

ANNOUNCEMENT –

HMANA's Celebrates Second Annual International Hawk Migration Week

The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) invites you to join in celebrating the annual spectacle of fall raptor migration. Each year hundreds of thousands of hawks, eagles and vultures make their journey from Canada and the United States to wintering areas as far south as South America. Dedicated counters at hawk watch sites begin documenting this movement as early as 1 August and man their sites daily into December. Wherever you are during that time – you just need to look up and chances are good you may see a migrating raptor. HMANA's 129 active fall sites count as many as 33 raptor species across the continent during this week. Last year, we counted over 1.2 million raptors and celebrated migration with festivals, bird counts and workshops across the continent.

HMANA has chosen 19 through 27 September as this is the week when more hawks are counted across North America than any other. The purpose of International Hawk Migration Week (IMHW) is to raise awareness of hawks, hawk migration and the HMANA network of sites that count hawks.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in celebrating IHMW. From beginner to expert, first time at a hawk watch site or returning for the umpteenth year – all you need to do is locate a hawkwatch and come out! Hawkwatch sites may hold a hawkwatching festival, a Big Day count, identification workshops, or simply submit their regular daily counts into Hawkcount.org during that week. To find the nearest hawk count site to you, go to Hawkcount.org for directions and contact information.

The daily counts that HMANA compiles on HawkCount.org from over 100 sites will show the overall size and extent of hawk migration occurring during IHMW.

HMANA is a non-profit organization with a mission to advance scientific knowledge and promote conservation of raptor populations through the study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration. They oversee the online database, Hawkcount.org, an archive of count data with a wealth of information for birdwatchers and general public alike including maps and directions to sites, average counts, population status and timing.

Please visit www.hmana.org to find ways you can participate in IHMW. For additional information, please contact HMANA Monitoring Site Coordinator Julie Brown at brown@hmana.org. For directions and contact information for hawk watch sites near you go to: Hawkcount.org and follow the instructions for finding sites in your state or province.