

Raptor Road Survey 2020 report

Note this report was created in the middle of the season for this project. Data in this report is from the beginning of the season up to the date this report was created. Data will be analyzed by season (Oct-April) and not by calendar year

Project Leader: Gene Groshon gene.groshon@calvertcountymd.gov 410-535-5327

To assist with the Winter Raptor Research project you will be conducting surveys of raptors along specific driving routes. These surveys will not only help to aid in catching raptors for banding and further research but they will also be useful in estimating population sizes similar to Christmas Bird Counts. By comparing the data from different years of surveys we will be able to look for trends in the populations.

You will be given a guide that includes raptor identification, the specific routes you can cover as well as how to enter your data into eBird.

SKILLS NEEDED

- Legible note taking and understanding of data being collected
- Taking photos with smart phone of raptors for documentation

Optional, but Preferred, Skills

- Ability to identify American Kestrels, Red-Shouldered Hawks and Red Tailed Hawks

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

- Follow the survey guidelines in the manual
- set up their own eBird account
- submit all records to eBird in accordance with the manual
- provide their own transportation and optics
- track their hours using the Calvert Stewards website

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

Once qualified and after reading the manual volunteers may begin conducting surveys along the indicated routes. Surveys can begin on October 1, 2020 and happen through April 31, 2021. Surveys can start any time after sunrise and must be completed before sunset. Surveys should not be conducted on rainy or snowy days. While raptors may be out at these times they are unsafe conditions to be along roadsides. You may perform more than one route in a day. Routes may be repeated after 3 days have passed since the last survey you conducted on that route.

TRAININGS

- Must pass raptor identification test before being qualified for this program

PROJECT DATES

- **October 1, 2020 through April 31,2021**

Summary of 2020 Activities

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As of October 1 through January 5, 2021

Total Surveys conducted: 24

Karen Anderson and Mike Carpenter: 156

Joanne and Craig Simmons: 1

Remaining surveys conducted by Gene or other staff

Data collected as as of January 5, 2021

Species	Total number of birds sighted	Birds sighted vs Number of Surveys*
American Kestrel	15	.625
Red Shouldered Hawk	1	.041667
Red Tailed Hawk	11	.458333
Merlin	0	0
Coopers Hawk	0	0
Sharp Shinned Hawk	1	.041667
Northern Harrier	0	0

* This number will be useful in comparing data between different years. Looking at just the number of birds sighted could show a false increase in population due to more surveys being conducted.

Future Plans

We will use the data collected from this program to aid in finding raptors to trap. We will also use this data to compare with sightings during trapping to estimate populations of these species in our area during the winter.

Supporting Calvert County's nature parks and natural spaces



CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A partnership between Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

2020 Annual Report

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CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
c/o Natural Resources Division
2880 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
(410) 535-5327

Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources

