

Taking Flight: News From The Ridge

Spring/Summer Issue | 2012

Golden Eagle by Mark Martell

Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in North America are primarily found in the western United States and Canada from Alaska south into north-central Mexico. Historically, small breeding populations also occurred in eastern North America from Canada south into the U.S. through the Appalachian and Adirondack Mountains, but currently are found only in Canada. There are no breeding records from any upper Mid-western state.

A very large raptor, Golden Eagles have brown plumage which in the adults is complemented by a golden crown and gray bars on the tail. Juveniles have plumage similar to the adults but with whit at the base of the secondaries and inner primaries and a large patch of white on the tail. Golden Eagles are typically birds of hilly or mountainous open country. However in Eastern North America they are found in forested areas that have small openings which the birds use for hunting. This eagle feeds mainly on medium sized mammals such as hares, rabbits, squirrels and prairie dogs. They will take larger birds and will also feed on carrion.

Records of Golden Eagles during fall migration over Hawk Ridge date back to 1951. From 1951 – 1963 a total of 24 Golden Eagles were counted with annual counts varying between 0 – 7 per year. Hawk counts during that period however were usually limited to September and early October so many birds may have been missed as the bulk of the birds migrate over Hawk Ridge from mid-October through November. Since the 1990’s fall counts have ranged between 115 – 223 birds annually. Spring counts done by Hawk Ridge also show a regular northward migration of Golden Eagles, although smaller in number. Winter surveys done in southeastern Minnesota and southwestern Wisconsin reveal a regular wintering population in that area that numbers around 100 birds.

Golden Eagles are majestic and exciting to see. We encourage you to visit Hawk Ridge in late fall to have an encounter with this fascinating species.



Golden Eagle photo by Erik Bruhnke



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Debbie’s Farewell Party

On Saturday April 14th, we wished Debbie (Waters) Petersen all the best on her new journey post-Hawk Ridge. Over 50 were in attendance to celebrate, roast, and say good-bye. Debbie will be teaching secondary life science in Walker, MN this fall. She has established a great education foundation for Hawk Ridge. We thank her for her 11 years of hard work and dedication.



Debbie (Waters) Petersen (left) being roasted by Janelle Long (center) and Julie O’Connor (right) at farewell party, photo by Erik Bruhnke

Comments From The Board

By Karen Stubenvoll, Chair

Welcome back to another season of Hawk Ridge! Each year in August, enjoying the warm south breeze with a trickle of early migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks, it seems like we have all the time in the world; then cold November is here before you know it, with views overhead of Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. In between, there will be a constant flow of raptors, songbirds, visitors, naturalists, counters, banders, and volunteers at the Hawk Ridge overlook.

Since last fall, we have been busy with various activities such as a volunteer spring hawk count, committee meetings, and trail maintenance; then our Big Day: the St Louis County Birdathon which was held on May 19, and was a great deal of fun! I hope some of you also made a visit downtown for Peregrine Watch, to see the four chicks and two parents at the Greysolon building through the scopes with our two naturalists on duty.

We are posting regular updates on Facebook and Twitter. Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/HawkRidgeDuluth. Our Twitter address is [@Hawk_Ridge](https://twitter.com/Hawk_Ridge). So follow or “like” us to get news about the latest happenings.

On behalf of the Hawk Ridge Board of Directors, I want to express my appreciation to all our hard-working volunteers, along with our dedicated staff. I also want to thank you for your membership and your support. I hope to see you up at the Ridge this fall!

Fall Education Preview By Gail Johnejack

The baton has been handed off! Debbie (Waters) Petersen moved on and will be challenging high school science students while I enter my own challenge of being the new Education Director. Thankfully, Julie O'Connor will be returning as Operations Director and Volunteer Coordinator. She is delighted that she will be at the Ridge more this season than last, when she was managing the conference. Be sure to visit with her this year, as she too, will be moving on to new things next year. I am grateful for a season of overlap with her. We will have time to mix the old with the new and find a new normal with different faces.

Our main focus this year at the Ridge is to do what works. We will again have owl evenings and continue to give raptor and other programs to groups from young to not so young. There are already programs on the schedule that include Elderhostel and college ecology classes. We will be contacting teachers when school starts to begin scheduling the 5th grade Experience Hawk Ridge and other field trips. If you have or know of a group that might be interested in a private program at the Ridge, be sure to give me a call and I'll get them on the schedule.

We will be trying a few new things, too. We are planning some activities for young people including: "Make Your Own Binoculars" for preschoolers and a Junior Birder booklet for elementary aged visitors. We will also have increased passerine banding, which is always a hit with young and old.

There will be a mix of new staff and returning staff, including Naturalist, Margie Menzies, and Count Interpreter, Erik Bruhnke. We will also have a group of substitute naturalists who can fill in for others in time of need or when things are really busy. We will likely see many familiar naturalist faces from years past during Hawk Weekend when they come to help out. It can be hard to stay away when the raptors fly!

We look forward to your visit, and to spending time with you as we all enjoy the view of the lake, and the migration of these incredible birds!

Hawk Ridge Internship By Julie O'Connor

We are pleased to introduce Katie Swanson to our membership this fall. Katie is our Naturalist Intern for this summer and fall, and has already proven to be a great addition to our team. Thanks to the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation for making this internship possible.

