

ISSN: 0034-2165

*The* **REDSTART**

VOLUME 88, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER, 2021



**PUBLISHED BY THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB**

# 2021 - The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Founded September 1932  
Named in honor of A. B. Brooks, Naturalist

## OFFICERS

President	Cynthia Slater, 2310 Cowling Road, Scottsdale, PA 15683	724-570-8502
President-Elect	Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-9726
Vice President	Sally Egan, 910 Sunset Dr., Bridgeport, WV 26330	304-842-9511
Recording Secretary	Mindy Waldron, PO Box 256, Surveyor, WV 25932	304-573-7423
Treasurer	Scott Emrick, 52713 SR 800, Jerusalem, OH 43747	740-472-5212
Imm. Past President	Janice Emrick, 52713 SR 800, Jerusalem, OH 43747	740-472-5212

## ADMINISTRATION

Administrator	Juanita Slater, 56249 Hospital Road, Bellaire, OH 43906	304-639-1120
Membership Secretary	Juanita Slater, 56249 Hospital Road, Bellaire, OH 43906	304-639-1120

## PUBLICATIONS

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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Serve Through:		
2021 .....	Jan Runyan, 540 Genteel Ridge Road, Wellsburg, WV 26070	304-737-3777
	Orion Metheny, 210 Sumac Circle, Morgantown, WV 26508	304-594-3233
	Suzanne Quinn, 44 Easy Drive, Dallas, WV 26036	304-547-5162
2022 .....	William Hicks, P.O. Box 296, Bethany, WV 26032	304-829-4274
	Martin Tingley, 832 Cale Road, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525	304-379-3753
	Jim Triplett, 1783 Smith Road, Charleston, WV 25314	304-345-3336
2023 .....	Ashton Berdine, PO Box 3113, Elkins, WV 26241	304-377-5063
	Jane Robbins, 11909 Gordon Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705	301-937-7953
	Juanita Slater, 56249 Hospital Road, Bellaire, OH 43906	304-639-1120

## ADVISORS

Tom Fox, 1447 Sycamore Road, Millstone, WV 25261	304-354-7686
Carol McCullough, 1119 Queensbury Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205	412-921-6873
Robert Rine, 1269 National Rd., Apt. 51, Wheeling, WV 26003	304-243-8766

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Budget	Sally Egan, 910 Sunset Dr., Bridgeport, WV 26330	304-842-9511
Research	Greg E. Eddy, 3603 Kirkwood Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031	703-980-3751
Foray	Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-9726
Foray Directors	Janice Emrick, 52713 SR 800, Jerusalem, OH 43747	740-472-5212
	Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-9726
Backyard Sanctuary	Matt Fox, 4326 Chelsea Harbor Drive West, Jacksonville, FL 32224	662-617-1141
Club Library	Dorothy Broemsen, 340 Peter's Run Rd., Wheeling, WV 26003	304-242-4498
Historian	Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-9726

# The REDSTART

---

VOLUME 88, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER, 2021

---

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
120 <sup>th</sup> National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count West Virginia Report —L. E. Helgerman.....	82
Book Review.....	93
eBird Reports and News —Michael Slaven.....	95
Field Notes —Casey Rucker.....	98

## **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 26991 • [mikeslavenwv@gmail.com](mailto:mikeslavenwv@gmail.com)

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

*The Redstart* is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October at P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003. The journal of the Brooks Bird Club, it is mailed to all members in good standing. Nonmember subscription price is \$17. Individual copies are \$4, except the Foray issue, which is \$8. Changes of address and requests for back issues should be mailed to P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003. Articles for publication and books for review should be mailed or emailed to the editor. Printed on recycled paper. ISSN: 0034-2165

# 121st National Audubon Christmas Bird Count West Virginia Report

L. E. Helgerman

Let's look back at last season's Christmas Bird Count here in West Virginia during the 121<sup>st</sup> count season.

Last season was a unique one to say the least; with the Covid pandemic persisting, compilers were given the option to cancel their counts. Those who decided to run their CBC would need to follow all the strict guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and National Audubon Society. Amazingly, all twenty-one currently active WV Christmas Bird Count compilers conducted surveys!

The 121st CBC season was held between December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Our twenty-one counts were divided up nicely this season, with our compilers working with one another; seven counts were conducted during each week of the season. Six of our counts were run during weekdays, which greatly helps with count dates overlapping on the weekends.

It's also important to note that there are a few CBC's that border West Virginia and collect data from our state. That data is not reflected in this report, only counts with CBC center points located in the state are reflected in this report.

**One hundred twenty-two species** were reported on count days; additionally two species were noted as count week birds this CBC season in West Virginia.

## Seasonal Weather Report

**Temperature Lows:** Fourteen counts began with temperatures below freezing. Pocahontas County had a cold 18 degree start while Athens-Princeton Area had the coldest morning at 12 degrees Fahrenheit. Starting the morning much warmer were, Parkersburg at 44 and Lewisburg at 41 degrees. The December 16 Wheeling count averaged the coldest in West Virginia this season with a 27–32-degree range.

**Temperature Highs:** Three counts had temperatures above the fifty-degree mark, with a few others close to 50. Inwood peaked at 55 degrees. Lewisburg's January 2<sup>nd</sup> count was the warmest in West Virginia this season, with a 41-degree low and 50-degree high.

**Weather Notes:** Nine counts reported some snow on the ground, ranging from a trace to 12 inches. Canaan, Pendleton County, and Morgantown all had significant snow coverage. Three counts reported light snow falling during their counts, and Wheeling experienced a heavy snow fall in the late afternoon hampering count effort. (Editor's note: it seems the snow coverage had a beneficial effect, as some record numbers were reported this season.) Four counts reported light rain.

## Effort Report

**Participation:** Six of our counts had 20 or more participants, Morgantown had the highest participation with 36 birders afield. Eleven counts reported 11 to 19 in the field, while four circles noted fewer than 8.

**Hours in the Field (diurnal):** Three counts reported more than 70 hours of effort on count days. Inwood with 93 party hours led the state, followed by Morgantown (79

hrs.) and Lewisburg (72.25 hrs.). Average diurnal field effort statewide this season was 54 hours.

**Miles Tallied:** Four counts tallied over 400 miles of effort. Inwood again led with 537.75 miles of circle coverage, followed by Morgantown (486), then Athens-Princeton and Wheeling with 402 and 401 miles, respectively. An average of 287 miles were covered statewide this season.

**Feeder Watchers:** Eighty percent of our counts had participants watching their feeders/yards. Morgantown had the highest participation with 18 watchers. Also notable was Pendleton County with 12.

**Nocturnal Birding:** Just over fifty percent of our counts reported nocturnal hours. Morgantown's 11.25 hours and 124 miles was by far the most reported. Other impressive owling stats came from Inwood, 10.25 hrs. and 88 miles, and Parkersburg's 8 hrs. and 66.75 miles.

#### **Effort Totals:**

**By foot:** 425.75 miles in 487.75 hours – **By car:** 5,594 miles in 647 hours

**By ATV:** 2 miles in 1 hour – **By boat:** 6.75 miles in 1.25 hours

#### **Bird Reports**

The avian groups in this report reflect the 2020 American **Ornithological** Society (AOS) checklist. Most species within the avian groups are placed in order of abundance

Note: Only Count Day information is listed unless otherwise noted. CW – Count Week / HC – High Count / \* WV CBC State or Count Record

**Geese/Swans:** **Canada Geese (8,240)** were the fourth most abundant species statewide again this season, located on all but one count. Rarer were the two **Cackling Geese** and a **Ross's Goose** found on the Morgantown count. Moorefield noted **Snow Goose** as a count week (CW) species.

Morgantown was the only count to report **Tundra Swans (42)**. Parkersburg noted one **Mute Swan** on count day and the rarer **Trumpeter Swan** as a CW species. Eighteen duck species were reported this season

**Dabblers:** Eight dabbling duck species were reported statewide. On 90% of the counts, **Mallards (2,396)** were the most numerous ducks statewide, taking the eleventh most abundant species spot this season. High counts included Morgantown (464), Charles Town (306), and Parkersburg (288). **American Black Ducks (156)** were found on 57% of the counts, with Morgantown (53) reporting the most. Six counts came across Gadwall (**86**); they were most prevalent on the Charles Town (35) and Charleston (25) counts. Discovered on 5 counts, **Green-winged Teal (68)** were reported in good numbers from Parkersburg (30) and Point Pleasant (24). Fifty percent of our counts found **Wood Ducks (31)**; Raleigh County (8) reported the most. **American Wigeons (23)** were found on six counts, including Morgantown (10) HC. Scarcer finds included **Northern Shovelers (15)**, found on the Charleston (10) and Morgantown (5) counts, and **Northern Pintails (6)** on four counts.

