

Upland Forest

Consisting predominantly of oaks, maples, and hemlocks, the rocky slopes of the Lehigh Gap are home to many species.



Baltimore Oriole

Scarlet Tanager

River & Riparian Zone

Once lifeless, the Lehigh River now harbors a healthy freshwater ecosystem, protected on its banks by a riparian forest.

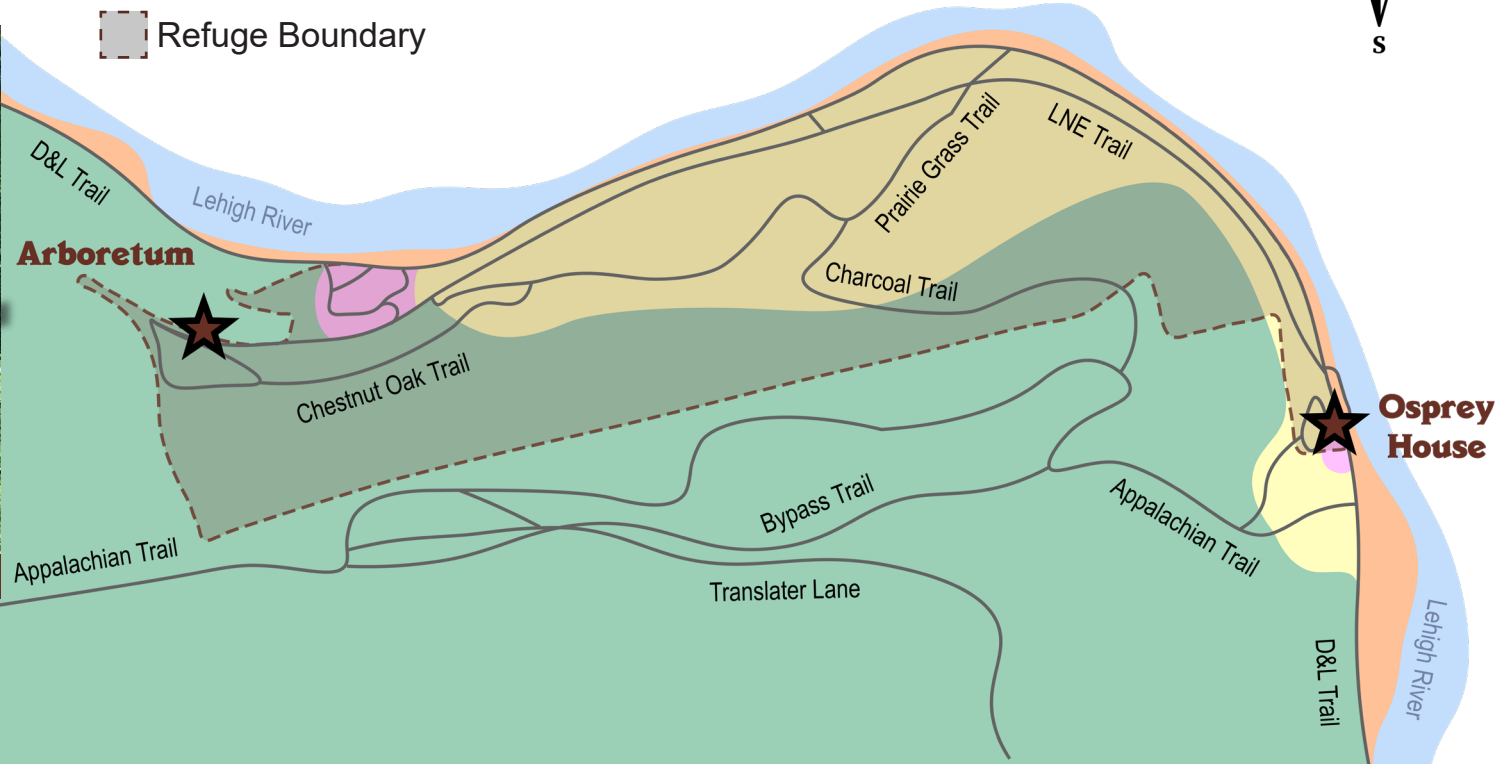


Common Merganser

Osprey

Habitats of the Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge:

- Upland Forest
- Ponds & Wetlands
- River & Riparian Zone
- Grassland & Scrub
- Refuge Boundary



Ponds & Wetlands

Spring-fed ponds are surrounded by early-successional deciduous forest, and wetlands line the floodplain of the river.



Great Blue Heron

Belted Kingfisher

Grassland & Scrub

Superfund restoration efforts by LGNC have established extensive early-successional habitat across much of our refuge.



