



Golden Eagle Survey 2022

Final Report

On January 15, 2022, 195 citizen scientist volunteers from the National Eagle Center spread out across the blufflands and forested areas of southeast Minnesota, western Wisconsin, eastern Iowa, and northwestern Illinois for the 18th annual Wintering Golden Eagle Survey. They were seeking Golden Eagles that winter in the region. The Center greatly appreciates all the time and energy these citizen scientists dedicated to this survey. Although the number of Golden Eagles were a little below average, the numbers for Bald Eagles (1,643) was the second highest count in survey history! Red-tailed Hawk (866) and Rough-legged Hawks (199) also recorded their highest totals to date. This report contains the full survey results.

Overview

Citizen Scientist Observers: 195
Survey Routes: 73
States Covered: 4 (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois)
Counties: 51
Total Surveying Hours: 602+ **Total Miles Driven:** 7,209

Total Golden Eagles Observed	
2022	99
2021	126
2020	119
2019	145
2018	62

Golden Eagles (Adult : Juvenile)	
2022	67% / 33%
2021	75% / 25%
2020	77% / 23%
2019	67% / 33%
2018	84% / 16%

2022 Routes Reporting > 5 Golden Eagles	
WI 05	Buffalo County

2021 Routes Reporting 3-4 Golden Eagles			
WI 02	Buffalo Co.	WI 20	Pierce Co.
WI 03	Buffalo Co.	WI 21	Trempealeau
WI 04	Buffalo Co.	WI 47	Sauk Co.
WI 31	Grant Co.		
IA 04	Clayton Co.		
MN 11	Houston Co.		
MN 12	Houston Co.		
WI 13	Buffalo Co.		
WI 33	Richland / Sauk Co.		

Total Bald Eagles Observed	
2022	1,643
2021	1,433
2020	1,403
2019	1,391
2018	1,202

Bald Eagles (Adult : Juvenile)	
2022	74% / 26%
2021	72% / 28%
2020	78% / 22%
2019	74% / 26%
2018	83% / 17%

2021 Most Active Routes (Bald Eagles)		
MN 06	Winona County	93
WI 05	Buffalo County	65
WI 31	Grant County	64
WI 06	Buffalo County	63
WI 09	Trempealeau County	49

2022 Most Active Routes (Bald Eagles)		
MN 06	Winona County	107
WI 16	Trempealeau County	105
WI 10	Buffalo County	94
IA 08	Dubuque / Jackson Co.	90
WI 25	Vernon County	76

Unidentified Eagles	
2022	86
2021	93
2020	60
2019	92
2018	38

Falcons

Total American Kestrels Observed	
2022	111
2021	154
2020	89
2019	64
2018	141

Total Merlins Observed	
2022	5
2021	1
2020	3
2019	1
2018	1

2021 Most Active Routes (American Kestrels)		
WI 33	Richland / Sauk Co.	9
MN 11	Houston Co.	7
IA 08	Dubuque / Jackson Co.	6
WI 24	LaCrosse /Vernon Co.	6
WI 26	Crawford County	6

Total Northern Harriers Observed	
2022	6
2021	8
2020	6
2019	6
2018	3

Hawks

Total Red-Tailed Hawks Observed	
2022	866
2021	480
2020	461
2019	583
2018	737

2022 Most Active Routes (Red-Tailed Hawks)		
WI 30	Grant County	46
WI 33	Sauk / Richland Co.	35
WI 25	Vernon County	32
WI 22	LaCrosse County	31
MN 13	Winona / Houston Co.	28

2021 Most Active Routes (Red-Tailed Hawks)		
WI 25	Vernon County	23
IA 03	Allamakee / Clayton Co.	23
WI 33	Richland / Sauk Co.	21
MN 12	Houston / Fillmore Co.	19
WI 35(W)	Iowa County	18

Total Rough-Legged Hawks Observed	
2022	199
2021	154
2020	127
2019	124
2018	131

2022 Most Active Routes (Rough-Legged)		
WI 27	Crawford County	16
WI 30	Grant County	11
WI 33	Richland / Sauk Co.	11
WI 02	Buffalo County	10
MN 13	Winona / Houston Co.	10

2021 Most Active Routes (Rough-Legged)		
WI 27	Crawford County	11
WI 33	Richland / Sauk Co.	11
WI 07	Buffalo County	10
MN 11	Houston County	9
WI 14	Buffalo County	8

Total Sharp-Shinned Hawks Observed	
2022	8
2021	5
2020	1
2019	4
2018	9

Total Cooper's Hawks Observed	
2022	16
2021	10
2020	10
2019	5
2018	16

Shrikes

Total Northern Shrikes Observed	
2022	6
2021	13
2020	23
2019	6
2018	13

Other Noted Species

American Crow	Horned Lark
American Goldfinch	House Finch
American Robin (<i>over 180 - WI 18</i>)	House Sparrow
American Tree Sparrow	Mourning Dove
Barred Owl	Northern Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher	Northern Flicker
Black-Capped Chickadee	Peregrine Falcon
Blue Jay	Pileated Woodpecker
Brown Creeper	Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Canada Goose	Red-Headed Woodpecker
Cedar Waxwing	Red-Winged Blackbird
Common Merganser	Ring-Necked Pheasant (<i>22</i>)
Common Raven	Rock Dove
Dark-Eyed Junco	Ruffed Grouse
Downy Woodpecker	Snow Bunting
Eastern Bluebird	Trumpeter Swan
Eastern Meadowlark	White-Breasted Nuthatch
Hairy Woodpecker	Wild Turkey (<i>over 1,200</i>)

Non-Bird Species

Coyote (<i>more that recent years</i>)	Red Fox
Deer Mouse	Squirrel (Fox / Gray / Red)
Mink	Virginia Opossum
Muskrat	White-Tailed Deer
Raccoon	Wolf Tracks