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JANUARY, 2022



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Banding at Prickett's Fort State Park Marion County, West Virginia Spring and Fall 2021

Joey Herron

During the spring and fall 2021 season, 156 birds of 46 species were banded. The 46 species were the largest variety since starting the station. Thirteen birds from previous bandings were also captured. A Blue-winged Warbler from 2020, an American Robin from somewhere else (no report from banding lab at this time), and a Northern Parula from 2018 were all recaptured on the first day of banding on May 4. Others recaptured included a Carolina Chickadee from 2018, a Song Sparrow from 2020, a Carolina Chickadee from earlier in 2021, a Baltimore Oriole from 2017, an Indigo Bunting from 2020, two Northern Cardinals, one from 2020 and another from 2017, a White-eyed Vireo from earlier in 2021, an Eastern Towhee from 2019, and a hatch year Northern Cardinal that was color banded from a banding project which is being run by Dr. Chris Rota from West Virginia University in the southern area of the park. Five new species were added to the species list this year, including 2 Blackburnian Warblers, a Red-winged Blackbird, an Eastern Wood-Pewee, a Yellow-throated Vireo, and an Ovenbird bringing the species total to 84. Other highlights this year also included a second and third record for Blackpoll Warbler and a second record for Prairie Warbler. Records were set for captures of Indigo Buntings (14 captures), and the warbler count now stands at 17 different species banded.

Since 2008, I have been conducting a birding class for the Lifelong Learners group of Pierpont Community and Technical College in Fairmont, West Virginia. The spring and fall classes usually consist of one classroom session and three or four field sessions at Prickett's Fort State Park during early May and mid to late September and into mid to late October. Other banding takes place as weather permits and as other groups want demonstrations. On average, 20 to 25 days of banding takes place combined from spring and fall bandings.

Prickett's Fort State Park is located along the Monongahela River in Marion County and has diverse habitats including a large riparian area and many wooded areas with trails and openings. The varied habitats support a wide variety of species and provide many good opportunities for observing and banding birds. Nets are set above the main trail area, next to the trail parking lot, which is located west of the visitor's center. Four to five nets are placed along an abandoned railroad bed running across a power line right of way. Banding has taken place in this same area every spring and fall since starting in 2008.

Of this total of 84 species, 1,192 birds have been banded from the spring of 2008 to the fall of 2021. More than half the bandings, fifty-three percent, are made up of nine species: Northern Cardinal (107), American Goldfinch (101), Song Sparrow (79), Carolina Chickadee (76), Gray Catbird (66), Yellow-rumped Warbler (58), Indigo Bunting (51), Eastern Towhee (46), and White-eyed Vireo (46). The following chart shows numbers of new birds banded and species banded.

| Species | Number Banded 2021 | Banded 2008–2021 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 0 | 15 (captured) |
| Killdeer | 0 | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 1 | 3 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 2 | 10 |
| Northern Flicker | 0 | 1 |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee (New) | 1 | 1 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 1 | 4 |
| Willow Flycatcher | 0 | 1 |
| Least Flycatcher | 0 | 1 |
| Flycatcher Sp. | 0 | 1 |
| Eastern Phoebe | 1 | 11 |
| White-eyed Vireo | 5 | 46 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo (New) | 1 | 1 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 0 | 1 |
| Warbling Vireo | 0 | 5 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 2 | 21 |
| Blue Jay | 0 | 7 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 7 | 76 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1 | 2 |
| Eastern Tufted Titmouse | 1 | 19 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 5 | 22 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 2 | 5 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 0 | 6 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | 5 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 0 | 1 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 1 | 10 |
| House Wren | 3 | 8 |
| Winter Wren | 1 | 2 |
| Carolina Wren | 5 | 45 |
| Gray Catbird | 12 | 66 |
| Brown Thrasher | 1 | 8 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 1 | 12 |
| Eastern Bluebird | 0 | 2 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 0 | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 3 | 9 |
| Hermit Thrush | 1 | 1 |
| Wood Thrush | 2 | 12 |
| American Robin | 1 | 6 |
| House Sparrow | 1 | 1 |
| Purple Finch | 2 | 2 |
| American Goldfinch | 10 | 101 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 1 | 20 |
| Field Sparrow | 4 | 11 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 1 | 2 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 0 | 1 |

| Species | Number Banded 2021 | Banded 2008–2021 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| White-throated Sparrow | 8 | 31 |
| Song Sparrow | 14 | 79 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 0 | 2 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 0 | 1 |
| Eastern Towhee | 2 | 46 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 0 | 4 |
| Red-winged Blackbird (New) | 1 | 1 |
| Orchard Oriole | 1 | 15 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 0 | 42 |
| Ovenbird (New) | 1 | 1 |
| Blue-winged Warbler | 1 | 9 |
| Swainson's Warbler | 0 | 1 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 1 | 11 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 0 | 2 |
| Nashville Warbler | 2 | 5 |
| Connecticut Warbler | 1 | 2 |
| Kentucky Warbler | 1 | 6 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 5 | 21 |
| Hooded Warbler | 1 | 7 |
| American Redstart | 1 | 10 |
| Cape May Warbler | 2 | 6 |
| Northern Parula | 1 | 6 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 2 | 31 |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | 0 | 2 |
| Blackburnian Warbler (New) | 2 | 2 |
| Yellow Warbler | 4 | 15 |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | 0 | 1 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 2 | 3 |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | 0 | 1 |
| Palm Warbler | 1 | 3 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 3 | 58 |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | 1 | 3 |
| Prairie Warbler | 1 | 2 |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 2 | 8 |
| Canada Warbler | 0 | 1 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 0 | 4 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 0 | 3 |
| Northern Cardinal | 6 | 107 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 2 | 2 |
| Indigo Bunting | 14 | 51 |
| Totals | 156 | 1192 |

511 Ohio Ave
Fairmont WV



Blackburnian Warbler

Photos by Joey Herron.



