

# "Birds and Binocs" Wild School

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
May 16, 2023

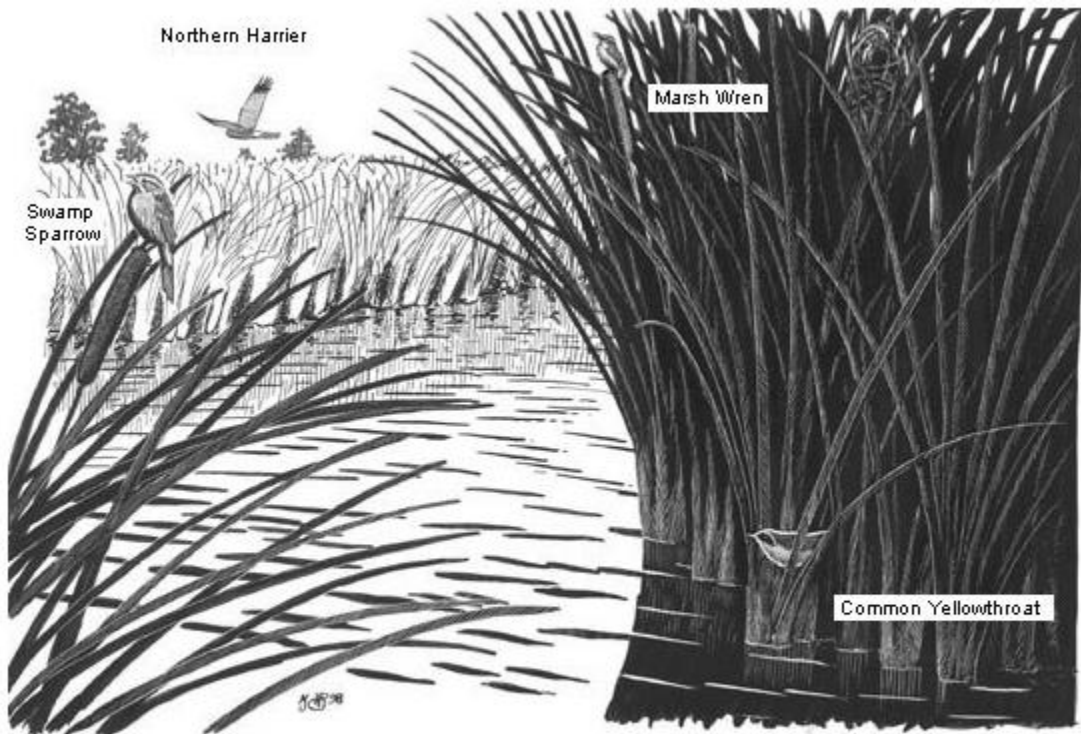
Bird watching is an amazingly popular pastime. An estimated 85 million Americans are fascinated with bird watching, and truly anyone can take up this hobby.

'Birding' is another term for bird watching and can be as simple as putting up a backyard bird feeder, to as complex as joining bird watching tours that take place all over the world.

## Outline "Birds and Binocs" Booth

- Discuss [birdwatching as recreation](#)
- Discuss wetland functions for birds ([habitat](#), food, shelter)
- Discuss [Bird ID](#)- Sight and [Sound](#)
- Discuss some [basic features](#) (crown, wing, tail)
- [Intro to Binoculars](#)
  - Wear, not carry
  - Adjusting before Birding: Barrels; Eye Cups; Diopter
  - Focusing
  - Keep looking at subject while bringing up binoculars
  - Do not walk and look through binoculars
- Bird Walk along trail to beaver pond
  - [Red-winged Blackbird](#)
  - [Wood Duck](#)
  - [American Bittern](#)
  - [American Black Duck](#)
  - [Belted Kingfisher](#)
  - [Common Yellowthroat](#)
  - [Northern Harrier](#)
  - [Swamp Sparrow](#)
  - [American Woodcock](#) ([Logo for the Friends of the 500<sup>th</sup>](#))
- [Bird Field Checklist for Canaan Valley NWR – Freeland Road Tract](#)
- For more information about birding in West Virginia
  - [West Virginia Young Birders Club](#)
  - [Brooks Bird Club](#)
- Free Smart Phone App: This can identify most birds by a photo or song.

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>



Likely species in a freshwater marsh. Typical sparrow: Swamp Sparrow (in the East); typical warbler: Common Yellowthroat; typical wren: Marsh Wren; typical hawk: Northern Harrier.

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Presenters:  
LeJay Graffious,  
[Old Hemlock Foundation](#)

Cheyene Carter  
[Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia](#)