

HAWK RIDGE HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by JANELLE LONG

Even though I grew up in a suburb of Milwaukee, WI my childhood backyard always had a strong presence of nature. My mom's huge organic garden, dad's brush and compost piles, bird feeders and baths, and plenty of flowers and trees provided the habitat to satisfy our wildlife neighbors, which definitely intrigued my curiosity and love for nature. My memories are countless of my outdoor explorations and connections I had with creatures in my own yard and I have my parents to thank for that.

My parents wouldn't have considered themselves birders, but they were definitely backyard birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts. Dad would make sure the bird feeders were always filled and Mom would sit outside and watch the birds with her morning cup of coffee. We would talk over the phone about what they were seeing. Stories of swooping Cooper's Hawks, Rosebreasted Grosbeaks and orioles feeding on oranges, stunning Indigo Buntings, exciting occasional visits from Eastern Bluebirds, woodpeckers clinging the suet feeders, feisty House Wrens in the nest box, Rubythroated Hummingbirds zipping to all my mom's beautiful flowers, noisy Blue Jays, serenading robins and cardinals, American Goldfinches on the thistle, nuthatches climbing the trees, Chimney Swifts as nature's insect repellant at dusk, hooting Great-Horned Owls in the evening, and the year-round fearless presence of sparrows and chickadees who would make sure my dad kept those feeders filled.

I am certain my conservation values were also instilled with my childhood experiences and the influence of my parents. The dead-end road with the great field and forest I loved so deeply, and was allowed to freely play in, brought Barn Swallows



Cooper's Hawk

Photo by Chris Neri

(which nested in our garage), Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Ring-necked Pheasants to our yard. When that area was developed into new housing, I felt like someone stole something very precious from me. I remember so wishing I could've stopped it. The Barn Swallows, woodpeckers, and pheasants disappeared, as did the many other species (snakes, mushrooms, small mammals) that I encountered in that habitat. The nature in our neighborhood was changed, but those experiences became part of me. Similar to the loss of my parents in late 2012, my life has changed, but they are part of me. I am ever thankful for those memories. How fortunate I feel to take those nature explorations and experiences, that my parents helped instill, and to able to use that passion in my career today with Hawk Ridge. Thank you all for your support during this difficult past year. And, thank you Mom and Dad.

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HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY

P.O. Box 3006 Duluth, MN 55803-3006 218-428-6209 mail@hawkridge.org

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STAFF

Thank you to all the wonderful people that worked for Hawk Ridge in 2012. We appreciate your dedication and commitment in sharing your knowledge and passion with others for the good of birds. Some notable staff changes were the addition of the Operations Director position, hiring of the new Education Director, adding part-time and seasonal employee positions versus contracts, and staffing the passerine banding volunteer project coordinators, naturalist substitutes, and an intern through grant funding.

BANDERS

Frank Nicoletti (16) Nova Mackentley (4) Chris Neri (2) Sam Roberts (2)

COUNTERS

Karl Bardon (6) Cory Ritter (2)

NATURALISTS

Gail Johnejack (2)
Sarah Glesner (6)
Margie Menzies (2)
Erik Bruhnke (5)
Max Bockes
Jessica Chatterton

NATURALIST SUBSTITUTES

Beth Miller (9) Tessa Enroth (2) Brian Scott David Stieler Kati Kristenson Kari Hanson

INTERN

Katie Swanson (2)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Julie O'Connor (10)

Dave Grosshuesch (19)

OWL MONITORING

Julie O'Connor (10)

Dave Grosshuesch (19)

PASSERING BANDING PROJECT VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Kaitlin & Matti Erpestad (2)

PEREGRINE WATCH

Julie O'Connor (10) Gail Johnejack (2) Katie Swanson (2)

RAPTORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Julie O'Connor (10)

Numbers in parentheses indicate number of years staff have been with Hawk Ridge.



Katie Swanson (holding Northern Goshawk) completed a 600-hour internship with Hawk Ridge through UMD, which was made possible through the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation

Photo by Frank Nicolett



Hawk Ridge Passerine Banding Volunteer, Abbie Valine, with American Redstart

Photo by Kaitlin Erpestad

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 you for your time given.

