Where to See Birds

Codorus State Park has a variety of habitats including coniferous trees, mixed hardwood trees, open fields, small wetlands and a large lake.

Hiking trails provide access to the often-impenetrable forests. Mary Ann Furnace Trail leads through samplings of all habitats. The LaHo trail is shorter, and passes mainly through coniferous and hardwood forests. Most of the LaHo Trail follows the shoreline of Wildasin Flats Cove, a good place to see wading birds, waterfowl and shorebirds.

The Cross-country Skiing and Snowmobile Area, off of Bankert Road, is old fields that are regenerating into a forest. Enough of the field characteristics remain to make the area hospitable to migrating woodcock, which perform their “sky dance” courtship ritual nightly each spring. Many other field birds like sparrows and larks can be found here.

Lake Marburg comprises 1,275 acres of sprawling coves with 26 miles of shoreline. Many species of waterfowl visit during the winter. The best vantage points to view the lake are the overlook on Hoff Road, the Sail Boat Launch on Smith Station Road and from the parking area by the Classroom Building in the Marina Area.

Codorus State Park has the largest Bluebird trail in the state with the greatest variety of bird species including eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, Carolina chickadees, tufted titmice and other birds. The birds are best observed around the nesting boxes during the summer months.

During the winter months, birds may be observed at our two bird feeding stations at the Environmental Center and in the Main Launch Area.

Perhaps the best birding area in the park is off of Black Rock Road. Begin at the trailhead of Mary Ann Furnace Trail by walking a boardwalk through a wetland. This leads you to the Black Rock Flats where Mary Ann Furnace Creek meets the west branch of Codorus Creek. Early in September, the P.H. Glatfelter Paper Company begins a drawdown of the lake, using the water for the paper making process. This creates an extensive area of mudflats that are a magnet for migrating shorebirds. Osprey and bald eagle often loaf in dead snags by the water. Herons and egrets prowl the shallows stalking their prey.

Access for People with Disabilities

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

This publication text is available in alternative formats.

Codorus State Park
2600 Smith Station Road
Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-2816
email: codorussp@pa.gov
Forests

Year-round Residents
- Barred Owl
- Carolina Chickadee
- Downy Woodpecker
- Great Horned Owl
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Turkey Vulture
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- White-breasted Nuthatch

Spring Visitors
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Yellow-rumped Warbler

Summer Visitors
- Ovenbird
- Warbling Vireo
- Wood Thrush
- Great-crested Flycatcher
- Red-headed Woodpecker

Autumn Visitors
- Brown Creeper
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Great-crested Flycatcher
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Yellow-rumped Warbler

Fields and Grassy Areas

Year-round Residents
- American Crow
- American Robin
- Common Grackle
- European Starling
- House Sparrow
- Northern Cardinal
- Song Sparrow
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Northern Mockingbird

Spring Visitors
- American Woodcock
- Barn Swallow
- Cedar Waxwing
- Eastern Kingbird
- Field Sparrow
- House Wren
- Purple Martin
- Rufous-sided Towhee

Summer Visitors
- Brown Thrasher
- Eastern Kingbird
- Gray Catbird
- Field Sparrow
- House Wren
- Purple Martin
- Yellow Warbler

Autumn Visitors
- Dark-eyed Junco
- House Wren
- Tree Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow

Wetlands and Water

Year-round Residents
- Belted Kingfisher
- Fish Crow
- Ring-billed Gull

Spring Visitors
- American Coot
- Blue-winged Teal
- Common Loon
- Green Heron
- Hooded Merganser
- Ring-necked Duck
- Tree Swallow
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Wood Duck

Summer Visitors
- American Widgeon
- Great Blue Heron
- Osprey
- Tree Swallow
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Red-winged Blackbird

Autumn Visitors
- American Coot
- Blue-winged Teal
- Great Blue Heron
- Green-winged Teal
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Semi-palmated Sandpiper