

# TRAVEL ON A TANK



## Raptors by the thousands

In less than two hours, you can commune with nature, and observe some of her most beautiful winged creatures.

Photo by  
George Miller



The view from the North Lookout is spectacular. The owl decoy on the pole is used to attract raptors.

**Before the snow flies**, thousands of raptors take flight on their annual migration. One of the best places to watch this impressive show is from Hawk Mountain, a 2,400-acre preserve in Kempton, Pa., northwest of Allentown.

Founded as a refuge in 1934, Hawk Mountain is a popular destination for day hikers along the Appalachian Mountain range. Hawks, eagles and nearly 20 other types of raptors—birds of prey known for their sharp eyes and equally sharp beaks and talons—can be seen here as they travel to warmer weather. Each fall about 20,000 of them pass over Hawk Mountain. November is a good time to see red-tailed hawks and golden eagles, which arrive in the early part of the month. (The migration has pretty much ended by Dec. 15.)

Start at the Visitor Center to get your pass for the trails that run along the ridgeline and through the valleys and learn about raptor behavior. Then head for the North Lookout where you will probably find volunteer raptor counters, who often are happy to chat about these magnificent birds. The trail can be rocky, so wear sturdy boots.

Hawk Mountain is a non-profit eco-tourism site and all fees go to support research, education and maintenance.

**1700 Hawk Mountain Road, Kempton, PA 19529**  
**[www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org) 610-756-6961**