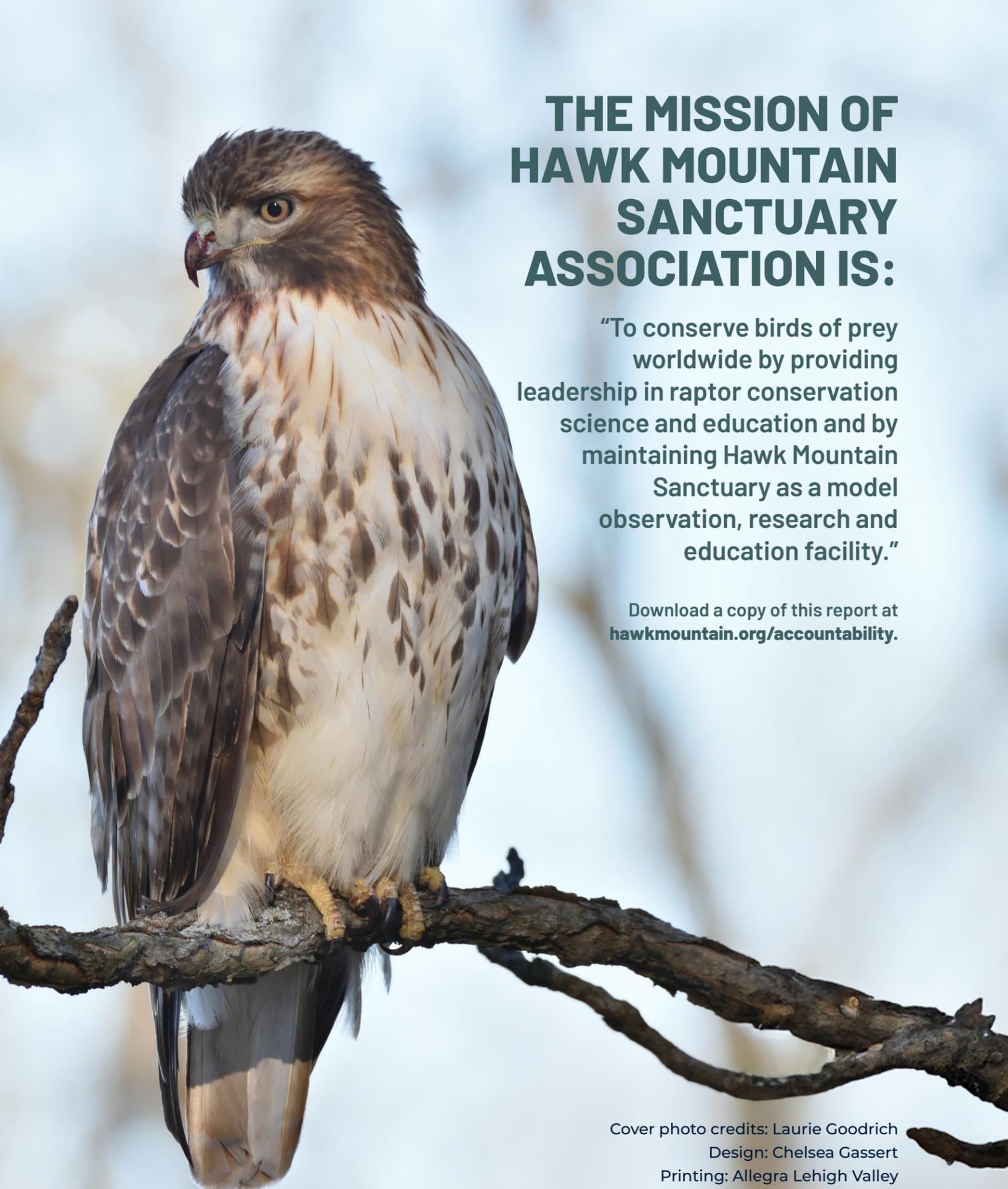




# ANNUAL REPORT 2023 CALENDAR YEAR





# THE MISSION OF HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY ASSOCIATION IS:

**“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  
[hawkmountain.org/accountability](http://hawkmountain.org/accountability).

