



RAPTOR TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

Raptor Monitoring Protocol

Golden Eagle



Golden Eagles
Why they need special monitoring

- Each territory covers multiple land jurisdictions
- They have huge territories (20-30 sq. mi.)
- They may not nest every year
- Observers need to have special observation skills
- They occur in remote areas and are not easily seen unless the observer is trained

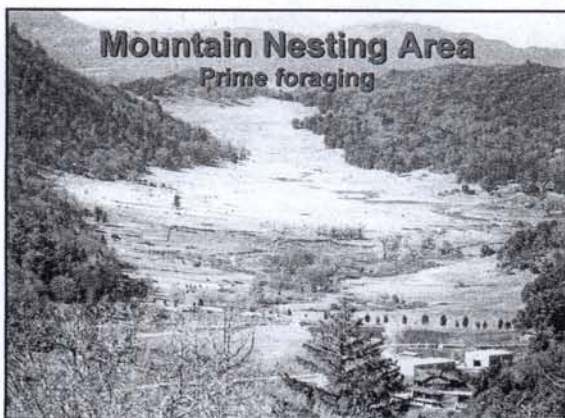




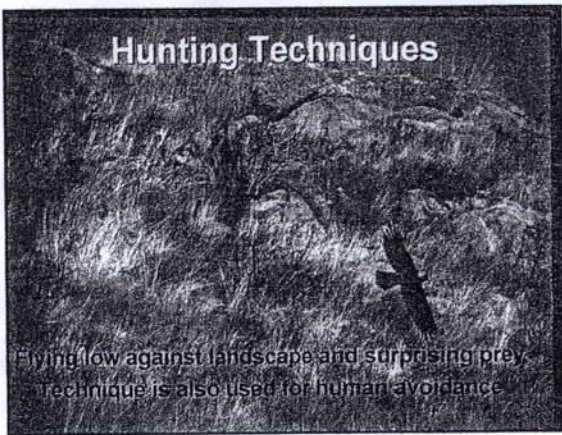
Foraging Habitat

Big Bird, small profile

- Golden Eagles avoid human contact under most circumstances
- They will contour fly, away from approaching observers
- ½ mile seems to be the flight distance near nest sites
- People often assume they are other raptors or vultures

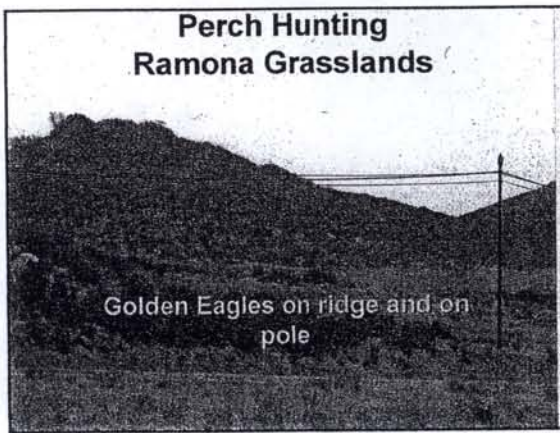


Mountain Nesting Area
Prime foraging



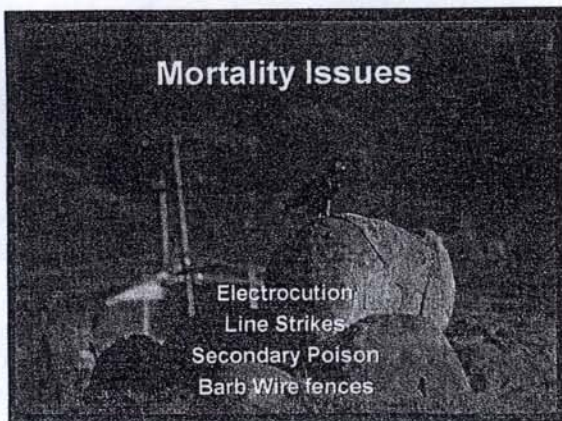
Hunting Techniques

Flying low against landscape and surprising prey - technique is also used for human avoidance



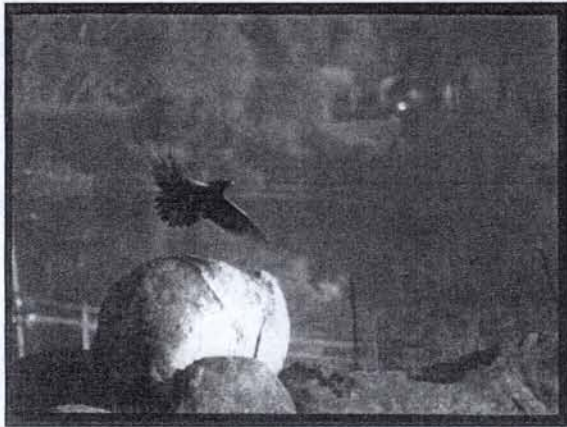
Perch Hunting Ramona Grasslands

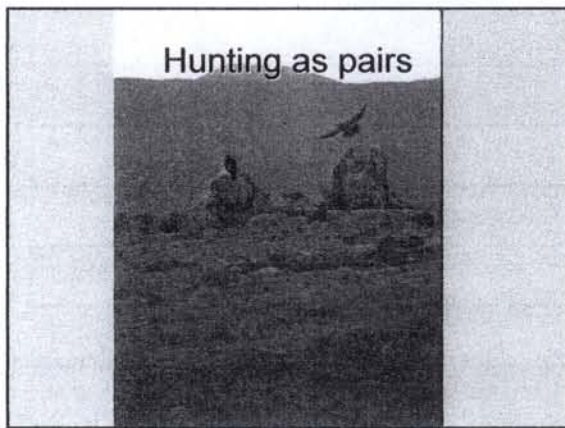
Golden Eagles on ridge and on pole

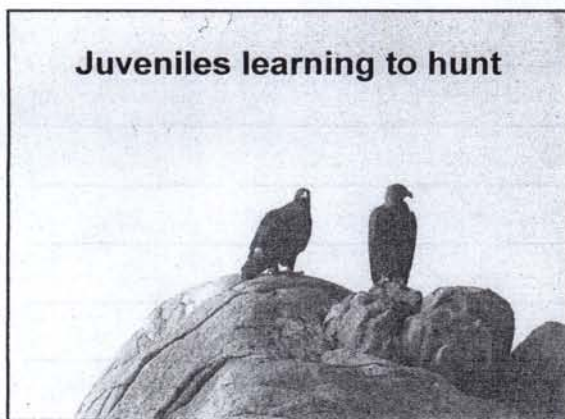


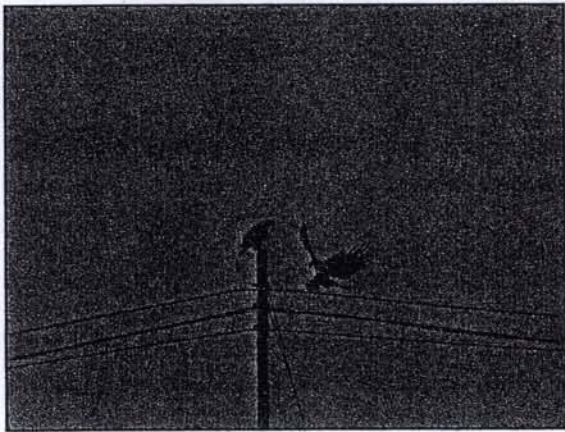
Mortality Issues

Electrocution
Line Strikes
Secondary Poison
Barb Wire fences





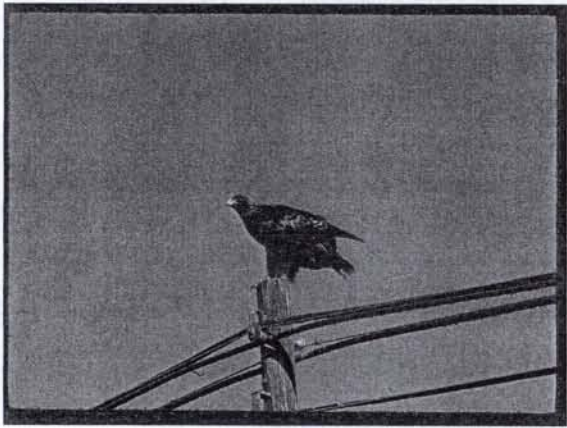








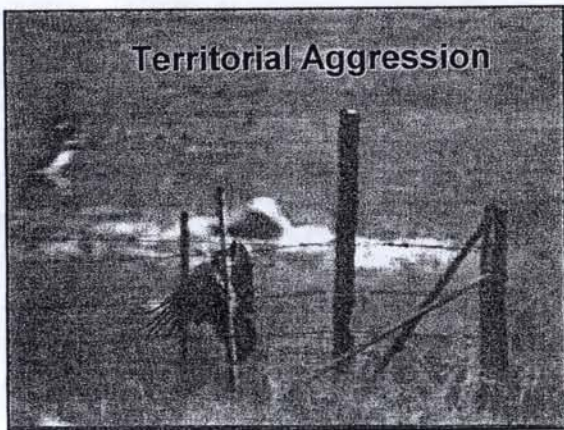




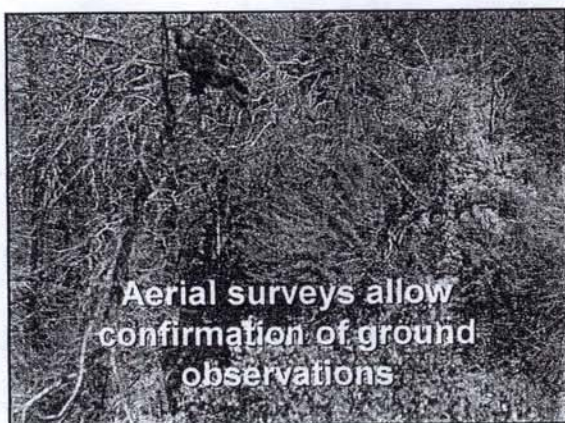




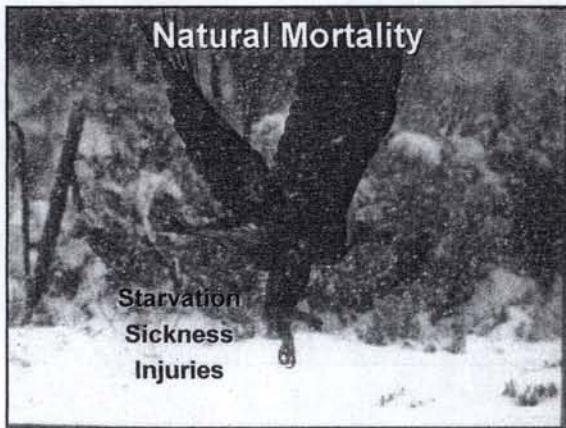
Adult female and two juveniles



Territorial Aggression

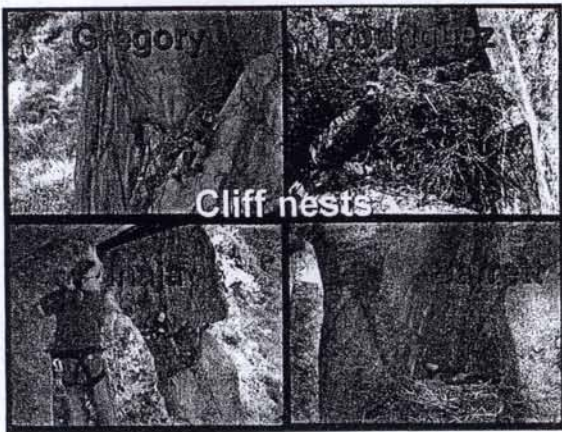


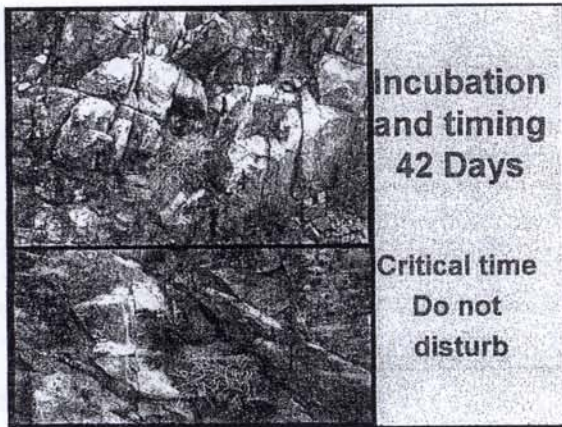
Aerial surveys allow
confirmation of ground
observations

