

Fall Bird Migration Count Monthly Summary Reports 2021

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August 2021 Migration Count Summary

The fall count on Hawk Ridge began on the 15th of August as the warm summer sun, coupled with southerly winds, appeared to keep the early daily raptor migrant totals relatively sparse. The occasional juvenile BROAD-WINGED HAWK observed passing over the platform heading southward on their inaugural migration since hatching and fledging from the nest just a few months ago to overwinter in the dense jungles of Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador.



Following the first week, a steady trickle of BALD EAGLES of several age classes continued to pour in from the north with each passing day. Migrant AMERICAN KESTRELS made daily appearances on their early southward movements as they spilled out of the meadows and grasslands of northern latitudes. Possibly following on the heels of the rich dragonfly migrations that congruently traced the sinuous Lake Superior shoreline by the tens of thousands, providing ample prey during their journeys

toward southern non-breeding regions throughout the Americas, as far south as the Caribbean! A large low-pressure system with heavy precipitation moved its way northward through the area in the final days of the month and, in the wake of its passage, brought an abundance of early season migrants.

The final two days of August saw the highest (259) and second highest (229) BALD EAGLE daily totals for the month ever, coupled with the third highest BROAD-WINGED HAWK daily August total (224; 30 August 2021) ever since 1972 (639; 23 Aug 1977 and 306; 17 Aug 2020). The final count day of the month also saw the first triple-digit daily SHARP-SHINNED HAWK count of the season (160). In many ways, our human species views August as the remnants of summer while many, often young, raptors



have clearly begun to cue in on the need to begin their exploratory journeys south for autumn migration in preparation for the boreal winter.

-Jess Cosentino, Fall Counter

August Non-Raptor Count Summary

The month of August from the 15th-31st brought many interesting days of morning flight, with the count beginning at sunrise on the ridge nearly every day. In tandem with morning counts along the shore by experienced observers, and the evening Common Nighthawks counts led by Steve Kolbe, our migration count helps to paint a good picture of all migration occurring along the north shore of Lake Superior.

Beginning the season amidst a heat wave in the now hottest summer on record for Duluth, the first few days of the count were dominated by south winds and relatively few migrants on the ridge. Many species of local of regional breeding species were present and singing or calling frequently during this early part of the season, including Mourning Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Baltimore Oriole, Red-eyed Vireo, Veery, Brown Thrasher, and Chestnut-sided Warbler.



During August, a few migrant shorebirds were spotted, including Least Sandpiper, Lesser-Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Greater Yellowlegs, Baird's Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, and Solitary Sandpiper. Also recorded on several mornings were Common Loons crossing the ridge and heading to the lake.

One of the first big pushes of migrants occurred on the night of the 18th and following morning of the 19th, resulting in over 140 warblers of 12 species, including Tennessee, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Canada, and Wilsons. Also present were migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Bobolink, Pine Siskin, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Common nighthawk numbers were also increasing with a count of 123 in the morning. The following morning of the 20th brought similar numbers of passerine migrants, but also a notable count of 1635 Common Nighthawk beginning at Dawn, suggesting movement throughout the previous night.



August 21st further ramped up the numbers and diversity of migrants with over 230 warblers and an interesting flight of Olive-sided Flycatchers (7) that was mirrored by counts on the shore. Also, 240 Cliff Swallows were moving past the ridge, the first of several 200+ days. The following week through August 28th produced consistent morning flight and arrival of new migrant passerines including some apparent movement of Purple Finches, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Canada Goose, and Belted Kingfisher. The first American White Pelicans of the season (62) passed over the platform on the 24th.



August 29th – 31st clearly ushered in the first big movements of the season, coinciding with our first big raptor flights. The morning of the 30th in particular saw a big morning flight with over 1250 warblers of 11 species, including an early flight of Palm Warblers (53), and a surprise of 2 Evening Grosbeak. A total of 37 Red-breasted Nuthatches for the morning was the first notable movement for the species this year, also recorded in larger numbers along the shore. Also notable was an early American Pipit on the morning of the 29th.

Overall, August brought an interesting and diverse variety of migrants, with the end of month bringing the highest numbers all around. Also, the evening Common Nighthawk flights were impressive as always, with several good flights recorded by Steve Kolbe and crew on the shore (5895), (5027), and (4877).



