



# THE MAIL BAG

A PUBLICATION OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB OF WEST VIRGINIA  
P.O. BOX 4077 • WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

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RYAN TOMAZIN - EDITOR

## Message from your President & Mail Bag Editor

Greetings, all. As we are on the doorstep to summer, I hope everyone is running their bird surveys, planting native plants to attract pollinators in their yards, going to master naturalist programs...anything that is connecting you deeply with nature and learning. We can't live without either, and these days there are more opportunities than ever to take classes far away through Zoom, to learn about rewilding, to get outside with a wide variety of nature groups. Enjoy your time!



The Board of Directors held a Zoom meeting recently to discuss and ratify a motion to create a steering committee for the Brooks Bird Club, chaired by Rodney Bartgis. We are excited to work on implementing new ideas to continue growing the club. One thing the committee will be looking to do is to update the mission statement of the club, with an eye on increased participation, education, and active membership growth. Other ideas include developing one-, three- and five-years plans. Should be an exciting time to see where this activity takes the BBC.

So where does that take you, the BBC member? I hope it inspires you to reach out to your community to look for new members who might get a lot out of the club. It might lead you to educate anyone and everyone to the beauty and the plight of nature everywhere. Perhaps community or regional outreach, or even your own self-education. It's a wide world out there, and everything begins at your doorstep!



I would also like to remind you about the BrooksBirdClub.org website! One thing to note for all of you who plan outings, meetings, trips and official club weekends is that you will need to send your information to Larry Helgerman, our webmaster, to ensure everything gets added to the club calendar. Some do that, but others might not be aware that he/we are needing your info to get the word out to help make your event more successful and wider-reaching.



Also, when you get your Redstart or Mail Bag and see black and white photographs, the website will have the same images in full color, giving you more of a chance to enjoy what others saw in the field. Well worth the time! Cheers!

– Ryan Tomazin

## CLYDE REPIK PASSES

Clyde P. Repik, 90, of Bethesda, Ohio passed away on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at Barnesville Hospital. He was born on October 25, 1932 in Barnesville, Ohio to the late Clyde Joseph and Carrie (Cassol) Repik.

Clyde was married to his high school sweetheart, Jessie L. McFarland, who predeceased him. Together, they had two children, Suellen L. Repik (deceased) and Clyde Daniel Repik. Clyde was a loving father who instilled values of hard work, resilience, and kindness in his children.

Clyde began his career in fixing farm machinery and eventually was involved in the construction of the Hubble Space Telescope. In his retirement years, Clyde remained actively engaged in his community. He served as a board member of the Victorian Mansion Museum, where he joyfully assumed the role of Santa Claus during the holiday season, spreading cheer and delighting children. Additionally, he dedicated his time as a board member of the Watts Coal Car Museum, preserving the rich heritage of the region. Clyde was also an active member of the bird club, sharing his passion for nature and ornithology with fellow enthusiasts.

Clyde is survived by a son, C. Daniel Repik of Plantation, Florida; and granddaughters, Gabrielle Repik of New York City, New York and Sophia Repik of Mountain View, California.

**Save the Date!**

Don't forget to  
mark your calendar!  
October 20-22, 2023  
BBC Fall weekend at  
Chief Logan State Park

## QUILT DETECTIVE – *Contributed by James Phillips*

Our sister-in-law grew up in Oklahoma but now lives across from Central Park in New York City. As with most folks who have bird nerd relatives she keeps an eye out for anything associated with birds or bird watching. Christmas, 2022, she came up with an excellent gift – a quilt that displays the various state birds. She is a quilter, but she purchased this quilt.