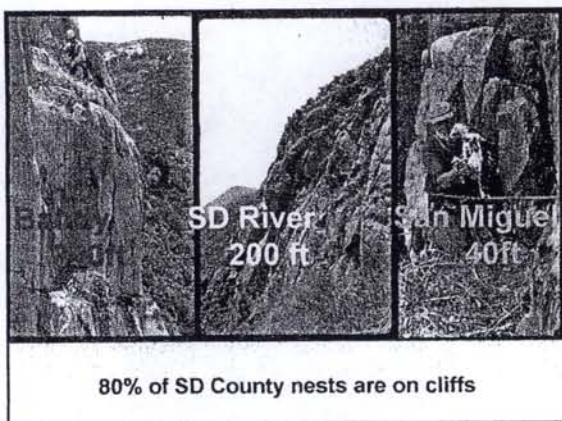








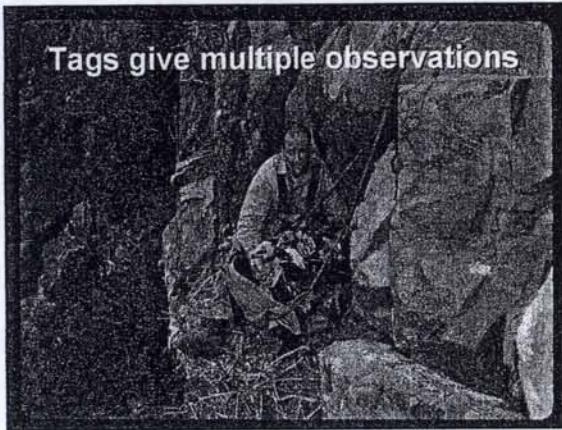










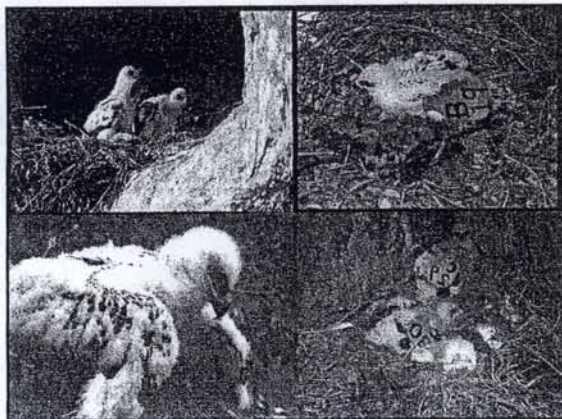


Tags give multiple observations

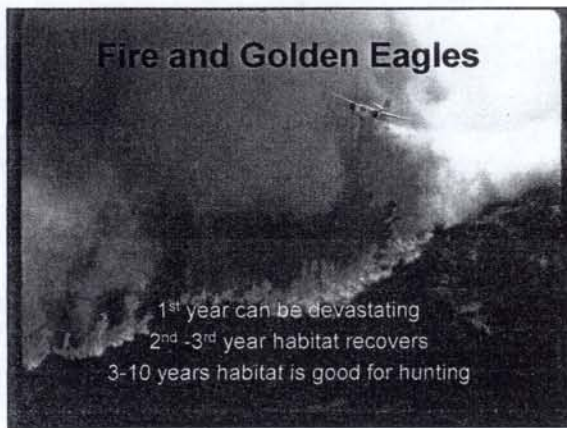


Aging Baby Golden Eagles

- Downy, Mother brooding Head only-1 week
- Downy but visible in the nest 2-3 weeks
- Downy with Black primaries visible 4 weeks
- Black and white appearance 5-6 weeks
- Black with white head 7-8 weeks
- All Black size of Adults 9-10 weeks









RAPTOR TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

Raptor Monitoring Protocol

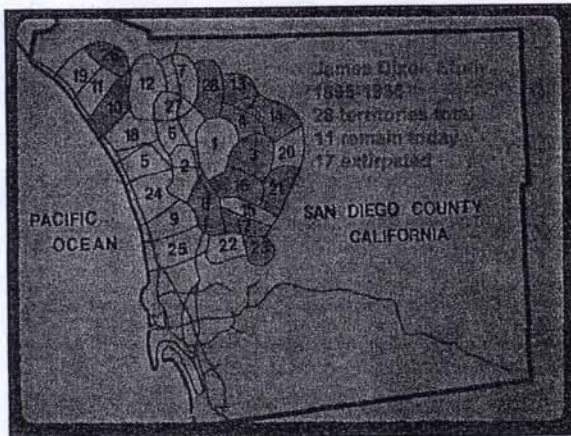
Golden Eagle Monitoring Techniques

Monitoring Golden Eagles



Wildlife Research Institute, Inc.

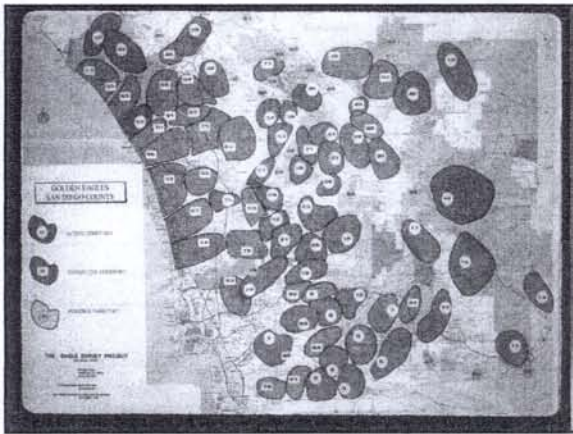
David Bittner, John Oakley, Leslie Nelson,
James Hannan, Ph.D., Jeff Lincer, Ph.D.





Golden Eagles in San Diego's MSCP





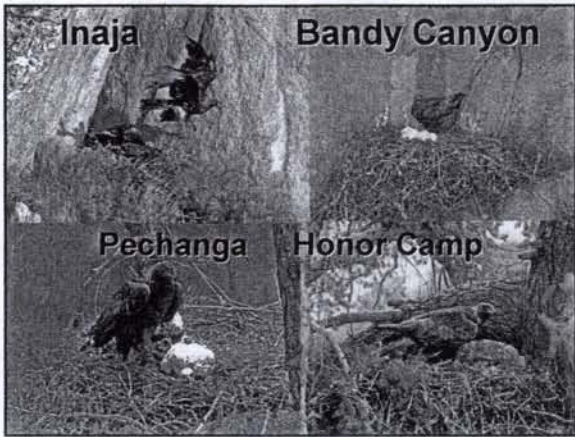


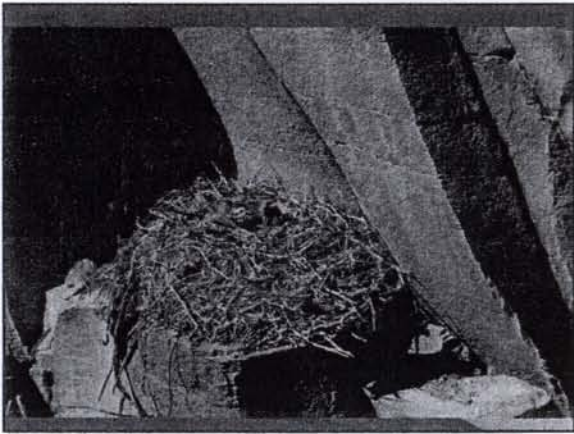
Techniques for Monitoring Golden Eagles

- Annual territory history
(build a long term chronology)
- Scopes, 20-60X
- 4X4 Vehicles
- Trained Volunteers
- Helicopters
- Time in field Jan-May
- Banding, patagial tags and transmitters



