

Bob Dean

Bob Dean was launched into birding at age 5 when his dad showed him a screech owl perched on their home. Bob reveled in the joys of watching the owl hunt sparrows.

Since then, Bob has been thrilled by some 266 species of birds in WV and about 600 throughout the US. He believes all young people should be treated to wonderful experiences in the wild places where birds are found and has shared his passion for birding by educating beginner birders for several decades. Bob is also an experienced bird bander and says his “biggest thrill has been attaching uniquely numbered ankle bracelets to over 10,000 of his feathered friends.” Sponsor Bob today, and help him be the “PVAS Top Birder” for 2021!

Matt Orsie

Matt Orsie started birding at the ripe young age of 45. He was a student of Birding 101 in 2001, and later went on to co-teach the course for 9 years. He also served on the West Virginia bird records committee for 9 years. He has birded all over North America in the last 20 years and says his favorite area to go is southeastern-Arizona. Matt's life list includes 303 species in West Virginia and 775 species in all of North America. He loves to assist others with birding and share his passion. He is also a renowned photographer, capturing remarkable photos of birds, butterflies, wildlife, landscapes and astronomy. Sponsor Matt today, and help him be the “PVAS Top Birder” for 2021!

Wil Hershberger

Wil Hershberger began birding at age 12 and has nearly 50 years of birding experience. He enjoys sharing the sport of birding and has taught beginner birders for more than 30 years through PVAS's Birding 101 course. Rather than keeping a life list of birds, he focuses on recording bird songs and vocalizations. He has archived over 3,200 recordings of birds, bugs, and other creatures at Cornell's Macaulay Library. Wil has quite a remarkable ear and can even tell you if a bird is feeling under the weather! Wil is also an expert behind the lens of a camera and captures breath-taking photographs of birds in their wild habitats. One of Wil's favorite birds is the Vesper Sparrow and he is passionate about conserving grasslands to increase the nesting success of this species. Sponsor Wil today, and help him be the “PVAS Top Birder” for 2021!