



Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch
A Project of the Saint John Naturalists' Club

2012 Annual Report



Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch

Presented to the
Annual General Meeting of the Saint John Naturalists' Club
Rockwood Park, Saint John, NB
July 13, 2013

The 2012 Final Report of the Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch (GMHW) has been published on the Club's web site. It was submitted to the NB Wildlife Trust Fund as per the conditions of its contribution to the GMHW project. It has also been shared with the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) and other interested parties.

Highlights of the 2012 Final Report

- The fourth season for the GMHW built on the successes of earlier years by successfully continuing to build on its conservation, engagement and education objectives.
- Volunteer observers contributed more hours (572.75) in support of the project than ever before.
- Important conservation data were shared with researchers, decision makers in government, the naturalist community and the general public.
- Thirteen species of hawks totalling 3,979 individual birds were observed during 257 hours of observation taking place on 45 days. This is the second highest total observed at the watch.
- Broad-winged Hawks continued to dominate the numbers with 2,100 being recorded. Sharp-shinned Hawks were the next most numerous with 602, followed by Red-tailed Hawks with 332. Ospreys (245) and Turkey Vultures (239) vaulted over American Kestrels (173), a species noted to be in decline across its range.
- The observations reinforced the importance of the Fundy coast as a major migration corridor for this region's raptors. They are beginning to demonstrate seasonal trends which will be important in identifying possible conservation issues in the future.
- An Advanced Raptor Identification/GMHW Workshop held in August was fully subscribed, indicative of the level of public interest in raptors, their conservation and the GMHW.
- Media coverage and the ongoing efforts of the official counter, Todd Watts, to engage and inform the public locally and through the Nature NB listserv further supported outreach objectives.
- The success of the project continues to be largely a result of the skills and dedication of the Official Counter, Todd Watts. While the project benefitted by the support of the NB Wildlife Trust Fund, we were able to compensate Todd for only a portion of his actual time spent in public awareness efforts, observation, recording and reporting as well as on administrative activities.

The GMHW in 2013

Through the generous support of the NB Wildlife Trust Fund, private donations and the SJNC's fundraising efforts, the project will:

- Continue in 2013 with a similar program as for 2012
- Hold a second Advanced Raptor Identification Workshop.
- Build volunteer base and continue raising awareness through a variety of strategies.

Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch Yearly Count Totals

Species	Year 2012	Year 2011	Year 2010	Year 2009
Turkey Vulture	239	144	90	99
Osprey	245	132	151	111
Bald Eagle	50	44	52	46
Golden Eagle	0	1	0	0
Northern Harrier	61	60	76	39
Sharp-shinned Hawk	602	848	661	593
Cooper's Hawk	13	11	14	11
Northern Goshawk	9	19	11	13
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	7	10	5
Broad-winged Hawk	2100	5835	2240	1457
Red-tailed Hawk	332	241	222	152
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0
American Kestrel	173	199	193	129
Merlin	48	33	43	38
Peregrine Falcon	23	24	24	13
Gyr Falcon	0	1	0	0
Unidentified Accipiter	3	2	5	1
Unidentified Buteo	2	4	5	3
Unidentified Falcon	4	2	3	1
Unidentified Eagle	1	0	1	3
Unidentified Raptor	69	65	88	55
Total	3979	7672	3889	2769
Hours	257	258	266.25	256.75

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