ABA’s Adult Bird Camp
West Virginia Warbler Extravaganza
and New River Relaxing Rafting Extension
May 21—24 and May 25-26, 2020

The Warbler Tree by Christina Baal
Day 1: Thursday, May 21 — Arrival
Please schedule flights to arrive before 5:00 p.m. at Yeager International Airport (airport code CRW)
Transfer vans depart for Opossum Creek Retreat 12:00 noon, 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. depending on arrival times.

4:00 p.m. — Camp Registration Begins followed by Meet and Greet
6:30 p.m. — Welcome Dinner at Opossum Creek Retreat

Day 2: Friday, May 22 — Sugar Creek

Sugar Creek is sure to please with great birding, scenic views and lovely forest and other flora. Descending from a high ridge separating the New and Gauley Rivers, this trip provides the unique experience of exploring high, mid, and river level territories. Birds commonly seen include Cerulean Warbler, Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, Scarlet Tanager, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Swainson’s Warbler, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles.

*The initial ride is ~25 minutes. We’ll be in and out of vehicles with very easy hiking between stops. Return ride of ~60 minutes.

Picnic lunch along the way and back to Opossum Creek Retreat in time for happy hour before dinner.
Day 3: Saturday, May 23 — Wolf Creek Park

The outdoor classroom at Wolf Creek Park's Wetlands Boardwalk is a favorite spot for many of our expert and local guides. There we will take an easy walk on mostly level ground through woodland trails and on a boardwalk. We expect to see many birds including *Blue-winged Warbler*, *White-eyed Vireo*, *Scarlet Tanager*, *Black-and-white Warbler*, *Hooded Warbler*, and diverse plant life. The site has been an outdoor classroom, active research station, and bird banding site since 2009. If weather permits, we may have the opportunity to participate in some banding research.
Day 4: Sunday, May 24 — Going for Gold

Today features an attempt—with excellent chances for success—to locate the prized *Golden-winged Warbler*. This is far more than a one species trip, though. Come with us to the top of Fayette County to look for *Golden-winged Warbler* and their neighbors *Blue-winged Warbler*, *Cerulean Warbler*, *American Redstart*, *Bobolink* and *Ovenbird*. We’ll also spend time today looking for any species we may have missed or just want to spend more time with. Today will be a great cap to a wonderful long weekend of birding.

Day 5: Monday, May 25 Camp Ends and the Extension begins

Breakfast and depart for optional rafting or zipline extension. Those not going rafting will transfer back to Yeager International Airport for flights home.

*Important Note:* Please keep in mind that this is our planned itinerary, but it is subject to change due to weather, traffic, and other real world conditions. It is also subject to change due to birding conditions. It will be at the tour leaders’ discretion to adjust the itinerary should the need arise.
New River—Rafting and or Canopy Zipline

Labor Day: Monday, May 26

This float trip will be a fun day on the river starting with a farewell breakfast with our fellow birders who will be leaving us. We then head to the raft company to get geared up for our adventures. All transportation, equipment, and guides are included as well as a shore side picnic lunch.

Rafting on the New River can either be a mellow whitewater, or amazing full running of the rapids trip depending on the interest level of the group. It is a great place for a fun rafting trip. It also gives you a chance to get your feet wet in the majestic and breathtakingly scenic New River Gorge.

If you choose the canopy zipline we will suit up with safety equipment and whiz though the treetops and enjoy the forest from a different angle, a birds eye view if you will.

We will have dinner at the world famous Pies and Pints that evening and enjoy a relaxing evening at Opossum Creek Retreat.

Day 2: Tuesday, May 27

Depart after breakfast. Transfer to Yeager International Airport.
**Arrival/Departure**

The recommended airport for this event is Yeager International Airport (CRW) in Charleston, WV. Please schedule flights to arrive before 5:00 p.m. at Yeager International Airport (airport code CRW)

Transfer vans depart for Opossum Creek Retreat 12:00 noon, 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. depending on arrival times.

**Arrival:** If arriving by car, please plan to arrive not before 4:00 pm May 21. We will be ready to check you in and in the Great Room of The Meadows Cabin at Opossum Creek Retreat. Airport transfers are available.

**Opossum Creek Retreat**

239 Opossum Creek Retreat Road
Lansing, WV 25862
888-488-4836

**Departure:** The Adult Bird Camp: Warbler Extravaganza activities end at the conclusion of breakfast on May 25. Those staying on for the extension will depart after breakfast on the 27th.

