



WHY COUNT HAWKS???

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary operates the oldest, continually active migration watchsite in the world. Every day between August 15 and December 15, a Sanctuary observer-staff or volunteer counts and records the number of hawks, eagles and falcons migrating past the Sanctuary's legendary North Lookout. Each year, counters record an average 18,000 migrating raptors. Here are some of the reasons why the Hawk Mountain count is so important:

Science

Migrating raptors have been counted at the North Lookout since 1934. Today, these counts represent the longest continuous record of raptor migration and raptor populations anywhere in the world. Scientists both on and off the Mountain use these counts to better understand the raptor migration.

Education

The rhythms of raptor migration are obvious in the daily, weekly and monthly hawk counts. Hawk counts serve as an introduction to migration ecology and as a springboard for teaching population biology, avian ecology, meteorology and more.

Conservation

Fall migration is a time when raptors are easily observed in large numbers, creating a unique opportunity to assess the status of raptor populations.

Migration counts, together with focused research, serve as essential tools in monitoring long-term trends in raptor populations throughout eastern North America.

Recreation

Counting hawks is exciting, challenging and just plain fun. The North Lookout count is the focus of activity during the migration, offering every observer a chance to participate in the fall migration.

Training

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is the world's first refuge for birds of prey, as well as the oldest continually active hawk-watch site. The Sanctuary shares its expertise and provides leadership to hawkwatch sites around the world. The North Lookout count has helped train hundreds of raptor conservationists on six continents.

Annual Spring Hawkwatch: April 1 . May 15

Autumn Hawkwatch: August 15 . December 15

www.hawkmountain.org