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PUBLICATIONS

Webmaster	Larry Helgerman, 1989 Louisa Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003 brooksbirdclubweb@gmail.com	304-242-8562
Editor The Redstart	Casey Rucker, P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884	304-866-4004
Editor The Mail Bag	Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-9726

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Robert Rine, 1269 National Rd., Apt. 51, Wheeling, WV 26003	304-243-8766

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Editorial Staff

Editor • Casey Rucker, P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884 • autoblock@frontiernet.net

Associate Editor • Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017 • wwwarblers@hotmail.com

Field Notes Editor • Casey Rucker, P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884 • autoblock@frontiernet.net

eBird Editor • Michael Slaven, 632 West Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26591 • mikeslavenwv@gmail.com

Advisory Editorial Board • A. R. Buckelew, Jr., Greg E. Eddy, Joey Herron, Matthew Orsie, James D. Phillips

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The Bird List, 2018 Foray Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Ryan Tomazin

The 79th annual Brooks Bird Club Foray was held at Camp Pocahontas near Thornwood, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, June 3 to 10, 2018. This was the fifteenth Foray held in Pocahontas County; where Forays have been held approximately every five years since 1948.

The Thornwood Foray area is a circle with its center at Camp Pocahontas, including about 700 square miles of mountainous terrain between Cheat Mountain in the west and Allegheny Mountain in the east. Most of the land between lies above 3,000 feet, and a five-mile span of Spruce Mountain is above 4,500 feet. The circle includes a small portion of the Tygart Valley near Huttonsville; Cheat and Shavers Mountains; the Greenbrier Valley as far south as Cass; Burner and Middle Mountains as far north as Glady; and the North Fork and South Branch Valleys to Circleville and Harper. The area includes the headwaters of the Tygart, Shavers Fork of Cheat River, the Greenbrier River, and the South Branch of the Potomac River. There is a slight bulge added to the circle to cover parts of the Greenbrier Valley. Most of the area is forested. A virgin stand of red spruce-northern hardwood forest remains on Shavers Mountain near Gaudineer Knob.

There were 125 species found during Foray: the most species identified since 1998, while remaining two species below the average over the last forty years. One new species, Green-winged Teal, was added to the overall list, bringing the seventy-year total up to 173 species. It should be noted that the territory of the Pocahontas Foray has altered since 1948.

Ten species from 2018 were not found in 2013: Green-winged Teal, Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, Red-headed Woodpecker (first since 1993), Yellow-throated and Warbling vireos, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Red Crossbill, and Henslow's Sparrow. Eight species were missed from 2013: Pied-billed Grebe, Rock Pigeon (first miss since 1964), Black-billed Cuckoo, Caspian Tern, Golden Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Golden-winged Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.

On the list breeding evidence is indicated in italics. Abundance terms used in the bird list are as follows:

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

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

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

Rare—Only one or two seen in the entire study region during the study period.

Canada Goose — Common. Noted from Buffalo Lake, Spruce Lake, Durbin settling pond, and from BBS.

Wood Duck — Uncommon. *Family groups found at Durbin settling pond and a Rt. 28 farm pond.*

Mallard — Uncommon to rare. Two groups noted bird(s) at Durbin settling pond. Only noted on one day of Foray.

Green-winged Teal — Rare. Single bird found, but no location or date noted.

Common Merganser — Rare. One female found on Rt. 28 farm pond by Nevin Good, Gerald Maravanyika, Orion Metheny, and Ryan Tomazin. One other sighting noted.

Ruffed Grouse — Common. Noted from Middle Mountain, Gaudineer Knob, Cheat Mountain, and on BBS route.

Wild Turkey — Common. Noted every day, including on BBS.

Mourning Dove — Common. Twenty-six found on BBS routes.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo — Uncommon. Four found on BBS routes, and a few individual records.

Chimney Swift — Uncommon. Only six on BBS routes, noted on four days.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird — Uncommon. Noted on five days, but only two on BBS routes.

Killdeer — Uncommon. Seen by many at Blister Swamp. 5–6 all week noted by R. Tomazin.

Spotted Sandpiper — Rare. One seen, but nothing noted as to location or date.

American Woodcock — Rare. One appears on the bird list, with no notations. One adult *and four young* were found just over the border into Virginia by a caravan of two cars that took a wrong turn.

Great Blue Heron — Uncommon. Noted on three days, including at Spruce Lake by O. Metheny, and Shavers Fork by N. Good, G. Maravanyika, O. Metheny, and R. Tomazin.

Green Heron — Rare. Listed on two separate days, but no notes as to location.

Black Vulture — Uncommon. Noted on three days, including on two on Dunmore BBS in the company of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles and Common Ravens at a carcass, by N. Good, G. Maravanyika, O. Metheny, and R. Tomazin.

Turkey Vulture — Very common. Forty-one seen on BBS, 20+ around the Sinks of Gandy, numerous in Greenbrier Valley (R. Tomazin).

Osprey — Rare. One seen on Shavers Fork by N. Good, G. Maravanyika, O. Metheny, and R. Tomazin.

Sharp-shinned Hawk — Rare. One noted at camp on two separate days by Darrell Good and R. Tomazin.

Cooper's Hawk — Rare. One seen at camp by R. Tomazin.

Bald Eagle — Uncommon. One seen over Spruce Lake by many. One adult and one immature seen at Sinks of Gandy by Greg Miller and others. One adult and one immature seen on Dunmore BBS by N. Good, G. Maravanyika, O. Metheny, and R. Tomazin at the aforementioned carcass.

Red-shouldered Hawk — Uncommon. One seen on Thornwood Road by Mary Grey, Wilma Jarrell, and Jane Robbins. Pair seen at Greenbank by D. Good. Also noted near Island Campground and Sinks of Gandy by R. Tomazin *et al.*

Broad-winged Hawk — Uncommon. Many saw a pair at camp. Also found at Mower Tract, Spruce Knob, and on one BBS route.

Red-tailed Hawk — Uncommon. Only 3–4 seen (R. Tomazin), two on BBS routes.

Barred Owl — Uncommon. Two found on BBS routes, and one heard by R. Tomazin *et al.*, at Rt. 250 at Gaudineer Knob forest service road.

Belted Kingfisher — Uncommon. Two noted on BBS routes, seen a total of four days.

Red-headed Woodpecker — Rare. One found on Rt. 17 on the last afternoon of Foray by Don Creamer, Janice Emrick, and others.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — Uncommon. Four found on BBS routes.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Common. Our most-common woodpecker species at Foray, seen every day, with 28 found on BBS routes.

Downy Woodpecker — Common. Found every day.

Hairy Woodpecker — Uncommon. Found on four days, including one heard around camp by everyone.

Northern Flicker — Common. Found every day of Foray.

Pileated Woodpecker — Common. Second-most plentiful woodpecker on BBS routes.

American Kestrel — Uncommon to fairly common in habitat. Five noted in southern half of the territory, and three found on BBS routes.

Eastern Wood-Pewee — Common.

Acadian Flycatcher — Common, but not numerous in some habitats.

Alder Flycatcher — Uncommon. Found at Spruce Lake by O. Metheny, with an additional bird at Blister Pine Swamp that was heard by many, and two on FR 235 that were heard by N. Good, G. Maravanyika, O. Metheny, R. Tomazin, and Sarah Walker.

Willow Flycatcher — Uncommon. Found on four days, including on BBS and on a field trip to Spruce Lake (R. Tomazin *et al.*).

Least Flycatcher — Common. Forty-four on BBS routes, and around camp.

Eastern Phoebe — Common.

Great Crested Flycatcher — Uncommon to rare. Only one on BBS, and 1–2 other records

Eastern Kingbird — Uncommon, given the amount of prime habitat. *Adults exhibited nesting behavior* in parking lot at Green Bank (O. Metheny, Mary Murin, R. and Yan Tomazin).

White-eyed Vireo — Rare. One heard on Back Mountain Road BBS route on June 4 by Dan Greene, O. Metheny, M. Murin, and R. Tomazin, and heard again on June 9 by R. Tomazin.

Yellow-throated Vireo — Uncommon to rare. Recorded on two days only, possibly only two birds

Blue-headed Vireo — Common.

Warbling Vireo — Uncommon. Four separate individuals noted.

Red-eyed Vireo — Very Common. One hundred ninety-two birds counted on BBS.

Blue Jay — Common.

American Crow — Common.

Common Raven — Common. Thirteen seen at one stop on Dunmore BBS by N. Good, G. Maravanyika, O. Metheny, and R. Tomazin at said carcass.

Horned Lark — Rare. Found on one day, but no notations.

Tree Swallow — Uncommon.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow — Uncommon. Found at bridge in Bartow by Larry and O. Metheny.

Bank Swallow — Rare. Found at bridge in Bartow by L. and O. Metheny.

Cliff Swallow — Uncommon. Found in their typical haunts in farm barns on the road to camp, and four seen at the Sinks of Gandy by R. Tomazin *et al.*

Barn Swallow — Common.

Black-capped Chickadee — Common.

Tufted Titmouse — Common.

Red-breasted Nuthatch — Common in spruce habitat. Seventeen found on BBS routes.

White-breasted Nuthatch — Uncommon. Found, but not in numbers.

Brown Creeper — Common in spruce habitat. Seen every day, with 5 on BBS. R. Tomazin, O. Metheny, and Y. Tomazin found a pair *building a nest* along the trail next to Buffalo Lake.

House Wren — Common.

Winter Wren — Common.

Carolina Wren — Common.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — Uncommon. Only two on BBS routes, and found three days overall.

Golden-crowned Kinglet — Common in habitat. Heard every day, including around camp.

Eastern Bluebird — Uncommon. Even though found every day, the habitat warranted more than the few seen.

Veery — Common. Second most-abundant thrush on BBS routes with 70 found. Quite common on Mower Tract and Cheat Mountain (R. Tomazin).

Swainson's Thrush — Common in upland habitat. 29 counted on BBS, including 28 stops and 7 more in between stops on Mower Tract and Cheat Mountain (R. Tomazin). Also present at bottom of Gaudineer Knob.

Hermit Thrush — Common, especially at higher elevations. Sixty-nine found on BBS routes. *One agitated adult* was found just into Virginia at same spot as American Woodcocks, and it was assumed to have a nest nearby.

Wood Thrush — Common overall, but uncommon on BBS routes with 8 found.

American Robin — Very common. One hundred thirty-four found on BBS routes.

Gray Catbird — Common.

Brown Thrasher — Common.

Northern Mockingbird — Uncommon, as expected given habitat.

European Starling — Common.

Cedar Waxwing — Common. Fifty-seven found on BBS routes.

House Sparrow — Common.

House Finch — Rare. Only noted at the bridge in Bartow by D. and N. Good, G. Maravanyika, and O. Metheny.

Purple Finch — Uncommon. One on BBS, one at camp on June 3 by R. Tomazin, and one seen by all at Spruce Lake parking lot on June 7.

Red Crossbill — Uncommon and transient on Gaudineer Knob. A group of 3–5 heard on June 5, and more than 20 found on the Gaudineer study plot by D. Good and others.

American Goldfinch — Common.

