

# Voice for the Wild

## Greetings

*Hello from Calgary!*

Another year has come and gone, and we hope you have had a good one. Ours has been busy and eventful - read on for some of the highlights. As usual, for David's up-to-the-minute news and schedule, visit his web site often at [www.davidkitler.com](http://www.davidkitler.com). If you can make it to any of the upcoming events, stop by and say hello. If not, we would still love to hear from you! //



"Harpy Eagle Montage"

## In the Studio

*Originals and Reproductions*

### Originals

David has completed a number of **new originals**, most of them inspired by his AFC Expedition (formerly WNAG Expedition) to study the Harpy Eagle and its habitat, as well as by latest trip to Brazil. He is also finishing off two more pieces in his "Larger than Life" series. Check them out on David's web site and let us know what you think!

### Reproductions

Three of David's images have been chosen from close to 700 entries for inclusion in the 2007 Ducks Unlimited

Canada (DUC) National Art Print Portfolio. The images have been combined into one print, "**Songbird Trio**," and David is honoured to be a part of this program once again.

These high quality lithographic prints will be sold at over 650 fundraising events nationally (banquet auctions, golf tournaments, etc.), as well as through the Sealed Bid Auction Program, which is hosted by over 2,200 businesses. Starting in January 2008, David will also have **100 Artist Proofs** of these images available for sale. Please let us know if you would like to pre-order your copy. //

## In the Classroom

*Art Classes, Workshops, and Videos*

### Instructional DVDs

David's first instructional DVD on **basic drawing techniques** will be available this summer. Another DVD on **acrylic techniques** will soon follow. Produced by the great group of professionals at Creative Catalyst Productions ([www.ccpvideos.com](http://www.ccpvideos.com)), these DVDs are packed with information, demonstrations, and extra features.

Sign up for CCP's e-newsletter to receive **pre-release** information and discounts. Or keep on checking CCP's and/or David's website for release dates and details on how to order a copy for yourself. They would also make a great gift for the aspiring artists in your family.



"Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel"

## Weekly Art Classes

If you are interested in art classes in the Calgary area, David continues to teach at Jon Williams Studio. These classes are open to students of **all skill levels**, working on any subject and in any medium. For

information, check David's web site or give him a call.

### Workshops

David also teaches a number of "wildlife in acrylic" workshops, which are open to artists of all skill levels. While working on a wildlife subject of your choice, David will review drawing and painting basics, and teach techniques that are specific to acrylics. Learning is further facilitated by demos and slide shows. Check the "Following David's Tracks" column or David's web site for dates and locations of **upcoming workshops**, or let us know if you would like him to teach one in your area. //



"Songbird Trio"



"Watchful Gaze - Geoffrey's Tamarin"

## Highlights

*Awards & Recognition*

### **The Artist's Magazine**

Two of David's pieces received special recognition in the *The Artist's Magazine* 23rd Annual Art Competition. His "Pelican Up Close" was one of 30 pieces named "the **Best Art of 2006**" when it was awarded Honorable Mention in the Animal Art category. "Wren on Thistle" was also selected as a finalist. This is truly an accomplishment to be proud of, as the magazine received almost 1,400 entries in this category alone.

"Pelican Up Close" was featured in the December issue of the magazine, along with information about David's work.

If you don't already subscribe to the magazine, make sure to get your hands on this issue (or check it online at [www.artistsmagazine.com/2006\\_animal.html](http://www.artistsmagazine.com/2006_animal.html)). Also, don't miss the **upcoming December 2007** issue for more great news on David and his work.

### **Baillie Birdathon**

David had the honour of being invited by Bird Studies Canada to be the Guest Artist for the 2007 Baillie Birdathon, and participants' t-shirts prominently displayed his "Osprey Juvenile Preliminary Sketch."

More than 7,000 people from across Canada (and from several countries around the world) participate in and/or sponsor Birdathon in May of every year. During a 24-hour period they attempt to find as many bird species as they



"Larger Than Life - Red-Tailed Hawk"

can, sponsored at a flat rate, or on a per-species basis.

Canada's Baillie Birdathon is the oldest sponsored bird count in North America. It was established in 1976 as a national fundraiser to support the research and conservation of wild birds. Funds raised by participants benefit not only the work of Bird Studies Canada, but also designated bird observatories in the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, which provides research grants to amateurs across Canada, and participating conservation and naturalist clubs. David was thrilled to be a part of this event.

### **Cornell University Lab of Ornithology**

Education is a vital component of the Lab's mission. They provide a number of education projects, courses and seminars designed to make learning more about birds easy and enjoyable.

One of these programs is the "Monday Night Seminar" series, where David made a presentation entitled "**Observing and Portraying the Harpy Eagle and its Habitat.**" He was honoured for the opportunity to share his passion for conservation, as well as his experiences in Panama during the first ever AFC Flag Expedition.

