

◀◀◀ HMANA's IHMW BIG DAY Q&A ▶▶▶

What is HMANA's International Hawk Migration Week (IHMW) Big Day?

A Big Day is a sponsored Bird Count, but is focused on Raptors. It's a fun event organized by the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) in which you ask sponsors for a pledge to sponsor you for a day counting as many raptors species (and optionally other species) as possible from one location.

What happens to the money I raise during my Big Day?

All money raised will support raptor monitoring but you decide how it's distributed. You have the choice to donate 50% of the money you raise to a hawkwatch organization and 50% to HMANA to support its HawkCount database, Raptor Population Index project, and raptor conservation efforts. Or you can choose to donate 25% to another conservation organization of your choice and 75% to HMANA, or you can donate 100% to HMANA. **HMANA's proceeds above the standard 50% will be allocated to our new HawkWatchFund to support hawk watching throughout North and Central America.**

Do I need to be an experienced hawkwatcher to take part in HMANA's Big Day?

What if I don't know my raptor species that well? You don't need to be an experienced hawkwatcher. The purpose of a Big Day is to get out and have fun for the day searching for raptors and other birds and raise money for raptors. To benefit from others' experience, form your own team or contact your local hawkwatching site for information about joining a team. Or go it alone and do your best.

Do I have to count only hawks during my Big Day?

No, this is totally up to you! You decide. You may choose to count the number of raptor species you see or hear in one day (including owls and shrikes) or you may choose to count all bird species you see in one day.

Do I have to count raptors for a full day? What are the dates of the event? This year's Big Day is for a 24 hour period. You decide which day between September 19-27 that you would like to do your Big Day. Look for raptors and other birds for any number of hours up to 24! You decide the time and date. Just remember to fill in the date on your registration form.

Do I have to do my Big Day at a known hawkwatch site? Yes. This fall we are encouraging participants to count at watch sites registered in the HawkCount database. To find a site near you, please visit hawkcount.org.

How do I register to take part in my Big Day? You can register online or print the registration form at www.hmana.org. Fill this form out and email or mail to Julie Brown, 151 Antrim Rd, Hancock, NH 03449.

What other forms do I need? In addition to the **Registration Form**, you'll need the **Pledge Coupon** to solicit pledges. You will send this form to your potential sponsors for their pledges. Next you will need the **Sponsor List** to track donations from your sponsors which will later be mailed to HMANA with checks. All forms are available at www.hmana.org.