

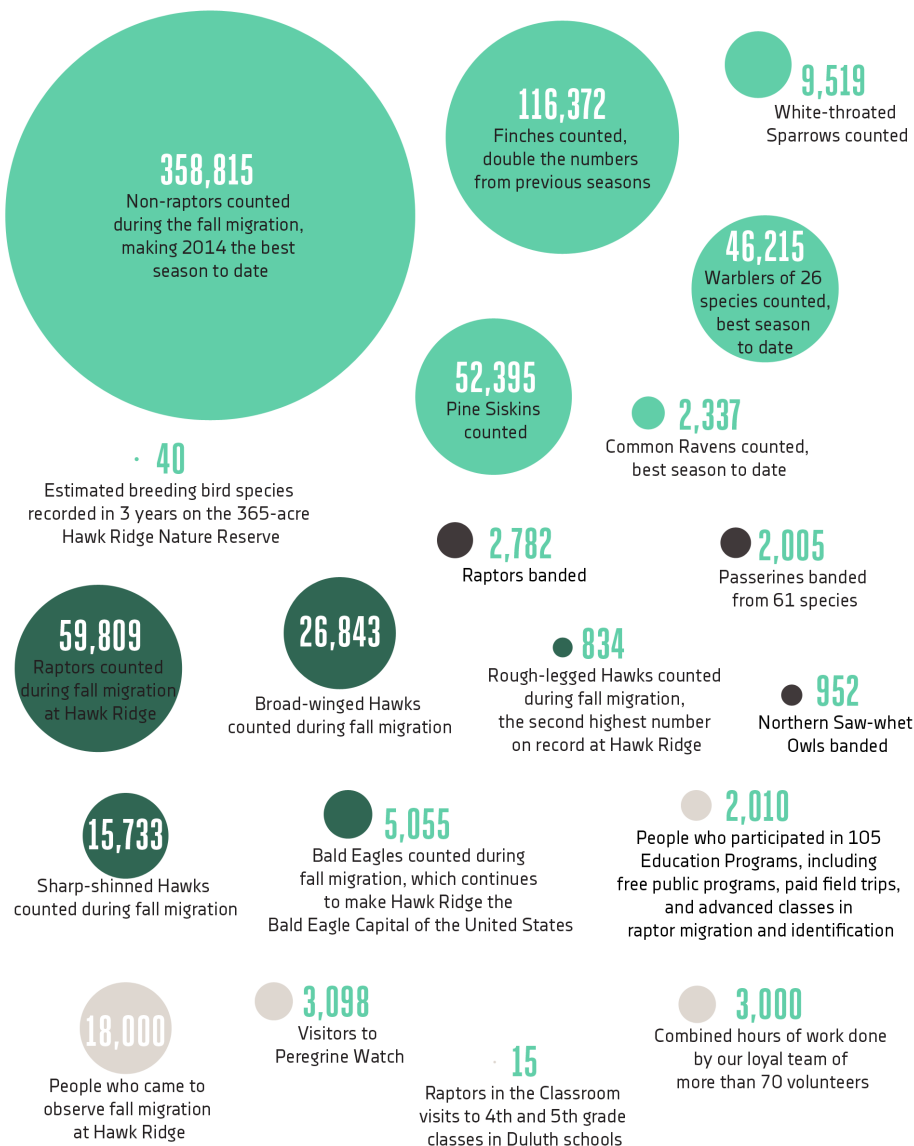
# HAWK RIDGE HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

## OUR MISSION IN ACTION: 2014 BY THE NUMBERS

The mission of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory is to protect birds of prey and other migratory birds in the Western Lake Superior Region through research, education, and stewardship.

Our staff, interns, and volunteers work tirelessly to achieve HRBO's mission. And our members, donors, grantors, and sponsors sustain our mission through their generous contributions.

We believe the numbers demonstrate our mission in action. Here are some incredible numbers for 2014...



### 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### CHAIR

Karen Stubenvoll

#### SECRETARY

Molly Thompson

#### TREASURER

Myron Peterson

#### MEMBERS

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Anne Brataas  
Laura Erickson  
Matt Etterson  
Ken Gilbertson  
Robert Owens  
Andrew Streitz  
Steve Wilson

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Janelle Long

#### ANNUAL REPORT DESIGN

Eliza Grames

### HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY

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

#### SOCIALIZE WITH US



@hawk\_ridge on Twitter



Hawk Ridge on Facebook

For details on these numbers, see "43 Years and Still Counting: 2014 Hawk Ridge Highlights" on page 10.

