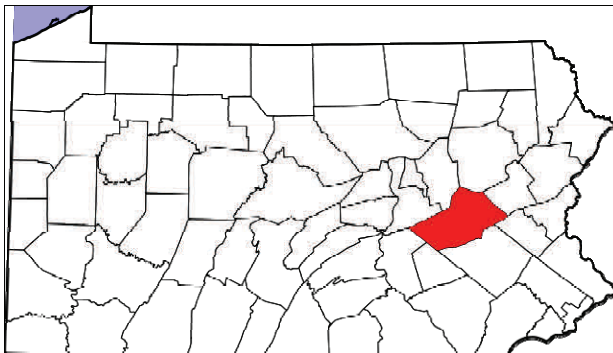
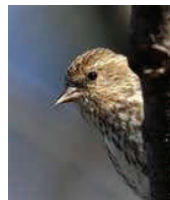




SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

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!

Enjoy the Schuylkill County Birding Trail!

From hawks to warblers, ducks to sparrows, Schuylkill County offers much to the birder. This map shows the approximate location of each stop and major roads. 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.

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF BIRDING TRAIL SITES:

1. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
2. John Bartram Trail
3. Landingville Marsh
4. Frog Hollow Environmental Education Center
5. Sweet Arrow Lake County Park
6. Swatara State Park
7. Locust Lake State Park
8. Tuscarora State Park
9. Owl Creek Reservoir
10. Heisler's Cloverleaf Dairy
11. Farm fields around Mabel
12. Lebanon Reservoir



BILL MOSES



Free Bird Checklist!

Email "Porcupine Pat" for a free copy of the "Schuylkill County Bird Checklist" that lists close to 290 species found in our county. Or, call 570.622.4124 x 113

Be sure to check out eBird. What is eBird? Visit: www.ebird.org

eBird

eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in 2006, participants reported more than 4.3 million bird observations across North America.

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

Here in Pennsylvania eBird is sponsored by:



1

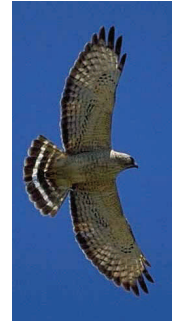
HAWK MT. SANCTUARY

DESCRIPTION: The 2,600-acre Sanctuary offers the chance to see large numbers of hawks, eagles, and falcons each late summer into fall on incredible scenic vistas. Hawk Mountain is the world's first refuge for birds of prey. In spring, you can enjoy Mountain Laurel blooms and returning songbirds on an 8-mile trail system. Stop by their Visitor Center and the Mountain Bookstore which are open year-round.

LOCATION: 1700 Hawk Mountain Road, Kempton, PA 19529. From Rt. 61, turn onto Rt. 895 east and drive two miles to take a right at the Hawk Mt. sign in Dreherstown. Cross railroad tracks and the Little Schuylkill River. Go two miles to the top of the mountain and turn right into the parking lot.

HOURS: Open daily. Visit website for hours and fees. Members are always admitted free.

CONTACT: www.hawkmountain.org or call: 610.756.6961



2

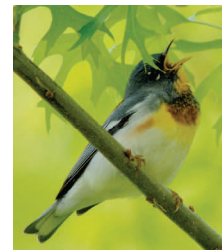
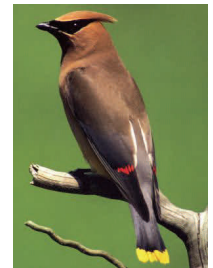
JOHN BARTRAM TRAIL

DESCRIPTION: The John Bartram Trail is part of the Schuylkill River Trail and runs for about 6-3/4 miles from Hamburg to the river at Auburn. Built on an old rail line, the trail is mainly flat and offers spectacular views of the river and mostly forested habitat. The Appalachian Trail intersects this trail near Port Clinton. Mostly woodland species are seen such as warblers and waxwings.

LOCATION: To get to the southern trailhead near Hamburg from Interstate 78, take Route 61 North and turn right onto Jetson Drive, directly across from Cabela's. At the T turn right onto Industrial Drive, and follow this road to the railroad tracks. Turn left onto Kernsville Dam Road and follow straight to the trailhead and parking.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

CONTACT: www.schuylkillrivertrail.com or call: 484.945.0200



BILL MOSES



3

LANDINGVILLE MARSH

DESCRIPTION: The Landingville Marsh is one of Schuylkill County's best birding locations with a current species list of 213 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.

LOCATION: Tunnel Road, Landingville, PA 17942. 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



4

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.

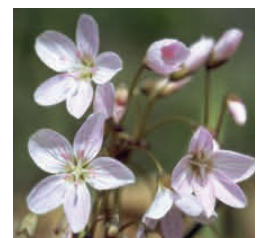
LOCATION: Located on Stone Mountain Road just outside of Friedensburg. Travel Rt. 443 west from Rt. 183 into Friedensburg and turn right just after the post office and then left onto Stone Mountain Road. Travel about one mile to see a parking area on your right.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

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



BILL MOSES



5

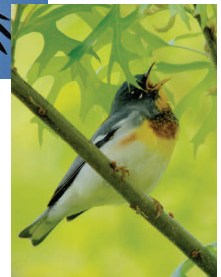
SWEET ARROW LAKE COUNTY PARK

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 unusual sightings have included Sandhill Crane, Snowy Egret, Surf Scoter, and American Avocet.

