
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 359 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY BARTON, VENKAT, JOZWIAK, FLICK, WATRO, TWARDZIK
AND OBERLANDER, MARCH 26, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 26, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2024 as "Hawk Mountain
2 Sanctuary Bird Migration Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania celebrates its cultural and natural
4 history; and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania boasts the Kittatinny Ridge, a major
6 migration flyway, a designated Conservation Landscape, an
7 internationally recognized Important Bird Area and an Important
8 Mammal Area; and

9 WHEREAS, Migration is one of Nature's greatest phenomena,
10 particularly during autumn in this Commonwealth and along the
11 spine of the Appalachians, where favorable updrafts and thermals
12 occur to help raptors migrate, saving energy as they undertake
13 their long-distance journeys to southern wintering grounds; and

14 WHEREAS, In the 1920s and early 1930s, the site of the future
15 Hawk Mountain Sanctuary was a favorite gathering place for
16 locals to harvest the migrating birds; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1934, conservationist Rosalie Edge traveled to

1 Hawk Mountain and leased the top of the mountain with an option
2 to buy; and

3 WHEREAS, She immediately installed a New England naturalist
4 named Maurice Broun with his wife Irma, to travel to her new
5 Hawk Mountain Sanctuary to welcome locals and raise eyes to the
6 skies to take in the magnificent views of the mountain and the
7 migration; and

8 WHEREAS, Since then, a daily count of the type and number of
9 raptor species that passed was recorded, including aging and
10 plumage notes, with weather and other scientific details; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Edge's action created the world's first refuge
12 for birds of prey; and

13 WHEREAS, This fledgling sanctuary grew annually in both the
14 number of visitors and annual members; and

15 WHEREAS, Maurice Broun, with regular hawk-watchers turned
16 volunteers, was called upon to provide informal education from
17 the now famous North Lookout, the site of the longest and most
18 continuous raptor migration watchsite globally; and

19 WHEREAS, Over time, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary led the charge
20 for full legal protection for migratory raptors, which occurred
21 in 1972 with the passage of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty
22 Act; and

23 WHEREAS, After legal protection was secured, the sanctuary
24 turned its view global, to other places along its own flyway and
25 elsewhere in the world where raptors were at risk; and

26 WHEREAS, The Sanctuary's popularity demanded construction of
27 a visitor center, which expanded in the 1990s; and

28 WHEREAS, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary established a formal
29 education program and professional training for young
30 conservation scientists and educators; and

1 WHEREAS, That program has grown today into an international
2 conservation traineeship that has reached more than 500
3 individuals from 78 countries on six continents, and its
4 education program has broadened to include a platform of 18
5 program types ranging from Pre-K to college-level to adult
6 learning and everything in between; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2024, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary celebrated its 90th
8 anniversary as a global leader in raptor conservation; and

9 WHEREAS, Hawk Mountain continues to be a famous outdoor
10 destination and economic driver in this Commonwealth with eight
11 miles of trails, 2,800 acres of protected lands and an award-
12 winning forest-stewardship program; and

13 WHEREAS, The month of October allows people to take in the
14 changing fall colors and the peak of raptor species diversity
15 during the migration, encouraging visitors new and old to
16 discover Pennsylvania's amazing natural history and resources;
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
19 month of October 2024 as "Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Bird Migration
20 Month" in Pennsylvania.