# OUR MISSION IN ACTION: PICTURES ARE WORTH THOUSANDS OF WORDS

by JANELLE LONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and KAREN STUBENVOLL, BOARD CHAIR

Over the years, HRBO has amassed a treasure trove of images taken by many talented photographers. These images inspire us and bring back wonderful memories of hours spent on the Ridge with our HRBO colleagues and with the thousands of visitors who come to observe fall migration.

A Bald Eagle soaring in a clear, blue sky over Lake Superior captures the indescribable majesty of migration. A child poised to release a Sharp-shinned Hawk – while a HRBO naturalist provides encouragement, “Now, hold your arm up like the Statue of Liberty” – reminds us that an important part of our mission is to inspire the next generation to appreciate and care for the natural world. Young students, in our outdoor classroom, waving their arms to answer a question asked by one of our naturalists...a HRBO interpreter calling out raptor IDs and explaining the finer points of raptor shapes and plumages...a volunteer giving a child her own unique wrist band, just like the birds we band at Hawk Ridge...these images evoke the commitment of our staff, trainees, and volunteers.

The 2014 HRBO Annual Report provides an overview of our fiscal year and how we used the generous support of our members, grantors, and sponsors to achieve our mission. Just as important, the report gives us an opportunity to thank everyone who contributed their talents and time and grants and gifts to Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. Perhaps better than a thousand words from us, this 2014 album of photos is our way of saying, “Thank you.”



Hawk Ridge staff Katie Swanson, Margie Menzies, and Julia Luger at the overlook Photo by Karen Stubenvoll



Snowy Owl taking flight!

Photo by Karl Bardon



Osprey migrating over Hawk Ridge

Photo by Steve Kolbe



Volunteer Jian-long Wu

Photo by Karen Stubenvoll





Hawk Ridge Naturalist, Margie, with Barred Owl

Photo by Annmarie Geniusz



Adult Bald Eagle gracing the Hawk Ridge sky

Photo by Karl Bardon

**HAWK RIDGE HAS AN INFECTIOUSNESS ABOUT IT. WHEN PEOPLE COME AND FEEL EXCITED AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS PLACE, IT RUBS OFF ON ALL THE OTHERS AROUND.**

**—KATIE SWANSON, HRBO VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR**



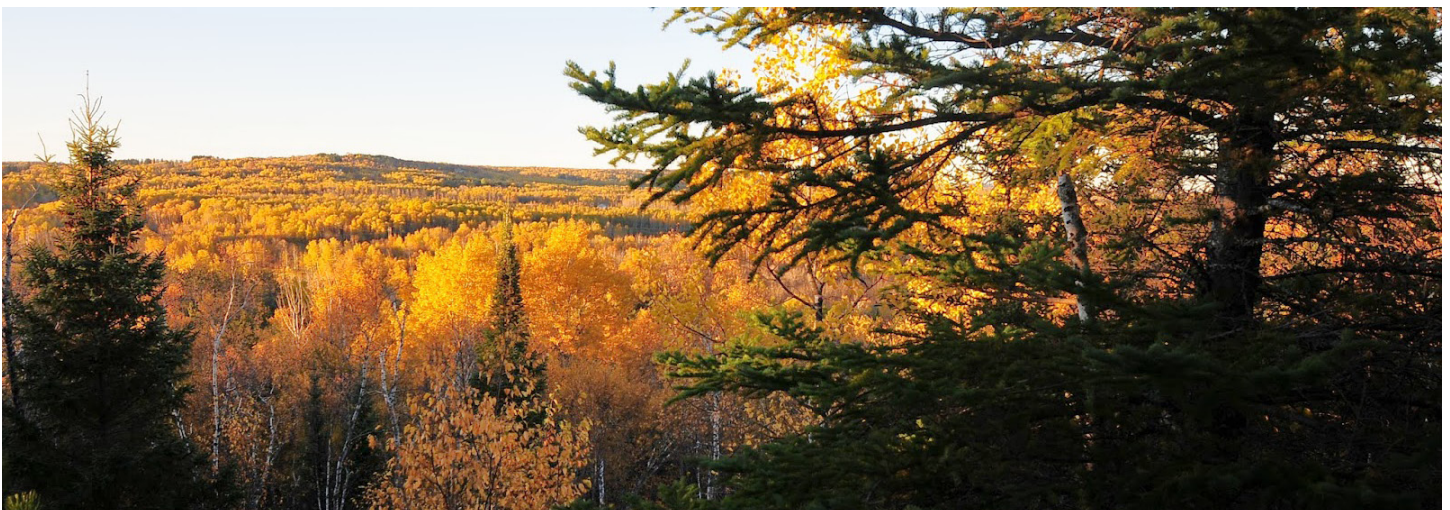
Two happy, young visitors

Photo by Gail Johnjack



Jan Green, 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

Photo by Karen Stubenvoll



View from the summit at Hawk Ridge in evening light with fall color

Photo by Karl Bardon



# IT TAKES TEAMWORK

*It is your efforts - working as a team - that embody the incalculable assets of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. Thank you.*

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory has a fiduciary responsibility to publish an annual report of income, expenses, assets, and liabilities (see sidebar, page 10). What those numbers don't reveal, however, is the hard work, enthusiasm,

and dedication of our staff, hundreds of volunteers, and generous contributors, grantors, and sponsors. You believe in the mission and you put it into action.

