



BULLETIN

SUMMER 2025



BIRDING
AND TECH

OUR STAFF

Jim Bonner, *Executive Director*
Brian Shema, *Operations Director*
Rachel Handel, *Communications Director*
Chris Kubiak, *Education Director*
Betsy Monroe, *Finance & Administration Director*
Karen Stein, *Butler Centers Director*

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

Tim Byan, *Whetzel Land Steward*
Scott Detwiler, *Environmental Educator*
Samantha Ditch, *Retail Manager*
Gabrielle Hughes, *Environmental Educator*
Dan Mendenhall, *Facility Steward*
Genevieve Riedel, *Native Plant Nursery Technician*
Katelynn Rothwell, *Nature Store Associate*
Nick Stahlman, *Wildlife Habitat Educator*
Roxanne Swan, *Plant Center Coordinator*

SUCCOP NATURE PARK

Steve Antoszyk, *Facility Steward*
Larissa Cassano-Hamilton, *Center Coordinator*
Karla Geisler, *Rental Coordinator*
Ryan Stauffer, *Environmental Educator*

BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK & TODD NATURE RESERVE

Abigail Harbison, *Retail Sales Associate*
Nelson Milano, *Watershed Coordinator*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Pashek, *President*
Dr. Burhan Gharaibeh, *Treasurer*
Nancy Magee, *Secretary*
Byron Black
Natalie Boydston
Jason Davidek
Joy Dress
Dr. Rohan Ganguli
John Hilderbrand
Grace Lim-Clark
Fred Peterson
Gwil Price
Doug Roth

DIRECTOR EMERITI

Tingle Barnes
Dotty Beckwith
Dan Fales
Nancy Fales
Betsey Owens
Paul g Wiegman

  AudubonWesternPA

BULLETIN

SUMMER 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

OUR RESERVES.....	2
THIS AUDUBON VIEW.....	3
BIRDING AND TECH.....	4
ASWP NEWS.....	5
SUMMER PROGRAM SCHEDULE.....	6
ASK THE NATURALIST.....	10
MEMORIALS + HONORS.....	11
AUDUBON NATURE STORES.....	12

OUR RESERVES

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Audubon Nature Store & Native Plant Nursery / Dogs not permitted on trails

BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055
Audubon Nature Store / Dogs on leash are welcome

SUCCOP NATURE PARK

185 W. Airport Road in Penn Township, Butler, PA 16002
Audubon Nature Store / Dogs on leash are welcome

TODD NATURE RESERVE

367 Kepple Road, Sarver, PA 16055
No restrooms or other facilities / Dogs not permitted on trails

Accessibility Information: For accessibility needs or questions about any of our sites, please contact Brian Shema at (412) 963-6100 or at bshema@aswp.org. For accessibility needs or questions about any of our programs, please contact Chris Kubiak at (412) 963-6100 or ckubiak@aswp.org. All other questions regarding accessibility or inclusion can be directed to Jim Bonner at (412) 963-6100 or jbonner@aswp.org.

Cover image: *Black-throated Green Warbler* by Dan Mendenhall



The Bulletin is published four times a year by Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh PA 15238-1618. Address correspondence to Rachel Handel, Editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject all copy. The Bulletin is received as a membership benefit. Nonmember subscriptions are \$9.00 per year. For membership, subscriptions, or address change, contact ASWP. Printed on recycled paper.



THIS AUDUBON VIEW

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Change is Changeless.

For many years we had a section in the Bulletin called “Change is Changeless”. It highlighted everything from bird migration to seasonal plant development, seasonal transitions, or some other natural change in the environment. I’m harkening back to that section now to highlight something a little more personal. After more than 21 years at Audubon Society of Western PA, I’ve decided that it is time for me to retire. Working at ASWP has been a dream job, with highly competent staff members, a talented board, a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, and visitors who are almost family. And you couldn’t ask for a better place to have an office than Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve!