LOCATION: 108 Clubhouse Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963. 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: Park Supervisor Bob Evanchalk, 570.527.2505 or revanchalk@co.schuylkill.pa.us



BILL MOSES

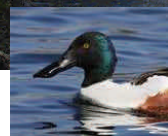
6

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: Route 443, Pine Grove, PA 17963. 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.pa.gov or call: 717.865.6470

7

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.pa.gov or call: 570.467.2404. Try birding by boat for a fun and different experience. You can call 570.294.3698 for availability and rates.



8

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: 687 Tuscarora Park Road, Barnesville, PA 18214. 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.pa.gov or call: 570.467.2404. Boats are also available to rent. Call 570.778.1020 for information.



BILL MOSES

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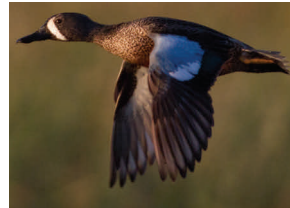
OWL CREEK RESERVOIR

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. Waterfowl and woodland species are found.

LOCATION: Owl Creek Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252. 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 or call Tom Banditelli, Sr. at 570.668.5066 or Georgine Wentz at 570.668.5608



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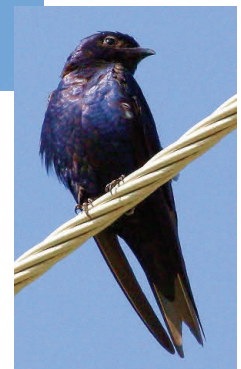
HEISLER'S CLOVERLEAF DAIRY— PURPLE MARTINS

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: 743 Catawissa Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252. 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 from spring to summer months while enjoying a cone! Mini-golf and ice cream is available.

CONTACT: www.heislersdairy.com or call: 570.668.3399



11

Farm fields around Mabel Road Tour

DESCRIPTION: Scenic farmland in the Hegins Valley is the backdrop for a number of wintering owls and hawks. Northern harriers can be seen in farmlands from quiet country roads as they take flight.

LOCATION: Turn off Rt. 901 West off Interstate 81. Turn left onto Deep Creek Road (road to Hegins) and drive about three miles to the Village of Mabel. Two good viewing sites are the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) fields in this area including Orchard Road. Turn onto Hill Road then to Fishing Road to get to Orchard Road.

HOURS: Wintering hawks and owls are best seen during early morning hours and after sunset along roadways.

CONTACT: porcupinepat@yahoo.com or call 570.622.4124 x 113



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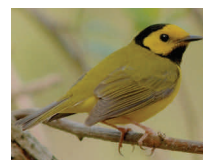
Lebanon Reservoir

DESCRIPTION: This reservoir is at the eastern extent of Saint Anthony's Wilderness which is the second largest roadless area in Pennsylvania. This is a very wild and scenic location that features bald eagles. Interesting species observed include: Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Barred Owl, Saw-whet Owl and American Bittern. Hooded and Canada warblers breed here. You can also see the last remaining forge near the parking area and the ironmaster's mansion across the parking lot.

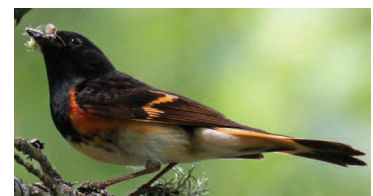
LOCATION: About one mile north of Rt. 443 in Suedberg west of I-81 Pine Grove Exit 100. Turn onto Old Forge Road and travel to a stop sign at Oak Grove Road. Continue straight to see a "U" road sign. Drive straight ahead to a parking area.

HOURS: Daylight hours only. Be aware of hunting season and wear blaze orange. Gamelands is adjacent to the reservoir.

CONTACT: porcupinepat@yahoo.com or call 570.622.4124 x 113



BILL MOSES



A note to the birding visitor:

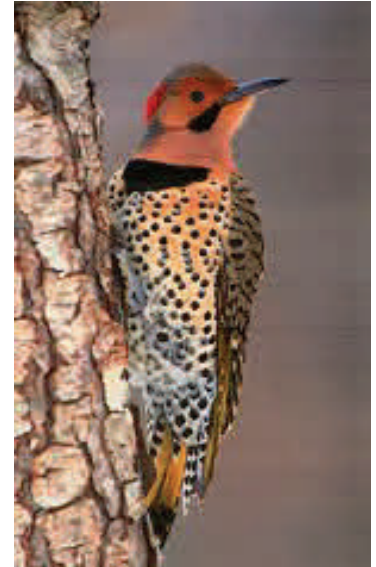
As you can see, Schuylkill County offers much in the way of enjoying your love of birds. Our county stands ready to welcome you with many dining and recreational opportunities. Be sure to visit www.schuylkill.org to help you plan your trip.

Schuylkill County is fortunate to have a variety of habitats to explore. Promoting the saving of open space and education about nature are ways that we can help make sure that ample habitat exists to sustain species of birds.

You can also check out the PABIRDS archives page web address that can provide Pennsylvania bird sightings and also discussion about birds and birding in general. Visit: www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/PENN You can also join the listserv and post messages to it at: [www.pabirds.org/PA BIRDS Listserve.htm#subscribe](http://www.pabirds.org/PA%20BIRDS%20Listserve.htm#subscribe) This is one of the pages of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology.

Enjoy your birding experience!

(Special thanks to these birders who helped make this publication possible: Dave Kruei, Laurie Goodrich, Mary Linkevich, Tom Clauser, Kerry Grim, Denise Donmoyer, Bill Moses and Jonathon Debalko for their input!)



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www.hawkmountain.org