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*The* **REDSTART**

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# 2016 - The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

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Named in honor of A. B. Brooks, Naturalist

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## **A Rufous Hummingbird in Brooke County, West Virginia and a Design for a Cold Weather Feeder**

Janice Runyan

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are a large part of the summer birdlife on our property in Wellsburg, West Virginia. Often some are around the feeders still when we leave for our late September trip to help at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory. In 2013 William “Bill” Beatty and I returned around October first, but were too busy to retire the nectar feeders immediately. On October 4 we were surprised to see a hummingbird visiting a feeder in the backyard. It appeared to be somewhat “coppery” but we didn’t get a close look. Later we checked field guides and guessed that we might have a Rufous Hummingbird. The nectar feeders were immediately refreshed and we didn’t have long to wait to see the bird. Close inspection indicated that we had a male Rufous Hummingbird at our feeders (see Figure 1). We didn’t know how long he had been coming to the feeders, but for us, our first view was October 4, 2013.



Figure 1. Rufous Hummingbird feeding in mid-October, 2013, in Brooke County.  
Photo by William Beatty.

We shared the news by phone and through Facebook with the Brooks Bird Club, Mountain State Birders, and on our own pages. The information was shared on e-Bird and list-serve by a friend who helped interested birders to know where and when to see and photograph the rarity. Bill Beatty and I photographed the bird on numerous occasions.

Robert “Bob” Mulvihill of the National Aviary in Pittsburgh contacted us to band the bird as neither Bill nor I have the requisite credentials to band a hummingbird. Bob arrived on November 11, 2013, and put a large mesh cage around the feeder most commonly used by the bird. After a few fly-by trips to check out the new arrangement, the hummingbird began to enter the cage and feed. Mulvihill allowed the bird several uninterrupted trips in and out of the cage. Finally when the bird was feeding in the cage and when he felt the conditions were right, he pushed the remote control button that closed the door of the cage. The hummingbird was still free to fly around the 4 square feet of space in the cage (see upper right in Figure 2). Mulvihill was able to open the door slightly, reach into the cage, and grasp the bird. The bird was banded, data was recorded, and photos were taken. After its release, the hummingbird soon returned to the feeder (now with no cage around it).

By the time the Rufous Hummingbird had been here a month, nighttime temperatures were in the 30s F. By the second week of November, nighttime temperatures were predicted to be in the 20s F and we were concerned that the nectar might freeze and become unavailable to the bird for critical early morning feeding. We researched products that are available and what others had done in similar situations. Heated hummingbird feeders are on the market. They had two drawbacks: the feeders are not designed to work for the low temperatures we were expecting and they are quite expensive. A number of birders have designed their own solutions to keep hummingbird nectar from freezing.

With these in mind, we discussed possible designs and went to Lowe’s. The body of our feeder-warmer is a large, heavy-duty plastic tote with two thirds of the cover cut away. Holes were cut so that this box could hang over the “shepherd’s crook” birdfeeder pole. The tote was steadied against the wind by adding another fencepost on the opposite side. The open side of the tote was oriented to the southeast to protect the feeder from the prevailing winds. A contractor’s high-output light with appropriate handles to facilitate hanging was purchased. This was to be the daytime heat source that would create a warmer micro-climate inside the tote. The nectar feeder was hung below the light (see Figure 3). To help retain warmth in the somewhat open tote, 1-inch thick Styrofoam was added to the inside walls. An electrical extension cord completed the setup (see Figure 4).

During this construction, the Rufous Hummingbird had been using a different feeder outside our bird-viewing window near the new feeder-warmer. Over the course of a day, we moved the familiar “open” feeder closer and closer to the feeder in the heated box. The bird continued to use the “open” feeder as it got nearer to the boxed





Figure 2. Rufous Hummingbird inside the banding cage. Photo by the author.



Figure 3. Open view of cold weather feeder box. Photo by William Beatty.

feeder. Eventually we removed the “open” feeder and after a bit of looking around, the bird transitioned to the feeder in the 3-sided box. This was completed before the significantly colder nights (and days) of November 11–14. We watched weather predictions closely. When nighttime low temperatures approached freezing, we would bring the nectar feeder inside long after dark. In the early morning, well before first light, the alarm clock reminded Bill to take the feeder back outside and turn on the heater light so food was ready for the hummingbird’s first daytime feeding.



Figure 4. Heated nectar feeder with insulation. Photo by the author.





Figure 5. Rufous Hummingbird feeds at heated nectar feeder. Photo by the author.

During November while the Rufous Hummingbird was here, the meteorological data for the nearby town of Wellsburg, West Virginia, show that there were 17 nights of below-freezing temperatures and three days when the daytime high temperature was at or below 32 degrees F. The lowest Wellsburg reading was 14 degrees F, and our lowest digital thermometer reading here was 17 degrees F. The bird didn't seem to have any problems dealing with the low temperatures or difficulty flying during snow storms. The nectar in the feeder never got slushy or froze.

The frequency of the hummingbird's daytime visits to the feeder depended on the temperature. On warmer days we saw him less often, up to an hour or more between visits, but on colder days he arrived much more frequently, often every 15 minutes or less (see the Rufous Hummingbird in the snow-edged feeder box in Figure 5).