## STAFF

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

### MANAGERS

Janelle Long, Executive Director (8)  
Frank Nicoletti, Banding Director (18)  
Karl Bardon, Count Director (8)  
Gail Johnjack, Education Director (4)  
Jessica Chatterton, Operations Director (3)  
Katie Swanson, Volunteer Director & Peregrine Watch (5)  
Sarah Glesner, Owl Programs (8)

### BANDERS

Nova Mackentley (6)  
Chris Neri (5)  
Madi McConnell

### COUNTER

Steve Kolbe

### COUNT INTERPRETER

Clinton Nienhaus

### NATURALISTS

Margie Menzies (3)  
Matti Erpestad (3)  
Caitlin Johnson (2)  
Allie Quick

### FALL TRAINEES

Julia Luger (Environmental Education)  
Kaitlin Alford (Bird Banding)

### PEREGRINE WATCH

Katie Swanson (5)  
Frank Nicoletti (18)  
Miranda Durbin (3)  
Caitlin Johnson (2)  
Marcos Stoffel (Internship)

Numbers in parentheses indicate number of years involved with Hawk Ridge.



Count Interpreter Clinton Nienhaus with board member Myron Peterson

Photo by Karen Stubenvoll

...AN OLDER FELLOW, WHO SEEMED TO ME TO BE A LIFELONG BIRDER, PASSED BY ME ON HIS WAY OUT AND MENTIONED, VERY WILD EYED AND REVERENT, THAT THE GOLDEN EAGLE THAT HAD FLOWN OVER WAS THE FIRST HE HAD EVER SEEN. I CAN STILL PICTURE HIS EXPRESSION OF PURE CONTENTMENT WITH HIS EXPERIENCE. I KNOW THAT IT DID NOT MATTER WHAT I HAD SAID ABOUT THAT BIRD, FOR HIM, IT WAS THE BIRD ITSELF. SOMETIMES, INTERPRETATION IS NOT SAYING ANYTHING. JUST POINTING OUT A BIRD FOR PEOPLE TO SEE. TO ENJOY. TO MARVEL AT ITS MASTERY OF FLIGHT.

—CLINTON NIENHAUS, HRBO COUNT INTERPRETER



# VOLUNTEERS

We have an amazing team of 200 or so volunteers who step up to help with projects, committees, events, and programs each year. And many of our staff members volunteer extra time beyond their regular duties. We truly appreciate each and every one of you for sharing your time and talents.

## **SPRING & FALL COUNT**

Karl Bardon, Joe Beck, Dave Carman, Russ Edmonds, Jane Hosking, Ted Keyel, Steve Kolbe, Jan and Larry Kraemer, Ed Longhway, Andrew Longtin, Madi McConnell, Frank Nicoletti, Harold Nordin, Myron and Holly Peterson, Cory Ritter, Candice Swanepoel

## **RAPTOR BANDING**

Dave Alexander, Kaitlin Alford, Amber Burnette, Miranda Durbin, Rachel Harris, Jane Hosking, Gary Leeper, Bruce Munson, Kate Nicoletti, Jessamy Schwartz, Karen Stubenvoll, Katie Swanson

## **PASSERINE BANDING**

Dave Alexander, Kaitlin Alford, Brianna Borka, Katie Brey, Amber Burnette, Dave and Jan Conley, Erin Denny, Miranda Durbin, Deborah Faul, Grace Glick, Tom Hollenhorst, Margie Menzies, Rebecca Peak, Beth Ruark, Valerie Slocum, Karen Stubenvoll, Robbie Tietge, Abbie Valine, Andy Witchger

## **OFFICE & ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS**

Gene and Susan Bauer, Jessica Chatterton, Christine Ebert, Judy Haugen, the Long Family, Julia Luger, Harold Nordin

## **HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL EVENTS & FIELD TRIPS**

Gene and Susan Bauer, Josh Bednar, Amber Burnette, Dave Carman, Jessica Chatterton, Christine Ebert, Deanna Erickson, Laura Erickson, Jeanne Filiatrault-Laine, Jo Fritz, John Green, Ted Keyel, Adam Long, Julia Luger, Erin Manning, Gail Marsman, Myron and Holly Peterson, Jessamy Schwartz, Sparky Stensaas, Bill Tefft, Ben Yokel

