

Hamburg Hawk Watch 2021

Some quick reminders, updates, advice and caveats to share about the 2021 season.

- We are a Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) hawk watch. Our dedicated coverage is from March 15 - May 15. However, before or after these dates, if weather conditions look promising and you have the inclination, feel free to spend some time and report what you see!
- We are keeping track of hawk and weather data **by the hour**, not by the day.
- Plan to stay at least four or five hours. Sometimes it can be a slow morning, only to have a hawk flight in the afternoon. Sometimes it's the reverse. Rain may stop the flight for an hour only to have it resume two hours later. *Don't assume that a wet morning will result in no afternoon flight.*
- Weather happens! We average a handful of "washout days" each season. If this happens to you, use the reporting process at HawkCount.org to flag that fact. (see below)
- **The count takes place where the Official Daily Counter is. Our primary watch site is Lakeside Cemetery – by the main entrance or by Section H.**
- The parking lot at the William Williams Little League Ball Park, located on Rogers Road, **is now closed with a locked gate!** It is no longer an option for us.
- **IMPORTANT!** There has been an increase in military funeral services at the cemetery over the past few years. Grounds workers may or may not apprise you of the time and location of a scheduled service. Always respect those activities by moving the watch farther into the cemetery for an hour or so.
- From Cemetery Management: Please keep cars parked with all four tires on the asphalt.
- We are not encouraging visitors this spring due to Covid reasons. It is not remiss of us to remind anyone who does visit to respect physical distancing guidelines.
- **The restroom in the 1st mausoleum is now locked! The closest accessible public restroom is at the Walmart on Route 20 and Rogers Rd.**
- Come prepared! As Fran Rew often said, "Always dress warm for a hawk watch." Consider bringing a lunch, a folding chair, sunscreen, gloves, a warmer coat, etc.
- Schedule conflicts can arise. Try contacting another counter if you need to swap.
- Please keep track of and report any non-raptor species that are seen.

Weather Data

Most of the hourly weather data needed is easily determined just by observation at the watch - cloud cover, precipitation, wind direction (the cemetery road runs due west into the woods) & wind speed. HMANA wants wind speed in Beaufort Scale, which is found on the attached "Instructions" worksheet. I print out a copy for myself to refer to at the watch. The only hourly weather data needed that cannot be easily determined at the watch is temperature (in Celsius), humidity and barometric pressure.

Hourly temperature, humidity and barometric pressure can be obtained online from <https://www.wunderground.com/history/> which provides data from the National Weather Service office at the Buffalo Airport. Having picked the date you need, click "Submit,"

then scroll all the way down to “Daily Observations” at the bottom of the new page. Folks with smart phones can likely find this hourly info through various weather apps.

Boring but IMPORTANT Please note that on most weather sites or apps the temperature is given, by default, in Fahrenheit. This needs to be converted to Celsius for HawkCount reporting.

Boring but IMPORTANT All hourly data for HawkCount needs to be recorded using Eastern Standard Time (“Bird Time”). Most weather sites will change over to Daylight Saving Time (which begins on Sunday, March 14 this year) and will therefore be ahead by 1 hour. Wherever you choose to obtain the hourly weather data from, you will need to subtract one hour for the difference! Two websites (among many) that offer Fahrenheit to Celsius temperature conversions:

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/temperature-conversion.html>

<http://www.csgnetwork.com/tempconvjava.html>

A quick guide to HawkCount.org for online data entry

Online data entry takes very little time to complete, speeds up the reporting process and updates the progress of the season immediately. Once you have completed your report it is automatically posted to the geneseebirds and hawkcount mail lists.

Go to... <http://hawkcount.org/> Click Login

Enter your Username (first initial + last name... i.e., jlandau) and Password (hamburg).

[A great way to become familiar with online reporting is to click the HELP link, near the bottom of the window on the left of the page. The second topic, DATA ENTRY, is very well thought out and understandable.]

Click Data Entry, then select appropriate date and click “Retrieve/enter days report.”

At this point, each successive screen offers choices, help, and opportunities to correct any errors. *If you don't cover your day due to weather, there is a "No count conducted during this day" box to check on the first screen.

After all hourly data is entered you have an opportunity to review data and either approve it or go back and correct it. If you discover any entry errors after you have submitted the daily report, you should be able to go back and make corrections.

As the Site Administrator I have given all of our counters “Access Rights” to enter, correct and read their daily entries. If for some reason you cannot do so, let me know and I will work to resolve any problems.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO HAMBURG HAWK WATCH!

Jim