-Julian Grudens, Fall Counter

September 2021 Migration Count Summary

The month of September on Hawk Ridge begins with the subtle tones of summer still lingering in the air while finishing with nearby trees beginning to transition gently into a blend of oranges and reds as autumn takes hold. This month accounts for the bulk of the season total for several raptor species including Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, and Osprey. A total of 300.58 count hours over 30 consecutive days of counts were logged throughout the month. A total of 58,425 migrant raptors of 15 species were tallied from the observation platform between 1 and 30 September.

Sept 1-4 The first count day of September began with a 100+ BALD EAGLE flight (1 Sept: 108), coming on the heels of August's two recording breaking daily counts. Only three additional count days in the month would exceed the 100-bird mark for the species. Several strong SHARP-SHINNED HAWK days (1 Sept:119; 2 Sept: 120; 4 Sept: 349) were tallied early on while the occasional juvenile BROAD-WINGED HAWK continued to appear, usually single birds for the entire day. A total of 10 raptor species were documented in the first week of the month, albeit in relatively lower numbers, as the remainder of the season continued to gain momentum.



Sept 5-11 The second week of the month brought the first multi-thousand BROAD-WINGED HAWK days, notably 8, 9, and 11 September (3163, 9162, 1972 respectively). By now, both adults and juveniles were pouring in from the northern forests and forming massive kettles throughout the lake side valley adjacent to the ridge as well as several days with large kettles forming in the distant valley to the west. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK continued to gain momentum over the week with a 546 birds/day 7-day average. The largest sharpie flight on the month came on 8 September (1328) paralleling the first large Broad-wing Hawk flight – large mixed kettles of both species filled the skies throughout the count period! The first and last days of the week brought the first and second records of SWAINSON'S HAWK on the season. The earlier bird being a juvenile and the latter being a dark morph adult. The first early signs of TURKEY VULTURE migration were documented on 8 September as well, mixing in kettles throughout the day. The two largest AMERICAN KESTREL flights (103 and 127) for the month came during the same two-day window (8 and 9 Sept). The first NORTHERN GOSHAWK tallied on the season came before the week's end while 8 and 9 September saw some of the highest COOPER'S HAWK daily counts (8 and 9) for the month.



Sept 12-18 PEREGRINE FALCON began being more consistent daily records during the third week, with at least one bird being seen each day. The week began with strong northwest winds which produced another large BROAD-WINGED HAWK flight (Sept 12: 5321) separated by a brief lull of minimal migratory movement during the midweek until the next large flight (Sept 17: 5515), with the latter day bringing the third SWAINSON'S HAWK on the season, too. Two of the largest MERLIN flights on the month came during the beginning of this week and end of the previous one (12 Sept: 12; 11 Sept: 10). Several days were filled some RED-TAILED HAWK movement, mostly young birds, while the bulk of the season total is usually tallied later next month in October and early November.



Sept 19-25 The fourth week of the month began with two days of southerly wind and rain that shut down the count period. The poor weather did not produce much of a flight however the days that followed provided incredibly favorable conditions and the largest BROAD-WINGED HAWK daily count on the season (21 Sept: 13821), pushing the season total well over the



40,000 bird mark! The same day brought the second-only 1000+ SHARP-SHINNED HAWK daily count (1122) on the month (516 birds/day 7-day average over the week) as well as good flights of NORTHERN HARRIER (37), OSPREY (10), and TURKEY VULTURE (47). The final day of the week brought the largest NORTHERN HARRIER daily count on the month (25 Sept: 39). Sept 26-30 By the final week of the month, the BROAD-WINGED HAWK numbers had begun to wane but not before providing well over 42,000 birds on the season! This was the largest September and season total for this species since 2004. Between the third week and this one, NORTHERN GOSHAWK began making more daily appearances along the ridge with 13 being seen between 24 September and the end of the month.

By 26 September, the AMERICAN KESTREL season total pushed over the 1000 mark while 19 PEREGRINE FALCONS were tallied in the final four days of the month! The momentum of the SHARP-SHINNED HAWK flight continued into the last week with a 436 birds/day 5-day average. One of the final days of the month (29 Sept) brought with it the first GOLDEN EAGLE on the season as well as an adult RED-SHOULDERED HAWK! The young eagle made a quick, low pass along the west side of the ridge while there is a good chance that may be the only Red-shouldered on the season, as only nine seasons out of the last 50 years have records, usually single birds!



