Please join us for this year’s EMHW Annual Business Meeting on Friday, September 5th, at our new location at the Woburn Elks Lodge in Woburn. Our Keynote Speaker this year is Tom Sayers, a retired teacher from Tolland, Connecticut, whose concern for the decline of the American Kestrel led him to pioneer the Northeast Connecticut Kestrel Project. Tom will speak about “Rebuilding Local Populations of the American Kestrel, One Box at a Time”. Additionally, Andrew Vitz, MA State Ornithologist, will first address the membership on the subject of “The Status and Conservation of the American Kestrel in Massachusetts”. Other highlights include the Annual Election for the Board of Directors, information on fall hawk watch sites, refreshments, raffle prizes, and invited vendors. Please see pages 2-3 for more detailed information about the meeting, the new location, guest speakers, and new directions. We hope to see you there!

In this issue:
- Annual Meeting Details
- Wachusett Mountain: What a Year!
- The Early Christmas Gift
- Great Meadows
- Love Lost, Love Found
- Book Review
- 2014 Treasurer’s Report
- Northeast Hawk Silhouette Guide
- Barre Falls Dam Fall 2013 Counts
- Wachusett Mountain Fall 2013 Counts
- Mt. Watatic Fall 2013 Counts
- Pinnacle Rock Fall 2013 Counts
- Barre Falls Dam Spring 2014 Counts
- Pilgrim Heights Spring 2014 Counts
- Plum Island Spring 2014 Counts
- Board Election Information
- EMHW Membership Form and Ballot
- A Note of Thanks

Message from the President
by Ursula Goodine

BLASTS OF SNOW AND SNOWY OWLS

Many of us can boast of surviving snowy winters, but few of us can speak about observing the Snowy Owl in large numbers. That is, until the winter of 2013-14. In the Arctic spring, a perfect storm was forming, composed of an abundant food supply that mainly consisted of lemmings, and optimal weather conditions in distant regions. Rapid sexual maturation in the rodents led to a prolific growth of multiple generations. Having had an incursion of their own, the lemmings provided vast amounts of food with a consequence of an increased Snowy Owl egg production that resulted in a robust number of hatchlings. The parents gorged their young with food that enabled them to fly in eight weeks and develop into strong and powerful predators. Neither bird nor rodent is safe when a Snowy is on the prowl. Known to fly thousands of miles from the Arctic, they choose to winter where frequent snowfalls mask areas to resemble the familiar Tundra.

continued on page 8
Annual Meeting Details and Description

Date & Time: Friday, September 5, 2014  
6:00 pm Social Hour  
7:00-9:00 pm Meeting & Keynote

NEW LOCATION:  Woburn Elks Lodge  
295 Washington Street, Woburn, MA (directions on next page)

Keynote Speaker:  Tom Sayers  
Co-Founder, Northeast Connecticut Kestrel Project

Keynote Topic:  Rebuilding Local Populations of the American Kestrel, One Box at a Time

The Northeast Connecticut Nestbox Project has provided the American Kestrels in this area with over 70 houses in which to raise their young. Tom will discuss the various ramifications resulting from this labor of love, including information about population trends, nestbox success, appropriate habitat, creative placement, site fidelity of banded adults and nestlings, and radio telemetry. This spring, a new geolocator project has been initiated, and this innovative idea in tracking birds portends to be of great help in Tom’s research.

Special Short Presentation  
The Status and Conservation of the American Kestrel in Massachusetts   
by Andrew Vitz, State Ornithologist, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Recently, the American Kestrel has experienced precipitous declines in Massachusetts and throughout the Northeast. In 2013, MassWildlife partnered with other conservation organizations in an effort to stabilize or increase kestrel populations throughout the state. Andrew will be discussing the current status of krestrels in Massachusetts as well as the efforts being conducted to promote kestrel conservation: installing nesting boxes in suitable breeding habitats and monitoring their occupancy rates and nesting success. Although the project is in its infancy, the initial results are promising.

Andrew received a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Ohio State University where he studied the effects of forest management on migratory songbirds. Before coming to Massachusetts, he was an avian ecologist at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pennsylvania, where he directed the avian ecology program at their field station in the Allegheny Mountains. Andrew is currently the State Ornithologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Plus: Our annual business meeting including the vote for board members, information on fall sites, vendors, raffle prizes and refreshments!

*****PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MEETING VENUE: Woburn Elks Lodge*****
Directions at bottom of next page →

Tom Sayers was born and raised in South Windsor, Connecticut and from the age of 8 has spent every bit of his spare time wandering the fields and woods exploring whatever nature has to offer. After high school, he attended the University of Connecticut to pursue a degree in Wildlife Management. In his junior year, he was dissuaded (by his advisor no less) from continuing his studies in that area because there were simply very few job opportunities in the field at that time. Tom went on to receive his masters degree in Educational Psychology and spent 35 years in the Tolland Public School system as a special education teacher. He retired in 2010.

Throughout his teaching career, he never lost his love for the outdoors. He always had a special interest in birds and began seriously birding in 2007. This interest gradually morphed into a strong desire to learn more about certain species that were experiencing steep declines. In 2009, he began exploring ways to help the struggling American Kestrel, which had been experiencing a dramatic decrease in numbers in the eastern U.S. over the past 30 years. His research led him to articles describing success with man-made American Kestrel nestboxes. What began as a curiosity has blossomed into an extensive project comprised of over 70 nestboxes in central Connecticut.

Over time, Tom has become fascinated with the science behind the population dynamics of this species. To gather as much information as possible, he has moved beyond simply putting up nestboxes and has embarked on multi-year studies utilizing federal banding, color banding, radio telemetry, and most recently, geolocators. These efforts have added greatly to our understanding of the American Kestrel in this study area.
Everyone who was there on two incredible days will long remember the 2013 Fall migration at Wachusett Mountain. On Sunday, September 15, observers at Wachusett saw 14,535 hawks, including 14,471 Broad-winged Hawks and 15 Bald Eagles. That was our largest Broad-wing flight since September 13, 1989, when 15,916 were tallied. It was the fourth largest Broad-wing flight reported in the history of the Eastern Mass Hawk Watch, or in Massachusetts. As someone who has been hawk watching in the state for over forty years, I had virtually given up hope of ever seeing a flight of this magnitude in Massachusetts. It was positively awesome.

