

Officers

President: Brian M. Wargo wargo.apas@gmail.com
Vice-President: Bob Stewart bob@stewart.net
Secretary: Debbie Bodenschatz djb4apas@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jack Julian jjulian.apas@gmail.com

Board Members

Rosemary McGlynn
Ed Gowarty, Jr.
Dave Poder
Jeanine Ging
Sally Dick
Wayne Sierer

Contact Information:

Editor: Brian M. Wargo wargo.apas@gmail.com
website: www.alleghenyplateauaudubon.org
twitter: APAS audubon@apasnews
contact APAS: jjulian.apas@gmail.com
Facebook: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch
Latest count data: hawkcount.org

Electronic Contacts

website: www.alleghenyplateauaudubon.org
twitter: APAS audubon@apasnews
Facebook: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch
Latest count data: hawkcount.org

Article submissions should be sent to the editor at wargo.apas@gmail.com.

The Newsletter of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society

From the President

This spring dealt a strange blow to the birding community with the new SARS-CoV-2 virus, now known as Covid-19. Coronavirus cases in New York spiked in a nearly apocalyptic manner making the rest of the country leery of human contact. The great-outdoors seemed to be the safest place to avoid the infectious disease, especially when contrasted with being confined inside with strangers.

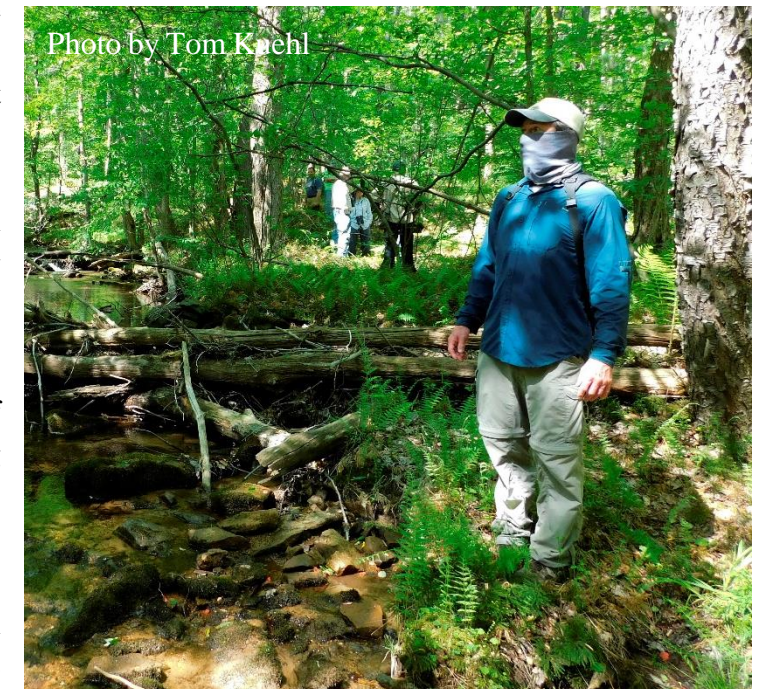
Early on, the idea of birding made sense. For one, sunlight is a natural disinfectant, killing lots of microbes. Two, birding is often thought of as being a solitary endeavor, with birders walking slowly and quietly to sneak a peek at an unsuspecting bird. Third, is the notion that birding is a hands-off activity, with hands only touching binoculars.

This naïve storyline quickly was vanquished by observing birders, who it turns out are quite social. They bird together, standing close to one another, and grab onto each other to point out a great find without speaking. When the bird flies away, they are suddenly gregarious, jovially laughing about the find. And birders also touch stuff, like porto-potty door handles, railings, equipment, their noses, their eyes, picnic tables, etc.

Making things much worse is the fact that birders tend to be older, often having pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, or auto-immune diseases, all conditions that exacerbate the symptoms of the illness, thus making this demographic the most highly vulnerable and most likely to succumb to this potentially lethal disease. As for the notion that sunlight would destroy this virus...well...let's just say that the virus is more robust than we thought!

The dominos began to fall one after the other for the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society. The University of Pittsburgh closed its campus, thus canceling our UPJ spring meetings. Then the governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio declared a stay-at-home order and the Biggest Week in American Birding canceled the spring festival and with it, our representation at the festival. Even the famed boardwalk at Magee Marsh was declared off limits to the public. The Allegheny Front Hawk Watch also closed to the public to help ensure the safety of the counters.

