

Raptor Research Update

April 26, 2016



We counted 142 migrating raptors this week, and most of them were Accipiters and Red-tailed Hawks. We expected a higher total during what should have been the peak of migration, but northern winds and poor weather made it tough for migrants to move. Difficult conditions also prevented us from counting birds on April 23 and 24. Hopefully next week produces better weather and higher counts.

Weekly (4/20-4/26) and Seasonal Raptor Totals			
		Weekly Total	Season Total
Eagles	Golden Eagle	1	49
	Bald Eagle	2	47
	Unknown Eagle	0	7
Accipiters	Sharp-shinned Hawk	22	87
	Cooper's Hawk	31	111
	Northern Goshawk	2	7
	Unknown Accipiter	4	36
Buteos	Red-tailed Hawk	37	381
	Rough-legged Hawk	9	93
	Swainson's Hawk	2	6
	Broad-winged Hawk	0	0
	Ferruginous Hawk	0	1
	Unknown Buteo	3	65
Falcons	American Kestrel	11	25
	Merlin	1	3
	Peregrine Falcon	0	5
	Prairie Falcon	0	5
	Unknown Falcon	0	0
Other	Northern Harrier	8	47
	Osprey	3	13
	Turkey Vulture	6	152
	Unknown Hawk	0	23
	Total	142	1,163



Olive (top), at the north center pivot nest, was the first of MPG Ranch's Ospreys to lay eggs this year. Scooter and his mate from the ranch entrance nest (bottom) haven't started incubating, but still hang tight to their nesting platform. Helen, from the Sapphire Ranch nest, has not started incubating either, but she has been observed with a male on several occasions.





Rapunzel completed her spring migration on April 22. She had traveled over 1,750 miles in less than a week and a half! We were excited to see her return to her nest from last year. She should have plenty of time to raise her first clutch of young this summer.

Both of the young Red-tailed Hawks continued to move this week while the adult Red-tailed Hawk and adult Cooper's Hawk, both in British Columbia, stayed relatively sedentary.