SPRING & FALL COUNT

EALL BANDING			
Erik Bruhnke	Harold Nordin Peder Svingen		
Frank Nicoletti	Jane Hosking	Mike Hendrickson	Joe Beck
Dave Carman	Andrew Longtin	Russ Edmonds	Karl Bardon

FALL BANDING

Karen Stubenvoll	Dave Alexander	Sam Roberts	Gary Leeper
Annmarie Geniusz	Kate Nicoletti	Katie Swanson	Cory Ritter
Todd Burnside	Matias Juhant	Stephen Bockhold	Tara Haynes
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PASSERINE BANDING

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Robbie Tietge	Abbie Valine	Joe Hodge	Grace Parikh
Grace Glick	Jaclyn Ramsey	Beth Miller	Joel Vikre
Heather MacDonald			

ADOPTION PROCESSING

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Gretchen McDaniel Julia Luger Harold Nordin Judy Haugen Lisa Ciorlieri Allison Hibberd Jessica Chatterton The Long Family (Shannon, Carl, Kerry, and Adam)

WEBMASTER TAX PREPARATION

Molly Thompson Erica Henkel

NEWSLETTER DESIGNER

Ashley Lindsey



Hawk Ridge is known as one of the best hawkwatch sites to see the Norther

Photo by Erik Bruhnke

COMMITTEES

Hawk Ridge has seven active committees in the areas of research, education, stewardship, finance, fundraising, personnel, and the Hawk Weekend Festival. A special thanks goes out to those members:

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Jerry Niemi (chair)Jan GreenDave GrosshueschMatt EttersonFrank NicolettiDave AlexanderDick GreenEd ZlonisRon Regal

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thanks to the Hawk Ridge Board of Directors for listening and for being pro-active in decisions. Their hands-on commitment is helping the organization succeed in its mission, as well as grow and change. In 2012, we welcomed back board member Steve Wilson.

MEMBERS AND DONORS

We'd like to sincerely thank all of our Hawk Ridge friends (members and donors). You inspire us to work harder and smarter. With your continued gifts of support, we are moving forward and making improvements to enhance our bird research, education, and stewardship efforts. Thank you for being an essential part of Hawk Ridge. We look forward to connecting with you in 2013!

GRANTORS

All of the following grantors helped make our 2012 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

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Anna Peterson Sharon Stiteler

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PHOTOGRAPHY

michaelfurtman.com (Michael Furtman)

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Note: this list does not include the many adopters or event registrants, whose support we truly appreciate.

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Stephen and Evelyn Fisher sponsored the day of education and research programs on October 6, 2012. Thanks to all those that helped sponsor last fall season!

Photo by Karen Stubenvoll

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Passerine banding education programs at the overlook, thanks to a grant from Photo by Hawk Ridge staff the Biodiversity Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation

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WE SINCERELY THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT DONATED TO THE 2012 HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL AUCTION & FALL RAFFLE

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Dave Alexander (left) and Nova Mackentley (right) hold the Golden Eagle "Jack" caught at Hawk Ridge. Transmitter was put on as part of the Golden Eagle Tracking Project.

Photo by Hawk Ridge staff

FISCAL YEAR END **DECEMBER 31, 2012**

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

ı	n	_	0	m	0

Total Income		190,365
Pro	gram Income	43,659
Inve	estments	28
Oth	er Types of Income	1,555
Gra	nt Income	31,771
Mei	mbership Dues	20,745
Dire	ect Public Support	71,820
Mei	rchandise Sales	20,787

Expense

Total Exp	ense	182,468
	Transportation	4,399
	Permits and Licenses	295
	Payroll Expenses	105,152
	Insurance	4,812
	Operations	13,609
	Facilities &Equipment	5,430
	Dues & Subscriptions	345
	Depreciation	365
	Contract Services	3,344
	Bank Fees	2,672
	Conferences & Meetings	31,130
	Sales Purchases	10,915
Expense		

NET ORDINARY INCOME	7,897
NET INCOME	7,897

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	31,208
Savings	26,303
Temp. restricted	31,172
Petty cash	50
Other current assets	

Unrecorded incoming funds	12,328
Total Current Assets	101,061
Total Fixed Assets	6,035

TOTAL ASSETS 107,096

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES &	EQUITY		
Liabilities			36,842
Equity			
Ur	restricted Net Assets		59.913
Ur	realized Gain/Loss		2,444
Ne	et Income		7.897
Total Equity		70,254	

107,096



Thank you to Julie O'Connor for her 10 years of dedication and service with Hawk Ridge!