White-throated Sparrow



Black-throated Green Warbler

Banding at Tygart Lake State Park, Taylor County West Virginia 2011–2021

Joey Herron

Since 2011, I have been conducting a birding and banding weekend at Tygart Lake State Park in Taylor County, West Virginia. The spring and fall sessions consisted of two days in the spring, usually during the first weekend in May, and two days in the fall, usually in the last weekend of September. The sessions were open to the public and located near the lodge at the park. Banding demonstrations were conducted for the public at the lodge entrance.

Tygart Lake State Park, specifically the lodge, is located on the north edge of the lake, south of the dam area, just outside the city of Grafton. The park has diverse habitat including a large open area behind the lodge, and many wooded areas with trails and openings surrounding the lodge. The diverse habitats support a wide variety of species and makes for many good opportunities for observing and banding birds, plus a nice view of the lake to look for and observe migrating raptors and waterfowl.

Nets were set above the main road in front of the lodge, next to the lodge and parking lot, and below the lodge. Three to four nets were used, depending on the area, weather, and park maintenance. The banding has taken place in this same area every spring and fall since starting in 2011, with the exception of the spring of 2020 and the spring of 2021.

One hundred sixty-five birds of thirty-four species were banded from the spring of 2011 to the fall of 2021. More than half the bandings (59%) are made up of six species: Eastern Tufted Titmouse (24), American Redstart (19), Gray Catbird (18), Swainson's Thrush (13), Carolina Chickadee (12), and Northern Cardinal (11). The following chart shows numbers and species banded.

| Species | Number banded | Years banded |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 6 | 3 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 2 | 1 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 2 | 1 |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern Phoebe | 1 | 1 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 7 | 3 |
| Blue Jay | 1 | 1 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 12 | 7 |
| Eastern Tufted Titmouse | 24 | 6 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 3 | 3 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 4 | 3 |
| House Wren | 1 | 1 |
| Carolina Wren | 8 | 4 |
| Gray Catbird | 19 | 8 |
| Brown Thrasher | 4 | 3 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 1 | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 13 | 8 |

| Species | Number banded | Years banded |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| American Robin | 4 | 2 |
| American Goldfinch | 1 | 1 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 1 | 1 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 1 | 1 |
| Song Sparrow | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern Towhee | 1 | 1 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 3 | 2 |
| Ovenbird | 1 | 1 |
| Nashville Warbler | 1 | 1 |
| Hooded Warbler | 3 | 2 |
| American Redstart | 19 | 6 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 1 | 1 |
| Yellow Warbler | 3 | 2 |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | 2 | 1 |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | 1 | 1 |
| Northern Cardinal | 11 | 5 |
| Indigo Bunting | 2 | 2 |
| | 165 | 11 yrs |

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Fairmont, WV 26554



Baltimore Oriole

Photo by Joey Herron



Swainson's Thrush

Photos by Joey Herron.



American Redstart

**Valley Falls State Park
Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Station
Marion County, West Virginia, 2021**

Joey Herron

The seventeenth year of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) at Valley Falls State Park produced a total of 23 owls, which was seven captures below the ten year average.

Banding began on October 29, 2021, and ended on November 13. The station operated on eight nights with the nets being opened for thirty-one and a half hours. Weather was a major factor in the late start and limited nights this year, along with a full moon, which limits owl activity. Five of the eight nights yielded owls with a peak capture of 11 NSWOs captured on the night of November 5. Four of the eight nights yielded multiple owls. A lone foreign re-trap was caught this year on the night of November 5. This owl had been banded in November of 2018 as a hatch-year female at Bob Mulvihill's station near Sewickley, Pennsylvania.

The station had 117 visitors from five states. Fortunately, on each night with visitors owls were captured, with multiple owls captured on two of those nights. The West Virginia University Wildlife Society students visited multiple nights and were thrilled with the experience, as were all the other visitors. What a thrill it was for all the visitors to experience such a tiny owl in this way.

Of the 23 captures, 21 were adults, 2 were hatch year birds. Females again lead the way in captures in 2021 with 19, with 2 males and 2 unknowns.

After seventeen years of banding a total of 465 NSWOs have been captured, including 33 foreign recaptures and one return. The breakdown shows a heavy advantage for females, 77 percent to 8 percent for males. The unknown category completes the last 15 percent. The adult-to-hatch year ratio is almost even with 51 percent adult to 49 percent hatch year individuals. The station has hosted over seventeen hundred visitors from thirteen states and the District of Columbia.

Again, I would like to thank Valley Falls State Park superintendent, Brett Harshbarger, for the use of the park facilities and allowing visitors to experience the fall migration. Without Brett's support, this operation would not be possible. I would also like to thank Joe Hildreth for his help again this year as he trains to become a bander of these little owls himself.

