



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission In Action: 2015 By the Numbers

The year 2015 was one for the record books. For the first time ever, more than half a million birds were counted during fall migration, with an almost mind-boggling number of those migrants being songbirds. That's why we are calling 2015 the Songbird Super Flight Year. Every bird flying over Hawk Ridge inspires us to keep focused on our mission. . .

*. . . to protect birds of prey and other migratory birds
in the Western Lake Superior Region
through research, education, and stewardship.*

The numbers demonstrate how we are putting our mission into action. And check out the sidebar for the birds counted on the incredible flight day of September 1st.

517,908 – total of **non-raptors** counted, 150,000 birds higher than any previous season making 2015 the best season on record

91,641 – a massive flight of non-raptors on September 1st that almost overwhelmed our counters, the biggest migratory flight in a single day witnessed at Hawk Ridge

28,054 – number of Common Nighthawks on September 1st, third highest flight ever

12,842 – number of Cedar Waxwings on September 1st, highest on record

34,942 – number of warblers of **16 species** on September 1st, highest on record

76,821 – number of **warblers of 25 species**, best season since 1988

56,000 – number of **Common Nighthawks**, all-time record

46,683 – number of **Cedar Waxwings**, all-time record

90,550 – number of **finches**, down from last year's record of 116,372, but still impressive

67,452 – number of **Common Redpolls**, all-time record

76,859 – total number of **raptors** counted, the best season since 2004

40,767 – number of **Broad-winged Hawks**

17,812 – number of **Sharp-shinned Hawks**

373 – number of **Merlins**, highest on record

5,667 – **Bald Eagles** counted, second highest on record

5,051 – total number of **birds** banded

2,126 – number of **hawks** banded

1,570 – number of **owls** banded

1,430 – number of first-time **Northern Saw-whet Owls** banded

57 – number of recoveries of previously banded **Northern Saw-whet Owls**

1,355 – total number of **passerines** banded

Other educational program and event highlights!

185 – total number of species seen by **11 teams** across St. Louis County on the **29th Hawk Ridge Birdathon**

1,300 – kids and adults who attended one of our 56 school programs

1,250 – number of visitors who participated in more than 70 public programs

18,000 – approximate number of visitors who came to observe **fall migration on Hawk Ridge**

661 – people who visited **Peregrine Watch**

3,000 – combined **hours** provided by our loyal team of **more than 70 volunteers**

For more details on these numbers, see the 2016 HRBO Spring Newsletter *Taking Flight*
<http://www.hawkridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Taking-Flight-Spring-2016-FINAL.pdf>

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT HAWK RIDGE

From Janelle Long, Executive Director, and Karen Stubenvoll, Board Chair

THANK YOU. We can never say it enough. It takes a team effort to achieve our mission, and the 2015 Annual Report is proof that Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory has a GREAT team of staff, interns, and volunteers. We also have a GREAT team of members, donors, grantors, and sponsors whose generous contributions drive our mission.

We are especially grateful to the people who have championed Hawk Ridge over the decades. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory is the result of the quiet but determined efforts of a band of birdwatchers, naturalists, conservationists, and scientists who know Hawk Ridge is the crown jewel of avian migration—perhaps the best place in North America to witness the autumn passage of hundreds of thousands of hawks, owls, and songbirds.

If you consider the first organized hawk watch, which took place in 1951, to be the birth of the idea that has grown into Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, then we are about to celebrate our 65th birthday! Other important milestones include:

- 1972: The first systematic raptor count began; the banding research station opened; and Duluth Audubon Society, with a loan from the Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, gave the City of Duluth the funds to purchase land on the highest summit of the Ridge.
- 1973: The City of Duluth purchased an additional 250 acres that now forms the 365-acre Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve.
- 1979: Friends of Hawk Ridge was established to support educational and research endeavors.
- 2003: Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory was organized as a non-profit to manage the nature reserve and raise awareness and funds for expanding educational and research programs.

Hawk Ridge is a valuable research enterprise. The data our counters and banders have been gathering since 1972 are helping scientists better understand avian migration. This information is also providing conservationists with the tools to track vulnerable populations of raptors and songbirds, especially in the era of global climate change we now live in.

Hawk Ridge is an incomparable outdoor classroom. It's one thing to read a book about migration; it's quite another experience to witness the phenomenon of migration as it unfolds along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Every autumn, school children, college students, and visitors can see the facts of migration come alive in the skies above. Our educators, naturalists, and volunteers strive to share the details of migration and raptor and songbird identification with thousands of visitors. Our hope is every visitor will take away a fact or memory of migration that will increase awareness of protecting raptors and songbirds and the corridors they need to survive.

