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	mfox@brooksbirdclub.com	

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Contents

Page

The 2011 Panther Wildlife Management Area Sortie, McDowell County, West Virginia	
The 2011 Sortie Bird List, McDowell County, West Virginia	
—Thomas R. Fox	87
The 2011 Sortie Breeding Bird Survey, McDowell County, West Virginia	
—Thomas R. Fox	90
Lepidoptera and Odonata of the 2011 Sortie, McDowell County, West Virginia	
—Cheryl Jennings	94
Reptiles and Amphibians of the 2011 Sortie, McDowell County, West Virginia	
—Jane Whitaker	97
Mammals of the 2011 Sortie, McDowell County, West Virginia	
—Jane Whitaker	99
Plants of the 2011 Sortie, McDowell County, West Virginia	
—Kevin Campbell	101
Sortie Participants	117
Erratum and Discussion of the Split of the Black Scoter Into Two Species	118
Field Notes	
—Casey Rucker	120

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The 2011 Sortie Bird List, McDowell County West Virginia

Thomas R. Fox

The 2011 Sortie was held at Panther Wildlife Management Area (WMA), formerly known as Panther State Forest, in McDowell County, West Virginia, from May 26, 2011, through June 1, 2011. This was the third Sortie held in this area.

Two new species were found this year that had not been found previously: Mallard and Black Vulture; however, the list of birds not found this year, which had been found in the previous studies, is quite extensive: Red-shouldered Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Common Raven, House Wren, Veery, Warbling Vireo, Cooper's hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Cliff Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

A lot of effort was spent doing priority blocks for the West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas II. Breeding records are printed in italics.

Abundance terms used are the standard terms used by the Brooks Bird Club for studies of a short duration such as Sorties.

Very common—Seen in large numbers every day in all appropriate habitats.

Common—Seen in appropriate habitat every day without any special effort.

Uncommon—Seen in appropriate habitat only with a lot of effort.

Rare—One or two only seen in the entire study region during the study period.

Data used to determine the abundance of each species were gleaned from breeding bird surveys (BBS), singing male censuses, breeding bird atlas studies, personal observations of participants, and group discussion.

Participants were Kevin Campbell, Dawn Fox, Thomas R. Fox, Christopher Gatens, Cheryl Jennings, Maryanne Kraynanski, Maggie Perl, and Jane Whitaker.

Wood Duck—Uncommon. *A female with young was seen in the creek on the WMA; also, a female with young on a pond was found just south of the WMA.*

Mallard—Rare. One was found on the Tug River near Iaeger.

Ruffed Grouse—Rare. One was seen on the WMA.

Wild Turkey—Common.

Great Blue Heron—Uncommon. Seen occasionally on the Tug Fork.

Green Heron—Rare. Found on the Tug Fork near Panther.

Black Vulture—Rare. One was seen on the Iaeger-6 atlas block.

Turkey Vulture—Uncommon. Surprisingly, it was not seen every day.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—Rare. One was seen on the BBS run south of the WMA.

Broad-winged Hawk—Rare. One was seen on the Warncliffe-6 atlas block.

Red-tailed Hawk—Rare. Two were seen on atlas blocks.

Rock Pigeon—Uncommon. Seen in Iaeger.

Mourning Dove—Common.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Common.

Barred Owl—Uncommon. Heard frequently on the WMA.

Eastern Whip-poor-will—Rare. Heard on the WMA.

Chimney Swift—Uncommon.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Uncommon.

Belted Kingfisher—Uncommon.

Red-bellied Woodpecker—Common.

Downy Woodpecker—Uncommon. Only two were found on BBS runs.

Hairy Woodpecker—Uncommon. Only two were found on BBS runs.

Northern Flicker—Common.

Pileated Woodpecker—Common.

Eastern Wood-Pewee—Uncommon. Only one was found on BBS runs.

Acadian Flycatcher—Common.

Eastern Phoebe—Common.

Great Crested Flycatcher—Uncommon.

White-eyed Vireo—Uncommon. Only one was found on BBS runs.

Yellow-throated Vireo—Common.

Blue-headed Vireo—Common.

Red-eyed Vireo—Common.

Blue Jay—Common.

American Crow—Common.

Purple Martin—Uncommon. *An active colony from 1997 was relocated. The colony appeared to be thriving with more than 30 birds present.*

Tree Swallow—Common. Frequently found along Tug Fork.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Common. *Nests were found along Tug Fork.*

Barn Swallow—Uncommon. There was a shortage of suitable habitat in this study area.

Carolina Chickadee—Common.

Tufted Titmouse—Common.

White-breasted Nuthatch—Uncommon. Only three were found on BBS runs.

Carolina Wren—Common.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Uncommon. Only two were found on BBS runs.

Eastern Bluebird—Rare. Only two were found on BBS runs. This study area had very little suitable habitat for this species.

Hermit Thrush—Rare. One found on the WMA.

Wood Thrush—Common.

American Robin—Common.

Gray Catbird—Common.
Brown Thrasher—Uncommon. Found on two of the four BBS runs.
European Starling—Common.
Cedar Waxwing—Uncommon.
Ovenbird—Common.
Worm-eating Warbler—Uncommon.
Louisiana Waterthrush—Common.
Golden-winged Warbler—Rare. Only one found south of the WMA.
Blue-winged Warbler—Uncommon.
Black-and-white Warbler—Common.
Swainson's Warbler—Common. Found regularly in suitable habitat.
Kentucky Warbler—Common.
Common Yellowthroat—Rare. Two were found on atlas blocks. Habitat was limited in the area.
Hooded Warbler—Common.
American Redstart—Common. This was the eighth most abundant species found on the BBS runs.
Cerulean Warbler—Common.
Northern Parula—Common.
Blackburnian Warbler—Uncommon. Found only at the highest altitudes in the study area.
Yellow Warbler—Common.
Yellow-throated Warbler—Common.
Black-throated Green Warbler—Common.
Yellow-breasted Chat—Uncommon.
Eastern Towhee—Common.
Chipping Sparrow—Uncommon.
Song Sparrow—Common.
Summer Tanager—Rare. Found on the Warncliffe-6 atlas block.
Scarlet Tanager—Common.
Northern Cardinal—Common.
Indigo Bunting—Common.
Red-winged Blackbird—Rare. Found at one location on Tug Fork.
Common Grackle—Common.
Brown-headed Cowbird—Uncommon.
Orchard Oriole—Uncommon.
Baltimore Oriole—Common.
House Finch—Found at one location in Iaeger.
American Goldfinch—Common.
House Sparrow—Common.

1447 Sycamore Road
 Millstone, WV 25261-8667

The 2011 Sortie Breeding Bird Survey McDowell County, West Virginia

Thomas R. Fox

The weather was very cooperative this year for conducting the third series of breeding bird surveys (BBS) in this area. Every effort was made to duplicate the surveys from 1986 and 1997 during the 2011 Sortie. Surveys were conducted May 27 through May 30, 2011.

The first run was the Panther Circle, run on May 27 with clouds and 62 degrees temperature, producing 45 species and 254 individuals. The second run was south of camp with clear skies and 64 degrees temperature and yielded 36 species and 198 individuals. The third run was the northwest corner of the area toward Krollitz with clear skies and 61 degrees temperature, producing 45 species and 262 individuals. The fourth run was toward Grundy and continued on to Iaeger where the Purple Martin colony found in 1997 was still thriving in 2011. The weather was clear and 56 degrees, and 47 species and 204 individuals were found.

See Table 1 for the number of birds and stops present.

Table 1
 Species Totals and Stops Present

Species	Number	Stops Present
Great Blue Heron	1	1
Green Heron	1	1
Turkey Vulture	2	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1
Rock Pigeon	1	1
Mourning Dove	5	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	3
Chimney Swift	5	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10
Downy Woodpecker	2	2
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2
Northern Flicker	1	1
Pileated Woodpecker	7	6
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	1
Acadian Flycatcher	3	3
Eastern Phoebe	18	17

Species	Number	Stops Present
Great Crested Flycatcher	3	3
White-eyed Vireo	1	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	7	7
Blue-headed Vireo	7	6
Red-eyed Vireo	100	53
Blue Jay	6	6
American Crow	26	19
Tree Swallow	12	8
N. Rough-winged Swallow	8	7
Carolina Chickadee	28	25
Tufted Titmouse	37	32
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	3
Carolina Wren	28	25
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	2
Eastern Bluebird	2	2
Wood Thrush	42	33
American Robin	61	37
Gray Catbird	16	14
Brown Thrasher	6	2
European Starling	39	23
Cedar Waxwing	27	3
Ovenbird	13	12
Worm-eating Warbler	1	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	11	9
Blue-winged Warbler	4	4
Swainson's Warbler	3	3
Kentucky Warbler	16	15
Hooded Warbler	21	21
American Redstart	34	27
Cerulean Warbler	6	6
Northern Parula	6	6
Yellow Warbler	14	13
Yellow-throated Warbler	13	12
Black-throated Green Warbler	8	8
Yellow-breasted Chat	5	5
Eastern Towhee	16	15
Chipping Sparrow	12	11
Song Sparrow	42	30
Scarlet Tanager	13	13

Species	Number	Stops Present
Northern Cardinal	56	46
Indigo Bunting	21	19
Red-winged Blackbird	1	1
Common Grackle	12	8
Brown-headed Cowbird	8	8
Orchard Oriole	4	2
Baltimore Oriole	1	1
House Finch	1	1
American Goldfinch	12	5
House Sparrow	9	6

Total species for 2011 was 65, and the number of individuals was 928. The totals for 1986 were 59 species and 790 individuals (Pyle 1998a). The totals for 1997 were 66 and 1,092 individuals (Pyle 1998b).

As there were only three surveys conducted in 1986, I averaged the individuals per stop and the results are illustrated in Table 2. Note the significant drop in average birds per stop in 2011.

Table 2
Average Number of Birds per Stop

Year	Stops	Total Individuals	Average per stop
1986	60	790	13.16
1997	80	1,092	13.65
2011	80	928	11.60

Table 3 gives the most abundant species. I thought it was interesting that the top five species were the same in all three study years with the order being the same in 1997 and 2011. The Indigo Bunting, Ovenbird, and Acadian Flycatcher were included in the top 10 in 1986 and 1997 but failed to make the list in 2011. Table 4 shows the most widely distributed species and percent of the total species.

Table 3
Most Abundant Species

Species	Individuals	Percent of Total
1. Red-eyed Vireo	100	10.77
2. American Robin	61	6.57
3. Northern Cardinal	56	6.03
4. Wood Thrush	42	4.52
5. Song Sparrow	42	4.52
6. European Starling	39	4.20
7. Eastern Tufted Titmouse	37	3.98
8. American Redstart	34	3.66
9. Carolina Chickadee	28	3.01
10. Carolina Wren	28	3.01

Table 4
Most Widely Distributed Species

Species	Stops	Percent of Total
1. Red-eyed Vireo	53	66.25
2. Northern Cardinal	46	57.50
3. American Robin	37	46.25
4. Wood Thrush	33	41.25
5. Eastern Tufted Titmouse	32	40.00
6. Song Sparrow	30	37.50
7. Carolina Chickadee	25	31.25
8. Carolina Wren	25	31.25
9. European Starling	23	28.75
10. Hooded Warbler	21	26.25

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- Pyle, A.H. (1998b). Panther State Forest Sortie: 1997 Breeding Bird Survey, *The Redstart*, 65(3) 95-98.

1447 Sycamore Road
Millstone, WV 25261-8667

**Lepidoptera and Odonata of the 2011 Sortie,
McDowell County, West Virginia**

Cheryl Jennings

Butterflies, moths, dragonflies, and damselflies observed at the 2011 Sortie in McDowell County May 28 through June 1 are listed below.

BUTTERFLIES

<i>Battus philenor</i>	Pipevine Swallowtail
<i>Eurytedes Marcellus</i>	Zebra Swallowtail
<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
<i>Papilio Troilus</i>	Spicebush Swallowtail
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Cabbage White
<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	Orange Sulphur
<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>	Red Banded Hairstreak
<i>Everes comyntas</i>	Eastern Tailed Blue
<i>Celastrina ladon neglecta</i>	Summer Azure
<i>Junonia coenia</i>	Common Buckeye
<i>Polygonia comma</i>	Eastern Comma
<i>Speyeria cybele</i>	Great Spangled Fritillary
<i>Phyciodes cocyta</i>	Northern Crescent
<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	Pearl Crescent
<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	Question Mark
<i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	Red-spotted Purple
<i>Chlosyne nycteis</i>	Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Limenitis archippus</i>	Viceroy
<i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>	Carolina Satyr
<i>Megisto cymela</i>	Little Wood Satyr
<i>Enodea anthedon</i>	Northern Pearly-eye
<i>Danus plexippus</i>	Monarch
<i>Amgloxypha numetor</i>	Least Skipper
<i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>	Northern Broken Dash
<i>Thorybes pylades</i>	Northern Cloudywing
<i>Polites peckius</i>	Peck's Skipper
<i>Eparyreus clarus</i>	Silver-spotted Skipper
<i>Poanes zabulon</i>	Zabulon Skipper

MOTHS

<i>Callosamia angulifera</i>	Tuliptree Silkmoth
<i>Darapsa myron</i>	Virginia Creeper Sphinx
<i>Cygnia tenera</i>	Dogbane Tiger Moth
<i>Halysidota tessellaris</i>	Banded Tussock Moth
<i>Lophocampa caryae</i>	Hickory Tussock Moth or Hickory Tiger Moth
<i>Pyrrharctia isabella</i>	Isabella Tiger Moth
<i>Alypia octomaculata</i>	Eight-spotted Forester
<i>Eudryas grata</i>	Beautiful Wood-nymph
<i>Leuconycta diptheroides</i>	Green Leuconycta
<i>Phosphila miselioides</i>	Spotted Phosphila
<i>Polygrammate hebraeicum</i>	The Hebrew
<i>Pseudeustrotia carneola</i>	Pink-barred Pseudeustrotia
<i>Allotria elonympha</i>	False Underwing
<i>Chytolita morbidalis</i>	Morbid Owlet Moth
<i>Euparthenos nubilis</i>	Locust Underwing
<i>Hypena baltimoralis</i>	Baltimore Bomolocha Moth
<i>Hypena bijugalis</i>	Dimorphic Bomolocha Moth
<i>Hypena scabra</i>	Green Cloverworm Moth
<i>Pangrapta decoralis</i>	Decorated Owlet
<i>Prionoxystus robiniae</i>	Carpenterworm Moth
<i>Amorbia humerosana</i>	White-lined Leafroller
<i>Packardia geminata</i>	Jewel-tailed Slug Moth
<i>Conchylodes ovulalis</i>	
<i>Desmia funeralis</i>	Grape Leaf folder Moth
<i>Palpita magniferalis</i>	Splendid Palpita
<i>Dolichomia olinalis</i>	Yellow-fringed Dolichomia
<i>Macalla superatalis</i>	Dimorphic Macalla Moth
<i>Anavitrinella pampinaria</i>	Common Gray
<i>Dichorada iridaria</i>	Showy Emerald
<i>Eubaphe mendica</i>	The Beggar
<i>Euchlaena irraria</i>	Least-marked Euchlaena
<i>Horisme intestinata</i>	Brown Bark Carpet
<i>Macaria aemulataria</i>	Common Angle
<i>Pero anctaria</i>	Hübner's Pero
<i>Scopula limboundata</i>	Large Lace-border
<i>Tetracis crocallata</i>	Yellow Slant-line
<i>Xanthorhoe lacustrata</i>	Toothed Brown Carpet
<i>Hydria prunivorata</i>	Ferguson's Scallop Shell
<i>Apatelodes torrefacta</i>	Spotted Apatelodes Moth
<i>Malacosoma americanum</i>	Eastern Tent Caterpillar Moth

ODONATA

<i>Tachopteryx thoreyi</i>	Gray Petaltail
<i>Gomphus exilis</i>	Lancet Clubtail
<i>Arigomphus villosipes</i>	Unicorn Clubtail
<i>Libellula lydia</i>	Common Whitetail
<i>Epitheca cynosura</i>	Common Baskettail
<i>Ischnura verticalis</i>	Eastern Forktail
<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>	Ebony Jewelwing
<i>Chromagrion conditum</i>	Aurora Damsel

30 Hare Road
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

**Reptiles and Amphibians of the 2011 Sortie
McDowell County, West Virginia**

Jane Whitaker

CLASS AMPHIBIA
Order Caudata—Salamanders

Red-spotted Newt (*Notophthalmus v. viridescens*)
White-spotted Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon cylindraceus*)
Longtail Salamander (*Eurycea l. longicauda*)

Order Salienta—Toads and Frogs

Eastern American Toad (*Bufo americana americana*)
Northern Spring Peeper (*Hyla c. crucifer*)
Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor-H. chrysocelis*)
Mountain Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris brachyphona*)
Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)
Green Frog (*Rana clamitans melanota*)

