

Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch

A Project of the Saint John Naturalists' Club



2015 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 18, 2016

The 2015 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 2015 Final Report

- The seventh 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 569 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.
- Fourteen species of hawks were observed during 264.75 hours of observation taking place on 42 days. The Official Observer logged 5,225 raptors, the third highest number on record.
- Broad-winged Hawks continued to dominate the numbers with 3,791 being recorded. On September 24, over 400 Broad-wings were recorded in only a few minutes. Sharp-shinned Hawks were the next most numerous with 524 (see table below).
- 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.
- The Sir James Dunn Foundation provided financial support that allowed us to reduce our dependence on the NBWTF in 2015. The grant also allowed for a special "Raptors" issue of "Nature Kids", Nature NB's youth magazine.
- 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, the Sir James Dunn Foundation 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 2016

Through the generous support of the NBWTF, private donations and fundraising efforts, the project will:

- Continue in 2016 with a similar program as for 2015.
- Offer Hawk Identification Workshop(s)
- 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.

Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch – Yearly Count Totals

Species	Year 2015	Year 2014	Year 2013	Year 2012	Year 2011	Year 2010	Year 2009	Average 2009-2015
Turkey Vulture	218	197	173	239	144	90	99	166
Osprey	132	130	166	245	132	151	111	152
Bald Eagle	58	42	41	50	44	52	46	47
Golden Eagle	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	<1
Northern Harrier	76	63	52	61	60	76	39	61
Sharp-shinned Hawk	524	496	520	602	848	661	593	606
Cooper's Hawk	7	6	9	13	11	14	11	10
Northern Goshawk	11	12	15	9	19	11	13	13
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	2	3	5	7	10	5	5
Broad-winged Hawk	3791	1704	5405	2100	5835	2240	1457	3219
Red-tailed Hawk	106	148	132	332	241	222	152	190
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swainson's Hawk	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<1
American Kestrel	158	155	200	173	199	193	129	172
Merlin	35	44	42	48	33	43	38	40
Peregrine Falcon	24	24	12	23	24	24	13	21
Gyr Falcon	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<1
Snowy Owl	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<1
Unidentified Accipiter	6	1	0	3	2	5	1	3
Unidentified Buteo	1	3	0	2	4	5	3	3
Unidentified Falcon	6	3	4	4	2	3	1	3
Unidentified Eagle	2	0	1	1	0	1	3	1
Unidentified Raptor	68	60	66	69	65	88	55	67
Unidentified Owl	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<1
Total	5225	3094	6841	3979	7672	3889	2760	4781
Observation Hours	262.75	275.75	259.5	257	258	266.25	256.75	259.7

Supported by:



**The Sir James Dunn Foundation
SJNC Members and other Naturalists through
Fundraising and Workshops
Private Donors**

Our project is funded in part by the NB Wildlife Trust Fund. The NBWTF obtains a portion of its revenue from the purchase of conservation plates by NB residents who are interested in conservation. Seven dollars from each plate goes to the fund annually. These funds are awarded by the Minister of Natural Resources following review and recommendation by an independent board of 17 volunteers. Revenue from license plates is critical in furthering conservation efforts, so please consider purchasing conservation plates with your next car purchase (or trading in your current plates now) to enable the NBWTF to continue to provide financial support for worthy wildlife projects.