

## SEATTLE COOPER'S HAWK PROJECT – 2014 SUMMARY

Dear Cooper's Hawk nest neighbor,

This was another busy year for the study. I personally logged almost 600 site visits between February and September. In addition, 7 other volunteers contributed several hundred additional site visit reports. Special thanks are due to all of them for their work!

The study has three main goals. First, we try to census the city of Seattle and establish how many Cooper's Hawk nests exist each year. This year we located 38 nesting areas, of which 33 successfully produced young who lived to fly.

Second, we count how many young each site produces. This year we documented 111 young that lived to fly.

Third, myself and my study partner, Martin Muller, attempt to put unique color ID bands on as many birds as possible. This allows us to track individual birds as they move around the city and beyond. For example, a female we banded last year near Discovery Park was relocated near Northgate as part of a successful pair that produced three young. Now two of her daughters are also banded, which will allow us to track her next generation. Our color bands have been sighted at Freeland on Whidbey Island, Kelsey Creek in Bellevue, Pine Lake on the Sammamish Plateau and at SeaTac airport. This season we were able to color band 49 youngsters and 7 adults.

The most popular choice of nest tree was Big Leaf Maple (10), followed closely by Douglas Fir (8). Most nest sites are in parks and greenbelts owned by the City of Seattle (26), followed by private yards (10), a private golf course(1) and the UW (1).

I want to thank all of you for your phone calls and emails. I especially want to express my appreciation to all the property owners who allowed us access to nests and banding opportunities on their private property.

I welcome your questions, and look forward to working with you all next year. We will start surveying for nest-building activity in late February 2015.

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