

# OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

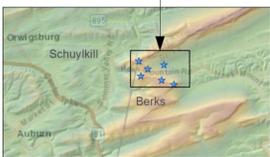
## HAWK MOUNTAIN, BERKS AND SCHUYLKILL COUNTIES



Stuart O. Reese, 2016

### Location

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks and Schuylkill Counties, Kempton, Pa.; lat: 40.63428, lon: -75.98777 (parking lot); New Ringgold and Hamburg 7.5-minute quadrangles



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The Hawk Mountain area covers about 2,600 acres, is a refuge for raptors, and is owned by the nonprofit Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association. It has been designated as a National Natural Landmark. Numerous trails provide access to its outstanding geologic features. A fee is charged to visit the site.

### Geology

The Hawk Mountain area provides highly scenic views of the Blue Mountain and Great Valley sections of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. The mountain is underlain by the resistant Shawangunk Formation sandstone. Several outstanding geologic features are present on the grounds of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, including North Lookout, South Lookout, Cobble, River of Rocks, Hemlock Heights, and Owls Head.

Rough outcrops and angular blocks of hard quartz sandstone dominate the ridgelines. The rocks are broken pieces and bedrock protrusions of the sharply folded and faulted Shawangunk Formation. These erosion-resistant rocks stand above the surrounding countryside, and their outcrop pattern reflects their folded structure beneath the ground.

North Lookout is 1,520 feet in elevation, and from here one can see a span of almost 80 miles from the west-southwest to the northeast. South Lookout provides views to the southwest and of the Great Valley to the east as far as New Jersey. From South Lookout, a boulder field known as River of Rocks can be seen in the center of the little hollow to the east. The boulders moved downward from the ridges under periglacial conditions. River of Rocks is segmented into three separate patches of open fields, which together extend about a mile and cover several hundred feet in width.



View to the east from South Lookout. River of Rocks can be seen in the center of the photograph. Light-gray Shawangunk Formation sandstone is sticking up in the foreground.

### Recommended Reading

[Hawk Mountain Sanctuary](#) website.

Published by the [Pennsylvania Geological Survey](#).

