

Beth Proschaldt 1

Again this autumn I had a Hawk Watch at Grammer Grove on a ridge paralleling the Iowa River. Certainly the counts are meager compared with great spots like Duluth's Hawk Ridge, Hawk Mountain, Cape May or many of the other famous watches - but not bad following a major river in more-or-less flat Iowa where there is also broad front migration.

In September I missed only 5 days after Sept. 11, but, of necessity, there were only 10 days in October that I could get out - & I missed a cold windy weekend that probably had hawks hurrying south.

The biggest days were:

Sept 18 - 125 hawks

Oct 5 - 293 "

Oct 6 - 190 "

Season's totals:

Turkey Vulture	33
Osprey	12
Bald Eagle	2
N. Harrier	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	163
Cooper's Hawk	55
N. Goshawk	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	0
Broad-winged Hawk	92
Swainson's Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	561
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Golden Eagle	0
Am. Kestrel	46
Merlin	9
Peregrine Falcon	2
accipiter sp	12
buteo sp	33
falcon sp	7
eagle sp	1
unidentified raptor	34

Total 1058

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Each of these days was following a cold front with strong N or NW winds (to 30 mph) - miserable days to watch, but classic good hawk migration weather. Sept 18 was 25° - 30° below normal, + Oct 5 followed 1.4" rain + N winds of the day before.

Broadwings, again this year, must have taken another migration route with only 92 counted.

Hawk Watch - Sept 11 - Nov 4 -

25 days - with 1 to $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day (depending on the weather) ^{+ how many hawks were flying} for a total of 87 hours.

Total Hawks - 1058

largest counts

(* denotes one of the "big" days)

Sharpshin

* Sept 18 - 18
 * Oct 5 - 42
 * Oct 6 - 29

Casper's

* Sept 18 - 9
 Sept 20 - 7
 Sept 22 - 8
 * Oct 5 - 14
 * Oct 6 - 4

Redtails

* Sept 18 - 44
 * Oct 5 - 203
 * Oct 6 - 142
 Oct 18 - 26
 Oct 30 - 66

Broadwings

* Sept 18 - 5
 Sept 19 - 19
 Sept 20 - 23
 Sept 22 - 20

Merlin

Sept 16 - 1
 * Sept 18 - 3
 * Oct 5 - 2
 * Oct 6 - 3