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The **REDSTART**

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Administrator	Carl Slater, 56249 Hospital Road, Bellaire, OH 43906	740-671-1649
Membership Secretary	Juanita Slater, 56249 Hospital Road, Bellaire, OH 43906	740-671-1649

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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Tom Fox, 1447 Sycamore Road, Millstone, WV 25261	304-354-7686
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Robert Rine, 1269 National Rd., Apt. 51, Wheeling, WV 26003	304-243-8766

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Budget	Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-9726
Research	Greg E. Eddy, 3603 Kirkwood Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031	703-980-3751
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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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Swainson's Warblers in Fayette County, West Virginia

Mindy Waldron, Allen Waldron, Keith Richardson, and Bob Dameron

Southern West Virginia is a great destination in the spring when birds return from their southern haunts, following a wave of green! Our verdant spring brings leaves and food sources for the many species of birds returning north. One of the most elusive and sought after of all the birds is the Swainson's Warbler. This warbler's recognized breeding and summer range is mostly in the southern portion of the United States extending up into the Appalachian Mountains. It's a dull, olive-brown, rather plain-looking bird considering the bright yellows, greens, and blues that we associate with the wood warblers. Swainson's Warbler is an extremely secretive bird that can be difficult to locate in the dense rhododendron cover where it skulks and nests. In West Virginia, Fayette County and the New River Gorge have become a prime destination for those seeking this shy bird. The Endless Wall and Fern Creek Trails are prime areas within the New River Gorge National River where the Swainson's Warbler is seen and heard year after year.



Photograph by Keith Richardson.

Located between Oak Hill and Fayetteville in Fayette County, the New River Birding and Nature Center at Wolf Creek Park is home to one of two MAPS bird banding stations in southern West Virginia. MAPS stands for Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, which is a long-standing program overseen by the Institute for Bird Populations, a non-governmental organization headquartered in Point Reyes, California. The station at Wolf Creek Park started in the spring of 2017 and conducts the banding operation from late May to early August. Banding days occur eight times over the course of these months. The station is surrounded by a deciduous forest and contains a significant wetland area within its boundaries. Ten nets are spread over an area of about 6 hectares (15 acres). Adkins Branch is a stream within the boundary and has an abundance of rhododendron, which is almost always present where Swainson's Warblers are found.

The Nature Center at Wolf Creek Park has had numerous visual and audio encounters of the Swainson's Warbler over the years. In 2017, we captured and banded four Swainson's Warblers, two adult males and two hatch-years of unknown sex. The presence of these hatch-year captures in June and July confirm Swainson's Warblers are breeding in this area.

In 2018, we caught and banded three adult males and one adult female with a brood patch, another indication of breeding activity. Attached are some photos that show photographic evidence of our captures.

Our banding records are submitted to the United States Geological Survey Bird Banding Lab in Patuxent, Maryland. Their records indicate that since 1960 only 18 Swainson's



Photograph by Keith Richardson.

Warblers have been banded in West Virginia. Even with the recent bandings, the Banding Lab classifies Swainson's Warbler as a "species unlikely in state."

The banding accounts of the last two years here at the New River Birding and Nature Center are proof positive of a breeding population of Swainson's Warblers within the area. We have high hopes that the Swainson's Warbler continues to nest and breed here. We are looking forward to another season of bird banding in anticipation of capturing and documenting more records of Swainson's Warblers.

Mindy Waldron
PO Box 256
Surveyor, WV 25932
mwaldron@suddenlink.net



Photograph by Keith Richardson.



Photograph by Keith Richardson.

Observations on Eastern Kingbirds, Lewis County, West Virginia

Doug Jolley

One of my favorite birding techniques involves two steps: sit down and be quiet. One day last summer while sitting lakeside at Stonewall Jackson Lake near Curtis Run in Lewis County, a Common Raven lazily flew into view. Apparently, it had entered a no-fly zone and was descended upon by a pair of Eastern Kingbirds. The following description of what I witnessed was written nearly eighty years ago by W. E. Clyde Todd.

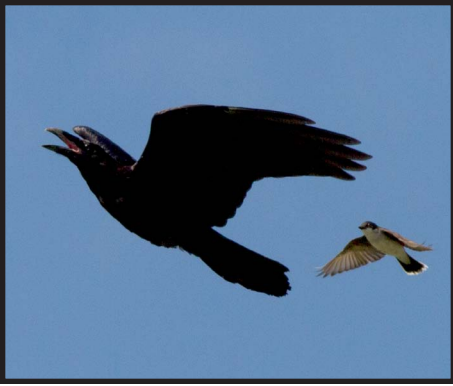
Crows and hawks are its pet aversion; they are an anathema to its race. It does not hesitate to do battle with such foes and will fly out to meet them with loud and petulant outcries and with a speed and persistency quite unlike its usual fluttering, desultory efforts. Once having gained the upper level, it swoops down on the hapless bird, sometimes even alighting on its back and deals savage blows with its bill until the enemy retires from the field.

Todd 1940.

The author continues describing the very actions that I had just witnessed. The distant photographs, while not sharp, depict this onslaught by the kingbirds upon the unsuspecting raven. The raven quickly retired from the field.

Reference

Todd, W. E. C. 1940. *Birds of Western Pennsylvania*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA.



Photographs by Doug Jolley.

Twenty-Third Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee, March 2018

Derek D.Courtney

When I was a child, before a fascination with birds took hold, my connection with the outdoors was largely through the prism of family hikes and fishing. Anglers say that a good day of fishing can be either measured by catching lots of fish, or landing a few trophy-sized lunkers. If we extend that analogy to birding, I worry about the first part: too many species, it seems, are declining in numbers. But as for the latter extension, West Virginia birders had an inarguably fantastic year in 2018!

