

## RESEARCH & PROGRAMS

### BIRD MIGRATION COUNT RESEARCH

We continue to invest in the long-term monitoring and study (50+ years) of the astounding bird migration each fall and spring. The dedicated count staff tallied nearly 86,300 raptors (hawks, falcons, eagles) of 18 different species, as well as 257,000+ other migrating birds of 175+ species collectively during our spring and fall migration. Highlights included Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Mississippi Kite (fall) Short-eared Owl (fall), new record season counts Turkey Vulture (spring), Bald & Golden Eagle (fall). Above 10-yr average numbers were counted both this spring and fall for Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, & Rough-legged Hawk (fall).



*Golden Eagle – new fall season record high & first season over 300!*

### BIRD BANDING RESEARCH

We continue to invest in bird banding research to further bird conservation efforts. Over 2200 raptors (including 923 owls) were banded by the excellent fall raptor banding crew in fall 2023! Highlights included Boreal Owls & Short-eared Owl (first in 5 seasons)! Sharp-shinned Hawks & Northern Saw-whet Owls are the 2 raptors we band in largest numbers. Amazing volunteers at Hawk Ridge led the summer MAPS research project and fall banding. Nearly 2200 passerines of over 60 species were banded this fall! Highlights included Wood Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, Scarlet Tanager, first record of House Finch and high numbers of Hermit Thrushes, Swainson's Thrushes, and American Redstarts.



*33 Boreal Owls banded in 2024!*

### TRAINING PROGRAM & RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

We continue to invest in training and research opportunities for the future of bird conservation. We hired our first full-time Research Director, Emily Pavlovic in August to help further all bird research efforts! Three trainees & two bird banding apprentices learned new skills during their professional training field experience this fall. We conducted the first year of our research project "Linking Breeding and Migratory Bird Populations in MN" made possible by the MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).



*Banding Apprentices, Sarah & Jess, and Trainee, Phil with banded Blue Jays*



*New Hawk Ridge Research Director, Emily Pavlovic, with Rough-legged Hawk*

## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

We continue to invest in providing education opportunities for all ages and abilities. The Hawk Ridge Education team taught over 250 formal programs in 2024, reaching nearly 5500 participants of all ages! This includes school/private groups, public programs, outreach events, and international birding tours (Colombia & Tanzania in 2025!). Thousands of visitors at Hawk Ridge shared in the magic of migration with us and learned through our live bird education demos (200+ reaching over 7000 people), migration interpretation, and kid's cart activities. Our volunteer program continues to engage people in our community with much appreciated time and talent – over 1700 hours were recorded in fall 2024 at Hawk Ridge. Thank you to all staff and volunteers for your time and talent!



*Trainee, Arzu, teaching about Northern Harriers in live bird demo*

### HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL & HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION 50<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE

We continue to invest in connecting visitors to the amazing migration! Visitors and supporters enjoyed our annual Hawk Weekend festival in September and the Hawk Migration Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference we hosted in November. Attendees from throughout the U.S. and several countries participated in birding field trips, workshops, and learned about bird research & education efforts from many wonderful presenters. The Hawk Ridge Lifetime Achievement award was presented to long-time hawkwatch volunteer (25 years!) & member, Russ Edmonds. It was a wonderful weekend and we hope you can join us for Hawk Weekend Sept. 19-21, 2025!



*Volunteer, Russ Edmonds with Lifetime Achievement Award & Exec. Director, Janelle Long*

### STEWARDSHIP OF HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE

We continue to invest in our beautiful site - Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve (HRNR). Volunteers helped lead site stewardship efforts, including trail maintenance and invasive species control. With the City of Duluth, we will be kicking off the first phase of our HRNR Facilities Plan. Thanks to funding through MN LCCMR/ENRTF, we will add a new accessible trail loop in 2026! This multi-phase project includes much needed site improvements for accessibility, education programs, and visitor safety. Thank you!



*Naturalist, Lydia, teaching kids at Hawk Ridge*