

Green Mountain Soaring Skies Raptorthon Summary 2025



Photos by Chris Roberts, Jaime Rodominick and Kat Lauer

Despite being rained out on April 12, the Green Mountain Soaring Skies Raptorthon team, comprised of HMA Communications and Engagement Coordinator Kat Lauer, Chad Witko, Willow Witko, Chris Roberts, Jaime Rodominick, and JoAnne Russo, rallied for a day of birding across Windham County, Vermont on a gloomy, but bird-filled Sunday, April 13.

After spending the morning birding independently across the region, our team gathered at Herrick's Cove IBA and Putney Mountain Hawkwatch to continue our search, with everyone enthusiastically proving once again that birding is always better together!

Birding highlights included Northern Harriers swooping and gliding across fields, Bald Eagles performing aerial swoops and dives, a Black Vulture perched on a tower near the local hospital, and a lifer Eastern Meadowlark for Jaime! The fields were especially full of activity, with American Kestrels seen in abundance in several locations, a stunning species we're always happy to spot.

In total, our team observed 60 bird species and an impressive 12 raptor species (see the table below for the complete bird list and counts). This meant we surpassed our goal of 50 bird species while witnessing the wonder of spring migration firsthand!

We're immensely grateful to our incredible sponsors near and far! Together, we raised \$350 to support HMA's raptor conservation and education programs. Thank you so much for being a part of our special day!

Raptor Totals:

COUNT	SPECIES
14	American Kestrel
21	Bald Eagle
1	Barred Owl
1	Black Vulture
1	Cooper's Hawk
1	Merlin
2	Northern Harrier
5	Osprey
1	Peregrine Falcon
11	Red-tailed Hawk
3	Sharp-shinned Hawk
19	Turkey Vulture
TOTAL	80

Other Bird Species Totals:

COUNT	SPECIES
5	American Black Duck
1	American Coot
37	American Crow
5	American Goldfinch
112	American Robin
1	Barn Swallow
2	Belted Kingfisher
13	Black-capped Chickadee

15	Blue Jay
1	Brown Creeper
17	Brown-headed Cowbird
9	Bufflehead
79	Canada Goose
1	Chipping Sparrow
57	Common Grackle
1	Common Loon
16	Common Merganser
1	Common Raven
14	Dark-eyed Junco
4	Downy Woodpecker
6	Eastern Bluebird
1	Eastern Meadowlark
7	Eastern Phoebe
5	European Starling
1	Golden-crowned Kinglet
6	Great Blue Heron
1	Hairy Woodpecker
3	Hooded Merganser
4	House Sparrow
2	Killdeer
11	Mallard
9	Mourning Dove
4	Northern Cardinal
2	Northern Flicker
2	Northern Mockingbird
1	Pine Warbler
2	Red-bellied Woodpecker
41	Red-winged Blackbird
12	Ring-billed Gull

32	Ring-necked Duck
3	Rock Pigeon
17	Song Sparrow
31	Tree Swallow
5	Tufted Titmouse
6	White-breasted Nuthatch
1	Wild Turkey
3	Wood Duck
3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
TOTAL	612