



COASTAL RAPTORS TIDEINGS

Annual Newsletter of Coastal Raptors

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Coastal Raptors goals:

- Conduct scientific research
- Provide education programs
- Train wildlife biologists
- Collaborate with experts in wildlife research and management



Use the QR code above to go to the Coastal Raptors Website or go to coastalraptors.com

Dear Friends of Coastal Raptors,

December 5, 2023

Greetings from the Washington coast! I hope you enjoy this 14th edition of Coastal Raptors TIDEings. As always, TIDEings gives me an opportunity to share with you some of the highlights of the year gone by.

This was our 28th consecutive year of raptor surveys on coastal beaches in western Washington. One of our survey areas is the Long Beach Peninsula, which is also the location of Charlotte Killien's B&B, the George Johnson House. In 2023 Charlotte wonderfully hosted Coastal Raptors surveyors overnight on seven occasions. I want to thank Charlotte for her friendship and service to Coastal Raptors.

Argentinian Fernando (Fer) Lopez was among the people participating in surveys at Long Beach in 2023. Fer is a post-doctoral researcher at Washington DC's Smithsonian who, with financial support from Coastal Raptors, had joined us for weekend raptor surveys. After the weekend Fer and I flew to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the annual Raptor Research Foundation conference.

Our youngest surveyor in 2023 was 14-year-old Caeden Gaffney of Kennewick, Washington. Coincidentally, at age 14 our newest Board Member Javan Bauder participated in his first raptor survey (more on page 2). Finally, on page 7 you can learn about the special raptor that Diego Andres Polo Martinez discovered in his home country at age 14.

All the best to you and yours in the year ahead.



Charlotte Killien with, L to R, Mary Kay Kenney, David Kenney and Sandra Miller at her B&B in 2018.



Fer Lopez and me with a Peregrine Falcon captured and banded during a Long Beach survey in 2023.



Javan Bauder, 1999.



Caeden Gaffney, 2023.



Diego, 2022.

JAVAN BAUDER JOINS THE COASTAL RAPTORS BOARD



John Marzluff

Javan Bauder joined the Coastal Raptors Board last summer, replacing University of Washington Professor John Marzluff who had served since 2015. Thanks John! I first met Javan in 1999. Back then he was a home-schooled high school student living in Hoquiam. It didn't take long for me to recognize Javan's deep interest in wildlife and his strong aptitude for wildlife science research.

Quoting Javan from *Meet the Board* at coastalraptors.com

"I got to hold my first banded Peregrine Falcon just a few days after my 14th birthday! I continued volunteering with Dan on his coastal raptor surveys and his owl nest box monitoring with Rayonier. Dan provided additional mentoring by helping me develop my own wildlife surveys...I am excited to bring my career full circle by joining the board of Coastal Raptors where it all began."



Suzanne Tomlinson photos.

Javan's first close encounter with a Peregrine Falcon, December 16, 1999.



Javan in back with a clipboard, poised to record data on the Peregrine Falcon that we had captured for banding and tissue sampling.

Javan's family moved from Washington to Idaho in 2002. Nevertheless, we've stayed in touch. Over the years he earned a BS in Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho, an MS in Biology at Idaho State University, and a PhD in Environmental Conservation at University of Massachusetts. Today his professional address is Assistant Professor, Assistant Unit Leader, Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Arizona. **Way to go, Javan!**



Javan with an Indigo Snake, the focus of his PhD research.

Javan lives in Tucson with his wife Kelsey and their four daughters. In February Sue and I traveled to Tucson for a visit with them and for me to present a seminar at the University of Arizona.

PRESENTATIONS IN 2023



Tom Rowley photo.

