

## RESEARCH & PROGRAMS

### BIRD MIGRATION COUNT RESEARCH

We completed the 54<sup>th</sup> consecutive Hawk Ridge fall bird migration count (Aug 15-Nov 30) and 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive spring count on West Skyline (Mar 1-May 31)! The dedicated count staff tallied an annual total of 68,288 raptors of 17 different species, as well as 228,000+ other migrating birds of 160+ species collectively during our spring and fall migration. Highlights included Red-shouldered Hawk (spring), Swainson's Hawk (fall), Mississippi Kite (fall), new record season counts Turkey Vulture (spring), Peregrine Falcon (spring), Merlin (fall), and new state high count for Blue Jays (15,280 on 9/10!). Above 10-yr average numbers were counted both this spring and fall for Turkey Vulture, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Merlin, & Peregrine Falcon. New Ulvang Memorial Fund for count & banding research established in 2025!



*Merlin –fall season record high of 402!*

### BIRD BANDING RESEARCH

We also completed the 54<sup>th</sup> consecutive fall season of raptor banding research! Over 2,200 raptors (including 1300+ owls!) were banded by the excellent fall raptor banding team in fall 2025! Highlights included 4 Bald Eagles, 1 Swainson's Hawk, & 15 American Goshawks. Nearly 2,100 passerines (songbirds) of close to 70 species were banded during the summer MAPS project and fall banding. Highlights included Eastern Whip-poor-will, Yellow Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Northern Cardinal, Blue-headed Vireos, Wood Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, & Lapland Longspur.



*Trainees – Gabby, Loreen, & Soren at Hawk Ridge*

### TRAINING PROGRAM & RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

We continue to invest in training and research opportunities for the future generations of bird conservation. Another wonderful crew of 3 trainees & 2 bird banding apprentices learned new skills during their professional training field experience this fall. We conducted the second 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), including transmitter deployment on first American Goshawk.



*Bander, Sarah, with 1 of 4 Bald Eagles Banded in 2025!*



*American Goshawk with transmitter*

## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

The enthusiastic Hawk Ridge education team taught nearly 700 programs in 2025, reaching approx. 10,700 participants of all ages! This includes 300 formal group programs for close to 5,500 students from schools (pre-K-college), as well as private/public programs, outreach events, and international birding tours (Colombia & Tanzania in 2025!). The magic of migration was experienced through our live bird education demos (nearly 200 reaching over 5,000 people), migration interpretation, and kid's cart activities. We couldn't do all of this without the support of our amazing volunteers throughout our community. Over 60 volunteers donated an incredible 2,500+ hours in 2025 with Hawk Ridge. Thank you to all staff and volunteers for your time and talent! Thank you to our members & donors for your support!



*Naturalist, Logan, teaching about Sharp-shinned Hawks in program*

### HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL & EVERYONE CAN BIRD EVENTS

We celebrated the migration with many visitors and supporters during our annual Hawk Weekend festival in September. Attendees from throughout the U.S. and several countries participated in birding field trips, workshops, and enjoyed the wonderful keynote presentation on Rough-legged Hawk research by Dr. Neil Paprocki. The Hawk Ridge Volunteer Appreciation Award was presented to long-time volunteer, Mary Gabrys. In October, we hosted the partnered Everyone Can Bird event with emphasis on making birding accessible for everyone. Both were wonderful events! We hope you can join us for Hawk Weekend Sept. 18-20<sup>th</sup> and we are hosting the Raptor Research Foundation 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Duluth, MN October 26-30, 2026!



*Volunteer Appreciation Award 2025 presented to Mary Gabrys (middle) by Margie (right) and Janelle (left)*



*1,251 N. Saw-whet Owls banded in 2025!*

### STEWARDSHIP OF HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE

We continue to manage and serve as stewards of Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. We appreciate all the volunteers and service groups that came out to maintain trails, pick up litter, invasive control, repairs, and more! We are working with partners on the creation of the Lester-Amity-Hawk Ridge Duluth Natural Area. We also continue working with the City of Duluth on the Hawk Ridge Facilities Improvement project for site improvements for accessibility, education programs, and visitor safety. Thanks to funding through MN LCCMR/ENRTF, we will add a new accessible trail loop in 2026!