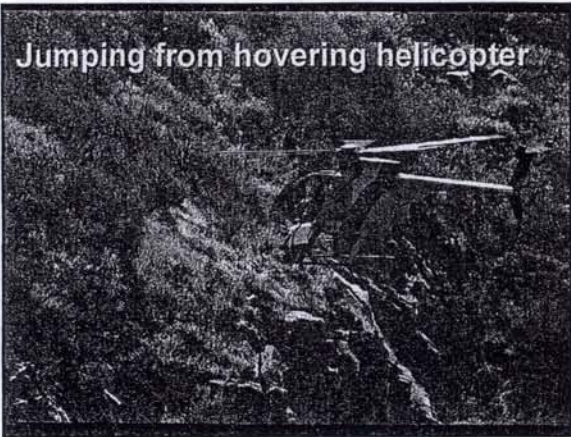






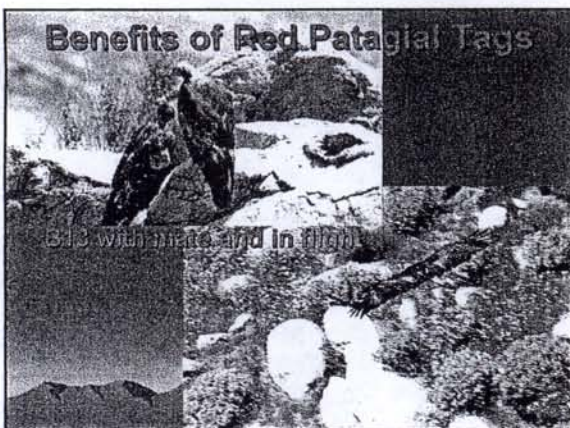


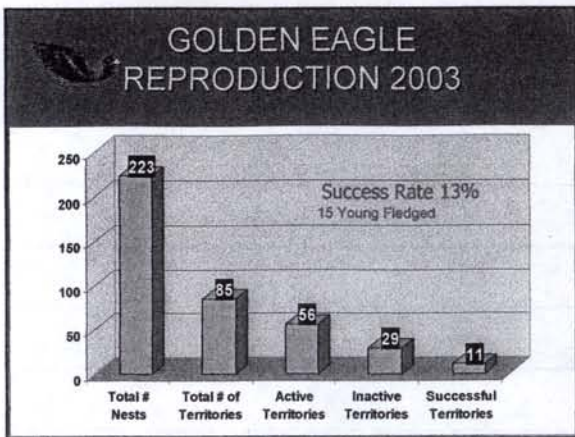
Jumping from hovering helicopter

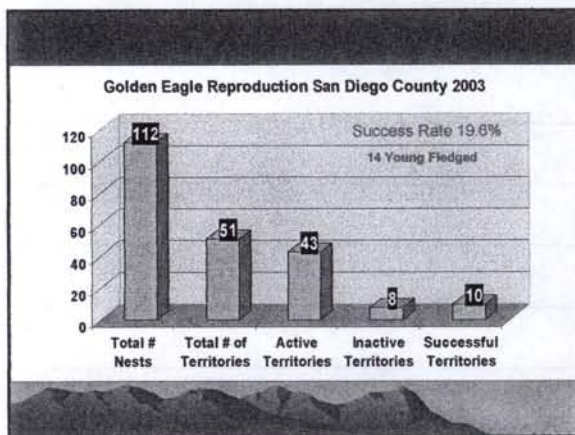




Benefits of Red Patagial Tags

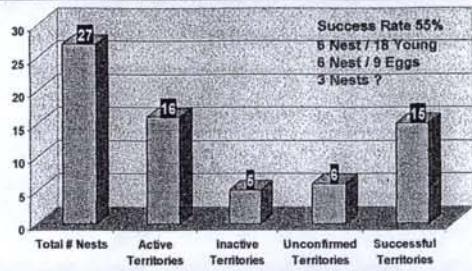




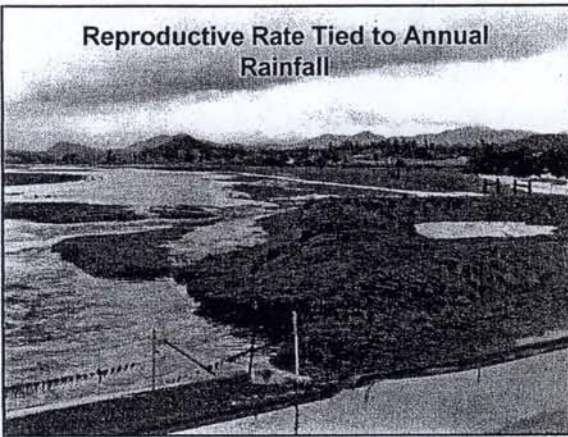


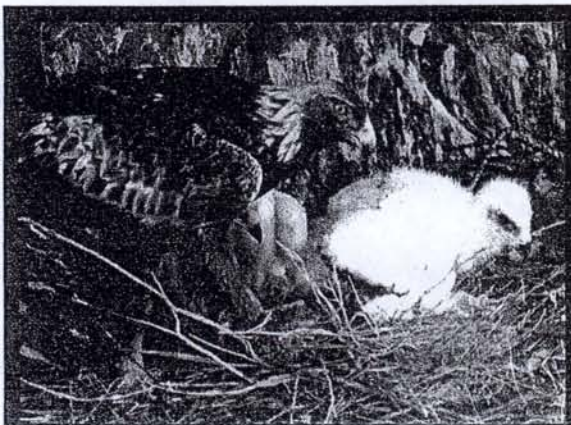


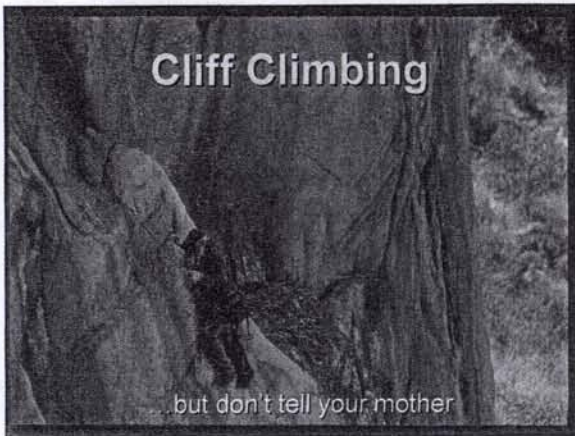
Prairie Falcon Reproduction In Golden Eagle Study Area 2003

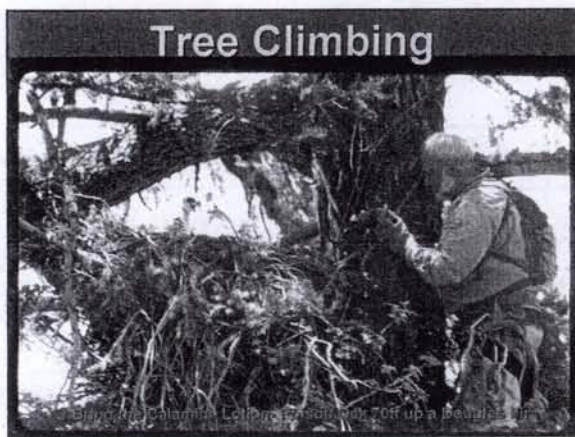


Reproductive Rate Tied to Annual Rainfall



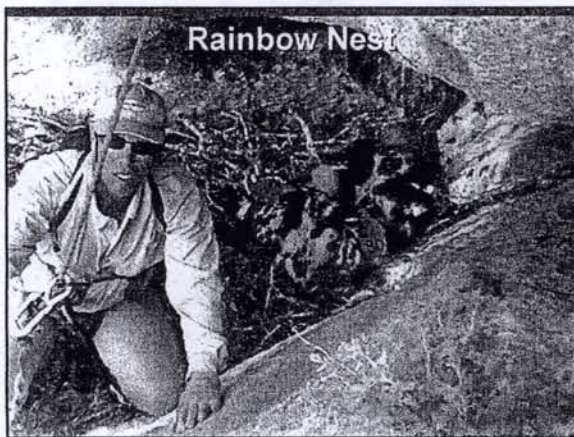








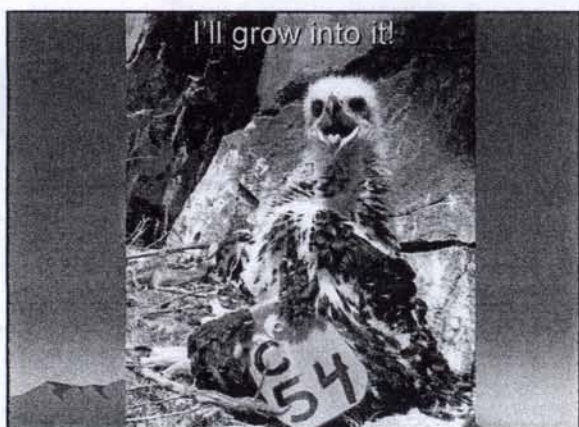


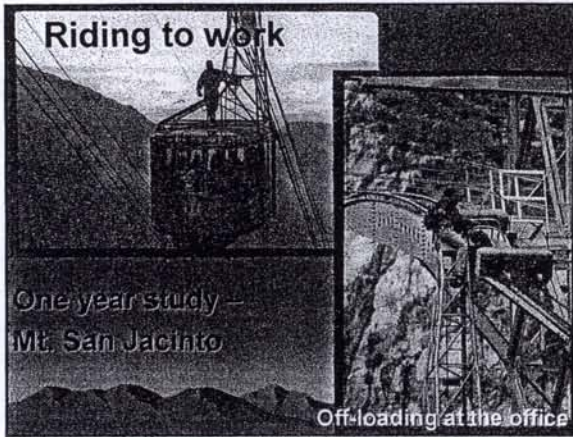


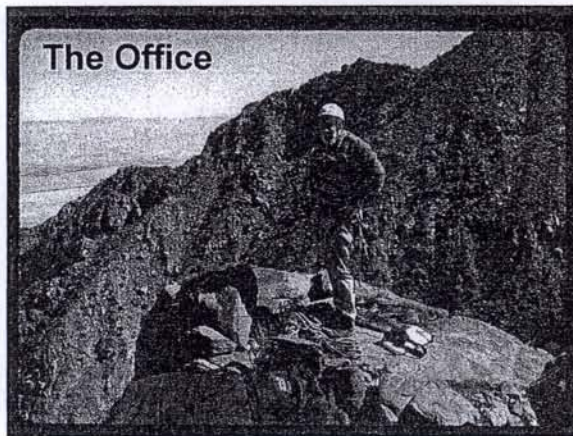
















S.D. Golden Eagle Facts

- 1.5 young per successful nest in San Diego County
- 12-50 % of pairs successfully nest per year depending on food and weather
- 50-88% of Golden Eagles may not nest annually
- 104 pairs nested in San Diego County prior to 1970
- 50 pairs of Golden Eagles remain in San Diego County in 2005
- Six (6) pairs of the 50 are in danger of extirpation









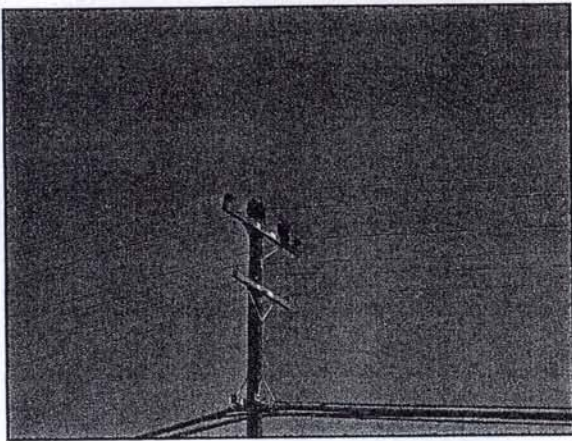
San Diego GE Emigration (examples of band returns)

Where	ST	AGE	How encountered
San Miguel El Alto	MX	HY	1200 Miles. Shot
Grand Canyon	AZ	HY	Flying thru Canyon
Prescott	AZ	HY	Flying
Rancho	CA	ATX	Feeding
Ventura	CA	HY	Killing and eating a cat
Mt Diablo	CA	ATX	Chasing CA Condors
Rancho	CA	ATX	Struck an electric line
Brown Field	CA	HY	Electrocuted
Orinda	CA	HY	Crowded
Rancho	CA	HY	Eating road killed deer
Idaho	ID	HY	Rescued near a refuge
Apple Valley	CA	HY	Found skulking A28 US Forest then caught & released by Korean goose farmer killing a goose. Released again SO County
Palo Verde	CA	HY	Electrocuted
Marino Valley	CA	ATX	Feeding
Gregory Mill	CA	ATX	Feeding

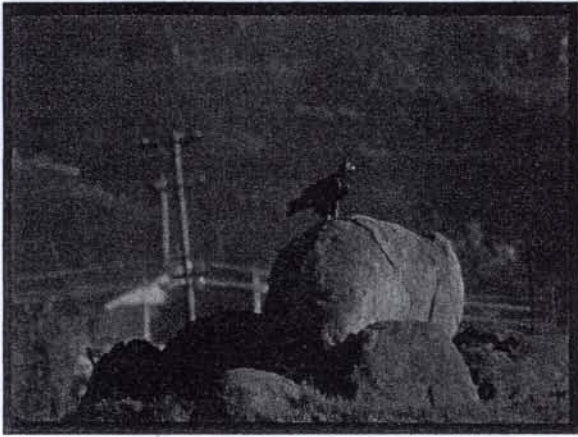
Mexican family who found and saved A-01 after she flew 1200 miles and was shot in the wing.







