

# PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

SITE NAME PYMATUNING, HARTSTOWN COMPLEX

COUNTY CRAWFORD

SITE # 3

APPROX. SIZE 25,000 ACRES

OWNERSHIP PUBLIC (PGC)

LAT. 41°33' LONG. 80°22'

## DESCRIPTION

This large, diverse, horseshoe-shaped wetland complex consists of Pymatuning Reservoir, Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area, Pymatuning Wildlife Refuge, and SGL 214 - Hartstown Swamp. Pymatuning Reservoir (also called Pymatuning Lake) was created in 1934 by flooding of a former boreal swamp. The Upper Lake (east of the spillway) is maintained at a steady level, about 14 feet at the deepest. The Lower Lake extends into Ohio and is heavily used for recreation. An upland area adjacent to SR 285 contains several small ponds and extensive fields. Hartstown Swamp begins at the terminus of the Upper Lake and extends as a line of marsh and forested swamp south along the Shenango River, through Hartstown and Crooked Creek.

*Directions:* From Rt. 6 in Linesville, follow SR 3011 south into the northern portion of the complex.

## BIRDS - SUMMARY

This area supports one of the largest concentrations of nesting Bald Eagles in the state, with at least four pairs regularly occurring. Migratory waterfowl concentrate in "Sanctuary Lake," the Pymatuning Wildlife Refuge. Thousands of geese, ducks and swans are found in fall and winter. Swampy wetlands support the state's largest population of Prothonotary Warbler. Open marshes host the state's only regular nesting location for Black Tern.

## REPRESENTATIVE BIRDS - BY CRITERIA

- 1a 1b Common Goldeneye (FM, W - 18,000max.), Canada Goose (W, FM - 10,000±), Hooded Merganser (W, FM - 4000 max.), Tundra Swan (SM - 500-2000). Shorebirds: (SM - 400±)
- 2 Bald Eagle (B - 4±pair, W - 10±), Black Tern (B - 1±), American Bittern (B - 2±pair), Least Bittern (B - 2±pair), King Rail (poss. B).
- 3 Black-crowned Night-Heron (B), Pied-billed Grebe (B - 2±pair), Marsh Wren (B - 2±pair), Prothonotary Warbler (B - 2±pair).
- 4a Very large, intact wetland complex, supporting breeding species such as Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Snipe, American Wigeon, Common Moorhen, etc.

## CONSERVATION / ADDITIONAL NOTES

There is a critical threat to the area from the introduction of non-indigenous fauna / flora. Carp populations threaten biotic diversity and have altered the vegetation in Sanctuary Lake. Disturbance from recreational watercraft has reduced the value of the Lower Lake for wildlife. This wetland complex is maintained by the PA Game Commission for wildlife and hunting. The Upper Lake is a wildlife refuge with no entry permitted.

## LOCAL CONTACTS

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## SUBMITTED BY:

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