

Raptor Research Update

April 21, 2016



We counted 300 migrating raptors, our highest weekly total this season. We saw Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures in high numbers, as well as an increase in Accipiters. We expect our counts of Ospreys and American Kestrels to increase in the coming weeks, and the number of Rough-legged Hawks to drop.

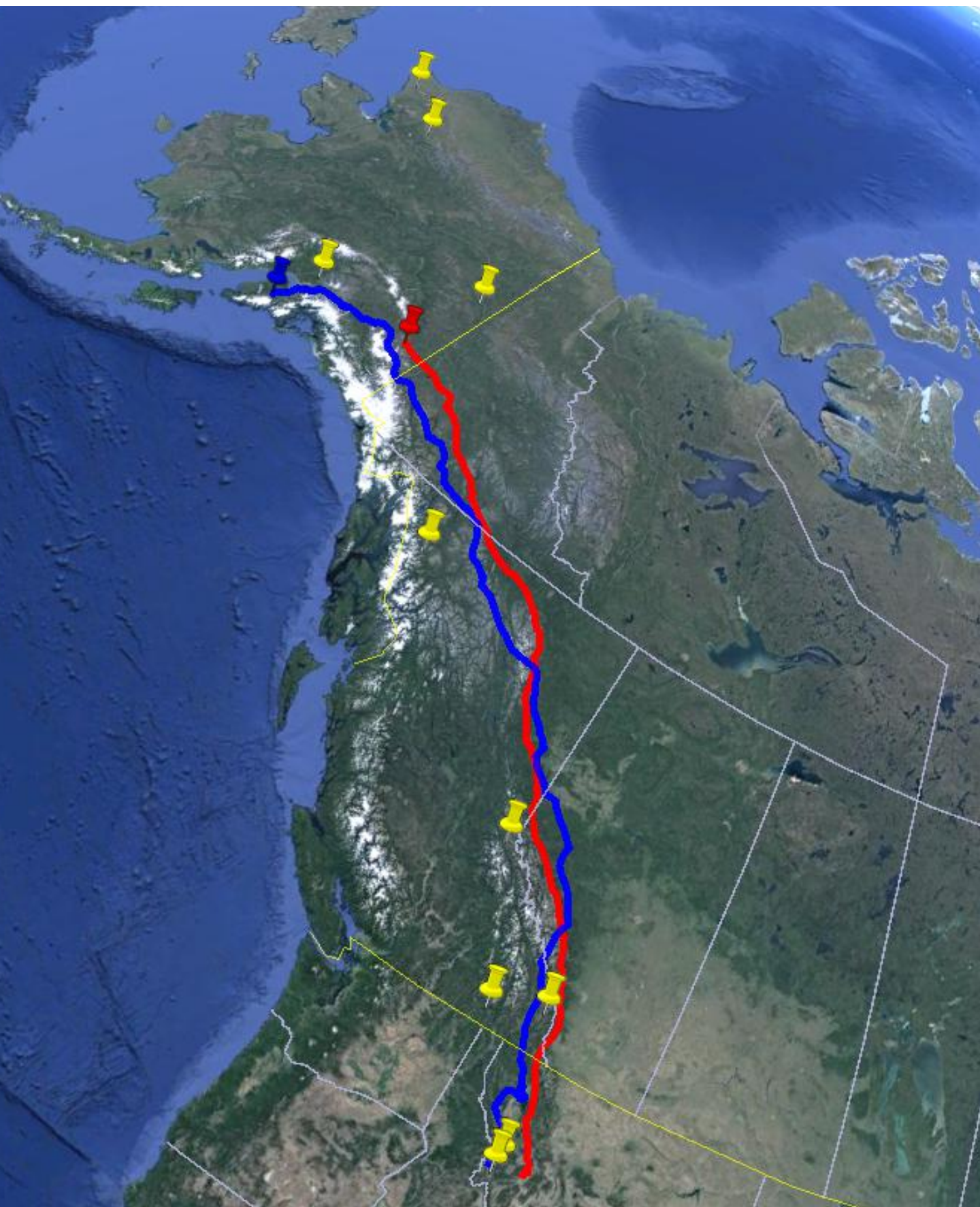
Weekly (4/6-4/12) and Seasonal Raptor Totals			
		Weekly Total	Season Total
Eagles	Golden Eagle	1	48
	Bald Eagle	7	44
	Unknown Eagle	1	7
Accipiters	Sharp-shinned Hawk	38	53
	Cooper's Hawk	32	50
	Northern Goshawk	2	4
	Unknown Accipiter	13	22
Buteos	Red-tailed Hawk	83	282
	Rough-legged Hawk	13	74
	Swainson's Hawk	0	0
	Broad-winged Hawk	0	0
	Ferruginous Hawk	1	1
	Unknown Buteo	12	53
Falcons	American Kestrel	7	9
	Merlin	1	1
	Peregrine Falcon	0	5
	Prairie Falcon	2	5
	Unknown Falcon	0	0
Other	Northern Harrier	11	24
	Osprey	2	4
	Turkey Vulture	64	73
	Unknown Hawk	10	22
	Total	300	845



Tree Swallows take advantage of any available perch near our Indian Ridge count site.



