

Cadillac Mountain at 25 Years: Species Composition, Migration Timing, and Trends

Seth Benz, Carol Thompson, and Angi King-Johnston, Schoodic Institute in Acadia National Park



Abstract

Cadillac Mountain’s Hawk Watch in Acadia National Park is a stationary point count established in 1995 to monitor the passage of day-flying, migratory birds of prey. Each autumn hawks travel north to south along the continent’s coastlines and ridgelines – wind shaping, energy saving mechanisms – which aid the birds’ passages. Fall migration is spectacular, as hawk populations are at their peak following breeding season. This poster presents select details from 25 consecutive years of observation. Cadillac’s location in the northeast US is at the headwaters of a continental and hemispheric river of raptors whose numbers swell into the millions as the hawks reach the tropics. Long-term funding, public awareness, educational materials, data networking and publications are ongoing goals. Hawk Migration Assoc. of North America sets standardization.



Main feeding groups in Eastern North America.

Wing & tail shapes and wing attitudes are different.

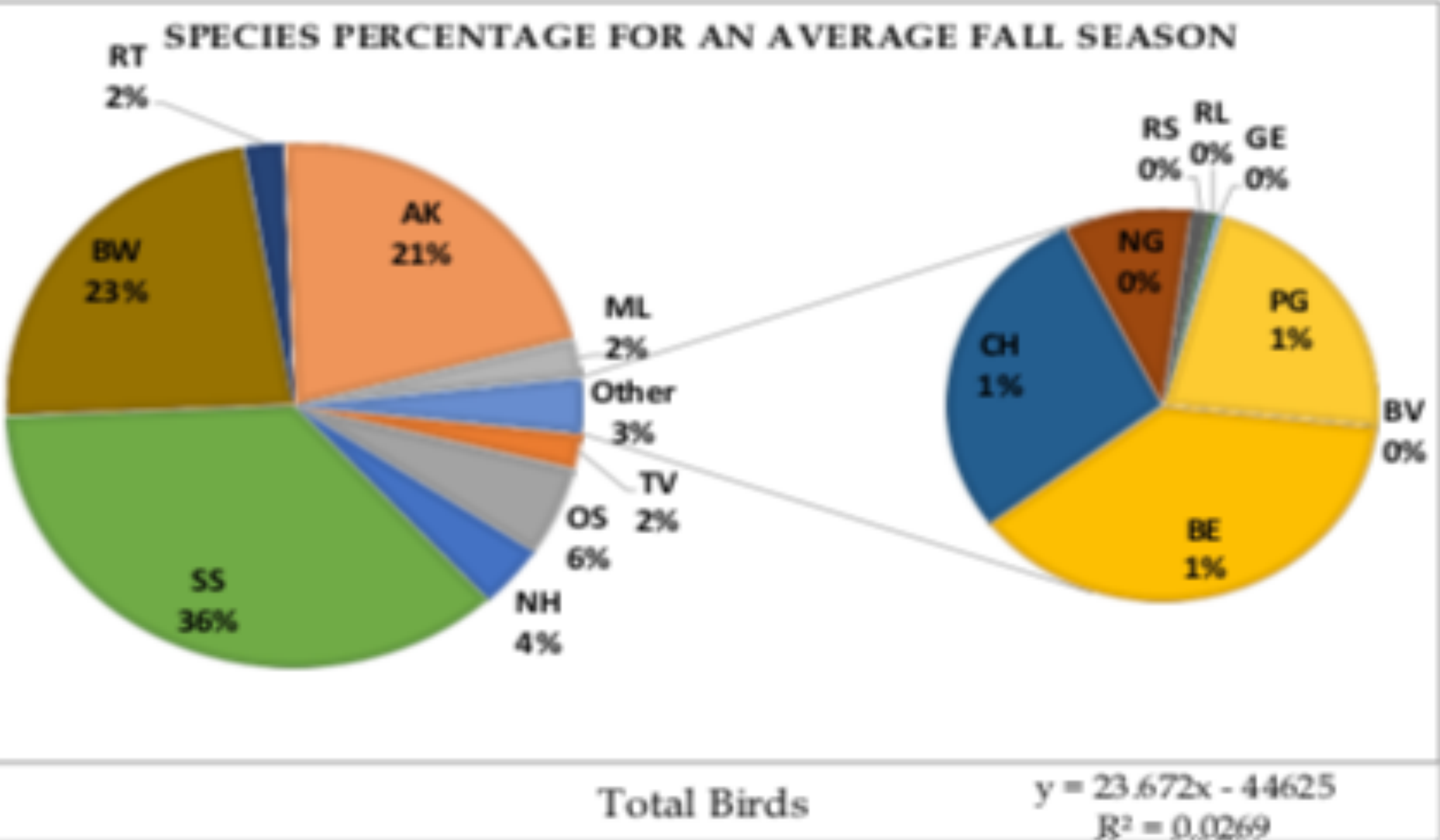
1. Accipiters3 species

2. Falcons3 species

