



MILITIA HILL HAWK WATCH

FT. WASHINGTON, PA
ESTABLISHED 1988

Our thirtieth year at at Militia Hill in Fort Washington State Park.

Fort Washington State Park is
located on PA Route 73
1.4 miles north of PA Route 309.

- The watch starts Friday, September 1st and lasts through Tuesday, October 31st.
- Volunteer compilers will be on duty every day, for a total of 61 days.
- The hours are 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. every day.

The Militia Hill Hawk Watch has had an impressive tabulation of raptor species and numbers since 1988. The average season count is 11,088 raptors with a total of 321,553 in our twenty-nine years. All 16 species of raptors that migrate on the east coast are spotted on a regular basis. Our most spectacular day ever occurred on September 15, 2013 when 18,055 Broad-winged Hawks migrated over Militia Hill.

The more participants we have, the more birds we are able to spot and identify. So please come and join the fun. There will always be a compiler on the hill to help and answer questions. Free information on migration and related subjects will be available. There is plenty of free parking. The lower deck of our viewing platform is ADA accessible, and children are always welcome. Bring your binoculars and with your help we can have another exciting year.

Peak Daily Flights, 1988-2016

BLACK VULTURE	54	10/31/02
TURKEY VULTURE	530	10/29/10
OSPREY	61	9/29/11
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE	1	9/1/09
MISSISSIPPI KITE	1	Three days
BALD EAGLE	19	9/16/12
NORTHERN HARRIER	19	10/3/10
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	140	10/23/05
COOPER'S HAWK	23	10/11/03
NORTHERN GOSHAWK	6	11/24/94
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	27	10/30/11
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	18055	9/15/13
RED-TAILED HAWK	133	11/10/94
SWAINSON'S HAWK	2	9/24/03
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	3	10/17/92
GOLDEN EAGLE	3	Twice
AMERICAN KESTREL	60	9/24/95
MERLIN	18	9/15/94
PEREGRINE FALCON	7	9/28/10

Daily totals and historical data are available at
www.wyncoteaudubon.org

Hawk Migration On The East Coast

These movements are largely a response to seasonal change in the availability of food. Some birds feed primarily on cold blooded prey and are forced to move across continents where the abundance of those food items has not been influenced by extremes of temperature. Broad-winged hawks, for example, feed largely on reptiles, amphibians, and insects. With the approach of winter in the Northeast, chemical codes within the brain of a Broad-winged hawk trigger a response to move south - as far south as Bolivia, where prey is active.

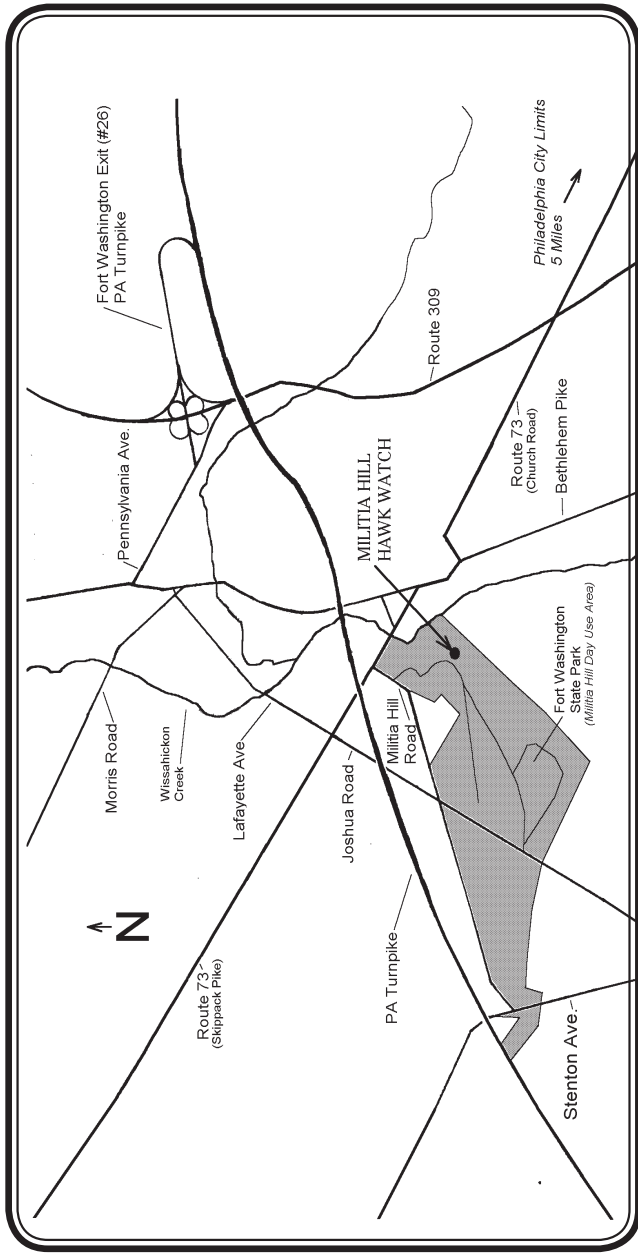
Some birds of prey feed on songbirds and shorebirds which also migrate to areas where food is plentiful. Frozen lakes and rivers force aquatic-feeding birds to move to open water. Other raptors are nomadic, wandering erratically in search of food. Red-tailed hawks may move just a short distance from their nesting grounds where food is abundant. If the food supplies dwindle there, they will move again.

With an elevation of only 330 feet, and no large body of water, Militia Hill has no geographic features of great importance to migration. But all sixteen species of east coast raptors have been seen at the Militia Hill Hawk Watch. Detailed records of raptor observation and weather conditions are reported daily to The Hawk Migration Association of North America. These records can be accessed at www.hawkcount.org.

If you have any questions or plan to bring a group contact Jamie Stewart at jamie@jaste.net

Twenty Year Totals, 1997-2016

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Totals	637	27	23	37	13	81	14	69	15	19	64	62	12	26	60	15	0	20	8	4
Black Vulture	9352	217	285	137	238	453	468	430	232	60	214	391	435	886	1213	832	571	1016	512	575
Osprey	5251	276	247	315	245	227	249	220	257	406	262	233	263	285	431	291	204	248	193	150
Swallow-tailed Kite	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi Kite	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1
Bald Eagle	1511	34	24	44	35	42	35	51	58	62	73	63	86	109	116	175	109	110	103	114
Northern Harrier	1371	58	103	70	54	40	42	91	51	44	74	88	60	77	132	91	104	57	77	36
Sharp-shinned Hawk	19760	864	780	994	926	845	823	909	1044	862	1153	1043	859	1169	1403	1396	1230	921	1159	825
Cooper's Hawk	2735	90	112	153	111	149	132	109	126	184	194	150	112	136	147	200	133	120	94	86
Goshawk	32	1	1	4	1	0	2	3	3	1	2	2	0	1	3	2	3	1	2	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	1029	53	46	36	24	16	18	22	92	72	47	39	42	90	71	79	69	100	40	55
Broad-winged Hawk	174313	8858	3299	6626	14526	2756	9406	2065	6988	9173	2966	4787	8504	13436	18332	4712	20550	23639	5211	2830
Red-tailed Hawk	3506	247	221	301	152	183	300	197	375	276	122	134	106	60	140	194	146	78	176	42
Swainson's Hawk	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Rough-legged Hawk	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Golden Eagle	53	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	4	5	2	2	4	4	4	7	2	2	6	3
Kestrel	5310	278	291	435	353	204	222	134	190	220	253	212	274	372	300	306	272	305	154	170
Merlin	546	21	22	36	28	21	10	24	15	22	27	15	26	29	63	35	35	47	29	26
Peregrine Falcon	404	10	14	11	8	4	13	12	14	13	24	21	41	37	36	42	19	36	15	23
Unidentified	1489	107	75	80	73	102	54	42	72	62	75	85	79	69	73	71	69	78	93	66
Totals	227316	11182	5450	9418	16717	5027	11792	4476	9619	11483	5476	7248	10763	16130	22072	8958	24085	26189	8722	4956



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