

## 2013-14 Rathdrum Prairie Raptor Run

The 2013-14 winter season was the first full year for the Rathdrum Prairie Raptor Survey. This survey is part of a larger project organized by the East Cascades Audubon Society out of Bend, Oregon, to help determine population densities for birds-of-prey which spend their winters in our region. These surveys, affectionately known as “Raptor Runs”, are set up to transect areas which are known wintering grounds for primarily the larger raptors (principally the *Buteo* hawks). Last year, there were over 200 “Raptor Run” routes surveyed throughout the northwest (Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and parts of northern California).

Our contribution to this effort is the “Rathdrum Prairie Raptor Run”. We cover forty-three (43) miles of a predetermined route once a month during the winter; November through March. This year, we had the following results:

	<u>16</u> Nov.'13	<u>7</u> Dec.'13	<u>17</u> Jan.'14	<u>15</u> Feb.'14	<u>14</u> Mar.'14
Northern Harrier	4	4	5	1	1
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	4	1
Red-tailed Hawk	15	5	16	36	25
- Harlan's race	1				
Rough-legged Hawk	6	12	22	18	7
<i>Buteo</i> sp.	2	2	1	3	4
American Kestrel	2	1	6	3	4
Total Individuals	30	24	50	65	43
Total Raptors/mile	0.69	0.55	1.16	1.50	1.00

Last year, the February survey produced the highest concentration to date with a total of 77 raptors counted (1.83 birds/mile). February's survey this year was also a good run with 1.50 birds/mile counted. This “February spike” may coincide with the return trip north for birds that wintered further

south in addition to our local birds. This is the sort of information the project seeks to determine.

To date, Doug Ward has led each of the “Raptor Runs”, but was joined by Janet Callen, Darlene Carlton, Roland Craft, Jim & Sheila Lynn, and Shirley Sturts this season. Due to the nature of the survey, traffic and all, we had to limit the trip to one vehicle. If you are interested in joining one of next winter’s surveys (November 2015-March 2015), please contact Doug Ward ([dougward@frontier.com](mailto:dougward@frontier.com) / (208) 699-9327 (cell)); we will fill the vehicle on a first come first served basis.