The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has a world-class Out-

door Recreation and Environmental Education program, and Hawk Ridge has been fortunate to benefit from the internship requirement of this program. In 2008, Brittnie and Mariah were interns with Hawk Ridge as a part of this program, and Katie is also finishing her degree by interning with us.

The internship requirement is that the students spend 600 hours working for an institution associated with recreation, outdoor and/or environmental education. Katie worked with me during Peregrine Watch, and will be on staff as a Naturalist this fall. In addition to these positions, she is helping with all of the pre-season preparation, attending planning/committee meetings and is involved with the administrative and human resource conversations. Our commitment to UMD and Katie is that we will invest ourselves in her education and provide her with a quality learning experience about all the functions of a small non-profit organization.

Meet Hawk Ridge Intern: Katie Swanson

My name is Katie Swanson (recently married and changed from Borg). I grew up in Rochester, Minnesota and moved up to Duluth in the summer of 2007. I attended school at UMD and I'm doing my internship to complete my bachelor's degree in Outdoor and Environmental Education.

I chose Hawk Ridge as a place for my internship because of my keen interest in birds and past experiences of working and volunteering here. I volunteered at Hawk Ridge for two years previous and developed a strong connection with the organization. Interning at Hawk Ridge offers unique experiences from working as a Naturalist and being a public face as well as being involved with the inner workings of a non-profit organization. Seeing both sides of an organization is very beneficial for gaining different skills that will be needed in my career.

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Katie Swanson (Naturalist Intern) with Julie O'Connor at Peregrine Watch, photo by Steve Kuchera

Meet the New Education Director: Gail Johnejack

I am so excited to be here! I am grateful for this opportunity to work with wonderful, passionate and skilled people who care about birds and our community. I look forward to building on what Debbie (Waters) Petersen and others have created.

I have been learning outside since, well, forever! My Mom was my mentor. She inspired me. She taught me flowers, birds, trees, everything she could about nature. In high school, she wondered about my future. I liked nature and history but... I didn't want to teach. That's what she did. In high school, you can't be like your Mom.

I earned a natural resource degree. I was a counselor for the Youth Conservation Corp. I was a hydrologist working with water quality for the US Forest Service. I helped write land management plans and spent summers in the field. But something didn't feel quite right. I went horticulture school for a year. It was fun, but that wasn't it either.

Next came kids. I showed them everything I knew about natural things outside, as my Mom had done with me. We marveled at snakes with bulging bellies of mouse. We watched chrysalises turn into monarchs. We fed and watched birds. I taught neighbors about migrating birds and gave gardening classes to their kids. It turns out that environmental education was, and is, in my blood. My Mom would smile.

When my daughter, Heidi, was 4, I heard that the nearby Schlitz Audubon Nature Center was starting a nature preschool. It was very clear

to me that I wanted to be part of that. So Heidi and I went together, her learning in one classroom, me teaching in the other, and we both loved it. We hiked every day. We explored, played, and sang. We taught them to touch with only two fingers and look with careful eyes. I helped kids gain knowledge, abilities and confidence. I had so much fun, and I felt so incredibly lucky.

Then we moved. I got involved in our little community and did environmental education as best I could with limited opportunities. I was a substitute teacher at school and I chaperoned field trips. I developed and taught Youth Gardening for the summer Parks and Recreation program. I was a Scout leader. But really, I dreamed of going back to school to train for environmental education.

I researched Environmental Education programs and cool places to live, and we arrived in Duluth in July, 2009. I was in the EE program at the University by September. I went to school part time, parented and discovered Hawk Ridge. I volunteered and thought, "How cool to be carrying a hawk in a can!" I finished school the following year and became a naturalist at the Ridge, and thought, "How cool to handle the raptors and help people experience these amazing birds!" Now, I am the Education Director and I marvel at my good fortune.



Gail Johnejack catching crawfish - new Education Director for Hawk Ridge, photo by Mark Hummel

So, what do I envision for Hawk Ridge as I step into this role? First and foremost, I want to maintain and build upon the system and programs that are in place. Great effort and love went into creating an education program that works, and I want it to continue. I want to add activities for children that visit with their families on weekends. I would like to evaluate school programs in a systematic way. This will help us learn better what is working and how we can improve. Second, I want to support and build upon our community relationships so that Hawk Ridge becomes an even more integral part of Duluth. Maybe someday people will even say "Lift Bridge and Hawk Ridge" in the same sentence! Third, I want to be able to say 'Yes' to requests for programs or mentoring that sometimes we say 'no' to because of funding constraints. Fourth, well... not right now. This is plenty to keep me busy for a while!

Thank you so much for this opportunity! See you at the Ridge!

vidual research project. By working as a naturalist, participating at meetings, learning the administrative process, and helping train new volunteers and staff will provide that experience. I am working on a special project of developing a junior birding guidebook to fulfill my research project. This project is interesting to me and will help in my career path as an educator. It will also help Hawk Ridge implement

a new program. All of the experiences and skills I am developing are things that fit in with my career goals. I see myself working at places like Hawk Ridge throughout my career. I will use the skills I am developing here to help further my career. By seeing all sides of an organization, I am gaining experiences that will help me in future job positions, whether it is teaching, working in operations, or administration.

Internship

continued

For this reason, Hawk Ridge is a great fit for fulfilling my internship requirements. I am required to work 600 hours at a place that supports a variety of experiences. The suggested experiences are teaching, administrative, assessment and doing an indi-

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Peregrine Watch

by Julie O'Connor

Peregrine Watch 2012 was another great success from the perspective of Hawk Ridge AND the falcon family that we watch and teach about in downtown Duluth! Four chicks hatched in early May, and we were fortunate to watch them all grow and fledge during our 4 week program this summer. We were funded this year by the Minnesota Power Foundation and generous private donations from Hawk Ridge members. Thank you!

