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The Redstart is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October at P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003. The journal of the Brooks Bird Club, it is mailed to all members in good standing. Nonmember subscription price is \$17. Individual copies are \$4, except the Foray issue, which is \$8. Changes of address and requests for back issues should be mailed to P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003. Articles for publication and books for review should be mailed to the editor. Printed on recycled paper by PrinTech, Wheeling, WV. ISSN: 0034-2165

The 2010 Christmas Bird Count

Jane Whitaker

The 2010 Christmas Bird Count was held from December 15, 2010, through January 5, 2011. There were 20 separate counts in West Virginia. Buffalo Creek, Pennsylvania, was also reported this year and Allegheny County, Maryland/Mineral County was excluded.

What a difference the weather makes! Last year several counts had to be postponed due to heavy snow and impassable roads. The weather was inclement throughout most of the count period and the results demonstrated it. There were fewer participants and a lower total number of birds observed in 2009. This year there was the same number of species observed, but about 24,000 more birds were seen. The individual species totals were markedly higher this year with the exception of a few species that will be noted in this report.

Only two of the 21 counts had light rain. The other 19 reported partly cloudy to cloudy skies with seasonable temperatures. Most counts reported temperatures in the 20s and 30s Fahrenheit. Buffalo Creek reported lows in single digits and lows were in the teens for the Elkins, Huntington, Pendleton, and Raleigh counts. Seven counts were held in January. The rest were conducted from December 16 through December 29.

The species and the totals for each species are listed in Table 1. Table 2 highlights the 10 most abundant species. The Common Grackle made the top 10 list in 2009 but was replaced by the Blue Jay this year. The species found on only one count and the locations of the observations are listed in Table 3. The Great Egret and Common Redpoll had not previously been reported for at least the past 10 years.

Twenty-three species were reported on all counts and are listed in Table 4. Nineteen species were observed on all counts in 2009 and included the Hairy Woodpecker and Song Sparrow. These birds were not observed on all counts this year. However, Northern Flicker, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, and Northern Mockingbird were seen on all counts this year but not in 2009. Table 5 lists the 21 counts, showing the number of species found and the total birds observed. It also indicates the number of observers and party hours for each count.

Fourteen Tundra Swans were observed this year on the Morgantown and Pendleton counts. Four counts observed the Northern Shoveler. A Greater Scaup was seen on the Ona count. The Buffalo count reported a Ring-necked Pheasant. A total of 45 Horned Grebes were reported on 5 counts. Parkersburg reported a new species for the count, a Great Egret. Two Golden Eagles were seen on the Lewisburg count. Pocahontas and Moorefield each reported a Barn Owl. Two Long-eared Owls were seen on the Pendleton count. That count also reported the Loggerhead Shrike.

Last year 243 American Pipits were observed while this year only 86 were reported. Chipping Sparrows were down as well, from 61 in 2009 to only 6 in 2010. Two hundred twelve Rusty Blackbirds were reported in 2010. In 2009 only two were seen. A Common Redpoll was also a new record. It was reported by the Canaan observers. Pine Siskins were appreciably higher as well, 145, as compared to only 14 seen in 2009.

Table 1
Species List

Species	Number
Canada Goose	8,182
Mute Swan	3
Tundra Swan*	14
Wood Duck	17
Gadwall	62
American Wigeon	34
American Black Duck	420
Mallard	3,482
Northern Shoveler*	7
Northern Pintail	4
American Green-winged Teal	39
Redhead	11
Ring-necked Duck	37
Greater Scaup*	1
Lesser Scaup	15
Bufflehead	21
Common Goldeneye	93
Hooded Merganser	351
Common Merganser	131
Red-breasted Merganser	17
Ruddy Duck	19
Ring-necked Pheasant*	1
Ruffed Grouse	10
Wild Turkey	429
Common Loon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	68
Horned Grebe*	45
Double-crested Cormorant	44
Great Blue Heron	133
Great Egret*	1

Species	Number
Black Vulture	882
Turkey Vulture	725
Bald Eagle	57
Northern Harrier	18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	39
Cooper's Hawk	72
Accipiter sp.	2
Buteo sp.	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	143
Red-tailed Hawk	400
Rough-legged Hawk	4
Golden Eagle	2
American Kestrel	109
Peregrine Falcon	4
Virginia Rail	1
American Coot	134
Killdeer	39
Wilson's Snipe	6
Bonaparte's Gull	4
Ring-billed Gull	538
Herring Gull	3
Rock Pigeon	4,458
Mourning Dove	2,842
Barn Owl	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	89
Great Horned Owl	32
Barred Owl	20
Long-eared Owl*	2
Belted Kingfisher	81
Red-headed Woodpecker	15
Red-bellied Woodpecker	722
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	145
Downy Woodpecker	922
Hairy Woodpecker	167
Northern Flicker	361
Pileated Woodpecker	297
Eastern Phoebe	24
Loggerhead Shrike*	2
Blue Jay	3,359

Species	Number
American Crow	54,487
Fish Crow	1
Common Raven	188
Horned Lark	141
Carolina Chickadee	2,237
Black-capped Chickadee	884
Chickadee sp.	61
Tufted Titmouse	2,011
Red-breasted Nuthatch	74
White-breasted Nuthatch	1,153
Brown Creeper	86
Carolina Wren	574
House Wren	1
Winter Wren	43
Golden-crowned Kinglet	474
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18
Kinglet sp.	1
Eastern Bluebird	1,270
Hermit Thrush	95
American Robin	2,534
Gray Catbird	3
Northern Mockingbird	648
Brown Thrasher	8
European Starling	29,784
American Pipit	86
Cedar Waxwing	757
Yellow-rumped Warbler	235
Eastern Towhee	459
American Tree Sparrow	221
Chipping Sparrow	6
Field Sparrow	164
Savannah Sparrow	8
Fox Sparrow	112
Song Sparrow	1,413
Swamp Sparrow	72
White-throated Sparrow	2,004
White-crowned Sparrow	396
Dark-eyed Junco	6,899
Northern Cardinal	3,098

Species	Number
Red-winged Blackbird	401
Eastern Meadowlark	58
Rusty Blackbird	212
Common Grackle	2,506
Brown-headed Cowbird	517
Purple Finch	127
House Finch	946
Common Redpoll*	1
Pine Siskin	145
American Goldfinch	1,679
House Sparrow	3,341
Total	153,472

* denotes species not observed on the 2009 count

Table 2
Ten Most Abundant Species in Descending Order

American Crow
European Starling
Canada Goose
Dark-eyed Junco
Rock Pigeon
Mallard
Blue Jay
House Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove

Table 3
Species Observed on One Count Only

Species	Number	Count Location
American Wigeon	3	Hampshire
Greater Scaup	1	Ona
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Buffalo
Great Egret	1	Parkersburg
Golden Eagle	2	Pendleton
Virginia Rail	1	Charles Town

Species	Number	Count Location
Long-eared Owl	2	Pendleton
Loggerhead Shrike	1	Pendleton
Fish Crow	1	Charles Town
House Wren	1	Charleston
Common Redpoll	1	Canaan

