

# The Trumpeter

A Publication of the Wild and Free Wildlife Program • P.O. Box 241 • Garrison, MN 56450

December, 2023

## Notes from the Board

The board of Directors has been very busy this year. We moved forward with onboarding a new Wildlife Program Coordinator, Grace Frickenstein, and we are so glad to have her. The annual strategic planning meeting took place in November where the board, along with Dr. Deb, Dr. Katie, and Grace, charted a course of action for the coming years. We are very excited by the high attendance at our last two events at the Ripple River Gallery and Ruttger's Oktoberfest. We talked with many new faces and saw many old friends, collected donations, and sold merchandise. We are expecting our garage sale this spring to be bigger and better than ever, as we have received many estate donations. Please keep Wild and Free in mind this giving season. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so all donations are tax deductible. And remember... **all animals talk at midnight on Christmas Eve.**

Happy Holidays from the Board!



## Membership Drive!

As we near the end of 2023, here is your reminder to renew your membership for 2024! We have provided an envelope which can be filled out and returned to the address below. Additionally, you can send us your dues through our GiveMN Page, and indicate that it is for membership under the designation category. Thank you for your ongoing support! Any and all donations are deeply appreciated. We would not be able to operate at the capacity that we do without the support of our members.

One of our larger expenses is the printing and mailing of our newsletter. If you would be willing to help save our program some money by opting to receive your Trumeter via email, please include your email address on the envelope. We'll send the next newsletter to you through email. Don't worry about spam from us, as the only time we will email is for our newsletters!

\$20.00 Individual  
\$30.00 Family  
\$50.00 Business  
\$300.00 Lifetime  
Other donations

**Make checks payable to:**  
Wild And Free Wildlife Program  
PO Box 241  
Garrison, MN 56450



## **We Are Thankful For You!**

On behalf of those of us at Wild and Free, we could not be more grateful for the ongoing support from our members and community throughout the year. This fall, we had wonderful turnouts at our Ripple River and Oktoberfest events, and made two appearances at the Princeton Area Library for education programs.

### **Ruttger's Oktoberfest 2023**

We had a wonderful October weekend at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, bringing in over \$800 in merchandise sales and donations! Thank you to all of the volunteers who donated their time and energy to make this event possible: Kristy Davis, Jon Davis, Nancy Hansen, Grace Frickenstein, Cathy Miller, Linda Hommes, Nancy Osvold, Mary Sandelands, Kari and Brian Bunkers, Bill Knuston, Barry Knutson, Dwight Danielson, and Tom and Michele Plagman. We could not have done it without you! We already can't wait for next year!

### **Ripple River Gallery and W&F Benefit 2023**

Thank you so much to Amy, Ripple River owner, for inviting us again to participate in their fall gallery, and for continuing to support the work that we do. We were pleasantly surprised by the turnout despite the rainy weather, and our volunteers Shirley Adolphson, Nancy Hansen, Grace Frickenstein, Peter and Lara Max and Sandy Janzen had an amazing time mingling with the families that came to enjoy the event. We appreciate Jim Lease for taking the time to photograph the event. Thanks to the time and care donated by Dr. Debbie and Dr. Katie, and some fun facts from Grace, we were able to appreciate and release an American Crow back into the wild, and commemorate our friend Bob, whose presence was dearly missed this year. Again, thank you to everyone who came to share this day with us, which has become such a beloved tradition.

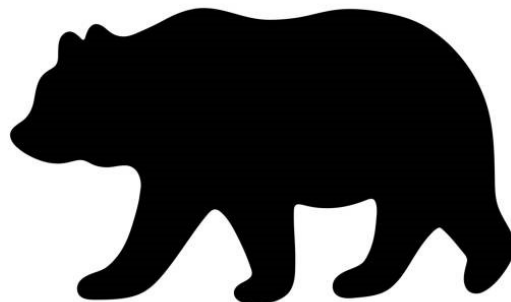


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### **Into the Bear Den and Bundled Up Bees**

Our Wildlife Program coordinator, Grace, made two trips to Princeton Area Library this November to give educational programs about the American Black bear for adults and Winter Bees for children. We had wonderful discussions about black bears and how they impact our daily lives, and the kids had a blast building their very own bee houses to take home and hang up outside. We are incredibly grateful for these opportunities to serve our community through education, and look forward to doing

more in the future. Thank you to volunteers Dana Botz and Cathy Miller for helping with program development and presentation, to the many who collected hollow stems for the bee houses, and to the Princeton Area Library for having us!



