



*Turkey Vulture at Fermilab, 19 April 1988. Photo courtesy of Visual Media Services*

Louisiana Waterthrush; Olive-sided, Acadian, and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers; Red-breasted Nuthatch; and Redpoll.

There are three locations from which the Big Woods can be explored. The Education Center [27] on the south side of Pine Street provides ample parking and access to bird feeders along the lot's eastern edge. These feeders have only recently been put into place and should provide some interesting winter birding. Throughout January and February 1994, they sustained a Red-breasted Nuthatch and a flock of redpolls along with the usual mix of woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, chickadees, goldfinches, and winter sparrows.

A short trail passes through a section of wood and crosses two canals to connect the Education Center parking lot with the main parking for Wilson Hall. This trail can be productive for warblers, vireos, and other woodland species during migration. Good birds found in this area include Black-throated Blue Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush. A Cooper's Hawk frequented this area late into the spring of 1993 and may have

nested in these woods.

Just outside the entrance to the Education Center, a short two-way road connects the southern (east-bound) lane of Pine Street to the northern (westbound) lane. There is a small parking lot [28] north of Pine Street near this connecting road, which provides access to a series of trails which wind through the restored prairie and include a loop through the Big Woods. The restored prairie offers limited birding potential but the trail through the Big Woods can be quite productive. In early spring the interior of the woods can be particularly good for Winter Wren and all of the usual thrushes while the fringes can be good for Orange-crowned and Pine Warblers.

During spring and fall migration the most productive points along the trail are the northwest corner and the area around the footbridge on the northern part of the trail. In summer the woods provide nesting habitat for Wood Thrush, and occasionally Scarlet Tanager. In 1988 a pair of American Redstarts nested on the eastern edge of the woods.

Probably the best area for warblers is Horseshoe Pond [25]. Horseshoe Pond is on the northern fringes of the woods and can be accessed from a parking lot off Receiving Road. To get there, go north on Road A from Wilson Hall, turn left (west) onto Road B at the stop sign near the power substation. Receiving Road is the first right and the parking lot can be reached by turning left at the first stop sign just past the fire-station. Horseshoe Pond can be seen from the far end of the parking lot. Check the western edges of the parking lot. This area attracted a Worm-eating Warbler in spring 1991 and a Cerulean Warbler in spring 1993.

With its diversity of habitat, there are certainly more discoveries to be made at Fermilab and every year a few new species have been added to the list. For a good day's birding in any season, Fermilab is a good choice.



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**Meadowlark**