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Break Out the Binoculars: Help PDX Track Raptors

Bird watchers can submit sightings to a new website and help Port of Portland wildlife staff build an interactive database that will keep tabs on tagged hawks

The newly launched website, www.pdxraptors.com, is an online space to report hawk sightings and discover where they've been – a virtual “Where’s Waldo?” for these orange-banded regional raptors.

Anyone who sees a raptor with an orange band or wing-tag can submit a sighting report on the website. The PDX Raptors site also allows visitors to see where and when the bird was caught, where it was released, and any other re-sightings that web users have submitted.

Portland International Airport’s wildlife staff trap, band, and translocate raptors away from the airfield to reduce the risk of bird strikes at PDX. Some hawks are moved more than a hundred miles away to prevent them from returning. It is important to know where the birds end up after they are released to determine future successful release sites and help lower hawk return rates at PDX. This spring has been particularly busy with 94 red-tailed hawks caught and translocated to date; a typical season sees approximately 20 hawk translocations.

PDX is a founding member of the Western Airports Raptor Research Management team. PDX Wildlife employees and Port of Portland Information Technology staff developed the PDX Raptors website as part of collaborative efforts aimed at regional raptor tracking for west coast airports. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Vancouver International Airport may soon employ similar sites to help build comprehensive databases with location information for Northwest wing-tagged hawks.

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The PDX Wildlife Hazard Management Program is staffed by a group of biologists committed to the safety of passengers, aircraft, and the many birds that live in or migrate through the region. Learn more about the program by watching [this video](#).

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