

## Brockway Mountain Hawk Watch 2019 Season

This season's count was well below average but not without some highlights. April 20 was a record daily high for Northern Goshawks (6) and Rough-legged Hawks (86). This day was also the season high count for Northern Harrier (21), Red-tailed Hawk (110) and Merlin (3). An unusual late in the season big day was June 8 with 1107 raptors and vultures and the 143 Bald Eagles was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest day count of the last 10 years.

Both Mackinac Strait and Duluth had well above average seasonal counts with very high counts in April. Whitefish Point was well below seasonally.

The numbers:

Season	Obs Hrs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	NS	TOTAL
2019	653	0	1240	17	1205	93	1401	13	16	6	5412	1	1017	226	49	77	25	18	0	4	0	0	0	0	10820
2018	625	0	893	54	916	112	1697	20	19	18	9196	6	737	354	36	71	16	36	2	2	1	0	0	0	14186
2017	537	0	796	24	567	105	842	0	14	7	6421	3	1121	107	31	69	13	17	0	5	0	0	0	2	10144
2016	544	0	866	21	663	122	1020	4	13	11	6558	1	1371	161	39	67	22	25	0	46	0	9	1	2	11022
2015	581	1	797	33	772	95	1312	3	16	15	4636	2	937	211	24	83	19	33	0	3	0	3	192	0	9187
2014	464	0	1769	74	1658	65	864	14	20	13	12322	6	1461	117	68	87	40	53	0	0	0	3	0	0	18634
2013	532	1	2163	175	1441	134	2987	21	40	21	15653	5	2182	385	81	259	52	70	0	1	0	5	89	0	25765
2012	666	0	285	62	1155	175	1923	14	23	17	14574	6	1254	238	30	67	13	26	2	13	1	14	15	0	19907
2011	585	1	477	21	545	80	2425	7	23	5	9346	4	745	98	23	114	28	34	1	9	5	2	7	0	14000
2010	573	0	760	47	826	145	1584	22	29	9	4934	7	698	127	33	97	44	22	26	113	6	18	20	0	9567
average	576	0	1005	53	975	113	1606	12	21	12	8905	4	1152	202	41	99	27	33	3	20	1	5	32	0	14323

## March

March	Hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
2019	64	0	0	0	207	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	15	0	1	0	227
2018	90	0	0	0	181	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	5	1	6	0	0	0	197
2017	75	0	0	0	77	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	6	0	0	0	95
2016	65	0	0	0	72	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	12	0	6	0	0	0	96
2015	67	0	0	0	110	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	127
2014	89	0	2	0	332	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	1	0	19	0	0	1	370
2013	80	0	0	0	273	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	21	0	1	0	309
2012	126	0	2	0	645	15	39	0	1	12	0	0	106	63	13	9	2	0	926
2011	97	0	0	0	147	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	9	1	6	0	1	0	171
2010	83	0	1	0	435	25	21	0	13	1	0	0	125	11	15	1	4	0	674
avg	83	0	1	0	248	4	7	0	5	2	0	0	27	8	11	1	1	0	319

The March count was below average and on the high side for the last 5 years. Bald and Golden Eagles stood out. 6.5 days were lost to road conditions and weather.

## April

April	Hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
2019	164	0	493	4	172	53	723	11	10	3	106	0	353	169	19	44	5	5	2170
2018	194	0	349	17	237	64	601	8	6	6	281	1	307	160	15	23	5	13	2094
2017	168	0	259	10	247	54	267	0	9	4	776	2	400	80	11	24	6	4	2158
2016	187	0	391	3	216	97	394	3	8	8	41	0	680	148	20	36	5	4	2054
2015	204	0	279	5	263	43	279	2	4	5	96	0	524	109	15	31	6	2	1718
2014	141	0	514	10	689	32	225	3	6	5	3	0	642	80	28	32	23	4	2297
2013	159	0	817	33	676	92	1792	9	26	5	416	1	893	315	46	116	22	30	5378
2012	224	0	172	18	192	89	450	2	14	5	802	3	350	96	13	36	3	4	2264
2011	194	1	257	6	209	44	403	3	13	3	99	0	329	68	15	29	11	6	1508
2010	193	0	432	21	201	107	663	6	8	6	180	2	429	99	9	69	17	9	2341
Average	183	0	396	13	310	68	580	5	10	5	280	1	491	132	19	44	10	8	2398

8 days were lost to rain or snow this month. The count was below average and high for the last 5 years. The Mackinac Strait and Duluth counts were well above average for April and Whitefish Point was below average. There was an unusual amount of unsettled weather with lots of tornadoes south of this region. Birds were moving but less so in the Keweenaw. April 20 was a very fun day to be a hawk watcher because of the diversity and high counts. April 24 had the high count for Sharp-shinned Hawks.