We decided to inspect the birds starting with West Virginia. The bird was a Tufted Titmouse. The state let the school kids pick our state bird. I had seen some notes that belonged to Dr. P.C. Bibbee for whom our nature club is named. He was a biology professor for many years at Concord College (now Concord University) and was in charge of counting the votes for Mercer County. Those kids picked the titmouse, but were out voted by the rest of the state resulting in our today's bird, the Northern Cardinal. This happened in 1941, before Judy and I were born. As a side note, Mercer County kids picked the White Oak for state tree but again lost the vote, this time to the Sugar Maple. The second state bird we looked for was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for Oklahoma but the Northern Bobwhite was on the quilt. A quick check of Google indicated the change was made in 1951.

Now, we decided to use the ancient multiplication table for a clue as to the age of the quilt; 6 vertical squares and 8 horizontal squares = 48 states. Alaska and Hawaii entered the Union in 1959. A friend of our is a quilter and took the quilt to one of her club meetings. They were excited to see it and learn about the state birds. Their report was that the border and backing were new materials and stitching but the bird stitching was much older. The birds on the quilt compared to the current state bird list would point to the quilt being made sometime before 1939.

Now, we needed to see what birds were on the quilt and compare them with the list of current state birds. Here's the list with state name, bird on quilt, current state bird, year when change was made:

Connecticut – Northern Bobwhite changed to American Robin in 1943

Delaware – Northern Cardinal changed to Delaware Blue Hen in 1939

North Carolina – Carolina Chickadee changed to Northern Cardinal  
in 1943

Oklahoma – see above

Rhode Island – Northern Bobwhite changed to Rhode Island Red in 1954

South Dakota – Western Meadowlark changed to Ring-necked Pheasant  
in 1943

West Virginia - see above

During the search for information we discovered that the Northern Cardinal was the most popular state bird followed by the Western Meadowlark and Northern Mockingbird. Several states have begun picking state game birds; Alabama, Massachusetts – Wild Turkey, Georgia, Tennessee – Northern Bobwhite and Mississippi – Wood Duck. Some states are beginning to choose a state raptor; Idaho – Peregrine Falcon and Utah – Golden Eagle.

## CONTACT THE EDITOR

Have an interesting story about the nature around your neck of the woods? Want to contribute an article or travelogue? Have a nature-related event that you'd like to tell the Club about? Please contact me by mail, email or phone:

Ryan Tomazin  
348 Station Street, Apt. 7  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
412-220-9726  
wwwarblers@hotmail.com



## CORRESPONDENCE

**W**e would love to hear from members of the BBC. What have you been doing? Have you taken recent trips? What interesting birds or plants have you seen in your locality or backyard?

The Club looks forward to little notes on Christmas cards and dues notices, but feel free to get in touch with us at other times of the year too. Even just a line or two would be of interest to our readers, especially if we haven't seen or heard from you in a while.

Correspondence may be mailed to: Juanita Slater, Corresponding Secretary, c/o BBC, PO Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003.

For those of you who prefer email, correspondences may be sent to: jslater1120@yahoo.com

## BIRD OF PARADISE – *Contributed by Yan Tomazin*

Late in August 2022, I opened a new chapter of my life. I moved to Pomona, California, a valley city east of Los Angeles. Pomona is the name of the goddess of fruit, and there were lots of fruit trees everywhere. Not that many flowers; most were light purple.

It was very dry, semi-desert. Jade plants, aloe and other succulents were the major plants at all house yards. There were lots of birds, most of them I had never seen before. I could only identify very few, including Black Phoebe and Anna's Hummingbird. There were the same birds we have in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, like mockingbird, house finch, crow, raven...so many people have bird aviaries in their yards. The first time I took a walk near my home, I heard lots of birds "gathering"



in someone's yard. I was so excited that I grabbed my cell phone and prepared to take some cool bird photos. But soon, I found all the birds inside of a big cage! I was stunned, disappointed; they were pet birds! But they were so colorful, beautiful. It seems so popular to have a yard bird aviary in people's homes in Pomona, or chicken or pigeon 'farms'.

I saw crows and ravens every morning when I went to work. Every time, they made me think of my birder friends from far, far away. I don't know if I will be able to see them again. I left Pennsylvania, left the BBC...I saw new, cool birds, but nobody helped me identify them. A few months passed, and every morning those birds just tried to remind me of the BBC, my friends far away. I was struggling.

