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The **REDSTART**

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Banding at Prickett's Fort State Park, Marion County West Virginia, Spring and Fall 2014

Joey Herron

Since 2008, I have been conducting a birding class for the Lifelong Learners group of Pierpont Community and Technical College in Fairmont, West Virginia. The spring and fall classes usually consist of one classroom session and three field sessions at Prickett's Fort State Park during early May and early October.

Prickett's Fort State Park is located along the Monongahela River in Marion County and has a diverse habitat including a large riparian area and many wooded areas with trails and openings. The various habitats support a wide variety of species and provide many good opportunities for observing and banding birds.

Nets were set above the main trail area, next to the trail parking lot, which is located west of the visitor's center. Four to five nets are used along an abandoned railroad bed running next to a power line right of way. The banding has taken place in this same area every spring and fall since starting in 2008.

During the spring and fall 2014 season, 49 birds of 22 species were banded. Four birds from earlier years were also captured. Two Eastern Tufted Titmice that were banded together on October 8, 2011, were captured again together on October 9, 2014, almost exactly three years from the initial banding. A male Northern Cardinal was recaptured on October 28, 2014, that had been banded on September 25, 2013. There was a Carolina Chickadee recaptured on May 7, 2014, that had been banded the previous fall on September 17, 2013. Two new species were added to the species list this year, including a nice adult male Kentucky Warbler banded on May 6, 2014, and an adult female Scarlet Tanager on May 8, 2014, bringing the species total to 51.

Of this total of 51 species, 319 birds have been banded from the spring of 2008 to the fall of 2014. Over a third of the bandings are made up of four species: Northern Cardinal (39), Carolina Chickadee (28), White-eyed Vireo (22), and Gray Catbird (21). The following chart shows numbers and species banded.

Species	Number Banded 2014	Banded 2008–2014
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	0	2
White-eyed Vireo	2	22
Warbling Vireo	0	4
Red-eyed Vireo	0	8
Blue Jay	2	3
Carolina Chickadee	6	28
Black-capped Chickadee	0	1
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	3	6
House Wren	0	1
Carolina Wren	2	17
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	2
Swainson's Thrush	1	2
Wood Thrush	0	5
American Robin	0	3
Gray Catbird	2	21
Brown Thrasher	1	2
Northern Mockingbird	2	8
Cedar Waxwing	0	1
Blue-winged Warbler	1	3
Swainson's Warbler	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	1
Nashville Warbler	1	3
Connecticut Warbler	0	1
Kentucky Warbler	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	1	7
American Redstart	2	5
Northern Parula	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	3	13
Yellow Warbler	0	7
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler	0	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	13
Prairie Warbler	0	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	3
Wilson's Warbler	0	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	4
Eastern Towhee	2	13

Species	Number Banded 2014	Banded 2008–2014
Chipping Sparrow	1	5
Field Sparrow	0	2
Song Sparrow	3	14
Swamp Sparrow	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	0	4
White-crowned Sparrow	0	1
Scarlet Tanager	1	1
Northern Cardinal	8	39
Indigo Bunting	0	7
Orchard Oriole	0	5
Baltimore Oriole	3	10
American Goldfinch	0	6
Totals	49	319



Kentucky Warbler banded on May 6, 2014. Photo by Joey Herron.

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Three Rivers Migration Observatory: Fall Migration 2014 Raleigh County, West Virginia

Ronald A. Canterbury

This report summarizes the 20th year of bird banding at the Three Rivers Migration Observatory (TRMO). During the 2014 fall banding season, field assistants and I were not able to run all of our net lanes and to obtain robust coverage due to numerous logistical issues, including a shortage of nets and size 0 bands. Although we did not run as many nets as typical for this station, banding was carried out on 60 days from July 17 to November 9, 2014. The coverage in October was extremely low with only nine banding days due to limited field personnel to conduct the banding. In total, field assistants and I captured 647 birds representing 65 species. Of the 647 birds captured, 43 were Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that we release unbanded.

Table 1 lists the species and number of individuals per species captured during the season, and Figure 1 shows the number of birds captured per day. As usual the species with the highest number of individuals captured was the Tennessee Warbler ($n = 139$). In July, 14 birds were captured during three days of netting. In August, 174 birds were captured during 17 days of operation. Banding in September produced 343 birds during 16 days of operation, while 100 birds were banded during nine days in October. Banding during four days in November yielded only 16 birds. Peak bird movement was later than average for this station with the highest number of birds ($n = 78$) banded on September 27; 164 birds (25% of our total captures) were banded between September 27 and 29 (Figure 1).

The weather in July and August was cooler than average, and there was above-average rainfall in August. On the other hand, September and October weather was slightly warmer than average. September was mainly dry, while October had above-average rainfall. November weather was one of the coldest on record at TRMO.

Relatively late in the season captures for the TRMO area included an Eastern Wood-Pewee, Gray Catbird, and Connecticut Warbler. The number of Carolina Wrens ($n = 3$) banded this fall was exceedingly low for this station, which may indicate a crash in population numbers due to heavy winter mortality over the past several winters. The capture of 10 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was noteworthy with the last one captured on 24 August, which is relatively typical for this earlier fall migrant. Both kinglet species were in relative low numbers, which is typically the case for Golden-crowned Kinglets at this fall migration station, but not necessarily for Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Except for Wood Thrushes, all other thrushes were in low numbers and no major thrush flights or fallouts materialized in the TRMO area. In addition, most of the thrushes banded this fall arrived earlier than average and the flight was of shorter duration than what is typically seen at this station.

Numerous species, especially several species of sparrows; the American Goldfinch; and some warblers, such as Nashville, Chestnut-sided, and Yellow-rumped warblers, continue to decline at this station in part due to the advancing forest succession of the old field habitat where most of the netting occurs. In 2015, field assistants and I will selectively remove some of the larger or taller trees from the old field habitat to return the succession back to earlier stages, but the old field needs some brush-hogging, and fewer migratory flocks have been noticed at this station during the past decade.

On September 14, 2014, both a Swainson’s Warbler and a Golden-winged Warbler were banded (Figures 2 and 3). This is especially noteworthy in that it is highly unlikely that these two species can be captured on the same day at any other inland fall bird banding station in the United States. Some of the recaptures included three Carolina Chickadees banded in 2010, 2012, and 2013, respectively; a Carolina Wren banded in 2012; an Indigo Bunting from 2011; and a Hermit Thrush banded in 2012. For the Hermit Thrush, a species that may winter as far south as Guatemala but is also likely to spend the winter at the TRMO locality in southern West Virginia, the bird was first banded as a hatch-year on October 20, 2012, and recaptured on November 9, 2014.