Thank you to all who visited the ridge throughout the month and enjoyed the incredible migration. By now many of the Broad-winged Hawks that had passed along Hawk Ridge weeks ago are beginning to pass through more southerly sites, such as Corpus Christi in Texas and Veracruz in Mexico, with hundreds of thousands of others on their way to the Amazon basin. However, we look ahead towards October and impressive flights of larger raptors, such as Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle, leaving northern latitudes as the boreal winter inches closer, as well as Rough-legged Hawks departing their Arctic breeding grounds!



-Jess Cosentino, Fall Counter

September Non-Raptor Count Summary

September at Hawk Ridge is known for its high diversity of migrants and of course some of the biggest flights of raptors such as Broad-winged Hawks. This year we were also fortunate to have many memorable flights and high counts across the board for a variety of passerines and other birds, due in part to excellent weather with westerly winds dominating. We have also seen notably early flights and first arrivals for many species, which leave us wondering what the rest of the season will bring. The following summary will cover our migration count in chronological order with a focus on the morning (or sometimes all day) passerine flights, and notable counts of other species such as shorebirds, waterbirds, cranes, and more.

September 1st-4th: Species total month to date: (81) Species total season to date: (111) The first few days of the month brought some more diversity following the first big flight on August 30th (1250 warblers of 11 species, 53 Palm Warblers, 2 Evening Grosbeak, 37 Red-breasted Nuthatches). A wide array of species abounded including: (Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Sandhill Crane, Solitary Sandpiper, Tree, Barn, and Cliff Swallows, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Veery, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush, any and all species of warblers, Purple Finch, Bobolink, Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American White Pelican, Red-necked Grebe, and Common Loon.) 68 species were recorded on the 4th alone. Of particular note were the first flights of Blue Jays on the 1st and 2nd (234 and 631) respectively; a sneak peak to the now record-breaking season. Also, a brief sighting of a likely *Selasphorus* sp. (Rufous or Allen's) Hummingbird on the 2nd and a pair of Red-crossbills on the 4th were the first of a few good rarities for the month.



September 5th- 11th: Species total month to date: (105) Species total season to date: (121) The first full week of the month brought a strong early push of migrants, of course including our first big flights of Broad-winged Hawks on the 8th (3163) and 9th (9162), which were surprising for those early dates! This week saw more great diversity for songbirds, starting off with 59 species on the 5th, including 14 species of warblers. We also added some new species for the season such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Lapland Longspur, and White-winged Crossbill, Cackling Goose, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. One of the major highlights for passerines this week were the huge Blue Jay flights that certainly pushed us over the top for this season, with counts ramping up quickly each day: 1676, 3288, 2085, 3426, 4155, 6188, and finally 7569 on the 11th! The previous season total for Blue Jays was around 51,000, but this week contributed to the new record season total of 59,170 and counting as of Oct. 2nd!



September 12th- 18th: Species total month to date: (120) Species total season to date: (134) Following an exciting week with great numbers and diversity, we had some more strong pushes of migrant raptors and passerines. Blue Jay numbers continued to climb with many days over 3000, and mornings with nearly 2000 warblers! Some notable additions for the season were our first Rusty Blackbird, Lincoln's Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Horned Lark, Orange-crowned Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, and Snow Goose. The biggest surprise came on the morning of the 15th when a Smith's Longspur flew over the platform and was photographed by Alex Sundvall during the count! This is only the 2nd record for the count and a great rarity for anywhere in the region.



September 19th- 25th: Species total month to date: (128) Species total season to date: (142) Late September on Hawk Ridge is known for its spectacular flights and amazing diversity, and this week really brought it home! Of course our biggest flight of Broad-winged Hawks for the season (13,821) on



the 21st, was a big highlight, but that wasn't the only memorable event of the week. The week kicked off with a somewhat slow Sunday due to strong south winds, but a great surprise came in the form of a White-winged Dove that flew by the platform in the afternoon! This southwest desert species has a reputation for vagrancy, with a handful of records for the county, making this the 4th for the count! In terms of migration phenology (seasonal timing), this week was quite interesting, with the count on the 21st showing a rapid shift in the passerine species migrating through the region. The morning brought our first notable flights of some later season species including Rusty Blackbirds (297) and Yellow-rumped Warblers (841). Also notable was our first Black-backed Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow, and 4 very early Common Redpoll! The day ended with a huge push of nearly 500 Sandhill Cranes, nearly all at once! The morning of the 24th was also a significant, with nearly 6000 warblers moving along the lakeshore, most of which were likely Yellow-rumped (we positively identified 1292 as such). Rain showers moved in late morning, but Yellow-rumps, Robins, and others kept on moving!

