

Bird Field Note
April 19, 2015
Eric Rasmussen



Serviceberry bloom in warm draws.

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One of the first House Wrens reported in the state this year appeared in the Clubhouse Floodplain.



American Goldfinches come into their breeding plumage.



Canada Geese pair up and mark their territories with loud honking and periodic chasing of other geese in the area.



A pair of Barrow's Goldeneye's take up residence in the expanded Clubhouse Pond.





Kate Stone saw the first re-sighting of a leg-banded Long-billed Curlew, “CJ”, foraging between Sheep Camp and Tongue Creek. No transmitter was visible. It may be covered by feathers, explaining why location signals are intermittent.



Spring Migration Update
Raptor View Research Institute
4/16/15

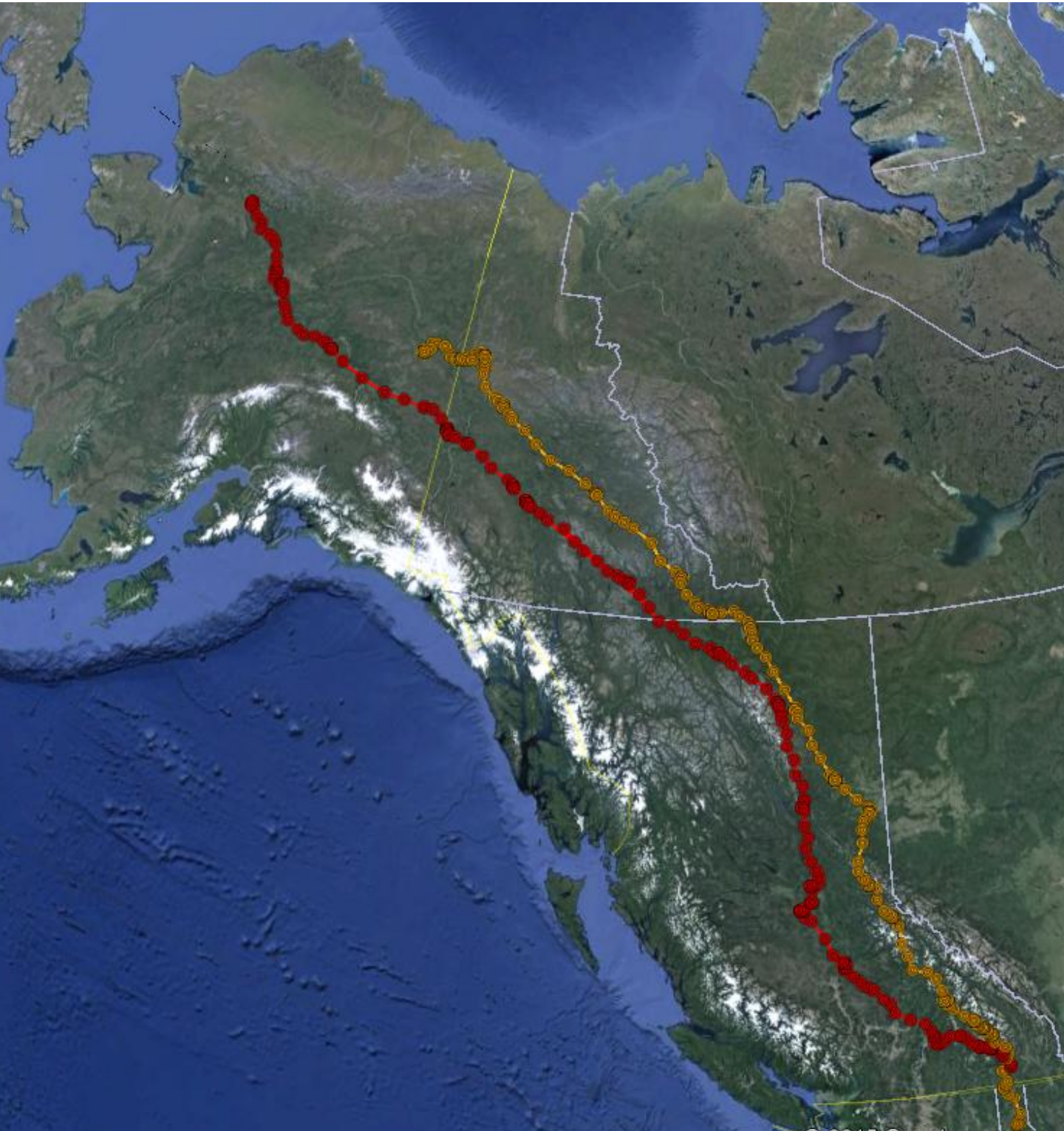


This week we saw an increase in the number of passing Accipiters and American Kestrels, while Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures continued to pass by in relatively high numbers. Eagle numbers dropped, and we expect the numbers of Rough-legged Hawks, another early-season migrant, to follow suit in coming weeks.

Weekly (4/9-4/15) and Seasonal Raptor Totals			
		Weekly Total	Season Total
Eagles	Golden Eagle	1	42
	Bald Eagle	1	12
	Unknown Eagle	0	5
Accipiters	Sharp-shinned Hawk	26	37
	Cooper's Hawk	32	54
	Northern Goshawk	1	2
	Unknown Accipiter	13	16
Buteos	Red-tailed Hawk	44	219
	Rough-legged Hawk	11	34
	Swainson's Hawk	0	0
	Broad-winged Hawk	0	0
	Ferruginous Hawk	0	0
	Unknown Buteo	6	40
Falcons	American Kestrel	13	22
	Merlin	1	1
	Peregrine Falcon	2	4
	Prairie Falcon	4	7
	Unknown Falcon	1	2
Other	Northern Harrier	11	25
	Osprey	5	10
	Turkey Vulture	17	68
	Unknown Hawk	3	15
	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>615</i>

Satellite Telemetry Update

Two of eight Golden Eagles wearing GPS satellite transmitters are still traveling north. Both birds are currently in Alaska. The individual in red reached the southern extent of the Brooks Range; because this is our first season tracking him, we do not know where he will ultimately settle. The individual in orange was captured in the winter of 2013/2014 as a sub-adult male. He spent last summer roaming from the southernmost portion of Alaska all the way north of the Brooks Range, and into the northernmost portions of the Yukon Territory of Alaska.



All Four adult Osprey returned to their nests along the Bitterroot River, while all three younger Osprey (marked in white, green, and cyan) remain on their winter grounds. Scooter (pink), the male from the Ranch Entrance Nest, left his wintering grounds April 1, and arrived on the MPG Ranch April 6. Egbert (red) and Olive (blue) both left their wintering grounds April 6, and reached their North Center Pivot Nest April 14. Helen (yellow) left her winter grounds April 8, and arrived at her nest on the Sapphire Ranch April 13.



Egbert (left) and Olive (right) rest on the North Center Pivot Nest, where they unsuccessfully nested last year. Despite wintering ~500 miles away from each other, Egbert and Olive headed north on the same day, and arrived at their nest ~12 hours apart from each other.



Helen (right) arrived at her nest on the Sapphire Ranch as construction was underway on the McClay Bridge. In lieu of this disturbance, and the lack of her mate from last year (who died near Santa Fe, New Mexico, while migrating south last fall), she has been spending time on the Ranch Entrance Nest with Scooter (left). Scooter's mate from last year is presumed dead, after her transmitter suddenly went offline last June. Perhaps Helen and Scooter will attempt to nest together this season.





Shooting Stars (above) and Yellowbells (below) bloom at our raptor migration site.

