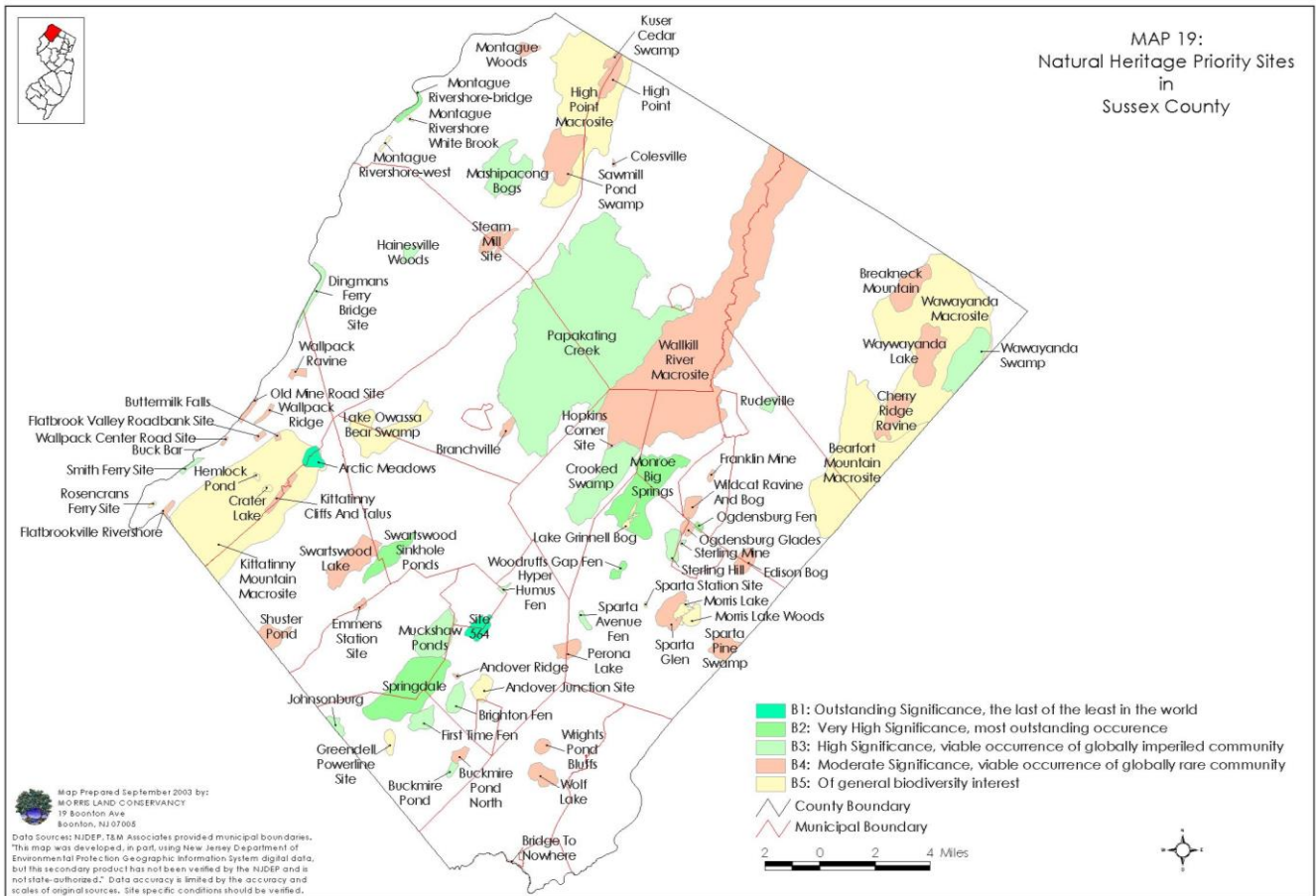




Sussex County Bird Club RECOMMENDED SUSSEX COUNTY BIRDING SITES

The following is a list of birding sites within Sussex County that are worth a visit. They encompass some of the best birding habitat in the county and also provide quality habitats for many other species including butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and endangered species of both plants and animals. Most are publicly owned lands, though some are privately owned, and all border private lands. Included with each site listing is a phone number and/or web site to obtain more information, as well as a listing of the nearby major road(s) and the township(s) in which the site is located to make it easier for you to find the site on a map.