17 year totals

| Females | Males | Unknown | Hatch Year | After Hatch Year | Second Year |
|---------|-------|---------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 361 | 35 | 69 | 230 | 146 | 89 |

Banding Summary for 2021

| Date | NSWO caught |
|----------|-------------|
| 10/29/21 | 0 |
| 11/1/21 | 1 |
| 11/3/21 | 7 |
| 11/5/21 | 11 (1 FR) |
| 11/6/21 | 2 |

| Date | NSWO caught |
|----------|-------------|
| 11/8/21 | 0 |
| 11/12/21 | 2 |
| 11/13/21 | 0 |

Total 23

Age

After hatch year (AHY)11
 Second year (SY).....9 87% (adults)
 Hatch year (HY).....3 13%

Sex

Female – 19..... 83%
 Male – 2.....8.5%
 Unknown – 2.....8.5%

511 Ohio Ave
 Fairmont, WV



Photos by Joey Herron.

Osprey Nest in Summers County, West Virginia

James Phillips and Judy Phillips

The sighting of Ospreys in the Hinton area of Summers County, West Virginia, has caused us to suspect they could be breeding along the various waterways. During the 2021 season, a nest was found near Bluestone Dam. The relative ease of viewing the nest without disturbing the birds was reason enough to make notes on the birds' success. This article describes the chronology of the nest and confirms nesting in this county.

We had seen Ospreys in the area starting March 21, 2021, and continuing through April. On April 27, we observed an Osprey perched on the top of a cell tower near Bluestone Dam. As we watched, a second bird flew in carrying a stick. Through the spotting scope, we could see a nearly completed nest in the top of the tower. We were concerned for its future because very noisy construction is being done on the dam all day, six days a week. There is a lot of human activity and heavy machinery working nearby. Also, within sight of the tower is an active Bald Eagle nest that dates back six years.

On May 7, the birds were still carrying in nest material. For the next month, the female was observed sitting on the nest and the male watched from nearby and brought in food. On June 10, the female was joined by the male in the nest and then the male flew and began chasing an adult Bald Eagle away from the nest. In coming days, we observed the male giving chase to Red-tailed Hawks and also Black and Turkey vultures.

Looking down into the nest was not possible from our viewing point. We could have probably had a look into the nest from the ridge behind it but we didn't want to draw attention to the birds. On June 22, we saw both adults in the nest. The female was feeding a good-sized chick. She turned from the chick and seemed to be feeding what we assumed was a second chick on the other side of the nest. The original chick was still visible while this was going on.

On July 17, two Ospreys were flying around the nest while the female was feeding a chick. We couldn't tell for sure, but it appeared that the first chick (a male) was flying with the adult male while the female cared for the second chick. On August 4, three Ospreys were flying around the area of the nest. We assumed them to be the two adults and one chick. Also, nearby were two additional Ospreys. Since the five birds were not seen together, we wonder if the two were from another nest that might be nearby or if these birds could have been migrants. The first day that we saw the chick alone in the nest was August 19. Three days later the chick had left the nest. During the remainder of the month, we saw Ospreys at the mouth of the Bluestone River (about two miles from the nest), at Bertha Campground (about five miles away), Brooks Falls (about six miles away), and Alderson along the Greenbrier River (about 15 miles away). Our first migrant Osprey encountered at East River Mt. Overlook hawk watch occurred on August 17. Hall lists the fall migration period as September and early October, in his *West Virginia Birds*. By September, we were seeing Ospreys over a wide area in Mercer, Raleigh, and Summers Counties.

Sidebars From These Observations

In nearly 30 years of keeping bird notes in Summers County, I have come up with the following information:

My earliest spring arrival for Ospreys is February 25, 2014, and my latest spring arrival date is April 13, 2002. The average arrival date for March is March 23 and for April is April 10.

Hall lists the first-seen fall date as September 10 and the last-seen fall date as September 24 both in Kanawha County. With some birds being seen in late summer, my fall dates are not as exact. His description of the fall is movement during all of September and early October. My 2021 notes indicate the last Osprey seen on October 12. I know of a few times when I found a bird as late as the first week of November.

Hall's only comment for a winter Osprey in the state is late December from Huntington. The Bibbee Nature Club has conducted the Pipestem Area, West Virginia Christmas Bird Count for the past 50 years. Osprey was recorded in December, 1978.

Conclusions

In 1983, Hall listed six definite Osprey nests in the state. During the 1990s, Craig Stihler (West Virginia Division of Natural Resources) confirmed they had stocked about 70 Ospreys in Hampshire and Taylor Counties and on Blennerhassett Island in the Ohio River, in Wood County. During the first state Breeding Bird Atlas, observers documented Ospreys in 18 blocks (10 observed, 6 possible breeding, 1 probable breeding and 1 confirmed breeding). During the Second Atlas, observers documented Ospreys in 34 blocks (21 possible breeding, 1 probable breeding, and 12 confirmed breeding). During that Atlas, there was a possible breeding block near the Mercer/Summers county line and a possible breeding block in Summers County.