CLASS REPTILIA
Order Testudines—Turtles

Eastern Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra s. serpentina*)
Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene c. carolina*)
Eastern Spiny Softshell (*Apalone m. mutica*)

Order Serpentes—Snakes

Eastern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis s. sirtalis*)
Eastern Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis t. triangulum*)
Black Rat Snake (*Elaphe o. obsoleta*)
Northern Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen*)

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3817 Windom Pl. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
rj.whitaker@earthlink.net

**Mammals of the 2011 Sortie
McDowell County, West Virginia**

Jane Whitaker

CLASS MAMMALIA
Order Marsupialia

Family Didelphidae—Opossums
Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*)

Order Chiroptera

Family Vespertilionidae—Bats
Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)

Order Lagomorpha

Family Leporidae—Rabbits and Hares
Eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

Order Rodentia

Family Sciuridae—Squirrels
Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)
Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*)
Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Family Castoridae—Beaver
Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

Order Carnivora

Family Ursidae—Bears
Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)
Family Procyonidae—Raccoons
Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

Order Artiodactyla

Family Cervidae—Deer
White-tailed deer (*Odocoiles virginianus*)

3817 Windom Pl. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
rj.whitaker@earthlink.net

Plants of the 2011 Sortie, McDowell County, West Virginia

Kevin Campbell

The plants listed below were identified during the Brooks Bird Club Panther Wildlife Management Area (WMA) McDowell County Sortie. The Sortie territory primarily covered Panther WMA and the surrounding southwestern part of McDowell County. However, no specific plant trips were taken by the Sortie group. The primary purpose of the Sortie was to carry out breeding bird atlas work, which restricted the areas that were searched. This list represents the observations of many attendees of the Sortie, including Thomas and Dawn Fox, Christopher Gatens, and Jane Whitaker.

The area's geology is primarily sandstone based. Elevations ranged from 950 ft. along the Tug Fork River to 2,200 ft. along the Virginia state line. Interesting plants found during the May 26–June 2, 2011 period included Virginia snakeroot, gold-enseal, green violet, galax, hairy heuchera, ginseng, giant cane, mandarin, large yellow lady's slipper, and whorled pogonia. All of these plants were found in Panther WMA except for the giant cane, which was growing in two large patches along the Tug Fork River nearby. Altogether, there were 102 families of plants, 278 genera, and 388 species identified during the Sortie week.

The plants are listed phylogenetically according to Gleason and Cronquist's *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*, Second Edition, with corrections of nomenclature according to the Harmon et al.'s *Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia*. Common name usage follows that of Harmon et al. Holmgren's *Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* was a useful reference.

LYCOPODIACEAE

Lycopodium digitatum

EQUISETACEAE

Equisetum arvense

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE

Botrychium dissectum
Botrychium virginianum

OSMUNDACEAE

Osmunda cinnamomea var. *cinnamomea*
Osmunda claytoniana

CLUBMOSS FAMILY

Groundpine

HORSETAIL FAMILY

Common Horsetail

ADDER'S-TONGUE FAMILY

Cutleaf Grapefern
Rattlesnake Fern

ROYAL FERN FAMILY

Cinnamon Fern
Interrupted Fern

POLYPODIACEAE

Polypodium virginianum

DENNSTAEDTIACEAE

Dennstaedtia punctilobula
Pteridium aquilinum var. *latiusculum*

ADIANTACEAE

Adiantum pedatum

ASPLENIACEAE

Asplenium platyneuron
Asplenium trichomanes
Asplenium rhizophyllum

THELYPTERIDACEAE

Thelypteris hexagonoptera
Thelypteris novaboracensis

DRYOPTERIDACEAE

Diplazium pynocarpon
Deparia acrostichoides
Athyrium filix-femina var. *angustum*
Athyrium filix-femina var. *asplenioides*
Dryopteris goldiana
Dryopteris intermedia
Polystichum acrostichoides
Onoclea sensibilis
Matteuccia struthiopteris

PINACEAE

Picea abies
Tsuga canadensis
Pinus strobus
Pinus rigida
Pinus virginiana

CUPRESSACEAE

Thuja occidentalis
Juniperis virginiana

POLYPODY FAMILY

Common Polypody

BRACKEN FAMILY

Hay-scented Fern
Bracken

MAIDENHAIR FAMILY

Maidenhair Fern

SPLEENWORT FAMILY

Ebony Spleenwort
Maidenhair Spleenwort
Walking Fern

MARSH FERN FAMILY

Broad Beech Fern
New York Fern

WOOD FERN FAMILY

Glade Fern
Silvery Athyrium
Northeastern Lady Fern
Southern Lady Fern
Goldie's Shield Fern
Intermediate Wood Fern
Christmas Fern
Sensitive Fern
Ostrich Fern

PINE FAMILY

Norway Spruce
Eastern Hemlock
White Pine
Pitch Pine
Virginia Pine

CYPRESS FAMILY

Arborvitae
Red Cedar

MAGNOLIACEAE

Magnolia acuminata
Magnolia tripetala
Magnolia fraseri
Liriodendron tulipifera

ANNONACEAE

Asimina triloba

LAURACEAE

Sassafras albidum
Lindera benzoin

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

Hexastylis virginica
Asarum canadense
Aristolochia serpentaria
Aristolochia macrophylla

RANUNCULACEAE

Cimicifuga racemosa
Anemone quinquefolia var. *quenquefolia*
Anemone quinquefolia var. *minima*
Anemone virginiana
Hepatica nobilis var. *acuta*
Clematis virginiana
Ranunculus repens
Ranunculus acris
Aquilegia canadensis
Thalictrum thalictroides
Thalictrum pubescens
Hydrastis canadensis

BERBERIDACEAE

Podophyllum peltatum
Caulophyllum thalictroides
Berberis thunbergii

MENISPERMACEAE

Menispermum canadense

MAGNOLIA FAMILY

Cucumber Magnolia
 Umbrella Magnolia
 Mountain Magnolia
 Yellow-popular

CUSTARD APPLE FAMILY

Pawpaw

LAUREL FAMILY

Sassafras
 Spice Bush

BIRTHWORT FAMILY

Coltsfoot
 Wild Ginger
 Virginia Snakeroot
 Pipevine

CROWFOOT FAMILY

Black Cohosh
 Wood Anemone
 Dwarf Anemone
 Thimbleweed
 Sharp-lobed Hepatica
 Virgin's Bower
 Creeping Buttercup
 Tall Buttercup
 Wild Columbine
 Rue Anemone
 Tall Meadowrue
 Goldenseal

BARBERRY FAMILY

May-apple
 Blue Cohosh
 Japanese Barberry

MOONSEED FAMILY

Canada Moonseed

PAPAVERACEAE

Sanquinaria canadensis

PLATANACEAE

Platanus occidentalis

HAMAMELIDACEAE

Liquidambar styraciflua
Hamamelis virginiana

ULMACEAE

Ulmus americana
Ulmus rubra
Celtis occidentalis

MORACEAE

Broussonettia papyrifera
Morus rubra

URTICACEAE

Urtica dioica
Boehmeria cylindrica
Pilea pumila

JUGLANDACEAE

Juglans cinerea
Juglans nigra
Carya cordiformis
Carya alba
Carya ovata

FAGACEAE

Fagus grandifolia
Castanea dentata
Castanea mollissima
Quercus alba
Quercus prinus
Quercus velutina
Quercus rubra
Quercus coccinea

POPPY FAMILY

Bloodroot

PLANE TREE FAMILY

Sycamore

WITCH-HAZEL FAMILY

Sweet Gum
 Witch-Hazel

ELM FAMILY

American Elm
 Slippery Elm
 Hackberry

MULBERRY FAMILY

Paper Mulberry
 Red Mulberry

NETTLE FAMILY

Stinging Nettle
 False Nettle
 Clearweed

WALNUT FAMILY

Butternut
 Black Walnut
 Bitternut Hickory
 Mockernut Hickory
 Shagbark Hickory

BEECH FAMILY

American Beech
 American Chestnut
 Chinese Chestnut
 White Oak
 Chestnut Oak
 Black Oak
 Red Oak
 Scarlet Oak

BETULACEAE

Corylus Americana
Ostrya virginiana
Carpinus caroliniana
Betula alleghaniensis
Betula lenta
Betula nigra
Alnus serrulata
Alnus glutinosa

PHYTOLACCACEAE

Phytolacca americana

CHENOPODIACEAE

Chenopodium album var. *album*

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Cerastium viscosum
Stellaria pubera
Stellaria longifolia
Silene virginica
Saponaria officinalis
Dianthus armeria

POLYGONACEAE

Rumex acetosella
Rumex crispus
Rumex obtusifolius
Polygonum persicaria
Polygonum cuspidatum

