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Bird Population Trends in an Old-Growth Forest in Brooke County, West Virginia, Compared with Population Trends Across the State and the Continental United States and Canada

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Introduction

Bird populations across the continental United States and Canada have declined by 27 percent since 1970 (Rosenberg et al. 2019). The decline of bird populations is an alarming trend. Birds provide ecosystem services including control of pest insects and rodents, pollination of flowers, and dispersal of seeds. Like birds, insects have also experienced continental-scale population declines suggesting that bird losses may be part of a larger trend (Sánchez-Bayo and Wyckhuys 2019).

Breeding bird surveys have been conducted beginning in 1971 in the Parkinson Forest of Bethany College in Bethany, Brooke County, West Virginia. We examined changes in breeding birds in Parkinson Forest to see if they correlate with the changes seen statewide and in the rest of the continental United States and Canada.

Methods

A. Buckelew, colleagues, and students used the breeding bird spot map census method to measure the number of territorial males in the Parkinson Forest from 1971 to 2018. Data from the 1970s has been published previously (Phillips et al. 1971; Bell et al. 1974; Voorhis and Buckelew 1975; Buckelew 1977). The census was not conducted with an acceptable number of individual daily visits during the years 1972–3, 1977–90, and 2014–17. Methods followed that of Hall (1964) for the breeding bird census. Species whose territories exceeded 30 acres were counted, but the data from these species were not used in this study or reported in figures. For the census, approximately six surveys were conducted in a given year in the Parkinson Forest during the spring from April through June when the birds were breeding. Each census day consisted of approximately two hours beginning before sunrise. The data from evening visits the same day were not counted as separate count days. The positions of singing male birds were plotted on a map of the forest. During the early years of the study, from 1971 until about 1976, a flagged grid was used to locate individual singing males on a blank map of the forest during each visit. In subsequent years, singing birds were positioned using distinct landmarks on the survey plot. Double-sided arrows were used to indicate countersinging males. Nests, pairs, and fighting males were also noted on the map to help identify the borders of a territory. Following the plotting, the maps were examined to determine the number of territories for each species.

The Parkinson Forest study area is a 30-acre plot in an old-growth deciduous forest mainly composed of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*; Hicks 2018). In recent years, mature white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) has succumbed to the Emerald Ash Borer, and several emergent white oaks and American beeches have died, presumably due to old age.

The forest is divided by a ravine that has a small, perennial stream running through it, and slopes that face the east and west. The western boundary of the forest is along the edge of a hay field while the eastern boundary lies next to a narrow, dirt maintenance road with similar forest extending to the east for approximately 20 yards bounded by a power line cut. The maintenance road at the eastern edge of the study plot is completely under the canopy of old trees. The southern edge of the plot is in similar forest. To the northeast, secondary growth maturing from an old orchard prevails, while to the northwest, secondary forest is maturing from the remains of a boy scout camp that closed in the 1940s. The currently maturing bordering forests were more open in the early years of the study period.

Survey data was entered into Excel. Regression analysis was performed in SPSS version 2013 for a total of 10 tests of significance, including Neotropical migratory birds and resident species. Neotropical or resident status was assigned according to DeGraaf and Rappole (1995). The species analyzed individually were Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Eastern Towhee, and Louisiana Waterthrush. There were 22 Neotropical migratory species and 13 resident species that had one or more territories in at least one year of the study (Table 1).

Linear regression was used to show the change in bird population over time and to obtain the equation of the line that best fits the data. The standard significance cutoff point for the p-value of 0.05 was divided by the number of tests (10) yielding a value of 0.005 or less for significance. This is a Bonferroni correction which reduces the chances of a Type I error when performing multiple tests of significance on the same data set (Miller 1985).

Data from the surveys were also compared to results and analyses from the North American Breeding Bird Survey for both the West Virginia and survey-wide regions (Sauer et al. 2017) as well as from the Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan (Rosenberg et al. 2016).

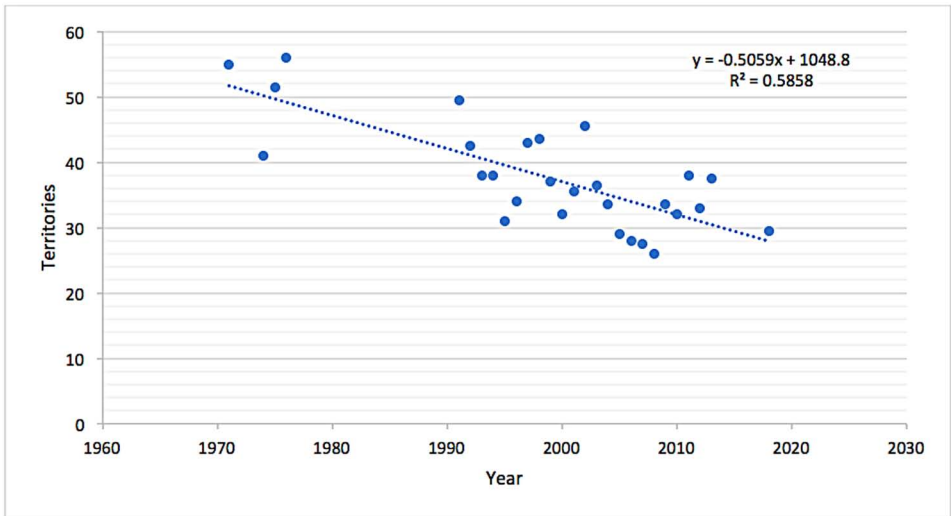


Figure 1: Change in the number of Neotropical migratory bird territories from 1971 to 2018.

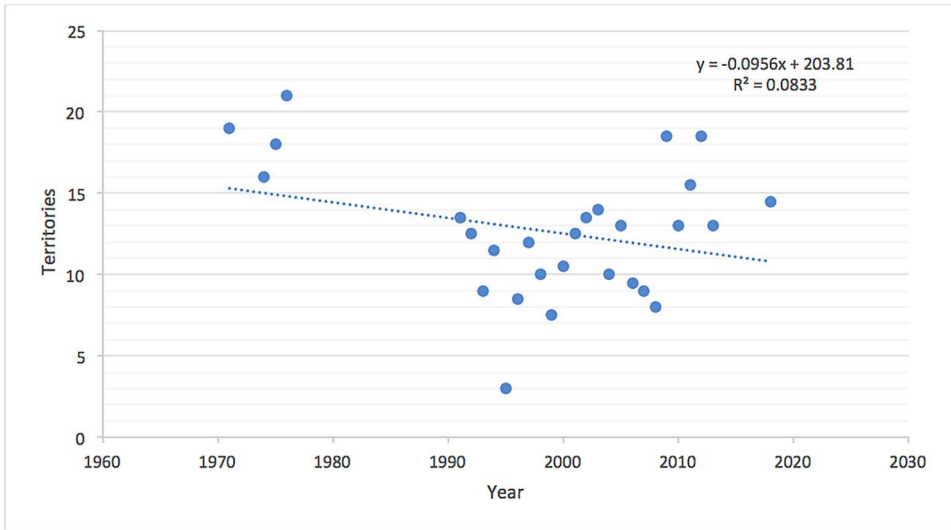


Figure 2: Change in the number of residential bird territories from 1971 to 2018.