**Your registration fee includes:**
- guiding, transportation and fuel during field trips
- evening programs May 24, 25, 26
- amazing housemate meals
- breakfast on May 22, 23, 24, 25
- lunches on May 22, 23, 24
- dinner on May 21, 22, 23, 24
- snacks and water for field trips

**Excluded from the registration fee are:**
- transportation to and from the airport to Opossum Creek Retreat
- $50 each way per person
- Extension activities
- Additional Zipline and Rafting (non-extension) opportunities offered during the main camp.
Pace

Our pace will be rather laid back, West Virginia style. We will be up early each morning (see itinerary) and will aim to have participants back to Opossum Creek Retreat from field trips before 5pm. Field trips will involve relatively little hiking. We ride from spot to spot in our too cool for school bus, bird for a while, then head off to the next spot. Most of the birding is from quiet country road sides or in parks and on private land. We are called The Mountain State for a very good reason. Our elevation will vary from 1800 to 4000 feet above sea level. We'll take our time and pace ourselves when walking around.

Weather

Temperatures in late May can reach 80F with a low in the 60F at night. We are almost a rain forest which means good rain gear will keep you comfortable. Sunrise is about 6 a.m. and sunset is about 8:30 p.m.

What to Bring

GOOD RAIN GEAR IS A MUST! It will keep you comfortable.

Be sure to dress in layers. Bring rain-gear including pants, a hat and gloves. Good walking/hiking shoes will suffice. We'll have snacks and drinks along to bridge the gaps between meals. If there is something in particular you like to snack on, bringing a personal supply may help keep spirits up.

Recommended Reading List

The Mine Wars https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/theminewars/

Cerulean Blues and Vulture by Katie Fallon

Follow the River by James Alexander Thom

Far Appalachia:
Following the New River North by Noah Adams

We are very proud of our rich and varied cultural history here in West Virginia! Our local hosts look forward to welcoming the ABA to their local patch for our 2nd Adult Bird Camp.
Opossum Creek Retreat is a family owned and operated cabin business. It is a unique lodging property designed and built by ABA's friend and co-founder of the New River Birding and Nature Festival, Geoff Heeter. Geoff will be our host as well as one of the local guides during our ABA Adult Bird Camp: West Virginia Warbler Extravaganza. Each of our unique cabins are fully stocked with towels and linens as well as hot tubs, full kitchens, WIFI and Cable TV.

Let's take a look at the many options you will have for laying your head.

All rooms are first come first serve.

The Meadows is the center of the action for this event. This large home and conference room is where we will gather to share our catered meals, socialize and enjoy any presentations.

The Meadows includes six bedrooms. Each bedroom costs $1295 per person. Limited number: Maximum of 6 at $1295 in bunk rooms
$1395 for queen room with TV in down stairs (basement)
$1495 for the other rooms
$1595 for the King room with half Bath

First Floor rooms in the Meadows:
King or two twin bedroom with half bath. This room can be converted from a king bed to 2 twins.
Queen bedroom 1- shared bath
Queen bedroom 2 - shared bath

Downstairs rooms in the Meadows:
These rooms share 2 bathrooms
Two queen beds
One queen bed with TV and sitting area
$1395.00 The bunkbed room which includes two double beds and six twins (this room is best shared by a small group of close friends)

El Gordo $1595 Per Person
4 person minimum
This cabin works great for a group of 4-6 people who want to share a cabin. Includes 3 bedroom and two baths
2 Queen Bedroom
Bunk room with 4 twin beds
Hot Tub on the screened porch, gas log fireplace.

Cabins #1 and #2 are two bedroom Cabins
$1695 per person
4 person minimum
2 Queen Bedrooms, 1 bath.
Hot Tub on the screened porch, gas log fireplace.

Over The Hill is a 2 bedroom cabin.
$1695 per person
4 person minimum
2 Queen Bedrooms, 1 bath.
Hot tub on the deck in the treetops, gas log fireplace.

Cabins #3 and #4 are Private Cabins.
$1895 Per Person.
2 person minimum
We have two Cabins which are perfect for a couple. These are cozy, studio style cabins with a queen bed, two twins, bath, sofa and small kitchen.
These cabins have a soft wall that can be raised or lowered to let the outdoors in.
Hot tub on the screened porch, gas log fireplace.

Labor Day River Rafting or Zipline Extension: $550.00 All inclusive - When you attend the Adult Birding Camp: West Virginia Warbler Extravaganza
Lodging for the Night of May 25, Memorial Day Transfer - River Rafting Guide, Includes Gear or Canopy Zipline, Includes gear rental.
Breakfast - Picnic Lunch on the River- Wonderful Dinner and Breakfast the following morning.

Call or Email Geoff Heeter for help in picking your perfect spot
304-574-4836
retreat@opossumcreek.com