Table 4
Species Observed on All Counts

Mallard	Carolina Wren
Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Bluebird
Rock Pigeon	American Robin
Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker	European Starling
Downy Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Northern Flicker	Dark-eyed Junco
Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
American Crow	House Finch
Chickadees	American Goldfinch
Tufted Titmouse	House Sparrow
White-breasted Nuthatch	

Table 5
Location of Participating Counts, Species, Number of Birds
Observers, and Party Hours

Count Location	Species	Number	Obs.	Hours
Athens-Princeton, WV	42	1,774	5	20
Buffalo Creek	61	10,256	48	101
Canaan, WV	58	1,629	9	43
Charles Town, WV	84	10,759	35	79
Charleston, WV	75	5,365	17	57
Elkins, WV	51	3,570	19	10
Hampshire County, WV	63	4,108	43	84
Huntington, WV	75	7,058	12	47
Inwood, WV	62	8,329	25	73
Lewisburg, WV	63	5,578	21	61
McDowell County, WV	39	1,109	3	10

Count Location	Species	Number	Obs.	Hours
Moorefield, WV	59	1,861	7	22
Morgantown, WV	72	9,266	20	51
Oak Hill, WV	48	1,938	3	25
Ona, WV	71	7,676	18	55
Parkersburg, WV	71	10,036	30	67
Pendleton, WV	72	5,203	9	36
Pipestem, WV	79	3,694	14	42
Pocahontas, WV	50	1,328	11	—
Raleigh County, WV	56	9,323	4	18
Wheeling, WV	53	43,657	10	32

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Valley Falls State Park Saw-whet Owl Banding Station 2009

Joey Herron

The fifth year of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) netted the second highest number and established this site as a legitimate area for migrating NSWOs in the fall. This year a 10 foot x 20 foot shed was constructed for banding and demonstrations.

Banding began on October 8, 2009, and ended on November 28, 2009. Thirty-eight NSWOs were captured including three foreign recaptures, one from Pennsylvania and the other two banded in Canada, one of which had been banded just 30 days earlier at Long Point Bird Observatory.

Again, late October and early November appeared to be the height of the migration with 38 owls captured between November 2 and November 12. The station operated on 22 nights with the nets being opened for 77 and 1/4 hours. Twelve of the 20 nights yielded owls, with 12 NSWOs captured on the night of November 5.

This year also produced a gray phase Eastern Screech Owl banded on the night of November 28. Snow fell for the first time during banding, covering the nets with snow and ice and delaying banding a couple nights. The station was visited, also, by a local newspaper's reporters, and an article was written about the banding operation with a great picture of a Saw-whet Owl that was caught and banded while the newspaper people were present.

The year 2009 was a reverse from 2008 regarding captures of adults and hatch year individuals—32 adults, 3 hatch year for 2008 compared to 36 hatch year and 13 adults for 2007. Females again lead the way in captures in 2008 (See the table).

After five years of banding, 132 NSWOs have been captured, including 13 foreign recaptures. The breakdown shows a heavy advantage for females, 68% to 7% for males, with 25% of unknown sex. The adult, hatch year ratio is almost even with 49% adult to 51% hatch year individuals.

I thank Valley Falls State Park superintendent, Ron Fawcett, for the use of the park facilities and allowing visitors this year for the first time. Without Ron's support this operation would not be possible.

Banding Summary for 2009

Date	Time	NSWO caught
10/03/09	8:45 p.m. – 11:45 p.m.	0
10/10/09	9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	0
10/11/09	9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	0
10/18/09	8:45 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	3
10/19/09	8:50 p.m. – 11:50 a.m.	0
10/20/09	7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	0
10/25/09	8:00 p.m. – 2:15 a.m.	9 (1 foreign recap)
10/26/09	8:00 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.	0
10/29/09	7:45 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	2
11/01/09	9:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	2
11/02/09	8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	3
11/03/09	8:05 p.m. – 11:05 p.m.	0
11/05/09	8:15 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.	0
11/06/09	10:15 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	0
11/07/09	7:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	3
11/08/09	10:00 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	0
11/11/09	8:15 p.m. – 12:15 a.m.	3 (foreign recap)
11/12/09	8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	7
11/13/09	8:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	1
11/14/09	8:00 p.m. – 1:15 a.m.	2
11/16/09	8:15 p.m. – 12:15 a.m.	2
11/17/09	8:45 p.m. – 11:45 p.m.	0
11/21/09	8:50 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.	1 (foreign recap)
11/28/09	8:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	0
Total		38

Age

After hatch year (AHY)	12	32% (adults)
Hatch year (HY)	26	68%

	Sex	
Female	26	68%
Male	1	3%
Unknown	11	29%

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15th Report of the West Virginia Birds Records Committee March 2011

The West Virginia Records Committee held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Brooks Bird Club mid-winter meeting at North Bend State Park on March 5, 2011. At the meeting, action was taken on four records, election of new committee members, and an amendment to the bylaws.

Records Accepted:

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) (2010-1). This is the fifth record accepted for the state; therefore, the Cackling Goose moves to the Regular State List. The goose was seen at Glade Farms in Preston County, West Virginia, on January 2, 2008. Joe Hildreth of St. Delta, Ohio, submitted the report with photographs. The Cackling Goose was split from Canada Goose to create two species in the 45th Supplement to the A.O.U. Check-List (Banks et al., 2003). The Cackling Goose is a small bodied tundra-breeding species of goose.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (2010-2). This report was accepted to the "WV Birds with Less Than Five Records" list. This sighting is only the second record in West Virginia with the first being a specimen collected in 1936 by G. M. Sutton (1937). The sparrow was discovered and photographed by Derek Courtney in the Copper Beech community, Morgantown, Monongalia County, West Virginia. His report included both an excellent written description with collaborative evidence and excellent photographs. The LeConte's Sparrow was relocated the next day by two separate groups of birders. Courtney's alert observation added another excellent record to the state list.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricolis*) (2010-3). This rare bird record was submitted by past West Virginia Bird Records Committee member, Gary Felton. The Eared Grebe sighting was accepted and placed on the "West Virginia Birds with Less Than Five Records" list. This is the second accepted record for West Virginia, the first being a Hypothetical Report in 1955 by T.E. Shields from the Ohio River at Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia (Shields, 1955). Felton reported the grebe on November 8, 2010. Derek Courtney provided photographs of the grebe to the birding community on November 9, 2010, garnering input from around the country, securing the identification. These photographs were used by the committee to support Felton's report. The Eared Grebe was observed by many birders on Alpine Lake, Terra Alta, Preston County, West Virginia, through December 6, 2010. This grebe was an excellent find and addition to the state bird records.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (2011-1). Wendell Argabrite and Michael Griffith spied a pair of Harlequin Ducks on January 12, 2011, on the Ohio River at the Robert C Byrd Locks & Dam, Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, West Virginia.

The members voted to include this record on the "West Virginia Birds with Less Than Five Records" list. The duck is the second accepted record for West Virginia, the first record being a Hypothetical report on January 22, 1974, by J. L. Smith (1976) on the New River near Hinton, Summers County, West Virginia. Argabrite's report included several excellent photographs of the ducks on the water and in flight.

