

## A SEASON ON HAWK HILL

Hi,

My name is Tim. I'm the guy with the notebook and binoculars who sits on that lawn chair up on Hawk Hill every day from Sept. 1 until Nov. 30.

The group who occupies that special place has a very important job. We count all the Raptors that pass over the Hawk Hill as they continue their Southward fall migration. Each evening the count gets entered in a database called Hawk Migration Association of North America. HMANA. You can access it yourself and see what we and approximately 120 other Raptorwatch sites spread all over North and Central America are recording. Because we wish to do something to contribute to the conservation of North America's Raptors we volunteer to watch every day (when it's not raining), each year for 3 months.

Hawk Hill is an especially good place to see Raptors migrating in the fall especially if the wind has a Northerly component to it.

Each of 15 or so species has a time window within that 3 month period when they are most likely to be flying.

This season has shown a small increase in Bald Eagles and, sadly, a decline in pretty much all the other species, in some cases, more than standard deviation from the mean should indicate.

If you have a little time (the more time the better) and wish to learn about Raptors and Raptor spotting, and birds in general, come up the Hill and visit with us any day between 10 am and 3 pm. There is always an expert on the Raptorwatch who would be glad to introduce you to our (sometimes) exciting pastime. You can even borrow a topnotch set of binoculars to make your introduction easier. We will answer any questions you might have like "Where do I go? What can I see? How do I do it?" and because there are usually 3 or 4 experts on the Hill we almost never run out of answers. In times when the Raptors are not flying it's not unusual for you to meet up close our local resident hawks - the RedTails, Coopers and Merlins. Don't be surprised if you spot an Eagle or 2 in season - yes, Bald and Golden eagles come through as well as spectacular Raptors like the Osprey and Peregrine.

Sometimes you have to sit up there for a long time and keep a sharp eye on the horizon and even then, some days there just aren't many birds.

But one thing is absolutely guaranteed - good conversation and lots of fun.

See you on the Hill next season and GoodBirds,

*Tim McCarthy,*

**Toronto Ornithological Club**

<http://www.torontobirding.ca/site/page/view/hawkwatch.info>

**High Park HawkCount - November 2018**

[https://hawkcount.org/month\\_summary.php?rsite=393](https://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=393)

**Hawk Migration Association of North America. HMANA**

<https://www.hmana.org/hawk-watch-sites/>

**High Park Hawk Watch**

<http://www.highparknature.org/wiki/wiki.php?n=Birds.HawkWatch>