I’ve been asked what parts of my job I like the most. Although the list is long, one of my favorite activities has been signing membership and donation acknowledgments. Names that go back decades and feel like friends by now—even though I have not met many of you in person. Over my time here, I estimate that I have signed my name over a quarter of a million times on membership cards and renewals, donation thank you letters, and tribute gift acknowledgments. Each time, I sign with deep appreciation for the trust and support you’ve placed in all of us here at ASWP.

ASWP’s Board of Directors has put together a search committee and engaged an executive search firm to help hire my replacement. I have said that I will stay on as long as it takes to identify my replacement and assist with any transition. Until then, I look forward to seeing (and writing) you a few more times.

Warm regards,

—Jim

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

OPENING DAY SALE!

SATURDAY, MAY 10
9AM–5PM

AT BEECHWOOD FARMS
NATURE RESERVE
614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel

Get discounts on native plants that attract birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects to your backyard! ASWP members receive 20% off and non-members 10% off. Choose from over 100 species of true western Pennsylvania perennials, trees, and shrubs.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

BIRDING AND TECH

The abundance of new birding tech might make some long-time birdwatchers feel like beginning birders again. Gone are the days of carrying the (slightly larger than pocket-sized) Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds. Instead, new and seasoned birders alike are using a variety of apps that serve as electronic versions of the old paper field guides. A few of these apps have revolutionized how we record sightings, track our life lists, and identify birds.

The two most widely utilized apps come to us from The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. eBird, released in 2002, has become the premier platform for recording bird observations worldwide. Merlin, a more recent release, helps users identify birds through a number of onboard tools which are based on eBird information and technology. Let's take a deeper look at these two tools.

EBIRD

The purpose of eBird is to serve as a database of shared bird observations. Birders log their sightings through the use of checklists. Each checklist records the species seen, the number of individuals per species, the location and the date and time of the observations. Users can use the mobile app while they are in the field, or they can enter their data to the website when they get home. The use of eBird increases annually, therefore the amount of data is constantly increasing. All of that data is then available as an account of the individual birder's findings, as well as a searchable database that can play an important role in planning where to go birding, or what birds to look for. So, what does this mean for the average birder?

- Through the submission of checklists, eBird automatically records a birder's life list and maps all of the locations that they have gone birding. In fact, by using a combination of the two, eBird is capable of listing all of the birds they've seen in a county, state, region, or even in their own backyard!
- As all of the checklists are amassed, the platform is able to provide very accurate range maps for species throughout the world. If a birder plans to travel, a simple search can uncover where they might find a species of interest to them. The most recent sightings of any given species is even shown as a different color, so a birder can make real-time decisions based on the most recent information.



Belted Kingfisher

- The most popular birding locations become "hotspots" and all checklists submitted for each hotspot help to define the birds most likely to be seen at these locations. This feature offers another layer of information to those wanting to visit a new location.

MERLIN

Merlin has been developed to assist in the identification of birds that are being seen or heard. Merlin draws from the incredible resources of eBird to suggest possible species based on what is being reported. A recording tool provides users with an opportunity to use the microphone on their device to record what they are hearing. The app simultaneously compares what is being recorded to a library of bird sounds to suggest a match. Machine learning ensures that the app is continually improving and becoming more accurate in its identification suggestions. So, how does this app benefit new or existing birders?

- The onboard step-by-step identification tools enable users to accurately learn what bird they are seeing through simple descriptions like size, shape, color and behavior.
- The explore function is the electronic version of a field guide. It is searchable by shape (duck-like, raptor-like, heron-like, sparrow-like etc.) and offers users a complete description of the species and a range map. But unlike traditional field guides, the description of the species' song and calls are left out and replaced with a catalog of sounds that can be played on the device.
- A photo option allows the user to take or upload a photo of a bird for identification. The app compares the provided photo with a library of images to offer possible matches.

· Finally, the recording tool, probably the most well-known feature of the app, offers users the ability to record their surroundings and get real-time suggestions of what is around them. Not sure what bird is making that song? You can record it while using Merlin and it'll immediately tell you the most likely candidate.