Karen Daniel, Randy Daniel, Lance Perry, Zach Perry, Scott Perry, and Allen Waldron assisted with data collection. Financial support was provided by Southern West Virginia Bird Research Center. The New River Gorge branch of the National Park Service provide some mist nets.

Table 1
Species list for the Autumn 2014 season

Species	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Date
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Oct. 3			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	43	July 17	Sep. 26	4	Aug. 5
Downy Woodpecker	6	Aug. 5	Sep. 29		
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Sep. 3			
Northern Flicker	1	Oct. 11			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	Aug. 10	Oct. 26		
Least Flycatcher	1	Sep. 6			
Eastern Phoebe	8	Aug. 10	Sep. 29		
White-eyed Vireo	5	Sep. 26	Oct. 13		
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	Aug. 24	Sep. 29		
Blue-headed Vireo	7	Aug. 24	Oct. 18		

Species	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Date
Red-eyed Vireo	22	Aug. 1	Sep. 29	3	Aug. 24
Blue Jay	13	Sep. 21	Nov. 9		
Carolina Chickadee	10	July 31	Oct. 29		
Tufted Titmouse	14	Aug. 15	Nov. 9	5	Oct. 3
House Wren	7	Aug. 5	Oct. 13		
Carolina Wren	3	Aug. 31	Oct. 29		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	10	Aug. 1	Aug. 24	3	Aug. 12
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	Oct. 18	Oct. 26		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	Oct. 3	Oct. 26		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4	Sep. 14	Sep. 28		
Swainson's Thrush	29	Sep. 6	Oct. 5	5	Oct. 3
Hermit Thrush	3	Oct. 13	Nov. 9		
Wood Thrush	6	Aug. 26	Sep. 25		
American Robin	2	Aug. 20	Sep. 20		
Gray Catbird	20	Aug. 1	Oct. 29		
Cedar Waxwing	4	Sep. 6	Sep. 25	3	Sep. 25
Ovenbird	10	Aug. 1	Oct. 11		
Worm-eating Warbler	5	Aug. 13	Sep. 28		
Golden-winged Warbler	1	Sep. 14			
Blue-winged Warbler	5	Aug. 3	Sep. 27		
Black-and-white Warbler	11	Aug. 1	Sep. 29	3	Aug. 24
Swainson's Warbler	1	Sep. 14			
Tennessee Warbler	139	Sep. 14	Oct. 19	58	Sep. 27
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Oct. 26			
Nashville Warbler	2	Sep. 29			
Connecticut Warbler	1	Sep. 29			
Kentucky Warbler	1	Aug. 5			
Common Yellowthroat	11	Aug. 31	Oct. 25		
Hooded Warbler	21	July 31	Sep. 25	5	Sep. 6
American Redstart	18	Aug. 6	Oct. 3	6	Sep. 14
Cape May Warbler	2	Sep. 28			
Cerulean Warbler	1	Aug. 1			
Northern Parula	2	Sep. 14	Sep. 23		
Magnolia Warbler	36	Aug. 30	Oct. 25	6	Sep. 27
Bay-breasted Warbler	14	Sep. 14	Oct. 3	4	Sep. 23
Blackburnian Warbler	4	Sep. 14	Sep. 27		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	Aug. 19	Sep. 29		
Blackpoll Warbler	3	Sep. 29			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	Sep. 20	Sep. 28		

Species	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Date
Palm Warbler	5	Oct. 13	Oct. 18	3	Oct. 13
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	Oct. 26			
Black-throated Green Warbler	16	Aug. 10	Sep. 29	5	Sep. 14
Eastern Towhee	6	Aug. 7	Oct. 26		
Chipping Sparrow	8	July 17	Oct. 26		
Field Sparrow	3	July 31	Aug. 31		
Song Sparrow	6	Aug. 10	Nov. 9	3	Sep. 29
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	Sep. 29			
Swamp Sparrow	1	Oct. 26			
White-throated Sparrow	6	Oct. 13	Nov. 4		
Dark-eyed Junco	8	Oct. 25	Nov. 8	3	Nov. 2
Scarlet Tanager	14	July 17	Sep. 15	5	Aug. 28
Northern Cardinal	9	July 20	Oct. 26		
Indigo Bunting	16	July 17	Oct. 13	3	Aug. 10
American Goldfinch	10	Aug. 5	Sep. 6	3	Aug. 6

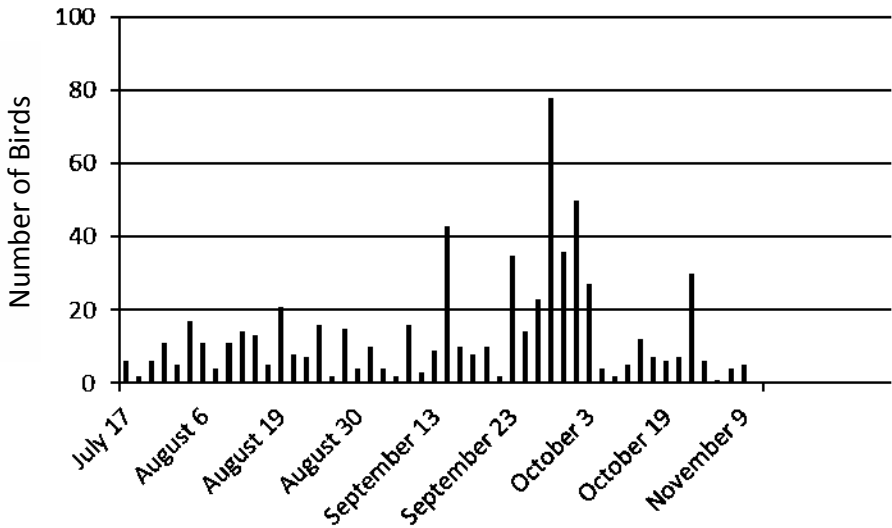


Figure 1. Number of birds captured per day in Autumn 2014 at TRMO.



Figure 2. Swainson's Warbler banded at TRMO on September 14, 2014. Photo by Allen Waldron.



Figure 3. Female Golden-winged Warbler banded at TRMO on September 14, 2014.
Photo by Allen Waldron.

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19th Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee April 2015

The West Virginia Bird Records Committee (WVBRC) held its annual meeting on April 19, 2015, at Mazza's restaurant in Fairmont, West Virginia. At the meeting, the committee confirmed prior member votes to accept 10 records to the state list.