**Diving Ducks:** All three mergansers were reported again this season. **Hooded Merganser (318)**, the most abundant diver, was found on 76% of the counts, with

Morgantown (158) reporting the highest total statewide. Fourteen counts tallied **Common Merganser (215)**; high counts were reported from Hampshire County (55), Pipestem Area (36), and Charles Town (33). The only **Red-breasted Mergansers (2)** reported were from the Wheeling count. Seven counts tallied **Bufflehead (168)**, with Morgantown again reporting an amazing high count of 120. **Ring-necked Ducks (160)** were also reported on seven counts, with Point Pleasant (120) taking the top spot. Five counts added **Ruddy Duck (43)**; Charleston (15) and Morgantown (14) reported the majority.

Rarer divers located this season included **Common Goldeneye (4)** on the Morgantown (3) and Charles Town (1) counts, **Redheads (3)** on the Point Pleasant count, **Lesser Scaup (3)** on the Morgantown count, and **Canvasbacks (2)** on the Parkersburg count.

**Gamebirds:** Eighty percent of the counts reported **Wild Turkey (405)**; Morgantown (131) and Parkersburg (68) had the high counts (most counts reporting under 20 birds). **Ruffed Grouse (4)** numbers continue to decline, becoming rarer on a West Virginia CBC. The Athens-Princeton Area reported two **Ruffed Grouse**, and both Moorefield and Pocahontas County had single birds.

**Grebes:** Nearly sixty percent of the counts reported **Pied-billed Grebes (47)**; Morgantown (12) and Raleigh County (11) tallied the most. One lone **Horned Grebe** was located on the Morgantown count.

**Rails:** Three counts reported **Virginia Rails (6\*)**: Charles Town (4), Moorefield (1), and Morgantown (1). **Editor's note:** Six is highest number of VIRA recorded historically on a WV CBC. Charleston (38) and Point Pleasant (1) reported **American Coot (39)**.

**Shorebirds:** **Killdeer (119)** were found on 60% of the WV counts, with a high count from Raleigh County (23). It was a good CBC for **Wilson's Snipe (21)**, located on 5 counts; Pocahontas County (7) and Point Pleasant (6) recorded high counts.

**Gulls:** Four counts tallied **Ring-billed Gulls (74)**, with Wheeling (34) and Point Pleasant (31) reporting the majority. **Herring Gull (8)** sightings were led by Point Pleasant (7) and Ona (1).

**Cormorant:** **Double-crested Cormorants (46)** were located on four counts, with a high count from Charles Town (24).

**Hérons:** Ninety percent of the counts found **Great Blue Herons (117)**; Parkersburg had the high count (24).

**Vultures:** **Black Vultures (1,142)**, tallied on 70% of the counts, are now seen throughout the state; the eastern counties of Inwood (307), Lewisburg (265), and Pendleton County (137) appeared to have the highest populations. Ninety-five percent of the circles reported **Turkey Vulture (1,680)**, the fifteenth most common species found this season. Charleston (254) and Lewisburg (235) had the highest accounts.

**Eagles/Hawks:** Recorded only a dozen times on a West Virginia CBC, an **Osprey** was reported and accepted from the Elkins CBC. The last one reported was 11 years ago on the 110<sup>th</sup> count from Hampshire County.

Three eastern counts reported **Golden Eagles (5)** this season: Pendleton County (3), Hampshire County (1), and Pocahontas County (1). Note: All GOEA sightings are submitted with Rare Bird Reports.

Fifty percent of the counts noted **Northern Harriers (43)**, with Moorefield (17) recording a remarkable high count.

**Coopers Hawk (75)**, the most prevalent accipiter, was tallied on 90% of the counts with Morgantown (15) submitting the remarkable HC. Fifteen counts reported **Sharp-**

**shinned Hawk (36)**; the high count was in Moorefield (7). Rarer was the immature **Northern Goshawk** submitted and accepted from the Canaan count.

**Bald Eagle (167)** numbers continue to rise on the West Virginia CBC, reported on 85% of the counts. Amazing numbers were noted from Hampshire County (29), Pendleton County (29), Moorefield (24), and Charles Town (19).

**Red-tailed Hawk (434)** as expected, was the most common *buteo* reported this season and found on all counts; Morgantown (54), Charles Town (42), Moorefield (42), and Point Pleasant (39) recorded the high counts. Ninety percent of the West Virginia counts reported **Red-shouldered Hawk (282)**. Rarer **Rough-legged Hawks (4)** were observed in Canaan (2), Hampshire County (1), and Morgantown (1).

**Owls:** Six of the eastern owl species were reported this season. Again, this season, Moorefield (4) tallied the only **Barn Owls (4)** statewide. **Eastern Screech-Owls (72)** were the most prevalent. Morgantown (19), with the most nocturnal hours, reported the high count; notable results also came from Huntington (12) and Inwood (11). All of the nocturnal teams located **Barred Owls (43)** and **Great Horned Owls (24)**. Morgantown (10 and 5 respectively) again reported high counts of both.

Moorefield (4), Canaan (1), Morgantown (1), and Parkersburg (1) reported **Short-eared Owls (7)**; Morgantown (7) added the only **Northern Saw-whet Owls (7)**.

**Kingfisher:** Including a CW bird, all counts added **Belted Kingfisher (127)**.

**Woodpeckers:** Seven woodpecker species were located this season. Listed in order of abundance, they were **Downy Woodpecker (978)**, **Red-bellied Woodpecker (956)**, **Northern Flicker (390)**, **Pileated Woodpecker (361)**, **Hairy Woodpecker (227)**, and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (160)**. Charles Town (41) had an amazing **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** high count. Only eight counts located **Red-headed Woodpeckers (24)**, led by Pendleton County (10).

**Falcons:** Ninety percent of the counts had **American Kestrels (210)**; high counts came from Ona (31), Point Pleasant (27), and Pendleton County (24). Again, this season, **Peregrine Falcons (12)** were located on counts where they breed; Huntington (4) and Point Pleasant (4) recorded high counts. Six counts found **Merlins (10)**: Morgantown (3), Charleston (2), Parkersburg (2), Charles Town (1), Moorefield (1), and Point Pleasant (1).

**Flycatchers:** Seventy percent of the counts found **Eastern Phoebes (54)**; Hampshire County (10), Moorefield (8), Oak Hill (7), and Ona (6) reported nice high counts.

**Vireos:** Rare on a West Virginia CBC, a **White-eyed Vireo** appeared again this season on the Morgantown count for the fourth season in a row. **Note:** historically, **White-eyed Vireo** has only been reported during seven CBC seasons in the state.

**Jays/Crows/Ravens:** **Blue Jay (3,244)** numbers continue to increase in West Virginia, with most counts reporting birds in the hundreds; Charles Town (54) recorded the fewest.

On all counts, **American Crow (32,891)** was the most abundant species this season. Large crow roosts reflect the substantial number of crows reported seasonally. Large crow roosts were reported again this season from Raleigh County (18,500 est.) and Charleston (9500 est.). **Note:** historically, one of the largest West Virginia CBC crow roosts, located on the Wheeling count, is apparently in flux, with many of the birds relocating. No roosting birds were reported this season, although attempts were made to find the roost despite near whiteout snow conditions that hampered efforts. Ninety percent of counts tallied **Common Ravens (504)**. Lewisburg (92) had a remarkable **Common Raven** tally,

many of which were reported by one party in a rare winter unkindness of Ravens. Rare on a West Virginia CBC, a **Fish Crow** was submitted from Pendleton County.

**Thrushes:** The sixteenth most abundant species statewide, **Eastern Bluebirds (1,670)** were located on all counts; the high counts were from Hampshire County (224) and Charles Town (188). **American Robin (1,641)** numbers fluctuate year to year. **American Robin** numbers dropped from last season, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> most abundant species statewide to 18<sup>th</sup> this season. All counts reported **Hermit Thrush (114)**; Ona (14), Huntington (11), and Morgantown (11) had the high counts.

**Mimids:** Three counts submitted **Gray Catbirds (3)**, and seven counts found rarer **Brown Trashers (7)**. All counts added **Northern Mockingbird (764)**; Charles Town (113), Inwood (84), and Ona (66) recorded the high counts.

**European Starling:** A far cry from a supposed 100 birds released in the 1890's, **European Starlings (27,615)** were the second most abundant species found statewide this season. Between two to four thousand **European Starlings** were reported on each of Inwood, Moorefield, Charles Town, Huntington, and Parkersburg.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Only 43 percent of the counts tallied **Cedar Waxwings (264)**. Hampshire County (90) reported the high count.

**Finches:** The **American Goldfinch (1,667)** was the seventeenth most abundant species statewide, with a high count in Charles Town (210). **Pine Siskin (259)** tallies came in from around 50% of the counts, with Morgantown (109) and Charles Town (95) recording the high counts. Sixteen counts noted **Purple Finch (194)**; Morgantown (42) and Hampshire County (41) had the high counts.

Other rarer winter finches reported this season included **Evening Grosbeak (319)**, with Canaan (160) reporting a very notable HC, most of which were added by one amazing feeder/yard watcher. The Canaan (1) and Morgantown (15) counts found the only **Common Redpolls (16)**, and the Huntington (7) and Pendleton County (1) counts reported the only **Red Crossbills (8)** on count day. (Pocahontas County reported **Red Crossbills** during CW).

