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Editor The Redstart	Casey Rucker, P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884	304-866-4004
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## **Editorial Staff**

Editor • Casey Rucker, P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884 • [autoblock@frontiernet.net](mailto:autoblock@frontiernet.net)

Associate Editor • Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017 • [wwwarblers@hotmail.com](mailto:wwwarblers@hotmail.com)

Field Notes Editor • Casey Rucker, P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884 • [autoblock@frontiernet.net](mailto:autoblock@frontiernet.net)

eBird Editor • Michael Slaven, 632 West Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26591 • [mikeslavenwv@gmail.com](mailto:mikeslavenwv@gmail.com)

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# Native Bees of West Virginia and Surrounding States

Jane J. Whitaker

Native bees have been an understudied group of insects, but with the colony collapse syndrome of *Apis mellifera*, the honeybee, making the news, more interest has been aroused in other pollinators. Prior to European colonization there were no honeybees in North America; however, pollination did occur. So, the question arises. What were the major pollinators?

There are more than 700 species of native bees in eastern North America. Their distribution and abundance since 1600 have undoubtedly been altered due to habitat changes: in particular, the destruction of forested areas and the conversion of thousands of acres of nonnative crops and human habitations.

Two large projects will help to address this question: the United States Geological Service Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Station, and the Digital Bee Collections Network, which maps worldwide distributions of bees and is led by John Ascher of the American Museum of Natural History. Their objective is to determine the distribution and abundance of native bee communities along with non-native bees.

The Mid-Atlantic Bee Inventory, for which I am a volunteer, is an offshoot of that project. We work in conjunction with the North American study but our emphasis is on the Mid-Atlantic states, among which West Virginia is included. Our results are incorporated into the <http://discoverlife.org> website which tallies lists of bees from around the world as well as containing photographs and keys for identifying the specimens.

*Apis mellifera* is a colonial bee, in addition to being the only bee in the country providing honey, and is ideal for pollinating large monocultures that bloom at the same time. The hives can be moved from crop to crop all over the United States to assure that there are plenty of pollinators for the crop. There are several downsides to this type of pollination. These colonial bees are concentrated on the single crop and ignore other plants, so that if one colony acquires a parasite or disease it can easily spread to all hives in the vicinity. As the hive is moved to another location the disease will go along and infect still more hives.

Native bees, with the exception of bumblebees, are primarily solitary; therefore, they are less likely to be exposed to honeybee diseases and if a bee acquires a disease it is less likely to be spread. The native bees will not concentrate on only one crop; rather they are dispersed, pollinating whatever plant is blooming at the time. Some native bees, however, are specialists and require pollen only from certain plants to feed their young. An example would be the squash bee, *Peponapis pruinosa*, which gathers pollen only from pumpkins and squash. Another downside to native bee pollination from a farmer's perspective is that a specific species will often fly only during a certain portion of the growing season, although there are also some species that fly throughout the growing season. Some bees fly only in the spring, some in the summer, and others in the fall.

Our studies have been determining the distribution of the native bees in West Virginia and their relative abundance. This list includes both bees that carry pollen and a set of bees that are parasitic, laying their eggs in nests of companion species of bees.

I have been collecting native bees for this study since 2008 throughout the state of

West Virginia and in adjacent states and the District of Columbia. In 2013, the last year I collected, I concentrated my collecting in unusual and underreported areas, for example, swamps and shale barrens.

Collecting is done in two ways. The first and most obvious is netting. It is time and labor intensive but surveys all species that pollinate. Bees' foraging habits are restricted to sunny, warm days above 50 degrees with little wind so collecting opportunities are somewhat limited.

The second method requires the use of pan traps. These can be left out in inclement weather and are present in the field whenever the conditions are acceptable without the researcher being present. The traps can vary but the ones I use are either 3 1/2 oz. plastic bowls or 16 oz. bowls such as cottage cheese containers. The smaller ones are set out in transects of approximately 15 bowls spaced about 5 meters apart. They are filled to about three-quarters full with a solution of unscented blue Dawn dishwashing detergent and water, and left in place for approximately one day. They cannot be left out much longer since the liquid will evaporate.

The larger containers are filled about three-quarters full with a solution of propylene glycol. This chemical is related to ethylene glycol, antifreeze, and does not evaporate. It is edible and tasteless and is used as a preservative in baked goods. Therefore, there is no threat to wildlife or pets. These characteristics make it ideal for collecting over longer periods of time from a week to a month.

The interiors of the bee bowls, as they are often called, are painted with florescent yellow or blue paint. Some are left white. It has been found that these colors attract bees and other pollinators to flowers. I have tried florescent pink and orange but these colors were not productive.

In my studies, I have had some problems collecting with the bee bowls in rural, wild areas. One is wildlife. Bears are very curious animals and will taste the contents of the bowls and in some cases have walked off with the bowls. Deer will also tip them over and the bowls cannot be set out in pasture fields with cows as they, like bears, are curious and will spill the contents.

Another problem I have had is with "good Samaritans" mistaking the bowls for trash and disposing of them. Thus, I have to pick my collecting sites carefully. I look for areas with an abundance of flowering plants but with places that the bowls can be set out inconspicuously.

One site I picked was on White's Run Road at the Randolph County and Pendleton County line. Although there were few flowering plants at the site proper, the surrounding hills had an abundance of blossoming flora. The site was on a concealed road cut where I could leave the large bee bowls with propylene glycol for more than a week without concern for their being disturbed by man or beast.

The terrain is a wind gap surrounded by three mountain ridges which are all over 4,225 ft. in elevation. The gap itself is about 3,175 ft. high. The winds generally blow from the west and comes down the valley through which Gandy Creek drains. I believe that bees get caught in the winds coming down the valley and are dropped out as they reach the wind gap.

This site proved to be the most productive of any I have surveyed. I collected several state records and several bees generally found in more northern reaches of the country there.

John Ascher has kept an unpublished list of bees for West Virginia and as I collected bees, Sam Droege sent new records to John. The table below documents new state additions to John's list. Specimens collected at the Whites Run wind gap are marked with an asterisk. New records from my collecting in adjoining states are also included.

### NEW STATE AND REGIONAL RECORDS

<i>Andrena arabis</i>	Wood Co. WV
<i>Andrena canadensis</i> *	Pendleton Co. WV
<i>Andrena chromotricha</i>	Pocahontas Co. WV
<i>Andrena clarkella</i>	Tucker Co. WV
<i>Andrena commoda</i>	Grant Co. WV
<i>Andrena erythronii</i> *	Randolph Co. WV
<i>Andrena hippotes</i>	Pocahontas Co. WV
<i>Andrena illini</i>	District of Columbia
<i>Andrena milwaukeensis</i>	Pocahontas Co. WV
<i>Andrena nida</i>	Kanawha Co. WV
<i>Andrena nivalis</i>	Pocahontas Co. WV
<i>Andrena nuda</i>	Ohio Co. WV
<i>Andrena phaceliae</i>	Fayette, Tucker Cos. WV
<i>Andrena polemonii</i>	Lincoln Co. WV
<i>Andrena zizia</i>	McDowell Co. WV
<i>Coelioxys rufitarsis</i>	Greenbrier Co. WV
<i>Eucera dubitata</i>	Pleasants Co. WV
<i>Hylaeus hyalinatus</i>	Franklin Co., Ohio
<i>Lasioglossum athabascense</i>	3 Pocahontas Co., 1 Randolph WV
<i>Lasioglossum cinctipes</i>	Garrett Co., Md
<i>Lasioglossum gotham</i>	allotype of a new species
<i>Lasioglossum gotham</i>	Male allotype
<i>Lasioglossum heterognathum</i>	Wayne Co. WV
<i>Melecta pacifica</i>	Grant Co. WV
<i>Melissodes subillata</i>	Ritchie Co. WV
<i>Nomada bethunei/pseudops</i> *	Randolph/Pendleton Co WV
<i>Nomada gracilis</i> *	Randolph/Pendleton Co. WV
<i>Nomada superba</i>	Pleasants Co. WV
<i>Nomada sulphurata</i>	Tucker County, WV
<i>Osmia felti</i>	Hardy Co. WV
<i>Osmia simillima</i> *	Randolph/Pendleton Co. WV
<i>Stelis louisae</i>	District of Columbia

From March 2008 until Sept. 2013, 6 years, I collected in 38 of the 55 counties in West Virginia. A total of more than 12,000 specimens were collected; about 10 percent of the total were captured in Maryland, Ohio, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

My specimens were prepared for identification in the following way. They were first agitated in a pint jar filled with Dawn detergent and water, rinsed, and blow dried. The dried specimens were then mounted on pins.

I identified all specimens to genus using the discoverlife.org keys and further identified



*Andrena nida* is an unusual species as it nests on sandy beaches and uses only willow pollen to feed its young. The only site where I found it was the sandy beach downstream from Kanawha Falls in Fayette County. My specimens were collected by hand netting over the nest holes. These specimens are an excellent example of the necessity of collecting in a specific habitat when the pollen source is blooming.

*Andrena chromotricha*, is a rare species with most of its populations found to the west and the north of the state. One was netted in Pocahontas County along the Greenbrier River Trail. I captured two *Andrena clarkella*, one in a bog at Blackwater Falls State Park and another at the White's Run Road site in Randolph County. The two records represent the southernmost points for this northern species.

There are undoubtedly many species present in the state that I did not find. It has been communicated to me by Sam Droege that about 450 bee species are known in the neighboring state, Maryland. Future investigators will need to continue searching unusual habitats and be sensitive to bloom times of species dependent plants.

In summary, over the period when I collected I was distressed to observe a continuous destruction of bee habitat. When I would return to areas where collecting had been fruitful I often found the sites obliterated. Weedy patches were often mowed and turned into lawns and flowering roadsides had become parking pullouts. Although insecticides have been deadly for many bees I believe that habitat destruction is just as serious a problem and one that is ignored. What looks "pretty" to the average person is a desert to a hungry bee.

I want to express my appreciation to everyone who has supported me in my research, and particularly to the many members of the Brooks Bird Club who opened their homes to me and gave me lodging. Sam Droege of the Bee Lab deserves a special thank you for his support throughout my endeavor. His identification skills, data organization and encouragement had made this paper possible.

