



BRING BINOCULARS



On the trail you may see woodpeckers and nuthatches searching the bark of trees for insects, hear the songs of wood warblers as they flit among bushes and undergrowth, or watch hawks and vultures soaring on mountain air currents.

The Allegheny Mountains, with their temperate climate and diverse vegetation, host hundreds of species of birds throughout the year.

From late spring through early fall, avian diversity is highest in the Mountain State. From April to July you can rise early and hear the "morning chorus" or courting songs of species that breed here.

Fall and spring are good times to see birds migrating over the Monongahela River and along mountain ridges. Even the winter bird watcher has the chance to see over 50 species that brave West Virginia's cold weather.

A wide variety of songbirds are found along the upper section of the Deckers Creek Trail. This is because the trail is between the ridgelines of Laurel and Chestnut Mountains, which makes a natural pathway for birds. The Mon River Trail provides river floodplain habitat, which attracts ducks, geese, herons, hawks, owls, kingfishers, and songbirds.

BIRDING TIPS:

The best time to view birds or hear them singing is from dawn to around noon on clear spring and early summer days. In the winter, they are most active during the mild midday hours.

Carry binoculars to see birds along the trail and a field guide to help identify them.



▶ **Belted Kingfisher**



▶ **White Breasted Nuthatch**



▶ **Yellow Warbler**



▶ **Wood Thrush**



▶ **Great Blue Heron**



▶ **Red Bellied Woodpecker**

Find out more about local birding opportunities and conservation at www.mountaineeraudubon.org

