

The Brockway Mountain Hawk Watch report for the 2025 season

March

The count started on a relatively warm south wind day but with few birds. Hannah, Erica and Steve put the shack together and delivered a deluxe new swivel chair. 5 full days and 2 half days were lost to weather and the March count was low. The high count for the month was 44 birds on the 21st with W and NW winds. 3 S wind days brought few birds. 3 early Turkey Vultures were the highlight of the month. The hawkcount.org abbreviation key will help with reading the following charts.

Code Species

- BV** Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)
- TV** Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
- OS** Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
- BE** Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- NH** Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*)
- SS** Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)
- CH** Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)
- AG** American Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*)
- RS** Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)
- BW** Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)
- SW** Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
- RT** Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
- RL** Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)
- GE** Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- AK** American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)
- ML** Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- PG** Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- UA** Unknown Accipitrine (*Accipitrine sp.*)
- UB** Unknown Buteo (*Buteo sp.*)
- UF** Unknown Falcon (*Falco sp.*)
- UE** Unknown Eagle (*eagle sp.*)
- UR** Unknown Raptor (*Accipitridae sp.*)

Other abbreviations appear in the regional hawkcount comparison charts.

BMHW- Brockway Mountain Hawk Watch

Mac- Mackinac Straits-Mackinaw City Spring count

WF- Whitefish Point

Duluth- West Skyline Hawk Count in Duluth, Minn.

The March count

Date	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	UF	UE	UR	TOTAL
	Hrs																							
3/15	4				6										1									7
3/16	0																							0
3/17	4.75				8										1									9
3/18	0																							0
3/19	5.5																							0
3/20	5				4																			4
3/21	5.25				41								1		2									44
3/22	3.5																							0
3/23	0																							0
3/24	0																							0
3/25	3																							0
3/26	6				3										1									4
3/27	5.75																							0
3/28	2.75		3		1																			4
3/29	5.75																							0
3/30	0																							0
3/31	5.75																							0
Total:	57	0	3	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72

The chart below compares this year's March counts of four regional hawkcounts as a % of each site's historic averages. For example, BMHW had an actual count of 63 Bald Eagles in March and the historical average for this month and site being 205 Bald Eagles. So, this year's March count was 31 % of the historical March Bald Eagle count. I did not average in the years of the other sites that seemed to have minimal hours and few birds or no counts at all.

March	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	RT	RL	SW	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
	Hrs																		
BMHW	72	n/a	700	n/a	31	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	5	0	n/a	46	0	0	0	27
Mac	84	0	94	0	96	233	133	280	0	141	0	55	126		76	250	65	0	76
WF	104	N/A	93	N/A	193	12	51	0	48	109	N/A	38	19	0	210	43	151	0	108
Duluth	142	N/A	95	N/A	166	188	82	48	28	0	N/A	33	59	n/a	223	128	137	115	144

All 4 sites were low on Red-tailed Hawks. BMHW only had 1.

April

For the month the count was 172 % of the average. 8 species were close to or above 150 % of the average and 3 of those species were well above average with SS at 257 %, BW at 396 % and PG at 244 %. AG, RS and RT were below average. April and Rough-legged Hawks go so well together. The first half of the month was slow with birds getting more numerous in the last 2 weeks and strong flights on 3 of the last 4 days. Of the 10 highest count days 8 had S or SE winds, one a N wind and 1 mostly E with a little ESE thrown in. On 5 of the busy days, we had 2 or more experienced counters with some combination of Joe, Deb and Bob and a guest visit by Reece. The extra eyes improved the count especially with SS which are easy to miss while scanning for high or distant birds. One memorable event was a Golden Eagle chasing a raven. April had 5 no count days and 2 very short days.

Date	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
	Hrs																		
4/1	5				2								6						9
4/2	2.5																		0
4/3	5.5																		0
4/4	8		1		78								10		1				90
4/5	5																		0
4/6	5.75		2		5														7
4/7	3.75																		0
4/8	5.5																		0
4/9	7.5		3		20		1								2				26
4/10	8		5		15								1	2					23
4/11	8		8		4	2	1						9						24
4/12	9		5		68	15	31		1				17	52	5	1	1	1	197
4/13	6.25		14		6	30	30			1			3	18	1	1	1		105
4/14	2.5					2								1					3
4/15	0																		0
4/16	8		5		2						1		8		1				17
4/17	9		98		18	7	35	1					18	33	4	9	1	3	227
4/18	0																		0
4/19	7																1		1
4/20	9		63		10	6	143		1		4		77	29	2	1		1	337
4/21	0																		0
4/22	8		73		8	3	24	1	1		55		38	11	2	1		1	218
4/23	6		14	5	6	5	130	1	1				51	13		6			232
4/24	7		3	1		1	2				4			2					13
4/25	0																		0
4/26	8		48		11	1	16				39		23	9	1	1	1	2	153
4/27	9.75		49	7	6	12	392	1		1	380	1	47	37		10	2	5	950
4/28	5.25		11	2	14	6	161		1		214		5	5	2	4			425
4/29	0																		0
4/30	10.25		51	3	43	12	303	2	1		127		62	22	5	8	3	6	648
Total:	169.5	0	453	18	316	102	1269	6	6	2	824	1	375	234	26	42	10	19	3705
	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	

All four of the regional counts were well above average in April. The Mac had an actual count of 25,366 BWs which was 18,640 birds above their average. The Mac was also the only site close to the average on RTs. WF was way above on harriers and SS.