## **HAWK RIDGE MAIN OVERLOOK**

During the 2014 fall season, more than 70 volunteers helped greet visitors, facilitate school groups and tours, manage the Kid's Cart, mobile gift store, and information table, and direct traffic. A special thanks to the following people who have volunteered 5+ fall seasons:

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

## **HAWK RIDGE BANDING STATION LANDUSE**

Paige and Dave Benson  
Kim and Connie Ellerman

## **WESTERN GREAT LAKES OWL MONITORING**

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

## **PUBLICATION AND SPECIAL PROJECT DESIGN**

Eliza Grames

## **WEBMASTER**

Molly Thompson

## **FACEBOOK**

Karen Stubenvoll



*Snow Bunting trying to hide among the dead leaves along a road-side as it feeds on weed seeds*

Photo by Karl Bardon



Rough-legged Hawk hovering

Photo by Chris Neri

## COMMITTEES

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

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Jerry Niemi (chair through Sept. 2014), Matt Etterson (chair remainder of 2014), Dave Alexander, Karl Bardon, Laura Erickson, Dick Green, Jan Green, Dave Grosshuesch, Frank Nicoletti, Ron Regal, Ed Zlonis

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tim Bates (chair through Sept. 2014), Ken Gilbertson (chair remainder of 2014), Matti Erpestad, Kaitlin Erpestad, Gail Johnejack, Beth Miller, Julie O'Connor, Dave Schaeffer, Katie Swanson, Erin Zoellick

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Owens (chair), Jessica Chatterton, Judy Gibbs, Frank Nicoletti, Julie O'Connor, Andrew Streitz, Katie Swanson, Josh Vineyard, Steve Wilson, David Yount

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

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

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Martha Markusen (chair), Karen Stubenvoll, Molly Thompson

### HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Karen Stubenvoll (chair), Christine Ebert, Judy Haugen, Harold Nordin, Julie O'Connor, Myron Peterson, Andrew Streitz

### MARKETING COMMITTEE

Andrew Streitz (chair), Jessica Chatterton, Eliza Grames, Ashley Lindsey, Myron Peterson, Karen Stubenvoll

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Hawk Ridge Board of Directors brings an array of experience and talent to the organization in the fields of environmental education, avian conservation, research, finance, marketing, and media. Working together, they are building a strong future for Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. In 2014, we welcomed new board members **Laura Erickson, Ken Gilbertson, and Matt Etterson.**

We especially want to thank **Tim Bates, Jan Green, and Jerry Niemi,** each of whom completed a 10-year term of board service with Hawk Ridge in 2014. Their dedication and advocacy for our mission have helped shape Hawk Ridge into the special organization it is today.

## MEMBERS AND DONORS

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

## GRANTORS

Donald M. Weesner Foundation  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Non-Game Program  
Minnesota Power Foundation  
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation (*Biodiversity, City of Duluth Community Parks and Recreation, Duluth Legacy Endowment, & Red Oak Funds*)  
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (*Blue Heron Fund*)  
Schwab Charitable Fund Donors  
Fidelity Charitable Fund Donors  
Medtronic Foundation  
3M Foundation  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
Goodsearch

## PROJECTS

### WESTERN GREAT LAKES OWL MONITORING

Dave Grosshuesch and Julie O'Connor

### MIGRATION PHENOLOGY

Karl Bardon and Ed Zlonis

### WEBSITE DESIGN

Jane Reed

### INTERPRETIVE SIGN DESIGN

Kim Wickman

### HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE VEGETATION SURVEY

Barb Delaney



# BUSINESS AND OTHER SPONSOR SUPPORT

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Cargill CARES  
TE Connectivity  
Thomas Reuters My Community Program  
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## HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL SPEAKERS

Laura Erickson  
Dr. James Duncan

## MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AT HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE

The City of Duluth  
Hawk Ridge Stewardship Committee

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The Lake Superior Zoo

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Lisa Dayton

## VEHICLE SPONSOR

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Hartley Nature Center  
Lake Superior Garden Center

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Rudy Hummel

## FALL RAFFLE

Duluth Pack Store  
Eagle Optics  
On the Limit

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Naturally Avian  
Karl Bardon  
Laura Erickson  
Miranda Durbin  
Steve Kolbe  
michaelfurtman.com  
Frank Nicoletti  
Night Flight Images  
Karen Stubenvoll



Paige & Dave Benson with Nova Mackentley and Bald Eagle

Photo by Karen Stubenvoll

## HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

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Bent Paddle Brewing Company  
Bixby's Café  
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Yarn Harbor  
Zeitgeist Arts Café  
Zen House  
Zinema 2 Theater

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! YOU DRIVE OUR MISSION.