After a few months of no rain, the mountains were a boring look, yellow dry dirt. Around Pomona, I started missing Pennsylvania, West Virginia, green mountains and trees, rivers.

One day, when I walked passed behind the drug store next to the hotel I was working for, I heard a strange 'tap-tap' sound, like some kind telegraph. I looked around, but found nothing. Then I kept walking, and the sounds came again, I looked, still nothing, but I saw a crow fly to the palm tree near me. It perched in the tree and looked at me, quiet again. I kept walking, the sounds came again. I stopped to look, then I found 3 crows on the roof of drug store, right above me. They were looking at me, and one of them lifted its head, opened its mouth...and the telegraph sounds came from it. I was surprised; I had never heard a crow sound like this. The birds stopped moving when they saw me looking at them; we were just staring at each other. So strange, it looked like they were trying to talk to me. Suddenly, I recalled Carl (Slater); we always watched crows together before. My eyes were wet, "Hello, children" in Carl's voice echoed in my head. Maybe Carl was sending messages to me via these crows. How can crows make such a machine sound? Telegraphing to me? This wired idea flashed in my head:

"Come back to BBC, we need you, it's a difficult time for everybody."

More crazy ideas flashed by. I don't know if the message really came from Carl or just from my own fantasy.

My mind suddenly cleared; "Go back to the BBC, stay in the big family, help myself, help friends."

My heart felt warm, immediately and I noticed flowers around drug store building, the Bird of Paradise! My heart was full of happiness...no more struggle. I knew what I should do.

Two months later, I moved back to Pennsylvania, renewed my BBC membership. This was the first painting I did after I returned. It is "Bird of Paradise", for Carl, for a BBC reunion after the pandemic. The bird in the painting is an Anna's Hummingbird. I liked to feed them in Pomona, on the balcony of my home. They are my little buddies.

I had been through thousands of miles, from desert to green mountains. I followed my heart, followed the calling from someone in the other world. I am back, BBC, all my friends. Let's go birding!



## INTERESTING SIGHTINGS AROUND THE STATE

Well, I'm sorta sad that I didn't get this leucistic robin on April 1st. (You all would have been able to read a dissertation about the rare "English White-cheeked Thrush" blown off course by an extremely rare reverse jet-stream or the like. \*grin\*)

From the front, this robin's head was striped like a White-crowned Sparrow's. For a few seconds, I thought I had something.

– Rick Gregg, Kanawha County, WV, 3/1/23

On March 2, eight members of the Mountwood Bird Club on their regular Thursday birding outing were amazed to see a Bank Swallow perched on a utility wire with several Tree Swallows at the Belleville wetlands along River Lane in southern Wood County. This is a full month earlier than the prior eBird early date for WV, which was April 1, 2020, at Greenbottom WMA. Perhaps blown up by the recent storms in the southern U.S.?

– Terry Bronson, Marietta, OH, 3/2/23

I went over to the local Bald Eagle nest yesterday with my scope and got some videos and photos. It appears that the eggs have hatched. Since I can't look into the nest I'm basing this on observation of the parents. Their behavior has changed completely. Before, they would sit on the eggs, get up briefly to turn them and sit back down. Yesterday, they were more on the edge of the nest and bent over with the head down in the cup. I could see jerky movement that looked like bits being torn from a fish. Call me crazy but peering into the nest their facial expression looked like a new parent looking at an infant. There seemed to be vocalization as well. Very exciting.

– Bruni Haydl, Charles Town, WV, 3/18/23

(Trip report for Seneca Lake, OH) - Had a good morning. 49 species, including 13 duck species. Had a raft of 80 Red-breasted Mergansers, and one of 53 Ruddy Ducks. A Bald Eagle on the nest. One phoebe, some Horned Grebes, 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler. Probably missed a couple of species.

