



Fall Migration Count Apprenticeship

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory

Location: Duluth, MN

Position Dates: August 27th-October 31st 2026

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve is one of the premier fall bird migration sites in North America. Raptor migration research and education have been conducted at the site for over 50 years! Annual fall averages include 60,000 raptors and 200,000+ passerines/other birds counted and approximately 2,500 raptors banded. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (HRBO) in Duluth, MN is the non-profit organization that manages and provides bird research and education at the nature reserve. The fall research and education staff of HRBO are key representatives in HRBO's mission of promoting conservation of raptors and other birds in the Western Lake Superior Region through research, education, and stewardship.

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory is offering **one Fall Migration Count Apprenticeship** to someone seeking to train and gain skills in bird identification and systematic migration counts. Training will focus on both raptor and non-raptor identification as well as morning flight counts. The apprentice will train with lead count staff with extensive knowledge and expertise in the field.

Qualifications:

- At least 1 prior position/training/seasonal field experience with hawkwatching.
- An intent to continue to pursue a career or higher-level education related to ornithology.
- Apprentice must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and personal vehicle for transportation.

Stipend: \$400 per week; lodging provided if available

This is a volunteer opportunity with a stipend to cover food and general expenses. The anticipated schedule for this position is Saturday-Wednesday with Thursday and Friday off each week. Flexibility is always needed in field work!

To apply for the Count Apprenticeship, please go to [APPLY](#) and submit the application form. You will attach your cover letter and resume through that link. **Applications are due March 27th at midnight CDT and applicants will be notified of their application status by April 3rd.**

Please include in your cover letter and/or resume:

1. A description of the skills you hope to obtain through the count apprenticeship program
2. A description of your educational and/or career goals upon completion of your apprenticeship
3. A description of courses/training and/or work experiences relevant to bird identification

For further information, please visit our website at www.hawkridge.org. For questions, please email research@hawkridge.org or call (218) 428-1479.