September 26th- 30th: Species total month to date: (133) Species total season to date: (147) The last few days of September did not disappoint, bringing a few new species for the count and some good counts of later season species like finches. The 26th was a great day, with a surprising count of 873 Purple Finch and the first big flight of American Robins (1882). Blue Jay numbers were low on some days, but we still saw good numbers (1547) on the 27th, showing the transition between these two abundant migrants. Species like Orange-crowned Warbler began showing up more frequently, along with Lapland Longspurs, American Pipits, Dark-eyed Juncos, White-crowned Sparrow, Winter Wren, and the first Trumpeter Swans of the season.



As we end this fast paced and exciting month, we look forward to more of what will come in October and November. The flycatchers, warblers, thrushes, and shorebirds might be on their way out, but late season could bring big finch flights, exciting western rarities, and hopefully a few more good surprises. Follow along with us live on Dunkadoo or on the ridge for another exciting month!

-Julian Grudens, Fall Counter

October 2021 Migration Count Summary

The month of October on Hawk Ridge begins with the remnants of earlier season migrants (Osprey, Turkey Vultures, American Kestrel) still passing through in numbers as they continue to clear out from northern latitudes while the end of the month features heavier movement of several larger raptor species. The once golden aspens have been stripped clean by the frosty autumn winds and daily temperatures slowly drift lower with each passing sunset. This month often accounts for the bulk of the season total for several raptor species including Rough-legged Hawk, Red-Tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Northern Goshawk. A total of 266.83 count hours over 31 consecutive days of counts were logged throughout the month. A total of 10,736 migrant raptors of 15 species were tallied from the observation platform between 1 and 31 October.

October 1st – 9th: The first week of the month brought several days of dense fog, often in the earlier hours of the count, which would sit along the ridge and lake shore while obscuring visibility for several hours before finally clearing. Despite these poorer conditions, several good raptor flights produced once skies cleared, including SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (334 bird/day 9-day average) with one of the largest monthly flights for this species on 7 October (945).



Several later BROAD-WINGED HAWKS (5) passed along the ridge during this same week, falling somewhat behind those 42,000+ that had already migrated through by last month on their way to South America. The bulk of the monthly totals for both AMERICAN KESTREL (52, 59%) and OSPREY (22, 63%) were documented in this first week alone.

October 10th – 16th: The following week of the month brought the arrival of the season's first ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS (7) as early as 10 October with birds being seen from the ridge five of the seven days. Additionally, the first GOLDEN EAGLES (4) of the season were spotted heading south on 16 October. Historically, more Golden's seem to be tallied during the first half of this month; however, consistent poor weather conditions during that same time window likely contributed to some of the low numbers observed this year. SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS continued to move in triple-digit numbers this week (213 bird/day 7-day average).



Early October temperatures averaged in the upper 60's to 70's but an abrupt shift to cooler weather (47°F) on 15 through 16 October coupled with strong WNW winds brought the two highest daily counts for TURKEY VULTURES (175, 210 respectively) which accounted for nearly half (48%) of the monthly total for this species. Also, by 16 October, the final OSPREY of the season was spotted heading south to warmer latitudes, the final double-digit MERLIN (12) and NORTHERN HARRIER



(13) daily counts for the month were tallied, the highest BALD EAGLE (237) daily count on the season and second highest RED-TAILED HAWK (706) count on the month as

well, with a strong push of SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (566) on the same date. A great day of fall hawk watching from the ridge!

October 17th – 23rd: The third week of October began with more strong WNW wind which ushered in the season's highest RED-TAILED HAWK (714) and the final triple-digit SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (205) daily counts for the season. The final remnants of TURKEY VULTURE (169) moved south on 17 October as well, with only a small number (30) throughout the remainder of the month. The final triple-digit SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (205) daily count for the month came on this same date. The final three late BROAD-WINGED HAWKS of the month passed along the ridge on both 16 and 17 October as well. The remainder of this week also saw consistent RED-TAILED HAWK movement (229 bird/day 7-day average) and the highest daily count for NORTHERN GOSHAWK (7) on the month courtesy of several days characterized by strong northerly winds. The final AMERICAN KESTREL on the season likely passed along the ridge on 19 October and highest daily count for ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (64) on 23 October. These mid-month days provided some of the biggest raptor movements for October with those ideal wind conditions.



