

Carolina Raptor Center Archives

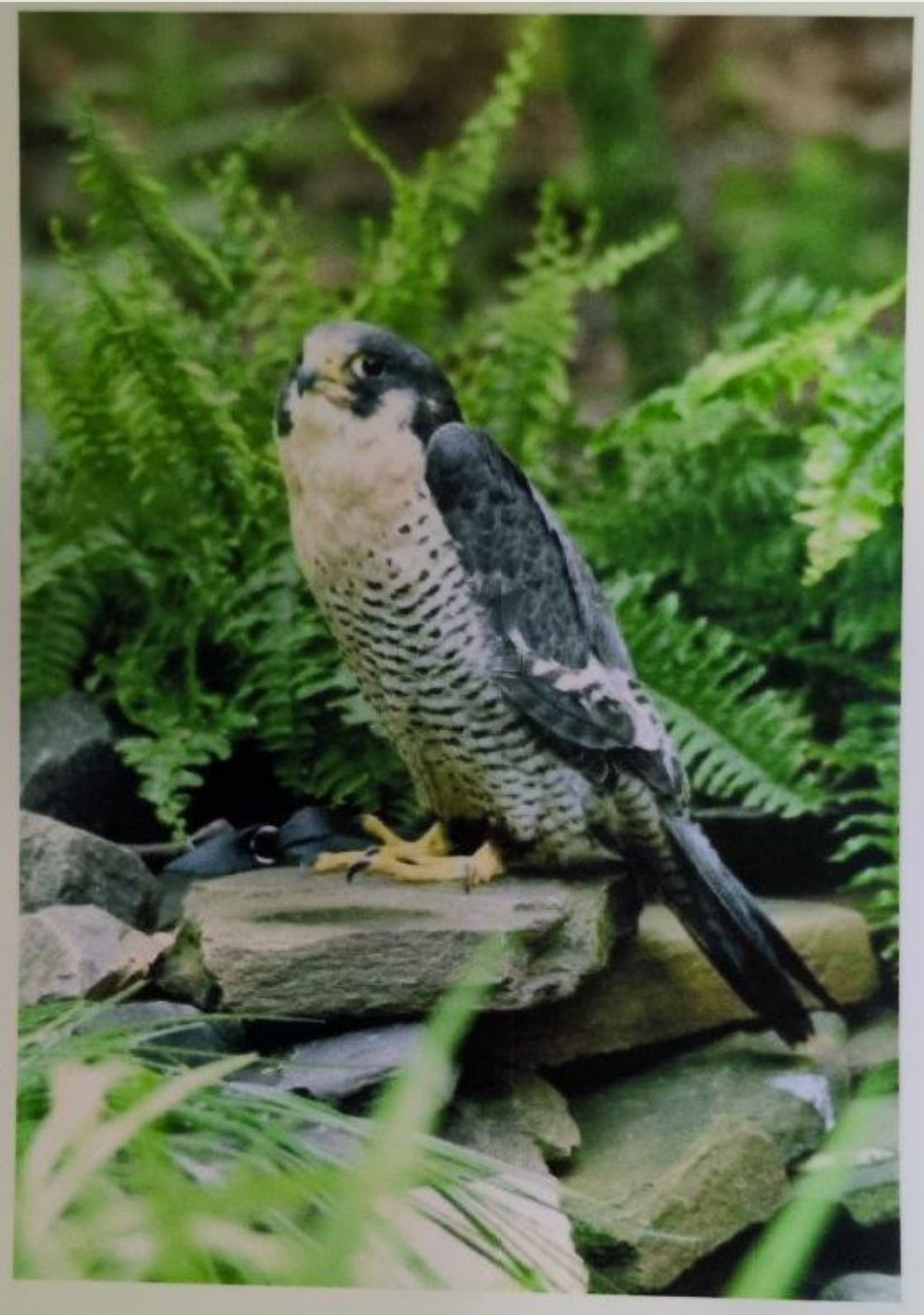
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Huntersville, NC

INTRODUCTION

The Carolina Raptor Center (CRC) in Huntersville, NC began with the treatment of an injured Broad-winged Hawk. Dr. Richard Brown, an ornithologist, treated the bird in 1975. Then in 1981 he co-founded, with student Deb Sue Griffin, a nonprofit that would later become the Carolina Raptor Center. Today, we treat approximately 800 birds a year at our hospital. In 2024 we released our 10,000th patient! Our public trail that houses over 20 rehabilitated raptors sees approximately 35,000 visitors a year.

