

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by JANELLE LONG



*Black-throated Blue Warbler*

Photo by Sparky Stensaas

My first bird job was a seasonal summer field tech position during my last year of college. It took me into the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains. We studied Wood Thrush, Ovenbirds, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Hooded Warblers. My days were filled searching for nests, monitoring nests, conducting all day nest observations, and assisting with bird banding. I loved the peacefulness of my mind walking through the woods. I loved the scavenger hunt feeling of finding a nest. I loved the intimate time spent observing birds, learning their behavior and song. It was that summer I became very fond of warblers. Everything about them was intriguing to me, especially the Black-throated Blue beauty. I was hooked.

In 2013, I was able to reconnect with that beauty on two occasions. On Sunday May 19, reports of a fallout of warblers at Park Point Recreation Area in Duluth, MN lured me there. Minimal effort was needed to see 20+ species of warblers within minutes. It felt kind of like a kid's Easter Egg hunt, including all the beautiful colors. Warblers covered the trees and ground, including the beautiful Black-throated Blue. Feeling happy

was an understatement. The second occasion happened to be on my birthday in September at Hawk Ridge. The banding station reported they had a Black-throated Blue Warbler. I didn't even make that birthday wish, but it was an amazing one. If I knew the emoticon for ecstatic, I would put it here.

Both of those occasions with the Black-throated Blue Warbler helped reconnect me to that feeling of excitement for birding I first realized in the Great Smoky Mountains. It made me grateful for where I am today working for Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. It made me grateful for the people I've connected with and learned from to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for birds and their importance. It made me grateful to know of others and that others can be inspired by birds to elicit great emotion, passion, and positive change for nature and humanity.

Thank you Black-throated Blue Warbler for reminding me and thank you Hawk Ridge supporters for continuing to inspire me.

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## HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY

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### SOCIALIZE WITH US



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# STAFF

Thank you to all the great staff that served Hawk Ridge in 2013. We truly appreciate your hard work, enthusiasm, and extra effort put forth. Your passion and dedication to bird conservation research, education, and stewardship is putting our mission to action.

## MANAGERS

Frank Nicoletti, Banding Director (17)  
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Western Great Lakes Owl Monitoring: Dave Grosshuesch & Julie O'Connor  
Research Statistical Data & Graphics: Ed Zlonis & Cory Ritter

Numbers in parentheses indicate number of years involved with Hawk Ridge.



Thanks to Cory Ritter for 3 fun years as the counter a.k.a. "The Count"!

Photo by Karl Bardon



Count Interpreter, Erik Bruhnke. Thanks for 6 great years of wonderful connections with visitors and birds!

Photo by Karen Stubenvoll

## ABOUT HAWK RIDGE

### MISSION

The mission of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory is to protect birds of prey and other migratory birds in the Western Lake Superior Region through research, education, and stewardship.

### VISION

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory will be a leading and respected non-profit organization dedicated to the understanding and conservation of wild birds and the ecosystems that sustain them.

### VALUES

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (HRBO) values:

- Birds – for their beauty and their role in the natural world
- Knowledge – from science-based research
- Education – to inspire an appreciation of nature through birds
- Stewardship – of natural resources that sustain bird populations
- Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve – as a unique natural area for bird migration and other outdoor experiences.

# VOLUNTEERS

We have approximately 200 AMAZING volunteers helping us out with various projects, committees, events, and programs each year. We truly appreciate each and every one of you for your time and talent given.

## **SPRING & FALL COUNT**

Dave Carman, Andrew Longtin, Russ and Ann Edmonds, Joe Beck, Karl Bardon, Frank Nicoletti, Stephen Bockhold, Jane Hosking, Mike Hendrickson, Erik Bruhnke, Harold Nordin, Peder Svingen, Annmarie Geniusz, Jan Green, Jan and Larry Kraemer, and Tori Steely

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Karen Stubenvoll, Tara Haynes, Dave Alexander, Annmarie Geniusz, Kate Nicoletti, Katie Swanson, Todd Burnside, Cory Ritter, Stephen Bockhold, Allen Best, Andrew Longtin, David Carman, Amber Burnette, Miranda Durbin, Kati Kristenson, Caitlin Johnson, Rachel Harris, Lauren Haag, Joni Johnson, Bruce Munson, Jessamy Schwartz, Gary Leeper, Jane Hosking, Karl Bardon, Tim Bates, Bob Owens, Judy Gibbs, Annie Bracey, Don Pierce, Sandy Roggenkamp, Steve Wilson, Jessica Chatterton

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## **HAWK RIDGE MAIN OVERLOOK**

Thank you to the numerous volunteers (over 70!) that helped during the 2013 fall season. A special thanks to the following that have volunteered 5+ fall seasons that included 2013:

David Carman, Annie Choate, Margaret Cleveland, Jan & David Conley, Christine Ebert, Russ Edmonds, Linda Estel, Jeanne Filiatrault-Laine, Jo Fritz, Jan Green, Judy Haugen, Abi Kritzer, Andrew Longtin, Beth Miller, Pat Miller, Sandy Roggenkamp, Chris Tolman, Karen Stubenvoll, Sue Zeleznikar

## **MARKETING DESIGN AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Eliza Grames  
Sarah O'Connor  
Karen Stubenvoll

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Frank Berdan

## **WESTERN GREAT LAKES OWL MONITORING**

Thank you to the many volunteers throughout the states of MN & WI for participating in this project!