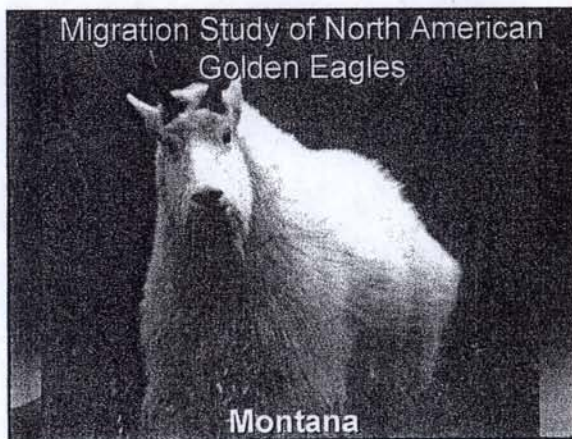




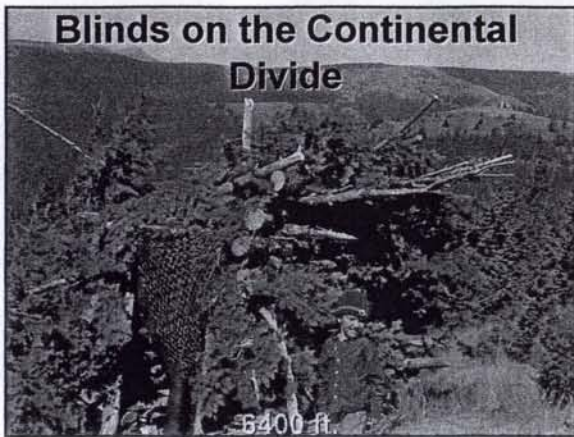




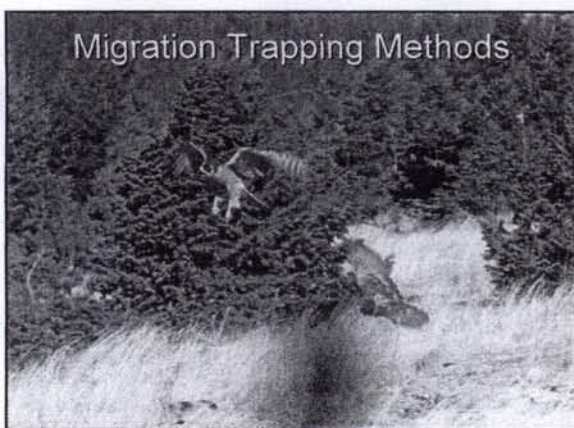


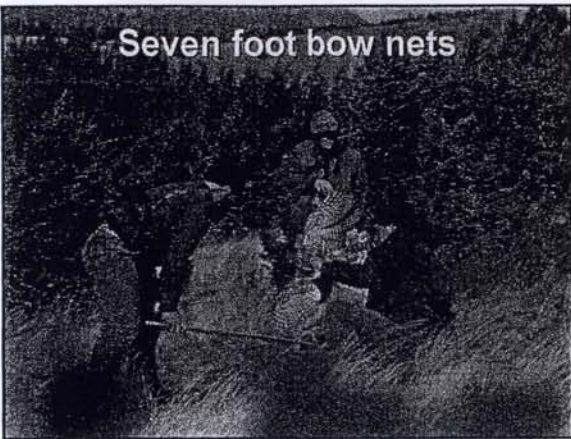












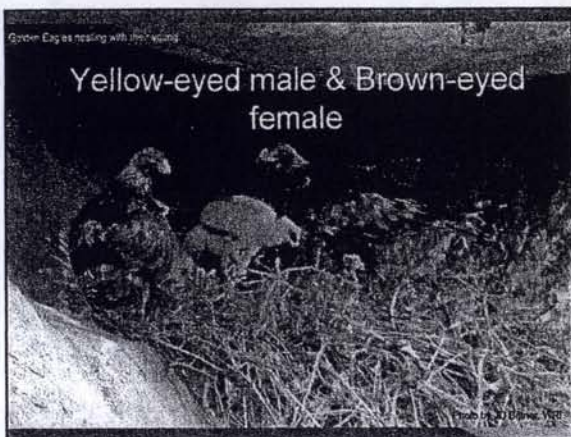


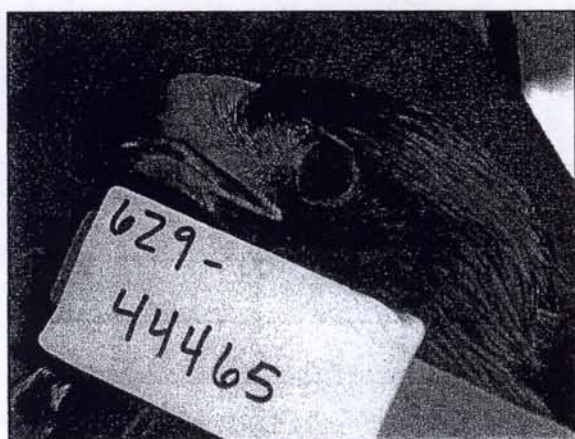




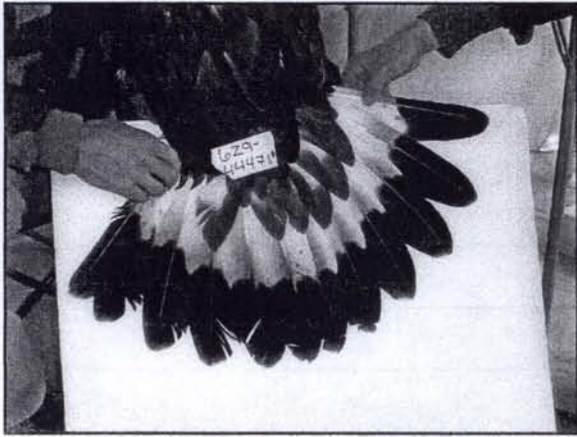




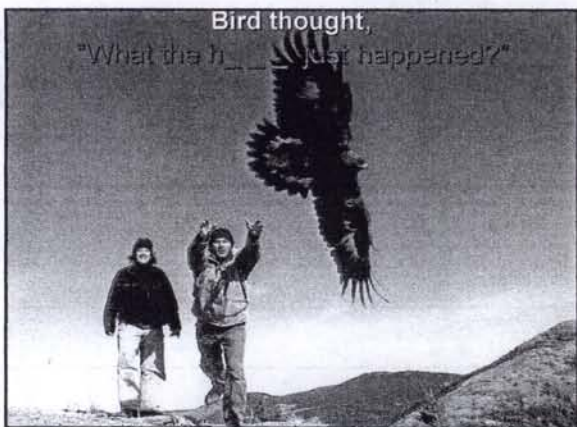






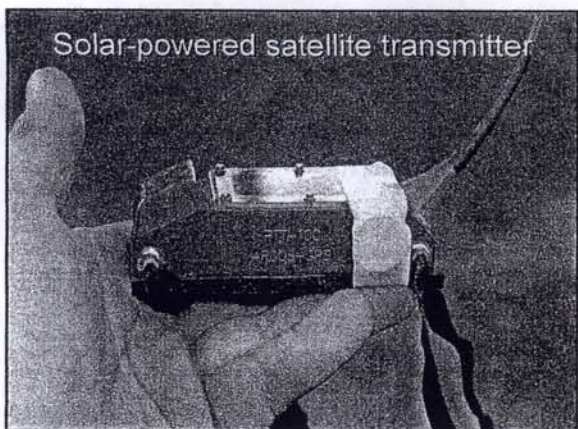


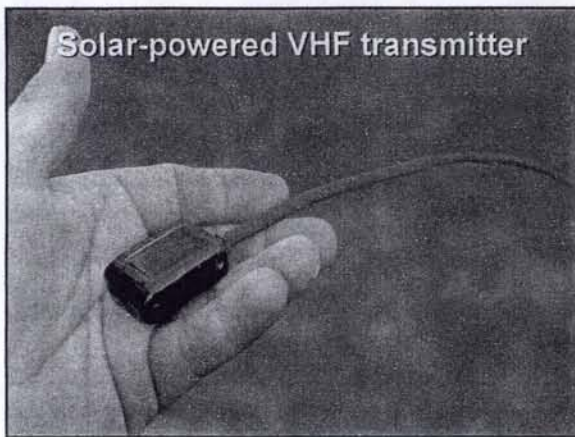


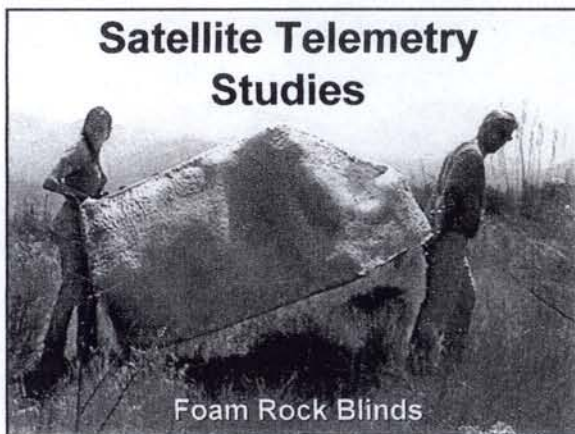














Acknowledgments

- CA. Dept. of Fish and Game
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- City of San Diego
- County of San Diego
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- 50 + WRI Volunteers



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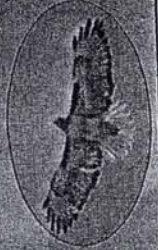
Raptor Monitoring Protocol

Other Raptors

Raptor Monitoring Techniques

March 14 & 15, 2006

**Wildlife Research
Institute, Inc.**
Ramona, California



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- CDFG NCCP Local Assistance
- City of San Diego
- San Diego Natural History Museum
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State of California Department of Fish and Game
- USGS
- U.S. Forest Service
- Otay Lakes City Water Supply
- Ramona Wildlife Research Institute
- Chula Vista Nature Center
- Sweetwater Authority

- BDOA-APHS Wildlife Services
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Palomar Audubon Society
- Barbee Homes
- Albion Environmental
- ERLX Environmental Planning
- CHAV
- U.S. Riverside
- Participants in the Burrowing Owl Lecture
- Friends of the Swainson's Hawk
- Cloudcraft Communications & Computers, Inc.
- U.S. Navy

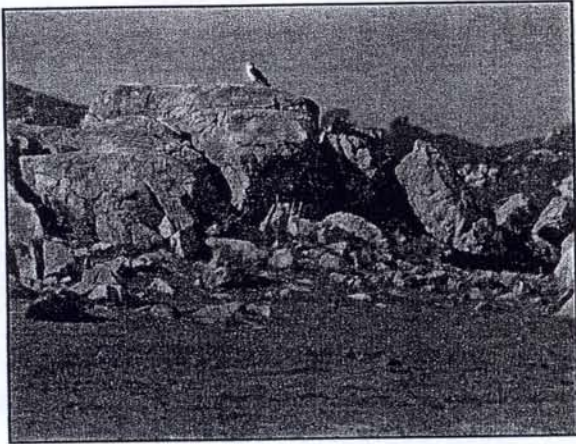
J. B. Dixon, A.M. Ingersoll, Harry L. Heaton, Raymond Quigley, J. P. Sechrist, Maurice Burns, N. K. & B.P. Carpenter, and Ed N. Harrison, John Oakley, Jeff Wells, John Cotton, Tom Scott, Chris Meador, Jim Maonan, Randy West, Dave Seals, Pete Bloom, Kate Champagne, Gail Rodgers, Jim Bryan, Craig Culver, Paul Jorgenson, and many others.

