

PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

SITE NAME CANOE CREEK WATERSHED	COUNTY BLAIR	SITE # 76
APPROX. SIZE 15,259 ACRES	OWNERSHIP PUBLIC (PGC, DCNR)/PRIVATE	LAT. 40°30' LONG. 78°17'

DESCRIPTION

The Canoe Creek Watershed includes Canoe Creek State Park, State Game Lands #166, and some private lands. This IBA includes all lands draining into Canoe Creek, a tributary of the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River. The site is bounded on the east by Canoe Mountain; Brush Mountain forms the boundary on the west and north; the southern boundary is the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River. The area's exceptional diversity of habitats yields an incredible diversity of birdlife. More than 220 bird species have been documented, of which 110 species are breeding. Key avian habitats include: large blocks of unfragmented forest; rhododendron and laurel thickets; several miles of riparian forest along Canoe Creek; forested wetlands, including many small beaver ponds; unspoiled emergent and shrub wetlands; native grasslands; old-field habitat; and a 160-acre lake. Beavers are prominent landscape architects in the watershed. Much of the area is protected from development as state-owned public lands.

DIRECTIONS: From Hollidaysburg, Blair County, travel east on US Route 22 for 7 miles to Canoe Creek State Park. Bird checklists and other information are available at the State Park Visitor Center (814-695-6807).

BIRDS – SUMMARY

Due to large expanses of unfragmented forest, this IBA contains numerous area-sensitive, forest-interior neotropical migrants, including Blackburnian, Cerulean, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers. An extremely healthy, forested riparian corridor supports large numbers of Louisiana Waterthrushes, Acadian Flycatchers and Warbling Vireos. Beaver ponds and surrounding wetlands are home to the Alder Flycatcher, Swamp Sparrow, Veery, and Red-shouldered Hawk. Forest openings are used by Golden-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

REPRESENTATIVE BIRDS – BY CRITERIA

- 1e More than 220 species occur in the watershed, of which 110 regularly breed. Exceptional numbers of neotropical migrants are nesting.
 - 2 Bald Eagle (SM, FM), Osprey (SM, FM), Great Egret (SM, FM), Least Bittern (SM, FM), Peregrine Falcon (SM, FM).
 - 3 Northern Harrier (SM, FM), Black-crowned Night-Heron (SM, FM), Pied-billed Grebe (SM, FM), Green-winged Teal (SM, FM), Northern Goshawk (SM, FM), American Coot (SM, FM), Common Snipe (SM, FM), Swainson's Thrush (SM, FM), Long-eared Owl (SM, FM, W).
 - 4a 4b Exceptional representative of classic Ridge & Valley Ecosystem, with long, wide forested riparian corridor and undisturbed forested wetlands. Water quality of Canoe Creek and feeder streams is exceptional.
 - 5 PA Society for Ornithology Special Area Project: 1992-Present (Juniata Valley Audubon Society).
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CONSERVATION / ADDITIONAL NOTES

Threats to the Canoe Creek Watershed include the widening and re-routing of US Route 22, residential development, inappropriate logging, acid rain and overbrowsing by white-tailed deer. Ecologically-sensitive management by the PA Game Commission (South-central Regional Office, 814-643-1831) and DCNR's Bureau of State Parks (Canoe Creek State Park, 814-695-6807) is protecting much of the area. In 1999, PA DCNR began to assess threats to water quality in Canoe Lake in the Canoe Creek Watershed Project. The PA Game Commission continues to purchase parcels of land as wildlife habitat and for long-term protection of the Canoe Creek Watershed.

LOCAL CONTACTS

Juniata Valley Audubon Society (Stan Kotala, 814-946-8840; and Charlie Hoyer, 814-684-7376/charma@nb.net).

SUBMITTED BY

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