## **WEBMASTER**

Molly Thompson



Record daily high of 33 Peregrine Falcons counted at Hawk Ridge on September 29, 2013!

Photo by Karl Bardon





November brought Rough-legged Hawk highlights at Hawk Ridge for both the counters and banders. Photo by Chris Neri

## COMMITTEES

Hawk Ridge has eight active committees, including our newest marketing committee. A special thanks goes out to all the wonderful committee members who are helping us go above and beyond, especially in achieving our strategic plan goals.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Jerry Niemi (chair), Jan Green, Dave Grosshuesch, Matt Etterson, Karl Bardon, Frank Nicoletti, Dave Alexander, Dick Green, Ed Zlonis, Ron Regal

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### MARKETING COMMITTEE

Andrew Streitz (chair), Ken Zakovich (2013 chair), Eliza Grames, Ashley Lindsey, Karen Stubenvoll, Myron Peterson, Jessica Chatterton

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Hawk Ridge Board of Directors continues to volunteer many hours of time to help create a strong foundation for the organization. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. In 2013, we welcomed new board member Myron Peterson. Thank you to John Baumgarten and Ken Zakovich who served as board members in 2013.

## MEMBERS AND DONORS

The members and donors of Hawk Ridge are essential. Your support provides us the financial and inspirational means to continue our bird conservation work. We sincerely thank each and every one of you for not only your dollars, but also for believing in our organization. We will continue to do our best to provide quality research, engaging environmental education programs, and stewardship of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve for the good of the birds.

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30,874 Common Nighthawks were counted on August 21, 2013!

Photo by Karl Bardon

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michaelfurtman.com  
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Princeton University Press

## FALL RAFFLE

Duluth Pack Store  
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Princeton University Press



*Banding Director, Frank Nicoletti, releases banded Bald Eagle. Four Bald Eagles were banded at Hawk Ridge in 2013!*

Photo by Chris Neri

## PHOTOGRAPHY

michaelfurtman.com  
Naturally Avian  
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We also thank those that sponsored birds and registered for events; we truly appreciate your support.

## 2014 HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 2014 Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, September 19th at 6:45pm at the Spirit Mountain Grand Avenue Chalet in Duluth, MN. Jan Green will be honored that evening and presented with the Hawk Ridge Legacy Award. This coincides with the Hawk Weekend Festival. If you would like to stay for the Friday evening speaker, Laura Erickson, at 7pm or join in other birding activities, field trips, and evening presentations during the rest of the weekend, please pre-register at [www.hawkriddle.org](http://www.hawkriddle.org). Tickets are limited.

# FISCAL YEAR END DECEMBER 31, 2013

## INCOME & EXPENSES

### Income

Merchandise Sales	16,296
Direct Public Support	91,370
Membership Dues	24,370
Grant Income	23,542
Investments	2,396
Program Income	10,559

**Total Income 168,533**

### Expense

Sales Purchases	7,796
Conferences & Meetings	9,939
Advertising	145
Bank Fees	2,190
Contract Services	6,038
Dues & Subscriptions	801
Facilities & Equipment	7,691
Operations	12,542
Insurance	4,675
Payroll Expenses	111,190
Permits and Licenses	225
Transportation	4,524

**Total Expense 167,756**

**NET INCOME 777**

## ASSETS

**Total Current Assets 87,564**

**Total Fixed Assets 7,875**

**TOTAL ASSETS 95,439**

## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

**Total Liabilities 24,408**

**Total Net Assets 71,031**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 95,439**

# 2013 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS

## RAPTOR COUNT

In the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the raptor count, **43,133 raptors of 17 species were counted** (close to 822 hours of observation)! This includes a record late Swainson's Hawk on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 155 Rough-legged Hawks on November 2<sup>nd</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> highest count for Hawk Ridge), five dark-morph Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Mississippi Kites, and record daily high count of 33 Peregrine Falcons on September 29<sup>th</sup>!