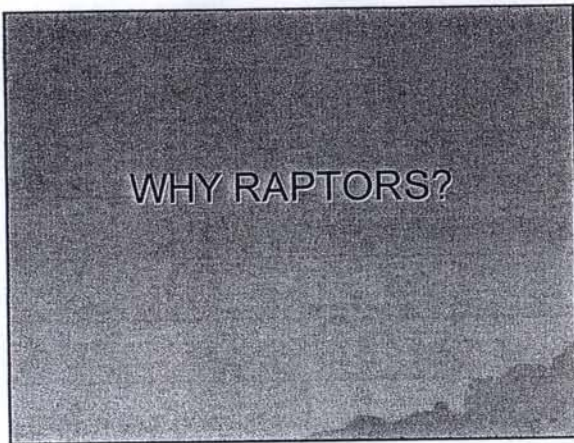
BACKGROUND



- ◆ 582,000 acres
- ◆ 12 jurisdictions
- ◆ 43% San Diego County

- ◆ Effective???
- ◆ Trends???
- ◆ Adaptive Management

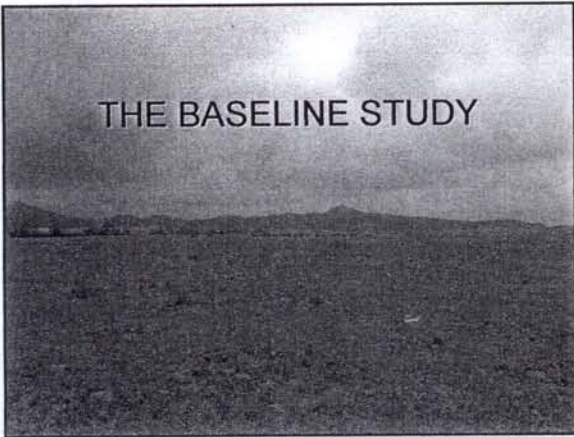




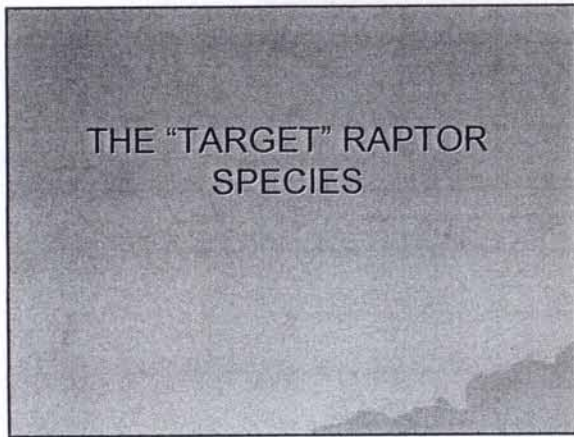
WHY RAPTORS?

RAPTORS AS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS

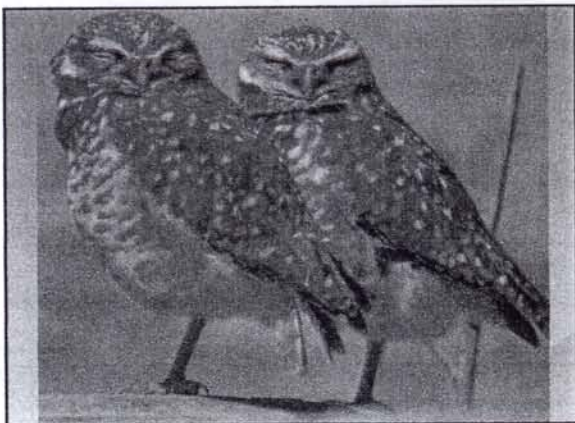
- **Top Predators** - reflect much of ecosystem's health
- **Specialized** - selectively hypersensitive to environmental changes
- **Widespread** - different raptor species associated with different food chains and habitats
- **Result** - Differential shifts in species composition/diversity reflect different environmental changes
- **We have a valuable baseline** - perspective on normal variation

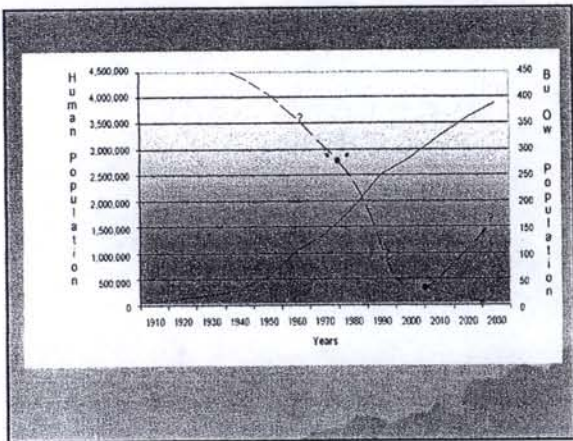


THE BASELINE STUDY



THE "TARGET" RAPTOR SPECIES





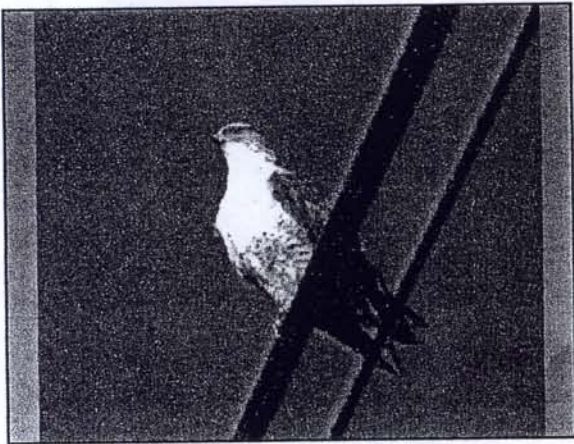


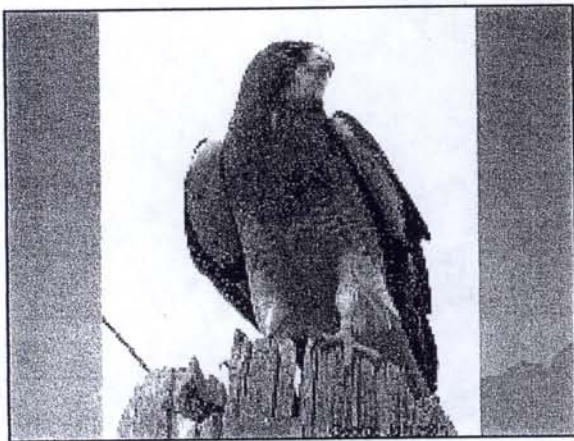










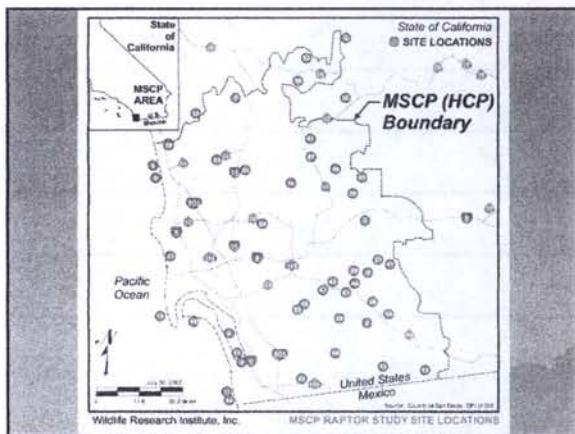


OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Determine sites for long-term monitoring
- ◆ Recommend monitoring protocol
- ◆ Identify future management needs, research, and resource enhancement opportunities

INITIAL QUESTIONS

- ◆ Frequency?
- ◆ Priority species?
- ◆ Protocol?
- ◆ Areas to be surveyed?



GENERAL METHODS

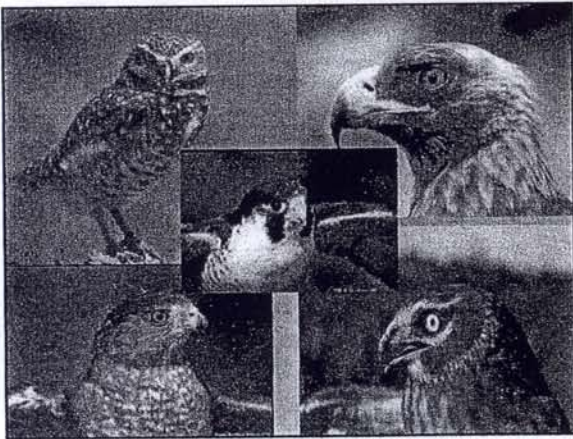
- ◆ 45 Study Sites
- ◆ Breeding
 - ◆ 3 Surveys/year (min.)
 - ◆ Timing variable
- ◆ Wintering
 - ◆ 3 Surveys/year (min.)
 - ◆ Dec.-Feb.

