

# HMANA Data Release Policy

## Winter Raptor Survey

### Purpose

HMANA and the Winter Raptor Survey Committee encourages full use of the data collected during winter raptor surveys and archived by HMANA for raptor research and conservation. The WRS was established as a citizen science project to better understand a significant and understudied period in the annual life cycle of raptors. A growing number of governmental, private organizations and individuals are conducting winter raptor surveys. It is the goal of HMANA to unite and recruit for more surveys using similar formats on a continental scale. HMANA is committed to actively promoting professional courtesy, scientific integrity, and ethical standards in the use of raptor overwintering and migration data that it maintains. An open-data policy is not without risk; therefore, written permission is required from HMANA and will be reviewed by members of the WRS Committee before the data is released. (See data release request form)

### Permission to Use WRS data

Each winter raptor lead surveyor has first right to publish or use their own data without requiring permission from HMANA and the WRS Committee. If an author or researcher wishes to use the data from a single survey route that they are not the lead surveyor for that route, they must obtain permission from both the lead surveyor and the WRS Committee. **All other data use requests must be made to HMANA in writing using the data release request form.** Considerable time and effort have been spent creating and managing the survey protocol and database. HMANA is a 501 (c) (3) organization. With limited resources and under certain conditions, HMANA may charge a fee for providing the data to commercial and for-profit users or if the requested data release is in a non-electronic format. Data released to the user or researcher is to be used only for the purpose or purposes described in the **Data Release Request** [hmana.org/data-policies/data-release-form/](https://hmana.org/data-policies/data-release-form/). Data may not be released or redistributed to any individual or organization other than those described in the data release request form.

**Acknowledgements and citations.** HMANA expects to be properly acknowledged in any publication produced by the user(s) of the data. Similarly, if fewer than five survey routes are used and 5% or greater of the data used is from those routes then the lead surveyor(s) should also be acknowledged. Scientific ethics dictate proper citation and crediting when significant data not collected by the author are utilized in publication. Users of data should be sensitive to ongoing projects and should not utilize the data inappropriately.