On November 29 this pattern changed. Although overnight temperatures had been below freezing and the daytime high was only 35 degrees F, the hummingbird seemed to visit to the feeder more than we had come to expect. When he was on the feeder, his behavior was also atypical. Usually he had fed in the characteristic summer hummingbird fashion—dipping into the nectar briefly and then up, seeming to get only a small sip from each of many dips. On November 29, the bird drank nectar for long periods of time. I watched as his bill was in the nectar and his throat made swallowing motions while I counted 30 or more clicks from a nearby clock. This different behavior happened numerous times all throughout the day. Bill and I joked that either he was getting ready to migrate or he was going to explode from all the nectar he was eating. The next day and for several days afterward we put out the feeder as usual, but we did not see the Rufous Hummingbird there again. He had stayed around our feeders for at least 57 days.

Rufous Hummingbirds are showing up occasionally at feeders in the east, usually after the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have left. In the fall of 2014 another Brooks Bird Club member near Jerusalem in Monroe County, eastern Ohio, also had an extended visit from a Rufous Hummingbird. We encourage people to leave a nectar feeder up for a while in the fall after the Ruby-throats depart. You may be as fortunate as we were to have this rare visitor.

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## 20th Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee March 2016

The West Virginia Bird Records Committee (WVBRC) held its annual meeting on March 5, 2016, at North Bend State Park. At the meeting, the committee made decisions on 12 records that had been submitted for consideration. Eleven records were accepted and one record was not accepted.

Records accepted:

**Kelp Gull** (*Larus dominicanus*) (2015-1). On February 11, 2015, Ryan Tomazin and Albert R. Buckelew Jr. discovered this gull sitting on the locks of the Pike Island Dam on the Ohio River north of Wheeling, West Virginia. The committee accepted this bird as a hypothetical species on the state list.

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (2015-2). David Patick, Mike Griffith, and Wendell Argabrite observed a first year Glossy Ibis foraging in a pond on October 9, 2008, at the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam near Apple Grove, West Virginia. This is the fourth accepted state record for this species.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (2015-3). On March 2, 2013, David Patick photographed a Eurasian Collared-Dove sitting beside a Mourning Dove in Union, West Virginia, in Monroe County. This is the third accepted record for Eurasian-Collared Dove in West Virginia.

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) (2015-4). While birding near Handley Wildlife Management Area in Pocahontas County on December 20, 2008, David Patick and Mike Griffith encountered this sparrow foraging on the ground with Pine Siskins at a bird feeder. There are more than five accepted records of Harris's Sparrow in West Virginia, but this species remains on the state review list.

**Glaucous Gull** (*Larus hyperboreus*) (2015-5). Derek Courtney photographed a first winter Glaucous Gull on February 5, 2015, at the Pike Island Dam in Ohio County. He found this gull within a flock of several thousand more common gull species that had congregated at the dam. This is the fifth accepted state record for Glaucous Gull.

**Iceland Gull** (*Larus glaucooides*) (2015-6). Derek Courtney photographed a first winter Iceland Gull (Kumlien's subspecies) while birding at the Pike Island Dam on February 5, 2015. This is the fifth accepted state record for Iceland Gull.

**Common Teal** (*Anas crecca crecca*) (2015-7). On March 26, 2015, Derek Courtney photographed a Common Teal at Rehe Wildlife Management Area in Preston County where it had originally been found by David Daniels. Common Teal is a European subspecies of Green-winged Teal, and there is speculation that it could someday be elevated to full species status. This was a first West Virginia record.

**Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*) (2015-8). On May 21, 2015, Wendell Argabrite and Mike Griffith photographed four Ruddy Turnstones in breeding

plumage at Gallipolis Ferry in Mason County, West Virginia. This species has been observed more than five times in the state, but it remains on the review list.

**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) (2015-9). Casey Rucker found a White-winged Dove on September 2, 2015, in his yard near Dry Fork, West Virginia, in Tucker County. The long-staying bird became a regular at his feeder where many other birders got to see and photograph it. This constitutes a third accepted state record. See Figure 1.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Setophaga nigrescens*) (2015-10). On October 14, 2015, Paul and Theresa Saffold spotted a Black-throated Gray Warbler in their Inwood, West Virginia, yard. The warbler stayed for only a minute, but that was enough time for Theresa to take a quick photograph. This is the first West Virginia state record for this species. See Figure 2.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (2015-11). David Patick, Mike Griffith, and Wendell Argabrite observed this adult female bird in Kanawha City, West Virginia, on October 19, 2014, after it was initially reported by Bill Mills. This is a fourth West Virginia record.



Figure 1. White-winged Dove near Dry Fork, West Virginia, September 2015. Photo by Casey Rucker.



Figure 2. Black-throated Gray Warbler at Inwood, West Virginia, October 14, 2015. Photo by Theresa Dow Saffold.

Records not accepted:

**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*) (2015-12). On November 10, 2015, David Daniels reported a Curlew Sandpiper mingling with several Dunlin at Tygart Lake State Park in Taylor County. Although several long-distance grainy photographs were taken, the WVBRC committee voted not to accept the record because none of the photographs depicted definitive field marks. West Virginia has no accepted records for Curlew Sandpiper.

Other Business:

1. The committee reaffirmed its previous decision not to accept secondhand rare bird reports from anonymous observers. Only reports submitted by an actual observer of the bird will be accepted for review.
2. The committee discussed the WVBRC page of the forthcoming redesigned website for the Brooks Bird Club.
3. Wil Hershberger and William Tolin are leaving the WVBRC this year. The committee thanked them for their service and dedication.



4. Four names were presented for voting and Derek Courtney and Randy Bodkins were elected to fill the seats being vacated by Wil Hershberger and William Tolin. Both Courtney and Bodkins accepted positions on the WVBRC.
5. An election was held to select a new chair and vice-chair. John Boback was elected as chair and David Patick as vice-chair.

Submitted by John Boback, chair; and WVBRC members Wil Hershberger; David Patick; Joey Herron; Patty Morrison; Joe Hildreth; Cynthia Ellis, alternate; and Wendell Argabrite, secretary.

## Book Review

**Silence of the Songbirds** by Bridget Stutchbury, illustrations by Julie Zickefoose. 2007. New York: Walker Publishing Company. 256 pages including bibliography and index.

This is not a new book, but it contains an abundance of information that will be fresh to advanced birders as well as beginners. Author Bridget Stutchbury is an accomplished authority on bird migration. In *Silence of the Songbirds* she explains how a trip to Brazil sparked her to dig deeper into the mysteries and complications of seasonal journeys of familiar birds. In nine chapters, “Paradise Not Yet Lost,” “Canaries in the Mine,” “Living on the Edge,” and more, she explains the current decline in North American songbirds. Stutchbury writes, “By some estimates, we may have already lost almost half of the songbirds that filled the skies only forty years ago.” Furthermore, she describes, in a clear and engrossing manner, all the factors contributing to that decline.

Experienced birders may think that much of the introductory information is familiar; soon, though, the absolute thoroughness of detail will draw one in. The basics of migration are fleshed out with fact after fascinating fact to help in understanding just why bird numbers are falling. Readers learn that tropical forests, which support the birds, are themselves supported by birds, often with specialized behaviors in seed dispersal and pollination. We find that, in many species, males and females use separate habitats, and that those individual birds encountering poor winter habitats in South and Central America may breed unsuccessfully here in the eastern U. S.

Familiar names are noted—Chan Robbins, Bill Evans, and others—along with their part in discoveries and research.

Stutchbury reviews problems with lights, pesticides, and wind turbines [West Virginia included]. She notes that gulls now scavenge city streets in Toronto, looking for “tower kill” birds, and that solids in kitty litter can be examined for feather remnants to convince doubting owners of outdoor cats who say, “My cat does not hunt or kill.” Regarding pesticides, she points out that one very prevalent practice, particularly in the other Americas, is to routinely use double or triple the recommended amounts of product, “just to be sure.”

There are sexy details and mystery details. Least Flycatchers prefer forms of colonial nesting so as to have opportunities for extra pair copulation...and better luck in attaining high quality DNA. It is noted that surveys of singing male birds may not be accurate indicators of population...if there are no responding females existing in a particular territory; however, the Breeding Bird Survey is lauded for its work in acquainting more people with birds and bird studies.

The book winds up with helpful advice after noting that “Birds Need Not Just Homes, but Neighborhoods.” Stutchbury skillfully presents compelling reasons why we should link awareness to action on behalf of birds.

The work of Bridget Stutchbury and others has been featured in a documentary, “The Messenger,” now playing in theaters across Canada and the United States. “The Messenger’ is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it means to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them. Humans once believed that birds could carry messages, their presence was meaningful. They have helped predict the change of seasons, the coming of storms and the rise of toxins in the food chain. Once again they have something to tell us, and the message is not a comfortable one.” ([www.songbirdsos.com](http://www.songbirdsos.com)).

Cynthia D. Ellis

## 2015 Floyd Bartley Memorial Award Announced

Albert R. Buckelew Jr. announced the 2015 Floyd Bartley Award at the BBC early spring meeting at North Bend State Park on March 5, 2016. John Boback earned the award for his article, “Blitzing for Rusty Blackbirds in West Virginia,” which appeared in the July 2015 issue of *The Redstart*, Vol. 82, No. 3, pp. 62-64.

The Floyd Bartley Award was established by an anonymous donor to honor the memory of Floyd Bartley. (See *The Redstart*, Vol. 43, No. 2, p. 68, 1976). Previous winners of the Award are listed below.

1976	Ray and Jo Ashworth
1979	Harry Slack
1980	James D. Phillips
1981	J. Lawrence Smith
1982	Eugene E. Hutton
1983	Linnie Coon
1984	Patricia Temple
1985	Melvin Hooker
1987	Jonathan Minear
1988	Julie Beatty
1989	Lorraine Rollefson
1993	Ralph K. Bell
1994	Wendell Argabrite
1995	Greg Eddy
1997	Ann Pyle
1998	John Northeimer
1999	Joey Herron
2000	Anna M. McRae
2001	Gary Felton
2002	William Beatty
2003	Matthew Orsie
2004	George E. Hall
2005	Jane J. Whitaker
2006	Matthew Orsie
2008	Rosie Campbell
2009	Jane Whitaker and Reba Hutton
2010	James Triplett and Beverly Triplett
2011	Joey Herron
2012	Scott Pendleton
2013	Douglas McClure Wood and Cynthia D. Ellis

## Field Notes Fall Season

September 1—November 30, 2015

Casey Rucker

Fall 2015 was the fifth warmest in West Virginia, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. All three months averaged warmer than 20th-century mean temperatures, and November was the fourth warmest on record. October and November were drier than average, while October was damper than usual.

These notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, and from field notes submitted to the author by e-mail, at [autobock@frontiernet.net](mailto:autobock@frontiernet.net), and by 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>. Birders from 37 of the 55 West Virginia counties reported sightings during the fall season.

Two rarities brightened the fall season in West Virginia. The author of these notes hosted a **White-winged Dove** in Dry Fork, Tucker County, for 45 days beginning on September 2, and the bird was seen, and often photographed, by more than two dozen visitors. It is the third state record for **White-winged Dove**. Paul Saffold discovered and photographed a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in his yard in Inwood, Berkeley County, on October 14; this is the first record in West Virginia. Overall, there were 215 species reported in the state during the fall months.

**Geese, Swans, Ducks**—It was a sparse season for **waterfowl** sightings in West Virginia, perhaps because of the warm temperatures. On October 26 Amanda Austin observed a **Greater White-fronted Goose** and a **Snow Goose** at Prickett's Fort State Park, Marion County. Michael Griffith and Gary Rankin spotted a white-morph **Snow Goose** on November 1 at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County. **Canada Geese** were as usual widespread throughout the state. Terry Bronson found a **Mute Swan** at Cheat Lake Park, Monongalia County, on November 8, and on November 14 Derek Courtney re-found the bird. Terry Bronson counted 366 **Tundra Swans** in the same vicinity on November 30. **Tundra Swans** also made appearances in Grant County (FA), Hardy County (MJ), Monongalia County (DCo, JBo), Taylor County (JBo, TB), and Tucker County (CR).

West Virginia birders reported 21 species of **ducks**. There were reports in at least six counties each of **Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, American Black Ducks, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks** this fall. Reports of the following species came from fewer than six counties, as noted: **Blue-winged Teal:**



Marion (TB, JoH), Mason (MG, GR, DP), Summers (JP), and Taylor (TB, DD) Counties; **Northern Shovelers**: Mason (MG, GR), Monongalia (TB), Pendleton (FA), Summers (JP), and Taylor (TB) Counties; **Northern Pintails**: Grant (FA), Kanawha (LC), Pendleton (FA), and Taylor (TB) Counties; **Canvasbacks**: Monongalia (TB) and Tucker (CR) Counties; **Redheads**: Mason (GR), Monongalia (TB), Pendleton (FA), and Summers (JP) Counties; **Lesser Scaup**: Monongalia (TB), Summers (JP), and Taylor (AA) Counties; **Surf Scoters**: Preston (JBo), Taylor (JH), and Tucker (CR) Counties; **Black Scoters**: Taylor (TB, JBo); **Common Goldeneyes**: Mason (GR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; and **Red-breasted Mergansers**: Monongalia (TB) and Summers (JP) Counties. Cynthia Ellis saw 87 **ducks** at Winfield Locks, Putnam County, on November 26, including **Gadwalls**, **Mallards**, **Green-winged Teal**, a **Ring-necked Duck**, and **Hooded Mergansers**.

**Grouse, Turkeys**—Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** came only from Kanawha County (HG), Marion County (TB), Pocahontas County (GR), Randolph County (HMy), and Tucker County (FA, SAn, HMy). **Wild Turkeys** inspired reports from nine counties. On September 17 Bruni Haydl hosted 25 **Wild Turkeys** in her yard in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

**Loons, Grebes**—On November 30 Hannah Clipp and Randy Bodkins observed a **Red-throated Loon** at Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Taylor County. There were reports of **Common Loons** from five counties this fall: Mason (MG, GR), Monongalia (TB, DCo), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ). **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared widely throughout the state, while birders found **Horned Grebes** only in Monongalia (TB) and Taylor (JH) Counties.

**Cormorants**—Reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** came from 14 counties.

**Hérons, Egrets**—**Great Blue Herons**, **Great Egrets**, and **Green Herons** appeared throughout much of West Virginia this fall. On September 30, Michael Griffith spotted a **Cattle Egret** at Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County.

**Vultures**—Reports of **Black Vultures** came from seven counties, while 13 counties had reports of **Turkey Vultures**. On September 24 Laura Ceperley, Martha Hopper, Elaine George, Luanne Bowers, and Andrea Dalton saw 20 to 30 **Black Vultures** at Bellepoint Park in Hinton, Summers County.

**Hawks, Eagles**—**Osprey**, **Bald Eagles**, **Northern Harriers**, **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, **Cooper's Hawks**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, and **Red-tailed Hawks** were all well-represented in reports throughout the state during the fall season. On November 21 Frederick Atwood saw 13 **Bald Eagles** at four locations in Grant and Hardy Counties, as well as two **Golden Eagles** near Parker Hollow Road in Hardy County. Hanging Rock Observation Tower in Monroe County had a good year, as watchers recorded 3,586 **raptors** this season, including a season record of 96 **Golden Eagles** and a record-high 13 **Golden Eagles** on October 30, reported by Rodney Davis and James Phillips. **Broad-winged Hawks** appeared in Jefferson County (DH), Mercer County (MW), Monongalia County (GN, DCo), Monroe County (JP, LC), Randolph

County (HMy), Summers County (JP), Taylor County (TB), and Wetzel County (WJ). Herb Myers saw an early light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** from the visitor center of Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County, on October 30; and on November 11 Randy Bodkins saw a dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** near Elkins, Randolph County. **Golden Eagles** made appearances in Grant (FA), Hardy (DH), Monongalia (JBo), Monroe (JP, RD), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (CR) Counties.