CLUSIACEAE

Hypericum hypericoides ssp. *multicaule*
Hypericum punctatum
Hypericum mutilum

TILIACEAE

Tilia americana

VIOLACEAE

Hybanthus concolor

BIRCHFAMILY

Hazelnut
 Ironwood
 Musclewood
 Yellow Birch
 Black Birch
 River Birch
 Brookside Alder
 Black Alder

POKEWEEDFAMILY

Pokeweed

GOOSEFOOTFAMILY

Lamb's Quarters

PINK FAMILY

Mouse-Ear Chickweed
 Great Chickweed
 Longleaf Stitchwort
 Fire Pink
 Soapwort
 Deptford Pink

SMARTWEEDFAMILY

Sheep Sorrel
 Curly Dock
 Broadleaf Dock
 Lady's Thumb
 Japanese Knotweed

MANGOSTEENFAMILY

St. Andrew's Cross
 Dotted St. John's-Wort
 Small-flowered St. John's-Wort

LINDENFAMILY

Basswood

VIOLETFAMILY

Green Violet

Viola rotundifolia
Viola palmata
Viola sororia
Viola blanda
Viola hastata
Viola canadensis
Viola striata

SALICACEAE

Populus alba
Populus grandidentata
Salix nigra
Salix sericea
Salix pendula

BRASSICACEAE

Cardamine rotundifolia
Arabis laevigata
Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum
Alliaria petiolata

ERICACEAE

Rhododendron maximum
Rhododendron calendulaceum
Kalmia latifolia
Oxydendrum arboretum
Gaultheria procumbens
Epigaea repens
Vaccinium stamineum
Vaccinium pallidum

PYROLACEAE

Chimaphila maculata

MONOTROPACEAE

Monotropa uniflora

DIAPENSIACEAE

Galax urceolata

Roundleaf Violet
 Palmate-leaved Violet
 Downy Wood Violet
 Sweet White Violet
 Halberd-leaf Violet
 Canada Violet
 Striped Violet

WILLOWFAMILY

White Popular
 Bigtooth Aspen
 Black Willow
 Silky Willow
 Weeping Willow

MUSTARDFAMILY

Mountain Watercress
 Smooth Rockcress
 Watercress
 Garlic Mustard

HEATHFAMILY

Great Rhododendron
 Flame Azalea
 Mountain Laurel
 Sourwood
 Teaberry
 Trailing Arbutus
 Deerberry
 Upland Low Blueberry

WINTERGREENFAMILY

Spotted Wintergreen

INDIAN PIPEFAMILY

Indian Pipe

DIAPENSIAFAMILY

Galax

EBENACEAE

Diospyros virginiana

PRIMULACEAE

*Lysimachia nummularia**Lysimachia quadrifolia**Lysimachia japonica*

HYDRANGEACEAE

*Hydrangea arborescens**Deutzia scabra*

CRASSULACEAE

Sedum ternatum

SAXIFRAGACEAE

*Saxifraga micranthidifolia**Saxifraga virginiana**Tiarella cordifolia**Mitella diphylla**Heuchera villosa**Heuchera americana*

ROSACEAE

*Spiraea japonica**Aruncus dioicus**Porteranthus trifoliatus**Fragaria virginiana**Duchesnea indica**Potentilla simplex**Potentilla recta**Rubus odoratus**Rubus occidentalis**Rubus phoenicolasius**Rubus allegheniensis**Agrimonia gryposepala**Rosa multiflora**Rosa carolina**Prunus persica**Prunus serotina**Pyrus communis*

EBONY FAMILY

Persimmon

PRIMROSE FAMILY

Moneywort

Whorled Loosestrife

Japanese Loosestrife

HYDRANGEA FAMILY

Wild Hydrangea

Fuzzy Pride-of-Rochester

ORPINE FAMILY

Wild Stonecrop

SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

Lettuce Saxifrage

Early Saxifrage

Foamflower

Miterwort

Hairy Heuchera

Alumroot

ROSE FAMILY

Japanese Spiraea

Goatsbeard

Bowman's Root

Virginia Strawberry

Indian Strawberry

Common Cinquefoil

Upright Cinquefoil

Flowering Raspberry

Black Raspberry

Wineberry

Allegheny Blackberry

Tall Agrimony

Multiflora Rose

Pasture Rose

Peach

Wild Black Cherry

Pear

*Pyrus malus**Crataegus* sp.*Amelanchier arborea*

MIMOSACEAE

Albizia julibrissin

CAESALPINIACEAE

Cercis canadensis

FABACEAE

Wisteria sp.*Robinia pseudo-acacia**Robinia hispida**Coronilla varia**Trifolium pratense**Trifolium repens**Trifolium aureum**Trifolium campestre**Melilotus officinalis**Melilotus albus**Lespedeza cuneata**Strophostyles helvula**Amphicarpaea bracteata**Pueraria montana*

ELAEAGNACEAE

Elaeagnus umbellata

ONAGRACEAE

Oenothera biennis

CORNACEAE

*Cornus alternifolia**Cornus florida**Nyssa sylvatica*

SANTALACEAE

Pyralia pubera

Apple

Hawthorn

Common Serviceberry

MIMOSA FAMILY

Mimosa

CAESALPINIA FAMILY

Redbud

PEA FAMILY

Wisteria

Black Locust

Rose Acacia

Crown Vetch

Red Clover

White Clover

Yellow Hop Clover

Low Hop Clover

Yellow Sweet Clover

White Sweet Clover

Sirecea Lespedeza

Trailing Wild Bean

Hog-Peanut

Kudzu Vine

OLEASTER

Autumn Olive

EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY

Common Evening-Primrose

DOGWOOD FAMILY

Alternate-leaved Dogwood

Flowering Dogwood

Black Gum

SANDALWOOD FAMILY

Buffalony

CELASTRACEAE

Celastrus scandens
Euonymus americana

AQUIFOLIACEAE

Ilex opaca

RHAMNACEAE

Ceanothus americanus

VITACEAE

Ampelopsis arborea
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Vitis labrusca
Vitis aestivalis

STAPHYLEACEAE

Staphylea trifolia

HIPPOCASTANACEAE

Aesculus flava

ACERACEAE

Acer saccharum
Acer nigrum
Acer pensylvanicum
Acer rubrum
Acer saccharinum
Acer negundo var. *negundo*

ANACARDIACEAE

Rhus typhina
Rhus copallinum
Toxicodendron radicans

SIMAROUBACEAE

Ailanthus altissima

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis stricta
Oxalis grandis

STAFFTREE FAMILY

Climbing Bittersweet
Strawberry Bush

HOLLY FAMILY

American Holly

BUCKTHORN FAMILY

New Jersey Tea

VINE FAMILY

Pepper-vine
Virginia Creeper
Fox Grape
Summer Grape

BLADDERNUT FAMILY

Bladdernut

HORSE-CHESTNUT FAMILY

Yellow Buckeye

MAPLE FAMILY

Sugar Maple
Black Maple
Striped Maple
Red Maple
Silver Maple
Boxelder

CASHEW FAMILY

Staghorn Sumac
Winged Sumac
Poison Ivy

TREE-OF-HEAVEN FAMILY

Tree-of-Heaven

WOOD SORREL FAMILY

Upright Yellow Wood Sorrel
Great Yellow Wood Sorrel

Oxalis violacea

GERANIACEAE

Geranium maculatum

BALSAMINACEAE

Impatiens pallida

ARALIACEAE

Aralia nudicaulis
Aralia racemosa
Panax quinquefolius

APIACEAE

Hydrocotyle americana
Cryptotaenia canadensis
Osmorhiza longistylis
Daucus carota
Conium maculatum
Taenidia integerrima
Zizia aurea
Zizia aptera
Heracleum maximum

APOCYNACEAE

Vinca minor
Apocynum androsaemifolium
Apocynum cannabinum

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Asclepias tuberosa
Asclepias syriaca
Asclepias quadrifolia

SOLANACEAE

Solanum carolinense

CONVOLVULACEAE

Calystegia sepium
Ipomoea pandurata

Violet Wood Sorrel

GERANIUM FAMILY

Wild Geranium

JEWELWEED FAMILY

Pale Touch-me-not

GINSENG FAMILY

Wild Sarsaparilla
American Spikenard
Ginseng

CARROT FAMILY

American Water Pennywort
Honewort
Smooth Sweet Cicely
Queen Anne's Lace
Poison Hemlock
Yellow Pimpernel
Heart-leaved Golden Alexanders
Common Golden Alexanders
Cow Parsnip