October 24th – 31st: The final week of the month returned to less-than-favorable weather conditions, bringing east winds off the lake which likely helped move flight lines inland and away from the ridge while nearly every day that followed had winds with a southerly component. These headwinds did not help promote late October movement for most species; however, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS continued to move steadily between 29-31 October (31, 21, 31 respectively) while both BALD EAGLES and RED-TAILED HAWKS moved consistently in double-digits each day.



A later migrant PEREGRINE FALCON passed by the ridge on a soggy rainy day (27 October) which could very well be the last one on the season as the last November record for this species dates to 2005. The month of October did not provide the best of weather conditions for autumn raptor migration, and this was reflected in the count. Notably lower current season totals for GOLDEN EAGLE and NORTHERN GOSHAWK are evidence of this effect while October RED-TAILED HAWK numbers appear to be slightly below average compared to recent years. However, the days that did deliver strong NW winds brought about big numbers and fantastic fall hawk watching from the ridge.



In November, we could possibly expect a few more triple-digit Red-tailed Hawk flights before this species begins to taper off, as well as more Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles, and Northern Goshawks from the Arctic and northern boreal forest well into the month.

-Jess Cosentino, Fall Migration Counter

October Non-Raptor Count Summary

October at Hawk Ridge is an exciting time that sees the departure of all the neo-tropical songbirds which breed throughout the boreal forests of Canada and the forests of northern Minnesota. It also sees the passage of the most sparrows, blackbirds, larks, longspurs, and other interesting migrants which return to their wintering grounds throughout the central to southern reaches of the United States and Mexico. Later in the month, the tundra breeding songbirds and raptors, as well as many waterfowl begin to pour south, bringing a real winter flavor. This October had its share of stand out flights and a few good surprises, along with the expected birds. We ended the month with 109 species tallied, and a season total of 165 species. The following summary will cover our migration count in chronological order with a focus on the morning (or sometimes all day) passerine flights, and notable counts or records of other species.



October 1st – 9th: Species total month to date: (75) Species total season to date: (150) The month started off with good diversity, around 50 species a day, including many warblers as well as later season migrants like sparrows and finches. Over the course of the week we added a few good species to the count including an early Pine Grosbeak and a Boreal Chickadee. Although there were a couple days with considerable fog and rain, we still had some impressive flights this week for both raptors and



passerines. October 1st brought us 1123 American Robins, 40 American Pipits, and 405 Pine Siskin. The next two days brought somewhat lower numbers, but some interesting species such as Trumpeter Swans, American Golden Plovers, and a late Semipalmated Plover. Our biggest flight was on the 4th, with a constant stream of birds coming in high out of the clouds over the lake. It was our first big flight of Rusty Blackbirds (879) and our biggest recorded flight of Yellow-rumped Warblers for the season (1993), also over 2,000 American Robins.

October 10th – 16th: Species total month to date: (91) Species total season to date: (155) This week kicked in strong on the 11th, with our best Purple Finch flight of the season (2,013), 1256 American Robins, 341 Pine Siskin, 2 late Tree Swallows, a Barn Swallow, and one very late Chimney Swift! However, the 12th was an even bigger event, with our biggest Rusty Blackbird Flight of the season (8,628), although the



concurrent count of over 15,000 from Stoney Point is possibly the highest count in Minnesota history! Also on that day, we saw our best flights of American Robin (4,143) and Common Grackle (2,768)! Good numbers of Purple Finch (1,636) and Ring-necked Duck (243) further marked the occasion. The next day on the 13th, good counts of American Robin (1,781) and Rusty Blackbird (1,210) continued, but the highlight was a Townsend's Solitaire! We also saw our first big movement of American Crows (452) primarily in big flocks down the lake shore. Our first flock of Snow Bunting also appeared! Good flights continued through the week, ending with the weekend of the 16th and 17th which were most notably our biggest and best Red-tailed Hawk flights!