**Rails, Coots**—On September 11 Wilma Jarrell observed the first **Sora** she has seen near her home in Wileyville, Wetzel County. Michael Griffith found a **Sora** at Greenbottom WMA, Cabell County, on September 30, and he and David Patick saw a **Sora** at Ashton Wetlands, Mason County, on October 4. Ross Brittain heard a **Sora** at Pleasant Creek WMA, Barbour and Taylor Counties, on October 22. On October 10 participants in the Bibbee Nature Club's Big Sit at Mountain Valley Lake dam, Summers County, discovered a **Common Gallinule**, as reported by Mindy Waldron. **American Coots** appeared in birders' reports from 12 counties.

**Avocets**—Gary Rankin, Wendell Argabrite, and Michael Griffith found a winter-plumaged **American Avocet** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on October 17, and Michael Griffith re-found the bird on October 21.

**Plovers**—It was another poor season for migratory **plover** reports in West Virginia. On October 10 the Bibbee Nature Club's Big Sit at Mountain Valley Lake dam, Summers County, spotted the only reported **Black-bellied Plover** of the season, as reported by Mindy Waldron. In contrast to other **plover** species, **Killdeer** were well-represented with reports from fifteen counties.

**Sandpipers**—**Sandpiper** reports were once again relatively few this fall, as West Virginia birders reported members of only 12 species. Reports of the following **shorebirds** came from the counties listed: **Spotted Sandpipers**: Grant (FA), Harrison (TB), Kanawha (HG), Lewis (RBo, WJ), Pendleton (FA), Summers (MW), and Taylor (HC); **Solitary Sandpipers**: Berkeley/Jefferson (MO), Lewis (WJ), Marion (JBo), Monongalia (TB, JBo), Pendleton (FA), and Taylor (TB, DD, JH); **Greater Yellowlegs**: Cabell (GR), Marion (JoH), Mason (MG), and Taylor (TB, DD); **Lesser Yellowlegs**: Berkeley/Jefferson (MO), and Mason (MG); **Sanderling**: Lewis (RBo); **Dunlin**: Cabell (MG), Lewis (JBo, MSI), Mason (MG), and Taylor (RBo, TB); **Least Sandpipers**: Berkeley/Jefferson (MO), Lewis (RBo), Mason (MG), and Taylor (RBo, TB, DD, JH); **Pectoral Sandpipers**: Berkeley (MO); **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: Lewis (WJ); **Short-billed Dowitcher**: Mason (GR); **Wilson's Snipe**: Grant (FA), Lewis (JBo, MSI), Marion (JBo), Mason (LC, GR), and Tucker (RBo); and **American Woodcock**: Kanawha (HG) and Preston (TB).

**Gulls, Terns**—It was a slow season once again for inland **seabirds**, which were mostly observed in small numbers. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were sighted in Grant (FA), Lewis (RBo), Randolph (RBo), and Taylor (JH) Counties; reports of **Ring-billed Gulls** came from Monongalia (DCo, TB) and Summers (JP) Counties; and **Herring Gulls** were reported in Mason (GR, MG) and Wood (JB) Counties. On September 10

Michael Griffith saw five **Caspian Terns** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, and on the next day Randy Bodkins watched a **Caspian Tern** and three **Black Terns** at Stonewall Jackson Lake Wildlife Management Area, Lewis County. On September 12 Gary Rankin found two **Common Terns** and a **Forster's Tern** upriver from Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County.

**Pigeons, Doves**—**Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state. The **White-winged Dove** that enjoyed an extended stay at the home of the author of these notes in Dry Fork, Tucker County, is described near the beginning of these notes.

**Cuckoos**—**Cuckoo** sightings were sparse in West Virginia this fall, continuing the pattern from the summer. On September 8 James Farley and other members of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Altona Marsh, Jefferson County. Terry Bronson spotted a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Huey Run Reservoir, Marion County, on September 14. On September 17 Derek Courtney found a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County, and two days later Terry Bronson saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at the West Virginia Botanic Garden in the same county. Wes Hatch found a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in Hampshire County on September 23.

**Owls**—Birders in 11 counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls**: Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Jefferson (WS, JBz), Monroe (JP), Pendleton (FA), Preston (TB), Randolph (RBi), Tucker (CR), Wayne (GR), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (KCa). There were reports of **Great Horned Owls** in seven counties: Cabell (DP), Jefferson (WS), Kanawha (DG), Randolph (HMy), Summers (JP), Wayne (GR, BDe), and Wetzel (WJ). Observers reported **Barred Owls** in eight counties: Grant (FA), Kanawha (DG), Monongalia (DCo), Pocahontas (GR), Summers (JP), Tucker (MK), Wayne (GR), and Wetzel (WJ).

**Goatsuckers, Swifts**—**Common Nighthawks** appeared only in reports from the following counties: Barbour (JD), Kanawha (LC), Marion (JoH), Monongalia (JBo, DCo), Nicholas (JS), Tucker (CR), Wayne (GR), and Wetzel (WJ). Frederick Atwood heard two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** in Cabins, Grant County, on September 6 and 7. There were 14 counties with reports of **Chimney Swifts**, all before October 10. On September 16 John Boback watched a vortex of thousands of **Chimney Swifts** entering a chimney on a West Virginia University campus building in Morgantown, Monongalia County.

