

Raptor Trapping Program 2020 report

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The Calvert County Natural Resources Division started the winter Raptor Trapping Program to gain a better understanding of the local wintering population of American Kestrels, Red-Shouldered Hawks and Red-Tailed Hawks. We also band the birds we capture during this program to track which birds could be returning to the same wintering ground year after year. Banding also provides the chance to learn where these birds travel to outside of their wintering range. In 2020, this program acted more of a volunteer appreciation program rather than a volunteer opportunity.

SKILLS NEEDED

- Legible note taking and understanding of data being collected
- Taking photos with smart phone of raptors for documentation

Optional, but Preferred, Skills

- Ability to identify American Kestrels, Red-Shouldered Hawks and Red Tailed Hawks

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

- If needed recording the data from each capture and photographs taken of the raptors

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

- **Starting in 2021 Must complete 3 Raptor Road Surveys in order to attend a road trapping/banding day**
- Work in cold conditions but most time is spent riding around in the van

TRAININGS

- No training needed but will have completed at least 3 Raptor Road Surveys in order to come out for a day of trapping

PROJECT DATES

- **Winter:** Jan-Mar full on trapping
- **Spring:** nothing
- **Summer:** some attempts during summer
- **Fall:** began trapping on 11/28

Summary of 2020 Activities

We trapped from January 1st through March 22nd 17 days total) and November 27th through December 31st 6 days total)
New Bandings: We captured 18 American Kestrels, 14 Red Shouldered Hawks, 0 Red Tailed Hawks.

Recaptures: We recaptured 2 American Kestrels that we banded in 2019. AMKE 1803-16809 is a male American Kestrel that we recaptured in the Barstow area 528 yards away from where he was originally banded in 2019. AMKE 1833-28801 is a female American Kestrel that we recaptured in the St Leonard area 284 yard from where she was originally banded in 2019. There were no sightings of kestrels in these locations during the spring/summer which suggests these birds bred in another area.

Volunteers that assisted: Mary Bell, Scottie Clark, James Tetlow, Peter Weeks, Jason Avery, assisted by Gene Groshon, Shannon Steele and Andy Brown

Google map of all captures: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1PYM-TCs1cTLjiwm0X98d9tUgOEGtCGvY&usp=sharing>

Future Plans

We will use the data collected from the Volunteer Raptor Road Surveys to aid in finding raptors to trap. We will also use this data to compare with sightings during trapping to estimate populations of these species in our area during the winter. Hopefully in late 2021/early 2022 we will be able to deploy Motus transmitters on some of these species as well.

Red Shouldered Hawk-adult- 1/1/2020



American Kestrel- Male- 1803-16809- Recapture-originally banded in 2019



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CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A partnership between Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

2020 Annual Report

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CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
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Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources

