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DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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P.O. BOX 544, ONEONTA, NY 13820

October 17, 2013

Dear Supporter;

Once again we are asking for your help. In 2007 we raised money for research on eastern Golden Eagles. With these funds we were able to purchase a transmitter for a Golden Eagle. We also covered the costs of migration counts at 6 spring sites in 2009 and 2010. Your donations contributed to important information on eagles in the region. This past spring we learned of a local wind project that was thought by the developer to be in a safe area, but in fact had a significant presence of Golden and Bald Eagles. Golden Eagle is a species especially vulnerable to wind turbines. We knew about eagles at the site because of the telemetry data, and the results from our 2009 spring counts in Delaware County. Your support has already benefited this species locally.

At poorly sited wind projects, thousands of raptors have been killed, including hundreds of Golden Eagles in the western U.S. As many as 60,000 wind turbines will be required to reach national goals. Many will be built along the ridges of New York and Pennsylvania. Our organization supports wind as an alternative to fossil fuel use. However, we need to learn more about where large numbers of soaring raptors concentrate. Right now, we have identified some areas but too little is known about the migration of our small eastern population of Golden Eagles to safely site many of these ridge top projects.

We have developed a good relationship with Dr. Todd Katzner at West Virginia University and the team involved in this research. With Dr. Katzner's guidance we have been siting baited "camera traps" at high elevations in Delaware and Otsego Counties since the winter of 2010 with good results. Every winter we have had Golden Eagles at our sites. In fact, there seem to be many more winter residents in New York than anyone expected.

Our winter resident birds behave differently from the birds tracked so far. We want to learn more about them. Of the 50 birds that have been tracked since 2007, none were captured in New York. We want to improve the models being developed by Dr. Katzner's team by adding data from New York birds. We also want to investigate how they use the terrain and habitats of our area.

We are currently seeking donations and grant money to fund a trapping and tracking program and associated research. We want to purchase 4 next-generation tracking devices. These new solar powered transmitters use Global Positioning System technology and download the data through the cell phone network. The wealth of information these units provide on location, flight direction and height is exactly the information needed for migration models, and for us to continue to engage developers and

regulators on safe wind development in our region.

Trapping is planned to take place in February 2014 at our camera trap sites. Sites with regular Golden Eagle visitors will be identified before licensed trappers travel here to trap and fit devices on the birds.

We ask that you contribute to this important work. All funds we receive through this campaign will be dedicated to the Golden Eagle research project. The technology ideally suited to our goals is expensive. We need a minimum of \$10,000 just to purchase telemetry units. We are seeking outside grant funding, and we have commitments for support from Dr. Katzner's research team. However, there are additional costs for personnel, travel, housing, associated trapping equipment use and other related expenses.

If funding allows, we would like to fund the production of maps of tracked Golden Eagles in New York for the use of developers and regulators in planning wind development. Currently, only basic information is available. We also want to identify new sites for counting migrants in both spring and fall. Our volunteers contribute over 1000 hours of their time each year counting migrating raptors and running camera traps. We cannot expect them to do more. We will need to hire a contractor for any additional full-time coverage of count sites.

Your tax deductible gift can help fund this local telemetry project and research. A large donation could even cover the cost of a telemetry unit.

Golden Eagles need not suffer from our ignorance. Please generously support this important project. Know your donation will be put to excellent use. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have about this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Salo', written in a cursive style.

Tom Salo, DOAS Research Coordinator  
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