DOGBANE FAMILY

Periwinkle
Spreading Dogbane
Indian Hemp

MILKWEED FAMILY

Butterfly Milkweed
Common Milkweed
Four-leaved Milkweed

NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

Horse-nettle

MORNING-GLORY FAMILY

Hedge Bindweed
Wild Potato Vine

POLEMONIACEAE

Phlox subulata
Phlox stolonifera

HYDROPHYLLACEAE

Phacelia bipinnatifida
Hydrophyllum virginianum

BORAGINACEAE

Cynoglossum virginianum

LAMIACEAE

Ajuja reptans
Teucrium canadense
Scutellaria serrata
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium
Mentha piperita
Collinsonia canadensis
Meehania cordata
Glechoma hederacea
Lamium purpureum
Lamium amplexicaule
Monardia clinopodia
Salvia lyrata

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago major
Plantago rugelii
Plantago lanceolata

OLEACEAE

Syringa vulgaris
Ligustrum vulgare
Fraxinus americana

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Verbascum blattaria
Verbascum thapsus
Penstemon digitalis
Penstemon canescens
Veronica officinalis

PHLOX FAMILY

Mosspink
Creeping Phlox

WATERLEAF FAMILY

Fern-leaf Phacelia
Virginia Waterleaf

BORAGE FAMILY

Wild Comfrey

MINT FAMILY

Bugleweed
American Germander
Showy Skullcap
Narrowleaf Mountain-mint
Peppermint
Richweed
Meehania
Ground-ivy
Purple Dead Nettle
Henbit
Basil Balm
Wild Sage

PLANTAIN FAMILY

Great Plantain
Common Plantain
Narrowleaf Plantain

OLIVE FAMILY

Lilac
Privet
White Ash

FIGWORT FAMILY

Moth Mullein
Great Mullein
Foxglove Beardtongue
Grey Beardtongue
Common Speedwell

Pedicularis canadensis ssp. *canadensis*

Common Lousewort

OROBANCHACEAE

Conopholis americana
Epifagus virginiana

BROOMRAPE FAMILY

Cancerroot
Beechdrops

ACANTHACEAE

Justicia americana

ACANTHUS FAMILY

Water-willow

BIGNONIACEAE

Paulownia tomentosa
Catalpa bignonioides
Campsis radicans
Bignonia capreolata

BIGNONIA FAMILY

Paulownia
Cigartree
Trumpet-creeper
Crossvine

CAMPANULACEAE

Triodanis perfoliata

BLUEBELL FAMILY

Venus' Looking Glass

RUBIACEAE

Houstonia longifolia
Houstonia caerulea
Mitchella repens
Galium circaezans
Galium aparine

MADDER FAMILY

Summer Bluets
Bluets
Partridge Berry
Wild Liquorice
Cleavers

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Lonicera tatarica
Lonicera japonica
Viburnum acerifolium
Viburnum opulus var. *opulus*
Viburnum prunifolium
Sambucus nigra ssp. *canadensis*

HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY

Tartarian Honeysuckle
Japanese Honeysuckle
Maple-leaf Viburnum
Snowball Tree
Black Haw
Black Elderberry

VALERIANACEAE

Valeriana locusta

VALERIAN FAMILY

Blue Corn Salad

DIPSACACEAE

Dipsacus sylvestris

TEASEL FAMILY

Common Teasel

ASTERACEAE

Helianthus divaricatus

ASTER FAMILY

Woodland Sunflower

Rudbeckia hirta var. *pulcherrima*
Rudbeckia laciniata
Verbesina occidentalis
Verbesina alternifolia
Coreopsis tripteris
Smallanthus uvedalius
Ambrosia artemisiifolia
Ambrosia trifida
Achillea millefolium
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
Matricaria matricariodes
Artemisia vulgaris
Packera aurea
Arnoglossum atriplicifolia
Tussilago farfara
Symphotrichum prenanthoides
Eurybia divaricatus
Erigeron philadelphicus
Erigeron strigosus
Erigeron annuus
Antennaria neglecta
Eupatorium fistulosum
Eupatorium perfoliatum
Veronia noveboracensis
Elephantopus carolinianus
Arctium minus
Prenanthes serpentaria
Prenanthes trifoliata
Lactuca canadensis
Lactuca biennis
Sonchus asper
Hieracium caespitosum
Hieracium venosum
Crepis capillaris
Taraxacum officinale
Cichorium intybus
Hypochaeris radicata

ALISMATACEAE

Sagittaria latifolia

Black-eyed Susan
Tall Coneflower
Small Yellow Crownbeard
Wing-Stem
Tall Coreopsis
Yellow-flowered Leafcup
Common Ragweed
Giant Ragweed
Yarrow
Ox-eye Daisy
Pineapple Weed
Mugwort
Golden Ragwort
Pale Indian Plantain
Coltsfoot
Crooked-stem Aster
White Wood Aster
Phliladelphia Fleabane
Daisy Fleabane
White-Top
Field Pussytoes
Common Joe-Pye Weed
Boneset
New York Ironweed
Elephant's-Foot
Common Burdock
Gall-of-the-Earth
Lion's Foot
Wild Lettuce
Tall Blue Lettuce
Spiny Sow Thistle
Field Hawkweed
Rattlesnake Weed
Smooth Hawksbeard
Common Dandelion
Chicory
Cat's-ear

WATER PLANTAIN FAMILY

Wapato

ACORACEAE

Acorus calamus

ARACEAE

Arisaema triphyllum ssp. *triphyllum*

COMMELINACEAE

Tradescantia virginiana

JUNCACEAE

Juncus tenuis

Juncus effusus

CYPERACEAE

Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Scirpus cyperinus

Eleocharis tenuis

Dulichium arundinaceum

Carex vulpinoidea

Carex plantaginea

Carex torta

Carex lurida

POACEAE

Arundinaria gigantea

Poa pratensis

Dactylis glomerata

Glycera striata

Holcus lanatus

Phalaris arundinacea

Phleum pratensis

Bromus inermis

Bromus kalmii

Elymus hystrix

Dichanthelium clandestinum

Miscanthus sinensis

Microstegium vimineum

Andropogon virginicus

TYPHACEAE

Typha latifolia

SWEET FLAG FAMILY

Sweet Flag

ARUM FAMILY

Jack-in-the-Pulpit

SPIDERWORT FAMILY

Spiderwort

RUSH FAMILY

Yard Rush

Common Rush

SEDGE FAMILY

Great Bulrush

Woolgrass

Kill Cow

Three-way Sedge

Foxtail Sedge

Plantain-leaved Sedge

Twisted Sedge

Sallow Sedge

GRASS FAMILY

Giant Cane

Kentucky Bluegrass

Orchard Grass

Fowl Mannagrass

Velvet Grass

Reed Canary Grass

Timothy

Smooth Bromegrass

Canada Bromegrass

Bottle-brush Grass

Deertongue Grass

Silver Grass

Japanese Stilt Grass

Broomsedge

CATTAIL FAMILY

Broad-leaved Cattail

LILIACEAE

Hemerocallis fulva
Allium cernuum
Trillium grandiflorum
Trillium erectum
Medeola virginiana
Clintonia umbellulata
Uvularia perfoliata
Prosartes maculata
Prosartes lanuginosa
Maianthemum racemosum
Maianthemum canadense
Asparagus officinalis
Hypoxis hirsuta
Polygonatum pubescens
Polygonatum biflorum

AGAVACEAE

Yucca filamentosa

SMILACACEAE

Smilax herbacea
Smilax hispida
Smilax rotundifolia

DIOSCOREACEAE

Dioscorea villosa
Dioscorea quaternata
Dioscorea oppositifolia

IRIDACEAE

Sisyrinchium angustifolium
Iris cristata
Iris pseudacorus

ORCHIDACEAE

Cypripedium parviflorum var. *pubescens*
Goodyera pubescens
Orchis spectabilis
Platanthera clavellata
Isotria verticillata

LILY FAMILY

Common Day Lily
 Wild Onion
 Large-flowered Trillium
 Wake Robin
 Indian Cucumber Root
 White Clintonia
 Mealy Bellwort
 Mandarin
 Hairy Disporum
 False Solomon's Seal
 Canada Mayflower
 Asparagus
 Yellow Stargrass
 Downy Solomon's Seal
 Great Solomon's Seal

AGAVE FAMILY

Adam's Needle

CATBRIER FAMILY

Carrion Flower
 Hispid Greenbrier
 Common Greenbrier

YAM FAMILY

Wild Yam
 Four-leaved Wild Yam
 Cinnamon Vine

IRIS FAMILY

Blue-eyed Grass
 Crested Dwarf Iris
 Yellow Iris

ORCHID FAMILY

Large Yellow Lady's Slipper
 Downy Rattlesnake Plantain
 Showy Orchis
 Small Green Wood Orchid
 Whorled Pogonia