Through these technologies, the field guides of the past have become fully integrated into the digital era and offer very usable tools to beginners and advanced birders alike. Armed with many years of records, photos and recordings, these tools provide a more complete way of learning and understanding the birds around you. However, it is important to note that these are intended to be used as tools. They are not intended to replace the inquisitive, explorative learning process that is birdwatching. Don't let yourself fall into the trap of being reliant on eBird's ability to tell you where to find birds, or Merlin's ability to identify what is being heard. Instead, allow them to help you learn to become a better birdwatcher.

TIPS FOR USING MERLIN

When using Merlin, be sure to enable "location services" on your device and download and use the appropriate bird pack. These steps will greatly improve the experience you have and the suggestions received.

When given a suggestion from Merlin, compare the suggestion with other resources that are available. If the suggested species does not match what you find, talk with others and/or call Audubon for advice.

Remember, when using Merlin as a recording device, it will record everything it hears, including conversations. Announce to others that you intend to record before doing so.

ASWP NEWS

CERTIFIED BACKYARD HABITAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Your backyard is your sanctuary, and we can help you to make it a beneficial location for birds, insects, butterflies, and animals through the Certified Backyard Habitat Program. We'll work with you to conduct a site visit and create a list of plants that would be best suited to the space. Learn more and register at aswp.org.

ASWP AWARDED AGRICULTURE INNOVATION GRANT

ASWP is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a \$40,000 Agriculture Innovation grant from the PA Dept. of Agriculture. This grant will help fund efficiency and expansion efforts at our native plant nursery. First opened in 2000, the Audubon Center for Native Plants continues to "Grow!" Last year, over 18,000 western PA native perennials, shrubs, and trees made their way from our nursery into backyard habitats, outdoor classrooms, and municipal greenspaces.

PA MASTER NATURALIST & ASWP PROGRAM

ASWP has teamed up with the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist program to offer an opportunity to become a certified Master Naturalist in Butler County. This class series starts on August 14 and runs until October 30, 2025. The classes will take place Thursday evenings at Succop Nature Park and will include four Saturday fieldtrips. Visit pamasternaturalist.org to learn more!

BIRD TOWN PENNSYLVANIA

We are excited to announce that there are now 11 Bird Towns in western Pennsylvania! Gold Level Bird Towns: Fox Chapel; Silver Level: Avalon, Freeport, and Swissvale; Bronze Level: Dormont; and Green Level: Bellevue, Clinton, Millvale, Pine, Tarentum, and Wilkinsburg. ASWP oversees the Bird Town program in our area and helps municipalities to create bird-friendly habitat that benefits wildlife and people! Interested in your town becoming a Bird Town? Learn more about the Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Green Levels and how to engage your municipality, at aswp.org.

SUCCOP NATURE PARK MEADOW RESTORATION

If you've been to Succop Nature Park recently, you've likely noticed our "Habitat Enhancement in Progress" signage. We seeded a one-acre meadow recently and things are starting to pop up! Visit throughout the next two years to see the dramatic changes of an early meadow. This project was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Our website, aswp.org, is brand new! Visit it to register for programs and learn about birds, nature, our programs, and ways that you can get involved with ASWP!

SUMMER

PROGRAM SCHEDULE



Great Crested
Flycatcher

REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS AT ASWP.ORG OR CALL (412) 963-6100

Programs take place at **Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR)**, **Buffalo Creek Nature Park (BCNP)**, **Succop Nature Park (SNP)**, **Todd Nature Reserve (TNR)**, or online via Zoom. Select programs take place at **Renzie Park (RP)** in McKeesport and **Freeport Community Park (FP)** in Freeport. Register for programs online at aswp.org or call (412) 963-6100.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Native Plant Nursery Spring Sale

Saturday, May 10, 9am–5pm / BFNR

During our Spring Sale, we'll have a wide selection of true western Pennsylvania native perennials, shrubs, and trees available—and our staff will be on hand to help you choose the right native plants for your yard. An extra 10% discount will be offered—that's 20% off for ASWP members and 10% off for non-members. Can't make it on the sale date? Native plants will be available for purchase at the Beechwood Nature Store through October.

