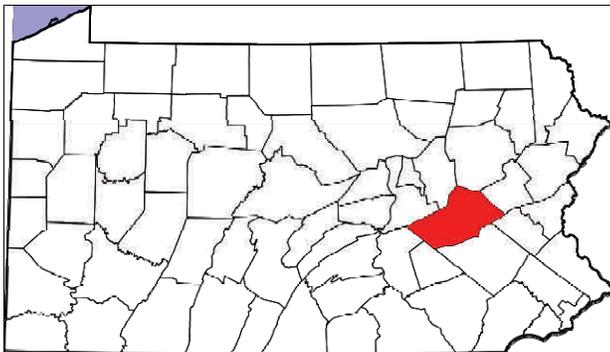




SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

BIRDING TRAIL



Schuylkill County is located in east central Pennsylvania and offers birders varied habitats from mountain top ridges to wetlands and also fields and forest. We are also neighbors to internationally-acclaimed Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Enjoy our Birding Trail and, of course, the hospitality of Schuylkill County!

1

LANDINGVILLE MARSH

DESCRIPTION: The Landingville Marsh is one of Schuylkill County's best birding locations with a current species list of 211 birds, of which 77 have been found breeding in recent years. A trail circumvents the entire marsh area and enables birders to get excellent views of herons, egrets, and occasional rails. It is not uncommon to see Bald Eagles and Ospreys fishing and soaring at the dam and marsh. About 22 species of ducks have been recorded. Woodcock are also found.

LOCATION: From Rt. 61 south of Schuylkill Haven, turn at Blue Mountain Pediatrics and travel into Adamsdale. Continue straight to Landingville. Turn left at the playground and drive to river. Cross an old wooden bridge and enter the marsh.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

CONTACT: Porcupine Pat at 570.622.4124 x 113 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com



2

FROG HOLLOW ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

DESCRIPTION: A 28-acre mostly forested wildflower preserve owned and managed by the South Schuylkill Garden Club. The site features a stream and a mixed forest of hardwoods and pines in addition to well-groomed trails, a picnic pavilion and benches along trails. Best time is early to mid-May for migrating warblers and beautiful native spring wildflowers. Scarlet tanagers are relatively common.

LOCATION: Located on Stone Mountain Road just outside of Friedensburg. Travel Rt. 443 west from Rt. 183 into Friedensburg and turn right just after the post office and then left onto Stone Mountain Road. Travel about one mile to see a parking area on your right.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

CONTACT: Porcupine Pat at 570.622.4124 x 113 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com



3

SWEET ARROW LAKE COUNTY PARK

DESCRIPTION: Sweet Arrow Lake has a diverse wildlife habitat ranging from forest to wetlands and open water. It hosts many varied species of birds including, raptors, waterfowl, songbirds, sandpipers, owls and wading birds. Eagles are seen regularly throughout the year and Osprey in the warmer months. Many birds breed at Sweet Arrow including Great Horned Owls, Screech Owls, Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks, Belted Kingfishers, Green Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, and many more. It serves as a migration route for a variety of waterfowl and warblers. Some of the more unusual sightings at the lake have included Sandhill Crane, Snowy Egret, Surf Scoter, and American Avocet.

LOCATION: The park is located about two miles east of Pine Grove off Rt. 443. Turn onto Waterfall Road and travel barely 1/4-mile and turn right into the parking lot. Several trails wind their way around and include a boardwalk and bridge above waterfalls.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Visit www.sweetarrowlakepark.com for program info.

CONTACT: Bob Evanchalk, 570.527.2505 or revanchalk@co.schuylkill.pa.us



4

SWATARA STATE PARK

DESCRIPTION: The 3,520-acre Swatara State Park consists of rolling fields and woodlands situated in the Swatara Valley, between Second and Blue mountains. Scenic Swatara Creek meanders for eight miles through the length of the park and is surrounded by forests and wetlands that support a diversity of wildlife. Birders will enjoy observing areas where nesting platforms and bird boxes have been established for the maintenance of bluebirds, wrens, ducks, geese and hawks.

LOCATION: From Exit 100 of Interstate 81 go west for two miles into Suedberg. Turn at Swopes Valley Road into the park.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.



