

HAWK

Migration Studies



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Broad-winged Hawk by Vic Berardi

Will's Quills:

My original motivation in joining the HMANA Board was to help create a methodology for making hawkwatch accounts timely, scientifically valid indicators of the state of raptor populations. While this goal is being realized through our Raptor Population Index (RPI) project, much remains to be achieved in utilizing your count data as a conservation and education tool. To all of you who spend hundreds of hours searching the skies, keep recording your data, stick to that protocol and record your hourly data promptly in HawkCount. But keep it fun!



Now well into our second year of the RPI, we are beginning to see results. You will note many sites in Hawkcount have expanded site information. As we have ten year data sets from more and more sites' data is digitized, it will be possible to access and analyze more information in our population indexing. Check the RPI web site (<http://rpi-project.org/>) to see some of the analysis coming out of this project.

This August your board is meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for a Strategic Planning session. We will be discussing a variety of topics including finances, membership, governance, communications and a review of our mission and core principles. While needing to be cautious in predicting the outcome of the planning sessions, it has been clear for some time that the board, for all of its strengths, is in need of more members with legal, financial, marketing and fundraising experience. If you are reading this and have expertise in any of these areas, we would very much appreciate your help. You will work with people who are passionate about raptors, enthusiastic about environmental conservation and determined to build HMANA's future. Step forward soon and you can join us for our November board meeting at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology with whom we are developing new cooperative relationships.

(If you have read this far and you are not a member of HMANA, sign up immediately at www.hmana.org.)

This will be my last column as chair. In accordance with our bylaws, I have reached the limit of my term on the board. I hope to remain involved as an active member and hope to meet many of you in the coming year at your hawkwatches and at our October 2008 conference in Pennsylvania. I have been very impressed by the dedication and persistence of my fellow board members who with your support will continue giving a strong clear voice to raptor conservation. Your organization has a bright future.

*Will Weber, Ph.D.,
HMANA Chair
weber@hmana.org
Ann Arbor, Michigan*

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