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## Dear Friends,

Thank you for your investment in Hawk Mountain and our raptor conservation mission. With your help our community celebrated our 90-year legacy as leaders in global raptor conservation. I am proud to report that despite challenging times, Hawk Mountain has maintained financial strength, grown our endowments, and performed at the highest levels thanks to you, our supporters. Having a global network of trainees, strong partnerships, an outstanding senior team, and dedicated volunteers and board members helps Hawk Mountain to sustain its leadership status in the conservation arena.

We support young, diverse scientists and educators at the base of the conservation pyramid, where dollars make a significant impact and help us create the decision makers of tomorrow. This year we hosted our first Hawk Mountain Trainee Reunion that included a full day of seminars led by alumni and highlighted the impact the program had on graduates personally and professionally. Important themes emerged: highlighting the fully endowed program that is inclusive and levels the playing field, Hawk Mountain’s reputation helping open closed doors, and our trainees being provided with a map into the world of conservation.

In 2024 five former trainees earned Ph.D.’s through collaborative efforts with multiple universities, and our Senior Scientist and Director of Graduate Studies Dr. JF Therrien also edited a special issue of *The Journal of Raptor Research* on the conservation status of the American kestrel, while wrapping up a four-year study that spanned eight states, four universities, and two Canadian provinces to reverse the decline of this iconic farmland raptor. We surpassed more than 400 peer reviewed scientific papers including one on the global population status of the snowy owl. The trainee program makes this type of new research and cooperative science possible and is a return on conservation investment!

We have partnership projects with the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) that include the five year-long Pennsylvania Bird Atlas and hiring and training counters at Waggoner’s Gap, which is owned and operated by the PGC. And our science was utilized for designating the Kittatinny Ridge as a Sentinel Landscape in PA. In 2025 we will expand our Farmland Raptor Project through a grant with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed targeting the barn owl, American kestrel, northern harrier, and short-eared owl in watershed restoration areas by placing 150 kestrel and 30 barn owl boxes.



Looking ahead, we are seizing an opportunity to rebuild our Visitor Center, addressing the aged infrastructure, systems, and displays to better serve our community and mission. Our vision includes sharing our global impact on raptor conservation through new exhibits, addressing accessibility, creating better flow and use of space, adding covered outdoor spaces, and demonstrating a commitment to sustainable building techniques, all while maintaining our traditional look and feel.

This annual report shares more highlights from the past year so please dig in and enjoy! With your continued support, Hawk Mountain will soar to new heights, and I thank you for your leadership and support.

Yours in Conservation,

Sean Grace, President

# 2023

*by the soaring numbers*

**56,844**

VISITORS TO THE SANCTUARY

**23** PROFESSIONAL STAFF LEADING THE EFFORTS

**7** LIVE EDUCATION RAPTORS

**150+**  
DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

**9,000+** SUPPORTIVE MEMBERS

**3,348** ON-SITE GUIDED GROUP PARTICIPANTS

**1,517** SELF-GUIDED GROUP PARTICIPANTS

**2,361** OFF-SITE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**220** PROGRAMS & EVENTS **190** SUMMER CAMPERS

**\$3,905,181**

RAISED FOR GLOBAL RAPTOR CONSERVATION

**578** NATIVE PLANTS ESTABLISHED ON THE SANCTUARY

**100** OAK SEEDLINGS PROPAGATED  
**175** ACRES OF HABITAT IMPROVED  
**100** FEET OF TRAILS IMPROVED

**16,628** MIGRANT RAPTORS COUNTED

**144**  
BIRD SPECIES RECORDED

**66,063**  
NON-RAPTOR MIGRANTS COUNTED

**156**  
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED

**1,384** HOURS SPENT ON THE LOOKOUTS  
**26** COUNTERS STATIONED AT NORTH LOOKOUT

**86** VISITING SCIENTISTS **19** TRAINEES & INTERNS  
**18** GRADUATE & POSTDOC STUDENTS

**22** SCIENTIFIC PAPERS PUBLISHED **37** PRESENTATIONS BY OUR SCIENTISTS

**PA BIRD ATLAS**

**1,966** TOTAL VOLUNTEERS  
**142,000** CHECKLISTS SUBMITTED  
**178** SPECIES CONFIRMED BREEDING IN PA  
**57** PRIORITY SPECIES' DATA COLLECTED  
**90%** OF "ATLAS BLOCKS" IN PA COVERED



