

## **Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch – Part 2. Ed Pike and the Young Owl Banders**

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<http://naturechange.org/2017/05/19/mackinac-straits-raptor-watch-part-2-ed-pike-and-the-young-owl-banders/>

Ed Pike is Chairman and one of the founders of the nonprofit research and education organization known as the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch. As described in Part 1 of this series, Raptor Watch is maintaining a regular and methodical count of eagles, hawks and vultures soaring through the area during the spring migration every year. Another effort focuses on counting water birds moving through the area each spring. All of this data is contributed to a national database available to researchers everywhere.

In Part 2 of this series, we focus on the small-owl banding and research project begun by Ed Pike over 25 years ago in straits area. Today, Raptor Watch continues this project with support from the organization's members and donors and Pike's continuing oversight

Each year, Raptor Watch hires and trains two recent college graduates to help continue the owl banding project through the spring migration. Having received degrees in biology and ecology, Arthur Sanchez and Nick Alioto have had some experience in handling birds and are thrilled to have this opportunity to work with master bird bander, Ed Pike.

### **Topics Covered**

Birds; Climate Change; Ecology; Stewardship

### **Next Generation Science Standards**

- 3-LS4-4. Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.
- 3-ESS2-1. Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season.
- HS-LS4-4. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how natural selection leads to adaptation of populations.
- HS-ESS2-4. Use a model to describe how variations in the flow of energy into and out of Earth's systems result in changes in climate.