**Sparrows:** This season there were counts with significant snow coverage as mentioned earlier in the weather notes, this was a key factor in the sparrow numbers reported this season.

Eleven sparrow species were found this season. The third most abundant species found statewide this season was **Dark-eyed Junco (8,446\*)**, with an amazing record number of those birds being tallied from Pendleton County (4,050\*). (**Editor's note:** last season the Dark-eyed Junco statewide total was 3,242.) **White-throated Sparrows (3,013\*)** were also reported on all counts, Pendleton County (547) and Charles Town (486) with the high counts. **Song Sparrow (2,939\*)** numbers were up almost 100% from last season, with Moorefield (329\*) reporting the HC. Found on 71 percent of the counts, **White-crowned Sparrows (475)** were up 100 percent from last season; Moorefield (207) recorded the HC. Though most counts reported fewer than a dozen **Eastern Towhees (287)**, Point Pleasant (81) had an impressive HC. **Swamp Sparrows (178)** were up over 40 percent this season; Ona (48) reported a big chunk. **Fox Sparrows (115\*)** are rarer, typically found in low numbers on a West Virginia CBC. This season, however, Pendleton County (70), had another remarkable record. **Savannah Sparrow (48)** is another seasonally rare sparrow; only five counts reported them. While normally found in single digits, the **Savannah Sparrows** sighted in Point Pleasant (43) made a really nice 'flutter.'



**Blackbirds:** Just over 50% of the counts reported **Red-winged Blackbirds (1,204)**, with Charles Town (497) reporting the majority. **Common Grackles (622)** were also reported on half of the West Virginia counts, Charles Town (294) and Point Pleasant (236) tallying the most by far. **Eastern Meadowlark (206)** numbers were up by 11x from last season; Point Pleasant (51), Pocahontas County (43), and Pendleton County (42) had the high counts. Six counts reported **Rusty Blackbirds (148)**, a 50 percent increase from last season; Parkersburg (85) found the most. Both Moorefield (320) and Point Pleasant (195) noted high numbers of **Brown-headed Cowbirds (637)**.

**Warblers:** **Yellow-rumped Warblers (199)** were tallied on 66 percent of the counts; Charleston (35) and Point Pleasant (32) reported the high counts. Rarer this season were the **Palm Warblers (6)** submitted by Point Pleasant (4), Huntington (1), and Wheeling (1).

**Other Noteworthy Birds:** Six counts reported **Horned Larks (206)**, with a high count in Pendleton County (124). Five counts tallied, **American Pipit (122)**, and Morgantown (56) reported the high count. **Sandhill Cranes (25)** are always a nice West Virginia CBC find, with Ona (24) reporting all but the one Parkersburg (1) found. Raleigh County reported the only seasonally rare **House Wren**. Another seasonally rare find, a female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was submitted by multiple observers on the Inwood CBC.

As always, please help where you can and on as many counts as possible!

For more information on West Virginia's Christmas Bird Counts and complete seasonal CBC data, go to the Brooks Bird Club website <https://www.brooksbirdclub.org/121st-christmas-bird-count.html>. Here you will find where all of the West Virginia circles are located, compiler contact information, and count dates (when available) for all WV counts.

This was my fifth year as the West Virginia State Editor and I would like to again give thanks to all the state compilers for their dedication and hard work. Without these committed compilers, and all their devoted participants, our state would not have been so well represented during this 121st winter bird survey.

Wheeling, WV 26003

**Table 1**  
**Species Participation Effort**  
**121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count**  
 Region: West Virginia  
 Species/Participants/Effort/Totals

Count Code	CBC Count Name	Total Species	Max Field Participants	Parties Max	Total Hrs. Diurnal	Total Birds	Species Found in High Numbers	Single Birds
WVMC	McDowell County	46 cw-0	3	2	16	1,057	No high count species	6
WVAP	Athens Princeton Area	53 cw-3	8	5	29.25	2,707	BLVU-113	4
WVLE	Lewisburg	55 cw-1	18	11	72.25	4,822	CANG-338 BLVU-265 TUVU-235 ERST-1,332	6
WVOH	Oak Hill	56 cw-0	15	13	56.5	2,285	No high count species	8
WVPA	Pipestem Area	57 cw-1	13	8	35.25	2,186	No high count species	5
WVCA	Canaan	57 cw-2	19	13	63.75	2,988	EYGR-160	11
WVEL	Elkins Area	58 cw-0	11	7	52.25	2,767	No high count species	8
WVRC	Raleigh County	58 cw-1	7	6	40	<b>21,187</b>	CANG-307 AMCR-18,500 ERST-746	11
WVWH	Wheeling	61 cw-0	20	16	61.75	4,417	CANG-341 MALL-211 ROPJ-595 ERST-497	6
WVPH	Pocahontas County	61 cw-2	12	7	32.75	2,890	CANG-306 DEJU-522	11
WVGH	Charleston	65 cw-2	23	11	48.25	<b>13,129</b>	CANG-557 TUVU-254 AMCR-9,500	6
WVHC	Hampshire County	66 cw-0	21	11	57	4,862	SOSP-227 WTSP-257 DEJU-626	7
WVIN	Inwood	69 cw-0	23	11	93	9,532	CANG-784 BLVU-307 TUVU-143 ERST-3,950	9
WVHU	Huntington	70 cw-0	16	7	66	7,107	CANG-561 MALL-204 TUVU-148 CAWR-172 ERST-2,598	6
WVON	Ona	72 cw-0	16	8	59.5	6,558	CANG-278 ERST-2,460 NOCA-273	10
WVPK	Parkersburg	77 cw-2	24	11	85	8,175	CANG-1,198 MALL-288 ROPJ-942 MODO-422 ERST-2,350	8
WVPC	Pendleton County	78 cw-0	13	8	51	<b>9,746*</b>	MODO-457 DEJU-4,050 WTSP-547 FOSP-70	9
WVMF	Moorefield	78 cw-1	8	7	43.75	8,750	ERST-3,700 DEJU-448 WOSP-207 WTSP-301 BHCO-320	6
WVPP	Point Pleasant	82 cw-0	13	8	52.75	6,661	CANG-505 RNDU-120 ERST-1,540 WTSP-285	5
WVCT	Charles Town	85 cw-0	18	8	62	9,486	CANG-589 MALL-306 TUVU-171 CAWR-175 WTSP-486 RWBB-497	11
WVMO	Morgantown	97 cw-2	36	17	79	8,927	CANG-1,500 MALL-464 BUFF-120 HOME-158 ERST-1,100 HOSP-415	14

Morgan's Note: \*The **4,050** Dark-eyed Junco's reported on the Pendleton County CBC this season is a WV CBC record. Historically: Previous DEJU high counts were reported from Hampshire County, 2,300 on the 82<sup>nd</sup>, and from Inwood, 1,921 on the 99<sup>th</sup>. All of the record numbers for this species have come from eastern counts.

The Pendleton County CBC also reported a very rare high count of **70** Fox Sparrows this season. In WV CBC history, only one count exceeded this high number of Fox Sparrows, that was Charles Town, which reported 96 FOSP's during the 80<sup>th</sup> season. The next highest reported historically, the 26 FOSP's reported during the 111<sup>th</sup> season, Pipestem Area CBC.

**Table 2**  
**Species Distribution and Volume**

121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Region: West Virginia - Species Distribution/Volume- Widespread Species

121st Totals in BOLD – 120th – 119th Totals in Parentheses

\*Found on 70% or less of WV counts during that season

**Species found on twenty-one WV**

**Counts:**

1. Am. Crow – 32,891 (30,741 – 29,245)
2. Eu. Starling – 27,615 (40,205 – 16,699)
3. Dark-eyed Junco – 8,446 (3,245 – 3,440)
4. Rock Pigeon – 6,571 (5,762 – 4,552)
5. Mourning Dove – 4,107 (3,085 – 3,074)
6. Northern Cardinal – 4,092 (2,996 – 2,393)
7. Blue Jay – 3,424 (2,977 – 1,948)
8. House Sparrow – 3,096 (2,158 – 2,175)
9. White-th. Sparrow – 3,013 (1,858 – 1,949)
10. Song Sparrow – 2,939 (1,965 – 1,606)
11. Tufted Titmouse – 2,235 (1,435 – 1,254)
12. Carolina Wren – 2,197 (1,691 – 1,341)
13. Eastern Bluebird – 1,670 (1,336 – 1,031)
14. Am. Goldfinch – 1,667 (1,273 – 1,174)
15. House Finch – 1,456 (816 – 561)
16. White-br. Nuthatch – 1,439 (1,017 – 789)
17. Downy Woodpecker – 978 (859 – 657)
18. Red-bd. Woodpecker – 956 (881 – 657)
19. Northern Mockingbird – 764 (578 – 474)
20. Red-tailed Hawk – 434 (291 – 283)
21. Golden-cr. Kinglet – 431 (395 – 395)
22. Pileated Woodpecker – 361 (365 – 249)
23. Hermit Thrush – 114 (114 – 58)

