

# Hawk Weekend Festival 2023

## Detailed Event Information

**Must pre-register online for all field trips/workshops/evening events**  
**Festival wristband required for all field trips/workshops and daily programs at Hawk Ridge**

**Registration – will close on Sunday 9/10**

**A la carte Registration** – register for individual event selections. Early Bird Discount available through Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> (\$5 off each a la carte field trip/workshop/program). Please send an email to [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) with questions or to see if there's waiting list availability for any full/closed events.  
**COST:** varies by event (members/students receive discounted prices on all events).

**Offered Fri. 9/15 ONLY!**

**Sax-Zim Bog Birding and Natural History Tour – TRIP IS FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)**  
**Friday, September 15, 2023 (LIMIT 20, min. 10)**

**Cost:** \$50 members/students, \$60 non-members

**Meeting Location:** meeting at Menards Parking Lot, 4809 Miller Trunk Hwy, Hermantown, MN (near Kwik Trip off of Hwy 53 and Arrowhead Road). **Transportation:** Carpooling as comfortable/possible

**Meeting Time:** 7:30 am; return 3-3:30pm **Duration:** 5-6 hour tour (not including travel time)

**Description:** The Sax-Zim Bog is a well-known bird watching location during the winter months. Visitors come from far and wide to experience winter birds like Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Northern Shrike, and Northern Hawk Owl, as well as resident species like Great Gray Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Canada Jay, and Black-backed Woodpecker. Many of the species that call the Bog home year-round specialize using bog habitats. This field trip will have a focus on birds, but will also consider the bogs in the landscape and the Friends of Sax-Zim Bog's work to help preserve the amazing ecosystems in the Sax-Zim Bog!

**Field Trip Expectations/Preparation/Notes:** Be prepared for birding from gravel roadways or boardwalks. Any hiking done will be short in duration and distance on fairly level surfaces. Bugs will not likely be too bad at this time of year, but do bring bug spray if desired. Plan on bringing a lunch/snacks along on the trip so we can maximize our time exploring the region. There isn't a need for mud boots etc for this field trip.

**Leader:** Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, Head Naturalist, Friends of Sax-Zim Bog

**University of MN Duluth Biology Seminar**

**Friday, September 15, 2023**

**Cost:** FREE (no registration required)

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

**Time:** 3:00pm

**Description:** Dr. Laurie Goodrich, Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association (also keynote Hawk Ridge speaker in the evening with different talk at Great Lakes Aquarium) will present "Hawk Mountain's 90 years of raptor migration monitoring: scientific value of long-term data". Hawk Mountain was founded in 1934 as the first sanctuary in the world set aside for birds of prey conservation. It launched a count of migrating raptors which now represents nearly 90 years of monitoring data and one of the longest datasets available on raptor numbers. In this talk we will explore some of the early scientific contributions of these data and what we can learn from long-term migration monitoring.

## Festival Kick-off Event (Social, Annual Meeting, Keynote Speaker) at Great Lakes Aquarium

Friday, September 15, 2023

**Cost: Members (FREE); Students (\$10), Non-members (\$25)**

**Meeting Location:** Great Lakes Aquarium, 353 Harbor Dr, Duluth, MN ([www.glaquarium.org](http://www.glaquarium.org))

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

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

**Time:** 6:30-9pm (6pm doors open/registration, 6:30 social hour, 7:30 annual meeting/awards, 7:45 speaker)

**Description:** Join us for the return of this popular evening event at the beautiful Great Lakes Aquarium. This is our festival kick-off event **featuring our keynote speaker, Dr. Laurie Goodrich, Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association.** Starting at 6:30pm, the social hour will include a cash bar and light refreshments and the full aquarium will be open to tour, including the Raptor Ridge Exhibit. The Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory Annual Meeting will begin at 7:30pm (approx. 15 minutes) followed by Dr. Laurie Goodrich who will present "From Canada to Colombia: Broad-winged Hawk Migration and Ecology". *NOTE: We are holding just one evening event at the festival this year to allow for additional evening owl programs.*

## Offered Sat. 9/16 ONLY!

**IMPORTANT TRAFFIC NOTICE FOR SATURDAY** please note: Scenic Hwy 61, London Rd & portions of I35 near east Duluth will be closed for a portion of the day on Sat. 9/16(5am-approx. 2pm) due to the North Shore In-Line Marathon, which may require taking an alternate route and additional travel time to get to your location.

