



Getting here

Pocahontas County is located in the mid-eastern section of West Virginia. Only a few hours from major metropolitan areas, the county is easily accessible from all directions via nearby interstate highways.

- From the South**
 Via I-77 and I-64, at Lewisburg, take Rt. 219 N. or at White Sulphur Springs, take Rt. 60 to 92 N to 39 W.
- From the North**
 Via I-79, take the Weston, Rt. 33 exit (#99) and proceed east to Elkins and then south on Rt. 219.
- From the East**
 Via I-81, take Rt. 55, Rt. 33, Rt. 250 or Rt. 39 into West Virginia.
- From the West**
 Via I-64, continue east on WV Turnpike and I-64. At Lewisburg, Rt. 219 N. or at White Sulphur Springs, take Rt. 60 to 92 N to 39 W.

 Via I-64 at Beckley, travel north on Rt. 19, then east on Rt. 39/55 via Richwood.



Nature's Mountain Playground

P.O. Box 275
Marlinton, WV 24954

pocahontascountywv.com
800.336.7009

Bird Watching



Nature's Mountain Playground

pocahontascountywv.com
800.336.7009

Pocahontas County is a Beautiful Birding Area.

■ Cranberry Glades Botanical Area

The Cranberry area is one of only a handful of areas the elusive Red Crossbill calls home.



birding

Pocahontas County, West Virginia, with over 900 square miles of deep conifer forests, lush grass meadows and acidic wetlands, is some of the most isolated and beautiful birding area in the entire country. From the more commonly seen birds to the elusive and rare sightings, anything is possible here.

Birds are among the easiest wildlife to locate and study because they are relatively easy to find. Many are colorful or have songs which alert you to where they might be settled on a tree branch. Some travel in large groups, are active during the day and can be studied from a reasonable distance, sometimes even without binoculars. If you are just beginning, you can bird watch with the simplest of equipment. Be sure to take a good pair of binoculars, and a small notebook for listing your sightings.

A good birding book such as *"A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America"* or *"National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds"* will be your most useful tool. The books have range maps in the back which tell a birder if that bird is found in the area. This is extremely helpful if you are trying to eliminate similar appearing species.

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has an excellent Web site for birding which is www.wvdnr.gov and the Brooks Bird Club is www.brooksbirdclub.org. The Monongahela National Forest Web site has a detailed inclusive list of birds in the forest that can be accessed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf> and click to recreation and then to bird watching.

Identifying New Birds

Identifying new birds will be easier if you keep a specific bird in mind as your “standard bird.” Use a common bird with no specific markings such as a pigeon. When you see a new bird briefly either in flight or sitting on a branch before it takes flight, you can compare its marking and physical attributes against your standard bird. Try to at least see these four markings on the new bird: color and markings; field marks such as wing and rump patches, tail bands, eye rings, wing bars and other eye catching marks; overall size; and silhouette. Other useful information to help identify the bird will include habits and behavior, habitat, and calls or songs. Using comparison to your “standard bird” along with the range map in the bird guide book, you will be more apt to identify a newly found bird.

Any good visitor knows there is proper etiquette when visiting another's home and the forest is no different. Stay on established pathways and roads; avoid harassing and disturbing birds; don't trespass on private property; leave no trash or litter and take nothing except photographs.



Cranberry Glades Botanical Area



From Highway 219 south of Marlinton, go west on 39/55 for about 6 miles. The Glades are on your right.

Common Raven
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Northern Water Thrush
Canada Warbler
Red Shouldered Hawk
Common Yellowthroat
Alder
Flycatcher
Cedar Waxwing
Veery
Purple Finch
Golden-crown Kinglet

Although rare, these species have been spotted: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Northern Goshawk. The Cranberry area is one of only a handful of areas the elusive Red Crossbill calls home.

Areas adjacent to the Highland Scenic Highway



This loop (Highway 150) can be accessed close to Cranberry Glades Botanical Area or from Highway 219 about 8 miles north of Marlinton.

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Black-capped Chickadee
Cedar Waxwing
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue-headed Vireo
Swainson's Thrush
Blackburnian Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler

The habitat around the Williams River Bridge is a little different and is a good place to spot Tree, Barn and Northern Rough-wing Swallows, Least Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager.

Greenbrier River Trail



This 78 mile trail can be accessed in Pocahontas County from Beard, Seebert, Buckeye, Marlinton, Clawson, Clover Lick, Sitlington, or Cass.

Canada Goose
Wood Thrush
Green Heron
Belted Kingfisher
Louisiana Water Thrush
Yellow-throated Warbler
Indigo Bunting
Wood Thrush
Downy Woodpecker
White-eyed Vireo
Ruby Throated Hummingbird
Screech Owl
Blue-winged Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Northern Parula
Black-throated Blue Warbler
American Robin
Cerulean Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker

For a complete listing of birds that have been spotted along the Trail go to the web at www.wvbirding.com.

Seneca State Forest – (Allegheny Trail)



Located on WV Route 28, four miles south of Dunmore.

Red-eyed Vireo
Ovenbird
Scarlet Tanager
Least Flycatcher
Cerulean Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Eastern Phoebe
Wood Thrush
Eastern Wood-Pewee

West Fork Trail



Access this 21 mile stretch adjacent to the West Fork of the Greenbrier River from either Durbin on the south end or Gladly on the north end.

Red-eyed Vireo
Black Throated Green Warbler
Ovenbird
Blue-headed Vireo
Dark-eyed Junco
Veery
Black-capped Chickadee
Magnolia Warbler
Hermit Thrush
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Least flycatcher
Eastern Wood Pee-wee
Red-shouldered Hawk
Mourning Warbler
Belted Kingfisher
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Magnolia Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler

Burner Mountain – Thornwood Area



East of Bartow on WV Route 28 to Forest Service Road 14. Turn left and travel Burner Mountain.

Red-eyed Vireo
Black Throated Green Warbler
Ovenbird
Blue-headed Vireo
Dark-eyed Junco
Veery
Black-capped Chickadee
Magnolia Warbler
Hermit Thrush
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk
Mourning Warbler
Belted Kingfisher
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker