



Chickadee Chatter

Volume 6 Issue 3

The Newsletter of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society

July 2007

www.alleghenyplateauaudubon.org

Dear Members:

Recently several groups of APAS members made our annual pilgrimage to Crane Creek, Ohio for the magnificent warbler migration. While there we became aware of a growing fashion trend in birding - vests of all shapes and sizes! These vests are crazy popular due to the many pockets and "nooks and crannies" they have. In fact, the front pockets on most versions are large enough to carry your field guide(s). Some of them even have special pockets for water bottles.

While at Crane Creek, I was asked by a number of members to speak with Rosemary McGlynn about selling birding vests as a fundraiser for the APAS. Rosemary has asked me to let you know that, because of the expense and varying personal preferences, vests are not a viable fundraiser for the chapter. However, we wanted to pass along some websites that have online stores in case some of you want to cybershop for the latest in birding apparel. We can say that several people at Crane Creek raved about the vests purchased at the Corkscrew Swamp shop.

1. Eagleoptics.com has vests from Royal Robbins for \$82.50
2. Bigpockets.com offers one style for \$99.00
3. Corkscrew.audubon.org offers one with mesh back for \$65.00
4. Tilley.com has the Different Drummer Maverick vest for \$129.00
5. Walkabout.com has a safari/journalist vest for \$67.50
6. Outbackred.com offers the Thomas Cook vest for about \$125.00US

I recently purchased a Fieldguide Vest from the Royal Robbins web site and I really love it. It was everything I hoped for and more. Plus - it was on sale!

Happy Shopping!
Ev Merriman, Editor

2007 World Series Of Birding

"The Roadrunners" - Jeff Payne, 14-year-old Chris Payne, and I, Retta Payne - competed in the New Jersey Audubon's World Series of Birding on May 12, 2007. It was the second time for Chris (unless you count that time when he was three months old), and the 20th for Jeff and Retta. This year we birded only in Cape May County, instead of the whole state, looking for as many species as possible in 24 hours. It was a building (and learning) year for the Roadrunners. To do Cape May County effectively requires every bit as much scouting and planning as a whole state run - and unfortunately we didn't have much time for either. Christopher did a great job. Those quick young eyes and ears showed his parents up more than once. We spent one afternoon on a photo shoot for National Geographic magazine. Watch for their upcoming spread on the World Series!

We started our Big Day at MacNamara Wildlife Management Area - a new spot for us. We had Great Horned and Barred Owls, Whip-poor-will, Swamp Sparrow, lots of Yellow-billed Cuckoos calling in the dark, a migrating Swainson's Thrush, and numerous flight calls portending a good morning fall-out. Next stop was Jake's Landing - which was very good to us with Virginia Rail, Green Heron, and Black Rail. The Black only called twice, but that was enough. It was Chris's favorite bird. We found many Chuck-will's-widows this year including very close ones at Beaver Swamp - no straining your ears needed! Jeff's whistler was dry when a Screech Owl finally responded at about our 10th stop. We had never heard so many Catbirds so vocal in the dead of night, and South Jersey has some really neat frog species!

Dawn found us at Bunker Pond by the lighthouse at Cape May Point. We found a lonely American Coot and a Piping Plover, as well as a nice Bonaparte's Gull. Next we scanned the rips off Cape May Point and added Parasitic Jaeger (nice and close to shore),

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(World Series continued from Page 1)

Surf Scoter, and Northern Gannet. We hurried off to Higbee Beach (getting a driveby Red-headed Woodpecker on the way) and found a migrant wave. Blackpoll Warblers were everywhere. Cerulean Warbler was a great find, as were Yellow-throated Vireo and Black-billed Cuckoo. Chris found the Blue Grosbeak – a perennial favorite of ours. We picked up shorebirds at Norbury’s Landing, then a baby Bald Eagle (on a nest) and Gull-billed Tern at Beaver Swamp. Our trip through Belleplaine was less than stellar, but we did find four Southern Warblers. Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow teed up at Jake’s.

It was noon and we were half through our big day with 135 species. Heading north up the Atlantic side of the county, we chipped away adding one or two species at a time. The hard-to-get Tricolored and Little Blue Herons were dug out of the salt marsh. A bonus Oldsquaw (p.c. = Long-tailed Duck) was at Nummy’s Island. Possibly the last

Cattle Egret in South Jersey was at the county park. We finally got Downy and Hairy at a campground (our woodpecker ace in the hole). Belleplaine reluctantly yielded Louisiana Waterthrush at 7 p.m. - our last new bird. A lot of wind and some rain and lightning convinced us to quit early at 11 p.m.