What made it more special was that after a very slow start on an excellent morning, a true “River of Hawks” began forming at about 11:30 a.m. EDT. This occurred northeast of the mountain and passed just north of, and over the summit, rekettling to our west and northwest. People were afforded excellent views of multiple kettles at one time, and could watch the formations within the limits of binocular vision. Long, broad swaths of hawks, peeling off their first high and distant kettle, streamed over us and rekettled again before they peeled west. The majority of birds passed within 2.5 hours. It was what hawk watchers' dreams are made of. Most of the Bald Eagles were adult and came very close to the summit. You had to be there.

The 15th was significant for another reason as well. It was the third straight day Wachusett had tallied more than 1,000 Broad-wings. Usually, we have only two or three days with 1,000+ Broad-wings in a great year, and rarely more than two in a row. The three-day total of 17,241 hawks greatly exceeded any entire season's total since 1989! The 17,065 Broad-wings seen were substantially more than any season's total for this species since 1989. The 15th was truly a religious experience.

Ecstatic hawk watchers turned out on the 16th hoping for a second large pulse. It did not come, but we had 1,791 Broad-wings, which made it the FOURTH consecutive day. There was optimism on the summit for the 17th, which was a more typical second pulse, with 2,972 Broad-wings and 11 Bald Eagles. It was difficult to pick up the dots that appeared in the cloudless blue skies, until they were virtually overhead. Undoubtedly, birds were missed. However, we had one stream of 800+ Broad-wings in five kettles which glided low over the mountain, affording great views. Now there were FIVE straight days with 1,000+ Broad-wings. I am not aware of that ever happening before in Massachusetts or New England! The tally was 21,828 Broad-wings over five days, and our best Broad-wing count since 1984! That had to be it. What a season.

We talked about hoping against hope that we might break 1,000 Broad-wings for a SIXTH straight day, but the weather forecasts were not favorable. That night, however, we saw reports online that people had seen substantial numbers of them north and east continued on page 9

Woburn Elks Lodge, 295 Washington Street, Woburn, MA 01801

From the North: Take I-95 South (MA-128 South) towards Waltham to exit 36 for Washington Street Woburn. Merge right onto Mishawum Road then turn right on Washington Street. The Elks Lodge is 0.7 mi on the left at #295.

From the South: Travel I-93 North (Boston) and take exit 36 (Stoneham/Woburn). Turn left onto Montvale Avenue, then right at the Hess gas station to Washington Street. The Elks Lodge is 1.1 miles on the right at #295.

From the West: Take I-95 North (MA-128 North) toward Peabody. Take exit 36 toward Woburn/Winchester. After traffic light, turn right onto Washington Street (south). The Elks Lodge is 0.8 mi on the left at #295.

There is plenty of free parking behind the Elks Lodge.
Additional free parking is available behind Sal's Pizza in the mall next door (north).
On December 14th, 2013, the Christmas Count was being held on the New Hampshire seacoast. When the day's tallying was finished, the teams got together for pizza to discuss the totals and compare notes. A gentleman, unknown to me, made a startling revelation, when he announced to the crowd that he had found a female Gyrfalcon behind Little Jack's Restaurant in Hampton. This fellow has a reputation of being a good birder and is well respected, so no one had any doubts about what he reported. What everyone had were questions and envy...

That night, Steve Mirick posted the sighting on the American Birding Association's NH Bird news blog. As I was reading his comments, the excitement of knowing that this rarity could still be there began to consume my thoughts. I couldn't wait until morning to get down to the beach and find that bird. I rose early and headed down to the area where it had been seen, making a few stops along the way, but found nothing. Disappointment is nothing new to a birder, but I wondered where on earth did the Falcon go? Was she gone for good, or maybe was I just not in the right place at the right time?

At about 2:30 that afternoon, I was watching a football game with my son when I checked the computer for any new sightings. The Gyr was being seen NOW at Little Jack's! Like a man with a mission, I grabbed my camera and out the door I went. Once there, I joined a crowd of maybe 15 people who were all set up with binoculars, scopes and cameras. All eyes were concentrated on searching everywhere around the marsh.

No one had seen the bird for a while, not since noon. Again, my hopes seemed dashed and the discontent was riveting. But I couldn't give up looking, not now while the possibility of seeing it was still there. I put my bins up and quickly scanned the marsh, starting at the left side near the power lines. In minutes, I saw a large bird sitting upright on a pole. My first thought was, and I am serious, that it was a Bald Eagle. The bird stretched and opened those massive angular wings and I yelled “there she is”!

The size of the Falcon, the great long pointed wings, gave it away as it flew to a pole further up the road. We all jumped into our cars to get closer to that location. The Gyr sat erect for about twenty minutes, giving everyone wonderful views, not seeming to mind that she was the focus of our attention. Ooh's and aah's were the words of the day, as nothing more had to be said. Only the clicking of camera shutters could be heard; no one moved a muscle in fear of spooking her, or she would be gone again.

The sky filled with scores of birds desperately looking to get out of the way...to safety. This style of hunting is much like a Peregrine Falcon, when it puts up shore birds, but this was on a much larger scale. I asked myself if these birds had ever seen a giant Falcon before, or did they even know what a Gyrfalcon was? Did they think it was just a large white Peregrine? Their instincts told them that this was a predator, and that's all they needed to know. There's security in numbers, so they all joined together in an act of self preservation.

I love hawk watching, and in the USA you can see many species of hawks and eagles during migration. Even a Goshawk may make an appearance every now and then. But what you don't find is the exalted one, the Gyrfalcon. To see this bird you have to be lucky or travel, sometimes both.

I have no words to describe the exhilaration I felt that day. Seeing a bird like that was extraordinary. Christmas came early for me last year, and I have been truly blessed. There were three more sightings in two days, and I just couldn't stay away. Each time she was a little further off, and I had to use my scope, but I am not complaining. Seeing a Gyrfalcon for the first time with my naked eye was a thrill I will never forget. Wow, what a bird!

I am actually thinking of taking a trip to Greenland, Canada or some such place to spend a week watching and marvelling at the strength and beauty of this magnificent creature. Waiting to see another one, if that ever happens again, isn't going to cut it: I need more. Now the Gyr isn't one of my favorite birds of prey: that place is reserved for the Merlin, whose bravery and fierceness is condensed into a mighty dynamo. But the Gyr is the king of the Falcons, and if you ever want the chance to see one, take the time and the trip. Oh, and call me, I will go with you!
In the heat of summer and through the chill of winter, they gather once a week, usually around dawn. When the stairs aren't covered with snow, they begin at the top of the tower to watch as birds make their departure from the refuge after sunrise. Some birds that leave early may not be seen again until sunset or later.

