



Soaring Above Superior
2010 Conference of the
Hawk Migration Association of North America
Hosted by Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
Evening Speakers

Friday, April 16, 2010, 8:00pm

Dr. Scott Lanyon, Professor and Head, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota
“Insights from the Avian Tree of Life: Raptor Stories”

Are vultures more closely related to storks or to hawks? Are falcons and hawks thought to be closely related? You are probably thinking to yourself, “Who knows! The classification keeps changing so often I can’t remember who is related to whom!!” Dr. Lanyon will explain how scientists discover the evolutionary relationships of modern species (the Tree of Life) and how our changing understanding of these evolutionary relationships leads to changes in raptor classification. He will also provide an update on discoveries made in recent years regarding where raptors fit on the Tree of Life and insights about their evolutionary history.

Dr. Scott Lanyon is currently serving as Head of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities where, in his non-administrative time, he conducts comparative phylogenetic studies of behavioral and morphological evolution in birds. He is a second generation avian systematist having grown up at the American Museum of Natural History’s Kalbfleisch Field Research Station where his father (Wesley Lanyon) was the field station’s director and AMNH Curator of Birds. Scott received his Master’s from Indiana University and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He served as Curator of Birds at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago for ten years before coming to the University of Minnesota in 1995 as Director of the Bell Museum of Natural History and as an Associate Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior. He is a past Vice President of the American Ornithologists’ Union, currently serves on the board of the Minnesota Audubon Society, and Chairs the Steering Committee for the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas.

Saturday, April 17, 2010, 8:00 pm

L. David Mech, Senior Research Scientist, US Geologic Survey; Adjunct Professor, University of Minnesota
“A 50-year Career of Wolf Research”

Highlights of Mr. Mech’s research on the wolves of Isle Royale, Minnesota, Denali National Park, Ellesmere Island, and Yellowstone National Park.

L. David Mech (pronounced "Meech") is a Senior Scientist with the biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, and Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota. He has studied wolves and their prey since 1958, as well as several other species of wildlife. Although administration of his U.S. Geological Survey research is through Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, he is headquartered on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota in the Gabbert Raptor Center, 1920 Fitch Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Mech is also founder and vice chair of the International Wolf Center, and chair of the IUCN Wolf Specialist Group.



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Friday Morning Speakers

Laurie J. Goodrich, Senior Monitoring Biologist, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Kempton, Pennsylvania. Laurie Goodrich's work includes supervising Hawk Mountain's raptor migration counts and coordinating activities with other North American raptor migration sites. She is an advisor and co-founder for the Veracruz River of Raptors program in Mexico and conducts research on raptor migration ecology and nesting ecology of forest birds. She is currently completing a Ph.D. in Ecology from Pennsylvania State University, serves on the Board of Directors of the Raptor Research Foundation, and is a former member of the board of the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza

Ernesto is Raptor Population Index Project Manager for the Hawk Migration Association of North America and a Postdoctoral Fellow at Dartmouth College. He is interested in the ecology of raptor and wading bird migration that he has studied in his native Veracruz, Mexico, since 1991. Ernesto is also interested in continental-scale bird monitoring and more recently in the use of long-term datasets to study changes in the phenology and geography of migration.

Jeff P. Smith, PhD, Science Director, HawkWatch International

Dr. Smith has served since 1999 as the Science Director at HawkWatch International (HWI), a non-profit organization headquartered in Utah whose mission is to conserve the environment through education, long-term monitoring, and scientific research on raptors as indicators of ecosystem health. His core responsibility is managing a network of 12 long-term raptor migration studies. Dr. Smith received his B.A. in Zoology from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1981, his M.Sc. in Biology-Ecology from Utah State University in 1988, his Ph.D. in Forest Resources and Conservation (Wildlife Ecology) from the University of Florida in 1994, and completed a 2½-year post-doctoral appointment at Oregon State University working in conjunction with the USGS Biological Resources Division. He recently served on the Board of Directors of the Raptor Research Foundation, previously served for 3 years as Scientific Program Chair, and has served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Raptor Research since 2008. He has published more than 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts in a variety of scientific disciplines.

Saturday Morning Speakers

Cathleen Monson

Cathleen Monson is a field biologist from Illinois. A Northland College graduate with a degree in Biology, Cathleen's work has taken her from Northern Wisconsin to Western Montana, Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Her primary area of interest is ornithology, with an emphasis on birds of prey. She has enjoyed work with the US Forest Service, Montana Audubon, the US Geological



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Survey and Fish and Wildlife Service. Cathleen presently works for BioEco Research and Monitoring Station on the Milan Bottoms Bald Eagle Night Roost Survey Project. She lives in Reynolds, Illinois with her husband and three daughters.



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