

Date:	Wed, 13 Feb 2008 08:35:51 -0600
From:	"Diego Soler Tovar"
To:	<ktes2008@yahoo.com>
Subject:	Re: Birds of prey: Colombia

1. What is your name? Diego Soler Tovar.
2. If you have a job title, what is it? Veterinary, Director of Research Department.
3. What is the name of your organization and country? Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (VVS) and Colombian Association of Ornithology (ACO), Bogotá, Colombia.
4. Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area? Elanus leucurus, Buteo platypterus, Falco sparverius, Falco columbarius, Asio stygius.
5. Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered? No
6. Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are. Yes, there Unity Rescue and Rehabilitation of Wild Animals (URRAS) and the Central Reception and Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CRRFS).
7. Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received? For private donations but in greater proportion by agreements and contracts with other organizations.
8. Does your government recognize the importance of maintaining/improving the status of birds of prey? If so, in what way do they support it? The government recognizes the importance of maintaining and improving the status of birds in general, but there is something specific in birds of prey.
9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. Our association has a Department of Education and Outreach, which has made outreach events for professionals and individuals, as well as workshops for local communities, with regard to wildlife and the environment in general.
10. Is there anything else that you would like to share or comment on about raptors in your area? In Colombia are distributed 77 species of resident and migratory Falconiformes, with an endangered species (*Micrastur plumbeus*), and 26 species of Strigiformes, with a tropical country with most birds of prey in the world.

Deforestation and the consequent destruction of the habitat is the most important factor in the problem of the conservation of tropical raptors. In addition, the indiscriminate hunting, causing a large-scale reduction of the prey species, which particularly affects eagles.

On the other hand, the direct elimination of prey with firearms has been viewed as a major problem in their conservation and complex because it includes components of a cultural nature. And several species (stuffed), are regarded as special ornaments houses landowners and prominent individuals.

Other important factors are the use of chemical pesticides, which affect the reproductive biology of raptors and some individuals die from poisoning in areas of agricultural frontier.

At the same time, illegal traffic has been more significant in recent decades; where raptor species have been the subject of marketing and sales to the markets of the Arab and European countries. The illegal trade in birds of prey represents individuals living and dead, stuffed, parts or products not prosecuted, and skins, among others.

11. May we have permission to print this email interview on our website? Yes