



RAPTOR REVIEW

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

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Donor Recognition

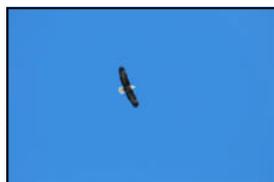
July 2013 – Jan 2014

B. and M. Fast
Family Foundation
M. Goossen
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D. and D. Riley

THANK YOU!

YOU ARE INVITED TO

The La Rivière
Raptor Festival
April 11, 2015



Bald Eagle

-2014 MIGRATION- FINAL COUNT

The 2014 raptor count was not as spectacular as in 2013, never-the-less, it was still a good showing. Raptors were on the move by the third week of February and continued flying well into May.

Collectively, observers, spent 545 hours searching for, observing and counting migrating birds of prey.

Sixteen species were seen in 2014. In total, 11,327 birds of prey were counted, making the 2014 count the third highest in the history of the project.

Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks had the highest counts. **Bald Eagles** had a strong showing with 1,454 birds.

Sharp-shinned Hawks numbered 702 while **Red-tailed Hawks** came in with a final total of 7,720. **Northern Harrier** numbers were relatively average at 122 birds. **Rough-legged Hawks** totalled 72. **Turkey Vultures** numbers were strong at 186 while **Os-**



Photo by J. Paul Goossen

Wintery start to the 2014 count.

prey numbers finished at 52. **Cooper's Hawks** totalled 81, the second highest count for this species in the valley. **Northern Goshawks** had a relatively poor showing with only 16 birds. **Broad-winged**

Hawks numbers (604) were higher than other years except for the 2013 count. **Swainson's Hawk** numbered 15. **Golden Eagle** numbers dropped to 80 from last year's high of 104. **American Kestrels** had their second highest count with a total of 41. **Merlins**, with 40 birds, had their third highest count of the project.

Peregrine Falcon numbers at 73 were lower when compared to last year's amazing count of 210.

The big surprise in 2014 was a **Black Vulture**. This species is new to the Pembina Valley raptor list. Although the project count is officially finished, raptor enthusiasts will continue to visit the Pembina Valley in spring to enjoy watching Manitoba's premiere birds of prey migration.

LIFE AFTER THE RAPTOR COUNT

The 2014 raptor count marks the beginning of the end of A Rocha's raptor migration project. It has been an incredible effort by so many people to help count 99,000 birds of prey over the past 10 years.

With fieldwork completed, now comes the challenge of analyzing, summarizing and publishing the wealth of information collected. These data are the most extensive collected on the spring migration of birds of prey in Manitoba.

The information from this project will be of value to researchers, conservationists and environmental educators. A Rocha hopes the Pembina Valley will continue to be an important migration corridor for raptors and be valued by generations to come.

Your tax-deductible donation is

STILL welcomed!

Please help support the republishing of the raptor guide and the publishing of 10 years of A Rocha Pembina Valley spring raptor counts!

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**)



2014 Pembina Valley Spring Raptor Migration Count

Species	No.
Black Vulture	1
Turkey Vulture	186
Osprey	52
Bald Eagle	1454
Northern Harrier	122
Sharp-shinned Hawk	702
Cooper's Hawk	81
Northern Goshawk	16
Broad-winged Hawk	604
Swainson's Hawk	15
Red-tailed Hawk	7720
Rough-legged Hawk	72
Golden Eagle	80
American Kestrel	41
Merlin	40
Peregrine Falcon	73
Unidentified	68
Total	11,327

THANK YOU!

A Rocha is very grateful for the support and participation of so many people over the life of this 10-year project. The project went beyond counting raptors and included presentations at schools and scientific meetings and Raptor Awareness Day events.

The raptor migration project is a great example of how ordinary citizens can participate in science and make an important contribution to better understanding the natural world. This project has given people a renewed sense of wonder for the biodiversity around them.



Red-tailed Hawk

Many people could be thanked but space will allow for mention of only a few. A key project participant was Al Schritt. Al's dedication and enthusiasm for counting raptors were much appreciated as were his interactions with birders and visitors alike. His love for the valley and birds has inspired many to appreciate the natural beauty of this valley.

Karl Bardon opened our eyes to the world of Red-tailed Hawk morphs. Other folks who helped count included Luc Blanchette, Bob Shettler, Frank Foidart, Ward and Marlene Christianson, Brian Hildebrand, Ruth Hiebert, Raymond Klassen, Cal Klassen, Curt and Melissa Wall, Matt Giesbrecht, Ron Wiebe, Mike Fisher and the late Dorothy Schritt. We thank these folks and many others for their help. A Rocha also thanks Jack Nichol for allowing us the use of his property to spread our lawn chairs and set up our tripods. His visits to the count site were also appreciated. Finally, a big bouquet to the many donors and organizations which supported this project financially. Their support was crucial to its success.

BLACK VULTURE VENTURES NORTH

Raptor watchers got a rare treat this spring when a Black Vulture flew over the Pembina Valley count site. Spotting vultures is not unusual in the Pembina Valley. The Turkey Vulture, known for its scavenging habits, regularly passes through or breeds in southern Manitoba. Its red, bald head and longish tail are good field marks as are the two-toned underwing colour and the dihedral

position of its wings during soaring flight.



Black Vulture in the Pembina Valley

Excitement ran high, on the afternoon of March 30,

when observers at the Pembina Valley count site spotted a Black Vulture winging its way over the valley. Fortunately, cameras were close at hand to snap a few photos before it disappeared from view.

Field marks of the Black Vulture include a greyish head, silvery wing patch and a short square tail. Black Vultures normally are found from southeastern USA to South America. This year's sighting is the first for the Pembina Valley and second for Manitoba.

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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