Our funding was secured in late May and we began our program on June 5. Bob Anderson and Amy Ries from the Raptor Resource Project came to Duluth to band the chicks on June 7, but found that the chicks were just a couple days too old to band. I'm not practiced enough at ageing chicks on our closed-circuit monitor to precisely age them, which could have saved Bob and Amy the trip to Duluth. The risk in banding the chicks after they are 30 days old is that they have gained enough awareness to try and get away from 'that thing' (the bander) that's reaching into the nestbox and grabbing them. Bob and Amy decided not to risk having one of the chicks jump out of the nest, so we weren't able to

have names or band numbers for the youngsters this year.

That didn't dampen our fun, though! We set up every day from 10 am to 2 pm in Lake Place Park and shared these birds with people passing by. The enthusiasm, knowledge and interest that we see as a result of this program is really encouraging. People LOVE watching these birds grow!!

In a typical year, we expect the chicks to fledge (leave the nest for the first time) during the first week of July. This year, though, three of the chicks fledged on June 16 and the fourth fledged on June 23! We were fearful that this early fledge would mean a very early end to Peregrine Watch because usually, the chicks become widespread and difficult to find and teach about within the first 10 days after fledging. Not so, this year! All four chicks successfully fledged and kept themselves out of trouble by remaining high on the Greysolon Building (where the nestbox is located)!

Pretty much everything about this year's group of fledglings is atypical... all of them fledged to the roof of the Greysolon Building, rather than to the rooftops on the lower buildings below. All of them seemed to fly with competence from day one. None of them fledged a day or two earlier than they should have, so none of

them ended up down on Superior Street, needing a ride back up to the building. All of them remained visible and accounted for every day during the first THREE WEEKS after they fledged! As of the end of our program (July 7), all four chicks were still alive and flying (and landing) strong. It is unusual for us to be able to locate all of the chicks every day, but this group was particularly cooperative!

Peregrine Watch was fortunate to have Katie (Borg) Swanson on our staff for this season. Katie is our Education Intern from UMD, and will be working with us through the fall. She's a great addition to our team, and you'll enjoy meeting her at Hawk Ridge this during the fall season.

Peregrine Watch was 'open for business' for 16 full days, 2 partial days and was shut down by weather for 4 days. We shared the peregrines with 1040 people, which holds to our average of 65 per day and 16 per hour.

Many thanks to everyone who visited us in Lake Place Park and Superior Street. The enthusiasm that we see in your eyes and hear in your voices is reward beyond words. Keep your eyes and ears open, and be sure to post any peregrine sightings on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/pwduluth.

Fall Research Preview

By Janelle Long

August 15th marked the start of the 41st fall season of the raptor count and raptor banding! We have a great staff line-up. Leading the count efforts for his 6th fall season is Karl Bardon. He will be assisted by Cory Ritter for the 2nd year in a row. Banding Director, Frank Nicoletti, is back and ready to band. His core team will consist of returning banders - Nova Mackentley and Chris Neri. The owl bander will be Samuel Roberts, returning from the fall 2010 season. Frank will also be hosting and training an apprentice bander from Argentina. Matias Juhant is a biology student at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Maribor, Maribor, Slovenia. The research methods he learns at Hawk Ridge will help in his efforts of establishing a network of raptor migration watch sites and banding stations in South America.

We are happy to announce the new passerine banding program we are piloting this year, thanks to the Duluth Superior Area Community



Frank Nicoletti, Hawk Ridge Banding Director, with Northern Saw-whet Owl, photo by Karen Stubenvoll

Foundation Biodiversity Fund. You can read more about the program highlighted in this newsletter. Thanks to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, we were able to purchase some new and needed banding equipment. A big thank you goes to Dave Alexander & Ben Yokel for the

new passerine banding station.

We truly appreciate all of the volunteers that helped get the research sites ready for the season and those that help with the banding and count research efforts during the season.

Raptors in the Classroom by Julie O'Connor

This was an interesting year for Raptors in the Classroom. In previous years, we have received grant funding that subsidized our costs for RITC (staff, transportation, zoo birds partnership). This allowed us to provide our two-part program to local schools at a minimal cost to them. This year, we did not receive any grant funds for RITC, so we tested out a 'fee-for-program' plan, passing program costs on to the schools that wanted us to visit.

The unfortunate state of school funding quickly became apparent, as we sent out announce-

ments about Raptors in the Classroom to teachers. Each year, we have several very loyal teachers who contact us early in the school year, wanting to book our programs as soon as they can get onto our schedule. This year, even those schools and teachers couldn't afford the cost of our base-level program, and we ended up only visiting ONE school!

In previous years, we have visited as many as 75 classrooms – this is an alarming decline! It gives us even more motivation to find the funding we need to subsidize the costs of Raptors in the Classroom,

so that we can continue visiting 4th graders throughout the region with this introductory program to raptors and Hawk Ridge.

If you are interested in sponsoring a Raptors in the Classroom program, please contact Janelle at jlong@hawkridge.org, 218-428-6209. You can also make a general donation to this program online or in the contribution section of this newsletter.