Ten of the eagles (yellow pins) moved very little this week, suggesting they have reached their summer ranges. Two eagles (red and blue), both outfitted with GPS this past winter, continued travelling.



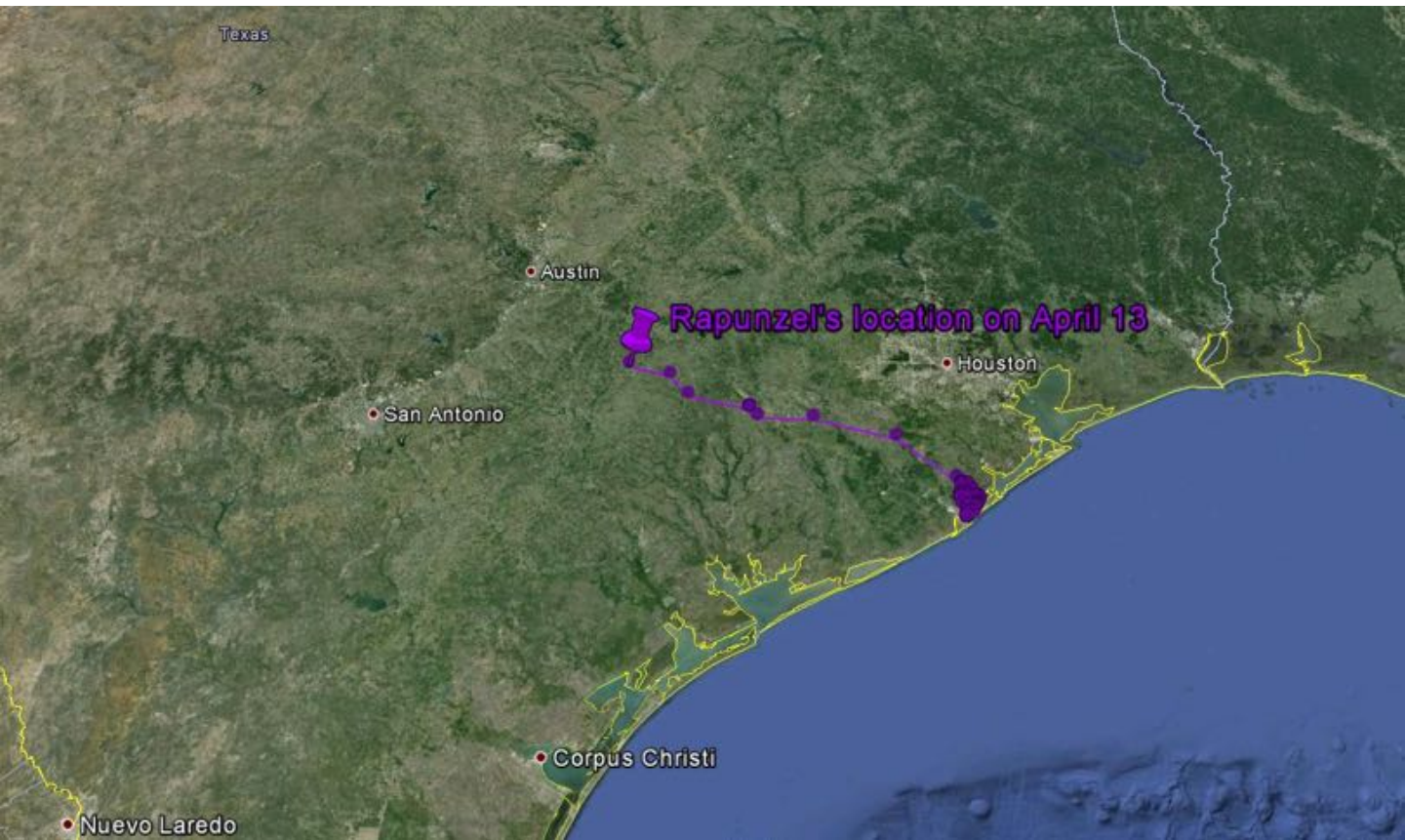
All four of the adult Ospreys from the MPG Ranch returned to their nests this week. Despite wintering in different locations, they all arrived within a 24 hour period. As always, we were amazed at how quickly they made the journey—Olive traveled over 1,700 miles in less than 6 days!



Scooter sits atop his nest with an unbanded female. Last year, they used an alternate nest on a live power pole, preventing us from accessing and banding the young or female. Northwestern Energy removed the nesting platform from the live power pole this winter, and it looks like Scooter and his mate will return to their regular nest.



We are also thrilled to report that Rapunzel has started her northward journey. She attempted to nest for the first time last year, but she and her mate started too late in the season to be successful. This year, she's started her journey much earlier, which should give her a better chance.



The Cooper's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk continued to move north this week, while the other birds we outfitted with transmitters last fall remained on their wintering grounds. At last report, the Red-tailed Hawk was near Kalispell, MT, while the Cooper's Hawk had just entered Idaho.

