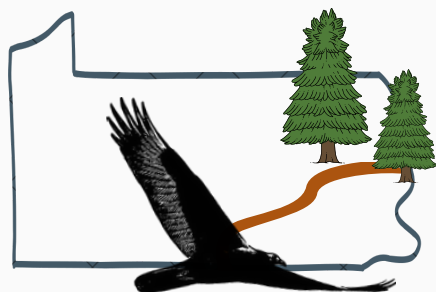




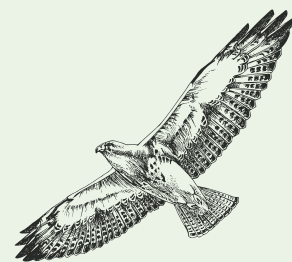
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LANDOWNER GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING NESTING RAPTORS

The Kittatinny Ridge represents the largest, contiguous, forest block in southern Pennsylvania. As such it provides important habitat for forest-nesting birds, including raptors.



Human-associated disturbance is one of the primary threats to raptor populations, and disturbance during periods of extreme sensitivity, such as nesting should be avoided. Even minor human disturbance can flush a parent off the nest and expose young to temperature extremes or predators reducing nest success and possibly leading to nest abandonment.



There is very little information on nesting raptors using the Kittatinny Ridge. You can make a difference!

To report an active raptor nest to a confidential raptor nest database visit www.hawkmountain.org/sightingforms



©Bill Moses

Protecting Your Nest

If you have identified an active nest on your property, we suggest minimizing activity within the buffer zone identified below during the breeding dates listed. Buffers are especially important during the early half of the nesting season when hawks are incubating eggs or brooding young. Buffer distances are guidelines that can vary depending on the situation. For instance, if there is a barrier, fence or hedge disrupting the view of a nest from the human use area, buffers might be reduced. If in a very open area that is not generally used by people, the buffer could be wider.

Species	Recommended Nest Buffer Size (ft)	Breeding Dates
Black Vulture	1000	3/15 – 7/31
Turkey Vulture	1500-2500	4/1 – 8/15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1300-2500	5/15 – 8/31
Cooper's Hawk	700-2500	4/15 – 6/30
Red-shouldered Hawk	1500	4/1 – 6/30
Broad-winged Hawk	1500	5/1 - 7/15
Red-tailed Hawk	700-2500	3/1 – 7/31



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Observing Your Nest

Landowners may enjoy observing a nest from a distance beyond the buffer using a telescope or binoculars. If the parent raptor shows agitation (calling insistently) or leaves the nest when you are observing, then you are too close. Good data to collect include date of young hatching, number of young, prey delivered, date and number fledged. Having a raptor nest on your property is very exciting! By treating them with care, their return in future years is more likely.