Hawk Ridge is a priceless asset for Duluth and Minnesota. Every fall, visitors from around the world come to Hawk Ridge. Our guest register has entries from thousands of visitors from all 50 states and more than 40 foreign countries. This pilgrimage to Hawk Ridge demonstrates the potency of ecotourism for the economy of Duluth and it shows a global audience the value Minnesotans place on sharing and protecting our natural assets.

There are many challenges confronting the future of migratory birds. Thank you for helping Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory face these challenges. To sustain our mission in the years to come we will need your continued support and the growing support of others.

We hope to see you all on the Ridge this fall and, until then, we will say it again: THANK YOU.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Fiscal Year End	
	<u>31-Dec-2014</u>	<u>31-Dec-2015</u>
<u>Statement of Activities</u>		
<u>Income</u>		
Merchandise Sales	20,297	19,768
Direct Public Support	86,286	94,599
Membership Dues	28,250	24,155
Grant Income	18,805	19,082
Investments	13	10
Program Income	<u>16,202</u>	<u>10,211</u>
Total Income	<u>169,853</u>	<u>167,825</u>
<u>Expense</u>		
Merchandise Purchases	10,411	9,955
Conferences & Meetings	12,069	5,971
Advertising	49	220
Bank Fees	1,404	1,570
Contract Services	11,028	9,629
Depreciation	2,128	1,216
Dues & Subscriptions	888	2,179
Facilities & Equipment	10,056	5,924
Operations	10,790	7,286
Insurance	4,427	4,948
Payroll Expenses	111,814	94,565
Permits and Licenses	320	250
Traineeship Stipend	1,900	4,500
Transportation	<u>1,843</u>	<u>4,055</u>
Total Expense	<u>179,127</u>	<u>152,268</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(9,274)</u>	<u>15,557</u>
<u>Statement of Financial Position</u>		
Total Current Assets	83,789	96,377
Total Fixed Assets	<u>5,748</u>	<u>4,531</u>
Total Assets	<u>89,537</u>	<u>100,908</u>
Total Liabilities	26,723	24,118
Total Net Assets	<u>62,814</u>	<u>76,790</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>89,537</u>	<u>100,908</u>
<u>Reconciliation of Net Assets</u>		
Beginning Net Assets	71,031	62,814
Unrealized gain/loss on investments	1,057	(1,581)
Less: Net Loss	<u>(9,274)</u>	<u>15,557</u>
Equals Ending Net Assets	<u>62,814</u>	<u>76,790</u>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IT TAKES TEAMWORK

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory is proud of the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and generous contributors, grantors, and sponsors. Thank you for believing in the mission *and* putting it into action. It is your efforts – working as a team – that embody the incalculable assets of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.

STAFF

Working for HRBO is not your typical 9 to 5 job. During fall migration, our staff members work long hours, often 7 days a week, and in challenging weather (intense sun, thick fog, wind, rain, even snow). Our team is committed to accuracy and thoroughness when counting birds, attention to standardized protocols when banding, and enthusiasm and exactness in teaching students and identifying birds for visitors. Every organization should be so fortunate to have such a dedicated, mission-focused work force. NOTE: Numbers in parentheses indicate number of fall seasons involved with Hawk Ridge.

MANAGERS

Janelle Long, Executive Director (9)
Frank Nicoletti, Fall Bird Banding Director (19)
Karl Bardon, Fall Bird Migration Count Director (9)
Amy Feinstein, Fall School Program Director
Margie Menzies, Fall Public Program Director (4)
Jessica Chatterton, Fall Operations Director (4)
Katie Swanson, Fall Volunteer Director & Peregrine Watch (6)

FALL BIRD BANDERS

David Alexander
Miranda Durbin (3)
Ryan Steiner, owls
Margie Menzies, passerines

FALL BIRD MIGRATION COUNTER

Alex Lamoreaux

FALL COUNT INTERPRETER

Clinton Nienhaus (2)

FALL NATURALISTS

Caitlin Johnson (3)
Paul Dolan-Linne
Meredith Lorig
Makaila Miller
Allie Quick (2)

PEREGRINE WATCH PROGRAM

Jessica Chatterton
Miranda Durbin (3)
Frank Nicoletti (3)
Katie Swanson (4)

FALL TRAINEES

Kaija Gahm (Bird Migration Count)
Jenny Rieke (Environmental Education)
Reed Turner (Bird Banding)
Alan Moss (Bird Banding)

VOLUNTEERS

We have an amazing team of volunteers who step up to help with projects, committees, events, and programs each year. And many of our staff members volunteer extra time beyond their regular duties. We truly appreciate each and every one of you for sharing your time and talents.

