

Summary of the first meeting of steering committee of the Alaska Raptor Group

Meeting date, time and place: 17 April 2008, 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm. NPS Building, Fairbanks, Alaska.

In attendance: Travis Booms, Erica Craig, Steve Lewis*, Carol McIntyre, John Shook, and Denny Zwiefelhofer* (* = by phone)

Purpose of meeting: This first meeting of the Alaska Raptor Group steering committee focused on developing an infrastructure for the group. The specific agenda items for this meeting included:

1. Discuss the purpose of the Alaska Raptor Group.
2. Discuss group participation.
3. Begin developing the group's mission statement, goals, and objectives.
4. Discuss administration of the group.
5. Discuss where and when to hold meetings.
6. Discuss the name of the group.

Meeting overview

1. Mission Statement. The steering committee discussed the purposes of the Alaska Raptor Group and drafted the following mission statement: *The mission of the Alaska Raptor Group is to promote the conservation of Alaska raptors and their habitats.* The steering committee will continue discussions about the mission statement at their next meeting.

2. Participation: The steering committee agreed that participation in the Alaska Raptor Group is open to all interested parties.

[NOTE: Based on an email sent to the chair by Dave Mossop, Whitehorse, Yukon, the steering committee also needs to consider the geographic range of this group. For instance, should the group include Yukon and perhaps NWT? This topic will be on the steering group's next agenda.]

3. Goals. The steering committee discussed and drafted the following goals for the Alaska Raptor Group:

- A. Provide a structured forum to facilitate, coordinate, and enhance the exchange of information regarding Alaska raptors.
- B. Promote research, monitoring, management, and conservation relevant to Alaska raptors.

4. Objectives. The steering committee discussed and drafted the following objectives:

- A. Identify current and emerging conservation, management, and research issues concerning Alaska raptors throughout their year round ranges.
- B. Facilitate the development and implementation of Alaska raptor monitoring, research, and conservation programs.
- C. Complete and deliver to Alaska Raptor Group members, an annual compilation of project abstracts for Alaska raptor projects. Members would submit a brief summary of their annual activities and these summaries will be compiled and distributed to members of the Alaska Raptor Group, Boreal Partners in Flight and other interested parties.

5. Administration of the group. For now, the Alaska Raptor Group will exist as a sub-group of Boreal Partners in Flight. For now, the chair of the steering committee and the steering committee members will serve the roles of group chair and group executive committee, respectively. For now, Carol McIntyre will continue to serve as chair of the steering committee and Travis Booms graciously volunteered to serve as secretary for the steering committee.

6. Potential names for the Alaska Raptor Group: The steering committee agreed that the term “working group” was not a good description for this group and as such will develop a list of potential names for the group. For now, the group will be known as the “Alaska Raptor Group”.

7. Meetings: The steering committee agreed that Alaska Raptor Group should hold annual meetings, and that those meetings should be held during similar time periods as the Boreal Partners in Flight and the Alaska Bird Conference. While the Alaska Raptor Group will operate as a sub-group of Boreal Partners in Flight, it will hold stand alone meetings rather than meet as a session of the larger Boreal Partners in Flight annual meeting.

The steering committee discussed the possibility of holding the first meeting of the Alaska Raptor Group at the 2008 Boreal Partners in Flight meetings in late 2008.

8. Next meeting: The steering committee agreed to maintain interim communications regarding the Alaska Raptor Group via e-mail, rather than attempt to meet again in person during the field season. The steering committee plans on holding its 2nd meeting in early October to continue discussions on the formation of the Alaska Raptor Group. At that meeting, the group will continue discussions focused on infrastructure and developing by-laws for the group.