Sussex County hosts several recognized Important Bird Areas and Natural Heritage Priority Sites. Important Bird Areas (IBA) are sites, identified by the Audubon Society, that provide essential habitat for one or more bird species that are either threatened, endangered, or vulnerable due to a restricted range, restricted habitat type/biome, or high densities due to their “congregatory behavior”. An IBA’s significance is prioritized as either global, continental, or state. Portions of two globally significant IBA’s fall within the county: the Old Mine Road IBA and the Pequannock Watershed IBA. While there are no continental IBA’s, there are 21 state IBA’s in Sussex. See www.njaudubon.org/SectionIBBA/IBBA_Site_Guide.aspx or web4.audubon.org/bird/iba/. Natural Heritage Priority Sites (NHPS), identified by NJDEP, are sites critically important to conserve NJ’s biological diversity, with particular emphasis on rare plant species and ecological communities. Sussex County contains 77 NHPS sites (almost 20% of the state’s total). Most of the recommended birding sites fall within both the Kittatinny Ridge Natural Heritage Priority Site, recognized by NJDEP as one of the state’s most significant natural areas. See www.sussex.nj.us/documents/planning/naturalresources/nri-25-35.pdf.



Clearly, we are fortunate to live in a county so vital to the continued existence of birds, wildlife, plants, and, in the end, people. As birders, not to mention dwellers on Earth, we must strive to ensure that these vital lands continue to be conserved for the protection of our remaining wild species and the enjoyment of future generations of birders. When you bird, please remember to abide by the ABA Code of Birding Ethics: respect property and wildlife by remaining on marked trails, take out anything you bring with you (don't litter), and refrain from harassing, taking, or disturbing wildlife and birds, especially nesting birds.

FEDERAL LANDS

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (global & state IBA's) - US206; Montague, Sandyston, Walpack (also Warren County NJ & Pike County PA) - includes Old Mine Road global IBA, Peters Valley & Thunder Mt., Buttermilk Falls, Mountain Road, Delaware River (warblers, passerines, raptors, waterfowl, migratory & breeding birds) 908-496-4458 or 570-828-2253 - www.nps.gov/dewa/contacts.htm

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge (state IBA) - SR23, CR565, CR642, CR667; Vernon, Wantage (and Orange County, NY) - includes Liberty Loop area, Owens Station, Timberdoodle Trail, and Wood Duck Trail (shorebirds, waterfowl, wintering raptors & owls, grassland birds). Part of Wallkill River NHPS macrosite. 973-702-7266 - www.fws.gov/refuge/wallkill_river/

STATE PARKS AND FORESTS - www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/

Allamuchy Mountain State Park (state IBA) - US206, CR517, I-80; Byram, Green (and Warren County, including Stephens State Park in Hackettstown) - includes Waterloo Valley Road, Cranberry Lake, Jefferson Lake, Waterloo Road and Waterloo Village (passerines, raptors, waterfowl) - 908-852-3790

High Point State Park (several IBA & NHPS designations) - SR23, CR519, Deckertown Tpke/CR650; Montague, Wantage - includes Kuser Natural Area (warblers, other passerines, bears), Sawmill Road/Sawmill Lake & campsites/Ridge Road (Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Cerulean & other warblers, passerines), AT&T tower (Common Raven, Hermit Thrush) - 973-875-4800

Hopatcong State Park - I-80, SR183, SR15, CR607; Hopatcong, Stanhope (also Morris County) - includes Lake Hopatcong and Lake Musconetcong (migratory waterfowl and gulls) - 973-398-7010

Kittatinny Valley State Park - US206, CR616, Goodale Rd; Andover Twp, Andover Boro (also Morris & Warren Counties) - includes Twin Lakes, White's Pond, Lake Aeroflex, and four rail trails including the Sussex Branch Trail, Paulinskill Valley Trail, Great Valley Rail Trail, and Lehigh & Hudson Rail Trail (resident breeding birds and migratory species). 973-786-6445

Stokes State Forest (several IBA & NHPS designations) - US206, Deckertown Tpke/CR650; Montague, Sandyston, Walpack, Frankford, Hampton - includes Tillman's Ravine (warblers, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown Creeper), Sunrise Mountain (raptor & passerine migratory viewpoint), Steam Mill/Flatbrook (warblers, passerines) - 973-948-3820

Swartwood State Park - SR94, CR521, CR622; Hampton, Stillwater - includes Swartwood Lake (waterfowl, gulls), Duck Pond Trail (passerines, waterfowl, shorebirds), Little Swartwood Lake (protected breeding Bald Eagles) - 973-383-5230

Wawayanda State Park (part of Pequannock Watershed global IBA; also NHPS) - SR94, Warwick Tpke; Vernon (and Passaic County) - includes Wawayanda Mountain (state IBA), Cedar Swamp/Farber Tract (state IBA), part of Moe Mountain state IBA, Bearfort Mountain, Wawayanda Swamp Natural Area - 973-853-4462 (passerines, migrants)

[STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS - www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/wmland.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/wmland.htm)

Bear Swamp WMA (state IBA & NHPS) - US206; Hampton, Frankford (passerines)

Flatbrook-Roy WMA (part of state IBA & NHPS) - US206, CR560, NPS651; Sandyston, Walpack (passerines, raptors)

Hainesville WMA - US206, CR650; Montague (waterfowl, passerines, raptors)

Hamburg Mountain WMA (state IBA) - SR23; Hardyston, Vernon

Paulinskill River WMA - US206, CR517, CR622; Hampton, Fredon, Newton, Lafayette, Andover, Frankford - includes Hyper Humus Marshes state IBA (migratory shorebirds, waterfowl, rails, herons, passerines)

Sparta Mountain WMA (state IBA) - CR517, CR620; Sparta, Hardyston (also Morris County) (raptors, passerines)

Trout Brook WMA (NHPS and part of Kittatinny Mt Eastern Slope IBA) - CR521, Owassa Rd, Old Foundry Rd; Stillwater (passerines)

Walpack WMA (state IBA and NHPS) - NPS651, Old Mine Road; Walpack - includes Blewett IBA (warblers, waterfowl, passerines, raptors)

Weldon Brook WMA - SR15; Sparta

Whittingham WMA (state IBA) - US206, SR94, CR519; Fredon, Green (passerines, migrants)

OTHER PUBLIC LANDS

Clove Brook Road IBA – SR23, US206; Montague - includes Montague Woods Preserve (owner Nature Conservancy) and Reinhardt Preserve (owner Natural Lands Trust), though most of the IBA is on private lands. www.njaudubon.org/SectionIBBA/IBBASiteGuide.aspx?sk=3056

Mashipacong Bogs Preserve - Deckertown Tpke/CR650; Montague - (under Nature Conservancy). Both a NHPS and part of the Stokes State Forest and High Point State Park IBA.

PRIVATE LANDS (view from road & don't trespass) - contact club officers/members for more information

Culvers Lake - US206; Frankford (raptors/bald eagle nest, waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds, passerines)

Kittatinny Lake - US206; Sandyston (migratory waterfowl)

Lewisburg Swamp - SR15, SR94; Wantage (bitterns, rails, herons, waterfowl, Bald Eagle, etc.)

Phil Hardin Road - SR94, CR519; Fredon (Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink)

Wantage Grasslands - US284, SR23, CR651; Wantage - includes Sally Hardin Road & Unionville Road (part of Rockport Marsh state IBA), Roy Road, Quarry Road, Rose Morrow Road, etc. (sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark & icterids, herons, passerines, waterfowl)

Wolf Lake - US206, CR607; Byram (migratory waterfowl)

You can contribute to the citizen science efforts that monitor these areas, and other areas within Sussex County including your backyard, by reporting your sightings through one or more of the links on the Sussex County Bird Club's website (www.sussexcountybirdclub.org). Scientists from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NJ Audubon, and other organizations use sightings reported by birders to gather data on bird populations and movements, among other data. You can also share your sightings with the Sussex County Bird Club and its members by sending them via the link on the club website.

If you have any Sussex County birding sites that you think should be included on this list, or anything bird-related you'd like to learn more about, please contact the club or, better yet, come to one of our meetings!



Enjoy birding in Sussex County and remember to leave no trace: leave only footprints and take only photographs!

SUSSEX COUNTY BIRD CLUB www.sussexcountybirdclub.org P.O. Box 428, Augusta, NJ 07822