In closing, I encouraged those interested in bees to continue to study them and to speak up for habitat preservation.

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**Appendix A**  
**Native Bees of West Virginia**

Bee species collected plus the totals for each species are listed below.

Row Labels	Count of name	Row Labels	Count of name
<b>ANDRENIDAE</b>		<i>Andrena nida</i> Mitchell, 1960	4
<i>Andrena (Trachandrena)</i>	53	<i>Andrena nigrae</i> Robertson, 1905	1
<i>Andrena aliciae</i> Robertson, 1891	1	<i>Andrena personata</i> Robertson, 1897	4
<i>Andrena arabis</i> Robertson, 1897	1	<i>Andrena phaceliae</i> Robertson, 1897	2
<i>Andrena asteris</i> Robertson, 1891	3	<i>Andrena placata</i> Mitchell, 1960	2
<i>Andrena barbara</i> Bouseman and LaBerge, 1979	1	<i>Andrena polemonii</i> Robertson, 1891	1
<i>Andrena barbilabris</i> Kirby, 1802	4	<i>Andrena pruni</i> Robertson, 1891	15
<i>Andrena bisalictis</i> Viereck, 1908	4	<i>Andrena robertsonii</i> Dalla Torre, 1896	6
<i>Andrena brevipalpis</i> Cockerell, 1930	2	<i>Andrena rufosignata</i> Cockerell, 1902	16
<i>Andrena canadensis</i> Dalla Torre, 1896	2	<i>Andrena rugosa</i> Robertson, 1891	13
<i>Andrena carlini</i> Cockerell, 1901	207	<i>Andrena sigmundi?</i> Cockerell, 1902	1
<i>Andrena carolina</i> Viereck, 1909	6	<i>Andrena simplex</i> Smith, 1853	3
<i>Andrena ceanothi</i> Viereck, 1917	1	<i>Andrena species</i>	6
<i>Andrena chromotricha</i> Cockerell, 1899	1	<i>Andrena spiraeana</i> Robertson, 1895	18
<i>Andrena clarkella</i> Kirby, 1802	2	<i>Andrena thaspiae</i> Graenicher, 1903	5
<i>Andrena commoda</i> Smith, 1879	16	<i>Andrena tridens</i> Robertson, 1902	7
<i>Andrena crataegi</i> Robertson, 1893	73	<i>Andrena vicina</i> Smith, 1853	23
<i>Andrena cressonii</i> Robertson, 1891	18	<i>Andrena violae</i> Robertson, 1891	110
<i>Andrena erigeniae</i> Robertson, 1891	145	<i>Andrena virginiana</i> Mitchell, 1960	1
<i>Andrena erythronii</i> Robertson, 1891	2	<i>Andrena wilkella</i> Kirby, 1802	32
<i>Andrena forbesii</i> Franclemont, 1952	19	<i>Andrena w-scripta?</i> Viereck, 1904	1
<i>Andrena fragilis</i> Smith, 1853	7	<i>Andrena ziziae</i> Robertson, 1891	8
<i>Andrena gardineri</i> Cockerell, 1906	1	<i>Andrena ziziaeformis</i> Cockerell, 1908	6
<i>Andrena geranii</i> Robertson, 1891	38	<i>Calliopsis andreniformis</i> Smith, 1853	94
<i>Andrena heraclei</i> Robertson, 1897	3	<i>Pseudopanurgus compositarum</i>	2
<i>Andrena hiliaris</i> Smith, 1853	1	Robertson, 1893 Robertson	
<i>Andrena hippotes</i> Robertson, 1895	16	<i>Pseudopanurgus labrosiformis</i>	1
<i>Andrena hirticincta</i> Provancher, 1888	4	Robertson, 1898	
<i>Andrena illini</i> Bouseman and LaBerge, 1979	6	<i>Anthophora abrupta</i> Say, 1838	10
<i>Andrena imitatrix</i> Cresson, 1872	191	<i>Anthophora bomboides</i> Kirby, 1838	1
<i>Andrena imitatrix/morrisonella</i>	14	<i>Anthophora terminalis</i> Cresson, 1869	4
<i>Andrena mandibularis</i>	2	<i>Apis mellifera</i> Linnaeus, 1758	130
Robertson, 1892		<i>Bombus auricomus</i> Robertson, 1903	1
<i>Andrena milwaukeeensis</i>	9	<i>Bombus bimaculatus</i> Cresson, 1863	58
Graenicher, 1903		<i>Bombus citrinus</i> Smith, 1854	3
<i>Andrena miserabilis</i> Cresson, 1872	48	<i>Bombus fernaldae</i> Franklin, 1911	1
<i>Andrena morrisonella</i> Viereck, 1917	5	<i>Bombus fervidus</i> Fabricius, 1798	3
<i>Andrena nasonii</i> Grote, 1876	294	<i>Bombus griseocollis</i> De Geer, 1773	97
<i>Andrena near_simplex</i>	1	<i>Bombus impatiens</i> Cresson, 1863	313
		<i>Bombus perplexus</i> Cresson, 1863	11
		<i>Bombus sandersoni</i> Franklin, 1913	10

Row Labels	Count of name	Row Labels	Count of name
<i>Bombus</i> species	1	<i>Colletes thoracicus</i>	5
<i>Bombus vagans</i> Smith, 1854	89	<i>Hylaeus affinis</i>	19
<i>Ceratina calcarata</i> Robertson, 1900	302	<i>Hylaeus affinis/modestus</i>	96
<i>Ceratina calcarata/dupla/mikmaqi</i>	20	<i>Hylaeus annulatus</i>	9
<i>Ceratina dupla</i> Say, 1837	18	<i>Hylaeus leptocephalus</i>	5
<i>Ceratina dupla/mikmaqi</i>	114	<i>Hylaeus mesillae</i>	27
<i>Ceratina mikmaqi</i> Rehan and Sheffield, 2011	34	<i>Hylaeus modestus</i>	48
<i>Ceratina</i> species	6	<i>Hylaeus</i> species	5
<i>Ceratina strenua</i> Smith, 1879	148	<b>HALICTIDAE</b>	
<b>APIDAE</b>		<i>Augochlora pura</i>	328
<i>Melecta pacifica</i>	3	<i>Augochlorella aurata</i>	435
<i>Melissodes bimaculatus</i>	6	<i>Augochloropsis metallica</i>	35
<i>Melissodes denticulatus</i>	61	<i>Agapostemon sericeus</i>	10
<i>Melissodes desponsus</i>	13	<i>Agapostemon texanus</i>	1
<i>Melissodes druriellus</i>	8	<i>Halictus confusus</i>	178
<i>Melissodes near_subillata</i>	1	<i>Halictus ligatus</i>	212
<i>Melissodes subillatus</i>	3	<i>Halictus parallelus</i>	1
<i>Melissodes tinctus</i>	3	<i>Halictus rubicundus</i>	20
<i>Melitoma taurea</i>	10	<i>Halictus</i> species	1
<i>Nomada annulata</i>	1	<i>Lasioglossum acuminatum</i>	1
<i>Nomada articulata</i>	5	<i>Lasioglossum admirandum</i>	15
<i>Nomada bethunei</i>	1	<i>Lasioglossum albipenne</i>	1
<i>Nomada bidentate</i> group	134	<i>Lasioglossum anomalum</i>	1
<i>Nomada cressonii</i>	3	<i>Lasioglossum apocyni</i>	410
<i>Nomada denticulata</i>	5	<i>Lasioglossum apocyni/fattigi</i>	18
<i>Nomada depressa</i>	1	<i>Lasioglossum asteris</i>	1
<i>Nomada gracilis</i>	3	<i>Lasioglossum athabascense</i>	4
<i>Nomada illinoensis/sayi</i>	14	<i>Lasioglossum birkmanni</i>	5
<i>Nomada imbricata</i>	10	<i>Lasioglossum bruneri</i>	30
<i>Nomada luteoloides</i>	10	<i>Lasioglossum callidum</i>	23
<i>Nomada maculata</i>	85	<i>Lasioglossum cattellae</i>	4
<i>Nomada near_armatella</i>	1	<i>Lasioglossum cinctipes</i>	20
<i>Nomada pygmaea</i>	66	<i>Lasioglossum coeruleum</i>	5
<i>Nomada</i> species	5	<i>Lasioglossum coriaceum</i>	112
<i>Nomada sulphurata</i>	2	<i>Lasioglossum cressonii</i>	85
<i>Nomada superba</i>	1	<i>Lasioglossum ephialtum</i>	45
<i>Nomada white_setae</i> group	35	<i>Lasioglossum fattigi</i>	102
<i>Peponapis pruinosa</i>	3	<i>Lasioglossum forbesii</i>	2
<i>Tripeolus cressonii</i>	2	<i>Lasioglossum foxii</i>	28
		<i>Lasioglossum foxii?</i>	1
		<i>Lasioglossum fuscipenne</i>	3
<b>COLLETIDAE</b>		<i>Lasioglossum gotham</i>	21
<i>Colletes compactus</i>	10	<i>Lasioglossum heterognathum</i>	7
<i>Colletes inaequalis</i>	73	<i>Lasioglossum hitchensi</i>	158
<i>Colletes simulans</i>	4	<i>Lasioglossum illinoense</i>	76

