

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Hitchcock Nature Center: International Hawk Migration Week September 16<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>

Honey Creek, IA – Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center as we celebrate International Hawk Migration Week. Bring your binoculars and join our dedicated HawkWatch team between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. September 16<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> as they scan the skies for these migrating birds & share their knowledge and expertise.

International Hawk Migration Week (IHMW) was designated to help raise awareness of hawks, hawk migration and the HMANA network of sites that count hawks. Each year hundreds of thousands of hawks, eagles and vultures make their journey from Canada and the United States to wintering areas as far south as South America. Dedicated counters at hawk watch sites begin documenting this movement as early as 1 August and man their sites daily into December. Wherever you are during that time – you just need to look up and chances are good you may see a migrating raptor. HMANA's 129 active fall sites may count as many as 33 raptor species during this week!

Every year, from September through December, birds-of-prey enthusiasts gather at Hitchcock Nature Center to observe and count thousands of eagles, hawks, and other raptors as they migrate south. The broad expanse of the adjacent Missouri River Valley, combined with prevailing westerly winds that move through the Loess Hills, creates the perfect conditions for migrating raptors as they soar on thermals and topographic induced upward wind deflections in their journey south. This "hawk highway" sees thousands of birds each year and is what makes Hitchcock Nature Center a premier site for migration viewing. HawkWatch volunteers staff the tower each day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through mid-December and visitors to the park are welcome to climb the observation tower any time during their visit. For more information on the Hitchcock HawkWatch please call 712-545-3283.

All visitors to the park will need a valid Pottawattamie County Parks annual permit or will need to purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass to enter the park. Daily passes may be purchased with cash or check at the front entrance & annual permits may be purchased for \$10.00 from staff at any of our parks or at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center during regular business hours.

Hitchcock Nature Center 27792 Ski Hill Loop, Honey Creek, IA 51542

Directions: From Interstate I-29 take the Crescent exit and travel east to The Old Lincoln Highway. Hitchcock Nature Center is located 5 miles north of Crescent off of The Old Lincoln Highway.

Visit us on the web at:

[www.pottcoconservation.com](http://www.pottcoconservation.com) and [www.facebook.com/hitchcocknaturecenter](http://www.facebook.com/hitchcocknaturecenter)

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