

NorthEast Hawk Watch 50th Anniversary Celebration

NEHW is kicking off its 50th anniversary year with a special FREE webinar open to everyone! Four 20-minute presentations with a break and a special 45-minute keynote by Kate Davis.



Sunday, August 29, 2021, 6-9 p.m.

6:00–6:10 Welcome—Iain MacLeod, NEHW Board President

6:10–6:30 Hawk Watching—Join the Fun! By Drew Panko.

Which species will you see? Where will you see them? When will you see them? We'll start with several hawk species commonly seen soaring overhead or diving down on hawk watch sites in the NorthEast. We'll include suggestions of sites to visit, and show you how to navigate online resources to find the information about the watch sites near you and when to best visit. Get involved—you can help us in our efforts at raptor conservation!

Drew Panko started his hawk watching at Hook Mountain in the 1970's. In 1982 he co-founded the Fire Island Hawk Watch, and has been the coordinator and compiler ever since. In 1990 Drew joined the Board of Directors of the NorthEast Hawk Watch. In 2016 he began writing a column in the NorthEast HawkWatch Hawk Migration Report where he considers compelling topics in hawk migration.

6:30–6:35 Q&A

**6:35–6:55 WE COUNT! Fifty Amazing Years of the NorthEast Hawk Watch.
By Paul Roberts.**

Over fifty years ago three Connecticut birders who loved hawks came up with a simple idea to learn more about those relatively unknown and rapidly declining birds. With an impressive outpouring of public support, the NorthEast Hawk Watch they established changed our understanding of hawk migration, hawk watching, and many birders' lives. We'll look quickly at what the founders and our organization have accomplished since 1971.

Paul M. Roberts began hawk watching in the early 70s. He founded the Eastern Mass Hawk Watch (EMHW) in 1976, and served as Chair of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) for 4 years and as President of the NorthEast HawkWatch (NEHW) for more than 25 years.

6:55–7:00 Q&A

7:00–7:20 Trends for the Hawks that You Counted. By Trudy Battaly.

The NEHW Hawk Migration Report has trends at a glance for 16 species of hawks, and in-depth analysis for the species on our Watch List. If you helped at a hawk watch in the NorthEast, your numbers are included in these trends. Your data is here, along with the data from 47 other hawk watch sites in the NorthEast. We will present your data, and explore possible explanations for some of the resulting trends. You Came, You Saw, and You Count!

Trudy Battaly has been counting hawks at Hook Mountain and Fire Island HawkWatch since 1983. In 1991 she joined the Board of Directors of the NorthEast Hawk Watch, became the webmaster in 2001, and then the editor of the NorthEast HawkWatch Hawk Migration Report in 2016. As coordinator for Hook Mountain since 2005, she continues to enjoy the thrill of close birds. As a math professor, she get to peruse hawk data for patterns, always hoping to reveal raptor secrets.

7:20–7:25 Q&A

7:25–7:35 BREAK

7:35–7:55 Beyond the Numbers: Hawk Trapping. By Larry Fischer.

Catching, banding and tagging hawks is a way of understanding raptors on the individual level. NEHW is partnering with Hawk Mountain in an effort to track Broad-winged Hawks from New England using the latest satellite tracking technology. If successful this summer, Larry will share the latest data on "our" birds and offer other insights on decades of raptor banding.

Lawrence B. Fischer, Jr has been banding since 1981 and is a federally licensed master bander. From 1978 until the present he has conducted surveys for all species of nesting raptors in western CT. Larry is currently on the Board of Directors of the NorthEast HawkWatch. He was president of the Western CT Bird Club for 14 years and has been a member of the CT Bald Eagle Study Group since 1979.

7:55–8:00 Q&A

8:00–8:45 KEYNOTE:

**Three Decades of Raptor Education: Optimism for the Future.
By Kate Davis.**

Kate Davis of Raptors of the Rockies has delivered 1800 education programs beginning in 1988. A dozen non-releasable and falconry birds held at facilities at her home join her in schools and public appearances, plus she has presented Keynotes from coast to coast. The 100-plus PowerPoint photos illustrate this history, and feature her seven books—*Falcons of North America* Second Edition is newly released with excellent accolades. Sibley the Peregrine and Owen the Owl will join her for a finale, live from the Raptor Ranch in Western Montana.

Kate Davis received a degree in Zoology from the University of Montana in 1982. She founded the non-profit education organization Raptors of the Rockies in 1988, and keeps a dozen non-releasable and falconry birds at the facility at her home on the Bitterroot River of Western Montana. Formal programs with these raptors number 1780 for 136,000 people, young and old alike including 132 schools in Montana and Idaho. The Teaching Team raptors are the subjects and source of inspiration for her photography, drawings, paintings, etchings, welded steel sculptures, and writing.

Kate's first book came out in 2001, aptly titled "Raptor of the Rockies" and was geared toward younger audiences. For her second book "Falcons of North America," she teamed up with award-winning photographers Rob Palmer and Nick Dunlop. Two years in the making, this volume is a mixture of science and stunning images.

She again collaborated with Rob and Nick for "Raptors of the West" - which won the National Outdoor Book Award for Design and Artistic Merit, and grand prize for the Montana Book Award 2011.

Her fourth book, "Bald Eagle Nest: A story of survival in photos," has 135 of her images of a Bald Eagle nest that fledged four young. The next book, "American Kestrel: Pint-sized Predator" came out in 2014 with more than 100 photographs again with Rob Palmer, because "Everyone loves a kestrel!"

Book six came out in 2016 - "Birds Are People, Too" a different slant on birds and photography, humor with 120 bird action shots of 62 species so not just raptors this time. "It's a riot!"

"Falcons of North America Second Edition" is out now! 13 years of new science and more than 260 photographs from Rob, Nick and Kate, with 160 new action images. Signed copies from Kate!

Kate was presented the greatest of honors in 2017—the Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award, only periodically given in Montana. Plus, she and raptors are celebrating thirty-three years of education, and with young Teaching Team birds now, no retirement in sight.

<https://www.raptorsoftherockies.org/>

8:45–8:55 Q&A

8:55–9:00 Closing Message—Iain MacLeod