

**2004 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation  
hosted by the California Hawking Club  
November 10-13, 2004**

**Submitted by:**

Dan Varland, Conference Committee Chair, Raptor Research Foundation and Rick Holderman, 2004 Meet Chair, California Hawking Club, 10191 Bluestone Court, Spring Valley, CA 91977

**Venue:**

Doubletree Hotel, Bakersfield, California  
Primary Contact: Alycia Cook, Sales Manager

**Number Registered Attendees:**

Raptor Research Foundation: 175  
California Hawking Club: 257  
Total: 432

**Organizing Committee:** Committee members communicated by email and telephone, including periodic conference calls. Conference call costs were covered by Patagonia of Ventura, California and originated from that location.

Rick Holderman, Local Committee Co-Chair	California Hawking Club, Spring Valley, CA
Dan Varland, Local Committee Co-Chair	Raptor Research Foundation, Hoquiam, WA
Angela Matz, Scientific Chair	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Fairbanks, AK
Marlene Hensley-Benton	Facility for Animal Care and Treatment, University of California, Bakersfield
Jeff Lincer	Wildlife Research Institute, Inc., Ramona, CA
Debby Kroeger	California Living Museum, Bakersfield, CA
Kim Stroud	Patagonia, Ventura, CA
Liam Davis	California Fish and Game, Youngville, CA
Nikolle Brown	Fresno, CA
Alison Sheehy	Lake Isabella, CA

**Chair, Scientific Program:** Angela Matz

**Special Presentations:**

Keynote Address: *Falconry in the United States*, by Brian Millsap, President, Raptor Research Foundation

Special Lecture: *Raptors in Arabia: Their Ecology and Use in Falconry*, by Joseph B. Platt, PCR Services Corp., Irvine, California

**Outside Financial Support:** Contacts were made by Wade Eakle, Kim Stroud, Nancy Lang, Jeff Lincer, Gary Santolo, and Dan Varland.

Sponsors (\$500)	Contributors (< \$500)
CH2M HILL	Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (\$300)
The Wildlife Research Institute	Hawkwatch International (\$250)
Patagonia	Albion Environmental, Inc. (\$150)
PALCO	Green Diamond Resources Company (\$150)
Safari West	Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (\$300)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Carlsbad Field Office	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Sacramento Field Office	

**Outreach:** Announcements were printed in the newsletters of the Raptor Research Foundation (*Wingspan*), the Ornithological Societies of North America (*Ornithological Newsletter*), The Wildlife Society (national newsletter, *The Wildlifer*, plus four regional newsletters), Western Field Ornithologists (*Western Birds*), and the Central Valley Bird Club. One-page announcements were sent to 9 universities in the University of California system and 12 in the California State University system. An announcement also was posted on the California Department of Fish and Game Webpage. RRF member Liam Davis was responsible for the mailings, which were done through the California Department of Fish and Game office in Yountville, California.

Web Site Presence. All information on the conference was maintained on the CHC web site. RRF Webmaster Carl Marti established a link from the RRF site to the CHC site. For RRF, the site included a one-page meeting announcement, sponsor names and their contribution levels (though not specific amounts), the scientific program, and the meeting program book. On-line registration was also available.

**Registration:**

Registration Circular. Registration circulars were printed at a print shop in the Spring Valley, California area and mailed in June of 2004. Cost for the getting the circular to the RRF membership was \$1,078 (\$640 for printing, labeling and sealing; \$438 for mailing).

Registration fees are shown below. Fees were the same as those for the RRF meeting in Anchorage in 2003 with one exception. In Bakersfield, there was a separate charge for attending the barbeque – it was not included in the registration fee.

	Registration Time		
	Early	Mid	Late
Member <sup>a</sup>	\$110	\$125	\$145
Non-member <sup>a</sup>	\$120	\$135	\$155
Student <sup>a</sup>	\$60	\$75	\$95

<sup>a</sup> One-day attendees were charged \$60.

Conference fees (i.e., registration, BBQ, and banquet) were processed by the California Hawking Club. Pre-conference payments and payments at the conference were allowed by check, money order, or credit card.

Refunds – Full refunds were provided to about six individuals who registered for the RRF meeting.

Guests. Guests of registrants were allowed to attend the opening reception (ice breaker) and poster session free of charge. Guests were charged the same prices as registered attendees for attending the barbeque, banquet and field trips.

### **Social Events.**

Social events were held jointly between the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) and the California Hawking Club (CHC).

Opening Reception. This event was held at the DoubleTree Hotel Wednesday, November 10, from 6:00-9:00PM. Registration was possible during the event up until 7:30PM. The registration desk was open all day beginning at 7:30AM. A cash bar and food was provided; food costs were covered by the registration fees.

Poster Session and Reception. The poster session was held in the Sierra and Nevada Rooms on Thursday, November 11, from 6:00-9:00PM. Posters were affixed to the walls with adhesive tape rather than mounted on poster board on free standing easels. A cash bar and food were provided; food costs were covered by the registration fees.

Barbecue: The barbecue was held outdoors at the California Living Museum, 6:00-9:00PM on Friday, November 12. Barbeques were served, and the cost was \$27 per person, which covered food and transportation.

