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The **REDSTART**

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Banding at Prickett's Fort State Park, Marion County West Virginia, Spring and Fall 2015

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 or four 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 2015 seasons, 64 birds of 28 species were banded. A male Baltimore Oriole that was banded on May 6, 2014, was recaptured a day short of a year later on May 5, 2015. Five new species were added to the species list this year, including a Least Flycatcher banded on May 5, 2015; a nice male Black-throated Blue Warbler banded on September 26, 2015; a Bay-breasted Warbler banded on October 1, 2015; a Golden-crowned Kinglet banded on October 8, 2015; and a couple of Eastern Bluebirds banded on October 18, 2015, bringing the species total to 56. Of these 56 species, 383 birds have been banded from the spring of 2008 to the fall of 2015. Over a third of the bandings are made up of four species: Northern Cardinal (45), Carolina Chickadee (36), White-eyed Vireo (24), and Gray Catbird (24).

The following chart shows numbers and species banded.

Species	Number Banded 2015	Banded 2008–2014
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	2 (captured)
Downy Woodpecker	1	3
Least Flycatcher	1	1
White-eyed Vireo	2	24
Warbling Vireo	0	4
Red-eyed Vireo	3	11
Blue Jay	2	5
Carolina Chickadee	8	36
Black-capped Chickadee	0	1

Species	Number Banded 2015	Banded 2008–2015
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	1	7
House Wren	0	1
Carolina Wren	4	21
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	1
Eastern Bluebird	2	2
Swainson's Thrush	0	2
Wood Thrush	0	5
American Robin	0	3
Gray Catbird	3	24
Brown Thrasher	0	2
Northern Mockingbird	1	9
Cedar Waxwing	0	1
American Goldfinch	1	7
Blue-winged Warbler	0	3
Swainson's Warbler	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	2
Nashville Warbler	0	3
Connecticut Warbler	0	1
Kentucky Warbler	1	2
Common Yellowthroat	0	7
American Redstart	1	6
Northern Parula	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	1	14
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	1
Yellow Warbler	0	7
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler	0	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	17
Prairie Warbler	0	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	3
Wilson's Warbler	0	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	4
Eastern Towhee	5	18
Chipping Sparrow	3	8
Field Sparrow	1	3
Song Sparrow	2	16



A male Black-throated Blue Warbler banded on September 26, 2015. Photo by the author.

Species	Number Banded 2015	Banded 2008–2014
Swamp Sparrow	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	0	4
White-crowned Sparrow	0	1
Scarlet Tanager	0	1
Northern Cardinal	6	45
Indigo Bunting	2	9
Orchard Oriole	0	5
Baltimore Oriole	1	11
	Totals	56 383

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A.O.U. Taxonomic Changes for 2016

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

The American Ornithologists' Union's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature published substantial changes affecting the West Virginia list of bird species in the July 2016 issue of *The Auk* (Chesser et al., 2016).

The new sequence of bird families represented in West Virginia between the Phasianidae (grouse and turkeys) and the Tytonidae (Barn Owl) is as follows: Podicipedidae (grebes), Columbidae (pigeons and doves), Cuculidae (cuckoos), Caprimulgidae (nighthawks and whip-poor-wills), Apodidae (swifts), Trochilidae (hummingbirds), Rallidae (rails and coots), Gruidae (cranes), Recurvirostridae (avocet), Charadriidae (plovers), Scolopacidae (sandpipers), Stercorariidae (jaegers), Laridae (gulls and terns), Gaviidae (loons), Ciconiidae (storks), Fregatidae (frigatebirds), Phalacrocoracidae (comorants), Anhingidae (anhinga), Pelecanidae (pelicans), Ardeidae (bitterns, herons, egrets, and night-herons), Threskiornithidae (ibises), Cathartidae (new world vultures), Pandionidae (osprey), and Accipitridae (kites, hawks, and eagles).

A second A.O.U. rearrangement of West Virginia families is the sequence of families between the Sturnidae (starlings) and Calcariidae (longspurs and Snow Bunting), which becomes: Bombycillidae (waxwings), Passeridae (House Sparrow), Motacillidae (pipits), and Fringillidae (finches and allies). The West Virginia list now ends with the orioles in the family Icteridae.