RESULTS OF 2001-2003
BREEDING SURVEYS

◆ 15 Raptor
Species

◆ 5 of 8 Target
Raptor Species





RAPTOR
MONITORING
PROTOCOL

The *Perfect* Monitoring Plan

- ◆ Representative of habitats and issues
- ◆ Inclusive of important species
- ◆ Responsive to MSCP monitoring objectives
- ◆ Consider logistics and safety
- ◆ **Able to detect change (vs.)**
- ◆ **Affordable**

ULTIMATE GOAL

- ◆ Evaluate *effectiveness* of MSCP

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Document raptor conservation
- ◆ Document raptor population changes
- ◆ Clearly describe new biological data collected
- ◆ Evaluate impacts of land use changes
- ◆ Evaluate MSCP management activities
- ◆ Identify enforcement difficulties

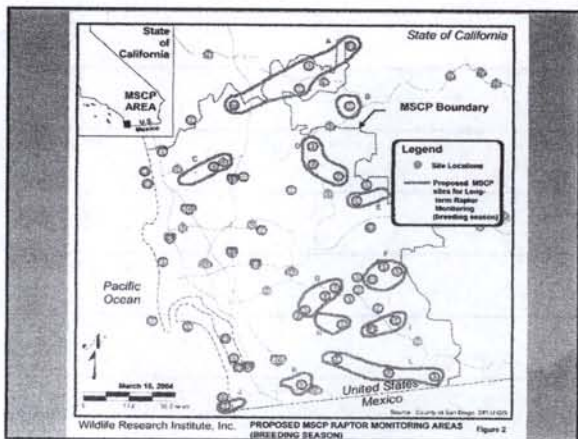
RECOMMENDED RAPTOR SURVEYS

- ◆ Breeding Season Survey
- ◆ Winter Survey
- ◆ Single Species (GE) Survey

Breeding and Wintering Surveys (See App. G)

- ◆ Timing (months/time of day)
- ◆ Equipment/Supplies
- ◆ Weather
- ◆ What to note/standardized acronyms
- ◆ Control numbering
- ◆ Enforcement/mgmt. issues
- ◆ Records mgmt.
- ◆ Data analysis

BREEDING SEASON



THE IDEAL SINGLE SPECIES 2-PHASED SURVEY (Steenhof 1987)

- ◆ 1st - "Activity Survey" (Fraser et al. 1983)
 - Count # of pairs associated with nesting territories
 - Count # eggs (if possible)
- ◆ 2nd - "Productivity Survey" (Fraser et al. 1983, Postupalsky 1983)
 - Count # successful pairs
 - Count # fledgling-aged young

GENERAL METHODS (Both Breeding and Wintering)

- ◆ Vehicle-based
- ◆ 2 Observers
- ◆ All raptors

BREEDING SEASON SURVEY

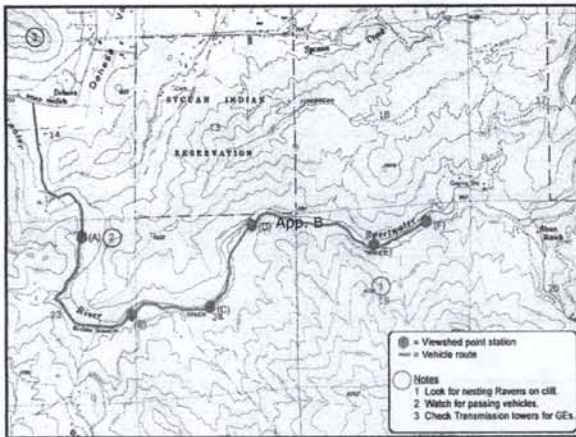
- ◆ 12 RMAs
- ◆ Roadside and viewshed approach
- ◆ Initial surveys 10-14 days apart
- ◆ Fine-tune later surveys
- ◆ 6 surveys (December-May)
- ◆ Initially-1x/3 years (for 3 cycles), then re-evaluate

BREEDING SEASON SURVEYS (See App. C)

- ◆ Timing (months/time of day)

BREEDING SEASON SURVEYS Approximate Dates

1. Late December
2. Mid-January
3. Mid-February
4. March
5. Mid-April
6. Mid-May

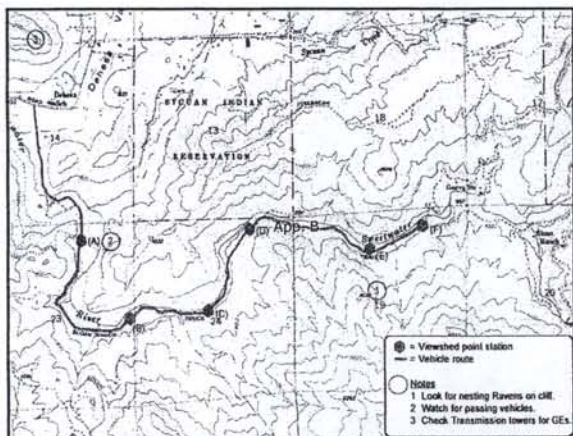


What to Note

- ◆ Sightings of all raptors and CRs
- ◆ Acronyms/Definitions (See App. C-2)
- ◆ Note specific location where 1st seen
- ◆ Age, sex, unusual plumage
- ◆ Bands (LM, RM, color/sequence)
- ◆ Patagial, etc. markers
- ◆ Movement (direction/speed)
- ◆ Avoid duplicate counting
- ◆ Courtship/nesting behavior
- ◆ Other behavior
- ◆ Other unique spp. & observations

What to Note

- ◆ Nest (value of winter observations)
 - Location
 - Tree species
 - Height (of tree and nest)
 - Dimensions of nest
 - Active? (fresh greenery, young, whitewash, adult presence, etc.)



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Control Numbering

- ◆ *Site-specific number sets*
- ◆ 2 Parts (Alpha-numeric)
 - Note Species (RT, CH, RS, BO, etc.)
 - Then sequence number for that species
- ◆ First bird—RT01
- ◆ Second bird—CR01
- ◆ Third bird—RT02
- ◆ Fourth bird—CH01
- ◆ Fifth bird—CH02
- ◆ Stick nest (Sp.?)—SN01

BREEDING SEASON SURVEYS (See App. C)

- ◆ Timing (months/time of day)
- ◆ Equipment/Supplies
- ◆ Weather
- ◆ What to note/standardized acronyms
- ◆ Control numbering
- ◆ **Enforcement/mgmt. issues**

Enforcement Issues

- ◆ Note issue
- ◆ Identify corrective action, if possible
- ◆ Report significant problems to PM/superior ASAP (w/in 24 hrs.)

BREEDING SEASON SURVEYS (See App. G)

- ◆ Timing (months/time of day)
- ◆ Equipment/Supplies
- ◆ Weather
- ◆ What to note/standardized acronyms
- ◆ Control numbering
- ◆ Enforcement/mgmt. issues
- ◆ **Records mgmt.**

Records Management

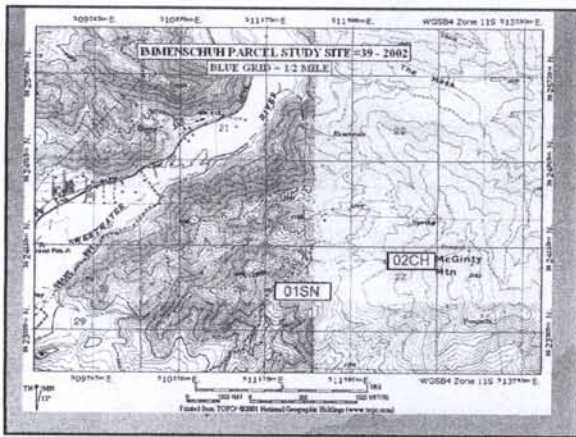
- ◆ Keep 2 holed punched field forms and maps *affixed* in individual Study Site Folders
- ◆ Keep Study Folders in secure file box
- ◆ Copy field forms and maps weekly
- ◆ Keep copies in a separate safe place

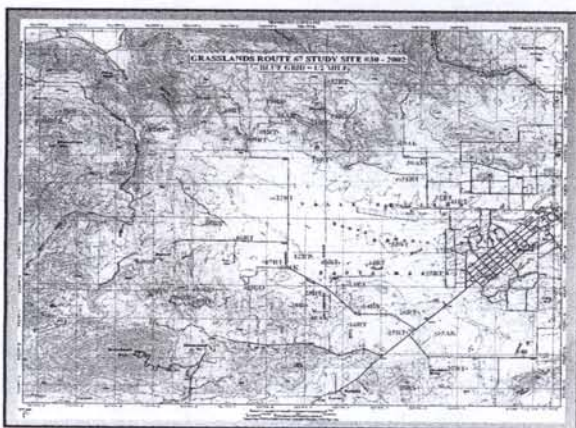
BREEDING SEASON SURVEYS (See App. G)

- ◆ Timing (months/time of day)
- ◆ Equipment/Supplies
- ◆ Weather
- ◆ What to note/standardized acronyms
- ◆ Control numbering
- ◆ Enforcement/mgmt. issues
- ◆ Records mgmt.
- ◆ **Data analysis**

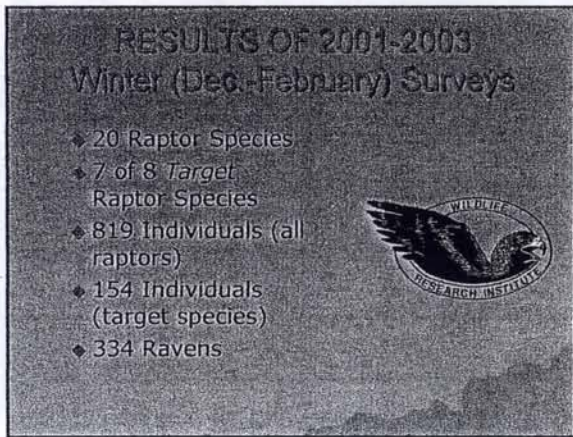
Data Analysis

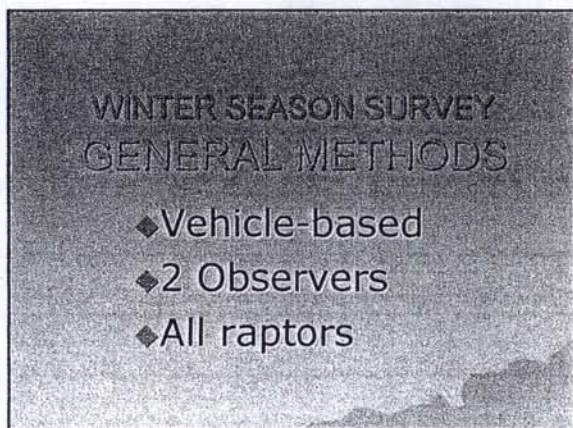
- ◆ Compare all data sheets/maps for a site
- ◆ Create a summary map, based on reasonable biological insight and assumptions
- ◆ Indicate nest location or assumed center of courtship/territorial behavior
- ◆ Provide CDFG/USFWS report/data copy











WINTER SEASON SURVEY

- ◆ Roadside census
- ◆ Established route
- ◆ Coastal focus
- ◆ Initially-1x/3 years (for 3 cycles), then re-evaluate
- ◆ 3 Surveys (December-Feb.)

"WINTER" SEASON SURVEY Approximate Dates (remember our latitude!)

1. Late December
2. Mid-to-late January
3. Mid-to-late February



What to Note

- ◆ Sightings of all raptors and CRs
- ◆ Acronyms/Definitions (See App. C-2)
- ◆ Note specific location where 1st seen
- ◆ Age, sex, unusual plumage
- ◆ Bands (LM, RM, color/sequence)
- ◆ Patagial, etc. markers
- ◆ Avoid duplicate counting
- ◆ Movement (direction/speed)
- ◆ Courtship/nesting behavior (GE, RT, GO, RS, WK)
- ◆ Other behavior/interesting observations

What to Note

- ◆ Nest (value of winter observations)
 - Location
 - Tree species
 - Height (of tree and nest)
 - Dimensions of nest
 - Active? (fresh greenery, young, whitewash, adult presence, etc.)