– Janice Emrick, Jerusalem, OH, 3/18/23

Just when we thought it couldn't be better, 30 Evening Grosbeaks at our feeders! The most we have had in many years!!! Rural King will be very happy with their March bird seed sales.

– Jim & Judy Phillips, Pipestem, WV 3/23/23

Today we had at least 4 Brown Thrashers calling, plus a couple of Cedar Waxwings (heard only, Merlin confirmed). We still have juncos, and they have changed their calls to trills. Eastern Phoebes are reclaiming their places. Yesterday morning was magical in the misty moist dawn as the Mountain Chorus frogs were calling in the small pond below, the woodcock were peeting at first then flying with their whinnying sound as the other songbirds woke up and joined in. Springtime here in the New River Gorge can make you just stand still and breathe and be in awe some days.

– Wendy Perrone, Brooks (Hinton) WV, 3/24/23

I saw something new yesterday at the pond in Parsons. There was a bird making it's way across the water something like a duck, but very, very small, and moving very slowly. I could not identify it since there was hardly anything above the surface. When it finally reached the shore, about 15 yards away, I could see that it was a Killdeer. That was the first time I've seen one swimming.

– Mimi Kibler, Parsons, WV, 3/27/23

We just looked out at the feeders on our front porch and discovered a male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks feeding alongside 6 Evening Grosbeaks. The only other time we had both grosbeaks at the same feeders at the same time was at Hartwick Pines State Park in Michigan.

– Jim & Judy Phillips, Pipestem, WV 4/20/23

Boy! Did we ever get an Earth Day present!!

The fellow who mows the historic cemetery at the end of our porch came by last evening with a photo on his phone of a male Painted Bunting. He had taken it at his bird feeder. We went out & sat on his porch for 2 hours with no bunting present.

Even though we had rain & high winds at day break today, we ventured the 3 miles or so. After about an hour wait, we were rewarded by having the bird land about 10 feet from us. Life bird for both of us!

– Jim & Judy Phillips, Pipestem, WV, 4/22/23



Leucistic American Robin  
- photo by Rick Gregg



A very early Bank Swallow (top) with a Tree Swallow - photo by Barb Hohman

**INTERESTING SIGHTINGS (con.)**

While some of my neighbors have had an Evening Grosbeak or two throughout the Winter and early Spring I have had none. Two days ago I was surprised to see 5 grosbeaks at my feeder. Yesterday the number grew to more than 20 and this morning I have about the same number. Females outnumber the males by about 10 to 1. While these little piggies are eating a ton of sunflower seeds, I am enjoying the show as I don't know when I'll ever again see such a sight.

– Jack O'Connell, 4/29/23

We agree with Jack on the Evening Grosbeaks situation. We have been fortunate (except for the bird seed bill) to have had them since December 16. Early on we had just a few and sometimes none at all for days.

For the last month we have averaged about 20 a day and have gone through 200+ pounds of seed. This morning, we were overwhelmed with at least 62 birds!

I joke about the seed bill. The joy of watching them is worth every penny. We haven't had them in these numbers since the 1970s & again in the 1990s. And now, the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have arrived.

– Jim Phillips, Pipestem, WV, 4/29/23

April 29, 2023 at 3:13:09 PM EDT

If I call Winfield locks "Prairie Warbler City", then Mammoth Preserve is "Prairie Metropolis" - gracious, there were PRWAs (15 total) about every two feet, loving the reclaimed mine. Plus two very handsome Grasshopper Sparrows not only singing, but singing up on little trees so we could study them. Several gorgeous Blue-winged Warblers and one gorgeous Scarlet Tanager. On the "heard but not seen" list - several chats, many White-eyed Vireos, and one



A raft of Long-tailed Ducks mixed with Lesser Scaup, Rehe WMA, Preston Co. - photo by Cynthia Mullens



Greater White-fronted Geese at the JW Ruby Research Farm, Reedsville in Preston County - photo by Cynthia Mullens

loud Swainson's Warbler. Thanks to Mike Becher for guiding us.