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Thanks to Cindy and David Blomberg and all our other members and donors for their support!

Photo by Karen Stubenvoll

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Peter & Jacqueline Meyer  
Oliver Meyer  
Marty Miller  
Beth M. Miller  
Daniel Miller  
Pat Miller (In honor of Charles Keeler)  
John Mills & Kate Buckley  
Kathy Mills  
Martha Minchak  
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter  
Vaughn & Molly Moore  
Sheila Moran  
Bryant Mulligan  
Bruce Munson  
Camille Murphy  
Mynatech Inc.  
Mara & Montian Natrakul  
Russell Neathammer  
Georgia Nef  
Thomas Nelson  
Jolynn Nelson  
Margaret Nelson  
James & Sydney Nesbitt Massee  
Frank & Kate Nicoletti  
David Noble  
Dan Nolan  
Wayne Norling  
Northwest Outlet  
James Novotny  
Rita O'Connell  
Mika Okamoto  
Ruth Oppedahl  
Karen O'Steen  
Marjorie & Mark Paller  
Hannah Panci  
Anne Parker  
Joy Parker  
Andrea Patterson  
Ernest Peaslee  
Judy Pendergrast  
Susan Peterson  
Steve & Bonnie Peterson  
Jim Phillips  
Julian Phillips (In Memory of Larry Fitzsimon)  
Mary Pike  
Leslie Pilgrim & Ned Rukavina  
Chris & Gaye Pitts  
Christopher Pollard  
Roger L. Pomerance  
David Poulin  
Cindy Raab  
Debbi Rasmussen  
James Rasmussen  
Diane Reed  
Warren & Marilyn Regelmann  
Tim & Annette Riley  
Steven Rogerman  
Sandra Roggenkamp  
Jo Rohady  
Larry Ronning  
Patricia Rossi  
Frederick & Marilyn Ruark  
Elaine Ruder  
Maria Runyan  
Bob Russell  
Kurt Rusterholz  
Thomas Salkowski  
Rosemary Sampson  
Larry L. Schedin  
Elizabeth Schleif  
Joy Schochet & Jonathan Green  
Steven Schon  
Robyn Schroeder  
Marilyn Schroeder  
Joanne Schultz  
Joel Schwartz  
Bill Schweisheimer  
John Schwach  
Michelle & John Scott



Juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk

Photo by Gregory Hoffman

# FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR END  
31-DEC-2013

FISCAL YEAR END  
31-DEC-2014

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### Income

Merchandise Sales	16,296	20,297
Direct Public Support	91,370	86,286
Membership Dues	24,370	28,250
Grant Income	23,542	18,805
Investments	2,396	1,070
Program Income	10,559	16,202
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>168,533</b>	<b>170,910</b>

### Expense

Merchandise Purchases	7,796	10,410
Conferences & Meetings	9,939	8,990
Advertising	145	49
Bank Fees	2,190	1,404
Contract Services	6,038	11,028
Dues & Subscriptions	801	641
Facilities & Equipment	7,691	8,988
Operations	12,542	15,887
Insurance	4,675	4,427
Payroll Expenses	111,190	112,061
Permits and Licenses	225	320
Transportation	4,524	4,922
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>167,756</b>	<b>179,127</b>

<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>-8,217</b>
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## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>87,564</b>	<b>83,789</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>7,875</b>	<b>5,748</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>95,439</b>	<b>89,537</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>24,408</b>	<b>26,723</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>71,031</b>	<b>62,814</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>95,439</b>	<b>89,537</b>

## RECONCILIATION OF NET ASSETS

Beginning Net Assets	71,031
Less: Net Loss	-8,217
Equals Ending Net Assets	62,814



Common Yellowthroat

Photo by Michael Furtman

## MEMBER AND DONOR GIFTS

### UP TO \$99

Nathanael Secor  
Robert Sederberg  
Cindy & Jack Seiler  
Tabassam Shah  
Amy Sheldon & Tom Etheridge  
Ron Shiffler  
Pat & John Shortall  
Mary Slattery  
Jodi Slick  
Gina Slipka-Marinos  
Rolf Smeby  
Theresa Smith & Mark Danielson  
June Smith  
Dave Smith  
Scott Snelson  
Harvey Snider  
Alfred & Isabel Soffer  
Liz Stanley  
David & Sharon Stauty  
Susan Stearns  
Greg Stempien  
Rubin Stenseng  
Bob & Joyce Straka  
Nan Stubenvoll & Joe Staats (In honor of Karen Stubenvoll's Birthday)  
Jytte Svarre & Erik Bruun  
Mary Tangren  
Nan Tarara  
Alfonso Tarara  
Michael & Nancy Taylor  
Jeremy Taylor  
Frank Taylor  
Bill Tefft  
Dave & Carol Thibault  
Molly Thompson  
Thomson Reuters My Community