Records accepted:

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (2014-1). On January 26, 2014 Derek Courtney discovered this duck on the Ohio River near Parkersburg, West Virginia. This is the second state record.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) (2014-2). On January 31, 2014, Wilma Jarrell observed a juvenile on the ice at the Hannibal Locks and Dam near New Martinsville, West Virginia. Photos were submitted, and the bird was seen sitting and flying with other gulls.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) (2014-3). February 1, 2014, brought another Iceland Gull observation, this one at the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason County, West Virginia, by Michael Griffith and David Patick. This first winter bird was seen on the ice and flying. Photos were submitted by David Patick.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (2014-4). Gary Bush saw an adult at the Pike Island Lock and Dam area in Ohio County, West Virginia, on February 14, 2014. The bird was observed with Greater Black-backed Gulls and other gulls on the ice.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (2014-5). On February 17, 2014, Michael Resch observed what was considered to be the same bird that was reported by Gary Bush on the 14 of February.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) (2014-6). Matthew Orsie made a trip to Lewisburg, West Virginia, on February 17, 2014, to a residence to confirm the identification of this bird. Photos were taken and the identification was confirmed.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (2014-7). On October 27, 2013, Fred Atwood came across this small sparrow at South Mill Creek Lake Park in Grant County, West Virginia. Many photos were taken to confirm the identification of the Le Conte's Sparrow.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (2014-8). Near the Steubenville Marina on the Ohio River at Steubenville, Ohio, another Lesser Black-backed Gull was observed on February 28, 2014, by Tucker Lutter. It was sitting on some ice flows with some other gulls.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) (2014-9). On March 3, 2014, another juvenile Iceland Gull was seen on the Ohio River in Ohio County, West Virginia, near the Ragland Marina by Tucker Lutter. This was the third observation submitted for the year.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) (2014-10). Rodney Davis had the good fortune to have this bird show up on his property on October 8, 2014, in Monroe County, West Virginia, near Sinks Grove. Many photos were taken and confirmed by other birders. This is the first state record for this bird.

With the acceptance of these records, Lesser Black-backed Gull is removed from the review list. The committee also concluded that the following species should be removed from the review list as there are numerous existing, accepted records on file: King Rail and Laughing Gull.

Other business:

1. There was continued discussion on posting digital copies of West Virginia bird records on the World Wide Web. It was earlier recommended to place them on The Brooks Bird Club website. The WVBRC concluded that there is expertise within the committee to scan the records at least back to 2000. Wendell Argabrite and Gary Rankin volunteered to scan the accepted record reports. Each report, and supporting photos, will be compiled into a single PDF document that the committee will post to The Brooks Bird Club website on a page dedicated to West Virginia Accepted Rare Bird Reports. Wendell already has most of the reports scanned since 2000. Older reports will be scanned and made available as time permits.
2. Gary Rankin is leaving the WVBRC this year. We would like to thank him for his service and dedication.
3. Three names were presented for voting, and Joseph Hildreth was elected to fill the seat being vacated by Gary Rankin. Hildreth accepted the position on the WVBRC.
4. The WVBRC voted unanimously that: The committee will not review reports submitted by a third party that did not actually see the species being reported. Only reports completed and submitted by an observer of the bird will be accepted for review.
5. An election was held to select a new chair and vice-chair. Joey Herron was selected as chair and John Boback as vice-chair.

Submitted by Joey Herron, chair; and WVBRC members Gary Rankin; Wil Hershberger; William Tolin; David Patick; John Boback; Patricia Morrison; Cynthia Ellis, alternate; and Wendell Argabrite, secretary.

A.O.U. Taxonomic Changes for 2015

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

The American Ornithologists' Union's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature made only one change affecting a West Virginia bird species in the July 2015 issue of *The Auk* (Chesser et al., 2015), and this change has no effect on checklist order. The Committee found the sparrow genus *Spizella* to be polyphyletic, meaning that the members of this genus were not uniformly descended from a common ancestor. As a result the Committee removed the outlying American Tree Sparrow from the genus *Spizella* and placed it in its own genus, *Spizelloides*, becoming *Spizelloides arborea*. As the American Tree Sparrow's former position on the A.O.U. list was the first species in *Spizella*, and *Spizelloides* now occurs immediately before *Spizella*, the A.O.U. Check-list order remains unchanged.

As usual there are changes in the A.O.U. taxonomy that will interest bird enthusiasts who study birds outside of West Virginia. For example, the Egyptian Goose was added to the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds as there are now populations of this goose breeding in Florida and California, and it is likely that the species will soon spread to other parts of the A.O.U. territory.

Reference

Chesser, R. T., Banks, R. C., Cicero, C., Dunn, J. L., Kratter, A. W., Lovette, I. J., Navarro-sigüenza, A. G., Rasmussen, P. C., Remsen, J. V. Jr., Rising, J. D., Stotz, D. R., & Winker, K. (2015). Fifty-sixth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*. *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, 132(3), 748–764.

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Book Reviews

America's Other Audubon by Joy Kiser. 2012. New York: Princeton Architectural Press. 192 pages. 11.5 x 0.9 x 13.5 inches. Illustrated with color prints originally published in 1886. Price \$30.26.

This book contains large, beautiful, accurate illustrations of Ohio bird nests and eggs. Behind them is a fascinating story. After seeing Audubon's marvelous bird paintings, a talented young Ohio girl, Genevieve Jones, remarked that there needed to be a similar record of the birds' nests and eggs. After suffering a disappointment in her courtship, and encouraged by her family, she embarked on the project herself. At first, she intended to paint all the birds' nests of North American species, but her father, knowing what an undertaking that would be, encouraged her to try just those that breed in Ohio. Her whole family and a good friend, Eliza Shultz, pitched in to help her with the project—her father financing the undertaking, and her brother finding and collecting the nests and eggs. (In the 1870s it was not illegal to do so; in fact it was rather a gentleman's hobby called oology to collect the eggs of as many species as could be located.)

Genevieve (Jenny to her family) began the paintings aided by her best friend, Eliza Shultz who learned lithography. They had just made a good start when Jenny was stricken with typhus and died. As a memorial to Jenny, her family and Eliza decided to finish the project for her. Her mother, who until then had done only some very rudimentary china painting, joined Eliza in finishing the paintings. Her brother researched all available sources about eggs and wrote the text. Her father undertook to have the book produced in a large volume of color plates.