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Passerine Banding at Hawk Ridge

By Frank Nicoletti

Passerine (songbird) banding at Hawk Ridge has been conducted from 1982-1992 sporadically. Full-time banding was done in 1996-2006 under the direction of Dave Grosshuesch. A decade average of 4,500 birds of 110 species were banded. Since then, there has been no regular passerine banding effort. During the fall of 2012, we will make an effort to conduct a regular banding project.

This season will be a pilot study, which was made possible by a grant from the Biodiversity Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. The passerine banding project will have three main focuses. The first focus will be conducting early morning banding near the historical net sites for potential comparisons with previous work. This may give us insights into declining populations of certain neotropical migrant passerines that have occurred for over 2 decades. This data will supplement the passerine count being conducted by Karl Bardon et al. The second project focus will be to train a core of volunteers to sustain this project in the future. The final focus will be to do passerine banding demonstrations and education programs at the Hawk Ridge Main

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Kaitlin and Matti Erpestad will be working on Hawk Ridge passerine program development this fall, photo by Karen Stubenvoll



Banding
continued

Overlook this fall. Kaitlin and Matti Erpestad have been hired to coordinate the three aspects of the project, as well as assist with banding research and provide education.

David Alexander and Annmarie Geniusz have been busy spearheading passerine project preparations. They along with others have built a new blind that will be used to conduct passerine and owl banding. The blind will also be used for educational training purposes. This summer, a total of seven days of banding were conducted spanning from 30 June through 30 July. A total of 111 birds of 25 species were banded. Some of the highlights include Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, Cedar Waxwing, and Baltimore Oriole.

We are excited for the upcoming migration season. If you are interested in participating in the passerine banding volunteer program, please email fnicoletti@hawkridge.org.



Banded Blue Jay at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, photo by Erik Bruhnke

West Skyline Hawk Count 2012
By Frank Nicoletti

Since 1997, raptors have been counted along the West Skyline Parkway during spring migration. In 2000, the protocol changed to include two sites, either Enger Tower or Thompson Hill, depending on wind direction. This season had less coverage, due to many days of northeast winds and lack of availability of volunteer counters. This weather phenomenon was also seen at other Great Lakes count sites.

The count was in operation from 9 March through 14 April. A total of 18 days were covered with 73.5 hours averaging just over 4 hours per day. The season's count total came to 3,043 raptors of 13 species.

March had the most coverage with 14 days and 58.5 hours observed for a total of 2,792 raptors counted. The eagle migration was good with strong flights on the 11 and 15 that produced days of over 400 Bald and 21 and 28 Golden Eagles, respectfully.

April had only four days of coverage with 15 hours (5, 7, 8 and 14 April) for a total of 251 raptors counted. The weather, especially on the weekend, was not conducive to any flights.

Hawk Ridge would like to see this important aspect of migration continued to be studied. It's one of the few places that has a significant concentration of raptors migrating in both spring and fall.

The following helped with the 2012 count: Frank Nicoletti, Dave Carman, Karl Bardon, Erik Bruhnke, Mike Hendrickson, Harold Nordin and Peder Svingen. Thank you to all for your efforts.

Spring Owl Monitoring By Julie O'Connor

Each year, the Western Great Lakes Owl Monitoring Project sends volunteers out into the far reaches of Minnesota to survey for breeding owls. Each volunteer is assigned a pre-established 9-mile route in their area and must become certified through the online program. They spend one evening in early April driving their route, stopping at one-mile intervals and listening passively for calling owls for five minutes at each stop. They record observations such as GPS coordinates, weather/snow conditions, wind speed/direction, cloud cover and owls heard, for each stop onto data sheets.

In 2012, 87 of 160 routes were assigned to volunteers. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would NEVER be able to capture so much information during the spring breeding season!

If you're interested in participating in this survey, please contact the volunteer coordinators for more information:

Minnesota: Julie O'Connor (218-348-2291 or joconnor@hawkridge.org)

Wisconsin: Ryan Brady (715-685-2933 or Ryan.Brady@Wisconsin.gov)

Stewardship Notes By Bob Owens

We were very lucky during the "Flood of the Century" here at the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, as we experienced minimal costly damage. It would have been a wonderful experience and a dangerous one to be at the two bridges on the NE end of the Amity Creek Trail at 7 AM June 19 as water came over the trail due to trees partially blocking the passage under the bridges. The trail was partially washed out near the Colby Ave entrance, we had minor shoulder wash out along East Skyline Parkway near the Cutoff Trail (Snowmobile Trail) and some slumping at two locations near the bridge to "no-where". However, the City has been helpful in planning repairs, as the crews can get to the projects.

We are getting the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve main overlook and research sites ready for activities beginning August 15. Thank you to all the volunteers that came out in conjunction with the City of Duluth for our "Community Work Day" on August 12th. We had help from Woodland Hills and several other civic groups. Thanks to Cheryl Skafte, Judy Gibbs, & Julie O'Connor for helping organize volunteers.

A big thank you to the City of Duluth Parks and Rec Dept. for their commitment to install kiosks with maps and information, for supplying



Hawk Ridge Volunteers, Gary Leeper (front) and Jessamy Schwartz (back) helping with site prep on the Volunteer Community Work Day, photo by Gail Johnjack

equipment for mowing trails and the right a way along Skyline which has added to improved appearance, wider clearing along the street, and having less litter dumped along the road. We are working on being "green" with additional litter barrels. We are also working to improve the parking and traffic situation to make visiting and travel safer along Skyline Parkway.