And so, on March 23, 2019, the West Virginia Bird Records Committee convened amidst the storied pines of Old Hemlock in Preston County to review the preceding year and take count of its rare birds. In all, we received 14 submissions to consider; an excellent number for our state and not short on quality either. Two species were added to the Official State List, bringing its total to 351. A pair of Roseate Spoonbills was found in Preston County on June 13, 2018, during the Oglebay Institute's nature camp. This was the first-ever report for this species in the state. The second new record was a Western Tanager, found at a feeder in Monroe County, which delighted birders for almost two weeks in early April. Western Tanager had previously been only a Hypothetical Species in our state with one unconfirmed sighting. Adding to that impressive duo, Casey Rucker uncovered a sight report from a century ago made by esteemed ornithologist George Sutton of a pair of possibly-breeding Brown-headed Nuthatches in Brooke County. This report was accepted to the Hypothetical List bringing that list's total to 15 species. What follows is a brief summary of the species reports received and considered:

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) 2018-1. On September 2, 2017, Kyle Carlsen and Mollee Brown discovered and photographed an immature Laughing Gull on Tygart Lake, Taylor County. The bird was kind enough to remain for several days and delight many birders.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) 2018-2. On January 27, 2018, Diane Blust noticed a brilliantly-colored adult male Painted Bunting visiting her feeders in Jefferson County. The bird remained in the area into March and was seen by many eager birders. This record was expertly documented and submitted by Joette Borzik.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 2018-3. Steven Wilson visited the Union colony of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Monroe County on June 9, 2017, and was able to document one nicely with photographs. This group has been present and breeding for some time. At the previous BRC meeting it was decided that this population could be removed from the Review List once sufficient record numbers existed for consideration. The Eurasian Collared-Dove remains a Review List species outside Monroe County.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*) 2018-4. This fantastic little sparrow was spied by Gary Rankin and company in Mason County on November 26, 2017. It stayed for a couple of days and was re-found and brilliantly photographed by Rennie Talbert. This represents the 5th documented record for the state and the species is removed from the Review List.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) 2018-5. On May 15, 2018, birder N. Wade Snyder looked up and spotted a sharp Mississippi Kite hovering over an industrial park in Jefferson County. Wade was able to capture a few photos of this special raptor before it moved on. This represents the fifth accepted record for the state and the species is removed from the Review List. This is also a species that will very likely establish breeding somewhere in the state in the near future, so be on the lookout for future sightings.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) 2018-6. Word must have gotten out among these colorful songbirds because another individual graced our state in 2018. Connie and Daniel Erenrich took a look out in the rain at their backyard feeders in Monongalia County on June 1 and discovered a stunning male Painted Bunting. A few quick photos later and the 4th record of this species was documented for the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 2018-7. Committee member Derek Courtney submitted a report for this species documented with photos from July 14, 2013. The report facilitated the Committee's acknowledgement of the colony around Union in Monroe County, and allowed them to remove the species from the Review List for this isolated population.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 2018-8. Judith Polan and her husband had quite the shock when they looked out at their Monroe County feeders on April 1, 2018. This was no April Fool's joke, however, as a sharp, young male Western Tanager was feasting on their suet. The kind family allowed many birders access to their lovely property and tick a species which had never been documented in the state beforehand.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) 2018-9. Participants at the adult nature camp run by the Oglebay Institute had the find of a lifetime in Preston County on June 13, 2018, when a pair of young Roseate Spoonbills stopped by for a quick respite on Terra Alta Lake. Unfortunately, the pair took off overnight and left numerous birders envious of the find. L.E. Helgerman and many others enjoyed these one-day wonders and great photos were supplied to mark the record.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) 2018-10. An unmistakable Ruddy Turnstone was found by Mike Griffith and company at the fish hatchery at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason County on July 22, 2018. A few days later the bird turned up on the riverfront in Cabell County where it was seen by many, including Josh Holland who provided excellent diagnostic photos.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) 2018-11. You know it's a good year when you get a Wood Stork in West Virginia. Jon Benedetti was one of a number birders who were lucky enough to see this unique species over its couple-day stay in late July 2018. Appropriately enough, this southern visitor chose to show up in Wood County.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) 2018-12. Due to its geography and location, West Virginia is lucky to see more than three species of Gull in a given year. So when one of the most-striking arctic species paid a visit to Marion County in September 2018, birders understandably flocked to bear witness. Cynthia Staley and Joey Herron were among the delighted mass who got to enjoy the bird over its few day stay. It was extremely cooperative for photographs and many experienced crushing views of a lifer or state bird.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) 2018-13. Capping off an amazing year for waders in the state, Richard Esker was able to spot a foursome of this elegant shorebird in Wood County. A mid-September storm undoubtedly put the birds down, and per usual, they were soon to vacate with clearing weather. Other birders were able to rush over though to see them before they left. This was the only species accepted to the Official State List this year that wasn't photographed, but the committee was satisfied with a 6-1 vote that this species was sufficiently distinctive and well documented to merit acceptance.

Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) 2018-14. This was the only seriously-debated record the BRC was presented with for this cycle. Members could either vote For a record, Against a record, or For acceptance to the Hypothetical List. And there really wouldn't be a wrong way to go from an opinion standpoint. From an official standpoint, this record did not meet the criteria set forth for acceptance as a first state record. Given that this Brooke County sighting was made by esteemed ornithologist George Sutton, and that the sighting occurred one hundred years ago, the BRC deferred to the reputation of Sutton and his contributions, and decided that this report would be accepted 6-1 for the Hypothetical List where it can be acknowledged by generations of WV birders. The efforts of Casey Rucker cannot be overlooked in this matter.

In other happenings, the BRC meeting was especially active. The By-laws were amended to give a more modern definition to Review List and its species. Individual responsibilities of its members and officers were delineated. And the Official State List was reformatted in addition to its annual taxonomy update. This was done to hopefully provide a more user-friendly and informative tool for West Virginia birders. To facilitate the evaluation of when a species would meet the new "10-year rule" for re-inclusion on the Review List, the Committee researched past sightings of uncommon species to determine the date of last physical documentation. That year can be seen for the so-called "Watch List" species in parentheses. The Committee will update these dates yearly at the annual meeting. The result of this action led Whimbrel to return to the state Review List as its last documentation occurred in 2007.

