

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



2014 Annual Report



Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch

Presented to the Annual General Meeting of the
Saint John Naturalists' Club
Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre, Saint John, NB
June 13, 2015

The 2014 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), NB naturalists on the NatureNB listserv and other interested parties.

Highlights of the 2014 Final Report

- The sixth season for the GMHW built on the work of earlier years by successfully continuing to build on its conservation, engagement and education objectives.
- Volunteer observers and administrators contributed 608 hours in support of the project with 34 volunteer observers 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.
- A record 16 species of hawks were observed during 257.75 hours of observation taking place on 40 days. Only 3,094 raptors in total were logged, the second lowest number on record.
- Broad-winged Hawks continued to dominate the numbers with 1,704 being recorded. Sharp-shinned Hawks were the next most numerous with 496, followed by Turkey Vultures (197), American Kestrels (155) and Red-tailed Hawks (148) and Ospreys with 130 (see table below).
- Two new species were added this year, a Snowy Owl and a Swainson's Hawk.
- 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 that will be important in identifying possible conservation issues in the future.
- Word was received from the Sir James Dunn Foundation that it will provide support in 2015.
- A well-attended club field trip visited the watch during the peak Broad-winged movement.
- 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 2015

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

- Continue in 2015 with a similar program as for 2014.
- Hold an Advanced Raptor Identification Workshop.
- Support the Nature NB staff in the preparation of a Young Naturalist Newsletter on raptors.
- Lead at least two field trips to the watch.
- Build its volunteer base and continue raising awareness through a variety of strategies.
- Continue to seek additional funders in support of long-term sustainability.
- Initiate efforts with the Nature Trust of NB for the long-term protection of the site.

Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch – Yearly Count Totals

| Species | Year 2014 | Year 2013 | Year 2012 | Year 2011 | Year 2010 | Year 2009 | Average 2009-2013 |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Turkey Vulture | 197 | 173 | 239 | 144 | 90 | 99 | 157 |
| Osprey | 130 | 166 | 245 | 132 | 151 | 111 | 156 |
| Bald Eagle | 42 | 41 | 50 | 44 | 52 | 46 | 46 |
| Golden Eagle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | <1 |
| Northern Harrier | 63 | 52 | 61 | 60 | 76 | 39 | 59 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 496 | 520 | 602 | 848 | 661 | 593 | 620 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 6 | 9 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 11 | 11 |
| Northern Goshawk | 12 | 15 | 9 | 19 | 11 | 13 | 13 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 1704 | 5405 | 2100 | 5835 | 2240 | 1457 | 3124 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 148 | 132 | 332 | 241 | 222 | 152 | 205 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Swainson's Hawk | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <1 |
| American Kestrel | 155 | 200 | 173 | 199 | 193 | 129 | 179 |
| Merlin | 44 | 42 | 48 | 33 | 43 | 38 | 41 |
| Peregrine Falcon | 24 | 12 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 13 | 20 |
| Gyr Falcon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | <1 |
| Snowy Owl | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <1 |
| Unidentified Accipiter | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Unidentified Buteo | 3 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Unidentified Falcon | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Unidentified Eagle | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Unidentified Raptor | 60 | 66 | 69 | 65 | 88 | 55 | 67 |
| Unidentified Owl | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <1 |
| Total | 3094 | 6841 | 3979 | 7672 | 3889 | 2769 | 4707 |
| Observation Hours | 257.75 | 259.5 | 257 | 258 | 266.25 | 256.75 | 259.2 |

Supported by:



The Sir James Dunn Foundation

**SJNC Members and other Naturalists through
Fundraising and Workshops**

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