

PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #30 Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area/SGL 46
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COUNTY(IES) Lancaster, Lebanon

APPROX. SIZE 6,254 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (State)

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Contains a rare, threatened, or unique habitat type important to mammals
- Includes wild populations of mammals that can be viewed in their natural habitat
- Site is a natural area associated with an established educational program that interprets natural history of resident mammals.

DESCRIPTION

This IMA is located south of Kleinfeltersville in an area designated primarily for waterfowl management. However, it includes extensive mesic old-field habitats that are becoming scarce in the state, as well as woodlands, cultivated and fallow fields, and old red cedar.

MAMMAL NOTES

The area includes an undisturbed predator-prey complex consisting of meadow vole, northern short-tailed shrews, and red foxes. Although none of these are uncommon in the state, such large, functional systems occurring without the intrusion of human disturbance in the form of fragmentation, are uncommon. Surveys for least shrews are needed. The area also is important for public education about wildlife, and is popular for both waterfowl and mammal viewing.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Middle Creek is designated IBA #54 because of its importance to migrating tundra swans and snow geese. Bald eagle, osprey, northern harrier, and short-eared owl also occur. As in many areas, exotic plant species have altered the habitat.