Until recently this fine work was seen only by a very few wealthy people who could afford the volume or by people who worked in the institutions and libraries that had copies. Joy Kiser is responsible for bringing this marvelous work to the attention of the general public. While head of the Cleveland, Ohio library, she gave a presentation of some of the wonderful illustrations at workshops for other important libraries. These were so well received, she traced down the family to get their permission to make the fine work more generally available. They were glad to do so and gave her much help in doing it. Please find this wonderful book at your local library or order it online and enjoy the beautiful illustrations of the nests and eggs done by and in memorial of a talented young artist.

A Life Gone to the Birds by Al Batt with illustrations by Kevin Pope. 2013. Marietta, Ohio: Bird Watcher's Digest. 196 pages. Price \$14.95.

A fun and joyful collection of amusing birding anecdotes, seen through the eyes of Al Batt and his dog Towhee, Batt sees the funny side in many birding situations, be it a trip to an exotic place or a bird seen out his back window. Each story stands

by itself. This is a book that can be enjoyed at the dentist's office or on a long flight, or maybe you'll find it so funny, you can't put it down and will read it straight through.

Rosemary Campbell

Field Notes Spring Season

March 1 – May 31, 2015

Casey Rucker

March temperatures were slightly below average in West Virginia, according to the Southeast Regional Climate Center, while April was warmer than average, and in May temperatures rose four degrees above the historical average in the Mountain State. March and April brought above-average precipitation in most areas, with 2.6 inches above the norm in April statewide. May only averaged slightly more than half the normal precipitation for West Virginia, and by late in the month, 45 percent of the state was abnormally dry, according to the United States Drought Monitor.

These notes were gathered from the National Audubon Society sponsored West Virginia Bird Listserv, from bird count 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>.

Glossy Ibises appeared in West Virginia for the first time since 2007. Kathy King found four **Glossy Ibises** south of Moorefield in Hardy County on April 17, and at least one of the birds was seen on that day and the next by Michael Slaven, Roy Boyle, and David Carr. Then Herbert Myers spotted a lone **Glossy Ibis** in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County, during the International Migratory Bird Day count on May 16. In addition, a **White-winged Dove** was videographed by Ronald Perrone at Three Rivers Avian Center in Summers County on May 2, as reported by Joseph Hildreth. When accepted it will become the third record of **White-winged Dove** in West Virginia. Overall, 242 species were reported from a remarkable 44 of the 55 counties in the state. Birders found 35 species of warbler plus one hybrid during the spring season.

Ducks, Swans, Geese—Gary Rankin found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at the Sugarwood Golf Course, Wayne County, on March 8, and four days later Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club spotted six **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the Sandy Creek Backwater, Wood County. On March 1 Gary Rankin and Michael Griffith saw 20 **Snow Geese** at Shady Waters Campground, Mason County. N. Wade Snyder watched five **Snow Geese** flying over Bardane, Jefferson County, on March 9. On March 18 Mike Willenborg saw a lone **Snow Goose** south of Franklin, Pendleton County, and three days later Derek Courtney saw another **Snow Goose** north of Bruceton Mills, Preston County. **Canada Geese** remained in, or returned to, their usual haunts throughout West Virginia. John Snyder discovered on March 26 that the two **Canada Geese** enjoying his pond in Persinger, Nicholas County, were both banded.

Terry Bronson observed three **Mute Swans** on the Monongahela River near Morgantown, Monongalia County, on March 3. James Farley saw his first Jefferson County **Mute Swan** on March 9 at Country Club Pond, and on March 18 Frederick Atwood saw his first West Virginia **Mute Swans** at the Moorefield sewage ponds in Hardy County. Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite found a **Mute Swan** at Shady Waters Campground on March 25, and Cynthia Ellis and Kim Kazmierski saw one at McClintic Wildlife Management Area on May 4, both locations in Mason County. N. Wade Snyder counted 152 **Tundra Swans** flying over Bardane, Jefferson County, on March 23. Other reports of **Tundra Swans** came from Berkeley (WH), Cabell (DP, WA, MG, BMi), Jefferson (BH), and Mason (GR, MG) Counties.

It was a good spring for duck sightings in West Virginia, including two Eurasian rarities. On March 18 Frederick Atwood discovered a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Belle Babb Pond, Grant County, and the bird was subsequently seen through March 21, by Joseph Hildreth, Derek Courtney, Terry Bronson, John Boback, Sam Chapman, Mark Johnson, David Patick, and Michael Griffith. In addition, Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite found a hybrid **American-Eurasian Wigeon** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on May 16. **Eurasian Wigeon** is on the review list of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee although there are more than five records, due to the species' rarity in the state. David Daniels spotted a "**Common**" **Teal**, the Eurasian subspecies of **Green-winged Teal**, at Rehe Wildlife Management Area, Preston County, on March 25, and the bird was seen through March 30 (JBo, TB, JH, CR). There were many reports statewide of **Wood Ducks**, **Gadwalls**, **American Wigeons**, **American Black Ducks**, **Mallards**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Canvasbacks**, **Redheads**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Buffleheads**, **Hooded**, **Common**, and **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and **Ruddy Ducks**. **Northern Shovelers** prompted reports in seven counties: Cabell (DP, WA, MG, GR), Jefferson (JF, CD, JBz), Lewis (TB), Mason (MG, WA), Preston (TB), Putnam (CE), and Wetzel (WJ). Birders in six counties found **Northern Pintails**: Cabell (DP, WA, MG, BMi), Grant (MO), Jefferson (BT), Mason (GR, MG), Wayne (ReT), and Wood (JB). On April 9 Matthew Orsie spotted a **Surf Scoter** on the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County. Birders in seven West Virginia counties reported **White-winged Scoters**: Jefferson (JBo, DHa), Mason (GR, WA, MG, DP), Monongalia (TB), Summers (JP), Taylor (JH, TB), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB); **Long-tailed Ducks** inspired reports in Mason (MG, GR, WA, DP) and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; and **Common Goldeneye** reports came from eight counties: Jefferson (JBo, MO), Marion (TB), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (TB, DCo), Pendleton (MWi), Preston (TB), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB). On March 9, Wilma Jarrell found 11 species of duck, including **Greater Scaup**, **White-winged Scoter**, and **Red-breasted Merganser**, on the Ohio River in Wetzel County. On March 3, Terry Bronson observed that there were more than 200 **Mallards** on a very small stretch of the otherwise-frozen Monongahela River in Morgantown, Monongalia County.

Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys—John Boback found a **Ring-necked Pheasant** at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County, on March 25, and Terry Bronson saw one in the same location on April 13. With exotic game birds, it is always difficult to determine whether an individual is a wild bird or an escapee. Birders throughout the state reported **Wild Turkeys** and, in appropriate habitat, **Ruffed Grouse**. On March 10 N. Wade Snyder saw 48 **Wild Turkeys**, including *first-year juveniles*, near Bardane, Jefferson County. Kevin Campbell found a **Ruffed Grouse** in Dallison, Wood County, on May 19.

Loons, Grebes—**Common Loons** appeared in Grant (FA, TB), Jefferson (JBz, DHa), Mineral (TB), Monongalia (TB), Preston (JBo), Randolph (MPo), Taylor (TB), and Wayne (MG, GR) Counties this spring. The latest sighting was on May 18, when Mike Powell spotted a stranded **Common Loon** at Elkins Airport, Randolph County, and arranged for its rescue.

Birders reported **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** in 17 and 13 counties, respectively. In sharp contrast to the spring season of 2014, **Red-necked Grebes** appeared only in Marion (TB) and Monongalia (DCo, TB) Counties during the season.

Cormorants—West Virginia birders reported **Double-crested Cormorants** in eight counties.

Hérons, Egrets—**Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Green Herons** appeared throughout the state. On April 28 Michael Griffith found four adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, and on May 13 he found a first-year **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County.

Ibises—The sightings of **Glossy Ibis** in Grant and Tucker Counties are described near the beginning of these notes.

Vultures—Birders in 12 West Virginia counties reported seeing **Black Vultures**, while **Turkey Vulture** reports came from 23 counties. On March 7, John Hubbard saw a kettle of 40 to 50 **Black Vultures** east of his home in Huntington, Cabell County.

Hawks, Eagles—**Ospreys** and **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the state, generally in small numbers. **Northern Harriers** appeared in reports from Grant County (FA), Hardy County (FA), Jefferson County (JBz), Marion County (JoH), Mason County (GR), Summers County (JP), and Tucker County (HMy, CR); and birders reported **Sharp-shinned Hawks** in Grant (TB, DCo, FA), Jefferson (BT, DHa, CD), Kanawha (HG), Marion (TB), Monongalia (GN, TB), Putnam (CE), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Reports of **Cooper's Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks** were widespread in West Virginia. Stephen Kimbrell watched a **Broad-winged Hawk** catch and eat a frog in Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, Pocahontas County, on April 5. Herb Myers reported the only **Rough-legged Hawk** in West Virginia this spring, a March 11 sighting on Rt. 33 at the

top of Allegheny Mountain on the border of Pendleton and Randolph Counties. On April 17 Richard Bailey flushed an adult **Golden Eagle** from a carcass on the side of Jordan Run Road, Grant County. Gretchen Nareff watched a **Common Raven** chase a juvenile **Golden Eagle** at Elk River Wildlife Management Area in Braxton County on April 23. Other reports of **Golden Eagles** came from Grant County (DCo), Pendleton County (MWi, FA), and Randolph County (RBo).

Rails, Coots—On March 11 John Boback, Michael Slaven, and David Daniels saw a **Virginia Rail** at Altona Marsh, Jefferson County. Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite found a **Virginia Rail** at Greenbottom WMA, Cabell County, on April 11, and on April 29 John Boback, David Daniels, and Michael Slaven spotted two **Virginia Rails** at the same location. David Patick, Michael Griffith, Matthew Orsie, and Gary Rankin found a **Virginia Rail** and a **Sora** at Muddlety, Nicholas County, during their 2015 Big Day on May 9. **Soras** also made appearances in Cabell (MG, WA, JBo, DD, MSI, GR, BDe, JHu, JWg) and Mason (JBo, DD, MSI) Counties. **Common Gallinules** were unusual visitors to Lewis County (GN), Mineral County (RBy), and Monongalia County (TB). As usual, **American Coots** appeared widely in West Virginia birders' reports.

Cranes—Kyle Aldinger found two **Sandhill Cranes** at Rehe WMA, Preston County, on March 13, and one **Sandhill Crane** remained at least until March 21, as reported by Derek Courtney.

Avocets—Mimi Kibler saw an **American Avocet** gliding above the Black Fork River near Parsons, Tucker County, on May 4.

Plovers—On May 21 Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite spotted a **Black-bellied Plover** in full breeding plumage and 30 **Semipalmated Plovers** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County. There were additional sightings of **Semipalmated Plovers** in Hardy County (FA), Marion County (TB), Mason County (MG, WA), Pendleton County (DCo), and Preston County (TB). **Killdeer** were well-represented with reports from 24 counties.

Sandpipers—**Sandpiper** reports were average this spring, with 15 **sandpiper** species making an appearance. Observers reported **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers** in 15 and 12 counties, respectively. Reports of **Lesser Yellowlegs** came from nine counties, and birders found **American Woodcocks** in 11 counties. The following species were reported in the counties listed: **Greater Yellowlegs** in Grant (MO), Hardy (MO, FA), Jefferson (CD), Mason (MG, WA), Pendleton (DCo), Pocahontas (SK), and Preston (TB); **Willet** in Kanawha (HG, LC) and Summers (JP, MW); **Upland Sandpiper** in Preston (DCo); **Ruddy Turnstone** in Mason (DP, WA); **Dunlin** in Mason (MG, WA); **Least Sandpipers** in Hardy (FA), Jefferson (WS), Marion (TB), Mason (MG, WA, JBo), Pendleton (DCo), and Tucker (CR, JBu); **White-Rumped Sandpipers** in Berkeley (MO); **Pectoral Sandpipers** in Grant (FA), Hardy (FA, DCo, DH, TB), Mason (GR, MG, WA), Monongalia (DCo), and Pendleton (DCo); **Semipalmated Sandpipers** in Hardy (FA), Mason (GR, BDe, JHu, JWg, MG, WA), and

Preston (TB); **Short-billed Dowitchers** in Mason (MG, WA); and **Wilson's Snipe** in Grant (FA), Hardy (DCo, TB, MO), Jefferson (WS, JBz, DHa, JF), Monongalia (DCo), Pleasants (JB), Preston (KA, DCo, TB), and Tucker (CR). Diane Holsinger and Kathy King watched more than 35 **Wilson's Snipe** feeding in Moorefield, Hardy County, on March 21.