**Species on twenty WV Counts:**

1. Canada Goose – 8,240 (6,787 – 6,931)
2. Mallard – 2,396 (2,320 – 2,306)
3. Turkey Vulture – 1,680 (1,362 – 1,790)
4. American Robin – 1,641 (8,373 – 939)
5. Northern Flicker – 390 (420 – 348)
6. Field Sparrow – 377 (340 – 260)
7. Eastern Towhee – 287 (368 – 214)
8. Hairy Woodpecker – 227 (188 – 125)
9. Swamp Sparrow – 178 (117 – 88)
10. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 160 (145 – 86)
11. Belted Kingfisher – 127 (100 – 89)

**Species on nineteen WV Counts:**

1. Common Raven – 504 (348 – 216)
2. Red-sh. Hawk – 282 (132 – 159)
3. American Kestrel – 210 (148 – 144)
4. Great Blue Heron – 117 (128 – 82)
5. Winter Wren – 96 (57 – 48)
6. Cooper's Hawk – 79 (40 – 44)

**Species on eighteen WV Counts:**

1. Bald Eagle – 167 (\*158 – \*93)

**Species on seventeen WV Counts:**

1. Wild Turkey – 405 (310 – 511)

**Species on sixteen WV Counts:**

1. Car. Chickadee – 1,782 (1,328 – 1,079)
2. Hooded Merganser – 318 (241 – 116)
3. Purple Finch – 194 (\*23 – \*11)
4. Brown Creeper – 92 (63 – 63)

**Species on fifteen WV Counts:**

1. Black Vulture – 1142 (\*816 – \*864)
2. White-cr. Sparrow – 475 (\*238 – \*316)
3. Fox Sparrow – 115 (\*28 – \*18)
4. Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 99 (\*66 – \*16)
5. Sharp-shinned Hawk – 36 (\*14 – \*16)
6. Eastern Phoebe – 54 (32 – 27)
7. Barred Owl – 43 (\*18 – \*12)

**Table 3**  
**Top WV CBC species**

**121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count**  
Region: West Virginia, Top Species- Over 1K Birds Reported

Alpha Code	Species	Total	Last Season	Difference
AMCR	American Crow	32,891	29,245	<b>3,646</b>
EUST	<b>European Starling</b>	27,615	40,205	<b>-12,590</b>
DEJU	Dark-eyed Junco	8,446	3,245	<b>5,201</b>
CANG	Canada Goose	8,240	6,787	<b>1,453</b>
ROPI	Rock Pigeon	6,571	5,762	<b>809</b>
MODO	Mourning Dove	4,107	3,085	<b>1,022</b>
NOCA	Northern Cardinal	4,092	2,996	<b>1,096</b>
BLJA	Blue Jay	3,424	2,977	<b>447</b>
HOSP	House Sparrow	3,096	2,158	<b>938</b>
WTSP	White-throated Sparrow	3,013	1,858	<b>1,155</b>
SOSP	Song Sparrow	2,939	1,965	<b>974</b>
MALL	Mallard	2,396	2,320	<b>76</b>
TUTI	Tufted Titmouse	2,235	1,435	<b>800</b>
CAWR	Carolina Wren	2,197	1,691	<b>506</b>
CACH	Carolina Chickadee	1,782	1,328	<b>454</b>
TUVU	Turkey Vulture	1,680	1,362	<b>318</b>
EABL	Eastern Bluebird	1,670	1,336	<b>334</b>
AMGO	American Goldfinch	1,667	1,273	<b>394</b>
AMRO	<b>American Robin</b>	1,641	8,373	<b>-6,732</b>
HOFI	House Finch	1,456	816	<b>640</b>
WBNU	White-breasted Nuthatch	1,439	1,017	<b>422</b>
RWBL	Red-winged Blackbird	1,204	768	<b>436</b>
BLVU	Black Vulture	1,142	816	<b>326</b>

**Table 4**  
**121st WV CBC Species found in low numbers**

<b>Single Birds Found</b>	<b>CBC Circle</b>
Ross's Goose	Morgantown
Mute Swan	Parkersburg
Horned Grebe	Morgantown
Osprey	Elkins
Northern Goshawk	Canaan
White-eyed Vireo	Morgantown
Fish Crow	Pendleton County
House Wren	Raleigh County
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Inwood
<b>Two Birds Found</b>	<b>CBC Circle</b>
Cackling Goose	2-Morgantown
Canvasback	2-Parkersburg
Red-breasted Merganser	2-Wheeling
<b>Three Birds Found</b>	<b>CBC Circle(s)</b>
Redhead	3-Point Pleasant
Lesser Scaup	3-Morgantown
Gray Catbird	1-Charles Town 1-Huntington 1-Morgantown
<b>Four Birds Found</b>	<b>CBC Circle(s)</b>
Common Goldeneye	3-Morgantown 1-Charles Town
Ruffed Grouse	2-Athens-Princeton Area 1-Moorefield 1-Pocahontas Co
Rough-legged Hawk	2-Canaan 1-Hampshire Co 1-Morgantown
Barn Owl	4-Moorefield
<b>Five Birds Found</b>	<b>CBC Circles</b>
Golden Eagle	1-Hampshire Co 3-Pendleton Co 1-Pocahontas Co
<b>Six Birds Found</b>	<b>CBC Circles</b>
Northern Pintail	1-Charles Town 1-Moorefield 1-Ona 3-Parkersburg
Virginia Rail	4-Charles Town 1-Moorefield 1-Morgantown
Palm Warbler	4-Point Pleasant 1-Huntington 1-Wheeling

**Table 5**  
**Regional Status Report**

**121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count**  
Region: West Virginia, Status Report  
**Twenty-one Active Circles**  
WV CBC State Editor: L. E. Helgerman

Count Code	Count Circle Name	Circle Compiler(s)	Contact Information
WVAP	Athens-Princeton Area	Ron Canterbury	ron.canterbury@uc.edu
WVCA	Canaan	Casey Rucker	autoblock@frontiernet.net
WVCH	Charleston	Doren Burrell	g.immer@doren.net
WVCT	Charles Town	Bob Dean	bobdean52@gmail.com
WVEL	Elkins Area	Rich Bailey	richard.s.bailey@wv.gov
WVHC	Hampshire County	David Malakoff	malakoff@comcast.net
WVHU	Huntington	David Patick	patick@comcast.net
WVIN	Inwood	Bob Dean	bobdean52@gmail.com
WVLE	Lewisburg	Ben Handley	ben@potteryvalley.com
		Larry Davis	anldavis@suddenlink.net
WVMC	McDowell County	Allen Waldron	awaldron@suddenlink.net
WVMF	Moorefield	Kyle Rambo	kerambo@gmail.com
		Darrell Good	darzgood@gmail.com
WVMO	Morgantown	LeJay Graffious	lejaygraffious@gmail.com
WVOH	Oak Hill	Hilarie Jones	hljones1336@yahoo.com
WVON	Ona	David Patick	patick@comcast.net
WVPA	Pipestem Area	Jim Phillips	jimandjudyphillips@gmail.com
WVPC	Pendleton County	Fred Atwood	fredatwood@yahoo.com
WVPH	Pocahontas County	Rich Bailey	richard.s.bailey@wv.gov
WVPK	Parkersburg	Jeanette Esker	eskerrb@frontier.com
		Dick Esker	eskerrb@frontier.com
WVPP	Point Pleasant	Josh Holland	jhollandua@gmail.com
WVRC	Raleigh County	Allen Waldron	awaldron@suddenlink.net
WVWH	Wheeling	Molly Check	molly.check@gmail.com

## Book Review

Jim McCormac

The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in West Virginia  
2021. Richard Bailey and Casey Rucker (editors)  
Pennsylvania State University Press. 554 pp.

West Virginia ranks 41<sup>st</sup> among the 50 states in size – about the size of Costa Rica. Like that Central American country, this landlocked Appalachian state is full of rugged terrain which led to its nickname, the “Mountain State.” Despite its small size and relative lack of wetlands and natural water bodies, West Virginia supports a rich avifauna. Birders know it well for the state’s diverse breeding warbler community, headlined by the rare Swainson’s Warbler (2<sup>nd</sup> rarest extant eastern warbler). In all, a remarkable 28 warbler species nest in the state, their ranks spiced by northern species nesting in relict boreal habitats high in the mountains.

Milestones in the studies of West Virginia’s bird life include the formation of the Brooks Bird Club in 1932. Members past and present have contributed greatly to the knowledge of the state’s bird life, including the book that is the subject of this review. The club donated \$20,000 towards its publication. In 1944, legendary Appalachian naturalist Maurice Brooks – uncle of Alonzo Beecher Brooks, namesake of the Brooks Bird Club – published *A Check-list of West Virginia Birds*, the first comprehensive listing of the state’s birds. Another luminary of West Virginia natural history, George Hall, published *West Virginia Birds: Distribution and Ecology*, in 1983, further expanding and updating the state’s ornithological knowledge.

