

# **APAS 2010**

## **Spring and Summer**

### **Programs and Outings**

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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
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## 2010 APAS SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS /OUTINGS

*Ev Merriman is no longer the newsletter editor. We thank her for all those excellent newsletters and wish her well as she pursues continuing education. We are now in desperate need of a newsletter editor to help with two yearly newsletters. Please let us know of your willingness—it would be greatly appreciated.*

**February 26 to May 5—Spring Hawk Watch**—APAS has one of a very few Spring Hawk Watches. The earliest birds are our Eastern Golden Eagles in late February, and the latest are our May Ospreys. Join us on the mountaintop.

**March to May 5—Waterfowl Outings**-- Join Tom Dick for this seasonal phenomenon! We visit the Wetlands and Shawnee State Park three times weekly, spending about three hours on each survey. It's a great way to learn to ID waterfowl. There are days when the number of waterfowl exceeds 2000. Call Tom at 814-74-5727

**April 25 to May 10—Shorebirds of Dunnings Creek Wetlands**---Bittern Pool is drawn down to accommodate the potential 22 species of shorebirds. Thanks to Chris Payne's blind we can stay dry during rainy days while observing. Shorebirds travel thousands of miles from the tropics to their arctic breeding grounds and may stop over for a short stay to rest and feed. Call Tom Dick (814-754-5727) for dates

**March 20—Dunnings Creek Wetlands Invasive Plant Removal**-- Garlic mustard has infiltrated approximately ¼ acre and needs pulled. This is a dangerous invasive capable of out-competing the surrounding native plants and we need lots of people to help. Please notify Tom Dick at 814-754-5727 if you can help.

**March 21 - Help clean wood duck and bluebird boxes at Dunnings Creek** – cleaning and replacing boxes is an essential part of keeping these birds on the wetlands. If interested, contact Tom Dick at 814-754-5727. We always need help!

**April TBA - Wilmore Dam** - Join Debbie Bodenschatz on an outing to Wilmore Dam to search for the many species of salamanders and frogs. Wilmore is rich in wetlands, and Debbie knows the frogs and salamanders extremely well. This is also a great outing for kids and grandchildren. This will be a night foray and boots, flashlights, and rain gear are usually in order. Call Debbie at 814-495-5252 or email [debbodenschatz@hotmail.com](mailto:debbodenschatz@hotmail.com). When the weather is just right, she will notify us

**April 15 Meeting—Birds of Australia**- Ross Galardy is an expert birder and is well known throughout the birding community of Pittsburgh and Westmoreland. Many of the earlier members remember Ross as a teenager interested in birds. He is presently a student at the University of Pittsburgh and recently finished a solo travel of 13,000 miles in Australia. Show up and we'll all go down-under.

**April 24—Earth Day at the wetlands---**A no workday! We will eat, enjoy being with fellow conservationists, and tour the wetlands (uplands, impoundments and stream). Bring a covered dish and meet around 10:00 a.m. at Jerry's barn. Last year we had Bald Eagles, Osprey, and Forster's Terns flying around as we ate. Dunnings Creek is a great stream for kids to net crayfish, fish and generally get wet having fun.

**May 8—Pa. Migratory Bird Day---** This event takes place in Bedford Co. where we count all the migrants and resident birds for one day. This is a state sponsored event to gather information on all species for conservation purposes. Last year Debbie Bodenschatz found the federally endangered Piping Plover at Shawnee Park so anything is possible. Join us for a fun filled day. Contact: Sally Dick or Rosemary McGlynn 2555734

**May 15-- Photographers for Pollinators----**This is a NEW conservation outing developed by John Pickering PhD., who founded the *Polistes Society* and *Discover Life*. Their purpose is to assess, through photography, our dwindling native pollinators. It's a way we can contribute to pollinator diversity on a regional basis. The images would be sent off to a pollinator database for distribution to researchers. Our organization has many photographers and this could also be the beginning of a photography conservation group within the chapter. See Tom Dick for details

**May 20 Meeting—Birds of Arizona** –by naturalist-photographers Mike and Laura Jackson. Mike and Laura are members of APAS and are the founders of SOAR (Save Our Allegheny Ridges). They co-founded the Bedford Bird and Nature Club and have also had numerous photography exhibits

**May and August --- Moth Lighting at Night** - Another way to appreciate biodiversity. Setups will be at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch. This event was highly successful last year, attracting moths and other nocturnal insect. The location and time change allows for different species. Contact Dennis McNair at 255-4088 for exact date, which will depend upon the weather.

