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Janelle Long

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
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Duluth, MN 55803-3006
218-428-6209
mail@hawkridge.org
www.hawkridge.org

Mission Statement: To protect birds of prey and other migratory birds in the Western Lake Superior Region through research, education, and stewardship.

Director's Corner By Janelle Long

2011 marked my fifth fall season as the Executive Director of Hawk Ridge. I can honestly and confidently say that each year for me is getting more exciting. My understanding and appreciation of both the inner workings and deliverables of the organization is on a much deeper level. The birds have always been a natural inspiration for me and Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve is an amazing place to enjoy them. However, it's when I think of all the wonderful the people involved (board, staff, volunteers, and contributors), that I can easily go that extra mile. It is such a good feeling to go up to the Ridge and to recognize so many faces. They have now become friends I look forward to spending time with. More often now, when I open our membership mail, I see more than just a name. A memory is sparked of a story or conversation with that person. I also find myself getting that warm, fuzzy feeling as I listen to others talk about the growth, changes, and future of Hawk Ridge. Even though we are saying goodbye to some of the key staff that shaped the organization's education and research programs, we are welcoming new people full of dedication and passion for birds. We look forward to sharing more successes with you, building more connections, and creating a stronger foundation for the perpetuity of Hawk Ridge. I thank each of you for believing in and giving to our mission of protecting birds through research, education, and stewardship.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STAFF

A special thanks to our amazing staff for all of your hard work. Your expertise, passion, and talents are making a difference in the areas of bird conservation monitoring and education. Note: season totals denotes number of seasons working as Hawk Ridge staff. Many of our staff members have also served as volunteers for an additional number of seasons. **Counters:** Karl Bardon (5th season at Hawk Ridge) & Cory Ritter **Banders:** Frank Nicoletti (1st season as Banding Director, 15th season at Hawk Ridge), Nova Mackentley (3rd season), Chris Neri; **Naturalists:** Debbie Waters (11th season – Education Director), Sarah Glesner (5th season), Gail Johnejack, Tessa Enroth, Jenni Polisenio, Margie Menzies, Erik Bruhnke (4th season - Count Interpreter); **Naturalist Subs:** Beth Miller (9th season), Katie Brown-Mesedahl (5th season), Mariah Jeske (4th season), Gretchen McDaniel, Kaitlin Erpestad, Matti Erpestad, Jessamy Schwartz, Katie Borg, Elizabeth Schnabel; **Adopt Processing:** Gretchen McDaniel; **Volunteer Coordinator:** Julie O'Connor (9th season); **Raptors in the Classroom:** Julie O'Connor & Debbie Waters; **Owl Monitoring:** Julie O'Connor & Dave Grosshuesch (18th season); **Peregrine Watch:** Julie O'Connor, Noelle Grunwald (2nd season), Theresa Raab; **Encampment Forest Banding Project:** Annie Bracey; **North Shore Migration Study:** Karl Bardon & Cory Ritter

VOLUNTEERS

We have approximately 200 volunteers helping us out with various projects, committees, events, and programs each year. We can't express enough how much we appreciate each and every one of

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Bryant Mulligan, age 11, has been visiting Hawk Ridge each fall since he was 5 years old with his aunt from VA. His bird adopt pictures and certificates plaster his bedroom wall. Bryant enjoys standing on his favorite rock with arms spread like the raptors soaring above. As his aunt departed on her plane this fall, he shares his inspiration from Hawk Ridge that he "wishes he could fly" - photo by Hawk Ridge staff



Debbie Waters will be missed as she celebrated her final (11th!) season as the Hawk Ridge Education Director - photo by www.michaelfurtman.com

you for your time given. We'd like to thank all of the volunteers that assisted with the spring & fall count (Dave Carman, Andrew Longtin, Russ Edmonds, Joe Beck, Erik Bruhnke, Frank Nicoletti, Stephen Bockhold, & many others), fall banding (Karen Stubenvoll, Dave Alexander, Annmarie Geniusz, Kate Nicoletti, Todd Burnside, & many others), at the main overlook, education programs, owl monitoring, Peregrine Watch, Hawk Weekend, outreach events, and other projects. We'd like to thank the following for their volunteer time helping behind-the-scenes with various office duties and administrative tasks. Thanks to Rich Bauer, Gretchen & Jack McDaniel, Christine Ebert, Harold Nordin, Ann Pellant, Judy Haugen, Andrew Ronding, Christina Taraszuk, Jessica Chatterton, and the Long family (Shannon, Carl, Kerry, and Adam). Thanks to Ashley Lindsey for her time in designing the Hawk Ridge newsletter, Debbie Waters & Ray Gamache for their time in editing the Hawk Ridge newsletters, Debbie Waters & Molly Thompson for maintaining the Hawk Ridge website, and Erica Henkel for her time in tax preparation.

COMMITTEES

Hawk Ridge has six active committees that meet six times per year to help provide expertise, advisement, and hands-on work for Hawk Ridge in the areas

of research, education, stewardship, finance, fundraising, and the Hawk Weekend Festival. A special thanks goes out to those members: **Research Committee:** Jerry Niemi (chair), Jan Green, Dave Grosshuesch, Matt Ettersson, Frank Nicoletti, Dave Alexander, Dick Green, Ed Zlonis, Ron Regal; **Education Committee:** Tim Bates (chair), Steve Betzler (2011 chair), Debbie Waters, Julie O'Connor, Beth Miller, Dave Schaeffer, Erin Zoellick; **Stewardship Committee:** Bob Owens (chair), Judy Gibbs, Josh Vineyard, Andrew Streitz, Tim Bates, David Yount; **Finance Committee:** Molly Thompson (chair), John Baumgarten, Bob Owens, Dave Alexander; **Fundraising Committee:** Mark Martell (chair), Frank Berdan (2011 chair), Karen Stubenvoll, Dave Alexander, Ann Redelfs, John Baumgarten, Sandra Van den Bosse; **Hawk Weekend Festival Committee:** Karen Stubenvoll (chair), Molly Thompson, Harold Nordin, Gretchen McDaniel, Christine Ebert, Judy Haugen, Julie O'Connor, Dave Alexander

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thanks to the Hawk Ridge Board of Directors for their support, mentorship, and time. In 2011, we had several transitions in the board. We welcomed two new board members: Martha Markusen and Andrew Streitz. We also said good-bye to board members Frank Berdan, Steve Betzler, and Ray Gamache.

MEMBERS AND DONORS

We'd like to sincerely thank all of the Hawk Ridge members and donors. None of this would be possible without your support and treasure. Thank you for believing in Hawk Ridge, sharing your stories, and watching the birds with us. We look forward to connecting with you in 2012!

GRANTORS

All of the following grantors that helped make our 2011 education and research programs possible: the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, Donald M. Weesner Foundation, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Minnesota Power

Foundation, Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation (Four Cedars, Biodiversity, & Red Oak Funds), Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (Blue Heron Fund), and Schwab Charitable Fund donors

BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

ZMC Hotels, Inc. (John Goldfine) and management/staff (Lisa Filzen) at The Edge Resort & Waterpark for lodging support; Labovitz Enterprises (Joel Labovitz), Lion Hotel Group (Bruce Stender & Mark Emmel), and management/staff (Lisa Augustine & Shawn McLaughlin) at The Holiday Inn Downtown Duluth for lodging support; Radisson Hotel Duluth management/staff (Paul Leisner & Angel Gotelaere) for lodging support; Widdes Trailer & Supplies, Harold Nordin, Gretchen McDaniel, and many other volunteers for work on merchandise trailer; The College of St. Scholastica (Bluestone Agency) for providing marketing sponsorship; 3M Foundation, IBM Corporation, REI, Cargill C.A.R.E.S, and General Mills for their employee match programs and those employees that contribute; Eagle Optics (Dan Hamilton), Wild Birds Unlimited (Bob & Lois Heller and manager Lisa), Michael Furtman (michaelfurtman.com), Cindy & Chris Edwardson, and Kollath-Stensaas Publishing (Rick Kollath and Mark

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Hawk Ridge member, Dianne Adam, releases baby owllet grand-niece, Elle Long - photo by Janelle Long

Thank you for your support in 2011!

Member & Donor Gifts 1/1 - 12/31/11

(Note: this list does not include adopters or event registrants)

****denotes Burnett Hojnacki Memorial Donation**

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We sincerely thank the following that donated to the 2011 Hawk Weekend Festival Auction & Fall Raffle

Acorn Naturalists
Adventure Publications
Andrew Longtin
Ben Rice
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Bob & Mary Ellen Owens
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Zinema Theater

ANNUAL REPORT FORMAT CHANGE NOTICE

We are working towards a new cost-effective format for our annual report. We have now included the fall summary reports in the newsletter. The research data and charts will now be found on our website. The website is undergoing revisions with hope for completion by late summer 2012. We appreciate your understanding and patience with the information changes. If you would like to receive your Hawk Ridge news by email, please send an email to mail@hawkridge.org with that request. Thank you!

“Sparky” Stensaas) for donating prizes for the 2011 Hawk Ridge St. Louis County Birdathon; Dr. Gerald Niemi & Stan Tekiela for speaking at Hawk Weekend; [Raptor Research Foundation](#) Conference sponsors and donors; [Marshall Hardware](#) for providing bird seed for the main overlook; Lola’s in Kenwood for providing food delivery service; [The Lake Superior Zoo](#) as Raptors in the Classroom partner with your education birds; and Michael Furtman (michaelfurtman.com), Erik Bruhnke (Naturally Avian), and others for their beautiful photography and permission for use; [Duluth Pack Store](#) (Jon Farchmin, Laura Duenow, Molly Solberg, & Tom Sega) for merchandise partnership; and [Blackmore family](#) for trailer parking & battery charging.



