

Hawk Weekend 2021 Event

Detailed Information

***Must pre-register online for all field trips/workshops**

***Festival wristband required for events**

***Masks will be required for some events and recommended for all**

Offered Fri. 9/17 ONLY!

Hawk Ridge Academic Speaker at University of MN Duluth

Friday, September 17, 2021

Cost: FREE (no registration required)

Location: University of MN Duluth, Life Science Building Room 185 (LSci 185) (Click [HERE](#) for parking info)

Time: 3:00pm

Description: **Raptors and contaminants – a tragedy of circumstance in 5 acts presented by Dr. Matt Etersson, Research Ecologist with the US Environmental Protection Agency.** As top predators of the food chain, birds of prey have proven to be uniquely vulnerable to exposure to environmental contaminants. Dr. Etersson will present case studies of raptor exposure to and consequent effects of five contaminants, DDT, organophosphate pesticides, diclofenac, methylmercury, and polyfluoralkyl substances, including data from Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory here in Duluth. Recent developments in ecotoxicology will be reviewed and the potential role of organizations like Hawk Ridge to identify and respond to future contaminant crises. **NOTE: UMD also has an indoor mask mandate in effect, so masks are required for all.**

NEW! Evening Social and Speaker Event at Great Lakes Aquarium

Friday, September 17, 2021

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members

Meeting Location: Great Lakes Aquarium, 353 Harbor Dr, Duluth, MN (www.glaquarium.org)

From I-35 S (from Duluth/North Shore) - Exit 256B - Follow signs for 5th Ave W veering to the right. Take a left onto 5th Ave W. The aquarium parking lot will be on your right.

From I-35 N (from Twin Cities) – Exit 256B (5th Ave West). At the lights, turn right on Harbor Drive. The aquarium parking lot will be on your right.

Time: 6:30pm Cash Bar/Social/Tour Aquarium, 7:30pm Speaker

Description: Join us for this NEW welcome social event with guest speaker at the Great Lakes Aquarium. Starting at 6:30pm, a cash bar will be available and the aquarium will be open to tour, including the featured Raptor Ridge Exhibit. Dr. Gerald Niemi will present at 7:30pm on his research "The Future of Boreal Birds in Minnesota", which is included as part of the new book "Art on the Edge of the Boreal Forest" (books available for sale/signing). **NOTE: Great Lakes Aquarium currently has mask mandate, masks are required for all**

Offered Sat. 9/18 ONLY!

Songbird Banding

Saturday, September 18, 2021 (LIMIT 12)

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members

Meeting Location: Main Overlook at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, approximate address 3980 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth, MN. **Please note:** London Rd & portion of I35 in east Duluth will be closed due to the North Shore In-

Line Marathon, which will require an take an alternate route and potentially additional travel time to get to your location.

Meeting Time: 7:00 am **Duration:** 1-2 hours

Description: Learn all about songbird banding at Hawk Ridge. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to see all aspects of songbird banding, as well as the importance of banding as a research tool for bird conservation.

Leader: Margie Menzies

NOTE: Masks required for Songbird Banding

Birding at Wisconsin Point

Saturday, September 18, 2021 (LIMIT 15)

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members

Meeting Location: Perkins Restaurant, 103 E 2nd St, Superior, WI 54880 (US 53 South); **Please note:** *London Rd & I35S from east Duluth will be closed due to the North Shore In-Line Marathon, which will require an take an alternate route and potentially additional travel time to get to your location.*

Meeting Time: 7:45 am **Duration:** 2-3 hours

Description: Visit one of Wisconsin's beloved birding hotspots and known for great viewing of jaegers! We will search the lakeside for shorebirds, terns, gulls, and jaegers; and check the wooded areas along the dunes for warblers and other passerines.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers. Spotting scopes will be useful for this trip.