As we gain knowledge about this invisible adversary, we become better equipped to deal with it. The hope is that the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch will be open to the public again this fall and our other activities at the APAS will go on, with certain safety measures in place. Whatever is decided, let's be sure to remember that some of our members are more vulnerable than others and to try our best to help each other stay safe so that we can all enjoy the birds and each other.



Wearing a mask and social distancing is a small price to pay to enjoy the great outdoors!

Brian M. Wargo

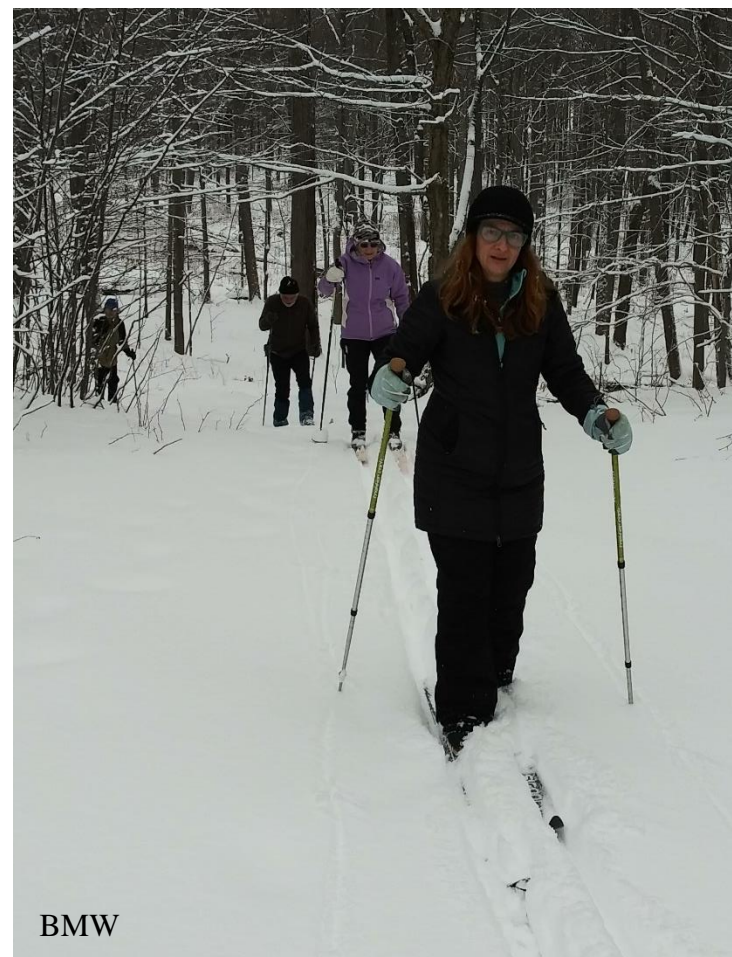
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
257 Krings Street
Johnstown, PA, 15904

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

APAS at BSA – Winter Wonderland

By Jeanine Ging

On a cold and snowy Sunday in February, Beaverdale Sportsman’s Association (BSA) hosted a winter field trip. Members of both APAS and BSA attended. Adam Katrancha, who organized the event, picked the perfect day and transformed the property into a winter wonderland. Several folks were able to cross country ski led by Greg Gdula. Another group went on a hike through the snow with sleds in tow to ride down the hills. The clubhouse fireplace offered a warm refuge to share a communal lunch cooked on the wood burner stove. After everyone was warmed up and fed, many went on another round of skiing and hiking. This event was so successful that Beaverdale has graciously invited APAS back again next February for another winter gathering. Don’t miss it!



A snowy day for APAS and BSA members to enjoy cross-country skiing, hiking, and eating!



Above: Sandy Cline finally got her wish—a ski outing with the A.P.A.S.
Below: Everyone warms by the fire in the lodge at Beaverdale Sportsman’s Association.



Long-tailed Weasel

By Dave Poder

The spring count at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch is much slower than the fall, and March 19, 2020 was certainly a dull day. No raptors were flying and nothing exciting to report weather-wise. However, it turned remarkable with an unusual wildlife encounter—the seldom-seen Long-tailed Weasel.

