



HAWK MOUNTAIN

ANNUAL REPORT

22 23





THE MISSION OF HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY ASSOCIATION

“To conserve birds of prey worldwide
by providing leadership in raptor
conservation science and education
and by maintaining Hawk Mountain
Sanctuary as a model observation,
research and education facility.”

Download a copy of this report at
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Dear Friends,

As Hawk Mountain enters its 90th year, I want to thank you, our generous supporters who value raptor conservation. We remain a financially strong, well-respected, and exceptionally committed raptor conservation organization.

Thanks to our Rosalie Edge Society members, we have significant financial endowments that sustain our organization during uncertain financial times. Please consider making a planned gift for future generations and become part of this shared legacy. It is as simple as reaching out to us to begin a conversation. It is always a pleasure to recognize those who make a planned gift to an endowment or the Visitor Center, in front of their peers, and our organization's leadership.

Our reputation is outstanding. This year we were approached by long-standing state partners to lead efforts to ensure critical hawk migration data is collected at five key sites across the Kittatinny Ridge by hiring and training additional counters and educators for each site in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. And, we have been contracted to oversee the 3rd Pennsylvania Bird Atlas, a five-year-long project that is funded through a state grant from the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The award-winning stewardship team was invited to present at the state Trails Summit on best practices, hosted a Sierra Club service team's weeklong visit, and continue to model outstanding land management practices. Similarly, education doubled the number of children served during summer Nature Day Camp and developed more innovative programming for all ages and skill levels.

The biggest opportunity is to invest in our future through helping us create a new Center for Global Raptor Conservation. Our aged Visitor Center faces challenges: it lacks complete ADA accessibility, we need to add covered outdoor spaces, update our educational exhibits, add new retail space, and utilize more energy efficient systems, all while maintaining our traditional Hawk Mountain "feel." We need your help to kickstart making this dream a reality in time for the 90th anniversary celebration weekend on May 10-12, 2024.

I hope you enjoy reading our accomplishments in this Annual Report, and I thank you again for your continued support for Hawk Mountain and its raptor conservation mission.

Yours in conservation,

Sean Grace, President

57,700+

visitors to the Sanctuary

24

PROFESSIONAL
STAFF LEADING
THE EFFORTS

150+
DEDICATED
VOLUNTEERS

\$1,460,835

raised for global raptor conservation

300
LEADERSHIP
DONORS

24 COUNTERS STATIONED
AT NORTH LOOKOUT

16 graduate
and postdoc
students

127
bird species
recorded



70,538

non-raptor migrants counted

48 non-avian
species recorded

276 PROGRAMS
AND EVENTS

3,696 on-site group participants

2,255 self-guided group participants

1,949 off-site group participants

9,000+
supportive members

132
SUMMER
CAMPERS

49
VISITING
SCIENTISTS

11 scientific papers
published

25
TRAINEES
& INTERNS

53
PRESENTATIONS
BY OUR SCIENTISTS

by the soaring numbers

2

0

2

2

HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the **Further Forward Foundation**, Hawk Mountain has successfully piloted the new nine-month residential Jennifer Malloy Combs Senior Education Internship for individuals with an environmental education background and raptor handling experience. These interns arrive in March and stay into November, which gives them the chance to model multiple aspects of being an educator and then work independently on field trip programs, eight weeks of summer nature camp, off-site programs, and a variety of public events. The Sanctuary welcomed David Tristan and Robert Joel Moore as the first two senior education interns.



The Sanctuary science and education teams have introduced several higher-level workshops for adults seeking learning opportunities in conservation and education. In addition to the popular semi-annual **Raptor Field Techniques Course**, Hawk Mountain launched a series of **Appalachian Field Institute workshops**, which are one- to three-day workshops designed for the amateur or professional naturalist interested in learning more about the natural history and ecology of the central Appalachians. The education team has also designed a **Captive Raptor Management Workshop**, which teaches participants about the methods and techniques to manage captive raptors and utilize them in conservation education.

Hawk Mountain has been involved several collaborative projects promoting the **Kittatinny Ridge**. The Sanctuary received a grant to coordinate official hawkwatches at five sites along the Kittatinny, as well as create display and educational materials for each site. Sanctuary scientists worked to train seasonal and volunteer workers and then synthesized the collected migration data. Additionally, Hawk Mountain developed an educational kiosk in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy highlighting the importance of the Kittatinny Conservation Landscape and the Sanctuary's forest stewardship efforts. This kiosk also includes a panel with a large and updated Hawk Mountain trail map to encourage hiking safety and awareness.