Eastern Towhee — Common.

Chipping Sparrow — Common.

Field Sparrow — Common. Forty heard on BBS routes.

Vesper Sparrow — Rare. One found on Mower Tract BBS and subsequently seen and photographed. Another afforded superb views along the road at the Sinks of Gandy. Both seen by a number of participants.

Savannah Sparrow — Uncommon to common in appropriate habitat. Six or more were heard at the Sinks of Gandy by everyone.

Grasshopper Sparrow — Uncommon to rare. Noted on three days, but only two specified: one along Rt. 28 by N. Good, G. Maravanyika, O. Metheny, and R. Tomazin, and the other in fields on trip to Blister Pine Swamp by O. Metheny and R. Tomazin.

Henslow's Sparrow — One reported during bird list, but no notations given as to location.

Song Sparrow — Common.

Swamp Sparrow — Uncommon. Several at Blister Pine Swamp (D. Good).

Dark-eyed Junco — Very common in upland habitat, with 66 on BBS routes.

Yellow-breasted Chat — Rare. One heard on Back Mountain Road by J. and Scott Emrick and M. Grey.

Bobolink — Uncommon. Five seen by all at the Sinks of Gandy.

Eastern Meadowlark — Common to quite common, especially at Blister Pine Swamp (D. Good).

Red-winged Blackbird — Very Common.

Orchard Oriole — Rare. One on BBS route, and one male gave great views at wetlands on Rt. 250 north of Island Campground.

Baltimore Oriole — Uncommon. Found in Durbin by two groups.

Brown-headed Cowbird — Common.

Common Grackle — Common.

Ovenbird — Common.

Worm-eating Warbler — Rare. One found on Camp Allegheny BBS in suitable habitat by R. Tomazin, O. Metheny, and Beverly and Jim Triplett.

Louisiana Waterthrush — Common, if only fairly so. One frequented the creek at camp.

Northern Waterthrush — Uncommon. Heard by many in Blister Run Swamp. Four were heard on Mower Tract BBS route.

Black-and-white Warbler — Common.

Mourning Warbler — Uncommon. One seen by many along Rt. 250 near Gaudineer Knob road turnoff. Another male sang for many on steep roadside on way up Gaudineer Knob. A third singing male heard during a BBS route on the Mower Tract by Patrick Coy, G. Maravanyika, and R. Tomazin, and photographed by D. Good.

Common Yellowthroat — Common.

Hooded Warbler — Uncommon to common.

American Redstart — Common.

Northern Parula — Uncommon. Heard at camp.

Magnolia Warbler — Very common in habitat. Fifty-five counted on BBS routes, and found in many other locations.

Blackburnian Warbler — Very common in habitat. Fifty counted on BBS routes, and found in most spruce stands throughout the area.

Yellow Warbler — Common.

Chestnut-sided Warbler — Common. Noted as abundant by two observers.

Black-throated Blue Warbler — Common to very common in upland spruce habitat.

Pine Warbler — Rare. Two records, including one at the intersection of Rt. 66 and Rt. 28 below Green Bank by R. Tomazin, O. Metheny, M. Murin and Y. Tomazin.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — Common in habitat. Abundant on Spruce Knob with 15 counted by O. Metheny and R. Tomazin.

Yellow-throated Warbler — Rare. Two reports during bird lists, but no notations.

Black-throated Green Warbler — Very common, especially in elevations. 98 reported on BBS routes.

Canada Warbler — Common, with 20 heard on BBS routes. Most were found on Mower Tract and FR 235 on Cheat Mountain.

Scarlet Tanager — Common.

Northern Cardinal — Uncommon to common. Only 16 on BBS.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak — Uncommon to common.

Indigo Bunting — Very common.

Thanks to the many Foray campers who took the time to put their observations in the bird comment books.

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348 Station Street, Apt. 7
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Singing Male Census, 2018 Foray Pocahontas and Randolph Counties, West Virginia

Scott A. Emrick

We covered two singing male census plots at the 2018 Foray. The Gaudineer Knob plot was first run in 1947 by Aldrich and Stewart and by Brooks Bird Club members at the Thornwood Foray in 1948 (DeGarmo, 1948). The Upland Black Cherry Plot was first run in 1968, and its map was published a decade later (Phillips 1979). The Blister Run Swamp plot and the Virgin Spruce/Northern Hardwood plot were last run in 2013. The Burner Mountain plot, first run by Aldrich and Stewart in 1947 and run by the BBC in 1948 (DeGarmo 1949), also called the Maple-Oak Beech forest, was last run in 1998 after the U.S. Forest Service constructed an 85-foot-wide road through the center of the plot. Greg Eddy made an extensive analysis of the results of six census plots covered by BBC members at past Thornwood Forays in 2008 (Eddy 2008).

Study Plot Results From the 2018 Foray

UPLAND BLACK CHERRY FOREST - Location: West Virginia; Pocahontas County; 6.5 miles NE of Durbin; 38° 36' 16"N, 79° 43' 33"W, Thornwood Quadrangle, USGS, extends S. Continuity: Established 1968 and studied at 5-year intervals. Size 6.07 ha (15 ac; 110 x 660 yd, measured longitudinally and estimated laterally). Description of plot can be found in the January 1999 *Redstart* (Eddy 1999)

Coverage: June 5 to June 9, 2018. All trips between 0520 and 0735 hours. Total party hours 8.5.

Census: Black-throated Green Warbler, 4 (66, 27); Red-eyed Vireo 3; Ovenbird 3; Magnolia Warbler 2; Blue-headed Vireo 2; Hermit Thrush 1.5; Blackburnian Warbler 1; American Robin 1; Veery 1; Hairy Woodpecker 0.5; Least Flycatcher 0.5; Scarlet Tanager, 0.5; Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker +; Eastern Wood-Pewee +; Blue Jay, +; Black-capped Chickadee, +; White-breasted Nuthatch, +; American Woodcock, +; American Crow, +; Great Crested Flycatcher, +. Total 20 species; 20 territorial males (329/ km², 133/100 ac).

Census participants: Bruce Beehler, Don Creamer, Sara Creamer, Scott Emrick (compiler), Darrell Good, Megan Good, Nevin Good, Steve Hartman, Mimi Kibler, Cynthia Slater, and Karin Tanquist.

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52713 S R 800
Jerusalem, OH 43747

The 2018 Foray Breeding Bird Surveys Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Ryan Tomazin, Carol McCullough, and Frederick McCullough

During the 2018 Foray, two teams participated in the 10 separate Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes centered at Thornwood, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. One team was led by Carol and Frederick McCullough and the other team was led by Ryan Tomazin. Each route has 20 stops, with each team starting approximately one-half hour before sunrise; a new route was taken each day stopping every half-mile to record all birds heard or observed for a 3-minute period.

Table 1 gives the number of each species recorded on the 10 Breeding Bird Survey routes and the number of stops where each was found.

Table 1
Birds Recorded by Species

Species	Number	Stops Present
Canada Goose	5	1
Wild Turkey	4	3
Mourning Dove	26	17
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	4
Chimney Swift	6	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	2
Black Vulture	2	1
Turkey Vulture	41	8
Bald Eagle	7	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	2
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1
Barred Owl	2	2
Belted Kingfisher	2	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	28	18
Downy Woodpecker	3	3
Hairy Woodpecker	4	4
Northern Flicker	8	8
Pileated Woodpecker	13	13
American Kestrel	3	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	26	21
Acadian Flycatcher	9	8
Willow Flycatcher	2	1
Least Flycatcher	43	28
Eastern Phoebe	31	29
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	1
Eastern Kingbird	2	2

Species	Number	Stops Present
White-eyed Vireo	1	1
Blue-headed Vireo	31	29
Red-eyed Vireo	192	114
Blue Jay	20	17
American Crow	83	43
Common Raven	23	9
Tree Swallow	1	1
Barn Swallow	34	13
Black-capped Chickadee	47	43
Tufted Titmouse	13	10
Red-breasted Nuthatch	17	15
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	3
Brown Creeper	5	5
House Wren	29	23
Winter Wren	16	14
Carolina Wren	17	16
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	6
Eastern Bluebird	4	4
Veery	70	45
Swainson's Thrush	29	24
Hermit Thrush	69	44
Wood Thrush	8	6
American Robin	134	79
Gray Catbird	23	20
Brown Thrasher	12	10
Northern Mockingbird	2	2
European Starling	28	13
Cedar Waxwing	57	23
House Sparrow	1	1
Purple Finch	1	1
American Goldfinch	47	30
Eastern Towhee	49	38
Chipping Sparrow	61	44
Field Sparrow	40	30
Vesper Sparrow	1	1
Song Sparrow	49	31
Dark-eyed Junco	66	47
Bobolink	2	2
Eastern Meadowlark	22	15
Orchard Oriole	1	1
Baltimore Oriole	9	9
Red-winged Blackbird	76	27
Brown-headed Cowbird	17	8
Common Grackle	14	6

Species	Number	Stops Present
Ovenbird	52	40
Worm-eating Warbler	1	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	3	3
Northern Waterthrush	4	3
Black-and-white Warbler	12	11
Mourning Warbler	2	2
Common Yellowthroat	30	23
Hooded Warbler	3	3
American Redstart	33	29
Northern Parula	3	3
Magnolia Warbler	55	38
Blackburnian Warbler	50	40
Yellow Warbler	15	15
Chestnut-sided Warbler	42	27
Black-throated Blue Warbler	35	27
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	3
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	98	70
Canada Warbler	20	13
Scarlet Tanager	34	29
Northern Cardinal	16	14
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11	10
Indigo Bunting	76	62
Total:	96 species	2,314 individuals

Table 2 summarizes data from the 2018 Foray and four previous Thornwood Forays.

Table 2
Recent Thornwood Foray BBS Results

Date	No. of Individuals	No. of Species	No. of Stops	Notes
June 3–10, 2018	2,314	96	200	
June 1–8, 2013	2,007	99	210	rainy
June 15–22, 2008	2,548	97	280	
June 14–21, 2003	1,693	96	198	rainy
June 4–13, 1998	2,809	96	300	

Table 3 lists the 15 most-abundant species recorded on the 10 BBS routes with comparison to their prevalence of these species on the previous four Forays at this site.