– Laura Ceperley, Kanawha, WV, 4/29/23

**– Sightings taken from WVBird ListServ**



**16TH WINTER EAGLE SURVEY**

On March 4, 2023, we conducted our 16th spring eagle survey. Our area covered parts of Mercer, Summers, Monroe, Greenbrier, Pocahontas and Raleigh Counties in WV, and Giles County, VA. 43 participants (Three Rivers Avian Center, Bibbee Nature Club, Hanging Rock Migration Observatory, Pipestem S.P. and guests) found 72 Bald Eagles and 3 Golden Eagles for the day. This is a record on Bald Eagles for the spring survey.

Thanks to all participants!

*Jim Phillips, Pipestem, WV*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Just a note to tell you of my daughter Susan's and my May 8-12 visit to Magee Marsh. As you know, it is a 7-acre wetland on Lake Erie just east of Toledo and it's on the spring migration path for the warblers and other species as they head to Canada to nest. About mid-afternoon on the 9th, on the boardwalk, here comes a Chestnut-sided Warbler, flitting closer and closer until it's about 2 feet from my face. Wow! And he stayed around a while. A little later here comes a Black-throated blue Warbler for an encore. It flitted close, about six feet, and it stayed a while. It was a spectacular, up-close display that probably won't happen again, so we won't forget it.

– Bob Rine, Wheeling

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Got a note and this photo from Ross Brittain, the researcher who spoke to us at the Early Spring Meeting. The BBC helped sponsor his Northern Saw-whet Owl nest box project across

the Monongahela National Forest. This adult popped out; two eggs were inside!



## CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth McConnell  
228 Maple Ave.  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
Email: mcconnellelizab9@gmail.com

Pam Runkle  
380 Paradise Ln.  
Parsons, WV 26287  
Tel: 410-788-3111  
Email: pamrunkle@gmail.com

### CHANGE IN EMAIL

Bruni Haydl,  
bruni@citlink.net\*  
\*note citlink not citilink

•••

**NOTE:** *John Northheimer and Marjorie Keatley accidentally ended up in the incorrect section of the new address books. Marjorie should be listed as (H - Honorary), as should Jay Buckelew.*

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### MOUNTWOOD CHAPTER

**June 15, 2023** – Mountwood Park, 8:00am. Beach area (near torpedo), bring lunch.

**June 21–23, 2023** – Blackwater Falls/ Canaan Valley. Details later.

**June 29, 2023** – Great Guernsey Trail, Ohio, 8:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown; bring lunch.

**July Coordinator: Terry Bronson**  
740-336-3752

**July 6, 13, 20, 2023** – Open.

**July 26-28, 2023** – Howard Marsh area. Details later.

**August Coordinator: Dick Esker**  
304-863-8765

**August 3, 2023** – Sandy Creek Backwater & area, 9:00am. Boat ramp, Northwest Drive.

**August 10, 2023** – Greenbottom area 8:00am. Park & Ride, OH Rt. 339/Rt. 7; bring lunch.

**August 17, 2023** – Funk/Killbuck, Ohio, all day, 7:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown, bring lunch.

**August 19, 2023** – Annual Picnic, 5:00pm. McDonough Log Shelter “A”, McDonough Wildlife Refuge, bring covered dish, drink & service.

**August 24, 2023** – Batelle Darby Metro Park, Columbus, OH, 7:30am. Park & Ride, OH Rt. 339/Rt. 7; bring lunch.

**August 31, 2023** – McDonough Wildlife Refuge, 8:00am. McDonough parking lot.

**September Coordinator: Jeanie Hilton**  
304-428-8641

**September 2, 2023** – Mountwood Park, 8:00am. Beach area (near torpedo), bring lunch.

**September 7, 2023** – Ohio River Islands NWR, 8:00am. ORINWR Parking Lot.

**September 14, 2023** – Waterloo/Lake Hope/Zaleski, 8:00am. Park & Ride, OH Rt. 339/Rt. 7; bring lunch.

### HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER

**June 17, 2023** – 2:00 – 5:00pm. Rosie Campbell will be hosting an outing at her farm. Meet at 2pm for a nature walk, followed by a covered dish dinner. Bring your own drinks, place setting, and a dish to share.