### Program

Foundation Thrivent Financial  
Dilla Tingley  
Jeanne Tonkin  
Mary Ulness  
Abbie Valine  
Karen Van Alstine  
Sandra Van den Bosse & Erik Torch  
Josh Vineyard  
Paul Voigt  
Brian Vonarb  
Brenda Washburn  
Lori & John Washburn  
Don & Lynn Watson  
Andrew Webster & Erin Dewitt  
Cynthia Werner  
Richard & Carolyn Wesley  
Sherri West & John MacDonald  
Pamela Wettering  
Nick Whelan  
Mary White  
Sarah Wilcox  
Carolyn Wilhelm  
Caroline Wilmot  
Susan Wiste  
Barry Wolfe (In honor of Mayor Don Ness & In memory of Richard "Dick" Laine)  
John & Kimberly Wood  
James & Amy Wood  
Annmarie Yasmineh  
David Zarkower  
Bill Zelm  
David & Janet Zens  
Roy Zimmerman  
Sarah Ziring  
Edmund Zlonis



# 43 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING: 2014 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS



Counting Crew Old and New! (left to right - Cory Ritter, Steve Bockhold, Karl Bardon, Steve Kolbe, Dave Carman) Photo by Karen Stubenvoll



Board Chair Karen Stubenvoll with the Prairie Falcon

Photo by Hawk Ridge Staff

## RAPTOR COUNT – 43<sup>RD</sup> YEAR

The Raptor Count was conducted from August 15 to November 30 at the Main Overlook. **59,809** raptors were counted. The count was above average for the last 10 years, but 23% below average since full-time coverage began in 1991. It was the second-best season on record for **Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Rough-legged Hawks**. Of concern were below average counts for Ospreys and American Kestrels. The mystery of poor Broad-wing and Red-tail flights continues to puzzle us. Nevertheless, the peak of **1,205 Red-tailed Hawks** on October 25 was one of the highest day counts in the last 10 years. A highlight of the season was seeing **2 Snowy Owls** (1 of which was banded).

## NON-RAPTOR COUNT – 8<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

In the words of Count Director Karl Bardon, "...a truly incredible season that was full of surprise and set all kinds of record." A total of **358,815 migrant non-raptors was a new record season total**. For example, impressive counts included 1,089 kinglets, 76 Brown Creepers, 856 thrushes (Swainson's Gray-cheeked, Hermit, and Veery), 2,337 Common Ravens, 46,215 warblers of 26 species, 9,564 White-throated Sparrows, 2,939 Dark-eyed Juncos, and 111,372 finches.

## RAPTOR BANDING

HRBO banding teams at 3 stations logged a total of **241 banding days**. 3,888 raptors (16 hawk species and 9 owl species) were captured and banded, including 53 foreign recoveries, 12 returns, and 1,015 owls. A **Prairie Falcon and Snowy Owl** were banded for the first time at Hawk Ridge. An impressive **9 Bald Eagles** were banded (5 adults, 3 hatch-year, 1 third-year).

## PASSERINE BANDING

Passerine Banding was conducted from August 7 to October 20. A total of **2,005** birds comprising **61 species** were banded. Most common species banded were American Redstart and Nashville Warbler. Highlights included an Eastern Bluebird, 3 Pileated Woodpeckers, and the odd bird of the year, a **Sora**.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Our naturalists were on Hawk Ridge daily during September and October providing pointers on **identification of raptors and non-raptors, facts about migration, bird-banding demonstrations, and kids' activities**. We offered 26 public programs for approximately 320 people. These programs included Eyes on the Skies/Beginning Hawk Watching, songbird banding programs, Hawk Ridge Primers, and Experience Hawk Ridge. Our staff and 2014 trainee conducted 79 private programs reaching 1,690 students and adults (pre-K through college, Scouts, adult tour groups, etc.). During the year, we continued our monthly bird-related outdoor program with students at St. Michael's Lakeside School. Raptors in the Classroom, a partnership with Lake Superior Zoo, provided 15 school visits for 4th and 5th graders. Approximately **18,000 visitors** of all ages and from around the world come to Hawk Ridge each fall to experience migration!