Table 3
Most Abundant Species

Abundance Rank					Species	No. of		Percent of Total				
'98	'03	'08	'13	2018		Indiv.	2018	'13	'08	'03	'98	
1	1	1	1	1	Red-eyed Vireo	192	8.3	10.5	12.6	16.2	12.9	
3	3	2	2	2	American Robin	134	5.8	7.4	7.8	6.6	5.4	
7	4	4	4	3	Black-th. Green Warbler	98	4.3	3.9	3.6	5.9	3.2	
2	6	4	14	4	American Crow	83	3.6	2.1	3.6	4.8	6.3	
14	18	9	11	5	Red-winged Blackbird	76	3.3	2.5	2.8	2.0	2.2	
4	2	3	4	5	Indigo Bunting	76	3.3	3.9	5.2	6.7	4.8	
9	5	7	3	7	Veery	70	3.0	4.5	2.9	5.1	2.8	
20	10	10	8	8	Hermit Thrush	69	3.0	3.5	2.5	3.1	1.6	
5	7	11	6	9	Dark-eyed Junco	66	2.9	3.7	2.3	4.6	3.9	
10	11	8	17	10	Chipping Sparrow	61	2.7	1.0	2.9	2.4	2.7	
11	13	20	27	11	Cedar Waxwing	57	2.5	1.3	1.8	2.2	2.6	
8	17	15	13	12	Magnolia Warbler	55	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.1	3.2	
21	19	17	7	13	Ovenbird	52	2.3	3.6	2.0	1.9	1.6	
40	39	46	23	14	Blackburnian Warbler	50	2.2	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
17	15	6	9	15	Eastern Towhee	49	2.1	3.1	3.1	2.7	1.8	

Table 4 indicates the 10 most widely-distributed species found on the 200 stops on the 10 BBS routes with comparisons to the previous four Pocahontas County Forays where BBS routes were run using the current protocol.

Table 4
Species Distribution Rank

Stops					Species	Percent of Total					
'98	'03	'08	'13	2018		Present	2018	'13	'08	'03	'98
1	1	1	1	1	Red-eyed Vireo	114	57.0	58.1	61.4	67.1	67.3
4	8	3	2	2	American Robin	79	39.5	34.3	35.7	22.2	31.6
4	8	3	2	3	Black-th. Green Warbler	70	35.0	29.0	25.0	32.8	24.0
2	2	2	3	4	Indigo Bunting	62	31.0	29.5	38.2	33.3	36.3
6	7	10	7	5	Dark-eyed Junco	47	23.5	25.7	16.8	23.2	26.0
9	5	8	3	6	Veery	45	22.5	29.5	19.3	23.7	19.0
17	9	11	7	7	Hermit Thrush	44	22.0	25.7	16.4	18.1	12.0
10	13	7	19	7	Chipping Sparrow	44	22.0	12.9	20.4	14.6	18.3
3	5	6	11	9	American Crow	43	21.5	15.7	23.2	23.7	35.3
10	15	12	25	9	Black-capped Chickadee	43	21.5	10.0	15.0	13.6	18.3

Between the 1988 and 2008 Forays, there was a 32 percent decline in the number of birds observed on the BBS routes. The following list gives the average number of birds at each stop on the last four Thornwood Forays.

1988	13.4
1993	10.5
1998	9.4
2008	9.1

Since then, average numbers have increased again:

2013	9.6
2018	11.5

Another note concerns the abundance of high-elevation species, particularly in the BBS data. Two routes were run during this Foray, one through the Mower Tract and one past Cheat Lodge and up FR 235. While species diversity was low (32 species on the Mower Tract route; 33 on FR 235), the numbers of highland thrushes and warblers were quite high (noted in Table 4 below). Our results speak to the health of these upland areas for species of concern nationally. The remaining routes were mainly run in lowland areas.

Table 5 compares certain target species on these two routes in 2018 with the remaining routes, and with Foray totals from past years, using species-per-route percentages (total individuals in parenthesis).

Table 5
Upland BBS Thrush and Warbler Diversity of Noted Species

	2018	2018	'13	'08	'03	'98
	2 Routes	8 Other Routes	All	All	All	All
Hermit Thrush	17.0 (34)	4.4 (35)	5.9 (71)	4.5 (63)	4.1 (41)	3.0 (45)
Veery	15.5 (31)	4.9 (39)	7.5 (90)	5.4 (75)	6.7 (67)	5.3 (79)
Swainson's Thrush	14.0 (28)	0.1 (1)	0.4 (5)	0.2 (3)	0.2 (2)	0.1 (2)
Black-th. Green Warbler	21.0 (42)	7.0 (56)	6.6 (79)	6.6 (93)	7.8 (78)	6.1 (92)
Magnolia Warbler	18.0 (36)	2.4 (19)	3.6 (43)	3.7 (52)	3.5 (35)	6.0 (90)
Black-th. Blue Warbler	13.5 (27)	1.0 (8)	1.5 (18)	1.5 (21)	0.3 (3)	0.8 (12)
Blackburnian Warbler	12.5 (25)	3.1 (25)	2.3 (28)	0.9 (12)	0.8 (8)	1.0 (15)
Canada Warbler	8.5 (17)	0.4 (3)	0.2 (2)	0.0 (0)	0.3 (3)	0.1 (1)
Northern Waterthrush	2.0 (4)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)

We thank the following people who participated in one or more of the survey routes:

Patrick Coy, Dawn Fox, Thomas Fox, Craig Good, Darrell Good, Gideon Good, Megan Good, Nevin Good, LeJay Graffious, Dan Greene, Mimi Kibler, Gerald Maravanyika, Orion Metheny, Carol McCullough, Frederick McCullough, Mary Murin, Cynthia Slater, Karin Tanquist, Ryan Tomazin, Beverly Triplett, Jim Triplett, and Sarah Walker.

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348 Station Street, Apt. 7
Bridgeville, PA 15017
1119 Queensbury Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Reptiles and Amphibians of the 2018 Foray Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Martin Tingley

This year's Foray was aided by the wet spring Pocahontas had this year. The Eastern Hellbenders (two) were found in the West Fork of the Greenbrier during a stream study. They measured 11.5 inches and 19.2 inches; both were quickly returned to the areas where they were found. Special thanks to all the campers for their observations.

CLASS AMPHIBIA

Order Caudata – Salamanders

Red Spotted Newt (*Notophthalmus v. viridescens*)
Seal Salamander (*Desmognathus monticola*)
Northern Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*)
Northern Two-lined Salamander (*Eurycea bislineata*)
Eastern Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*)
Northern Spring Salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus porphyriticus*)
Northern Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*)
Eastern Hellbender (*Crypobranchus a. alleghaniensis*)
Cheat Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon nettingi*)
Wehrle's Salamander (*Plethodon wehrlei*)
Northern Red Salamander (*Pseudotriton r. ruber*)

Order Anura – Toads and Frogs

Eastern American Toad (*Anaxyrus a. americanus*)
Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)
Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*)
Pickerel Frog (*Lithobates palustris*)
Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)
Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

Order Testudines- Turtles

Woodland Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)
Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)

Order Serpentes- Snakes

Eastern Ratsnake (*Pantherophis alleghaniensis*)
Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia s. sipedon*)
Northern Ring-necked Snake (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*)
Smooth Green Snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*)
Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)
Mountain Earth Snake (*Virginia p. pulchra*)
Red-bellied Snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*)
Eastern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis s. sirtalis*)

Reference

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832 Cale Road
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525



Pickerel Frog, found near Blister Pine Swamp. Photo by Ryan Tomazin.

Mammals of the 2018 Foray Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Larry Metheny and Orion Metheny

We are grateful for the many reports of mammals that we received during the Camp Pocahontas Foray.

CLASS MAMMALIA

Order Marsupialia

Family Didelphidae—Opossums

Virginia Opossum (*Didelphia virginiana*)

Order Rodentia

Family Sciuridae—Squirrels

Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)

Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*)

Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Fox Squirrel (*S. niger*)

Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)

Southern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*)

Family Muridae—Mice and Rats

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

Order Lagomorpha

Family Leporidae—Rabbits and Hares

Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridana*)

Snowshoe Hare- (*Lepus americanus virginianus*)

Order Carnivora

Family Canidae—Wolves, Dogs, and Foxes

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

Family Ursidae—Bears

Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

Family Procyonidae—Raccoons

Common Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

Family Mephitidae—Skunks

Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

Family Felidae

Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)

Order Artiodactyla

Family Cervidae—Even-toed Ungulates

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Order Chiroptera

Family Vespertilionidae

Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)

10639 N. Preston Highway
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525



A couple of White-tailed Deer fawns were found and photographed along roadsides during Foray. Photo by Ryan Tomazin.

Butterflies and Moths of the 2018 Foray, Thornwood, Pocahontas Co., WV

Larry Metheny, Susan Olcott, and Ryan Tomazin

BUTTERFLIES

Hesperiidae—Skippers

- Epargyreus clarus* (Silver-spotted Skipper)
- Thorybes pylades* (Northern Cloudywing)
- Anatrytone logan* (Delaware Skipper)
- Amblyscirtes vialis* (Common Roadside-Skipper)

Papilionidae—Parnassians and Swallowtails

- Battus philenor* (Pipevine Swallowtail)
- Papilio polyxenes* (Black Swallowtail)
- Papilio glaucus* (Eastern Tiger Swallowtail) *Note: Appalachian Tiger Swallowtails (Papilio appalachiensis) were documented at the foray site a few years ago—some of the observed ETST this year could be Appys.*

Pieridae—Whites and Sulphurs

- Pieris rapae* (Cabbage White)
- Colias philodice* (Clouded Sulphur)
- Colias eurytheme* (Orange Sulphur)

Lycaenidae—Gossamer-wing Butterflies

- Celastrina ladon* (Spring Azure) *Note: Spring flying Summer Azure (Celastrina neglecta) were documented at the Foray site a few years ago - individuals need to be examined in-hand with a lens to differentiate them.*

Nymphalidae—Brush-footed Butterflies

- Danaus plexippus* (Monarch)
- Limnitis arthemis astyanax* ('Astyanax' Red-spotted Purple Admiral)
- Phyciodes tharos* (Pearl Crescent)
- Euphydryas phaeton* (Baltimore Checkerspot)

MOTHS (65 species listed here - numbers following name are Hodges numbers)

Elachistidae—Grass Miner Moths

- Agonopterix curvilineela* (Curve-lined Agonopterix)—0859
- Antaeotricha leucillana* (Pale Gray Bird-dropping Moth)—
could also be *A. schaegei*—1011 or 1014

Limacodidae—Slug Moths

- Tortricidea flexuosa* (Abbreviated Button Slug Moth)—4654

Tortricidae—Tortricid Moths

- Choristoneura fractivittana* (Broken-banded Leafroller)—3632
- Clepsis peritana* (Garden Tortrix)—3688
- Clepsis persicana* (White-triangle Clepsis)—3682
- Cydia pomonella* (Coddling Moth)—3492—apple worm
- Gymnandrosoma punctidiscanum* (Dotted Gymnandrosoma)—3495
- Olethreutes bipartitana* (Divided Olethreutes)—2848
- Pandemis limitata* (Three-lined Leafroller)—3594

Crambidae—Crambid Moths

- Dicymolomia julianalis* (Julia’s Dicymolomia)—4889
- Donacaula longirostrallus* (Long-beaked Donacaula)—5319
- Palpita magniferalis* (Splendid Palpita)—5226
- Udea rubigalis* (Celery Leaf-tier)—5079
- Urola nivalis* (Snowy Urola)—5464