**Hummingbirds**—Birders in 16 counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, primarily in September. Nancy Moran saw the last-reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season on October 18, in her yard in Raleigh County.

**Kingfishers**—There were reports of **Belted Kingfisher** in 15 counties.

**Woodpeckers**—West Virginia birders reported sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in six counties: Kanawha (DG), Mercer (MW, JP), Monongalia (TB), Ritchie (TB), Taylor (TB, JH), and Wetzel (WJ). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, **Yellow-**

**bellied Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers** were all widely reported. On October 8 Wilma Jarrell had a six-**woodpecker** day on Fairview Ridge, Wetzel County, missing only the **Red-headed**.

**Falcons**—It was another good fall for **falcons** in West Virginia. **American Kestrels** continued to appear widely throughout the state. **Merlins** made many appearances, with reports from Hardy County (DH), Mason County (MG), Monongalia County (JBo), Monroe County (JP), Preston County (TB), Tucker County (CR), and Wetzel County (WJ). There were reports of **Peregrine Falcons** from six counties: Grant (FA), Jefferson (DHa), Mason (GR), Monroe (JP), Ohio (PM), and Tucker (CR).

**Flycatchers**—It was a scanty fall season for **flycatchers** in West Virginia. Deborah Hale spotted an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in the Bolivar Heights neighborhood of Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, on September 17, and the bird was re-found at the same location by Teri Holland two days later. Reports of **Eastern Wood-Pewees** came from eight counties, and **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** appeared in Grant (FA), Mason (GR, MG), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties. **Acadian Flycatchers** appeared in Kanawha County (HG) and Wood County (JB). On September 23 Wes Hatch found a **Least Flycatcher** in Hampshire County. **Eastern Phoebes** were reported widely in the state. Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club spotted a **Great Crested Flycatcher** at the headquarters of Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Wood County, on September 24. **Eastern Kingbirds** appeared in reports from Jefferson (JF) and Preston (TB) Counties.

**Shrikes**—**Loggerhead Shrikes** appeared this fall in Grant (FA), Greenbrier (RBi), Monroe (RBi), and Pocahontas (RBi) Counties. On November 8 Kyle Aldinger watched a **Northern Shrike** eating grasshoppers at Little Indian Creek WMA, Monongalia County.

**Vireos**—**White-eyed** and **Blue-headed Vireos** appeared in counties throughout the state during September and early October, and **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen through October 25. **Yellow-throated Vireos** appeared in reports from Lewis (WJ), Mason (GR, MG), Putnam (CE), Taylor (TB, DD), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties; reporting birders observed **Warbling Vireos** in Jefferson (JF), Marion (JoH), Mason (MG), and Taylor (TB, DD) Counties; **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported in Cabell (DP, MG), Kanawha (HG), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (DCo), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; and **Red-eyed Vires** appeared in reports from Lewis (WJ), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), Taylor (TB, DD), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties.

**Crows, Jays, Ravens**—**Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens** prompted many reports throughout West Virginia. **Fish Crows** inspired reports only from Grant County during the fall, by Frederick Atwood at Hogueland Lane on September 5 and October 24, and by Richard Bailey in Maysville on September 24.

**Larks**—**Horned Larks** appeared this fall only in reports from Grant (FA) and Mason (MG, GR) Counties.

**Swallows**—Gary Rankin spotted six **Purple Martins** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on September 12. **Tree Swallows** lingered in 10 counties as late as November 1, when Michael Griffith and Gary Rankin saw two **Tree Swallows** each at Greenbottom WMA, Cabell County, and at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. On September 6 Frederick Atwood saw 200 **Tree**, 10 **Cliff**, and 60 **Barn Swallows** at Hogueland Lane, Grant County. **Barn Swallows** also appeared in Mason (GR), Monroe (JP), Summers (MW), and Taylor (TB, DD) Counties.

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

**Nuthatches**—**Red-breasted Nuthatches** occasioned reports only in Tucker County this season (FA, SKi, HMy). **White-breasted Nuthatches** occupied their usual spots in reports from throughout the state.

**Creepers**—Birders in seven counties reported **Brown Creeper**: Grant (FA), Jefferson (DH<sub>a</sub>, CD, BH), Monongalia (TB), Pocahontas (GR), Tucker (CR, HMy), Wayne (MG), and Wetzel (WJ).

**Wrens**—**House Wrens** were mostly gone by early September, with appearances only in Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Monongalia (DCo), Randolph (HMy), and Wood (JB) Counties. **Winter Wrens** inspired reports from Berkeley (PS), Grant (FA), Jefferson (DH<sub>a</sub>), Monongalia (TB), Putnam (CE, KK), Raleigh (JP), and Summers (JP, LC) Counties. **Marsh Wrens** inspired reports from Barbour (JH), Cabell (MG), Mason (DP, MG), and Randolph (RBo) Counties. **Carolina Wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from throughout of the state.

**Gnatcatchers**—Birders in Jefferson (JF), Kanawha (LC, HG), Marion (TB), Mason (GR, MG), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties reported **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, all during the first half of September.

**Kinglets**—**Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** inspired reports throughout the state this fall. Frederick Atwood counted 121 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at seven locations in Grant and Pendleton Counties on October 24.

