



FALL 2026

Pennsylvania Game Commission

MIDDLE CREEK

Managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.



NEW TRAIL, NEW VIEW



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We're excited to expand the recreational opportunities at Middle Creek with our latest trail addition.

Located just off the White Oak Parking Area (stop 5 on Wildlife Drive), the NEW Lake View Trail provides access to a previously inaccessible portion of the property.

The 0.4-mile trail can be accessed from the east end of the Deer Path Trail by following the yellow blazes, or from the east end of the White Oak Parking Area near the picnic tables.

This section, previously used as a propagation area, is now designed for public recreation.

The area and lakeshore immediately east of the new viewing blind will remain propagation area.

The Middle Creek team constructed a new viewing blind, pictured above, and regional summer interns painted the outside. The blind will enhance opportunities to view the lake and wildlife while minimizing disturbance.

HUNTING AND APPLICATION DATES

The pre-season lotteries are now closed for the Middle Creek deer and waterfowl hunts, but you can still apply in-season for a waterfowl hunting opportunity. Applications for the one-day flintlock/archery hunt are open through October 23.

No-Show Goose Blind & In-Season Duck Blind Application (REQUIRED ONE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR DESIRED HUNT DATE)

You must complete the online application at exactly one week before the hunt date. Applications are available from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on that day.

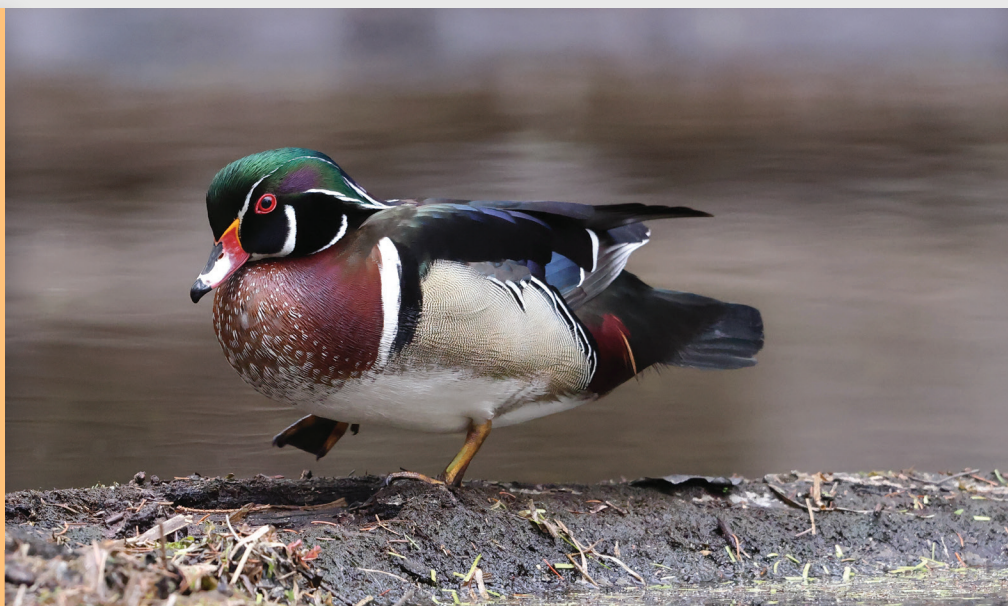


APPLY NOW

Example: If the date you'd like to apply for is Tuesday, 11/24/2026, you must check in, Tuesday, 11/17/2026.

WILDLIFE DRIVE CLOSURE REMINDER

Reminder, the interior portion of the Wildlife Drive will close at sunset on Wednesday, Sept. 30 and will reopen on Monday, March 1 (weather pending/subject to change).



