



Potomac Valley Audubon Society

www.potomacaudubon.org

Calendar of Pending Events

May 23: Bird walk at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park's Murphy's Farm. Will involve about 2 miles of moderate hiking, mostly through fields. Species likely to be sighted include various flycatchers, vireos and warblers; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Meadowlark, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Mockingbird; and perhaps such raptors as Bald Eagles, Red-tailed, Red-Shouldered or Broad-winged Hawks. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Park's Visitor's Center. The bird walk is free and no pre-registration is required. However, unless you have an annual Park pass or NPS Golden Eagle pass, the Park Service will charge \$10 per vehicle to enter the Park. Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. Binoculars will be available for anyone who needs them. For more info contact trip leader Deb Hale at debhale72@gmail.com or 304-535-1528.

May 26: Birding trip to Canaan Valley, led by veteran birder Matt Orsie. Trip will cover areas with elevations from 4,000 to 2,500 feet and focus on birds breeding at these different ranges. Likely sightings include 15-18 species of warblers, as well as other species. Participants should plan to travel on their own to the area on May 25 and meet at 6:00 a.m. on May 26 in the lobby of the Canaan Valley State Park Resort lodge. Free and open to anyone with an interest but participation will be limited to just eight people and pre-registration is essential. Register before May 15 on the PVAS website or contact Matt at 304-261-5602 or wvbird@comcast.net. Once registered, participants must make and pay for their own room reservations the night of May 25 at the Resort or some other area location.

May 30: Birding trip to the Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area in Jefferson County. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking area by the WMA's boat launch site. Possible species to be sighted include Prothonotary, Yellow, and Yellow-throated Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, and other warbler varieties, as well as Great Blue and Green Herons, Great Egrets, Double-breasted Cormorants, and Common and Red-breasted Mergansers. Free and no pre-registration is required. Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along. Directions to the meeting place can be found on the Birding Trail Map on the PVAS website. Or contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

June 2: Bird walk on the campus of the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the visitor's parking lot in front of the Center's Main Building. The Center's 538-acre campus contains a mix of fields and forest, and it provides good habitat for a variety of birds. Species likely to be sighted include Baltimore and Orchard Orioles; Eastern Bluebirds; Bald Eagles; Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks; Great Blue Herons; and several species of swallows, flycatchers, vireos and warblers. Will involve walking about two miles over easy terrain. Free and open to anyone with an interest but pre-registration is essential. To pre-register, contact trip leader Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net no later than May 28.

June 6: Birding trip to Altona Marsh outside Charles Town. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the following location: from Charles Town, take Route 51 west about a mile and turn right onto Piedmont Lane; park by the old church ruins or on the side of the lane. The Marsh is a rare, 70-acre marl wetland protected by a Nature Conservancy easement. It is a good site for birding, not only because it harbors a rich variety of species but also because the terrain offers easy viewing. Likely sightings include Baltimore and Orchard Orioles; warblers; Red-winged Blackbirds; Willow Flycatchers; Virginia Rail; Great Blue Herons; and other species. Will involve about two miles of relatively easy walking, some along a railroad track. Free and open to anyone with an interest but re-registration is required, and participants must sign a waiver. To pre-register, contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net. Children ages 12 and up will be welcome, but they must be accompanied by an adult.

June 9: Mountain Laurel walk at the Eidolon Nature Preserve in Morgan County, to be led by local naturalist Joe Gentile. The preserve's Lady Slipper Trail is surrounded by a large and impressive stand of Mountain Laurel shrubs, which bloom spectacularly at this time of year. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the preserve. Anyone with an interest is welcome to participate. There will be no fee and no pre-registration is required. Directions to the Preserve are on the PVAS website.

June 9: PVAS annual meeting. 6:30 p.m. in the pavilion at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. All PVAS members are invited and children are welcome. Meeting will include election of directors and recognition of volunteers. Meeting will be preceded by a potluck supper, and attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. Those whose last names begin with the letters A-H are asked to bring vegetables or fruit; I-L, a dessert; M-R, a protein dish; and S-Z, a starch dish. All are asked to bring their own dishes, flatware, and the like. PVAS will provide water and lemonade. For more info, contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@gmail.com.

June 13: Bird walk in the Virginius Island area of Harpers Ferry. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking area on Shenandoah Street just below the intersection with Route 340. Likely species include Orioles, various types of vireos and flycatchers, herons, ducks, raptors, and perhaps a few types of warblers. Will involve about three miles of level walking. Free and open to anyone with an interest. No pre-registration required. For more info contact Deb Hale at 304-535-1528 or debhale72@gmail.com.