SPRING & FALL BIRD MIGRATION COUNT

Kaija Gahm, Steve Kolbe, Dave Carman, Russ Edmonds, Kathleen MacAulay, Karen Stubenvoll, Reed Turner, Jan and Larry Kraemer, Candice Swanepoel, Joe Beck, Anna Fasoli, Scott Moorhouse, and Frank Nicoletti

RAPTOR BANDING

David Alexander, Miranda Durbin, Ryan Steiner, Reed Turner, Alan Moss, Gary Leeper, Katie Swanson, Amber Burnette, Bruce Munson, Eliza Grames, Grace Glick, Valerie Slocum, Abbie Valine, Royce Galindo, Karen Stubenvoll, Meredith Lorig, and Kate Nicoletti

PASSERINE BANDING

Amber Burnette, Andrea Brandon, Katie Brey, Brianna Borka, Dave and Jan Conley, Erin Denny, Miranda Durbin, Deborah Faul, Amy Feinstein, Royce Galindo, Grace Glick, Ben Glisczinski, Eliza Grimes, Kristopher Hennig, Alan Moss, Stephen Nelson, Frank Nicoletti, Jenny Rieke, Beth Ruark, Val Slocum, Ryan Steiner, Melanie Stewart, Karen Stubenvoll, Robbie Tietge, Reed Turner, Abbie Valine, and Andy Witchger.

OFFICE & ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

Gene and Susan Bauer, Lisa Ciorlieri, Christine Ebert, Eliza Grames, Harold Nordin, Scott Palacheck

HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL EVENT (field trips, workshops, marketing, fundraiser, event)

Gene and Susan Bauer, JG Bennett, Amber Burnette, David Carman, Christine Ebert, Deanna Erickson, Laura Erickson, Jeanne Filiatrault-Laine, Jo Fritz, John Green, Ellen Kramer, Carl Long, Adam Long, Erin Manning, Gail Marsman, Harold Nordin, Myron and Holly Peterson, Jessamy Schwartz, Karen Stubenvoll, Adam Swanson, Bill Tefft, Steve Wilson, and staff at Spirit Mountain Grand Avenue Chalet

HAWK RIDGE MAIN OVERLOOK

During the 2015 fall season, more than 70 volunteers helped greet visitors, facilitate school groups and tours, manage the Kid's Cart, mobile gift store, and information table, and direct traffic. A special thanks to the following people who have volunteered 5+ fall seasons:

David Carman, Annie Choate, Margaret Cleveland, Jan and David Conley, Christine Ebert, Russ Edmonds, Linda Estel, Deborah Faul, Jeanne Filiatrault-Laine, Jo Fritz, Jan Green, Judy Haugen, Abi Kritzer, Gary Leeper, Andrew Longtin, Janet Majerus, Gail Marsman, Beth Miller, Pat Miller, Don Pierce, Sandy Roggenkamp, Mary Slattery, Chris Tolman, Karen Stubenvoll, Brenda and Abbie Valine, Frank and Sue Weaver, Sarah Wilcox, Sue Zeleznikar

HAWK RIDGE BANDING STATION LANDUSE

Paige and Dave Benson
Kim and Connie Ellerman

WESTERN GREAT LAKES OWL MONITORING

Thank you to the many volunteers throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin for participating in this project.

PUBLICATION AND SPECIAL PROJECT DESIGN

Eliza Grames

WEBMASTER

Molly Thompson

FACEBOOK

Karen Stubenvoll & fall managers

HRBO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Hawk Ridge Board of Directors brings an array of experience and talent to the organization in the fields of environmental education, avian conservation, research, finance, marketing, and media. Working together, they are building a strong future for Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. In 2015, we welcomed new board member - Anne Brataas.

We especially want to thank board members that came off the board in 2015: Mark Martell for serving 7 years, Martha Markusen for serving 4 years, and Myron Peterson for serving 2 years. Their dedication and advocacy for our mission have helped shape Hawk Ridge into the special organization it is today.

We are fortunate to have the guidance and expertise of the following board members helping lead Hawk Ridge into 2016: Karen Stubenvoll (Chair), Andrew Streitz (Secretary), Molly Thompson (Treasurer), David Alexander, Anne Brataas, Laura Erickson, Matt Eттerson, Ken Gilbertson, Bob Owens, and Steve Wilson

COMMITTEES

Hawk Ridge has eight committees whose members go above and beyond to achieve our strategic goals.