2012 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS

RAPTOR BANDING

Three banding stations yielded a total of 4,805 raptors banded! Total included 2,169 owls (2,041 banded at Hawk Ridge, which is highest total to date), a Red-shouldered Hawk (third record at Hawk Ridge), and a Golden Eagle (first adult captured at Hawk Ridge and fitted with satellite transmitter and named "Jack" after the late Dr. Pershing "Jack" Hofslund).

PASSERINE BANDING

2,137 passerines of 67 species were banded in 2012, including both species of cuckoo, two species of sandpiper, twenty-three species of warbler, a beautiful adult male Varied Thrush, a leucistic Red-eyed Vireo, and an amazing 104 Nashville Warblers on September 13th. Thanks to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation Biodiversity Fund, a group of 13 volunteers contributed over 300 hours to complete our first passerine banding volunteer training program.

RAPTOR COUNT

56,974 raptors of 19 species were counted in close to 889 hours of observation this fall. This includes a record flight of 57 Golden Eagles on November 12th, and totals of 3 Mississippi Kites, 5 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 18 Swainson's Hawks.

NON-RAPTOR COUNT

This was the 6th season of this fall count. Close to 211,000 birds (non-raptors) of 149 species were counted in 2012. This includes new state high counts for Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, Eastern Kingbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Bobolinks, and American Goldfinches. Other highlights were a Clark's Nutcracker (an accidental species in Minnesota seen only once previously in the last 25 years), Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Red-throated Loon, and Franklin's Gull (the first for the Hawk Ridge checklist).

SPRING COUNT

Volunteer efforts provided close to 75 hours to count 3,043 raptors (13 species).

2012 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

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, passerine banding, etc.) for the public, reaching over 900 visitors. We also taught formal programs to approximately 40 groups, reaching 850 students/participants (pre-K through college, elderhostels, scouts, etc.). A grand total of approximately 18,000 visit Hawk Ridge each fall!

EDUCATION CAPACITY BUILDING

Thanks to the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, we had a successful transition into the new Education Director position, new Operations Director position, Internship program, naturalist training, new partnerships, and program development and evaluation.

EXPERIENCE HAWK RIDGE

This was the 7th year of the program. 46 classes (approx. 1,150 5th grade students) came to Hawk Ridge this fall thanks to supportive funding from Donald M. Weesner Foundation and individual contributors.

WESTERN GREAT LAKES OWL MONITORING

This was the 8th year of collaborative effort between HRBO, Natural Resources Research Institute, MN DNR and WI DNR to monitor owl populations. 314 owls of seven species were counted by 118 volunteers, including record high numbers of Eastern Screech Owls in WI.

PEREGRINE WATCH

This was the 7th year of the program. Over 1,000 people visited to watch and learn about the nesting falcons in downtown Duluth. Four chicks fledged this season! Thanks to funding from Minnesota Power Foundation and individual contributors.

HAWK RIDGE SOCIAL EVENT

A second summer social event was held in Duluth as a way to get to know our members, donors, neighbors, and users of Hawk Ridge. New Education Director, Gail Johnejack, shared her vision for the Hawk Ridge education department. Approximately 50 were in attendance.

HAWK RIDGE BIRDATHON

Celebrated the 26th annual in May with 184 species being counted in a 24-hr period in St. Louis County, including a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Eared & Western Grebes, and 25 species of warblers!

HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL

New evening event venue, fundraiser with live & silent auction, and workshops. Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Laura Erickson. Proved to be a great success with over 100 in attendance!



18 Swainson's Hawks were counted and one banded in 2012!

Photo by Hawk Ridge staff



Unusual Varied Thrush banded at Hawk Ridge on October 7, 2012

Photo by Erik Bruhnke