# HIGHLIGHTS



Hawk Mountain celebrated its 90th anniversary by hosting its **first-ever trainee reunion** and full-day symposium of talks from graduates. The result was an amazing, inspiring, and emotional weekend, with many trainees reunited after more than a decade apart, and new bonds forged, strengthening our far-reaching trainee and intern network. More than 40 alumni attended the weekend which culminated in a Sunday brainstorming round table on how to move our mission forward. Visit Hawk Mountain's YouTube channel to watch all presentations, and a trainee video.

*"Hawk Mountain's 90th anniversary alumni reunion was truly magical! The energy, enthusiasm, and passion coming from our alumni about their experiences here at Hawk Mountain and their outlook on the future of bird conservation was palpable."*  
-Rebecca McCabe, Ph.D., Research Biologist

Hawk Mountain is now part of a newly designated **Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape**, the only such designation this year in Pennsylvania. Federally designated Sentinel Landscapes are areas where conservation, working lands, and national defense interests converge, anchored by at least one high-value military installation, in our case, Fort Indiantown Gap. Some of the selection criteria connected to the Ridge as a Globally Important Bird Area, the role that Sanctuary science has played in that process, and the important outreach we provide with our conservation partners. The designation is exciting and will help with long-term conservation now and in the future, by putting large scale development or other threats under increased scrutiny.

This year alone, **five Hawk Mountain Graduate Students earned their doctoral degree**, an incredible accomplishment for these outstanding students, for Hawk Mountain, and for the cause of raptor conservation. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Mercy Melo, the University of Massachusetts (American kestrel research), Dr. Pat Dumandan, the University of Florida (ecosystemic), Dr. Laurie Maynard, the University of Moncton (golden eagles), Dr. Mitchell Pruitt, the University of Arkansas (saw-whet owls), and Dr. Adrian Naveda, Mississippi State University (turkey vulture).

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's manuscript, "Status assessment and conservation priorities for a circumpolar raptor: the snowy owl" has been accepted by the journal *Bird Conservation International*. Under direction of Research Biologist Dr. Rebecca McCabe and Senior Scientist and Graduate Study Director Dr. JF Therrien, the paper coalesces the work of 39 co-authors and **sets a new standard for assessments on virtually all raptor species** in the future.

*"The paper represents virtually everything that is known about snowy owls including updated population trends and draws upon the work of the very top researchers worldwide,"* JF says. *"It will become the benchmark upon which any study will reference."*



Hawk Mountain's Communication Department launched a series of videos called "In the Field Fridays," where viewers can follow along as Sanctuary scientists and stewards worked in the field. This included checking American kestrel nestboxes, tagging black vulture chicks, searching for broad-winged hawk nests, removing invasive plants from our forest, and more. Check out Hawk Mountain's social media pages or visit [youtube.com/HawkMountainPA](https://youtube.com/HawkMountainPA) to view the series.



The award-winning "Stew Crew," as part of their goal to model best practices, was invited to present "Resurrecting a Native Trail Landscape," at the 2023 Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit. Their session was well attended and received outstanding reviews, so much so, that they were invited to also present a special zoom seminar on the topic this year. Just a few of the participant comments included, *"this group is doing amazing work," "extremely knowledgeable and well organized,"* and *"a fantastic presentation with a lot of information and knowledge! They have their act together and it shows."*

**Notable is the team's new focus on forest restoration.** For instance, in just the last two years, stewardship staff with volunteers have propagated and planted 578 native species and over 1,000 acorns within Sanctuary grounds most affected by invasives and celebrate a decade of building forest biodiversity through their long-term invasive plant remediation program.