Row Labels	Count of name	Row Labels	Count of name
<i>Lasioglossum imitatum</i>	180	<i>Hoplitis</i> species	1
<i>Lasioglossum katherineae</i>	3	<i>Hoplitis spoliata</i>	11
<i>Lasioglossum laevisimum</i>	2	<i>Megachile brevis</i>	2
<i>Lasioglossum leucomomum</i>	2	<i>Megachile campanulae</i>	3
<i>Lasioglossum leucozonium</i>	68	<i>Megachile exilis</i>	1
<i>Lasioglossum lineatulum</i>	37	<i>Megachile gemula</i>	24
<i>Lasioglossum nigroviride</i>	5	<i>Megachile inermis</i>	5
<i>Lasioglossum oblongum</i>	8	<i>Megachile inimica</i>	1
<i>Lasioglossum obscurum</i>	13	<i>Megachile latimanus</i>	2
<i>Lasioglossum oceanicum</i>	132	<i>Megachile mendica</i>	32
<i>Lasioglossum paradmirandum</i>	36	<i>Megachile mucida</i>	2
<i>Lasioglossum pectorale</i>	10	<i>Megachile petulans</i>	1
<i>Lasioglossum perpunctatum</i>	1	<i>Megachile pugnata</i>	2
<i>Lasioglossum pilosum</i>	125	<i>Megachile relativa</i>	11
<i>Lasioglossum planatum</i>	10	<i>Megachile rotundata</i>	3
<i>Lasioglossum platyparium</i>	7	<i>Megachile sculpturalis</i>	1
<i>Lasioglossum quebecense</i>	41	<i>Megachile</i> species	1
<i>Lasioglossum rozeni</i>	3	<i>Osmia albiventris</i>	1
<i>Lasioglossum rufitarse</i>	1	<i>Osmia atriventris</i>	94
<i>Lasioglossum smilacinae</i>	21	<i>Osmia bucephala</i>	62
<i>Lasioglossum</i> species	351	<i>Osmia collinsiae</i>	30
<i>Lasioglossum subviridatum</i>	8	<i>Osmia conjuncta</i>	9
<i>Lasioglossum tegulare</i>	24	<i>Osmia cornifrons</i>	64
<i>Lasioglossum timothyi</i>	2	<i>Osmia distincta</i>	2
<i>Lasioglossum trigeminum</i>	18	<i>Osmia felti</i>	1
<i>Lasioglossum truncatum</i>	35	<i>Osmia georgica</i>	164
<i>Lasioglossum versans</i>	23	<i>Osmia georgica?</i>	1
<i>Lasioglossum versatum</i>	474	<i>Osmia inspergens</i>	1
<i>Lasioglossum viridatum</i> group	30	<i>Osmia lignaria</i>	35
<i>Lasioglossum weemsi</i>	15	<i>Osmia pumila</i>	216
<i>Lasioglossum zephyrum</i>	10	<i>Osmia simillima</i>	2
<i>Sphecodes illinoensis</i>	1	<i>Osmia</i> species	8
<i>Sphecodes</i> species	34	<i>Osmia subfasciata</i>	2
<b>MEGACHILIDAE</b>		<i>Osmia taurus</i>	253
<i>Coelioxys alternatus</i>	1	<i>Osmia texana</i>	2
<i>Coelioxys octodentatus</i>	1	<i>Osmia virga</i>	1
<i>Coelioxys porterae</i>	6	<i>Stelis lateralis</i>	2
<i>Coelioxys rufitarsis</i>	1	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9211</b>
<i>Coelioxys sayi</i>	6		
<i>Heriades carinata</i>	1		
<i>Heriades leavitti/variolosa</i>	1		
<i>Hoplitis anthocopoides</i>	1		
<i>Hoplitis pilosifrons</i>	9		
<i>Hoplitis producta</i>	25		
<i>Hoplitis simplex</i>	1		

3817 Windom Place NW  
Washington, DC 20016



*Andrena ziziae*. All photos by Sam Droege.



*Anthophora ursina*.



*Augochlora pura*.



*Eucera dubitata*.



*Hoplitis truncata*.



*Triepeolus helianthi*.

# Eastern Woodcock Migration Research in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County

LeJay Graffious

With funding provided by the Friends of the 500<sup>th</sup>, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge (CVNWR) became a member of the Eastern Woodcock Migration Research Cooperative (EWMRC) in 2019. The collaborative effort was formed to better understand the ecology of the American Woodcock (AMWO). Alexander Fish, Dr. Erik Blomberg, and Dr. Amber Roth at the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology of The University of Maine are the chief researchers of the project.

Kenneth Rosenberg of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and his team reported in the journal *Science* that the North American bird population has dropped by 29 percent since 1970 (Rosenberg et al. 2019). Breeding Bird Surveys show that woodcock populations have dropped at a rate of 4.1 percent per year in West Virginia from 1966 to 2015, representing a cumulative loss of 86 percent (Sauer et al. 2017).

Working with partners in the breeding and wintering ranges, the EWMRC uses satellite transmitters to monitor both spring and fall migration. The mission is to determine:

- when woodcock initiate migration
- how long it takes individuals to complete migration
- survival during migration, and
- stopover sites where woodcock rest and refuel during migration (Fish et al. 2019).

During the first two years of the project, 280 transmitters have been placed on AMWO on their breeding grounds both in the spring and fall. Most of the effort is overseen by a state's or province's game management agency except in West Virginia where only the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is part of the eastern North America effort. See the chart with the number of transmitters placed by political unit.

The CVNWR banding project installed four GPS tags on local birds during October 2019. Three methods were used to capture woodcock. First, ten 12-meter mist nets were set in the crepuscular flight paths from the diurnal habitat on forest edges to the open areas of nocturnal roosting. The second was to spotlight roosting birds and trapping them with landing nets. The last technique was to use a bird dog to locate roosting birds and then catch them with landing nets. Of the five AMWO captured, four were in mist nets and one was caught with a landing net. Four birds received GPS tags with a digital signature. According to the bander's assessment of the fifth captured bird, its health was too poor to install a transmitter.

Three locations were determined by observing crepuscular flights, using spring singing male census data, and by means of field hunting experience in the area. Efforts on October 14 on Freeland Road and on October 15 on A-Frame Road produced no captured birds. Banding efforts continued off Cortland Road on October 21, 23, 24, 29, and 30 with five woodcock processed.

When a woodcock was caught, the bird was banded with a 9-digit USGS-registered band. The data associated with the number are the GPS Tag ID, bander ID, sex, age, mass, bill length, leg length, tarsus length, and wing cord. In addition, a secondary feather was plucked for DNA assessment.

The four satellite transmitters placed during the Canaan Valley effort provide a small sample of data. Nevertheless, when taken in total with the others, a more complete picture emerges. Each digital signature is uploaded to Movebank for Animal Tracking Data. Movebank is a free online infrastructure that helps researchers manage, share, analyze, and archive animal movement data. The Movebank project is hosted by the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior in coordination with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, the Ohio State University, and the University of Konstanz, Germany (Wikelski and Kays 2020).

The first tagged woodcock was an After Hatch-Year male captured on October 21. The satellite data was uploaded and available on October 23. The bird stayed within 0.25 miles of the capture location near Cortland Road until the transmitter went dark on October 31. The reason for loss of data is unknown, but it is possible that he was caught by a predator, taken by a hunter, or experienced transmitter failure.

That same night, the second woodcock was processed. The bird was tracked from October 23 until November 6 when data stopped transmitting. This was a Hatch-Year (HY) female. She moved mostly in a 0.5 by 1.5-mile area between the North Branch of the Blackwater River and the Appalachian Highway.

On October 22, a HY male was banded with a transmitter attached. His transmission became active on October 30. He spent most of his time in a small wooded drainage near a pond off High Meadow Drive (Latitude 34.0732918, Longitude -79.4441833). He made one flight east into Timberline and a few flights near the North Branch of the Blackwater River, always to return to the High Meadow Drive pond. On November 20 he began his migration flight south. At 20:01 on November 21 he was 300 miles south in South Carolina (Latitude 34.9739647, Longitude -81.5918427) due east of Spartanburg. A Google Earth analysis of the habitat was forest land surrounding either a hay or pasture field. His daily transmissions were within a 0.25-mile radius; all locations were in the woods very near the open field. His data went dark on December 10 within feet of his first signal from South Carolina.

The fourth bird was banded on October 23. This male was only banded and released with minimal data due to the poor condition of the bird. He was easily extracted from the net but showed signs of stress immediately. The bander wondered if the bird was carrying lead shot since it was hunting season.

The October 29 bird piqued the interest of Maine researchers. This young male hung out near the North Branch of the Blackwater River, west of the intersection of Cortland Road and Buckhorn Ridge Road. On November 12 his migration flight began. By the next day, he had flown 300 miles to just east of White Pine, TN. On November 14, he flew 177 miles west to near Laguardo, TN, where he stayed until November 20. November 21 saw him move northwest 100 miles to near Aurora, KY. A short 8-mile flight south soon followed for a five-day stay. Then he began to move south again; on November 28, he was 280 miles south near Pine Buff, AR. A few short legs to the south came next. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, he moved 40 miles south. The next day he was 10 miles farther south. On November 30, he had moved another 70 miles south into northern Louisiana where he stayed in a 0.34-mile diameter area (Latitude 32.4027023, Longitude -92.4638359) until the last transmission on December 24 with one 2.4-mile foray out and back. An analysis of this habitat dated April 16, 2018, on Google Earth made it appear to be a recent timber cut surrounded by pine plantations. He stayed mainly inside the new harvest zone near two drainage ditches which had a few trees remaining.

The American Woodcock is an umbrella species. The woodcock has an economic value to sportsmen and the hunting economy. Therefore, there is an interest to maintain the young forests and edges that this bird uses. Developing the woodcock habitat also provides valuable feeding areas for many other species of mammals and passerines.