April	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	RT	RL	SW	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
	Hrs																		
BMHW	96	0	127	163	112	154	257	145	59	39	396	84	140	117	137	108	94	244	172
Mac	100	0	201	176	188	191	129	59	0	224	377	98	108	0	324	154	148	101	207
WF	113	1567	310	124	281	223	282	52	59	82	93	29	84	0	183	169	197	260	188
Duluth	130	0	287	118	212	149	133	119	0	95	215	62	89	0	115	111	285	500	167

May

The total raptors for May were 75 % of the historical average and with the biggest impact on the count having only 58 % of the average number of BWs. RTs were also down at 42 % of average. The accipiters, falcons, OS, NH, BE and RL were all above average. It was another pleasant month with extra help. Randy and Sally Clark visited from May 11 thru the 19th. Brendan Leddy helped on a couple of days as did Marshall Weathersby and Joe and Lonnie and Cathy. Joe and Deb subbed and Deb helped out on some busy days. May had 3 peaks with the first one May 1-6 (1842 raptors), a big peak from May 11-16 (3198 raptors), the 16th was also the high count for the season with 1049 birds, and a mini peak May 26-29 (943 raptors). The 7 highest count days had S, or SE winds and 1 ESE. Some good flights also occurred on a few W, WNW and NW winds.

Date	Obs Hrs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	TOTAL
5/1	9		3			5	198		1		24		2	6		3		2			244
5/2	0																				0
5/3	8.75		16		16	1	52				128		22	14	2	1	1				253
5/4	8.25		21	2	9	3	232				106		9	9	1	11	1	6			410
5/5	8.75		45	1	28	6	66	2		1	490	1	25	13	2	11	3	1			695
5/6	8.25		20	2	3	2	21				184		6			1		1			240
5/7	8		7										1	1							9
5/8	8		10		25		10		1		85		9	6	1	3					150
5/9	6.75		9		18	1	21		1		31		4	1		2					88
5/10	6			1							4										5
5/11	9.25		45	1	57	3	210			2	121		14	22		9		2			486
5/12	9.5		40	2	48	5	61	2	1		72		6	3		7	1	6			254
5/13	8.5		19		65	8	147	1	1		314		30	14	1	3	1	3	1		608
5/14	8		42	2	27	2	62				192		6	6		4	6	1		65	415
5/15	6.75		19	3	22	3	44		1		281		6	2			2	3			386
5/16	9		34	12	78	3	110				773		18	9		4	4	4			1049
5/17	3.5			1	1		2				30		1								35
5/18	5																				0
5/19	7		6				2						1								9
5/20	7		2		3		1		1												7
5/21	8		10				4														14
5/22	6.75																				0
5/23	5																				0
5/24	7.75		13				1				16										30
5/25	4.75		8		22			1			29		5	1							66
5/26	8.25		19	2	11		2				231		12	4				1			282
5/27	8.25		21	2	23		15				212		2				1				276
5/28	6.75		11		12		3				141		4	1							172
5/29	7.75		24		7		13			1	157		10							1	213
5/30	5.25		1		1						2										4
5/31	7		2								6		1								9
Total:	220.75	0	447	31	476	42	1277	6	7	4	3629	1	194	112	7	59	20	30	1	66	6409
	Obs Hrs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UA	UB	TOTAL

In May all 4 regional sites were quite a bit short on BW and RT. WF was the only site above average for total birds with great numbers of SS and BE.

May	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	RT	RL	SW	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
	Hrs																		
BMHW	108	0	102	101	154	114	141	109	107	84	58	42	177	39	63	126	154	144	75
Mac	81	156	107	76	165	104	85	29	233	188	50	76	114	0	162	77	18	94	57
WF	109	0	144	82	471	213	150	55	59	30	66	49	98	66	188	118	127	200	117
Duluth	118	N/A	468	21	157	155	48	69	0	0	42	66	57	0	29	45	36	153	67

June

The total number of birds was 154 % of the average. The first 8 days totaled 2289 raptors. This included a no count day and a short day with zero birds. Deb saw good winds coming on June 20th and counted 712 birds to finish out the count. This was a very good count day for so late in the season and was the second time in the last 2 counts with numerous birds after the usual last day of the count. BWs matched the month by being 154 % of their June average. It was fun to get 1 each of CH, AG, RS, SW, RL, and GE. Marshall and Deb were of great help this month and Betsy also chipped in.