### Birding at Wisconsin Point – TRIP IS FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)

Saturday, September 16, 2023 **(LIMIT 15)**

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

**Meeting Location:** Perkins Restaurant, 103 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Superior, WI 54880 (US 53 South); **Please note:** construction on I35 may require an alternate route and additional travel time to get to your location.

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 am (arrive 10-15 min prior)      **Duration:** 2-3 hours (easy-moderate walking/observing)

**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:** Erik Bruhnke

### St. Louis River Estuary Field Trip - TRIP IS FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)

Saturday, September 16, 2023 **(LIMIT 15)**

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

**Meeting Location:** Waabizheshikana "The Marten Trail" (fka Western Waterfront Trailhead) parking lot located behind the Willard Munger Inn (7408 Grand Ave, Duluth); turn east on Pulaski St/75<sup>th</sup> Ave W, cross the railroad tracks, then trailhead parking lot will be on your left. **Please note:** construction on I35 may require an alternate route and additional travel time to get to your location.

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 am (arrive 10-15 min prior)      **Duration:** 2-3 hours (easy-moderate walking)

**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.

**Leaders:** Laura Erickson

**Live Falcon Program - PROGRAM IS FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)**

**Saturday, September 16, 2023 (LIMIT 40/program)**

**Cost: \$10 members/students, \$20 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 to Lester Amity Chalet, 2940 Seven Bridges Rd, Duluth, MN)*

**Meeting Time:** 11:00 am      **Duration:** 45 minutes – 1 hour (seated program)

**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:** camera, binoculars and reference books (if you'd like)

**Leader:** Jackie Fallon

**Offered Sun. 9/17 ONLY!**

**Park Point Birding Field Trip – TRIP IS FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)**

**Sunday, September 17, 2023 (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 (arrive 10-15 min prior)      **Duration:** 2-3 hours (walking, easy-moderate)

**Description:** Visit one of Minnesota's beloved birding hotspots with one of Minnesota's beloved birders – Laura Erickson! 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:** Laura Erickson

**Lester River & North Shore Birding Field Trip – TRIP IS FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)**

**Sunday, September 17, 2023 (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 60<sup>th</sup> Ave East.

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 am (arrive 10-15 min prior)

**Duration:** 3.5-4 hours (easy-moderate walking & driving for N. 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 EPA 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. *\*Please note, this trip may not be back in time for the 11am Advanced Hawkwatching workshop, so we suggest registering for the Saturday 1pm slot.*

**What to Bring:** Binoculars and dress in layers

**Leader(s):** Bill Tefft

**Geology & Birding along Duluth's Shoreline Field Trip – "Birds ROCK!" TRIP IS FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)**

**Sunday September 17, 2023 (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:** 1:00 pm (arrive 10-15 min prior); **Duration:** 2-3 hours (moderate walking on/around rocky areas and driving); **What to Bring:** Dress in layers (possibly raingear)

**Description:** Join Hawk Ridge Education Director, Margie Menzies, all-around naturalist and passionate about both birds and geology on a journey along Duluth's shoreline. We will visit several interesting outcrops to reveal the story of ancient volcanic geology in the area, as well as birding along the way.

**Leader(s):** Margie Menzies

**Offered Multiple Dates**

**Evening Owl Programs – SAT. & SUN. PROGRAMS ARE FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)**

**Saturday, September 16 – Monday, September 18, 2023 (LIMIT 10/program, min. 4)**

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

**Meeting Location:** Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, but before the main overlook (from Glenwood St turn to enter Hawk Ridge on East Skyline Pkwy, once gravel road starts - drive approx. 0.2 miles, park on the same side of road as the porta-potty/wood chip pile & meet Margie on roadside)

**Meeting Time:** 5 programs offered: Sat. 9/16 & Sun. 9/17 7:30 or 9pm; Mon. 9/18 7:30pm

**Duration:** 1-1.5 hours (short walk, observing)

**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 live owls, 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.

**Leader(s):** Hawk Ridge Staff

**Songbird Banding Workshop BOTH WORKSHOPS ARE FULL (email [jlong@hawkridge.org](mailto:jlong@hawkridge.org) for waitlist)**

**Saturday, September 16 – Sunday, September 17, 2023 (LIMIT 15/program)**

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

**Meeting Location:** Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, but before the main overlook (from Glenwood St turn to enter Hawk Ridge on East Skyline Pkwy, once gravel road starts - drive approx. 0.2 miles, park on the same side of road as the porta-potty/wood chip pile & meet Margie on roadside)

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 am      **Duration:** 1-2 hours (short walk, observing)

**Description:** Songbird migration is a fascinating sequence of birds moving through in the fall. Participants will have an exciting opportunity to see all aspects of the songbird banding process in action, what colorful birds are moving through, as well as how banding provides valuable research tools for bird conservation.