Our final total of 156 species was good for fifth place in the county – only one bird behind fourth and trailing some experienced teams. We know we can do better next year. Maybe we’ll even be able to do some scouting! Thanks so much for your support. It’s great to know we have so many people we can count on to make this craziness worthwhile. Making sure there will always be a place for nature in our world is what it’s all about, and together we do make a difference! We have raised over \$50,000 through this event for Allegheny Plateau, The Nature Conservancy, and the Somerset County Conservancy.



Retta Payne

Count Results

Following is the summary for the Spring, 2007 raptor migration season at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch in Central City, PA. This season produced four new Spring records: Black Vulture - 26, Bald Eagle - 26, Sharp-shinned Hawk - 265, and UR - 81.

Noteworthy -- The Spring Golden Eagle count -- after three years below average -- has come back close to its season average. Also noteworthy was the fact that three of the migrating Golden Eagles went through the first week in May, which has never occurred this late in the season in previous years.

HOURS	454.5`	BV	26 *
TV	268	OS	135
BE	26 *	NH	31
SS	265 *	CH	85
NG	4	RS	72
BW	327	RT	489
RL	4	GE	76
AK	27	ML	3
PG	1	UA	16
UB	29	UF	2
UE	2	UR	81 *
TOTAL	1969		
B/HR	4.33		

* = RECORD



Che Mincone

New APAS Web Site

The APAS is pleased to announce our new and improved web site. The web site address is: <http://www.alleghenyplateauaudubon.org>

I would appreciate receiving your comments, corrections, and anything else you would like to see added to the website.

I would like to create a section on the site for members to show their pictures of the Audubon sites they visit as well as any other places around here or far away that they would like to share. I plan to show samples of these galleries/photo essays on the website from Dave Escherich and Ed Gowarty, Jr. Anyone who would like to contribute photos for use on the site should send them to apasphotos@alleghenyplateauaudubon.org.

If you have poetry or other expressions that would fit into the theme of the website, please send them to share as well.



Jack Julian



2007 Calendar of Events

PROGRAMS

Programs are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Engineering and Science Bldg., Room 200, UPJ on the third Thursday of Sept., Oct., Nov., Mar., Apr. and May.

Sept. 20: Mike Lanzone, asst. coordinator of the 2nd Pa. Breeding Bird Atlas and ornithologist from Powdermill Avian Research Center, will discuss the new technology of bioacoustics as a powerful method for studying night migration. Learn how Powdermill is expanding our knowledge of migration and using these tools for conservation, and how you can get involved.

Oct. 18: Todd Katzner on Imperial Eagles in Russia. Todd is an Eagle researcher and head of the Golden Eagle Project at the Allegheny Front. He will describe the new technology for tracking eagles and its importance to conservation biology.

Todd's project at the Allegheny Front is drawing attention throughout the state and he will also discuss this project. His project is extremely exciting, so make sure you don't miss the meeting.

Nov. 15: Yellowstone: the Wolf Reintroduction Program. Join several members as they relive their Yellowstone adventures. Tom and Deb Bodenschatz, Rosemary McGlynn, Karen Jackson, Lee Tosh and Sally Dick will share photos and memories, and discuss the wolf reintroduction program. We will also have sector information to hand out on the upcoming CBC.

OUTINGS

July 8: North American Butterfly Count: Similar to the Christmas Bird Count, this is a function of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). It is open to everyone interested in learning about butterflies. The number of species last year was 47 with over 2,000 individuals. This count provides valuable information on butterfly distributions, and we've added 15 new species to Bedford County. We have car routes and specific locations, and we are always looking for new participants. If you wish to participate, please call the organizers several days in advance so they can ensure there is sufficient interest to run the outing. (Tom Dick 814-754-5727; Dennis McNair 814-255-4088; Rosemary McGlynn 814-255-5734).

July 21: Children's Outing: The second outing for children (check June 9). Locations may vary. Call for details.

July 22: Dragonflies: Similar to first outing except locations may change. Call Dennis McNair for details (check June 24 outing).