Depranidae—Hooktips, Habrosynes and Thyatirid Moths

- Deprana arcuata* (Arched Hooktip)—6251

Geometridae—Geometrid Moths

- Besma endropiaria* (Straw Besma)—6884
- Biston betularia* (Pepper-and-salt Geometer)—6640
- Campaea perlata* (Pale Beauty)—6796
- Dysstroma hersiliata* (Orange-barred Carpet)—7189
- Epimecis hortaria* (Tulip Tree Beauty)—6599
- Euchlaena tigrinaria* (Mottled Euchlaena)—6737
- Euphyia intermediata* (Sharp-angled Carpet)—7399
- Glena cribrataria* (Dotted Gray)—6449
- Horisme intestinata* (Brown Bark Carpet)—7445
- Hydrelia inornata* (Unadorned Carpet)—7422
- Lambdina fervidaria* (Curve-lined Looper)—6894
- Melanolophia canadaria* (Canadian Melanolophia)—6620
- Metarranthus sp* (Scalloped Metarranthus complex)—6823-25
- Nemoria mimosaria* (White-fringed Emerald)—7048
- Pero honestaria* (Honest Pero)—6753
- Pero morrisonaria* (Morrison’s Pero)—6755
- Phaeoura quernaria* (Oak Beauty)—6763
- Probole alienaria* (Alien Probole)—6837
- Protoboarmia porcelaria* (Porcelain Gray)—6598
- Xanthotype urticaria* or *sospeta*—6740 (False Crocus or Crocus Geometer—can’t be ID’d from photo), or 6743—seen but no photo

Saturniidae—Silk Moths

- Actias luna* (Luna Moth)—7758
- Antheracea polypohemus* (Polyphemus Moth)—7757
- Dryocampa rubicundra* (Rosy Maple Moth)—7715

Sphingidae—Hawk Moths

- Ceratomia undulosa* (Waved Sphinx)—7787
- Paonis excaecata* (Blinded Sphinx)—7824
- Paonis myops* (Small-eyed Sphinx)—7825

Notodontidae—Prominents

- Dasylophia anguina* (Black-spotted Prominent)—7957
- Heterocampa biundata* (Wavy-lined Heterocampa)—7995
- Heterocampa guttivitta* (Saddled Prominent)—7994
- Nadata gibbosa* (White-dotted Prominent)—7915
- Symmersita albifrons* (White-headed Prominent) — 7951

Erebidae—Erebid Moths

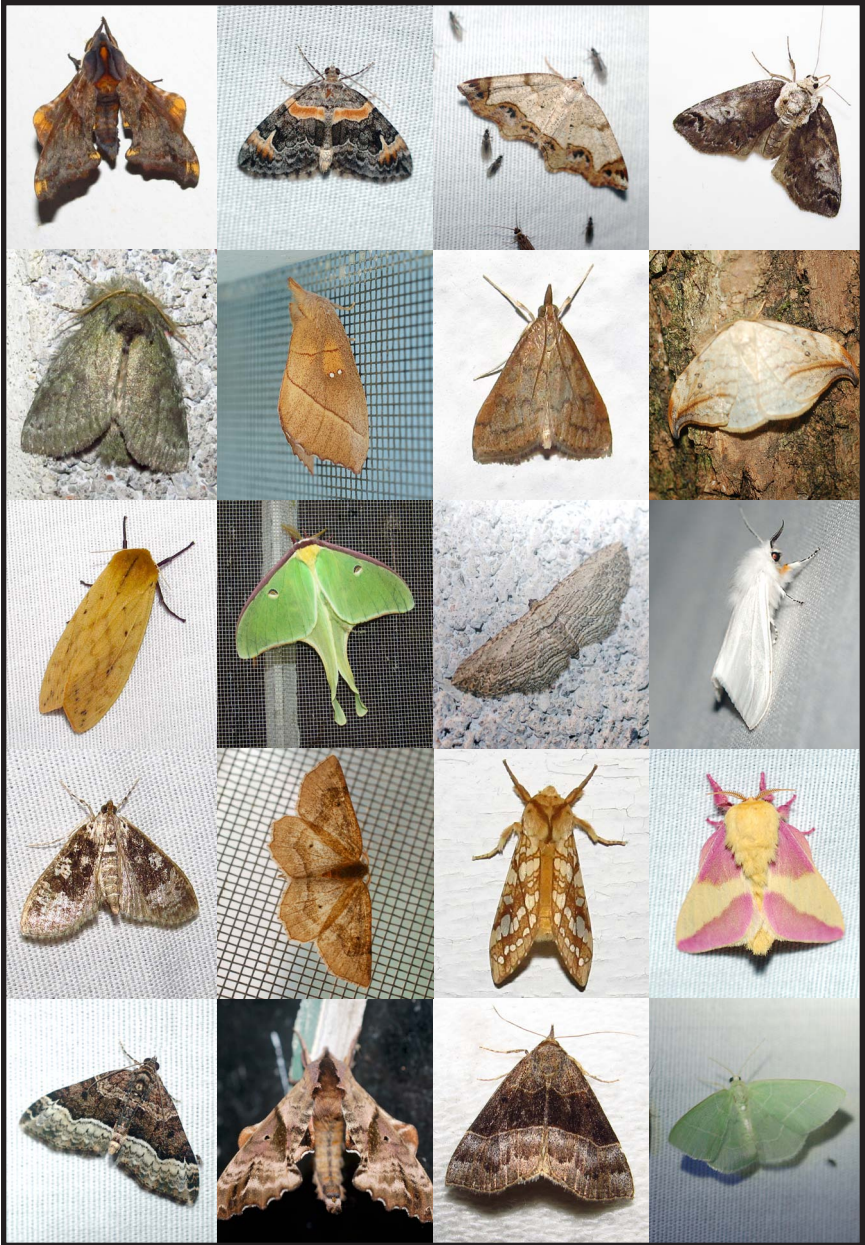
- Chytolita morbidalis* (Morbid Owlet)—8355
- Clemensia albata* (Little White Lichen Moth)—8098
- Halysidota tessellaris* or *harrissi* (Banded or Sycamore Tussock Moth—
can't ID from photo)—8203 or 8204
- Hypena deceptalis* (Deceptive Snout)—8446
- Hypena scabra* (Green Cloverworm)—8465
- Isogona tenuis* (Thin-lined Owlet)—8493
- Lophocampa caryae* (Hickory Tussock Moth)—8211
- Pyrrharctica isabella* (Isabella Tiger Moth) 8129—wooly bear
- Spilosoma virginica* (Virginian Tiger Moth)—8137

Noctuidae—Owlet Moths

- Acronicta laetifica* (Pleasant Dagger)—9227
- Acronicta spinigera* (Non-descript Dagger)—9235
- Baileya ophthalmica* (Eyed Baileya)—8970
- Balsa tristrigella* (Three-lined Balsa)—9663
- Colocasia flavicornis* (Saddled Yellowhorn)—9184
- Elaphria alapalida* (Pale-winged Midget)—9681.1
- Laciniipolia renigera* (Bristly Cutworm)—10397
- Melanchra adjuncta* (Hitched Arches)—10292
- Morrisonia latex* (Fluid Arches)—10291
- Phosphila turbulenta* (Turbulent Phosphila)—9618
- Phosphila miselioides* (Spotted Phosphila)—9619
- Mythimna unipuncta* (The White-Speck)—10438
- Xestia c-nigram* or *dolosa* (Setaceous or Greater Black-letter Dart—
can't be ID'd from photo)—10942 or 10942.1

Unidentified

- One possible pyralid moth (*Pyralidae*)



From top, l to r: Small-eyed Sphinx, Orange-barred Carpet, Alien Probole, Eyed Bailey, Saddled Prominent, White-dotted Prominent, Celery Leaf-tier, Arched Hooktip, Isabella Tiger Moth, Luna Moth, Brown Bark Carpet, Virginian Tiger Moth, Splendid Papita, Scalloped Meterrhanis complex, Hickory Tussock Moth, Rosy Maple Moth, Sharp-angled Carpet, Blinded Sphinx, Deceptive Snout, White-fringed Emerald.

Photos by Sue Olcott (2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20) and Ryan Tomazin (1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 19). See <http://www.brooksbirdclub.org/the-redstart.html> for color photos

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10639 N. Preston Highway
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

P.O. Box 99, 1110 Railroad Street
Farmington, WV 26571

348 Station Street, Apt. 7
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Fern and Fern Allies of the 2018 Foray, Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Thomas R. and Dawn A. Fox

The Pocahontas County Foray was as wonderful as usual. Although we didn't do specific fern searches, we looked for ferns and the fern allies everywhere we went. Nearly all the trips we made were the scheduled Foray trips.

All the ferns that were found in 1998 (Fox 1999) were found this year except Climbing Fern which is now located on posted property so we were unable to botanize that area.

Forty years ago the fern report was quite different (Laitsch and Breiding 1979). The total was forty-four species, two hybrids and five varieties and forms. Michael Breiding was very active looking for ferns this year and submitted his list to us to be included in this list. The 1978 Foray was for two weeks and what I have been told was that John Laitsch usually dedicated his time searching for ferns. If we had two weeks and fern-only activity, we would have done our best to locate all the 1978 ferns and allies.

Our total was thirty-nine species and here they are, listed as found in "Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia".

<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> var. <i>angustum</i>	Northeastern Lady Fern
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> var. <i>asplenioides</i>	Southern Lady Fern
<i>Botrychium dissectum</i>	Cutleaf Grapefern
<i>Botrychium virginianum</i>	Rattlesnake Fern
<i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i>	Bulbiferous Bladder Fern
<i>Cystopteris tenuis</i>	Brittle Fern
<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Hay-scented Fern
<i>Deparia acrostichoides</i>	Silvery Athyrium
<i>Diplazium pycnocarpon</i>	Glade Fern
<i>Dryopteris campyloptera</i>	Mountain Wood Fern
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Spinulose Shield Fern
<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>	Crested Shield Fern
<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>	Goldie's Shield Fern
<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>	Intermediate Shield Fern
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal Shield Fern
<i>Dryopteris^s boottii</i>	Boott's Wood Fern
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Common Horsetail
<i>Huperzia lucidula</i>	Shining Clubmoss
<i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>	Stiff Clubmoss
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Common Clubmoss
<i>Lycopodium dendroideum</i>	Groundpine
<i>Lycopodium digitatum</i>	Groundpine
<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i>	Tree Clubmoss

<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> var. <i>cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern
<i>Osmundia claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Long Beech
<i>Polypodium appalachianum</i>	Polypody Fern
<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>	Common Polypody Fern
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Brake, Bracken var. <i>latiusculum</i>
<i>Selaginella apoda</i>	Meadow Spikemoss
<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York Fern
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern
<i>Woodsia obtuse</i>	Blunt-lobed Woodsia

Thanks to all who contributed to the fern list, especially Mike Breiding.

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1447 Sycamore Road
Millstone, WV 25261

Fungi of the 2018 Foray, Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Ryan Tomazin

The Foray area this year experienced flash flooding the day before we arrived, leaving the woods in decent shape for fungi, though not much effort was afforded to mushroom hunting. There were many more species seen but undocumented.