The group is assembled at the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord, MA. This crew of volunteers, at times large or small, gathers weekly to go from one end of Great Meadows to the other, conducting a survey of the birds seen and heard. Depending on the weather and the time of year, this survey can last anywhere from three to seven hours. If you’re like me, you may have seen the weekly posts on MASSBIRD, with an eBird list, notes, and sometimes photos and wondered— who are these people? Maybe you thought, aren’t they lucky to be outside while I’m at work, or even more to the point, did they really go out to count birds in today’s weather?

Alan Bragg, Great Meadows volunteer extraordinaire, has led many walks at the Refuge, some being sponsored by the Menotomy Bird Club. He and Will Martens, another enthusiast, decided to bird and survey the area weekly as the Refuge was abundant with wildlife. These activities developed a friendship that culminated in establishing the Great Meadows Survey Team in 2009. The following summer, Kathy Dia united with them to help incorporate their personal data into the checklists dating back to 1999. Over the years, the threesome has increased their ranks with many folks, but listing them here would only leave someone out. They are always welcomed, and vastly contribute to the survey as their schedules and lives allowed. This collaboration was immensely helpful and provided a needed boost in collection of data. As of June 2014, the Great Meadows survey team has counted 178 species of birds on more than 166 checklists since late October, 2009.

What do the Great Meadows survey team and hawk watchers have in common? The answer is faithfulness and commitment. What matters is the loyalty of the people who created the survey team and those who join them. They come back, week after week, all year long, even in the harshest conditions to survey and report on their observations. If they were birds, we might call their allegiance site fidelity, as their return is an intrinsic behavior that echoes their commitment to accomplishing their goal. As many migrants do, they follow the same route, with expectations of what they will find along the way.

Hawk watchers, especially site coordinators and counters, display this exact type of steadfast behavior. How many times have they gone to their hawk watch sites to count and have only a few birds go through? How often have they ventured out when it is cold and windy? Many have been at the sites by themselves, or with one or two others staying most of the day. Some even hike up mountains to count when roads are closed. People say “I didn’t go to the hawk watch because the winds were wrong or the weather forecast wasn’t good”. Faithfulness pays off when conditions aren’t optimum and those who persevere are rewarded with great, even record breaking flights of birds. Perfect examples are Wachusett Mountain in September, 2013 and Plum Island in May, 2014.

The Great Meadows survey team and Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch members contribute to the overall knowledge that many enthusiasts use to study avian species in an area, which includes migration patterns. The birding world is richer for the information gained through the weekly Great Meadows survey, as well as hawk watch tabulations.

Like hawk watchers, the survey participants reap many benefits, as they are born of a common interest with many new friendships developing along the way. Spending time together, getting to know each other, sharing their lives while being committed to the task at hand, all contribute to building relationships like the ones that flourish on hawk watch platforms.

Faithfulness and commitment: it keeps us together and it keeps us coming back.

Want to Go Hawk Watching?
Visit www.massbird.org/EMHW

Visit the EMHW website for details and directions to individual sites across Massachusetts. Also included on the website are a list of resources, field guides, and a printable copy of the HMANA Daily Report Form (DRF) you can take with you into the field so you can record your sightings. Whether you plan to spend a few hours, few days, or few weeks watching the movement of hawks at your favorite spot, it is important to record what you see. This information helps EMHW gather an understanding of raptor migration in our area. Send completed DRF’s to: Paul Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155.
It all began in 2000 during the Peregrine Falcon nesting season on Cathedral Ledge in North Conway NH, when a male chick was banded by Chris Martin, NH Audubon Senior Biologist. Subsequently, the young one thrived and endured his first year of life, having only a 25% chance of survival. After leaving home in search of his own territory, an encounter with a female in the Manchester skies led to a liaison that lasted for many years. She was a 2-year-old banded bird that came from a 1999 nest box on the Throgs Neck Bridge in Bronx, N.Y. He was just 1 year old when they had their first brood which included a chick that was destined to become the current breeding male in Lawrence, MA. This couple would continue to raise chicks successfully every year until the female was challenged by a younger bird, who not only won the battle, but the matriarch’s territory and mate as well. Territorial disputes are common in the animal world, with the victor reigning supreme, and the vanquished either killed or driven away.

This new pair was very successful during the ensuing years, raising numerous healthy chicks that Chris Martin banded. Their reproductive activities have been closely watched by the public on the Manchester web cam for many seasons. This capability makes it an easy task for Chris to calculate when banding time should be scheduled. The couple began their usual breeding schedule again in 2014, with four eggs that the 9-year-old female was incubating. Then disaster struck! The now 14-year-old patriarch was found across town, grounded with a fractured wing. He was taken to a veterinary hospital, had surgery to repair two fractures, and is facing a long recuperation. It is questionable whether he will heal his injury well enough to be returned to the wild.

Meanwhile, not knowing of this life altering event, the female anticipated being relieved from her brooding duties so that she could feed and exercise. Hour after hour she waited and watched, hoping to see him perch on the nest box pole. When her mate never appeared, she was faced with a crucial decision. She knew that her endurance couldn’t last without any kind of relief. The cold and damp weather made it impossible to leave the eggs for any period of time to hunt for sustenance. Incubation is a twenty-four hour duty in early spring to ensure hatching. Usually the male will come in to sit on the eggs while the female takes a break. Not this time. Out of sheer desperation and a sense for survival, she had to abandon her eggs! No longer would they consume her time and purpose; she had to save herself. Reluctantly, she flew away.

But this is not the end of this bittersweet story. Within 72 hours, a new unbanded male entered the territory and was observed performing courtship flights to attract the tragically abandoned female. Would she forget her grief to consort with this unfamiliar and inexperienced young beau? Of course she would! Mother Nature instills the instinct of survival of the species in every animal, and Peregrine Falcons are no exception. They mate for life, but don’t mourn. So it was almost a given that these two birds would find harmony and begin their new life together. Their honeymoon was short lived, as she began laying a total of five eggs just nine days after her suitor appeared on the scene. Of those five, only one hatched due to a failure of proper incubation. The unskilled male would have much to learn in parenting this lone chick, but his mate will be there to help teach him the role that he must play. That chick will help to bond this pair as they both feed and nurture the new life that their coupling created. A new dynasty has been established and will hopefully dominate the Manchester area for years to come.