Our observations confirmed a successful nest in the Hinton area of Summers County and the possibility of a nest in the Pipestem community. The Pipestem site is on private property, and since one of the owners was interested in killing river otters, "because they eat all of the fish in the lake," I didn't want to draw attention to a possible Osprey nest.

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A Dance in the Dust

John Northeimer and Marjorie Keatley

Illustrations by John Northeimer

We had been cutting downed trees at our cabin in Pendleton County for firewood and had raked the resulting sawdust into a thin, coarse, uniform layer mixed with sandy soil. We noticed movement in a small striped maple sapling about 12 feet from where we were working and assumed it was the resident Eastern Phoebe. A deliberate glance showed that it was a Great Crested Flycatcher. We had often heard a Great Crested Flycatcher on our trips to the cabin but had not seen it.

Even with the noise we were making, the bird flew to a closer perch then to the ground about six feet away. It sat there long enough for us to acquire the camera for a close-up photo. What we were able to record went far beyond a still frame image of the bird. The bird landed where we had raked the ground and began a fluttering dance, repeatedly flattening its body and wings against the ground. It alternated pushing its throat and breast into the surface; spreading its wings against the ground; rising to flutter its wings; and contorting its body to scratch throat, head, and flanks (Figure 1). Occasionally it would sit motionless with wings folded and then start the cycle of postures again. It rotated direction as it scooted along the ground in a backward “J” pattern, covering three square feet of surface. We videotaped the dance, which lasted 51 seconds, on June 17, 2021. The bird completed its dance, seemingly unaffected by our presence, and then flew away.

Although we have seen other avian species “dusting” before (Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Song Sparrow), these birds appear to be taking baths in dust in a stationary position, creating a depression in the dust with motions similar to the way they take water baths. This was the first time we had observed a Great Crested Flycatcher dust bathing, and its behavior was more elaborate. It may have been moving around to find a more suitable substrate rather than staying in one place during the bath. A literature search revealed numerous studies of dust bathing in domestic chickens and mammals but a paucity of detailed studies related to dust bathing in wild birds.

In *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to North American Birds*, the authors state that in dry or arid regions where water is unavailable, birds rely on dust rather than water to maintain feather condition and eliminate parasites. The habitat at the cabin is dry and at an elevation of 2,900 feet with no nearby natural water source. It is located in the rain shadow to the east of the Allegheny Front. Soils are sandy and rock strewn. The surrounding forest consists of a mature canopy of oak, maple, birch, and pine (in order of decreasing abundance) with a thin understory of black gum, mountain laurel, and striped maple. Ground cover is primarily forest litter.

Reference

Ehrlich, P. R., D. S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to North American Birds*. Simon & Schuster, New York, NY.



Great Crested Flycatcher at beginning of dance. Photo by John Northeimer.

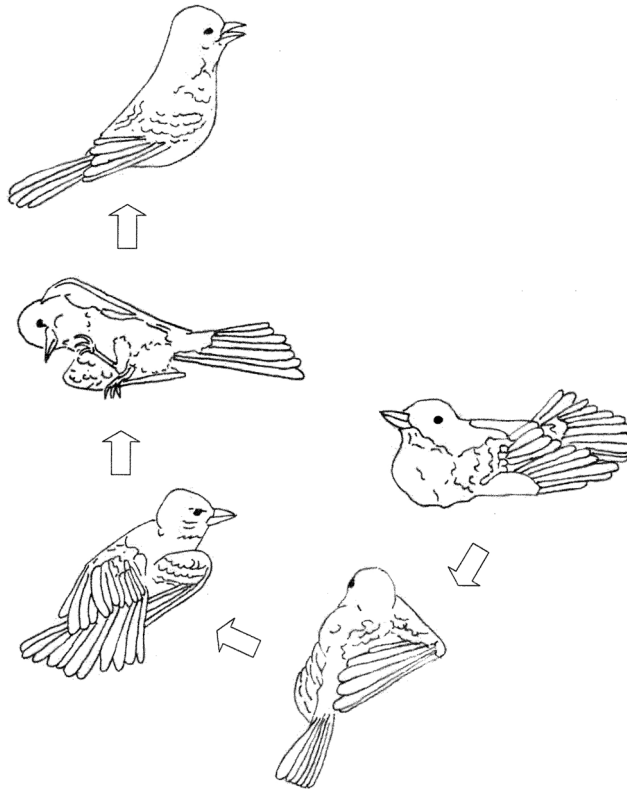


Figure 1: Map of dance showing various postures.

Brooks Bird Club Chimney Swift Towers

Gwen Balogh, Diana Green, Rick Gregg, Larry Helgerman, Jim Triplett,
Allen Waldron, and Mindy Waldron

This article describes all of the chimney swift towers that have been built since 2019 as part of a conservation project sponsored by Brooks Bird Club (BBC) through a donation from the estate of BBC member Stu Robbins.

Part 1.

Tower at Oglebay Park, Wheeling Headquarters constructed by Larry Helgerman

After encountering a number of Chimney Swift towers in county parks surrounding the greater Pittsburgh area, I thought this would be a great project for the Brooks Bird Club. The Pittsburgh tower project was being orchestrated and funded by the Audubon Society of Western PA (ASWP). These Pennsylvania towers were modeled on others being built in various parts of the country.

