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**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE'S HAWKS RETURN TO LAY EGGS
FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR!**

New video documentary narrates the first two years of the hawk story at The Franklin Institute

Philadelphia, PA March 17, 2011 – The Franklin Institute will soon become home for a third straight year to new baby hawks, and has just released a 5-minute documentary about its feathered friends. Late this winter, the pair of red-tailed hawks returned to their nest balanced on the ledge of The Franklin Institute's executive board room to prepare the nest for the eggs. The Franklin Institute, along with a group of avid bird-watching fans, have anxiously awaited the arrival of the brand-new red-tailed hawk eggs, and on March 17, the many faithful viewers watched via live streamed video as the first egg dropped.

"We are thrilled to welcome back the hawks, and once again provide a lens into this incredible act of nature taking place right in our backyard," said Franklin Institute President and CEO Dennis Wint, who also holds degrees in Wildlife Ecology, *"it truly is a remarkable way to learn about the behavior and existence of these relatively rare birds, which have taken a liking to The Franklin Institute."*

In spring of 2009, a pair of mating red-tailed hawks made an unusual move to the city of brotherly love, inhabiting the ledge of The Franklin Institute's executive board room. As a result, The Franklin Institute installed a live webcam and streamed their daily activities. Placed only two feet away, the webcam created a rare and intimate view of the hawks and their young. Audiences were instantly captivated, and were inspired to create numerous outside blogs and fan groups, including the [Hawkaholics](#) on Facebook, and [Hawkwatch at The Franklin Institute](#).

In response to the intense interest, The Franklin Institute released today a 5-minute video which documents the incredible journey of these popular red-tailed hawks. The video is now available on The Franklin Institute's website, alongside continuous live USTREAM coverage of their daily activity. To see the video documentary or watch the action live, visit: <http://www.fi.edu/hawks/>

Historical timeline of events:

January/February: Hawks prepare the nest
Mid-March: Eggs arrive
Late-April: Eggs hatch
May: Feeding and nurturing of eyasses (baby hawks)
Early June: First nestling flight
Late June: Empty nest

The Franklin Institute

Founded in honor of America's first scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute is one of America's oldest and premier centers of science education and development in the country. Today, the Institute continues its dedication to public education and creating a passion for science by offering new and exciting access to science and technology in ways that would dazzle and delight its namesake. For more information please visit www.fi.edu.