**July 8, 2023** – Paul and Debbie McKay are hosting Birds and Breakfast at their farm. Pastries and coffee will be provided. Check with them about exact time.... but it will be “breakfast” time.

**August 6, 2023** – Bill Beatty and Jan Runyan are hosting *A Walk Through Bill's Arboretum* at 10 AM at their home in Wellsburg (540 Genteel Ridge Road -- be sure to come via WV Rt. 27/Washington Pike, not WV Rt 67). Bring something to share for lunch, a chair, table setting, and beverage. Then stay to cool off, swim, or just sit around the pool.

### BIBBEE CHAPTER

**Starting June 10, 2023** – 9:00am – 12:00pm, second and fourth Saturdays, June-September at 9 AM. Join the birding group at the Grandview NPS for a morning of birding. Grandview Visitors and Picnic area; meet near the Visitors Center.

## NATURE HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

### MOUNTAINEER AUDUBON

**June 17, 2023** – 8:00am: 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. From the Park & Ride we will 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). Leader: LeJay Graffious.

**Old Hemlock Bird Banding:** 8:00 am – 12:00 Visitors (5:30 am Banding Team) MAPS Banding. Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship banding project continues in its sixth year. This scientific research is available for visitors to view beginning at 8 am on the dates below. Contact LeJay for directions: lej@oldhemlock.org. June 11, June 21, July 1, July 16, July 23, July 30.

**June 25, 2023** – 10:00am: Young Birders Walk at WV Botanic Garden. Young birders of all ages and their families are invited to join us on a slow-paced, mostly flat walk on the garden's trails. Please register in advance with the garden: wvbg.org.

**June 28, 2023** – 7:30-11:30am. Old Hemlock, Bruceton 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 three miles and stop at ten predetermined locations to census birds for three minutes. Contact LeJay for directions: lej@oldhemlock.org.

## GOOD BIRDING ETHICS

Finally, spring is here, and with it, our wonderful resident and migratory birds are starting to breed. The rigors of surviving the winter and or migration are onerous. Spring on the North American continent brings abundant resources of space and food to raise young. This abundance also brings a host of predators that seek to consume eggs, young, and adult birds at every opportunity.

Finding, photographing, videoing, or recording these wild birds is a passion for everyone on this list. It is extremely important that we all behave with the highest possible ethics when interacting with our precious wild birds. The use of audio playback has long been a highly charged topic in birding communities. With the recent finding that 3 billion birds have vanished since the 1970s, it is even more incumbent on us to display the best behavior that we can when interacting with our wild birds.

Of course, the best option is to not use playback at all. There are research projects that require some level of playback to achieve the project's goals, but for causal birding, in all its forms, playback should be used exceedingly sparingly, if at all. With this in mind, here are a couple links to some of the latest thoughts on using playback when in the field.

Please review the article at these links and exercise discretion in using playback while in the field for the good of our wild birds. It's good to keep these ethics in mind.

Good Birding,  
Wil Hershberger, Hedgesville, WV

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/landtrust/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/>  
<<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/landtrust/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/>>

<https://ebird.org/pnw/news/birding-ethics-guidelines-for-respecting-birds-their-habitat-and-each-other> <<https://ebird.org/pnw/news/birding-ethics-guidelines-for-respecting-birds-their-habitat-and-each-other>>

## SOUTHERN WV EAGLE PROGRESS

*(Just a little vignette into the eagle watching done, including breeding success)*

4/19/2023 BAEA – Amy Nelson checked the State Line nest 3/23, 3/30, 4/4/, 4/13 and 4/18 and found lots of activity. Two eaglets in MP 26 nest.

