

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
Totals	2973	2349	3003	3195	1949	2523	2826	87600
Visitors	1793	2409	3591	3647	4853	4571	3740	115931
Hours	257	225	253.75	235.75	248.75	263.25	241.58	7489
Days	56	48	60	58	59	61	51	1589



Red-shouldered Hawk (Logan Parker photo)