

## PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

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**SITE NAME** BLACK MOSHANNON STATE PARK &  
STATE FOREST

**COUNTY** CENTRE, ELK, CAMERON, SITE # 33  
CLEARFIELD

**APPROX. SIZE** 5,800 ACRES

**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC(DCNR) / PRIVATE **LAT.** 40°55' **LONG.** 78°05'

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### DESCRIPTION

Black Moshannon State Park and part of the immediate surrounding Moshannon State Forest in western Centre County, contain several wetland types including bogs, marshes, and swamps, as well as a 250-acre man-made lake. The surrounding area is primarily an unfragmented mixed forest of oak, hemlock, pine, birch, and hickory. Fifteen hundred acres of the park were designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in 1994 as Black Moshannon Bog Natural Area. The wetlands here are potential habitats for rare and threatened plant species. Most of the wetlands are restored. (Moshannon state Forest, 814-765-0821, Black Moshannon state Park, 814-342-5960).

*Directions:* From Phillipsburg, take Rt. 504 east approx. 8 miles.

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### BIRDS - SUMMARY

Black Moshannon provides a large expanse of forest for migrating and breeding forest interior bird species. The site also contains extensive wetlands where wetland species breed. Conifer associates include 28 species of warblers including Canada, Magnolia, Cerulean, and Blackburnian. Black Moshannon State Forest is also a prime habitat for a significant Whip-poor-will population.

### REPRESENTATIVE BIRDS - BY CRITERIA

- 1e Large expanse for migratory and breeding forest-interior birds. See summary.
- 3 Northern Goshawk (B), Northern Saw-whet Owl (poss. B), Northern Harrier (poss. B), Pied-billed Grebe (poss. B), Olive-sided Flycatcher (poss. B).
- 4a 4b Extensive wetlands around the lake make up what can be considered the best reconstituted bog on the high plateau region. American Bittern (B - 1pair), Whip-poor-will (poss. B).
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### CONSERVATION / ADDITIONAL NOTES

Development for gas extraction, and the potential for silt removal are threats to the site. Recreational use by off-road vehicles disturbs wildlife, causes erosion and costly destruction to foot trails. A large deer population contributes to forest understory damage.

The designation of 1,592-acre Black Moshannon Bog Natural Area prevents development or timber sales by act of legislation. The land under state control has potential for being intensively managed for rare/threatened species. No motors are allowed on the lake.

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### LOCAL CONTACTS

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### SUBMITTED BY:

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