Spring Eco-Market

Saturday, May 24, 10am–4pm / BCNP

Join us for our annual spring Eco Market featuring local vendors who specialize in a variety of media and styles, all with a focus on birds and nature. Their work is created with recycled, reclaimed or repurposed materials, or natural elements such as wood or wool. Discover works on paper, wearables, home goods & much more! The list of participating vendors is available at aswp.org. Free.

Mini Birding Camp For Adults

Wednesday–Friday, June 4–6, 8am–12pm

Summer camps aren't just for kids! During this 3-day camp, relive the joy of a summer outdoors! Gain knowledge of and appreciation for the birds in our region. And develop birding skills in the field by observing species alongside our expert guides and Master Birder graduates. Visit Buffalo Creek Nature Park, Moraine State Park, and Harrison Hills. Make it your summer to remember! \$100 per member; \$140 per nonmember.

Picnics in the Park

*Thursdays: June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11
6:30–8:30pm / SNP*

Pack a picnic and join us for our annual FREE summer concert series. There are tables and seating under the pavilion or bring a blanket and spread out on the lawn as you enjoy the nature park and local talent! Band list—June: Lost Boys, July: Max Schang Band, August: UpTown Classic Hits, September: Hawthorne Project. Free.

Wings, Water, & Wildlife Festival

Saturday, September 13, 10am–2pm / BCNP

What's a watershed? What makes this watershed an Important Bird Area? Join Audubon and the Buffalo Creek Coalition for answers! This festival is a family-friendly day of activities that celebrate clean waterways and their connections to a healthy environment. See an electrofishing demonstration (a non-lethal way to survey for fish), try your hand at casting a fly rod, and explore H2O! on the Go! Plus, check out our live bird ambassadors, make your own fish print, and create native seed paper and tie-dyed bandanas!

BIRDING HIKES

Birds & More Naturalist Led Morning Walks

*All walks begin at 9 am and are free to the public;
no walks on holidays.*

Buffalo Creek Nature Park: Tuesdays

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve: Wednesdays & Sundays

Succop Nature Park: Thursdays

Todd Nature Reserve: Fridays

Renzie Park: The first Friday of each month

Freeport Community Park: The first Friday of each month

Spring Migratory Bird Hikes

Saturday, May 17, 8–10am / BCNP & BFNR

Sunday, May 18, 8–10am / SNP

The birds know that Spring is here! Join us for a naturalist-led hike where we'll look for birds that are making their annual journeys north for the summer—including warblers, thrushes, tanagers, vireos, and orioles. Free for ASWP members, \$5 per nonmember. Registration required.

Fall Migratory Bird Hikes

Saturday, September 6, 9–11am / BFNR & SNP

Sunday, September 7, 9–11am / BCNP

There's a chill in the air—fall is coming and the birds know it! During this naturalist-led hike, we'll be looking for birds that are ready to make their way south for the winter. Free for ASWP members, \$5 per nonmember. Registration required.

NATURAL HISTORY ONLINE SERIES

Evolutionary Anachronisms

Wednesday, May 14, 7–8:30pm / Online

Just a few thousand years ago, most of our native megafauna went extinct. Before that time, plants had been evolving to adapt to these mighty creatures. We can still see these physical adaptations present in plants today. Learn to observe them on your next hike. Free.

Fern Identification

Thursday, June 19, 7–8:30pm / Online

There are over 60 species of ferns native to Pennsylvania—but learning to identify them is not as daunting as it seems, thanks to their many unique features. Take the first step towards becoming a fern expert during this online talk discussing fern life cycles, natural history, and ID characteristics for some common and uncommon species found in PA. Free.

Changes in the Land: Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Thursday, July 24, 7–8pm / Online

Based on the classic book *Changes in the Land* by William Cronon, this presentation follows the changes in ecosystems and land usage at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve over the past 300 years. From Native Americans to settlers, learn how people have changed the landscape at Beechwood. Free.

Climate Change: The Past, Present, and Future (Part 1)

Thursday August 14, 7–8:30pm / Online

Join us to discuss past climate change since the end of the Pleistocene, including the Medieval Warm period and the Little Ice Age. This is the first of a three part series that looks at the causes of past climate change, present-day change based on human activity, and future impacts on birds and ecosystems. Free.

Edible Native Plants: Backyard Fruit*

Saturday, August 23, 11am–12pm / Online

Did you know that some native plants are edible? Native Plants provide many delicious types of fruit that will grow in our home gardens. Learn about a variety of productive, easy to grow native edible plants as well as garden techniques that promote environmental stewardship including water-wise gardening, composting, and natural pest control. Free.

Nature Myth Busting

Thursday, September 18, 7–8:30pm / Online

Naturalist Myths are “facts” that knowledgeable nature lovers pick up—but they're actually misconceptions! Some of our favorites are the myths that plants get their energy directly from the sun, bees die when they sting you, or goldenrod does not cause allergies. Tune in to Nature Myth Busting to learn the rest of the story! Free.

LUNCH + LEARN ONLINE PROGRAMS

Spring Invasive Plant ID*

Wednesday, May 14, 12–1pm / Online

Is that plant growing at your garden edge a weed or something more? Join us as we discuss some of the invasive plant species popping up around the area. We'll learn how to identify them, potential confusion between species, and some of the physical control methods you can use to contain their spread. Free.

Create a Backyard Haven for Fireflies

Thursday, July 17, 12–1pm / Online

Discover how to turn your outdoor space into a sanctuary for fireflies! Explore the fascinating lives of fireflies and their crucial role in the ecosystem, then gain practical tips for creating a firefly-friendly backyard including landscaping ideas, reducing light pollution, and maintaining a healthy habitat. Free.



ECO-MARKET
@ Buffalo Creek
Nature Park

SHOP LOCAL ARTISTS AND
VENDORS OF NATURE-THEMED
ARTWORK & GOODS MADE FROM
RECYCLED & SUSTAINABLE
MATERIALS.

May 24, 2025
10 am - 4 pm

BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK
154 MONROE ROAD IN SARVER
VISIT ASWP.ORG TO LEARN MORE

*These programs are offered free of cost thanks to generous support from the Fox Chapel Garden Club.

KIDS + PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Fledglings Preschool Adventures (Ages 3-5)

Tuesdays: May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9 / SNP
Wednesdays: May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10 / BCNP
Thursdays: May 8, June 5, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11 / BFNR
All programs run 10–11:15am

Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. Fledglings programs incorporate stories, a walk, and activities to introduce new and fun nature themes to young participants. Themes—May: Trillium and Toadstools, June: Swimmy the Fish, July: Monarch Babies, August: Terrific Trees, September: Cricket Cacophony. Parent or caregiver must be present. \$4 per member; \$6 per nonmember.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Tataki Zome Workshop

Saturday, June 14, 11am–12pm / BFNR

Tataki Zome is an ancient Japanese natural dye technique of pounding plants to transfer natural pigments and create patterns on fabric. In this workshop, you'll learn how to prepare fabric, gather dye plants, pound plants, and create a final project to take home. Free for ASWP members; \$5 per nonmember.

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES

Tufted Titmouse Workshop

Saturday, August 9, 10am–12:30pm / BFNR

Late Summer Wildflower Workshop

Saturday, August 9, 1:30–4pm / BFNR

Immerse yourself in creative, beginner-friendly watercolor workshops led by Jes Reger Davis. Students will learn basic watercolor techniques and brushstrokes and are provided with materials, supplies, guidance, and a communal space to explore their creativity. Davis is a watercolorist and teaching artist from Wheeling, WV and a 2020 Tamarack Emerging Artist Fellow recipient whose work can be found in ASWP Nature Stores. Space is limited!



