

To:	ktes2008@yahoo.com
Subject:	Re: Birds of prey: Paraguay
Date:	Mon, 17 Dec 2007 20:47:56 -0500
From:	Paul Smith

1. What is your name? Paul Smith

2. If you have a job title, what is it? Freelance Zoologist

3. What is the name of your organization and country? FAUNA Paraguay/ECOSARA
www.fauparaguay.com/ecosarahome.html Paraguay

4. Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area? Bit difficult to say as no figures really exist for Paraguay, but based on the species that are most often encountered I'd say, in no particular order:

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*
 Southern Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*
 Snail Kite *Rostrhamus socialbilis*
 Savannah Hawk *Heterospizias meridionalis*
 American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

5. Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered? Crowned Eagle *Harpyhalieetus coronatus* - habitat destruction, naturally low population. ENDANGERED

Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja* - habitat destruction, naturally low population. NEAR THREATENED

Crested Eagle *Morphnus gujanensis* - habitat destruction, naturally low population. NEAR THREATENED

Mantled Hawk *Leucopternis polionota* - habitat destruction NEAR THREATENED

Several more species threatened on a national level, eg White-rumped Hawk *Buteo leucorrhoa*, two species of Hawk-eagles etc, but these are all Atlantic Forest birds threatened in Paraguay because of the alarming rate of deforestation.

6. Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are. None that deal specifically with raptors

7. Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received? ECOSARA is funded by volunteer field workers, grants and private donations. FAUNA Paraguay is funded out of my own back pocket! Government doesn't fund anything here!!!

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? No, it doesn't recognize the importance of conservation at any level.

9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. We accept school groups for environmental education at ECOSARA and volunteer field workers that come to work with us are taught field work techniques and given a grounding in the threats facing natural habitats in Paraguay.

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share or comment on about raptors in your area?

For the most part Raptors in Paraguay are not under any specific threat. The majority of raptor species in the Chaco are common or even abundant. The avifauna of the Atlantic Forest and cerrado habitats of eastern Paraguay are most threatened. There are several strictly forest raptors that are, as a result of their habitat choice, of conservation concern. In the main raptors are not persecuted in Paraguay in the same way that they have been in other parts of the world, possibly because the main livestock industry here is cattle ranching and fortunately there are no raptors big enough to take cows!!

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