

## WV Mountain Bird Discovery Weekend at Blackwater Falls State Park, May 31 – June 2, 2024

*A wonderful way to experience and learn about WV's mountain birds in late spring!*

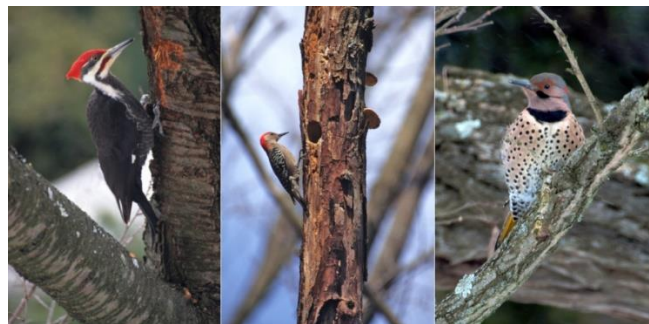
The main leaders at this birding weekend will be Bill Beatty and Jan Runyan.

**To register, call the Nature Center at Blackwater Falls State Park: 304-259-5511**

**Friday afternoon – Birds of Prey** – presented by Flying Higher. Jo Santiago, wildlife biologist and creator of Flying Higher, is dedicated to the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats. The experience of actually living with non-releasable permanently injured birds of prey 24/7 has provided Jo with unique insight into their world. Their individual personalities, behaviors, needs, idiosyncrasies, and body language are remarkably like our own. They have much to teach us. In learning about them, we learn much about ourselves. Jo will bring several of the birds she cares for.



**Friday evening – Woodpeckers of West Virginia** – There are 7 species of woodpeckers that can be found in West Virginia. Woodpeckers are highly specialized birds and their adaptations are remarkable. This visual and auditory program will highlight these adaptations and show how to identify them by sight and sound.



Left to right – Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Northern Flicker (Photos (c) Bill Beatty)

**Saturday field trip – Olsen Fire Tower/Fernow Experimental Forest Field Trip** – A host of warblers can be expected at the two outstanding areas we will visit on this field trip, including the following: Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Canada, Chestnut-sided, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Louisiana Waterthrush and Ovenbird. Also possible are Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler and several others. Expect to hear the beautiful songs of the Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush and Veery as well as many other birds.

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Mourning Warbler (Photo (c) Jan Runyan)

**Saturday evening** – **Birding Essentials for Everyone** – Birding is one of those special activities that can be enjoyed by anyone at any skill level. Whether you are an experienced birder or a beginner, this entertaining class will help you expand and improve your birding abilities. We will explore appearance, behavior, location, sound, equipment, and other topics. These insights and techniques will help anyone expand their birding skills and enjoyment.



Jan's Birding Essentials program - (Photos (c) Bill Beatty)

**Sunday field trip** – **Canaan Valley State Park** – We will walk the Blackwater River Trail watching and listening for birds. Depending on the weather, this trail can be quite birdy. We should be able to see and/or hear a nice variety of birds: woodpeckers, warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and more. If time permits, we may explore parts of the Promised Land Trail.



Left to right – Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Ovenbird (Photos (c) Bill Beatty and Jan Runyan)

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