Gulls, Terns—Carol Del-Colle saw 225 **Bonaparte's Gulls** on the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County on April 12, the largest flock she had ever seen. Other sightings of **Bonaparte's Gulls** came from Cabell (MG, WA), Jefferson (WH), Mason (MG, WA, JBo), Monongalia (DCo, TB), Preston (TB), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported widely throughout the state, and **Herring Gulls** were reported in four counties: Mason (GR, MG, DP), Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), and Wood (JB). James Farley counted 150 **Ring-billed Gulls** on the Shenandoah River, Jefferson County, on March 8. On March 1, Gary Rankin and Michael Griffith found lone **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Greenbottom WMA, Cabell County, and at Point Pleasant, Mason County.

Tern sightings were sparse as usual this season. Birders in Mason (MG, WA, JBo), Monongalia (DCo), and Monroe (JBo) Counties found **Caspian Terns**. Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite saw a **Common Tern** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County on May 16. Reports of **Forster's Terns** came from Jefferson (JBz), Mason (MG, WA, JBo), Monongalia (DCo), Tucker (CR, JBu), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Pigeons, Doves—The appearance of a **White-winged Dove** in Summers County is described near the beginning of these notes. **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state.

Cuckoos—Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** began to arrive throughout the state beginning on the last day of April, when James Phillips saw a **Black-billed Cuckoo** in his yard in Pipestem, Summers County, and by the end of the season **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** had been reported in 13 counties, and **Black-billed Cuckoos** in 11 counties. On May 11 Jeffrey Del Col heard his first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** of the season near his home in Philippi, Barbour County.

Owls—Owl reports were scanty as usual this spring. Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club found a **Barn Owl** in Wood County on March 12. Birders in only four West Virginia counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls**: Greenbrier (RBi), Monongalia (DCo), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ). **Great Horned Owls** inspired reports in Berkeley (LF), Jefferson (CD), Monongalia (TB, DCo), Wayne (BDe), and Wood (JB) Counties, and West Virginia birders reported **Barred Owl** in the following counties: Grant (FA), Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (JBo, TB), Pocahontas (DP, MG, MO, GR), Preston (DCo), Randolph (RBi), Roane (DG), Summers (JP), Tucker (FA, LeJ), Wayne (JWg), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB). Frederick Atwood watched a **Short-eared Owl** dive-bombing a **Northern Harrier** in Old Fields, Hardy County, on March 18. On May 1, Richard Bailey listened to a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling repeatedly in Otter Creek Wilderness, Randolph County.

Goatsuckers, Swifts—Common Nighthawks continued to be relatively scarce, with appearances beginning early in May, in Cabell (DP), Grant (FA), Marion (JoH), Mercer (JP), Pendleton (CR), Randolph (RBI), and Tucker (FA) Counties. Derek Courtney re-found a **Chuck-Will's-Widow** along North Mill Creek Road, Grant County, on May 3, where Frederick Atwood heard the bird on May 9. There was also a **Chuck-Will's-Widow** in May at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Cabell County (DP, BDe, JHu, JWg, MG, MO, GR). **Eastern Whip-Poor-Wills** inspired reports in eight counties: Cabell (DP, MG, MO, GR), Clay (KCa), Grant (DCo), Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (NMc), Lincoln (HMy), Monongalia (JBo, DCo, TB), and Putnam (CE, KC). **Chimney Swifts** began to return during the middle of April, but by late May there were only 10 counties with reports of the species.

Hummingbirds—Ruby-throated Hummingbirds began arriving in mid-April, and appeared in reports from 17 counties throughout the state. Ronald and Connie Abbott hosted four **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** on April 13 at their home in Wood County, the first reported in West Virginia this year. William Mills reported a continuing **Rufous Hummingbird** at his feeder in Charleston, Kanawha County, on April 5.

Kingfishers—Belted Kingfisher reports were scanty in West Virginia this spring, with reports only from Grant (TB, FA), Hardy (FA), Jefferson (DHu, BT, CD, WH, LW), Marion (TB, SO), Monongalia (TB), Pendleton (FA), Putnam (CE), and Wood (JB) Counties.

Woodpeckers—Our state's seven species of **woodpeckers** were all widely reported, with sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in 10 counties, and of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** in nine counties. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a new yard bird for Andrea and Bruce Dalton in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, on May 5.

Falcons—West Virginia birders reported **American Kestrels** in 13 counties. **Merlins** were spotted only in Grant County (FA) and Tucker County (CR). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings came from Jefferson (DHu, SS), Kanawha (CE, DWo), Mason (GR, MG, WA), and Wood (JB) Counties.

Flycatchers—On May 9, Wilma Jarrell saw an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** near her home in Wileyville, Wetzel County. **Olive-sided Flycatchers** appeared once again near the boardwalk at Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, beginning on May 10 (DP, GR, MG, MO). Gretchen Nareff heard an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Elk River WMA in Braxton County on May 19. Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club discovered a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at McDonough Wildlife Refuge, Wood County, on April 25, and Wilma Jarrell watched a silent **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** in Wetzel County on May 14. **Eastern Wood-Pewees, Acadian Flycatchers, Eastern Phoebes, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Eastern Kingbirds** were widely reported throughout the state. Birders in Barbour County (TB), Pocahontas County (DP), Preston County (TB), Randolph County (HW), and Tucker County (HMy, CR) reported **Alder Flycatcher**. Reports of **Willow Flycatcher** came from Barbour (TB),

Jefferson (WS), Mercer (JJP), Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), Tucker (HMy, CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties, and reports of **Least Flycatcher** came from Grant (FA), Monongalia (DCo), Pocahontas (DP), and Tucker (MPo, CR) Counties.

Shrikes—Richard Bailey reported that **Loggerhead Shrikes** were found in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties, on a number of occasions this spring. A **Loggerhead Shrike** flew back and forth along the Virginia-West Virginia line in Jefferson County this spring, as observed by Teri Holland, Mike Wiltshire, and Bill Telfair in mid-May.

Vireos—Our five breeding vireos—**White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling,** and **Red-eyed**—returned to nesting grounds throughout the state beginning in early April. John Boback, David Daniels, and Michael Slaven found the sole reported **Philadelphia Vireo** of the season at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on April 29.

Crows, Jays, Ravens—**Blue Jays, American Crows,** and **Common Ravens** were reported widely throughout the state. On a tip from a neighbor, Albert R. Buckelew Jr. discovered a **Common Raven nest** on Buffalo Creek near his home in Bethany, Brooke County, on May 13. **Fish Crows** were reported in five counties in eastern West Virginia.

Larks—Deborah Hale watched a *juvenile Horned Lark attended by its parents* in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, on May 20. **Horned Larks** also appeared in small numbers in reports from Grant County (FA, RBi), Jefferson County (JBz), Mason County (DP, WA, MG), Preston County (DCo), and Raleigh County (MW).