Peregrine Falcon
"Ming";
Photo by CRC, 2001.



Through the decades we have contributed to the research of raptors, and this is part of the archives I have been digitally preserving. As a nonprofit, the funds are heavily limited to physically preserve the documents and materials that have been kept. As a MLIS student, I have taken it upon myself to make digital copies of these materials so that the history and research of the Carolina Raptor Center remains accessible for years to come.



Great Horned Owl; CRC Photoshoot, 2004.

"Raptor Rehabilitation: A Manual of Guidelines Offered by the Carolina Raptor Center"

"Raptor Rehabilitation" was co-written by our long-time Senior Rehabilitation Coordinator Mathias Englemann and Pat Marcum. Marcum also did the illustrations in addition to Tracii Gammans. This manual contains raptor treatment guidelines based on practices performed at CRC. While raptor rehabilitation has evolved since the release of this manual in 1993, new practices find their foundation in older research. Facilities like CRC are an important resource for past, present, and future research.

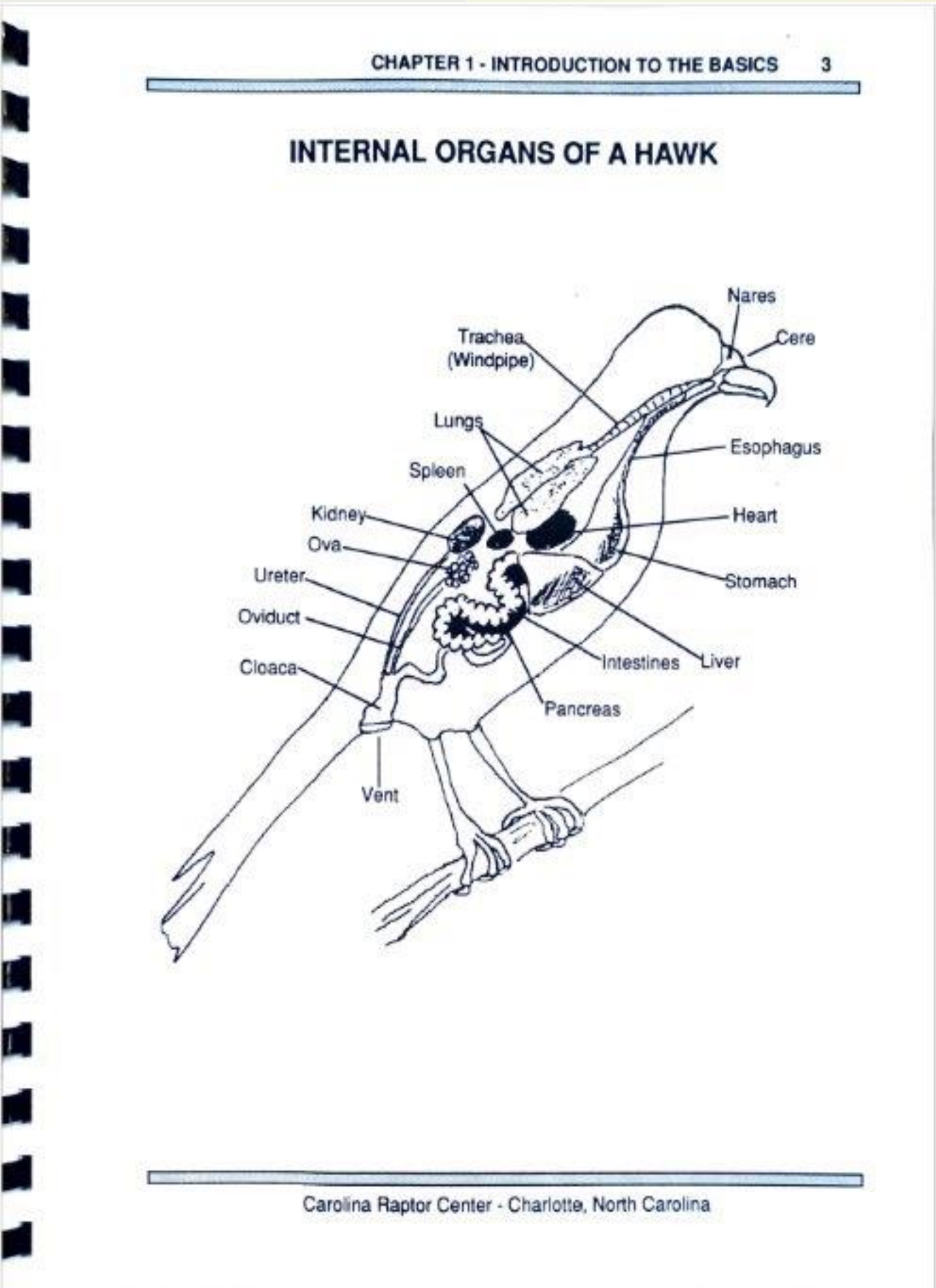
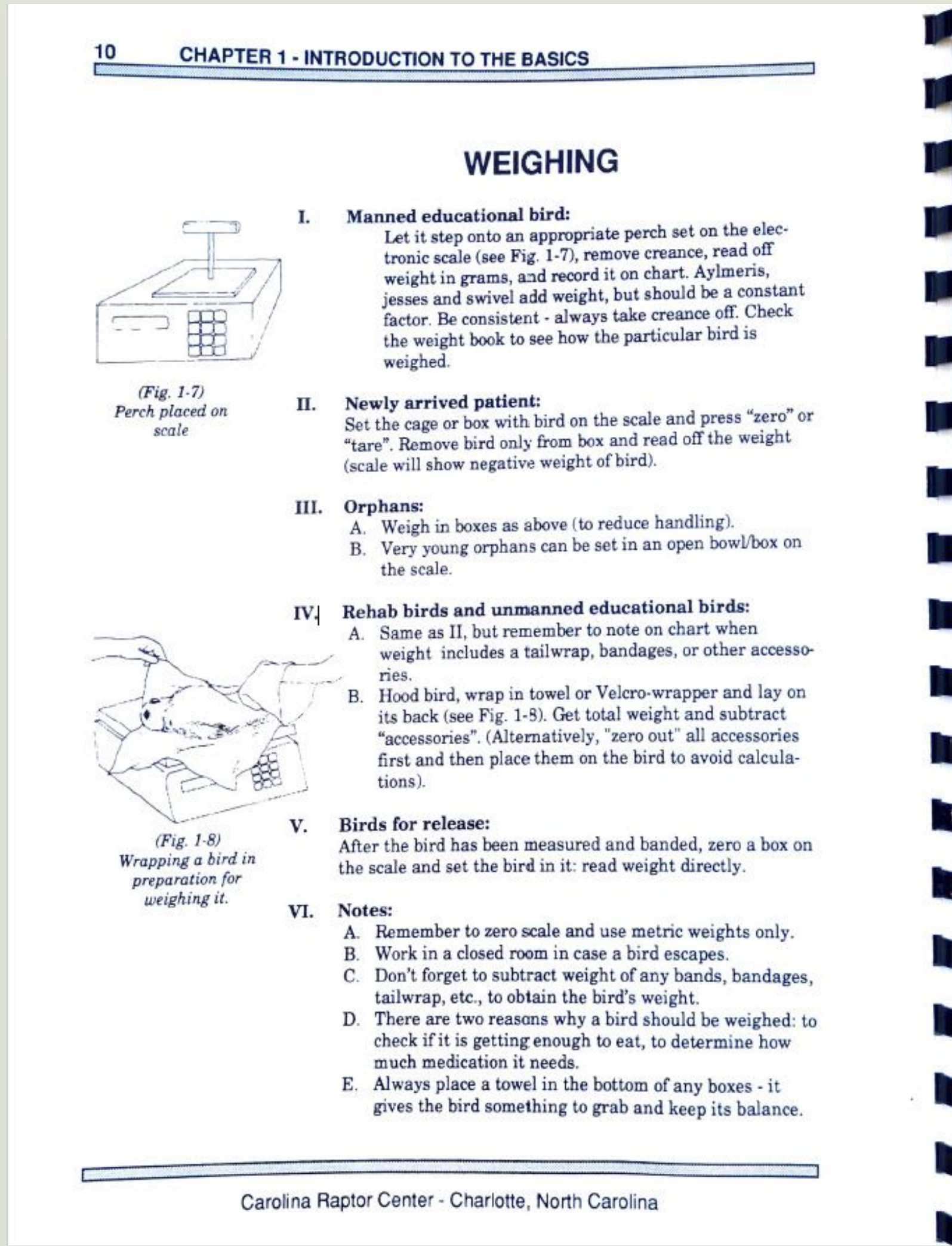