Leader: Alex Sundvall

St. Louis River Estuary Field Trip

Saturday, September 18, 2021 (LIMIT 15)

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members

Meeting Location: Western Waterfront Trailhead parking lot (parking lot located behind the Willard Munger Inn (7408 Grand Ave, Duluth); turn east on Pulaski St/75th Ave W, cross the railroad tracks, then trailhead parking lot will be on your left. **Please note:** *London Rd & I35S from east Duluth will be closed due to the North Shore In-Line Marathon, which will require an take an alternate route and potentially additional travel time to get to your location.*

Meeting Time: 7:00 am (walking) **Duration:** 2-3 hours

Description: Spend a relaxing morning visiting a birding hotspot in Duluth. The morning along the St. Louis River Estuary (Audubon Important Bird Area) will take you birding along the riverfront searching for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, warblers and other passerines.

Leader: Laura Erickson

Hawk Ridge Annual Meeting and Evening Speaker

Saturday, September 18, 2021

Cost: FREE members/students, \$15 non-members

Location: University of MN Duluth, Life Science Building Room 185 (LSci 185) (Click [HERE](#) for parking info)

Time: 7:00pm HRBO Annual meeting/Awards; 7:30pm Speaker

Description: Join us at 7pm for the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory Annual Meeting to hear annual highlights, board member elections, and the Hawk Ridge Lifetime Achievement Award (2020 recipient – Dr. David Alexander). The evening program will follow at 7:30pm. **Flap-flap-glide into the Future: Ongoing Migration Research at Hawk Ridge presented by University of Minnesota Duluth Graduate Students, Emily Pavlovic, Allie Pesano, and Hannah Toutonghi.** Since 1972, banding and counting of raptors at Hawk Ridge has occurred consistently throughout the fall migration season. This compilation of nearly 50 years of annual data is extremely valuable for understanding species variability and population dynamics unique to fall migration at

Hawk Ridge. Migratory connectivity, plumage variations, and irruptive species are three areas of research that we are currently exploring. University of Minnesota Duluth graduate students Emily Pavlovic, Allie Pesano, and Hannah Toutonghi will discuss these topics in relation to their own graduate research projects. **NOTE: UMD also has an indoor mask mandate in effect, so masks are required for all.**

Offered Sun. 9/19 ONLY!

Park Point Birding Field Trip

Sunday, September 19, 2021 (LIMIT 15/trip)

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members

Meeting Location: Main parking lot at the Park Point Recreation Area. From Canal Park, travel across the lift bridge and continue on Lake Avenue / Minnesota Avenue approximately 3.75 miles to the Park Point Recreation Area.

Meeting Time: 7:00 am **Duration:** 2-3 hours (walking)

Description: Visit one of Minnesota's beloved birding hotspots! We will search the lakeside for shorebirds, terns, gulls, and possible jaegers (spotting scopes useful); and check the wooded areas along the dunes for warblers and other passerines.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers

Leader(s): Laura Erickson

Lester River & North Shore Birding Field Trip

Sunday, September 19, 2021 (LIMIT 15)

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members

Meeting Location: Meet at the Lester Park parking lot, one block north of Superior St. To get there, travel east on Superior Street and turn left on the Lester River Road, located 2 blocks past 60th Ave East.

Meeting Time: 7:00 am **Duration:** 3.5-4 hours (walking and driving for North Shore portion)

Description: This is an exciting field trip along the Lester River and North Shore. We will bird around the southern portion of Lester Park, the grounds of the E.P.A. lab, and the Lester River. Depending on migration conditions, we will then caravan up the North Shore of Lake Superior with potential stops at Brighton Beach/Kitchi Gammi Park and the McQuade Road Public Access.

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers

Leader(s): Bill Tefft

Geology Field Trip – “Ancient Volcanic Geology of Duluth's Shoreline”

Sunday September 19, 2021 (LIMIT 15)

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members

Meeting Location: Lester River Tourism Information Center. Directions: travel east on London Road and just after crossing the Lester River, park in the parking lot for the little blue building—tourism information center.