## EXPERIENCE HAWK RIDGE – 9<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

In 2014, we divided this program into two versions. The original version continued to cover basics of migration, banding and counting, and how to use binoculars, with information geared for the age of the audience. The new version was developed specifically for Duluth Public Schools 5th-graders. The content of the program was designed to complement specific 5th-grade Minnesota State Standards.

## SPRING RAPTOR COUNT (WEST SKYLINE HAWK COUNT) – 17<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

The Spring Count was conducted on 12 days (total of 62.5 hours) over a period from March 13 to May 1. Observers counted **6,445 raptors of 14 species**. The spring highlight was **2,939** raptors counted on April 20. On April 25, Frank Nicoletti & Dave Carman counted 252 raptors as part of the annual Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) Raptorthon to raise \$1,085 shared between HMANA and HRBO.



Clinton Nienhaus & Caitlin Johnson teaching at Hawk Ridge

Photo by Janelle Long



# 43 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING: 2014 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS

## WESTERN GREAT LAKES OWL MONITORING – 10TH YEAR

This is a joint effort in Minnesota and Wisconsin to monitor population trends for the region's owl species. Partners include Natural Resources Research Institute, MN DNR, WI DNR, HRBO, and many citizen science volunteers. A total of **313 owls** comprising 8 species were recorded on 105 routes (no owls were recorded on 45 routes). The top 3 species counted were **Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Saw-whet Owl**. Detections of Eastern Screech Owls were low; Long-eared Owls rebounded from 2013 numbers; there was a significant spike in numbers of Saw-whet Owls in Minnesota.

## PEREGRINE WATCH – 9TH YEAR

Peregrine Watch was staffed 5 days a week by 2 HRBO naturalists and one intern from May 28 to July 20. We added Wednesday and Saturday evening hours for visitors – **3,098 people visited Peregrine Watch**. The peregrine adults started with 4 eggs of which **1 egg hatched**. This nestling – a male – was banded with color band black/red E/85 and fledged successfully.

## HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE STEWARDSHIP

We conducted the **3rd breeding bird survey**. Counters have identified a cumulative list of **40 species** as potentially nesting within the 365-acre reserve. Hundreds of people – fat-tire bikers, joggers, hikers, dog walkers, sledgers – visit the reserve throughout the year. Improvements were made to the Banding Research Station. Culverts were installed in areas damaged by the 2012 flood. Hawk Ridge hired ecologist Barb Delaney to complete a vegetation survey of the reserve and to make recommendations for dealing with invasive species. Duluth Legacy Endowment Fund (Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation & City of Duluth) and MN Lake Superior Coastal Program (MN DNR & NOAA) provided funding for the survey.

## HAWK RIDGE SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT – 4TH YEAR

Board member **Bob Owens and wife, Mary Ellen**, generously opened their home for a summer social attended by approximately 60 people. The event raised **\$2,200** for Hawk Ridge programs.