Indigo Bunting

American Kestrel

The Kittatinny Ridge: A Migration Corridor

Late summer and autumn visitors to the Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge are well positioned to experience the marvel of raptor and songbird migration. The Kittatinny Ridge (also known as the Blue Mountain) is an important migration corridor along which thousands of birds fly each year toward their wintering grounds. As the southernmost major Appalachian ridge in Pennsylvania, the Kittatinny serves as a road map for migrating birds and generates winds that help power their flight southward.



Bald Eagle

Avian Diversity in the Lehigh Gap

To date, **over 180 bird species** have been documented in the Lehigh Gap.



**Blue
Grosbeak**

**Red-winged
Blackbird**

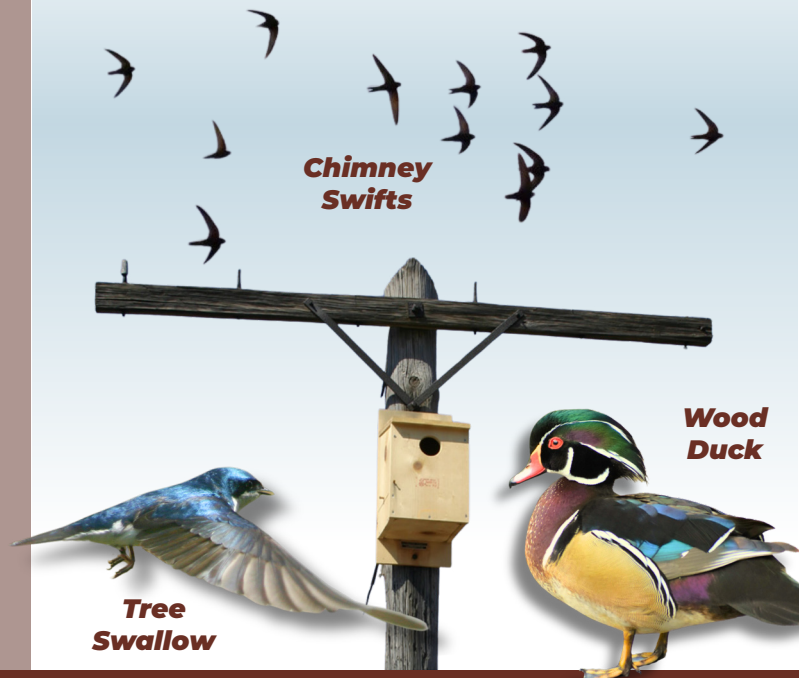
In 1829, famed ornithologist **John James Audubon** passed through the Gap on his way to study birds along the northern reaches of the Lehigh River. About 70 years later, ornithologist **James Rehn** conducted the earliest known bird survey in the Lehigh Gap and vicinity. Rehn identified 50 species living and nesting in the area's mixed habitats. Among his sightings were a resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** and such present-day rarities as **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Eastern Bluebirds, then in serious decline, were notably difficult to find.

Nearly all bird life – and life in general – disappeared from the Lehigh Gap by the 1950s due to the impacts of industrial pollution. Through the work of LGNC and its partners, the site has since been restored, and the Gap is again home to numerous resident, wintering, breeding, and migratory bird species. **What will you discover?**

Bird Conservation at LGNC

Lehigh Gap Nature Center's wildlife refuge features a network of nest boxes designed to attract certain target species, including several species of conservation concern.

During the summer, visitors are likely to see **Eastern Bluebirds** and **Tree Swallows** inhabiting our many boxes along the Prairie Warbler, D&L, and LNE trails. Other nesting structures include a **Chimney Swift tower** near the Osprey House and a **Purple Martin gourd tower** near the Tannery Pond. **American Kestrels**, **Wood Ducks**, and **Common Mergansers** have also nested in specially-constructed boxes mounted across the refuge.



Begin Your Birding Adventure

Embark on a birding adventure along any section of LGNC's 13-mile trail system! Use this guide to locate the diverse habitats within our 756-acre wildlife refuge on the Kittatinny Ridge. Pick up a companion bird checklist at our Osprey House visitor center, or download a copy from our website.

Also be sure to visit our **Bake Oven Knob Hawk Watch**, located about seven miles west of LGNC. Each autumn, LGNC staff and volunteers count thousands of birds of prey as they migrate past this site. Established in 1961 by LGNC's founder, ornithologist **Donald S. Heintzelman**, the Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count is one of the world's longest continually running migratory raptor studies.



Interested in learning more about birds?
Check our website for upcoming birding opportunities with LGNC!

Lehigh Gap Nature Center Birding Guide



**Prairie
Warbler**

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