We look forward to hosting members and visitors during the fall

season and always appreciate your feedback whether positive or helpful hints for improvements. We also appreciate anyone willing to volunteer for trail and grounds improvement, invasive species control, as well as assistance with educational stewardship activities. Please feel free to contact me directly at rmowens@aol.com or 218-349-8334.

Hawk Ridge Birdathon
By Janelle Long

The 26th annual Hawk Ridge Birdathon in St. Louis County was held on Saturday May 19th. Nine teams participated in several different categories. Team "Two Few Daves" (Dave Benson and Dave Steininger) counted 138 species in 17.5 hours to win the St. Louis County Big Day category. This was Dave Benson's 24th Birdathon and the prized owl traveling trophy remains in his happy home for its fifth year.

8 In all, a grand total of

184 species were counted. This was the highest total in the last five years, which is a great improvement! Although, this was the second year that no Eastern Meadowlarks and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen and third time that Bufflehead, Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, and Barred Owl were missed. The St. Louis County Birdathon 26-year average is 189 species with a 26-year grand total of 266 species. 218 species was the highest total count in 1996 and 164 was the lowest count in 2011.

Highlights included: Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (1st year seen during Birdathon!), Eared & West-

ern Grebes (2nd & 3rd years seen, respectively), Ruddy Duck & Red-throated Loon (10th year seen), Canvasback (11th year seen), and 25 species of warblers!

Thank you to Eagle Optics, Wild Birds Unlimited, Lake Superior Garden Center, Naturally Avian (Erik Bruhnke) and @michaelfurtman.com (Mike Furtman) for your wonderful prize donations. We also sincerely thank all of the participants, pledge donors, and sponsors for your support. Over \$3000 was raised from this event for Hawk Ridge bird research, education, and stewardship! We hope you can join us next spring!

Volunteer Voices by Andrew Longtin

I've lived in Minnesota all my life. I grew up in White Bear Lake and continue to live in the Metro area today. Most of my life I've worked with (or should I say 'fought with'!!!) computers in one way or another, but I usually NEVER tell people that because everyone says "Hey, can you fix my computer, it's doing.....".

My mother and father both are from the Duluth / Cloquet area, so as a small child I used to get to Duluth, but never to Hawk Ridge. I have always liked the outdoors and wildlife. When I was young, I built and hung bird houses in our yard, filled our bird-feeders, and 'monitored' the robin's nests in our neighborhood.

As an adult, I became more interested and active in birding. I first heard about Hawk Ridge and about MOU (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union) and Project Feeder Watch through online resources.

When I first went to Hawk Ridge, Frank Nicoletti was the counter. Over the years, I started to visit as often as possible to hang out with Frank and Dave Carman. I loved to help them spot birds and forming kettles. This was near the time that Deb-

bie Waters started as a naturalist. As the raptor talks and demonstrations got more interesting, I started to learn more about the birds I was seeing overhead, and that's when I started adopting birds.

The more I learned about birds, Hawk Ridge, and the migration of raptors, the more comfortable I felt helping beginning birders or people who were new to the Ridge. I would help Frank and Dave point out birds to visitors or chat with visitors to help the counters focus on the kettles they were counting. Over time, I looked for other areas that I could help out, and basically the staff just adopted me as one of the group.

Julie O'Connor likes to include me in the "volunteer" group even though my involvement is a little different than that of other volunteers. It's been a job that developed slowly over time, and one that I enjoy.

Besides gorgeous sunrises,



Hawk Ridge Volunteer, Andrew Longtin, has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours at Hawk Ridge and has adopted over 100 birds, photo credit Andrew Longtin

skies filled with beautiful birds and the sounds of migration, I guess the reason I still can't wait to spend time at Ridge is the people. As I said, the staff and volunteers welcomed me into their Hawk Ridge Family. If you are a person that loves nature and wildlife, and care about how we treat this earth and its wild places and wildlife, I can't think of a better place to volunteer your time. We all need to help educate our next generation on the importance of raptors and passerines and their migration past the Ridge.

Become a Hawk Ridge Volunteer!



Get in on the action and volunteer with us! We are always looking for more volunteers for the overlook, and YOU are welcome to join us. You don't need to know how to identify raptors, we'll teach you what you need to know.

- All we ask is that you:
1. Be friendly!!!
 2. Attend training: Sat. September 8, 9am-3pm at NRRI (5013 Miller Trunk Hwy, Duluth)
 3. Commit 24 hours of volunteer time between Sept. 1 and Oct. 31.

We need people for a multitude of jobs including greeting visitors, selling merchandise, assisting naturalists with programs, pointing out birds, running errands, construction, trail maintenance/grounds work, office help and serving on planning committees.

RSVP is not required, but will be appreciated. Please contact Operations Director Julie O'Connor (218-348-2291 or joconnor@hawkridge.org) for more information.

Hawk Ridge Volunteer, Harry Wilson, with Northern Harrier, photo by Karen Stubenvoll

HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL September 14, 15 and 16, 2012

Come and celebrate the migration at our annual Hawk Weekend Festival!

Friday evening includes a social, optional dinner buffet, cash bar, coffee/desserts, auction preview, "Guess-the-Number-of-Hawks Contest", annual member meeting, awards and presentation by Anna Peterson, Ph.D. candidate in the Conservation Biology Program, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Anna will share her research experiences on the magnificent fall bird migration along the North Shore of Lake Superior - both raptors and songbirds. She will present "The Fantastic Fall Migration of Birds on Minnesota's North Shore".

