



RAPTOR REVIEW

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Psalms 24:1a

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Donor Recognition

Bill and Margaret
Fast Family
Foundation

Dr. Marv Goossen

Irwin and Irene Pauls

Paul and Valorie
Goossen

Recognize these raptor photographers?

(See Pg. 2)



Photo by J.P.Goossen

2010 MIGRATION RECORD COUNT - AGAIN !

Last year's (2009) spring raptor count in the Pembina Valley exceeded expectations when over 10,000 raptors were counted setting a new record high for Manitoba's premiere hawk and eagle migration corridor. Who would have thought that this year's count would set a new record and not just by a few raptors!

Counters were not disappointed as by season's end 1,200 Bald Eagles and a record 95 Golden Eagle were counted. The 2010 count began in late February - the earliest start in the history of the Pembina Valley count. This jumpstart gave observers a better opportunity to count early migrating Bald and Golden eagles.

For the counters, starting in late February meant many hours watching the winter sky and being rewarded by only a few or no birds for the day's effort. This persistence, however, en-



Photo by Jake Hiebert

A Sharp-shinned Hawk in migration over the Pembina Valley.

abled A Rocha to confirm that both Golden and Bald eagles begin migrating into Manitoba earlier than has previously been reported. Another surprise was Sharp-shinned

Hawk numbers (900) which more than doubled last year's count. These small hawks nest mostly in the boreal forest and prey on small songbirds.

Red-tailed Hawk numbers as usual dominated the count with nearly 8,300 tallied. Turkey Vultures and Northern Harriers also put in a good showing with final totals of 190 and 141, respectively. In total, counters spent about 370 h over 49 days at the count site in 2010 resulting in a final count of over 11,000 raptors.

A Rocha is hoping that the Pembina Valley can soon be recognized as an Important Bird Area. Efforts are being made to gain this recognition for Manitoba's key spring "raptor highway".

WHY COUNT HAWKS?

Good question! People love to count. We count money, crowds, kilometres, crop yields and blessings. We learn at an early age that numbers are important and necessary in life.

People also count birds. There are Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, Great Backyard Counts and the list goes on. People also count hawks, eagles and other raptors. In fact, in North America there are over 200 hawk migration

count site locations ranging from Mexico to Canada. One of these of course is the Pembina Valley (Windygates) site. Each year scores of people visit the valley to watch the annual spring migration ritual. Why do they come? For many it is





We need your help!

Why not give a tax-deductible donation to support the 2011 A Rocha Pembina Valley Spring Raptor Count?

DONATE ONLINE!

www.canadahelps.org
(Enter A Rocha Canada and choose Pembina Valley Raptor Migration Project)

Counting on you!



2010 Pembina Valley Spring Raptor Migration Count

Species	No.
Turkey Vulture	190
Osprey	2
Bald Eagle	1208
Northern Harrier	141
Sharp-shinned Hawk	919
Cooper's Hawk	76
Northern Goshawk	25
Swainson's Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	8274
Rough-legged Hawk	40
Golden Eagle	95
American Kestrel	15
Merlin	34
Peregrine Falcon	1
Unidentified	32
Total	11, 057

**RAPTOR PHOTOGRAPHERS:
JAKE AND RUTH HIEBERT**

Jake and Ruth Hiebert have a passion for pixels. Both love photography and their repertoire of 13,000 photos are evidence of their keen interest in their hobby. Jake bought his first camera and long lens in his 20s. He was soon into nature photography and has never looked back. Asked why he enjoys photography, Jake says he loves composing shots and capturing some of God's creation. He gets satisfaction if he can take a picture of what people see everyday and show it in a different light.



Photo by Ruth Hiebert



Photo by J. P. Goossen

Jake and Ruth Hiebert with cameras to the sky.

Ruth got her first camera to photograph her expected grandchild. She admits, however, that before that event, she was soon into flower photography. Ruth is quick to note that she and Jake don't compete when it comes to photography; they just like having fun together.

The Hieberts have generously allowed A Rocha to use some of their photographs. A Rocha is grateful for their willingness to share their talents.

For those interested in seeing the photography of the Hieberts go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jakeandruth>. Also check out Ruth's blog at www.ruth-hiebert.blogspot.com.

WHY COUNT HAWKS? (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

spring fever beckoning them out of the winter doldrums to see the return of spring migrants. For birdwatchers, it heralds the beginning of a new season of bird sightings. For researchers, counting raptors means helping to assess North American raptor population. Raptors are one of many links in the ecosystem and their health reflects the health of the

environment. As predators, they are at the top of the food chain and so are vulnerable to harmful chemical loads of their prey. While studying raptors in the 1960s, scientists learned about negative effects DDT has on birds of prey. This was a wake-up call also for effects on human health. We need to remember- a healthy environment is important for healthy living.



Celebrating Al Schritt's 65th birthday in the Pembina Valley. Al and Dorothy have been our primary counters during the past 6 years. Photo by J. P. Goossen

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A Rocha

A Rocha is an international conservation organization working to show God's love for all creation. We work out our commitment to environmental action through community-based conservation projects. Underlying all we do is our biblical faith in God, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to the care of human society.

A Rocha's five characteristics:
Christian, Conservation, Community, Cross-cultural and Cooperation



A ROCHA

Christians In Conservation

We are on the Web!

www.arocha.org