As for the 14-year-old injured male, his reign has come to an abrupt end. For 13 breeding seasons, he has propagated and nourished 38 Peregrine Falcons with two mates, and is the oldest Peregrine Falcon recorded in New Hampshire history. Some of his progeny have been documented as breeding adults in Lawrence, Boston, Amherst MA and Portland Maine. His loss as the patriarch of the Manchester Peregrine Falcon nest has saddened the NH Audubon community.
Book Review
by Steve Olson, EMHW Member

A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction
By Joel Greenberg

September 1, 2014 will mark the first century that the Passenger Pigeon was eradicated from Planet Earth. Martha, the last remaining bird of this species, will soon be on display at the Smithsonian Museum this year. With the arrival of European settlers in the early 1600s, the species would encounter an adversary that would ultimately drive it to extinction. In *A Feathered River Across the Sky*, Joel Greenberg documents the bird's demise. When the Europeans arrived in North America, the passenger pigeon's population was estimated to be around 5 billion. Despite the large numbers, the native Americans did not squander this valuable resource. For many tribes, the bird provided a high level of protein required in their diet. Cooking oils and other products were used in the Indians' preparations for their daily diet.

But with the arrival of the Europeans in North America, the demise of the passenger pigeon was sealed. The migration of large flocks headed south where they wintered in the warmer weather. As spring approached in early April, the birds flew north to breed and raise their young. Greenberg notes that the birds' population began to dwindle as the human population continued to increase. A major factor on the East Coast was the immediate deforestation of the coastal plain and the creation of farmland. This loss of habitat forced the passenger pigeon to move away from the coast and head further inland into Southern Canada and the American Midwest. Still, by 1850, the birds' flights remained impressive. One count in the 1820's had over 2 million birds in one flight. Ten years later, another flight had a count of over 1 million birds. With such numbers of living, flying birds around, it is easy to understand why people thought that these creatures would survive forever.

However, Greenberg's major emphasis in the book is how the passenger pigeon became an extinct species within a sixty-five year period. He examines the various methods of killing and destruction that the bird faced as it was slowly eliminated by human beings. He indicates there was very little concern about the welfare and the survival of the bird. He aptly describes the last great nestings between 1870 and 1884 while the bird was in the wild. By the turn of the century, only twenty birds remained alive in captivity. The major problem that faced the caretakers was that they had no working knowledge of how to take care of their charges. Overall, Greenberg's book is well done and makes an interesting read for any birder. Of particular interest is the information about the relationship of Massachusetts' residents and their role in this sad saga. The beginning of the book may be a little slow but this shouldn't stop any reader that is interested in this woefully true story.

2014 Treasurer’s Report
by Lynette Leka, EMHW Treasurer

Beginning Balance (6/30/13) $ 10,390.06

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$3,842.45 Total Income -4,470.24 Total Expenses

Ending Balance (6/30/14) $ 9,762.27
Mainly juveniles began the perilous journey, appearing in great numbers in regions from the Great Lakes to the Northeast and beyond. What drives these birds of prey south is an innate nomadic behavior and a plentiful food supply. This irruption (which would later be named as the largest in the past fifty years) soon gained attention that spread like wildfire throughout the birding and scientific communities. What really captured worldwide notice was the killing of three Snowy Owls on December 7th, 2013 at the JFK International Airport. The outrage was immediate, leading to online petitions signed by thousands of people demanding that the slaughter be stopped.

Norman Smith, Director of Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum and an expert on Snowy Owls, was asked to consult on the situation. Since 1981, he has been studying this species and has worked in conjunction with Logan International Airport to manage the owls there as they arrive. Each winter, with a special permit, he locates, traps and removes the owls from the grounds and takes them for processing. They are examined, banded and a few chosen individuals are fitted with transmitters for tracking purposes. Afterwards, they are safely released in certain areas such as Duxbury Beach and Plum Island. This winter, Norman captured a phenomenal total of 174 owls with 120 of them being found at Logan. Most important are his findings that the birds are healthy and strong, not starving as many believe. According to Norman, the USDA has subsequently developed a trap and relocate protocol as a first resort to removing the owls from airports. These methods have been adapted at JFK to transfer the birds safely from that property.

Attracted by the incredible beauty of this magnificent creature, birders and non-birders alike flocked to areas where they were reported. By day observers would admire this vagabond who remained silent and aloof to their presence. One look into those lemon colored eyes was a mesmerizing experience, leaving one with the feeling that a unique and ethereal connection had been made. But make no mistake, by night the Snowy Owl is a killing machine of the first magnitude, whose prowess as a predator is unchallenged as it is at the top of the food chain. By March and early April, this itinerant traveler would take to the skies again, homeward bound. The journey north would take weeks before reaching its ultimate destination, the Arctic Tundra.

Will we ever again be treated to such an astonishing occurrence? That is a question that may not be answered for many a year, leaving us with an appreciation that this rare event did happen in our lifetime, and that we were able to revel in it.

Available at the Annual Meeting:

Hawk Silhouette Guide
by Paul Carrier

The best time to see the most hawks is when they are migrating; however, looking at hawks in flight quickly reveals the limitations of standard birding field guides. Often you will see little more than a dark silhouette moving through a lighter sky. Colors and patterns of contrast might not be visible. What you can see are relative size, shape, and behavior. This has led to the development of introductory silhouette guides and the special flight identification guides that are very helpful in the field.

One such guide, presented by the NorthEast Hawk Watch (NEHW), is a two page reference for use in identification of hawks seen and counted at hawk watch sites throughout the Northeast and eastern U.S. The graphics are beautifully done by Paul Carrier, with emphasis on identification of hawks as seen overhead.

The guide facilitates comparison of the silhouettes among species; and the graphical details clearly enable comparison of adult features. This is an invaluable tool for learning hawk identification. It focuses attention on the key features of comparison: shape and identifying characteristics.

Laminated copies of the Silhouette Guide will be available for sale at the 2014 EMHW meeting.
of us on the 17th. Harpswell, Maine had its best Broad-winged Hawk count in 45 years on the 17th! Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park reported their second largest Broad-wing flight ever. Tom McCullough, covering a major site he discovered at Clarry Hill in Union, Maine, reported over 4,000 Broad-wings, including over 1,200 after 4 p.m.! These are all sites in eastern, COASTAL Maine (two are on islands!). These are where OUR birds come from. Sites due north, northwest, and west of us were not reporting flights of comparable size. We still had a shot on the 18th.

