



# RAPTOR REVIEW

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Psalms 24:1a

## Inside this update:

2011 Migration	1
Youth Education	1
2012 Raptor Event	2
Education (cont'd)	2
2011 Raptor Count	2
You can help	2
Contacts	2

## Donor Recognition

Anonymous

Bill and Margaret Fast  
Family Foundation

Bev Friesen

Dr. Marv Goossen

Dr. Randolph Goossen

Ruth Hiebert

Yvonne Stoesz

**THANK YOU!**

## Calendar Alert:

**March 31, 2012**

(See Pg. 2)



Photo by J. Paul Goossen

## -2011 MIGRATION- RECORDS CONTINUE TO FALL!

For the third year in a row, the number of migrating birds of prey recorded during spring in Manitoba's Pembina Valley exceeded 10,000. Over 13,000 raptors passed by the count site this spring making this year's total the highest ever recorded in Manitoba. The Red-tailed Hawk was the most abundant species by far, with nearly 11,000 individuals counted.

The 2011 spring migration chronology of raptors was quite unusual. Generally by the end of March the raptor count is well into the thousands. However, at the end of the day on 31 March, only about 1,100 raptors had been seen in total. Wintry conditions in North Dakota probably held back the birds up to that

date because it was not too long after that, raptors began flooding into the valley. Within a six-day period nearly 10,000 raptors passed by the count area. One of those days was over the top with



Keeping up with the count!

more than 3,300 raptors counted.

Bald Eagles put in a good showing with over 1,100 counted, while Golden Eagles were down by 35 birds compared to last year when 95 were tallied. Astonishingly, Red-tailed Hawk numbers sky-rocketed in April

when nearly 97% of their total tally for this year's spring count was made. Their total count of 10,896 was the highest yet recorded in the Pembina Valley. Peregrine Falcons piqued hawk watcher's interest with seven of these rare birds passing through the valley. The Rough-legged Hawk count was up by 32 and four Swainson's Hawks made for a good seasonal count as this species is not commonly seen in the valley. Counts for most species were down, however. Notably, Turkey Vulture numbers were about 47% lower than last year's high of 190.

In 2011, counters spent about 358 h during 51 days at the count site. A Rocha thanks all who helped make this year's count a success!

## INSPIRING AND EDUCATING YOUTH

Young people are tomorrow's leaders. A well-rounded education is vital to their acquiring skills and tools which can help them make wise decisions and choices. An understanding of the environment

and its role in aiding human well-being is critical to their educational learning.

Raptors have public appeal and serve as excellent models in environmental education.

A Rocha is contributing to this goal by engaging students in the classroom.

In May, Paul and Valorie Goossen, talked to a kindergarten class at J.R. Walkof School in Winkler, Manitoba about raptors. Kids had fun



## Help A Rocha raise \$5,000

to support the 8th A Rocha Pembina Valley Spring Raptor Count !

Your tax-deductible donation would be greatly appreciated.

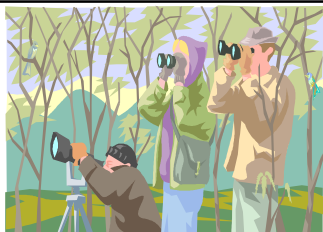
Send your cheque to A Rocha Canada (see Contacts below for address)

or

### DONATE ONLINE!

[www.arocha.ca](http://www.arocha.ca)

(Click the red Donate button, find Conservation Projects, then find The Hawk Watch)



#### 2011 Pembina Valley Spring Raptor Migration Count

Species	No.
Turkey Vulture	101
Osprey	1
Bald Eagle	1122
Northern Harrier	104
Sharp-shinned Hawk	701
Cooper's Hawk	69
Northern Goshawk	15
Swainson's Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	10,896
Rough-legged Hawk	72
Golden Eagle	60
American Kestrel	19
Merlin	20
Peregrine Falcon	7
Unidentified	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,209</b>

## RAPTOR AWARENESS DAY MARCH 31, 2012

One of next year's exciting A Rocha events will be the **Raptor Awareness Day** planned for **March 31, 2012** in **La Rivière**. This scenic hamlet is nestled in the Pembina Valley, 135 km southwest of Winnipeg. Already, various organizations have shown an interest in the event. There will be speakers, displays, a photography contest and special activities for children.

Bird tours will be available for those birders interested in seeing early migrants and those wishing to get a start on bird watching.



Photo by J. P. Goossen

There will also be ample opportunity to watch for migrating hawks, eagles and falcons.

Hawk watchers will be on site to help identify the various raptors, pointing out key features to help hone visitors' raptor watching skills.

Late March is usually the peak of the raptor migration in the Pembina Valley, so come expecting to see lots of raptors and up to 14 different species of birds of prey.

By late March, spring fever should be in full swing. What better antidote than to get out and watch one of Manitoba's amazing bird migrations. Mark your calendars and plan to take part in the 2012 Raptor Awareness Day in La Rivière. Activities start at 10 AM in the Blair Morrison Memorial Hall on Broadway Street.

## EDUCATING YOUTH (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

seeing what kind of raptor wingspan corresponded with their out-stretched arms. The students also learned about the importance of habitats and migration.

Paul and Val will continue to bring an awareness to southern Manitoba students about the importance of raptors and the role they play in the environment.

Their presentation, using raptors as examples, includes topics related to habitats, physical and behavioural adaptations, natural and human caused changes to habitats.

The presentation also introduces students to one of Manitoba's amazing local bird migrations, one which happens right in southern Manitoba's backyard. The presentation can be

adapted to meet teachers' specific teaching needs.

A Rocha's goal is to reach 500 students in the current school year. If you are a teacher or principal of a public or private elementary school or if you home school and are interested in having a curriculum-based presentation given to your students, please call Paul or Val at 204-822-2087 or send them an e-mail at [pgoossen@mymts.net](mailto:pgoossen@mymts.net) to set-up a time for a visit.

## CONTACTS

### A Rocha Canada

**National Office**  
19353 - 16th Avenue  
Surrey, British Columbia V3S 9V2  
Phone: 604-542-9022  
E-mail: [canada@arocha.ca](mailto:canada@arocha.ca)  
Website: [www.arocha.ca](http://www.arocha.ca)

**A Rocha Prairie Canada**  
Phone: 204-246-2059  
E-mail: [manitoba@arocha.ca](mailto:manitoba@arocha.ca)

**A Rocha's Pembina Valley Raptor Migration Project**  
Paul and Valorie Goossen  
Phone: 204-822-2087  
E-mail: [pgoossen@mymts.net](mailto:pgoossen@mymts.net)

### A Rocha

A Rocha is an international conservation organization working to show God's love for all creation. We work out our commitment to environmental action through community-based conservation projects. Underlying all we do is our biblical faith in God, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to the care of human society.

**A Rocha's five characteristics:**  
Christian, Conservation, Community, Cross-cultural and Cooperation



**We are on the Web!**  
[www.arocha.org](http://www.arocha.org)