Inspired by Casey Rucker's historical detective work, the Committee reached out to the West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Natural Resources. With the assistance of Dr. Chris Lituma and Ph.D. student Hannah Clipp, the Committee was able to review the avian specimen collection housed at WVU for any species which may have been unpublicized in our annals. No species which would need be accounted for on the Review or Hypothetical List were found, but it was an invaluable exercise. The Committee thanks Dr. Lituma and Ms. Clipp for their assistance.

As always, the above actions can be seen on our website at <http://www.brooksbirdclub.org/west-virginia-bird-records-committee.html>. The Committee thanks the Brooks Bird Club and L.E. Helgerman for continued partnership in this endeavor. The terms of John Boback and Davette Saeler expired with the conclusion of the annual meeting. We thank them for their service and wish them well in all future endeavors. The BRC welcomes new members Joette Borzik of Jefferson County and David Daniels of Preston County. Mr. Daniels had previously served as our alternate member; this spot will now be filled by Dr. Jesse Fallon of Monongalia County. The current list of Committee members can also be seen on our website.

The Committee also wishes to thank Wil Hershberger for continuing to serve as non-voting Secretary. The Secretary is, in many ways, the most important link in the Committee

chain as he or she provides the continuity and helps with direction as Committee members cycle on and off. Derek Courtney was elected Chairperson and LeJay Graffious was elected Vice-Chairperson for the upcoming cycle.

Special thanks to Helen Ann and LeJay Graffious for hosting the BRC meeting and providing lunch at the Old Hemlock property in Preston County. More information on the Old Hemlock Foundation and the Old Hemlock Bird Observatory can be found at <http://oldhemlock.org/> and their associated Facebook pages.

The actions of the Bird Records Committee are a reflection of the wonderful members of the West Virginia birding community, and we are glad to serve this diverse group. The Committee is making a concerted effort to provide more of an open and transparent public presence to the people we serve. You can follow our actions in our postings to the WV Birds listserv and Mountain State Birders Facebook page. We encourage everyone to share our offerings with their local bird clubs and friends. Most of all, please visit our aforementioned website for even more information. Keep those rare bird reports coming in! And please do not hesitate to contact any of the members of the Committee if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for improvement. Good birding!

Submitted on behalf of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee: Randy Bodkins, Joette Borzik, Ross Brittain, Derek Courtney, David Daniels, Jesse Fallon, LeJay Graffious, Joseph Hildreth, and Wil Hershberger.

WV BRC Chairperson
derek.dana.courtney@gmail.com

2018 Floyd Bartley Memorial Award Announced

On March 9, 2019, Ryan Tomazin, associate editor of this journal, announced the 2018 Floyd Bartley Memorial Award at the club's Early Spring Meeting at North Bend State Park. Joey Herron earned the award for his article, "Snowy Owl invasion in West Virginia, winter 2017–2018," which appeared in the July 2018 issue of *The Redstart*, Vol. 85, No. 3, pp. 86–89. The award includes a cash prize of \$100.

The Floyd Bartley Memorial Award was established by an anonymous donor to honor the memory of Floyd Bartley. (See *The Redstart* 1976, Vol. 43, p. 68.) Previous winners of the Award are listed below.

1976	Ray and Jo Ashworth
1979	Harry Slack
1980	James D. Phillips
1981	J. Lawrence Smith
1982	Eugene E. Hutton
1983	Linnie Coon
1984	Patricia Temple
1985	Melvin Hooker
1987	Jonathan Minear
1988	Julie Beatty
1989	Lorraine Rollefson
1993	Ralph K. Bell
1994	Wendell Argabrite
1995	Greg Eddy
1997	Ann Pyle
1998	John Northeimer
1999	Joey Herron
2000	Anna M. McRae
2001	Gary Felton
2002	William Beatty
2003	Matthew Orsie
2004	George E. Hall
2005	Jane J. Whitaker
2006	Matthew Orsie
2008	Rosie Campbell
2009	Jane Whitaker and Reba Hutton
2010	James Triplett and Beverly Triplett
2011	Joey Herron
2012	Scott Pendleton
2013	Douglas McClure Wood and Cynthia D. Ellis
2015	John Boback
2016	Jan Runyan
2017	David Patick.

eBird Notes

September 1 – November 30, 2018

Michael Slaven

For this issue, I have decided to take each of the fall months of September, October, and November separately to highlight different ways in which eBird adds to the scientific data through your bird reports and also show how eBirders both enhance, and also skew, the data.

September

The warm days of September 2018 gave birders excellent weather to be out and about, and the fall warbler reports showed a good diversity of species statewide. I need not report on the wide variety of shorebirds, since the Field Notes in this issue reports all of them.

I decided to focus my September summary to commenting on a warbler species that I always try to search out and like particularly to observe. There were reports of **Connecticut Warblers** (*Oporornis agilis*) beginning in early September and lingering until almost the end of the month. These birds have historically been very hard to find in the Mountain State, since they do not breed here and merely make limited stopovers during migration. Adding to the challenge, they are particularly skulking birds that typically are fond of hiding in low thick cover. In spite of the challenge they present to birders, there have been steady increases in the number of sightings over the last five years. I think this increase can largely be attributed to eBird and its reportage of the species, which has spurred on birders to seek out these secretive warblers in fairly-reliable habitat. Eleven lucky eBirders reported the species in 2018, in Mason, Monongalia, Preston, and Wood Counties.

The warblers first turned up as early migrants in reports in the southern portion of the state, and they were last spotted in the northern part of the state, in western Monongalia County at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This site has proven to be the most-consistent hot spot in the state for the species, probably due both to its ideal habitat and the fairly-large number of times the WMA is birded. Hopefully, those birders, now familiar with the look of the appropriate habitat, will begin to investigate other likely locations for migration sites for the species. Surely the species must visit other similar locations in the state. The apparent specificity of sightings for the Connecticut Warbler speaks not only to the particular choice of habitat by the warblers, but also to the public lands available for birders to explore in the state, and the number of active eBirders in the area. In simple terms, eBird not only measures bird density in an area, but also birder and population density, as well as giving a good indication of access to land by birders. It is no coincidence that hotspots become hotter the more they are birded. This phenomenon presents an interesting dilemma for scientific research. When there are many eBird reports, the odds of seeing more birds, and rarer ones, rise too. The result of birders concentrating in known hotspots is very apparent when one looks at a single example from October.