## Broad-winged Hawks—First to Migrate

By: Linda J.Hommes

I've been remembering this small hawk from hawk-banding fall days north of Duluth some years ago. The Broad-winged hawk is one of only five North American raptors that are complete migrants. It is one of the first migrants to leave their breeding grounds in the fall and one of the last to return in the spring. Considered one of the most common hawks in North America, approximately one million birds make up the North America population.

The fall migration of this hawk is the best-known and most spectacular aspect of its ecology. Leaving breeding grounds ahead of most other raptors, it forms large flocks (known as kettles) that often number in the thousands. Flocks of several hundred thousand birds form each year and move in one or two waves down the Eastern flyways before joining into one huge flock along the Gulf Coast of Texas and on south to Mexico and Central and South America. Some Broad-wings remain in Florida for the winter.

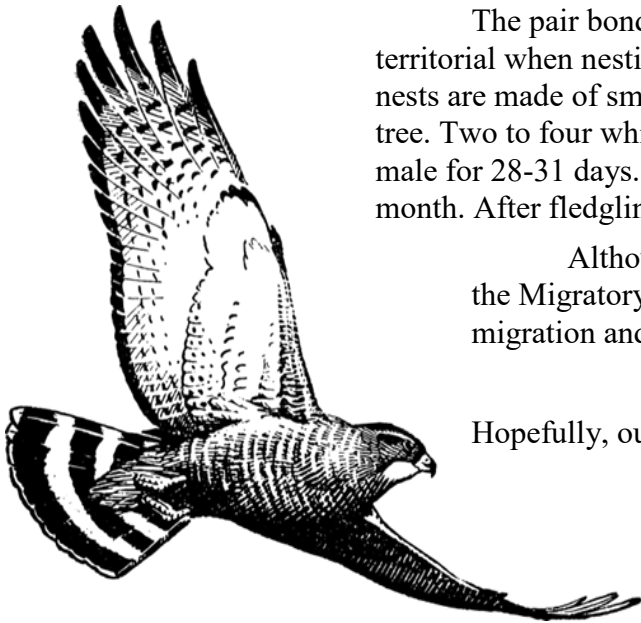
Broad-winged hawks are named for their short and pointed broad wings. This stocky, crow-sized hawk is plain brown above with rusty color below and its broad black and white tail bands provide its most distinctive field markings. It has a thin whistle, like pe-heeeeeee.

This hawk is a forest and woodland species and likes to have water and openings such as roads, trails, wetlands and meadows nearby. They use these openings for foraging hunting. It is a "sit and wait" hunter and swooping down to catch its prey, it primarily eats small mammals (which are eaten whole), frogs, snakes, small reptiles (which are skinned), birds (which are plucked) and insects.

The pair bond soon after arriving on their forest breeding grounds and are territorial when nesting. Shy birds, they tend to avoid nesting near humans. Their nests are made of small sticks lined with green leaves and placed in the crotch of a tree. Two to four white eggs with irregular brown spots are incubated by the female for 28-31 days. Once the chicks hatch, the parents care for them for another month. After fledgling, the young stay close to their parents for eight more weeks.

Although they are now protected in North America by laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, these hawks are often persecuted during migration and on their wintering grounds.

Hopefully, our Broad-wing hawk can soon join others and migrate south.



### Wild and Free Board Members

Dwight Danielson - President

Nancy Hansen - Vice President

Dana Botz - Secretary

Kristy Davis - Treasurer

Jon Davis

Peter Max

Kari Bunkers

## Sponsors Corner

Our sincere appreciation to our sponsors for their assistance in the publication of this newsletter

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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We are a non-profit organization of volunteers that are committed to professionally rehabilitate wildlife, to educate the community, and promote the conservation of the natural environment.

### ***Wish List***

Mice, chipmunks, squirrels, fish (trapped/caught, no poison, frozen)

Postage stamps

Ice melt

Mop heads

Dish Sponges

Antibacterial hand soap

If you'd like to donate any other item that you think we might be able to use, call the Garrison Animal Hospital at 320-692-4180, and we will let you know if we can

Wild and Free Wildlife Program

PO Box 241

Garrison, MN 56450

First Class