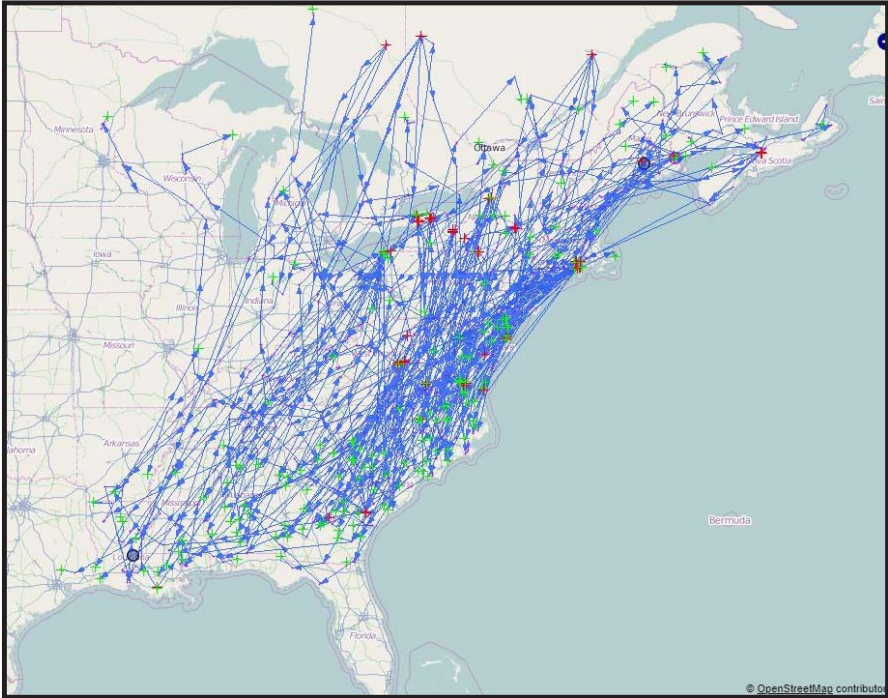
As with any worthy project, it takes a community of individuals. The support of Ron Hollis, CVNWR Superintendent, was critical. Dawn Washington's leadership and organizational skills got the project moving and made it a reality. LeJay Graffious was the bird bander for the project. Zachary McCracken and Jacqueline Burns rounded out the core team who traveled to New York State for training. The following volunteers provided various levels of support: Brandon Iddings, Julia Portmann, Mike Anderson, Scott Wilson, Walter Lesser, Herb Myers, Dawn Washington, Daryl Johnson, Matthew Boarman, Cindy Joseph, Jeanne Odom, and Thomas Woods. Non-staff volunteers logged 230 hours during the 12 days of effort. Funds for the \$1800 per transmitter cost came from gifts to the Friends of the 500<sup>th</sup> from the WV Highlands Conservancy, the Old Hemlock Foundation, Walter Lesser, and others. Thanks to the support of the members of the Friends of the 500<sup>th</sup>, much valuable citizen science data has now been added to the natural history of the valley. And we can see how this special place blends into the total fabric of the western hemisphere's natural world.

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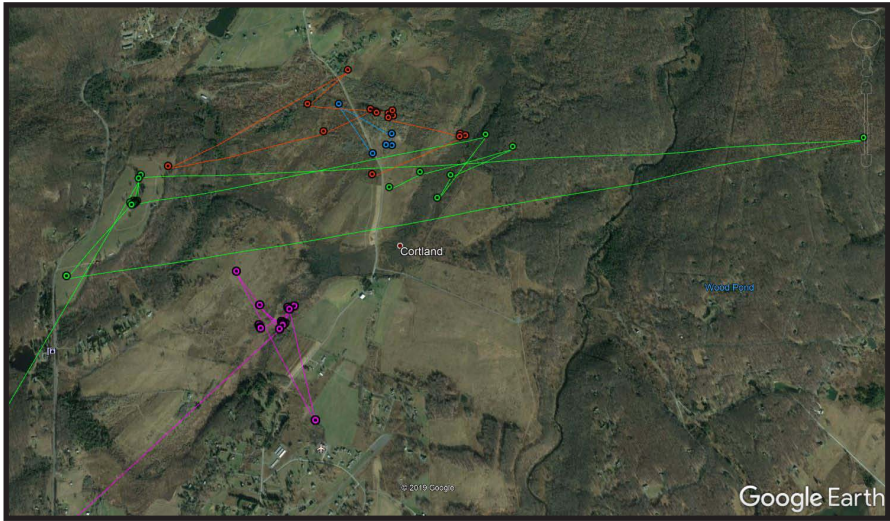
See [www.brooksbirdclub.org/the-redstart.html](http://www.brooksbirdclub.org/the-redstart.html) to see these maps in color for clarity

**Figure 1 American Woodcocks with GPS Tags**

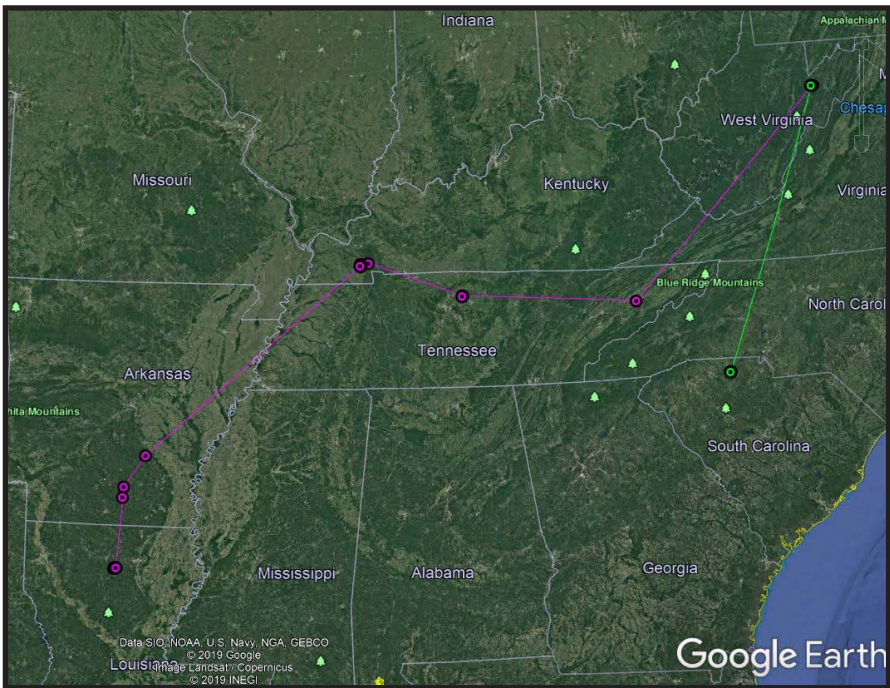




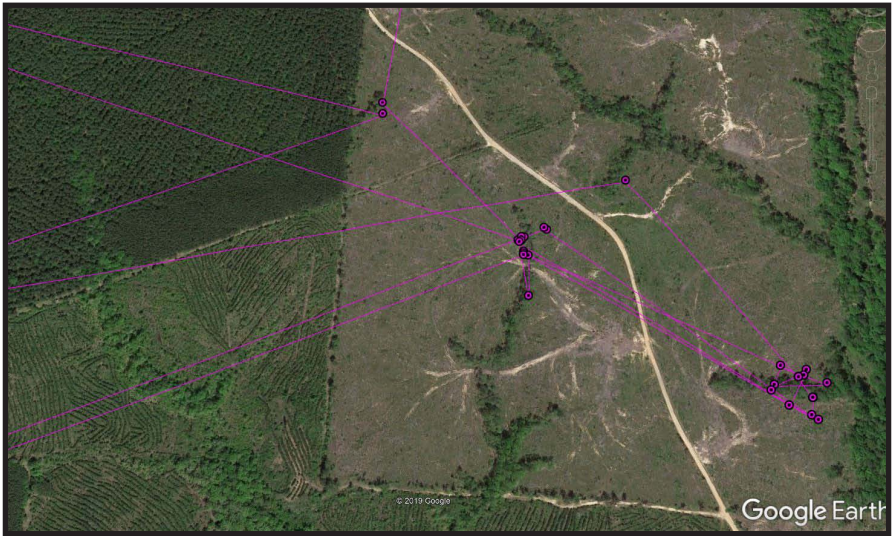
**Figure 2 Movement Recorded within Canaan Valley**



**Figure 3 Canaan AMWO Migration Flights**



**Figure 4 Movement on the Louisiana Bird at Final Winter Location**



**Figure 5 Movement of South Carolina Woodcock on Wintering Grounds**



P.O. Box 69  
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

# Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee – 2019

Derek D. Courtney

I don't think there are really any certainties with birding. I have chased (and dipped) on mega-rarities across numerous states. I have birded Cheat Lake without coming upon a Mallard. And I have even looked out my back window to my feeders and not seen a single House Sparrow from the usual hundred-odd flock that typically hangs around. While this invariably can produce frustration and even concern in these times of distressing climate change, it also provides a hook to keep us birders coming back for more. The unexpected is where the West Virginia Bird Records Committee earns its stripes. Looking back on all the unexpected stories told by WV birders over the last cycle only reinforces that you never know what can turn up when you head out into the field.

To celebrate Leap Day, the Bird Records Committee once again convened on the scenic grounds of Old Hemlock in Preston County to review the preceding year and take count of its rare birds. This time we had 9 records to consider, which is a pretty decent total for WV. One species was added to the Official State List, bringing its total to 352. A lone Cave Swallow was blown onto a Pocahontas County farm during a December storm. This was the first ever documented report for this species in the state. The second highlight was undoubtedly the spring incursion of Whimbrels into our state. Eagle-eyed followers of WV birding will note that the BRC re-added Whimbrel to the Review List just last year after more than a decade's passing without a documented sighting in the state. I guess the Whimbrels heard what we did and took offense. The pair of Laughing Gull sightings also nicely highlights the unpredictability of birding; one was from an understandable vantage along the Ohio River, while the other was seen cruising over farm fields in Grant County. You just never know. What follows is a brief summary of the species reports received and accepted:

**Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 2019-1** On April 15, 2019, Robert Sebring had a nice Eurasian Collared-Dove visit his backyard in Berkeley County. The bird was kind enough to hang around for some good, diagnostic photos to be taken. Separating this species from African Collared-Dove (a possible escapee) can be pretty tricky, but Robert did a great job here!

**Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) 2019-2** April 14, 2019 found superstar birder Aaron Graham at the Grant County hotspot of Hogueland Lane. WV birders are very familiar with this area as a great location for many open country species, but Aaron's sharp eyes picked out a sharp adult Laughing Gull cruising by. This is almost certainly a County first.

**Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) 2019-3** Low water levels along the Ohio River and good timing combined to give Joshua Holland a great view of a pair of Whimbrels in Huntington on May 23, 2019. This sighting continued in a string of sightings throughout the spring migration that made 2019 the best Whimbrel year in many for WV birders.

**Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) 2019-4** Few birders are out in the field as frequently as Jim and Judy Phillips. Their efforts were duly rewarded on July 15, 2019

when they caught sight of a Swallow-tailed Kite hunting over a Monroe County field. Essentially unmistakable among North American raptors, this bird wasn't able to be photographed, but was well documented by a pair of great birders. I only wish it had stuck around longer for more people to observe.

**Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) 2019-5** Joshua Holland struck gold again at the Huntington riverfront with an immature Laughing Gull on September 24, 2018. The bird was good enough to hang around for a couple days and many of the Huntington area's active birders were able to catch up with this wayward gull. Gulls are always tough to ID, but Josh got some great photos which made our job pretty easy.

**Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) 2019-6** Joshua Holland certainly had himself a memorable rare bird season! He scored another one with a Trumpeter Swan at the Milton Wastewater Treatment Plant. Trumpeter Swan is a challenge for the Bird Records Committee for a couple of reasons. First, Swan ID can be VERY complicated; this one was an adult though, so ID confirmation was easier. Secondly, the issue of provenance has to be addressed. There were no signs of captivity/release from multiple reports of birders over the bird's months-long stay. But still the BRC did due diligence by contacting surrounding states to see how such birds were treated. The BRC is confident its standards are consistent with those of neighboring states with larger Trumpeter Swan populations.

**Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) 2019-7** At last year's BRC meeting, old records were reviewed and Whimbrel was placed back on the Review List having gone more than a decade without a verified sighting in the state. Well, the Whimbrels responded with vigor in 2019. Janet Keating's May 19, 2019 sighting of a staggering 23 individuals at a Mason County sand pit broke the dam. Birders from all over the state converged on Gallipolis Ferry (yours included) to enjoy the seemingly once-in-a-decade spectacle. Of note, the following day after "our" Whimbrels had disappeared, a similarly large group was spotted almost directly north of this site many miles away in Ohio.

**Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) 2019-8** Continuing the theme of Whimbrels using WV as a stopover during the 2019 spring migration, Committee Member David Daniels found a lone bird in Preston County on May 24. Also continuing in the theme, this bird did not hang around long after making its pit stop; it was gone before other birders could re-find it. This sighting was also just over 17 miles from the last pre-2019 documented sighting of this species in far eastern Preston County.

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) 2019-9** I love it when the best is actually saved for last. And the 2019 year ended with a bang on Sharon Kearns's Pocahontas County farm. December 2 brought more than just a cold winter storm to the WV high-country; a Cave Swallow was blown in with it! Cave Swallow has two distinct populations. A look at the Sibley range maps show a Caribbean population which extends its breeding range into southern Florida. One might think that since this is the closest group to WV, this would be the source of WV's first record of this species. But this isn't actually the case. The Mexican population of Cave Swallow which breeds up into Texas has one of the more interesting established patterns of vagrancy/migration that we see in North American birds. Every year, substantial numbers head north over the plains, then turn east along the Great Lakes, making their way into New England and the mid-Atlantic before finally

departing the US. WV birders have, for years, studied the weather forecasts and headed out into the field during these late year storms hoping to get sight of one of these guys. Congrats to Sharon for WV bird #352 on the list!

Following last year's fairly active annual meeting, this year saw a more restrained event. The only major action taken was largely a proactive one. Previously, the By-Laws technically only allowed the Committee to review specimens and photographs as evidence for supporting certain records or additions to the State List. Given the improvements and abundance of digital recording devices (think smart phones), the Committee anticipates that soon an audio recording might be the chief piece of evidence given to us for evaluation. We felt this should be given similar status as photographic evidence. Furthermore, the Committee can foresee a time where DNA from a fecal or feather sample might be used; and of course various GPS tags are being placed on an increasing number of birds. The BRC wants to be able to consider all these data and more that we can't anticipate as of now. So a language change was enacted to reflect the variety of evidence that can be used to identify a bird. A couple of other minor changes in diction were applied to the By-Laws with unanimous vote as well.

With the results of the most recent voting, Trumpeter Swan and Swallow-tailed Kite were officially removed from the Review List. These species will be added to our Watch List and we will track them going forward in case they don't return to the state in the next 10 years. No other changes were made to the Watch List aside from updating those species documented in 2019. Cave Swallow was added to the State List and the Review List. One record of Black-legged Kittiwake was removed from the Review List as it was deemed not to be a good sighting.

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 term of Joe Hildreth expired with the conclusion of the annual meeting. We thank him for his service and wish him well in all future endeavors. The BRC welcomes new member Dr. Jesse Fallon of Monongalia County. Dr. Gary Rankin of Wayne County will assume the alternate position. The current list of BRC members can also be seen on our website.

The Committee also wishes to thank Wil Hershberger for continuing to serve as non-voting Secretary. We appreciate his patience and dedication to his duties. Derek Courtney was re-elected as Chairperson and LeJay Graffious was re-elected as 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 Bird Records Committee quite simply could not function without the fantastic West Virginia birding community. The fact that every single record up for review this past term was unanimously accepted serves as testament to the skill and dedication of our birding friends here in the Mountain State. I think the Committee has made significant strides in recent years with an eye toward concerted efforts to serve the birding community. Our chief goal will always be to maintain the validity and integrity of the State List; but developing into a resource for our fellow birders falls neatly in line after that. You can follow our actions in our postings to the WV list-serv 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, Derek Courtney, LeJay Graffious, Ross Brittain, Joette Borzik, David Daniels, Jesse Fallon, Gary Rankin, and Wil Hershberger.

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

# Swallow-tailed Kite, Monroe County, West Virginia

James D. and Judy M. Phillips

On July 5, 2019, we were driving north on Rt. 12 at Red Sulphur Springs, Monroe County, when we were surprised to see a Swallow-tailed Kite about 50' above the truck. We could see the white underside, trimmed in black and the long wings and distinctive deeply forked tail all without binoculars and while moving.

We continued for a short distance until we found a safe place to turn around. Not sure if the bird would still be there, we headed back to the location of our sighting. When we reached the Imagination Farm Lane junction with Rt. 12, the bird was spotted over the fields on the east side of the road flying back and forth. We parked and watched the bird for several minutes as it flew gracefully over the field at about eye level for us. Judy texted the three birders nearest to our location but none were available to come see the bird.

The bird flew to the north remaining over the field and making long passes back and forth in front of us. There were several Turkey Vultures circling nearby. This bird was smaller than the nearby vultures. We turned around again and followed the bird north to another spot where we could observe the bird as it circled over the Indian Creek Valley. It caught and ate what we believed was a dragonfly. We watched it for several minutes more as it circled higher and higher. This provided a view of the bird from the side and, although briefly, a view of the top of the bird. Distance from the bird after the first encounter ranged from 100' to about a quarter of a mile. We were unsuccessful in getting photographs with our cell phone. The bird flew across the road and disappeared to the west. We returned the next day and drove most of the side roads off of Rt. 12 but did not see the bird again and had no other reports of it.

The habitat was a wooded margin about 40' wide on each side of the road, it then opened up into hay fields and cattle pastures along Indian Creek. Open views were created in the margins for the entrance of farm equipment. Weather conditions were partly cloudy with good sun on the bird. The long wings, forked tail and coloring were all obvious against white clouds and blue sky.

The kite was a life bird for Judy. I saw the one near Elmwood, Wayne County, WV, on August 27, 2007. The quote in Sibley summed up the identification, "unmistakable." This sighting was accepted by the WV Bird Records Committee as the fifth sighting for the state. During the summer of 2019, our part of the state was inundated with large numbers of dragonflies. I wonder if that phenomenon may have been what brought this beautiful visitor to our area.

P.O. Box 206  
Pipestem, WV 25979

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## Old Friends – A Christmas (Bird Count) Story

Derek D. Courtney

Almost irrespective of religion, politics, or any of the other great dividers we encounter on a daily basis today, the holiday season has an unparalleled capacity to bridge gaps and connect us to one another. The greatness lies, however one chooses to spend this time of year, in the tacit agreement amongst us all to set aside differences, albeit all too briefly, and celebrate, more than anything else, humanity. There are as many ways to enjoy the season as there are species of birds; but chances are that one essential element of that enjoyment lies in time spent with family and friends.

Likewise, one of the great attractions of birding as a passion is that there is no one, set way to experience and delight in its wonders. Backyard feeder-watchers are welcomed along with hardcore twitchers. Those who sit on the park bench and snap pictures of ducks with their cell phone cameras may rest at a separate end of the spectrum from those who lie in their blinds with \$20,000 worth of gear, eagerly awaiting the perfect capture. But we all fit comfortably under this magical umbrella we call birding. And the Christmas Bird Count is no different.

Perhaps our greatest shared tradition as a community, after filling our bird feeders, is the Christmas Bird Count. For many, it is a highlight or even an essential part of the holiday season. As with birding itself, there is no set way in which one must participate or enjoy this annual outing. We can just as easily look forward to breaking a circle's record or finding a rarity as we can in retracing the same steps, over the same route, taken beside friends for decades previous. But it's not just our human companions during this great event to which we look forward once the mercury drops each year. It's the birds themselves too, of course! Flashes of a cardinal's crimson against a snowy branch, the hoot of an owl piercing through the silence of a midnight stroll ... it all adds to the spectacle we love. For some of us, though, it's not just the birds as a collective that we anticipate; it's the birds as individuals we have come to know.

If, for instance, you found yourself in Charlestown, RI, and in need of a holiday birding fix, you could join in on the local CBC. You could, more often than not, head to Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, walk the Grassy Point trail down to the cove, set up your scope and spy a lovely adult Lesser Black-backed Gull perched atop a rock. The real beauty herein is the realization that you could have done this same trek, with the same result, for the past 17 years! This same individual bird has been returning to the same refuge, the same cove, the same rock, for almost 2 decades. And every CBC, he greets his friends as they check in on him. I don't use friends here lightly, either. Personally, I have people in my life that I still consider friends whom I have seen less frequently and have known for fewer years than those Charlestown birders have in this gull.

The same story unfolds here in Morgantown, for me at least, with each December count. I would wager that a similar tale is told for many of you. As much as I look forward to hearing what Katie Fallon saw at her feeders, or making a whirlwind tour through uncovered areas to pick up new species with Hannah Clipp, or reveling in LeJay Graffious's tales at our count dinner, I eagerly anticipate the birds themselves. When I start my route at the stroke of midnight by playing the calls of a Northern Saw-whet Owl, I can't help but wonder if the same individual eventually answers me that has done so for



the past 5 years. Impossible to say, but I usually have success in the same general area; though sometimes I get really lucky and get more than one bird. When I scan the light posts overlooking the baseball field for our winter resident Merlin, I feel more confident I have made the acquaintance of this particular falcon in years past. Raptors are relatively long-lived. But again, there have been multiple individuals observed in this park. And now Merlins aren't just winter visitors to our area, they are breeding here. So I feel good that the Merlin picking feathers off her breakfast as I make the CBC tick is at least from the same family group as the ones seen beforehand.