Further changes in species sequence in the sandpiper family (Scolopacidae) result in moving the Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, and Lesser Yellowlegs in this sequence to a position between the American Woodcock and Wilson's Phalarope on the West Virginia list.

Another change in species sequence within a family of importance in West Virginia is the placement of the Philadelphia Vireo to a position between the Blue-headed Vireo and the Warbling Vireo.

The A.O.U. has changed the English name of the Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) in splitting that species into two species. The Green Violetear becomes the Mexican Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*), presumably the species that appeared in Terra Alta, West Virginia, in June 2003 (Felton, 2004), and the Lesser Violetear (*Colibri cyanotus*), which appears after the Mexican Violetear on the revised A.O.U. list.

Readers may want to compare their old lists with the new A.O.U. Check-list on line at checklist.aou.org. The updated West Virginia list of birds can be found at brooksbirdclub.org on line.

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Book Review

Rainbows, Bluebirds, and Buffleheads: Discovering Life Through Birds by Bill Beatty. 2016. Charleston, West Virginia: Quarrier Press. Distributed by West Virginia Book Company, www.wvbookco.com. 296 pages.

Bill Beatty, naturalist, educator, writer, photographer, and master birder, is a great story teller. *Rainbows, Bluebird, Buffleheads: Discovering Life Through Birds* is the story of his life. Beatty writes about his experiences while learning, on his own and from others, about birds and plants mostly in West Virginia. The book is organized into chapters—each one a stage in his learning, or about his employment as a naturalist at Oglebay’s Brooks Nature Center, his leadership at the Oglebay Institute Terra Alta Mountain Camp, his participation in the West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage held annually at Blackwater Falls State Park and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory on Dolly Sods, Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, bird banding in his yard, and other situations, some alone in nature, some with others. Along the way, Bill was influenced by BBC members Greg Eddy, Dorothy Brownson, Glen Phillips, Ralph K. Bell, George Lippert, and others.

Anyone who has fielded questions about nature will enjoy his stories involving phone calls he dealt with as naturalist at the Brooks Nature Center. Birders will reflect on similar experiences they have had, for example, birds heard in movie sound tracts completely wrong for the places portrayed in the films. My own was hearing an Eastern Phoebe singing over and over again on the grounds of an Italian villa in the Herman Woulk’s film, *The Winds of War*. Only a birder knows how distracting this can be. Just the chapter on bird songs, and the mnemonic sayings he uses to help people learn the songs, is worth the price of the book. Guess which bird shouts out “Burn-your-furn-i-ture, burn-your-furn-i-ture.”

If you are a West Virginia birder, you will find much to enjoy in Bill’s book; if you have never visited our state, you will want to do so after reading *Rainbows, Bluebirds, and Buffleheads*.

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

Former Editor Migrates, New Editor on Territory

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

I have served the BBC as editor of *The Redstart* for 39 years, beginning with the January 1977 issue, and now, with warm regards for all who encouraged and supported me in this enterprise, I have decided to retire from this position.

It has been a great pleasure to work with many notable *Redstart* authors including many of the outstanding ornithologists active in West Virginia: George A. Hall, George M. Sutton, Hal Harrison, Maurice Brooks, Harold E. Burt, and many others in recent years. Many of our finest articles were written by amateur BBC members. Beginning in 1976, the best amateur article from most years received the Floyd Bartley Memorial Award. From then until this year, it was my pleasure to present the award to 32 people; three authors won it twice.

I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of editors of *Redstart* sections, the editorial board, and our outstanding associate editor, Marjorie Keatley, who is also retiring as associate editor with this October 2016 issue. “Field Notes” editors, Glen Phillips (January 1977 through July 1980), Greg Eddy (October 1980 through October 1982), Jim Phillips (January 1983 through April 2003), Janice Emrick (July 2003 through April 2008), James Triplett and Beverly Triplett (July 2008 through April 2010), and Casey Rucker (July 2008 through the present) recorded the seasonal abundance and occurrence of our state’s birds. Ralph K. Bell contributed his knowledgeable “Band-ing News” from 1977 through April 1995. Numerous authors contributed book reviews and brief notes.

