

2016 Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award Nomination

National Park Service: Denali National Park and Preserve Golden Eagle Program

Partners: US Fish and Wildlife Service; US Geological Survey Alaska Science Center

Project Description: At least 75% of the bird species nesting on lands administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in Alaska are migratory and spend much of their lives outside the boundaries of these protected areas, often crossing multiple international and even continental boundaries during the year. Alaska's National Parklands provide nesting habitat for a greater abundance and diversity of long-distance migratory birds than nearly all the other NPS areas in the United States. Conserving these highly mobile species requires fundamental information about their ecology, year round movements, and threats. For nearly three decades the NPS Denali National Park and Preserve (Denali) Golden Eagle Program has collaborated with federal, state and non-governmental agencies to study the ecology of Golden Eagles that nest in Denali. Denali contains one of North America's largest nesting populations of migratory Golden Eagles and in

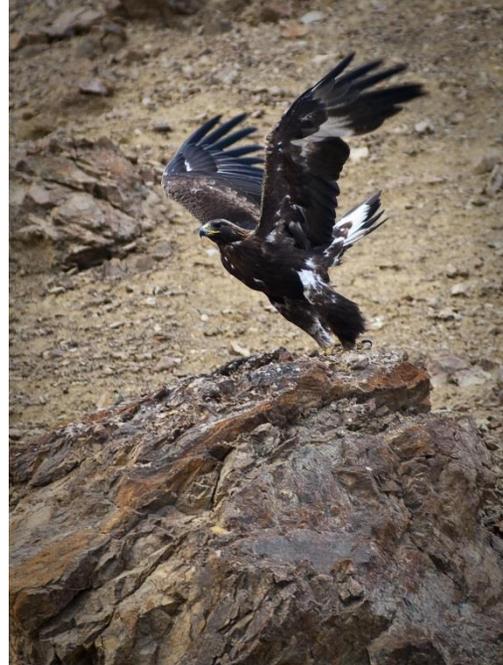


Photo Credit: Kent Miller

cooperation with the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program, supports one of the longest ecological studies of this species in the world. In combination with monitoring activities, a series of collaborative research studies with US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Oregon State University, and West Virginia University have provided, and continue to provide essential information on how migratory Golden Eagles respond to environmental change, including increasing anthropogenic activities. Results of these collaborative studies, published in over a dozen scientific journals and book chapters, have led to science-based management of Golden Eagles in Denali, promoted public understanding of critical park resources, and identified threats to migratory populations of this species. Both the long-term monitoring activities and ongoing collaborative studies of the Denali Golden Eagle Program are essential for developing cross-boundary conservation strategies for this species, particularly given the increased concern over this species' conservation status as threats are becoming better understood