Results and Discussion

Populations of the species that were analyzed have fluctuated over the years with an overall downward trend in territories (Figures 1–10). In the Parkinson Forest, Neotropical migratory species territories significantly declined from an average of 52 to 28 from 1971 to 2018 (Figure 1, $R^2 = 0.589$ and $p\text{-value} < 0.001$). Resident species slightly declined from an average of 15 territories to 11 territories (Figure 2, $R^2 = 0.083$ and $p\text{-value} = 0.136$). The last six censuses since 2009, however, have all had more territories than the trend line predicts, indicating a possible recent increase in permanent resident territories (Figure 2). These overall declines parallel the 28 percent decrease that Rosenberg et al. (2019) found for migratory species; however, they found a 5 percent increase in resident species. Perhaps the recent increase in resident species in Parkinson Forest will continue as competition is reduced due to the decline in Neotropical migratory species.

Habitat loss and degradation are the largest indirect causes of bird decline, while cats, windows, automobiles, power lines, communication towers, and wind turbines are likely the largest direct sources of bird mortality (Loss et al. 2015). Habitat loss and change particularly affect migratory species that depend on intact habitat in at least two areas. In Parkinson Forest canopy closure during the late twentieth century, tree mortality due to Emerald Ash Borer and old age during the twenty-first century, overbrowsing by white-tailed deer, and maturation of surrounding forests likely all have contributed to the changes in territories.

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae) have seen a population decrease across the continental United States and Canada (Rosenberg et al. 2019) and in the Parkinson Forest. Attention has focused in recent years on invertebrate population declines as a cause of widespread losses in numbers of aerial insectivores including flycatchers. Other threats to flycatchers include: contamination of food sources; loss, fragmentation, or change in species composition of their deciduous forest habitat both in breeding and wintering grounds; and climate change (Sánchez-Bayo and Wyckhuys 2019; Spiller and Dettmers 2019). Declines

in Eastern Wood-Pewee and Acadian Flycatcher in Parkinson Forest roughly parallel statewide and global trends (Sauer et al. 2017).

In the Parkinson Forest, the Eastern Wood-Pewee significantly declined from an average 3.0 territories in 1971 to 0.6 territories in 2018 (Figure 3, $R^2 = 0.461$ and $p\text{-value} < 0.001$). One possible explanation is the large population of white-tailed deer whose presence can cause a change in the canopy where the Eastern Wood-Pewee likes to forage (Decalesta 1994). We observed, also, a number of large emergent trees that have fallen in the forest over the course of the study.

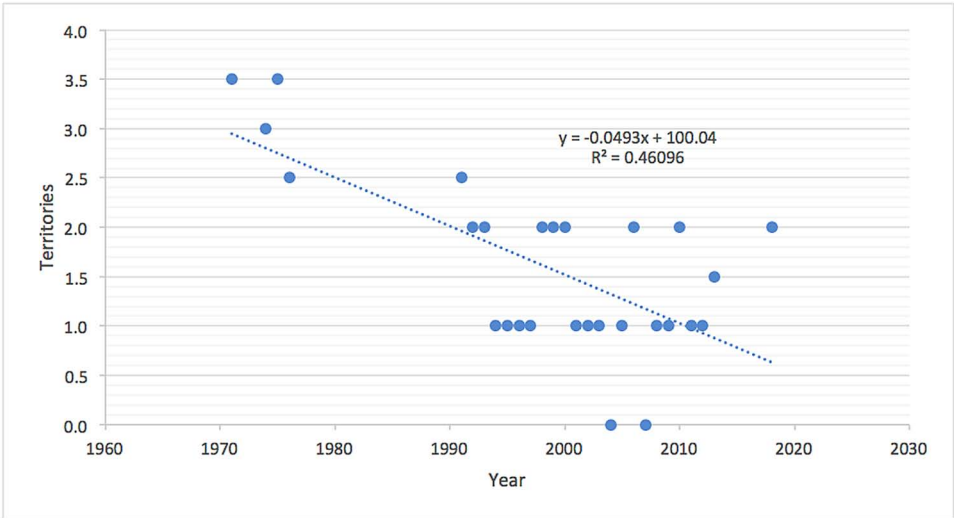


Figure 3: Change in the number of Eastern Wood-Pewee territories from 1971 to 2018.

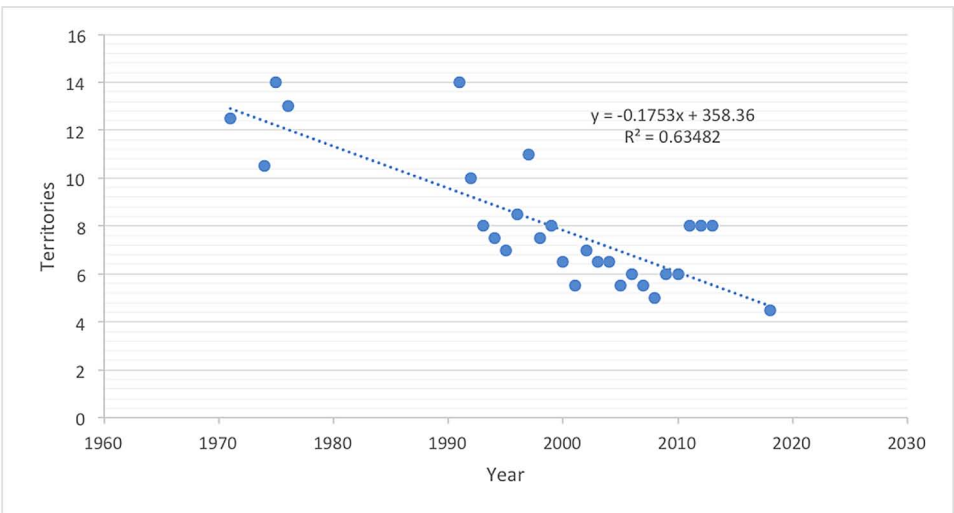


Figure 4: Change in the number of Acadian Flycatcher territories from 1971 to 2018.

It is less clear why the Acadian Flycatcher significantly declined from an average of 13 to 4.8 territories (Figure 4, $R^2 = 0.635$ and $p\text{-value} < 0.001$) in the Parkinson Forest. The opening of canopy gaps due to tree mortality in Parkinson Forest may be a contributing factor, even while the general area has become less fragmented and more uniform as surrounding forests have aged and become more similar to the old-growth forest on the study plot. Widespread species declines suggest that local habitat, however, may not be a primary factor in the loss of territories (Sauer et al. 2017).

The Red-Eyed Vireo on the study plot increased from an average of 6.5 to 7.6 territories from 1971 to 2018, respectively (Figure 5, $R^2 = 0.025$ and $p\text{-value} = 0.419$). Vireos increased in the continental United States and Canada by approximately 50 percent from 1970 to 2014 (Rosenberg et al. 2019). We found a 26 percent increase following the regional trend; Red-eyed Vireo populations increased statewide from 1966 to 2015 (Sauer et al. 2017).

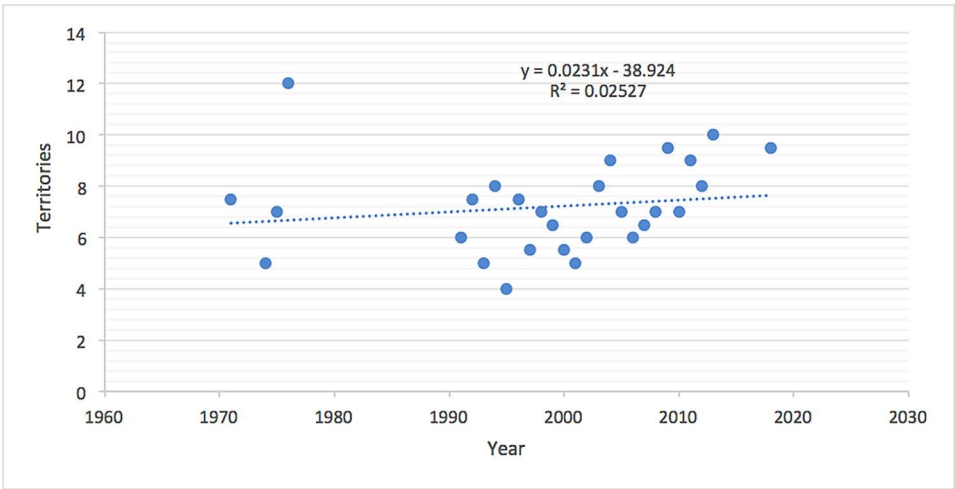


Figure 5: Change in the number of Red Eyed Vireo territories from 1971 to 2018.

The Tufted Titmouse, a permanent resident, increased from an average of 1.4 to 2.6 territories (Figure 6, $R^2 = 0.05$ and $p\text{-value} = 0.253$). In the Parkinson Forest, this species may have benefited from reduced competition from migratory species that have declined; Tufted Titmouse populations have been stable or slightly increasing in West Virginia and throughout their range from 1966 to 2014 (Sauer et al. 2017).

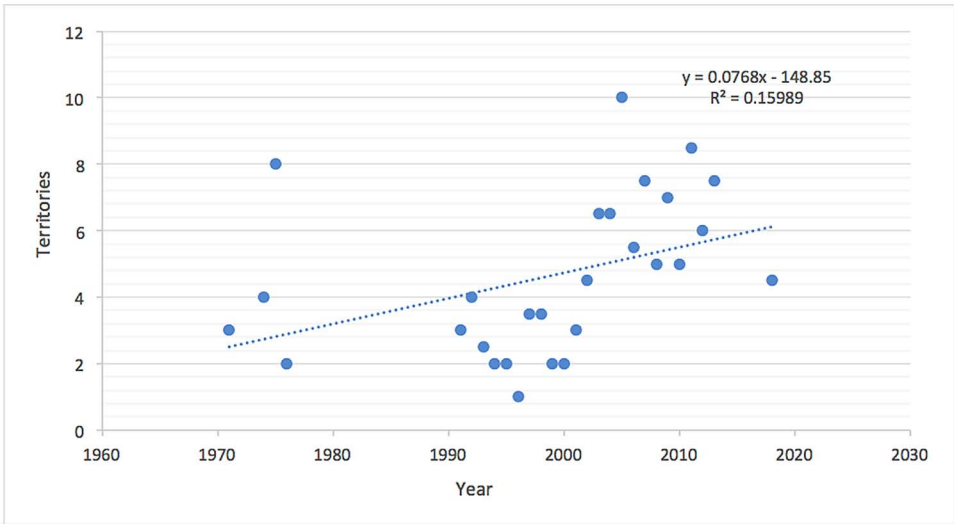


Figure 7: Change in the number of Wood Thrush territories from 1971 to 2018.

American Robins increased from an average of 0.0 territories in 1971 to 1.8 territories in 2018 (Figure 8, $R^2 = 0.209$ and $p\text{-value} = 0.014$). In the Parkinson Forest, severe loss of ground cover and shrub layer vegetation due to deer browsing may be responsible for the expansion of the American Robin population from a single territory along the narrow dirt road at the eastern boundary of the plot to several territories found over the entire plot in the twenty-first century (Figure 9). American Robin populations rose in West Virginia during the survey period (Sauer et al. 2017).

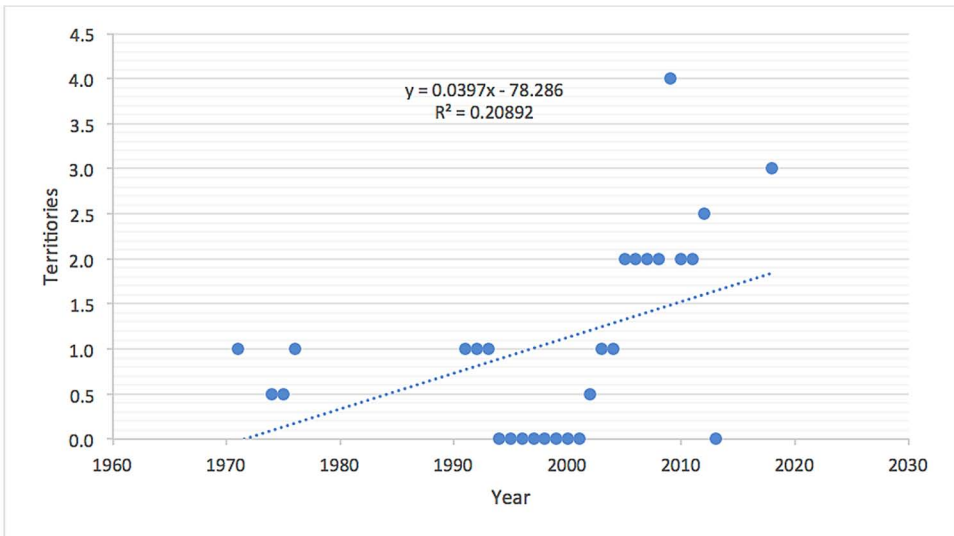


Figure 8: Change in the number of American Robin territories from 1971 to 2018.



Figure 9: Change in groundcover of Parkinson Forest from 1971 to 2005. Photos by Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

The Eastern Towhee declined from an average of 2.6 territories in 1971 to 1.2 territories in 2018 (Figure 10, $R^2 = 0.052$ and $p\text{-value} = 0.243$). Data from both Parkinson Forest and statewide Breeding Bird Surveys show steep declines during the 1970s, and relative stability or slight declines since (Sauer et al. 2017). Once again, canopy closure of maturing trees during the late twentieth century may be associated with lower numbers of Eastern Towhee territories.

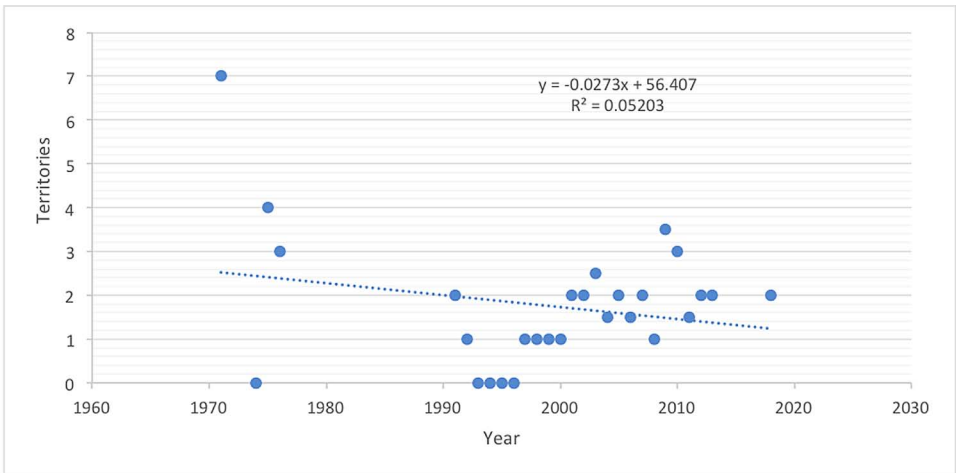


Figure 10: Change in the number of Eastern Towhee territories from 1971 to 2018.

In the Parkinson Forest, Louisiana Waterthrush increased from an average of 0.6 territories in 1971 to 1.4 territories in 2018 (Figure 11, $R^2 = 0.249$ and $p\text{-value} = 0.007$). Frantz et al. (2018) found that drilling of shale gas wells can cause a decrease in Louisiana Waterthrush. Parkinson Forest has a shale gas well initially started in 2012 approximately 100 yards from the western edge of the forest in the hayfield. Water quality tests, however, did not reveal adverse effects of the gas well on the stream that runs through Parkinson Forest, and the species' continued presence suggests that stream has remained relatively healthy (Trevelline et al 2016). Range-wide the species has prospered in recent decades, with populations increasing by more than 30 percent 1970–2014 (Rosenberg et al. 2016).

