

Raptor Road Survey 2020-2021 Report

** Data are analyzed by season (October-April) and not by calendar year**

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To assist with the Winter Raptor Research project, volunteers will be conducting surveys of raptors along specific driving routes. These surveys will not only help to aid in catching raptors for banding and further research, but they will also be useful in estimating population sizes similar to Christmas Bird Counts. By comparing the data from different years of surveys we will be able to look for trends in the populations.

Volunteers will be given a guide that includes raptor identification, the specific routes to cover as well as how to enter data into eBird.

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

- Follow the survey guidelines in the manual
- set up their own eBird account
- submit all records to eBird in accordance with the manual
- provide their own transportation and optics
- track their hours using the Calvert Stewards website

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

Once qualified and after reading the manual, volunteers may begin conducting surveys along the indicated routes. Surveys can begin on October 1, 2020 and happen through April 31, 2021. Surveys can start any time after sunrise and must be completed before sunset. Surveys should not be conducted on rainy or snowy days. While raptors may be out at these times they are unsafe conditions to be along roadsides. You may perform more than one route in a day. Routes may be repeated after 3 days have passed since the last survey you conducted on that route.

TRAININGS

- Must pass raptor identification test before being qualified for this program

PROJECT DATES

- October 1, 2021 through April 31, 2022

Summary of 2021 Activities

Data are analyzed by season and not by calendar year

Captures are compared by the proportion of species per trapping day. The calculation is the number of birds per species divided by the number of trapping days. This number is useful in comparing data between different years. Looking at just the number of birds sighted could show a false increase in population due to more surveys being conducted. Future years could compare "trap hours," i.e. how many individuals were seen based on the number of hours spent searching for raptors.

Final numbers from Oct 2020-April 2021

Total Surveys conducted: 51

Species	Total number of birds sighted	Birds sighted per Number of Surveys
American Kestrel	45	0.882353
Red Shouldered Hawk	38	0.745098
Red Tailed Hawk	30	0.588235
Merlin	5	0.098039
Coopers Hawk	2	0.039216
Sharp Shinned Hawk	1	0.019608
Northern Harrier	1	0.019608

Total Volunteer Hours: 69.5 hours

- Karen Anderson and Mike Carpenter: 20
- Ben Springer: 4
- Joanne and Craig Simmons: 1
- Grace Hanners: 1
- Remaining surveys conducted by Gene

Preliminary Report for October 1, 2021 through January 24, 2022

Total Surveys conducted: 27

Data collected as of January 18, 2021

Species	Total number of birds sighted	Birds sighted per Number of Surveys
American Kestrel	23	0.884615
Red Shouldered Hawk	13	0.481481
Red Tailed Hawk	13	0.5
Merlin	0	0
Coopers Hawk	2	0.076923
Sharp Shinned Hawk	0	0
Northern Harrier	1	0.038462

Volunteer Hours to date:

- Karen Anderson and Mike Carpenter: 11
- Maggie Silverman: 10
- Peter Weeks: 3
- Remaining surveys conducted by Gene

Future Plans

We will use the data collected from this program 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. Next season Gene will train survey volunteers to use the Global Raptor Impact Network app to enter data so it can be used in broader studies by other researchers across the country.

Supporting Calvert County's nature parks and natural spaces



CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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

2021 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

