

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #32</b> <b>Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Environs</b></p>
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**COUNTY(IES)** Berks, Schuylkill

**APPROX. SIZE** 2,500 acres

**OWNERSHIP** Public (State, Local), Private

**REASON FOR SELECTION**

- Supports significant populations of species or subspecies with specific habitat requirements
- Contains a rare, threatened, or unique habitat type important to mammals
- Sustains a confirmed viable local population of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the species or subspecies regularly occurs at the site during one or more seasons
- Site is a natural area associated with an established educational program that interprets natural history of resident mammals

**DESCRIPTION**

Located on Kittatinny Ridge, Hawk Mountain is best known as a premier observation point for migrating raptors. The IMA encompasses SGLs 106 and 110. Second-growth deciduous forest, some 100 to 150 years old, covers the steep ridge and a variety of other habitats (mixed woods, shrubby habitats, grasslands, swamps, and streams) are intermixed. Extensive boulder fields and rock outcroppings provide distinctive mammal habitat.

**MAMMAL NOTES**

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary hosts a very large number of visitors and offers programs and exhibits that are important in public education about mammals. In addition, long-term records of wildlife sightings have been maintained since 1934 and a number of small mammal studies have occurred in the area, as well as long-term monitoring of mast production. Uncommon or special concern mammal species that have been recorded include Allegheny woodrat, pygmy shrew, bobcat, Kittatinny red-backed vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi rupicola*), and fisher. As of 2010, however, the local woodrat population may be extirpated.

## **CONSERVATION NOTES**

Several rare plant species (knothole moss, pink lady's slipper, etc.) are found in this area, as well as hognosed snakes, timber rattlesnakes, and a large population of marbled salamanders. The Kittatinny Ridge constitutes IBA #51 (Kittatinny Ridge/Blue Mountain). In addition to regular migrants, there is a breeding population of northern saw-whet owls and a diversity of neotropical migrants.