On arrival at Wachusett that day the winds were modest, about 9 mph out of the west. Manchester, close to the area where our birds pass through, was basically calm. Closer to home, Fitchburg was reporting calm, west, variable, and southwest winds, all under 10 mph. We started getting birds almost immediately, primarily to the east of the mountain, generally kettling and streaming beneath the mountain. Not getting great lift, but working. Many were scope birds. Ryan Merrill, on his first visit to the mountain, started picking up microdots kettling and streaming north of the mountain, often with Monadnock providing the best background in what was a virtually cloudless blue sky. Peels and kettles may have been a mile or more away; often only several observers using scopes could find the swirling, streaming, masses of floaters in an ocean of blue sky. You could feel the birds sucking your eyeballs out of their sockets. Kettles of 220, 430, 300, 390, 360, again and again. The winds were not very favorable. (Really?) Birds materialized out of the ether and were often sucked back into it. Some kettles got good height, but many did not, and birds streamed southwest out of the bottom of low thermals. Great weather or not, there was still some lift and nothing to stop the birds from moving. The birds kept surging, streaming, swirling: a tidal wave of hawks.

Movement was almost constant, first to the east and south, and then the north and west. Scope birds and close birds. Not the great views of a continuous river of hawks that we had experienced on Sunday, but there were some that could be seen with the naked eye. Shortly after 4 p.m., we noticed hawks streaming north of the mountain, over Watatic, above Monadnock, below Monadnock, across the base of Wachusett, and EVERYWHERE to the north. We then found the thermal that had apparently been feeding this river of hawks, a swarm of Broad-wings teeming in a huge, dynamic elastic ball. Above the horizon, below the horizon, rising out of view, the river parted into two huge multi-kettled thermals, rising like living towers from the dark green of the forest into the deepest
azure of the sky. It was the rarest of images, and something that no camera can capture or convey. A flight of a lifetime, followed just three days after ANOTHER flight of a lifetime! The day’s total was 12,272 Broad-wings, our fifth largest flight ever! Eight more Bald Eagles, 6 Merlins and 3 Peregrines added to our total of 12,320 hawks. The SIX days of 1,000+ Broad-wings reinforced something I came to believe years ago. Broad-wings HAVE to move in September. They must vacate their breeding grounds for Central and primarily South America. The time in which they move is really quite limited, and they don’t make continuous, non-stop, trans-oceanic flights like many shorebirds and passerines. Thus, they HAVE to keep moving. When the weather is great, such as a powerful cold front passing through New England, they can move in tremendous numbers, and the way they see and use thermals can generate huge concentrations in a few areas, like traffic on the Mass Pike the day before Thanksgiving. However, when conditions aren’t optimal, but strong gusty southwest winds or rain do not force them to sit down and wait, they continue to move in small groups on a relatively broad front, “nickel and diming” hawk watchers. They’ll continue to move as long as they have some lift and they don’t have to work too hard in powered flight, investing too much energy for small gains on a long journey. There are only a few really good cold fronts in their flight from Maine to Mexico, when Broad-wings might achieve 300-400+ miles in a day. Their gains on the more common “average days” are therefore critical to their successful migration. Hawk watchers have to remember it is important to go out, to “cover,” when conditions are suboptimal. If it had not been for the five consecutive days of 1,000+ Wings, I am not sure how many hawk watchers would have turned out for a sixth straight day. The forecasts weren’t what anyone would consider favorable for a good—much less great—flight. Having a sixth consecutive day of 1,000+ Broad-wings was possible, but not likely. NO ONE expected 5,000 hawks when they went out that morning, much less 12,000. This is why it is critical for hawk watchers to maintain sites that are covered EVERY day, because Broad-winged Hawks don’t see or hear weather forecasts. They go when they can. Hawk watchers have to be looking whenever Broad-wings can move (including between rain showers). With over 34,000 Broad-wings in hand, the goal became to see 35,000 in a single season. That was achieved on September 27, when 125 were tallied. We had solid coverage on the mountain EVERY day from September 10 through September 30! No major warm fronts or substantial rains interfered with some hawk movement. Volunteers covered the mountain daily, even when conditions did not look favorable for even a modest flight. Altogether, we tallied 35,049 Broad-wings in September, blowing away our record of 27,090 seen in 1984. Never had I even dreamt of anything like this year. Personally, I believe that the Broad-winged Hawk is decreasing as a breeding bird in northeastern North America. Changes in climate, including the timing and magnitude of cold fronts, have altered migration paths for Broad-wings. Many of the birds we “saw” in the 70’s and 80’s are moving west of us, north of us. They are being seen in somewhat lesser numbers at other hawk watches to our north and west in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts. This year, however, the weather in the Maritimes and Maine appears to have pushed the bulk of the flight east, closer to the coast, which put them on a flight path for Wachusett. I was ecstatic for myself, because I never imagined I would see anything like this again in my remaining years. I was delighted for all the great hawk watchers on the mountain who have invested hundreds, in some cases thousands, of hours looking for and counting hawks. People like Steve Olson and Rod Chase who have been so influential in establishing a great spirit of collegiality and teamwork on the mountain, and who are there even when they know it is going to be a slow day. Long-term hawk watchers such as Bill La Fleche, Ursula and David Goodine, Ted Mara and many more than I can name here, were joined by many relative “newbies” who now have hawk watching in their blood. Worthy of special note is Bill Basku, who covered the summit by himself a number of days in October and hiked to the summit for three days coverage in November. We need more volunteer site leaders like Bill after the Broad-wings pass! Twenty-thirteen was notable for all-time seasonal highs of three other species as well. Our count of 102 Bald Eagles demolished the previous record of 49 seen in 2009, and the views were truly incredible this year. The 29 Merlins we saw broke the record of 20 established in 2000, and the 24 Peregrines (again, spectacular views) broke the record of 11 also established in 2000. Finally, THANK YOU to everyone who helped spot and count hawks at Wachusett during the 2013 Fall migration season. What a year!
No one hawk watching in Central Massachusetts on Sunday, September 15, will soon forget that magical day. From spotting the first kettle to bleary-eyed amazement at day’s end, Barre Falls’ observers exulted in the largest single-day Broad-winged Hawk flight ever experienced at this site. Site Leader Bart Kamp described the event for hawkcount.org: “From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT, we were overwhelmed by thousands of Broad-winged Hawks. There were multiple kettles of hundreds of hawks connected by rivers of hawks between them. At times we had hundreds of hawks passing north and south of the site simultaneously. Fortunately, watchers were willing to look in other directions while existing kettles were being counted. It was a memorable day.”

Memorable, indeed! The final tally was 11,445 Broad-winged Hawks, 13 Ospreys, 13 Bald Eagles, 1 Northern Harrier, 13 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Cooper’s Hawks, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, 1 American Kestrel, and 2 Peregrine Falcons.