Date	Title	Audience/Location
January 10	<i>Global and Local Loss of Biodiversity</i>	WSU Master Gardeners of Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties (Zoom)
January 20	<i>Monitoring Gyrfalcon Nesting in Arctic Norway</i>	Coastal Raptors Retreat, Ocean Park, WA
January 24	<i>Monitoring Gyrfalcon Nesting in Arctic Norway</i>	Friends of the Montesano Public Library, Montesano, WA
February 5	<i>The Turkey Vulture, Love at Second Sight</i>	Grays Harbor Audubon (Zoom)
February 22	<i>Reflections on a Career in Wildlife Science and Conservation - 30 Years and Counting</i>	Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
March 3	<i>Reflections on a Career in Wildlife Science and Conservation - 30 Years and Counting</i>	Coastal Raptors Retreat, Ocean Park, WA
April 1	<i>The Turkey Vulture, Love at Second Sight</i>	Coastal Raptors Retreat, Ocean Park, WA
April 4	<i>The Turkey Vulture, Love at Second Sight</i>	Delta Naturalists, British Columbia (Zoom)
May 6	<i>Adventures with Gyrfalcons in Washington and Norway</i>	Grays Harbor Audubon Shorebird Festival, Hoquiam, WA (Banquet speaker)
September 23	<i>Reflections on The Peregrine Fund Retreat to Long Beach in 2018</i>	Coastal Raptors Retreat, Ocean Park, WA
October 25	<i>Coastal Raptors...And More!</i>	Outdoor Education Training for Teachers, hosted by Outdoor Schools, Washington, Ocean Park, WA



Reflections on a Career in Wildlife Science and Conservation - 30 Years and Counting. February 22. Sue Varland photo.



Monitoring Gyrfalcon nesting in Arctic Norway, January 24. Helen Hepp photo.

RAPTOR SURVEY RESULTS IN TRASH TALK!

Long Beach Peninsula, September 26. Participating on this raptor survey with me were five Wisconsinites and Long Beach Peninsula local Kelly Rupp. John and I grew up together in Rockford, Illinois. We get together whenever we can. This time he brought friends!



Charlotte Killien photo.

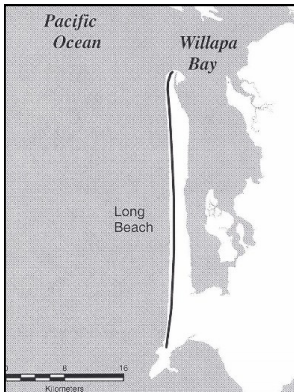


Dan Varland photo.

L to R: John Hermanson, Andy Waterman, Christine Seidel, Steve Krings, Chip Bircher and Dan Varland.

Kelly Rupp. Kelly drove and provided overnight lodging for our group. Thanks Kelly!

We recorded **17 raptors** on the 25-mile long route north, including eight **Turkey Vultures**, four **Bald Eagles**, three **Northern Harriers** and two **Peregrine Falcons**.



Turkey Vulture. Victor Estrada Devesta photo.

We ran across Russ Lewis at 21.6 miles north. Russ collects trash as a volunteer with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, covering the northernmost seven miles.



Dan Varland photo.

Russ Lewis, second from left.



Our location upon meeting Russ.



Dan Varland photo.

The day's haul in the bed of his pickup to that point. Russ still had more than three miles to go!

Every year since 2012 Russ hauls in about six tons of trash. **In 2019, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife honored him with their Volunteer of the Year award.** The Peninsula-based nonprofit *Grassroots Garbage Gang* covers the rest of the Peninsula. Together their efforts are essential to beach health.



Russ emails a report to people interested in his work after each foray. Below I share photos and text from a few of his 2023 reports. If you'd like to be on his emailing list, send an email to danvarland@coastalraptors.com and I'll help get you started.

Photos and text by Russ Lewis



All of this washed ashore after being pitched over the rail from a boat.



These colorful plastic mesh bags also wash out of the bay. They were once filled with empty oyster shells and I think were used for oyster culture.



Another toy balloon washed in from the ocean. I photograph each balloon which later is entered into a NOAA national data base. Toy balloons are widespread polluters of nature.



Big lump of coal. There have been recorded ship wrecks from the late 1800's to early 1900's that went down nearby at sea that were transporting coal. I have seen worn pieces of coal washed up on the beach over the years especially up along the northern end of the peninsula.

TURKEY VULTURE TRACKING



Orange arrows on the maps above point to the location of Mexico City.

In 2018 Coastal Raptors and the non-profit Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association tagged four Turkey Vultures with solar-powered, back-pack-mounted GPS satellite transmitters. We stopped receiving data from one transmitter in 2018 and a second in 2020. The other two, on vultures named **Coy** and **Grayland**, power on! They've made five round-trip migrations between the Pacific Northwest where they summer and Mexico where they winter.

This fall both vultures flew to Mexico for their sixth winter. Coy departed from Washington on October 1, arriving on his wintering grounds on October 31. Grayland left from southern British Columbia on October 7, arriving on his wintering grounds on November 22.