October

This October showed a fairly dramatic turn to cool, damp, and rainy weather after September's long, warm transition from summer. In spite of less-than-appealing conditions on many days, there was still vigorous activity by birders hoping to see lingering migrants

as well as explore the resident birds in the state. One of the birding highlights of October for eBird is the annual October Big Day, which occurred on October 6, 2018. I have chosen to draw attention to the results of that one day because they illustrate the huge strides that eBird has helped to foster in creating a community of birders. The eBird data also help to reveal a startling fact about the peculiarities of our state. Since West Virginia has only a few highly-populated cities and metropolitan areas, and the population is low, it means that ultimately there are only a limited number of birders to explore the rugged terrain of the state. Couple sparse population with the fact that much of the land in West Virginia, particularly farmland, abandoned strip mines, and private property in general, tends to be posted, and the result is that large sections of the state have not really been evaluated in every season on any regular basis. The United States Geological Survey's Breeding Bird Survey mitigates this to an extent, but nothing beats being able to thoroughly explore any habitat.

The results of the October Big Day in West Virginia show this lack of exploration quite clearly. On that day, there were 90 checklists submitted to eBird in the state, with 117 species being seen. Not too shabby at all, but the eye-opening aspect of the results is in the distribution of birds and reports. Monongalia, Preston, and Wood far outpaced the other counties, mostly because they are the most heavily-birded. Of West Virginia's 55 counties, there were no lists at all submitted for the majority of counties—29 had no reports from the October Big Day. I have given the reasons for this already, but it still amazes me. It shows that there is great room to improve our knowledge of avian distribution in the state. Some counties that I think could really use more birding include Lincoln, which, as I write this article has 56 bird lists for all time on eBird (contrast that with the 14,821 from Monongalia County and my point becomes apparent), as well as Boone County (56 lists), Calhoun County (56), McDowell County (44), and Wirt County (28). I had 55 lists just from my own backyard in 2017, so that indicates that right now these counties are essentially not being birded. If you are the adventurous type, these are largely unexplored areas that might be filled with surprises. If you already bird in one or more of them, please consider posting your sightings on eBird.

November

November proved to be a moderately-interesting month in many respects. The noteworthy species spotted included **Sandhill Crane** (*Antigone canadensis*), **Evening Grosbeak** (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*), and a **Snow Bunting** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). An **American Bittern** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) was spotted early in the month, as was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). November normally is a great time to view ducks in this area, but in 2018 it was only so-so in numbers and variety. On one hand, all three scoter species that visit the state were reported in November—**Surf Scoter** (*Melanitta perspicillata*), **White-winged Scoter** (*Melanitta deglandi*), and **Black Scoter** (*Melanitta americana*), but generally speaking, this was not a very productive year for spotting ducks in the fall. Shorebirds were, on the other hand, fairly plentiful and somewhat easier to find than in the previous three years. **Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*), **Pectoral Sandpiper** (*Calidris melanotos*), **Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularius*), **Lesser Yellowlegs** (*Tringa flavipes*), and **Greater Yellowlegs** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) were found on eBird lists from the month.

I hope that all of you take the time to explore eBird and add to the body of citizen science that helps deepen our understanding of the complexities of birds and their role in our environment. I also wish you good luck in exploring new places, faraway places, or just enjoying your own local patch.

Good birding.

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

Field Notes

Fall Season

September 1 – November 30, 2018

Casey Rucker

Fall began with the wettest and warmest September in West Virginia since recording began in 1895, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. Both October and November remained wetter than normal; October was slightly warmer, and November much cooler, than usual.

The following notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, from field notes submitted to the author by e-mail at autobock@frontiernet.net, and by regular mail. The full content of the reports submitted 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>. Observations were reported from 35 of West Virginia's 55 counties during the fall season.

Rare bird sightings this fall were scantier in West Virginia than the previous year's remarkable season. A new state bird for many was provided by Joey Herron's discovery of a fourth-state-record **Sabine's Gull** at Prickett's Fort State Park, Marion County. The juvenile was first seen on September 14, and continued for about a day and a half (JH, DCo, JsH, JK, GR, MG, HC). Another highlight was four **Black-necked Stilts** discovered in Williamstown, Wood County, on September 17 by Richard Esker; his sighting was the second state record of the species. A total of 218 species were reported in the state during the fall months.

Geese, Swans, and Ducks – The season was no better than average for **waterfowl**. The only **Greater White-fronted Goose** reported during the season was seen by Martin Powney on October 24, and lingered at St. Mary's Marina in Pleasants County through November 6, when Terry Bronson reported that the bird had been at that location for six weeks. **Canada Geese** were as usual widespread throughout the state. **Mute Swans** appeared in Hardy County (DaG) and Mason County (DP, JsH). **Tundra Swans** were scarce, with only two reports: 40 at Tygart Lake, Taylor County, on November 16 (TB), and 60 flying over Ohio County on November 20 (PM).