Jack Julian and I were standing in the grassy area of the hawk watch when suddenly a young Long-tailed Weasel suddenly appeared. In total, it spent about five minutes providing us with entertaining activity. The weasel displayed inquisitiveness, not fear, as it went under my car...then to me...over to Jack...and back to me several times. At one point, it even sat on my boot! It was so close that I couldn't get photos; thankfully Jack got a video clip of the action.

I entered a total count of zero raptors for my report that day, but Mother Nature more than made up for it with that close encounter with the young Long-tailed Weasel!



Dave Poder gets a great shot of the Long-tailed Weasel at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch.

2019 Allegheny Front Hawk Watch Spring Count

By Bob Stewart

This year, snow and ice did not pose a problem accessing the hawk watch and the watch commenced on February 15, 2020 and continued through May 7, 2020. The total migrant count was 955 with 344 hours of observation. This calculates to 2.78 raptors per hours.

Rain and strong west winds were frequent this spring. March had 12 days with either no migrants counted or no count for the day because of poor weather conditions. April repeated with 13 days fitting the same criteria.

There were no season records this spring. All accipiters were well below the ten-year average. No northern goshawks were witnessed. The sharp-shinned hawk count of 64 was well below the ten-year average of 87. Cooper's hawk count of 29 was below the ten-year average of 45. The red-shouldered hawk count was well off last year's number of 52. Only 13 red-shouldered hawks were recorded this spring. The red-tailed hawk count was 144, again below the ten-year average of 234. The broad-winged hawk total of 307 was near the ten-year average of 290.

Falcons had mixed results. Only 4 American kestrels were recorded versus a ten-year average of 14. The merlin count was 4, matching the ten-year average. Peregrine falcons numbered 12 and tied the season record of year 2000.

The golden eagle (GE) flight was 89 for the season. The first migrant was recorded on the first day of the count, February 15 and the last GE migrant was recorded on May 5. In February, five were recorded over five separate dates; March had 81 GEs over 11 separate dates; April only 1 GE migrated; May 2 GEs over 2 separate dates.

Rosemary McGlynn was the counter on April 29, 2020. The morning presented with moderate wind from the south-east and with it the usual curse of SE wind—dense fog. The sky opened at 10:45 EST and the migration flight ensued. The wind increased to 20-30 mph for the rest of the day with 17 km visibility and 70%-100% cloud cover. The total raptor count for the day was 192. Seven Peregrine falcons broke the single day record of three set on April 26, 2000. Fifteen bald eagles passed northward with as many as 6 overhead at one time. Ospreys numbered 51, tying the third best daily record. Three merlins migrated, contributing to the season total of 4. Rounding out the flight were sharp-shinned hawks, broad-winged hawks, Cooper's hawks, and red-tailed hawks.

The season would not have been a success without the effort of our dedicated counters. Our counters for this year include Debbie Bodenschatz, Erica Bowman, Ed Gowarty, Sr., Rosemary McGlynn, Dave Poder, Jim Rocco, Bob Stewart, and Brian Wargo.



BMW

Bob Gorsuch Remembrance

By Brian M. Wargo

Bob Gorsuch is a founding member of the APAS and long-time hawkcounter at the AFHW. He passed on March 19, 2020, but Covid-19 did not allow observance with others. Therefore, on June 13, 2020 APAS



BMW

members met Bob's family at Bob's favorite place, the hawk watch, a day after his 82nd birthday for a remembrance. Pictures from top right moving clockwise: Bob Gorsuch at the stump; Brian stands next to the famous box that was made by Bob as he reads a few passages that describe this veteran hawkwatcher; Members of the APAS and fellow hawkwatchers remember Bob; The Gorsuch family celebrates Bob's birthday (one day late) at the hawk watch; Meadow plays Taps to honor Bob.



Photo courtesy of Gorsuch Family



BMW



Jeanine Ging



BMW

Brown-headed Cowbirds

By Tom Kuehl

While Brown-headed Cowbirds do over-winter in Pennsylvania, the male in the attached photo that is visiting a feeder is likely an early season migrant. Brown-headed Cowbirds winter across the southern United States and Central America, and breed in the northeast and central US and southeastern and southcentral Canada, and more broadly in western states and into the Canadian northwest. Brown-headed Cowbirds that are widely tallied for Pennsylvania Audubon Christmas Bird Counts are often found at dairy farms, where they are, like European Starlings and English House Sparrows, taking advantage of scraps available among feeding cows.

Historically ornithologists think that Brown-headed Cowbirds were once restricted to the Great Plains and followed the American Bison herds as they provided feeding opportunities as the bison churned the thick prairie sod and disturbed the soil. Brown-headed Cowbirds are brood parasites, which means that they lay their eggs in the nest of another species and play no part in raising their young. While they could have been pre-adapted to this strategy, it has been hypothesized that cowbirds developed brood-parasitic



BMW



Photo by Tom Kuehl

breeding habits as they needed to follow wandering Bison herds to feed. Whichever is the case, the fragmentation of the largely forested habitat of the eastern North America has provided the opportunity for Brown-headed Cowbirds to expand into that area, and so cowbirds are now reported to parasitize more than 200 species, so in Pennsylvania they are laying eggs in the nests of our native flycatchers, thrush, sparrows and warblers.

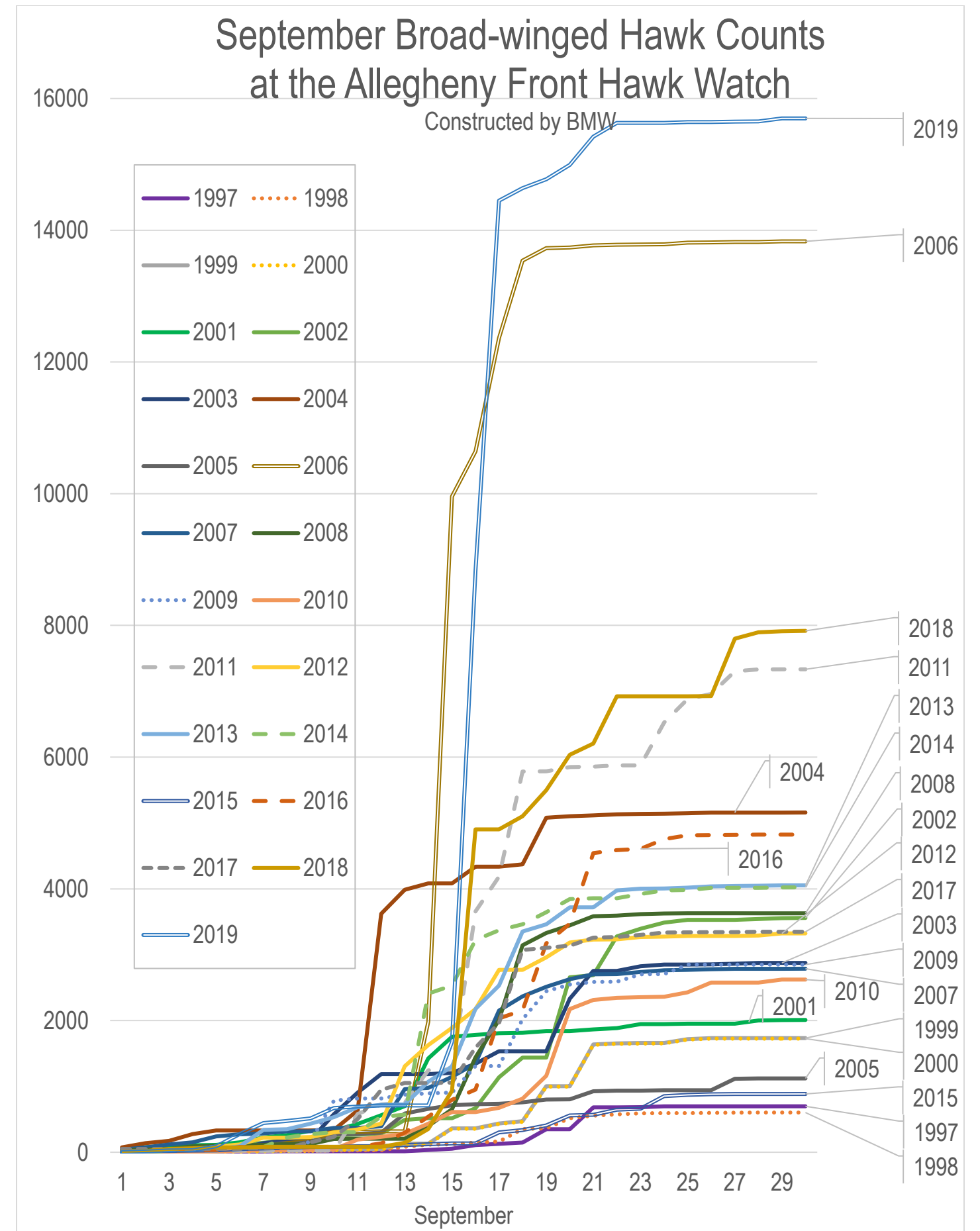
Smaller bird species are negatively impacted by the Brown-headed Cowbird as their larger nestling out-compete the smaller species. In Michigan, management for the once critically threatened Kirtland's Warbler included removal of cowbird eggs (and cowbirds) to bring this very habitat-specific species back from a path towards extinction. As a threat to so many appealing species the Brown-headed Cowbird is widely disliked among birders, much like the invasive European Starling and English House Sparrow; however, it is native species and its impact is more about human-induced habitat changes than about this bird. References: David Allen Sibley Guides to Birds and to Bird Life & Behavior

