

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



2016 Annual Report

Presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Saint John Naturalists' Club  
Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre, Saint John, NB  
June 17, 2017

The 2016 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 NB naturalists on the NatureNB listserv and other interested parties.

Highlights of the 2016 Final Report

- The eighth 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 571.5 hours in support of the project with 33 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.
- Fifteen species of hawks were observed during 324.25 hours of observation taking place on 46 days. The Official Counter logged 8,609 raptors, the highest number on record.
- Broad-winged Hawks continued to dominate the numbers with a record 6,990 being recorded. On September 22, 4,380 hawks were counted, a record. The species counts are attached.
- 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.
- 2016 marked the first of three years of funding support from the Environmental Damages Fund. These resources allowed for an expansion by 25% of observation hours to better understand the extent of migration during less-than-optimal weather conditions. As well, the EDF allowed for an assistant counter on Deer Island in an effort to determine the extent of migration south of the GMHW and using the Fundy Isles as a corridor. Results of this work will be published at the conclusion of the three-year funding period.
- Two well-attended club field trips visited the watch during the peak Broad-winged movement.
- A small viewing platform was constructed by the Official Counter, which significantly improved safety, comfort and communications with volunteers. A new high-quality spotting scope improved the Official Counter's ability to spot and identify migrating raptors.
- The success of the project continues to be largely a result of the skills and dedication of the Official Counter, Todd Watts. Todd tirelessly contributes his time and knowledge toward 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 2017 with a similar program as for 2016, including the expanded activities under the EDF.
- 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 2016	Year 2015	Year 2014	Year 2013	Year 2012	Year 2011	Year 2010	Year 2009	Average 2009-2015
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	249**	218	197	173	239	144	90*	99	176
<b>Osprey</b>	110*	132	130	166	245	132	151	111*	147
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	92**	58	42	41*	50	44	52	46	53
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	2**	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	<1
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	120**	76	63	52	61	60	76	39*	68
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	514	524	496*	520	602	848**	661	593	595
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	16**	7	6*	9	13	11	14	11	11
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	22**	11	12	15	9*	19	11	13	14
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>	3	1*	2	3	5	7	10**	5	5
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	6990**	3791	1704	5405	2100	5835	2240	1457	3690
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	211	106*	148	132	332	241**	222	152	193
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	1**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<1
<b>Swainson's Hawk</b>	0	0	1**	0	0	0	0	0	<1
<b>American Kestrel</b>	147	158	155	200**	173	199	193	129*	169
<b>Merlin</b>	34	35	44	42	48**	33*	43	38	40
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	11*	24**	24	12	23	24	24	13	19
<b>Gyrfalcon</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1**	0	0	<1
<b>Snowy Owl</b>	0	0	1**	0	0	0	0	0	<1
<b>Unidentified Accipiter</b>	7	6	1	0	3	2	5	1	3
<b>Unidentified Buteo</b>	2	1	3	0	2	4	5	3	3
<b>Unidentified Falcon</b>	4	6	3	4	4	2	3	1	3
<b>Unidentified Eagle</b>	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	3	1
<b>Unidentified Raptor</b>	73	68	60	66	69	65	88	55	68
<b>Unidentified Owl</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8609**</b>	<b>5225</b>	<b>3094*</b>	<b>6841</b>	<b>3979</b>	<b>7672</b>	<b>3889</b>	<b>2760</b>	<b>5259</b>
<b>Observation Hours</b>	<b>324.25</b>	<b>262.75</b>	<b>275.75</b>	<b>259.5</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>266.25</b>	<b>256.75</b>	<b>270</b>

\*\* Record high count  
\* Record low count

### Supported by:



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**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 to enable the NBWTF to continue to provide financial support for worthy wildlife projects.*