Platterful Mushroom, Broad Gill	<i>Tricholomopsis platyphylla</i>
Pinwheel Marasmius	<i>Marasmius rotula</i>
Orange Mycena	<i>Mycena leaiana</i>
Artist Conk	<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i>
Sulphur Shelf	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>
Crack-capped Polypore	<i>Phellinus robineae</i>
Tinder Polypore	<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>
Turkey Tail	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>
Violet Toothed Polypore	<i>Trichaptum biforme</i>
Stag's Horn Fungus	<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>
Common Brown Cup	<i>Peziza phyllogena</i>

Reference

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348 Station Street, Apt. 7
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Flowering Plants of the 2018 Foray Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Richard L. Diener

The Foray territory is a circle with its center at Camp Pocahontas. The circle includes portions of Pocahontas County, Pendleton County, and Randolph County. Most of the land covered in the Foray lies above 3,000 ft, and an extensive area of Spruce Mountain lie above 4,500 ft.

The previous two flowering plant lists for Pocahontas County were reported in *The Redstart* (Diener 2009; Diener 2014). The flowering plants listed in the 2013 Foray Report included only the species not found at the 2008 Foray. Accordingly, the flowering plants listed below include only the species not found at the 2008 and 2013 Forays.

The terminology and nomenclature for the 2018 report is taken from the *Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia* (Harmon *et al.* 2006). The Checklist will be available for general use at future Forays. The first column in the listing below includes the current scientific names of the families, genera, species, subspecies and varieties, and the superscript after each species name indicates the origin for each species. The key to the species origin is also shown below. The rare plant categories tracked by the 2016 West Virginia Natural Heritage Program are defined below, and the levels of rarity are designated for seven listed species below. The second column in the listing below includes the accepted common names of the families and species.

Species Origin:

Native (N) – A species considered to have occurred in West Virginia prior to European settlement, and that still occurs naturally within the state.

Adventive (A) – A species native to North America north of Mexico prior to European settlement, which is not native to West Virginia, nor has been intentionally introduced, but is now growing in the state.

Introduced (I) – A species native to North America north of Mexico, which has been intentionally planted in West Virginia, and is now escaped and surviving without cultivation.

Exotic (E) – A species occurring without cultivation in the state that is not native to North America north of Mexico.

Rare Plants Tracked By The West Virginia Natural Heritage Program:

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, January 7, 2016

S1, G1 - Critically Imperiled species in the state or globally

S2, G2 - Imperiled species in the state or globally

S3, G3 - Vulnerable species in the state or globally

S4, G4 - Apparently Secure – Uncommon but not rare

S5, G5 - Common, widespread and abundant

S4 and S5 - Species not tracked by the WV Natural Heritage Program

All the plants identified in the list that follows were collected from June 3rd through June 9th, 2018. The Brooks Bird Club members who contributed to the collection and identification are Mike Breiding, Natalie Diener, Tom and Dawn Fox, Bob Pickett, Pete Rykert, and Dick Diener.

**FLOWERING PLANTS OF THE 2018 FORAY
NOT FOUND AT THE 2008 AND 2013 FORAYS**

Herbaceous Plants

POACEAE

Agrostis gigantea^E
Agrostis hyemalis^N
Anthoxanthum odoratum ssp. *odoratum*^E
Bromus commutatus^E
Bromus kalmii^N
Bromus tectorum^E
Calamagrostis canadensis var. *canadensis*^N
Dactylis glomerata ssp. *glomerata*^E
Danthonia spicata^N

Dichanthelium acuminatum var. *fasciculatum*^N
Dichanthelium boscii^N
Dichanthelium clandestinum^N
Dichanthelium commutatum^N
Dichanthelium depauperatum^N
Dichanthelium dichotomum^N
Dichanthelium latifolium^N
Dichanthelium linearifolium^N
Dichanthelium sphaerocarpon var. *isophyllum*^N
Elymus hystrix var. *hystrix*^N
Festuca rubra ssp. *rubra*^N
Festuca subverticillata^N
Glyceria striata^N
Holcus lanatus^E
Lolium arundinaceum^E
Microstegium vimineum^E
Milium effusum var. *cisatlanticum*^N
Phalaris arundinacea^N
Phleum pratense^E
Poa annua^E
Poa compressa^E
Poa cuspidata^N
Poa palustris^E
Setaria glauca^E
Sphenopholis nitida^N

GRASS FAMILY

Redtop
Hairgrass, Fly-Away Grass
Sweet Vernal Grass
Hairy Chess
Canada Bromegrass
Downy Chess
Reedgrass, Bluejoint
Orchard Grass
Poverty Oat-Grass, Poverty Grass,
Moonshine Grass
Panic Grass
Panic Grass
Deertongue Grass
Variable Panic Grass
Starved Panic Grass
Bushy Panic Grass
Panic Grass
Low Panic Grass
Small-Fruited Panic Grass
Bottle-Brush Grass
Red Fescue
Nodding Fescue
Fowl Mannagrass
Velvet Grass
Sheep Fescue, Kentucky 31 Fescue
Eulalia, Japanese Stilt Grass
Millet Grass
Reed Canary Grass
Timothy Grass
Annual Bluegrass
Canada Bluegrass
Short-Leaved Bluegrass
Fowl Bluegrass
Yellow Foxtail, Pearl Millet
Shining Wedgrass

CYPERACEAE

Carex atlantica ssp. *atlantica*^N
Carex blanda^N
Carex canescens ssp. *canescens*^N S3, G5
Carex cephalophora^N
Carex communis var. *communis*^N

SEDGE FAMILY

Prickly Bog Sedge, Eastern Sedge
Eastern Woodland Sedge
Hoary Sedge, Silver Sedge
Oval-Leaf Sedge, Oval-Headed Sedge
Fibrous-Root Sedge

<i>Carex conjuncta</i> ^N		Soft Fox Sedge
<i>Carex crinita</i> var. <i>crinita</i> ^N		Fringed Sedge
<i>Carex echinata</i> ssp. <i>echinata</i> ^N		Star Sedge
<i>Carex frankii</i> ^N		Frank's Sedge
<i>Carex gracillima</i> ^N		Graceful Sedge
<i>Carex granularis</i> ^N		Limestone-Meadow Sedge, Meadow Sedge
<i>Carex gynandra</i> ^N		Nodding Sedge
<i>Carex laevivaginata</i> ^N		Smooth-Sheath Sedge
<i>Carex laxiflora</i> ^N		Broad Loose-Flower Sedge
<i>Carex leptalea</i> ssp. <i>leptalea</i> ^N		Bristly-Stalk Sedge
<i>Carex lurida</i> ^N		Sallow Sedge
<i>Carex plantaginea</i> ^N		Plantain Sedge
<i>Carex prasina</i> ^N		Drooping Sedge
<i>Carex projecta</i> ^N	S3, G5	Necklace Sedge
<i>Carex rosea</i> ^N		Rosy Sedge, Stellate Sedge
<i>Carex scabrata</i> ^N		Rough Sedge
<i>Carex scoparia</i> var. <i>scoparia</i> ^N		Pointed Broom Sedge
<i>Carex sparganioides</i> ^N		Burr-Reed Sedge
<i>Carex stipata</i> var. <i>stipata</i> ^N		Stalk-Grain Sedge, Awl-Fruited Sedge
<i>Carex stricta</i> ^N		Tussock Sedge
<i>Carex swanii</i> ^N		Swan's Sedge
<i>Carex trisperma</i> var. <i>trisperma</i> ^N		Three-Seeded Sedge
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i> ^N		Foxtail Sedge
<i>Carex willdenowii</i> ^N		Willdenow's Sedge
<i>Eleocharis compressa</i> ^N	S2, G4	Flat-Stem Spikerush
<i>Eleocharis tenuis</i> var. <i>tenuis</i> ^N		Killcow, Doghair, Slender Spikerush
<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i> ^N		Cottongrass
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i> ^N		Beaked Rush
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i> ^N		Great Bulrush
<i>Scirpus atrocinctus</i> ^N	S3, G5	Woolgrass, Black Girdle Bulrush
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i> ^N		Black Rush
<i>Scirpus expansus</i> ^N		Bulrush
<i>Trichophorum planifolium</i> ^N	S1, G4, G5	Tufted Leafless Bulrush, Bashful Bulrush
JUNCACEAE		
<i>Juncus acuminatus</i> ^N		RUSH FAMILY
<i>Juncus dudleyi</i> ^N		Knotty-Leaf Rush
<i>Juncus secundus</i> ^N		Dudley's Rush
<i>Juncus tenuis</i> ^N		Lopsided Rush
<i>Luzula acuminata</i> ^N		Path Rush, Yard Rush, Wiregrass
		Hairy Woodrush
POLYGONACEAE		
<i>Polygonum punctatum</i> var. <i>punctatum</i> ^N		BUCKWHEAT FAMILY
		Water Smartweed

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Silene latifolia ssp. *alba*^E

Silene stellata^N

RANUNCULACEAE

Ranunculus allegheniensis^N

BRASSICACEAE

Draba verna^E

Erysimum cheiranthoides^E

Lepidium campestre^E

Sisymbrium officinale^E

SAXIFRAGACEAE

Heuchera americana var. *hispidula*^N S2, G5

ROSACEAE

Fragaria vesca^E

FABACEAE

Vicia caroliniana^N

Vicia sativa ssp. *nigra*^E

VIOLACEAE

Viola pedata^N

Viola pubescens var. *pubescens*^N

ONAGRACEAE

Oenothera fruticosa ssp. *fruticosa*^N

Asclepiadaceae

Asclepias tuberosa ssp. *tuberosa*^N

POLEMONIACEAE

Polemonium vanbruntiae^N S2, G3G4

SOLANACEAE

Solanum carolinense var. *carolinense*^N

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Veronica polita^E

OROBANCHACEAE

Orobanche uniflora^N

RUBIACEAE

Galium obtusum ssp. *obtusum*^N

VALERIANACEAE

Valerianella umbilicata^A

PINK FAMILY

White Campion

Starry Campion

CROWFOOT FAMILY

Allegheny Crowfoot

MUSTARD FAMILY

Whitlowgrass

Wormwood Mustard

Field Cress

Hedge Mustard

SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

Rough Alumroot, Rough Heuchera

ROSE FAMILY

Woodland Strawberry

PEA FAMILY

Wild Vetch

Common Vetch

VIOLET FAMILY

Bird-Foot Violet

Smooth Yellow Violet

EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY

Narrow-Leaved Sundrops

Milkweed Family

Butterfly Weed, Pleurisy-Root

POLEMONIUM FAMILY

Jacob's Ladder

NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

Horse-Nettle

FIGWORT FAMILY

Field Speedwell

BROOMRAPE FAMILY

One-Flowered Broomrape

MADDER FAMILY

Stiff Marsh Bedstraw

VALERIAN FAMILY

Corn Salad

ASTERACEAE

Hieracium greenii^N

Hieracium paniculatum^N

Packera aurea^N

ASTER FAMILY

Green's Hawkweed

Panicled Hawkweed

Golden Ragwort, Golden Groundsel

Tree and Shrub Plants

SALICACEAE

Salix sericea^N

WILLOW FAMILY

Silky Willow

ROSACEAE

Spiraea alba var. *alba*^N

Spiraea japonica var. *fortunei*^E

ROSE FAMILY

Meadowsweet, Pipestem

Japanese Spiraea

ANACARDIACEAE

Rhus copallinum var. *latifolia*^N

CASHEW FAMILY

Winged Sumac, Shining Sumac

OLEACEAE

Fraxinus nigra^N

Caprifoliaceae

Viburnum prunifolium^N

Viburnum recognitum^N

OLIVE FAMILY

Black Ash

Honeysuckle Family

Black Haw

Smooth Arrowwood

Woody Vine Plants

SOLANACEAE

Solanum dulcamara var. *dulcamara*^E

NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

Bittersweet, Bittersweet Nightshade

A= 0.9%; E= 19.1%; I= 0%; N= 80.0%

110 Species including var. & ssp.

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4260 Village Drive, Apt. 116
Kissimmee, FL 34746