In 1984, fieldwork commenced for the *West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas*, the state’s first comprehensive breeding bird study. Surveys concluded after the 1989 field season, and the summary book was published in 1994 (Albert Buckelew, Jr. and George Hall). In the late 1990’s, plans were laid for the second atlas, and fieldwork began in 2009 and ended after the 2014 field season. And now, we have the summary book of the second atlas and it is well worth the wait.

One’s eye is instantly drawn to the cover of *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in West Virginia*, courtesy the artwork of southeastern Ohio artist Julie Zickefoose (who lives only 11 miles north of the West Virginia border). It depicts a nesting pair of Cerulean Warblers tending young in a White Oak, high on a ridge overlooking mist-shrouded mountain valleys. The illustration is apropos: West Virginia supports the densest concentrations of this imperiled warbler (5<sup>th</sup> rarest eastern warbler) of any state.

Even a quick perusal shows that lots of work went into this atlas, both on the part of surveyors (nearly 200 volunteers are listed), and authors of accounts. The hard work of the two editors, Rich Bailey and Casey Rucker, who spearheaded the multi-year project deserves special kudos. I’ve seen many state atlas books, and participated in both Ohio atlases, and the West Virginia atlas is a standout.

Breeding Bird Atlases began in 1974 in Massachusetts, and by the early 1980’s a number of states were launching their own initiatives. By the 1980’s many of the early atlas states were hatching plans to repeat their atlases. While the inaugural breeding bird atlases were important, one might argue that the atlas 2.0’s are even more salient. For states like West Virginia that have completed atlases – usually about two decades apart

– we now have well-documented points of comparison to assess changes in the avifauna. This comparative gauge is a real advantage of the West Virginia Atlas II.

The robust introductory section features a wealth of information on West Virginia's climate, physiographic regions, changes in avifauna, information on atlas survey protocol, summary of results, graphs and tables, photos, and much more. Of particular interest, at least to me, are the tables found on pages 50–52. The four tables depict 1) the top 20 most commonly found species; 2) the Top 10 most numerically abundant species; 3) the top 20 increasing species; and 4) the top 20 decreasing species, using the first atlas as a comparative benchmark. Interestingly, four species in the top 20 most common list were not among the top 20 in the first atlas. Conversely, four species in the top 20 most common list in the first atlas do not make the cut in the second atlas. At the risk of being a spoiler, the #1 most common species in Atlas II is the American Robin. Followed by Indigo Bunting, then Eastern Towhee. I was pleased to note that no nonnative species made the list. The official state bird, the Northern Cardinal, squeaks in at #16.

It's interesting to review the table of the top increasing species. Unpredictably, Alder Flycatcher heads the list. #2, Tree Swallow, and #3, Canada Goose, are more predictably high on this list. The star of a West Virginia license plate, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, is flourishing with an estimated 40% increase between atlas periods. That license plate, introduced in 1998, generates funds for the non-game program of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, which oversaw the atlas project. Especially good news is the presence of six species of Neotropical migrant warblers on the increasing list. That's a testimony to the importance of West Virginia's habitats on a global scale.

The top 20 decreasing species is table is more depressing, but arguably offers even more important information in guiding natural resources management decisions. #1 is the Ring-necked Pheasant (no great loss, in my opinion), and #2 is the Northern Bobwhite. Another member of the Phasianidae family on this list is Ruffed Grouse (#6). The sharp decline of these two iconic species of meadows and forests is a tragedy, and their species accounts offer explanations for these losses.

A reader will soon turn to the meat of the book, the 171 species accounts. Pleasant photographic speed bumps will slow one's progress, though. The atlas is liberally sprinkled with gorgeous photographs, perhaps none showier than those of West Virginia ornithologist and photographer Wil Hershberger. Editors Bailey and Rucker took great pains to secure images that were actually taken in West Virginia, and succeeded in all but a few cases.

Each species account offers information about conservation and management, distribution, historical status, migration, natural history, results, and trends, along with detailed maps. In essence, everything you would want to know to understand a species' breeding status. The information is clear and logically presented, and the writing is engaging. In a few minutes, the reader will have a deep understanding of the status and issues involving whatever bird they wish to learn about. I've already mentioned some of the bad news involving declining species, and their accounts elucidate the probable or known causes for disappearances. But some of the species accounts are rich with positivity. A personal favorite is the Common Merganser. This big duck breeds along rushing streams with good water quality, and went unrecorded on the first West Virginia atlas. But what a change occurred in the two decades between atlas surveys! Common Mergansers were found in 86 separate locales state in the 2<sup>nd</sup> atlas, mostly in north-central and eastern



regions but with other records sprinkled statewide. The fish-eating fowl represents a conservation success story. Increased protection and reforestation of watersheds has led to improvements in water quality and more potential nest sites for the arboreal cavity-nesting mergansers. Stark evidence that environmental repair is possible is manifested by this 3.5 pound saw-billed duck, and convincingly documented by this atlas.

Every student of West Virginia birds should have a copy of *The Second Atlas of the Breeding Birds in West Virginia*. Indeed, any person interested in natural history would be well-served by a copy of this book.

## **eBird Notes for Spring 2021 March 1, 2021–May 31, 2021**

Mike Slaven

The Spring 2021 birding season was marked by the second year of “COVID birding” for the state. Many new birders appeared on eBird, and regular contributors seemed to be posting more frequently to the platform. The March through May months provided a good variety of birding opportunities to see the usual returning migrants, but also some rarities that were quite interesting. This report will discuss selected species and the number of eBird reports that contained them. It is not at all an exhaustive list, but it gives some feel for the volume of reports and variety of species as well as the activities of eBirders.

Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) were reported from several locations, and were recorded on forty eBird lists, the last being submitted on April 4. Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) were plentiful, and reported hundreds of times, and Cackling Geese (*Branta hutchinsii*) were listed at three locations on seven lists from March.

As usual, this was a good time for viewing ducks and waterfowl, with good numbers of species and consistent numbers. It was a good year generally for the two commonest teal species for West Virginia. Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) were observed from March 14 through May 8 (I made the last report in Taylor County on the Tygart River on that date). Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) reports were even more numerous. This species arrived earlier, on March 6, and was reported in 218 eBird checklists, the last of the spring being on May 30. Redheads (*Aythya americana*) were present on 75 lists ranging from March 1 to April 2. Canvasbacks (*Aythya valisineria*) were seen exclusively in March, from the first day to the end of the month, and were noted on eBird 78 times. Ring-necked ducks (*Aythya collaris*) were highly reported this past spring, with numerous sightings from March 1 through May 22. Gadwalls (*Mareca strepera*) were already being reported on March 1, and lingered until nearly the end of April, with the last report coming from Preston County on April 24. The often-elusive scoters made brief appearances in Mid-to late March, with reports of White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta deglandi*) on March 20, and Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), White-winged Scoters, and Black Scoters (*Melanitta americana*) all being seen on March 31 at Pike Island dam in Ohio County by one observer.

Shorebirds showed their seasonal migration with a respectable number of species, although not necessarily in large numbers of individuals. Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius*

*semipalmatus*), Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*), Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), and Solitary Sandpipers (*Tringa solitaria*) were also listed by birders. Red-necked Phalaropes were spotted in three locations in May and noted in 23 birding lists from the second and third week of the month.

Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), seen every month of the year in West Virginia, were present on nearly 700 lists, far and away the most common of the herons in the state. Green herons (*Butorides virescens*) were the second-commonest heron, included in more than 400 reports, beginning to be seen on March 20 and continuing through May. Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*) were also seen in multiple locations and were consistently on eBird lists from the period.

Some rarities from spring 2021 included the rarest of the herons to make a significant showing in the state. Black-Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), an uncommon species for West Virginia, was spotted in three areas: near a small Preston county farm pond, Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area in Cabell County, and a third in Wood County at Williamstown Wetlands. Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*), lingering on since the late fall of 2020, continued to be reported through this period, with 227 eBird lists including the species. The reports finally stopped noting this usually rare (for West Virginia) species after May 17. One wonders when the next irruptive push of these colorful visitors will next occur. The pair of Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) that have been nesting in Putnam county were back for a third season, arriving in early May. It will be interesting to see whether their nesting preference will be carried on by their descendants in coming years.

Finally, the most out-of-season occasional visitor of all was probably the Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) that was reported and photographed in Jefferson County in a cornfield on March 17. Snowy Owls occasionally have years where there is a successful breeding season in the Arctic with an abundance of lemmings, voles, ptarmigan, and other prey. When that happens, about six months later thousands of these owls descend into the lower 48, and even beyond, as far as Bermuda!

The last rare mega-irruption happened in 2013–2014, while a smaller one took place in 2017. In those years, after successful breeding led to large egg clutches, there was a large number of young owls following the banner breeding season. It is often thought that these irruptive explosions into more southerly habitat signifies that the owls are starving, but actually irruptive Snowy Owls are, on average, slightly heavier than those who remain in the north. This spring, however, was not an irruption year, and so the appearance of the Jefferson County owl has a hint of mystery about it that adds to its specialness.