## NON-RAPTOR COUNT

This was the 7<sup>th</sup> fall season of counting all non-raptors during the official raptor count. **283,484 non-raptors of 159 species were counted** in 2013. This includes new state high counts for Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Eastern Bluebird. An amazing flight of 30,874 Common Nighthawks were counted on August 21<sup>st</sup>! Other highlights were a single Ross's Goose joining a single flock of 156 American White Pelicans, 56 Red-necked Phalaropes landing on Lake Superior, an Upland Sandpiper (rare for Duluth), a Eurasian Collared-Dove (2<sup>nd</sup> record for Duluth), and 2 male Mountain Bluebirds. The total warbler count was 33,591 for the season, including over 17,000 in a 6-day period between September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## RAPTOR BANDING

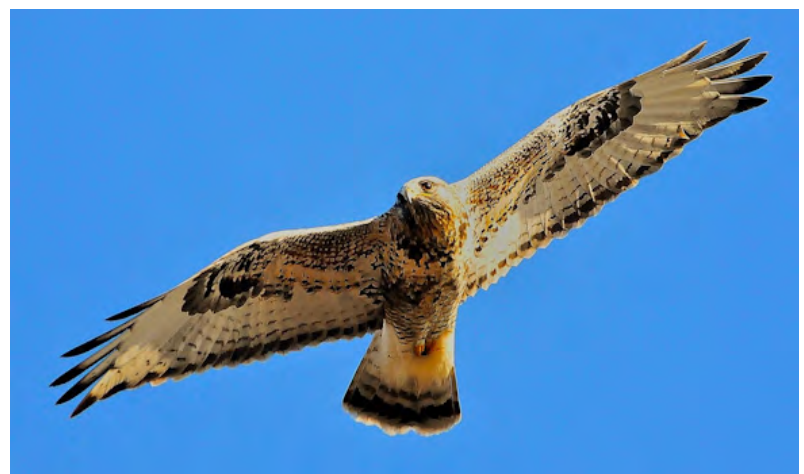
Three banding stations yielded a total of **3,224 raptors banded!** Total included 1,192 owls, four Bald Eagles (tied 2011 record!), three adult Peregrine Falcons (on the same day!), and both a male and female Rough-legged Hawk on November 11<sup>th</sup>!

## PASSERINE BANDING

**1,762 passerines of 66 species were banded** in 2013. Highlights included stunning male Black-throated Blue and Golden-winged Warblers. Also, an exciting day on September 21<sup>st</sup> with 99 birds banded, including three species of vireo and 13 species of warblers!

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Naturalists were on-site daily at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve delivering **public interpretation about the migration, bird banding demonstrations, and kid's activities** throughout September & October. We offered **approximately 40 public weekend education programs** (raptor id, owl evenings, passerine banding, etc.), reaching over 500 visitors. We also taught 82 formal programs reaching approximately 2,000 students/participants (pre-K through college, senior groups, scouts, etc.). **A grand total of approximately 18,000 visit Hawk Ridge each fall!**



Rough-legged Hawk

Photo by Karl Bardon



# 2013 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS

## EXPERIENCE HAWK RIDGE

This was the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the program. **33 classes (approx. 800 5<sup>th</sup> grade students)** came to Hawk Ridge this fall thanks to bus funding from Donald M. Weesner Foundation and scholarship support from individual contributors.

## SPRING COUNT

Volunteer efforts provided close to 40 hours to count **5,400 raptors of 14 species**.

## WESTERN GREAT LAKES OWL MONITORING

This was the 9<sup>th</sup> year of collaborative effort between HRBO, Natural Resources Research Institute, MN DNR and WI DNR to monitor owl populations. **367 owls of seven species were counted by 160 volunteers**, including 3 Great Gray Owls counted in MN.

## PEREGRINE WATCH

This was the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the program. Three Peregrine Falcons fledged from the nest box on the Greysolon Building. **Over 2,000 people visited** to watch and learn about the nesting falcons in downtown Duluth. Thanks to funding from Lisa Dayton and individual contributors to make the program possible.

## HAWK RIDGE SOCIAL EVENT

A third summer social event was held in Duluth as a way to get to know our members, donors, neighbors, and users of Hawk Ridge. New Volunteer Coordinator, Katie Swanson, shared her vision for the Hawk Ridge volunteer program. Approximately 50 were in attendance.

## HAWK RIDGE BIRDATHON

Celebrated the **27<sup>th</sup> annual** in May with **197 species** being counted in a 24-hr period in St. Louis County, including Bohemian Waxwing, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, American Avocet, and 25 species of warblers!

## HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL

Enjoyed a great weekend of birds, programs, field trips, evening presentations by Dr. Keith Bildstein & Norman Smith. **Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Julie O'Connor**. We truly thank the nearly 75 organizations, businesses, and individuals that donated items and services for both our silent auction and raffle!



Hawk Ridge Naturalist, Margie Mengies, teaching an "Experience Hawk Ridge" class to one of the many school groups that visit each fall.

Photo by Hawk Ridge Staff