Other Business:

1. One amendment to the by-laws was passed, to wit, the following additional paragraph: G is added to Article III, providing for the election of an alternate member of the Committee:

G. In addition to the members of the Committee, there shall be elected an alternate member who shall agree to take the place of a member of the Committee who resigns therefrom, or is otherwise unavailable to serve as a member, before the end of his or her term. In the event the alternate member takes the place of a member, the alternate member shall serve out the remainder of the resigning member's term. The Secretary shall provide the alternate member with all materials provided to regular members, and the alternate member shall be invited to all meetings of the Committee, but the alternate member shall not have a vote at any meeting prior to the resignation of a member. A replacement alternate member shall be elected at each meeting during which an alternate member takes the place of a resigning member.

2. Nominations were opened for three new committee members. Two members with expired terms were Mindy Waldron and Robert Dean. Wil Hershberger and William Tolin were elected as new full-term members. The election included the replacement of James Phillips who had resigned. We welcome Gary Rankin for agreeing to complete his term. Cynthia Ellis was elected and welcomed as the alternate member per the new bylaw. The committee expresses gratitude to all members who have volunteered their service to the West Virginia Bird Records Committee.

3. An election was held to select the chair and vice-chair. LeJay Graffious as chair and Casey Rucker as vice-chair were unanimously elected.

4. Recognition was also given to Wendell Argabrite for his service as a nonvoting secretary and keeper of the official lists.

5. Recognition was also given to the Brooks Bird Club for their continued support and Web page service.

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LeConte's Sparrow discovered by Derek Courtney in Monongalia County. Photo by Derek Courtney.

Eared Grebe discovered by Gary Felton on November 8, 2010 at Alpine Lake, Terra Alta in Preston County, West Virginia. Photo by Derek Courtney.

Harlequin Ducks discovered by Wendell Argabrite and Michael Griffith at the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, West Virginia on January 12, 2011. Photo by Wendell Argabrite.

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Submitted by the WV Bird Records Committee members: Robert Dean, LeJay Graffious, Matthew Orsie, Casey Rucker, Rob Tallman, and Mindy Waldron.

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory: Fall Migration, 2010

Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell Pattison

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) conducted its 53rd year of bird banding at Dolly Sods, West Virginia, this fall. AFMO is located 10 miles southeast of Davis, West Virginia. Banding began on August 15, and ended on October 8, 2010. A record yearly number of 10,363 birds was banded of 82 species with a station effort of 186 birds per 100 net hours. Common Nighthawk and Summer Tanager were new species for the station, which brings the total species banded to 123. The overall percentage of hatch year birds (using known age birds only) was 60.01% compared with 72.15% in 2009. A total of 240,841 birds has been banded since the writer (Bell) founded AFMO in the fall of 1958. The Station was open for 47 days and closed for 8 days due to bad weather. There were 12 days when over 100 birds were banded, 9 days over 200, 3 days over 300, 2 days over 400, 2 days over 500, 2 days over 600, and 2 days when over 700 birds were banded. We banded from 100 to more than 700 birds on 32 days out of the 47 days we were open. Perhaps the lack of hurricanes and the fact that we had 36 banding days with direct west wind, played a factor in the large numbers of birds we banded and saw flying over our nets this fall.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species this year with 2,100 banded, which is 102% over the 10-year average (2000-2009). The Blackpoll Warbler was 2nd highest with 1,478 banded, which is 134.6% over the 10-year average. It is interesting to note that since 1981 (30 years), the first Blackpoll Warblers have always arrived at AFMO between August 20 and September 10, and their peak days have occurred between September 10 and October 6. The Black-throated Green Warbler was 3rd highest with 1,254 banded, which is 125.98% over the 10-year average. The Magnolia Warbler was 4th highest with 1,072 banded, which is 367.1% over the 10-year average. The Swainson's Thrush was 5th highest with 526 banded, which is 140.7% over the 10-year average. The total number of birds banded of the top 5 species combined is 6,430, which was 62% of the total birds banded this fall. The next highest numbers of birds banded were Tennessee Warbler (495), Ovenbird (397), Blackburnian Warbler (353), Cape May Warbler (330), and Golden-crowned Kinglet (239).

Some of the other species whose numbers on average were up this year were the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Some of the birds whose numbers on average were down this year were the Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, and Blue Jay.

The Flyover Count was started in 1990 and has continued every year during the fall banding season at AFMO. See results from the Fall 2010 flyover count elsewhere in this issue of *The Redstart*.

This fall, 1,126 people signed our visitor's book. These visitors to AFMO came from 23 states; Washington, DC; and 5 foreign countries—Canada, France, Germany, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom. Several elementary and middle schools and colleges visited AFMO including The Highland Adventist School from Elkins; Glenville State College Ecology class; Georgetown University freshman group; Potomac Valley Audubon Society, Shepherdstown, West Virginia; Canaan Valley Master Naturalists; West Virginia Boy Scout troupes; a Pendleton County, West Virginia home school group; and Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

We thank the personnel of Monongahela National Forest: Supervisor Clyde Thompson, Special Use Manager Laura Hise, Develop Recreation Manager, Ed Sherman; Forestry Technician, John Waggy; Program Manager, Bonnie Wilson; and many others for their cooperation and help. We sincerely appreciate the hard work of Thomas Fox, AFMO volunteer, and Ed Sherman from the U.S. Forest Service, along with his men, John Waggy, Ron Polgar, Jeff Lark, and Brandon Olinger, for their help in keeping the vegetation in check at the station. We also thank the West Virginia DNR for the use of their building for storage of our banding shed. We also thank the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, The Brooks Bird Club, and many visitors and volunteers for their financial support, which is our only means of replacing the 30 mist nets we use in the banding operation.

The very dedicated banders who participated this year were Robert Dean, Randy and Elizabeth Ritter (also Campground Hosts), Todd and Kimberly Schnopp, Charles Ziegenfus, and station leaders Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell Pattison. The scheduled volunteers, in addition to the banders, were Thomas and Dawn Fox, John and Matthew Fox, Donald Pattison, Maggi Perl, Jeffery and Sheila Berry, Tim Newlin, Thomas and Debbie Long, Joe Schreiber, LeJay Graffious and Steve Sushinski. LeJay and Helen Ann Graffious, Todd and Kim Schnopp and others erected the shed in August and took down the shed at the end of the banding season. As this was the busiest year we have ever had, we would like to personally thank a few people who always made sure the station was covered; they are Randy and Elizabeth Ritter, Thomas Fox, and Todd and Kimberly Schnopp. We will never forget their help and dedication to us as leaders and to AFMO. We could not have done it without them and all the other loyal volunteers who gave their time and worked very hard whenever possible.