And then there's my friend the White-eyed Vireo. White-eyed Vireos are common in Morgantown during the breeding season. But they really should not be here once CBC season rolls around. It is not unheard of to get a White-eyed on our Christmas Bird Count; parties have found them along the river in various places previously. At this season White-eyed Vireo is still a pretty uncommon bird though, regionally and statewide, much more so than the Merlins and Saw-whets we have come to expect. The interesting thing about this particular bird, beyond the timing, is that he has been seen along the same trail, on the same side of the path, in the very same bush for 3 years running now. I call him a "he" mostly for generic reasons that relate to behavior across many passerine species; males will stay further north than females during winter in order to have a better chance at getting prime breeding territories come spring. But there's no real difference in appearance between the sexes.

What I do know is that my friend is an adult and has been so ever since he was first found. That makes him at least 4 years old. The longevity record for a wild White-eyed Vireo is just shy of 11 years, so maybe this guy is just entering his prime? The reality of the situation is that the average lifespan of this species is somewhere between 5 and 7 years. I wonder how many more winter visits I will get to pay my friend. It must also be conceded that I cannot be 100 percent certain I am counting the same individual each year. That said, I feel much more confident in identifying him as a returning bird than any of the other birds I encounter along my route. The same trail. The same side. The same bush. Like that Rhode Island gull, my friend has found his place in the world for the cold winter months. I am just glad that he chose a spot in my area of coverage.

It may only be January as I write this, and the global CBC time frame may have just ended, but I am already crossing my fingers that my friend makes it through another year to greet me when December comes in 2020. Hopefully, all of you had a wonderful holiday season and participated in a Christmas Bird Count or two. Join me next year out in the field for our collective holiday tradition. Reconnect with old friends or even make some new ones, human and avian alike!

derek.dana.courtney@gmail.com

## 2018 Floyd Bartley Memorial Award Announced

On March 7, 2020, Casey Rucker, editor of this journal, announced the 2019 Floyd Bartley Memorial Award at the club's Early Spring Meeting at North Bend State Park. Mindy Waldron, Allen Waldron, Keith Richardson, and Bob Dameron earned the award for their article, "Swainson's Warbler in Fayette County, West Virginia," which appeared in the April 2019 issue of *The Redstart*, Vol. 86, No. 2, pp. 48–49. 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 J. 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
2018	Joey Herron

## E-Bird notes: Fall Fell Right on Time September 1 – November 30, 2019

Michael Slaven

The period of September through November of 2019 was a time of annual drama for birders all across the state. Fall migrations of ducks, geese, songbirds and migrating shorebirds converged and briefly made their way across and (when we were lucky) stopped for a time on their trips in West Virginia. This past season was a mixed bag, at least according to the reports that came to eBird. The migrations of ducks were unspectacular, with numbers of species and individuals both on the low end of yearly expectations. As usually happens, a few unexpected birds showed up, but these are already discussed in Casey Rucker's summary, and so need not be repeated here. The most interesting thing about the year when compared with other years of the last decade is the very predictable timing of the arrivals and departures. It is comforting, in a way, to know that even though migrations are incrementally creeping forward in the spring migration as the last few springs have tended to become warm and winters milder, fall is a little more predictable, at least in terms of geese, ducks, warblers, and to a slightly more variable extent, shorebirds.

Duck numbers were on the low end, but the variety of species was pretty much consistent with most years. To give some examples of duck species that arrived in West Virginia (and then left) very close to the expected times shown by historical data from previous years in eBird: **Northern Shovelers** (*Spatula clypeata*) arrived in the second week in September, **Blue-winged Teal** (*Spatula discors*) appeared on waterways in the state in the second and third week of September, **American Wigeon** (*Mareca americana*) in the first days of October, **Ruddy Ducks** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) were spotted in weeks two and four in October, **American Black Ducks** (*Anas rubripes*) were seen in the third week of October, as were **Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*). **Green-Winged Teal** (*Anas crecca*) returned in the third week of October and lingered through November, **Ring-necked Duck** (*Aythya collaris*) reports were scattered through October and November, **Bufflehead** were present from the end of October through November, **Surf Scoter** (*Melanitta perspicillata*) reports occurred from two weeks (the last of October and again in the third week of November). Comparing these arrivals with those from 2018 shows a broadly similar set of data from that year, with the ducks appearing in nearly the same order, and usually within one week of the reports from 2019.

Warblers showed a similarly consistent pattern, with reports for the 2019 season remaining remarkably consistent with 2018. To give just a few examples of how the pattern of arrival times maintained a predictable pattern in the last two years, **Tennessee Warbler** (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) reports were filed throughout the period of September and October in both years, **Connecticut Warbler** (*Oporornis agilis*) reports began and ended within one week of each other in those two years, **Bay-breasted Warbler** appeared during the same window from the second week of September through the first week of October, while **Nashville Warbler** (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*) reports were the largest outlier, with 2019 reports being one week later than 2018. In other words, there is a clear, almost rigid pattern in the timing of these arrivals as well as the general order of species to arrive. There are many things that can be confusing about autumn warbler watching that make for challenging birding. Silent birds, duller plumage, confusing identifications

(Baypolls, anyone?). It is entirely foreseeable when a warbler species will likely be in West Virginia. If Connecticut Warbler is your elusive state lifer, you need to be looking in the low brush in September. If you are searching for Tennessee Warbler, all of September and October can be good times, but when November comes, the birds will make a rapid exit.

Over time, migration patterns do shift. There are years occasionally where the weather plays a dramatic role and can slow or speed migration. Long-term effects can bring different species to the state, or cause the gradual demise of others. But in an era of global uncertainties concerning so many things, it is very much a consolation to find that there is a regular order in the natural world.

On a final, and unrelated note, birding popularity is growing rapidly in West Virginia. I have not crunched the numbers, but the volume of reports is noticeably higher than it was a few years ago. This is good news, since more birders give the eBird researchers much more data from this massive citizen science project. Since most readers of this publication are keen and experienced birders, I hope that you will foster these new birders and share your experience with them. I see many mistakes in identification that are innocently made by these neophytes. If you see someone in the field who seems like a beginner, take a little time to help them or just talk to them. Tell them not just what that “little brown job” is, but also how you know that to be so. I have been amazed several times by the insights on the appearance of birds when seen through the eyes of a person whose has not yet memorized what the bird is *supposed* to look like, but actually describes what is *actually* visible.

I hope that you have time in the field to observe to your heart’s content.

Good birding.

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

## Field Notes

### Fall Season

September 1 – November 30, 2019

Casey Rucker

Fall began with the second driest and second warmest September in West Virginia since recording began in 1895, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. October was the eighth wettest and ninth warmest on record, while November was much cooler and drier than usual.

The following notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, and from field notes submitted to the author by email at [autoblock@frontiernet.net](mailto:autoblock@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 34 of West Virginia's 55 counties during the fall season.

It was a slow season for unusual birds in the Mountain State. On November 4, Josh Holland saw more than a hundred **American White Pelicans** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, and late that month a lone **American White Pelican** lingered in the same location (JsH, DP, MG). Only 205 species were reported in the state during the fall months.

**Geese, Swans, and Ducks** – The season was no better than average for **waterfowl**. Rodney Bartgis saw a **Snow Goose** at his home in Valley Bend, Randolph County, in the beginning of November, and on November 15 Josh Holland found a **Snow Goose** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. Gary Rankin, Michael Griffith, Janet Keating, and David Patick found a **Ross's Goose** on October 27 at the same location, where the individual remained through November 1 (JsH). Derek Courtney found three **Cackling Geese** on November 28 at Cheat Lake, Randolph County. **Canada Geese** were as usual widespread throughout the state. A **Mute Swan** apparently spent most of the season at South Mill Creek Lake, Grant County, with sightings on September 5 (RBo) and October 27 (FA). **Tundra Swans** were seen more widely than the year before, with sightings in Barbour County (DMi), Kanawha County (DWo), Monongalia County (HC, DCo), Ohio County (PM), Preston County (LM), Randolph County (RB, RBo), Tucker County (RB), and Wetzel County (WJ). Paul McKay saw dozens of **Tundra Swans** flying in two V-formations over his home in Ohio County on November 12.

West Virginia birders reported 21 species of **ducks** this season. There were reports in at least six counties each of **Wood Ducks**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Mallards**, **American Black Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, and **Hooded Mergansers** this fall. Reports of the following species came from fewer than six counties, as noted: **Blue-winged Teal**: Kanawha (RG), Mason (JsH, MG), and Randolph (RB) Counties; **Gadwalls**: Barbour (DMi, RBo), Kanawha (DWo), Mason (JsH), and Randolph (SKi) Counties; **American Wigeons**: Grant (FA), Monongalia (DCo), and Randolph (RB) Counties; **Northern Pintail**: Mason County (**JsH**); **Green-winged Teal**: Mason (JsH) and Randolph (SKi) Counties; **Canvasbacks**: Mason County (JsH); **Redheads**: Barbour (DMi, RBo), Mason (MG, JK, JsH), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **Ring-necked Ducks**: Barbour (DMi, RBo), Grant (FA), Mason (JsH, MG, JK), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **Greater Scaup**:

Monongalia County (DCo); **Lesser Scaup**: Jefferson (JBz), Monongalia (HC, DCo), Randolph (RB), and Tucker (RB) Counties; **Surf Scoter**: Wood County (TB); **Common Goldeneye**: Mason County (**JsH, MG**); **Common Mergansers**: Hardy (DaG), Jefferson (RB), Raleigh (JP), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (RB) Counties; **Red-breasted Mergansers**: Mason (JsH) and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; and **Ruddy Ducks**: Barbor (DMi, RBo), Jefferson (RB), Mason (DP, MG), Monongalia (DCo), and Tucker (RB) Counties. On November 8, Donna Mitchell found many dozens of ducks on Teter Creek Lake in Barbour County, including **Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, Redheads, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks.**

**Turkeys** – Our only upland gamebird reported this season, **Wild Turkeys** inspired reports from thirteen counties. On September 10, a hen **Wild Turkey** and six poults visited Kevin Campbell's yard in Dallison, Wood County, where the hen ventured onto his back deck to eat cat food from a bowl.

