and databases and of course all the messages of the group.

Without a doubt, these list-servers bring a very valuable service to our community. Enhorabuena!

Sergio H. Seipke - Argentina
Miembro de la Junta Asesora
Red de Rapaces Neotropicales

Photo: Rick Watson



...Harpy Discovery (Continued)

count that the juvenile's development is centered on the exploration of its parent's territory as a step towards dispersal.

Of the time we were able to directly observe the bird, 85% of its time was spent perched on trees close to the nest (under 150 meters), preening and jumping between branches. The preferred perching sports were always on the highest branches of the trees.

The prey remains demonstrated that the majority of its diet was composed of Two-toed Sloths (*Choloepus hoffmani*), although there were also reptiles, birds and Three-toed Sloths (*Bradypus variegatus*).

At less than 200 meters from the tree, in July of 2004, a *Spizaetus tyrannus* and a *Herpetotheres cachinnans* were observed flying over the area and the first perching and vocalizing on one of the juvenile's preferred branches.

Ruth Muniz-Lopez
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SIMBIOE
(Society for the Research and
Monitoring of Ecuadorian Biodiversity)



Recent Articles on North Star Award Neotropical Raptors by Cesar Sanchez at the II NRC



In 2006, as a Senior Sponsor of the Second Neotropical Raptor Conference in Iguazu Argentina, North Star Science and Technology, LLC will provide an opportunity for a single research project on Neotropical raptors to acquire three battery powered PTTs for free. Visit:

www.neotropicalraptors.org/2006NRC.northstaraward.i.htm for program details, and please visit www.northstarst.com for additional information on the company and the PTT units. North Star has teamed in this effort with the Neotropical Raptor Network to provide expert advice and to convene a review committee to assess applications for this award and to select the awardee.

Application materials should include contact information, and a not-more-than-three-page narrative that includes a full budget for the project including the awarded PTTs. Proposals are due by 15 January 2006. The award will be announced no later than 15 April 2006, and the PTTs will be presented to the awardee at a special ceremony during the Second Neotropical Raptor Conference in Iguazu, Argentina in June, 2006.

Please send proposals no later than 15 January 2006 to:

Dr. Keith L. Bildstein
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Acopian Center
410 Summer Valley Road
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

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