AFMO 2010 Bandings

Species	Total Banded	First Day	Last Day	Peak Number	Peak Date(s)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Sep 22			
Merlin	2	Sep 12	Sep 14		
American Woodcock	2	Aug 21	Sep 06		
Common Nighthawk	1	Sep 11			
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1	Aug 29			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	Sep 20	Oct 08	2	Oct 02
Downy Woodpecker	2	Oct 02	Oct 08		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	Sep 26	Sep 28		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	10	Aug 21	Sep 22	2	Sep 20
Acadian Flycatcher	1	Aug 30			
Trail's Flycatcher	3	Aug 17	Sep 08		
Eastern Phoebe	4	Aug 20	Oct 03		
Blue-headed Vireo	37	Aug 21	Oct 08	12	Oct 03
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	Sep 14	Sep 22	2	Sep 22
Philadelphia Vireo	52	Aug 29	Sep 29	9	Sep 19
Red-eyed Vireo	152	Aug 16	Oct 08	20	Sep 14
Blue Jay	59	Sep 20	Oct 08	18	Oct 07
Black-capped Chickadee	22	Aug 15	Oct 07	4	Sep 11
Tufted Titmouse	1	Sep 22			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	31	Aug 29	Oct 07	3	Sep 19, 20
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Sep 14	Oct 07		
Brown Creeper	4	Sep 18	Oct 08		

Species	Total Banded	First Day	Last Day	Peak Number	Peak Date(s)
House Wren	6	Sep 14	Sep 22	3	Sep 22
Winter Wren	7	Aug 15	Oct 03		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11	Aug 16	Sep 21	3	Aug 16
Golden-crowned Kinglet	239	Aug 30	Oct 08	74	Oct 03 (73 on Oct 08)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	119	Sep 14	Oct 08	31	Oct 03
Veery	13	Aug 15	Sep 11	3	Sep 01
Gray-cheeked Thrush	16	Sep 12	Oct 07	4	Sep 23
Swainson's Thrush	526	Aug 17	Oct 03	93	Sep 20 (92 on Sep 14)
Hermit Thrush	20	Aug 15	Oct 07	3	Sep 29
Wood Thrush	17	Sep 09	Oct 03	4	Sep 15
American Robin	11	Aug 16	Oct 07	2	Oct 02
Gray Catbird	24	Aug 21	Oct 02	3	Sep 20, 22, 26
Brown Thrasher	3	Aug 31	Sep 21		
Cedar Waxwing	13	Aug 15	Sep 16	3	Sep 14
Blue-winged Warbler	4	Aug 20	Sep 14	2	Sep 05
Golden-winged Warbler	3	Sep 12	Sep 15	2	Sep 15
Tennessee Warbler	495	Aug 17	Oct 08	59	Sep 14
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	Sep 20	Oct 08		
Nashville Warbler	187	Aug 25	Oct 08	36	Sep 12
Northern Parula	39	Aug 31	Oct 08	5	Sep 16
Chestnut-sided Warbler	192	Aug 15	Sep 29	22	Aug 26
Magnolia Warbler	1072	Aug 16	Oct 08	106	Sep 19
Cape May Warbler	330	Aug 16	Oct 07	36	Sep 14
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2100	Aug 15	Oct 08	171	Sep 23

Species	Total Banded	First Day	Last Day	Peak Number	Peak Date(s)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	26	Aug 20	Oct 08	7	Oct 08
Black-throated Green Warbler	1254	Aug 15	Oct 08	86	Sep 19
Blackburnian Warbler	353	Aug 16	Oct 03	37	Sep 15 (31 on Aug 26)
Pine Warbler	5	Aug 31	Oct 03	2	Oct 02
Western Palm Warbler	16	Sep 01	Oct 08	4	Sep 09
Yellow Palm Warbler	3	Sep 23	Oct 03		
Bay-breasted Warbler	198	Aug 26	Oct 02	30	Sep 20
Blackpoll Warbler	1478	Aug 29	Oct 08	185	Sep 14
Cerulean Warbler	3	Aug 30	Sep 16		
Black-and-white Warbler	94	Aug 16	Sep 28	15	Sep 12
American Redstart	114	Aug 16	Sep 25	18	Sep 14
Worm-eating Warbler	8	Aug 16	Sep 21	4	Aug 16
Ovenbird	397	Aug 16	Oct 03	61	Sep 19
Northern Waterthrush	11	Aug 19	Sep 15	2	Aug 27
Connecticut Warbler	12	Sep 03	Sep 19	3	Sep 10
Mourning Warbler	1	Sep 16			
Common Yellowthroat	116	Aug 15	Oct 01	9	Sep 02
Hooded Warbler	22	Aug 16	Sep 25	4	Sep 14
Wilson's Warbler	40	Aug 21	Sep 24	11	Sep 12
Canada Warbler	22	Aug 15	Sep 15	6	Aug 26
Eastern Towhee	14	Aug 15	Oct 03	3	Aug 15
Chipping Sparrow	2	Aug 17	Aug 19		
Field Sparrow	1	Sep 26			
Savannah Sparrow	3	Aug 15	Sep 03		

Species	Total Banded	First Day	Last Day	Peak Number	Peak Date(s)
Song Sparrow	2	Sep 20	Oct 01		
Lincoln's Sparrow	28	Sep 18	Oct 03	11	Sep 22
Swamp Sparrow	5	Aug 19	Oct 02	2	Sep 23
White-throated Sparrow	11	Sep 21	Oct 07	3	Sep 23
White-crowned Sparrow	4	Oct 02	Oct 03		
Dark-eyed Junco	88	Aug 15	Oct 08	9	Oct 02
Summer Tanager	1	Sep 09			
Scarlet Tanager	33	Aug 16	Sep 26	7	Sep 19
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	82	Aug 16	Sep 25	11	Sep 15, 25
Indigo Bunting	10	Aug 17	Oct 02		
Baltimore Oriole	1	Aug 25			
Purple Finch	3	Sep 19	Oct 08	2	Sep 19
American Goldfinch	54	Aug 29	Oct 08	10	Sep 15
Total Banded	10,363				

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AFMO 2010 Fall Flyover Count

Donald Pattison

The 21st annual Flyover Count at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) on Dolly Sods, West Virginia, was conducted from August 15 to October 8, 2010. I was asked by Ralph K. Bell to again coordinate the Count and was assisted by Thomas Fox, Todd and Kimberly Schnopp, Elizabeth Ritter, Joan Pattison, Robert Dean, Maggi Perl, and other interested observers. Counts were conducted every day except the eight days the station was closed due to bad weather, and some flyovers may have been missed on peak migration days when counters were busy with the banding operation, as over 10,000 birds were caught and banded this year.