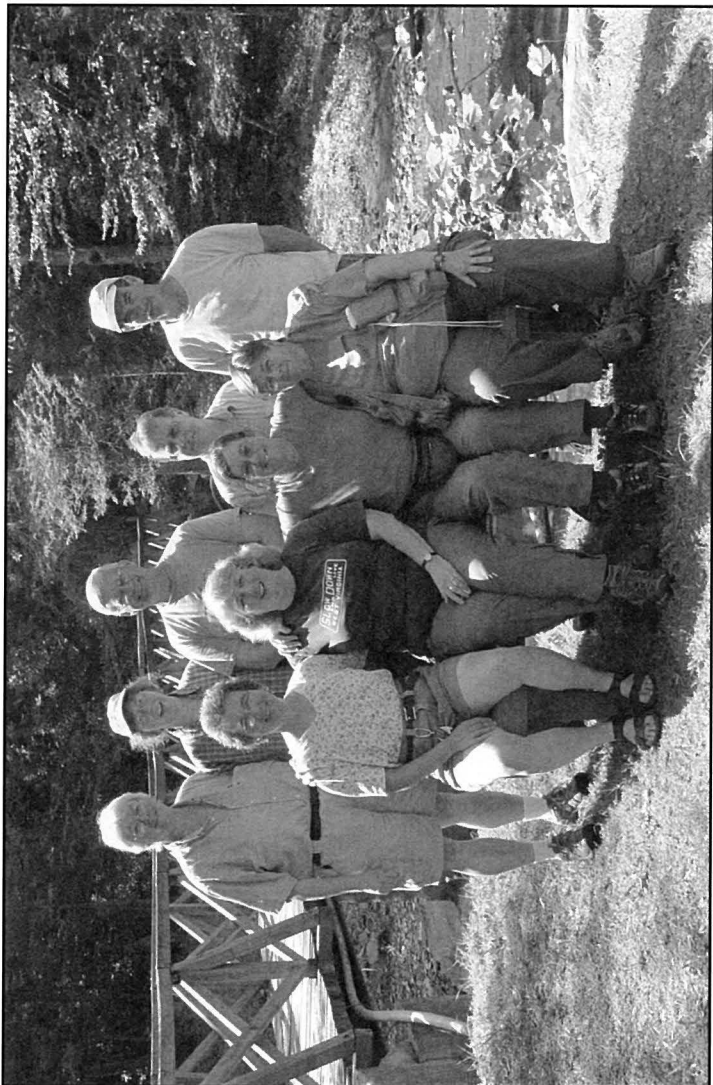
Liparis liliifolia
Aplectrum hyemale
Tipularia discolor

Lily-leaved Twayblade
 Puttyroot
 Crane-fly Orchid

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311 Alleman Hill Rd.
 Walker, WV 26180
 Hazwaste99@hotmail.com



The 2011 Sortie Participants. Back row: Cheryl Jennings, Maggi Perl, Thomas Fox, Kevin Campbell, Christopher Gatens. Seated: Claudette Simard, Dawn Fox, Maryanne Kraynanski, Jane Whitaker. Photo by Cheryl Jennings.

Erratum and Discussion of the Split of the Black Scoter Into Two Species

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

In the July 2010 issue of *The Auk*, the A.O.U. committee on taxonomy of birds reported a split of the Black Scoter into two species, the Eurasian species, to be called the Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), and the American species to be called the American Scoter (*Melanitta americana*) (Chesser et al., 2010, Vol. 127, No. 3). In the next issue of *The Auk* (Chesser et al., 2010, Vol. 127, No. 4), the A.O.U. published an erratum stating that the English name Black Scoter, our North American scoter, is to stay with *M. americana*, and the Eurasian species (*M. nigra*) is to be called the Common Scoter. I used the erroneous English name American Scoter for the Black Scoter in my discussion of the A.O.U. taxonomic and nomenclature changes (Buckelew, 2010). Thus, *The Redstart* will continue to use the English name Black Scoter for *M. americana*.

The Black Scoter differs from the Eurasian Common Scoter in morphology and voice. The male Common Scoter has an all yellow bill, while our male Black Scoter has an orange knob on top of its bill. The courtship calls of the Black Scoter are longer in duration and higher pitched than the Common Scoter. Sangster (2009) reported the differences in voice and showed that the voices of the two species are invariable and consistent throughout the range of each species.

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Department of Biology
Bethany College
Bethany, WV 26032

Field Notes Winter Season

December 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012

Casey Rucker

Winter was warm throughout West Virginia, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, in sharp contrast to the year before. Temperatures reached the high 60s in many parts of the state during each of the winter months. Average precipitation was above normal in December, tapering off to a dry 76% of normal moisture in February.

These notes were gathered from the National Audubon Society sponsored West Virginia Bird Listserv, from Christmas Bird Count (CBC) results, and from field notes submitted to the editor by e-mail 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: <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>, and the results of the Christmas Bird Counts may be found at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

The rarity of the season was a **Northern Shrike** in Canaan Valley, Tucker County. Rodney Bartgis first discovered the bird during the Canaan Valley Christmas Bird Count on December 16. Overall, West Virginia birders reported 143 species in the state during the winter, with reports from 41 of West Virginia's 55 counties.

Ducks, Swans, Geese—On December 10, Randy Bodkins saw five **Greater White-fronted Geese** fly overhead near Roaring Creek, Randolph County. David Patick and Michael Griffith found four **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on January 21. **Snow Geese** made appearances in Cabell County (DP, MG, GR), Preston County (TB), Randolph County (RBo), and Wood County (CBC). A **Ross's Goose** made a rare appearance in Kanawha County on January 23, remaining for a few days afterward (DB, DG, KC, MO), and the only other reported **Ross's Goose** was at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on January 13 and 14 (MG, WA, DP). The Huntington Christmas Bird Count recorded two **Cackling Geese** on January 2, although it is not clear that this sighting took place in West Virginia as the Huntington count circle extends to the other side of the Ohio River. **Cackling Geese** also appeared in mid-January in Jefferson (MO, JBz, BH) and Randolph (RBo) Counties. **Canada Geese** were, as usual, widespread throughout the state. **Tundra Swans** appeared in reports from Jefferson County (MO, CD, BH), Marion County (TB), Mason County (DP, MG), Monongalia County (TB, HMy, LeJ, MO), and Randolph County (RBo). There were many reports statewide of **Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, American Black Ducks, Mallards, Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser**

Scaup, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Hooded, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks. There were reports from five or fewer counties of these waterfowl species: **Blue-winged Teal:** Monroe County (SOg); **Northern Shoveler:** Cabell (MG) and Hardy (FA, MO) Counties; **Greater Scaup:** Monongalia County (TB, MO); and **Long-tailed Duck:** Grant (FA) and Monongalia (TB, LeJ, MO) Counties. A **Surf Scoter** lingered in Moulton Park, Jefferson County, for more than a week after Matthew Orsie first spotted the bird on January 21. On December 18, Elliot and Nancy Kirschbaum saw nine **White-winged Scoters** on the Shenandoah River near Moulton Park, Jefferson County, and the December 17 Charles Town Christmas Bird Count reported a **White-winged Scoter** during count week in Jefferson County as well. Terry Bronson saw a **White-winged Scoter** at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County, on January 21, the day after he, LeJay Graffious, Derek Courtney, and Kyle Aldinger saw more than 2,000 other **waterfowl** at the same location, including more than a thousand **Lesser Scaup**. Two days later LeJay Graffious relocated the **White-winged Scoter** as well as a **Black Scoter** at the same location.

Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys—Perhaps due to the mild winter, there were reports of **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkeys** from many counties throughout the state, particularly on the tallies of Christmas Bird Counts.

Loons, Grebes—Terry Bronson first noted a **Common Loon** at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County, on December 5, and continued to report the species there through January 9. On December 9, Jon Benedetti, Pat Collins, Dick Esker, Neal Hohman, and Carl Radcliffe saw two **Common Loons** at the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Pleasants County. The Parkersburg Christmas Bird Count reported a **Common Loon** on December 17. Gary Felton saw a **Common Loon** in Kingwood, Preston County, on December 18. On January 19, Matthew Orsie saw a **Common Loon** on the Shenandoah River, Jefferson County, and three days later, David Myles saw one near the same place. It was a fair winter for grebes. Reports of **Pied-billed Grebes** were plentiful throughout the state. **Horned Grebes** were reported in Hampshire County (CBC), Monongalia County (TB, LeJ, DCo, KA), Preston County (GF), and Raleigh County (CBC). On New Year's Day, Terry Bronson spotted the state's only reported **Red-necked Grebe** at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County.