From September 16 through September 22, Barre Falls recorded more than 3,900 raptors, including 3,752 Broad-wings, 43 Ospreys, 77 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 26 Cooper’s Hawks, and 11 American Kestrels. This is an impressive mid-September total in any year, but especially after 2013’s “Big Day” flight.

September concluded with a stretch of mostly clear skies, northwest to northeast winds…and far fewer than average numbers of hawks. Unbeknownst to us, this was a sign of things to come.

Barre Falls’ observers Dave Grant, Donna Schilling, Bill LaFleche, and Don Gardella are very fond of October hawk watching, and we have been rewarded over the years with excellent flights and species diversity. In 2013, however, October numbers crashed to historic lows. The total for the entire month (479 raptors) is more representative of a single week’s flight in previous years and was down an astonishing 70% compared to 2012, despite similar coverage (16 days in 2013 vs. 15 in 2012). Much lower than average numbers occurred across all species except Peregrine Falcon. Counts for species that generally migrate during the first two weeks of October, such as Ospreys, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper’s Hawks, and American Kestrels, ranged from 60% to 90% below the site’s 5-year averages.

The late-October migrants, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, also showed poorly, with their numbers 50% and 75% below average. Reviewing Hawkcount’s data for three other Central New England hawk watches (Blueberry Hill, Pack Monadnock, and Putney Mountain) reveals below-average October numbers for those sites as well, but not as low as Barre Falls’. While the other sites recovered their deficit during November, Barre Falls did not. After two days of unproductive observation in November, it was apparent that our extraordinary 2013 season was over.

For more details on the daily and monthly records and summaries of the hawk watch sites featured in this newsletter, be sure to visit www.hawkcount.org.
As indicated in the report for the Fall 2012 Hawk Migration, Wachusett Mountain became a mecca for the Fall Hawk Migration in 2013. The count for the season was the fourth largest ever recorded at the site in over thirty years of data keeping. From September 13 to 18, 2013, around 30,000 Broad-winged Hawks either passed over the summit or came close by. Each of those days, at least 1,000 birds were observed. On two of those days (the 15th and the 18th), 13,000 to 15,000 birds migrated to the Southwest. As one observer noted (quite correctly), it was a river of hawks that seemed to go on for hours. Of course, one perplexing question was why did Wachusett get this huge number of migrants after years of much lower counts. Another observer (with many years of experience at the site) felt this occurrence may be a once in a lifetime experience. Still, to witness this event was breath-taking and left everyone in total awe. Certainly, the expectations for 2014 are high and a repeat of last year would be fabulous.

This was the second year that the fire tower platform was used for observation and it has proved to be a worthwhile addition to help in the Fall Hawk Migration. The weather in September, 2013 was a hawk watcher’s delight. The watch ran from August 23 up until November 4, 2013 for a total of 44 days and 269.7 hours. Heat and humidity only occurred on two days and were not a factor in the count for the year.

As well, rainy and damp weather was not a factor. On a few early mornings, a fog enveloped the summit but burned off by mid-morning. As for sightings of raptors, the number of Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels, and Peregrine Falcons were up over the previous year. However, the number of Cooper’s Hawks was lower. The only standout was a Black Vulture sighting in late September. Towards the end of the Fall migration season, Eastern Mass Hawk Watch began a dialogue with Massachusetts DCR for work in the years to come to promote hawk watching activities at Wachusett Mountain.

To end on a bright note, around November 15, 2013, an unconfirmed sighting of a Snowy Owl on the summit was reported. It surely was a sign of the winter to come in 2014. With that in mind, Eastern Mass Hawk Watch invites all observers to join the 2014 Hawk Watch beginning at the end of August, 2014. We look forward to seeing a lot of people in the fall that will be here shortly.

To see photos and video from Wachusett Mountain on September 15, 2013 (courtesy of David & Ann Lynch), visit the EMHW website page at http://massbird.org/emhw/Sep_15_MtWachusett.htm.
Mount Watatic - Fall 2013
by Tom Pirro, EMHW Member and Mount Watatic Site Coordinator

With only 4 days and 30 hours of coverage for the autumn, it is
difficult to call this a “season” report. But, here it is.

The first weekend of coverage brought poor flight conditions with
winds out of the southwest on September 7th which shifted to the
WNW for the 8th but with heavy cloud cover. The result was a two day
total of only 99 migrant raptors primarily comprised of Broad-wings.

Weather conditions were much more favorable during the weekend of
the 14th and 15th; that, along with the fact the birds had been bottled
up to the north, held hope for a big weekend flight. The 14th brought
heavy cloud cover, but a 10 MPH wind out of the northwest helped
just over 900 raptors get some lift and pass the hill.

Sunday the 15th brought sunny skies and light NW winds, a nice
combination for a big flight. The flight was strong during the morning,
with 250 by 10 am and 1,300 by 11 am. While we had fabulous views
of some kettles overhead, most birds were passing far out to the east
and eventually passing the hill to the south. Generally this translates
to a better day for our neighbors to the south, mainly Wachusett
Mountain and/or Barre Falls and less so for Pack Monadnock–our
New Hampshire counterpart to the north. Our day ended with just
over 2,800 raptors, including 2,797 Broad-wings and 11 Bald Eagles.

Despite this being an abbreviated season, it was disappointing to miss
all falcon species during the 30 hours of coverage. However, one of
the more pleasant aspects of “the watch” is the reconnection with
like-minded friends that I only seem to see but once or twice a year.
So big thank-yous to John Carter, Mike Gooley, Craig Jackson, Tom
Gotshang, Paul Pinault, Preetinder Virk and Rick Quimby...to name
a few.

Hope to see you this fall!
After a disappointing 2012 fall season, I had hoped for a rebound. However, since fall hawkwatch counts at Pinnacle Rock are almost totally dependent on the direction and strength of winds on weekends (when coverage is possible), once more adverse winds this year resulted in few migrants – with an even lower count than 2012, despite increased hours. During the month of October, the month in which the highest number of migrating raptors are flying (at this site), the winds were either easterly or too weak to blow migrants toward the coast, and the greatest daily count was 23 birds.

By the time winds turned strong the majority of the migrants seem to have traveled south through more inland locations. A comparison of last year’s count with this year’s shows that while the total numbers of accipiters in both years was virtually identical, the largest change was a decline in the numbers of Ospreys (28 counted in 2012) and falcons (26 in 2012).

Especially striking is the very low number of Ospreys, the fewest ever seen at this site. Despite a similarly low count of 7 Ospreys in 2011, in the previous six years (2007-2012) since coverage hours again increased, the average number of Ospreys has been 32. Going back further, in the entire 18-year history (1997-2013) of this site the average Osprey count has been over 23 per year.

