



Fall Raptor Bander

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 seeking one experienced Raptor Bander for the 2025 fall season. Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve is a prime site for raptor migration in the fall with an average of 1800 diurnal raptors banded. Primary species banded are Sharp-shinned Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Merlins, Northern Harriers, Cooper's Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks. Other raptors may include Northern Goshawks, Peregrine Falcons, Broad-winged Hawks, Bald Eagles, and Golden Eagles. This is a **seasonal full-time position from August 27th – October 31st, 2026** with potential for pre/post extension.

Primary duties:

- Daily operations of raptor trapping and banding (opening and closing nets, net checks, banding, recording data).
- Collecting data for banding research projects as requested by research staff.

Qualifications:

- At least two seasons (preferably more) 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).
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and personal vehicle for transportation.

Compensation: Pre/post work is hourly starting at \$15.75/hour. Seasonal salary from Aug 27th-Oct 31st is approximately \$3000 per month. Lodging provided, if available.

To apply for the Raptor 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. For questions, please email research@hawkridge.org or call (218) 428-1479.