

HMANA's Spring Raptorthon 2011 @ Plymouth Lake

by Larry Harris

Plymouth Lake, in Stillwater, NJ, was created from a dammed-up stream of water flowing down from a glacial lake that rests beside the Appalachian Trail high atop the Kittatinny Ridge. On Sunday, May 29th, **Raptorthon 2011 at Plymouth Lake** was held from noon to 4 PM on land to the southeast of the lake and on the causeway that bisects it.



Plymouth Lake as seen from Kittatinny Ridge.



Despite a forecast that included thunderstorms, it turned out to be a beautiful, sunny day with minimal breezes from the southwest. Twenty two friends and neighbors, ranging in age from 10 to 85, served as bird counters, taking up positions on the patio or on the causeway.

As some counters spotted, identified and recorded the various birds flying overhead or perching on nearby trees and rooftops, others refreshed themselves with a festive buffet, cookies, cake and all manner of beverages.



Two species of Raptor were counted:

1. Broad-winged Hawk
2. Turkey Vulture

In addition, 15 other bird species were counted:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. American Crow | 11. Common Ground Dove |
| 4. American Goldfinch | 12. Cow Bird |
| 5. American Robin | 13. Eastern Bluebird |
| 6. Baltimore Oriole | 14. Mountain Bluebird |
| 7. Black & Yellow Warbler | 15. Pileated Woodpecker |
| 8. Blue Jay | 16. Red-winged Blackbird |
| 9. Chipping Sparrow | 17. Swallow |
| 10. Common Grackle | |



Pledges and donations collected to date total \$936.50 of which 75% goes to HMANA and 25% to the Raptor Trust.