	Total	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG
20-Apr	<b>502</b>	70		59	21	126		6	1	3	110	86	1	15	3	1
24-Apr	<b>605</b>	45	2	11	15	430	3		2	3	34	38		20	2	

## May

May	Hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
2019	204	0	367	10	436	28	673	2	4	2	3028	1	316	52	13	26	12	13	4985
2018	237	0	433	31	368	45	1081	10	11	11	7807	4	360	191	15	42	9	23	10445
2017	195	0	437	12	178	47	567	0	5	3	5083	1	554	25	14	42	5	11	6986
2016	207	0	390	14	296	24	620	1	2	2	5287	1	585	13	13	27	16	20	7367
2015	205	1	376	27	274	52	1006	0	5	10	3351	2	303	101	5	49	11	30	5730
2014	169	0	956	62	459	30	628	9	2	8	10652	6	728	37	21	54	15	45	13712
2013	184	1	992	124	357	36	1162	9	8	14	9290	4	1042	68	14	124	26	40	13311
2012	230	0	105	41	261	67	1409	10	8	0	11485	2	736	79	4	22	7	20	14266
2011	211	0	211	14	176	34	2008	4	7	0	7617	4	356	29	2	81	16	27	10594
2010	225	0	283	23	169	12	896	15	8	2	4542	5	130	17	9	24	22	13	6246
avg	207	0	455	36	297	38	1005	6	6	5	6814	3	511	61	11	49	14	24	9364

The May count was well below average. 4.5 days were lost because of rain or snow. Mackinac Strait and Whitefish Point were well below average in May and Duluth was slightly below average. The weather to the south was turbulent in the first part of May.

May 11 was the high daily count for May with the sole Swainson's Hawk for the season.

## June

Last season the count continued after June 15<sup>th</sup> on selected south wind days and limited hours and picked up 502 birds. This season the count was extended more formally thru June 30<sup>th</sup>. From June 16 thru June 30th 754 raptors were counted. On June 8<sup>th</sup> 1107 raptors were counted. A very high count for late in the season. The young of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks stood out in the June migration.

June	Hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
2019	222	0	380	3	390	12	5	0	1	1	2278	0	348	2	2	7	7	0	3438
2018	119	0	112	8	160	3	18	0	0	1	1567	0	105	2	0	8	3	0	1987
2017	100	0	100	2	65	3	8	0	0	0	562	0	156	2	0	3	2	2	905
2016	86	0	85	4	79	1	5	0	1	0	1230	0	94	0	0	4	1	1	1505
2015	106	0	142	1	125	0	26	1	0	0	1189	0	109	0	0	3	2	1	1612
2014	66	0	297	2	178	3	10	2	0	0	1667	0	90	0	0	1	2	3	2255
2013	110	0	354	18	135	6	32	3	1	2	5947	0	246	1	0	19	3	0	6767
2012	87	0	6	3	57	4	25	2	0	0	2287	1	62	0	0	0	1	2	2451
2011	82	0	9	1	13	2	13	0	0	0	1630	0	51	0	0	4	0	1	1727
2010	72	0	44	3	21	1	4	1	0	0	212	0	14	0	0	3	1	0	306
avg	105	0	153	5	122	4	15	1	0	0	1857	0	128	1	0	5	2	1	2295

## A brief look at species

Year	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
2019	0	1240	17	1205	93	1401	13	16	6	5412	1	1017	226	49	77	25	18	10820
2018	0	893	54	916	112	1697	20	19	18	9196	6	737	354	36	71	16	36	14186
2017	0	796	24	567	105	842	0	14	7	6421	3	1121	107	31	69	13	17	10144
2016	0	866	21	663	122	1020	4	13	11	6558	1	1371	161	39	67	22	25	11022
2015	1	797	33	772	95	1312	3	16	15	4636	2	937	211	24	83	19	33	9187
2014	0	1769	74	1658	65	864	14	20	13	12322	6	1461	117	68	87	40	53	18634
2013	1	2163	175	1441	134	2987	21	40	21	15653	5	2182	385	81	259	52	70	25765
2012	0	285	62	1155	175	1923	14	23	17	14574	6	1254	238	30	67	13	26	19907
2011	1	477	21	545	80	2425	7	23	5	9346	4	745	98	23	114	28	34	14000
2010	0	760	47	826	145	1584	22	29	9	4934	7	698	127	33	97	44	22	9567
avg	0	1005	53	975	113	1606	12	21	12	8905	4	1152	202	41	99	27	33	14323

Well below average for the season were Osprey, Red-shouldered-Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks and Peregrine Falcons.

Below average were Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Goshawks, Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels with Merlins slightly below.

Above average were Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, Cooper Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks and Golden Eagles.

I am very grateful to Joe Youngman and Debra Mues for covering the count and giving me days off, Karen and Hannah and Debra for all the support and logistics and Tom for the new Shack. Thanks to all who came up the mountain and helped count birds and make this experience and location special.