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

Education Committee: Ken Gilbertson (chair), Matti Erpestad, Kaitlin Erpestad, Beth Miller, Julie O'Connor, Dave Schaeffer, Katie Swanson, Erin Zoellick

Stewardship Committee: Bob Owens (chair), Jessica Chatterton, Judy Gibbs, Frank Nicoletti, Andrew Streitz, Katie Swanson, Josh Vineyard, Steve Wilson, David Yount

Finance Committee: Molly Thompson (chair), Dave Alexander, Bob Owens, Myron Peterson

Fundraising Committee: Mark Martell (chair), Bob Owens, Myron Peterson, Karen Stubenvoll

Personnel Committee: Martha Markusen (chair), Karen Stubenvoll, Molly Thompson

Hawk Weekend Festival Committee: Karen Stubenvoll (chair), Christine Ebert, Harold Nordin, Myron Peterson, Andrew Streitz

Marketing Committee: Andrew Streitz (chair), Anne Brataas, Jessica Chatterton, Eliza Grames, Ashley Lindsey, Myron Peterson, Karen Stubenvoll

GRANTORS

Donald M. Weesner Foundation

MNDNR Lake Superior Coastal Program in conjunction with NOAA

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (*Savaloja Fund*)

Minnesota Power Foundation

Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation (*Community Parks and Recreation, Duluth Legacy Endowment, Red Oak Fund, John Ivey Thomas & Mary Thomas Family Foundation Fund*)

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (*Blue Heron Fund*)

Hawk Migration Association of North America (*Hawk Watch Fund*)

Schwab Charitable Fund Donors

Fidelity Charitable Fund Donors

Medtronic Foundation

3M Foundation

Amazon Smile Foundation

Goodsearch

PROJECTS

Western Great Lakes Owl Monitoring: Dave Grosshuesch and Julie O'Connor

Website Design: Jane Reed

Interpretive Sign Design: Kim Wickman

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Vegetation Survey: Barb Delaney

Marketing & Development Consultant: Suzanne Winckler

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SPONSOR SUPPORT

LODGING SPONSORS

Joe & Miranda Durbin
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Theresa Smith & Mark Danielson
Steve Wilson & Mary Shedd

EMPLOYEE OR GIFT MATCH PROGRAMS

3M Foundation
Amazon Smile Foundation
Aon Foundation
Cargill C.A.R.E.S
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation
TE Connectivity
Thomas Reuters My Community Program

HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL SPEAKERS

Dr. Richard Green
Dr. David Evers

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AT HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE

The City of Duluth
Hawk Ridge Stewardship Committee

RAPTORS IN THE CLASSROOM EDUCATION PARTNER

The Lake Superior Zoo

PEREGRINE WATCH SPONSOR

Lisa Dayton

VEHICLE SPONSOR

Miller Hill Subaru

HAWK RIDGE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BIRDATHON

Eagle Optics
Hartley Nature Center
Kollath-Stensaas Publishing
Lake Superior Garden Center
Stone Ridge Press

FALL RAFFLE DONORS

Eagle Optics
Frost River
Richard Crossley

PHOTOGRAPHY

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Laura Erickson
Steve Kolbe
Alex Lamoreaux
michaelfurtman.com
Frank Nicoletti
Night Flight Images
Cory Ritter
Karen Stubenvoll
Hawk Ridge Staff & Volunteers

HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

Alakef Coffee
Alexa Carson
Brandenburg Gallery
David Evers
Eagle Optics
Frank Nicoletti
Frost River
Gary Leeper
Gene & Susan Bauer
Granite Gear
Karl Bardon
Kollath-Stensaas Publishing
Lake Superior Art Glass
Lake Superior Garden Center
Laura Erickson
Mary Jo Adams
Mount Royal Bottle Shop
On The Limit
Patagonia
Piragis Northwoods Co.
Steger Mukluks
Stone Ridge Press
Wild Birds Unlimited
Wintergreen

MEMBERS AND DONORS

HRBO members and donors are essential to our stability and long-term success. You fund our work and serve as ambassadors for our mission in the community of Duluth and throughout Minnesota and the Midwest. You inspire us to pursue high-quality research, to develop engaging environmental education programs, and to steward Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve for the good of the birds. With your help, we are working to safeguard the amazing phenomenon of migration. We sincerely thank each and every one of you for your contributions and for believing in Hawk Ridge.

