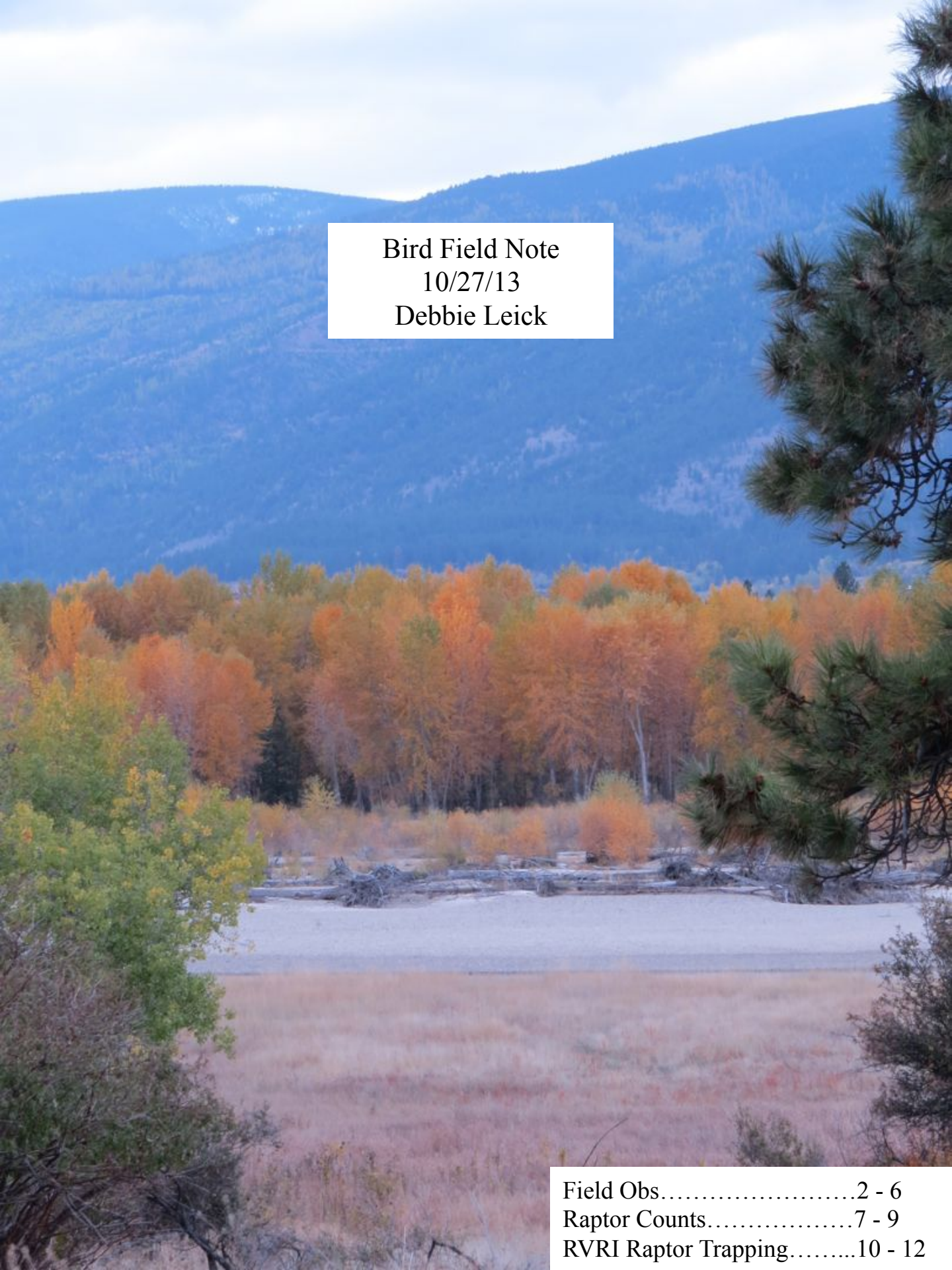

Bird Field Note
10/27/13
Debbie Leick

Field Obs……2 - 6
Raptor Counts……7 - 9
RVRI Raptor Trapping……...10 - 12

Temperatures cool and fall colors brighten the landscape.