Both Saturday and Sunday will offer a variety of field trips and workshops at and away from the Ridge.

Hawkwatching, interpretive programs, banded raptor and passerine demonstrations, optics displays, merchandise, and refreshments will be offered at the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve main overlook.

Saturday evening will serve as a fundraising benefit for Hawk Ridge. The event will include a social, book signing, cash bar, fabulous dinner buffet, exciting live & silent auction with wonderful packages, and a presentation by Sharon Stiteler, professional speaker, storyteller, and author. She will present a fun and entertaining talk "Today's Office" about her career in bird watching. Sharon's office can be in the middle of a corn field watching eagles or flying 100 feet above the Mississippi River counting ducks. Based on her popular birding blog, Birdchick.

com, it will include the Horned Guan Death March (climbing 4 hours up a volcano in Guatemala to search for a rare tree chicken), trying to find a reasonable bathroom while birding in Kazakhstan or misadventures searching for an ivory-billed woodpecker with Cornell Lab of Ornithology in 2005.

All activities at the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve are open to the public; everything else requires registration. Please note space for evening events, speakers, workshops, and field trips is limited, so be sure to register early! For more details about the Hawk Weekend festival, go to www.hawkridge.org or contact us at 218.428.6209 or mail@hawkridge.org.

Raptors Raffle

The 4th annual Raptors Raffle is being held this fall to help raise proceeds to benefit the research, education, and stewardship activities of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. \$5 raffle tickets will be sold at the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Main Overlook beginning September 1. The raffle drawing will be held at the Hawk Ridge Main Overlook on Saturday, October 27th, 2012 at 1pm. Thanks to Duluth Pack (Jon Farchmin), Eagle Optics, and Naturally Avian (Erik Bruhnke) for the following prize donations:

Prize #1: Duluth Pack Haversack with Atlas Optics 10x42 Intrepid ED Binoculars and National Geographic Birding Guide



Prize #2: Guided Sax-Zim Bog Winter Birding Tour for 4 with Erik Bruhnke (Nov. 2012 – March 2013)



Prize #3: Customized Hawk Ridge Fleece Jacket and Hat (you pick design, color, size!)



Winner(s) do not need to be present to win. Only one ticket purchase required to be entered in the raffle. Winners must be 18 years old to purchase a ticket and to be eligible for prize.

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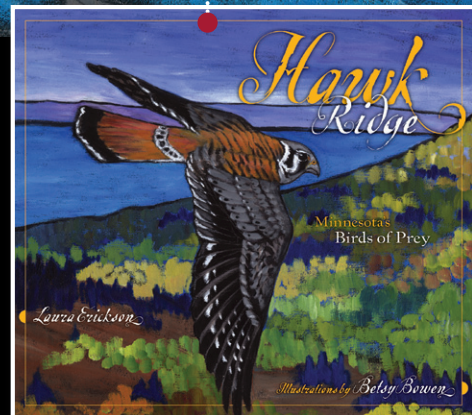


MINNESOTA

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EVENTS

at **Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory** in celebration of the new book *Hawk Ridge: Minnesota's Birds of Prey* by Laura Erickson and with illustrations by Betsy Bowen.



► Saturday, Sept. 15th, 12:00–4:00 PM

Meet and greet with Erickson and Bowen at the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Main Overlook during Hawk Weekend Festival (www.hawkridge.org). Books will be available for sale and signing.

► Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 1:00–2:00 PM

Erickson and Bowen will present in the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve lecture area. Books will be available for sale and signing. Please RSVP to mail@hawkridge.org or 218-428-6209 by Sept. 17th, as space is limited.

Sixth Annual Sax-Zim Bog Winter Birding Festival

February 15, 16, 17, 2013 – Meadowlands, Minnesota

Catered meals served Friday and Saturday nights

Field trips offered through the Bog and to Lake Superior

Irruption of Boreal Owls is predicted this winter.

Friday night speaker – Steve Wilson will talk about Spruce Grouse

Saturday night speaker – Marge Gibson on Raptor Rehab.

She will be bringing live hawks and owls.

Pre-registration required.

Go to: <http://sax-zimbog.com>

In Memory of Dr. Pershing Bernard “Jack” Hofslund (1918-2012)

By Dr. Gerald J. Niemi

Dr. Pershing “Jack” Hofslund, a professor and professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota, Duluth was one of the founders of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. He was instrumental in the establishment of the annual hawk count at Hawk Ridge. He published the first scientific articles on the raptor counts thereby providing the evidence that Duluth was a major hawk migration route in the United States. Jack along with many others began the long process to educate the public about the benefit of raptors and the protection of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. The Duluth Audubon Society recognized his efforts with a lifetime achievement award in 2003.

Jack was born on April 13, 1918 in Jeffers, Minnesota and passed away on April 21, 2012 at the age of 94 in Duluth, Minnesota. He graduated from Jeffers High School, Minnesota in 1936 and received his B.S. Degree from Mankato State Teachers College in 1940. Jack went on to teach school in Pequot Lakes and Milaca, Minnesota. Shortly after graduation Jack married Elaine Warner who became his life-long partner. Elaine preceded him in death on March 23, 2009, and many of us who knew Jack observed that he was never really the same after Elaine passed away. Jack and Elaine had a very special relationship; the envy of any married couple.