**Leader:** Margie Menzies

**Advanced Hawk Watching Workshop – SATURDAY WORKSHOP IS FULL**

**Saturday, September 16 & Sunday, September 17, 2023 (LIMIT 35/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 (if inclement weather, program will be moved indoors down the road to Lester-Amity Chalet, 2940 Seven Bridges Rd)

**Meeting Time:** Sat. 9/16 @ 1pm – OR - Sun. 9/17 @ 11am) **Duration:** 45-60 min (seated program)

**Description:** The Advanced Hawk Watching Workshop will cover the many raptor identification 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

## **SPEAKER & FIELD TRIP LEADER BIOS**

**Erik Bruhnke** has loved birds since he was a child looking at chickadees. He graduated from Northland College in Wisconsin with a Natural Resources degree in 2008 and taught field ornithology at Northland College for three semesters. Throughout college and shortly after, he spent his summers conducting field research focused on breeding bird transects in Upper Michigan, point counts for a breeding bird atlas in Minnesota and Wisconsin's Northwoods, vegetation and breeding bird surveys throughout wind farms in North Dakota's prairie potholes, and cavity-nesting surveys in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. He educated visitors about raptor identification throughout six fall seasons at Hawk Ridge, where he caught the lifelong hawkwatching bug. Following Hawk Ridge, he counted migrating raptors at the Corpus Christi HawkWatch in Texas in 2015; and was the 2016, 2017, and 2018 hawk counter at the Cape May Hawkwatch in New Jersey. Erik's wildlife photography has won national awards, and he's written for the American Birding Association's Birder's Guide, BirdWatching magazine, and Bird Watcher's Digest. Erik is a birding tour guide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours as well as his own business, Naturally Avian. He enjoys hiking, kayaking, ice skating, and being out in the snow. In his free time he loves to cook and bake, often following the recipes of his Omas and Opas. Erik is looking forward to helping people connect to the magic of migration at Hawk Ridge this fall!

**David Carman** is a lifelong birder and hawkwatcher, who has assisted with the fall counts at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve for over 30 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.

**Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus** is the Head Naturalist with the Friends of Sax-Zim Bog, serves as a board member of the Duluth Audubon Society, teaches courses for MN Master Naturalist, and has led education programs at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in a variety of roles from 2014-18. He has a degree in Environmental Biology from St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona and a Master's Degree in Environmental Education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Clinton has an affinity for every and all species in the region!

**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".

**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.

**Dr. Laurie Goodrich** directs Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association's Conservation Science program, overseeing six staff and coordinating science work with Hawk Mountain's ongoing programs in education and stewardship. She also oversees Hawk Mountain's Conservation Science Traineeship program that hosts 12 or more students from across the globe annually. She served as interim Director of Education from 2010 to 2014 and Biologist from 1984 to 2019. Currently, she co-leads research on the migration ecology of the Broad-winged Hawk, collaborates with three other avian science organizations to derive population trends for North American raptors, e.g., Raptor Population Index. Laurie helped establish the world-renowned Veracruz River of Raptors raptor conservation site in Mexico and serves as a science advisor today. She launched a citizen-science initiative to monitor and conserve farmland raptors in 2012 and recently co-led efforts to assess Northern Goshawk populations across Pennsylvania and helped launch a new raptor migration watchsite in Colombia in 2020. Laurie received her Ph.D. in Ecology from Penn State University in 2010 on the stopover behavior and ecology of autumn-migrating raptors and a M.S. in Ecology from Rutgers University in 1982 on Least Terns. She is an elected member and Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and serves on the Board of the Hawk Migration Association of North America, and on the Ornithological Technical Committee of Pennsylvania Biological Survey.

**Margie Menzies** is a lifelong naturalist, educator, and lover of birds, rocks and all things of the natural world. She spent years in the formal classroom as a science teacher but 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 the Education Director at Hawk Ridge. She has a passion for birds and has been involved in songbird banding for more than 25 years. She has served as the naturalist at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center up the North Shore in Schroeder, MN and 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.

**Bill Tefft** is a 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.