

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Golden Eagle banded last day of season

## RESEARCH & PROGRAMS BIRD MIGRATION COUNT RESEARCH

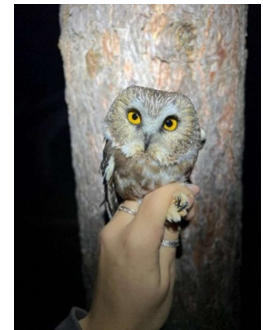
During our 2022 Spring and Fall seasons, our skilled and focused counters documented over 84,000 raptors of 18 different species, as well as 163,000+ other migrating birds of 160+ species. Above 10-yr average numbers were counted this fall for Northern Harrier, Broad-winged Hawk, and American Kestrel. A surprise first record of a Swallow-tailed Kite was recorded! In total, over 3.2 million raptors have been counted at Hawk Ridge since the start in 1972.



Red-tailed Hawk migrating over Hawk Ridge

## BIRD BANDING RESEARCH

We continue to run the largest raptor banding operation in the country. Our stellar banding team, led by Frank Nicoletti, banded over 2200 raptors (hawks, falcons, eagles, owls) in fall 2022. A few highlights included a Golden Eagle Banded on the last day of the season and the E. Screech Owl returning for the 5<sup>th</sup> year! Dedicated volunteers continued passerine banding at Hawk Ridge, including the summer MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) research project, with the leadership of David Alexander and Margie Menzies.



Banded Northern Saw-whet Owl



Trainee, Chris S., teaching about American Kestrels

## TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM & STUDENT RESEARCH

Seven trainees, five research and two environmental education, received exceptional professional field experience within our count, banding, and education programs. We collaborated with students from University of MN Duluth on graduate research projects and other outdoor education classes.

## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hawk Ridge Education Director, Margie Menzies, and our amazing education team taught more than 220 educational programs in 2022, reaching over 4200 participants of all ages! Thousands of visitors at Hawk Ridge shared in the magic of migration with us and learned through our live bird education demos, kid's cart activities, school field trips and public programs. We also provided workshops, outreach events, and virtual programs throughout the year. Our volunteer program engaged nearly 70 people that contributed a total of approx. 3,000 hours in 2022. Thank you to all of our staff and volunteers!



Visitors at Hawk Ridge main overlook

## HAWK RIDGE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT & HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL

2022 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve and 50 years of continued raptor research & education! We celebrated with a memorable festival weekend September 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 attended the kick-off banquet at the Greysolon Ballroom in celebration of the past, present, and future with heartfelt stories and speakers through the decades. A poster session was held Friday evening at the Great Lakes Aquarium and presentation Saturday evening at UMD both highlighting 50 years of Hawk Ridge research. Dr. Robert Rosenfield received the Hawk Ridge Lifetime Achievement award for exceptional contributions to raptor research inspired by early years at Hawk Ridge. It was a wonderful weekend!

## LAND STEWARDSHIP

Volunteers helped lead important site stewardship management projects at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, such as trail maintenance and invasive species control. An exciting highlight is the acceptance of our Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Facilities Plan by the City of Duluth for educational and safety improvements for visitors. This project includes a new accessible trail, permanent restroom, additional education program spaces, observation deck, and more! We look forward to continuing progress and sharing more with you in 2023!



Hawk Ridge Founders Jan & John Green



December 2022

Dear Friend of Hawk Ridge,

Happy Holidays and thank you for being a supporter of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory! 2022 was an extra special year for the Hawk Ridge community, as we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. We also celebrated 50 amazing years of continued raptor research and education, as well as wonderful connections with visitors, members, donors, staff, volunteers and beautiful birds!

As we look to the new year and the next 50 years, we invite you to reflect on what Hawk Ridge means to you. One of the most memorable parts of our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration event in September was hearing the inspirational and heartfelt stories from attendees through the decades - memories of a special visit, a meaningful bird release, an exciting big migration day, reuniting or being united with friends and loved ones at Hawk Ridge, or the simple magic and joy of watching birds. We appreciate all that Hawk Ridge brings to people and bird conservation and we can't thank you enough for being part of that.

With your generosity and support today, we will soar into the next 50 years! Your investment in our mission will help us continue to protect birds, launch new exciting initiatives and events, and foster those special connections built between the birds, the people, and the place at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. As you consider your gift, please take a moment to read the enclosed highlights from 2022. This incredible work happening each year is thanks to our amazing staff, volunteers, and the generosity of members and donors, like you.

Your year-end, tax deductible donation can be made online at [www.hawkridge.org/special-50th-giving-campaign/](http://www.hawkridge.org/special-50th-giving-campaign/). If you'd like to make a gift of stock or fund transfer, please contact Janelle Long, Executive Director at (218) 428-6209 or [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org).

From all of us at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, we send our warmest wishes and sincere gratitude for you this Holiday Season. Thanks to you for making our mission a reality and empowering our community to continue to soar on Hawk Ridge!

With Gratitude,

Janelle Long  
Executive Director

Jim Sanders  
Board Chair

*P.S. If you've already sent your year-end gift, please accept our deepest gratitude in advance! We are privileged and honored to do this work with your thoughtful support.*

**Our Board of Directors & Leadership**

Janelle Long  
*Executive Director*

Jim Sanders  
*Chair*

Collin Zimmerman  
*Vice-Chair*

Josh Seline  
*Treasurer*

Sean Copeland  
*Secretary*

Monica Bryand

Matti Erpestad

Matt Etterson

Ken Gilbertson

Alexis Grinde

Bruce Munson