Hungry mule deer ignore the brown grass and browse on bitterbrush.

Tall, thick grasses obscure an old turkey's nest.

A song sparrow, surrounded by fog, perches on frosted branches.
After the fog lifts, icy spider webs glisten in the sun.

A northern pygmy-owl elicits non-stop alarm calls from nearby nuthatches and chickadees. The owl eventually flushes and silence returns.

Raptor Migration Update
Eric Rasmussen
Raptor Counts: 10/18/13-10/24/13

We recorded one of the lowest counts of the season. Above-average temperatures, calm winds, and cloudless skies were present the entire week. Daily counts were below 20 for the last five days and the flight pattern was consistent each day. Most birds were detected after noon, once the morning fog burned off and temperatures crept from the mid-twenties to the low sixties. Birds moved low and slow, either searching for lift, prey, or a combination of the two. Red-tailed, rough-legged, and sharp-shinned hawks made up the bulk of the count. Two more days of mild weather will transition to winter-like conditions. Partly sunny skies and strong winds will accompany an arctic front forecasted through next week. We anticipate good numbers of buteos and the last wave of accipiters.

Weekly (10/18/13-10/24/13) and Seasonal Raptor Totals

		Weekly Total	Season Total
Eagles	Golden Eagle	3	**75**
	Bald Eagle	7	**50**
	Unknown Eagle	0	**0**
Accipiters	Sharp-shinned Hawk	23	**579**
	Cooper's Hawk	10	**288**
	Northern Goshawk	4	**30**
	Unknown Accipiter	2	**81**
Buteos	Red-tailed Hawk	69	**869**
	Rough-legged Hawk	23	**54**
	Swainson's Hawk	0	**16**
	Broad-winged Hawk	0	**122**
	Ferruginous Hawk	2	**6**
	Unknown Buteo	12	**122**
Falcons	American Kestrel	2	**342**
	Merlin	0	**30**
	Peregrine Falcon	0	**21**
	Prairie Falcon	0	**12**
	Unknown Falcon	0	**7**
Other	Northern Harrier	5	**90**
	Osprey	2	**119**
	Turkey Vulture	1	**1861**
	Unknown Hawk	4	**78**
		169	**4852**

A Harlan’s red-tailed hawk has a dark body with a white tail.

Weather conditions like this tend to yield low counts.

Raptor Trapping: October 20 – October 26
Adam Shreading

Raptor View Research Institute banded five raptors this week. While migrant numbers decline as the fall migration comes to an end, RVRI believes the warm, cloudless weather contributed to this week's low capture numbers. With a wintery change predicted early next week, we hope to see more migrants pass through our trapping stations.

Weekly (Oct. 20 - Oct. 26) and Seasonal Capture Totals

		Weekly Total		Season Total	
		Floodplain	Ridge	Floodplain	Ridge
Accipiters	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	1	**22**	**17**
	Cooper's Hawk	1	0	**3**	**9**
	Northern Goshawk	0	0	**0**	**3**
Buteos	Red-tailed Hawk	1	0	**5**	**4**
Falcons	American Kestrel	0	0	**4**	**1**
	Merlin	0	0	**6**	**0**
	Peregrine Falcon	0	0	**1**	**0**
	Prairie Falcon	0	0	**0**	**1**
Other	Northern Harrier	0	0	**2**	**0**
	TOTAL	**4**	**1**	**43**	**35**

This young Red-tailed Hawk was captured at the lower blind. The curled primary feather on its right wing is unusual; the cause of this abnormality is unknown.

This adult Cooper’s hawk was the twelfth caught this year.
In 2012, just five Cooper’s hawks were captured.