RAPTOR MONITORING-What's been learned?

- ◆ "Target Species" may be too limiting and may not reflect the broader issues
- ◆ Value of using an "umbrella" species, like the GE
- ◆ Consistency (data collection, etc.) *incredibly* important
- ◆ Consistent monitoring *abilities*
- ◆ Set qualifications/workshop standards

THANK YOU
MSCP Partners !





RAPTOR TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

APPENDIX A

Participants



RAPTOR TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

APPENDIX B

Raptor Bibliography

APPENDIX B

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RAPTOR TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

APPENDIX C

Raptor Monitoring Protocol

BACKGROUND

The Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is a comprehensive, long-term habitat conservation plan that addresses the needs of multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation in San Diego County (County of San Diego 1997). The size and configuration of the preserve network is continually evolving but it may ultimately encompass approximately 172,000 acres. In order to determine if the MSCP or any management area, for that matter, is functioning correctly, a meaningful monitoring plan must be in place. A vast area, such as the MSCP, cannot be comprehensively monitored for any but a few species with very limited and specific habitat requirements. Raptor species will, therefore, be monitored using a reproducible sampling approach. Details of this approach are described below after reminding the reader of the ultimate monitoring objectives.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the MSCP monitoring is to detect changes in habitat quality and population trends in those habitats and species covered by the MSCP (Ogden 1996). Specific objectives, as they relate to raptors, are as follows:

1. Document the protection of target species as specified in subarea plans and implementing agreements.
2. Document changes in preserved populations of covered species.
3. Describe new biological data collected.
4. Evaluate impacts of land uses and construction activities in and adjacent to the preserve.
5. Evaluate management activities and identify enforcement difficulties.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for consistency in the approach to surveying for raptors *during the breeding season and during the wintering period*. The below protocol is generic in nature but site-specific details, as to route, viewshed locations, and other important site features, are provided for each Raptor Monitoring Area (RMA) in Appendix C-1.

APPROACH

The following provides methodological details for the professional, with adequate raptor expertise, to conduct the breeding season and wintering period raptor monitoring in a consistent manner. The ability to detect trends (e.g., in raptor numbers, distribution, diversity, etc.) will be extremely important in order that adaptive management decisions be made in a timely manner. If trend analyses are to be interpretable, it is essential that the same locations within the preserve be monitored in a consistent manner. This would best be accomplished if the same individual or team monitored all locations, for all surveys.

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Acronyms and definitions are attached (Appendix C-2). Use them consistently in order that there be continuity and clarity in all observations and record keeping.

SPECIES

Although all raptor species will be noted, there are eight MSCP, so-called "target," raptor species: Bald Eagle (BE), Burrowing Owl (BO), Cooper's Hawk (CH), Ferruginous Hawk (FH), Golden Eagle (GE), Northern Harrier (NH), American Peregrine Falcon (PF), and the Swainson's Hawk (SH). Although you will not, necessarily, be searching for the BO at the most desirable time of day (early morning/early evening), any observations of BO or any other raptor species should be documented. Raptors will be the focus of the surveys but any observed sensitive species (regardless of taxa), interesting road kill, unusual biological observation, breeding colony, bird roost site, or other unique resource should also be noted on the WRI "Field Datasheet" (Appendix C-3).

TIMING AND FREQUENCY OF SURVEYS

Although it is common for ornithologists to identify a specific time of year as the "breeding season," it is not possible to specify a timeframe, for our local raptors, that does not overlap with what is considered the wintering period. Because of the latitude of the MSCP, raptors are not restricted to a brief portion of the spring within which to breed. Many of our local raptors start breeding while other wintering and migrating raptors are still in the MSCP study area and environs. Therefore, the time of year that we call the "breeding season" could span December through August but varies considerably by species. Some GEs, for instance, can start nest building as early as December and still have nestlings in that nest as late as June. BOs, on the other hand, can start laying eggs in early April but fledge some young as late as August.

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES

Field vehicles should have 4WD capability if terrain requires. Binoculars, a camera, and a spotting scope of sufficient power for raptor observations are required. A magnification of 10X for binoculars and a range of approximately 20-60X for scopes are recommended. A cell phone may be very helpful in some locations, as could a set of "walkie-talkies" if more than one investigator will be in the field at the same time. Bring these survey guidelines, a copy of any authorization letters from resource agencies, any windshield placards (that indicates that you are under contract to conduct these surveys), local and project-generated site maps, and an adequate supply of "Transect Data Sheets" (Appendix C-3). To this, add your standard field equipment and supplies (field guides, hat, water, snacks, etc.). Although observers should be thoroughly familiar with all the local raptors, field guides that should be helpful include the Peterson guide, *Hawks* (Clark and Wheeler 1987) and the accompanying photographic guide (Wheeler and Clark 1999).

WEATHER

Monitoring should be conducted only during certain desirable weather conditions to maximize chances of documenting raptors. Inclement weather (rain, fog, winds greater than 20 mph, etc.) should be avoided. Occasional drizzle and winds up to 20 mph will not normally affect most raptor behavior. Observation in cold or wet weather should be done very carefully or completely discouraged. If an incubating bird is accidentally flushed during surveys, total nest failure could result for that season.

TIME OF DAY

The time of day, during which observations are made, is more important during the breeding season surveys than for the winter surveys (for most raptor species). Monitoring should take place from dawn through 1200, although professional experience may allow for some flexibility. Although BOs are not, necessarily, most active during this timeframe, you may note them and they should be documented as indicated below, as you would any raptor species. Since this is a crepuscular species, however, schedule sites that may support BOs for the early morning and/or early evening, whenever possible, to maximize chances of seeing this crepuscular species.

TWO TYPES OF OBSERVATIONS

Observations will be made two ways: (1) in vehicles, along established routes, and (2) at designated viewshed (i.e., observation) points. In addition, all reliable reports provided by interested individuals and cooperators will be verified and included in the data set but noted as "personal communications" with the appropriate documentation.

Vehicular Transects

Many of the breeding season raptor observations, and all those for the winter period, will be conducted from a vehicle. Therefore, vehicle speed will be an important variable. Speed will vary between road transects, depending on the road conditions, including traffic, and weather. That speed, however, should be consistent (year-to-year) for a particular transect in order that meaningful data comparisons can be made over time. Speed on a busy highway will have to be adequate to safely keep up with traffic. Some highway transects, that were deemed too dangerous, were removed from consideration. On a backcountry road, however, 10 mph may be the right speed. Safety should be the highest priority, and for that reason, an assistant to the driver is recommended to make observations and take notes, especially on busy roads.

Point/View shed Observations

Observation points have been established along some vehicle routes and at other desirable view shed locations for breeding season monitoring (see Appendix C-1). These will be especially important for riparian areas and inaccessible mountainous, and other, areas, where limited vehicle access prevents a reasonable survey of a RMA. At observation points along vehicle routes, a minimum of 10 minutes of actual observation is required. This means allowing whatever time is necessary to stop the vehicle in a safe, repeatable location, get out of the vehicle, and set up equipment (spotting scope, etc.) before starting the formal ten-minute observation (i.e., watching *and* listening). In situations where the observer is driving *through* the relevant habitat, a 5-minute observation period may be adequate. At some viewshed locations (like the top of a mountain), the observation time will be longer (perhaps 30 minutes). The most important issue here is that, once a viewing time period has been established for a particular RMA, it is maintained for consistency each year.

WHAT TO NOTE

All relevant data must be documented (see Transect Data Sheet, Appendix C-3). Sightings for *all* raptors will be documented. Note specific location of the raptor species *the first time it is observed* on each day of observation. Note age, sex, and any unusual plumage (if relevant) and

describe location(s) of any band(s) (metal right or metal left and sequence and numbers of any color bands), transmitter, or patagial wing markers. Avoid duplicate counts by noting unique characteristics of an individual and, when a bird is moving, its direction and relative speed. Record courtship and nesting behavior. If a nest is observed during the "winter" surveys, note its location on the topo map, what species of tree its in, height, size of nest, composition, and whether you consider it active. Indicate the basis for assumed activity (for instance, presence of an adult or pair near the nest, young, recent whitewash or greenery in /around nest).

CONTROL NUMBERING

Each control number for a study site and day of observation will be alphanumeric. For each species observed, the control number will start with the acronym for that species (see Appendix C-2) and be followed by "01." The following control numbers, for that species, will end with 02, 03, etc., in the sequence in which the observations take place. This number is entered on the field data sheet (with all of its associated observations) and on the topo survey map, on which is always placed the survey date and the name(s) of the biologist(s). For instance, if the first observation of the day, at Mission Trails Regional Park, is a RT (Red-tailed Hawk), the control number will be "RT01." The second RT will receive the control number "RT02." If the next observation were a Cooper's Hawk, it would be "CH01." It will simplify records if each Transect Data Sheet and topo map is only used for one day's observation at each site. However, there may be situations (such as when it takes more than one day to adequately survey a site or when it may lead to duplication or confusion later) when it makes sense to enter more than one day's information on the same data sheet/map. It may also be beneficial to have all the breeding data on one map which keeps the picture in front of the observer at all times. This allows the observer to see gaps for certain species and explore areas not previously covered. The most important objective is to make sure the record is clear as to the date of each observation/set of observations and the name of the investigator so that clarification can be sought, if necessary.

Raptor, and other, nests are often less visible later in the breeding season, when deciduous trees have regained their foliage. However, note any stick nests in the area as "SN" followed by the appropriate observation number. Indicate on the data sheet if you know or suspect what species it belongs to and why. When summarizing yearly data, it will be important to determine which nests are alternate nests of the same pair and which represent additional pairs/territories. Do not get close enough to potentially disturb any nests, without approval from the Project Manager (PM) and Management Unit administrator.

Keep careful track of miles driven and times spent during vehicle transects and point location observations. Deduct any miles/time not spent on monitoring. These details are very important in order to allow data to be normalized over both time and distance to properly analyze for trends. There may be situations when you will not be able to track mileage or the miles you track are complicated by circling back through a study area to recheck a nest to confirm nesting, etc. Just keep good records that can be interpreted by someone else.

ENFORCEMENT/MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Note any enforcement or management problems or opportunities. Suggest corrective action or adaptive management, as appropriate, to the PM. Report any significant enforcement problems to the PM as soon as possible, but no later than within 24 hours of the observation.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Management of records is extremely important. Two-hole punched field forms and computer-generated project topo maps must be kept in Study Site folders (in a hard plastic or other secure file box provided) unless being copied. Field forms and topo maps must be attached to the inside of the Study Site folders using the two-hole clips at the end of each field day. Unless other provisions are made, field record copying should be done no less frequently than once a week, during the active field season, with copies placed in the appropriate administration project file for security.