4/20/2023 BAEA – Eagles at Greenville nest were active on 4/11. 4/16 an adult was perched in the nest tree at Zenith. Adult seen at Hans Creek 4/19. Leigh Prince found a new nest in Hardy County. Adult over Pipestem. 2 eaglets in Meadow River nest. 2 eaglets, 1 adult at Howards Creek 1 nest. 2 eaglets and adult nearby Blue sulphur Pike nest. Property owner reports adult in Fairview Rd. nest and leaf coverage blocks view of Alderson nest.

4/23/2023 BAEA – Adult in Bluestone nest.

4/24/2023 BAEA – One eaglet and one adult in MP 26 nest.

4/25/2023 BAEA – Adult in Bellepoint nest.

4/29/2023 BAEA – Adult messing with a red-tail near Mill Point, Pocahontas County.

4/30/23 BAEA – No activity at Bluestone nest. 2 adults perched over entrance to park and later flying over Bluestone Lake. Adult flying near Bellepoint nest.

5/1/23 BAEA – No activity at Bluestone nest.

5/2/2023 BAEA – Chick in Caldwell nest. 2 adults making a nest at Tuckahoe Lake suggesting the original nest has fallen.

5/3/2023 BAEA – Adult perched near Alderson nest.

5/6/2023 BAEA – Adult near Bellepoint nest. Two adults perched over entrance to Bluestone S.P. Adult at Blue Grass, VA nest.

5/7/2023 BAEA – Chick in Barger Springs nest. Leigh Prince says there were two recently.

5/8/2023 BAEA – 2 adults perched next to each other on branch near Brooks Island nest.

5/9/2023 BAEA – 2 adults perched next to each other on same branch at Falls Mills Lake.

5/13/2023 BAEA – Adult at Glenwood Park, Mercer County. Adult at the Pits.

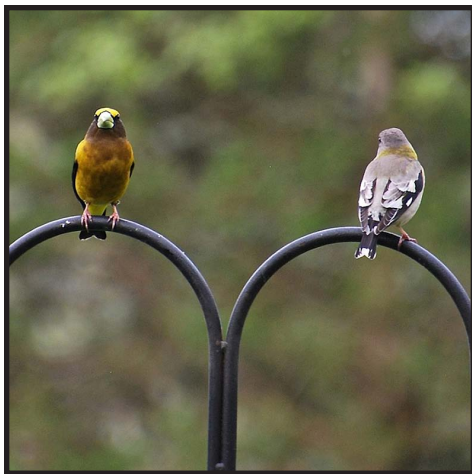
– from Jim Phillips

## RESULTS OF THE 2023 HANDLAN SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

The 2023 Spring Migration Count of the Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club, which was conducted from April 29 through May 14, was a rousing success. Many members spent considerable time in the field and visited a wide variety of habitats, which is what it takes to find a large number of species. Eleven lists were submitted. Three of the individual lists had over 100 species and a few other lists had somewhere in the 70 to 90 range. Most of the lists had at least some birds that others did not have, and that is what drives up the cumulative total.

The total number of species identified during our 2023 count is 169, which is easily a new record. Looking at the list, there are no major gaps. We found a respectable number of waterfowl, even though the duck migration was mostly completed when our count began. Several songbirds that had already left the Kanawha Valley to go north were located in the mountains (junco, red-breasted nuthatch, etc.). We had 34 species of warblers, which is an excellent total. Two birds that are quite uncommon in our region – Least Bittern and Mississippi Kite – have continued to return as successful nesters in the last few years. The Least Bittern pair nests near the office at Greenbottom WMA and I know some of you have followed online directions to the Kite nest.

– Jim Waggy



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### **Coming and going**

*Another banner winter (and spring) in West Virginia for Evening Grosbeaks!  
Photo by Cynthia Burkhart.*

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