October 17th – 23rd: Species total month to date: (104) Species total season to date: (163) The 17th was the second of our two big Red-tailed Hawk flights on Northwest winds, which also brought plenty of other great migrants, including 230 Sandhill Cranes, a big late flock of 101 American White Pelicans, 608 American Crows, 121 Common Ravens, 504 Purple Finch, 646 Rusty Blackbirds, and 43 White-winged Crossbills! The next few days continued to bring some interesting birds, such as Snow



Geese, and a smattering of waterfowl (Blue and Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, Common and Red-breasted Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Trumpeter Swans). Waterfowl migration starts to pick up strongly this time of year, although the ridge is not often the best place to observe this with very distant and poorly lit birds. Some other highlights include our biggest flight of American Crows (3,118) on the 20th, and not one but two Short-eared Owls seen from the ridge on the 21st! Also quite notable were the arrival of our first American Tree Sparrows, Bohemian Waxwings, and Northern Shrikes, along with the first real flocks of Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll for the season! These species are true winter birds, and really show the shift in the seasons.

October 24th – 31st: Species total month to date: (109) Species total season to date: (165) The final week of October quickly saw the transition to typical November birds, with less diversity, but lots of fan favorites such as Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, White-winged Crossbills, Northern Shrikes, Evening Grosbeaks, and Snow Buntings, to compliment our Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. Also of note was a very late record of Blackpoll Warbler on the 27th, seen on the ground below our Hawk Ridge



sign during a morning rain shower. Our first notable flight of Common Redpolls (271) was on October 25th, during an odd morning punctuated with rain showers. However this trend continued with high counts for the remainder of the month (299, 461, 1188, 1716, 687, and finally 2,124 on the 31st!) The redpoll flight is continuing strong into November, with a season total of 13,532 as of November 4th! Although the numbers are even higher at places such as Stoney Point with over 5 or 7 thousand in a day, the ridge is still seeing a huge flight of these birds down the ridge and often right past the overlook or platform. Our final day of the main migration season here at the ridge was quite a good one with that redpoll flight, and included a couple nice surprises like a Black-backed Woodpecker and a group of Red-throated Loons.

As a whole, the month was not exactly what we expected, with a fair amount of poor weather days due to east winds, fog, and rain. However, it brought some fantastic flights and highlights that we will remember for a long time. Follow along with us live on Dunkadoo or at the Ridge in November!

-Julian Grudens, Fall Migration Counter

November 2021 Migration Count Summary

The month of November on Hawk Ridge sees a notable shift into colder temperatures while raptor movement of the larger birds continues steadily throughout. Blustery winds bring below-freezing wind chills while snow can often blanket the ridge. The migration of many raptor species has tapered off by the beginning of this month; however, several eagles, buteos, and goshawks continue movement well into the final week. A total of 186.83 count hours over 29 non-consecutive days of counts were logged throughout the month. A single day (11 November) did not conduct a count due to inclement weather. A total of 2,331 migrant raptors of 9 species were tallied from the observation platform between 1 and 30 November. This culminated in a season total of 73,125 raptors tallied between August 15 and November 30. A total of 314,632 migrant raptors and non-raptors of 201 species were tallied from the ridge throughout the season.

November 1st – 6th: The month began with the largest BALD EAGLE (117) and RED-TAILED HAWK (187) flights on the month on 1 November. The first two days of the month also saw the two largest ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK flights on the month (46 and 43, respectively) which were also the second and third highest on the season for this species. The final TURKEY VULTURE of the season passed slowly along the ridge on the first day of the month as well. NORTHERN HARRIERS continued to move throughout the week, often in single digits by the day; however, this species would taper off considerably by the end of the week with only few additional birds tallied afterwards. BALD EAGLES surpassed the 4000-bird mark for the season on the final day of the week (6 November) while GOLDEN EAGLE momentum picked up with multiple birds detected every day from the beginning of the month (23 over the first six days).



Also, by the end of this week, the season total for COMMON REDPOLL would exceed the 17,000 mark (9,101 between 1-6 November!) and some of the biggest SNOW BUNTING flights came on the first two days of the month (25 and 45, respectively). WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL movement began gaining momentum with the first triple-digit daily count (132) coming on 2 November with the season's highest (420) and second highest (359) daily totals coming on 5 and 6 November, respectively. The month's highest (422) and second highest (409) AMERICAN ROBIN totals came on 2 and 3 November, helping to push the season total over 27,400 by the end of the month! These two days (2 and 3 November) also saw the month's highest AMERICAN CROW counts (254, 127).