Our new editor of *The Redstart*, whose first issue will be that of January 2017, is Casey Rucker. Casey Rucker discovered West Virginia when he learned to climb at Seneca Rocks in 1990. Prior to that time, he had studied Ancient Greek at Yale College and earned a master’s degree in Latin and Greek at Stanford University, then gone on to Michigan Law School, after which he practiced law in New York City and Washington, D.C., at a large law firm and a Wall Street brokerage.

Casey’s love of birds began about the same time as his love of climbing. During the 1990s he spent many months traveling the United States to find birds and climb cliffs and mountains, and became a climbing guide at Seneca Rocks for five seasons. He moved full-time to Dry Fork, West Virginia, in 2004. After reaching 700 on his American Birding Association-area list in 2009, he turned his attention to documenting West Virginia birds for *The Redstart* as “Field Notes” editor, for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. He is currently the president and newsletter editor of the Friends of the 500th, a nonprofit organization in support of Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, where he has led monthly bird walks since 2004. Casey loves birds and the outdoors, still climbing

mountains at age 59 and more recently becoming a journeyman vegetable gardener. He is grateful for the privilege of living in West Virginia, and he is enthusiastic about his new role as editor of *The Redstart*.

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Field Notes Spring Season

March 1–May 31, 2016

Casey Rucker

March was the seventh warmest in West Virginia since 1895 according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center. April was slightly warmer than average, and May was slightly cooler. March and April brought below-average precipitation statewide, with 1.35 inches below the norm in March. May brought above-average rainfall, and by late in the month only 12% 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>.

Spring was a sad season for West Virginia birders, as it marked the passing of two members of our birding community. Wendell Argabrite, dean of West Virginia birding and long-time secretary of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee, died on April 15. The contributions he made to the knowledge of birds in our state and to the lives of so many West Virginia birders, including the author of these notes, cannot be overstated. The unexpected and sudden passing of Jeffrey Del Col on March 9, one day after his last post on WV Birds, was another blow to our community. His sharp eye and enthusiasm brightened these reports, and he is already missed.

A **Lark Sparrow**, likely the same individual that Carol Del Colle hosted during February in her yard in Summit Point, Jefferson County, appeared in the same location on March 20. Overall, it was a slow season for unusual birds in West Virginia, with only 228 species reported. On the other hand, it was a banner season for distribution of bird reports, as 49 of the 55 counties contributed to our state's avian lore. Birders found 36 species of warbler plus one hybrid during the spring season.

Geese, Swans, Ducks—On March 1, Terry Bronson found a **Snow Goose** at Dalton Farms, Monongalia County. Joette Borzik saw a flock of **Snow Geese** flying north over her home in Jefferson County on March 7. On April 2 David Patick and Michael Griffith discovered a blue-morph **Snow Goose** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, and the bird lingered at that location until May 15 (DP, MG, GR, MO). **Canada Geese** remained in, or returned to, their usual haunts throughout West Virginia. On April 26, Wilma Jarrell found **Canada Geese** *with two sets of goslings* in Wetzel County.

There were few reports of **swans** this spring in West Virginia. On March 6 David Patick observed a **Mute Swan** at Apple Grove, Mason County. On the same day N. Wade Snyder watched an overflight of 20 **Tundra Swans** at his home on Daniel Road in Jefferson County, and he heard another overflight from the same location on March 15.

It was a sparse spring for duck sightings in West Virginia, perhaps due to the warm temperatures in March. There were many reports statewide only of **Wood Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, and Common Mergansers**. The following **ducks** were reported in 5 to 10 counties during the spring: **Gadwalls, American Wigeons, American Black Ducks, Redheads, Buffleheads, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks**. The following species were only reported in the counties listed: **Northern Shovelers** in Barbour (HC), Cabell (GR, DP, MG), and Mason (DP, MG); **Northern Pintails** in Cabell (DP), Lewis (JBo, MSI), and Wood (JB); **Green-winged Teal** in Marion (SO, JoH, TB), Mason (DP, MG), Preston (TB), and Taylor (TB); a **Canvasback** in Wetzel (WJ); **Greater Scaup** in Calhoun (TF) and Mason (DP, MG); one **Long-tailed Duck** in Preston (RBo); and **Common Goldeneyes** in Wood (JB).

