

South Carolina

Coastal Raptor Migration Survey 2016

- Survey Duration:** September 1st – November 30th
- Observation Point:** The Center for Birds of Prey – Observation Deck
4872 Seewee Road
Awendaw, SC 29429
- Observation Shift:** 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Shift Leader directions:

- 1) When arriving at the CBP campus, enter through gate on Seewee Road (unless the main gate on Highway 17N is already open, then feel free to enter in that gate). Keep to the right and park in the guest parking lot on the left near guest services. The Hawk Watch platform is located on the east side of the campus. Follow gravel path from the guest service area past the first three buildings, bear left at fork in path and the platform should be visible.
- 2) Locate the Hawk Watch bin and set up data sheet. Record data on HMANA Daily Report Form – specifics for location, observers, date, weather & species. Use the weather clues on the back of the datasheet to fill in any weather data that you can.
- 3) The Hawk Watch bin will contain a clipboard, datasheets, hawk Watch ID guide, plastic data repository envelope, observation notebooks, a compass, bug repellent, and sunscreen.
- 4) You will need to bring water/snacks and your binoculars.
- 5) The Shift Leader makes final decision when identifying migrants.
- 6) Birder's Field Notebook: please use these to make interesting behavioral observations, notes on direction of migrating birds, notes on information not included in HMANA form (age, sex, etc.) Shift leader can assign observer to manage field notebook during shift.
- 7) Additional observation hours are welcome.
- 8) Leave HMANA datasheets in plastic envelope in bin. Secure lid on Hawk Watch bin and leave on observation deck.

Observer directions:

- 1) When arriving at the CBP campus, enter through gate on Seewee Road (unless the main gate on Highway 17N is already open, then feel free to enter in that gate). Keep to the right and park in the guest parking lot on the left near guest services. The Hawk Watch platform is located on the east side of the campus. Follow gravel path from the guest services area past the first three buildings, bear left at fork in path and the platform should be visible.
- 2) The Shift Leader will locate the Hawk Watch bin and set up data sheet. The bin will contain a clipboard, datasheets, hawk Watch ID guide, plastic data repository envelope, observation notebooks, a compass, bug repellent, and sunscreen.
- 3) You will need to bring water/snacks and your binoculars.
- 4) Additional observation hours are welcome.

Staff Contact Numbers:

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How to Observe Birds of Prey: Training for SCCRMS 2016

Observation Tips:

1. Look North. (As you climb the platform, North is to your left)
2. Think distant – the eye will automatically focus at about 20 ft.
3. Hawks tend to fly lower in the morning and higher in the afternoon (with thermals).
4. Look for TUVU to point out invisible thermals where migrating hawks might concentrate.
5. Use of thermals from 11:30 – 13:30 can create a lull in hawk watching because high flying hawks can be difficult to detect.
6. Look and listen for other species that respond to hawks. Blue jays, crows, shorebirds, and blackbirds will harass a hawk in flight.

When you find a hawk:

1. Note shape and size.
2. Watch flight pattern.
3. Work from general (raptor or non-raptor) to family (accipiter or buteo) to species.

What to bring:

1. Binoculars
2. Water/snacks

What will be provided (in a Tupperware bin at Observation site)

1. Sunscreen & insect repellent
2. Clipboard
3. Birder's Field Notebooks
4. Compass
5. Thermometer
6. Pens/Pencils

Recording data:

1. The Shift Leader makes the final decision on identifications and completes HMANA data sheet.
2. Birder's Field Notebook – please use this to record daily count totals and any interesting behavioral observations.
3. Make sure to secure lid of Hawk Watch bin after completing shift.