West Virginia birders reported 22 species of **ducks** this season. There were reports in at least six counties each of **Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, American**

Black Ducks, Mallards, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks this fall. Reports of the following species came from fewer than six counties, as noted: **Blue-winged Teal**: Grant (FA), Mason (DP, JsH, JK, MG), and Taylor (TB, DD) Counties; **Northern Shovelers**: Grant (FA), Hardy (DaG), Mason (DP, JK, MG), and Taylor (TB, DD) Counties; **Green-winged Teal**: Grant (FA), Preston (SWi, KA), and Taylor (TB, DD) Counties; **Canvasbacks**: Jefferson (JF), Mason (DP, JK, JsH), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Greater Scaup**: Kanawha (RG) and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **Lesser Scaup**: Mason (DP, JK, JsH), Monongalia (DCo), and Taylor (TB) Counties; **Surf Scoter**: Hardy County (DaG); **White-winged Scoter**: Harrison County (TB); **Black Scoters** and **Long-tailed Duck**: Monongalia County (DCo); **Common Mergansers**: Hardy (DaG), Summers (JJP), Taylor (TB), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; and **Red-breasted Mergansers**: Cabell (JsH), Hardy (DaG), and Tucker (HMy) Counties. Darrell Good saw three **Red-breasted Mergansers** and two **Common Mergansers** at Kimsey Run Lake, Hardy County, on November 20.

Turkeys – Our only upland gamebird reported this season, **Wild Turkeys** inspired reports from nine counties.

Grebes – **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared widely throughout the state, while birders found **Horned Grebes** in Cabell (JsH), Kanawha (RG), Mason (DP), Monongalia (DCo), Raleigh (MAW), Taylor (TB), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties.

Pigeons and **Doves** – **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state. Joshua Holland and David Patick spotted a **White-winged Dove** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on September 17, where the bird remained for at least a day (JsH).

Cuckoos – **Cuckoo** sightings were down in West Virginia for the second year in a row. Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** came from only nine counties.

Goatsuckers and **Swifts** – Reports of **Common Nighthawk** were again very scanty this fall, coming only from the following counties: Braxton (RBi), Jefferson (JBz), Mercer (JJP), Nicholas (SWi), Pocahontas (SK), Summers (JJP), and Wood (TB). There were ten counties with reports of **Chimney Swifts**, with the last sighting on October 30, by Paul McKay at his farm near Wheeling, Ohio County. Joette Borzik counted 100 **Chimney Swifts** in her neighborhood in Jefferson County on September 16.

Hummingbirds – Birders in fifteen counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, through early October. The last report was on October 11, when Carol Del-Colle hosted a female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at her home in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

Rails and **Coots** – On September 5, Randy Bodkins heard a **Sora** at Glade Run on Cheat Mountain, Randolph County; Kim Kazmierski found a **Sora** at Winfield Locks and Dam, Putnam County, on September 27; and on October 16 John Benedetti hosted a **Sora** as a very unexpected yard bird at his home in Wood County. **American Coots** appeared in birders' reports from only six counties.

Cranes – Randy Bodkins found at least two **Sandhill Cranes** near Davis, Tucker County, on September 11. On September 16, Frederick Atwood found a **Sandhill Crane** near Petersburg, Grant County.

Stilts and **Avocets** – The **Black-necked Stilts** found by Richard Esker in Wood County on September 17 are discussed above. Joshua Holland spotted an **American Avocet** at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington, Cabell County, on October 15.

Plovers – Joshua Holland spotted a **Black-bellied Plover** on September 7 at Robert C. Byrd Fish Hatchery, Mason County, where the bird was also found the next day (DP, JsH, JK, MG). Derek Courtney found two **Black-bellied Plovers** in Star City, Monongalia County, on September 9. **American Golden-Plovers** appeared once again in Mason County, with sightings near Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam on September 7 (GR, MG) and at Gallipolis Ferry on September 17 (MG, JK). Darrell Good saw an **American Golden-Plover** in Hardy County on September 15. There were also reports of **Semipalmated Plovers** from Mason County during September, at Gallipolis Ferry (DP, JK, MG, GR) and Leon Ferry Road (JsH). Joseph Hildreth saw a **Semipalmated Plover** at West Virginia University’s Reedsville farm, Preston County, on September 11. On September 15, Derek Courtney discovered **Semipalmated Plovers** at Rock Lake, Marion County. **Killdeer** did not inspire much attention this fall, with reports from only nine counties.

Sandpipers – **Sandpiper** diversity was up a bit this fall, as West Virginia birders submitted reports of sixteen species. Reports of the following **shorebirds** came from the counties listed: **Upland Sandpiper**: Pendleton (FA); **Stilt Sandpiper**: Mason (JsH) and Preston (JH, DD); **Sanderling**: Cabell (MG, JsH, GR) and Taylor (SWi, KA); **Dunlin**: Mason (MG, JK, DP) and Wood (JB); **Least Sandpiper**: Hardy (FA), Marion (DCo), Mason (DP, JK, MG, GR, JsH), and Preston (HC, DD, JH); **White-rumped Sandpiper**: Hardy (FA, DaG), Mason (MG, JK); Preston (HC, DD, JH), and Randolph (RBo); **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: Preston (HC, DD, JH); **Pectoral Sandpiper**: Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Mason (JsH, MG, JK), and Preston (JH, DD, SWi, KA); **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: Hardy (FA), Marion (JoH, DCo), Mason (DP, JsH, JK, MG), and Preston (JH, DD, JH); **American Woodcock**: Cabell (DP); **Wilson’s Snipe**: Grant (FA), Mason (MG,

JK, JsH), and Wood (JB); **Spotted Sandpiper**: Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Marion (DCo), Mason (DP, JK, MG, JsH, GR), Pendleton (FA), Raleigh (MW), Randolph (RBo), and Wetzell (WJ); **Solitary Sandpiper**: Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Marion (JoH, DCo), Mason (MG, JK, DP, GR), Preston (JH), Putnam (KK, CE), and Randolph (RBo); **Lesser Yellowlegs**: Grant (FA) and Mason (JsH, MG, JK); and **Greater Yellowlegs**: Grant (FA), Hardy (DaG), Marion (JoH),



Photograph of American Woodcock by Phyllis Porter.

Mason (JsH, MG, JK, DP, GR), Preston (SWi, KA), and Wood (JB). On September 17, Kyle Carlsen and Joseph Hildreth watched four **Red-necked Phalaropes** on Tygart Lake, Taylor County.

