

RAPTOR PASSAGE

Issue #343

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Greetings Raptorials! April is the strange and fuzzy timeline between spring migration and nesting season. There is a little of everything going on, and a good way to witness it is to go outside on any high ridge and watch for northbound flights.

The second best way is to go to www.sfbayospreys.org and watch the nest cam of the pair of Osprey on the whirley crane next to the Red Oak Victory Ship in Richmond Harbor. This is the Bay Area's first Osprey nest cam and it owes its life to the amazing rallying hustle of the Golden Gate Audubon Society staff (including GGRO's Noreen Weeden), and GGRO volunteer Tony Brake who, with Ralph Pericoli and Harve Wilson, has been tracking the rise of the SF Bay nesting Osprey population for the last four years.

But I know you are not the kind of people who like to sit at a computer screen, so after you get oriented and can tell the female (Rosie) from the male (Richmond), head down to the Red Oak Victory Ship, part of Rosie the Riveter National Historic Site, and see these media stars in person! If you go at 9 am on April 9, May 14, or June 18, you can attend the Red Oak Pancake Breakfast virtually underneath the Osprey nest (OK, not right underneath), and watch Osprey nesting antics while sipping your mimosa. Call the Red Oak Victory Ship for tickets ahead of time (510) 237-2933, also visit:

<http://richmondmuseum.org/events/pancake-breakfast-aboard-ss-red-oak-victory-10>



With heavy heart, I report on the passing of a great hawk-watcher and dear friend to the GGRO for over a quarter century, Lewis Cooper. Lew died at his Berkeley home on March 9 at the age of 87. He was a life-long birder who grew up near Hawk Mountain, PA, and met both Roger Tory Peterson and David Allen Sibley. He was soft-spoken, a writer of light wit and intelligence, and a haikuist of great talent. Lew was the dayleader and anchor of the solid and stalwart Monday 1 hawk-watchers for the past 15 years. He had just earned his 25-year pin at the end of the 2016 migration; however, I can remember standing with Lew counting hawks as early as 1986 so he must have visited often before he started volunteering. Lew's family is still working out ideas

Director's Note

By Allen Fish



Monday 1 hawkwatchers settle for an owl walk after fog forces them off the Hill in 2011. Lew Cooper is in front, also Keith Gress, Andrea Salgues, Jerry Hadfield, and Don Reinberg. Photo by Alane Gray.

for a service and will let GGRO know when they arrange something, and of course we will get the word out to the group. We are putting together some memorial pages for Lew in the upcoming *Pacific Raptor Report*, so if anyone has great Lew Cooper stories they can share, or photos of Lew, please send them to Laura via email,

lyoung@parksconservancy.org

Editor's Corner

By Laura Young

Is that spring I spy in my backyard, with butternut squash and bush beans pushing up through the soil? That means it's time to start thinking about fall migration! **Please fill out and return your 2017 Volunteer Renewal** (attached to this email) & let us know whether you'll be joining us again—even if you aren't sure of your availability, just let us know that you *want* to come back (or not!). It helps us figure out how much room we have in the program for new recruits, and to find the holes that need plugging in the team schedules.

If a season isn't in the cards for you this year, you can opt to stay on as a *sustaining volunteer* & continue receiving monthly and annual newsletters—along with all the other volunteer perks like hearing about upcoming talks and maintaining your raptor cred.

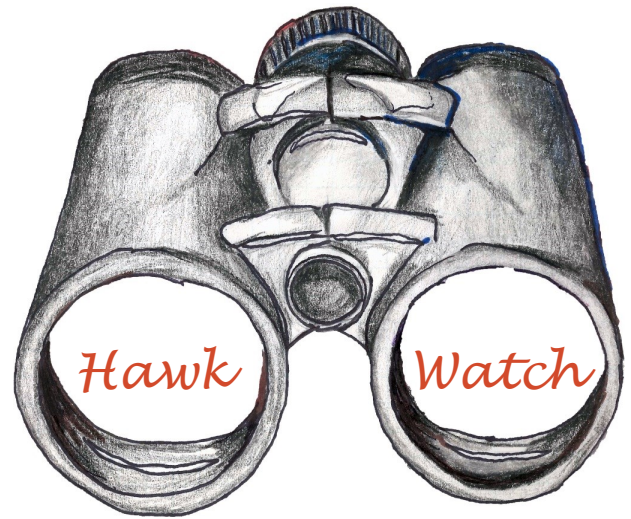
You asked, I delivered—a NEW feature on this year's form: you can now make your (totally optional) renewal donation securely & easily **ONLINE** by card or even PayPal. Return your form by Monday, May 8, to ensure you're on the schedule for the fall!