Meeting Time: 9:00 am **Duration:** 2-3 hours (walking and driving)

What to Bring: Dress in layers (possibly raingear)

Description: Join John Green, an all-around naturalist and scouter for the Superior Hiking Trail, on a journey along Duluth's shoreline. We will visit several interesting outcrops between the information center and downtown Duluth to reveal the story of ancient volcanic geology in the area.

Leader(s): John Green

Offered Multiple Dates

Live Falcon Program

Saturday, September 18 & Sunday, September 19, 2021 (LIMIT 25/program)

Cost: \$5 members/students, \$10 non-members

Meeting Location: Education Program Area at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, approximate address 3980 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth (*if inclement weather, program will be moved indoors down the road at the Lester-Amity Chalet 2940 Seven Bridges Rd*) **FOR SATURDAY please note:** London Rd & I35S from east Duluth will be closed for a portion of the day on Saturday, Sept. 18th due to the North Shore In-Line Marathon, which will require an alternate route and potentially additional travel time to get to your location.

Meeting Time: Choose from 2 sessions (Sat. 9/18 10am; Sun. 9/19 11am); **Duration:** 45 minutes – 1 hour

Description: Raptors have long fascinated people, especially falcons. Come and discover what unique adaptations falcons use to survive in this ever-changing landscape. Highlights of the program will include the amazing recovery story of the Peregrine Falcon, how climate is affecting falcons in the Arctic and what you can do to help Minnesota's most common falcon, the American Kestrel. Jackie will also bring several live birds to help share the stories of this unique group of raptors, so don't forget to bring your camera! Jackie Fallon, wildlife biologist, master falconer, and educator for over 30 years, will be our presenter. She is currently the VP of Field Operations for the Midwest Peregrine Society and MN state coordinator for peregrine monitoring.

What to Bring: Bring binoculars and reference books (if you'd like)

Leader: Jackie Fallon

Advanced Hawkwatching Workshop

Saturday, September 18 & Sunday, September 19, 2021 (LIMIT 25/workshop)

Cost: \$25 members/students, \$35 non-members

Meeting Location: Hawk Ridge Education Program Area at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, approximate address 3980 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth (*NOTE: in inclement weather, program will be moved indoors down the road at the Lester-Amity Chalet 2940 Seven Bridges Rd – masks required indoors*) **FOR SATURDAY please note:** London Rd & I35S from east Duluth will be closed for a portion of the day on Saturday, Sept. 18th due to the North Shore In-Line Marathon, which will require an alternate route and potentially additional travel time to get to your location.

Meeting Time: Choose from 2 sessions (Sat. 9/18 1pm; Sun. 9/19 12pm); **Duration:** 45 minutes – 1 hour

Description: The Advanced Hawk Identification Workshop will cover the many classification techniques such as using shapes, wing and tail length and shapes, flight behavior, size and plumage details and other tricks of the trade that professional hawk counters use to make quick, real time, and correct identifications of what's flying regardless of distance and altitude.

What to Bring: Bring binoculars and reference books (if you'd like)

Leader: Dave Carman

Evening Owl Programs

Friday, September 17 thru Sunday September 19, 2021 (LIMIT 10/program, min. 4)

Cost: \$40 members/students, \$50 non-members

Meeting Location: Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, approximate address 3980 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth (*NOTE: parking location will be shared with participants*)

Meeting Time: Choose from 3 programs (Fri. 9/17 9:30pm, Sat. 9/18 9:30pm; Sun. 9/19 7pm)

Duration: 1-1.5 hours

Description: The Evening Owl Program will shine a light onto the mysterious nature of the nocturnal migrants flying over Hawk Ridge. Participants will learn about the research methods being used to study owl activity at Hawk Ridge, as well as how to identify many of the species that can be observed in Northern Minnesota by sight and sound. Depending on the night and weather pending, the program will last roughly 1.5 hours and could involve watching the banding of owls captured, their release back to the wild, and certainly the opportunity to learn much more about the owls found in our area, as well as those migrating through.

