

## PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

**SITE NAME** BALD EAGLE RIDGE

**COUNTY** CENTRE, BLAIR,  
HUNTINGDON

**SITE #** 32

**APPROX. SIZE** 21,800 ACRES

**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC (PGC) / PRIVATE

**LAT.** 40° 42' **LONG.** 78° 10'

### DESCRIPTION

Bald Eagle Ridge has varied habitats, including mature forests, late successional stage fields, wetlands, perennial and intermittent streams, and hillside seeps. In some areas, it appears that the entire side of the ridge is seeping water. These areas remain open all year and are important for amphibians, turkeys, grouse, and other species that are dependent on open water for survival during the winter. The site includes SGL 278 and PA Forest Stewardship Lands. The ridge and surrounding valley also include farms, residential homes and sites eligible for listing in the National Historic Register.

*Directions:* Bald Eagle Ridge runs from Altoona to Williamsport.

### BIRDS - SUMMARY

This area contains large expanses of unfragmented forest habitat for breeding Neotropical migrant species such as Worm-eating Warbler, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Ovenbird. Additionally, its spring seeps are of high value to resident Woodcock and Wild Turkey. Bald Eagle Ridge is also an important flyway for raptors. Counts of Golden Eagles are some of the highest recorded in eastern North America and consistently exceed those of migration count sites along the Kittatinny Ridge.

### REPRESENTATIVE BIRDS - BY CRITERIA

1d 1e Major flyway for raptor migration in NE US. 174 species of birds have been documented along this ridge. High counts of Golden Eagle (FM - 39±), Broad-winged Hawk (FM - 125±).

4a 4b Area provides large expanse of unbroken forest for forest interior species, such as Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler; spring seeps valuable to Woodcock and Turkey.

### CONSERVATION / ADDITIONAL NOTES

PennDOT has applied to construct a Traffic Improvement Project on Rt. 220 in Centre and Blair counties. Part of this project is an alignment including 17.5 miles of limited-access highway on the ridgetop of Bald Eagle Mountain. David Densmore, a supervisor with the Fish and Wildlife Service has stated that this project "will have substantial adverse effects on aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat that will not, and in some cases cannot, be mitigated." In October 1997, the Federal Highway Administration approved the building of the four-lane highway up and over the mountain. The only hurdle now left for this project is approval from the Army Corps of Engineers. There is no official management plan for this area, other than Game Commission management of SGL 278.

### LOCAL CONTACTS

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### SUBMITTED BY:

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