

# BOGDIVERSITY THURSDAY



—*from Head Naturalist Clinton*

## Broad-winged Hawk

POST #1—September 2, 2021

Biodiversity in the Sax-Zim Bog is impressive, with over 2800 species documented so far! Through our BogDiversity Thursday post series, we hope to give you some information about some of the species that are found in the greater Sax-Zim Bog area!

Let's start this series off with a common species in our area that is starting its massive migration south: Broad-winged Hawk!

Broad-winged Hawks are the most common raptor observed throughout the Sax-Zim Bog during the summer months. This small buteo specializes in reptile and amphibian prey, though worms, larger insects, mice, and even birds make up parts of their diet.

Broad-winged Hawks are primarily found as single birds or in pairs during the breeding season, but in migration are quite social and will migrate and roost in the thousands! This species is fairly common throughout the boreal forest, utilizing mixed forests or forest edges near wetlands or waterways. After a migration

covering thousands of miles, this species will winter in Central America and northern South America.

More information about this species can be found in the photos below!

(Photos below by Sparky Stensaas)



An adult Broad-winged Hawk perches among the Tamaracks along Hwy 7. This is a perch-hunting species, surveying wetlands and marshes for their next meal.



In flight, adult Broad-winged Hawks show a plain underwing, with strong, dark trailing edge to their wing. Their tails are evenly black and white banded, often only showing one dark and one light band.



Broad-winged Hawks build medium to large stick nests. They will sometimes reuse and build up old crow or squirrel nests. This nest was found behind the Welcome Center!



Young Broad-winged Hawks have thick, blobby, vertical streaking on their chests and lack the black and white tail banding shown by adults.



This Broad-winged Hawk had a successful hunt and is enjoying its Green Frog prey from atop a broken conifer.