To learn more about this intriguing project, I set up a meeting with management friends at the ASWP. At that meeting I learned a lot, including how their construction design evolved. Afterwards, I did some further research on swifts and man-made structures. A few months later, I was ready to propose a Chimney Swift tower project to the BBC.

At the 2018 BBC Fall Reunion Board meeting, I presented my Chimney Swift tower project proposal. The original project was for five towers to be fully funded and constructed in five areas of West Virginia. Five towers, one tower for each of the BBC chapters (Wheeling/HQ Chapter, Charleston/Handlan Chapter) and one tower for each of the three independent West Virginia bird clubs (Bibbee Nature Club, Mountwood Bird Club, and Pocahontas Nature Club) that affiliate with the BBC.

Another very important part of the swift tower project proposal would be to include two informational kiosks for each tower. One kiosk would explain the structure, and who it was built for. The second kiosk would give detailed information about Chimney Swifts, their unique habits, vast migration, plights, plus photos. The signs would also have information about the BBC chapters and affiliated bird clubs. Additionally, there would be QR codes, one linking interested readers to more Chimney Swift facts and another to the BBC website.

The tower project was accepted in that fall of 2018 with construction set to begin as early as the spring of 2019. Coincidentally, at that fall meeting we learned of a generous donation to the BBC from the estate of Stuart (Stu) Robbins. With the consent of Stu's sister, Jane Robbins, it was decided to use the donation to fund the project.

With the help of many volunteers, the Charleston tower was the first to be completed in mid-April 2019. The Charleston/Handlan Chapter tower was built on public land near the Marmet Locks and Dam.

The Wheeling tower, the second completed in the project, was wrapped up May of 2019. The Wheeling/HQ Chapter tower was built along a walking trail in Oglebay Park, in front of the Schrader Environmental Education Center (SEEC), formally the Brooks Nature Center. The trails behind the SEEC are where A.B. Brooks led the first nature enthusiasts who formed the Brooks Bird Club in his honor.



Tower at Wheeling.

To blend in, this tower's façade was designed to match the Schrader Center. Over the many days it took for me to erect and stain the Wheeling tower, there wasn't a passer-by that did not show interest in what was being constructed. Several of the regular walkers would stop by daily checking the progress, asking questions about swifts and other birds, and many shared their own stories of birds.

The BBC is one of the oldest bird clubs in the country, with sufficient funds to accomplish many needed conservation projects. We as BBC members need to set an example for West Virginia conservation, especially when it comes to bird-related projects. The building of these Chimney Swift towers is just one of many conservation projects we should be a part of here in West Virginia. Let's do more!

Part 2.

Towers constructed in Kanawha County by the Handlan Chapter

Jim Triplett's narrative on the tower construction.

After I introduced the project to the Handlan Chapter at our 2018 annual Christmas dinner, Rick Gregg showed interest in placing a tower at Marmet Locks on the Kanawha River. The full credit for the project belongs to Rick Gregg. He received the permission from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Lockmaster to proceed with the project. He dug through the Internet and found the design and plans for the tower along with help from Larry Helgerman. When Hayden Lester, his family members, and scout troop showed interest, Rick organized a meeting with our bird club to sanction the project. With this plan, the club used just half the funds allocated from BBC for the project which left money that we could use for another tower at another location.

Rick Gregg's narrative on the tower construction.

The Marmet Locks and Dam tower was organized by Hayden Lester as his Eagle Scout project. Hayden's family members, Boy Scout Troop 136, and their family members performed the actual labor. Coordination between Hayden, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Brooks



Marmet tower.

Bird Club was conducted through the Handlan Chapter. The first meetings between Handlan Chapter's Jim Triplett and Rick Gregg with Hayden's family occurred in February 2019.

Freddy Middleton, the Lockmaster for the Army Corps of Engineers, gave Handlan the go-ahead for the project. The Corps wanted the tower outside the security fence, but within a security camera's field of view. The date for construction was set for April 6, 2019, and there was a nice turnout. Jim Triplett and Rick Gregg represented the Handlan Chapter. All work was completed by April 14, 2019. Signage from the BBC was added in April 2021.

Diana Green's narrative on the tower construction for Forks of Coal State Natural Area.

The tower at the Forks of Coal State Natural Area was the second tower built through assistance of the Handlan Chapter of BBC. The tower was built with funds from the Handlan Chapter, BBC, and our Foundation. Construction and installation were done by the teachers and students of the Boone Career and Technical Center, our good neighbor and partner. Members of the Handlan Chapter were very helpful in consulting and installation. Volunteer board members of the Foundation helped with painting. The Foundation has placed an interpretive sign (see photo) about the chimney swifts and their need for more nesting sites. The Foundation appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the Handlan Chapter of BBC on the tower and other bird-related projects.



Tower at Forks of Coal.



Little Beaver tower.

Part 3.

Towers constructed at Little Beaver, Camp Creek, and Bluestone State Parks by Mindy and Allen Waldron of Bibbee Nature Club.

I learned of the BBC Chimney Swift tower project in the spring of 2019. As a club, Bibbee Nature Club wanted to participate in the project. I looked at several locations in southern West Virginia. I received several rejections before finally getting approval to build towers at three state parks in southern West Virginia. We received funds from the BBC to cover the cost of construction materials for 2 towers.