**Streaming video** of David's presentation can now be viewed online at [www.birds.cornell.edu/LabPrograms/Education/MNseminars\\_Past.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/LabPrograms/Education/MNseminars_Past.html); once on the page, scroll down to November 6, 2006 to find the link. //

## AFC Flag Expedition

*A Follow-Up*

The impact of the first-ever AFC Flag Expedition continues...

### **Llano Bonito**

It is Monday, March 12, 2007. In a remote village in the Panamanian

## Following David's Tracks



**July 6-15, 2007**

### **Calgary Stampede Western Art Show**

Hall D, Round-Up Centre  
Calgary Exhibition & Stampede  
Calgary, AB

For additional information:  
[info@westernshowcase.com](mailto:info@westernshowcase.com)  
[westernshowcase.calgarystampede.com](http://westernshowcase.calgarystampede.com)

♦ ♦ ♦  
**August 17-19, 2007**

### **30th Buckhorn Fine Art Festival**

Buckhorn Community Centre  
Buckhorn, ON

For additional information:  
[artfest@buckhorncc.com](mailto:artfest@buckhorncc.com)  
[www.buckhornfineart.com](http://www.buckhornfineart.com)

♦ ♦ ♦  
**August 24-25, 2007**

### **In Gallery Demonstration**

Horizon Fine Art Gallery  
Jackson, WY

For additional information:  
1-877-739-1540  
[www.horizonfineartgallery.com](http://www.horizonfineartgallery.com)

♦ ♦ ♦  
**October 5-7, 2007**

### **Fort Worden Wildlife and Nature Art Expo**

Fort Worden State Park  
Conference Centre  
Port Townsend, WA

For additional information:  
[wildart@wildartexpo.org](mailto:wildart@wildartexpo.org)  
[www.wildartexpo.org](http://www.wildartexpo.org)

♦ ♦ ♦  
**October 8-10, 2007**

### **Wildlife in Acrylics Workshop**

Fort Worden State Park  
Port Townsend, WA

For additional information:  
[wildart@wildartexpo.org](mailto:wildart@wildartexpo.org)

♦ ♦ ♦  
**October 12-14, 2007**

### **Wildlife in Acrylics Workshop**

Arts Desire  
Vancouver, WA

For additional information:  
(360) 693-0028  
[www.bevelar.com](http://www.bevelar.com)



Darien jungle, a few lucky kids are starting the school year with brand new backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils...



Llano Bonito children lining up for their new school supplies

In February 2007, we returned to Llano Bonito, where we handed the villagers **hundreds of pounds** of school supplies and baseball equipment, as well as other donated items, including fabric, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. It took five horses (and a 3-hour hike) to get all of the supplies from the closest town to the village. Thanks to all who donated, and the logistical support of Advantage Tours ([www.advantagepanama.com](http://www.advantagepanama.com)), there were a lot of happy faces. The natives were simply overwhelmed by the fact that so many people, from so far away, had cared so much as to try to help their children and their community.

If you have been a part of this effort, take a minute to **pat yourself on the back!** The community of Llano Bonito thanks you. Your kindness and generosity has made a real difference in their lives.



The Harpy "chick" we watched in 2005 is now a juvenile

### Harpy Eagle Update

We wanted to take advantage of the fact that we were so close, to re-visit the Harpy Eagle nesting site where we had spent so much time 14 months earlier. The then-chick should be around 18 months old and, although it might still be dependent on its parents for food, those feeding visits would likely be a week or more apart. We were not holding any hope of actually seeing the birds...

The visit to the nest provided more information about the Harpy Eagle's diet, in the form of bone fragments, claws, and bits of fur that were

found at the base of the nest tree. The tree looked quite different, as the nest itself was gone. According to the native guide that accompanied us, strong winds had recently toppled several of the smaller trees in the area, and also blew away all of the nesting material from the tree. We took a moment to photograph and document the current state of the area.

We were already half-way down the hill, heading towards the trail that would take us out of the jungle, when we heard the familiar call. It was hard to believe, but the **juvenile Harpy Eagle** was back! It had flown in, landing on a nearby tree, and was calling to be fed. After moving around with some difficulty in the dense jungle floor, we were able to find a good vantage point from which to photograph the handsome juvenile "our" little chick had turned into. The Harpy Eagle will not get its final colouring until it is about 5 years old, so in this photo you will notice the much lighter grays of the juvenile's plumage.

What a treat! And how hard it was to turn away and leave... If reality was not calling for us to get back home, we would surely have loved to spend another month in that spot...

### Sad News

We had promised that we would give the villagers copies of all the photos taken during our first visit. The natives are not used to seeing themselves in print; so

they had a lot of fun passing the photos around, something that was inevitably accompanied by much laughter and giggling. We also plaque-mounted the "family portraits" that were taken at that time, so that the photos would withstand the humid conditions in the jungle.

