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 Midwestern 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.

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.

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 birders, and a visit to 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. 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!
Meet the New Education Director: Gail Johnejack

Meet Hawk Ridge Intern: Katie Swanson

The baton has been handed off! Debbie (Waters) Petersen moved on and will be challenging high school sci- ence students while I enter my own challenge of being the new Education Director. Julie O’Connor has stepped in as 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 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 Eiderhostel 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!

Fall Education Preview
By Gail Johnejack

Meet the New Education Director: Gail Johnejack

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 environ- mental education. Katie worked with me during Peregrine Watch, and will be on staff as a Naturalist at the 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 skill sets that will be needed in my career.

Meet Hawk Ridge Intern: Katie Swanson

My name is Katie Swanson (recently married and changed from Borg). I grew up in Rochester, Min- nesota 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 Educa- tion. I chose Hawk Ridge as a place for my internship because of my keen interest in birds and past expe- riences 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 skill sets that will be needed in my career.

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Fall Education Preview
By Gail Johnejack
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 of 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 strength to try and get away from ‘that thing’ (the bander) that’s reach... 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/pw duluth.

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 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 Yoke 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.

Passeerine banding at Hawk Ridge
By Frank Nicoletti

Passeerine (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 neo-tropical 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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Peregrine banding at Hawk Ridge: 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). 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 announcements about 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 long@hawkridge.org, 218-428-6209. You can also make a general donation to this program online or in the contribution section of this newsletter.
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.

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.

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 Goldens, 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.

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 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.

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 Gibbas, & Julie O’Connor for helping organize volunteers.

Highlights included: Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow (1st year seen during Birdathon), Eared & Western Grebes (2nd & 3rd years seen, respectively), Ruddy Duck & Red-throated Loon (10th year seen), Can-vasback (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!
brie 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 kestrel 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, 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.
Dr. Pershing “Jack” Hofslund, a professor and emeritus ornithologist 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 Minilaca, Minnesota. Shortly after graduation Jack married Elaine Warner who became his lifelong 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 Sate 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 paring 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.

Dr. Pershing "Jack" Hofslund, photo by Jerry Niemi

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

Dr. Pershing “Jack” Hofslund, a professor and emeritus ornithologist 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.

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Hawk Ridge Memorial for Dr. Pershing “Jack” Hofslund

Please join us on Saturday October 8th 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 jiong@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 research, education, and stewardship activities of Hawk Ridge were shared. Gail Johnnejack, 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 adoptions and education sponsorship, as ways to help make a difference for Hawk Ridge conservation efforts. Thank you to all that attended and contributed.

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

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, Minnesota, 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 was 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 crew decoys were used. As the Duluth News Tribune reported (October 20, 1946) the Duluth Bird Club (now the Duluth Audubon Society) found “one hill southwest 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 90 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 Society 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 estate 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. Of, 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 conservation.

Contact Janelle Long for our tax ID number when completing the paperwork. A donation of stock:
When you appreciate securities, you receive gift credit and an immediate income tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities. Contact Janelle Long for details. 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.

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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

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

Help Us Meet Our Financial Obligations!

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 jlong@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)