Warblers, vireos, flycatchers, hummingbirds, and other spring migrants arrived in regular numbers with the expected species arriving on the early side of ten-year migration trends, and it is to be expected that with climate change more variation in spring arrival dates will become the norm. Spreading the migratory season out in the spring makes birding more interesting on one hand but can have negative effects on the other hand. Early pushes by some species might be problematic if they arrive before expected food is available. What can hummingbirds do if needed blossoming plants are not blooming yet? Can flycatchers, swallows, swifts and other birds change their migratory behaviors to match insect emergences and plant availability? These are open questions.

One way to lend more clarity to the emerging new pattern of spring migration is to have better data to add to the research efforts of ornithologists. West Virginia, despite

being reasonably well understood in terms of bird populations, has some glaring voids in useful data. Our state has made great use of citizen science projects such as eBird, as well as the long and careful recordkeeping of the Brooks Bird Club. The gaps that are of concern are the many counties in the state, some of which certainly have significant avian populations, that are almost unbirded except for occasional BBC routes or feeder watchers.

Wirt County is probably the least-birded county on eBird in the United States as I write this report and had no checklists—not even one—from Spring 2021. It is likely that whoever takes the time to bird it during the next migration could find multiple county first records, including most of the state’s usual warbler species. In fact, that would be a great project for birders to take on for next spring. Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Lincoln, and McDowell Counties are likewise in need of data from eBird reports to help researchers better understand bird populations in the state. If you decide to take on this project, please remember to do three things: start a new list from each location, keep your travel under five miles per list, and always use a specific number when reporting a species on eBird, even if it is an estimate. The eBird database rejects any list with an “x” in the number observed field, since that makes the data almost impossible to interpret.

Happy birding to all and enjoy every season afield!

Michael Slaven  
632 West Virginia Avenue  
Morgantown, WV 26501



Willetts on the Monongahela River near Morgantown. May 2, 2021.  
Photograph by Mike Slaven.

**Field Notes**  
**Spring Season**  
**March 1 – May 31, 2021**

Casey Rucker

Warmer than usual weather continued during March in West Virginia, while April and May were cooler than average, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. In contrast to the previous spring's dampness, all three months were drier than usual.

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>.

As the COVID-19 pandemic entered its second year reports seemed to drop compared to the spring before. There were no notable rarities reported this spring, again in contrast to the previous year. During the spring season 233 species were reported in West Virginia (plus the **Snowy Owl** reported on eBird). Distribution of bird reports also thinned, with only 35 of 55 counties contributing to our state's avian lore. Birders found 34 species of warbler and one hybrid during the spring season.

**Geese, Swans, and Ducks** – Rennie Talbert and Gary Rankin spotted three **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on March 7. N. Wade Snyder found the only reported **Cackling Goose** of the season, at the USDA Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Jefferson County on March 31. **Canada Geese** continued to be widespread, and their population grew by a notable 10 percent from the prior year according to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Laura Ceperley, Rennie Talbert, and David Patick saw the continuing **Mute Swan** at McClintic Wildlife Management Area, Mason County, in early May. **Tundra Swans** appeared on March 7, in a flooded field near Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, as seen by Rennie Talbert and Gary Rankin; and in Moorefield's Brighton Park, Hardy County, as observed by Kathy King; four more **Tundra Swans** appeared in Fairlea, Greenbrier County, as photographed by Valerie LaPolla in mid-March.

Duck sightings in West Virginia were down a bit from the prior spring, though diversity remained strong with 24 species reported. Although **scoters** remained scarce, Derek Courtney saw the hat trick of **Surf, White-winged, and Black scoters** at Pike Island Dam on March 31, where he also saw the only reported **Long-tailed Duck** of the season. There were many reports statewide of **Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, and Mallards**. The following **ducks** were reported in five to nine counties during the spring: **Ring-necked Ducks, Greater and Lesser scaup, Buffleheads, Hooded and Common mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks**. The following species were only reported in the counties listed: **Northern Shovelers** in Jackson (TB), Mason (ReT, GR), Mercer (JP), and Wayne (GR); **Gadwalls** in Cabell (ReT, GR), Jackson (TB), Jefferson (BT), and Mason (ReT, GR); **American Wigeons** in Cabell and Mason (ReT, GR); **American Black Ducks** in Cabell (ReT, GR), Jefferson (BT), Mason (ReT, GR), and Mercer (JP); **Northern Pintails** in Mason (ReT, GR); **Green-winged Teal** in Mason (ReT, GR), Monongalia (DCo), and Tucker (HMy);

**Canvasbacks** in Hardy (KKi), Mason (ReT, GR), and Pocahontas (KB); **Redheads** in Cabell (GR), Hardy (KKi), Mason (ReT, GR), and Pocahontas (KB); and **Red-breasted Mergansers** in Jefferson (MO), Kanawha (RG), Mason (JK, DP, MG), and Wood (TB).

**Turkeys, Grouse, and Pheasants** – Birders throughout the state reported **Wild Turkeys** while reports of **Ruffed Grouse** came only from Pocahontas (DP) and Tucker (CR) Counties. On April 25, N. Wade Snyder spotted a **Ring-necked Pheasant** at the USDA Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Jefferson County.

**Grebes** – Birders reported **Pied-billed Grebes** in seven counties and **Horned Grebes** in Jefferson (MO), Mason (ReT, GR), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties.

**Pigeons and Doves** – **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continued to reside throughout the state. The editor of these notes was alerted by a friend who lives near Harman in Randolph County to the presence of a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** on his farm on April 6.

**Cuckoos** – **Cuckoos** once again seemed to arrive somewhat later than usual, and sightings grew even more sparse. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** began to arrive throughout the state beginning April 29, as observed by Carole and Bill Telfair at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Jefferson County, and appeared in five counties, while **Black-billed Cuckoos** appeared beginning on May 19, as observed by N. Wade Snyder at the USDA Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Jefferson County, and Coberly Sods, Randolph County by Richard Bailey; other reports came only from four counties.

**Goatsuckers and Swifts** – Reports of **nightjars** were very sparse this spring. **Common Nighthawk** sightings came only from Cabell (DP), Kanawha (KC), Mason (RBi), and Putnam (KK) Counties. Beginning in late April, continuing Chuck-will's-widows were heard on Spyder Ridge in Wood Count, as reported by Kevin Campbell. On May 15, David Patick found a **Chuck-will's-widow** at its accustomed haunts in Mount Zion Cemetery, Mason County. Reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were down, coming from five counties, while those of **Chimney Swifts** were up, with eight counties represented.

**Hummingbirds** – **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** began arriving on April 8; Jim Triplett reported the first sighting by Dave Dendler at his feeder in Kanawha County. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** also appeared in reports from 13 other counties throughout the state.

**Rails and Coots** – **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** were observed during April, at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County (MG, DP), at Muddlety wetlands, Nicholas County (RBi), and at wetlands in Belleville (TB) and Williamstown (JB) in Wood County. Jim Triplett relayed a report from the renowned specialist on Cheat Mountain salamander, Dr. Tom Pauley, of a **Sora** at his home in Kanawha City, Kanawha County, on April 20. On May 1 Aaron Graham found a **Common Gallinule** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, and on May 9 David Patick spotted a **Common Gallinule** at McClintic Wildlife Management Area, Mason County. **American Coot** reports were scanty as usual this spring, coming only from four counties.

**Cranes** – **Sandhill Cranes** made appearances over Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, as seen by Terry Bronson on April 15, and Moorefield, Hardy County, on May 4, as observed by Jeanne and John Hubbard.

**Plovers** – It was a sparse season for **plovers**. David Patick found the season's only reported **Black-bellied Plover** at Crab Creek, Mason County, on May 21. **Killdeer** reports

came from only ten counties. **Semipalmated Plovers** appeared in Mason County (DP, MG, GR), Raleigh County (SWi), and Wetzel County (WJ).

**Sandpipers** – Thirteen **sandpiper** species made appearances in the Mountain State. Josh Holland and Bryan Smith saw a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Apple Grove, Mason County, during their big day on May 11; the bird was also observed by David Patick. **Spotted** and **Solitary sandpipers** were each observed in nine counties this season, and **Least Sandpipers**, **American Woodcock**, and **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported in five counties. The following species were reported in fewer than five counties, as listed: **Dunlin** in Mason (JK, MG); **White-rumped Sandpipers** in Mason (MG, JK); **Semipalmated Sandpipers** in Mason (MG, JK, DP), Mercer (SWi), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB); **Wilson's Snipe** in Cabell (MG), Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), and Wood (TB); **Lesser Yellowlegs** in Jefferson (WS), Mason (MG, JK, DP), Pocahontas (DP), and Wayne (DP); **Willetts** in Mason (MG); and **Red-necked Phalaropes** in Mason (MG, DP) and Mercer (SWi).

**Gulls and Terns** – **Bonaparte's Gulls** inspired reports only in Cabell (GR), Kanawha (RG), and Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP) Counties. **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported in five counties, and **Herring Gulls** appeared in Mason (DP, TB), Ohio (DCo), and Wood (TB) Counties.

**Tern** sightings were also down this season. **Caspian Terns** were only found in Mason County (DP, JHu). On May 10, Aaron Graham found a **Common Tern** at the Mill Creek municipal ponds, Randolph County. **Forster's Terns** appeared in Kanawha (RG), Mason (MG, JK, AG), Raleigh (SWi), and Wayne (MG) Counties.