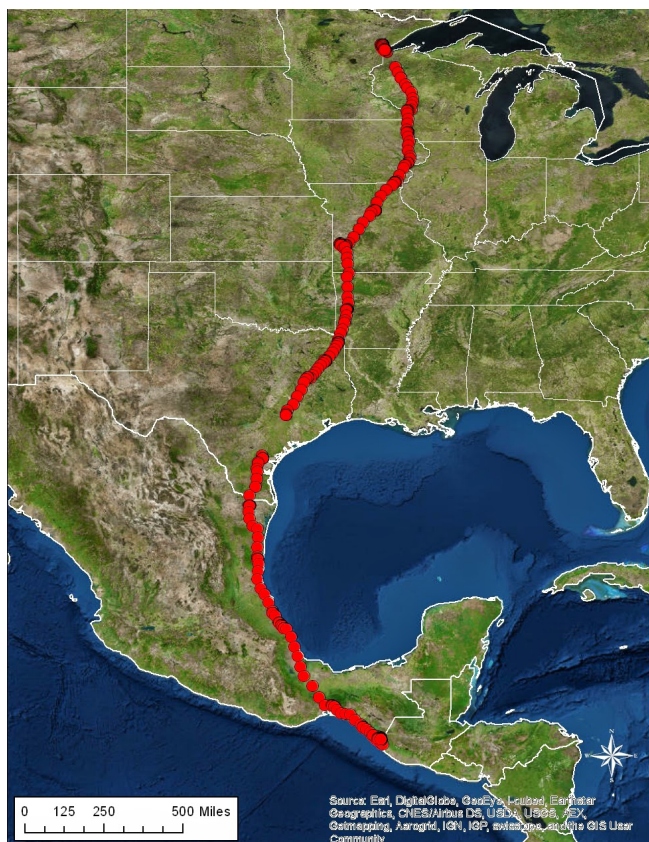
*The elusive Long-eared Owl*

Photo by Chris Neri



*Miranda Durbin with a young visitor to Peregrine Watch*

Photo by Katie Swanson



*Tommy the Turkey Vulture's migration route from Duluth, MN to southern Mexico*

## "TOMMY" THE TURKEY VULTURE

Research Biologist, David Barber, from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Hawk Ridge Banding Director, Frank Nicoletti, captured an adult Turkey Vulture in early August in West Duluth and placed a wing tag and satellite transmitter on it. This is the first Turkey Vulture in the Midwest to be fitted with a tag or transmitter as part of the **Turkey Vulture Migration Project**. Data collected has provided information on roost locations, hourly and daily movement. Turkey Vulture "Tommy" began its migration on October 4, 2014, and reached its wintering ground on October 27. Tommy made local movements in southern Mexico near the Guatemala border during the winter.

## SNORE OUTDOORS FUNDRAISER

As a fundraiser for HRBO and Habitat for Humanity, intrepid Rudy Hummel slept outside for 365 nights in tents, snow caves, and hotel parking lots during one of the coldest, snowiest winters on record. Rudy raised more than **\$3,000** for HRBO, which was used to help fund a new traineeship program.



# 43 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING: 2014 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS

## HAWK RIDGE BIRDATHON – 28<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

The Hawk Ridge Birdathon is a **fun and friendly competition** among birders to raise funds for HRBO. On May 17, eight teams across St. Louis County tallied a grand total of **172 species** while sitting, hiking, biking, or driving. Eagle Optics and Lake Superior Garden Center donated prizes for the event. Teams raised more than **\$2,400** by soliciting pledges from friends and HRBO supporters.

## HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL

By all measures, Hawk Weekend Festival on September 19-21 was one to remember, with more than **100 people registered** for field trips, workshops, dinners, and speakers! **Jan Green** received HRBO's inaugural **Hawk Ridge Legacy Award** for her decades of service to Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve and HRBO. On Saturday, visitors witnessed a spectacular day on Hawk Ridge, with more than 4,000 raptors of 14 species (including several low kettles of Broad-winged Hawks and two uncommon species for Hawk Ridge—2 **Swainson's Hawks** and a sub-adult Golden Eagle) and more than 5,000 non-raptors. 65 generous organizations, businesses, and individuals donated items and services for our silent auction and raffle.



Female Northern Goshawk

Photo by Frank Nicoletti



Typical fall day at Hawk Ridge

Photo by Gail Johnjack



The Whip-poor-wheels Birdathon team

Photo courtesy of Steve Wilson



Western Palm Warbler

Photo by Karl Bardon



SEND FORM & PAYMENT TO:

## HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY

P.O. Box 3006  
Duluth, MN 55803-3006

**PLEASE JOIN OUR TEAM!**

### PLEASE

☐ **BEGIN**

☐ **RENEW**

### MY HAWK RIDGE MEMBERSHIP

\$15 Student (Vulture)  
\$30 Individual (Osprey)  
\$50 Family (Hawk)  
\$100 Sustaining (Owl)  
\$250 Soaring (Harrier)

\$500 Supporting (Falcon)  
\$1000 Steward (Eagle)  
Additional Donation:

☐ I want to volunteer, please contact me

☐ Check here if you'd like to be added to our e-mail list\* for Hawk Ridge information and updates

\*We do not rent, sell, or trade mailing lists

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

**Payment:** Cash Check Credit Card **Credit Card:** Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx  
(circle one) (circle one)

Cardholder Name

Card number

Exp. Date

CVV

Signature:

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

### 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 HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY SOAR

The generous contributions of members and friends are absolutely essential to achieving our mission. With your support, HRBO can expand our research efforts, reach more young people in the classroom, and increase our public programming. The more people, of all ages, who learn about and witness the amazing fall migration of raptors, ravens, nighthawks, warblers, and finches over Hawk Ridge, the better HRBO can protect these birds on their passage and on their nesting and wintering grounds. Our members receive special discounts and behind-the-scene tours. But, most importantly, you can see how your contributions help our staff, interns, and volunteers work toward a mission we all believe in. Your membership contribution is tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF HAWK RIDGE

*You can support the work of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, and create a legacy for the future, by remembering us in your estate plan.*

Did you know there are ways to support Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (HRBO) that do not affect your lifestyle or financial security? A bequest in your will or estate plan will help ensure that HRBO will continue its raptor research, education programs, and other bird conservation efforts for years to come. You can also designate HRBO to be the

beneficiary of a life insurance policy or an IRA. It's simple to do. Talk to an estate planning specialist or to our Executive Director, Janelle Long, for more information. (218) 428-6209 or [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org)