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AUDUBON RELEASES LIST OF AMERICA'S MOST IMPERILED BIRDS

"Audubon WatchList 2002" Names 201 Birds in Jeopardy; Represents More than One-quarter of North American Species

New York, NY October 22, 2002 - Despite the exciting recovery of Endangered birds like the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, more than one-quarter of America's birds are in trouble or decline, according to the National Audubon Society. In a report released today, entitled "WatchList 2002", Audubon identifies 201 species that show either significantly decreasing numbers or restricted range, or are under other threats.

At least 26 National WatchList species occur in Pennsylvania as breeders, winterers, or migrants. Cerulean Warblers are found in both bottomland forests and in ridge-top oak-hickory forests, a habitat that often also supports Worm-eating Warblers. Large tracts of hardwood forest provide important habitat for Wood Thrushes. Agriculture and capped strip mines have provided grassland habitat, supporting relatively large numbers of breeding Henslow's Sparrows. Shrub-scrub habitats in natural barrens, and resulting from abandonment of agricultural land, harbor nesting Golden-winged Warblers, Prairie Warblers and American Woodcock.

For more information, see <http://www.audubon.org/bird/watchlist/index.html>.

The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserve encourages open discussion about biodiversity issues in the state. It is hosted by the Allegheny Institute of Natural History, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership.