

Mark Orsag

To: Tom Kent Mark Orsag  
Subject: RE: Hitchcock Nature Area November 30

Loren and Babs Padelford asked me to forward these sightings. 100+ other (non-raptor) species were seen around, or migrating past, one of the hawk watch's observation points. [Highlights Sandhill Crane, Ross's Goose, Scarlet Tanager, American White Pelican, American Black Duck]

> Greetings,  
> The Hitchcock Nature Area (HNA) is located in the Loess Hills on the Iowa side of the Iowa-Nebraska border overlooking the Missouri River Valley to the west. The watch is easily accessible from the intersection of Interstate Highways 680 and 29; take Iowa 988 into the town of Crescent, Iowa. From Crescent, take Route 183 north to HNA. Some raptor counting has been done at HNA since 1992. This year, counting is being done on a part-time (weekend) basis during the September 5-December 6 period. There are three watchpoints at HNA; most counting this year, however, has been done from the deck of the park's lodge.

> Seasonal Raptor Totals as of December 1

> Turkey Vulture 594\*  
> Northern Harrier 88\*  
> Osprey 14  
> Mississippi Kite 0  
> Bald Eagle 48\*  
> Golden Eagle 2  
> Sharp-shinned Hawk 491\*  
> Cooper's Hawk 45  
> Northern Goshawk 1  
> Broad-winged Hawk 172  
> Rough-legged Hawk 8\*  
> Swainson's Hawk 109 ( 1 dark morph)  
> Red-tailed Hawk 965\*  
> [kridler's 4]  
> [harlan's 10]  
> [western dark morph 9]  
> [western rufous morph 1]  
> [dark morph indeterminate 9]  
> [western light morph approx. 1% of all  
> light morph]  
> Red-shouldered Hawk 0  
> American Kestrel 68\*  
> Merlin 4 (1 Prairie, 3 Taiga)  
> Peregrine Falcon 2  
> Prairie Falcon 1  
> Unidentified Buteo 9  
> Unidentified Accipiter 2  
> Unidentified Falcon 1  
> Unidentified Raptor 13

> \*Denotes new site record.  
> 1998 Totals 16 species/ 2624 Individuals\* ( record total for overall numbers only).

> Days 25  
> Hours 138.25  
>  
> Best wishes,  
> Mark Orsag  
> morsag@doane.edu

