

Hawkwatch Season in Borrego Valley

Swainson's Hawks spend the winter in Mexico, Colombia and South America (mainly Argentina). In early to mid-February the first Swainson's Hawks arrive in Borrego Valley from Mexico. As the season progresses the hawks arrive from Colombia and finally in April from Argentina. The journey from Argentina is over 6,000 miles.

Peak Wave Periods

Swainson's Hawks move into Borrego Valley in predictable waves during the season. A few days on either side of the dates below have shown some dependable migration numbers.

February 25, March 10, March 20,
March 27, April 5

Biggest Year Yet - 2011

In 2011 we counted a record number of 8,902 Swainson's Hawks.

Big Days

The following dates are the high number sighting dates for each year for Swainson's Hawks:

2003	-	April 5	595
2004	-	March 26	1,406
2005	-	March 19	658
2006	-	March 20	186
2007	-	March 20	1,365
2008	-	March 25	1,008
2009	-	March 9	225
2010	-	March 30	446

In 2011 we had a remarkable season; 18 days with over 100 Swainson's counted. Six days above 200. The big days were March 28 - 1,851 Swainson Hawks and March 30 - 1,456 Swainson Hawks.



Directions to Morning Site

To reach the morning site, take Palm Canyon Drive east from Borrego Springs, 1/2 mile from Christmas Circle) to Di Giorgio Rd. Turn left (north) and drive 2.8 miles to the morning site. We are located on the east side of the road on a raised sand hill. We meet from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. every day. Best viewing between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

Directions to Evening Site

To reach the evening site, take Palm Canyon Drive east from Borrego Springs, 1-1/2 miles from Christmas Circle, to a 4-way stop at the elementary school. Turn left (north) and drive 1.8 miles to a date farm. We meet one hour before sundown on the right side of the road on a small dune.



Swainson's Hawk

Borrego Valley Hawkwatch



Borrego Springs, California



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