



# 2014 HMANA Awards

## HMANA Awards Descriptions

**Joseph Taylor Award:** Honors heroic contributions to HMANA above and beyond the call of duty.

**Maurice Broun Award:** Honors individuals who have made outstanding, long-term or major contributions of time and effort to HMANA itself or the goals of HMANA.

**Counting for the Future Award:** Recognizes those who may be new to the hawk watching circle, yet have already made significant contributions toward sustaining hawk watching for future generations.

**HMANA Appreciation Awards:** Recognizes individuals who have made substantial contributions of time or energy to HMANA or hawk migration study.

## 2014 HMANA Awards Recipient Information

### Joseph Taylor Award—Jeff Dodge

Jeff Dodge and his wife Joan moved to Rochester, NY in 1978. It is no coincidence that the house they have lived in since 1981 is located right in the path of the hawk migration that occurs at Braddock Bay every spring. A few years later in 1985, Jeff revived the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch that had been in operation since the late 1970's. His efforts helped grow the hawkwatch and raptor banding projects happening in the area. Along with his wife Joan and Richard Mather, he founded Braddock Bay Raptor Research, creating a membership to support spring activities and raptor education within the Rochester region. In the early years of BBRR, Jeff recruited some of the country's current top raptor experts to conduct the counts at Braddock Bay, including Frank Nicoletti, Jerry Liguori and Brian Sullivan. "La Casa Dodge" was headquarters for BBRR through the early 2000's. Jeff and Joan Dodge have literally opened their door and home to many a hawk counter, raptor bander, intern, volunteer, as well as hawks and owls (and the mice that fed them!) for over two decades.

In late 1980's, Jeff assumed the duty of Editor for Hawk Migration Studies and presided over a expansion of the journal to include artwork, more articles and other features. For the next decade, the Dodge home served as "hawk central" it seemed, taking on the role of "Editorial Office" which saw many HMANA activities being orchestrated or planned around the Dodge kitchen table. Aside from being the Managing Editor of HMS, he also took on the roles of Central Flyway Editor and Identification Editor, and wrote several feature articles for the journal. He served on the HMANA Board through the mid 1990s. Through his time as an editor and board member with HMANA, and as the founder and leader of BBRR, Jeff has had a positive influence many in the fields of raptor research and education.

### Maurice Broun Award—Keith L. Bildstein

Keith L. Bildstein is Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, where he oversees Hawk Mountain's global conservation science program, and coordinates the activities of the Sanctuary's graduate students, international trainees, and visiting scientists. With HMANA and HWI Keith helped launch the Raptor Population Project in 2004, a joint effort to use migration counts to track

conservation status of North American raptors. He currently sits on the steering committee for RPI.

Bildstein received a B.S. in Biology at Muhlenberg College, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1972, and a Masters and Ph. D. in Zoology from the Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio, in 1976 and 1978. He currently is Adjunct Professor of Wildlife Biology at the State University of New York-Syracuse. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, and has been President of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Waterbird Society, and Vice-president of the Raptor Research Foundation. Bildstein edited the Wilson Bulletin from 1984 through 1987, and was a member of the editorial board of *The Auk* in 1997-2000.

HMANA awards him one of its highest honors, the Maurice Broun Award, named for Hawk Mountain founder and first to conduct scientific hawk counts across years, in recognition of Keith's decades of research and writing on hawk migration, for his work to help launch and sustain RPI, and his continued leadership in raptor migration research including an impressive compendium of research on vulture migration and ecology. Keith has conducted research on migration ecology of Turkey and Black vultures using ground surveys, wing-tagging, and satellite telemetry to expand our knowledge of scavenging raptors. He also maintains a long-term study of Striated Caracara in Falklands Islands. During his tenure at Hawk Mountain he has expanded the international trainee program and inspired studies of migration around the globe. He helped establish the Kekoldi migration watch site and helped with first Panama Ocean to Ocean transect of raptor migration count sites.

Keith was recognized internationally with the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Second Annual Bird Migration and Global Change conference held in Algeciras, Spain and the 2010 Raptor Research Foundation Fran and Frederick Hammerstrom award for his contribution to raptor natural history.

#### **Maurice Broun Award—Stiles Thomas**

Stiles Thomas of Allendale, New Jersey has been making major contributions to hawk watching for 57 years. Stiles began hawk watching around 1955 at Montclair in New Jersey. In 1956 New Jersey observers talked about creating an intersection line across New Jersey that would place observers at multiple points along the line on one day in September and one in October. Stiles was asked to cover an interesting location near Greenwood Lake in New York, Mt. Peter. Stiles explored Mt. Peter in August 1957 with his family, and had a Bald Eagle migrate by. He was successful on the two days, and in 1958 a day-to-day watch was organized by the Fyke Nature Association, which runs the watch to this day. Stiles covered Mt. Peter until 1970, when John Rex told him about Hook Mountain near Nyack, New York. Stiles visited Hook in 1970 and saw numbers of hawks well. He began covering Hook in 1971 and in 1972 Stiles reported 112 Northern Goshawks at that site.

Stiles was invited by Mike Harwood, the founding father of HMANA, to attend meetings at Mike's home in 1970 to talk about organizing an association to gather hawk migration data from across the continent. Stiles gave two presentations at the Syracuse conference in 1974, one on Mt. Peter and

another on Hook. He covered Hook for years, but then became less active until the State of New Jersey asked him to be site leader at the Stateline Hawk Watch at the state park on the Palisades on the Hudson River, which he has led for six years.

Thus, Stiles is honored for being a pioneer in discovering or organizing hawk watches at three major sites in New Jersey and New York. Mt. Peter is believed to be the oldest, continually run, all-volunteer fall watch in the country.