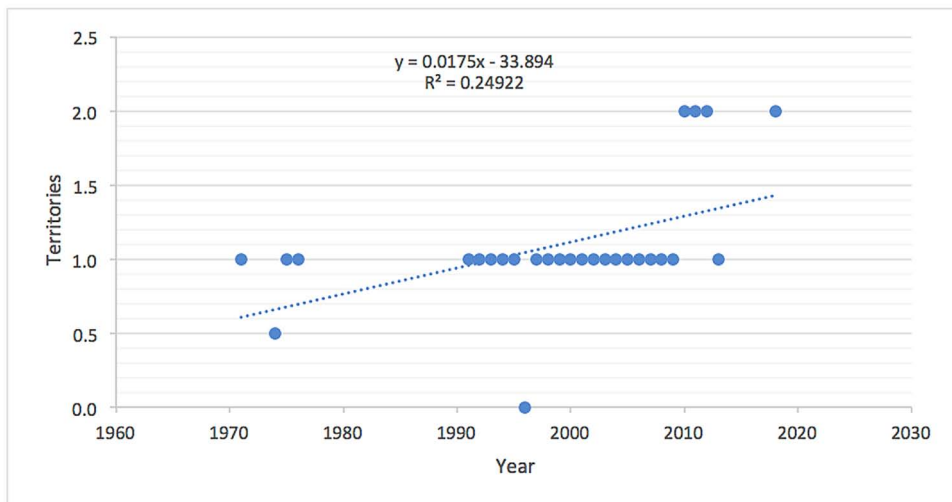


Figure 11: Change in the number of Louisiana Waterthrush territories from 1971 to 2018.

Two heavily declining warbler species vanished from Parkinson Forest during the surveys.

Kentucky Warbler is a Partners in Flight Yellow Watch List Species, suffering a range-wide 29 percent population loss from 1970 to 2014 (Rosenberg et al. 2016; PIF 2019a). In West Virginia losses were catastrophic, totaling more than 80 percent over the same period (Sauer et al. 2017), and in Parkinson Forest the last territory was observed in 2002. Over-browsing by white-tailed deer has been linked to loss of forest understories on which Kentucky Warblers depend (McShea et al. 1995), and has likely contributed substantially to their disappearance from Parkinson Forest.

West Virginia is the breeding ground for more than a third of all Cerulean Warblers, another Yellow Watch List Species whose population dropped by 72 percent range-wide from 1970 to 2014 (Rosenberg 2016; PIF 2019a; PIF 2019b). Cerulean Warblers occupied as many as seven territories in Parkinson Forest during the 1970s, but not a single singing male was found since. Cerulean Warblers require forest gaps for their nest sites; it is likely that canopy closure in Parkinson Woods during the late twentieth century made the area unattractive to the species. Although tree mortality has led to more forest openings during the twentieth century, population declines limit the chances for recolonization.

Conclusion

Changes in singing male territories in Parkinson Forest reflect both local habitat changes and species-wide population trends.

Maturing forests and accompanying canopy closure during the twentieth century are likely associated with declines or disappearance of species that require canopy gaps for breeding habitat, including Eastern Wood-Pewees, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Eastern Towhees, and Cerulean Warblers. Deer browsing probably contributed to increases in American Robin as well as declines in Eastern Wood-Pewee and Kentucky Warbler. Maturation of surrounding woods together with increasing early-successional habitat during the twenty-first century may have fostered the increase in Wood Thrush territories.

Nearly all trajectories in survey data closely parallel regional, statewide, and overall trends in species populations. The singular success of the Wood Thrush in Parkinson Forest over the survey period, however, provides an optimistic contrast to larger-scale developments.

The old-growth Parkinson Forest has served as a long-term research site for measuring bird population trends for almost 50 years. It is an example of how protecting critical habitats is needed to maintain bird populations, and also of the need for long-term research to assess how factors such as habitat loss and climate change are altering bird populations.

Table 1: Neotropical migratory and resident bird species that had one or more territories in at least one year of the study.

Neotropical Migratory Species	Resident Species
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Downy Woodpecker
Acadian Flycatcher	Hairy Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe	Northern Flicker
Great Crested Flycatcher	Pileated Woodpecker
Yellow-throated Vireo	Blue Jay
Red-Eyed Vireo	Carolina Chickadee
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Tufted Titmouse
House Wren	White-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Thrush	Carolina Wren
Ovenbird	American Robin
Eastern Towhee	Common Grackle
Baltimore Oriole	Northern Cardinal
Louisiana Waterthrush	
Kentucky Warbler	
Hooded Warbler	
American Redstart	
Cerulean Warbler	
Northern Parula	
Scarlet Tanager	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
Indigo Bunting	

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We thank the Parkinson family for their wise and insightful decision to preserve a section of old-growth forest and to Bethany College for maintaining the forest as old-growth. We also thank the efforts of those who have helped conduct the singing male censuses in Parkinson Forest including any we may have missed: Glen Phillips 1971, Phillis Youngren 1971, Robert Bell 1974, Marcia Lamberts 1974, Ken Voorhis 1975, Dana Buckelew 1992-93, Greg Eddy 1993, Frida Cooper 1993, Keith Poole 1993, Christopher Olexia 1994, Jesse Thompson 1995, Matthew Nardone 1996, Anna Alboszta 1998, Keith Cochran 1999, James Lioi 2000, Jennifer Lee 2000, Melanie Sands 2000, Michael Rairigh 2002, Michael Dawley 2002, Robert Sturges 2003, J. T. Stanley II 2004, Jessica Kunkle 2006, Tabriez Babinchok 2007, Emma Lendt 2008, Leah Zofchak 2008, Ryan Drilak 2011, Richard Shaver 2012, Chelesi White 2013, Brooke Bosworth 2015, and Travis Straub 2018.

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eBird Notes for Spring 2020 March 1–May 31, 2020

Mike Slaven

It was an unprecedented spring season in West Virginia, with travel restrictions, closures of most public spaces, and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. After March 24, when the State of West Virginia's Stay at Home Order was issued, one of the few exceptions was that walks outdoors were allowed, and that trails and public parks remained accessible. When one looks back at the data from eBird, there is a clear pattern of increased interest in birding in the region in the aftermath of the state action. This reflects a larger national trend as well. Birding is, after all, a pursuit that can be enjoyed even when socially distancing oneself from others.

In the early spring, it became evident that weather patterns were generally favorable to an early wave of migration. It was warm and wet, and woodland flowers and plants began to occur a little earlier than in most years. As bird reports began to flow into eBird at an increasing pace two patterns were apparent. The first is that there was a noticeably higher volume of lists being submitted in the state, and the second was that there were many more beginning birders. It seems safe to attribute that to the obvious appeal of finding a way to avoid being entirely housebound. As the number of lists began to rise, so too did the number and variety of species reported. The first true rarity was spotted by David Daniels, who found a Western Meadowlark on March 31. This was reported on the listserv as well as on eBird. According to the eBird data, at least 54 observations of this bird were made by a variety of eBirders, with the last reported sighting happening well after the spring season. Multiple observers photographed and recorded this rarity, and if accepted by the Bird Records Committee, it will be the second reported instance of the species in the state.