Quail—For the first time since 1994, Hullet Good saw a **Northern Bobwhite** on the forest floor of his property in Milliken, Kanawha County, on March 24. On May 7 James Phillips heard a **Northern Bobwhite** of uncertain origin singing in his neighborhood in Pipestem, Summers County.

Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys—Birders throughout the state reported **Wild Turkeys**, while reports of **Ruffed Grouse** came from Monongalia (TB), Pocahontas (DP), Preston (TB), Randolph (HMy, MK, SKi, TB), Tucker (FA, SKi), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Grebes—Birders reported **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** in 11 and 9 counties, respectively.

Pigeons, Doves—**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 during late April, and by the end of the season **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** had been reported in 14 counties, and **Black-billed Cuckoos** in 8 counties.

Goatsuckers, Swifts—**Common Nighthawks** continued to be relatively scarce, with appearances beginning in mid-April, in Cabell (DP), Hampshire (WS), Hardy (KKi), Jefferson (BT), Kanawha (LC, BW), Mason (JsH), Tucker (LC), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. On May 7 a **Chuck-will's-widow** was once again present at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Cabell County (DP, MG, MO, GR). John Boback listened to a **Chuck-will's-widow** at Cedar Lakes campground, Jackson County, on May 14. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** and **Chimney Swifts** were widely reported throughout the state.

Hummingbirds—Ruby-throated Hummingbirds began arriving in mid-April, and appeared in reports from 19 counties throughout the state. Cynthia Burkhart hosted a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** on April 17 at her home in Ritchie County, the first reported in West Virginia this year.

Rails, Coots—Richard Gregg acquired a new life bird when he discovered a **Sora** at Marmet Locks, Kanawha County, on April 3. On April 16 David Patick found a **Virginia Rail** at Green Bottom WMA, Cabell County, as subsequently witnessed by other observers (GR, MG, MO). Green Bottom was also the location of the other **Sora** sightings this season (MG, DP, GR, MO) beginning on April 7. **Common Gallinules** continued to make spring appearances in the Mountain State in Berkeley County (JBz), Cabell County (DP, MG, MO, GR) and Lewis County (GN, JBo, MSI, TB, JSy, JoH). **American Coot** reports were scantier than usual this spring, coming only from eight counties.

Avocets—For the second year in a row, Tucker County was the location of the only **American Avocet** report of the season, in Canaan Valley on May 8, by Laura Ceperley, Barb Koster, Martha Hopper, and Diane Holsinger.

Plovers—On May 1 Michael Griffith spotted a **Black-bellied Plover** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County. On May 9 David Daniels found a **Black-bellied Plover** as well as **Semipalmated Plovers** at Reedsville Farm, Preston County, as reported by Terry Bronson. There were additional sightings of **Semipalmated Plovers** at Gallipolis Ferry in Mason County (MG, DP) during late April and May. **Killdeer** were well represented with reports from 17 counties.

Sandpipers—**Sandpiper** reports were average this spring, with 14 **sandpiper** species making an appearance. Observers reported **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers** in 19 and 14 counties, respectively. Birders found **American Woodcocks** in 11 counties, and reports of **Lesser Yellowlegs** came from 8 counties. The following species were reported in the counties listed: **Dunlin** in Mason (MG) and Preston (TB, DD); **Least Sandpiper** in Mason (GR, MG, JBo), Pocahontas (DP), Preston (TB), and Randolph (RBo); **White-Rumped Sandpipers** in Mason (MG); **Pectoral Sandpipers** in Mason (GR, MG, DP) and Randolph (RBo); **Semipalmated Sandpipers** in Marion (TB), Mason (MG, GR), and Preston (TB); **Short-billed Dowitchers** in Hardy (HMy), Mason (MG, JWa, KC, DP), Preston (DCo), and Summers (JJP); **Long-billed Dowitchers** in Hardy (HMy); **Wilson's Snipe** in Cabell (MG, GR), Hardy (FA), Kanawha (RG), Lewis (JBo), Mason (MG, DP), Preston (TB), and Tucker (CR); **Greater Yellowlegs** in Barbour (TB, JH), Jefferson (CD), Mason (GR, MG, JWa, KC, DP), Pocahontas (DP), Randolph (RBo), and Taylor (TB); and **Willet** in Kanawha (RG). On May 10 Randy Bodkins had a good **shorebird** day at Glendale Park in Elkins, Randolph County, finding **Least, Pectoral, Spotted, and Solitary Sandpipers**, as well as **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**.