Aug. 12: Annual Picnic: Gather at Hidden Acres Farm for a covered dish, outings, and camaraderie. This event signals the end of summer and is a great time to meet new members and enjoy the often more than 100 people attending. We will have outings for children and adults.

Aug. 15 to Dec. 15: Fall Hawk Watch: Join up with members and visitors (4,000/yr) and settle back to enjoy the great view and migrating hawks and eagles. The Allegheny Front is well known throughout the Eastern U.S. Excellent and friendly counters and good organization keep the site active.

Dec. 16: Christmas Bird Count: This is an adventurous way to spend a December day. At the end of a vigorous day of bird counting we meet at Hidden Acres Farm for a covered dish and tally. It is not only fun for experienced and beginning birders, but the information obtained is extremely important for determining trends in bird populations. This past year we had over 10,000 individuals and 70 species. A great way to learn your birds! Contact Tom Dick.



Tom Dick

PICNIC FUNDRAISER

Once again this year at the annual picnic we will hold a Chinese Auction for the benefit of the chapter's coffers. Members may purchase chances on small household items, books, nature items, etc. We are asking each member/family to bring one

item (new or in good condition) to donate to the auction. You know the old saying, "One man's trinket is another man's treasure!" Peregrine prints, cookbooks, and hawkwatch merchandise will also be available at the picnic.



Rosemary McGlynn



APAS At Work

This spring was a busy time for APAS members. In addition to our favorite birding pursuits, many of us were out and about with demonstrations, displays and, yes, even shovels!

At a recent meeting of the Johnstown Garden Club, Tom Dick spoke about avian seasonal migration and the importance of our Appalachian mountain region as a migratory corridor. Garden Club members were very interested to learn about the ongoing Golden Eagle research project currently being conducted at the Allegheny Front, as well as the environmental issues related to wind turbine siting in sensitive habitat.

Tom also brought a Wetlands Education program complete with hands-on flora and fauna exhibits to Chestnut Ridge school students. Over 200 students joined the fun, learning about the various types of wetlands, their importance to the whole ecosystem, and efforts to preserve and restore these valuable resources.

Another student event, the Children's Water

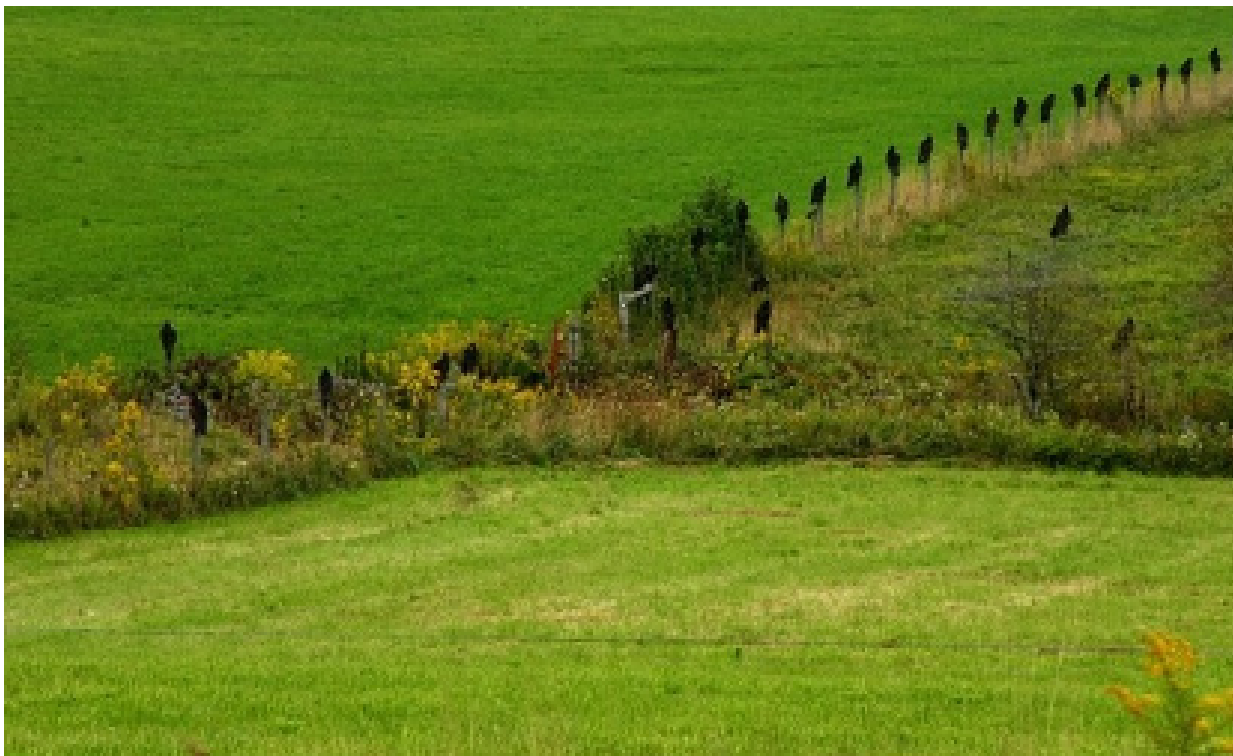
Festival, was held in March. Sponsored by the Cambria County Conservation District, the daylong program of environmental presentations and exhibits is offered to sixth graders from the surrounding area. Rosemary McGlynn represented APAS with a display of bird nests and information about commonly seen local birds. The "traveling nests" also appeared at the Cambria County Community Arts Center Nature Day, Outdoor Heritage Days, and Portage Area Schools Earth Week programming, and Johnstown East Side Elementary Earth Day Festival.