2015 MEMBER AND DONOR GIFTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! YOU DRIVE OUR MISSION.

2015 Member & Donor List

\$10,000

Myron & Holly Peterson
Elisabeth J. Dayton

\$5000-\$9999

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Karen & Bob Stubenvoll
Kari G. Wenger & Peter Henry

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Kristin Anderson & Robert W. Reilly
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Mark & Rebecca Lystig
Kathy MacKnight
Janet Majerus
Susan Maki
Christina Makowsky (In honor of my dear mother Sally Homich)
Norma Malinowski
Kevin Manley
Bill Marengo
Gail Marsman
Mark Martell & Kathleen Peters-Martell
Keith Mattson
Gail McGrath
Douglas McKenzie
Stuart McKernan
Ann Marie McNamara
Doris J. Mehlberg
Gretchen Mehmel
Krista Menzel
Gene Merriam (In memory of Deb McGovern)
William G. Merrick M.D.
Bob Metzger & Christine Markham
Peter & Jacqueline Meyer
Marty Miller
Beth M. Miller
Pat Miller
Kathy Mills
Martha Minchak
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
Tony Mitchell
Sheila Moran
Terry Morrison
Jennifer Moses
Mynatech Inc. c/o Edward Livingston
Margaret Nelson
Dan Nelson
Thomas Nelson
Ken & Marcia Nelson
James & Sydney Nesbitt Masee
Lisa Netzel
James Niemi
David Noble
Lisa Nordquist
Northwest Outlet c/o Dave Miller
Ruth Oppedahl
Jeff & Julie Oseid
Karen O'Steen
Jennifer Ottinger
Carol Palacheck & Family
Marjorie & Mark Paller
Anne Parker
Andrea Patterson
Deb & Bill Pauly
Lionel Peabody & GT LaFond
Ernest Peaslee
Judy Pendergrast & Brian Hopper
Susan Peterson
David & Diane Peterson
Steve & Bonnie Peterson
John Petroskas
Sherry Phillips
Leslie Pilgrim & Ned Rukavina
Ron & LeAnn Plinske
Lori & Matthew Pope
David Poulin

up to \$99 (continued)

Carol Prohaska
James Rasmussen
Debbi Rasmussen
Ed Rathbun
Aaron Reser
Kim Rewinkel
Kathy Rice
John Richardson
Sherry Roberts
Mary C. Robinson
Sandra Roggenkamp
Lisa Rolf
Julio Roman
Larry Ronning
Thomas & Catherine Rootness
Patricia Rossi
Doug Roy
Lisa Russell
Bob Russell
Kurt Rustenholz
Gretchen Sabel (In memory of Deb McGovern)
Kelly Saez
Rosemary Sampson
Julie Savastio
Joy Schochet & Jonathan Green
Lynne Schoenborn
Steven Schon
Marilyn Schroeder
Sara Jean Schutte
Joel Schwartz
Bill Schweisheimer
John & Tammy Scott
Michelle & John Scott
Cindy & Jack Seiler
Gregg Severson & Kellie Haut
Ron Shiffler
Mary Slattery
Faye Sleeper (In memory of Debra McGovern)
Caitlin Sloan
Rolf Smeby (In memory of Julie Smeby)
June Smith
William Smith
Matthew Spoor
Liz Stanley
David & Sharon Stauty
Susan Stearns
Greg Stempien
Mark "Sparky" Stensaas
Heather Stevens
Bob & Joyce Straka
David & Michelle Streitz
Mark E. Sutherland
Ron Tabar
Mary Tangren
Alfonso Tarara
Jill Taylor (In memory of Chris McNulty)
Michael & Nancy Taylor
Molly & Doug Thompson
Keith Thomsen
Thrivent Financial Foundation
Joseph & Robbie Tietge
Tim Traynor
Karen Van Alstine
Sandra Van den Bosse & Erik Torch
Jennifer Vieth (In honor of Frank Nicoletti & Janelle Long)
Josh Vineyard
Paul Voigt
Jordan Ward

up to \$99 (continued)

Lori & John Washburn

Susan & Sheldon Watts

Andrew Webster & Erin Dewitt

Michael Welch

Pamela Wettering

Nick Whelan

Bob & Linda Whyte

Sarah Wilcox

Jude Williams

Caroline Wilmot

Robert A. Young

John Zakelj

Bill & Sally Zelen

Bill Zelm

Roy Zimmerman

Edmund Zlonis