Gulls, Terns—Sightings of **Bonaparte's Gulls** came from Grant (FA), Jefferson (CD, EK, DHa), Kanawha (RG), Lewis (JE, BI), Monongalia (TB), Summers (JP), Taylor (TB, JBo, JoH), and Wetzel (JBo, WJ) Counties. **Ring-billed**

Gulls were reported in Greenbrier (DG), Jefferson (DH, CD), Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), Randolph (MK, SKi, RBo), Taylor (JBo), and Wood (JB, CB) Counties, and **Herring Gulls** were reported in Mason (GR, DP, MG, JBo, MSi), Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), and Wood (JB) Counties.

Tern sightings were sparse as usual this season. Birders in Mason (MG, JBo), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (CB) Counties found **Caspian Terns**. Joey Herron spotted seven **Common Terns** at Tygart Lake State Park, Taylor County, on May 1. Reports of **Forster's Terns** came from Kanawha (RG), Lewis (JBo, MSi), Mason (JBo, MSi), and Taylor (JBo, MSi) Counties.

Loons—Common Loons appeared in Hardy (DH), Lewis (RTo, JE, BI), Mason (JBo, MSi, DP), Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), Taylor (JoH), Tucker (MK, SKi), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties this spring. The latest sighting was on May 20, when David Patick spotted a lone **Common Loon** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County.

Cormorants—West Virginia birders reported **Double-crested Cormorants** in 11 counties.

Hérons, Egrets—During the second week of April, Sharon Kearns hosted an **American Bittern** on her ponds near Hillsboro, Pocahontas County. N. Wade Snyder found an **American Bittern** in Bardane, Jefferson County, on May 6. The International Migratory Bird Day count in Tucker County also found an **American Bittern**, in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge on May 14. Rennie and Amy Talbert listened to the call of a **Least Bittern** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on May 10, and the bird was found there again through May 15 (JBo, MSi). **Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets,** and **Green Herons** appeared widely. On May 16, Amanda Taylor spotted an immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Upper Pleasant Creek Road, Barbour County.

Vultures—Birders in 12 West Virginia counties reported seeing **Black Vultures**, while **Turkey Vulture** reports came from 17 counties.

Osprey, Hawks, Eagles—**Osprey** and **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the state, generally in small numbers. Bruni Haydl checked on a pair of *nestling* **Bald Eagles** near the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County several times during April. **Northern Harriers** appeared in reports from Mason County (MG, GR), Putnam County (DP, MG), Ritchie County (CB), Summers County (JP), Tucker County (CR, HMy, LC), and Wood County (JB); and birders reported **Sharp-shinned Hawks** in Berkeley (MO, EK), Jefferson (BH, DH), Kanawha (BMi), Mason (DP, MG), Preston (TB), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wood (JB) Counties. Reports of **Cooper's Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks,** and **Red-tailed Hawks** were widespread in West Virginia. On April 24, Herb and Sarah Myers watched an immature **Golden Eagle** soaring over Germany Valley, Pendleton County, and Mimi Kibler saw a soaring **Golden Eagle** over the nursery bottom in Parsons, Tucker County.

Owls—**Owl** reports were generally sparse during the spring season. Birders in only four West Virginia counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls**: Jefferson (JBz), Marion (JoH), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (CR). **Great Horned Owls** inspired reports in Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (EM), Marion (TB, JoH, SO), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties, and West Virginia birders reported **Barred Owl** in 13 counties. David Patick, Michael Griffith, Matthew Orsie, and Gary Rankin found a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on the Scenic Highway, Pocahontas County, on May 7 during their 2016 Big Day. The Tucker County International Migratory Bird Day count found another **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** on Canaan Mountain on May 14.