CONTACT: www.dcnr.state.pa.us

5

LOCUST LAKE STATE PARK

DESCRIPTION: Over 100 species of birds have been identified at Locust Lake, including 16 species of birds of prey. Because of its location in the Appalachian Mountain section of the Ridge and Valley Province, Locust Valley is positioned along the migration route used by many species of birds of prey, including red-shouldered hawks, red-tailed hawks, merlins and ospreys. Screech owls and great-horned owls are year-round residents.

LOCATION: Exit 37 of I-81 go west on Rt. 54 to SR 1008 then left onto SR 1006 and left onto SR 1011. Follow signs.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Camping is available during season.

CONTACT: www.dcnr.state.pa.us



6

TUSCARORA STATE PARK

DESCRIPTION: With habitats like mature deciduous forest, meadow and agricultural fields, Tuscarora offers a variety of songbirds from bluebirds to waterfowl. This park is located close to Locust Lake State Park and offers bird walks led by knowledgeable volunteers.

LOCATION: Travel Rt. 309 north of Tamaqua and turn left onto SR 1018 and then left again at the park entrance. Look for the sign on Rt. 309.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Camping is available during season.

CONTACT: www.dcnr.state.pa.us



7

OWL CREEK RESERVOIR

DESCRIPTION: The Upper Reservoir of Owl Creek is considered one of the best birding spots in the area. The site is owned by the Borough of Tamaqua which is nearby and features a nice lake with a mix of conifer and mixed forest habitat. A trail winds its way along the shoreline.

LOCATION: Located south of Tamaqua off Rt. 309 on Owl Creek Road about one to two miles east of Rt. 309.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Special family-oriented programs take place here too.

CONTACT: www.tamaquaarea.com



8

HEISLER'S CLOVERLEAF DAIRY— PURPLE MARTINS

DESCRIPTION: Heisler's Dairy Bar is the landlord to 100 breeding pairs of purple martins with 14 purple martin houses on its grounds. The birds arrive in April and spend the season and depart for Central America in mid-August after fledging many young martins. This colony of martins began in 1965 with one house and has grown to 14 today. The birds only consume flying insects which they catch in flight and are known for their beautiful morning song. For more martin info, visit: www.purplemartin.org.

LOCATION: From New Ringgold travel east on Rt. 443 and turn left onto Cold Run Road. You'll see the dairy bar on your left.

HOURS: Watch birds in from spring to summer months while enjoying a cone!

CONTACT: www.heislersedairy.com





CONRAD WEISER STATE FOREST – TAYLORSVILLE TRACT—GREAT BLUE HERON COLONY

DESCRIPTION: Immature mixed oak forest with scattered plantations of conifers. This hardwood forest has both roads and trails allowing the birder to view a variety of species. Walk on Heron Trail to see the Great Blue Heron colony of about 15-20 nests which is on private land next to the state forest.

LOCATION: From Interstate 81, take Rt.901 to Taylorsville (before Lavelle) and turn left onto Taylorsville Road. Go to a stop sign and turn right. At the next stop sign, turn left into state forest land to see a dirt road (Heron Trail) and drive uphill to a parking lot. Walk towards Sincavage Road and go east to private land and the colony. You should hear the birds while standing and viewing from state forest land. Breeding period is active March 1-August 31.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

CONTACT: DCNR-Bureau of Forestry office in Cressona, Schuylkill County: 570.385.7800 during regular business hours. Or, visit: www.dcnr.state.pa.us



Enjoy the Schuylkill County Birding Trail!



APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF BIRDING TRAIL SITES:

1. Landingville Marsh
2. Frog Hollow Environmental Education Center
3. Sweet Arrow Lake County Park
4. Swatara State Park
5. Locust Lake State Park
6. Tuscarora State Park
7. Owl Creek Reservoir
8. Heisler's Cloverleaf Dairy
9. Taylorsville Tract

From hawks to warblers, ducks to sparrows, Schuylkill County offers much to the birder. This map shows the approximate location of each stop. For more information contact the Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau at www.schuylkill.org or "Porcupine Pat" of the Schuylkill Conservation District at: porcupinepat@yahoo.com or 570.622.4124 x 113

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