Illustration of hawk; "Raptor Rehabilitation", 1993.



Instructions for weighing raptors; "Raptor Rehabilitation", 1993.

"Hawk Watch"

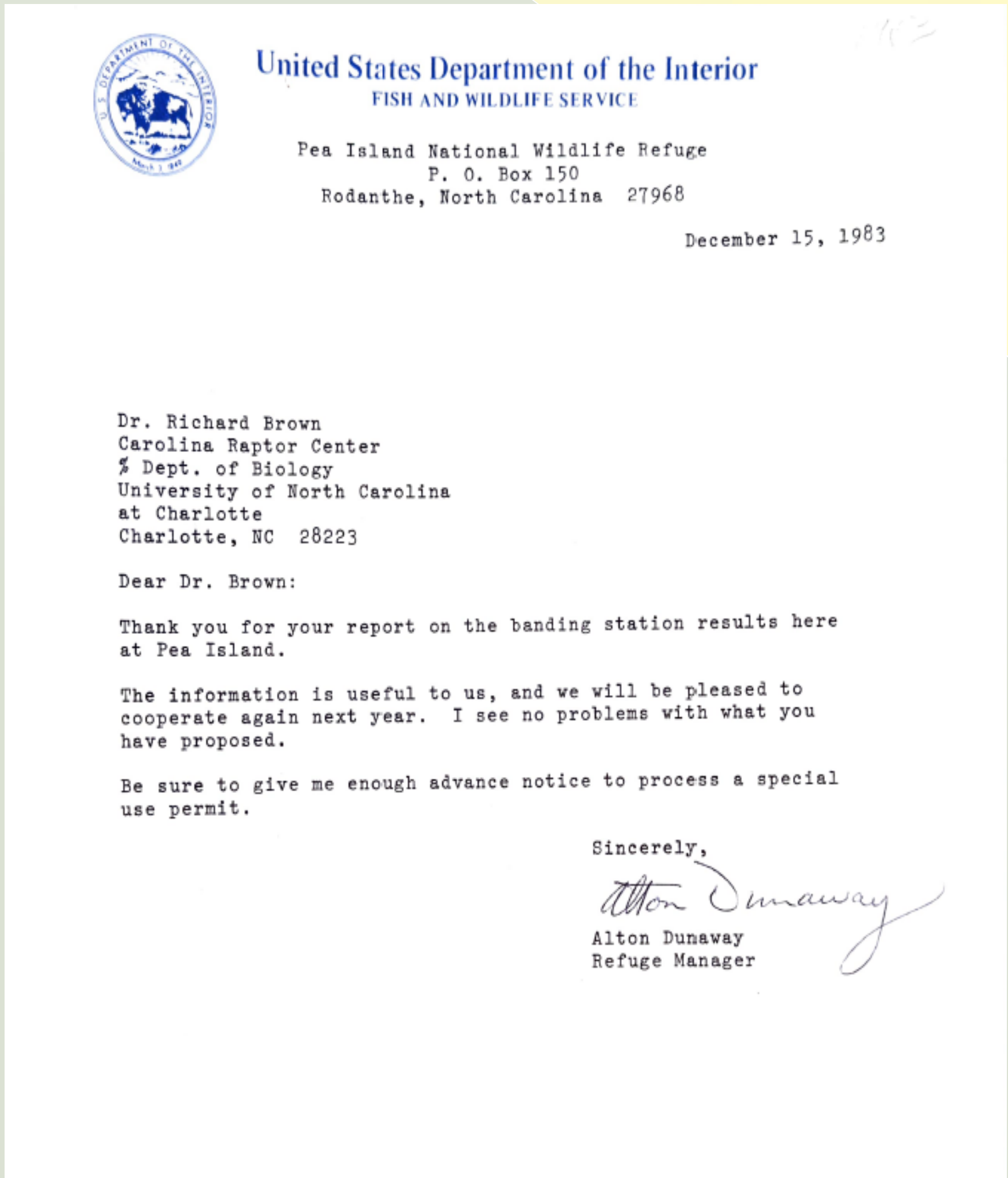
TABLE 1. Daily hawkwatching census between 23 September and 13 November 1983 at Pea Island NWP at the Carolina Raptor Center's Hawk Watch and Raptor Banding Station during banding activities.