Our first tower was built at Little Beaver State Park in Raleigh County in the spring



Camp Creek Tower.

of 2021. We used the construction plans and materials list from the project coordinator, Larry Helgerman. The tower's location is near the dam for the lake, a prominent feature in the park. This location provides the opportunity for visitors to read and learn about Chimney Swifts. We received help from the Superintendent, Thomas Asbury, and his park employees. We added signage to the tower that gives the public information on the tower and Chimney Swifts. This information is an integral part of this project, introducing the public to the difficulties faced by this species. Superintendent Asbury has received many positive comments about the tower. We haven't noticed any use of the tower in 2021.

The second tower was built at Camp Creek State Park in Mercer County. We got approval from Superintendent Monty Ball. We followed the same plans for the tower that were used

at Little Beaver State Park. Construction was completed by Camp Creek State Park employees and Allen Waldron. This tower was built about 50 yards from the park office. The Park Office has an existing chimney that was being used by Chimney Swifts. We are hopeful that the swifts will also use our tower as a nesting and roosting site. We didn't see any use of the tower this past season.

Our third tower was constructed at Bluestone State Park in Summers County. Superintendent Frank Ratcliffe was instrumental in getting the towers placed at Little Beaver and Camp Creek State Parks. He was very interested in having his own tower at Bluestone. Bibbee Nature Club provided some of the funds to construct this tower, located near the Activities Building. This tower was constructed in September 2021, past the time for any Chimney Swifts to discover the tower this season. Construction was completed by Superintendent Frank Ratcliffe and park employees.

Bibbee Nature Club is very grateful to the State Parks' Superintendents for permitting this project on park property.



Bluestone tower.

Part 4.

Tower constructed at Stillwell Park by Pocahontas Nature Club by Gwen Balogh.

The Pocahontas Nature Club, an affiliate of the BBC, built a tower as part of the Chimney Swift project. The tower was constructed at the Stillwell Park in Marlinton, West Virginia. The park is near an old building, which has a chimney that swifts have used for many years. It is hoped that the swifts will begin using the tower before the old chimney and building are demolished. Jim Bullard of the club oversaw the construction with assistance of other members of the club. They followed the guidelines for the construction found on the ChimneySwifts.org website. The club added its own signage to describe the purpose for the tower.



Pocahontas tower.

Another tower project was completed by BBC member Marjorie Boyd in Brooke County, West Virginia. She is a teacher at Brooke High School. Along with the school's shop teacher and students, Marjorie constructed a Chimney Swift tower in 2021 on the school's campus adjacent to Cross Creek.

Observers have not noted any use of the seven towers by chimney swifts so far. We are all hopeful that these towers will be discovered and used by Chimney Swifts in future years.

eBird Notes for Summer 2021
June 1, 2021–August 31, 2021

Mike Slaven



Little Blue Heron. Photograph by Mike Slaven, June 2021.

The summer of 2021 was an interesting birding season. Reports to eBird were plentiful, and there was a good variety of species reported, most of them resident or breeding birds, with a few surprising visitors mixed in with the expected species. Observations on eBird were filed for several noteworthy birds, some rare for the state, others uncommon if not actually rare, and at least two regularly occurring species that seem to be becoming established over the last several years in the state. Beginning with the rarest for the state, Roseate Spoonbills (*Platalea ajaja*) were found at South Mill Lake in Grant County. The five individuals were reported from June 24 to June 30 on 34 eBird lists, many with clear photographs included. This is only the second time the species has been recorded in the state on eBird, with the previous instance occurring in 2018 at Terra Alta Lake, also in June. It is too early to call this a trend, but there is a reasonable chance that these spectacular birds will become a bit more common in the area.

Another rarity of note this summer was the appearance of three Tricolored Herons (*Egretta tricolor*) in Jefferson County. This is the first report of the species in almost twenty years on eBird, with the other two sets of sightings coming from 2002 and 2009. It is interesting to note that all historical reports of these herons (actually egrets) on eBird are from the Eastern Panhandle and all occurred in the last week of July or the first week of August. Another uncommon visitor from this summer was the Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). This species was reported in several locations, including Barbour, Marion, and Taylor Counties in north-central West Virginia, Jefferson County in the Eastern Panhandle, and Cabell County in the south. These reports persisted for weeks, from July 18 through the end of August, and while the Little Blue Heron is not so rare as the Tricolored, it is easily mistaken for other species and risks being misidentified by birders who are often confused by its immature plumage.

Identifying Little Blue Herons and Tricolored Herons in the field can be tricky at

times. Tricolored Herons have similar patterns of color in adults to Little Blue Herons but have one characteristic that Little Blue Herons do not exhibit, a white underbelly. In summertime in West Virginia, the Tricolored Heron would likely be a juvenile, and would probably show a good deal of rusty body plumage to go along with any of the slate blue-gray feathers it might also possess. They might be mistaken for a Green Heron or a Little Blue Heron at a distance in some plumages.