Kingfishers—**Belted Kingfisher** reports were widespread in West Virginia this season.

Woodpeckers—Our state's seven species of **woodpeckers** were all widely reported, with sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in 12 counties and of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** in eight counties. Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club found at least nine **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at the headquarters of Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Pleasants County, on March 31.

Falcons—It was a poor season for **falcons** in West Virginia. Birders reported **American Kestrels** only in Hampshire (CR), Kanawha (RG), Lewis (TB), Mason (GR), Pendleton (RBi, HMy), Preston (TB), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties. **Merlins** were spotted only in Kanawha County (LC) and Tucker County (RTo, HMy, LC, CR). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings came from Kanawha (HG), Ohio (PM), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties.

Flycatchers—Reports of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were more plentiful than usual this spring. Wilma Jarrell watched an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** calling from a dead tree in her yard in Wileyville, Wetzel County, on May 23, and other reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** came from Cabell (MG), Jefferson (JBz), Pocahontas (DP), and Preston (DCo) Counties. **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, **Least Flycatchers**, **Eastern Phoebes**, **Great Crested Flycatchers**, and **Eastern Kingbirds** were widely reported throughout the state. Birders in Barbour County (TB), Jefferson County (HMc, LS, BT), Kanawha County (HG), Monongalia County (TB), Randolph County (HMy), Summers County (JP), Tucker County (CR), and Wood County (JB) reported **Acadian Flycatchers**, and those in Pocahontas County (RBi), Randolph County (TB), and Tucker County (HMy, CR) reported **Alder Flycatcher**. Reports of **Willow Flycatcher** came from Berkeley (EK), Cabell (JsH), Mason (MG), Putnam (CE), Summers (JB), and Tucker (RBo) Counties.

Shrikes—Richard Bailey reported that **Loggerhead Shrikes** were found during mid-April in the Greenbrier Valley, in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties.

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. On April 29, Cynthia Ellis and Kimberly Kazmierski found a **Philadelphia Vireo** in northern Putnam County. Terry Bronson reported a **Philadel-**

phia Vireo in Brooke County, found by Sue Edmiston on May 14, and on the next day David Patick and Michael Griffith spotted another **Philadelphia Vireo** at Beech Fork Lake State Park, Wayne County.

Crows, Jays, Ravens—Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens were reported widely throughout the state. Richard Bailey heard **Fish Crows** calling near Brandywine, Pendleton County, on April 4. **Fish Crows** were also reported in Jefferson (EK, DHa, JBz, BT) and Morgan (CD) Counties.

Larks—Horned Larks appeared in small numbers in reports from Berkeley County (JBz), Mason County (DP, MG), and Monongalia County (JH).

Swallows—Purple Martins were reported in Berkeley (EK), Jefferson (CD, JBz, MO, BT), Kanawha (RG), Mason (DP, MG), Monongalia (TB), Pleasants (JB), Summers (JJP), Wayne (GR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. **Tree Swallows** had already made several appearances in West Virginia 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, David Patick, and Gary Rankin saw one or more **Bank Swallows** at two locations in Mason County, beginning on April 7, and on May 14 Matthew Orsie saw all five of the likely West Virginia **swallows**, including **Bank Swallow**, on the Shenandoah River in Jefferson 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 Pendleton (TB), Pocahontas (RBi), Preston (TB), and Tucker (CR, RTo, FA, RBo, HMy, TB) Counties this spring. **White-breasted Nuthatches** continued to appear widely.

Creepers—West Virginia birders reported few **Brown Creepers** this season, from Kanawha (HG), Marion (TB), Pleasants (JB), Pocahontas (DP, RBi), Preston (TB), Tucker (CR), and Wood (JB).

Wrens—House and Carolina Wrens appeared in good numbers in reports from all over the state. **Winter Wrens** were reported in Grant (FA), Pocahontas (DP), Randolph (HMy), Tucker (SKi, MK, HMy, CR, TB), and Wayne (MG) Counties. Derek Courtney discovered a **Sedge Wren** at Cranesville Swamp, Preston County, on May 20, and on May 29 Frederick Atwood spotted a **Marsh Wren** on Hogueland Lane, Grant County.