By Step Wilson

The spring migration is not usual, if there is a usual, this year. It doesn't feel the same without Lew joining a day or two a week to see the migration come through this side of the bay. It was always great to hear what he was seeing on the Berkeley side. Lew loved to scan for hawks and was always ready for whatever the migration had in store for him and his autumn team. I miss him this spring and we all will be at a loss this fall.

With the tunnel closure, all the parking below the roundabout on Conzelman has been eliminated to alleviate the traffic. It has helped with the traffic tremendously, but parking for the spring count can be a bit difficult.

Christine Cariño and Bob Power have almost finished the first GGRO dayleader manual.



This is just a little poke at the banders who have had a siteleader manual for years and are always a great inspiration and competition to us. The manual will go out to any dayleader who would be interested in reading it and who can send in comments for revision within a week. Dayleaders, let me know who is ready to read it. And comment... when it's finished.

Intern Dispatches

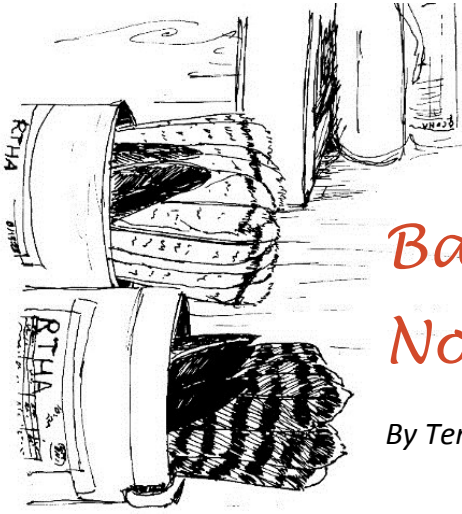
*Checking in from
Condor Country
with Robert Heim*

My first few weeks with the CA Condor Recovery Program were a bit of an adjustment. It took some time for me to get comfortable with the isolated living situation—I work 10-days at a time, during which I usually don't leave the refuge and I'm either independent or with a USFWS biologist. I'm really enjoying the landscapes, greenery, and wildlife (plenty of raptors at both refuges!). The highlight so far has been finding the second active condor nest in Southern CA this season!

I split my time between Bitter Creek and Hopper Mountain NWRs. Bitter Creek is condor foraging habitat, so a lot of the work there is centered around carcass placement & feeding observations. Hopper Mountain is mainly nesting habitat, so work there involves mostly nest searching and monitoring at this time. I use radiotelemetry every day, and I get around either by hiking, UTV, or 4WD vehicles. Occasionally I go off refuge to mobile track.

It's rewarding to be part of a management effort in which the impact of my work feels direct & tangible. It's also inspiring to know that the species I'm working with carries such an interesting conservation story with it.





Bander Notes

By Teresa Ely

No major announcements this month, just a lot of thank you's!! This just goes to show how much the banding program relies on its dedicated volunteers.

Important reminder to Task Leaders—we are still anticipating some amount of building renovation in spite of the project delays. If your task requires the use of 1064 first floor, please contact Teresa & Laura ASAP to schedule those work days. If your task does not need the first floor but typically stages there, also be in touch as soon as you set

dates so that we can make sure alternative space is available if needed! Speaking of off-season tasks, the next nets workshop will be Sat, Apr 22, from 10am-2pm. Please RSVP to ggronets@yahoo.com.

In other news, our IACUC protocols have been approved. I wanted to say a special THANK YOU to Allen Fish and Chris Briggs for all the work that went in to writing, editing, and preparing a successful protocol. Don't know what IACUC is? That's okay; we will have an update for you at the All Bander Training in August.

Finally, **fill out your returning volunteer form!** If you want the same schedule as last year you can say that. If you would like to change or add any days, just specify which day(s) you would prefer—but please note some teams may already be full. Apprentices, you are welcome to request additional days if your schedule allows but be aware that not all days may be able to accommodate more apprentices. I will get back to you ASAP once I know the schedule and consult the dayleader. Send me an e-mail if you have questions.