June 22: Special PVAS tour of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute near Front Royal, VA (formerly known as the National Zoo Conservation and Research Center). This will be a great opportunity to see this world-renowned zoological research facility—which is not regularly open to the public—in an up-close and personal way. Tour begins at 1:00 p.m. It will be led by trained Smithsonian docents. Pre-registration is essential; to pre-register, go to the PVAS website or contact Kelly Wolf at kheldreth@hotmail.com or 304-229-6229. Driving directions can also be found there. The Institute charges PVAS a fee of \$10 per person, which PVAS must pass through to tour participants. You can prepay this fee by credit card on the PVAS website or bring cash or a check made out to PVAS with you on the day of the tour.

June 23: Natural History Workshop—"Beavers and Their Habitats." 10:00 a.m.-12 noon at the Bolivar Community Center in Bolivar. Naturalist Laura Clark will share information on the natural history of beavers as well as information about beaver research done at Canaan Valley.

Open to the public on a space-available basis. There will be a fee of \$10 for Master Naturalist Program members and trainees, and \$15 for members of the public. Pre-registration is essential. See the PVAS webpage for details and pre-register there or contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@gmail.com.

June 23: Antietam Battlefield Birding Trip. Sponsored jointly by PVAS and the Washington County Bird Club. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Burnside Bridge parking area. The trip route will include Snavely's Ford, parts of the Final Attack Trail, and other stops. In all, it will involve about two miles of easy walking. Likely species include Cliff Swallows, Eastern Meadowlarks, Grass Sparrows, Warbling and other vireos, orioles; some warbler species, Eastern Bluebirds, and others. Free and open to anyone with an interest. No pre-registration required. For more info, contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

June 27: Birding trip to the Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area in Jefferson County. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking area by the WMA's boat launch site. Directions to the meeting place can be found on the Birding Trail Map on the PVAS website. The 1,361-acre Shannondale Springs property provides access to a mixture of habitats, including the Shenandoah River shore. This trip will follow a river trail and involve about two miles of level walking. Possible species include Bald Eagles; Great Blue and Green Herons; Great Egrets; Spotted Sandpipers; Baltimore and Orchard Orioles; and several species of warblers, vireos, swallows and sparrows. Free and open to anyone with an interest. No pre-registration required. For more info, contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

June 30: Shepherdstown Street Fest. Look for the PVAS display at this event.

August 4-5: Morgan County Fair. Look for the PVAS display at this event.

August 10-12: PVAS Nature Photography Workshop at the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown. Intensive, three-day workshop for beginners and those with some experience. Will be led by Wil Hershberger, one of the area's leading naturalists and nature photographers, and his wife, Donna. Will run from Friday evening through Sunday noon and includes both classroom instruction and field experience. Instruction will cover all aspects of nature photography focusing on 35mm format equipment (film and digital), with classroom and field sessions. Topics of discussion will include light, composition, equipment, workflow, and finding suitable images. Cost is \$150. Open to people of all ages but children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is essential. Full info and on-line registration are available on the PVAS website. Or contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@gmail.com.

September 15-16: Sharpsburg Heritage Festival. Look for the PVAS display at this event.

September 21-23: Fifth Annual Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival. Sponsored by PVAS. Events will include walks, workshops and evening presentations for beginning and intermediate birders and families with children. Details to be announced.

October 6-7: Berkeley Springs Apple Butter Festival. Look for the PVAS display at this event.

October 13-14: Hawk-watching trip to Cape May, NJ. Trip will focus on several hawk-watching sites in the Cape May area and offer good opportunities to see Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, American Kestrels, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Bald Eagles, Northern

Harriers and other species of hawks. Participants will also be able to take advantage of a variety of free educational opportunities offered by the Cape May Bird Observatory and the New Jersey Audubon Society, such as a Mini-Hawk ID workshop for beginners and a Hawk-banding demonstration. Free and open to anyone but participants will be expected to arrange their own transportation and accommodations. Hotel and motel reservations should be made early, because Cape May is a very popular destination in October. Those who wish to participate should pre-register by contacting trip leader Sandy Sagalkin by phone at 240-291-6465. For more info, contact him by email at monsansagalkin@myactv.net.