Marvelous Milkweed: Propagation from Seed*

Saturday, July 26, 11am–12:30pm / BFNR

Milkweed is the one and only plant monarch butterflies depend on for survival. Learn about this important plant and how to increase butterfly activity in your space using native plants like milkweed. Participants will visit the Native Plant Nursery for hands-on experience propagating milkweed from seed. Free.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Summer Nights and Fireflies

Saturday, June 28, 8–10pm / BFNR

Sunday, June 29, 8–10pm / SNP

Saturday, July 5, 8–10pm / BCNP

Did you know that some fireflies can synchronize their flashes? Or that others trick different fireflies and lure them to become an evening snack? Learn about our state insect and its interesting life, as well as how to count fireflies in your own backyard. We will start with a presentation then go outside to observe and count them as night falls. Free.

Monarchs & Milkweed

Saturday, July 19, 10–11:30am / BCNP & BFNR

Sunday, July 20, 2–3:30pm / SNP

Milkweed is a critically important source of Monarch Butterfly habitat and food. In this program, you will learn to identify all life stages of Monarchs in the field and how milkweed plays a role in each. We will also discuss Monarch conservation challenges, how participants can help by planting milkweed in their own backyards, and how to volunteer for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project. Free.

OUTDOORS 101

Full Moon Hike

Wednesday, July 9, 9–11 pm / BCNP

Enjoy a night under a full moon! Join us for a walk around Buffalo Creek Nature Park and the Butler-Freeport Trail. What might we hear? What can we see? Learn why hiking at night, or under a full moon, can be fun, and some tips for enjoying your time outside. Please, dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle. This program will be held weather permitting. It will be canceled in the event of heavy rain. Free for members; \$5 per nonmember.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Beautify Buffalo Creek

Wednesday, May 21, 10am–12pm / BCNP

Help us to check off our list of outdoor Spring tasks at Buffalo Creek Nature Park! Please wear light-colored long pants and long-sleeved shirt, light-colored socks, and sneakers or work boots; spray with insect repellent to repel ticks. Bring a hat, refillable water bottle, and work gloves if you have them. We welcome all participants, including children. Meet us at the pavilion and we'll get started.

Moth Nights!

Wednesday, July 23, 9–10:30pm / BFNR

Thursday, July 24, 9–10:30pm / BCNP

This is your annual reminder that it's Moth Week! Did you know that Pennsylvania is home to over 600 species of moths ranging from inconspicuous micro-moths to large silk moths? Join Audubon for a night of black lighting that begins with a short presentation then move outside to test various lighting techniques to attract moths. This event is intended for adults and children 10 or older, who must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please wear appropriate clothing and proper footwear for varying terrain. Registration required. Free for ASWP members; \$5 per nonmember.

Spore Explorers: A Fungi Foray

Saturday, September 13, 9am–11am / TNR

Saturday, September 13, 1–3pm / SNP

Saturday, September 20, 9am–11am / BFNR

Take an exciting adventure into the fascinating world of fungi! Discover the hidden treasures of the forest floor and learn about the vital role fungi play in our ecosystems. Guided by an expert naturalist, you'll explore local habitats to identify mushrooms, understand their life cycles, and uncover their ecological importance. This program is perfect for curious minds of all ages—whether you are a seasoned forager or just starting to learn about the wonders of fungi. Bring your sense of adventure and get ready to become a spore explorer! Free for ASWP members; \$5 per nonmember.

Native Plant Nursery: Behind the Scenes*

Saturday, September 13, 11am–12pm / BFNR

Ever wondered what goes on in the propagation of our native plants? Get a behind-the-scenes look at how we collect, clean, store, and sow native plant seeds—and the many ways we care for our plants as they grow. Participants will take home a variety of native seeds to start a pollinator garden. Free.

Fall into Phenology & Tree ID

Saturday, September 27, 10–11:30am / BCNP & BFNR

Sunday, September 28, 10–11:30am / SNP

Phenology is the study of the timing of biological events in plants and animals such as flowering, leafing, hibernation, reproduction, and migration. Gain insight on plant life cycle events (known as phenophases) in the classroom, then head outside for a tree ID hike. Free for ASWP members; \$5 per nonmember.

