

## Summary of Raptor Banding Activities at Hitchcock Nature Center Fall, 2009

### Diurnal Banding Season opened 1 September.

First Capture occurred 6 September, a Cooper's Hawk.

Season total of diurnal raptors: 164

- 120 Red-tailed Hawks
- 10 Cooper's Hawks
- 31 Sharp-shinned Hawks
- 1 Peregrine Falcon
- 1 Northern Goshawk
- 1 American Kestrel

### Break down by species

- Red-tailed Hawk are the most numerous species captured. Of the 120 RTHA, 96 were hatch-year birds fledged last summer. Two RTHA were second-year and 22 were after-hatch-year adults. Adult captures increased significantly mid-October as did the occurrence of western subspecies. 29 were of the western subspecies, *B. j. calurus*, 2 were of the harlan's subspecies *B. j. harlanii*, 89 were of the eastern subspecies *B. j. borealis*. There were a couple of examples of intergrades between the subspecies where characteristics of both races were evident. Five were of the dark form or morph, One was a rufous or intermediate morph. We had notification by the Bird Banding Lab that a redtail banded October 2, 2008 was recovered on 15 November of this year in South Dakota near the North Dakota border.
- Of the ten Cooper's Hawks captured, eight were female and two were males. Their age classifications were two hatch-years, one second-year, and seven after-hatch-year. We recaptured a female Cooper's on 26 October that was banded last year on 21 September by us. First capture was 6 September, Last capture was 26 October.
- Thirty-one Sharp-shinned Hawks were banded of which 21 were female and 10 were male. Their age classifications were nineteen hatch-year birds, one second-year, one third-year, and ten after-hatch-year SSHA. First capture was 14 September and last capture was 1 November.
- The American Kestrel captured on 16 September was a female adult.
- The Peregrine Falcon was a female hatch-year captured 1 October.
- The Goshawk was a male hatch-year captured 1 November.

The last day of diurnal banding was 16 November with a redtail being the last raptor banded.

### **Saw-whet Owl Banding Season Opened 8 October.**

The first capture occurred 15 October.

Season total of Saw-whet Owls banded: 39 plus 2 foreign recaptures.

Age breakdown: 28 hatch-year, 6 second-year, and 4 after-hatch-year, 1 age unknown.

Gender breakdown: 33 females, 2 males, and 4 gender unknown.

There were thirty-three banding sessions totaling 117.5 hours which yields .33 Saw-whet captures/hour. All sessions occurred from sunset to midnight. The peak season, determined by the first and last multiple captures/night, were 23 October-26 November.

Two Saw-whet owls were captured that were banded earlier in the fall at another banding station. One was banded at Hawkridge at Duluth Minnesota 13 days prior to our recapturing it. It averaged traveling 32 miles /night between the two sites. No information on the origin of the other banded owl is available yet.

The last capture was 26 November and the last attempt was 28 November.

### **Funding**

Funds provided by the Iowa Ornithologist's Union and The Audubon Society of Omaha went to purchase replacement mist nets used in the operation for next banding season. The old nets are three years old and received quite a bit of damage this season.

Pottawattomie County Conservation Board funded the salaries for myself and Sandy Reinken, the assistant bander.

### **Acknowledgements**

I wish to thank the following volunteers who generously gave their time and greatly added to the efficiency of the station.

Denise Lewis and Carla Alschwede generously gave up a day a week from their busy schedules to band with us.

Janis Paseka, Matt Giovanni, and Steve Van Riper were able to band occasionally.

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