2018 FORAY PARTICIPANTS

Betsy Breiding, Mike Breiding, Cynthia Burkhart, Jacqueline Burns, Kevin Cade*, Laura Ceperley, Patrick Coy, Don Creamer, Sara Creamer, Dick Diener, Natalie Diener, Greg Eddy, Sally Egan, Janice Emrick#, Scott Emrick, Kelley Flaherty, Dawn Fox, Tom Fox, Celia Good, Craig Good, Darrell Good*, Gideon Good, Megan Good, Nevin Good*, LeJay Graffious, Dan Greene, Mary Grey, Seth Halman, Steve Hartman, Diane Holsinger, Wilma Jarrell, Michael Jones, Sharon Kearns, Mimi Kibler, David Kuehner, Gerald Maravanyika*, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Larry Metheny, Orion Metheny*, Mary Murin, Katherine Payne, Bob Pickett, Jane Robbins, Pete Rykert*, Larry Schwab, Johanna Sholder, Alicia Sidlo, Auggie Sidlo, Maya Sidlo, Cindy Slater, Barbara Stocker, Karin Tanquist, Chris Tingley, Deb Tingley, Martin Tingley, Ryan Tomazin#, Yan Tomazin, Bev Triplett, Jim Triplett, Sarah Walker.

Speakers and field trip leaders included Bruce Beehler, Ashton Berdine, Ella Berdine, Diane Holsinger, Michael Jones, Shane Jones, Katie Loucks, Greg Miller, Sue Olcott, Tom Pauley, Cindy Sandeno, Rob Talman, Martin Tingley, Jack Tribble, and Jim Triplett.

– Director

* – Scholarship recipient



Foray Participants. Photo by Jim Triplett

**Weather at the 2018 Foray
Pocahontas County, West Virginia**

Sara Creamer

Date	Temperature Fahrenheit		Precipitation in Inches	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
June 3		68		0
June 4	48	71	0	0
June 5	47	63	0	0
June 6	54	62	0	0.16
June 7	42	74	0	0
June 8	52	76	0	0.02

503 Lampe Road
Washington Courthouse, OH 43160

eBird Notes
May–August 2018

Michael Slaven

“You’re not from around here, are you?”



Purple Gallinule at Hoeft Marsh. May 2, 2018. Photograph by Michael Slaven.

Greetings, fellow birders and eBirders!

Author’s note: this article includes information from May 2018, inadvertently left out of my article in the last issue. The format will be back to normal in the next installment.

Summer is a good time for West Virginia birders to observe species that are local rarities, and birdwatchers now have access to timely information about sightings statewide as well as worldwide. eBird, which exists primarily as platform for the collection of citizen science, is coincidentally a perfect mechanism for collating and compiling interesting observations of hard-to-find birds in our state. I know that many birders around the state expressed a good deal of surprise at some of the birds that showed up in the summer of 2018, but tracking species through reports in eBird showed influxes of species in neighboring states that matched the experience we had in West Virginia. When **American Avocets**, **Ruddy Turnstones**, a **Wood Stork**, and **Roseate Spoonbills** turned up, it was a testament to the careful and consistent observations of birding enthusiasts in the state.

As I watched the progress of summertime sightings in real time on eBird in surrounding states, it became clear that there was a good chance that some of these visitors might appear in the state. It was clear from tracking species on eBird that 2018 had the potential to be something special.

I am sure that most, if not all, of you are familiar with the American Birding Association’s code of rarities. In case you’ve forgotten, the short version is as follows. Code 1 and

Code 2 birds are basically pretty common and widespread. A few Code 2 birds are found only in a small range, or are a little harder to find due to low numbers, or are secretive or otherwise hard-to-depend-on without a pretty intensive search. Code 3 birds are much harder-to-find and very rare. Code 4 birds are really tough. They occur a few times in a few decades in the North America region. Code 5 birds are accidental, and are “book a flight” species for Big Year listers and chasers. Code 6 birds are basically extinct or impossible.

In West Virginia, the codes are mostly meaningless, since there is seldom a bird rarer than a Code 2 to be found here. The focus on the whole continent in ABA Codes to determine rarity is somewhat misleading when one applies it to our state. Although it is very hard to find North American rarities in West Virginia, it is a different kind of challenge to find birds that, while not high-code birds for North America, are pretty tough to find in West Virginia. I have made myself an imaginary list of “West Virginia Code Birds” as a mental game as I explore the state and try to see different species. To me, a Wood Stork, for example, would be a “WV Code 4.”

Trying to build a long list of birds observed in a region like our state becomes a different sort of challenge than traveling the continent or world, and one that both encourages those birders who are competitive to search the region to compile a longer state list. That is both good for science and personally satisfying.

In our state, it is useful, both to the eBird data and to ourselves as birders, to think in a local way: not “what is rare in North America” but “what is rare here?” Spotting birds that are scarce in the region helps make birding more compelling, and also furthers the important work done by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the eBird project. Localized birding helps researchers mark trends in bird populations and in species distribution that inform ongoing research. It is probably harder to see 300 species in West Virginia than 600 species in North America as a whole, and it would likely be more useful to scientific databases such as eBird if more birders took on the challenge of building more-localized observations rather than simply traveling around the country to find expected species in their most usual habitats.

Which leads me to my main point. The summer season can present a conundrum for some birders. After a month or so of looking up at warblers and giving ourselves a good case of warbler neck, the weather gets more comfortable, the trees are leafy, the songbirds are beginning to quiet down, and the birder’s paradox occurs. As the great songbird migration winds down, what are the best chances for birders to have a quality experience and see something different? The mountains are certainly a favorite summer option in our state, but there is also much to be said for scanning wetlands and mudflats of low-lying regions. It is the summer months that sometimes produce the most-surprising finds of the year, and the most-likely place to encounter them is in wetlands, river shores, or shorelines.

I will try to avoid too much repetition of the field notes included elsewhere in this issue, but it is worth pointing out that 2018 was an excellent summer for shorebirds and water-loving species, and included a **Purple Gallinule**, **Virginia Rails**, **American Avocets**, **American** and **Least Bitterns**, and **Little Blue Herons**. West Virginia is not the first place one would expect to have great numbers of these species. There are some good riparian habitats along the Route 2 corridor and near the Ohio, Kanawha, and Monongahela Rivers, but these waters are managed for flood control and navigation, and not really

optimized for the production of healthy wetlands and birding hotspots. There is only one natural lake in the entire state, and the large flood-control reservoirs that provide the largest bodies of blue water are not generally the very best habitat for shorebirds, given their depth and general lack of shallow mudflats. That being said, the state annually produces a fairly consistent range of summertime migrants and vagrants, and often can be surprisingly good during migration and post-migratory early returns by failed breeders.

The late spring and summer of 2018 provided fantastic opportunities for birders willing to travel to see a range of species that are normally very difficult to find in the Mountain State. In early May, for instance, a **Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyrio martinica*) was seen and photographed by several eBirders (including the author) at the Hoeft Marsh in Cabell County. A **Purple Gallinule** is not especially rare in some areas of the United States (Florida comes to mind) but it is very special to see one in this region, and a worthy addition to any birder's state list. **Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) was also seen later in the month. **Long-billed Dowitchers** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) are annually reported, but are never easy to find; the species made an appearance in May. June produced similar interesting opportunities, with a far out-of-season **Ross's Goose** (*Anser rossii*), as well as **Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*), **Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*), a **Least Bittern** (*Ixobrychus exilis*), and **Roseate Spoonbills** (*Platalea ajaja*), among other highlights. July was similarly interesting, with reports of **Wood Stork** (*Mycteria Americana*) among the eBird submissions for the month. August saw more species as well, and included an observation of a **Western Sandpiper** (*Calidris mauri*). The bird was identified by Terry Bronson, whose field identification skills are highly developed, and whose careful descriptions are a boon to eBird. The **Western Sandpiper** is a seldom-reported species in the state, partly because it is rare here, but probably also because it is so easy to mistake the Western for the more-common Semipalmated Sandpiper or a Least Sandpiper with muddy legs.

2018 was a summer that was rich in diversity, and in looking at the trends for the last four years, it seems that there is a general upward trend in the number and variety of summer avian visitors to our state. I think we can all agree that these annual tourists add an element of surprise and wonderment to our birding experiences. I hope that all of you find your own "WV Code birds" and explore as much of the state as you can.

632 West Virginia Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26591
mslavenwv@gmail.com

Field Notes Summer Season

June 1 – August 31, 2018

Casey Rucker

June was the nineteenth-wettest on record in West Virginia, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, and flooding in early June led to a state of emergency in eight northeastern counties. Our state experienced its eighteenth-warmest summer, and August was the ninth-wettest since 1895.

These notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, from bird-count results, and from field notes submitted to the editor by email and regular mail. The full content of the submitted notes by the contributors to the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at the following website: <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>. Sightings from the Brooks Bird Club Foray held from June 3 to 10 at Camp Pocahontas, Pocahontas County, may be found elsewhere in this issue.

It was a good summer for rarities in West Virginia. On June 13, a pair of first-state-record **Roseate Spoonbills** was found at Terra Alta Lake, Preston County, by Robert Hauger of the Mountain Nature Camp operated by Oglebay Institute. Most of the participants in the camp saw the **spoonbills** that evening (LH), and many photographs were taken. Other review species observed were **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Wood Stork**, and **Painted Bunting**. There were 187 species reported in 30 West Virginia counties this season; it should be noted that many breeding birds are not reported in summer.

Ducks, Swans, and Geese – Waterfowl diversity increased this summer season compared to the last three years, with ten species reported. David Patick, Gary Rankin, Janet Keating, and Michael Griffith found and photographed a **Ross's Goose** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on June 2. Terry Bronson saw and photographed a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at St. Mary's Marina in Pleasants County on August 7. **Canada Geese** were as usual widely reported. **Mute Swans** made appearances in Mason (TB), Randolph (SKi), and Tucker (CR, HMj) Counties. **Wood Ducks** and **Mallards** made their customary appearances on breeding grounds throughout the state. L. E. Helgerman and many members of the Mountain Nature Camp saw a **Gadwall** at Terra Alta Lake, Preston County, during mid-June. The editor of these notes observed an **American Black Duck** in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County, on June 10, an increasingly-rare appearance during breeding season. David Patick, Gary Rankin, Janet Keating, and Michael Griffith found a **Hooded Merganser** at Ashton Ponds, Mason County, on June 2. **Common Mergansers** have become a regularly-reported breeding species, with reports this summer from Pendleton County (DBr), Raleigh County (JJP), Summers County (JJP), and Tucker County (RBi).