Acknowledgements

- Thank you Marc Blumberg for working on bow nets this off-season
- Thank you to Allison Levin for taking down the lupine baskets
- Thanks to all the folks who came out to the first nets workshop. Jenn Armer continues to ensure that we are prepared for the season. She was assisted by Kendra Armer, Mike Armer, Robyn Boothby, Elizabeth Ng, Siobhan Ruck, and Traci Tsukida
- Jean Perata and the training committee have begun planning the trainings for the 2017 season. Jean was joined by Eddie Bartley, Claire Gallagher, Rachel Miller, Noreen Weeden, and Emily Weil
- John Ungar led another successful jacket workshop. He was joined by Kendra Armer, Diane Horn, Mamiko Kawaguchi, Mary Malec, Nancy Mori, Steve O'Neill, and Ed Sotello
- Marion Weeks and Nancy Brink have been diligently working on a number of recent band recoveries
- Thanks to all who provided Townsley care in March, ensuring the LBs continue in good health: Mike & Jen Armer, Eddie Bartley, Katrina Belanger-Smith, Alan Bleiman, Marc Blumberg, Nancy Brink, Candace Davenport, Russ Delong, Jenn Ho, Cindy McCauley, Claire O'Neil, Steve O'Neill, Jean Perata, Bill Prochnow, Jeff Robinson, Paul Romanak, Will Rose, Siobhan Ruck, Kaela Schnitzler, Craig Tewell, Brad Valentine, Kristin Vorhies, Noreen Weeden, and Jeff Wilcox

SPRING “Fridge” Calendar

Ft Cronkhite programs are at Bldg 1064, Ft Cronkhite, in the Marin Headlands. **Ft Mason** programs are at Bldg 201, Fort Mason in SF. **HW** = Hawkwatchers; **B** = Banders; **App** = Apprentices; **T** = Telemetrists; **DL** = Dayleaders; **SL** = Siteleaders

Who	Date	Time	Program	Location
B	Sat Mar 22	10 am—2 pm	Net Repair Workshop #2, RSVP to ggronets@yahoo.com	Ft Cronkhite
Pubic	Tue, Apr 25	7—9 pm (Tue/Thu)	2017 Hawkwatch Volunteer Recruitment Meetings	Crissy Field Center
	Thu, Apr 27	10 am—12 pm (Sat)		
	Sat, Apr 29			
Public	Thu, May 11	All Day	2017 SF Bay Area National Parks Science & Natural Resources Symposium— www.sfnps.org/science_symposia	Golden Gate Club, Presidio
B Lead	Wed, Jul 19	7—9 pm	Bander Leadership Meeting	TBD
All Vol	Wed, Jul 19 OR Thu, Jul 20	7—9:30 pm	Basic Flight Identification I (agenda tbd)	Ft Cronkhite
All Vol	Wed, Jul 26 OR Thu, Jul 27	7—9:30 pm	Basic Flight Identification II (agenda tbd)	Ft Cronkhite
Band App	Sat, Jul 29	8:45 am—5 pm	Returning Apprentice Bander Training	Ft Cronkhite
All Vol	Wed, Aug 2 OR Thu, Aug 3	7—9:30 pm	Basic Flight Identification III (agenda tbd)	Ft Cronkhite
B	Sat, Aug 5 OR Sun, Aug 6	9 am—4 pm	Site Set-up (<i>all banders must attend ONE day</i>)	Ft Cronkhite
B	Sat, Aug 12	8:45 am—5 pm	All Bander Training	Ft Cronkhite
All Vol	Mon, Aug 14	7:45 am B 8:30 am HW	2017 Migration Begins!	Ft Cronkhite

Mark your calendars—training dates are set!
First day of fall migration is Monday, August 14!

GGRO Phone List & All-Purpose Reference Box

General GGRO Contact: 415-331-0730 or ggro@parksconservancy.org

mailbox 2: GGRO Director—Allen Fish, afish@parksconservancy.org

mailbox 3: GGRO Hawkwatch Manager—Step Wilson, swilson@parksconservancy.org

mailbox 4: GGRO Operations Manager—Laura Young, lyoung@parksconservancy.org

mailbox 5: GGRO Banding Manager—Teresa Ely, tely@parksconservancy.org

In memory of Lew Cooper

October 23, 2000: Started well with a beautiful Ferruginous Hawk. The birds came flying in until noon, then they seemed to depart for unknown reasons. The gusty wind (20-30mph) died down, it was warm and ideal for any pleasure seeking hawk, but they slowed to a trickle, so it seemed. Yet we had 11 species and 6 Merlins. A good day.

Crew: Lew (DL), Jim, Wade, Keith, Trek



December 4, 2016: Beautiful day for our last day. An eleven species day. We just missed a 12th. POAK blind caught a Prairie Falcon just after we left the hill. Coulda-woulda-shoulda! Oh well, so it goes. A good Redtail flight with 95 counted—highlight of the day was an adult Bald Eagle kinda like a bookend as we had a juv Bald on our 1st day! Accipis were very few. *Crew: Patty, Alane, Pat, Ann, Keith, Robert, Nelia, Step, George, Tim, Bob, Lew (DL)*



The GGRO is a program of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in cooperation with the National Park Service.