**Loons** – **Common Loon** reports came from Kanawha (RG), Mason (LC), Raleigh (MAW, SWi), and Wayne (GR) Counties.

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

**Pelicans** – Eight **American White Pelicans** were photographed on Muskingum Island, Wood County, on April 8, by an anonymous observer, as relayed by Terry Bronson and Jon Benedetti.

**Hérons and Egrets** – Joette Borzik listened to an **American Bittern** in Canaan Valley State Park, Tucker County, on May 19, and a **Least Bittern** appeared once again at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, in early May (JK, MG, AG, ReT, DP, MO, DCo). **Great Blue Herons** and **Green Herons** appeared widely, while **Great Egrets** were observed in Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (RG, JTr), Putnam (KK), Summers (JJP), and Wood (TB) Counties. Randy Bodkins refound a **Cattle Egret** at the Mill Creek municipal ponds, Randolph County, on May 2. On April 3, Janet Keating, David Patick, and Michael Griffith found an adult and a juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area Cabell County; an adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed by Terry Bronson and Jon Benedetti at the Williamstown wetlands, Wood County, in late May.

**Vultures** – Birders in ten West Virginia counties reported seeing **Black Vultures**, while **Turkey Vulture** reports came from only fourteen counties.

**Hawks, Eagles, and Kites** – **Osprey** were reported throughout the state, beginning on March 11 when Michael Griffith and Janet Keating saw one at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. The only **Golden Eagle** reported this season was an adult found by James Phillips in Hinton, Summers County, on March 6 during the Spring Eagle

Survey. **Northern Harriers** appeared in reports from Greenbrier County (JJP), Jefferson County (WS), Mason County (ReT, GR), and Tucker County (JBz). **Accipiter** reports were practically nonexistent this spring, with **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's hawks** observed in only five counties each. The *nesting Mississippi Kites* near Scott Depot, Putnam County, returned this year, as found in mid-May by Michael Griffith, David Patick, Matthew Orsie, Derek Courtney, and Gary Rankin. 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 6 found 28 **Bald Eagles** and the aforementioned **Golden Eagle** in Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Raleigh, and Summers Counties, as reported by James Phillips.

**Owls** – **Owl** reports were fairly scanty for the second spring in a row. James and Judy Phillips heard a **Barn Owl** calling in their yard in Pipestem, Summers County, on May 3. It was the first time they had heard one since 2010. The **Barn Owl nest** near Belleville wetlands, Wood County, continued to be occupied, as reported by Terry Bronson on May 27. Birders reported **Eastern Screech-Owls** in Jefferson (JBz), Wayne (GR), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB) Counties. **Great Horned Owls** inspired reports in Kanawha (JTr), Putnam (KC), Summers (JJP), Tucker (MF), and Wayne (GR) Counties; birders reported **Barred Owls** in only seven West Virginia counties. The editor of these notes heard a **Long-eared Owl** on April 30 at his home in Dry Fork, Tucker County. During their big day on May 15, David Patick, Matthew Orsie, Derek Courtney, and Gary Rankin heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling at the Williams River Overlook of the Highland Scenic Highway, Pocahontas County.

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

**Woodpeckers** – **Red-headed Woodpeckers** inspired report in only five counties: Jefferson (DH, LW), Roane (DG), Tucker (CR), Upshur (LB), and Wetzel (WJ), and of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** in only seven. Our state's other five species of **woodpecker** were all widely reported.

**Falcons** – **American Kestrel** reports were down this spring, coming from Jefferson (WS), Kanawha (RG), Mason (TB), Pleasants (BM), Summers (JP), Tucker (FA), and Wood (TB) Counties, while **Merlins** were spotted in Fayette County (MAW), Kanawha County (RG), Ohio County (DK), and Tucker County (RBo, CR, JBz). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings came from Jefferson (JBz), Mason (MG, GR, JK, JHu), Ohio (PM), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

**Flycatchers** – Reports of **flycatchers** dipped compared to last year. First-reported dates, counties, and observers are listed in parentheses: **Great Crested Flycatchers** (April 27, Summers, JP), **Eastern Kingbirds** (April 15, Wayne, GR), **Eastern Wood-Pewees** (April 20, Pleasants, BM), **Acadian Flycatchers** (April 28, Wayne, MG), **Alder Flycatchers** (May 27, Mingo, DWo, and Tucker, HMy), **Willow Flycatchers** (May 14, Jefferson, WS), **Least Flycatchers** (May 9, Cabell, DP, and Raleigh, SWi), and **Eastern Phoebes** (March 4, Pocahontas, KB). Douglas Wood found a singing **Alder Flycatcher** in Mingo County on May 27 while running his Breeding Bird Survey route, and Steven Wilson found at least one **Alder Flycatcher** singing in Beckley, Raleigh County, two days later.

**Shrikes** – Richard Bailey banded five **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 11, Wayne, DP, and Wood, JB), **Yellow-throated** (March 18, Cabell, JK), **Blue-headed** (March 28, Wayne, GR, DP, MG), **Warbling** (April 15, Jefferson, DHa), and **Red-eyed** (April 27, Summers, JP). **Philadelphia Vireos** were found on Fairview Ridge, Wetzel County, by Wilma Jarrell on April 28, and on a Wayne County ridge by Gary Rankin on May 4.

**Jays, Crows, and Ravens** – **Blue Jays**, **American Crows**, and **Common Ravens** were reported widely throughout the state. **Fish Crows** were reported in Jefferson (WS) and Randolph (RBo) Counties. On April 23, Deborah Hale saw a family of five **Common Ravens**, including three juveniles, at the Nash Farm of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

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

**Larks** – Jim Triplett found six **Horned Larks** on Leon Ferry Lane, Mason County, on March 5, and on March 20, Bruni Haydl found a small flock of **Horned Larks** on Meyerstown Road, Jefferson County, while looking for the **Snowy Owl** reported on eBird on March 17.

**Swallows** – In early May, **Bank Swallows** were observed in Mason County at McClintic Wildlife Management Area by Richard Bailey and at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam by Janet Keating. **Tree Swallows** had already made appearances in West Virginia at the end of February, and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** arrived on April 1 in Kanawha County (RG); both species appeared widely. **Purple Martins** began to arrive on April 3 in Kanawha County (RG), and were also reported in Cabell (TB), Jackson (TB), Jefferson (LW, JBz, DHa), Mason (JK), Pleasants (BM), Summers (JP), and Wood (TB) Counties. The season's first **Barn Swallow** was spotted by Richard Gregg on April 1 at Marmet Locks, Kanawha County; **Barn Swallows** made widespread returns to West Virginia this spring. On April 15, Terry Bronson found seven **Cliff Swallows** at Apple Grove Fish Hatchery, Mason County, and Hullet Good saw *nine mud nests of Cliff Swallows reused from the year before* on the Elk River bridge at Big Chimney, Kanawha County. **Cliff Swallows** inspired subsequent reports from Jefferson (DHa), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB) Counties.

**Kinglets** – Birders reported **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** in eleven West Virginia counties during the season, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in only five. On March 14 LeJay Graffious heard his first-of-the-year territorial song of a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at Old Hemlock, Preston County.

**Waxwings** – **Cedar Waxwing** reports followed this spring's pattern of reduced numbers, coming from only five counties.

**Nuthatches** – In accordance with their biennial irruption pattern, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were more apparent this spring, making appearances in Jefferson (DHa), Mason (GR, MG, JK), Ohio (PM), Pocahontas (DP, JJP), Preston (LeJ), Putnam (KC), Summers (JP), and Wayne (DP) Counties. The reliable **White-breasted Nuthatch** continued its widespread presence.

**Creepers** – **Brown Creeper** reports were also down this season, coming from six counties.

**Gnatcatchers** – On April 10 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** appeared at two locations in Wood County, as reported by Jon Benedetti: Mary Murin found them at McDonough



Refuge and Daniel Jones spotted them at Mountwood Park. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** subsequently returned to haunts throughout the state.

**Wrens** – On May 4, Gary Rankin, Michael Griffith, and Janet Keating discovered a **Marsh Wren** at Ashton wetlands, Mason County. **House** and **Carolina wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from all over the state. On April 9, Paul McKay found an early **House Wren** on his farm in Ohio County and Richard Bailey hosted a **House Wren** at his home in Elkins, Randolph County; on the following day **House Wrens** were reported in Cabell (JK), Jefferson (WS), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties. **Winter Wrens** were reported in Jefferson (BT), Kanawha (JTr), Pocahontas (DP), Randolph (HMy), and Summers (JP) 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. Monty Fowler found an unusual **Northern Mockingbird** at Blackwater Falls State Park, Tucker County, on March 21.

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

**Thrushes** – It was another good spring for **thrush** reports in West Virginia. **Eastern Bluebirds, Veeries, Swainson’s, Hermit, and Wood thrushes, and American Robins** were seen widely in their breeding areas in the state.