The main emphasis of the Flyover Count is on Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Blue Jays, Goldfinches, and Monarch Butterflies. The counts are listed below with the AFMO 2009 fall season flyover counts in parentheses:

Species	Count	2009 Peak Day	2010 Peak Day	21-Yr. Average
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	149(153)	26 on Aug. 30	29 on Aug. 29	408
Blue Jay	2,062(2,922)	594 on Oct. 2	319 on Oct. 2	5,489
American Goldfinch	2,268(1,862)	227 on Sept. 11	251 on Sept. 15	2,821
Monarch Butterfly	406(68)	13 on Sept. 20	115 on Sept. 22	1,087

Migration timing is fascinating. Note that each migration peak is approximately at the same time every year, providing the weather conditions are right. Other flyovers counted this fall are shown in the following list with the 2009 Fall Flyover totals in parentheses:

- Peregrine Falcon 1 (2)
- Black Vulture 8 (2)
- Turkey Vulture 77 (19)
- Osprey 7 (3)
- Golden Eagle 2 (2)
- Bald Eagle 17 (2)
- Northern Harrier 5 (6)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk 42 (16)
- Cooper's Hawk 15 (7)
- Red-tailed Hawk 8 (3)
- Broad-winged Hawk 564 (2,490)

American Kestrel 6 (8)
Merlin 13 (3)
Common Nighthawk 83
Chimney Swift 31 (13)
Northern Flicker 44 (132)
Tree Swallow 248 (2,086)
Barn Swallow 5 (9)
Red-breasted Nuthatch 40 (13)
Eastern Bluebird 5 (7)
American Robin 141 (588)
Cedar Waxwings 618 (877)
Scarlet Tanager 49 (21)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 131 (53)
Dragonflies 302 (81)

In the 53 years since AFMO was founded by Ralph K. Bell, 2009 was the first year a Mourning Dove was ever banded. It was also the first year one was recorded as being seen on Dolly Sods. This year, a few more doves were noted for several days on the road near the banding station. Another interesting fact is that many Katydid were recorded in the early morning at the banding station for the first time. In previous years, there was a certain invisible line as you traveled up the mountain above which they were not heard. One to three Eastern Whip-poor-wills were heard often in the early morning and late evening from August, when we began banding, until late September. The station was closed on October 8 (we already had snow flurries by then), so later migrants were not counted. We do know that late October is the peak migration time for Robins and the first week of November is the peak time for Red-tailed Hawks.

Ralph K. Bell started the AFMO Flyover Count in the fall of 1990. The Flyover Count, along with the banding, helps create a strong interest by visitors about how determined migrants are in going south for the winter and hopefully will create a future commitment to conservation.

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Book Reviews

The American Bird Conservancy Guide to Bird Conservation by Daniel J. Lebbin, Michael J. Parr, and George H. Fenwick. 2010. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 446 pages, color photographs, illustrations by Chris Vest, \$30, hard cover.

It's all in the back! Except for the good parts in the front. And the middle. For this book, a reviewer might advise, as with a mystery, "Turn to the last page. See who done it." The authors agree. But, that's too simple and assumes that only a person especially interested in bird conservation could use the last chapter, "Strategies and Actions." Also, some birders shy away from conservation activism. Is this book not for them? The American Bird Conservancy's president, George Fenwick, in the preface, notes that, saying, "They want their hobby to be just that—a relaxing pastime, and not a cause for which to fight or pay." The authors [including Fenwick] do recognize this, but counter with, "...that means that each birder engaged in conservation is proportionately more important than our numbers might indicate." However, whether as an activist or hobbyist, any birder can find important information in this book—even if the order of reading is from back to front, front to back, dipping into, or scanning over.

Here's why. First, many birders quickly learn to become "habitat" birders; that is, they seek out specific kinds of areas for more success in finding birds. This guide features an extensive "Habitats" section for all of North America. It does so for international locations, on a smaller scale. Details and photos abound. Bird travelers can re-live their favorite trips or plan new ones. Even we who don't venture far from home will relish these accounts for more successful searching locally. Each entry—termed "Birdscapes"—features several examples of Important Bird Areas within that location and points out pertinent species, threats, and conservation actions. Especially charming and intriguing are introductory paintings by Chris West for each Birdscape. Superficially, they appear to be beautiful scenes, but a closer look reveals lurking dangers.

What else? The foreword, preface, and introduction set the tone. In the former, Jonathan Franzen reminds us that one third of all American bird species are in trouble. The preface explains why "citizen science" needs now to move toward "citizen conservation." The introduction leads through a brief history of efforts to save birds, including those of the pioneering women of the 1890s who organized against the use of plumes on hats. It tells about population declines, about setting priorities, and what the future might present.

To continue this out-of-order tour, next is the first chapter of this guide—"Watchlist Birds." Featured here are 212 species including those considered in need of "early warnings" as well as those deemed endangered. A quick look at a status bar

Mountain top removal mine, Kayford Mountain. Photo by Vivian Stockman.

can show trends and populations, and the number of birds within the U.S. Skimming through the single page accounts can help focus on birds of one area—say, the Appalachian area—even finding those noted on reclaimed strip mines.

Additionally, “Threats,” mentioned in “Birdscapes” and “Watchlist Birds,” earns a whole chapter treatment. If you live in West Virginia and some examples came to mind—mining, drilling, development, and industrial scale wind facilities—you’ll find these and more discussed in detail. Twenty-eight hazards to birds today are examined. Topics range from those mentioned to cats, plants, insects, and beyond. For birds themselves, there is information on species such as Mute Swans, cowbirds, and vultures. As for the effect of our own species, the authors say, “Although it can be argued that most birds go through natural cycles of decline and increase, we have reached a point in history when the impacts of human activities are so profound and far-reaching that from now on, it will always be impossible to untangle the completely natural declines from those that are partially or completely anthropogenic.”

Grim. Perhaps. But this is not a doomsday book. In the last chapter strategies are offered. There are plenty of things to do. Birders are urged to take even small efforts such as maintaining insect populations and also more ambitious ones involving reaching out to decision makers and others. There is a wide range of ideas; both ardent environmental birders and folks who want to do just one little thing should find help here. Resources are many and include pages of “National Bird Conservation Priorities—State by State,” and a “Bird Conservation Directory.”

This guide is printed in China but is made with paper from “responsibly managed forests.” This reviewer believes that perhaps the authors understand industry domination in regard to commercial fishing better than similar domination in coal mining. Spirited activists might wish for other ideas and stronger language, in the matter of mountaintop removal mining, rather than to “write to officials and request,” and to rely substantially on reforestation. There are small proofreading errors. Unfortunately, one is on a page devoted to the locally important matter of industrial-sized wind facilities on Appalachian ridges.

Overall, “The American Bird Conservancy Guide to Bird Conservation” will be an invaluable tool for many. Purchasing one copy for donation to a local library would help all the birders and environmentalists in your area to sample the sections they prefer. Donating one to your favorite DNR or FWS officer or environmental group could be helpful. Or...depending on where you live, I’ll be glad to loan you my copy.

Cynthia D. Ellis

The Young Birder’s Guide to Birds of Eastern North America by Bill Thompson, III. 2008. Illustrations by Julie Zickefoose and many photographers. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 256 pages, glossary, index. \$14.95, vinyl bound.