Jack served in the United States Navy during World War II. Shortly thereafter he began his ornithological career, receiving his Masters in 1947 and his Ph.D. in 1954 from the University of Michigan. His doctoral thesis, “A Life History Study of the Yellowthroat,” initiated his long interest in warblers and certainly had a major influence on countless students, including me. During his graduate studies, Jack

began his career at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) in 1949

teaching many life science classes, including ornithology and natural history of vertebrates. Jack retired as a full professor from UMD in 1982 and then became professor emeritus.

Professor Hofslund inspired hundreds of students, colleagues, and friends with his widespread expertise on birds, his breadth of knowledge about life, and with his gentle demeanor. He was the President of the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union from 1963 to 1965 and served as Editor of The Flicker, the publication that preceded its current publication The Loon, from 1951 to 1958. Jack was active in the Duluth Audubon Society, the board of the Lake Superior Zoological Gardens, Duluth Parks and Recreation, the Board of the Minnesota State Zoo, the American Ornithologists’ Union, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. For the latter he served as President from 1971 to 1973. He was on the board of directors of the Raptor Research Foundation and the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Upon retirement, Jack remained active at the Lakeside Presbyterian Church and continued to teach in the University for Seniors and the local chapters of AARP.

Jack and Elaine loved to travel. They visited all 50 states, many Canadian provinces, and over 50 countries on every continent except Antarctica. Besides birds, Jack enjoyed movies, bridge, the Minnesota Twins and Vikings, and reading. I remember during his move from his home to Westwood Apartments in Duluth, one of his most difficult tasks was parting with the thousands of books he had acquired. Jack is survived by his son, Jeffrey Hofslund of Duluth, and his daughter, Jennifer Burla of Ironwood, Michigan, plus five grandchildren.

Jack will be remembered as a kind, loving, and gentle man with a flair for dapper dressing. In an article on “Hawks Above Duluth” in a book Bird Watchers’ America by the famous or-



Dr. Pershing “Jack” Hofslund, photo by Jerry Niemi

nithologist Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jack wrote “Lewis Carroll could have the hawk flights in Duluth in mind when he penned, ‘And thick and fast they came at last, and more, and more, and more.’ Certainly this was the case on September 15, 1962 filled with good intentions (to mow the lawn) ... I sat down in a lawn chair and began to count. This was unfortunate-for the lawn-because I did not stop counting until some seven hours and 10,526 hawks later.” Such is the life that Jack enjoyed from his neighborhood home in the Lakeside community, from Hawk Ridge, and from the many field trips to local and far-away places. His efforts will long be remembered, especially as one of the founding members of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth.

Hawk Ridge Memorial for Dr. Pershing “Jack” Hofslund

Please join us on Saturday October 6th at 10am at the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Main Overlook to remember Jack and celebrate all of his contributions to Hawk Ridge and the field of bird conservation. Hawk Ridge is working to establish a memorial bench in honor of Jack at the nature reserve. Donations can be made “In Memory of Jack” for this purpose or in general. Please contact jlong@hawkridge.org or call 218-428-6209 for more information.

Summer Social by Janelle Long

On Tuesday August 7th, Bob & Mary Ellen Owens hosted a small social event for Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory at their home. The original event date was planned for June, but was rescheduled due to the flood. We were happy to gather with the close to 45 that were in attendance and enjoyed the lovely evening. Board, staff, and committee members were introduced. Highlights about the re-

search, education, and stewardship activities of Hawk Ridge were shared. Gail Johnejack, the new Education Director, delivered a compelling presentation on her vision for the future of Hawk Ridge education. Board member, Mark Martell, engaged attendees with unique opportunities, such as kid adopts and education sponsorship, as ways to help make a difference for Hawk Ridge bird conservation efforts.

Thank you to all that attended and contributed.

Gail Johnejack, new Education Director, introducing herself and vision for Hawk Ridge education programs at Duluth Summer Social Event, photo by Katie Swanson



American Beauty, American Kestrel, photo by michaelfurtman.com

HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE - 40 YEARS OLD IN 2012

By Jan Green

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, as a natural area in the City of Duluth parks system, is 40 years old this fall. The ridge above the Lakeside community has obviously been there much longer than that – actually since the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago.

Before the City took an interest in protecting the tax-forfeit land there, the ridge was known as Davidson’s Hill or Hawk Hill and has a checkered history. It was a wild area for the kids in Lakeside to explore and build their tree forts in the scrubby vegetation. That vegetation was the result of old forest fires, probably most dramatically the 1918 Cloquet fire, and not much soil was left on the rocky terrain. Planting of conifers, mostly the exotic Scotch pine plus some red pine, had been done in the 1930s and also aspen forest regenerated naturally where there was enough soil.

One critical phase in the history of the ridge was the decades when it served as a shooting gallery for the hawk passage in the fall. Hawk Hill, as it was known then, was not the only site in the city well known to bird target shooters as the “hawk pass”. The most notorious was a Kenwood park

located behind the Villa Scholastica. It was there that blinds were set up and crow decoys were used. As the Duluth News Tribune reported (October 20, 1946) the Duluth Bird Club (now the Duluth Audubon Society) found “one hill strewn with .22 caliber shells and empty shotgun cartridges and litter with the remains of dead hawks.”