Rain was forecast for that evening, so tents were put in place ahead of time (then it didn't rain). Conference attendees were shuttled by van (rented from Enterprise and also used for field trips) or they drove separately. The California Living Museum was a 20-minute drive from the DoubleTree. Food was provided by a Bakersfield catering service. The food arrived about 45 minutes late as it was first delivered to the wrong location, another museum, in Bakersfield.

Due to concern one member of the local committee had about attendees driving safely back to Bakersfield after the event, alcohol was not served. Despite this circumstance, the crowd was friendly. Live raptors were on display during the event.

Banquet: The banquet was held in the Main Ballroom from 6:00PM until Midnight. It included awards presentations by RRF and CHC, a raffle and a silent auction. RRF and CHC attendees were charged \$34.50 to attend the event.

The DoubleTree required 3 days advance notice on the number of banquet meals needed by RRF and CHC. The estimate provided to the DoubleTree totaled 400, with 200 of these for RRF and 200 for CHC. Far fewer people attended the banquet than was anticipated. Only 89 from RRF attended and 148 from CHC (RRF therefore overestimated by 111 and CHC by 52).

Banquet ticket sales summary.

	RRF	CHC	Total
# tickets sold	89	148	237
# conference attendees	175	257	432
% attendees at the banquet	50%	58%	
Banquet income	\$3,070	\$5,106	\$8,176

DoubleTree Banquet Charge	RRF/CHC income from banquet	Balance
\$13,152 <sup>a</sup>	\$8,176	(\$4,976)

<sup>a</sup> cost of 400 meals, plus wine and corkage fee.

The deficit as apportioned between the groups such that RRF was responsible for \$3,388 of the cost (cost of the 111 meal overestimate) and CHC was responsible for \$1,588 (cost of the 52 meal overestimate).

**Field Trips:** Field trips were coordinated by Dan Varland and Alison Sheehey. Most participants were transported in 15-passenger vans (four) rented from Enterprise. For some of the trips, a few people followed in personal vehicles.

Date/Time	Field Trip
Saturday, Nov. 13 6:30AM-noon	California Hawking Club Sky Trials – outside Bakersfield
Saturday, Nov. 13 7:30AM-noon	Birding Truxtun Lake and visit to the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment – Bakersfield
Saturday, Nov. 13 7:30AM-noon	Birding Hart Park and Visit to the California Living Museum – outside Bakersfield
Sunday, Nov. 14 7:00AM-5:00PM	California Condor Viewing and Discussion of the Recovery Program – Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Ventura County, CA

**Scientific Program:** The scientific program included 52 scientific papers grouped into six sessions. All papers were presented in PowerPoint format. Presentations were loaded onto dedicated laptops and checked before the sessions by Angela Matz. Session personnel included a session chair, a technical person to troubleshoot PowerPoint problems, and a person to run the lights.

Laptops and three Powerpoint projectors were provided by outside sources rather than rented from the DoubleTree. The DoubleTree did provide each room with a screen and an AV cart.

The scientific program also included poster presentations which were presented by authors present on Thursday evening, November 11.

**Sales:** Mugs and t-shirts with the conference logo were sold, as were CHC logo pins.

**Vendors:** Numerous vendors were present. They sold hawking supplies, books, clothing and other items.

**Program Book:** The program book was prepared by Angela Matz. Nickolle Brown arranged for printing, which was done by *Sir Speedy* in Fresno, California.

**Financial Summary:**

<b>Income</b>	<b>CHC</b>	<b>For RRF</b>
Registration Fees	\$ 10,557	\$ 20,295
Banquet Fees	\$ 5,212	\$ 3,065
Field Trips	\$ 200	\$ 1,790
Vendor/Exhibitor Fees	\$ -	
T-shirts	\$ 931	\$ 606
Raffle		
<b>Raffle from registration</b>	\$ 2,090	\$ 580
<b>Raffle ticket sales (banquet night)</b>	\$ 3,540	\$ 992
Conference store Merchandice	\$ -	\$ -
CHC Seed Money		\$ 2,000
RRF Seed Money		\$ 1,000
Sponsorships/Donations	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
<b>Wed/Thurs night (additional CHC income)</b>		\$ 523
<b>CALM BBQ (additional CHC income)</b>	\$ 762	\$ 3,569
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 25,292</b>	<b>\$ 36,420</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Facilities & Breaks Catering	\$ 311	\$ 3,491
Banquet	\$ 6,576	\$ 6,576
Barbecue	\$ 242	\$ 4,296
A/V and Poster Board rental		\$ 531
Field Trips		\$ 2,555
Vendor/Exhibitor Fees	\$ 263	\$ 263
t-shirts	\$ 750	\$ 750
Mugs	\$ 414	\$ 414
Pins	\$ 690	\$ 690
Printing	\$ 988	\$ 1,703
Postage	\$ 63	\$ 554
Supplies	\$ 791	\$ 791
Credit Card Finance Charges	\$ 696	\$ 696
Phone Line Rental	\$ 27	\$ 27
VIP Lodging	\$ 268	\$ -
Insurance	\$ 50	\$ 50
<b>Raffle</b>	\$ 2,700	
<b>Sky Trials</b>	\$ 571	
Int'l Mon. Exchange Loss		
Repay RRF Seed Money		\$ 1,000
Repay CHC Seed Money		\$ 2,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,402</b>	<b>\$ 26,389</b>
<b>Profit (Income - Expense)</b>	<b>\$ 10,031</b>	<b>\$ 10,031</b>