This Peterson Field Guide is aimed at 8- to 12-year-old children, and the authors have done an excellent job of it. The guide was tested on the author's daughter's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes. The 200 species accounts are designed for children, but don't baby them. The information included in the species accounts includes much of the information one might find in any field guide, but it is expressed in a way that attracts young readers. Each species account features one or two photographs, one of Julie Zickefoose's drawings, a range map showing summer, year-round, winter, spring/fall migration, and occasionally occupied range. A "Look for" section gives appearance and markings, and a "Listen for" section describes calls and songs. There is a "Remember" section, and a "Find it" section giving habitat and how to find the bird. What it eats, and population trends are included. Children love a circled "Wow!" that has an interesting fact about each species tailored for the interests of young birders. For example, "Some woodpeckers attack house siding" and a note under the Turkey Vulture describing how they might puke on you if you get too close to their nest. My grandson, Eli, liked that one. Under tips for beginning bird watchers, there is a list of sensible ways to get started in the hobby. Eli immediately began a bird journal, which included a pretty good drawing of a Pileated Woodpecker that he had seen with his grandpa earlier that day. This book will make a great gift for any 8- to 12-year-old budding birder.

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

Field Notes Fall Season

September 1 through November 30, 2010

Casey Rucker

September and October were warmer than average, while November was slightly cooler than usual. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, in October West Virginia experienced its seventh month in a row that was warmer than normal. The fall season saw below-normal precipitation persist throughout the state. Drought conditions continued through October in the eastern panhandle and five other counties, but had eased throughout the state by the end of November.

These notes were gathered from the National Audubon Society sponsored West Virginia Bird Listserv, and from field notes submitted to the editor by e-mail, at autobock@frontiernet.net, and regular mail. The full content of the submitted notes by the contributors of the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at the following Web site: www.list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html. Birders from 40 of the 55 West Virginia counties reported sightings on the WV Listserv during the fall season.

Notable among the fall's reports were sightings of two species with only one previous state record. Derek Courtney found a **LeConte's Sparrow** off West Run in Morgantown on October 1, and on November 8 Gary Felton found an **Eared Grebe** at Alpine Lake in Preston County, where it was observed by many reporters. There were 221 species reported in the state during the fall months.

Ducks, Swans, and Geese—Terry Bronson and Derek Courtney found two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Cheat Lake Park in Monongalia County on November 5. **Snow Geese** prompted reports in November from Hardy County (RD), Monongalia County (KA), and Preston County (DCo, GF, WA, MG, DP, TB). Gary Felton, Derek Courtney, and Terry Bronson reported a **Cackling Goose** in mid-October in Reedsville, Preston County. **Canada Geese** as usual were widespread throughout the state. Derek Courtney counted 294 **Tundra Swans** at Cheat Lake in Monongalia County on November 16, and reporters also observed **Tundra Swans** in Hardy (FA), Jefferson (MO), and Preston (GF) Counties. Birders in at least five counties reported **Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, American Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks** this fall. Reports of the following species came from fewer than five counties: **Northern Shovelers**—Barbour (TB), Cabell (TI), Mason (DP), and Putnam (KK) Counties; **Northern Pintails**—Mason (DP), Monongalia (DCo), and Preston (GF) Counties; **Redheads**—

Preston (DCo, GF), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Lesser Scaup**—Mason (DP), Monongalia (TB, DCo), Preston (TB, DCo) and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; and **Red-breasted Mergansers**—Grant (FA) and Wood (JB) Counties. Matthew Orsie found 10 **Greater Scaup** in Jefferson County on November 16, without finding the sole **Long-tailed Duck** Carol Del-Colle saw on November 14 at Lake Shannondale. Matthew Orsie reported the only **Common Goldeneye** of the season, a female at Sleepy Creek Lake in Berkeley County on November 8.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Turkeys—Birders throughout the state reported **Wild Turkeys**, while **Ruffed Grouse** reports came from mountainous counties: Grant (FA), Pocahontas (DP), Preston (TB, LeJ), Randolph (HM), and Tucker (SK, HM, CR). Herb Myers reported **Ruffed Grouse** drumming in both Randolph and Tucker Counties during late October and early November.

Loons and Grebes—On November 14, Derek Courtney found a **Red-throated Loon** at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County, along with 12 **Common Loons**. Gary Rankin found a pair of **Common Loons** at Greenbottom WMA in Cabell County on November 25, and Michael Griffith found another pair at the mouth of Crab Creek in Mason County on November 15. A flurry of e-mails initially debated the identity of an **Eared Grebe** found by Gary Felton at Alpine Lake, Preston County, in November. A number of pilgrims made their way to see the **Eared Grebe**, including Kyle Aldinger, Wendell Argabrite, Terry Bronson, Derek Courtney, Michael Griffith, Matthew Orsie, David Patick, and the editor of these field notes. Birders reported **Horned Grebes** in Cabell (TI), Jefferson (CD), Mason (MG), and Monongalia (LeJ, DCo) Counties. **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared widely throughout the state.

Cormorants—Reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** came from six counties: Jefferson (BH), Kanawha (CE), Mason (DP), Preston (GF), Putnam (CE) and, Wetzel (WJ).

Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets—**Great Blue Herons**, **Great Egrets**, and **Green Herons** appeared throughout much of the state. Richard Esker reported that the numbers of **Great Blue Herons** nesting at two rookeries in the Ohio River National Wildlife Refuge have been declining since 1992. On September 6, Gary Felton saw a **Black-crowned Night Heron** flying past his home in Preston County.

Ibises—The juvenile **White Ibis** reported in August in Summers County, near Bellepoint and Bluestone Dam, lingered until September 10, as reported by James and Judy Phillips. On October 10, David Patick reported that he, Michael Griffith, and Wendell Argabrite observed what they believed to be a first-year **Glossy Ibis** at Hoefft Marsh in Cabell County, and Derek Courtney re-found the bird on October 11.

Vultures—Reports of **Black Vultures** came from five counties, while 19 counties had reports of **Turkey Vultures**.

Hawks and Eagles—**Osprey**, **Bald Eagles**, **Northern Harriers**, **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, **Cooper's Hawks**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, **Broad-winged Hawks**, **Red-tailed Hawks**, and **Golden Eagles** were the subjects of many reports throughout the state

during the fall season. It was a banner year at Hanging Rock Observation Tower in Monroe County, with a staggering 4,692 raptors reported this season. For the second year in a row, observers at Hanging Rock Observation Tower counted record numbers of **Bald Eagles** (137) and **Golden Eagles** (52). A record 805 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were tallied there as well. Tower watchers clocked 210 **Broad-winged Hawks** on September 20, and 2,897 for the season, eclipsing their total number of sightings of all raptors during the prior year. On September 20, Rodney Bartgis saw a **Northern Goshawk** as well as a **Merlin** on the Roaring Plains of Dolly Sods Wilderness, Pendleton and Randolph Counties. On November 16, Randy Bodkins found two **Rough-legged Hawks** north of Elkins in Randolph County.

Falcons—**American Kestrels** appeared in counties throughout the state during the fall season. On September 25, Wilma Jarrell saw a **Merlin** make a brief stop on its way across the meadow next to her house in Wileyville, Wetzel County. Three **Merlins** flew by Hanging Rock Tower Observatory on October 8. Jean Neely reported that a female **Merlin** was banded at the Allegheny Front Migratory Observatory in Dolly Sods, Grant County, on September 14, and there were several other sightings of **Merlins** in that vicinity during the fall season, including the sighting by Rodney Bartgis mentioned above. There were reports of **Peregrine Falcons** from five counties, including LeJay Graffious's sighting of a **Peregrine Falcon** in Morgantown, Monongalia County, on October 3.

