

**Seth Kellogg, Long-time Editor of the
Annual *NorthEast Hawk Migration Report*, Steps Down**

Members of the NorthEast Hawk Watch (NEHW) might detect some differences between this year's report and those they've received for decades. That is because Seth Kellogg, a leading presence in the northeastern hawk watching community for over forty years, retired as Editor of the annual *NEHW Hawk Migration Report* when he completed the 2014 report.

Everyone with an interest in hawks, in raptor conservation, owes a debt of gratitude to Seth for his labors on behalf of hawks for more than four decades. Very early in the life of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), Seth became editor of its *Newsletter*, editing reports on hawk flights and producing and analyzing seasonal site tables from across the continent. He made major improvements to the *HMANA Newsletter* BEFORE the invention of desktop computers. He edited and laid out newsletters that included massive tables of counts from across North America on a typewriter without benefit of digital memory, much less computers, relying on his skills and whiteout. I clearly remember the excitement with Seth's first issues of the *Newsletter*, which was the glue that held together a young organization of hawk watchers from across a continent.

Seth eventually laid down the mantle of editor for HMANA, but he was still the editor for the eastern continental region, which included roughly 100 different sites in the most densely covered region in the world. In 1993 HMANA recognized Seth's unique contributions with the **Maurice Broun Award**, honoring individuals "who have made outstanding, long-term, or major contributions to HMANA and its goals."

Meanwhile, the role of compiler and editor of the annual *NorthEast Hawk Migration Report* had passed from Neil Currie to Seth in 1988. Neil had been lead editor on the report for 11 years, developing it into the best source of information on hawk migration in any region in the world. Seth brought to the report as broad and deep a

perspective on hawk migration as any amateur and perhaps many professional raptor biologists in North America. After stepping down as editor of the *HMANA Newsletter*, Seth had continued to write the eastern continental report for HMANA as many new hawk watches developed. In 2003, HMANA recognized Seth's unique continuing contributions to the field and to the association, including the Northeast Hawk Watch a second time by presenting him with HMANA's highest honor, the **Joseph Taylor Award** for "heroic contributions above and beyond the call of duty." Not many people receive two lifetime achievement awards from any organization!

The development of personal computers, the Internet, and in 2002 HMANA's introduction of HawkCount forever changed communication of hawk migration data. Watch sites began loading their own daily reports into HawkCount for the world to see in near-real time. Previously, you had to wait to the following fall to see a report on the migration a year earlier. The evolution of Hawk Count changed the nature of the *HMANA Newsletter*, but not the value of the *NEHW Hawk Migration Report*. Unlike HMANA's publications, the *NEHW Migration Report* provides a long-term historical perspective (over 40 years) for more than fifty sites across New England (it was originally the New England Hawk Watch), and parts of two other states and one Canadian province determined to be along the same flight lines! HawkCount made it much easier for Seth to obtain and organize daily and seasonal data from sites, but his data and analysis covered not just the season's migration as it unfolded at individual sites, but the movement of raptors across the region on a daily basis across the season and across decades, providing a truly unique perspective on long-term raptor migration and population trends in our region long before the development of the Raptor Population Index (RPI).

Seth continued to compile and edit the NEHW report through 2014, over a quarter century, but that was only part of his contributions to the hawk and birding communities. Seth has been an officer of NEHW for decades, a leader in two state breeding bird censuses, Editor of the *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*, the voice of the *Western Mass Voice of Audubon*, and Editor of the monthly field records for

Bird Observer, the journal of record for Massachusetts. He also conducted daily coverage at Blueberry Hill in Massachusetts for many years.

Thousands of people across decades and the continent owe a debt of gratitude to Seth for everything he has done to help us understand raptor migration and advance raptor conservation. We in the northeast are especially fortunate. Thank you, Seth, for all that you have done for us, given to us, and shared with us, and for enriching our understanding and love of birds of prey.

Paul M. Roberts

President

NorthEast Hawk Watch

**Trudy Battaly and Iain MacLeod Succeed Seth Kellogg
as Editors of the NEHW Hawk Migration Report**

Everyone on the NEHW board knew that it was not possible to replace Seth Kellogg, as Editor of the *NEHW Hawk Migration Report*, but we had to find a successor, as the NEHW report is a unique source of extensive data and insightful analysis on hawk migration, the *raison d'être* for the existence of NEHW. We were fortunate in that two of the northeast's most accomplished migration researchers volunteered to work together to develop future reports: Gertrude (Trudy) Battaly of New York and Iain MacLeod of New Hampshire. Trudy will compile and edit the report, and Iain will lay it out and produce it. You'll notice some changes that we hope you'll appreciate, and we encourage you to share your thoughts on and ideas for the report with Trudy and Iain.