Gnatcatchers—Beginning at the end of March, **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** returned to breeding grounds throughout the state. Joey Herron spotted the first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** reported during the season, on March 29 at Prickett's Fort State Park, Marion County.

Kinglets—Birders observed **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in eight West Virginia counties, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** in 18 counties during the season.

Thrushes—It was a good spring for **thrush** reports in West Virginia. The usual seven species of **thrush** were found in West Virginia this spring. **Eastern Bluebirds,**

Veerys, Swainson's, Hermit, and Wood Thrushes, and American Robins were seen throughout most reporting counties. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reports came from Berkeley (EK), Hardy (RB, BD, SCR), Monongalia (JBo), and Preston (TB, DCo) Counties.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers—During the spring season **Gray Catbirds, Northern, Brown Thrashers, and Mockingbirds** once again serenaded their breeding grounds in West Virginia.

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

Waxwings—**Cedar Waxwings** were reported only in 10 counties this spring.

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

Pipits—Michael Griffith and Gary Rankin found **American Pipits** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on May 1. Joette Borzik and Chuck Parker found three **American Pipits** in Berkeley County on May 15, a late sighting for the area.

Finches, Allies—As during the winter, **Pine Siskins** were the only winter finches that appeared in numbers this spring in West Virginia. **House Finches, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches** appeared in reports from appropriate areas throughout the state. David Patick found three **Red Crossbills** on their breeding grounds in Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, Pocahontas County, on April 23, and in the same area on April 30, a single **Red Crossbill**. John Snyder hosted a horde of **Pine Siskins** during the April 9 snow storm at his home in Persinger, Nicholas County, and the birds were still hanging from the thistle socks as he was trying to take them down to refill them. A lone **Pine Siskin** was a new yard bird for Heather McSharry on May 17 in Jefferson County.

Warblers—Terry Bronson found a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** at the West Virginia Botanic Garden, Monongalia County, on May 11. On May 7, Stephen Kimbrell saw the only **Connecticut Warbler** reported during the season, in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County. The following warblers, all regular migrants through or breeders in West Virginia, made their first-of-season appearances in the following counties: **Ovenbird**: April 18, Ritchie (CB), **Worm-Eating Warbler**: April 15, Wayne (MG), **Louisiana Waterthrush**: March 13, Doddridge (PMD), **Northern Waterthrush**: April 22, Cabell (MG), **Golden-winged Warbler**: April 20, Greenbrier (RBi), **Blue-winged Warbler**: April 19, Wayne (ReT), **Black-and-white Warbler**: April 3, Wayne (DP), **Prothonotary Warbler**: April 20, Kanawha (RG), **Swainson's Warbler**: April 23, Kanawha (DAW, KC), **Tennessee Warbler**: April 24, Kanawha (DAW), **Nashville Warbler**: April 26, Wood (JB), **Mourning Warbler**: April 30, Pocahontas (DP), **Kentucky Warbler**: April 25, Wetzel (WJ), **Common Yellowthroat**: April 21, Wood (JB), **Hooded Warbler**: April 19, Summers (JP), **American Redstart**: April 12, Logan (BS), **Cape May Warbler**: April 23, Jefferson (DH), **Cerulean Warbler**: April 19, Lewis (GN), **Northern Parula**: April 11, Fayette (LC),

Magnolia Warbler: April 29, Cabell (MG), **Bay-breasted Warbler:** April 29, Kanawha (LC, MH), **Blackburnian Warbler:** April 21, Braxton (GN), **Yellow Warbler:** April 17, Cabell (GR, MG), **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** April 26, Randolph (HMy), **Blackpoll Warbler:** April 30, Raleigh (MAW), **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** April 24, Pocahontas (DP), **Palm Warbler:** April 16, Preston (TB), **Pine Warbler:** March 1, Calhoun (TF), **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** March 7, Barbour (TB), **Yellow-throated Warbler:** March 30, Calhoun (TF), **Prairie Warbler:** April 15, Wayne (MG), **Black-throated Green Warbler:** April 3, Wayne (DP), **Canada Warbler:** April 27, Tucker (SKi, MK), **Wilson's Warbler:** May 12, Jefferson (DH), and **Yellow-breasted Chat:** April 27, Braxton (WG). Twenty-five of these **warbler** species appeared on or before the "first-seen" dates in George Hall's *Birds of West Virginia*. On May 6, Deborah Hale and members of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society found 18 species of warbler at Murphy Farm in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, including **Nashville, Cape May, Blackburnian, Palm, and Canada Warblers.**

Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos—Eastern Towhees began to appear at the start of the spring season, and by its end were reported from all areas of the state. The **Lark Sparrow** that reappeared in Carol Del-Colle's yard in Jefferson County on March 20 is mentioned earlier in these notes. Fifteen species of sparrow made appearances in accustomed haunts throughout our state. Reports of **American Tree Sparrow** came only from Mason (DP) and Wood (JB) Counties. **Fox Sparrows** appeared through late April, **White-throated Sparrows** were reported through early May, and **White-crowned Sparrows** lingered past the middle of May. 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 10 in Summers (JP), **Field** on March 7 in Barbour (TB), **Vesper** on March 28 in Mason (GR), **Savannah** on April 2 in Mason (DP, MG), **Grasshopper** on April 19 in Jefferson (WS) and Ritchie (CB), **Song** on March 3 in Wood (JB), **Lincoln's** on May 9 in Wetzel (WJ), **Swamp** on March 8 in Lewis (TB), and **Dark-eyed Junco** on March 3 in Summers (JP). Donny Good found four **Dark-eyed Juncos** along Mill Creek Road on May 19, by far the latest ever reported in Kanawha County.

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings—Summer Tanagers were observed in Cabell (MG, ReT), Jackson (JBo, MSi), Kanawha (HG), Logan (JsH), Mason (GR, MG), Putnam (DAW), Summers (JP), Wayne (MG, BDe), and Wood (JB, JT) Counties. Nineteen counties hosted sightings of returning **Scarlet Tanagers**, the first two of which were spotted by Ben Borda in his backyard in Huntington, Cabell County, on April 17. Elliot and Nancy Kirschbaum were observing International Migratory Bird Day when they found 17 **Scarlet Tanagers** at Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area, Berkeley County, on May 14.

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 Berkeley (JBz), Harrison (TB), Jefferson (DH), and BT),

Mason (MG), and Monongalia (JH) Counties. On March 6, Jeffrey Del Col spotted two adult male **Indigo Buntings** near Grafton, Taylor County.

Blackbirds, Allies—Bobolinks returned to 10 reporting counties, with a first appearance on April 27 in Mason County, where Michael Griffith saw two at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam. There were many West Virginia reports of **Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. Rusty Blackbirds** appeared in reports from Brooke (TB), Cabell (MG, BMi, DP), Hardy (FA), Lewis (RTo), Preston (TB), Randolph (SKi, MK), Ritchie (CB), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ, JBo) Counties.

Contributors to the Spring Field Notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (RBi), Rodney Bartgis (RB), Jon Benedetti (JB), John Boback (JBo), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Terry Bronson (TB), Cynthia Burkhart (CB), Kevin Cade (KC), Laura Ceperley (LC), Hannah Clipp (HC), Stan Corwin-Roach (SCR), Derek Courtney (DCo), David Daniels (DD), Robert Dean (BD), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Beverly Delidow (BDe), Cynthia Ellis (CE), James Evans (JE), Thomas Fox (TF), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), Willa Grafton (WG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DHa), Joey Herron (JoH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Joshua Holland (JsH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Martha Hopper (MH), Bill Igo (BI), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Mimi Kibler (MK), Stephen Kimbrell (SKi), Kathy King (KKi), Nancy and Elliot Kirschbaum (EK), Peter McDonald (PMD), Paul McKay (PM), Heather McSharry (HMc), Earl Melton (EM), 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), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Larry Schwab (LS), Michael Slaven (MSI), Barbara Smith (BS), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Jodie Sylvester (JSy), Rennie Talbert (ReT), Bill and Carol Telfair (BT), Ryan Tomazin (RTo), Mindy and Allen Waldron (MAW), James Waggy (JWa), David and Anne Wills (DAW), and Beverly Wright (BW).

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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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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

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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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