



2022 Education Final Report

By Margie Menzies, Education Director

2022 was a busy year for Hawk Ridge Education Programming. It seems every year keeps getting busier, and busier -which is great news when you are educating the world about the wonders of birds and their importance in the world!!

We continue to build spring migration programming and we were happy to welcome Sara DePew as a second educator and count interpreter for the spring season! We formally started spring education programming in 2019 with our reinstated spring count. In 2022, we hosted twice as many different school groups as our first year in 2019! We are definitely growing on the spring programming side of the spectrum!



Summer 2022, was also the first year that we had a full-time education director during the summer months and it was filled with programs. New programs that happened included welcoming Viking Great Lakes cruise passengers to Hawk Ridge for programming- we enjoyed educating people from all over the country and world with 7 cruise visits May through September. We also were able to offer the first Minnesota Master Naturalist Course through Hawk Ridge with a wonderful group of participants. We also had an assortment of bird programs for partnered area day camp programs and a number of outreach presentations as well.

Fall, as always, was a busy season, with school programming getting much closer to what we remember pre-pandemic levels, and we were lucky to have an incredibly talented team of education trainees, interns, and naturalists to provide programming! Huge thank you to: Sara DePew, Jake Behrens, Sarah Wood, Chris Schnurbusch, Daniel Goldberg, Julia Luger, Allie Quick, Caroline Urban, Jamie Tiggs, Jason Heinen, Sophie Richardson, and Drake Hacker! Whew- it takes a small army to keep education programming going through the fall season! And many



thanks as well to Lisa Oakland for managing the merchandise and the visitor services front, as well as Valerie Slocum leading our incredible team of volunteers for their efforts that support every aspect of Hawk Ridge programming. We had a lot of fun, as you can see by our last day costume photo on Oct. 31st!

During the fall, we provided more than 150 educational program opportunities for K12 schools, college groups, traveling groups, general public programming, owl programs, Hawk Weekend/50th Anniversary festival programs, virtual programs and workshops. Nearly 3,000 participants took part in these education programs. We also provided more than 200 live bird education demonstrations, provided fun education activities at our kid's cart, and taught thousands of visitors of all ages about the bird migration at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve!



Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory continues to make educational programming opportunities available and affordable for schools from all across the region. Each year the need for assistance with programming fees continues to grow. We have established a program scholarship system for awarding scholarships that is based upon the number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunches in order to find a standard to use when making scholarship awards to schools, yet assure that there was still some funding to cover the expense of offering the programs. Any teacher that expresses a need and provides free and reduced lunch numbers can be awarded a scholarship discount for educational fees for Hawk Ridge programming.

Table 1: Scholarship Award Rates

Percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced lunches	Program Fee Discount Applied
Less than 30%	10% awarded
Greater than 30%	20% awarded
Greater than 50%	30% awarded
Greater than 60%	40% awarded
Greater than 70%	50% awarded

During the 2022 school year, 19 of 31 school groups requested scholarship aid, or a little more than 61% of the schools, and \$2,189.55 of scholarships were awarded. This region has a fair number of schools where 70% or more of the students are receiving free or reduced lunches, and this is reflected in the numbers of scholarships awarded and at what level in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Breakdown of scholarships awarded

Number of Schools	Discount Amount	Percent of Awards
10	50% off	53%
1	40% off	5%
4	30% off	21%
0	20% off	0%
4	10% off	21%

We are glad to be able to provide assistance to any school with a need and are very grateful for the establishment of a scholarship fund to award these scholarships. If you are interested in donating to our education program scholarship fund, please connect with Janelle Long, Executive Director (jlong@hawkridge.org). A special thanks to Sherri Ryan and others that have contributed to this fund.

Another effort the education department also made program progress related to is HRBO's diversity initiative to increase opportunities in birding (educational, professional, and recreational) for BIPOC communities. Here is an overview of our 2022 diversity initiative program efforts:

Spring: 2nd and 3rd grade Ojibwe Immersion Program Students from Lowell Elementary. Students participated in the Raptors on the Move Program at Enger Tower Park. Teacher communicated solely in Ojibwe with students who were very fluent. We challenged the students to teach us Ojibwe bird names through the course of the day- and they were very happy to do that!! Lots of fun!

Summer: Master Naturalist Class. Students in Master Naturalist classes are required to participate in capstone learning projects designed to be short term service projects that could be used for a variety of purposes. Two of the students in the class chose generating cards with Ojibwe names, pronunciations, and meanings for some common birds of the area for use at Hawk Ridge in education programs. They consulted with area experts for assistance and created the cards. Another former Master Naturalist who is Ojibwe, was also contacted during the project. She created a Hawk Ridge vocabulary guide providing an Ojibwe sound chart and more bird and tree names in Ojibwe and other useful background for the project as well.

Fall: Fond du Lac Tribal Community College. We have been working informally with Jay Sandal from the Biology Department at Fond du Lac Tribal College for a few years, but this year we were able to expand our efforts more formally and extensively to include a Hawk Ridge visit for 2 of his classes: Principles of Ecology (2 visits for the fall, 2 programs and an assigned project related to birds and Hawk Ridge data), Ecology of Minnesota class- one visit to Hawk Ridge and Eyes on the Skies program at the Ridge, and for a third class an in person Hawk Ridge

presentation in his Environmental Science Class on basics of Hawk Ridge and highlighting research being done at the Ridge. We'll continue to work with them as Hawk Ridge is now more incorporated into the regular curriculum for these classes. We're also hoping to expand with potential Spring semester courses.

Urban Bird Collective. Planned a two-pronged training event with Monica Bryand. The first piece was a Zoom introductory presentation with background on Hawk Ridge and facets of migration and why Hawk Ridge is such an amazing place to observe migration. The second piece was a weekend of training for leaders of the Urban Bird Collective at Hawk Ridge. They arrived Friday evening and stayed through early afternoon on Sunday. The original plan had included a Small Group owl program for Friday evening- but weather did not cooperate. During Saturday and Sunday, we did passerine banding, field tripped to a variety of locations, and spent time at the Hawk Ridge main overlook looking for birds. The training weekend was designed to provide additional background to these leaders who then return to the Metro area with the intent to continue to offer small, welcoming, and comfortable birding hikes in neighborhoods in the Twin Cities. These hikes are designed to welcome people of all colors, and races, as well as the LGBTQ communities. We hope to continue to facilitate their efforts and look to expand them to the Duluth area as well.

If you'd like to schedule a program (virtual, outreach, or at Hawk Ridge) or know of a group that would be good for Hawk Ridge to connect with as part of the diversity initiative, please contact Margie Menzies, Education Director, at mmenzies@hawkridge.org or 218-428-8722. A special thanks to Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd for their education program support.

Looking at the whole picture for 2022, we provided more than 220 formal programs for more than 4,200 participants! It was wonderful to continue to build programming throughout the year in a variety of ways. We look forward to connecting with you in 2023! Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for upcoming opportunities, including our exciting international birding trips to Costa Rica in spring and fall!

Thank you for sharing the magic of migration with us!