

2014-15 Rathdrum Prairie Raptor Run

In the groove now, we completed our second full year of conducting raptor surveys (aka “Raptor Runs”) out on the Rathdrum Prairie as part of a larger project being conducted by the East Cascades Audubon of Bend, Oregon. If you recall, we cover forty-three (43) miles of a predetermined route once a month during the winter to count raptors using the area, and determine utilization density (measured in raptors/mile). This year, we had the following results:

	<u>15 Nov.’14</u>	<u>13 Dec.’14</u>	<u>17 Jan.’15</u>	<u>14 Feb.’15</u>
Northern Harrier	-	2	2	1
Cooper’s Hawk	-	-	-	1
Bald Eagle	-	1	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk	26	29	23	40
- Harlan’s race	-	5	1	-
Rough-legged Hawk	7	11	12	6
<i>Buteo</i> sp.	2	1	-	1
American Kestrel	2	7	3	6
Merlin - “Taiga ssp.”	-	1	-	-
Total Individuals	37	57	43	56
Total Raptors/mile	0.86	1.32	0.99	1.29

Unfortunately, schedules conflicted enough that we were not able to get out there in March. However, from a data collection standpoint this isn’t a problem as the survey is primarily interested in wintering populations which are settled in during December through February; November and March are optional survey months as numbers get “muddied” due to migration.

I was joined during the season this year by Janet Callen, Jan Severtson, Maurine Simpson, Shirley Sturts, Andrea Wilkey, Valerie Zagar, and Sally Jones. This survey has become very popular, but unfortunately we can only accommodate one vehicle of observers for each trip due to the increasing traffic on the “Prairie”. If you are interested in joining one of next winter’s surveys (November 2015-March 2016), please contact Doug Ward (dougward@frontier.com / (208) 699-9327 (cell)); we will fill the vehicle on a first come first served basis.