What to Bring: Dress in layers, as it could be cool evening. **NOTE: Masks required**

Leader(s): Hawk Ridge Staff

Post-Festival Workshop Sun. 9/19 & Mon. 9/20

The Science and Wonder of Bird Migration 2-Day Workshop

Sunday, September 19 & Monday, September 20, 2021 (LIMIT 12, minimum 7)

Cost: \$80 members/students, \$100 non-members

Meeting Location: Hawk Ridge Education Program Area at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, approximate address 3980 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth (*NOTE: in inclement weather, program will be moved indoors*)

Meeting Time: 1:00 pm on Sun. 9/19 **Duration:** concludes at 3:30 pm on Mon. 9/20

What to Bring: Binoculars and dress in layers. Bring your own snacks and drinks & plan on bag lunch for second day.

Leader: Margie Menzies

Description: The North Shore of Lake Superior is one of the premier migratory routes for raptors and song birds in North America. Hundreds of thousands to millions of birds migrate via this route, and many of them pass directly over Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. The Hawk Ridge Festival celebrates the period of time that typically has the greatest numbers of raptors coming through, and this workshop is designed to show off all the best of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.

On location at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, we will explore the science and wonder of bird migration! Learn about the history and geology of how this migratory corridor developed and the forces behind such an exceptional route. Participants will have the opportunity to observe the migration in motion, learn from expert staff members about specific types of birds, their life histories and adaptations, follow daily trends on how the 2019 migration season is progressing, and observe the research and education efforts in place at Hawk Ridge, including the passerine, raptor and owl banding stations. What an opportunity for up close views of a wide variety of bird species!

Schedule is subject to change (pending inclement weather). Margie will contact registered participants with further details in the week prior to the workshop. **NOTE: Masks will be required for portions of this workshop**

SPEAKER & FIELD TRIP LEADER BIOS

David Carman is a lifelong birder and hawkwatcher, who has assisted with the fall counts at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve for over 20 years, as well as the West Skyline Spring Count. He has served as a board member, treasurer, and chairperson of the Hawk Ridge Management Committee and was a founder and the first executive director of its successor, the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. After a long corporate career in sales and marketing management, he became a special education teacher. Dave continues to enjoy sharing his love of hawkwatching with others.

Laura Erickson has been sharing her love of birds for decades, as an author, trip leader, public speaker, and as the creator and producer of the long-running radio show "For the Birds". Laura started her career as a school teacher and has been teaching about birds ever since in an amazing variety of venues and media. Some examples include several books over the years, including "Twelve Owls" and "Hawk Ridge: Minnesota's Birds of Prey", both by the University of Minnesota Press, magazine articles in "BirdWatching" and an editor for several years for "Bird Scope" for the Cornell Lab for Ornithology. She completed her own "Big Year" of birding in 2013 identifying 604 species! In 2014, Laura was awarded the prestigious American Birding Association – Roger Tory Peterson award for "a lifetime of achievements in promoting the cause of birding".

Dr. Matthew Etterson Dr. Matthew Etterson is a Research Ecologist with the US Environmental Protection Agency, where he specializes in developing tools and methods for predicting the effects of environmental contaminants on birds. Dr. Etterson holds an undergraduate degree from Yale University (Mathematics and Philosophy) and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota (Conservation Biology). He is a member of the Hawk Ridge Board of Directors and Chair of the Hawk Ridge Research Committee. Dr. Etterson also holds an adjunct position at the University of Minnesota Duluth where he advises students working in various aspects of avian ecology and toxicology, often using data from Hawk Ridge.

Jackie Fallon is a wildlife biologist, master falconer, and educator for over 30 years. She is currently the VP of Field Operations for the Midwest Peregrine Society and MN state coordinator for Peregrine Falcon monitoring.

John Green is a retired geology professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He is an all-around naturalist and author of "Geology on Display: Geology and Scenery of Minnesota's North Shore State Parks". John has been recognized for scouting approximately 100 miles of the nearly 300-mile Superior Hiking Trail!

