



Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation

P.O. Box 63154, Stadium RPO
Calgary, AB, T2N 4S5
Canada
March 8, 2017

President's Letter

It was March 20, 1992 when Des Allen and Peter Sherrington first noticed Golden Eagles migrating along the portion of what was to become known as the “eagle highway” in the Kananaskis Valley close to Mt. Lorette. When this spring's count started on March 1, it became the count's 26th consecutive year, making RMERF's eagle count one of the longest-running citizen science projects in the world.

In the last 25 years, observers have spent some 4535 days (43,000 hours) in the field, counting in excess of 231,000 migrant raptors of which 182,000 were Golden Eagles. Besides the Hay Meadow (Mt. Lorette) site in Kananaskis, observations over the years have taken place at Plateau Mountain, Piitaistakis (Place of the Eagles) in the Crowsnest Pass, Beaver Mines/Vicki Ridge, and Steeples near Cranbrook, BC. This year, counts will be conducted at Hay Meadow (Mt. Lorette), Beaver Mines/Vicki Ridge, and Steeples.

To mark the 25th anniversary, RMERF has some special events planned.

On March 20th, from about 10:30 am until 2:00 pm, you're invited to Hay Meadow for coffee and donuts, and to help the observers watch for eagles.

We're also finalizing the program for a 25th anniversary celebration to be held on May 28th at the Beupre Hall near Cochrane. Expect lots of stories and pictures, drinks and snacks, and plenty of time for socializing. We also hope to premiere a special 25th anniversary video. Watch the website (<http://eaglewatch.ca>) for program details, time, and directions to the hall.

As part of our 25th year celebration, RMERF is working with Alberta Parks to install an information kiosk, interpretive signage, and benches at the Hay Meadow site.

I'd like to thank all our observers, members, board members, supporters, and volunteers for making the last 25 years of counting such a success. We hope you'll stick with us for the next 25 years.

As always, we're looking for new members and donations so we can continue the work. Please help us by signing up some new members, and by donating to RMERF. In this 25th anniversary year, we're particularly looking for donations to help pay for the information kiosk, signage, and benches, as well as the video project. Perhaps you could sponsor one of the benches, or help pay for the video and get mentioned in the credits? Donations can be sent by cheque to RMERF's mailing address, or made on-line on our website (<http://eaglewatch.ca>). If you'd like to make a special 25th anniversary donation, please contact either our Treasurer, Claire Bourret (jlmckinn@telusplanet.net), or myself (gordon@diomedea.com).

I hope to see you on May 28th, and/or out in the field with "eyes to the sky".



Gordon Petersen
President, RMERF