DATE	HOURS	TOTU	OSPR	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	RTHA	AMKE	MSRL	PEPA	UNON	TOTAL	
9-23	9.0			3								3	
24	13.0			2						1		4	
25	6.0			1								1	
29	6.0										1	16	
30	5.0				2			6	1	2		11	
10-1	12.0		1	3				8	6	1	1	20	
2	8.75			4	15			11	4			34	
6	12.5			5	1			11	4			17	
7	12.0			3	8	1		25	2	1		40	
8	12.25		1	1	51	1		19	3	3		81	
9	12.5				431	1		12	4	1		451	
10	12.25			4	9			2			1	16	
11	4.25			3	1			1		5		11	
14	12.0							5	2	7		23	
15	11.75			6	3			5	3			76	
16	12.0			10	58			2	2			90	
17	12.0				84	2		4	2			122	
18	11.5			2	114			1				30	
19	10.0			1	28			4	1			15	
20	8.0			3	7			2	1			4	
21	3.0				1			2	3			9	
22	11.0			4	1					1		3	
23	8.25			1	1			5	7	4	1	195	
24	10.25			6	172			12	2			104	
25	6.75			1	89			5				35	
26	12.0			8	21			6	1			14	
27	9.0			3	4			4	7	3		310	
28	10.0	2		11	283			2	1			83	
29	7.0			11	68			2	2	1		189	
*29	10.0			17	166			2	2			30	
30	5.0		1	11	16			1	1			13	
11-12	4.5		1	4	4			4	1		1	31	
13	8.75				8								
TOTAL	32	305.25	2	4	147	1646	5	9	176	55	33	6	2083

* Two surveys taken on same day, one at the east Banding Station, the other in Rodanthe at the west Banding Station (*) for comparison.

Hawk Watch Fall Report; Dr. Richard Brown, 1983.

In 1983 Dr. Richard Brown initiated a long-term study of migration patterns of raptors along the North Carolina coast. This research ran from 1983-1986, and was the first time these migration patterns were observed for an extended period of time. This research being the first of its kind for the North Carolina coast is valuable for researchers who wish to compare new research of raptor migration.



Letter from the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service approving hawk watch research; Alton Dunaway, 1983.

CONCLUSION

This is just a sampling of the research conducted by CRC. We also have archived research on Osprey, Eastern Screech Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks, and more. The history preserved here solidifies our strong reputation as a trustworthy research facility for raptors on the east coast. In fact, we had the honor of hosting the Raptor Research Foundation annual conference in 2024. This archival work represents how our presence has made an impact on wildlife education, rehabilitation, and conservation since its inception.



Barred Owl; Festival in the Park, 2000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit carolinaraptorcenter.org to learn more about the organization. We do not have these archives available to the public since they are still being processed, but that is the long-term goal.