



Photos provided by Will Hershberger/NatureImagesandSounds.com

*Northern parula warbler**Bluff overlooking the Potomac River*

Viewing Information: White-tailed deer, pileated woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers, wild turkeys and box turtles occur year-round. The mixed habitat makes the area ideal for birding. In March great horned owls nest in the preserve's large oaks. Many species of warblers nest here, including the prairie warbler. Look for them in May and June in the cedar thickets and in open areas. Also in May and June, look for scarlet tanagers in the hardwoods. Waterfowl can be seen along the Potomac during their spring migration. Barred owls can often be heard year-round. Hike the South Trail in spring and early summer for wood thrushes and yellow-billed cuckoos. Mid-April to early May is a great time to see many species of wildflowers in bloom, including twin leaf, Dutchmen's breeches, bloodroot and jack-in-the-pulpit.

Description: The 107-acre Yankauer Nature Preserve lies along the banks of the Potomac River and was donated to The Nature Conservancy of West Virginia in 1967 by Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Yankauer. The property is owned by the Conservancy but is managed by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. It is a blend of oak forests surrounded by glades of red cedar and dense thickets of fast-growing shrubs and trees. As you move into the center of the property you find a more mature forest of large oaks and maples growing amid limestone outcrops and sinkholes. The eastern edge of the property is a bluff overlooking the Potomac River. Much of the land is former farmland which is gradually returning to its natural forested state, making it an interesting and informative natural laboratory. Situated in the fastest growing area of the state, Yankauer constitutes an important community resource that is becoming more unique and irreplaceable each year.

The public is welcome to visit the preserve during daylight hours. Three well-marked trails, totaling about two miles, take the visitor through a variety of habitat types. The Kingfisher Trail, South Trail, and Dan Fisher Trail all loop, and you can walk a large circle across the property. A short 1/5 mile trail, the Cedar Loop, is a nice option for those who want a short stroll through a cedar glade. A trail brochure is available and the Kingfisher Trail includes interpretive signs.

Directions: From the 4-way stop (routes 45 and 480) in Shepherdstown, drive east towards Sharpsburg. Go about .25 mile and turn left onto Shepherd Grade Road. Travel 1.7 miles and bear left at the "Y" intersection onto Scrabble Road. Stay on Scrabble Road for 4 miles (Note: Scrabble Road turns left at 1.9 miles). Turn right onto Rt. 5/4, Whiting's Neck Road. The Yankauer Preserve is .5 mile on the right.