



Argentina

The Andean Condor Conservation Project (ACCP)

In August 1991, the Andean Condor Conservation Project (ACCP) was inaugurated in Argentina. Since then, through the artificial incubation hatching program, breeding in human isolation, and with the existence of our rescue center for wild specimens, it has been possible to release 35 Andean condors, *Vultur gryphus*, in remote areas of the South American Andes, including Venezuelan Páramos and Argentinean Patagonia.

In 1997, the ACCP—thanks to an agreement with NASA—was the first to use satellite technology to monitor condor flights and to follow them on their daily long distance displacement, even in such a complex environment as the Andes.

Radio and satellite telemetry, along with hard fieldwork, allowed us to make a GIS (Geographic Information System) specific to this species. The use of Decosat—a program developed specifically to simulate the flight of the condors—helps us to better understand the displacement patterns. Thanks to modern technology, it is possible to discover, among other things, the condors' role in the environment, their sleeping places (called Condoreras), their flight capacity and habitat preferences. This information makes it possible to make informed decisions for the conservation of this wonderful bird and its majestic ecosystem.

The ACCP also leads an educational program that reaches thousands of pupils every year, carrying a strong message of conservation. Before each release, ancestral ceremonies are organized with the participation of original Andean communities—who have known how to honor and live together in harmony with this species for thousands of years. Native inhabitants are in charge of offering a prayer in their original language—a message of respect and veneration for all life—to return the Andean soul to its own place.



Luis Jácome attaches a PTT to an Andean condor

Luis Jácome, Andean Condor Conservation Project



Andean condor

Photos courtesy of Hernan Pepe and Andres Capdevielle respectively

In 1997, The Andean Condor Conservation Project, thanks to an agreement with NASA, was the first to use satellite technology to monitor condor flights and follow them on their huge displacement every day.



Eastern Canada

Satellite tracking raptors at risk

The peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, is probably one of the most studied and researched birds around the globe over the past thirty years. Yet despite this, very little is actually known about the peregrine's activities in the first couple of years of its life.

The Canadian Peregrine Foundation has been actively involved in the monitoring and satellite tracking of the juvenile (first-year hatched peregrine) activities in an effort to investigate some of the unanswered questions regarding the juvenile's dispersal, mortality, migration times and routes, wintering grounds, and migration stopovers. The research has involved both pre- and post-fledged first-year hatched birds; 20 g, 30 g PTT-100 battery units, and 18 g solar units have been deployed with incredible success.

In addition to juveniles from wild nest sites, birds from urban nest sites as well as captive bred and released birds from both urban and nonurban landscapes are also involved in the research.

Over the past five years, the study area has expanded to include birds from Ontario, Quebec, and Edmonton here in Canada, and in New York and Pennsylvania in the USA.

Equally exciting, and one of our most ambitious projects to date will involve the satellite tracking of the eastern North American barn owl, *Tyto alba*. The first stage of the project will be to examine the dispersal and mortality of the first-year hatched birds; it will later expand to include adults. With an expanded mandate that includes "raptors at risk," the Canadian Peregrine Foundation can now broaden its horizons, and will be active in other avian satellite tracking.



Mark Nash holding a peregrine falcon

Mark Nash, The Canadian Peregrine Foundation

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Peregrine falcon equipped with an 18 g solar-powered PTT-100

Photos courtesy of Garnet Barker and Paul Marshman respectively

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