Big Broad-winged Hawk Days

By Brian M. Wargo

Hawkwatchers love big Broad-winged Hawk days and trying to predict when that big flight will happen is a favorite pastime at most hawk sites. To help increase your chances of getting the next prediction correct, look at the last 23-fall seasons at Allegheny Front Hawk Watch in the data table below. The dark blocks are the five biggest days for each year with the darkest block of these being the biggest day that year. The graph on the opposite page also shows the rate at which each year gets to its total. Notice that last fall was our best year with September 16, 2019 being the highest single-day count for this species in Allegheny Front's history with 7154 Broad-winged Hawks. Will 2020 top 2019? No one knows, but I suspect everyone will have an opinion on this subject. I also suspect that most of us will be wrong. Either way, I am looking forward to it!

Top Five Broad-winged Hawk Counts at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch for Each September																						Constructed by BMW	
Day	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	5	12	8		44	0	0	74	6	3	41	30	7	5	4	18	0	5	13	1	50	3	0
2	1	0	1	1	32	8	0	62	18		32	12	14	0		0	14	1	6	14		17	13
3	1	2	8	8	24	30	0	38	13	4	45	10	5	4	21	12	17	12	1	11	0	30	15
4	1	1	2	2	5	6	7	102	24	29	33	38	13	0	1	7	8	29	6	5	1	10	3
5	2	0			7	16	3	53	32	1	89	10	8	4	0	48	7	16	2	2		13	57
6	0	7	1	1	39	53	46	0	13	6	33	1	10	10		34	44	0	21	45	0	0	187
7	1	0	2	2	72	31	83	1	3	12	14	11	0	7		102	251	18	7	0	12	9	168
8	3		6	6	36	43	41		35	83	32	14	0	2	0		8	142	12	2	4		31
9	0	0	2	2	69	24	6	0	11	38	0	0	102	3		11	83	53	11	1	82		39
10		3	8	8	3	47	393	11	116	136	50	77	626	9	0	71	101	28		2	86		159
11		2	9	9	99	12	329	294	8		0	1	31	147	554	43	150		15	1	270	2	21
12	1	3	5	5	132	11	278	2986	19	7	25			43	146	89	37	237	0	49	443	0	16
13	1	53	78	78	137	210	0	364	290	0	564	0	57	45	23	869	5	28	13	164	102	59	
14	18	31	0	0	727	27	1	97	72	1661	20	195	21	153	494	324	346	1841	14	243	1	209	0
15	19	8	234	234	328	0	18	0	54	7978	168	252	11	179	14	260	230	121	13	256	6	579	968
16	57	24			27	150	139	254	16	685	204	789	404		2400	287	877	692	0	156	531	3973	7154
17	18	17	73	73	27	469	189		5	1720	803	570		63	527	596	353	148	169	1079	374		5617
18	19	191	35	35	7	299	1	37	24	1176	215	1133	710	140	1596		820	89	35	124	1109	197	191
19	204	10	532	532	23	0	0	706	41	190	145	186	426	347	5	188	111	185	69	1015	32	397	135
20	0	153	0	0	0	1222	797	22	4	8	116	117	101	1012	65	225	256	199	153	301	34	538	218
21	329	38	634	634	28	31	422	14	121	34	72	138	41	139	6	45	0	14	10	1072	120	170	429
22	1	20	16	16	19	589	1	16	10	8	3	9	3	34	19	4	259	0	76	44	12	716	209
23	3	16	5	5	60	115	70	5	2	5	33	23	113	9		36	25	63	16	19	30	0	1
24	12	2	1	1		95	25	4	5	1	26	9	3	7	650	4	3	55	189	149	37		0
25	0	0	58	58	6	42	0	6	1	28	8	2	143	66	355	12	13	5	20	57	3		12
26	0	6	15	15	2		3	10		2	8			147	77	0	19	35	10	5	3	4	0
27	0	3	0	0	0		11	0	173	6	5				346	0	8	0	3	1	0	873	7
28	0	1	0	0	47	11	12		5	0	0	1	0	1	28	7	2	0	0	5	6	97	3
29	2	0	0	0	6	13	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	46	2	30	5	4			0	15	45
30	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	6	0