Hawk Mountain updated and produced a series of **Land Conservation posters** for use in public outreach and as an exhibit. They outline the importance of the Kittatinny Ridge as a migration superhighway as well as a climate resilient landscape, along with the special habitats of the Sanctuary, the biodiversity of its wildlife, its land management challenges, and more. The series compliments the educational Kittatinny Ridge kiosk installed near the trail entrance. Hawk Mountain also has a **new and improved printed trail guide** with terrain lines to better show the trails' elevation and more clearly suggested hiking routes and safety precautions for visitor preparedness.

Hawk Mountain has worked collaboratively to launch the five-year **Pennsylvania Bird Atlas** project funded by the PA Game Commission to survey bird species' statuses. This will be the first time a Pennsylvania Bird Atlas will incorporate winter surveys in addition to breeding season surveys, which will help refine the understanding of the year-round distribution and relative abundance of Pennsylvania's bird populations. Amber Wiewel has been selected as the Bird Atlas Project Coordinator and will work closely with a corps of volunteer birders and ornithologists to collect data via the eBird online database. Surveying is set to begin in 2024.

The Raptor Population Index (RPI), a collaboration between Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Hawkwatch International, Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), and Birds Canada, launched a new website to share up-to-date raptor population trends. This site serves to share valuable information about migratory raptor trends with researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders. The Raptors at Risk and Raptors on the Rise sections on the site summarize current trends and conservation efforts by species, and new interactive maps and trend graphs help viewers navigate and interact with the data. Check it out at rpi-project.org.

Hawk Mountain headlined at the international **Wilson Society for Ornithology Conference** hosted at Muhlenberg College by former board member Dr. Dan Klem and including the Society's journal editor and current HMS Board Member, Ernesto Ruelas. The conference included a Hawk Mountain Symposium, featuring presentations from several Sanctuary staff, before a field trip to the Sanctuary. Dr. Laurie Goodrich, Dr. JF Therrien, David Barber, Bracken Brown, and research colleague Dr. Bob Curry presented on various research projects happening with the Sanctuary.



Research Updates

Thanks to a grant from the Bureau of Forestry, the Sanctuary's science and stewardship teams collaborated with Dr. Chris Sacchi and students from Kutztown University to survey **invasive worm species** and study their impact on forest regeneration, biodiversity, and forest communities. Initial data collection took place in summer 2022, but this research is ongoing.

In winter 2023, **vulture road surveys** were conducted along the Kittatinny Ridge after a decade-long hiatus to collect information on the wintering behaviors of vultures, highlighting these birds as both year-round residents and migrants from the north. In addition to the eastern shore, Sanctuary staff, trainees, volunteers, and international partners worked collaboratively to finish surveys in Uruguay, Venezuela, and Saskatchewan, Canada. Only four resurvey areas are left to complete the second round of vulture road surveys: Falkland Islands, Southern Patagonia, Chile, and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The **Broad-winged Hawk Project** continues its efforts in locating nests and tagging broadwings to track their migration. The 2022 season saw the highest number of tagged individuals since the project's inception in 2014, thanks to collaborative efforts in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Ontario. In early 2023, Sanctuary scientists Dr. Laurie Goodrich and Dr. Rebecca McCabe traveled to Florida in search of wintering broadwings and connected with Pelican Harbor Seabird Station to discuss deploying GPS transmitters on rehabilitated broadwings. Throughout the summer, the team traveled through Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Québec searching for and monitoring broadwing nests. With support from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science and Bird Protection Québec, the team successfully tagged three adult broadwings.

The Sanctuary's expanding **American kestrel research** continues to grow and garner attention. While still collecting nest box data, Hawk Mountain is also working to synthesize blood sample data and landscape observations to better inform conservation efforts. Dr. JF Therrien was an associate editor for a special issue of the *Journal of Raptor Research* earlier this year, which focused on American kestrel conservation. He also co-authored the lead article on the topic.

Leadership Donors

Leadership donors provide critical support to advance Hawk Mountain's global raptor conservation science and education programs. Entry begins at \$500 with a listing in the Annual Report and invitation to President's Circle events. This list includes donors who contributed during the 2022 calendar year.

Our goal is to help you learn more about your investment in raptor conservation. Hawk Mountain values your generous support and is delighted to arrange a personal visit or phone update. Please contact us today.

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The Rosalie Edge Society is a select group of major investors who have made the caring decision to contribute \$25,000 or more through estate planning or a direct gift to support endowment. Such donors support Hawk Mountain and its programs for generations to come. If you, too, have named Hawk Mountain in your will, please contact us today.

