

Field Trips - All Are Sunday, September 28th

(except Trapping and Banding are on Sunday & Monday)

Registration for Field Trips is listed on the conference registration web site

- On-line registration: www.umn.edu/ce/cps/rator
- Registration Form: www.umn.edu/ce/cps/rator

click on registration form and fax, mail, or email

Hawkwatching in the Bridger Mountains near Bozeman, Montana

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Meet at Bridger Bowl

This field trip is best suited for those traveling east, as the site is a 3 1/2 hour drive from Missoula. Migration and raptor expert Steve Hoffman, founder of HawkWatch International and Director of Montana Audubon leads the trip. The hike is 1 1/2 - 2 hours on a good trail at Bridger Bowl Ski Area. Contact Steve Hoffman for further details,

shoffman@mtaudubon.org (406) 443-3949

Cost: \$20, lunch not included

Golden Eagle Trapping and Banding on the Continental Divide (Sunday & Monday)

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Rocky Mountain Front (RMF) in west-central Montana boasts some of the greatest numbers of fall migrating Golden Eagles known in the world. From late September through mid October numbers of up to 200+ Golden Eagles may be counted on peak days. However, 30 to 50 individuals are more commonly observed. Visit our research station near Lincoln, Montana and take part in capturing and processing Golden Eagles, as well as numerous other potential raptor species. A moderately strenuous 1.5 mile hike gets you to the ridge top. ATV assistance will also be available to help shuttle those less able hikers. The weather on the Front can be extreme, so please bring appropriate gear. Contact Raptor View Research Institute Director Rob Domenech for further details, rob_dom@msn.com, and <http://www.raptorview.org/>

Cost: \$35.00 includes transportation and box lunches.

Space is limited to ten, with a second group on Monday.

Mission Valley Tour – Montana Waterfowl Foundation,
Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge, National Bison Range

8:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Head north to the Mission Valley, starting with a tour of the Montana Waterfowl Foundation near Ronan. A five-acre predator proof fence surrounds ponds, and additional aviaries hold native waterfowl, breeding Trumpeter Swans, and Sandhill Cranes. Ninepipe NWR is bordered by the scenic tenthousand foot Mission Mountains and is a riparian paradise for waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors such as Short-eared Owls. The last stop is at the Bison Range Visitor's Center and a guided 2 1/2 hour auto tour over Red Sleep Mountain. These grasslands hold herds of elk, pronghorns, mountain sheep and goats, and of course bison. Over 200 species of birds inhabit the prairie, forest, and wetlands, including Northern Harriers and Golden Eagles. Tours by John Grant, Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area and Pat Jamieson, National Bison Range.

Cost: \$35.00 includes transportation and box lunches

Bitterroot Valley Tour – Lee Metcalf National Wildlife
Refuge, Discussion of Montana Peregrine Institute
and Tour of Raptors of the Rockies

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Explore the Bitterroot Valley south of Missoula, beginning with a bird walk at Lee Metcalf NWR, a riparian and grassland haven for over 230 bird species. Jay Sumner, Director of the Montana Peregrine Institute will discuss his survey project in the amphitheatre, with the backdrop of Bitterroot Mountains and home to 11 Peregrine pairs in nearly every drainage. Lastly is a tour of the Raptors of the Rockies facility and wrap-up on the banks of the Bitterroot River.

Cost: \$25.00 includes transportation and box lunches