**Thrushes**—It was an average fall for **thrushes** in West Virginia. **Eastern Bluebirds, Swainson's Thrushes, Hermit Thrushes,** and **American Robins** were all seen widely in reporting counties. Frederick Atwood heard two **Veeries** at his cabin in Cabins, Grant County, on September 6, and James Phillips spotted a **Veery** in his yard at Pipestem, Summers County, on October 5. **Gray-checked Thrushes** appeared only in Grant (FA), Monongalia (DCo), Tucker (RBo), and Wayne (GR) Counties; and **Wood Thrushes** occasioned reports in Grant (FA), Harrison (TB), Jefferson (JN), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), Taylor (TB, DD), Wayne (DP, MG), and Wood (JB) Counties.

**Mockingbirds, Thrashers**—There were reports of **Gray Catbirds** and **Northern Mockingbirds** from counties throughout the state this fall. **Brown Thrashers** also appeared widely, in reports from Grant (FA), Jefferson (JF, DH<sub>a</sub>), Kanawha (HG),



Mercer (MW), Monongalia (DCo), Preston (TB), Taylor (TB, DD), Tucker (CR), and Wood (JB) Counties.

**Starlings**—Despite reports from only nine counties, **European Starlings** no doubt continued to occupy widespread habitats throughout West Virginia.

**Pipits**—**American Pipits** appeared only in reports from Cabell (GR), Grant (FA), Jefferson (DH), and Kanawha (HG) Counties this fall.

**Waxwings**—**Cedar Waxwings** prompted reports from 20 counties throughout the state. On October 22 Ross Brittain saw more than 500 **Cedar Waxwings** at Pleasant Creek WMA and Tygart Lake State Park, Barbour and Taylor Counties.

**Warblers**—Paul Saffold's discovery of a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Inwood, Berkeley County, on October 14 is described near the beginning of these notes. Birders in West Virginia found 31 **warbler** species this fall, and reports were generally more numerous than last year. **Warbler** species reported in six or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. Species listed without contributors were reported in at least seven counties. **Warblers** reported this fall included **Ovenbird**: Grant (FA), Hampshire (WHA), Jefferson (DH), Kanawha (HG), Mason (GR, MG), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **Worm-eating**: Summers County (JP); **Golden-winged**: Hampshire County (WHA); **Blue-winged**: Kanawha (HG), Mason (GR, MG), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Black-and-white**: Cabell (DP, MG), Jefferson (DH), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (DCo), Putnam (CE), and Wayne (DP, MG) Counties; **Tennessee, Orange-crowned**: Cabell (DP, MG, GR, WA), Marion (JoH), and Tucker (CR) Counties; **Nashville**: Berkeley (PS), Hampshire (WHA), Kanawha (EM), Mason (GR, MG), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Connecticut**: Hampshire (WHA) and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **Kentucky**: Mason (GR, MG) and Pendleton (FA) Counties; **Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, American Redstart, Cape May, Northern Parula**: Jefferson (DH), Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wayne (DP, MG) Counties; **Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Yellow**: Mason (MG) and Summers (JP) Counties; **Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue**: Hampshire (WHA), Harrison (TB), Kanawha (HG), Summers (JP), and Tucker (FA) Counties; **Palm, Pine, Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated**: Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (TB, DD), Wayne (DP, MG), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Prairie**: Mason (MG) and Monongalia (TB) Counties; **Black-throated Green, Canada**: Berkeley (AT), Hampshire (WHA), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; and **Wilson's**: Monongalia (DCo), Wayne (MG), and Wood (JB) Counties. In early October Hulett Good hosted the first **Black-throated Blue Warbler** to appear on his property in Milliken, Kanawha County, and it was his 184th yard species since he began counting in August 1977.

**Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos**—For the fourth year in a row, **Nelson's Sparrow** was West Virginia's **emberizid** of the fall season, with sightings by Joseph Hildreth and Randy Bodkins of one or two individuals at Pleasant Creek WMA, Barbour County, from October 8 through 14. On October 15 Michael Griffith spotted a **Nelson's**

**Sparrow** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. Derek Courtney found a **Lark Sparrow** at Little Indian Creek WMA, Monongalia County, on September 17. The most frequently reported species of **emberizid** this fall were **Eastern Towhee** and **Chipping, Field, Fox, Song, Lincoln's, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows**, as well as **Dark-eyed Juncos**. The following were reported only as listed: **American Tree Sparrows** in Cabell (GR, WA, MG) and Randolph (JH) Counties; **Vesper** in Grant (FA), Hardy (DH, KKi), Jefferson (WS), Mason (MG, GR), Pendleton (FA), and Tucker (SKi) Counties; **Savannah** in Barbour (RBo), Grant (FA), Hardy (FA, DH, KKi), Jefferson (DHa), Mason (MG, GR), Pendleton (FA), Preston (TB), and Tucker (RBo, FA) Counties; a **Grasshopper Sparrow** in Monongalia County (TB, DD); and a **Henslow's Sparrow** in Tucker County (RBo). On October 30 Diane Holsinger and Kathy King had a good **sparrow** day in the vicinity of Moorefield, Hardy County, finding **Chipping, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Song, Lincoln's, White-throated, and White-Crowned Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos**.

**Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings**—**Summer Tanagers** appeared in reports from Kanawha (HG), Mason (GR, MG), and Wood (JB) Counties. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, and Indigo Buntings** prompted reports from birders in most parts of the state. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** made appearances only in reports from Jefferson (DHa), Mercer (MW), Preston (TB), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wayne (DP, MG) Counties. On September 6 Frederick Atwood saw four **Blue Grosbeaks** on Thorn Run Road in Grant County. Michael Griffith spotted two **Blue Grosbeaks** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on September 10.

**Blackbirds**—On September 6, Frederick Atwood saw 75 **Bobolinks** near Hogueland Lane, Grant County, and also spotted scattered **Bobolinks** in Pendleton County. Michael Griffith saw four **Bobolinks** at Ashton Wetlands, Mason County, on September 30, and he and David Patick saw 10 **Bobolinks** at the same location on October 4. West Virginia birders reported many sightings of **Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, Rusty Blackbirds, and Common Grackles**. On November 7 the author of these notes saw more than 100 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and at least 1,000 **Rusty Blackbirds** streaming past the Freeland Road boardwalk of Canaan Valley NWR, Tucker County. **Brown-headed Cowbird** reports came only from Jefferson County (DHa, WS), and **Baltimore Orioles** appeared in reports from Pendleton (DH) and Summers (JP) Counties.

**Finches, Allies**—**House Finches** were sparsely reported this fall, with sightings in Grant (FA), Jefferson (FA), Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (DCo), Putnam (CE), Randolph (HMy), Summers (JP), and Wood (JB) Counties. **Purple Finches** inspired reports only in Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Jefferson (CD, JBz, LW), Putnam (CE), Randolph (HMy), Summers (JP), and Tucker (CR) Counties. Gary Rankin saw 20 **Red Crossbills** near Cranberry Mountain Nature Center at Cranberry Glades Wilderness, Pocahontas County, on October 19, and David Patick saw the same number at the same location on November 21. Reports of **Pine Siskins** and **American Goldfinches**

were widespread in the state, occurring in at least 10 counties each. Wendy Perrone saw a pair of **Evening Grosbeaks**, the first she had seen in 10 years at the Three Rivers Avian Center in Summers County, on October 5.

**Weaver Finches**—The **House Sparrow** prompted reports from only four counties this fall. In spite of this lack of attention, the species no doubt continues throughout the state, primarily in urban settings.

Contributors to the Fall Field Notes: Sarah Anderson (SAn), Wendell Argabrite (WA), Frederick Atwood (FA), Amanda Austin (AA), Richard Bailey (RBi), Jon Benedetti (JB), John Boback (JBo), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Terry Bronson (TB), Kevin Campbell (KCa), Laura Ceperley (LC), Hannah Clipp (HC), Derek Courtney (DCo), David Daniels (DD), Rodney Davis (RD), Jeffrey Del Col (JD), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Beverly Delidow (BDe), Cynthia Ellis (CE), James Farley (JF), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DH<sub>a</sub>), Wes Hatch (WH<sub>a</sub>), Bruni Haydl (BH), Joey Herron (JoH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Mark Johnson (MJ), Kim Kazmierski (KK), Mimi Kibler (MK), Stephen Kimbrell (SKi), Kathy King (KKi), Paul McKay (PM), Earl Melton (EM), Herb Myers (HMy), Gretchen Nareff (GN), Matthew Orsie (MO), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Paul Saffold (PS), Michael Slaven (MSl), John Snyder (JS), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Alex Tsiatsos (AT), Mindy Waldron (MW), and Lynn Wiseman (LW).

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## **Bylaws of The Brooks Bird Club, Inc. Amended**

The Bylaws, Article III, No. 6, of The Brooks Bird Club, Inc., were amended at the general membership meeting of October 18, 2015 to require two meetings a year of the club's Board of Trustees. The BBC Bylaws were last published in *The Redstart* 81(3), 86–94 in the July 2014 issue.

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## 2016 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 3-5	Trip to Killdeer Plains (Contact Gene Hilton)	
March 4-6	Early Spring Meeting (Contact Dick Esker) .....	North Bend State Park ..... Harrisville, WV
March 13	Waterfowl Field Trip (day trip) (Contact Carl Slater) .....	Seneca Lake, OH
April 23	Three Rivers Bird Club (day trip) (Contact Ryan Tomazin) .....	Raccoon Creek State Park, PA
May 5-8	Wildflower Pilgrimage, Blackwater Falls State Park .....	Davis, WV
May 14	International Migratory Bird Day/N. American Migration Count .....	..... local chapters
June 13-21	Foray - Camp Kidd (contact Janice Emrick or Ryan Tomazin) .....	..... Tucker County, Parsons, WV
August-October	Bird Banding .....	Dolly Sods, WV
October 14-16	BBC Fall Retreat/Annual Meeting, Tygart Lake .....	Grafton, WV
November 9-13	Eastern Shore (Contact Carl Slater)	
Dec. 14-Jan. 5, '17	Christmas Bird Counts .....	..... local chapters

### BBC FORAYS (dates and places tentative)

2016	Camp Kidd, Tucker County	Parsons, WV
2017	Lost River Retreat Center, Hardy County	Lost City, WV
2018	Thornwood 4-H Camp, Pocahontas County	Thornwood, WV

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The dates for the 2016 BBC program may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the Web page or in *The Mail Bag*.

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