**May to September: Dragonflies, Damselflies and Butterflies of Dunnings Creek Wetlands and Shaffer Mt---** If you wish to accompanying Tom and Sally Dick on these weekly forays please call 814-7545727 to get on the list of people we will call. You will be notified usually a day or two ahead. During most occasions we will also be looking at other species, specifically birds and flowers/

**June TBA Charles Lewis Natural Area--**Jim Pemberton. This is a unique location nestled within the slope of the Conemaugh Valley. It is home to interesting plants (mountain maple), mammals (Allegheny Woodrat), and reptiles such as timber rattlesnakes and copperheads. The emphasis of this trip will be on the rattlesnakes. Directions will be provided via e-mail for participants who sign up. Call Tom Dick at 815-754-5727 to get on list.

**June TBA kayaking---** There will be kayak/ canoe trips to local lakes and dams and possibly a river trip. Kayaking is a good way to get close to aquatic nature and many of our kayakers are good naturalists. In the past we've inspected old beaver dams, shoreline botany, observed Black-crowned Night Herons and spawning carp, saw large colonies of encrusting bryozoans on

submerged logs and many other aspects of nature that only be seen by a canoe or kayak. Contact Jack Julian at 814-242-5131 for details.

**July 3- Bog Outings on Shaffer Mt.**---In this outing we will be looking at several sphagnum bogs with their associated carnivorous plants, dragonflies and birds. We will also discuss when and how the bogs may have developed. If time permits we will visit some of the string bogs lining creeks. Call Tom Dick for details at 814-754-5727

**July 11- North American Butterfly Count:** As most of you know our count is one of the highest counts in the Northeast. The count circle includes the high Allegheny Plateau and the hill and valley region of Bedford County. Contact Tom or Sally Dick (814)-754-5727.

**August 1 - Audubon Picnic at Hidden Acres Farm** - This is a great children's outing with hands-on-biology. We collect snakes, fish, butterflies, and other insects only to be released unharmed later. There will also be fund raising events, book sales, great food, camaraderie and, hopefully, a beautiful day. This is our most attended event of the year and all are welcome. Bring a Covered Dish.

### **Some 2009 Outing Results**

**Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, 2009 Fall Summary:** Black Vulture 9, Turkey Vultures 297, Osprey 84, Bald Eagle 103, Northern Harrier 38, Sharp-shinned Hawk 620, Coopers Hawk 164, Northern Goshawk 5, Red-shouldered Hawk 53, Broad-winged Hawk 2954, Red-tailed Hawk 1460, Golden Eagle 204, American Kestrel 43, Merlin 22, Peregrine Falcon 22 and unidentified 159 for a total of 6237

**Commentary:** This was a low count year, but we did break one record and that was the Bald Eagle Count: 103, our highest ever. The Golden Eagle count was not a record breaker but it was the highest count in the Eastern US.

**North American Butterfly Count July 12, 2009 results:** Black Swallowtail 9, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 19, Spicebush Butterfly 4, Cabbage White 77, Clouded Sulfur 65, Orange Sulfur 59, Little Yellow 1, American Copper 167, Coral Hairstreak 9, Eastern Tailed Blue 121, Summer Azure 4, Great Spangled Fritillary 144, Aphrodite 56, Atlantis 36, Meadow Fritillary 29, Mourning Cloak 5, Pearl Crescent 116, Silvery Checkerspot 1, Harris' Checkerspot (larva), Question Mark 1, Eastern Comma 1, Gray Comma 1, American Lady 5, Painted Lady 1, Red Admiral 1, Red-spotted Purple 5, Viceroy 1 Northern Pearly-eye 4, Common Wood Nymph 100, Appalachian Brown 11, Monarch 61, Silver Spotted Skipper 99, Wild Indigo Dustywing 2, Dreamy Duskywing 1, Least Skipper 11, European Skipper 110, Peck's Skipper 14, Tawny-edged Skipper 2, Crossline Skipper 2, Long Dash 1, Northern Broken Dash 15, Little Glassywing 2, Dun Skipper 10, Delaware Skipper 1. Total species 45, Total numbers 1485

**Commentary:** This was an excellent count considering that all counts were down throughout the Eastern US. It took a great deal of counting effort to bring these numbers together. The depression of count numbers was blamed on the cold and rainy spring.