Revamping alleghenyplateauaudubon.org

By Jeanine Ging

The APAS will be working toward creating a new website over the upcoming months. The old site will still be in place until completion and the transition will be smooth. The new site will provide us with the opportunity to upload information quicker and we are hoping to have a section with more photos and videos. More up to date information such as weather conditions, closures, and events will be easier to access. Please keep in mind that we also have a Facebook page, a Twitter account, and email blasts for those that have provided an email address. Look to any of these areas for information and updates as well.

Workdays at the Hawkwatch

By Theo Ging-Wargo

Recently my dad has been up at the hawk watch cutting the hill...so, I thought that if I was going up too, then I might as well work on the hill with him. Well, I found out that it is way harder than you might think. If it is hot, then it is brutal, especially in long sleeves. Plus, the fact that you are on a big hill picking up rocks and putting them in piles so that they do not destroy the lawnmower is not fun. After standing all day on the hill, your ankles hurt.

One way you could help me is when you are done using rocks for your scope stand is to put them on one of the big rock piles. That way, I will not have to walk in front of the mower and move them.

I also tried using the weed-wacker on the days I was working, but they are too big for my height and are too heavy to hold. I also tried the lawnmower on the flat section of the field, but it is still a little too big for me.

Here are a few other people that were helping with mowing the grass – the top part of the field. We are all taking a break.



Top: I remove all rocks and stumps from the hillside in front of the mower.

Above: Bob, Ed, and I take a break

Memorial Day Bird Outing

By Bob Stewart

This Memorial Day Bob Stewart and Dave Poder visited the Beaverdale Sportsmen's Association (BSA) for a bird outing. Through the generosity of the BSA and Adam Katrancha, the APAS has held several events at the site over the last two years. On this day, the birding started in the pond area. We noticed red-wing blackbirds with fledglings in trees around the perimeter. There were a few cedar waxwings in an apple tree eating the apple blossoms. Dave was able to get some great quality shots.

We proceeded to the cerulean warbler habitat area, which is a managed area surrounded by fence for deer control. Neither of us had been inside the fence previously, and we were delighted to see so many species including several warbler species this late in May. Our observations included at least 35 chestnut-sided warblers. Our attention, however, was steered to the three separate sightings of a yellow-bellied sapsucker. After reaching the end of the fenced area, we exited and traveled alongside the outside of the fence.

The outing was five-hours in duration. We counted over thirty-five species with the inside of the fence being the most productive. Species of note include ovenbird, magnolia warbler, black-throated green warbler, black-throated blue warbler, American redstart, indigo bunting, hermit thrush, wood thrush, blue-headed vireo, phoebe, least flycatcher, song sparrow, towhee, junco, pileated woodpecker, and others. As always, a visit to the BSA is always enjoyable. We plan to have weekly bird walks next spring if BSA will have us. I hope to see you there.



Dave Poder Captures the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Covid Workdays

By Brian M. Wargo

Workdays at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch are as social as they are about getting the work done. Everyone is eager to help and to mingle. To be honest, these are some of the most memorable and most fun days with the APAS. However, with lockdowns and social distancing, these communal workdays are becoming much smaller events. Usually just a few members are present, and work is accomplished while trying to maintain distance.

The picture below exemplifies this work. Adam Katrancha has been beautifying the hawkwatching sign and making it easier to approach by laying gravel and placing rocks he cut at home around the base. Ed Gowarty Sr. inspects the work and leaves Adam to continue alone.

