

## Cadillac Mountain Hawk Watch: 2025 Season Report

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BAR HARBOR, HANCOCK COUNTY, AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2025



*Sharp-shinned Hawk (Logan Parker photo)*

For 31 fall seasons, volunteer observers and Acadia National Park rangers (Table 1) have monitored migrating raptors heading south for the winter. The Hawk Watch is now a partnership between Acadia National Park and Schoodic Institute, with intern support from Friends of Acadia. All hourly counts are recorded and tallied in HawkCount.org administered by the Hawk Migration Association.

This season's effort began on August 18 and ended on November 15, amassing a tally of 2,523 raptors on 61 count days, during an observation effort of 263.25 hours resulting in 9.6 raptors/hour.

The highest count day occurred on September 12 with 486 raptors. It was the highest count day for Broad-winged Hawks (205), Sharp-shinned Hawks (116), and Ospreys (23). Other peak species dates include American Kestrels (99) and Merlins (27) on September 19; Cooper's Hawk (4) on September 31; Bald Eagles (16) on October 1; Turkey Vultures (26) on October 26; and Northern Harriers (18) and Red-tailed Hawks (7) on October 28. Excitingly, two Golden Eagles were seen, one each on October 28 and November 14. The last season when two Golden Eagles were observed was 2010. The 27 Merlins on September 19 set a new record for the

site, blowing away the previous record of 20 (October 15, 2000 and September 16, 2015).

As was expected, some species numbered above and some below seasonal averages. Species that were above average (this season's total/ historic seasonal average) include Northern Harrier (190/104), Osprey (153/148), Merlin (100/64), Bald Eagle (190/57), and Turkey Vulture (232/129). Other above average statistical highlights include visitors (4571/3740), hours counted (263.25/241.58), and days of observation (61/51). Below average statistics include Sharp-shinned Hawk (715/973), Cooper's Hawk (13/25), Red-tailed Hawk (37/56), Broad-winged Hawk (300/600), American Kestrel (438/573) and total raptors counted (2523/2836).

Other noteworthy items this season: First, Acadia National Park Rangers and Interns were at the Hawk Watch 3 hours per day, 5 days each week, an increase of three days per week. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, and interpretation helped to energize this year's count and improve camaraderie; Second, during the high count of September 12, two large kettles of Broadwinged Hawks totaling 42 and 133 in the same hour was exciting, especially following the low season total last year (88); Third, Cadillac Mountain Hawk Watch received a volunteer recruitment program grant from the Hawk Migration Association. Two new volunteers were successfully added to the cadre of volunteers; and lastly, the late fall sightings of Golden Eagle and American Goshawk were very rare occurrences at our site. These larger raptors migrate much later in the season, while falcons trend later in the day (after 2 pm) indicating that extending daily and seasonal duration of coverage could be beneficial to gain a better understanding of count dynamics. §

**Table 1. 2025 Participating Staff**

| Name                  | Status           |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Angi King Johnston    | Lead Counter     |
| Seth Benz             | Site Coordinator |
| Jim and Kathy Zeman   | Volunteer        |
| Chris and Joe Ferrara | Volunteer        |
| Holly and Monty Evans | Volunteer        |
| Anna Durrand          | Volunteer        |
| Sandra Mitchell       | Volunteer        |
| Asher Panikian        | Volunteer        |
| Sue McClatchy         | Volunteer        |
| Molly Niekamp         | Ranger           |
| Olivia Hanson         | Ranger           |
| Jazmine DeBeauchamp   | Raptor Intern    |
| Arturo Barrett        | SCA Intern       |

**Table 2. Yearly Counts 2020-2025**

| Species             | 2020        | 2021        | 2022          | 2023          | 2024          | 2025          | Yearly Average | Cumulative Total |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| American Goshawk    | 10          | 6           | 3             | 1             | 3             | 7             | 8              | 255              |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk  | 758         | 593         | 988           | 707           | 613           | 715           | 973            | 30175            |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 19          | 13          | 9             | 8             | 12            | 13            | 25             | 785              |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 38          | 18          | 48            | 38            | 51            | 37            | 56             | 1732             |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1           | 0           | 1             | 2             | 2             | 1             | 1              | 35               |
| Broad-winged Hawk   | 1039        | 395         | 1013          | 1271          | 88            | 300           | 600            | 18601            |
| Rough-legged Hawk   | 0           | 0           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 13               |
| Northern Harrier    | 85          | 66          | 80            | 110           | 120           | 190           | 104            | 3229             |
| Osprey              | 123         | 142         | 141           | 119           | 151           | 153           | 148            | 4600             |
| Peregrine Falcon    | 24          | 21          | 14            | 18            | 8             | 17            | 19             | 604              |
| Merlin              | 56          | 49          | 55            | 59            | 51            | 100           | 64             | 1973             |
| American Kestrel    | 468         | 449         | 343           | 282           | 290           | 438           | 537            | 17761            |
| Bald Eagle          | 99          | 204         | 133           | 132           | 131           | 190           | 57             | 1780             |
| Turkey Vulture      | 159         | 274         | 100           | 349           | 298           | 232           | 129            | 2837             |
| Golden Eagle        | 0           | 0           | 0             | 1             | 0             | 2             | 1              | 11               |
| <b>Totals</b>       | <b>2973</b> | <b>2349</b> | <b>3003</b>   | <b>3195</b>   | <b>1949</b>   | <b>2523</b>   | <b>2826</b>    | <b>87600</b>     |
| <b>Visitors</b>     | <b>1793</b> | <b>2409</b> | <b>3591</b>   | <b>3647</b>   | <b>4853</b>   | <b>4571</b>   | <b>3740</b>    | <b>115931</b>    |
| <b>Hours</b>        | <b>257</b>  | <b>225</b>  | <b>253.75</b> | <b>235.75</b> | <b>248.75</b> | <b>263.25</b> | <b>241.58</b>  | <b>7489</b>      |
| <b>Days</b>         | <b>56</b>   | <b>48</b>   | <b>60</b>     | <b>58</b>     | <b>59</b>     | <b>61</b>     | <b>51</b>      | <b>1589</b>      |

*Red-shouldered Hawk (Logan Parker photo)*