Gulls and Terns – The **Sabine’s Gull** that Joey Herron spotted at Prickett’s Fork State Park, Marion County, in mid-September, is discussed near the beginning of these notes. Perhaps the same **Laughing Gull** was seen in two locations during the second half of September: at Tygart Lake, Taylor County (JH), and at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington, Cabell County (JsH, DP, MG), where Michael Griffith saw 25 **Bonaparte’s**

Gulls on November 9. Reports of **Ring-billed Gulls** came only from Cabell (DP), Mason (DP), Monongalia (DCo), and Summers (JJP) Counties; and **Herring Gulls** were reported in Cabell (JsH) and Mason (DP, JK, MG, GR) Counties.

Terns appeared more widely than usual during September. **Caspian Terns** made appearances in Cabell (JsH), Hardy (DaG, DH), Mason (DP, JsH, JK, MG), Monongalia (DCo), and Summers (JJP) Counties. Joshua Holland, David Patick, and Michael Griffith saw two **Black Terns** at Beech Fork State Park, Wayne County, on September 10, and on September 17 Wilma Jarrell saw a **Black Tern** at Proctor, Wetzel County. **Common Terns** were seen in Cabell (JsH, GR), Mason (MG, JK), and Nicholas (SWi) Counties, and **Forster's Tern** reports came from Cabell (JsH, GR), Raleigh (MW), and Wayne (JsH, DP, MG) Counties.

Loons – Reports of **Common Loons** were down this fall, with reports from only Cabell (JsH), Mason (DP), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties.

Cormorants – Reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** came from ten counties.

Hérons and Egrets – Joshua Holland found an **American Bittern** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on September 1, and the bird was seen at the same location the next day (GR, DP). Frederick Atwood had a new state bird when he spotted an **American Bittern** at South Mill Creek Lake Park, Grant County, on November 4. **Great Blue Herons** appeared throughout much of West Virginia this fall. **Great Egrets** were reported in six counties and **Green Herons** in only four. Richard Gregg and Joe Jarrell found a juvenile **Little Blue Heron** in Belle, Kanawha County, on September 11.

Vultures – Reports of **Black Vultures** came from eight counties, while sixteen counties had reports of **Turkey Vultures**.

Hawks and Eagles – Raptors were reported in good numbers in West Virginia this fall. **Osprey, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks** were all well-represented in reports throughout the state during the fall season. It was a good year at Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory (HRT), as watchers in Monroe County recorded 6,425 raptors this fall, including 71 **Golden Eagles**, 329 **Bald Eagles**, and 4,616 **Broad-winged Hawks**. **Golden Eagles** were also reported from Greenbrier (JJP), Hardy (DH), and Summers (JJP) Counties. On November 23, N. Wade Snyder photographed a banded **Northern Harrier** in Bardane, Jefferson County, and Diane Holsinger counted 30 **Bald Eagles** at Parker Hollow Dam, Hardy County. On September 19, Cynthia Ellis saw 53 **Broad-winged Hawks** flying over her home in Red House, Putnam County.

Owls – John Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club found **Barn Owls** in Wood County on October 25. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were unusually-widely reported, from nine counties, while **Great Horned Owls** were observed in Jefferson (WS), Preston (SWi), Raleigh (KK), and Roane (DG) Counties; observers reported **Barred Owls** in Grant (FA), Jefferson (CD), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (CR) Counties. James Phillips listened to a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling on a September 26 morning outside his house in Pipestem, Summers County.

Kingfishers – There were reports of **Belted Kingfisher** in fourteen counties.

Woodpeckers – **Red-headed Woodpeckers** inspired reports in only five counties this fall: Mercer (JJP), Monroe (JJP), Roane (DG), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers** were all widely reported. Donny Good hosted six **Red-headed Woodpeckers** and two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**

at his farm in Amma, Roane County, on November 10. On November 13, Lynne Wiseman discovered a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** feeding on a well-perforated tree in a grocery store parking lot in Shepherdstown, Jefferson County.

Falcons – It was an average fall for **falcons** in West Virginia. **American Kestrels** continued to appear widely throughout the state. **Merlins** made many appearances, in Jefferson County (DH, EK), Mercer County (JJP), Monroe County (HRT), Raleigh County (MW), Summers County (JJP), and Wetzel County (WJ). There were reports of **Peregrine Falcons** from six counties: Grant (FA), Marion (JoH), Mason (DP), Mercer (JP), Ohio (PM), and Wetzel (WJ).

Flycatchers – **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports this fall came from Jefferson (BT), Raleigh (SWi), Randolph (RBo), and Wood (TB) Counties. **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were reported from eight counties, with the latest report coming on October 8 from James and Judy Phillips at the Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory in Monroe County. On September 1, David Patick, Janet Keating, and Michael Griffith spotted a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** along the Cabell County ridges, and on the next day Gary Rankin and David Patick found another **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** on Long Ridge in Mason County. **Acadian Flycatchers** were observed in Jefferson (BT), Mason (JsH, DP, JK, MG), and Wood (JB) Counties. Michael Griffith and Janet Keating discovered a late **Least Flycatcher** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on October 18. **Eastern Phoebes** were reported widely in the state. **Great Crested Flycatchers** inspired reports from Jefferson (BH), Mason (JsH, DP, JK, MG), Wayne (DP, JK, GR, MG), and Wood (JB) Counties, and William and Carol Telfair reported the sole **Eastern Kingbird** of the season, at Altona Marsh, Jefferson County, on September 9. During the first week of September, Bruni Haydl found a fledgling **Great Crested Flycatcher** in her yard in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

Shrikes – On October 16, Richard Bailey reported re-finding a banded **Loggerhead Shrike** in Monroe County.

Vireos – It was a good fall for **vireo** sightings in West Virginia. **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Philadelphia, and Red-eyed Vireos** appeared in counties throughout the state during September and early October, with **Blue-headed Vireos** continuing through November 7 (CD). **Warbling Vireos** were reported only in Cabell (DP, GR, MG) and Summers (JP) Counties.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens – **Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens** prompted many reports throughout West Virginia.