For one of the ladies, Ilma, the delivery of her family portrait was, instead, followed by tears. She explained that one of her sons, 9-year old Omar, had been killed a few months earlier by a snake (fer-de-lance). We worried that the photo had upset her. On the contrary; it turns out that she was sad but grateful, because now she would always be able to look into Omar's little face.

If you look at the photo of the villagers taken during our first visit, Omar is the little boy holding the AFC/WNAG Flag behind Ly, and his mother is the smiling lady standing behind him and to the left.

Omar's story stands as a reminder of how precious each moment of our lives is. None of us knows what tomorrow might bring, so we should not put off doing the things we feel led to do today.

The tribal "tattoos" quickly faded (David was the one who got painted this time), but we will never forget the renewed friendships and the time spent, once again, among these special people.



Nine-year old Omar was killed by a fer-de-lance

### Rescuing Wildlife

Besides our experiences with the natives, we have had the privilege of meeting many special individuals who have committed their lives to the conservation of the rainforest and all of its inhabitants in Panama. One such individual is Jessica Rosas.



Orphaned two-toed sloths being raised by Jessica Rosas

Jessica single-handedly rescues and cares for a variety of wild creatures that have fallen victim of human or nature's cruelty in Panama City's Metropolitan Park. The 256-hectare park protects a wild island of tropical forest within Panama City's city limits, and is home to hundreds of bird and mammal species.

Jessica sleeps on the floor, so that the many baby sloths she has rescued can enjoy the warmth of her bed. During this last visit she was also caring for two orphaned baby vultures, a falcon, a toucan that was rescued from the black market, tamarins - one of which had been in a small cage for so long that his legs were atrophied in a crouching position - and the list goes on and on. After returning them to health, Jessica will release as many as possible to the wild. For the ones that cannot be released, Jessica will try to find homes in zoos or other suitable facilities, where they can become part of educational programs.

As usual, there is an ongoing shortage of supplies and materials, but Jessica still manages to do so much with so little. Again, we promised we would try to help.

## How to Contact Us



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*Publisher and distributor of original paintings and reproductions by artist David N. Kitler*

## Help Needed

Besides the ongoing need for school supplies and other everyday basic items, the villagers of Llano Bonito have made a few special requests. We have summarized those, along with the list of materials and supplies that would assist Jessica in her conservation efforts, into a "wish list" (see box on this page). If you can help in any way and would like to be a part of this ongoing project, please write, call, or email us. We know that we cannot save the world but, with your help and generosity, we hope to continue to make a difference to the people and wildlife in that little corner of the world.

## Background

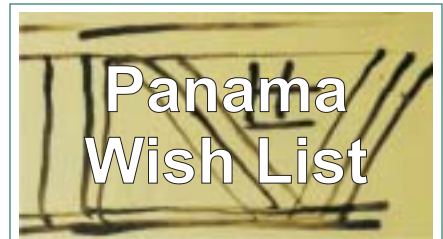
Back in December 2005 David spent a month in the jungles of Panama observing and gathering reference material for the portrayal of the Harpy Eagle and its habitat. The trip was the first-ever awarded under the Artists for Conservation (AFC) Flag Expeditions Program.

The resulting artwork, as well as the publicity generated by the Expedition, will be used to support conservation efforts to restore the Harpy Eagle to its historical ranges, while helping to educate the public on the key role this species plays in the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem.

During the Expedition, we had the privilege of being the first-ever outsiders to stay at the Embera community of Llano Bonito. One of seven native tribes that still inhabit Panama, the Embera live in the same manner as their ancestors did for hundreds of years - in thatched-roof open-sided huts, making a living from subsistence farming (plantains, corn, rice, etc.), as well as hunting and fishing - and receive no government assistance. When asked about their needs, their only concern was for their children, who they speak of as "their future."

## Expedition Photos and Video Footage

To read about the AFC Program, visit [www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions](http://www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions). To learn more about David's Expedition, or to view his journal, photos, artwork, etc., follow the links to the Flag Expedition #1. In his Blog page, you will now also be able to view some **video footage** taken during the Expedition. //



## Village of Llano Bonito

### Ongoing Needs

- › School supplies
- › Personal care supplies (e.g. toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc.)

### Special Requests

- › 1 lawn mower (*will help with keeping the areas around the huts and school clear of the tall grasses that can hide snakes, like the one that killed Omar*)
- › 11 baseball gloves
- › 3 soccer balls
- › 19 school uniforms
- › 6 cans of paint (beige)
- › Building materials, e.g. cement, zinc sheets, hammer, hand saw, sand, beam, etc. (*for building a stable structure that would serve as church and community meeting place; the previous thatched-roof structure was destroyed during the rainy season*)

### Jessica Rosas (Metropolitan Park)

- › Live traps (e.g. Tomahawk)
- › Material for animal enclosures (e.g. wire mesh)
- › Tracking collars



Detail from "Eye Series I"