

**Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory
MOU Savaloja Grant
2016 Final Report**

The MOU Savaloja Grant of \$1000 funded the cost of a website designer to implement an online registration system on the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory website for the Minnesota portion of the Western Great Lakes Owl Monitoring Survey.

The goal was to create an efficient online registration system to help reduce time and costs of volunteer coordination efforts for the citizen-science based owl surveys across the state. This was an important step, as there are no other sources of funding to continue managing the owl monitoring survey. This survey has provided information about the distribution and status for both common and uncommon owl species in the state of MN for over 10 years.

Jane Reed of Red Pebble Web Design was contracted to complete this project. Jane ran into several technical difficulties with integration into the Hawk Ridge website platform, as well as converting the survey route shape files into a format that would be downloadable for users. Her needed extension of project work time was approved.

The new online registration appears to be easy to navigate through. It includes an overview of the project, a map showing the available routes vs. reserved, downloadable maps of each specific route (159 routes total), forms & instructions, and contact information for questions. Here is the draft link (<http://owlsurvey.hawkridge.org/>), as it won't be made live until sometime in March, once we've communicated new system with existing volunteers.

The owl survey period takes place in April, which means it's too early to comment on the success of implementation of the online registration. However, we are happy with the results of the design and content. We are hopeful that the transition will go smoothly and would be happy to report back in late spring/early summer.

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory truly appreciates the M.O.U. Savaloja Grant funding support. Thank you!

Financial Report

Income	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Minnesota Ornithologists' Union	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Expenditures		
Web Designer	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000