

Mark Orsag

Subject: FW: HNA 12/20

Tom,

If you are interested, information on our season, reprinted from one of our internet posts, follows. This is the unofficial raptor (and vulture) count for the 1999 Fall Season. I'm still working on the non-raptor totals which, frankly, are a bit less scientific and a bit more educated guesswork. We have already forwarded our "brief documentation" sightings (Prairie Falcons, Sandhill Crane, etc) to Ann Johnson via e-mails. I believe that you have already received the documentation on our 1st ever Black-billed Magpie record from Sue and Howard Mattix. The Black-billed Magpie, Ferruginous Hawk, and Pomarine Jaeger sightings were our best 3 birds of the millions seen during the 391 count hours we logged.

The Hitchcock Nature Area Hawkwatch (HNAH) is affiliated with the Hawk Migration Association of North America and is located at Hitchcock Nature Area in the Loess Hills on the Iowa side of the Iowa-Nebraska border overlooking the Missouri River Valley. 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 counting has been done at HNA since 1992. This year, counting of raptors, vultures and other migrants is being done on a part-time basis during the September 1-December 20 period. There are three watchpoints at HNA; most counting, however, has been done from the deck of the park's lodge. HNA will remain an undercounted site until staffing improves or a higher vantage point is created.

TOTAL COUNT HOURS= 391# (Previous best 143)

Species	Total Fall 1999
Turkey Vulture	1262#
Mississippi Kite	0 (only record 9/23/94)
Osprey	58#
Northern Harrier	146#
Bald Eagle	472#?
Sharp-sh. Hawk	547
Cooper's Hawk	118#
Northern Goshawk	1
Red-should. Hawk	5#
Swainson's Hawk	266
Broad-wing Hawk	215
Red-tailed Hawk	2281#
Rough-leg. Hawk	24#
Ferruginous Hawk	1 (1st ever record)
Golden Eagle	13#?
Amer. Kestrel	115#
Merlin	13
Peregrine Falcon	6
Prairie Falcon	4#
unid. raptor	131#
Total species	18 (Tie 1994)
Total numbers	5703#

?= 272 adult BE, 198 immature BE (3 sub-ad. mottled head and white tail); 0 adult GE, 2 sub-adult GE, 11 immature GE.

# Indicates new seasonal record.

Best wishes,

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My printer had some problems with your form, but you should be able to follow what I did. (Let me know if there is a problem!)