

Raptor Conservation



Course Overview

The Peregrine Fund Presents 'Raptor Conservation', a two-part online course geared toward middle and high-school aged students. During the first session we will delve into two real-world case studies, first the Peregrine Falcon Recovery, followed by an examination of noise pollution, a growing threat to owls. On day two we will discuss the American Kestrel Partnership and then take an in-depth look at the California Condor recovery project. Throughout the course, we will emphasize science and careers in wildlife conservation.

Outline

Day 1 (one hour)

1. Introduction to Raptors
2. Peregrine Falcon on the glove (pre-recorded video with instructor)
3. The role of science in saving the Peregrine Falcon
 - a. DDT story
 - b. Falconry
 - c. Captive Breeding
4. The effect of noise on owl hunting - an experiment
 - a. Owl evolution
 - b. Anthropogenic noise
 - c. How to set up an experiment
 - d. Reading spectrograms
 - e. Sharing scientific information

Day 2 (one hour)

1. Review of Day 1
2. American Kestrel Partnership
 - a. Kestrel biology
 - b. Bird survey methods
 - c. Do the data support the hypothesis?
 - d. Uncovering clues to recovery
3. California Condor
 - a. Intro to field studies
 - i. Determining causes of mortality
 - ii. Interpreting lead-exposure data
 - iii. Reviewing field x-rays
 - iv. Interpreting data from GPS transmitters
 - v.
 - b. The role of advocacy in science
 - i. North American Non-lead Partnership
 - ii. The importance of building coalitions