This may be the way we handle work at the APAS during this corona pandemic. Hopefully, we can get back to working more closely...soon.



The hawkwatching sign was moved last summer, but already the site is being upgraded.

Adam Katrancha Brings Conservationists Together

By Brian M. Wargo



Adam Katrancha succeeded in another one of his plans to bring conservationist together through an early morning excursion held at Beaverdale Sportsmen's property on Saturday, June 6, 2020. While the activity seems like a beautiful walk in the woods, those represented at the event are a who's-who of conservations, making the outing more like an informal conference.

After being isolated for most of the spring, the excited group was more talkative than usual when looking for wildlife. Everyone was jovial and excited by walking next to the specialists around them, carefully listening to what they were saying. With so much expertise on tap, it was hard not to ask questions or get immersed in the discussion.

During lunch at the pavilion, Tammy Colt, Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Biologist delivered a talk about restoring and reclaiming land parcels. She was forced to speak louder than usual because the group spread out to keep separated. Regardless, everyone was close enough to hear and everyone had something to contribute.



Top: The group wanders through managed habitat.
Bottom: Laura Jackson show how to identify a pickerel frog.



Above: Informal stream surveying indicates a healthy stream.
Below: The excursion found a nest of eggs hidden in the ferns.



Mask Wearing at the Hawk Watch is not Political

by Brian M. Wargo

Everyone has a political view, but the hawkwatching endeavor is apolitical. Viewing hawks is a way to connect with nature while counting hawks is about gathering data for scientific studies. Unfortunately, meaning is ascribed to all actions in this politically charged era. However, when dealing with a potentially deadly infectious disease, it is important to know the difference.

Science is an iterative process of forming explanations using data and evidence, and scientists develop models to understand and predict future events. As reliable and verifiable knowledge (commonly called scientific facts) increases, the original models are modified and refined to best reflect that new knowledge. This process is typical for science and should not be misconstrued as science being unreliable, but instead should give us confidence that science is continually getting more and more correct. Politics is often the opposite, where viewpoints are the starting point, and emotional statements are arranged in a manner to persuade people to agree with one's preconceived notions.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is continually updating its recommendations for Covid-19 as more scientific studies are reviewed; however, the main transmission of the virus is known to be respiratory droplets from an infected person getting into the body of an uninfected person. This mostly occurs when droplets are expelled from the infected person by speaking, sneezing, coughing, or just breathing heavily and are then inhaled or land on any vulnerable mucus membranes of an uninfected person.

It is also possible that the droplets can land other places (hands, pencils, computer mouse, etc.) and then get transferred to the eyes, nose, or mouth, thereby providing a pathway into the body. While many young and healthy people are able to successfully battle the infection, the probability of the body not being successful increases with age and is compromised by other health conditions.

When speaking, small droplets are launched into the air from the mouth. As speaking force increases, more droplets are expelled and travel farther. In humid conditions with stagnant air, these droplets tend to fall to the ground, with most droplets doing so directly in front of the speaker. Fewer droplets travel farther, and even fewer travel even farther than those. This means that as distance increases, the number of droplets decreases. Therefore, the farther away you are from someone, the less likely you are to encounter one of those droplets.



A Cedar Waxwing always wears a mask.

Masks that are worn over the nose and mouth tend to catch many of the droplets expelled by the wearer and greatly diminish the number that can potentially reach others. While the CDC recommends standing six feet from one another, hawk sites have an additional variable...wind. How the wind at a hawk watch affects the movement of droplets is not clear at this point. An obvious concern is being downwind from someone that is potentially infected.

Because there are many unknowns with this current virus, and the demographic of hawkwatchers tends to be older, many hawk sites are very concerned with continuing their counts. One factor that hawkcounters want to avoid is policing the public, which is distracting to the counter and ruins the positive vibe of a hawk site. To help remedy this, here are some guidelines to follow.

Before traveling to a hawk watch, check your state's policy for travel restrictions. If your state guidelines recommend staying at home, then please do so! Next, check to see if the hawk site is open to the public. While the site may be counting hawks, they may not want visitors. If the site has rules or procedures, please read them. And it should go without saying, that if you feel sick or have a high temperature, do not go to the hawk site. Also understand that while the probability is low, dogs may be able to spread the virus. Either keep your dog at home or keep them leashed.