Falcon numbers as a whole similarly showed a strong decrease this year. Again, 7 total falcons this year was the lowest ever seen here. The drop is especially evident when it is compared with an average number of falcons of slightly over 32 during the last six years, and over 30 during the entire 18-year history of the site.

### PINNACLE ROCK HAWK WATCH
#### Fall 2013 Season Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Days</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Hours</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald Eagle</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Harrier</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp-shinned Hawk</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper’s Hawk</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad-winged Hawk</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Kestrel</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlin</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified Accipiter</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified Raptors</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>115</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### BARRE FALLS DAM HAWK WATCH

#### Spring 2014 Season Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Vulture</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bald Eagle</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Harrier</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharp-shinned Hawk</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper’s Hawk</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Goshawk</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad-winged Hawk</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough-legged Hawk</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Eagle</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Kestrel</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlin</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified Raptors</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>371</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Winter’s icy grip continued through March, when the average monthly temperature was 28.3 degrees, 6.4 degrees below normal. April was dry with welcome seasonable weather during the first two weeks, but below normal temperatures prevailed from April 16-30 along with generally north or east winds. Spring was slow to arrive in Central Massachusetts.

Despite the Broad-winged Hawks’ spectacular southbound migration in September, a good return flight failed to materialize during Barre Falls’ spring count period. Only 198 Broad-wingeds were recorded, with the high count of 119 on April 28. Numbers for all species were lower than average, and lower than spring 2013, even though coverage for the two years was similar (16 days in 2014 vs. 17 in 2013). Ospreys and American Kestrels, in particular, lagged far behind 2013. Compared to the five-year average, their numbers were down 75% and 84%, respectively. Only Northern Harriers, Cooper’s Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Merlins were recorded in numbers close to their five-year averages. One Golden Eagle (uncommon at Barre Falls in spring) was observed by Dave Grant on a frigid late-March morning.

The highlight of Barre Falls’ spring count occurred on the very last day when observers identified an approaching bird as a Black Vulture. Although Black Vultures are found in Southern Worcester County and, in fact, roosted near the Barre landfill in summer 2012, they rarely make their way past the Barre Falls’ hawk watch site. This bird was our first spring sighting of a Black Vulture since 2004.

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**Red-tailed Hawk**

*Photo courtesy of Shawn Carey*
Pilgrim Heights - Spring 2014

by Donald Manchester, EMHW Member and
Pilgrim Heights Site Leader

It was another dismal spring count with unfavorable winds and many days of rain being most of the problem. We also had no volunteers and very few observers which meant not a lot of “eyes” to the skies.

Hawks per hour were a slight bit better than last season. There were 23 Peregrine falcons versus none last year; 129 Sharp-shinned hawks compared to 51 last year; and there were 5 Mississippi kites that flew by—two on one day and three the next.

The only non-raptors of note were a pair of Common ravens observed off and on through the month of April, and then single ravens were also seen most days in May. Several days featured sightings of Jaegers as well.

As always, there were many aerial courtship displays put on by the three nesting pairs of Northern Harriers in the area, and a lot of whale activity offshore.

Here’s hoping for a better season in spring of 2015!

Get Involved in EMHW!

Whatever your skill or interest...

EMHW is your organization: help us make it a successful one!

- **Hawk Counts**: Would you be interested in helping with this year’s counts at any of the sites? Consider volunteering as a counter or assistant to one of the lead counters. Even one day’s commitment can be very helpful.
- **Annual Meeting**: Would you be able to help at the annual meeting? We’re always looking for assistance with any number of tasks at the meeting. Do you have an idea for a guest speaker for next year’s meeting?
- **Website**: Do you have photos of hawks or of people at any of the sites EMHW covers? Do you have suggestions for additional content or materials that could be added to the website?
- **Newsletter**: Do you have an idea or article that could go in our newsletter? We welcome any submissions you may have for next year’s newsletter.

Contact Lynette Leka (lynette.leka@yahoo.com) for more information about any of these activities.
The spring hawk migration of 2014 on Plum Island was the second best since the Plum Island Hawk Watch was resumed in 2006. The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (PRNWR) on Plum Island has been perhaps the premiere location in North America for the spring American Kestrel migration. This year was no different, with excellent views of more than 600 Kestrels. Record numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks (237) and Osprey (59) highlighted the year’s count. This season’s rarity was a dark, intermediate morph Swainson’s hawk, photographed by Jeremiah Trimble on May 3, 2014. It was confirmed after careful study of his photograph the next day. The day with the highest count was May 2, 2014. Dave and Ursula Goodine and Ted Mara were planning to leave after a slow morning when suddenly the winds changed and hawks appeared. Two hundred thirty-five raptors sailed through late in the day. A near record total of 26 Merlins were counted that afternoon, the fourth highest total ever recorded on the island.

Arbitrarily, any spring day with 100+ hawks is a very good day. More than 200 marks a great day. This year we had four good+ days, with 198 hawks on April 6, highlighted by the season’s high of 32 Northern Harriers along with 133 Kestrels, and 5 Merlins. The second biggest flight of the season was on April 12, with 204 hawks, including 173 Kestrels and 6 Merlins. It was almost three weeks before our next good flight, with 235 hawks seen in the afternoon of May 2 as a cold front passed through, followed by 117 birds of May 3. During those three weeks we had several nice cold fronts penetrate much of New England, but they did not reach into the mid-Atlantic states, so birds in Connecticut and points south did not have good migration weather driving the birds towards the Massachusetts/New Hampshire coast.

The massive irruption of Snowy Owls this winter made the watch far more interesting. This dynamic altered avian behavior. For example, the Snowy Owls disrupted the Osprey by using their nesting platforms for their hunting perches.

In the past two years, we have lacked advanced migratory knowledge due to the absence of reporting from Sandy Hook, New Jersey. This site has been inoperative since being obliterated by Hurricane Sandy.

As always, the cooperation of the staff at PRNWS has been outstanding. That, along with the growing core of observers, has made for better coverage of the migration. The principal reporters are Bob Secatore, Dave Goodine, Maryellen Stone, Paul Roberts, Ted Mara and Ursula Goodine. Part time reporters include Craig Jackson, Jeremiah Trimble, John Hazel, Judd Nathan, Julie Roberts, Kathryn Chihowski, Paul Sullivan, Pete Duffy, Tom Graham, Tom Manders, and Tom Wetmore along with many others who are too numerous to mention who also helped for a day or two.