Cormorants, Herons, Egrets—Reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** came from Fayette County (JBT), Kanawha County (CBC), Mason County (JBT, GR, DP, WA, MG), Monongalia County (DCo), Putnam County (JBT), Raleigh County (CBC), and Upshur County (TB). **Great Blue Herons** appeared throughout the state. On December 17, Gary Felton's group with the Morgantown Christmas Bird Count found a **Green Heron** at Sunset Marina, Cheat Lake Park, in Monongalia County.

Vultures—The mild winter also proved favorable for **Vulture** sightings. **Black Vultures** and **Turkey Vultures** were mentioned in reports from 17 counties each.

Hawks, Eagles—On a warm February 21, the author of these notes was shocked to see an **Osprey** in Charleston, Kanawha County. **Bald Eagles** were reported from

25 counties this winter, showing the continued recovery of this species. The seventh annual Eagle Count along the New, Bluestone, and Greenbrier Rivers found 19 **Bald Eagles** and 1 **Golden Eagle** on January 7, as reported by Mindy Waldron. David Carr counted at least 22 **Bald Eagles** on February 4 along Parker Hollow Road near Baker, in Hardy County. In all, birders in 25 counties reported **Bald Eagles** during the winter. **Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Cooper's Hawks** appeared in reports from birders throughout the state. LeJay Graffious and Derek Courtney found an immature **Northern Goshawk** in Randolph County on December 17 during the Morgantown Christmas Bird Count. On December 29, Sharyn Ogden reported a juvenile **Northern Goshawk** observed earlier at Moncove Lake in Monroe County. Birders in most parts of the state reported **Red-shouldered Hawks** and **Red-tailed Hawks**. **Rough-legged Hawks** appeared in five counties: Grant (FA), Hampshire (CBC), Hardy (CBC), Jefferson (JL), and Tucker (CBC, MO, GF, TB, RBo). **Golden Eagles** appeared in nine counties, all in the eastern half of the state.

Falcons—Many birders reported **American Kestrels** in most parts of the state. On January 8, Cynthia Ellis saw 12 **American Kestrels** along the Kanawha River between Winfield and Leon, Putnam and Mason Counties. On December 11, Frederick Atwood spotted a **Merlin** on Houghlin Road, Grant County, and the Fayette County Christmas Bird Count reported a **Merlin** on December 18. On January 7, Gary Rankin found another **Merlin** in Canaan Valley, Tucker County; on January 23 Matthew Orsie, Robert Dean, and Stan Roach spied a **Merlin** at Cattail Run Road in Jefferson County; and Gary Felton saw a **Merlin** in Morgantown, Monongalia County, on February 21. Reports of **Peregrine Falcons** came from Cabell County (GR), Grant County (FA), Jefferson County (DH), Kanawha County (CBC), Mason County (GR, DP, WA, MG, MO), Putnam County (CE), and Wood County (DJE, CBC, JB).

Rails, Coots—A **Virginia Rail** was observed during the Charles Town CBC in Jefferson County on December 17. **American Coots** appeared in 12 counties this winter.

Plovers—Killdeer were unusually well represented with reports from 19 counties. **Killdeer** reports were spaced regularly throughout the winter season, again perhaps reflecting our warm winter. On February 17, Richard Bailey found more than 100 **Killdeer** in Grant and Hardy Counties.

Sandpipers—On December 2, Deborah Beutler reported an injured **American Avocet** being treated for lead poisoning in Charleston, Kanawha County. Our two regularly wintering species of sandpiper prompted fair numbers of reports. Birders in eight counties reported **Wilson's Snipes**, and **American Woodcocks** in six counties.

Gulls, Terns—A first-year **Great Black-backed Gull** was the only unusual **larid** of the winter season, appearing for three days at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington, Cabell County, beginning on January 17, as reported by John Hubbard, Beverly Delidow, and Ben Borda. Small numbers of **Bonaparte's Gulls** appeared in Harris

Riverfront Park in Huntington, Cabell County, during late January, as observed by Michael Griffith, David Patick, Ben Borda, and Matthew Orsie. The winter's only other **Bonaparte's Gull** was also reported by Matthew Orsie, along the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County on February 5. Reports of **Ring-billed Gulls** were widespread. On January 3, Wilma Jarrell saw 250 **Ring-billed Gulls** moving south at Hannibal Lock and Dam, Weztel County, and on February 26, James and Judy Phillips counted 240 **Ring-billed Gulls** at the mouth of the Bluestone River, Summers County. Birders in six counties reported **Herring Gulls**, all in small numbers.

Columbidae—Rock Pigeons and Mourning Doves continue to reside throughout the state, as reported primarily in Christmas Bird Counts.

Owls—On December 30, the Moorefield Christmas Bird Count recorded three **Barn Owls** in Hardy County, and on February 16 Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club saw an adult **Barn Owl** at Belleville Wetlands, Wood County. Nine counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls**: Cabell (ReT), Grant (FA), Greenbrier (CBC), Hampshire (CBC), Jefferson (CBC, WH, JBz), Marion (BY, SO), Pendleton (CBC), Wayne (GR), and Wood (CBC). Five counties' Christmas Bird Counts reported **Great Horned Owls** (Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Pendleton, and Tucker). Jeff Del Col exchanged calls with a **Great Horned Owl** near his home in Philippi, Barbour County, on December 28. Individuals' reports of **Great Horned Owls** also came from Grant (FA), Putnam (CE), and Wayne (GR) Counties. Eleven counties reported **Barred Owl**: Cabell (MG); Hampshire (CBC); Hancock (JBo), Hardy (CBC), Jefferson (JBz, CD, CBC, MO, DM, DHa), Kanawha (HG), Ohio (JBo), Pendleton (CBC), Tucker (JBU), Wayne (GR), and Wood (CBC). Gary Rankin's group in the Huntington Christmas Bird Count found the season's only reported **Long-eared Owl** on January 2 at the Sugarwood Golf Course in Wayne County. On the same day, Matthew Orsie saw three **Short-eared Owls** near Oldfield, Hardy County, as part of a five-owl day. On December 28, James Anderson saw two **Short-eared Owls** near McKinney Cave Road in Preston County.

Hummingbirds—A **Rufous Hummingbird** that appeared in Jefferson County in late November remained through January 10, according to Matthew Orsie. The bird was banded and was also recorded in the Charles Town Christmas Bird Count on December 17. On January 4, Scott Shalaway reported that another **Rufous Hummingbird** had been visiting a home in the Triadelphia area of Wheeling, Ohio County, since mid-December. This bird was also banded, and stayed in the area through January 7, according to Robert Protz.

Kingfishers—Numerous reports of **Belted Kingfishers** came from 22 counties, again reflecting the warm winter and its attendant open water. Willa Grafton reported a **Belted Kingfisher** near her home in Heaters, Braxton County, throughout the winter season.

Woodpeckers—Roger Hardway and Sharon Cook saw their first West Virginia **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Chief Logan State Park, Logan County, on New Year's

Day. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** also appeared in reports from Greenbrier County (CBC), Hampshire County (CBC), Hardy County (CBC, MO, DC), Kanawha County (CBC), Putnam County (CBC, KC), Randolph County (RBo), and Ritchie County (TB). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers** were all subjects of widespread reports in West Virginia over the winter.

Flycatchers—Reports of **Eastern Phoebe** only came from 10 counties this warm winter: Fayette (CBC), Grant (FA), Greenbrier (CBC), Hampshire (CBC), Hardy (CBC), Jefferson (DHa, MO, CD), Kanawha (HG), McDowell (CBC), Pendleton (CBC), and Raleigh (CBC).

Shrikes—Frederick Atwood found a pair of **Loggerhead Shrikes** on Hogueland Lane, Grant County, on December 11. On December 16, the Pocahontas Christmas Bird Count found a **Loggerhead Shrike** in southern Pocahontas County. On December 22, Robert Dean saw a **Loggerhead Shrike** near Hedgesville, Berkeley County. The Charles Town Christmas Bird Count recorded two **Loggerhead Shrikes** on December 17, and other birders reported **Loggerhead Shrikes** at the Candlewood Road location in Jefferson County through the winter (EK, JBz, JL). The **Northern Shrike** found by Rodney Bartgis on December 17 was seen intermittently in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, through at least the second week of February, as reported by Ken Dzaack. The **shrike** was elusive, and many birders reported unrequited visits to its seasonal home.

