



## Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation

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### Newsletter December 2017

Let's start at the beginning by thanking you—our members, observers, volunteers, funders, and board members—for your continuing dedication and support. Nothing would happen without you!

In 2017, the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of monitoring the Golden Eagle migration, both the spring and fall counts were well conducted and considered valid. The Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 migration reports should now be available on our [website](#), and the Fall 2017 should be available shortly.

To mark RMERF's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we held a number of events including a public and media event at Hay Meadow on March 20; our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in May; and the unveiling of the information kiosk, interpretive signage, and benches at Hay Meadow in September. These events helped to generate significant media and public interest in RMERF's work, and resulted in numerous media stories and interviews, as well as increased visitation to our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages. Look [here](#) for some of the media coverage.

As part of our scientific mission, RMERF has entered into an agreement with a University of Victoria biostatistician to complete a rigorous statistical analysis of our 25-year Golden Eagle migration dataset. The analysis will focus on population trends, breeding success, and changes in migration timing. Changes in these metrics may provide insights into the successes or failures of current conservation efforts and land-use policies, and may suggest new conservation approaches. A secondary objective is to

examine the value of Citizen Science in conducting long-term studies on natural phenomena like the eagle migration.

In conjunction with World Mountain Day, Peter Sherrington will be giving a talk on December 11, 2017 at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre (located 1.5 km off Highway #3 in the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Alberta).

RMERF's Annual General Meeting will be held on February 17, 2018 at the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) building (455-12 St NW, Calgary) starting at 10 am. The meeting will feature a guest speaker from the Alberta Institute for Wilderness Conservation (AIWC, a "champion for the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife") located in Madden, Alberta.

Starting with the Spring 2018 count, RMERF is planning to have a docent available for weekday school groups and larger weekend crowds. The docent will interact with visitors, providing them with information about eagles and other raptors, about the eagle migration, and about RMERF and its work. As well as improving our engagement with the public, the docent will allow the observers to concentrate on eagle watching. If you're interested in assisting as a docent, please contact us at [info@eaglewatch.ca](mailto:info@eaglewatch.ca).

To assist with the docent's work, we're looking for donations of used binoculars. If you have a pair that you're no longer using, please bring them along to the AGM. The docent will make sure they get put to good use.

As well as looking for docents, we're always on the lookout for new principal observers, assistant observers, and board members. If you're interested, or know someone who might be, please [let us know](#).

Donations to help carry on RMERF's work are always most helpful and much appreciated. Donations can be sent by cheque to RMERF's mailing address, or made on-line on our website ([eaglewatch.ca](http://eaglewatch.ca)).

**Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Best Wishes for 2018!**