Speaking of Earth Day, Gil and Lynn Weakland and Beth Good offered their time and talents to help organize the First Annual St. Rochus Parish Earth Day Celebration. Lynn put together a demonstration on recycling while Gil and Beth brought information and displays related to birding. They also had environmental materials available for children and adults. The Weaklandes plan to encourage more Earth Day activities next year.



Rosemary McGlynn

TV Rendezvous



Dave Escherich Photo



APAS Dues Are Due on September 1, 2007

This is a reminder that chapter members should renew their dues by September 1. Annual dues for chapter members are \$15. Checks should be make payable to Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society. National members are automatically a member of the chapter. Monies from chapter memberships are applied in their entirety to our chapter. Thank you for your continued support. An application is included below for your convenience.



Bob Stewart

2007 Membership Form
Sept 1 2007 to Aug 31 2008 (chapter dues)

Please complete this form and mail with your check to:
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
c/o Bob Stewart
257 Krings St.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone () _____

e-mail _____

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ONLY (make checks payable to: Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society)

___ I am a new member- chapter only (\$15 check)

___ I am renewing my membership- chapter only (\$15 check)

___ I am including a donation to the *Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society*

Amount of donation _____

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP (includes local chapter) (make checks payable to: National Audubon Society)

___ I am a new member (\$20 check)

___ I am renewing my membership (\$35 check)

___ I am renewing my membership, but address has changed

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Johnstown, PA
Permit #5



Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society Mission Statement

The APAS was founded in 1984. We are dedicated to protection and understanding of the earth and all its inhabitants. Through our series of meetings, programs, and outings, we hope to reach individuals of all ages to understand, respect, and protect the earth.

Through such activities as the Breeding Bird Survey, raptor counts, the Christmas Bird Count, and outings, members can do field work and learn first-hand about the wonders of nature.

Our Allegheny Front Hawk Watch count has become an important tradition over the past decade. We have 10 dedicated counters who cover the site daily during the Spring and Fall migration seasons. Currently we are participating in an important research project in cooperation with Powdermill Nature Reserve and Carnegie Mellon University to band Golden Eagles as they fly our ridges.

We also maintain the Dunning's Creek Wetlands, a Wetlands Restoration Project. Interest in local bogs, wetlands, and riverine habitats has led us to promote outings such as the annual Butterfly Count, dragonfly outings, and more recently, family outings to encourage the involvement of children.

Officers

Vice President - Dennis McNair	President - Tom Bodenschatz
Corresponding Secretary - Sally Dick	Recording Secretary - Shirley Houston
Fundraising - Rosemary McGlynn	Treasurer - Retta Payne
Conservation/Activism - Jeff Payne	Programs and Outings - Tom Dick, et.al.
Hospitality - Wanetta Escherich	Newsletter Editor - Ev Merriman
IBA Coordinator - Neil Woffinden	Hawkwatch Compiler - Che Mincone
Nature Photography - Dave Escherich	Sanctuaries - Tom Dick
Web Master - Jack Julian	Membership - Bob Stewart

Contact the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society at: wetmeadow@aol.com
or visit us on the web at: alleghenyplateauaudubon.org