Date	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
	Hrs																		
6/1	7.25		14	1	14					1	133		10						173
6/2	10		49		62	5	12	1			783		18			3	2		935
6/3	0																		0
6/4	8		11		27		2				92		16						148
6/5	8		16	1	14		3				565		6						605
6/6	4																		0
6/7	8		22		21		7				144	1	7						202
6/8	5.75		30		27		5				163			1					226
6/9	4										6								6
6/10	7		5		4						39				1				49
6/11	7.5		8		10						84		6						108
6/12	7.75		15		3		1				12								31
6/13	6.5		2								2					1			5
6/14	7		4		5						2		1						12
6/15	8		21		33						126		6						186
6/20	6.5		32		52		1		1		608		17				1		712
Total:	105.25	0	229	2	272	5	31	1	1	1	2759	1	87	1	1	4	3	0	3398

WF and Duluth closed down at the end of May so the comparisons below are of BMHW and Mac.

June	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	RT	RL	SW	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
	Hrs																		
BMHW	103	n/a	165	51	226	163	241	156	200	233	154	77	175	1400	350	95	140	0	154
Mac	63	0	54	100	87	63	394	0	N/A	1000	88	122	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	85

Season

The total for the season was 103 % of the historical average. The BWs came in at 88 % of average and RTs were at 63 %. The AG and RS were also down but both these species are not numerous at Brockway. Most everything else did well. The SSs 182 % for the season took up some of the slack of the 2 most numerous buteos. This was the second highest seasonal count for SSs.

Season	Obs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	RT	RL	SW	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
	Hrs																		
S 2025	553	0	1132	51	1127	149	2577	13	14	7	7212	657	347	3	39	105	33	49	13584
S 2023	544	0	1040	57	1251	189	1419	11	26	12	9399	1008	564	4	42	137	37	25	15221
S 2022	429	0	711	31	683	97	1237	14	16	4	9817	617	332	3	43	80	24	36	13755
S 2021	540	0	738	10	677	75	775	1	30	20	3405	885	342	0	32	37	25	9	7213
S 2020	593	0	549	13	451	49	339	2	15	7	2905	537	62	1	46	19	12	10	5039
S 2019	652	0	1240	17	1205	93	1401	13	16	6	5412	1017	226	1	49	77	25	18	10820
S 2018	639	0	894	56	946	112	1700	20	19	18	9655	777	354	6	36	73	17	36	14724
S 2017	537	0	796	24	567	105	842	0	14	7	6421	1121	107	3	31	69	13	17	10144
S 2016	544	0	866	21	663	122	1020	4	13	11	6558	1371	161	1	39	67	22	25	11022
S 2015	581	1	797	33	772	95	1312	3	16	15	4636	937	211	2	24	83	19	33	9187
S 2014	464	0	1769	74	1658	65	864	14	20	13	12322	1461	117	6	68	87	40	53	18634
S 2013	532	1	2163	175	1441	134	2987	21	40	21	15653	2182	385	5	81	259	52	70	25765
S 2012	666	0	285	62	1155	175	1923	14	23	17	14574	1254	238	6	30	67	13	26	19907
S 2011	585	1	477	21	545	80	2425	7	23	5	9346	745	98	4	23	114	28	34	14000
S 2010	573	0	760	47	826	145	1584	22	29	9	4934	698	127	7	33	97	44	22	9567
2023-																			
2010 Avg	563	0	935	46	917	110	1416	10	21	12	8217	1044	237	4	41	90	27	30	13214
2025	553	0	1132	51	1127	149	2577	13	14	7	7212	657	347	3	39	105	33	49	13584
2025 to																			
% of Avg	98	0	121	111	123	136	182	125	65	59	88	63	146	86	95	116	125	166	103

All 4 sites were above average for the season. 3 of the sites were way low on RTs and 3 of the 4 were below average with BWs. Mac had superb BW flights in April but was below average for May and was the only site to be above average for the season for BW. WF had very nice BE and SS counts.

Season																			
	Obs Hrs	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	AG	RS	BW	RT	RL	SW	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL
BMHW	98	0	121	111	123	136	182	125	65	59	88	63	146	86	95	116	125	166	103
Mac	88	42	160	127	156	160	112	60	69	171	133	89	109	0	144	138	92	84	124
WF	112	900	213	98	358	214	197	52	56	86	70	35	84	47	200	145	157	213	142
Duluth	111	0	283	72	154	139	92	89	11	56	89	52	73	0	164	86	183	255	112

Some trivia

	Days	Raptors
no counts weather	12	0
zero bird days	15	0
single digit bird days	17	102
2 digit bird days	15	562
3 digit bird days	34	11871
4 digit bird days	1	1049
Total	94	13584

The count shack was taken down July 20 by Sue and Bob Pokorski, and Deb and Mike--on a warm sunny day with no measurable wind!! Perfect conditions for taking down the shack. The road opened on May 7th, allowing a much broader audience to the mountain. Besides the usual hawk aficionados there were about 15 other folks who contributed to finding and ID'ing raptors. Big thanks to Joe Youngman and Debra Mues for giving me days off. Joe subs the first half of the season and caught 3 sub days in a row with not nice weather for migrants. I greatly appreciate it.

Great support

Keweenaw Bird Research Group

The Mariner North for very comfortable lodging

Copper Country Bird Club

Copper Harbor Improvement Association