



## REGULAR GRANT REPORT 2006

The Regular Grant program provides grants to non-profit organizations for projects that promote the overall goals and objectives of the Baillie Fund. Baillie Birdathon volunteers contribute all of the grant money available through the Baillie Fund, and the Baillie Fund Trustees strive to ensure that Baillie Fund money is allocated fairly and effectively to groups and individuals with high quality projects. The Trustees are also committed to ensuring project results are adequately reported.

Grantee Reports allow the Baillie Fund Trustees to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regular Grant program and measure the benefits received by grant recipients. Please return the completed form to the Secretary, James. L Baillie Memorial Fund at [ahagy@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:ahagy@bsc-eoc.org). This can be done in hard copy form or, preferably, electronically. The deadline for receipt of Regular Grant Reports is **1 December 2006**. Failure to submit a report may jeopardise future applications for support from the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund.

### GRANTEE INFORMATION

Organization Name: Hawk Migration association of North America	
Contact Person's Name: Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza	
Address: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850, United States	
Telephone: (607) 254-2464	Fax: (607) 254-2415
Email: ruelas@hmana.org	Website: www.rpi-project.org

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: The Raptor Population Index (RPI): Seed Funding		
Project Duration: 1 year	Start Date: 1 April 2006	Completion Date: 1 Dec. 2006

**Objectives of project:**

The goal of the Raptor Population Index (RPI) program is to contribute to the conservation of raptors. Using counts of migrating raptors from a continent-wide network of watch sites, RPI seeks to provide timely and statistically defensible assessments of population status and trends of these important biological indicators of environmental health.

The objective of RPI is to produce biennial reports on the status and trends of migratory raptor populations breeding in North America, based on a network of migration count sites, provide federal, state, and local resource management and environmental conservation agencies and organizations with current information on site-specific, region-specific and continent-wide population trends. Other products will include scientific peer-reviewed papers on raptor trends, annual reports dispersed to cooperators, funding agencies, resource agencies, the media, and posted on a RPI website that will summarize annual abundance, migration patterns, and RPI program results.

A grant from the Baillie Fund helped to launch the RPI as a permanent, continent-wide monitoring program for migratory raptors by matching funds from other sources, primarily a U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. In the next two years, it will contribute to bringing data from Canadian hawk watch sites into the initial group of sites analysed by RPI, such as fall watch sites Tadoussac, QC, Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, ON, and Hawk Cliff, near Port Stanley, ON; spring sites with long-term data sets include Beamer Conservation Area (Grimsby), ON, and Eagle Crossing (St. Stanislas de Kostka), QC. Once established, the RPI program will build its network to include data from as many as 100-200 watch sites and provide annual or biennial updates of population trends of up to twenty species of migratory raptors.

**Were the objectives as stated on the original grant application achieved?** No (still in progress)

**Please summarize achievement highlights.**

The proposal submitted projected activities for a three-year period and the goals stated for this initial period have not been completed yet. Here I report the achievements of this first year:

1. Web-based data entry system. HawkCount.org upgraded its reporting capabilities and includes mapping, production of data summaries, and off-line submissions via a downloadable template spreadsheet.
2. Recruitment of sites. The number of sites contributing data is 163, including 20 sites from Canada (Québec 5, Ontario 10, Manitoba 3, and British Columbia 2)
3. Development of the statistical analysis model. The development of this analysis methodology has been completed and a paper describing this methodology has been accepted for publication in *The Auk* (in 2007, attached)
4. Initial analysis. The RPI team completed a series of analyses of eight eastern sites and summarized its results in a technical report (Farmer [2006] copy attached), and is currently working on analyses of western and Gulf region sites.
5. Other results. RPI is actively collaborating in a regional bird monitoring initiative – the NE Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop (a partnership of federal and state agencies, academic institutions, and conservation organizations) (<http://www.nebirdmonitor.org/workshops/>). RPI's data resources recently joined the Avian Knowledge Network, a federation of databases that store observational records of birds) (<http://www.avianknowledge.net/>) and successfully completed a series of software installations to allow data harvesting from biological record internet portals such as GBIF and NBII. Other publications and presentations to update different audiences have been completed (see list in "Additional Information" section and printed attachments to this report)

**If there was a change in the project as described, please describe the change, when it occurred, and what influenced the change:**

The main change in the plan proposed was a reduction of goals and duration to those projected for the first year.

**Describe the most important result of the project:**

The most important results of this project are the first trend analyses and the dissemination of this information to target audiences.

**How did the Baillie Fund grant help in completing your project?**

By funding the operation of the RPI system. This project has received a 2:1 matching grant from the (US) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and non-US federal funds are required to match that grant. These donations are an invaluable help to the completion of this project's goals.

**How has Baillie Fund support been acknowledged? (We would appreciate receiving copies of material used to publicize the project, press items, brochures, photographs and other materials that could be used to publicize the grant program).**

Some materials that will be products of this grant have not been completed, such as the publication of a monograph entitled "The State of North American Birds of Prey," scheduled for September 2007, but these will contain explicit reference to support received from the Baillie Fund. This contribution has been publicly acknowledged in RPI's 2006 annual report completed on September 2006.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<b>Amount Awarded:</b>	<b>Have all grant monies been expended?</b>		
Provide an <u>itemized</u> accounting of expenditures associated with Baillie Funds showing both the original estimated budget and the actual expenditures.			
Notes:			
1. Amount received from the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund			

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Please use this section if you have other information you wish to submit.**

List of attachments:

- Anonymous. 2006. Eyes on the Sky: Counting for Conservation. The Raptor Population Index 2006 Annual Report. Hawk Migration Association of North America, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and HawkWatch International. Ithaca, NY
- Ruelas I., E. 2006a. The Raptor Population Index Project: Current Status and Future Directions. Hawk Migration Studies 31(2):4-5
- Ruelas I., E. 2006b. The Raptor Population Index Project in its Second Year. Hawk Migration Studies 32(1):4-6
- Farmer, C.J., D.J.T. Hussell, and D. Mizrahi. 2007. Detecting Population Trends in Migratory Birds of Prey. The Auk 123 (in press)
- Farmer, C.J. 2006. Trends in Counts of Migratory Raptors in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region Five. Raptor Population Index Project Technical Report. Ithaca, NY