

BIO253: DYNAMICS OF RAPTOR MIGRATION

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, September and October 2008

Course Introduction

This course introduces student to the biology and ecology of migration and teaches the identification of 16 species of migrating raptors typically seen at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

Course Instructor:

David Barber, Research Biologist, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Address and phone numbers:

Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, 410 Summer Valley Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961; phone, 570-943-3411, x105; email, barber@hawkmtn.org.

Tentative Class Schedule:

Saturday, 27 September

- 8:00 – Welcome, course introduction and brief history of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
- 8:30 – Raptor identification
- 10:00 – Hawk watching on Sanctuary lookouts
- 1:30 – Return from Sanctuary lookouts
- 2:00 – Raptor Migration Ecology
- 3:00 – Raptor conservation and monitoring
- 4:00 – Departure

Saturday, 18 October

- 8:00 – Current research at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
- 9:30 – Review of raptor identification
- 10:30 – Birding on Sanctuary lookouts / Lunch
- 2:30 – Return from the lookouts
- 3:00 – Course test
- 4:00 – Departure

Course requirements:

Your grade will be based upon field participation (spotting and helping to identify birds at the North Lookout [25%] and a multiple choice test at the end of the second day of class [75%].

Class Attendance: Regular attendance is mandatory. Because of the intensive nature of this course, a single missed class will result in a failing grade.

Class participation: This is an interactive, field based course with minimal lecturing. Therefore, class participation will be important. This course will be successful only if students participate. Moreover, because it is a field course proper conduct is especially required. This includes making it to the field/class on time and ready to begin work. And perhaps most important, we will be in the field under possibly less than comfortable conditions, so good cheer and flexibility is required by all.

Course text:

Anonymous. 1997. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary flight guide. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Kempton, Pennsylvania

Suggested readings:

Clark, W. S., and B.K. Wheeler. 2003. A field guide to the hawks of North America. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts.

Dunne, P., D. Sibley, and C. Sutton. 1988. Hawk in flight: the flight of North American migrant raptors. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts.

Kerlinger, P. 1995. How birds migrate. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Kerlinger, P. 1989. Flight strategies of migrating hawks. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois.

Liguori, J. 2005. Hawks from every angle: how to identify raptors in flight. P. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey

Wheeler, B. 2003. Raptors of eastern North America. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey