

2017 Hawk Ridge Highlights

Education - Taught over 150 education programs to over 2,000 participants this fall season and shared the wonder of the migration with through our live bird education demonstrations, kid's activity cart, and interpretation with thousands of visitors. We continued off-season programming and outreach with winter/spring bird workshops, bird banding programs at schools, summer programs with youth groups/camps, after-school programming with Neighborhood Youth Services, and more.



Fall count - Over 80,000 raptors counted (approx. 15,000 more than last season); broke annual record for Bald Eagles (6099 counted vs 5925 in 2016) & Rough-legged Hawks (1123 vs 1026 in 1994)! This was also the highest count of Northern Goshawks (327), since 2005! Over 200,000 non-raptors counted – record year for woodpeckers (highlights with 98 Black-backed & 4 American Three-toed Woodpeckers!). New online LIVE count launched on September 3rd, which is linked from our website. data is contributed to hawkcount.org and other projects to be used for bird conservation research, such as the Raptor Population Index.

Fall banding - Over 3,000 raptors of 16 different species were banded this fall, including over 1200 Northern Saw-whet Owls! Near record numbers of Rough-legged Hawks & Boreal Owls banded were also highlights this season. Thanks to volunteer-led efforts, we continued passerine banding research & education at Hawk Ridge. All banding data is contributed to the USGS Bird Banding Lab.



Stewardship of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve - Coordinated volunteer-led projects and efforts throughout the year at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, including breeding bird point counts, bird banding through MAPS project, 2nd BioBlitz event (156 species recorded!), invasive species management, cleaning up the reserve (downed trees, trails, litter), and working on site management issues.

Citizen Science Events - Continued coordination of volunteers to participate in the Western Great Lakes Owl Monitoring project to survey owls throughout Minnesota. Also, continued the tradition of the Hawk Ridge St. Louis County 31st annual Birdathon with 189 species counted on May 20th, including highlights of Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared Dove, American Three-toed Woodpecker, & Prairie Warbler.



Peregrine Watch - Nearly 1,000 people stopped at our Peregrine Watch site in Lake Place Park (downtown Duluth) to learn about the nesting Peregrine Falcons. The same pair, Canada & Junior, returned from last year and laid four eggs. Unfortunately, the eggs failed, perhaps due to poor weather or older age of Canada (13 years old, which is average lifespan for peregrines).

Hawk Weekend Festival - Held our annual festival in September, which included birding field trips, workshops, hikes, & annual membership meeting at Hawk Ridge. Evening program by Steve Kolbe drew a large crowd to hear about the significance of the migration at Hawk Ridge. His enthusiasm about the Common Nighthawk counts (more counted here than any place known in the world) was especially enjoyed!

Take Flight with Hawk Ridge Gala - Our first gala event was held on September 29th with over 150 in attendance. Evening speaker, Al Batt, was engaging & entertaining, Dr. Karen Stubenvoll received the Hawk Ridge Lifetime Achievement award, and over \$10,000 filled our kettle of hawks in support of Hawk Ridge!



Volunteer & Traineeship Programs - Nearly 70 volunteers contributed about 3,000 hours to Hawk Ridge this year! We also continued our fall traineeship program with 5 new trainees who worked closely with our managers for learning professional field experience skills within our count, banding, and education program areas. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of our volunteers and trainees from 2017! We couldn't do what we do without you!

We hope our 2018 highlights will be just as memorable as this year! We are counting on your support!