Swallows—**Purple Martins** were reported in Cabell (MG, GR, WA, DP), Jefferson (CD, DHa, JF), Monongalia (TB), Summers (JP), Wayne (BDe), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties. **Tree Swallows** had already made several appearances in West Virginia despite cold temperatures at the end of the winter, and joined **Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Cliff Swallows,** and **Barn Swallows** in widespread returns to West Virginia this spring. Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite saw a flock of about a dozen **Bank Swallows** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on April 11; and on May 4 Cynthia Ellis and Kim Kazmierski saw a **Bank Swallow** colony in the same place as the year before in Robertsburg, Putnam County.

Chickadees, Titmice—**Black-capped** and **Carolina Chickadees** were reported in their usual habitats in West Virginia this spring. **Tufted Titmice** appeared throughout our state as well.

Nuthatches—Birders reported **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in Jefferson (JF), Monongalia (DCo), Pendleton (FA, RB), Pocahontas (DP), Preston (LeJ, TB), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (CR, HMy) Counties this spring. **White-breasted Nuthatches** continued to appear widely.

Creepers—West Virginia birders found a fair number of **Brown Creepers** this season, with reports from eight counties.

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

all over the state. **Winter Wrens** were reported in Grant (FA), Jefferson (JBz, JF), Marion (TB), Preston (JBo, LeJ), Randolph (HMy, RBi), and Tucker (CR) Counties. John Boback, Michael Slaven, and David Daniels discovered a **Marsh Wren** at Altona Marsh, Jefferson County, on March 11.

Gnatcatchers—Beginning in early April, **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** returned to breeding grounds throughout the state. Mindy Waldron and Alma Lowry spotted the first **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** of the season, on April 6 near Sandstone, Summers County.

Kinglets—Birders observed **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in 11 West Virginia counties, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** in 12 counties during the season.

Thrushes—Hullet Good watched a **Bicknell's Thrush** perch in his yard in Milliken on May 6; it was the second Kanawha County sighting. The usual seven species of **thrush** were found in West Virginia this spring. **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Hermit** and **Wood Thrushes**, and **American Robins** were seen throughout most reporting counties. **Veeries** made appearances in Grant (TB, DCo, FA), Monongalia (GK), Preston (TB, GK), Randolph (HMy, RBi), Tucker (JT, CR, FA), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Wilma Jarrell encountered single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** on May 10 and 21 near her home in Wetzel County. On May 14 Jerry Westfall saw a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at McDonough Wildlife Refuge, Wood County. Reports of **Swainson's Thrush** were sparse once again, with sightings only in Monongalia (DCo, TB), Tucker (CR), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JT) Counties.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers—During the spring season **Gray Catbirds**, **Northern Mockingbirds**, and **Brown Thrashers** once again serenaded their breeding grounds in West Virginia. On April 10, Jeffrey Del Col heard a **Northern Mockingbird** performing a note-perfect imitation of a **Scarlet Tanager** in Philippi, Barbour County.

Starlings—**European Starlings** continued their broad occupation of habitats in our state.

Pipits—**American Pipits** made appearances in Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Jefferson (WS, JBz, DHa), Mason (GR, MG), and Preston (DCo) Counties. Frederick Atwood counted 95 **American Pipits** near Kimsey Run Lake, Hardy County, on March 18.

Waxwings—**Cedar Waxwings** were reported in 12 counties this spring. Bruni Haydl watched *four juvenile Cedar Waxwings* sitting on the arch of a weeping cherry tree in her yard in Charles Town, Jefferson County, on May 20.

Warblers—Rodney Bartgis photographed a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** in his yard in Valley Bend, Randolph County, on May 4, and heard it sing the song of a **Golden-winged Warbler**. The following warblers, all regular migrants through or breeders in West Virginia, made their first-of-season appearances in the following counties: **Ovenbird**: April 15, Pendleton (RB, BD, SCR); **Worm-Eating Warbler**: April 21, Monongalia (DCo); **Louisiana Waterthrush**: March 16, Summers (JP); **Northern Waterthrush**: April 25, Monongalia (CH); **Golden-winged Warbler**: April 30,

Pocahontas (RBI); **Blue-winged Warbler**: April 16, Wetzel (WJ); **Black-and-white Warbler**: April 8, Wayne (MG); **Prothonotary Warbler**: April 20, Berkeley (CM); **Swainson's Warbler**: April 29, Kanawha (DWO); **Tennessee Warbler**: April 22, Wayne (MG); **Nashville Warbler**: April 20, Cabell (MG); **Mourning Warbler**: May 9, Pocahontas (DP, MG, MO, GR); **Kentucky Warbler**: April 18, Wood (JB); **Common Yellowthroat**: April 21, Monongalia (DCo); **Hooded Warbler**: April 16, Wayne (GR); **American Redstart**: April 17, Cabell/Wayne (MG); **Cape May Warbler**: May 5, Putnam (KK); **Cerulean Warbler**: April 19, Lincoln (HMy); **Northern Parula**: April 8, Fayette (MW); **Magnolia Warbler**: May 2, Pocahontas (DP); **Bay-breasted Warbler**: May 5, Monongalia (DCo); **Blackburnian Warbler**: April 15, Pendleton (RB, BD, SCR); **Yellow Warbler**: April 10, Cabell (MG); **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: April 22, Summers (JP); **Blackpoll Warbler**: April 29, Cabell (JBo, DD, MSI); **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: April 15, Pendleton (RB, BD, SCR); **Palm Warbler**: April 21, Monongalia (DCo); **Pine Warbler**: March 9, Putnam (CE); **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: March 8, Jefferson (DHa); **Yellow-throated Warbler**: March 26, Cabell (MG); **Prairie Warbler**: April 12, Wayne (MG); **Black-throated Green Warbler**: April 1, Jefferson (DHa); **Canada Warbler**: May 2, Pocahontas (DP); **Wilson's Warbler**: May 11, Preston (TB); and **Yellow-breasted Chat**: May 4, Mason (CE, KK). Three-quarters of these warbler species appeared on or before the "first-seen" dates in George Hall's *Birds of West Virginia*.

Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs—**Eastern Towhees** began to appear at the start of the spring season, and by its end were reported from all areas of the state. Fifteen species of sparrow made appearances in accustomed haunts throughout our state. An **American Tree Sparrow** was a new yard bird for Amy and Rennie Talbert in Barboursville, Cabell County, on March 5. Other reports of **American Tree Sparrow** came from Cabell (GR, MG), Jefferson (WS, BT), Kanawha (DG), Pleasants (JB), and Tucker (HMy) Counties. **Fox, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows** lingered past the middle of May, and all three species were widely reported. Resident and returning sparrow species made first appearances this season in reports from the following counties: **Chipping** on March 1 in Wayne (GR), **Field** on March 9 in Jefferson (WS), **Vesper** on March 27 in Wetzel (WJ), **Savannah** on March 1 in Mason (GR, MG), **Grasshopper** on April 14 in Jefferson (WS), **Song** on March 9 in Wetzel (WJ), **Lincoln's** on May 2 in Summers (JP), **Swamp** on March 13 in Barbour (TB), and **Dark-eyed Junco** on March 9 in Jefferson (JF).

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings—**Summer Tanagers** were observed in Cabell (MG), Hardy (RBI), Lincoln (HMy), Mason (CE, KK), Wayne (BDe), and Wood (JB, JT) Counties. Seventeen counties hosted sightings of returning **Scarlet Tanagers**, the first of which was on April 22 on German Ridge Road in Wayne County by Michael Griffith. On May 26 Joette Borzik watched a pair of **Scarlet Tanagers** in her yard in Jefferson County, and noticed that the male had one white primary feather on each wing, the first leucistic **Scarlet Tanager** she had seen.

Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings prompted numerous reports from birders in most parts of the state. **Blue Grosbeaks** were the subjects of reports from Grant (FA), Hardy (DH, KKi), Jefferson (DH_a, WS), Kanawha (LC), Mason (JBo, MG, WA), and Wood (DJE) Counties. Laura Ceperley hosted both **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** and a **Blue Grosbeak** at her feeders in Charleston, Kanawha County, on May 6. Teri Holland found a **Dickcissel** near Charles Town, Jefferson County on May 17.

Blackbirds, Allies—Bobolinks returned to seven reporting counties, with a first appearance on May 2 in Pocahontas County, where David Patick saw four of them at two different sites in Hillsboro. There were many West Virginia reports of **Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, Rusty Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles.**

Finches, Allies—As during the winter, **Pine Siskins** were the only winter finches that appeared in numbers this spring in West Virginia. Wil Hershberger hosted the only **Common Redpoll** of the season at his home in Hedgesville, Berkeley County, from March 5 to March 12. **House Finches, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches** appeared in reports from appropriate habitats throughout the state. LeJay Graffious hosted 25 male and female **Purple Finches** at his feeders in Brandonville, Preston County, on April 18. For the second year in a row, **Red Crossbills** appeared on the border of Hardy County and Virginia, as reported by Frederick Atwood on March 23. David Patick found two **Red Crossbills** on their breeding grounds in Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, Pocahontas County, on May 3, and on May 30 he found seven **Red Crossbills** in the same area.

Weaver Finches—The **House Sparrow** continues to colonize our state, primarily in urban settings.

Contributors to the Spring Field Notes: Kyle Aldinger (KA), Wendell Argabrite (WA), Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (R_{Bi}), Rodney Bartgis (R_B), Jon Benedetti (JB), John Boback (JBo), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Roy Boyle (RBy), Terry Bronson (TB), Jacqueline Burns (J_{Bu}), Kevin Cade (KC), Kevin Campbell (KCa), Laura Ceperley (LC), Stan Corwin-Roach (SCR), Derek Courtney (DCo), David Daniels (DD), Robert Dean (BD), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Beverly Delidow (BDe), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Richard and Jeannette Esker (DJE), James Farley (JF), Laura Frazier (LF), Donald Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Michael Griffith (MG), Caden Haines (CH), Deborah Hale (DH_a), Bruni Haydl (BH), Joey Herron (JoH), Wil Hershberger (WH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Diane Holsinger (DH), John Hubbard (JHu), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Kim Kazmierski (KK), Sharon Kearns (SK), Kathy King (KKi), Gerald Kruth (GK), Nancy McDaniel (NMc), Casey McRoy (CM), William Mills (BMi), Herb Myers (HMy), Gretchen Nareff (GN), Susan Olcott (SO), Matthew Orsie (MO), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Mike Powell (MPo), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Sanford Sagalkin (SS), Michael Slaven (MSI), N. Wade Snyder (WS),

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The Brooks Bird Club, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose objective is to encourage the study and conservation of birds and other phases of natural history. Membership includes subscriptions to *The Redstart* and *Mail Bag* and entitles one to all the privileges offered by the Club. Classes of membership are Student, \$10; Individual, \$25; Family, \$30; Sustaining, \$50; Life, \$500; Family Life, \$650. Checks should be written payable to The Brooks Bird Club and mailed to P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003.

2015 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 4-6	Trip to Killdeer Plains (Contact Gene Hilton)	
March 6-8	Early Spring Meeting (Contact Dick Esker)	North Bend State Park
March 14	Waterfowl Field Trip (day trip) (Contact Carl Slater)	Seneca Lake, OH
April 25	Three Rivers Bird Club (day trip) (Contact Ryan Tomazin)	
	.....	Raccoon Creek State Park, PA
May 9	International Migratory Bird Day, N. American Migration Count	
	.....	local chapters
May 7-10	Wildflower Pilgrimage, Blackwater Falls State Park	Davis, WV
May 29-June 3	Thorn Springs 4-H Camps (contact Dawn Fox)	Pendleton County
June 5-13	Foray - Camp Galilee (contact Janice Emrick or Ryan Tomazin)	
	.....	Terra Alta, WV
August 15-Oct. 3	Bird Banding	Dolly Sods, WV
October 16	Board of Trustees Meeting, Bethany College (Contact Carl Slater)	
	.....	Bethany, WV
October 16-18	BBC Reunion/Annual Meeting, Bethany College (Contact A. Buckelew)	
	.....	Bethany, WV
November 11-15	Eastern Shore (Contact Carl Slater)	
Dec. 14-Jan. 5, '16	Christmas Bird Counts	local groups

BBC FORAYS (dates and places tentative)

2015	Camp Galilee, Preston County	Terra Alta, WV
2016	Camp Kidd, Tucker County	Parsons, WV

SEASONAL FIELD NOTES DUE

Winter: March 15 Spring: June 15 Summer: September 15 Fall: December 15
 MAIL TO: Casey Rucker, P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884 autoblock@frontiernet.net

ARTICLES FOR *THE MAIL BAG* DUE

February 15 May 15 August 15 November 15
 MAIL TO: Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017 wwwarblers@hotmail.com

<http://brooksbirdclub.org>

The dates for the 2015 BBC program may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the Web page or in *The Mail Bag*.

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