**Grebes** – **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared widely throughout the state. On November 8 Richard Gregg found eleven **Horned Grebes** in Belle, Kanawha County; it was the only report of the season.

**Pigeons and Doves** – **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state.

**Cuckoos** – **Cuckoo** sightings were down in West Virginia for the third year in a row. Herb Myers was surprised to see a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** near his home in Harman, Randolph County, on October 1, and other reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** came from Jackson (TB), Kanawha (HG), Raleigh (RC), Tucker (CR), and Wood (TB) Counties. Reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** came from Ohio (PM) and Randolph (RB) Counties.

**Goatsuckers and Swifts** – Reports of **Common Nighthawk** were up slightly this fall, coming from the following counties: Hardy (DaG), Jefferson (JBz, WS, DHa), Kanawha (HG), Pocahontas (SK), Preston (LM), Putnam (CE), Randolph (Rbi), Ritchie (CB), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (CR). Deborah Hale enjoyed a new yard bird when she watched five **Common Nighthawks** circling over her home in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, on September 20. There were twelve counties with reports of **Chimney Swifts**. Mimi Kibler saw approximately 200 **Chimney Swifts** in Parsons, Tucker County, on September 4, the most she had ever seen in that location. On September 11, N. Wade Snyder counted 843 **Chimney Swifts** entering the chimney of the US Post Office in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

**Hummingbirds** – Birders in thirteen counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, through early October. The last report was on October 10, when Bruni Haydl hosted a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at her home in Jefferson County.

**Rails and Coots** – On September 5, Randy Bodkins found a **Virginia Rail** at South Mill Creek Lake, Grant County; Bill and Carole Telfair spotted a **Virginia Rail** on October 23 at Cool Spring Preserve, Jefferson County; and three days later the editor of these notes and six others enjoyed a **Virginia Rail** at the Freeland Road boardwalk in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Gary Rankin got a surprising new yard bird when he encountered a **Sora** at his home in Lavalette, Wayne County, on October 15. **American Coots** appeared in birders' reports from only five counties.

**Plovers** – **Killdeer** were the only **plovers** reported this fall, and for the second year in a row there were reports from only nine counties.

**Sandpipers** – **Sandpiper** diversity was down as well this fall, as West Virginia birders

submitted reports of thirteen species. Reports of the following **shorebirds** came from the counties listed: **Stilt Sandpiper**: Mason (MG, JK, JsH, GR); **Sanderling**: Mason (MG, JK); **Dunlin**: Mason (JsH, MG); **Baird's Sandpiper**: Mason (JsH, MG, JK); **Least Sandpiper**: Berkeley (AT), Mason (JsH, MG, JK), and Wood (TB); **Pectoral Sandpiper**: Berkeley (AT) and Cabell (MG, JK); **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: Berkeley (AT, JBz) and Mason (JsH, MG, JK); **Long-billed Dowitcher**: Mason (JsH, MG, JK), **American Woodcock**: Hampshire (RB), Randolph (RB), Tucker (RTo), and Wood (KCa); **Wilson's Snipe**: Barbour (DMi) and Mason (DP, MG, JK); **Spotted Sandpiper**: Mason (JsH, MG, JK); **Solitary Sandpiper**: Berkeley (AT, JBz), Cabell (MG, JK), and Mason (MG, JK); and **Greater Yellowlegs**: Berkeley (JBz), Jefferson (JBz), Mason (DP, MG, JK), Randolph (RB), and Wood (TB).

**Gulls and Terns** – The fall was slow for inland seabirds as well. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported in Cabell (DP), Mason (JsH), Randolph (RB), and Summers (JJP) Counties. Reports of **Ring-billed Gulls** came from Berkeley (RB), Jefferson (JBz, DHa), Mason (JsH), Monongalia (DCo, HC), Randolph (RB), and Summers (JP) Counties; and **Herring Gulls** were reported in Kanawha (DG), Mason (GR, DP, MG), and Summers (JP) Counties.

The only **terns** reported this fall were three **Caspian Terns** observed by James and Judy Phillips at Glenwood Park, Mercer County, on October 8, and a lone **Black Tern** that Randy Bodkins spotted at Mount Storm Lake, Grant County, on September 5.

**Loons** – In mid-September Rodney Bartgis spotted a **Red-throated Loon** in Berkeley County. On November 23 Jon Benedetti relayed a report from Michael Schramm of a **Red-throated Loon** on the Ohio River in Wood County, and the bird was still present two days later (TB, JB). Reports of **Common Loons** were up a bit this fall, coming from Grant (FA), Mason (JsH), Monongalia (HC, DCo), and Summers (JJP) Counties.

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

**Pelicans** – The appearances of **American White Pelicans** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, in November are described near the beginning of these notes.

**Hérons and Egrets** – **Great Blue Herons** appeared throughout much of West Virginia this fall. **Great Egrets** were reported in six counties and **Green Herons** in only five.

**Vultures** – Reports of **Black Vultures** came from ten counties, while nineteen counties had reports of **Turkey Vultures**.

**Hawks and Eagles** – Raptors were reported in good numbers in West Virginia this fall. **Osprey, Golden Eagles, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks** were all well represented in reports throughout the state during the fall season. Reports of **Broad-winged Hawks** came only from Cabell (DP), Jefferson (DHa, JBz), Mercer (JJP), Monroe (JJP), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (CR) Counties. Watchers at Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory (HRT) in Monroe County recorded 4,583 raptors this fall, including 45 **Golden Eagles**, 248 **Bald Eagles**, and 3,375 **Broad-winged Hawks**.

**Owls** – Richard Bailey relayed a homeowner report of a **Barn Owl** in Preston County on September 23. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were widely reported for the second year in a row, with observations in eight counties, while **Great Horned Owls** were observed in Jefferson (WS, JN), Mineral (SB), Randolph (HMy), Summers (JJP), and Wayne (GR) Counties; observers reported **Barred Owls** in eight counties. The editor of these notes listened to a female **Long-eared Owl** calling at his home in Dry Fork, Tucker County, on September 27.

**Kingfishers** – Reports of **Belted Kingfisher** were up this fall, with sightings in eighteen counties.

**Woodpeckers** – **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were spotted in seven counties this fall: Berkeley (RB), Jackson (TB), Jefferson (DH, BH), Mercer (JP), Randolph (RB), Ritchie (CB), and Wayne (KC). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers** were all widely reported.

**Falcons** – It was an average fall for **falcons** in West Virginia. **American Kestrels** continued to appear widely throughout the state. **Merlins** made appearances in Grant County (RB), Jefferson County (WS), Mason County (MG, JK), Tucker County (RTo), and Wetzel County (WJ). There were reports of **Peregrine Falcons** from seven counties: Grant (RB), Hardy (DH, KKi), Kanawha (RBr, RG), Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), Putnam (KK), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB).

**Flycatchers** – There were many singleton appearances of **flycatcher** species this fall. Bruni Haydl spotted the only **Great Crested Flycatcher** reported this season, on September 1 in her yard in Charles Town, Jefferson County. In early September Rodney Bartgis saw an **Eastern Kingbird** in Randolph County. Wilma Jarrell watched an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in her yard in Wileysville, Wetzel County, on September 1. **Eastern Wood-Pewees** appeared widely through mid-October, with reports from fourteen counties. On September 8, Hannah Clipp and Derek Courtney spotted a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County. Gary Rankin, David Patick, and Michael Griffith saw an **Acadian Flycatcher** on September 15 at Fea's Branch Road in Mason County, and on September 21 David Patick spotted an **Acadian Flycatcher** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County. Wilma Jarrell found the only reported **Willow Flycatcher** of the season on Fairview Ridge, Wetzel County, on September 7. **Least Flycatchers** appeared in reports from Cabell County (GR, DP, MG, JK), Hardy County (DaG), Mason County (MG, JK), and Monongalia County (HC, DCo). **Eastern Phoebes** were widely seen in the state, with reports from eighteen counties.

**Shrikes** – On September 20, Diane Holsinger found a **Loggerhead Shrike** near Franklin in Pendleton County.

**Vireos** – It was a moderate fall for **vireo** sightings in West Virginia. **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, and Red-eyed Vireos** appeared in many counties during September and early October, with **Blue-headed Vireos** continuing through November 9 (JBz). On October 28, Cynthia Burkhart saw and heard a late **Yellow-throated Vireo** in a pasture at her home in Ritchie County. **Philadelphia Vireos** were spotted in Cabell (GR, DP, MG), Mason (MG, JK), Monongalia (HC, DCo), and Randolph (RB) Counties. The ever-scarcer **Warbling Vireo** was only reported once this season, a sighting by Terry Bronson at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Jackson County on September 16.

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

**Swallows** – Reports of **swallows** were scanty once again this season. **Tree Swallows** lingered in nine counties as late as November 8, when Michael Griffith and Janet Keating saw two **Tree Swallows** as well as a very late **Barn Swallow** in Mason County. On September 16, Terry Bronson saw a flock of more than 50 **swallows** at Rollins Lake, Jackson County, including **Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows**.



Joette Borzik spotted four **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** on October 27 near the Millville Dam, Jefferson County. In early September, Rodney Bartgis saw a **Barn Swallow** in Randolph County; Sharon Kearns saw **Tree** and **Barn Swallows** in Hillsboro, Pocahontas County, on September 8.

**Chickadees** and **Titmice** – **Black-capped Chickadees** did not inspire many reports this fall from their territories, while reports of **Carolina Chickadees** and **Tufted Titmice** were widespread.

**Nuthatches** – In the usual two-year pattern of irruptions, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce, with reports only from Monongalia (HC, DCo), Pocahontas (DP), Raleigh (KK), Randolph (RB), and Tucker (HMy) Counties. **White-breasted Nuthatches** were seen and heard throughout the state.

**Creepers** – Reports of **Brown Creeper** came from Jefferson (BH, BT), Roane (DG), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (RTo) Counties, beginning on November 12 when Bruni Haydl spotted a **Brown Creeper** in her yard in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

**Wrens** – **House Wren** reports were relatively scarce and mostly during September, coming from Hampshire (RB), Mason (GR, DP, MG), Monongalia (HC, DCo), Raleigh (RC), Randolph (RB), Tucker (RB), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. **Winter Wrens** inspired reports from Kanawha (LC), Monongalia (KF), Randolph (HMy), Summers (JJP), Tucker (MK), and Wood (TB) Counties. On September 21, David Patick found two **Marsh Wrens** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County; Rodney Bartgis spotted a **Marsh Wren** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, during early November. **Carolina Wrens** were as usual reported throughout the state.

**Gnatcatchers** – Birders in Jefferson (BH), Kanawha (RG), Mason (GR, MG, DP), Randolph (RB), Ritchie (CB), Summers (JJP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties reported **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, all during September.

**Kinglets** – Both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned kinglets** inspired reports throughout the state this fall.

**Thrushes** – It was a good fall for **thrushes** in West Virginia. **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Swainson's**, **Hermit**, and **Wood thrushes**, and **American Robins** were all seen widely in reporting counties. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** appeared in Monongalia (DCo), Randolph (RB), Summers (JJP), and Wayne (DP) Counties.

**Mockingbirds** and **Thrashers** – There were reports of **Gray Catbirds**, **Brown Thrashers**, and **Northern Mockingbirds** throughout the state this fall.

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

**Waxwings** – **Cedar Waxwings** were more widely reported than usual, with sightings in twenty-one counties throughout the state.

**Weaver Finches** – The **House Sparrow** prompted reports from eleven counties this fall.

**Pipits** – On October 28, Josh Holland found more than 60 **American Pipits** at Crab Creek, Mason County. Randy Bodkins spotted eight **American Pipits** at Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Barbour County, on November 8.

**Finches** and **Allies** – It was a slow season for **finches**. **House Finches** and **American Goldfinches** inspired widespread reports throughout the state this fall. **Purple Finches** were only reported in Raleigh (RC) and Randolph (HMy) Counties, and **Pine Siskins** only appeared in Nicholas (JS) and Summers (JJP) Counties.

**Buntings** – Darrell Good saw a **Snow Bunting** at Kimsey Run Lake, Hardy County, on November 9, tipped off by a report from Kyle Rambo of two **Snow Buntings** at the same location the day before.

**Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees** – The most-frequent **emberizid** species in reports this fall were **Chipping** and **Field sparrows**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **White-throated**, **Song**, and **Swamp sparrows**, and **Eastern Towhee**. The following **sparrows** were reported only in the counties listed: **Grasshopper** in Tucker County (AG); **Fox** in Jefferson (DHa), Kanawha (RG), Mason (RB), Putnam (KC), Randolph (HMy), Summers (JJP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **White-crowned Sparrows** in Grant (FA), Mason (DP), Randolph (RB), and Summers (JJP) Counties; **Vesper** in Jefferson (DHa, WS), Kanawha (RG), Monongalia (DCo), and Tucker (RTo) Counties; **Savannah** in Grant (FA), Jefferson (JBz, DHa), Mason (DP), and Tucker (AG) Counties; and **Lincoln's** in Cabell (MG, JK), Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), Monongalia (DCo), Pleasants (JB), Randolph (HMy), and Tucker (CR) Counties.

**Chats** – David Patick spotted a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on September 21.

**Blackbirds** – Josh Holland and Janet Keating discerned a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** among a flock of **European Starlings** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on September 25. West Virginia birders reported sightings of **Eastern Meadowlarks** in seven counties. William Telfair saw a lingering **Baltimore Oriole** at Huttonsville, Randolph County, on September 22. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were reported in fourteen counties, **Brown-headed Cowbird** reports came only from Grant (FA), Jefferson (BT, JBz), Mason (RB), and Randolph (RB) Counties, while **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in Grant (FA), Hardy (DaG), Jefferson (BT), Mason (RC, MG), Monongalia (DCo, HC), Randolph (SKi, HMy), Ritchie (CB), and Tucker (CR) Counties. **Common Grackles** were reported in seven counties. On November 12, John and Carolyn Snyder hosted at least 300 **Common Grackles** in their yard in Summersville, Nicholas County.

**Warblers** – This fall birders in West Virginia found 29 **warbler** species and one hybrid; it was a fair season for reports. Hannah Clipp and Derek Courtney got close-up views of a **Brewster's Warbler** (**Golden-winged** x **Blue-winged warbler** hybrid), at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant County, on September 21. **Warbler** species reported in six or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. Species listed without contributors were reported in at least seven counties. **Warblers** reported this fall included **Ovenbird** – Grant (HC, DCo), Pleasants (JB), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties; **Worm-eating** – Jefferson County (DHa); **Blue-winged** – Grant (HC, DCo), Kanawha (HG), and Mason (GR, DP, MG, JK) Counties; **Black-and-white**; **Tennessee**; **Orange-crowned** – Grant (HC, DCo) and Pocahontas (DP) Counties; **Nashville** – Grant (HC, DCo), Jefferson (BH), Kanawha (HG), Mason (MG, JK), Ohio (PM), and Randolph (RB) Counties; **Connecticut** – Monongalia (DCo), Randolph (RB), and Tucker (RB) Counties; **Common Yellowthroat**; **Hooded**; **American Redstart**; **Cape May**; **Cerulean** – Grant County (HC, DCo); **Northern Parula** – Berkeley (PS), Grant (HC, DCo), Jefferson (JBz, BT), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (HC, DCo) Counties; **Magnolia**; **Bay-breasted**; **Blackburnian**; **Yellow** – Berkeley (JBz) and Summers (JJP) Counties; **Chestnut-sided**; **Blackpoll** – Grant (HC, DCo), Jefferson (JBz), Mason (MG, JK), Monongalia (HC, DCo), Randolph (RB), and Summers (JJP) Counties; **Black-throated Blue**; **Palm**; **Pine** – Berkeley (RB), Hardy (DaG), Kanawha (HG),

Mason (GR, DP, MG, JK), Raleigh (RC), and Wayne (DP) Counties; **Yellow-rumped; Yellow-throated** – Cabell (DP), Grant (HC, DCo), Kanawha (HG), Mason (GR, DP, MG, JK), and Ritchie (CB) Counties; **Prairie** – Mason (DP) and Monongalia (HC, DCo) Counties; **Black-throated Green; Canada** – Grant County (HC, DCo); and **Wilson’s** – Cabell (DP), Grant (HC, DCo), and Kanawha (HG) Counties.

**Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings** – **Summer Tanagers** appeared in reports from Grant (HC, DCo), Jackson (TB), Kanawha (HG), Mason (GR, DP, MG, JK), Pleasants (JB), and Wayne (DP) Counties. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** prompted reports from birders in most parts of the state. **Indigo Buntings** were reported only in Berkeley (RB), Jackson (TB), Jefferson (BH, DHa), Kanawha (RG), Monongalia (HC, DCo), Ohio (PM), and Pleasants (JB) Counties.

Contributors to the Fall Field Notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (RBi), Rodney Bartgis (RB), Jon Benedetti (JB), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Ross Brittain (RBr), Terry Bronson (TB), Cynthia Burkhardt (CB), Shannon Burner (SB), Kevin Cade (KC), Kevin Campbell (KCa), Ron Canterbury (RC), Laura Ceperley (LC), Hannah Clipp (HC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Katie Fallon (KF), Darrell Good (DaG), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), Aaron Graham (AG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DHa), Bruni Haydl (BH), Josh Holland (JsH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Kim Kazmierski (KK), Sharon Kearns (SK), Janet Keating (JK), Mimi Kibler (MK), Stephen Kimbrell (SKi), Kathy King (KKi), Paul McKay (PM), Larry Metheny (LM), Donna Mitchell (DMi), Herb Myers (HMy), Jean Neely (JN), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Paul Saffold (PS), John Snyder (JS), N. Wade Snyder (WS), William and Carole Telfair (BT), Ryan Tomazin (RTo), Alex Tsiatsos (AT), and Doug Wood (DWo).

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

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## 2020 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
Jan. 29–31	Trip to Lake Erie area (Contact Dick Esker)	
February	Write an article for <i>The Redstart</i> and <i>Mail Bag</i>	
Feb. 27–28	Funk/Killbuck trip (Contact Dick Esker)	
Mar. 6–8	Early Spring Meeting (Contact Dick Esker) .....	North Bend State Park
Mar. 15	Seneca Lake Trip	
Apr. 18	Raccoon Creek Outing, 3 Rivers Bird Club and Headquarters' Chapter .....	Raccoon Creek State Park, PA (Contact Ryan Tomazin)
May 7–10	Wildflower Pilgrimage .....	Blackwater Falls State Park
May 9	Migratory Bird Day	
June 5–13	Foray – Camp Galilee.....	Terra Alta, WV (contact Janice Emrick or Ryan Tomazin)
July 29–31	Howard Marsh area .....	Curtice, OH (Contact Terry Bronson)
Aug.–Oct.	Bird Banding .....	Dolly Sods Dates to be announced
October	Fall Reunion Meeting, Date and place to be announced	
Nov. 11–15	Eastern Shore Trip (Contact Cindy Slater)	
Dec. 14–Jan. 5, 2021	Christmas Bird Count.....	Statewide

### BBC FORAYS

2020 Camp Galilee, Terra Alta, WV  
 2021 Camp Kidd 4-H Camp, Tucker County, WV  
 2022 Foray TBD

### SEASONAL FIELD NOTES DUE

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

### ARTICLES FOR THE MAIL BAG DUE

February 15      May 15      August 15      November 15  
 MAIL TO: Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017, [vwwarblers@hotmail.com](mailto:vwwarblers@hotmail.com)

**<http://brooksbirdclub.org>**

The dates for the 2020 BBC programs may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the web page or in The Mail Bag.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Terry Bronson, <a href="mailto:tbronsonbirds@gmail.com">tbronsonbirds@gmail.com</a>	Cindy Slater, <a href="mailto:slater@setonhill.edu">slater@setonhill.edu</a>
Janice Emrick, <a href="mailto:emrick@gmn4u.com">emrick@gmn4u.com</a>	Ryan Tomazin, <a href="mailto:vwwarblers@hotmail.com">vwwarblers@hotmail.com</a>
Dick Esker, <a href="mailto:eskerrb@frontier.com">eskerrb@frontier.com</a>	

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

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