Margie Menzies is one-part educator, two parts naturalist, and two parts bird nerd! After years in the formal classroom, this educator has abandoned the indoors for the great outdoor classroom. Margie Menzies joined Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in 2011 as a fall naturalist and is currently an Education Director at Hawk Ridge. She has a passion for birds and has been involved in songbird banding for more than 25 years. She is also the naturalist at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center up the North Shore in Schroeder, MN and an adjunct member of the University of Minnesota Duluth, Education Department. She has a BA from Bethel University and a MA from University of St. Thomas. She loves birds, loves learning, and loves sharing the natural world with people of all ages.

Dr. Gerald Niemi served as a Professor of Biology, teaching Ornithology and Conservation Biology, and as Senior Research Associate at the Center for Water and the Environment at the Natural Resources Research Institute. He recently retired after 35 years with the University of Minnesota, Duluth. He received his Ph.D. at Florida State University and Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Minnesota. He also was a Fulbright-Hays scholar in Finland in the early 80's. His primary research interests include birds, environmental issues, Great Lakes ecosystems, conservation biology, landscape ecology, and sustainable natural resources development. Niemi has written over 200 publications and trained over 25 graduate students. He served on the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory Board of Directors for 10 years, including the Research Chair position. Dr. Niemi was named the Outstanding Scientist of the Great Lakes in 2006-2007 by the International Joint Commission.

Emily Pavlovic grew up in Northwest Indiana and attended Earlham College where she got a BA in Biochemistry. After graduating, she longed to be out of the lab and decided to pursue a different passion, education. She taught environmental education at various nature centers and non-profits across the country for the next 5 years. While working for the Audubon Society her love for birds and specifically raptors grew and she obtained experience handling raptors for education and rehabilitation. This led her to join the Integrated Biosciences master's program at the University of Minnesota Duluth in the fall of 2019. Her research focuses on gaining a better understanding of the geographic natal origins of raptors that migrate through Hawk Ridge in the fall.

Allie Pesano grew up in Syracuse, NY, obtained a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Unity College, and has traveled the country working on various avian ecology projects. She first joined Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (HRBO) as a banding trainee in 2016. This then led her to work with HawkWatch International in 2017, where she trapped, banded, and counted migrating raptors at the Goshute Mountains migration site in Nevada. She was excited to join HRBO again in 2018 as a bander, primarily running the Moose Valley station. In 2019, she began a master's degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth studying red-tailed hawk phylogenetics.

Alex Sundvall is a Birder born and raised in the Twin Cities. In 2016, he was the proud recipient of the Minnesota Ornithologist's Union's Young Birder Award. He got interested in birds at the age of 5 when his Kindergarten class took a trip to Westwood Hills Nature Center where they released a Dark-eyed Junco they had been rehabilitating. From that day onward, Alex's life has been for the birds! For the last 19 years, he has been birding around the state honing his bird identification skills. Hot off of a field season in Western Minnesota doing Duck, Marshbird, and Songbird surveys, Alex is very excited to return as the Count Interpreter for Hawk Ridge this fall season! While not birding (which happens very rarely), Alex plays percussion with the Encore Wind Ensemble. Picking a single favorite bird is impossible, but his favorite bird family is the Bowerbirds of Australia.

Bill Tefft is naturalist and a retired community college instructor that grew up in southern Michigan, but has been living in Ely, MN for over 40 years. Bill has taught raptor ecology at Hawk Ridge for many years in addition to bringing college students and community members for fall hawk and owl migration visits. Bill has led groups to local, national and international destinations, writes a local weekly nature column, and works to connect all ages to nature.

Hannah Toutonghi grew up in Washington State, where she found her love of birds and the natural world from an early age. After earning a B.S in biochemistry from the University of Washington, fieldwork became the next chapter of her career. She has previously worked at the Natural Resource Research Institute, Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, and the Institute for Bird Populations. Currently, Hannah is a second-year Master's student at UMD and will continue her work on researching the winter ecology and movement of Northern Hawk Owls.