Rails, Coots—Wendell Argabrite had an excellent day on October 3 at Ashton Wetlands, Mason County, when a **King Rail** seemed to fall from the sky and land in the wetlands 10 feet away from him, as he was walking away from observing a very cooperative **Sedge Wren**. On November 12, Matthew Orsie found a **Virginia Rail** at Altona Marsh, in Berkeley County, and on September 29, Kimberly Kazmierski found her **Sora** call rewarded by the appearance of a native speaker at Winfield Lock and Dam, Putnam County. **American Coots** were present in numerous counties, including the 97 found by Derek Courtney at Alpine Lake in Preston County on October 29.

Cranes—Gary Felton reported a flyover **Sandhill Crane** from his home in Kingwood, Preston County, on November 24.

Plovers—Mark Johnson saw a **Black-bellied Plover** in Brighton Park in Moorefield, Hardy County, on September 27, and the bird remained there for several days. On the first day of September, Terry Bronson reported a **Semipalmated Plover** at Tygart Lake, Barbour County, and later that month Kimberly Kazmierski spotted one at Winfield Lock and Dam, Putnam County. **Killdeer** were well represented with reports from 17 counties.

Sandpipers—Members of 12 sandpiper species appeared this fall. Reports of **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers**, and **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** came from more than five counties each. On September 7, John and Carolyn Snyder reported the first **Solitary Sandpiper** at their pond near Summersville, in Nicholas County. Wil Hershberger saw his first **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** on September 12

in southern Morgan County. **Semipalmated, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers; Dunlin; Stilt Sandpipers;** and **Wilson's Snipe** were reported from fewer than five counties each. On September 20, Robert Dean birded the ponds at Archer's Rock, Berkeley County and found **Solitary Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers,** and on September 30, Matthew Orsie found four **Pectoral Sandpipers** at the same location. On the weekend of October 2-3, David Patick observed four **Spotted Sandpipers** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Greenbottom WMA, Mason County, on Saturday; and Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite added **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Greater Yellowlegs** at the same location on Sunday. Gary Rankin was watching and listening to a pair of **Great Horned Owls** on October 7 near his home in Lavalette, Wayne County, when a pair of **American Woodcocks** flew by. On the evening of September 21, Derek Courtney was surprised by a pair of **Red-necked Phalaropes** while he was looking for bitterns and sparrows near Arthurdale, Preston County.

Gulls and Terns—Gulls made few appearances, and terns none. There were reports of **Bonaparte's Gulls** from Jefferson (MO), Mason (DP, MG), and Taylor (DCo) Counties. **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** were each reported from five counties.

Columbidae—**Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state.

Cuckoos—There were reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in six counties, of which the latest was one observed at the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge Big Sit on October 10, as reported by Jon Benedetti. The only reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** during the season came at its beginning, when Gary Felton saw one in Preston County on September 5, and Hullet Good found another in Kanawha County on September 14.

Owls—Owl reports increased from prior seasons this year. James and Judy Phillips saw a **Barn Owl** in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, on October 15, and Rob Tallman enjoyed seeing a **Barn Owl** at Huttonsville WMA in Randolph County on November 17. Nine counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls; Great Horned Owl** reports came from five counties; and observers reported **Barred Owls** in six counties. Tammy Lester heard a **Long-eared Owl** for two weeks ending on September 10 at her home in Wyoming County, where she also found **Eastern Screech-, Great Horned,** and **Barred Owls** during the fall season. Derek Courtney watched a pair of **Short-eared Owls** at Indian Creek WMA in Monongalia County on November 28. Kevin Cade was camping at Red Creek Campground in Dolly Sods, Tucker County, when he heard a **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** calling on September 19.

Goatsuckers and **Swifts**—On September 6, Cynthia Ellis heard two **Eastern Whip-Poor-Wills** in Putnam County, and on September 18, Matthew Orsie saw an **Eastern Whip-Poor-Will** flying about and calling from three different locations at Bear Rocks in Dolly Sods, so the bird was likely in both Tucker and Grant Counties.

Common Nighthawks were reported in seven counties this September, and Kim Kazmierski saw the latest **Common Nighthawk** of the season on October 8 in Hurricane, Putnam County. There were eleven counties with reports of **Chimney Swifts**, all before mid-October.

Hummingbirds—Birders in 13 counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, primarily in September. Carol Del-Colle saw the last-reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season on October 18 at her home in Summit Point, Jefferson County.

Kingfishers—There were reports of **Belted Kingfisher** in 16 counties.

Woodpeckers—Our state's seven species of woodpeckers were all widely reported, with sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in seven counties: Hardy (DC), Mason (DP, SM), Pendleton (DH), Pocahontas (TI), Ritchie (TB), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ). On October 30, Terry Bronson found all seven woodpecker species in Ritchie County, primarily in North Bend State Park. Ben Borda watched a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** feeding on persimmons at his home in Huntington, Cabell County, on November 27.

Flycatchers—Migrating **Olive-sided Flycatchers** appeared in three counties in September: Hardy (KKi), Preston (GF), and Wyoming (TL). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were reported in seven counties. On September 6, Derek Courtney found a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** in the Northern Tract of Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, as well as **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Eastern Phoebe**, and the only **Acadian Flycatcher** reported in the state during the fall season. Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite saw the only other **Least Flycatcher** reported this season, near Cornstalk WMA on the Mason County ridges. Hullet Good reported a late migrant **Eastern Kingbird** in Milliken, Kanawha County, on September 12. **Eastern Phoebes** were reported widely in the state, with the latest report from Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club at Northern Drive in Wood County on November 11. **Great Crested Flycatchers** made appearances in three counties, none later than mid-September.

Vireos—**White-eyed**, **Yellow-throated**, **Blue-headed**, and **Red-eyed Vireos** appeared in counties throughout the state during September, and **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen through October. Frederick Atwood reported the only **Warbling Vireo** of the season, at Brighton Park in Moorefield, Hardy County, on September 5. Birders reported **Philadelphia Vireos** from Cabell (MG, DP), Mason (DP), Monongalia (TB), Preston (GF), Taylor (TB), and Tucker (DCo, CR) Counties.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens—**Blue Jays**, **American Crows**, and **Common Ravens** were reported widely throughout the state. Frederick Atwood was in Franklin, Pendleton County, when a flock of 12 **Fish Crows** flew over, calling noisily, on October 30.

Larks—**Horned Larks** began appearing in late November, showing up in Grant (FA) and Mason (DP, MG) Counties.

Swallows—**Tree Swallows** lingered in eight counties during September and October, and on October 16, David Patick, Michael Griffith, and Wendell Argabrite counted 400 in a flock at Ashton Wetlands, Mason County, for the last report of the species this fall. There was only one report each of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**—Grant County (FA), **Bank Swallow**—Preston County (GF), **Cliff Swallow**—Grant County (FA), and **Barn Swallow**—Tucker County (DCo).