**Pennsylvania's 3rd Bird Atlas kicked off** on January 1, 2024. Intrepid volunteer birders immediately began surveying the state looking for evidence of breeding in species that nest during winter, including great-horned owls and bald eagles. The breeding season slowly progressed until reaching its peak from May through August, when the majority of species in the state are breeding. Birders documented breeding in red crossbills, a species that rarely breeds in the state; Swainson's warblers, which were first documented nesting in Pennsylvania in 2023; common terns, which hadn't had a successful nest in the state until young fledged from a single nest in 2024; and many more species, both rare and common.

The first breeding season has wrapped up for the Atlas, and preparations are underway to begin a three-month winter survey season starting on December 1, 2024.

The outstanding Visitor Services team this year worked to engage more people while promoting the Sanctuary and its mission. Under the leadership of Bookstore Manager Mary-Therese "MT" Grob, Hawk Mountain hosted a field excursion for the Society of Environmental Journalists, led "Rosalie's Ramble," a sold-out 90th Anniversary Central Park birding walk, and presented at the Schuylkill Women's Conference on the health benefits of spending time outdoors. That's in addition to **designing new programs to engage diverse groups and remove barriers**, including supporting In Color Birding Club, Black Birders Week, Field Inclusive with memberships and swag bags for give-a-ways, and collaborating with Kutztown University on ways to make the visitor experience more welcoming to people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



# 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 2023 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.

*Note: If a donor is deceased, the symbol (‡) follows the name.*



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| Jeff and Helen Acopian    | Mary Emma Dean and        | Joan L Jacobs‡           | Louise Romanoff‡          |
| Diane and David Allison   | Bob Goulet                | Scott E. Johnson‡        | Anne Sangree‡             |
| William and Dorothy       | Edward M. Delany‡         | Christine A. Kauffman‡   | John M. Satter‡           |
| Anderson‡                 | Constance Dent, Ph.D.‡    | Cyrus Klingsberg, Ph.D.‡ | Alfred G. Schank‡         |
| John and Ethel Bail‡      | and Ann Gundry, Ph.D.‡    | Mary A. Koons‡           | Frederick N. Schirk‡      |
| Henry "Hank" Ballerstedt  | Jane Dent‡                | Dorothy E. Kopald‡       | Margaret Scott‡           |
| John B. Beinecke          | David and Laurie Dolinsky | George and Karen         | Barton and Kristina Smith |
| Peter Bennett and Jean    | Deborah Edge, M.D. and    | Kopchick                 | Gary Mark Smith           |
| Nevins                    | Neal Mann                 | James A. Kushlan and     | Wanda Sochanski‡          |
| Mel Berezny               | Stephen Edge, M.D. and    | Kirsten Hines            | Dena Steele and Houston   |
| Polly and Frederick‡      | Cynthia Swain, M.D.       | Lou Jean Lassen‡         | Stebbins                  |
| Beste III                 | Janice Egeland, Ph.D.‡    | Nancy Lay‡               | Margaret V. Stine         |
| Nick Bolgiano             | Stanley and Grete Furrow  | Malcolm C. Lever‡        | William Temple‡           |
| Margaret Bowman           | Jimmie and "Broadwing     | Judy Lindquist           | Elizabeth and             |
| Elizabeth and Walton      | Charlie" Gant‡            | Patricia B. and Peter‡   | Ferdinand‡ Thun           |
| Brand‡                    | Elizabeth Gault and       | Manigault                | Pamela and Carlos Vargas  |
| Karen Bretz, M.D. and     | Frank Masters‡            | Carolyn Marconis, Esq.   | Karen and Ronald Wagner   |
| George Kopchick‡          | William Gellhaus          | and Chris Wetherill      | Marrisa O'Malley Walsh    |
| Donald Bryant, Ph.D.‡     | Gwen Gentile‡             | Mark Martini‡            | Lois E. Wilkens           |
| Larry Byers               | Thomas Good‡              | Helen B. Miller‡         | George H. Woodruff‡       |
| Robert and Kareen Canora  | Anthony and Susan Grimm   | Sandra and Brian Moroney | Minturn T. Wright III     |
| Alice and Jeremiah‡ Casey | Thomas M. Hampson‡        | David J. Murphy          | Karin Wulkowicz           |
| Randall W. Chapman        | Henry F. Harris‡          | Michael Mutchler         |                           |
| Marvin Charles            | Louise A. Hatheway‡       | Cynthia Neizmik‡         |                           |
| Donald G. Cleaver‡        | Ken Hawkinson, Ph.D.      | Sally and Terry O'Bryne  |                           |
| Vaughn Collins            | and Ann Marie Hayes       | Benjamin Olewine IV      |                           |
| Lewis and Traci Cyr       | Hawkinson                 | Peter Perreten           |                           |

# Financials

## Statement of Operating Revenue and Expense

Fiscal Year April 1, 2023 — March 31, 2024



REVENUE	FY 2023-2024	FY 2022-2023	VARIANCE
Membership Dues	395,585	504,112	(108,527)
Admission Fees	301,386	313,389	(12,003)
Bookstore Net Sales	107,565	110,959	(3,394)
Fees and other income	503,739	363,348	140,391
Grants	134,324	78,568	55,756
Contributions	3,905,181	1,460,835	2,444,346
Investment Income	2,505,624	(1,099,465)	3,605,089
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,853,404</b>	<b>1,731,746</b>	<b>6,121,658</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>PROGRAM</b>			
Education	555,681	560,123	(4,442)
Conservation Science	1,025,079	1,157,873	(132,794)
Communications	202,203	187,738	14,465
Operations	719,218	653,696	65,522
Bookstore	215,286	206,044	9,242
<b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>			
Development & Membership	446,869	444,055	2,814
Administration	151,719	180,431	(28,712)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,316,055</b>	<b>3,389,960</b>	<b>(73,905)</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>4,537,349</b>	<b>(1,658,214)</b>	<b>6,195,563</b>
<i>Note depreciation is included in above numbers</i>	<i>263,581</i>	<i>268,299</i>	

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary received a clean opinion from the auditing firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP. Of particular interest is that 81 cents of every dollar received goes directly to support Sanctuary research and education programs.

## Endowments

Hawk Mountain is fortunate to have a range of endowment support that collectively totals more than \$17 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.

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





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**Rebecca McCabe, Ph.D.**

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**Laura Berry**

### DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

**Annie Trexler**

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Sarah Grace Ferber  
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**Nasreen Kara**

**Jim Lefik**

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**David Middleton**

**Sally O'Byrne**

**Dan Rubenstein, Ph.D.**

**Minturn Wright, III, Emeritus**

*Member*

# 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

*Natividad Aguilera Alcalá, La Pampa, Argentina*

*Zachary Burke, McVeyton, PA*

*Adelaida Pérez Cadavid, Xalapa, Mexico*

*Selene Anais Martínez Cruz, Veracruz, Mexico*

*Troy Herrel, Galena, OH*

*Megan Johnson, Ashland, PA*

*Mthabisi Bafana Charles Khumalo, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe*

*Molly Laury, Bath, PA*

*Aigerim Olzhayeva, Astana, Kazakhstan*

*Gizo Seskuria, Poti, Georgia*

*Sarah Way, Lancaster, PA*

*Elizabeth Zink, Mechanicsburg, PA*

## Conservation Education Trainees

*Samantha Clay, Pennsylvania*

*Meghan Drennan, Pennsylvania*

*Molly Laury, Pennsylvania*

*Robert Joel Moore, Pennsylvania*

*Diego Rodríguez, Costa Rica*

*David Tristan, Pennsylvania*

## Graduate, Doctorate, and Postdoctoral Students

*Dr. Natividad Aguilera, Research with CONICET, Argentina*

*Breanna Bennett, Ph.D., Princeton University*

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

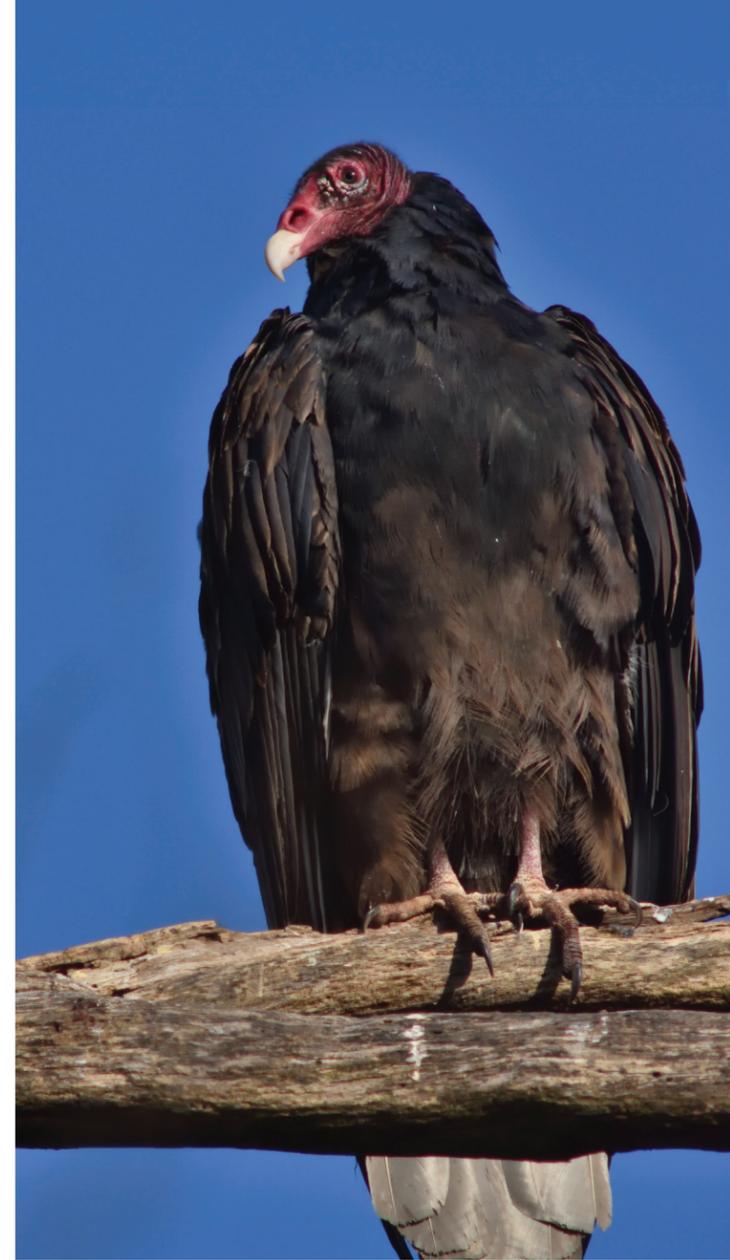
*Maria del Mar Contaldi, Ph.D., Buenos Aires University, Argentina*

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

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

*Emily Enevoldsen, Ph.D., University of Oslo, Norway*

*Thierry Grandmont, Ph.D., Université Laval, Canada*



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

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

*Gabrielle Lent, M.S., University of Pennsylvania*

*Laurie Maynard, Ph.D., Moncton University, Canada*

*Mercy Melo, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts*

*Adrian Naveda, Ph.D., Mississippi State University*

*Kristina Ollo, M.Sc. Montclair University*

*Neil Paproki, Ph.D., University of Idaho*

*Mitchell Pruitt, Ph.D., University of Arkansas*

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

## Communications & Development Interns

*Isabella Di Donato, West Chester University*

## James A. Kushlan Award 2022 Recipient

*Marzia Verduci, University of Veracruzana, Xalapa, Mexico*



**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
Association Visitor Center  
& Headquarters**

1700 Hawk Mountain Rd  
Kempton, PA 19529

**Acopian Center for  
Conservation Learning**

410 Summer Valley Rd  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961



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Pennsylvania  
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