Larks – Deborah Hale found the only **Horned Larks** reported this fall season: a flock of more than 30 on Thanksgiving Day in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County.

Swallows – Reports of **swallows** were scanty once again this season. Joshua Holland saw a **Purple Martin** in Apple Grove, Mason County, on September 3, and Randy Bodkins spotted a **Purple Martin** in Elkins, Randolph County, on September 18. **Tree Swallows** lingered in six counties as late as October 28, when James and Judy Phillips saw two **Tree Swallows** over the New River at Hinton, Summers County, and David Patick saw another two **Tree Swallows** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. William and Carole Telfair reported five **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at Altona Marsh, Jefferson County, on September 9, and two at the same location on October 2. On September 16, Steven Wilson found a **Cliff Swallow** near Beckley, Raleigh County. **Barn Swallows** appeared in seven counties, with a late sighting by Michael Griffith and Janet Keating of one individual at Ashton Wetlands, Mason County, on October 18.

Chickadees and **Titmice** – **Black-capped** and **Carolina Chickadees** did not inspire many reports this fall from their resident territories. **Tufted Titmice** were widely reported throughout the state as usual.

Nuthatches – Unusually, reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** outpaced those of **White-breasted Nuthatches** this season, coming from 21 and 17 counties, respectively.

Creepers – Reports of **Brown Creeper** came from Cabell (JK), Jefferson (LW, CD), Kanawha (HG), Pleasants (TB), Raleigh (KK), and Summers (JJP) Counties, beginning on October 2 in Summers County (JJP) and continuing through mid-November.

Wrens – **House** and **Carolina Wrens** were reported widely, with a late report of **House Wren** on October 14 in Denmar, Pocahontas County (DP). **Winter Wrens** inspired reports from Jefferson (DH), Monroe (JJP), Pleasants (TB), Pocahontas (DP), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (HMy) Counties. On September 16, Frederick Atwood found a **Marsh Wren** at South Mill Creek Lake in Grant County; a **Marsh Wren** was at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, during late September (DP, JK, MG, GR), and another **Marsh Wren** visited Ashton Wetlands, Mason County, from September 27 to October 28, as observed by Michael Griffith, Janet Keating, and David Patick.

Gnatcatchers – Birders in Cabell (DP, JK, MG), Jefferson (BT), Kanawha (HG), Marion (JoH), Mason (GR, DP, JsH), and Summers (JJP) Counties reported **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, all during the first half of September.

Kinglets – **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were reported only from Grant (FA), Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (DG), Ohio (PM), Preston (SWi), Taylor (TB, DD), and Tucker (HMy, SKi) Counties. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** inspired reports throughout the state this fall.

Thrushes – It was an average fall for **thrushes** in West Virginia. **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Swainson's Thrushes**, **Wood Thrushes**, and **American Robins** were all seen widely in reporting counties. Reports of **Veery** came only from Ohio (PM), Tucker (SKi), and Wood (TB) Counties; **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** appeared in Cabell (MG, JK), Grant (FA), Jefferson (LW), Preston (SWi, KA), and Summers (JP) Counties; and **Hermit Thrushes** occasioned reports only in Kanawha (LC), Monroe (DP), and Ohio (PM) Counties.

Mockingbirds and **Thrashers** – Reports of **Gray Catbirds**, **Brown Thrashers**, and **Northern Mockingbirds** appeared throughout the state this fall.

Starlings – Reports from twelve counties confirm that **European Starlings** continued to occupy widespread habitats throughout West Virginia.

Waxwings – For the second fall in a row, **Cedar Waxwings** prompted reports from sixteen counties throughout the state.

Weaver Finches – The **House Sparrow** prompted reports from seven counties this fall. Herb Myers had a new yard bird when his first **House Sparrow** appeared on November 5 near Harman, Randolph County.

Finches and **Allies** – It was a good season for **finches** this fall. For the first time in more than two years, **Evening Grosbeaks** reappeared in West Virginia, with reports in November from Jefferson (LW, EK), Randolph (RBo), Ritchie (CB), and Tucker (CR) Counties. **House Finches**, **Purple Finches**, **Pine Siskins**, and **American Goldfinches** inspired widespread reports throughout the state this fall. On September 22 the earliest **Purple Finch** ever arrived at Hullet Good's feeders in Milliken, Kanawha County, on the same day as his latest-ever **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**.

Towhees, **Sparrows**, and **Juncos** – The most-frequent **emberizid** species in reports this fall were **Eastern Towhee**, **Chipping**, **Field**, **Song**, **Swamp**, **White-throated**, and **White-**

crowned Sparrows, and **Dark-eyed Junco**. The following **sparrows** were reported only in the counties listed: **American Tree** in Jefferson County (JF); **Vesper** in Kanawha (RG) and Wayne (GR) Counties; **Savannah** only in Mason (MG, JK, DP, JK) and Preston (SWi, KA) Counties; **Fox** in Cabell (MG, JsH, DP), Jefferson (CD), Mineral (SB), Randolph (HMy, RBo), and Summers (JJP) Counties; and **Lincoln's** in Barbour (TB), Cabell (DP, JK, MG, GR), Grant (FA), Monongalia (HC), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Blackbirds – Bobolinks appeared in Grant (FA) and Mason (MG, JK, DP) Counties. West Virginia birders reported sightings of **Eastern Meadowlarks** in six counties. Lingered **Baltimore Orioles** inspired reports in Mason (GR, DP, JsH), Ohio (PM), and Wayne (DP, JK, GR, MG) Counties. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were reported in twelve counties; **Brown-headed Cowbird** reports came only from Jefferson (BT, AW), Preston (SWi, KA), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; while **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in Jefferson (BT, JF, AW), Kanawha (RG), Marion (AW), Mason (MG, JK), Ritchie (CB), and Tucker (CR) Counties. **Common Grackles** appeared widely.

