



**SIERRA
CLUB**

IOWA CHAPTER

Missouri River Flyway

The Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club supports protecting the habitat of the Loess Hills, the native biological diversity of the Missouri River, and the air quality along the Missouri River flyway.

The Missouri River experienced several large floods this century. In order to better deal with the flood waters, the Iowa Chapter supports

- Setting the levees farther away from the river so there is more land area to store flood water, while also protecting farmland, homes, and businesses
- Restoring and establishing habitat in the floodplain areas for wildlife, including restoring wetlands and backwaters
- Restoring the seasonal flows that normally occurred before the river was channelized

The Missouri River valley is a major corridor used by migrating hawks, geese, sandhill cranes, pelicans, and other birds. The hawk migration is spectacular in the number of birds and the variety of species.

The Hitchcock Nature Center in Pottawattamie County records the migration of birds through the corridor. In the fall of 2010, migrating season numbers included:

11,961 migrating raptors (19 species)
 600,000 Snow Geese on Nov 22
 16,000 White Pelicans
 8,796 Blue Jays
 613 Sandhill Cranes

Among the raptor species spotted flying through the corridor were:

Bald eagle	Northern goshawk	Peregrine falcon
Osprey	Red-shouldered hawk	Merlin
Turkey vultures	Broad-winged hawk	American kestrel
Northern harrier	Swainson's hawk	Golden eagle
Sharp-shinned hawk	Red-tailed hawk	Ferruginous Hawk
Cooper's hawk	Prairie falcon	Rough-legged hawk

Sources

www.pottcoconservation.com/html/hawkcurrent.html and
www.pottcoconservation.com/PDF/2010%20Hawkwatch%20Report.pdf