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

**Finches and Allies** – **Evening Grosbeaks, House and Purple finches, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches** made appearances throughout the state. Cynthia Burkhart hosted **Evening Grosbeaks** at her feeders in Ritchie County through May 10. **Red Crossbills** made appearances in Fayette (KC) and Tucker (AG) Counties.

**Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees** – Fourteen **sparrow** species made appearances in accustomed haunts throughout our state. **Fox Sparrows** made appearances through the beginning of April, in Jefferson (BH, BT), Randolph (HMy), Roane (DG), and Summers (JP) Counties. 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 10 in Barbour (DMi), **Chipping** on March 28 in Wayne (GR, DP, MG), **Field** and **Dark-eyed Junco** on March 5 in Jefferson (BT), **Vesper** on April 15 in Kanawha (RG), **Savannah** on March 8 in Mason (ReT, GR), **Song** on March 1 in Kanawha (RG), and **Swamp** on March 5 in Jefferson (BT). Wilma Jarrell spotted a **Lincoln’s Sparrow** near her home in Wileyville, Wetzel County, on May 1, and on May 14 Joette Borzik hosted a **Lincoln’s Sparrow**, her 124<sup>th</sup> yard bird in Jefferson County. **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** appeared on April 28, as observed in Braxton County by Willa Grafton. By the end of the season **Yellow-breasted Chats** had also appeared in Cabell (DP), Jefferson (WS), Mason (LC, DP), Wayne (MG, JWg, GR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

**Blackbirds and Allies** – **Bobolinks** returned to Sharon Kearns’s farm near Hillsboro, Pocahontas County, on April 28, and also appeared in Jefferson (WS, DHa), Kanawha (RG), Mason (JsH, DP), Tucker (HMy), and Wetzel (WJ) 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 Kanawha (RG), Tucker (MK), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

**Warblers** – Michael Griffith discovered a **Brewster’s Warbler** on Rush Hollow Road, Cabell County, on April 30. The following **warblers**, all regular migrants through or breeders in West Virginia, made their first-of-season appearances in the following counties: **Ovenbird**: April 11, Wayne (DP, MG), **Worm-eating Warbler**: April 20, Pleasants (BM), **Louisiana Waterthrush**: March 23, Tucker (JBo), **Northern Waterthrush**: April 25, Kanawha (RG), **Golden-winged Warbler**: May 19, Pocahontras (JP), **Blue-winged Warbler**: April 11, Wayne (MG), **Black-and-white Warbler**: April 3, Kanawha (MH), **Prothonotary Warbler**: April 29, Jefferson (JBz), **Swainson’s Warbler**: April 14, Logan (DWo), **Tennessee Warbler**: May 1, Mason (GR, MG, JK), **Nashville Warbler**: April 30, Cabell (MG), **Mourning Warbler**: May 31, Randolph (HMy), **Kentucky Warbler**: April 25, Wayne (DP), **Common Yellowthroat**: April 11, Wayne (DP), **Hooded Warbler**: April 25, Wayne (DP), **American Redstart**: April 24, Monongalia (DCo), **Cape May Warbler**: April 28, Jefferson (DHa), **Cerulean Warbler**: April 16, Logan (DWo), **Northern Parula**: April 6, Kanawha (LC), **Magnolia Warbler**: April 28, Wetzel (WJ), **Bay-breasted Warbler**: May 4, Jefferson (DHa), **Blackburnian Warbler**: April 28, Wayne (JWg), **Yellow Warbler**: April 12, Cabell (MG), **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: April 27, Summers (JP), **Blackpoll Warbler**: May 2, Cabell (JK, MG, AG), **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: April 30, Jefferson (JBz), **Palm Warbler**: April 27, Jefferson (JBz), **Pine Warbler**: March 3, Kanawha (RG), **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: March 13, Jefferson (BT), **Yellow-throated Warbler**: March 28, Wayne (GR, MG, DP), **Prairie Warbler**: April 17, Wayne (JWg), **Black-throated Green Warbler**: March 28, Wayne (GR, DP, MG), **Canada Warbler**: May 2, Pocahontas (DP), and **Wilson’s Warbler**: May 11, Jefferson (DHa). Nineteen of these **warbler** species appeared on or before the “first-seen” dates in George A. Hall’s *West Virginia Birds*, with one tie.

**Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings** – **Summer Tanager** reports were again up a bit this spring, coming from Cabell (DP), Kanawha (HG), Mason (JK, MG, AG, GR), and Wayne (GR) Counties. **Scarlet Tanagers**, **Northern Cardinals**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and **Indigo Buntings** prompted numerous reports from birders in most parts of the state. Ross Brittain hosted his first-ever **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at his feeders in Bridgeport, Harrison County, on May 7. On May 4, N. Wade Snyder relayed a report of a photographed **Blue Grosbeak** at a residence in eastern Jefferson County. **Dickcissels** appeared in Mason County beginning on May 6 on Leon Ferry Lane, as observed by Josh Holland, and by others through mid-May.

Contributors to the Spring Field Notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Kitty Bailey (KB), Richard Bailey (RB), Jon Benedetti (JB), John Boback (JBo), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Luanne Bowers (LB), Terry Bronson (TB), Kevin Cade (KC), Laura Ceperley (LC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Monty Fowler (MF), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Aaron Graham (AG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DHa), Bruni Haydl (BH), Joey Herron (JoH), Joshua Holland (JsH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Martha Hopper (MH), John Hubbard (JHu), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Kim Kazmierski (KK), Janet Keating (JK), Mimi Kibler (MK), Kathy King (KKi), Deborah Koegler (DK), Beth Mankins (BM), Paul McKay (PM), Donna Mitchell (DMi), Herb Myers (HMy), Matthew Orsie (MO), David Patick (DP), James

Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Larry Schwab (LS), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Rennie Talbert (ReT), Carole and Bill Telfair (BT), Jim Triplett (JTr), Mindy and Allen Waldron (MAW), John Waugaman (JWg), Steven Wilson (SWi), Lynn Wisemann (LW), and Douglas Wood (DWo).

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





## PATRONIZE YOUR CLUB STORE

### ORNITHOLOGICAL BOOKS

Wings Over the Mountains by J. Lawrence Smith .....	\$10.00
Birding Guide to West Virginia 2nd edition, compiled by Greg E. Eddy .....	out of print
Wildflowers and Trees of West Virginia by Christopher M. Gatens and Emily Grafton .....	\$9.95
Birds of the Kanawha Valley by J. Lawrence Smith .....	\$10.00
The West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas by A.R. Buckelew, Jr. and George A. Hall .....	\$5.00
West Virginia Birds by George Hall .....	\$20.00
All issues of The Redstart 1933-2008 on one searchable CD .....	\$10.00
All issues of The Mail Bag 1943-2011 on one searchable CD .....	\$10.00
BBC archived photographs and other materials on DVD .....	\$20.00

### SPECIAL BBC PUBLICATIONS

No. 1, 1986 Birds of the Lower Ohio River Valley in West Virginia by Kiff, Igou, Slack, and Wilson .....	\$1.00
No. 2, 1990 Endangered and Threatened Species in West Virginia edited by A.R. Buckelew Jr .....	\$1.00
No. 3, 2007 The Allegheny Front Migration Observatory: A Long-term Bird Banding Project, by George A. Hall .....	\$2.50

Add \$3.50 for postage per order.

West Virginia residents add 6% sales tax per order.

### REDSTART EDITORIAL POLICY

Original papers in the field of natural history are published in *The Redstart*. Papers are judged on the basis of their contributions to original data, ideas, or interpretations. Scientific accuracy and clarity are most important, and to this end, an advisory board, selected by the editorial staff, will review submitted papers as needed. Papers should be submitted in Word, by e-mail if possible, to [autoblock@frontiernet.net](mailto:autoblock@frontiernet.net) or on a CD and sent to the editor; otherwise, papers should be typewritten, double-spaced on one side of the paper only, and sent to the editor at P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884.

### BROOKS BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The Brooks Bird Club, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose objective is to encourage the study and conservation of birds and other phases of natural history. Membership includes subscriptions to *The Redstart* and *Mail Bag* and entitles one to all the privileges offered by the Club. Classes of membership are Student, \$20; Individual, \$35; Family, \$40; Sustaining, \$60; Life, \$550; Family Life, \$700. Checks should be written payable to The Brooks Bird Club and mailed to P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003.

## 2021 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
February	Write an article for <i>The Redstart</i> and <i>Mail Bag</i>	
May 6-9	Wildflower Pilgrimage .....	Canaan Valley, WV
May 8	Migratory Bird Day	
Dec. 14–Jan. 5, 2022	Christmas Bird Count.....	Statewide

*Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19 in 2021,  
please visit the BBC website calendar for updates throughout the year.*

### BBC FORAYS

2021 Camp Kidd 4-H Camp, Tucker County, WV ..... Cancelled due to COVID-19  
2022 Camp Galilee, Terra Alta, Preston County

### 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, [wvwarblers@hotmail.com](mailto:wvwarblers@hotmail.com)

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

The dates for the 2021 BBC programs may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the web page or in The Mail Bag.

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