November 7th – 13th: The second week began with minimal raptor movement due to warmer weather and southern winds; however, the two days of westerly winds that followed brought good flights before less favorable easterly winds returned later in the week. The final multiple SHARP-SHINNED HAWK day (4) on the season came 8 November while a resident adult NORTHERN GOSHAWK appeared to settle in near the ridge around this time as well. Migrating goshawks would only appear in single digits on four days throughout this week. Both 8 and 9 November saw good RED-TAILED HAWK (39, 31) and BALD EAGLE (23, 43) movement as the larger birds took advantage of the robust northwest winds. One day during this week (11 November) did not see a count as inclement weather moved into the area. A notable shift to raw, colder weather marked the end of this week by the 12th, with freezing temperatures, snow flurries, and wind gusts up to 35 mph!



The season's largest PINE GROSBEAK flight (113) came on 8 November. An impressive 15,500 COMMON REDPOLLS would pass along the ridge in dense flocks over the course of the week (5,080 on 8 November!). The final triple-digit WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL daily total (181) on the season would come on 7 November while several RED CROSSBILLS (7) would also pass along the ridge on 8 November. A large group of GREATER SCAUP (150) crossed in front of the ridge heading east towards the lake on 9 November, with 80 more unidentified *Aythya* sp. on the same date.



November 14th – 20th: The week began with more light snow on the ridge, but the BALD EAGLE movement remained steady throughout the entire week (50 birds/day 7-day average). Both RED-TAILED HAWKS and ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS appeared in double-digits on two days (14 and 18 November) but were generally single-digits on the remaining days of the week. This would be the final double-digit RED-TAILED HAWK daily total on the season. GOLDEN EAGLES (12) appeared every day of the week other than 16 November, which brought strong southeast winds and stalled raptor movement. NORTHERN GOSHAWKS (7) were moving along the ridge throughout the week with mostly daily counts seeing only a pair of migrant birds each day. The beginning of the week (November 14) pushed the COMMON REDPOLL seasonal total over 34,000 as large groups of birds moved steadily along the ridge. The final day saw the season's second highest flight of PINE GROSBEAK (106), with several groups exceeding 20 individuals buoyantly passing along the ridge together while their flutelike warble rang out into the skies.



November 21st – 27th: The week began with snow, cold temperatures (21 F), and blustery winds (46 mph gusts!); however, it also brought one of the better NORTHERN GOSHAWK days (4) in the second half of the month as well good movement of BALD EAGLES, which had a 46 birds/day 7-day average. The final double-digit ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK daily count (20) came on the following day, pushing the season total over the 500-bird mark.



Goshawk movement would taper off considerably after 24 November, with only one additional migrant tallied before the end of the month. The same day (24 November) also had the biggest GOLDEN EAGLE (12) flight of season and the highest BALD EAGLE (96) daily count for the second half of the month (third highest of the entire month). This day's count pushed the season total over the 73,000-raptor mark and over 100 GOLDEN EAGLES on the season.



Raptor flights tapered off a bit into the remainder of the week, likely due to a mix of heavy snow north of the ridge on one day and less favorable southerly winds on another. RED-TAILED HAWKS continued to appear along ridge throughout the week in smaller daily numbers, with the final two birds on the season passing by on 26 November.

A pair of NORTHERN SHRIKES appeared along the ridge on the two last days of the week (26, 27). The momentum of the COMMON REDPOLL flight slowed down dramatically to several double-digit days following a good push on 22 November (1,441); however, the season total was pushed over the 40,000 bird-mark on 26 November! The season's third highest PINE GROSBEAK flight (83) came on 22 November. COMMON MERGANSER (26) were also moving passed the ridge between 21 and 22 November.



November 28th – 30th: The final days of the fall count saw a few GOLDEN (6) and BALD EAGLES (24) moving on the 28th as stronger northwest winds kept birds funneling down lake side, including a late SHARP-SHINNED HAWK! The following day brought snow and east winds off the lake, which produced minimal flight, but did bring the season's final NORTHERN SHRIKE (Season total: 13) and MERLIN.



The final day of the count also brought good northwest winds and kept BALD EAGLES

(27) moving as well as several GOLDEN EAGLES (3), ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS (6), and an adult NORTHERN GOSHAWK. The largest group of EVENING GROSBEAK (12) on the season came on the final day of the count, fluttering up over the road as a noisy, chattering flock. The final day also saw good PINE GROSBEAK (35) movement, pushing the season total just over the 1000 mark. Thank you to everyone who came to visit the ridge between September and November and enjoy the migration. We will see you next year!

Jess Cosentino, Migration Counter