A Little Blue Heron in West Virginia in the summer would likely be all white, with perhaps a very few smudges of gray-blue adult feathers just beginning to show at the very end of the summer months. Usually, however, one will observe all-white plumage. Little Blue Herons have a dagger-like and dark-tipped bill that has a very slight decurved look. That is a good field mark, although not entirely definitive, as there is some variation in this characteristic and a few birds either do not have the dark tipped bill, or occasionally have an entirely dark bill. A better approach is to observe the “GISS” of the bird (GISS is a term used by birders that means “General Impression of Size and Shape,” although in practice it typically refers to behavior as well). When not hunting, Little Blue Herons often will perch with drawn-in heads giving them a hunched look. They are small for herons, and have a very slow-moving hunting style, preferring to wait quietly for prey. They often stand quite still for long periods, with their bills pointing slightly upwards, a unique posture which helps distinguish them from the similar looking Snowy Egret, which is much more a moving hunter, and often feeds in a frenetic way by splashing along and scaring prey into movement or stirring the bottom with one foot. Snowy Egrets also develop dark legs and yellow feet as they become adults, but this field mark can sometimes be hard to observe and frequently cannot be distinguished at all in juveniles.

Egrets were only a part of the noteworthy sightings reported in the summer. Mississippi Kites were spotted for the third year in a row at a stakeout in Putnam County. A kite family was first reported in 2019, but the initial observer stated that the birds had been there for at least three years previously. Perhaps there will eventually be more nests as the offspring of the original nest become breeding adults themselves. A note about bird stakeout sites: they are usually on the edges of, or even on, private property, and so try to be careful about disturbing nesting birds or becoming a nuisance to the people who have allowed birders to visit their property. The eBird philosophy is much the same as the ABA’s guidelines about good behavior in the field, and it makes a priority of ensuring the good conduct of responsible birders.

Some other data that stood out from eBird records over the summer also included the return presence of a Sedge Wren in Canaan Valley. This year, there were continuing reports throughout the summer after June 8. In the last two years there have been multiple reports of the wrens singing on territory, and it is possibly becoming a breeding site for the species, although there was no report of competing singing this year.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported in Greenbrier and Monroe Counties, and if current trends continue they will slowly establish more populations in the state. The progression northward of this species has been slower in the northeastern US than in the southeast, but the doves show signs of inexorably extending their range into our region.

The high elevations of the state produced a good variety of breeding warblers as usual this summer, from the hot days of June into August, with sightings of Worm-Eating Warblers, Swainson’s Warblers, Cerulean Warblers, Pine Warblers, and many others. Vireos of several species were also frequently reported in the mountains.

Summer birding in West Virginia followed true to the form of previous years in 2021,

with the best boreal birding occurring in the highlands, and the most rarities found in wetlands. These months are, according to evidence I have accumulated over the last decade, great times to find unusual species if one haunts the marshes, wetlands, impoundments, and riverine habitats, and also very dependable times to locate in the mountains many of the breeding species for West Virginia that seem to virtually disappear from the lowlands.

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Field Notes
Summer Season
June 1 – August 31, 2021

Casey Rucker

It was the 15th driest July in West Virginia and the sixth hottest August since recordkeeping began in 1895, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. June was warmer and wetter than average, while July was cooler than usual, and August was much wetter than usual.

These notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, and from field notes submitted to the editor by email and regular mail. The full content of the submitted notes by the contributors to the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at the following website: <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, for the second year in a row there was no Foray held during June; after a year's hiatus the North American Breeding Bird Survey recommenced its activities this summer.

On August 16, at Steamboat Run on the West Virginia side of the Potomac River north of Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, Elliott and Nancy Kirschbaum spotted and photographed the **Limpkin** which had been reported on the Maryland side of the river the day before. This is our first state record of **Limpkin**. The appearance of five **Roseate Spoonbills** at South Mill Creek Lake in Grant County during late June was another highlight of the summer. Sightings of southerly species rarely seen in the state appear to be on the increase; it is difficult not to associate them with a warming climate. Birders at Canaan Valley State Park, Tucker County, encountered at least one **Sedge Wren** for the second year in a row, from early June through late August. Reports declined compared to the year before as the Covid pandemic appeared to be in retreat during the early summer. There were only 170 species reported in 30 West Virginia counties this season; it should be noted that many breeding birds are not reported in summer.

Ducks, Swans, and Geese – Canada Geese were as usual widely reported. **Wood Ducks** and **Mallards** made their customary appearances on breeding grounds throughout the state. On August 14, David Patick found six **Blue-winged Teal** at Ashton Crossing Ponds, Mason County. **Common Mergansers** were found in Greenbrier (JJP), Monroe (JJP), Randolph (HMy), Summers (JP), and Tucker (HMy) Counties.

Quail – Sam Chapman heard a **Northern Bobwhite** on his property in Hampshire County on June 5, only the second or third he has heard in ten years. Gary Rankin, Michael

Griffith, Janet Keating, and David Patick heard a **Northern Bobwhite** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on August 8.

Turkeys and Grouse – Observers reported **Wild Turkeys** only in Jefferson (BH), Raleigh (SWi), and Tucker (CR, JTr) Counties and **Ruffed Grouse** in Hampshire (KCa) and Randolph (RBi) Counties.

Grebes – On August 1, David Patick found a **Pied-billed Grebe** at McClintic Wildlife Management Area, Mason County, and two days later Wilma Jarrell spotted a **Pied-billed Grebe** on the Ohio River above Hannibal Dam, Wetzel County.

Pigeons and Doves – **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state, as reported sporadically. James and Judy Phillips visited the resident **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Union, Monroe County, on August 7.