#### **Counting for the Future Award—Scott Kruitbosch**

Scott hails from Stratford, Connecticut and has been involved with numerous major conservation initiatives in the past decade serving as a board member for the Connecticut Ornithological Association, co-captain of the ornithological team in multiple Yale Peabody Museum BioBlitzes, member of the International Rusty Blackbird

Technical Working Group and coordinator of the Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds.

In 2009 Scott became the driving force behind setting up, coordinating, watching and getting HMANA accreditation for the Boothe Memorial Park Hawk Watch, CT. Through Scott's drive the watch has gone on to become an important part of the Connecticut hawkwatching scene, with volunteer counters putting in good numbers of hours throughout the season. The site treads a middle ground both geographically and ornithologically between the coastal sites of Lighthouse Point and the inland flights of Quaker Ridge. Since moving from the Connecticut Audubon Society to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Scott is looking forward to becoming, both personally and with his organization, more involved in his new local watch at Ripley. As a young, talented and enthusiastic hawkwatcher, Scott is the perfect recipient of the 'Counting for the Future' award.

### **HMANA Appreciation Awards**

**Gerry Smith** – Derby Hill—Jerry was long time lone wolfer too at Derby Hill for years and years, long time member and supporter of HMANA. Jerry consistently collected data daily at Derby Hill during 1980s and 1990s, often manning the site entirely by himself. The length and consistency of data collection at Derby Hill is largely due to his sustained effort and the fruits of his labor seen in current trend analyses by RPI. It is fitting that HMANA honor Jerry at this Great Lakes meeting as one who helped put spring count in Great Lakes on the map..through his long time dedication to collecting standardized hawk counts in spring at Derby Hill. Currently Gerry serves on Onandaga Audubon Society board and helps out at Derby Hill as needed.

**Mark Fuller** – Mark is a USGS Biologist and one of original HMANA board members. Early in HMANA history, Mark recognized the value of hawk migration counts to monitoring raptor numbers. He joined the HMANA board and worked to create standard original data forms (blue then green sheets). He helped HMANA board design standard data protocols which serve as the basis for what HMANA sites collect today. In recent years, Mark has used hawk migration counts to better understand Golden Eagle population trends. During his career at USGS, Mark focused much of his work on understanding population trends of raptors and using those data to guide management. Mark Fuller also has served on the RPI science advisory board for many years.

**Anne Schnell** – Anne Schnell is currently Co-Director and Banding Director for Braddock Bay Raptor Research, as well as Department Chairperson and Professor in the Environmental Conservation and Horticulture Department of Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, NY. She and her husband Paul reside in Hilton, NY in a beautiful setting near the Lake Ontario shoreline, not far from Braddock Bay - a perfect spot for raptor lovers.

Anne joined BBRR in the year 2000, when one of her students from FLCC (then BBRR banding director John Newhouse) invited her out to the hawk banding station at Braddock Bay. She was already a licensed songbird bander, but all it took was one day in the hawk blind to get her hooked on hawks. Since then she joined ranks as an education volunteer for BBRR, earned her master banding license for raptors, and conducted research on the Red-tailed Hawk natal dispersal at Braddock Bay. In addition to being a talented raptor bander, she has used her teaching skills and knowledge of the natural world to educate and train new banders, and has introduced many of her own students and colleagues from FLCC to the world of raptors. Anne's role as Co-Director for Braddock Bay Raptor Research has helped the organization grown and continue its mission of research and education throughout the community. On top of her involvement with BBRR, she also helps her husband Paul conduct raptor education programs through their organization The Institute for Environmental Learning.

**George Appell** – George Appell of Phillips, Maine has been a pioneer in studying hawk migration for fifty years. George grew up near Hawk Mountain, which he visited on many occasions. In 1948, his father bought a summer house on a small island in Casco Bay, Maine, at Harpswell. Visiting the island in the fall, George discovered numbers of hawks migrating over their island, only to be shot by hunters on the other side of the finger bay separating them

from the mainland. The Appells, working with game wardens, were able to bring the hawk shooting to a stop by the mid-50s.

An anthropologist, George and his wife Laura went overseas until 1964, when they came back and began hawk watching on the island. In 1965 George and Laura started a formal method of recording hawk flights over the island. Several years later George was invited to join the New England Hawk Watch (formed in 1971), and was invited to present on his Harpswell count at the Syracuse Conference in 1974. His paper revealed George's intellectually rigorous approach to studying hawk migration. George began writing some of the most insightful and rigorous analyses of hawk migration on his Harpswell count every year, setting impressive standards. George's data quickly revealed that hawk migration through Maine was much larger, much longer and later in duration than published Maine sources had indicated.

With 49 years of data on a single site in Maine, George has accumulated a treasure trove of data on hawk migration not only for Maine, but for the northeast and HMANA and contributed to what is now the NorthEast Hawk Watch (NEHW) for over forty years.

**Vic Berardi** - from Gurnee IL. Vic is a founding and sustaining member of the Illinois Beach State Park Hawkwatch north of Chicago. While not gifted with huge numbers or raptors on a dramatic, high vantage point, Vic and his co-watchers are faithful, dependable and consistent observers in any weather that can sweep across the Lake Michigan shoreline from dawn to dusk each Fall. Vic is recognized as one of the nation's most acclaimed raptor photographers. Always eager to share his insight and experiences with raptor photography, Vic is a popular workshop speaker at HMANA events and other nature education venues around the Midwest. Always eager and willing to share his images with HMANA, some of Hawk Migration Studies' most spectacular cover photos were taken by Vic in his passionate pursuit of close up images of raptors in flight. Vic served as the HMS central flyway editor for many years, fostering the growth of site reports from 8 or 9 sites to more than 30 today. For his dedication to "Counting for Conservation" and photographing for raptor education we are pleased to present Vic with this Appreciation Award.