Crows, Jays, Ravens—**Blue Jays, American Crow, and Common Ravens** appeared in their usual haunts throughout the state. In Jefferson County, Matthew Orsie and Deb Hale found **Fish Crows** beginning in late January.

Larks—Reports of **Horned Larks** came from Grant County (FA), Greenbrier County (CBC), Hardy County (FA, CBC), Jefferson County (MO, JBz, CD, JL), Mason County (DP, WA, MG), Pendleton County (CBC), Putnam County (GR), and Randolph County (RBo, RT).

Swallows—**Tree Swallows** were early returnees to Cabell County on February 28, as observed by Michael Griffith, and to Jefferson County the next day, as observed by Deb Hale.

Paridae—Birders reported both **Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees** in their bifurcated territories throughout West Virginia. **Tufted Titmice** occupied their usual spots in reports from throughout the state.

Nuthatches—**Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared sparsely this winter, showing up in small numbers in six counties: Hardy (CBC), McDowell (CBC), Pendleton (CBC), Pocahontas (CBC, MO), Preston (TB, LeJ, DCo), and Tucker (CR, CBC). **White-breasted Nuthatches** were well reported throughout the state.

Creepers—Birders in 15 counties reported **Brown Creeper**, an unusually good showing for this species.

Wrens—**Carolina and Winter Wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from

all over the state. Frederick Atwood located a late **House Wren** in Hardy County on December 10.

Kinglets—Golden-crowned Kinglets were familiar sights in most parts of the state this winter. On December 12, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** began visiting the suet feeder of Hullet Good in Milliken, Kanawha County, and continued to do so every day for the rest of the winter. The Kanawha County, Pendleton County, and Parkersburg (Wood County) Christmas Bird Counts also reported **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**. On December 27, Deb Hale found a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** along the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County. Another **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was present at Beech Fork Lake Park in Wayne County at the beginning and end of January (DP, MO), and James and Judy Phillips found yet another **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Pipestem State Park, Summers County, on February 5.

Thrushes—Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, and American Robins appeared in widespread numbers throughout our state this winter.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers—On December 2 Nancy and Elliot Kirschbaum found a **Gray Catbird** at Altona Marsh in Jefferson County. Gary Felton saw **Gray Catbirds** in Preston County in December and January, and the Pendleton Christmas Bird Count recorded a **Gray Catbird** in Pendleton County on December 20. West Virginians reported many **Northern Mockingbirds** over the winter season.

Starlings—European Starlings continued their widespread occupation of habitats throughout our state.

Pipits—American Pipits made appearances in six counties: Hardy (MO, FA, DC), Harrison (DCo), Jefferson (CBC, JL, MO, DM, JBz), McDowell (CBC), Monongalia (DCo), and Ohio (JBo).

Waxwings—Cedar Waxwings appeared on birders' reports from many parts of the state. Bruni Haydl observed a flock of more than 30 **Cedar Waxwings** near her home in Charles Town, Jefferson County, numerous times during the winter.

Longspurs, Buntings—Joette Borzik discovered a **Lapland Longspur** among a large flock of **Horned Larks** on Cattail Run Road in Jefferson County on January 22; and Matthew Orsie re-found the bird on the same day, where he had found **Snow Buntings** the day before. The **Snow Buntings** remained through January 23, as reported by Carol Del-Colle.

Warblers—On December 11, Frederick Atwood saw an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Mill Creek Lake Park, Grant County. David Patick, Gary Rankin, Wendell Argabrite, and Michael Griffith all reported one or two **Palm Warblers** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, beginning on December 3 and continuing through February 19. On February 29, Donny Good's feeders at his home on Mill Creek, Kanawha County, were visited by an early **Pine Warbler**. Birders in lower elevations saw Myrtle-race **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at locations throughout the state.

Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs—Eastern Towhees made their usual appearances in many parts of the state. In addition, **American Tree, Chipping, Field, Fox, Song, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows**, as well as **Dark-eyed Juncos**, appeared widely. John Boback found 31 **American Tree Sparrows** in Hillcrest WMA, Hancock County, on February 5. On New Year's Day, David Patick reported a **Vesper Sparrow** at Bowen Cemetery, Wayne County. **Savannah Sparrows** appeared in Hardy (FA, MO) and Mason (DP, MG) Counties. Jon Benedetti, Jeanie Hilton, and Pat Collins saw a **Lincoln's Sparrows** on December 1 at Middle Island, Pleasants County.

Cardinals, Grosbeaks—Birders throughout the state reported **Northern Cardinals** in good numbers. The Hampshire County Christmas Bird Count recorded a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** on December 31, and Frederick Atwood found an **Indigo Bunting** along River Road in Hardy County on January 14.

Icterids—Many reports of **Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, Rusty Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds** came from areas all over the state. Gary Rankin saw three **Brewer's Blackbirds** fly by at Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on December 11.

Finches, Allies: This winter was not an irruption year for any northerly finches. **Red Crossbills** appeared in their usual haunts at Cranberry Glades in Pocahontas County, as reported by the CBC and Matthew Orsie. Robert Tallman and Rodney Bartgis both found **Red Crossbills** near the Shavers Fork in Randolph County in early February. Feeders in most parts of the state saw the usual visits from **Purple Finches, House Finches, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches**.

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

Contributors to the Winter Field Notes: Kyle Aldinger (KA), Wendell Argabrite (WA), Frederick Atwood (FA), Jon Benedetti (JB), John Boback (JBo), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Terry Bronson (TB), Jacqueline Burns (JBU), Doren Burrell (DB), Kevin Cade (KC), David Carr (DC), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Derek Courtney (DCo), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Dick and Jeannette Esker (DJE), Gary Felton (GF), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Michael Griffith (MG), Deb Hale (DHa), Bruni Haydl (BH), Wil Hershberger (WH), Elliot Kirschbaum (EK), Jon Little (JL), Herb Myers (HMy), David Myles (DM), Sharyn Ogden (SOg), Susan Olcott (SO), Matthew Orsie (MO), David Patick (DP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Rennie Talbert (ReT), Robert Tallman (RT), James and Beverly Triplett (JBT), Charles Yoho (BY).

P.O. Box 2
Seneca Rocks, WV 26884
autoblock@frontiernet.net

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2012 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
January	BBC Membership Month	Wheeling, WV
February	Write an article for the <i>Mail Bag</i> or <i>The Redstart</i>	mail to editors
February 8-10	Trip to Killdeer Plains (Contact Gene Hilton 304-428-8641)	
March 2-4	Mid-Winter Meeting (Contact Dick Esker)	North Bend State Park
March 8-9	Trip to Killbuck Marsh (Contact Dick Esker 304-863-8765)	
March 11	Waterfowl Trip, Seneca Lake (day trip) (Contact Carl Slater)	
April 21	Day trip to Raccoon Creek State Park with 3 Rivers Bird Club (Contact Larry Helgerman)	
April 29	Enlow Fork IBA Extravaganza (Contact Larry Helgerman)	
May 10-13	Wildflower Pilgrimage	
May 12	International Migratory Bird Day, North American Migration Count	
June 1-9	Foray Bluestone Lake Conference Center (Contact John Jacobs)	
June 10-16	Sortie Cabwaylingo (Contact Dawn Fox)	
July	TBA Bonus Bird Weekend (Contact Carl Slater)	
August 11-Oct. 6	Bird Banding	Dolly Sods, WV
September 15	Hawk Watch, Bedford County, PA (Contact Larry Helgerman)	
October 13	Board of Trustees Meeting (Contact Carl Slater)	Wheeling, WV
October 26-28	80th Anniversary of BBC Annual Meeting	Blackwater Falls State Park
November 7-11	Eastern Shore (Contact Carl Slater)	
Dec. 14-Jan. 5, '13	Christmas Bird Counts (Send reports to Jane Whitaker)	local groups

BBC FORAYS (dates and places tentative)

2012	Summers County	Hinton, WV
2013	Pocahontas County 4-H Camp	Thornwood, WV
2014	Camp Pioneer, Randolph County	Beverly, WV

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Winter: March 15	Spring: June 15	Summer: September 15	Fall: December 15
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The dates for the 2012 BBC program may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the Web page or in the *Mail Bag*.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Cynthia Ellis, cdellis@wildblue.net	John Jacobs, finevener@earthlink.net
Peter's Mtn. www.hangingrocktower.org	Juanita/Carl Slater, gusind@juno.com
Dick Esker, eskerrb@verizon.net	A. R. Buckelew Jr., jbuckelew@bethanywv.edu