

Brief Bio for Bob Anderson
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Bob Anderson is the Director of the Raptor Resource Project. An avid falconer, Anderson trapped his first raptor, or bird of prey - a Red-tailed hawk - in 1960. He started his work in raptor conservation in 1971, while working for the Science Museum of Minnesota. At that time, raptors were in trouble. Many species were in decline and several, including the Peregrine falcon and Bald eagle, were threatened with extinction. Anderson began by breeding Peregrine falcons for release and recovery efforts, producing many of the first Peregrine falcons to be released in the Midwest. In 1987, after an absence of four decades, one of Anderson's falcons became the first to survive and breed in the Central United States. The Peregrine was on its way back.

Anderson went on to pioneer a program to attract falcons to utility stacks, launch a controversial breeding and release program to return falcons to Mississippi river cliffs, and lead a team of volunteer observers and climbers to monitor and band birds of prey on stacks, cliffs, water towers, and other high places. All of these programs proved enormously successful. By 2011, over 1,000 young peregrines had been produced on Midwest power plants, falcons had bred on a total of 21 Mississippi cliffs since their return to the river in 2000, and Anderson and his team were monitoring over 40 peregrine, owl, osprey, kestrel, and eagle nests. In recognition of these extraordinary accomplishments, the Explorer's Club named Anderson a Champion of Wildlife.

Anderson has also been involved with natural history films and internet bird cams. He assisted Emmy-award winning filmmaker Neil Rettig with *Raptor Force*, *The American Eagle*, *Harpy Eagle: Spirit of the Ceiba Tree*, National Geographic's *Great Migrations*, and Discovery's *Spring Watch USA*. In 1998 *Mae's Internest*, Anderson's first internet birdcam, made webhost Xcel Energy the busiest website in the world. He followed it up with osprey cams, kestrel cams, owl cams and, most famously, eagle cams. In 2011, over 200 million viewers from 184 countries worldwide watched young eagles in Decorah, Iowa, grow from newly hatched babies to fledglings on the wing. Almost overnight, Bob Anderson and the Raptor Resource Project were providing one of the world's largest wildlife education programs. As of 2014, more than 300 million people had logged in to watch the Decorah Eagle family.

Anderson's future plans include a kestrel recovery program, the addition of more cliff-mounted nestboxes along the Mississippi river, and more birdcams. Although Anderson has expanded far beyond his original intent of breeding and releasing Peregrine falcons, he remains dedicated to telling its story. "The peregrine's near extinction and recovery sends a message that we can make a difference. I can't imagine a more important message to give people, especially young people, today."