LOOKING TO OWN THE WORLD'S FIRST SMART BINOCULARS?

We can order them through Audubon Nature Stores! Check out Swarovski's AX Visio 10x32, AI-supported binoculars which combine outstanding Swarovski quality with digital intelligence. The identification function helps you to identify birds and other animal species at the touch of a button. Thanks to the revolutionary "share discoveries" function, you can immediately show your companion where you have seen an animal. Stop by our Beechwood Nature Store to compare all our optics options, we have recommendations no matter your budget! Don't forget ASWP Members receive 10% off their optics purchases. Call (412) 963-6100 to learn more.



SAVE THE DATE!

Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders

Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30pm

Duquesne University, Africa Room

Join us for an evening with Tiffany Kersten, who set out on a Big Year of birding to raise awareness for women's safety in the outdoors. She will lead us through the fear, empowerment, struggles, and healing that all played vital roles in the personal growth she experienced on this wild adventure. Find more information on our program calendar at aswp.org.

SQUIRREL-PROOF YOUR BIRDFEEDER

We know birdfeeders with AI cameras are all the rage—but they can also be tricky to squirrel-proof! Stop by our stores for baffles and other ways to deter squirrels at your smart feeders.



ASK THE NATURALIST

WHAT'S THE CURRENT THOUGHT ON USING RECORDED BIRD CALLS TO ATTRACT BIRDS?

We live in a world where recordings of bird songs are readily available through apps on our phones and devices. While these apps offer wonderful educational opportunities to those wanting to learn bird songs, these same apps offer an opportunity for birders to use the songs as playback—playing the song with the intention of luring a bird for a closer look.

Playback has its benefits. It can enable you to enjoy a new or secretive bird, or it can limit the amount of time you spend in area, reducing your overall presence. However, to be a responsible user, you should be aware of some possible unintended consequences.

Using playback in nature often results in a bird hearing the call, then pursuing what it believes to be a potential mate, competitor, or (if during the breeding season) intruder. This results in a bird responding to an unnatural scenario, expending energy and potentially exposing itself to threats. Worst case scenario, the responding bird makes itself vulnerable to a nearby predator or loses time that should be spent providing for its young.

To reduce possible unintended consequences of this technology, follow our recommendations in the box to the right.

While all of us desire the best views of birds, responsible birders enjoy nature in a respectful manner. Use of recordings may not seem significant to an individual, but the cumulative effect of everyone using playback could prove to be very real. By adhering to the guidelines above, we all can enjoy the benefits of the technology and ensure that our enjoyment of birds does not have a negative impact on their wellbeing.

IF USING PLAYBACK, WE RECOMMEND:

Know the Rules: Do not use playback where it is not allowed. Parks and reserves may not allow the use of recordings. National Parks prohibit the use of playback.

Know the Season: Do not use during the breeding season, and limit use during migration.

When You Do Use Playback, Keep it Brief: Play short segments with long pauses in between. This gives the bird time to act inquisitively between segments. Do not use for more than a few minutes in total. Discontinue use when you see the bird, especially if it seems agitated or stressed.

Minimize Volume: Remember that loud volume may scare the intended bird away from you and may confuse other birders in the area.

Pay Attention: Discontinue immediately if a bird appears distressed or agitated.

Be Aware of Others: If others are nearby, alert them that you are using playback, and discontinue use if you know they are using playback.

LOW-TECH TOOLS + INSPIRATION

Our Nature Stores carry low-tech, practical, and fun items for folks of all ages!