Another very rare bird for this area appeared in West Virginia on May 7, when a Pacific Loon, spotted by Terry Bronson in Ohio Waters the previous day, crossed into West Virginia waters and was photographed at the Belleville Lock and Dam in Wood County. This would be the first report all-time for this bird if accepted by the WVBR. The duck season was overall quite productive from the birder's standpoint. Almost all of the expected ducks were seen, especially Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks, although Surf and Black scoters were notable no-shows. This may have to do with the warm spring.

Sandpipers and other peeps were very plentiful, as shorebirds including other coastal and water-dependent species were listed in nearly every likely location in the state with appropriate habitat. A flood of sightings began in the second week in March with an American Golden-Plover on March 9, followed by Lesser Yellowlegs (March 11), Sora (March 22) American Bittern (April 4), Forster's Tern (April 5), Solitary Sandpiper and White-winged Scoter (April 10), Pectoral Sandpiper (April 11), Common Tern (April 13), Spotted Sandpiper and Caspian Tern (April 16), Least Sandpiper (April 18), a rare Franklin's Gull first spotted on April 18 (seen by many including this writer), Red-throated Loon and Dunlin (April 25), Long-billed Dowitcher (4-26), White-faced Ibis (another statewide rarity seen on April 27), Cattle Egret and Common Gallinule, (April 28) Black-bellied Plover (May 11), Sanderling (May 23), and finally as the culmination of

a memorable spring migration, Black-bellied Whistling Duck (May 27). This great variety of species made for a memorable spring for those scanning the waters and shorelines.

For birders looking more to the forests and woodlands, this was also a productive year for warblers. By my count, at least 34 species were reported, and spread over a larger area, thanks to reports coming from more birders than previous years. On Global Big Day in May birders reported 168 species, a very good showing. It was not the most ever for the state (the record is 172), but nevertheless it shows a strong interest in birding in West Virginia and gives important year-to-year data at similar points in the migration cycle. There were also some very good birds seen that day, including a Common Gallinule.

Looking back at the spring season, it was a very rich time for eBird's pool of data. More people birded, fewer counties went without reports (although I would like that number to go down to zero), and the result is an increasingly intricate and effective way to track the populations, movements, cover, and food supply for birds.

The flood of new observers makes for some reviewing challenges, as the typical misidentifications plague beginning birders. Often, they are dependent on questionable sources of information such as books with outdated taxonomy, and make reporting errors as a result. Those in the Brooks Bird Club with years of experience know that nothing beats time in the field with an experienced birder. With that being said, it would be very helpful if you included full descriptions when a bird is flagged as rare on an eBird report or listed as being a high count. Many times I know the birder in question, and know if they report a bird, say perhaps a Northern Waterthrush, that they know exactly what they are observing and why. I generally approve these with the notation "experienced observer." It would be really helpful to beginning birders who may be looking at eBird to find good places to bird or look for species they have no previous experience with, if the reports they read give an idea of how the bird was identified. It would set an important example and be the next best thing to being with these new birders as they struggle to identify the birds they see. A word about the size, voice, behavior, plumage, etc. would go a long way to helping these new birders. Everyone who wants to improve their birding skills has a long learning curve, in fact a lifetime of experience to add to, and lending your expertise to the descriptions of birds that are flagged on your lists would be a gift to future birders.

Happy Birding!

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Field Notes
Spring Season
March 1 – May 31, 2020

Casey Rucker

Warmer than usual weather continued during March in West Virginia, while April and May were both cooler than average, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. All three months gave us greater-than-average precipitation; it was the eleventh wettest spring since recording began in 1895.

These notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, from bird-count results, and from field notes submitted to the editor by email and regular mail. The full content of the submitted reports by the contributors of the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>.

It is likely that the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic increased reports of birds this spring; whatever the reason, sightings were up. There were an unusual number of rarities in the Mountain State. On March 31, David Daniels heard, then photographed a **Western Meadowlark** in Reedsville, Preston County, where the bird was seen and photographed by many birders through the end of the spring season (MSI, JoH, SWi, KA, JsH, RBo, JH). There is only one previous state record. On May 6, a **Pacific Loon** was spotted by Terry Bronson on the Ohio River near Belleville Lock and Dam, Wood County, but the bird stubbornly remained on the Ohio side. The next day, from the same location David Patick and Gary Rankin observed the bird in West Virginia waters; if accepted it will be the first state record. On May 27, Steven Wilson discovered and photographed a pair of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** in Beckley, Raleigh County; there are three previous state records. During the spring season 235 species were reported in West Virginia. Distribution of bird reports continued to improve, with 43 of 55 counties contributing to our state's avian lore. Birders found 34 species of warbler and one hybrid during the spring season.

Whistling-Ducks, Geese, Swans, and Ducks – The **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** discovered by Steven Wilson in Raleigh County on May 27 are described above. The only **goose** species reported in West Virginia this spring was the ubiquitous **Canada Goose**. On March 15, Gary Rankin, David Patick, and Michael Griffith saw the continuing **Mute Swan** at McClintic Wildlife Management Area, Mason County, where it was reported through May 19 (JsH, HMy). Beginning on March 23, Rodney Bartgis kept track of a **Tundra Swan** which remained at the Mill Creek Water Treatment Plant, Randolph County, during the entire season.

Duck sightings in West Virginia continued last spring's encouraging results. Notable for scarcity were **scoters**: the only report was of a single female **White-winged Scoter** at Willow Island Lock and Dam, Pleasants County, as observed by Terry Bronson on April 10. There were many reports statewide of **Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Buffleheads, and Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted mergansers**. The following **ducks** were reported in five to nine counties during the spring: **Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, American Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, and Ruddy Ducks**. The following species were only reported in the counties

listed: **American Wigeons** in Cabell (MG, JK), Hardy (DaG), Mason (GR, JK, DP), and Wood (TB); **Northern Pintails** and **Canvasbacks** in Mason (GR, JK, DP); **Redhead** in Ritchie (CB); and **Long-tailed Duck** in Jefferson (JBz).

Bobwhites – Bryan Smith found calling **Northern Bobwhites** of uncertain origin near Ashton, Mason County, on April 4, and Gary Rankin re-found the birds in the same location two days later.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Turkeys – On April 11, Richard Gregg spotted a **Ring-necked Pheasant** at Marmet Locks, Kanawha County, where an employee said he had seen the bird for many years. Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** came only from Pocahontas (RB, DP, KB), Randolph (HMy, RB), and Tucker (HMy, RB, RBr) Counties, while birders throughout the state reported **Wild Turkeys**.

Grebes – Birders reported **Pied-billed Grebes** in eleven counties and **Horned Grebes** in seven counties.

Pigeons and Doves – **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continued to reside throughout the state. This spring for the fifth year in a row Larry Schwab hosted the successful *nesting* of a pair of **Mourning Doves** at his home in Morgantown, Monongalia County. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were as usual in the vicinity of Union, Monroe County (DP).

Cuckoos – **Cuckoos** once again seemed to arrive somewhat later than usual, and sightings were sparse. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** began to arrive throughout the state beginning May 1 in Wood County (TB) and appeared in nine counties, while **Black-billed Cuckoos** appeared beginning on May 8, as observed by James Phillips in Pipestem, Summers County; other reports came only from four counties.

Goatsuckers and Swifts – **Common Nighthawk** sightings were up a bit over last year, with reports from Cabell (JsH), Kanawha (LC), Monongalia (HC), Randolph (RB), Summers (JJP), Tucker (AC), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Kevin Campbell reported a **Chuck-will's-widow** near Parkersburg, Wood County, for the fourth year in a row beginning on May 2. On May 16, David Patick found a **Chuck-will's-widow** at its accustomed haunts in Mount Zion Cemetery, Mason County. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** and **Chimney Swifts** were widely represented throughout the state. Kevin Cade heard his first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** of the spring in Putnam County on April 8, the first reported in the state. On April 6, James and Judy Phillips observed the first West Virginia **Chimney Swifts** reported this spring in Hinton, Summers County.