An educational effort to show the benefit of hawks to agriculture and to the balance of nature was mounted by leaders of the Duluth Bird Club (including Joel Bronoel, Evelyn Putnam and Olga Lakela). Although the state legislature had passed a law in 1945 protecting hawks, and the City of Duluth had forbidden the shooting of birds within the city limits since 1885, it took an educational campaign to get the law enforced. Signs were erected in 1947 by the Duluth Bird Club throughout the City’s park land that said “BIRD SANCTUARY NO HUNTING PERMITTED – Misdemeanor punishable by fine not to exceed \$100.00 or 85 days imprisonment”. Shooters responded by destroying the signs but the club volunteers persevered, enlisted the police and became deputized to patrol the “hawk pass”. After a few

years of publicity and enforcement, the shooting diminished to a minimum but the Club resolved “We cannot let down our guard” (The Flicker v. 26, p. 94-95, 1954). This success by the Club led to the beginning of the hawk watch at Hawk Ridge. In 1951, led by Dr. P. B.(Jack) Hofslund as part of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service hawk migration survey, counting migrating hawks began.. But that is a story for another day.

Back to the events 40 years ago that created Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. In 1973 with help from Duluth Audubon volunteers, staff of the City Planning Department and money contributed by bird lovers throughout the state several legal steps were taken: 1) Duluth Bird Club incorporated as Duluth Audubon Society; 2) Duluth City Council approved a trust agreement for the Duluth Audubon Society to manage the 115 acre “core area”; 3) title to the land was transferred from state “tax-forfeit” to City ownership; and 4) formal dedication of “Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve” occurred in September 1972. The full story of that time will be left to another historical article.

Planned Giving by Karen Stubenvoll

Since Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve was established in 1972, and then Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory was incorporated as a 501 c (3) non-profit in 2004, we have depended on bequests, memberships, grants, and donations to fund our research, such as yearly hawk count & raptor banding, and also to fund our extensive public education programs at Hawk Ridge & local elementary schools.

You can support our work and leave a legacy for the future by including Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in your estate plan. We recommend that you consult with an es-

tate planning attorney, but here are some simple guidelines.

Bequest:

You are a Hawk Ridge supporter, and you want to leave a lasting legacy of conservation. Or, you’d like to support the long-term goals of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, but you don’t feel financially able to make a major gift at this time. A simple solution would be to include a bequest to Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in your will or estate plan. We should be named as follows: Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, a non-profit registered in the state of Minnesota.

Life Insurance policy:

Designating Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy is another simple way to ensure your legacy of conser-

vation. Contact Janelle Long for our tax ID number when completing the paperwork.

A donation of stock:

When you give appreciated securities, you receive gift credit and an immediate income tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities on the date of transfer, no matter what you originally paid for them, and you pay no capital gains tax on the securities you donate.

You can also name Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory as a beneficiary of your IRA, thereby avoiding some of the estate tax and income tax burden. Contact your estate planning attorney for details. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory exists because of YOU: our members and donors. Thanks for your support during the years to come.



Hawk Ridge Bander, Nova Mackentley, with Northern Goshawk, photo by Karen Stubenvoll



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☐ Individual (Osprey) \$30
☐ Family (Hawk) \$50
☐ Sustaining (Owl) \$100
☐ Soaring (Harrier) \$250
☐ Supporting (Falcon) \$500
☐ Steward (Eagle) \$1000
☐ Additional Donation: _____

- Help Fund Education Programs
\$ _____ Fall Public Education Programs at Hawk Ridge
\$ _____ Hawk Ridge Volunteer Program
\$ _____ "Peregrine Watch" outreach at Lake Place Park
\$ _____ "Raptors in the Classroom" school outreach
\$ _____ "Experience Hawk Ridge" school lesson at Hawk Ridge

- Help Fund Research Programs
\$ _____ Fall Count
\$ _____ Raptor Banding
\$ _____ Songbird Banding
\$ _____ Spring Count

Help Us Meet Our Financial Obligations!

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory depends on the generous contributions made by its members and friends. You'll receive special member discounts and behind-the-scenes with tours as well as knowing these funds go to support education and research. Your membership contribution is tax deductible! Please make checks payable to Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.

SEND FORM & PAYMENT TO:
Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 3006
Duluth, MN 55803-3006

Notes From The Director

By Janelle Long

Nighthawks filled the Duluth skies the evening of August 14th. It was almost as if they knew they were the opening act to signify the start of the fall migration. We kicked off our fall count & banding the following day on August 15th. That child-like feeling of excitement overwhelmed me. I raced home from the office to take my own kids outside to watch the spectacle from our deck. They cheered as the parade of birds swooped and twisted above our heads. I looked around our neighborhood to see if others were watching. I didn't want them to miss out on Duluth's FREE air show happening in their own backyard. I feel the same as we approach each fall season.

We are continually working on getting the word out about Hawk Ridge. If you are able to provide any marketing in-kind services, such as web design, development of promotional materials, and assisting with public relations, we would sure appreciate your help. Please contact me directly at jl原因@hawkridge.org or 218-428-6209 for more information. Thanks and I hope to see you this fall!

A special thanks to the following grantors and sponsors:

Donald M. Weesner Foundation
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
(Biodiversity Fund)
Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
(Non-Game Program)
Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Minnesota Power Foundation
Miller Hill Subaru
City of Duluth Parks & Recreation
The Edge Resort & Waterpark (ZMC Hotels, Inc)
Radisson Hotel Downtown Duluth
Naturally Avian (Erik Bruhnke)
@michaelfurtman.com (Michael Furtman)

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