

# Birding Trails

Location is everything, they say, and that goes for the Allegheny National Forest Region and birds. More than 200 species of birds can be found on the Allegheny National Forest, including bald eagles and osprey.

The most common birds found are the ruffed grouse, the state bird of Pennsylvania, and the wild turkey. Buzzard Swamp, south of Kane, is a prime area to view these birds. The mourning warbler will likely be seen in clear-cut areas. Some of the most common warblers seen here are yellow, chestnut-sided, yellow-rumped, northern parula and bay-breasted. The hard-wooded forests are home to such birds as the yellow-bellied sapsucker, winter wren and hermit thrush.



**Bald eagles** (*haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are among the largest birds of prey. They may weigh up to 14 pounds and have seven-foot wingspans. Bald eagles are readily identified by their white heads and tails; however, they don't attain this plumage until five years of age. They nest in large trees near water. Bald eagles have been sighted at the Allegheny Reservoir, Tunungwant Creek, and north of Eldred along the Allegheny River and Oswayo Creek.

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) are a fish-eating bird of prey usually mating for life. Osprey nests can be viewed from Rt. 321 from the Red Bridge Area, Chappel Bay, Sugar Bay and Rt. 346 from Willow Bay.



Photograph by Rocky Holland

## Birding Sites

An excellent interpretive trail, *Timberdoodle Flats*, is a 1.4 mile loop trail located along Rt. 59 southwest of Bradford. This trail is named for the American woodcock, also known as the timberdoodle, that uses both the forest and open areas for nesting.

At *Tracy Ridge Campground*, you might find a northern saw-whet owl from March through July. Cerulean warblers sing in the oak trees along the *Tracy Ridge Trail*.



Big Bend Birding Overlook

Other suggested sites for birding are *Marilla Reservoir*, Rt. 346 in the *Willow Bay* area connecting to NY Rt. 280 along the northern portion of the *Allegheny Reservoir*, and along Rt. 59 at the *Big Bend Birding Overlook* just past the Kinzua Dam.

## Want to learn more about birding?

Plan to visit and attend Birding 101: Getting off the Ground With Your Feathered Friends (Adult and Youth) - April 30, 2015; May 2, 2015 (Field Trip)  
Information: 800-872-1787 [contined@pitt.edu](mailto:contined@pitt.edu)