2026-27 MIDDLE CREEK WATERFOWL LOTTERY HUNT DATES

OCT.
15

Duck Blinds
Only

NOV.
7

Youth
Waterfowl
Hunt

NOV.
19

Duck
Blinds Only

NOV.
24

NOV.
26

DEC.
15

DEC.
17

DEC.
19

DEC.
22

Goose
Blinds Only

DEC.
24

Duck
Blinds Only

DEC.
29

Goose
Blinds Only

DEC.
31

Duck
Blinds Only

JAN.
2

JAN.
5

JAN.
9

JAN.
12

JAN.
14

JAN.
16



SONGBIRD BANDING SEASON RECAP

As August's heat gives way to September's cool nights, Middle Creek's 2026 summer songbird banding season has come to a close.

As we reflect on the season, we're excited to share some of the highlights from this year's data.

Since 1989, more than 1,200 MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) stations across the U.S. and Canada have contributed over 2.5 million bird capture records, providing invaluable information for bird conservation!

Middle Creek is only 1 of 8 stations in PA and our staff have banded nearly 2,000 birds, representing over 65 species, plus countless recaptures, since 2020.

During our 2026 MAPS banding season, we banded a total of 316 new individuals and captured 139 birds that had already been banded.

Of these birds, the gray catbird was our most represented species, making up 45% of new captures and 46% of recaptures. Though common enough to seem mundane, Pennsylvania hosts 10% of the world's breeding population.

We take pride in the number of juveniles and returning adult catbirds we catch each year, knowing the habitat we curate helps keep this species plentiful for future generations.

Other interesting visitors included a gray-cheeked thrush, which nests in Canada and Alaska's northern boreal forests, and our very first cedar waxwings!

Though year-round Pennsylvania residents, cedar waxwings often go unnoticed high in the canopy. We were thrilled to capture, band, and release two of these beautiful birds, adding another species to our growing list.

We also recaptured a female common yellowthroat banded as an ASY (After Second Year) bird in 2023, meaning she was at least five years old this summer.

Weighing only about 10 grams, these tiny warblers migrate to the Caribbean, Mexico, or Central America each winter. Her ability to make that journey five times is a remarkable testament to the resilience of these birds.

We look forward to future banding seasons and increasing our knowledge of which species use the habitat at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.



BE SEEN. BE SAFE.

New regulations require ALL users NOT engaged in hunting, trapping, or fishing on state game lands to wear fluorescent orange from October 1 through January 31.

When participating in hunting, orange must be worn at all times during required seasons unless engaged in lawful hunting or trapping that doesn't require the use of orange.



1

Wear a fluorescent orange hat or 250 square inches of fluorescent orange with 360 degrees of visibility.

2

We highly recommend that pets wear an orange vest, harness, leash, or bandana.

3

Backpacks can limit your 360 degrees of visibility. Add a bandana or covering to your backpack to ensure you're seen.

4

Horseback riders are also REQUIRED to meet orange requirements, regardless of safety equipment being worn. It's suggested to have orange on your horse as well.



Our goal is to ensure ALL users, hunters and non-hunters alike, are as safe as possible on state game lands 365 days a year!

For full details, view the 2026-27 Hunting & Trapping Digest.



SUMMER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS





Pennsylvania
Game Commission
YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

HEADQUARTERS

2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717-787-4250

REGION OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION

1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323

SERVING: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties

SOUTHWEST REGION

4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923

SERVING: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

1566 South Route 44 Highway, P.O. BOX 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740

SERVING: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652

SERVING: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties

NORTHEAST REGION

3917 Memorial Highways, Dallas, PA 18612

SERVING: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties

SOUTHEAST REGION

253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605

SERVING: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties

FOLLOW US ONLINE



VISITORS CENTER

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Closed

Tuesday - Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MAILING ADDRESS

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, P.O. Box 110,
Kleinfeltersville, PA 17039

VISITORS CENTER ADDRESS

100 Museum Rd, Stevens, PA 17578

PHONE NUMBER: 717-733-1512

EMAIL ADDRESS: middlecreek@pa.gov

