

Raptor Trapping Program 2021 Report (Winter Raptor Response Team)

November 27, 2020 through March 17, 2021

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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 2020-2021 Season, this program acted more as 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:** can begin trapping after Thanksgiving

Summary of 2020/2021 Activities

November 27, 2020 through March 17, 2021 (18 trapping days total)

New Bandings: We captured 12 American Kestrels, 7 Red Shouldered Hawks, 3 Red Tailed Hawks.

Recaptures: We recaptured 1 Red-Tailed Hawk with band number 2207-01636. This bird was originally banded on 2/18/2019 in the Saint Leonard area by Gene Groshon. Remarkably we recaptured this bird in the exact same location as we did in 2019. The bird was in good health and she is known to be at least 5 years old now.

Volunteers were not allowed due to Covid protocols and long durations of time sitting in the van

Volunteers that assisted: Mary Bell was the only volunteer allowed since she lives with Gene Groshon and there was no increased risk of exposure

Total Volunteer Hours: 56 hours

Staff that assisted: Shannon Steele and Andy Brown

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. Plans to deploy Motus transmitters on American Kestrels have been delayed. We may be able to do it in 2023 but more likely it will be the following season.



Volunteer Mary Bell with Red Tailed Hawk



Recaptured Red Tailed Hawk

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