MEMORIALS + HONORS

MEMORIALS

Nancie Allen

Amy Brannock
Susan + Mark Carothers
Judy Columbus
Elizabeth Iademarco
Beatrice Milicia
James + Elaine Mings
Mr. + Mrs. George Steinacker

Stephen J. Botos

Lisa Botos

Gaye Burkett

Sarah Miedel

Mr. + Mrs. James O'Hara Denny III

Beth + Gus Succop

Robert L. Downey

Sandra Livingston

Joan Eiger Gottleib

Ellen Garbuny + Don Best

Tim Helsley

Barbara Munson

Patrick Kopnick

Julia + Robert Black

Jay + Carroll Labarth

Tingle + Richard Barnes

Russel Leslee

Betsey Owens

William McCrady, II

Andrea McCrady
William McCrady, III

Mary Louise McCune

Jeffrey Askam
Ellen + David DeNinno
Wendy + Pope McCorkle

Jan Morton

Anne Semmler

Charles "Carl" Srodes

Patricia Alhbrandt
Barb Amadio
Barb Amadio
Heath + Lisa Asbury
Barry Bassett
Dennis + Bernadine Bonessa
Ann Hughes Carey
Jay Carson
Philip Davidson
Dee Delaney
Judith Diven
Theresa Dozzi
Epic Metals Corporation
Nancy + Dan Fales
Amy + Dave Freeman
Dana + Richard Green
Todd Green
Jean Harbeck
Roseanne Harrison
Jean O. Houston
Marcia + Jay Iole
Robert Kaufmann +
Ellen Fuller Kaufmann
Beth Wainwright +
Russ Kemerer
Cheryl Kubelick
Maryellen Labik
Paul Mayercik + Joan Lakoski
Sibby + Duff McCrady
Ann + Richard Meyer
Penny + Bill Meyer
Amy, Tina + Sarah Mullins
Fritz Okie
Anne + Scott Reid
Paul A. Rossi
Molly Sauereisen
John + Winifred Schano
Jolie Schroeder

Charles "Carl" Srodes (cont.)

Kathy Selvaggi +
Donald Vigliotti
Ryan + Shannon Smith
Cecile Srodes
James + Judith Steiner
Kathryn Stephenson
Diana Thompson
Henry Rossi & Co.
Jamee + Thomas Todd
Missy Unkovic
Jane Verner
Kathy Wyda

Ruth Weir

George Weir

HONORS

Tingle Barnes

John Culbertson

Jim Bonner

Kathryn + Vincent Heintz

Daeora Cohen

Jillian Breit
Tara Mattes
Annie Mollova

Tom + Linda Evans

Karen Evans

Dennis + Bernie Evans

Karen Evans

Mark Henne

Jennifer Volek

Deborah Kalbleisch

Mary Jo Benedetti

Andrea McCrady

William McCrady, III

Mowry Park Pleasant Hills, PA

Bill Lipowcan

Betsey Owens

Arlene + William Gordon

Mowry Park

William Lipowcan

Gwil + Kathy Price

Ruth Ann Pastorius

David + Emily Scott

Lindsay Scott

Gregg Scott + Pam Cleary

Lindsay Scott

Alex + Cris Scott

Lindsay Scott

Robert Scott

Lindsay Scott

Alexis Sharrer

Lindsay Scott

Received as of March 31, 2025

AUDUBON

NATURE CAMPS

FOR KIDS AGES 5-18

SUMMER IS A TIME TO EXPLORE, HAVE FUN—AND LEARN ALONG THE WAY!

Camps take place at Beechwood Farms
Nature Reserve (Fox Chapel), Succop Nature
Park (Butler), and Buffalo Creek Nature Park
(Sarver). Register today at www.aswp.org
or by calling (412) 963-6100.



614 Dorseyville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1618

SHOP AUDUBON NATURE STORES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
ENJOY THE BIRDS THIS SUMMER!

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel / 412-963-6100

Tuesday–Sunday from 9am–5pm

Buffalo Creek Nature Park

154 Monroe Road in Sarver / 724-295-3589

Tuesday–Sunday from 9am–5pm

Succop Nature Park

185 W. Airport Road in Butler / 724-586-2591

Tuesday–Sunday from 9am–5pm

*Worm-eating
Warbler*