Warblers – This fall birders in West Virginia found 31 **warbler** species, and it was another good season for reports. On the Cabell County ridges on September 1, David Patick, Janet Keating, and Michael Griffith found a **Lawrence's Warbler (Golden-winged x Blue-winged hybrid)**, the first in that area since ten years before. **Warbler** species reported in six or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. Species listed without contributors were reported in at least seven counties. **Warblers** reported this fall included **Ovenbird; Worm-eating** – Mason (GR, DP, JsH), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Northern Waterthrush** – Cabell (DP, JK, MG, GR), Putnam (KK, CE), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Golden-winged** – Wayne County (JsH); **Blue-winged** – Cabell (DP, JK, MG), Mason (JsH, DP, JK, MG), Ohio (PM), and Wood (TB) Counties; **Black-and-white; Tennessee; Orange-crowned** – Randolph (HMy) and Summers (JJP) Counties; **Nashville** – Mason (GR, DP), Ohio (PM), Pocahontas (DP), Taylor (TB), and Wood (TB) Counties; **Connecticut** – Mason (GR, DP) and Wood (TB) Counties; **Kentucky** – Mason County (DP, JsH, JK, MG); **Common Yellowthroat; Hooded; American Redstart; Cape May; Northern Parula; Magnolia; Bay-breasted; Blackburnian; Yellow** – Jefferson (BT) and Wood (TB) Counties; **Chestnut-sided; Blackpoll; Black-throated Blue** – Cabell (DP, JsH, JK, MG), Mason (DP, JsH, JK, MG), Raleigh (KK), Ritchie (CB), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (HMy, CR) Counties; **Palm; Pine; Yellow-rumped; Yellow-throated** – Cabell (DP, JsH, JK, MG, GR), Mason (JsH, DP, JK, MG), Wayne (DP, JK, GR, MG), and Wood (JB, TB) Counties; **Prairie** – Hardy (DH), Mason (GR, DP, JsH, MG, JK), Monongalia (GD), and Summers (JJP) Counties; **Black-throated Green; Canada** – Grant and Hardy Counties (FA); and **Wilson's** – Cabell (MG, JK), Mason (GR, DP, JK, MG), Pleasants (JB), and Wood (TB, JB) Counties. James Triplett found at least four **Cape May Warblers** at Canaan Valley State Park, Tucker County, on September 21, in the same tree where he found them a year before.

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings – **Summer Tanagers** appeared in reports from Cabell (DP, JK, MG, JsH), Kanawha (HG), Mason (JsH, DP, JK, MG), and Wood (JB, TB) Counties. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** prompted reports from birders in most parts of the state. **Blue Grosbeaks** appeared in Hardy (DaG, FA), Kanawha (RG), and Mason (DP, JK, MG) Counties; **Indigo Buntings** were reported only in Mason (GR, DP), Ohio (PM), Preston (SWi, KA), Putnam (KK, CE), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB) Counties. Gordon Dimmig found a **Dickcissel** at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County, on September 12.

Contributors to the Fall Field Notes: Kyle Aldinger (KA), Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (Rbi), Jon Benedetti (JB), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Terry Bronson (TB), Cynthia Burkhart (CB), Shannon Burner (SB), Kyle Carlsen (KCr), Hannah Clipp (HC), Derek Courtney (DCo), David Daniels (DD), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Gordon Dimmig (GD_i), Cynthia Ellis (CE), James Farley (JF), Darrell Good (DaG), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DHa), Bruni Haydl (BH), Joey Herron (JoH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Joshua Holland (JsH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Kim Kazmierski (KK), Sharon Kearns (SK), Janet Keating (JK), Stephen Kimbrell (SK_i), Elliot Kirschbaum (EK), Paul McKay (PM), Herb Myers (HMy), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), N. Wade Snyder (WS), William and Carole Telfair (BT), Mindy Waldron (MW), Mindy and Allen Waldron (MAW), Andy Weaks (AW), Steven Wilson (SW_i), and Lynne Wiseman (LW).

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

Addendum

Scott A. Emrick

Gaudineer Study Plot Results From the 2018 Foray

GAUDINEER KNOB—Location: West Virginia; Pocahontas and Randolph Counties; 5 miles N of Durbin; 38° 37'05"N, 79° 50' 44"W, Durbin Quadrangle, USGS, extends S. Continuity: Established 1947 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; studied by the Brooks Bird Club in 1948, '53, '58, '64, '68, '73, '78, '83, '93, '98, 2003, 2008, 2013.

Size 6.07 ha = 15 acres (110 x 660 yards, measured longitudinally and estimated laterally). Description of plot: See The Redstart, 66(1), 4.

Coverage: June 4 to June 8, 2018. All trips between 0530 and 0745 hours. Total party hours: 10. Census: Magnolia Warbler, 7 (115,47); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6 (99,40); Dark-eyed Junco, 5 (82,33); Winter Wren, 4 (66,27); Blackburnian Warbler, 2 (33,13); Yellowrumped Warbler, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 (17,7); Blue-headed Vireo, 1; Brown Creeper, +; Hermit Thrush, +; Black-throated Green Warbler, +; Swainson's Thrush, +; Northern Parula, +; American Robin, +; Raven, +; American Goldfinch, +; Red Crossbill, +. Total 17 species; 27 territorial males (485/sq. km., 183/100 acres).

Remarks: A pair of Snowshoe Hares were seen most mornings at the edge of the parking lot. There was a Black Bear that crossed the road a number of the morning. Without making a complete vegetative analysis, a measurement of canopy height was made. The average height of the spruce was 58.3 feet (range 48 to 62 feet). The average height in 1979 was 41 feet and in 1998 was 60 feet. The understory, consisting mostly of young spruce trees, is now well over six feet and very heavy in places, especially at the southern end of the plot. Census participants: Martin Tingley (compiler), Kevin Cade, Patrick Coy, Darrell Good, Nevin Good, LeJay Graffious, Gerald Maravanyika, Bob Pickett, Karin Tanquist, Deb Tingley.

52713 S R 800
Jerusalem, OH 43747

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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)	

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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, j Slater1120@yahoo.com	Ryan Tomazin, wvwarblers@hotmail.com

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