3. Eagles2 species

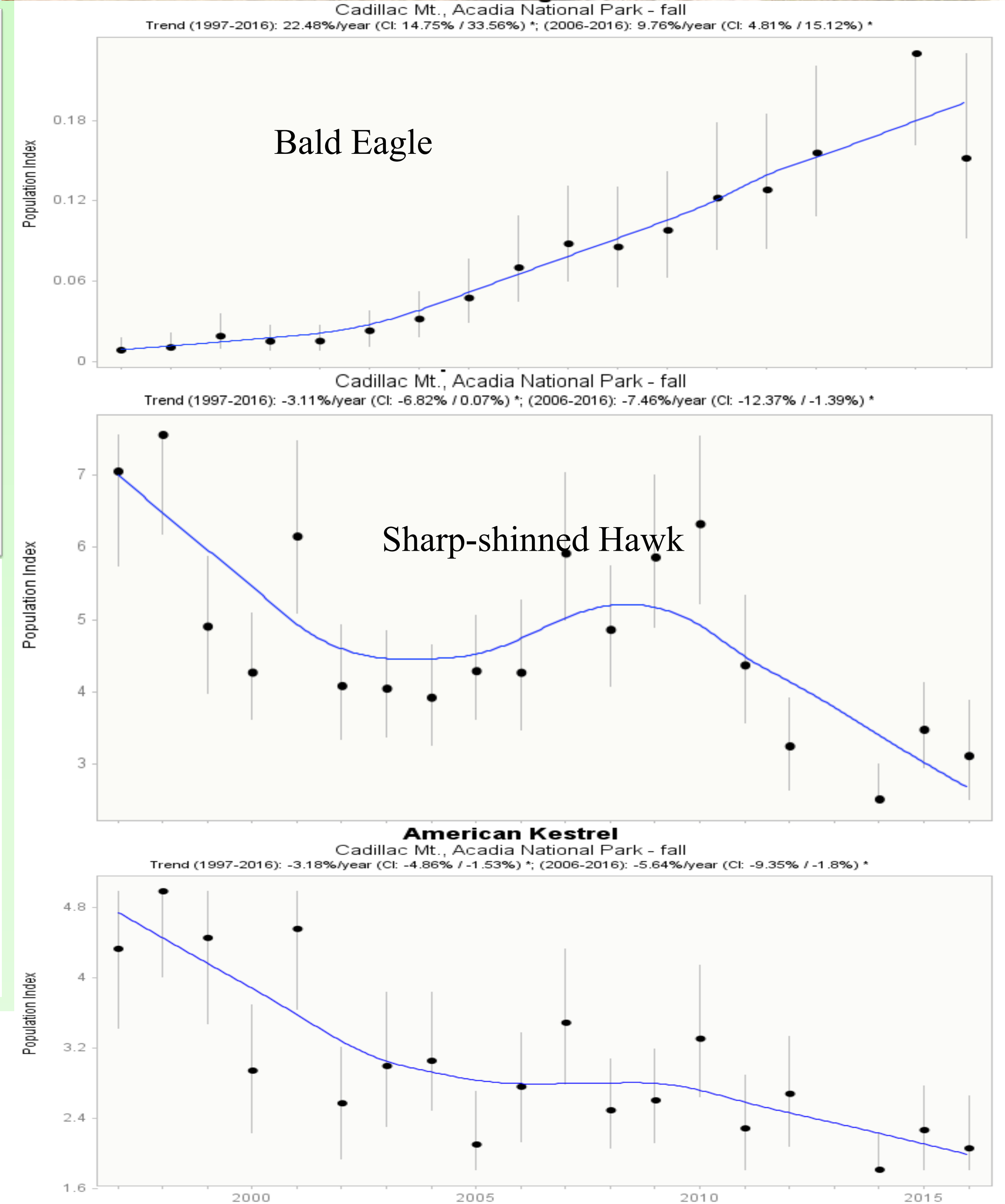
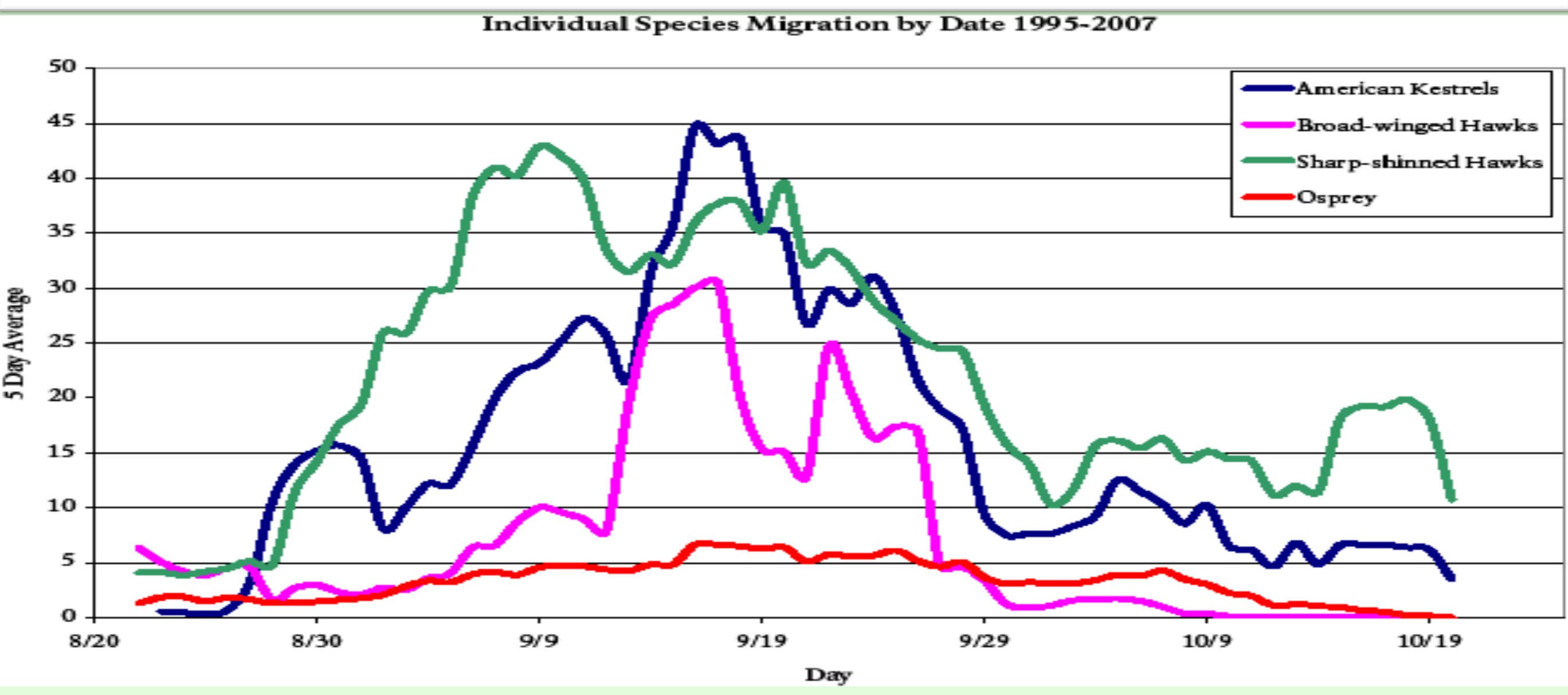
4. Buteos4-5 species

5. Turkey Vulture, Osprey, and Northern Harrier



Since 1995, 16 species of birds of prey observed.
Seasonal average of 248 hours of observation.
Seasonal average count of 2,920 birds of prey.
Sharp-shinned Hawk (36%), Broad-winged Hawk (23%),
and American Kestrel (21%) are predominant species.

Below: Tracking migration phenology of 5 species and the most advantageous wind conditions on which to see them.



Acknowledgments:

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