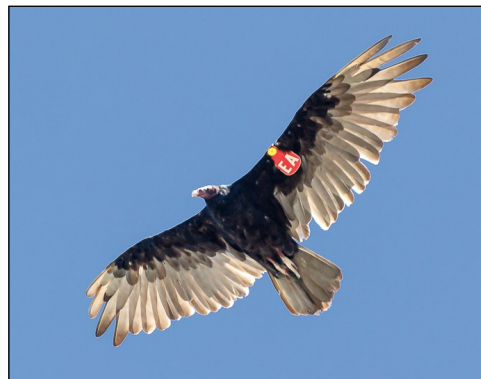
In 2022 and 2023, Coastal Raptors fitted transmitters to another five Turkey Vultures; **Walter**, **Don** and **Amelia** in 2022 and **Caeden** and **Glenn** in 2023. Sadly, Walter died one week after his release (cause unknown). **Don** migrated to Mexico for the winter of 2022-23 where his transmitter stopped sending signals on February 1.

Amelia, Caeden and Glenn removed their transmitters. It appears that we positioned the units too low on the back, making it possible for them to reach around and bite through the Teflon harness that holds the harness in place. The yellow arrow in the photo below points to transmitter placement on Amelia. Lesson learned!

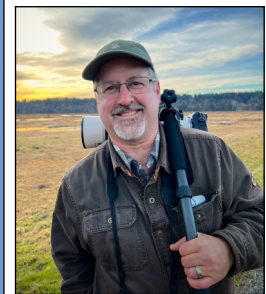
Confirming the transmitter losses was possible because we fit wing-tags with unique letter codes on all vultures with transmitters. The three biters had been re-sighted in one location while their transmitters were sending signals from another.



Droopy-headed Turkey Vulture Amelia, showing her wing-tag and transmitter before release on August 4, 2022 at the Ocean Shores airport.



David Nadalin photographed Turkey Vulture Amelia sans transmitter on August 6. At the time the transmitter was sending signals from a location several miles to the north. David's re-sighting verified that Amelia had shed her transmitter.



For more information on the Turkey Vulture tracking research, use the QR code at right or go to the Coastal Raptors website (<https://coastalraptors.com/turkey-vulture-tracking/>).



SUPPORTING RAPTOR RESEARCH IN COLOMBIA

In 2023, Coastal Raptors provided funding for purchasing five camera traps to monitor large raptor nesting in Colombia. We made the donation to support the work of *Proyecto Grandes Rapaces de Colombia (Large Raptors of Colombia)*, a private company with research and education programs for the Harpy Eagle, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, King Vulture and Crested Eagle. Director Mateo Giraldo and his team of citizen scientists use photos and videos from camera traps placed high in the rain forest tree canopy to document nesting success and diet and for public education and outreach.

Since 2021, *Large Raptors of Columbia* has monitored the first known nesting of Crested Eagles in Columbia. This rarest of nests in the country was discovered by Diego Andres Polo Martinez, then a 14-year old member of the local community.

In 2023, the Crested Eagle pair raised one nestling to fledging. Mateo and his team monitored parental care using one of the cameras donated by Coastal Raptors.



Crested Eagle nestling, age 4 months.
Image is from a camera trap donated by Coastal Raptors.



Mateo Giraldo



Diego



Colombia (Wikipedia map)

For more on the work of *Large Raptors of Colombia*, use the QR code at right or find it at *Bird Man Dan's Blog* on the website at coastalraptors.com



Financial Support for Coastal Raptors

Support from individual donors like you is important. Please consider helping us move forward by making a tax-deductible contribution toward operating expenses.

Anticipated operating expenses in 2024 include:

- Data entry and analysis - \$3,000
- Vehicle mileage - \$2,500
- Website services - \$1,000
- Conference - \$1,200
- Mailing and office supplies - \$500
- Field supplies - \$500
- Page charges for scientific publication - \$2,000
- Honoraria (student/early career support) - \$3,000

Please Consider a Donation for this year or next if you have not already (see page 8 for a list of donors, 2021 and 2022). Your contribution is Tax Deductible. You may donate by check (payable to Coastal Raptors; send to 90 Westview Drive, Hoquiam, WA 98550) or online at www.coastalraptors.com. THANKS for your support!

Many Thanks to **Coastal Raptors** Supporters

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Donations Made in Memory of: Ina, Elaine Rodning, Arnold Samuels, Wayne McCleskey, Margaret Wichser and Mark Wilhyde.

Coastal Raptors
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Peregrine Falcon 4/D by Jack DeLap.