Photograph by Terry Bronson.

Bobwhites – On July 4, Frederick Atwood heard a **Northern Bobwhite** calling near Hogueland Lane, Grant County.

Grouse and Turkeys – **Ruffed Grouse** reports came only from Randolph (RBi) and Tucker (CR, LC, HMy) Counties. Observers reported **Wild Turkeys** in at least eight counties (reports on Breeding Bird Survey routes often do not specify county locations of sightings). On June 27, Deborah Hale spotted a hen **Wild Turkey** *with her poults* plus spotted, still-moist eggshells nearby.

Grebes – On August 18, James and Judy Phillips saw a **Pied-billed Grebe** near Princeton, Mercer County, and on August 24 Terry Bronson spotted a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County.

Pigeons and Doves – **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state, as reported sporadically.

Cuckoos – Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** continued a strong pattern from last summer, with observations in fifteen counties, while contributors reported **Black-billed Cuckoos** in only six counties: Kanawha (HG), Ohio (PM), Roane (DG), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wood (TB). On August 14, Paul McKay spotted both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed cuckoos** at his farm near West Liberty, Ohio County.

Goatsuckers and Swifts – There were two breeding-season **Common Nighthawk** reports from Canaan Valley, Tucker County this summer, one on June 14 from the editor of these notes, and the second from Herb Myers on July 5. Other reports of **Common Nighthawks** began in mid-August, from Cabell (JK), Greenbrier (JJP), Hardy (DaG), Kanawha (HG), Mercer (JJP), Monroe (JJP), Pocahontas (JJP), Summers (JJP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Kevin Campbell once again enjoyed one or more **Chuck-will's-widows** during early June near Parkersburg, Wood County, and Frederick Atwood heard a **Chuck-wills-widow** at North Mill Creek Road, Grant County, on July 8. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** inspired reports only from Monroe (MAW), Randolph (CR), Tucker (CR), and Wood (KCa) Counties. **Chimney Swift** reports were up, coming from fourteen counties this summer: Barbour (RBi), Fayette (JS), Greenbrier (JJP), Hardy (DaG), Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (HG), Mason (DB), Monroe (SWi, JJP), Ohio (PM), Pocahontas (RBi), Raleigh (SWi), Summers (JP, SWi), Tucker (RBi), and Wood (JB).

Hummingbirds – Birders in twelve counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**.

Rails and Coots – Kyle Klotz found a **Virginia Rail** calling in Albright, Preston County, on June 24. On July 6, Frederick Atwood and James and Beverly Triplett discovered a **Virginia Rail** calling in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County, which is the first breeding-season observation in the vicinity for many years. On August 9, Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club found an **American Coot** in Wood County.

Avocets – Terry Bronson observed three **American Avocets** on July 18 at the Sandy Creek Backwater in Wood County, and four **American Avocets** at Apple Grove Fish Hatchery, Mason County, on July 25.

Plovers – **Killdeer** appeared in reports from twelve counties. On July 5, Joette Borzik reported the *successful fledging of four Killdeer chicks* near Charles Town, Jefferson County, from a nest exposed to torrential rains and a heat wave, and only protected by traffic cones from being run over.

Sandpipers – **Sandpiper** diversity was up this summer in West Virginia, with twelve species reported. Notably, many of the reports were made in June and July rather than the

usual August migration season. Single **Ruddy Turnstones**, a review-list species, were discovered by Michael Griffith and Janet Keating at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on July 22, and by Joshua Holland on July 24 at Harris Riverfront Park, Cabell County, where the **turnstone** was also observed on the next day by Michael Griffith and Terry Bronson. Other **sandpipers** were reported in the following counties by the contributors listed: **Least Sandpipers**: Barbour (RBo, JH) and Mason (DP, TB), **White-rumped Sandpiper**: Summers (JJP), **Pectoral Sandpipers**: Barbour (RBo, TB) and Mason (MG, JK, DP, GR, TB), **Semipalmated Sandpipers**: Barbour (JH), Mason (DP, MG, JK), and Mercer (JJP), **Western Sandpiper**: Mason (TB, MG, GR), **Short-billed Dowitcher**: Mason (MG, JK), **American Woodcocks**: Raleigh (SWi) and Tucker (CR), **Wilson's Snipe**: Hardy (DaG), **Spotted Sandpipers**: Barbour (JH), Hardy (JBT), Jefferson (JBz), Mason (MG, JK, DP, GR, TB), Summers (JJP), and Wood (TB), **Solitary Sandpipers**: Barbour (JH) and Mason (TB), **Lesser Yellowlegs**: Barbour (RBo) and Mason (DP, JK, GR, MG), and **Greater Yellowlegs**: Barbour (JH), Mason (MG, JK, TB), and Summers (JJP).

Gulls and Terns – Sightings were even sparser than usual this season. Single **Herring Gulls** were seen in Mason County: at Gallipolis Ferry on June 4 by Terry Bronson, and in mid-August at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam and the Apple Grove Fish Hatchery by Gary Rankin, Michael Griffith, Janet Keating, and David Patick. A lone **Herring Gull** was also seen at the Belleville wetlands in Wood County by Terry Bronson on June 12. On August 12, Gary Rankin, Michael Griffith, and Janet Keating saw a **Caspian Tern** flying upriver at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County.

Loons – David Patick, Gary Rankin, Janet Keating, and Michael Griffith spotted a **Common Loon** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on June 2.



Photograph by Neal J. Hohman.

Storks – A state-review-list **Wood Stork** was discovered by Daniel Carpenter at Williamstown Marsh, Wood County, on July 27, as reported by Jon Benedetti. The bird was seen and photographed by Neal Hohman and others through July 28 (TB, DP, JK, GR, MG).

Cormorants – Reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** came from Jackson (TB), Mason (DP, JK, GR, MG, TB), Mercer (JJP), and Wood (JB) Counties.

Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets – The editor of these notes enjoyed

two sightings of **American Bittern** in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County, during the week of June 3. **Great Blue Herons** and **Green Herons** continued to appear throughout much of the state. **Great Egrets** appeared only in Mason County (DP, GR, MG, TB, JK), Mercer County (JJP), Monroe County (JJP), Summers County (JJP), and Wood County (JB). David Patick, Gary Rankin, Janet Keating, and Michael Griffith found an immature **Little Blue Heron** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on June 2, and another immature **Little Blue Heron** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, on August 13. **Black-crowned Night Herons** made appearances in Cabell (MG,



Roseate Spoonbills, Lake Terra Alta. Photograph by Cory Altemus.

JK), Monroe (JJP), and Wood (TB) Counties.

Spoonbills – The first-state-record **Roseate Spoonbills** found at Lake Terra Alta, Preston County, on June 13, are described near the beginning of these notes.

Vultures – Birders in only four counties reported **Black Vultures**, while fourteen counties boasted **Turkey Vulture** reports.

Hawks and Eagles –

Ospreys were reported throughout the state, generally in small numbers. **Northern Harriers** occasioned reports only in Mason (DB) and Tucker (RBI) Counties this summer. Once again, **accipiters** inspired little interest this summer, with Steven Wilson making the only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** report of the summer, in Monroe County on June 16; there were observations of **Cooper's Hawks** in Jackson (TB), Mason (GR, DP, MG), Monroe (JJP), and Ohio (PM) Counties. Birders in many parts of the state reported **Bald Eagles**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, and **Red-tailed Hawks**. **Broad-winged Hawks**, however, were reported only in Mercer County (JJP), Monroe County (JJP), Raleigh County (SWi), Randolph County (HMy, CR), Summers County (JJP), and Tucker County (CR). On July 5, Sandra Farkas found a **Broad-winged Hawk chick in the nest** near her cabin in Canaan Valley, Tucker County.

Owls – **Owl** reports were even scantier than usual this summer. Terry Bronson, David Patick, Janet Keating, and Michael Griffith saw one or more of the **Barn Owls** in Belleville, Wood County, in early June. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were only noted in Summers (JJP) and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Great Horned Owl** only in Summers (JJP); while **Barred Owls** were observed in Jefferson (BH), Monroe (SWi), Summers (SWi, JJP), and Tucker (CR) Counties.

Kingfishers – There were reports of **Belted Kingfisher** in ten West Virginia counties this summer.

Woodpeckers – **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were only reported in Hardy (DaG, DH) and Wood (KCa) Counties. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, **Downy Woodpeckers**, **Hairy Woodpeckers**, **Northern Flickers**, and **Pileated Woodpeckers** all appeared in their usual habitats. Once again, the most sparsely-reported woodpecker was **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, with reports only from Randolph County (RBI) and Tucker County (CR, JBT). On August 1, Bruni Haydl watched a **Pileated Woodpecker feeding his fledgling** at her feeders in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

Falcons – **American Kestrels** inspired reports in Jackson (TB), Mason (DB, TB), Monroe (MAW), Randolph (HMy), Tucker (LC, SKi), and Wood (TB, JB) Counties this summer. Records of breeding **Merlins** continue to mount, with a report from Richard Bailey of the rescue of two *recently-fledged juvenile Merlins* in Elkins, Randolph County, on July 16. Laura Ceperley spotted a **Merlin** in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, on June 16. **Peregrine Falcons** were observed in Mason County (TB), Pleasants County (TB), and at two locations in Wood County (TB, JB).

Flycatchers – Wilma Jarrell saw a migrating **Olive-sided Flycatcher** near her home in Wileyville, Wetzel County, on August 28. **Eastern Wood-Pewees, Acadian Flycatchers, Eastern Phoebes, Great Crested Flycatchers,** and **Eastern Kingbirds** were all widely reported in West Virginia. The following *Empidonax* species were reported in the counties and by the contributors listed: **Alder Flycatchers:** Nicholas (TB), Pocahontas (TB), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (JTr, SF), **Willow Flycatchers:** Mason (DB), Pocahontas (RBi), Randolph (SKi), Tucker (HMy, JBT), and Wood (TB, JB), and **Least Flycatchers:** Monongalia (LS), Pendleton (RBi), Pocahontas (RBi), Preston (LS), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (RBi). Stephen Kimbrell and Mimi Kibler watched a **Willow Flycatcher** hover-gleaning at Montrose Wetlands, Randolph County, on June 6. On June 24, Shannon Burner watched a pair of **Eastern Kingbirds** *fledge their young* near her home in Keyser, Mineral County.

Shrikes – On July 9, Richard Bailey reported the banding of a **Loggerhead Shrike** in Jefferson County, the first appearance by a **shrike** in that county for two years.

Vireos – **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed,** and **Red-eyed vireos** appeared in nesting grounds throughout the state. **Warbling Vireo** reports were down a bit this summer, coming from Jackson (TB), Jefferson (JBz, DHA), Kanawha (HG), Mason (DB), Monroe (SWi), and Summers (JP) Counties.

Jays, Crows, and **Ravens** – **Blue Jays, American Crows,** and **Common Ravens** were reported in their usual territories. **Fish Crows** were observed in Hardy County (DaG) and Jefferson County (JBz, WS).

Larks – **Horned Larks** made appearances in Grant (FA) and Mason (TB) Counties this summer.

