



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

2013 Annual Report



Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch

Presented to the
Annual General Meeting of the Saint John Naturalists' Club
Irving Nature Park, Saint John, NB
June 14, 2014

The 2013 Final Report of the Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch (GMHW) has been published on the Club's web site <http://saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org/GMHWReport2013.pdf>. 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 2013 Final Report

- The fifth season for the GMHW built on the successes of earlier years by successfully continuing to build on its conservation, engagement and education objectives.
- The Hawk Migration Association of North America identified the GMHW as a "major site" given the numbers of hours of observation and its importance in the HMANA network. The site has also become a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network of Bird Studies Canada.
- Volunteers contributed more hours (590) in support of the project than ever before with at least 38 different volunteers visiting the watch one or more times.
- Important conservation data were shared with researchers, decision makers in government, the naturalist community and the general public.
- Thirteen species of hawks totalling 6,841 individual birds were observed during 259.5 hours of observation taking place on 38 days. This is the second highest total observed at the watch.
- Broad-winged Hawks continued to dominate the numbers with 5,405 being recorded. Sharp-shinned Hawks were the next most numerous with 520, followed by American Kestrels (200), Turkey Vultures (173), Ospreys (166) and Red-tailed Hawks with 132.
- 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.
- 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 and private donations, 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 2014

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

- Continue in 2014 with a similar program as for 2013
- Hold a third Advanced Raptor Identification Workshop.
- Build volunteer base and continue raising awareness through a variety of strategies.
- Develop a specific education component with possible additional funding from a local foundation.

Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch – Yearly Count Totals

Species	Year 2013	Year 2012	Year 2011	Year 2010	Year 2009	Average 2009-2013
Turkey Vulture	173	239	144	90	99	149
Osprey	166	245	132	151	111	161
Bald Eagle	41	50	44	52	46	47
Golden Eagle	0	0	1	0	0	<1
Northern Harrier	52	61	60	76	39	58
Sharp-shinned Hawk	520	602	848	661	593	645
Cooper's Hawk	9	13	11	14	11	12
Northern Goshawk	15	9	19	11	13	13
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	5	7	10	5	6
Broad-winged Hawk	5405	2100	5835	2240	1457	3407
Red-tailed Hawk	132	332	241	222	152	216
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Kestrel	200	173	199	193	129	179
Merlin	42	48	33	43	38	41
Peregrine Falcon	12	23	24	24	13	19
Gyrfalcon	0	0	1	0	0	<1
Unidentified Accipiter	0	3	2	5	1	2
Unidentified Buteo	0	2	4	5	3	3
Unidentified Falcon	4	4	2	3	1	3
Unidentified Eagle	1	1	0	1	3	1
Unidentified Raptor	66	69	65	88	55	69
Total	6841	3979	7672	3889	2769	5030
Observation Hours	259.5	257	258	266.25	256.75	259.5

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