



## **Fall Owl Bander**

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory

**Location:** Duluth, MN

**Position Dates:** August 27th-November 10th, 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.

HRBO is seeking **two experienced Owl Banders for the 2026 fall season**. Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve is a prime site for nocturnal owl migration in the fall with seasonal owl banding totals ranging from 600-1500 birds. Primary owl species banded are Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls. Other owls may include Barred, Great Horned, and other northern species. While both owl banders will perform much of the same duties, one will coordinate **outreach/training** and the other will coordinate **data management/research projects**. Please indicate in the application whether you wished to be considered for one or both positions.

### **Primary duties:**

- Daily operations of owl banding (opening and closing nets, net checks, banding, data management, research projects).
- Providing verbal & written summary reports (monthly and end of season reports).
- Training and direct daily supervision of banding apprentices, trainees, and volunteers.

### **Qualifications:**

- At least two seasons of previous mist-netting and banding experience.
- Ability to tolerate working long hours outdoors in varying conditions (cold, wind).
- Must work well independently and as a team (staff, volunteers, trainees/apprentices).
- Good interpersonal skills and willingness to interact with education program participants.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and personal vehicle for transportation.

**Compensation:** 2 weeks of pre-season training at up to 40 hours/week starting at \$15.75/ hour (Aug 27-Sept 14). Seasonal salary for owl banding season from Sept 15 - Nov 10 is approximately \$3000 per month. Lodging provided, if available.

To apply for the Owl Bander position, please go to [APPLY](#) to 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.**

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