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My name is Bob Barnhurst and I am a member of Bird Protection Quebec (formerly the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds), Canada and The Hawk Migration Association of North America. While raptors include owls I will concentrate on hawks here. We conduct both a spring and fall study of migrating hawks at two locations near Montreal. These run from the middle of March to the middle of May and from late August to early December. A similar program, although only conducted in fall, is run near Tadoussac on the shore of the St. Lawrence river, downstream of Quebec City. The Tadoussac site also includes a raptor banding program.

Our top five hawks (raptors) in terms of numbers include Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Harrier. In terms of endangered species we do not have any hawks or eagles listed, but Bald Eagle (recently delisted in the U.S.) and Golden Eagle are still classified as threatened. Peregrine Falcons were once considered endangered (also now delisted in the U.S.) but their numbers are increasing steadily; however, they are still not back to the numbers seen prior to the use of DDT. American Kestrel is the latest species being considered for special concern status. In addition, Cooper's Hawk is still only present in small numbers in southern Quebec.

Government programs for physical protection of raptors here are essentially non-existent at present. Of course all raptors are protected from disturbance of any kind by law in Canada and have been for a long time. Private donations (including those from BPQ) do support many initiatives for birds in general, raptors included. For example, the hawkwatch here is supported, in part, by the BPQ, as is the McGill Bird Observatory which conducts bird banding. The Tadoussac site is mainly funded by public and private donations. Public education about birds is also carried out by BPQ, the Macdonald College of McGill University Wildlife Program (which includes raptor research focused mainly on American Kestrels) and the Montreal Ecomuseum, amongst others. Other on and off programs include providing platforms for nesting Ospreys and nest boxes for nesting Kestrels and owls. An owl rehabilitation centre is also found near Montreal.