



N A N P A

Raptors, Raptors, Raptors!
Carolina Raptor Center Field Trip
January 17 & 18, 2005

Join expert bird photographers Tom Vezo, Connie Toops, and Donna Eaton for a special visit (maximum 25 photographers per trip) to the Carolina Raptor Center, located 15 miles north of Charlotte, NC. We will photograph a variety of hawks, owls, eagles, and other fascinating raptors up close on natural sets created especially for NANPA attendees.

LOGISTICS:

A complete list of species, including bios of the birds will be used and the order in which we plan to photograph them, will be provided to participants at a pre-trip meeting on the evening before your departure. Leaders will also be available to answer your questions at this time. They will make a short presentation with suggestions on how to photograph the birds without emphasizing their injuries. Please meet at **8pm** at the NANPA registration area that will be at the Westin Hotel in the lobby on Sunday night if you are registered for the trip on Monday, January 17 or at the Convention Center in the registration concourse (on the second level) on Monday if you are registered for the trip on Tuesday, January 18.

DEPARTURE:

Meet at 7AM in the Westin Hotel lobby to begin loading the bus. The bus will leave promptly at 7:30AM.

Depending upon traffic, we should arrive at CRC about 8AM and will remain on site until noon. You will be able to leave extra gear on the bus, which will be parked nearby. Snacks and coffee will be provided. Restrooms and a small nature gift shop at the center will be open.

We will complete our photo session and depart CRC at noon. Expected return time to the hotel is 12:30PM.

WEATHER:

The workshop will be held outdoors. January weather in Charlotte is unpredictable. It may be quite pleasant, or we may have ice or snow. Dress warmly, in layers, and wear a hat and gloves. Shooter's gloves with no fingers may be useful. A waterproof parka for yourself and a rain cover for your gear are advisable. The workshop will be held if there is light snow or intermittent rain showers. Since there is no roofed shelter for birds or photographers, photographic conditions will be dismal during hard or prolonged rain. We reserve the right to cancel if weather is extreme.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT:

Many of the birds at CRC are used in educational situations, thus are accustomed to human presence and voices. Flashes do not normally bother them. They are usually approachable within about 15 feet.

Medium length telephoto lenses such as a 200mm macro, Canon's 100-400mm, or Nikon's 80-400mm are ideal. Telephoto lenses from 300mm to 600mm may also be useful, especially if longer lenses are coupled with

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extension tubes to allow close approach. Please consider that with straight 500mm & 600mm lenses, users may need to stand further back, and photographers with shorter lenses may be positioned closer. We anticipate having three to four birds out as models at all times, and six to eight photographers working with each bird. Use courtesy in positioning yourself and your equipment. We will work in a spirit of cooperation so everyone has good access to the models.

Fill flash may be useful, especially if the weather is overcast. Bring a flash unit compatible with your camera, an off-camera connection cord, and if possible, a flash extension bracket to help eliminate “red eye.” If you are not familiar with flash extension brackets, check the following suppliers: Wimberley www.tripodhead.com, Kirk www.kirkphoto.com, or Len Rue rue@rue.com.

Wimberley will send several F-1 Telephoto brackets, each with an extra M-1 extension post, for participants to try (and purchase if you like). In order to mount these brackets, you will need an Arcs-Swiss style quick release plate with at least ½” of the dovetail available beyond the tripod head. Email Connie Toops (toopsphotoj@msn.com) with questions or to reserve a bracket.

Although we will be working at fairly close distances, flash tele-extenders such as Walt Anderson’s Flash Extender (visualechoes@worldnet.att.net, phone 847-438-3587) may be helpful in directing your illumination and conserving battery power. Please note that tele-extenders work best with lenses 300mm and higher.

A tripod is essential. Also bring plenty of film or digital storage capacity. Don’t forget extra batteries for your camera and flash units.

QUESTIONS? Feel free to contact your trip leaders at:

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