

From: Hawk Mountain info@hawkmountain.org
Subject: Migration eUpdate: Spring 2025 Wrap Up
Date: May 27, 2025 at 1:22 pm
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Spring migration officially wrapped up on Thursday, May 15, and our staff, trainees, and volunteers have now turned their attention from the lookout to the field, where they're monitoring and researching raptors in their summer habitats near the Sanctuary. On behalf of the entire team, thank you for your support, and for spending time with us on the lookout this season. We look forward to seeing you back on the rocks when fall migration begins on August 15!

Migration Recap:

Count coordinator David Barber summed the season up as follows: The count ended on a low note with three days of fog and rain. The last official migrant of the 2025 count was an unidentified raptor on the afternoon of May 12. Trainees, staff, and volunteers counted 220 hours over 38 days. The total count of 1,271 birds was 30% above the 10-year average of 980 and was the fourth highest spring count recorded at Hawk Mountain. The high day was April 18 with 581 birds including 2 turkey vultures, 6 ospreys, 3 bald eagles, 6 northern harriers, 1 sharp-shinned hawk, 12 Cooper's hawks, a season high 542 broad-winged hawks, 5 red-tailed hawks, 3 American kestrels, and 1 merlin. The broad-winged hawks count of 885 was 71% above the 10-year average and a new record high! The count of 33 northern harriers was 61% above average and the highest count since 2013. Counts of Cooper's hawks, American goshawk, and American kestrels also were above average, whereas counts of black vultures, turkey vultures, ospreys, sharp-shinned hawks, red-shouldered hawks, and red-tailed hawks were below average. All other species had average counts this year.

Weather is the MVP contributing to this excellent spring count as consistent pulses of northwest winds throughout the season encouraged the northbound migrants to use the ridgeline past the lookout. Several larger storm systems interrupted migrants moving up the Mississippi flyway into the northeast, resulting in a concentrated push of migrants through the region as winds shifted from northwest to south producing our season high count of 581 on April 18. The flight rapidly dwindled as May saw multiple large, occluded fronts wash out the count interspersed with dry, high-pressure systems that provided excellent lift, dispersing the flight and making for challenging count conditions.

Browse daily and seasonal counts at hawkmountain.org/count.

Non-raptor Migrant Highlights:

Non-raptor migrants trickled through and gradually built to a decent flight with many of our local nesting species establishing territories surrounding the lookout. April into early May saw a strong flight of blue jays moving north along with the expected neotropical migrants. The stunning rose-breasted grosbeak and scarlet tanager in their alternate plumage complemented the spring warbler flight. Both black and yellow-billed cuckoo were seen during the last week of the count along with territorial worm-eating, black-and-white, and black-throated green warblers. A red-headed woodpecker flew north past the lookout on May 11th.



Black-and-white warbler photo by Bill Moses.

Huge thank you to Biologist-Naturalist Bracken Brown for providing our Spring Migration updates!

Final Count

SPECIES	SEASON TOTAL	10-YEAR AVERAGE
Black Vulture	10	20
Turkey Vulture	46	69
Osprey	49	54
Bald Eagle	48	49
Northern Harrier	33	21
Sharp-shinned Hawk	44	68
Cooper's Hawk	58	29
American Goshawk	2	<1
Unidentified Accipiter	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	5
Broad-winged Hawk	885	519
Red-tailed Hawk	49	64
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0
Unidentified Buteo	2	16
Golden Eagle	2	2
American Kestrel	27	24
Merlin	5	6

Peregrine Falcon	1	2
Unidentified Falcon	1	3
Unidentified Raptor	6	20
TOTAL	1,271	980

Upcoming Events

Spring migration might have ended but there's still fun to be had on the Mountain! Be sure to check out these exciting events happening in the coming weeks:

Hawk Mountain Arts Tour

Sat, June 7 • 9 AM - 5 PM

FREE

This self-guided driving tour leads you to a broad mix of artists at home and host studios within a 25-mile radius of the Sanctuary in scenic Albany Township. [See website for details.](#)

Trail Birds

Sat, June 7 • 9 AM – 12 PM

Trail fee applies for Non-Members

Celebrate National Trail Days with a guided bird walk to North Lookout. [Registration required.](#)

Music on the Mountain: Berks Sinfonietta

Sat, June 14 • 2 – 4 PM

\$25, \$20 for Members

Celebrate spring with a 90-minute performance of classical selections. Light refreshments and raptor meet and greet will follow in the Visitor Center. Rain date June 15. [Registration required.](#)

Vulture Encounter | **MEMBER EXCLUSIVE**

Thu, June 26 • 10 AM – 12 PM

\$20

Meet a live black vulture, enjoy light snacks, then head to the seminar room for a personal update on findings in the field from our scientists. [Registration required.](#)

Create a Pollinator Garden

Sat, June 28 • 10 – 11:30 AM

\$10, \$5 for Members

Learn from Hawk Mountain volunteers what it takes to create a sustainable year-round pollinator garden. A tour of the Native Habitat Garden will follow the program. [Registration required.](#)

SUMMER NATURE CAMPS

There's still time to sign up for our Summer Nature Camps! Designed for youth entering grades 1st – 6th, these day camps get kids outdoors, developing a deeper connection with the natural world through fun and educational activities. Campers will experience a myriad of interactive and hands-on activities, including water stream surveys, programs will live animals, conducting experiments, crafts, hikes, and more!

Visit hawkmountain.org/summercamps to see the full schedule of week-long, themed day camps kicking off in June. Register



now before spots quickly fill up; some weeks are already sold out!



Hello Summer!

We hope you'll join us on the Mountain this summer, whether it's for a hike, a program, or simply to enjoy the view. There's always something wild to discover at Hawk Mountain. See you soon!

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), [Instagram](#), and [BlueSky](#) for regular updates on all the happenings on the Mountain. All upcoming events and programs can be found at hawkmountain.org/events.

Happy hawkwatching, friends!

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