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Hawk Mountain Sanctuary received a clean opinion from the auditing firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP. Of particular interest is that 82 cents of every dollar received goes directly to support Sanctuary research and education programs.

Statement of Operating Revenue and Expense Fiscal Year April 1, 2022 — March 31, 2023

REVENUE	FY 2022-2023	FY 2020-2021	VARIANCE
Membership Dues	504,112	390,651	113,461
Admission Fees	313,389	325,623	(12,234)
Bookstore Net Sales	110,959	110,106	853
Paycheck Protection Program		-	-
Fees and other income	363,348	288,813	74,535
Grants	78,568	56,826	21,742
Contributions	1,460,835	1,780,948	(320,113)
Investment Income	(1,099,465)	366,050	(1,465,515)
TOTAL	1,731,746	3,319,017	(1,587,271)
EXPENSE			
PROGRAM			
Education	560,123	502,366	57,757
Conservation Science	1,157,873	961,389	196,484
Communications	187,738	184,446	3,292
Operations	653,696	587,166	66,530
Bookstore	206,044	168,935	37,109
SUPPORTING SERVICES			
Development & Membership	444,055	410,040	34,015
Administration	180,431	204,905	(24,474)
TOTAL	3,389,960	3,019,247	370,713
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	(1,658,214)	299,770	(1,957,984)
<i>Note depreciation is included in above numbers</i>	268,299	283,635	

Endowments

Hawk Mountain is fortunate to have a range of endowment support that collectively totals more than \$15 million. Such gifts are visionary, as they sustain the Sanctuary and its programs for generations to come. If you, too, would like to make a far-reaching gift, or have already planned one in your will, please contact us today. Endowment revenue is reflected under Investment Income.

2022 Endowment Supporters:

Jan Albaum and Harry E. Cerino
 Hawk Migration Association of North America
 Willian Gellhaus
 Reidler Foundation
 Berks County Community Foundation
 Benjamin Olewine IV



Contact:
 Mary Linkevich, Director of Development
 610-756-6000 x212
 linkevich@hawkmountain.org



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Local-to-Global Conservation Training

Hawk Mountain's most far reaching and effective strategy, the conservation science training program, brings young conservationists and students from around the world to the Sanctuary for a rigorous three-month residential traineeship. Sanctuary biologists and educators share the most up-to-date information about raptor conservation research and education and immerse participants in the Sanctuary operations. In turn, trainees return to their home countries and states with a broadened skill set, real-world experience, and expert contacts. This program continues to spread Hawk Mountain's network internationally, augmenting our important raptor conservation mission.

Conservation Science Trainees & Interns

Bekzhan Berdikulov, Almaty City, Kazakhstan

Matthew Bowers, Kenhorst, PA

Lindsey Czopek, Clay, MI

Diego Gallego García, Bilbao, Spain

Yhon Giraldo Gomez, Armenia, Colombia

Paul Heveran, Pennsburg, PA

Christine Lambert, Alburtis, PA

Binta Sambou Mehta, Abuko, The Gambia

Grace Muench, Pottsville, PA

Emily Ritter, Beach Lake, PA

Julia Runkle, Lancaster, PA

Paula Orozco Valor, La Pampa, Argentina

Marzia Verduci, Villa San Giovanni, Italy

Conservation Education Trainees

Shane Alston, Mohnton, PA

Catherine Boyle, Mohrsville, PA

Pamela Carvajal Masis, Costa Rica

Caroline Fegley, New Ringgold, PA

Dalí Téllez Girón Jiménez, Mexico

Derek Lederer, Old Forge, PA

Cayden Rex, Kutztown, PA

Tamara Russo, Argentina

Sophie Vazquez, Boone, NC

Graduate, Doctorate, and Postdoctoral Students

Dr. Natividad Aguilera, Research with CONICET, Argentina

Breanna Bennett, Ph.D., Princeton University



Eric Burgos, M.S., Kutztown University

Adelaida Perez Cadavid, Ph.D., University of Veracruzana, Xalapa, Mexico

Maria del Mar Contaldi, Ph.D., Buenos Aires University, Argentina

Kudzani Sandra Dhliwayo, Ph.D., University of KwaZulu-Natal

Patricia Kaye T. Dumandan, Ph.D., University of Florida

Natia Javakhishvili, M.S., SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Matias Juhant, Ph.D., Instituto de Biología, Argentina

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Mitchell Pruitt, Ph.D., University of Arkansas

Marzia Verduci, Ph.D., University of Veracruzana, Xalapa, Mexico

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