

## Hawk Survey Summary 2006

Hawk Surveys were performed in Sand Run, Deep Lock and Gorge Metro Park in conjunction with the comprehensive park inventories. These surveys were conducted in each park once a month in April, May and June to determine the presence of breeding individuals.

Approximately one site per 100 acres of park land was surveyed. Topography was also considered when choosing the number of sites per park. Seven sites were surveyed in Sand Run Metro Park, while Deep Lock Quarry and Gorge Metro Parks had two sites each. The raptor survey protocol is described in Appendix 1.

Table 1 illustrates the species documented for each park surveyed. Red-tailed hawks continue to be the most common hawk residing on park property. Forty three sightings were recorded throughout the survey period. All three parks surveyed have at least one breeding pair on premise. Three red-tailed hawk nests were monitored by a park volunteer in Sand Run Metro Park. Three pairs fledged at least four young.

A red tailed hawk nest was monitored along the Bike and Hike Trail near Hudson Drive. Two chicks were observed at this nest in late May. The nest became too difficult to see in June because of the leaf cover. Therefore, the number of birds fledged is unknown.

Turkey Vultures were also recorded for all three parks. Nests were found by park staff in the Gorge. No nests were located in Sand Run or Deep Lock. In these parks, the vultures may be nesting or simply utilizing park property for foraging or roosting.

Coopers hawks were recorded in Sand Run and Gorge Metro Park. Two coopers hawk nests were monitored in Sand Run. The success of these nests is uncertain. However, adult birds were observed at the nests during April and May.

Coopers hawk nests were not observed in the Gorge. However, adults were observed during all three survey events and were exhibiting highly territorial behavior including calling in response to the recorder and dive bombing park staff. There is little doubt that these birds had a nest somewhere nearby. One other pair was sighted in the northwest corner of the park.

One broad-winged hawk was recorded during this year's hawk survey at the Gorge. It was observed in April and not documented again. It was most likely migrating through the area at the time the survey was conducted.

Two red shouldered hawks were observed in Sand Run Metro Park. One bird was at the Nature Realm and the other in the Big Bend Area. A red shouldered hawk nest was monitored along the towpath near Big Bend. One chick was fledged from this nest.

A family of red shouldered hawks was observed at Deep Lock Quarry in May. Four individuals were circling the quarry overhead and calling in response to the taped recordings.

In addition to monitoring hawk nests, a volunteer also visited the heron rookery located on park property in Clinton. This area becomes too difficult to observe after the leaves have emerged. However, forty nests were counted in April, along with more than 15 herons.

Table 1. Hawk Species documented in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, 2006.

<i>Hawk Species</i>	<i>Deep Lock Quarry</i>	<i>Gorge</i>	<i>Sand Run</i>
Broad-winged hawk		X	
Coopers hawk		X	X
Red-shouldered hawk	X		X
Red-tail hawk	X	X	X
Sharp-shinned hawk			X
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X

Long-term monitoring sites at Liberty Park, Firestone and Silver Creek are surveyed every three years. The hawk, owl and coyote surveys are on a three year rotation (see Table 2). In 2006, long-term sites were surveyed for owls once a month. The long-term monitoring sites will be surveyed for hawks in 2007. Goodyear Heights and Cascade Valley Metro Parks will be surveyed as part of the comprehensive park inventories.

Table 2. Schedule for Owl, Hawk and Coyote Surveys 2006-2008.

<b>Survey</b>	2006 LTM	2006 COMP	2007 LTM	2007 COMP	2008 LTM	2008 COMP
Owl	X	X		X		X
Hawk		X	X	X		X
Coyote		X		X	X	X

Special thanks to Phyllis Devlin and Doug and Suzie Dawes for monitoring raptor nests in Sand Run Metro Park, Bike and Hike Trail and the heron rookery in Clinton.

## Appendix 1 Raptor Survey Protocol

- 1) Begin owl survey at approximately 8:00 pm, hawk survey after 9:00 am. Drive to site #1. Turn vehicle motor and lights off. Quietly proceed to calling location. Remain quiet and listen for unsolicited raptor calls for 2 minutes.
- 2) Broadcast vocalizations for first raptor species for 30 seconds, rotating speaker 90 degrees. Listen for 2 minute.
- 3) Repeat step 2 for each of the raptor species being surveyed. Be sure to rotate speaker 90 degrees during each vocalization broadcast.
- 4) After broadcasting the last raptor species, listen for 5 minutes.
- 5) If an auditory or visual response occurs, record the site location in the site column and each individual responding raptor by species in the species column of the data sheet. Use the following abbreviations:

GHO—Great Horned Owl  
ESO—Eastern Screech Owl  
BOW—Barred Owl  
UNK—Unknown

CHA—Cooper's Hawk  
BWH—Broad-winged Hawk  
RSH—Red-shouldered Hawk  
RTH—Red-tailed Hawk  
SSH – Sharp-shinned Hawk  
AK - American Kestrel  
TUVU – Turkey Vulture

- 6) For each individual responding raptor, record the compass direction in the direction column using one of the following headings: N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW.
- 7) For each individual responding raptor, record the distance as one of the following classes using letter A, B, C, or D.
  - (A) less than 0.5 mile, loud and close
  - (B) 0.5 mile to 1.0 mile, clear and moderately loud
  - (C) 1.0 – 1.5 mile, audible but difficult to distinguish.
  - (D) Visual response, raptor visually observed at calling station.
- 8) Record the date, crew members, temperature, wind direction and speed for each survey on the data sheet as indicated.

### Equipment List

Clipboard	Map of Calling Stations	Radio
Data Sheets	Compass	Raptor ID Books
Pencil/Pens	Wildlife Caller	Binoculars
Flashlight	Cassette Tape of Raptor Vocalizations (2)	