

Subject:	U.S. --birds of prey
Date:	Mon, 3 Dec 2007 15:49:24 -0700
From:	"Chip Clouse"
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1. What is your name? CHIP CLOUSE
2. If you have a job title, what is it? CONVENTIONS AND TOURS ASSISTANT MANAGER
3. What is the name of your organization and country? AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION, USA
4. Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area? RED-TAILED HAWK, AMERICAN KESTREL, GREAT HORNED OWL, COOPER'S HAWK, NORTHERN HARRIER
5. Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered? Technically NO, but Bald Eagle, Burrowing Owl and Mexican Spotted Owl are state threatened species and Ferruginous Hawk and Peregrine Falcon are state species of concern.
6. Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are. Lots of programs are designed to protect raptors such as the route closures for rock climbers during the breeding season. Raptor populations are monitored by various government and non-profit organizations such as the Rocky Mtn Bird Observatory, Colorado Division of Wildlife and City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Division. Many of these seek volunteers to help with monitoring. There are also several educational and rehabilitation programs in the state such as the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program. They are all non-profits and seek volunteer help too.
7. Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received? Private Donations and Membership dues.
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? Yes very much. Federal, State and Municipal Governments in Colorado all have raptor protection laws that are mostly enforced. The Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act are all federal laws. The state of Colorado has laws regarding the collection of wild raptors for use in falconry and several municipalities have specific wildlife harassment laws that include birds of prey. It is widely understood that habitat loss is the primary reason for most raptor

declines since DDT was outlawed. Urban sprawl is a major factor in Colorado as is development that impacts prey base like prairie dogs. Many communities are passing growth and development regulations that help protect raptor habitat. Many cities and counties are also buying up land to be protected as “Open Space.” These purchases keep some good raptor habitat from being developed.

9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. We have educational programs at ABA that speak to conservation of all birds. Some of the Institute for Field Ornithology courses focus more on raptors than others such as our Arizona Owls and Trogons class to be taught in 2008. The Young Birders Programs help teens to be better birders and while raptors are not singled out, they are covered with as much detail as most other bird species.

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

I live in an area that is great for raptors because we get raptors that are only found in summer, like Swainson’s Hawks, and the winter, like Rough-legged Hawks. Because I live where the Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains I get to see plains species like Swainson’s and Ferruginous Hawks and mountain (or arboreal) species like Northern Goshawk. I also can see eastern and western species within a short drive (like Eastern and Western Screech-Owls) and even some southern species that venture a bit north like Common Black Hawk and Mississippi Kite and northern species like Snowy Owls that sometimes come down to CO in winter. Colorado is great for raptors.

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