Hummingbirds – **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** began arriving on April 15, as Donna Mitchell reported the first sighting by Susan Mitchell at her feeder near a snowy Lewisburg, Greenbrier County. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** also appeared in reports from 21 other counties throughout the state.

Rails and Coots – **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** were found by Michael Griffith and Janet Keating at Ashton wetlands, Mason County, on March 31, as reported by David Patick, and by Rennie and Amy Talbert at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, beginning on April 19, where both species were observed by many through mid-May. **Virginia Rails** were also observed at the Route 48 wetlands west of Moorefield, Wildlife Management Area, Mason County, on May 9, where Josh Holland also found a **Common Gallinule**; and at Belleville wetlands, Wood County, as seen by Terry Bronson on May 13. On April 28 Terry Bronson re-found a **Common Gallinule** at Belleville wetlands, Wood County. **American Coot** reports were scanty as usual this spring, coming only from five counties.

Plovers – It was a good season for **plovers**. Rennie and Amy Talbert discovered a **Black-bellied Plover** at Beech Fork State Park, Wayne County, on May 11, as reported by David Patick. Steven Wilson found a breeding-plumaged **Black-bellied Plover** on Thorn Run Road, Grant County, on May 17. Bryan Smith spotted an **American Golden-Plover** at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington, Cabell County, on March 9; the bird was also viewed by Josh Holland, David Patick, and Michael Griffith. Another **American Golden-Plover**, approaching full breeding plumage, made an appearance before Gary Rankin, Michael Griffith, and Janet Keating near Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area, Mason County, on May 24. **Semipalmated Plovers** appeared at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on May 3 (MG); in Mason County at Robert C Byrd Locks and Dam on May 11 (JsH), at Apple Grove on May 23 (MG, JK), and at Gallipolis Ferry on May 24 (GR, MG, JK); near Mill Creek, Randolph County on May 17 (RB); and at Eldon Haught Lakeside Recreation Area in Ritchie County on May 20 (TB). **Killdeer** reports were also up, coming from 16 counties.

Sandpipers – Fifteen **sandpiper** species made appearances in the Mountain State. Lucine and Chuck Wright discovered a dozen **Whimbrels** near Belleville wetlands, Wood County, on May 3, as reported by Terry Bronson. **Spotted Sandpipers** were observed in eighteen counties this season, far more than usual. **American Woodcock**, **Solitary Sandpipers**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported in at least seven counties. The following species were reported in five or fewer counties, as listed: **Least Sandpipers** in Cabell (MG), Mason (LC, DP), Pocahontas (DP), Putnam (LC), and Randolph (RB); **White-rumped** and **Pectoral sandpipers** in Mason (MG, JK); **Semipalmated Sandpipers** in Hardy (DaG), Mason (MG, JK, GR), Raleigh (SWi), Randolph (RB), and Ritchie (TB); **Short-billed Dowitchers** in Jefferson (WS) and Mason (JsH); **Long-billed Dowitchers** in Wayne (JsH, MG, JK, DP, ReT); **Wilson's Snipe** in Hardy (DaG), Mason (GR, DP, MG), Randolph (RB), and Wood (TB); **Willetts** in Cabell (MG) and Mason (JsH,); **Greater Yellowlegs** in Mason (GR, MG, JK), Randolph (RB), and Wood (TB); and **Wilson's Phalaropes** in Berkeley (AT, JBz, WS) and Mason (MG, JK).

Gulls and Terns – **Bonaparte's Gulls** were much in evidence this spring, appearing in a surprising ten counties: Cabell (JsH, MG, JK), Grant (JFo), Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (RG), Mason (GR, DP, MG, JK, JsH), Mercer (JJP), Randolph (RB), Summers (JJP), Wayne (KC, JsH, GR), and Wood (TB). A **Franklin's Gull** made a rare appearance along with a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on April 24, as observed by Michael Griffith and Janet Keating. The **Franklin's Gull** remained for at least two days (JsH, DCo, TB, MSI). **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported in eight counties, and **Herring Gulls** appeared in Cabell (JsH) and Mason (GR, JK, DP, JsH) Counties.

Tern sightings were also up this season. **Caspian Terns** were found in Berkeley (WS), Kanawha (RG), and Mason (JsH) Counties. Joseph Hildreth found a **Common Tern** at the Pleasant Creek boat launch at Tygart Lake, Taylor County, on April 13. **Forster's Terns** appeared in Kanawha (MH, RG), Mason (MG, DP), Summers (JJP), Wayne (DP, KC, MG, JsH), and Wood (TB) Counties.

Loons – The **Pacific Loon** observed by Terry Bronson, David Patick, and Gary Rankin on the Ohio River bordering Wood County on May 6–7, is described near the beginning of these notes. **Common Loon** reports came from Cabell (MG, JK), Grant (JFo, RB), Hardy (DH), Jefferson (JBz), Mason (GR, JK, MG), Mineral (CR), Taylor (JH), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Cormorants – West Virginia birders reported **Double-crested Cormorants** in eight counties this spring.

Hérons and Egrets – **American Bitterns** appeared in Cabell (JsH, JK, MG), Hardy (JFo), and Tucker (HMy) Counties. Josh Holland, David Patick, and Kevin Campbell enjoyed a **Least Bittern** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on May 9. **Great Blue Herons** and **Green Herons** appeared widely, while **Great Egrets** were observed in Hardy (DaG), Kanawha (LC, RG), Mason (GR, DP, MG, JK, JsH), Randolph (RB), Tucker (CR), and Wood (TB) Counties.

Ibises – On April 27, Josh Holland, Janet Keating, and Michael Griffith discovered a **White-faced Ibis** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County.

Vultures – Birders in twelve West Virginia counties reported seeing **Black Vultures**, while **Turkey Vulture** reports came from twenty-six counties.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites – **Osprey** were reported throughout the state, beginning on March 9 when Terry Bronson saw one at a regular *nesting* site at Belleville wetlands, Wood County. On April 4 Deborah Hale watched a pair of **Osprey** *sitting on the nest together* in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County. The only **Golden Eagle** reported this season was an adult found by Maury Johnson and Gladys and Bob Carter on March 7 during the Spring Eagle Survey, in the Hans Creek Valley, Monroe County. **Northern Harriers** appeared in reports from Jefferson County (DHa), Mercer County (JJP), Randolph County (RB), Ritchie County (CB), and Tucker County (RB). **Accipiter** reports were more numerous than usual, with **Sharp-shinned Hawks** observed in twelve counties, and **Cooper's Hawks** in eight. On March 18, Gary Rankin was surprised by a new yard bird in Lavalette, Wayne County: a **Northern Goshawk** circling above. The *nesting Mississippi Kites* near Scott Depot, Putnam County, returned this year, as found by Laura Ceperley on May 14 and Herb Myers on May 18. Reports of **Bald Eagles**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, **Broad-winged Hawks**, and **Red-tailed Hawks** were widespread in West Virginia this spring. The thirteenth Spring Eagle Survey on March 7 found 29 **Bald Eagles** and the aforementioned **Golden Eagle** in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Summers Counties, as reported by James Phillips. Rodney Bartgis found a lingering **Rough-legged Hawk** along Corridor H north of Davis, Tucker County, on March 3.