Paridae—**Black-capped** and **Carolina Chickadees** made their usual appearances in their bifurcated range in West Virginia. **Tufted Titmice** were commonly reported throughout the state as well.

Nuthatches—**Red-breasted Nuthatches**, and **White-breasted Nuthatches** occupied their usual spots in reports from throughout the state.

Creepers—Birders in 13 counties reported **Brown Creeper**.

Wrens—**Carolina**, **Winter**, and **House Wrens** appeared in good numbers of reports from many parts of the state. **Sedge Wrens** rewarded birders in Mason (WA) and Summers Counties (JJP).

Gnatcatchers—**Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** appeared in reports from only four counties this fall: Cabell (DP, MG), Grant (FA), Putnam (CE), and Wayne (GR).

Kinglets—Birders reported **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** throughout the state this fall.

Thrushes—**Eastern Bluebirds**, **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, **Swainson's Thrushes**, **Hermit Thrushes**, **Wood Thrushes**, and **American Robins** were seen throughout most reporting counties. The only reports of **Veery** this season were from birders who listened to the birds' pre-dawn flight calls: Derek Courtney and Frederick Atwood in Dolly Sods Wilderness, Grant and Tucker Counties, and Gary Felton, Preston County. William Tolin observed *fledglings from two different American Robin nests near Elkins, Randolph County, at the late date of September 3*, Stephen Kimbrell found a late **Hermit Thrush** near Parsons, Tucker County, on November 14, and Ben Borda reported a late **Wood Thrush** at his home in Huntington, Cabell County, from November 18-27.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers—There were reports of **Gray Catbirds**, **Northern Mockingbirds**, and **Brown Thrashers** from counties throughout the state this fall.

Starlings—**European Starlings** continued to occupy widespread habitats throughout our state.

Pipits—Birders in seven counties found **American Pipits** this fall: Cabell (DP, MG, WA), Grant (FA), Hardy (DC), Mason (DP, MG), Monroe (WS), Pendleton (FA), and Wood (JB, JT, JTII). David Patick and Michael Griffith saw a flock of 100 **American Pipits** at Gallipolis Ferry fields, Mason County, on November 26.

Waxwings—**Cedar Waxwings** were present in most parts of the state. John Waugaman saw a flock of 45 **Cedar Waxwings** outside Beechfork Lake along Dunkle Branch, in Wayne County, on October 23.

Snow Buntings—Kieran O'Malley saw a lone female **Snow Bunting** at Bear

Rocks parking lot on Dolly Sods (Tucker and Grant Counties) on November 2, according to a report by Donna Mitchell.

Warblers—Warbler species reported in five or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. Species listed without contributors were reported in at least six counties. Warblers reported this fall included **Blue-winged**—Cabell (DP, MG, WA), Mason (DP, MG), and Taylor (TB) Counties; **Orange-crowned Warbler**—Monongalia (DCo), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, and Yellow**—Wetzel County (WJ); **Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Yellow-throated, Pine, and Prairie**—Cabell (DP, MG), Mason (DP, MG), Preston (TB), and Wayne (MG) Counties; **Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Cerulean**—Cabell (WA) and Summers (JJP) Counties; **Black-and-white, American Redstart, Worm-eating**—Cabell (DP, MG), Jefferson (MO), Tucker (DCo), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush**—Cabell (DP, MG), Preston (DCo), and Tucker (DCo) Counties; **Kentucky**—Cabell County (DP, MG); **Connecticut**—Tucker County (MO, CR); **Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Wilson's, and Canada**—Tucker County (DCo). On the morning of September 6, James Phillips birded Pipestem Knob in Pipestem State Park, Summers County, and saw representatives of 10 species of warbler, some of them alighting on the lookout tower too close for the focus of his binoculars.

Towhees, Sparrows, and Juncos—The most-frequently reported species of emberizid this fall were **Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco**. Unusual appearances were made by two *Ammodramus* sparrows during the fall season. Derek Courtney happened on a **LeConte's Sparrow** at an urban residential pond in Morgantown, Monongalia County, on October 1, and the bird was found again the next day but not the day after. There is only one other record of **LeConte's Sparrow** in the state. **Nelson's Sparrows** appeared in three counties: Mason (MG), McDowell (MG, DCo), and Putnam (CE, BBo, BW, KK, RU). The following were reported only in the counties listed: **American Tree Sparrows** in Cabell (GR), Mason (DP), Pocahontas (TI), and Preston (GF) Counties, possible **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Preston County (GF), and **Vesper Sparrows** in Grant (FA) and Preston (TB) Counties.

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings—**Summer Tanagers** appeared in Kanawha (HG), Mason (DP, MG) and Putnam (KK) Counties. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings** prompted numerous reports from birders in most parts of the state. Dee and Tom Igou hosted two late-appearing **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at their feeders in western Cabell County, on November 1.

Icterids—Reports of **Bobolinks** came in September from Mason (DP, MG) and

Preston (GF, TB) Counties. Many reports of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Eastern Meadowlarks**, **Rusty Blackbirds**, and **Common Grackles** came from areas all over the state. Diane Holsinger saw an immature **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at the sewage treatment ponds in Franklin, Pendleton County, on September 22. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were present in Jefferson (CD), Mason (MG), Pleasants (JB), Raleigh (WS), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. An **Orchard Oriole** was a life bird for Tammy Lester at her home in Wyoming County in late September, and was the only reported member of that species this fall. **Baltimore Orioles** were mentioned in reports from Barbour (TB), Grant (FA), Jefferson (BH), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Finches and Allies—Reports of **Purple Finches**, **House Finches**, **Pine Siskins**, and **American Goldfinches** were common throughout the state. Bruni Haydl found **Pine Siskins** at her feeder on October 30 in Jefferson County. David Patick found three **Red Crossbills** at the Cranberry Glades Visitor's Center in Pocahontas County on September 6. Early appearances were made by members of two species of winter finch, as **Common Redpolls** appeared at feeders in Daniels, Raleigh County, around the second weekend in November, as reported separately by Mindy Waldron for Alma Lowry and N. Wade Snyder; and **Evening Grosbeaks** graced reports from Pipestem State Park, Summers County (TI), and Harman, Randolph County (HM).

Weaver Finches—The **House Sparrow** continues throughout the state, primarily in urban settings.

Contributors—Wendell Argabrite (WA), Frederick Atwood (FA), Jon Benedetti (JB), Ben Borda (BBo), Terry Bronson (TB), David Carr (DC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Robert Dean (RD), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Gary Felton (GF), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Michael Griffith (MG), Bruni Haydl (BH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Tom Igou (TI), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Kimberly Kazmierski (KK), Stephen Kimbrell (SK), Kathy King (KKi), Tammy Lester (TL), Steven Mace (SM), Herb Myers (HM), Matthew Orsie (MO), David Patick (DP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), N. Wade Snyder (WS), John Tharp (JT), John Tharp II (JTII), Randy Urian (RU), and Beverly Wright (BW).

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