

Piney Tract (State Game Land #330) Field Trip:

On Saturday, June 3, Michael Leahy will show participants some of the highlights around a very special place in Clarion County - State Game Land #330, known as Piney Tract.

Piney Tract is a 2,300-acre reclaimed strip mine located in central Clarion County that holds arguably the densest population of Henlow's Sparrows and other grassland breeding birds in Pennsylvania and likely, the eastern United States. It has been designated as a ***Global Important Bird Area*** (#21).

We will meet at 9:00 am in the game lands parking area on Mt. Zion Road. **There are NO facilities in the area** so bring water, snacks and lunch. Although insects are seldom a problem here, insect repellent for ticks may be in order.

We will walk a couple of areas here and then drive to a couple of other areas nearby to look for other good birds. Some species to be expected are Henslow's, Savannah, Grasshopper, Clay-colored and possibly Vesper Sparrows. Northern Harrier, Kestrel, Boblink, Prairie Warbler and Eastern Meadowlark, are fairly common. Breeding populations of Upland Sandpiper and Short-eared Owls have been documented

There is no address here to put into your GPS however the actual coordinates for the parking area are:

41 Degrees 08'49"N & 79 Degrees 29'57"W

For Directions, questions or more information contact Michael Leahy at mrl706@gmail.com Or you can phone or text him @ 814-229-1648

Mill Creek Bird Walk, June 10, 2023

This walk will be an easy, fairly flat, out-and-back walk along Mill Creek led by SRAS guides Mal Hays and Larry Towse. It will start at 8 am and last about 2 hours. Wear good walking shoes and bring your binoculars.

Go to Strattanville via Rt. 322. Turn in Strattanville onto the Fisher Road (SR 1011) toward Fisher. Coming from Clarion, it's a left turn. Continue 2-3 miles on the Fisher Road. After a long down hill, cross the bridge over Mill Creek, and start up the next hill for a short distance. Parking is on the left.

We will walk, light rain or shine. For more information, call Mal at 814-764-5645.

Cook Forest State Park Bird and Forest Hikes

June 24- Morning bird walk with SRAS guide Michael Leahy in Cook Forest State Park, in conjunction with the “Gardening for Birds & Pollinators” program. Meet at 8 am at the Sawmill Center for the Arts, which is about 1.8 miles up Forest Road from the Park Office. The address is 140-170 Theatre Lane, Cooksburg. For more details, call Michael at 814-229-1648.

June 24- Afternoon hike at Cook Forest State Park with SRAS guide Michael Leahy. Meet at the Log Cabin Environmental Learning Classroom on Forest Drive at 1:30 pm for an informative hike through the “Forest Cathedral” along Longfellow Trail where we’ll look for spring migrant birds, learn about virgin forest, ancient forest and see some the largest, tallest and oldest trees in the eastern United States.

June 25 - Replay of the afternoon walk from the previous day for anyone who missed the Saturday hike or wants to do it again. Meet at 8:00am at the Log Cabin Environmental Learning Classroom.