

Park Quest: A Site for Soaring Eyes

New Germany, Big Run, and Dan's Mountain State Parks

There are approximately 10,000 species of birds worldwide. 914 of those species are found in North America, and over 400 of those have been found in Maryland. This large quantity of species requires diverse habitats for all of the birds to live in. Conserving diverse natural areas around the state is vital in order to protect the habitats needed for these birds to live in and migrate through.

Western Maryland contains a wide variety of habitats that birds may favor. Common groups of birds that can be found include songbirds, waterfowl, upland game birds, and raptors (commonly known as birds of prey). Many of these birds are resident species, meaning they live in Western Maryland year-round. Some are seasonal residents during summer, migrating further south to warmer weather for winter. Others still are migratory inhabitants, which pass through only briefly on their migration north during spring and south during autumn.

The purpose of this Park Quest is to help introduce you to some basic birding skills. One of the easiest ways to find a bird is not to look for it but to look for the habitat where it may live.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Using the map, locate the sites marked as bird habitats.
2. Compare the site description to the bird habitats given on the bird info sheets.
3. Match each habitat site with the bird that is most likely to be seen there.
4. Write the letter you find at each site in the blanks below to spell a fun natural word.

Note: One site at Dan's Mountain will be matched with two birds

New Germany	Big Run	Dan's Mountain
_____ Belted Kingfisher	_____ Eastern Bluebird	_____ Bald Eagle
_____ Wood Duck	_____ Hermit Thrush	_____ Red-tailed Hawk
_____ Ruffed Grouse	_____ Gray Catbird	_____ Turkey Vulture
_____ Spotted Sandpiper	_____ Louisiana Waterthrush	_____ Barred Owl
_____ Wild Turkey	_____ Brown Creeper	_____ Osprey
_____ Ring-Necked Pheasant		_____ Broad-winged Hawk
_____ American Woodcock		
_____ Great Blue Heron		
_____ Pied-Billed Grebe		
_____ Green Heron		

The activity only needs to be completed at one park to receive your Park Quest passport stamp. If you're looking for a greater adventure, take on the quest at two or even all three parks!