**Spring Field Trips**

All Mountaineer Audubon field trips are free and open to anyone who is interested in attending. No birding experience is required, but a pair of binoculars will help. During these unusual times, we will be taking additional precautions that everyone is likely accustomed to by now. **Masks will be required** of all participants on our trips, and **social distancing** should be maintained. We will need to limit the number of participants on some of the trips this season, which are noted below; for these trips, we ask that interested participants preregister. Please don’t hesitate to contact Field Trip Coordinator Katie Fallon with questions about any of our trips: katie@accawv.org.

**March 13, 8am:** Cheat Lake Spring Waterfowl Trip. Join Mountaineer Audubon and trip leader Derek Courtney for a tour around Cheat Lake, one of West Virginia’s most productive areas for waterfowl viewing. The trip will involve minimal level-ground walking at most spots. Wind can make Cheat Lake quite cold on occasion, so participants should dress appropriately. We will meet at Ruby and Ketchy's restaurant in Cheat Lake at 8am and will drive to the locations. Participants may also arrive earlier at 7am if they wish to have breakfast at the same location. Preregistration not required for this trip. Leader: Derek Courtney.

**Mar. 26, 7pm:** Woodcock Walk at the West Virginia Botanic Garden. LeJay Graffious will lead a search for American Woodcocks displaying over the old reservoir from sunset to dusk. Come join us to witness this amazing spectacle. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. All ages. Sponsored by the West Virginia Botanic Garden. Preregistration is required; register online at www.wvbg.org.

**April 15, 7:30am:** Old Hemlock in Bru ceton Mills. Join LeJay Graffious for a monthly bird walk at Old Hemlock to watch the arrival of spring migrants and experience the breeding season develop. We will walk approximately two miles and stop at ten predetermined locations to census birds for three minutes. Contact LeJay for directions: lejay@oldhemlock.org.

**April 17, 8am:** Prickett’s Fort State Park. Meet at Visitor’s Ctr. Contact Prickett’s Fort 304-363-3030. Leader: Sue Olcott

**April 20, 7:30am:** WVU Core Arboretum. This local hotspot provides birders with the opportunity to see many Neotropical migrants during spring migration. Meet at the entrance to the arboretum. Pre-register by emailing Katie Fallon: katie@accawv.org. Leader: LeJay Graffious.

**April 24, 7:30am:** West Virginia Botanic Garden. Join trip leader Derek Courtney on this mostly flat walk through the garden’s habitats to look for spring migrants. Pre-registration is required; register online at www.wvbg.org. Leader: Derek Courtney.

**April 24, 8am:** Prickett’s Fort State Park. Meet at Visitor’s Ctr. Contact Prickett’s Fort 304-363-3030. Leader: Sue Olcott

**April 27, 7:30am:** WVU Core Arboretum. This local hotspot provides birders with the opportunity to see many Neotropical migrants during spring migration. Meet at the entrance to the arboretum. Pre-register by emailing Orion Metheny: waterfowler98@yahoo.com. Leaders: Zach Fowler and Orion Metheny.

**May 1, 8am:** Prickett’s Fort State Park. Meet at Visitor’s Ctr. Contact Prickett’s Fort 304-363-3030. Leader: Sue Olcott

**May 4, 7:30am:** WVU Core Arboretum. This local hotspot provides birders with the opportunity to see many Neotropical migrants during spring migration. Meet at the entrance to the arboretum. Pre-register by emailing Katie Fallon: katie@accawv.org. Leaders: Chris Rota and Larry Schwab.

**May 8, 7:30am:** Raven Rock Trail, Cooper’s Rock State Forest. Meet at the Raven Rock Trailhead for a hike to look (and listen) for Neotropical migrants. Wear sturdy shoes. Pre-register by emailing Katie Fallon: katie@accawv.org. Leader: Katie Fallon.

**May 11, 7:30am:** WVU Core Arboretum. This local hotspot provides birders with the opportunity to see many Neotropical migrants during spring migration. Meet at the entrance to the arboretum. Pre-register by emailing Katie Fallon: katie@accawv.org. Leaders: Chris Rota and LeJay Graffious.

**May 14–15, 6pm – 6pm:** Morgantown Birding Cup. See the article in this newsletter for details and more information.

**May 18, 7:30am:** WVU Core Arboretum. This local hotspot provides birders with the opportunity to see many Neotropical migrants during spring migration. Meet at the entrance to the arboretum. Pre-register by emailing Katie Fallon: katie@accawv.org. Leaders: Chris Rota and LeJay Graffious.

**May 20, 7:30am:** Old Hemlock in Bru ceton Mills. Join LeJay Graffious for a monthly bird walk at Old Hemlock to watch the arrival of spring migrants and experience the breeding season develop. We will walk approximately two miles and stop at ten predetermined locations to census birds for three minutes. Contact LeJay for directions: lejay@oldhemlock.org.

**June 6, 10am:** Young Birders’ Walk, West Virginia Botanic Garden. Young birders of all ages are welcome to join us on this flat, slow-paced walk on the garden's trails. Hosted by the West Virginia Young Birders Club. Register in advance: www.wvbg.org. Leader: Katie Fallon.

**June 12, 8am:** Preston County Backroads Birding. Meet at Bruceton Mills Park & Ride, just off I-68 Exit 23. LeJay Graffious will lead a day of four-wheeling and birding in Preston County. We will meet at the Park & Ride and caravan to Cranesville Swamp. From Cranesville we will use the Orr-Tannery Road (high clearance vehicles recommended) to the Screech Owl Brewery for lunch (if open). Email Katie Fallon to pre-register: katie@accawv.org. Leader: LeJay Graffious.

**June 17, 7:30am:** Old Hemlock in Bru ceton Mills. Join LeJay Graffious for a monthly bird walk at Old Hemlock to watch the arrival of spring migrants and experience the breeding season develop. We will walk approximately two miles and stop at ten predetermined locations to census birds for three minutes. Contact LeJay for directions: lejay@oldhemlock.org.

**July 15, 7:30am:** Old Hemlock in Bru ceton Mills. See June 17 Description