THE SURVEYS

Breeding Season

In some management units, where a fulltime knowledgeable biologist is on staff, daily observations may be made, thereby providing greater potential for trend detection. However, the objective of these guidelines is to conduct up to 6 surveys at each of 12 RMAs (Figure C-1) for the breeding season raptor monitoring, where the assemblage of species dictates the actual number of replicates. Many stick nests will be located during the winter when the deciduous trees have lost their leaves. The next best opportunity to survey will often be early in the breeding season (December through April) when the adult raptors are establishing their territories and courting. Note that each species has a chronology for these behaviors. Some (like the GE, RT, and RS) will start breeding-related behaviors in December or January, while others (like the CH) may not display until April. At this time, they are obvious and concentrating their activities around the likely, and alternative, nest sites. In order to adequately characterize the raptor species present throughout the breeding season, the initial surveys at each site should be separated by 10-14 days, if possible. Subsequent surveys should be scheduled based on the raptor species present and where they are in their reproductive cycle. There will be a period, during which one of the adults will be incubating eggs or sheltering young, while the other adult is off hunting. During this time, it will be difficult to document many raptors and fieldwork may not be the best use of your time for that RMA. The next logical time to concentrate on conducting breeding season surveys will be when the young have fledged but are still dependent on the adults for food. At this time, there is a lot of activity and an increased chance of spotting a family unit because of the increased number of individuals per territory and, in some cases, the young will call attention to themselves by begging and/or calling to the parents.

The following times are recommended for the (breeding season) Raptor Monitoring Program:

- Late-December
- Mid-January
- Mid-February
- March
- Mid-April
- Mid-May

There are 12 RMAs that will be surveyed (Table C-1).

TABLE C-1. MSCP Raptor Monitoring Areas (Breeding Season)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Study Sites* (original number(s))</u>
A	San Pasqual	San Pasqual (36), Lk. Hodges (7), Boden Cyn. (2), Rockwood (32)
B	Ramona Grasslands	Ramona Grasslands (30)
C	Penasquitos Canyon	Penasquitos Canyon (33)
D	Iron Mountain Complex	Iron Mountain** (11), San Vicente ((16), Route 67 (27)
E	San Diego River	San Diego River (26)
F	Sloan Canyon	Sloan Canyon (31), McGinty Mtn. North (5), Sycuan Mtn. North (17)
G	Sweetwater River	Sweetwater Reservoir (45), Rcho. S.D. East (42), Rcho. S.D. West (43), San Miguel Mtn. North (23)
H	Proctor Valley	Proctor Valley (25), San Miguel Mtn. South (23), Upper Otay Lk.(14)
I	Rancho Jamul	Jamul Ranch (3), Hollenbeck Canyon (34)
J	Border Fields	Border Fields (44), Tijuana River (part)
K	Brown Field Complex	Brown Field (22), Otay River, Spring Cyn. (part), Dennery Cyn. (part)
L	Otay Mountain	Otay Mountain (12), Marron Valley (13), Lower Otay Lake (14)

* In some cases, only a portion of a study site is included because of access, visibility, or some other reason (see detailed maps, Appendix C-1, for details).

** Including Monte Vista Ranch.

Each study site is followed by a number, which corresponds to the original study site number that was assigned to it (WRI 2002, 2004).

Winter Surveys

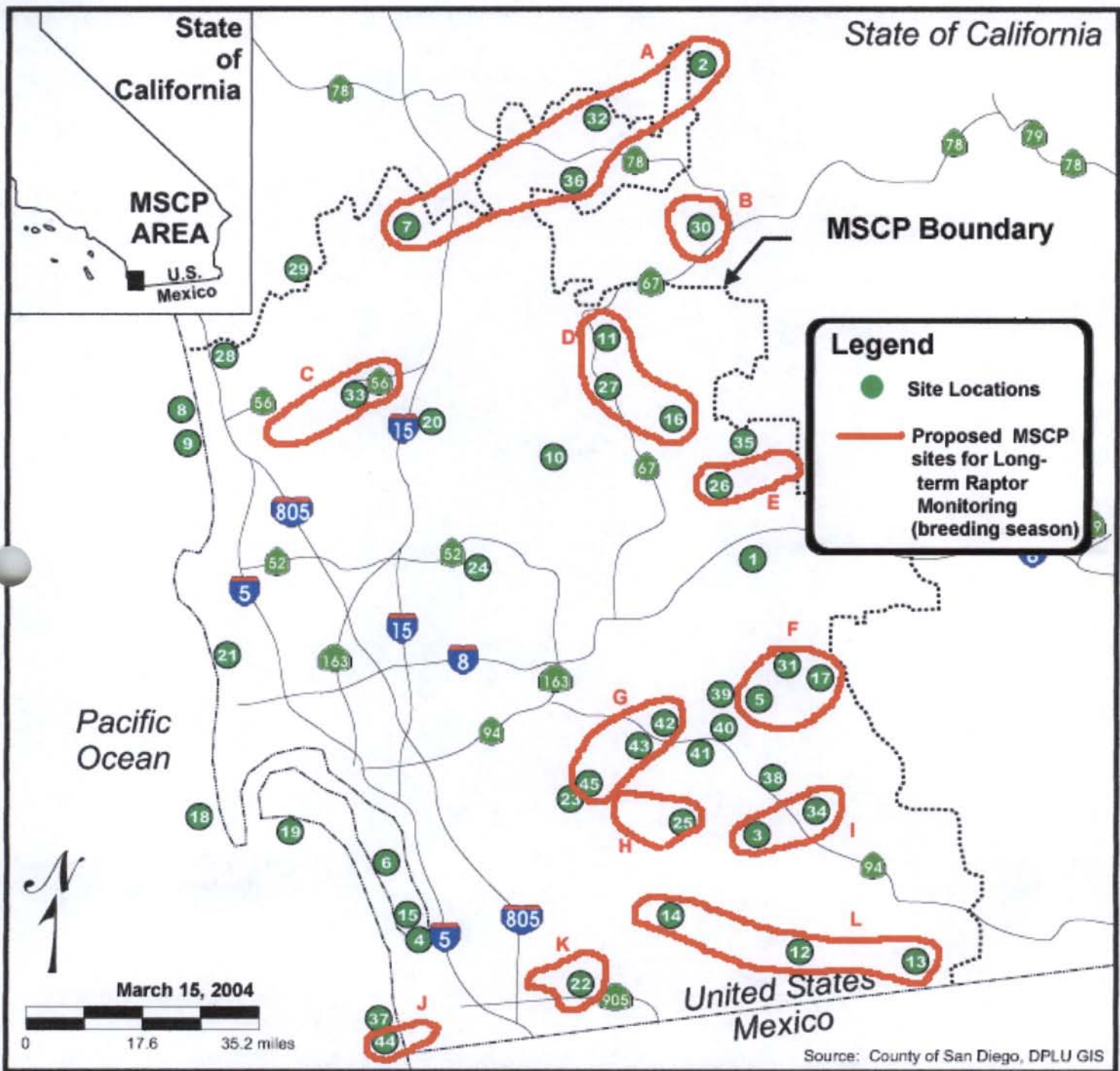
In keeping with the timing of many "winter" surveys (e.g., County Bird Atlas), the MSCP winter raptor surveys will occur primarily from *mid-December through February*, with possible changes in response to changes in weather conditions (i.e., global warming, cycles, etc.). This "winter" time period is somewhat arbitrary and we are not suggesting that raptors observed during this period are, necessarily, only birds that have migrated in and are wintering within the MSCP and environs. Similarly, the winter visit by some species may extend before and/or after this timeframe. The FH, for instance, can arrive on its MSCP wintering grounds by mid-September and not leave until mid-March. Many of the birds that you observe will be the same ones that you document during the "breeding season" surveys. The objective is to conduct three (3) vehicle-based surveys, along the coastal route depicted by Figure C-2. In order to adequately characterize the raptor species present throughout the winter season, the three surveys should be conducted according to the following schedule:

- Late December
- Mid-to-late January
- Mid-to-late February

Raptor, and other, nests are often more visible in the winter, when deciduous trees have lost their foliage. Knowledge about nest and breeding pair locations will help the monitor separate wintering birds from resident pairs. When summarizing yearly data, it will also be important to determine which nests are alternate nests of the same pair and which represent additional pairs/territories. Note any raptor nests in the area and/or if any nesting behavior is observed. Do not approach any nests, without approval from the PM and Management Unit administrator.

LITERATURE CITED

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Wildlife Research Institute, Inc.

**PROPOSED MSCP RAPTOR MONITORING AREAS
(BREEDING SEASON)**

Figure C-1.



0 0.5 1 2 3
Miles

**Figure 3. Proposed MSCP
Winter Raptor Monitoring Area**

..... Recommended route

APPENDIX C-2

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Raptor and Corvid Species

AC	American crow
AK	American kestrel
BE*	BALD EAGLE
BH	Black hawk
BR	Barn owl
BO*	BURROWING OWL
CH*	COOPER'S HAWK
CR	Common raven
FH*	FERRUGINOUS HAWK
GE*	GOLDEN EAGLE
GO	Great-horned owl
HH	Harris' hawk
LO	Long-eared owl
MR	Merlin
NH*	NORTHERN HARRIER
OS	Osprey
PF*	PEREGRINE FALCON
PR	Prairie falcon
RS	Red-shouldered hawk
RT	Red-tailed hawk
SE	Short-eared owl
SO	Screech owl
SS	Sharp-shinned hawk
SH*	SWAINSON'S HAWK
TV	Turkey vulture
UA	Unidentifiable accipiter
UB	Unidentifiable buteo
UF	Unidentifiable falcon
UR	Unidentifiable raptor
WK	White-tailed kite
WH	White-tailed hawk
ZH	Zone-tailed hawk

Other Abbreviations

AB	Active burrow
Ad	Adult
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CN	Cavity nest
F	Female
HY	Hatching year (when a bird is in its first year; i.e., the same calendar year as hatched).
Imm	Immature (a non-specific term that means "not adult").
M	Male
Mel	Melanistic (black/dark)
Ruf	Rufous/reddish
Sa	Sub adult (plumage that precedes adult plumage and appears much like it but with some characters that are not in adult plumage; used only for species, like the Golden Eagle, that can be distinguished at this age).
SN	Stick nest.
U	Unknown (e.g., unknown species, age, or sex).
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

* MSCP target species.

APPENDIX C-3

TRANSECT DATA SHEET												
Wildlife Research Institute, Inc.						BIOLOGIST(S):						
		TIME (24hr)	Start	Finish	(minus time out) = TOTAL TIME:							
		TEMP (F):			OTHER WEATHER INFO.:							
DATE:	PAGE ___ OF ___	CLOUD CVR (%):			TRANSECT MILEAGE BEGIN:							
TRANSECT NAME & NUMBER:		WIND (mph):			TRANSECT MILEAGE END:							
		VISIBILITY (mi):			SUBTRACT MILEAGE:							
#		PRECIP:			TRANSECT TOTAL MILEAGE:							
WAYPOINTS (Start/End Points of Transects, Road Names, etc.)	SPECIES	TIME DURATION	SEX	AGE	PAIR	PERCHING	HUNTING	FEEDING	COURTSHIP	SOARING	NESTING	COMMENTS, MILEAGE, TIME, ETC.
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COMMENTS: (USE REVERSE FOR DRAWINGS OR ADDITIONAL NOTES)												