



Description: Bluestone Lake was formed with the completion of Bluestone Dam in 1949. The area surrounding the 2,000-acre lake is a complex of federal and state lands. Begin your wildlife trip at Bluestone State Park, and be sure to visit the dam as well as Bluestone Lake Wildlife Management Area.

Viewing Information: Miles of shoreline and acres of open water attract a variety of waterfowl: mallards and Canada geese are present year-round. From December to April look for common goldeneyes, buffleheads and hooded mergansers in the spillway below the dam. In March and April search for ring-necked ducks and lesser scaups above Bluestone Dam, and in summer look for wood ducks along islands in the river. Bald eagles are present year-round but are more common in winter – search around the lake and below Hinton. Great blue herons are year-round

residents, and green herons can be viewed during the summer.

Deer, turkey, raccoons, opossums and coyotes are common on the park and WMA. Numerous beaver, mink and an occasional river otter may be seen around the lake. Bats can be seen in warm weather at dusk and dawn just above the river and lake as they search for food.

Some areas are open to hunting. Please check with the manager for seasons and affected areas.

Directions: From Interstate 64, take the Sandstone exit 139. Travel south on state Route 20 approximately 16 miles to Bluestone State Park on the right. You'll drive along the lake for a couple miles before you get to the state park. To reach Bluestone WMA, take state Route 3 east of Hinton, then state Route 12 south, and then Indian Mills Road.

Suggested Side Trip: National Park Service Visitors Center which



Bald eagle

is a couple hundred yards north of I-64 Sandstone interchange on state Route 20.

Ownership: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Bluestone WMA: (304) 256-6947. Bluestone State Park (304) 466-2805. Lake & Dam: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (304) 466-0156 or 466-1234.

Size: Bluestone State Park – 2,100 acres; Bluestone WMA – 18,019 acres.

Closest Town: Hinton
*Excerpt from **West Virginia Wildlife Viewing Guide** by Mark Damian Duda. For a free copy (\$2.50 for shipping and handling), call 304-637-0245.*

Ron Snow
USFWS Photo