Owls – **Owl** reports were fairly scanty for the second spring in a row. The **Barn Owl** *nest* near Belleville wetlands, Wood County, continued to be occupied, as reported by Terry Bronson on April 20 and Gary Rankin and David Patick on May 8. Birders reported **Eastern Screech-Owls** in Jefferson (JBz), Marion (JoH), Pocahontas (KB), Summers (JP), and Tucker (EG) Counties. **Great Horned Owls** inspired reports only in Jefferson County (JBz) and Kanawha County, where Martha Hopper observed two *owlets* on April 7; birders reported **Barred Owls** in fourteen West Virginia counties. On May 30 David Patick heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling near the North Fork Trail off the Highland Scenic Highway, Pocahontas County.

Kingfishers – **Belted Kingfisher** reports were widespread in West Virginia this season, with reports from sixteen counties.

Woodpeckers – Our state's seven species of **woodpecker** were all widely reported, with sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in nine counties and of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** in thirteen counties. On May 27, Ross Brittain saw his first West Virginia **Red-headed Woodpecker** at the French Creek Wildlife Center, Upshur County.

Falcons – **American Kestrel** reports were also up this spring, coming from Berkeley (WS), Braxton (WG), Jefferson (LW, JBz), Marion (DG), Mason (GR, DP,

MG, JK, JsH), Pendleton (RB), Pocahontas (RB), Summers (JP), and Tucker (CR) Counties, while **Merlins** were spotted only in Jefferson County (RB), Ohio County (DK), Randolph County (RB), and Tucker County (CR, HMy). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings came from Jefferson (DHa), Kanawha (RG), Mason (JsH, JK, MG, GR, DP), and Putnam (KK) Counties.

Flycatchers – Reports of **flycatchers** rose this spring compared to last year. First-reported dates, counties, and observers are listed in parentheses: **Great Crested Flycatchers** (April 19, Summers, JP), **Eastern Kingbirds** (April 12, Wayne, JsH, DP), **Eastern Wood-Pewees** (May 1, Monongalia, LS), **Acadian Flycatchers** (April 30, Wood, JB), **Alder Flycatchers** (May 16, Pocahontas, JP), **Willow Flycatchers** (May 17, Tucker, CR), **Least Flycatchers** (May 2, Pocahontas, DP), and **Eastern Phoebes** (March 6, Jefferson, DHa).

Shrikes – There was a private report of a **Loggerhead Shrike** in Berkeley County in early April. Richard Bailey found three **Loggerhead Shrikes** in Greenbrier and Monroe Counties this spring.

Vireos – Our five breeding **vireos** returned to nesting grounds throughout the state beginning on the dates listed, along with counties and observers: **White-eyed** (April 12, Kanawha, LC), **Yellow-throated** (April 19, Summers, JP), **Blue-headed** (March 9, Summers, JP), **Warbling** (April 20, Jackson, TB), and **Red-eyed** (April 7, Pocahontas, KB). On May 16, David Patick spied a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, and three days later another **Philadelphia Vireo** was a new yard bird for Joette Borzik in Jefferson County.

Jays, Crows, and Ravens – **Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens** were reported widely throughout the state. **Fish Crows** were reported in Berkeley (WH) and Jefferson (WS, JBz, BT) Counties.

Larks – **Horned Larks** appeared in small numbers in Fayette (SWi, MAW) and Mason (GR, DP, MG, JK, JsH) Counties.

Swallows – On April 22 at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, Michael Griffith and Janet Keating observed approximately 40 **Bank Swallows**, and on May 24 Gary Rankin, Michael Griffith, and Janet Keating found **Bank Swallows** at the same location. Wilma Jarrell spotted two **Bank Swallows** at Hannibal Dam, Wetzel County, on May 8, and on the next day Steven Wilson found another two **Bank Swallows** in Babcock State Park, Fayette County. Terry Bronson saw five **Bank Swallows** at Belleville wetlands, Wood County, on May 13. **Tree Swallows** had already made appearances in West Virginia at the end of February, and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** arrived on March 21 in Cabell County (GR, DP, MG, JK, JsH); both species appeared widely. **Purple Martins** began to arrive on March 23 in Summers County (JP), and were also reported in Fayette (MAW), Jackson (TB), Jefferson (JBz, BT), Kanawha (HG, RG), Mason (JsH, DP, GR, MG, JK), and Wood (TB, JB) Counties. The season's first **Barn Swallow** was spotted by Gary Rankin, David Patick, Michael Griffith, Janet Keating, and Josh Holland on March 21 along Route 817 in Mason County; **Barn Swallows** made widespread returns to West Virginia this spring. Josh Holland found at least four **Cliff Swallows** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on March 28, and on May 17 Hullet Good watched more than fifteen **Cliff Swallows** *gathering mud for nests* under a bridge over the Elk River, Kanawha County. **Cliff Swallows** also inspired reports from Cabell (KC), Jackson (TB), Jefferson (PW, JBz), Kanawha (HG), Mason (JsH), Putnam (KK), Randolph (RB), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB) Counties.

Chickadees and **Titmice** – **Black-capped** and **Carolina chickadees** were reported in their usual habitats in West Virginia this spring.

Nuthatches – In accordance with their biennial irruption pattern, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce this spring, making appearances only in Allegheny Mountain counties: Pocahontas (JP, GR), Preston (LeJ), Randolph (HMy), and Tucker (HMy, CR) Counties. In contrast, the reliable **White-breasted Nuthatch** continued its widespread presence. On March 29 Bruni Haydl watched a pair of **White-breasted Nuthatches** *courtship feeding* in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

Creepers – **Brown Creeper** reports were also up this season, coming from nine counties.

Wrens – On May 31, Herb Myers was the first to report the discovery of a **Sedge Wren** singing its incessant song in Canaan Valley State Park, Tucker County. **House** and **Carolina wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from all over the state. Michael Griffith and Janet Keating found an early **House Wren** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on April 2. Cynthia Burkhart hosted a **Carolina Wren nest** in a vent pipe at her home in Ritchie County, seeing the first egg on March 29 and at least two *fledglings* on April 29. **Winter Wrens** were reported in Grant (RB), Jefferson (KC), Kanawha (KC), Mineral (CR), Monongalia (KF), Pendleton (RB), Pocahontas (KB, RB), Randolph (RB, HMy), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR, HMy), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Josh Holland and David Patick found a **Marsh Wren** at Ashton wetlands, Mason County, on April 1, and Kitty Bailey and Sharon Kearns discovered another **Marsh Wren** near Beard, Pocahontas County, on April 27.

Gnatcatchers – Joette Borzik found an early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** on April 2 on John Rissler Road, Jefferson County, followed by the return of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** to breeding grounds throughout the state. On April 11, Dianne and Doug Wood watched a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *building a nest* along Sams Fork of Hurricane Creek, Putnam County.

Kinglets – Birders reported **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in eleven West Virginia counties, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** in fifteen counties during the season.

Thrushes – It was a good spring for **thrush** reports in West Virginia. **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Swainson's**, **Hermit**, and **Wood thrushes**, as well as **American Robins**, were seen throughout most reporting counties. **Veeries** were reported in Jefferson (JBz), Mason (JsH), Pocahontas (DP, JP, GR), Randolph (HMy; RBo, RB), and Tucker (CR, HMy) Counties; and **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported from Cabell (DP), Fayette (MAW), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

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

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

Waxwings – **Cedar Waxwings** reports were up this spring, coming from eleven counties.

Weaver Finches – The **House Sparrow** continues to occupy our state, primarily in urban and farm settings.

Finches and **Allies** – **House** and **Purple finches** and **American Goldfinches** appeared in reports throughout the state. **Red Crossbills** made appearances in Pendleton (RB),

Pocahontas (DP, GR), Randolph (RB), and Summers (JP) Counties, and **Pine Siskins** inspired reports only in Pocahontas (KB), Randolph (RB), and Tucker (CR) Counties.

Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees – The only report of a **Henslow's Sparrow** this spring was LeJay Graffious's observation of two individuals along Beech Run Road in Preston County on May 3. Fourteen other **sparrow** species made appearances in accustomed haunts throughout our state. **Fox Sparrows** made appearances through late April, in Pendleton (RB), Preston (LeJ), Randolph (RB), Roane (DG), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Gary Rankin, Janet Keating, and David Patick saw an **American Tree Sparrow** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on March 1, the only report of the season. Widely reported **White-throated** and **White-crowned sparrows** stayed through mid-May. Resident and returning **sparrow** species made first appearances this season in reports from the following counties: **Grasshopper** on April 3 in Jefferson (WS), **Chipping** on March 18 in Summers (JP), **Field** and **Dark-eyed Junco** on March 5 in Summers (JP), **Vesper** on March 22 in Mason (GR, DP, MG, JK, JsH), **Savannah** on March 11 in Jefferson (WS), **Song** on March 5 in Summers (JP), and **Swamp** on March 29 in Cabell (GR, DP, MG, JK). **Eastern Towhees** were already present in some areas at the start of the spring season, and by its end were reported from throughout the state.

Chats – **Yellow-breasted Chats** first appeared on April 28, observed at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, by Michael Griffith and Janet Keating, and in Braxton County by Willa Grafton. By the end of the season **Yellow-breasted Chats** had also appeared in Berkeley (BT), Jackson (TB), Pendleton (HMy), Pocahontas (KB), Randolph (RB), and Wood (TB) Counties.

Blackbirds and Allies – The **Western Meadowlark** that lingered in Reedsville, Preston County for much of the spring is described near the beginning of these notes. **Bobolinks** returned to Canaan Valley, Tucker County, on May 1, as observed by Randy Bodkins, and also appeared in Jefferson (WS, DHa, JBz), Mason (DP, JsH), and Pocahontas (DP) Counties. There were many West Virginia reports of **Eastern Meadowlarks**, **Orchard** and **Baltimore orioles**, **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and **Common Grackles**. **Rusty Blackbirds** appeared only in reports from Cabell (MG), Kanawha (HG), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Warblers – Gary Rankin saw his first West Virginia **Brewster's Warbler** at Stamping Creek, Pocahontas County, on May 16. The following **warblers**, all regular migrants through or breeders in West Virginia, made their first-of-season appearances in the following counties: **Ovenbird**: April 12, Wayne (JsH, DP), **Worm-eating Warbler**: April 21, Kanawha (LC), **Louisiana Waterthrush**: March 20, Kanawha (MH), **Northern Waterthrush**: May 1, Monongalia (LS), **Golden-winged Warbler**: May 5, Wood (JB), **Blue-winged Warbler**: April 12, Wayne (JsH, DP), **Black-and-white Warbler**: March 17, Raleigh (JP), **Prothonotary Warbler**: April 23, Cabell (JK), **Swainson's Warbler**: April 28, Randolph (RB), **Tennessee Warbler**: April 30, Wood (JB), **Nashville Warbler**: April 25, Monongalia (LS), **Mourning Warbler**: May 2, Pocahontas (JJP, DP), **Kentucky Warbler**: April 23, Wayne (GR), **Common Yellowthroat**: April 20, Cabell (MG, JK), **Hooded Warbler**: April 12, Wayne (JsH, DP), **American Redstart**: April 16, Kanawha (LC), **Cape May Warbler**: April 30, Wood (JB), **Cerulean Warbler**: April 21, Cabell (JK), **Northern Parula**: April 6, Summers (JP), **Magnolia Warbler**: May 2, Pocahontas (DP), **Bay-breasted Warbler**: May 8, Jefferson (DHa), **Blackburnian Warbler**: April 29, Wood (JB), **Yellow Warbler**: April 4, Wayne (JWg), **Chestnut-**

sided Warbler: May 1, Wood (TB), **Blackpoll Warbler:** April 27, Fayette (MAW), **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** April 26, Monongalia (KF), **Palm Warbler:** March 28, Putnam (KC), **Pine Warbler:** March 7, Ritchie (CB), **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** March 7, Kanawha (RG), **Yellow-throated Warbler:** March 28, Calhoun (TF), **Prairie Warbler:** April 19, Summers (JP), **Black-throated Green Warbler:** March 28, Wayne (DP, MG), **Canada Warbler:** May 2, Pocahontas (DP), and **Wilson's Warbler:** May 9, Mason (JsH). Twenty of these **warbler** species appeared before the “first-seen” dates in George A. Hall's *West Virginia Birds*, with three ties. Mimi Kibler found a pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** occupying a new territory in Parsons, Tucker County, on April 25. On April 29, Jon Benedetti encountered fifteen **warbler** species in McDonough Wildlife Refuge, Wood County, and LeJay Graffious found eight species at Old Hemlock, Preston County.

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings – Summer Tanager reports were again up a bit this spring, coming from Cabell (DP), Fayette (MAW), Ritchie (CB), Roane (BSMS), Tyler (TB), and Wood (JB) Counties. Twenty-one counties hosted sightings of returning **Scarlet Tanagers**, the first of which was spotted by Janet Keating in Cabell County on April 21. **Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings** prompted numerous reports from birders in most parts of the state. Many observers reported greater than usual numbers of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** this spring, while **Blue Grosbeaks** were the subjects of reports only from Cabell (GR, MG, JK) and Jefferson (WS) Counties. **Dickcissels** appeared in Mason County beginning on May 10 on Leon Ferry Lane, as observed by David Patick.

Contributors to the Spring Field Notes: Kyle Aldinger (KA), Kitty Bailey (KB), Rodney Bartgis (RB), Jon Benedetti (JB), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Ross Brittain (RBr), Terry Bronson (TB), Cynthia Burkhart (CB), Kevin Cade (KC), Laura Ceperley (LC), Amy Cimarolli (AC), Hannah Clipp (HC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Katie Fallon (KF), James Fox (JFo), Tom Fox (TF), Elaine George (EG), Darrell Good (DaG), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Willa Grafton (WG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DHa), Wil Hershberger (WH), Joey Herron (JoH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Joshua Holland (JsH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Martha Hopper (MH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Kim Kazmierski (KK), Janet Keating (JK), Debbie Koegler (DK), Herb Myers (HMy), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Larry Schwab (LS), Michael Slaven (MSl), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Robert Summers and Margaret Straley (BSMS), Rennie and Amy Talbert (ReT), Bill and Carole Telfair (BT), Alex Tsiatsos (AT), Mindy and Allen Waldron (MAW), John Waugaman (JWg), Phillip Welsler (PW), Steven Wilson (SWi), and Lynn Wisemann.

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ERRATUM

In *The Redstart* 87(3), in the review of *Nature's Best Hope*, the organization offering an online database of local beneficial plants was identified as the World Wildlife Federation. The correct organization is the National Wildlife Foundation.

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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	Cancelled due to COVID-19 (Contact Ryan Tomazin)
May 7–10	Wildflower Pilgrimage	Cancelled due to COVID-19
May 9	Migratory Bird Day	
June 5–13	Foray – Camp Galilee.....	Cancelled due to COVID-19 (contact Janice Emrick or Ryan Tomazin)
July 29–31	Howard Marsh area	Cancelled due to COVID-19 (Contact Terry Bronson)
Aug.–Oct.	Bird Banding	Cancelled due to COVID-19 Dates to be announced
October	Fall Reunion Meeting.....	Cancelled due to COVID-19
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 Cancelled due to COVID-19
 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

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, wwwarblers@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.

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