



RAPTOR REVIEW

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

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Grant/Donor Recognition Dec 2011– Nov 2012

Canadian Wildlife Federation

Morden Area Foundation

L. and J. Carlson

B. and M. Fast Family

Foundation

M. and C. Ganczar

M. Giesbrecht

M. Goossen

P. and V. Goossen

D. and A. Roberts

I. and I. Pauls

D. Riley

D. and C. Stobbe

B. and V. Wiebe

Calendar Alert

La Rivière Raptor Festival

April 6, 2013



Photo by J. Paul Goossen

-2012 MIGRATION- WHERE WERE THE RAPTOR?

What a difference a year makes! Last year's spectacular spring flight of over 13,000 birds of prey in the Pembina Valley elated many hawk watchers and put a new record in the books for the valley's raptor migration count. This year, however, was a totally different story.

The 2012 count was the earliest start ever for the Pembina Valley count. Spring fever hit Al Schritt, A Rocha's primary volunteer counter, about mid February. He ventured out to the Valley on the 13th and sighted two migrating Golden Eagles. A decision was made to start the count on the 18th. The Manitoba winter was one of the balmiest in recent memory. As

a result, snow cover was minimal or nonexistent, even in the Valley. Weather appears to have been a major factor influencing the 2012 raptor migration. Nine (60%) of the 15 species



Photo by J. Paul Goossen

Why is Al practicing his golf swing and not counting hawks?

seen had lower counts than in 2011. Eagles, the early birds in the annual spring northern pilgrimage, put in a good showing with 1,102 **Bald Eagles** (down 20 from 2011) and 75 **Golden Eagles** (up 15 from

2011). The most dramatic drop in numbers were that of **Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned hawks** with 76% and 78% fewer individuals, respectively, than in 2011. **Osprey** and **Northern Goshawk** numbers were up while **Peregrine Falcon** numbers (7) were the same as last year. The mild winter and spring weather along with little snow cover appears to have reduced the need for raptors to rely on the Valley's thermals.

The surprise of the season was the **Broad-winged Hawks** which typically are not seen in the Valley during the count period (possibly because they are late migrants). The 2012 count of 181 Broad-winged Hawks was unprecedented.

2012 RAPTOR AWARENESS DAY -A BIG SUCCESS-

The community of La Rivière in Manitoba's Pembina Valley welcomed nearly 250 visitors to A Rocha's Raptor Awareness Day. Displays from various organizations gave visitors an opportunity to learn

about conservation and bird projects. The attractions of the day, however, were the live raptors (two hawks, a kestrel and an owl) brought out by the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre. Expert birders meanwhile, helped visitors

identify migrating raptors. Craft activities for kids, a photo contest and great food helped make for a successful day. Next year's event, the *La Rivière Raptor Festival* will be held on April 6, 2013. It will be put on by La Rivière in association with A Rocha.

Your donation is welcomed!

Please help support the
9th A Rocha Pembina
Valley spring raptor count
in 2013!

Your tax-deductible
donation would be greatly
appreciated.

Send your cheque to A Rocha
Canada (see Contacts below
for address)

or

DONATE ONLINE!

www.arocha.ca

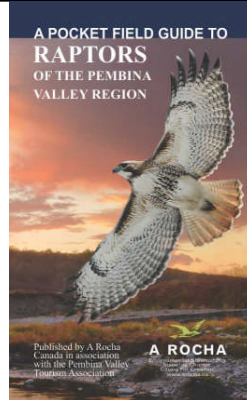
(Click the red Donate button,
find Conservation Projects,
choose The Hawk Watch)

NEW!

RAPTOR GUIDE AND RAPTOR VIDEO RELEASES

Raptor Guide

A Rocha Canada is pleased to announce that it has published, together with the Pembina Valley Tourism Association, "*A Pocket Field Guide to Raptors of the Pembina Valley Region*". This handy booklet is a useful reference guide for beginners and experts to help identify eagles, hawks and falcons that occur in the Pembina Valley Region. Colour photos, a silhouette guide, species descriptions and a checklist of raptor species found in the region makes this unique booklet a must for anyone interested in birds of prey.



Copies of the raptor field guide are available through A Rocha Prairie Canada (see Contacts below). The booklet can also be seen online at: www.birdingmanitoba.com/where-to-watch/western-manitoba/pembina-valley/.

Raptor Videos

Two new videos, highlighting birds of prey, have just been released this fall. "*The World of Raptors*" is an excellent introduction to raptors and will be useful for school children looking for information about raptor habitat, characteristics, threats and conservation. The second video, "*Raptors over the Pembina*" focuses on Manitoba's premiere spring raptor migration in the Pembina Valley and A Rocha's involvement in documenting this annual migration. A Rocha appreciates the funding support received from the Canadian Wildlife Federation for these projects. The videos can be viewed on A Rocha Canada's website at www.arocha.ca/video/.



RAPTOR EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Birds of prey fascinate kids! What better topic than raptors to get youth thinking about concepts such as habitat, food chains, migration and conservation. During the past school year, Paul and Valorie Goossen had the opportunity to introduce the wonderful world of raptors to over 600 students in various venues. Nine elementary schools and a home school group were visited

in southern Manitoba. Besides seeing an informative PowerPoint presentation, students also got to see museum material courtesy of the Manitoba Museum. "*What kind of a raptor are you?*" was a hit activity with kids. Children stretched out their arms along a rope measured off with wingspans of various raptors to see what their "wingspans" compared with. Each child received a copy of "*A Pocket Field Guide to Rap-*

tors of the Pembina Valley Region" and the teacher was given a copy of *Birds of Prey* (Peterson Field Guides for Young Naturalists) for future reference. A presentation was also made at the Prairie Rose School Division Teacher InService.

Paul and Valorie represented A Rocha at the Binney Water Festival near Manitou. Here they had the opportunity to explain to students the importance of wetlands to waterfowl and raptors.

2012 Pembina Valley Spring Raptor Migration Count

Species	No.
Turkey Vulture	44
Osprey	12
Bald Eagle	1102
Northern Harrier	33
Sharp-shinned Hawk	153
Cooper's Hawk	40
Northern Goshawk	21
Broad-winged Hawk	181
Red-tailed Hawk	2,667
Rough-legged Hawk	31
Ferruginous Hawk	1
Golden Eagle	75
American Kestrel	6
Merlin	16
Peregrine Falcon	7
Unidentified	58
Total	4,447

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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



We are on the Web!

www.arocha.org