Young peregrine from Greysolon nest box looking out at Lake Superior. Follow the falcons at Peregrine Watch!



Debbie Waters teaching kids about songbird banding – photo by Karen Stubenvoll

Hawk Ridge Financials (Fiscal Year End 6/30/11)

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	41,863.11
Grant Income	43,104.24
Membership Dues	15,580.00
Merchandise Sales	15,358.45
Program Income	13,558.40
Insurance Reimbursement	9,119.88
Investments	2,509.56
Total Income	141,093.64
Expense	
Advertising	39.00
Bank Fees	1,639.38
Conferences & Meetings	5,706.60
Contract Services	49,780.25
Facilities & Equipment	4,943.66
Insurance	2,508.12
Operations	11,801.51
Payroll Expenses	33,857.48
Permits & Misc Taxes	820.63
Sales Purchases	7,212.26
Transportation	9,372.34
Total Expense	127,681.23
Net Income	13,412.41
BALANCE SHEET	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
CASH	18,355.92
SAVINGS	35,927.48
Total Current Assets	54,283.40
Total Fixed Assets	6,765.66
TOTAL ASSETS	61,049.06
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	29,951.77
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	17,684.88
Net Income	13,412.41
Total Equity	31,097.29
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	61,049.06



2011 Hawk Ridge Highlights

Celebrated 40th season of fall raptor banding and the fall raptor count at Hawk Ridge!

Raptor Banding: Three banding stations were run this fall under the new direction of Frank Nicoletti to yield a total of 4,820 raptors banded! Total included 1,454 owls (2nd highest total at Hawk Ridge) and new season record of four Bald Eagles!

Raptor Count: 70,757 raptors of 18 species were counted in close to 943 hours of observation this fall. This includes a new season record of 5,688 for Bald Eagles! High numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks were also recorded.

Non-Raptor Count: This was the 5th season of this fall count. Over 320,000 birds (non-raptors) of 142 species were counted in 2011. This includes new state high counts for Rusty Blackbirds, Common Redpolls, and Northern Shrikes. Funding to analyze and report the amazing North Shore Migration phenomenon was received from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation Biodiversity Fund.

Environmental Education Naturalists were on-site daily at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve delivering public interpretation about the migration, bird banding demonstrations, and bird adoptions throughout September & October. We offered over 40 free weekend education programs (raptor id, owl evenings, songbird strolls, etc.) for the public. We also taught formal programs to over 40 private groups. A grand total of approximately 18,000 visit Hawk Ridge each fall!

Experience Hawk Ridge: This was the 6th year of the program. 34 classes (approx. 1,000 5th grade students) came to Hawk Ridge this fall thanks to funding from the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, Donald M. Weesner Foun-

dation, and individual contributors.

Raptors in the Classroom: This was the 7th year of the program. We visited 37 classrooms (approx. 1,000 4th grade students) thanks to funding by the Minnesota Power Foundation, Donald M. Weesner Foundation, and individual contributors.

Spring Count: Volunteer efforts provided close to 200 hours to count 7,009 raptors (14 species) and 3,228 non-raptors (34 species)

W. Great Lakes Owl Monitoring: This was the 7th year of collaborative effort between HRBO, Natural Resources Research Institute, MN DNR and WI DNR to monitor owl populations. 379 owls of six species were counted by 138 volunteers, including record high numbers of Great Horned & E. Screech Owls.

Peregrine Watch: This was the 6th year of the program. 1,145 people visited thanks to funding from Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union and individual contributors.

Encampment Forest Banding Project: This was a collaborative bird banding educational study with Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center to sample migratory bird population moving along the north shore of Lake Superior. Support from the Cathedral Grove Committee of The Nature Conservancy and the Encampment Forest Association is gratefully acknowledged.

Hawk Ridge Social Events: Two summer social events were held as a way to get to know our members, donors, neighbors, and users of Hawk Ridge. One event was in Duluth and the other in the Twin Cities with a total of close to 100 in attendance overall.

Hawk Ridge Birdathon: Celebrated the 25th annual in May with nearly 170 species being counted in a 24-hr

period in St. Louis County

Hawk Weekend Festival: New evening event venue, fundraiser with live auction, and workshops. Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Debbie Waters after 11 years of service. Proved to be our most successful festival weekend to date!

Raptor Research Foundation Conference: Held October 5-9th, 2011, co-hosted by Hawk Ridge. Field trips, workshops, presentations held by raptor experts from all over the world! 230 people attended the conference, from 5 countries, 34 U.S. states and 6 Canadian Provinces. Hawk Ridge Lifetime Achievement award was presented to David (Fud) Evans after 39 years of service.



Banders, Nova Mackentley & Chris Neri, with eagle – photo by Karen Stubenvoll