When you arrive at a hawk site, be sure to respect all the rules...all the time. It is uncomfortable for everyone when infractions are committed. Always wear a mask and maintain a distance of at least six feet from one another, and if possible, stay even farther apart. Respect the work of the counter and do not enter their space or touch their equipment. If a visitor section is designated, stay there and model social distancing. If using the portable sanitation facility, please use disinfecting wipes on the door handles after you leave. And of course, use hand sanitizer every time you use the facility if soap and water is not available. Doing so publicly also removes any doubt from the others at the site.



A Red-eyed Vireo wonders if it safe to come out during the pandemic.

By following these guidelines, we not only decrease the chances of getting sick or infecting others, but may increase the likelihood of sites opening to the public. If infractions occur and safety is compromised, then we should expect more hawk watches to close to the public. It is up to us to keep everyone safe and not to fall for divisiveness that is spreading faster than the virus. If done correctly, hawkwatching might be one of the lower-risk activities that brings some normalcy to a trying time.

Allegheny Front Hawk Watch Welcomes All Birders

By Jeanine Ging

If you share a love of birding and the outdoors, please come share a day with us at Allegheny Front Hawk Watch. If you are new to birding, the Allegheny Front offers great views and birders with years of experience that they are willing to share their knowledge. Folks are welcome to come in when the gate is open to experience the sky and raptors. We are hoping to open mid-August for the fall migration, although regulations may be put into place due to Covid. Summer events are being planned for all to join. For any upcoming events please check the website, Facebook, or Twitter prior to attending for regulations or cancellations due to weather or Covid.

Membership and Donations

The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society relies on memberships, donations, and volunteerism to remain a viable organization that conserves, educates, and spreads joy through encounters with nature. Please continue to support the APAS. Visit our website and search membership or donations.

More Dave Poder Pictures



An Ovenbird is excited to see a close-up view of the Long-tailed Weasel.

Outings, Meetings, and Events

As with all outings, presentations, walks, meetings, talks, etc., always check the APAS website, the Facebook site, or the twitter account for updates or cancelations before leaving home at www.alleghenyplateauaudubon.org.

July 19, 2020 – N.A.B.A. Butterfly Count - Just like hawk counting, except with butterflies! Because of Covid-19 team counts are discouraged. If you are interested in participating, please contact Deb Bodenschatz at deb4nba@gmail.com. If you have counted before, please include your proposed count area. Our count area is in Bedford County.

July 25, 2020 – Kittatinny Roundtable - Regional hawkwatchers meet at Hawk Mountain to discuss spring and fall counts as well as view talks on hawkwatching. This year will be on a Zoom meeting and everyone is welcome. All you will need is the link that will be posted soon. Please email wargo@apas@gmail.com if you plan on participating.

July 26, 2020 – APAS Annual Meeting - Pavilion # 7 at Shawnee State Park. The meeting starts at 11:00 a.m. and will last one hour. Members have a chance to bring up anything they would like to discuss.

July 26, 2020 – APAS Summer Picnic - Pavilion # 7 at Shawnee State Park. Due to Covid, we will not have communal food this year. Everyone is to bring their own food, drink, and a chair. We will eat at noon and practice social distancing. There is no trash-to-treasure auction this year.

August 8, 2020 - Workday at the hawkwatch. Details will be forthcoming.

August or September – Astronomy night at the hawkwatch. Bring your binoculars, spotting scope, or telescope to the hawkwatch for a night of sky watching. Wayne Sierer will lead the event, but everyone is welcome to share their expertise.

August 15, 2020 – Fall Hawkwatching Begins- The hawkwatch resumes regular counting. Please check the site for information pertaining to updated Covid restrictions. Rules will be posted before opening!

September 1, 2020 – Membership Dues - The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society relies on memberships, donations, and volunteerism to remain a viable organization that conserves, educates, and spreads joy through encounters with nature. Please continue to support the APAS. Membership runs from September 1st through August 31st. If your membership has lapsed or you would like to join the APAS, please visit the membership tab on our website. Please also consider donating to the APAS. Visit the Donation tab on our website.

October–November 2020 - Owl Banding – Check the social media sites for details as the season get closer.

October 15, 2020 – A.P.A.S. Meeting at U.P.J. - 7 P.M. – Speaker is Kate St. John with a program on peregrine falcons.