Swallows – Fewer reports of **swallows** appeared this summer. **Purple Martins** prompted reports from Fayette County (TB), Mason County (DB), Summers County (SWi, JJP), and Wyoming County (MAW). **Tree Swallows, Northern Rough-winged Swallows,** and **Barn Swallows** were the subject of many summer reports in West Virginia. **Bank Swallows** were only seen in Hardy County (DaG) and Kanawha County (HG). **Cliff Swallows** were reported in Hardy County (DaG), Jackson County (TB), Kanawha County (HG), Mason County (DB, TB), Ohio County (PM), Summers County (JJP), and Wood County (TB). On August 2, Darrell Good saw a flock of approximately 600 **swallows**, mostly **Tree Swallows**, but including **Bank** and **Barn Swallows**, near his home in Baker, Hardy County.

Chickadees and **Titmice** – **Carolina** and **Black-capped chickadees** occasioned reports in their respective territories in West Virginia. **Tufted Titmice** were widely reported throughout the state.

Nuthatches – **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared in reports from Pendleton (RBi), Pocahontas (TB), Randolph (RBi, HMy), and Tucker (HMy) Counties. **White-breasted Nuthatches** were the subject of many reports statewide this season.

Creepers – Reports of **Brown Creeper** this summer were from Pocahontas County (RBi), Preston County (LS), Randolph County (RBi), Summers County (JJP), and Tucker County (RBi).

Wrens – **House** and **Carolina wrens** appeared in reports from many parts of the state. **Winter Wrens** were reported in Pendleton (RBi), Pocahontas (TB), Randolph (RBi, HMy), Tucker (RBi), and Wyoming (SWi) Counties.

Gnatcatchers – Reports of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** in their usual breeding grounds came from locations throughout the state.

Kinglets – Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported in Pendleton County (RBi), Preston County (LS), Randolph County (RBi, CR), and Tucker County (RBi, HMy).

Thrushes – Five breeding species of **thrush** appeared in West Virginia reports this summer. **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Wood Thrushes**, and **American Robins** were again seen throughout the state. Reports of **Veery** came from Pendleton (RBi), Pocahontas (TB), Preston (LS), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (RBi) Counties, of **Swainson's Thrush** from Randolph (RBi) and Tucker (HMy) Counties, and of **Hermit Thrush** from Pendleton (RBi), Pocahontas (RBi), Randolph (RBi, HMy), and Tucker (HMy) Counties.

Catbirds, Thrashers, and Mockingbirds – Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Northern Mockingbirds prompted reports from breeding grounds throughout the state.

Starlings – European Starlings continued to occupy widespread habitats throughout our state.

Waxwings – Cedar Waxwings inspired many West Virginia birders this summer, with reports from thirteen counties.

Weaver Finches – The House Sparrow continues throughout the state, with reports from seven counties.

Finches and Allies – House Finches and American Goldfinches inspired reports from many areas of the state. James Triplett and Sandra Farkas found eight **Purple Finches** on July 22 in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County. **Red Crossbills** continued at the Cranberry Glades Nature Center, Pocahontas County, as observed by Terry Bronson, Richard Esker, and the Mountwood Bird Club on June 14 and by James and Judy Phillips on July 15. **Red Crossbills** were also observed during the June Foray on Gaudineer Knob, Pocahontas and Randolph Counties. On August 6, Jon and B. J. Little spotted a lone **Pine Siskin** near the top of Spruce Knob, Pendleton County.

Towhees, Sparrows, and Juncos – Eastern Towhees, Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrows, and Song Sparrows were all widely reported in West Virginia this summer. David Patick and Derek Courtney saw a **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County, on June 3. The following **sparrows** were reported only in the counties listed: **Vesper** in Grant (FA) and Randolph (RTo), **Savannah** in Hardy (DH, KKi), Randolph (RBi, RTo) and Tucker (JTr, SF, CR), **Grasshopper** in Grant (FA), Jefferson (WS), and Pocahontas (RTo), **Henslow's** in Tucker (DP, DCo, CR), **Swamp** in Pocahontas (RTo) and Tucker (HMy, JTr, SF), and **Dark-eyed Junco** in Monroe (MAW), Pendleton (RBi), Pocahontas (LC, TB), Preston (LS), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (RBi, HMy).

Chats – Yellow-breasted Chats were reported in Calhoun (TF), Jackson (TB), Mason (DB), Monongalia (LS), Pocahontas (RTo), Raleigh (SWi), and Wyoming (SWi) Counties.

Blackbirds and Allies – Bobolinks inspired reports from Grant (FA), Greenbrier (RBi), Jefferson (WS), Pocahontas (RBi, RTo), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (LC, HMy) Counties this summer. **Eastern Meadowlarks**, **Orchard** and **Baltimore orioles**, **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and **Common Grackles** were reported widely this summer. On July 25, Diane Holsinger watched six **Orchard Orioles** feeding on insects in tall grass near Stony River Run in Hampshire County.

Warblers – It was a good summer for **warbler** reports, thanks in large part to runners of Breeding Bird Survey routes, with 29 species of breeding **warbler** observed in West Virginia. **Warbler** species reported in five or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. Species simply listed were reported in at least six coun-

ties. Our summer **warblers** included **Ovenbird**, **Worm-eating**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Northern Waterthrush** – Pocahontas (TB, RTo) and Preston (LS), **Golden-winged** – Mercer (MAW) and Wyoming (MAW), **Blue-winged**, **Black-and-white**, **Prothonotary** – Kanawha (HG) and Mason (TB), **Swainson's** – Fayette (TB), Raleigh (SWi), Tucker (RBi), and Wyoming (SWi, MAW), **Tennessee** – Kanawha (HG), **Nashville** – Jefferson (BH) and Tucker (CR), **Mourning** – Pocahontas (TB, JJP, RTo) and Randolph (RBi), **Kentucky** – Mercer (MAW), Pleasants (TB), Randolph (RBi), and Summers (JJP), **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded**, **American Redstart**, **Cerulean** – Jackson (TB), Mercer (MAW), Raleigh (SWi), and Wyoming (MAW), **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian** – Pendleton (RBi), Pocahontas (LC, RBi), Randolph (RBi), Tucker (RBi), and Wetzel (WJ), **Yellow**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Pine** – Jackson (TB) and Pocahontas (RBi, RTo), **Yellow-rumped** – Pendleton (RBi), Pocahontas (RBi, TB, RTo), Randolph (RBi), and Ritchie (CB), **Yellow-throated**, **Prairie** – Grant (FA), Monongalia (LS), Monroe (SWi), and Summers (SWi), **Black-throated Green**, and **Canada** – Pocahontas (TB, RTo), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (CR). Laura Ceperley reported a sighting of a **Magnolia Warbler** sitting in a fraser magnolia tree in Pocahontas County during the June Foray.

Tanagers, **Cardinals**, **Grosbeaks**, and **Buntings** – **Summer Tanager** reports were up a bit this summer, coming from Jackson (TB), Kanawha (RG), Mason (DB), Ritchie (JBk, CB), Wood (JB), and Wyoming (MAW) Counties. **Scarlet Tanagers**, **Northern Cardinals**, and **Indigo Buntings** prompted numerous reports from birders in most parts of the state. Hullet Good listened to the song of the **Indigo Bunting** for the seventy-second consecutive year at his home in Milliken, Kanawha County, this summer. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** only appeared in reports from Randolph (RBi), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (RBi, LC, CR, JBT) Counties, and **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen in Grant (FA), Hardy (DaG, JBT), Jefferson (WS), Monroe (MAW), and Wood (TB) Counties. Susan Olcott reported that a male **Painted Bunting** was seen and well-photographed at a residence in Morgantown, Monongalia County, on June 1; if accepted it would be the third state record. **Dickcissels** continued to be observed more widely, with appearances in Cabell County (DP, MG), Grant County (RBo, FA), Greenbrier County (RBi), and Wood County (TB, DP, MG, JK).

Contributors to the Summer Field Notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (RBi), Jon Benedetti (JB), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), David Bridge (DBr), Terry Bronson (TB), Cynthia Burkhardt (CB), John Burkhardt (JBk), Doren Burrell (DB), Kevin Campbell (KCa), Laura Ceperley (LC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Sandra Farkas (SF), Tom Fox (TF), Darrell Good (DaG), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DHa), Bruni Haydl (BH), L. E. Helgerman (LH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Janet Keating (JK), Kathy King (KKi), Stephen Kimbrell (SKi), Paul McKay (PM), Herb Myers (HMy), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Larry Schwab (LS), Jon Snyder (JS), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Ryan Tomazin (RTo), James Triplett (JTr), James and Beverly Triplett (JBT), Mindy and Alan Waldron (MAW), and Steven Wilson (SWi).

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

ERRATUM

In *The Redstart* 85(4), the field notes mistakenly reported on page 123 that Marjorie Keatley found and photographed a juvenile Great Horned Owl. The discovery and photograph were in fact by Brad Bowen.

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2019 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
January	BBC Membership Month	Wheeling, WV
February	Write an article for the Mail Bag or The Redstart	mail to editors
Jan. 30–Feb. 1	Trip to Killdeer Plains (Contact Dick Esker)	
Feb. 28–Mar. 1	Funk/Killbuck Marsh (overnight trip — contact Dick Esker)	
March 8–10	Early Spring Meeting (Contact Dick Esker)	North Bend State Park Harrisville, WV
March 16	Waterfowl Field Trip (day trip) (Contact Carl Slater)	Seneca Lake, OH
April 20	Three Rivers Bird Club (day trip)	Raccoon Creek State Park, PA (Contact Ryan Tomazin)
May 9–12	Wildflower Pilgrimage, Blackwater Falls State Park	Davis, WV
May 11	International Migratory Bird Day.....	local chapters
June 1–3	WV Bird Discovery Weekend, Blackwater Falls State Park	Davis, WV (Contact Paulita Cousin)
June 7–15	Foray – Camp Pioneer	Beverly, WV (contact Janice Emrick or Ryan Tomazin)
August–October	Bird Banding	Dolly Sods, WV
October 18–20	BBC Fall Reunion & Meeting, Blackwater Falls State Park	Davis, WV (Contact Janice Emrick)
November 6–10	Eastern Shore (Contact Carl Slater)	
Dec. 14–Jan. 5, '20	Christmas Bird Counts (Contact Larry Helgerman)	

BBC FORAYS

2019 Camp Pioneer 4-H Camp, Beverly, WV
 2020 Camp Galilee, Terra Alta, WV
 2021 Camp Kidd 4-H Camp, Tucker County, WV

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Winter: March 15 Spring: June 15 Summer: September 15 Fall: December 15
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The dates for the 2019 BBC programs may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the web page or in The Mail Bag.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Paulita Cousin, Paulita.L.Cousin@wv.gov	Janice Emrick, emrick@gmn4u.com
Dick Esker, eskerrb@frontier.com	Larry Helgerman, bobolink1989@gmail.com
Carl & Juanita Slater, jslater1120@yahoo.com	Ryan Tomazin, wvwarblers@hotmail.com

The Brooks Bird Club
P.O. Box 4077
Wheeling, WV 26003

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