Annual Election for Board of Directors

According to the EMHW bylaws, the Board consists of nine directors. There are six nominees on the ballot this year, with their biographies posted below. They are: Steve Anderson, Shawn Carey, Ursula Goodine, Craig Jackson, Steve Olson and Eric Smith. Ted Mara, Paul Roberts and Maryellen Stone have been elected for two years, so their names are not on the ballot for this year. The members are to vote for THREE nominees only and those elected will serve a two year term. After the election, the six elected Directors will appoint three “Nominated Directors” to serve a one year term. The ballot is at the bottom of the membership form on the facing page.

**Steve Anderson** lives in Grafton and works as a self-employed carpenter. He has been an avid hawk watcher and member of EMHW for many years. He recently joined the Board of Directors and currently serves as recording secretary. In his spare time Steve enjoys wilderness canoe camping, strumming his vintage Gibson, and doing pretty much anything with his incredible 10 year old grandson.

**Shawn Carey** moved to the Boston area in 1986 and now lives in Braintree. He has been a member of EMHW for about 20 years and on the Board of Directors for over 10 years now. His full time job is Operations Manager for an event staging company (AVFX) in Boston. He’s taught wildlife photography for Mass Audubon the last 15+ years and also serves on their Advisory Council.

**Ursula Goodine** is a longtime EMHW member and has been an ardent participant at the Plum Island and Wachusetts Mountain Hawk Watch sites. She has represented EMHW at the Joppa Flats Eagle Festivals and the annual Mass Audubon Birder’s Meetings in Waltham. Ursula joined the Board in 2009, and was elected President of EMHW in November 2011.

**Craig Jackson** has been a member of EMHW since its inception, and has been counting hawks even longer. After many years of hawk watching at Breakheart Reservation, he began regular fall coverage of Pinnacle Rock in Middlesex Reservation with Dave Brown, and since 1999 has kept the official records as coordinator of this site. A member of the Board of EMHW since 2005, Craig also saw the need to revitalize the Plum Island Spring Hawkwatch, and became the site coordinator. His emphasis was the recording of American Kestrel migrants, a species in serious decline. He also found the first pair of cliff nesting Peregrine Falcons in Eastern Massachusetts since their reintroduction in 2007. For more than two years, he carefully noted many of their behaviors, successful hatching, fledging, and extended flights of their first two chicks.

**Steve Olson**, a board member since 2007, has served as President from 2008 to 2011. He is also the Site Coordinator for the Fall Hawk Migration Count at Wachusetts Mountain in Princeton, MA. Steve and his wife Kathy are avid birders (and members of the Loon Preservation Committee in NH) and can be frequently found birding throughout the Southern New England area.

**Eric Smith** has been bird watching since he was a kid, and especially enjoyed spending time with the raptors on Bird Hill at Drumlin Farm. Now he loves hawk watching and photographing all of the New England birds of prey. He especially enjoys seeing the spring migration of American Kestrels at Plum Island, and visiting local Red-tail Hawk habitat. His serious interest in photography began in 2003, and he shares this knowledge by giving workshops in photography. He is on the board of the Menotomy Bird Club and has served as a board member of EMHW for 6 years.

**Current Officers:**

- **President:** Ursula Goodine
- **Vice President:** Shawn Carey
- **Treasurer and Membership Secretary:** Lynette Leka
- **Recording Secretary:** Steve Anderson

Give a Free EMHW Membership to a Friend!

That's right, you can give a free membership to a friend or family member provided they are not already a member or a past member. Here’s how it works: just check the appropriate box on your membership renewal form and fill in the name and contact information of the person that you would like to receive a free membership. We will make sure they receive the club newsletter and add them to our e-mail list which will update them on EMHW events.
Name:  
Street Address:  
City: State: Zip:  
Phone #:  
E-mail:  
☐ I am a new member.  
☐ Contact me about helping at hawk watch sites.  
☐ I am renewing my membership.  
☐ I would like to give a FREE gift membership to:  

GIFT MEMBERSHIP  
Name:  
Street Address:  
City: State: Zip:  
E-mail:  

Membership Dues:  
*Dues are for fiscal year September 1 through August 31 of the following year. Dues and gifts are NOT tax-deductible.*  
☐ Supporting $40  
☐ Contributing $25  
☐ Individual $10  
☐ Additional Gift to EMHW $ ________  
☐ Additional Gift to EMHW to defray the costs of new Annual Meeting venue $ ________  
Total Amount Enclosed: $ ________  

Please make checks payable to “EMHW” and mail with this form to:  
Eastern Mass Hawk Watch, PO Box 663, Newburyport, MA 01950 or bring with you to the Annual Meeting.  

EMHW Board Member Ballot  
Please vote for only **three** (3) of the six nominees to appoint them to serve on the Board as “Elected Directors” for a 2-year term. See the previous page for information about each candidate.  
☐ Steve Anderson  
☐ Shawn Carey  
☐ Ursula Goodine  
☐ Craig Jackson  
☐ Steve Olson  
☐ Eric Smith
Our sincere thanks to Melissa Lowe Cestaro, Shawn Carey, Ursula Goodine, Sabina Grady, Tom Graham, Craig Jackson, Lynette Leka, David Lynch, Don Manchester, Ted Mara, Chris Martin, Steve Mirick, Steve Olson, Tom Pirro, Paul Roberts, Donna Schilling, and Maryellen Stone for their contributions to this Newsletter.

Newsletter Designer & Editor: Sabina Grady, Grady Creative Services, www.gradycreative.com

Eastern Massachusetts
HAWK WATCH
Founded in 1976, Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch is an all-volunteer, member based organization whose mission is to promote the study, conservation, and preservation of hawks locally and on a continental scale by monitoring migration in Massachusetts; to share data for research and conservation purposes; to promote education and awareness of the identification of hawks and the issues related to migrating hawks; and to instill an appreciation for hawks in general.

Our annual dues are only $10 and provide you with an annual newsletter which includes spring and fall hawk watch data. Additionally, the annual meeting alone is worth the value for we always provide exciting and educational speakers. We also host free identification workshop and other educational programs to which members get a discount.

To renew or to become a member, fill out the form on page 19 and send a check made payable to Eastern Mass Hawk Watch, P.O Box 663, Newburyport, MA 01950. Thanks!

Give a FREE membership to a friend! Just check the appropriate box on your membership form and fill in the name of the person that you would like to receive a free membership (provided they are not already a member or a past member). We will make sure they receive the club newsletter and add them to our e-mail list which will update them on EMHW events.

Dues are for fiscal year September 1 through August 31 of the following year. Dues and gifts are NOT tax deductible.