Cuckoos – Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** plummeted compared to last summer, with observations in only seven counties, while Steven Wilson reported the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** of the season, observed on the Clear Creek Breeding Bird Survey route in Raleigh County on June 5. Bruni Haydl hosted a pair of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** in her yard in Charles Town, Jefferson County, on July 5.

Goatsuckers and Swifts – Reports of **Common Nighthawks** were also down, from Greenbrier (JO), Monongalia (HC, DCo), Pendleton (DH), Raleigh (MW), Randolph (RBi), and Summers (JJP) Counties. Kevin Campbell reported the continuing **Chuck-will's-widows** on private property in Wood County on June 15, and in mid-July **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** in Pocahontas County. **Chimney Swifts** were observed in nine counties.

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

Rails – Carole and Bill Telfair found two **Virginia Rails** at Altona Marsh, Jefferson County, on July 21.

Limpkins – The first-state-record **Limpkin** found by Elliott and Nancy Kirschbaum on August 16 at Steadman Run, Jefferson County, is described near the beginning of these notes.

Cranes – A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** *might have nested* in a remote area of Canaan Valley, Tucker County, as observed in late June by Elizabeth Byers.

Avocets – On August 7 two **American Avocets** appeared at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington, Cabell County, as observed by Gary Rankin and Rennie Talbert; Janet Keating and Michael Griffith spotted a lone **American Avocet** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on August 13.

Plovers – **Killdeer** appeared in reports from ten counties. Gary Rankin, Michael Griffith, Janet Keating, and David Patick found a **Semipalmated Plover** at Ashton Ponds, Mason County, on August 8.

Sandpipers – **Sandpiper** diversity was also down this summer in West Virginia, with only eleven species reported. **Sandpipers** were observed in the following counties by the contributors listed: **Sanderling**: Mason (MG), **Least Sandpipers**: Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), Monongalia (DCo), and Raleigh (SWi), **Pectoral Sandpipers**: Monongalia (DCo), **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: Mason (MG), **Short-billed Dowitcher**: Taylor (RBo, JTr), **American Woodcock**: Wetzel (WJ) and Wood (KCa), **Spotted Sandpipers**: Kanawha (HG, RG), Marion (JoH), Mason (TB, GR, MG, JK, DP), Raleigh (RG), and Taylor (JTr), **Solitary Sandpipers**: Mason (TB, GR, MG, JK, DP), Putnam (RG), Raleigh (RG), Summers (JP), Wayne (GR), and Wood (TB), **Lesser Yellowlegs**: Monongalia (DCo) and

Taylor (JTr), **Willet**: Mason (JK, MG), and **Greater Yellowlegs**: Monongalia (DCo).

Gulls and Terns – The only **gulls** reported this season were **Herring Gulls** in Mason (RG) and Summer (JP) Counties. Janet Keating and Michael Griffith saw one **Black Tern** and two **Forster's Terns** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam on August 13, and four days later James Phillips spotted a lone **Black Tern** at the Mouth of the Bluestone, Summers County.

Cormorants – **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared in Jefferson (BT), Kanawha (RG), Putnam (RG), and Summers (JP) Counties this summer.

Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets – On August 17, Randy Bodkins spotted an **American Bittern** at the wetlands of Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Barbour County. **Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Green Herons** appeared throughout much of the state. A juvenile **Little Blue Heron** appeared at Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Barbour County, on July 18, as observed by Joey Herron, Joseph Hildreth, and Jeff Gach, and during the second half of August perhaps the same **Little Blue Heron** lingered at the Doe Run Impoundment of Pleasant Creek WMA in Taylor County (RBo, JTr). Another **Little Blue Heron** visited Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, during late August (JK, AG, MG). On July 22, Steven Wilson found an immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in Beckley, Raleigh County, and the bird remained at least until August 2, when Richard Gregg found two immature **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at the same location.

Spoonbills – Diane Holsinger made the first report of five **Roseate Spoonbills** at South Mill Creek Lake, Grant County, on June 25, and the birds remained for at least three more days (FA, MJ, SWi, JTr, TB, BT).

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

Hawks and Eagles – **Osprey** reports were again widespread this summer, coming from nine counties. As often, the only **Northern Harrier** of the season was observed in Canaan Valley, Tucker County (JTr), on July 2. **Accipiter** reports were unsurprisingly also down this summer, with **Sharp-shinned Hawks** seen in Jefferson (BT), Mercer (JP), Monroe (JP), and Summers (JP) Counties, and **Cooper's Hawks** in Jefferson (BT), Kanawha (RG), Ohio (PM), Randolph (RBi), Summers (JP), and Wayne (GR) Counties. Birders in many parts of the state reported **Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks**. The Putnam County pair of **Mississippi Kites** *were once again the parents of a nestling* in Scott Depot in early August, as observed by Michael Griffith on August 5.

Owls – **Owl** reports were practically non-existent this summer. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were noted only in Summers (JP), Tucker (CR, MK), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Gary Rankin reported the season's only **Great Horned Owls**, from his home in Lavalette, Wayne County. **Barred Owls** were observed in Kanawha (JTr), Pocahontas (RBi), and Summers (JP) Counties.

Kingfishers – There were reports of **Belted Kingfisher** from nine West Virginia counties this summer.

Woodpeckers – For only the second time in more than 20 years on their property, James and Judy Phillips hosted a **Red-headed Woodpecker** in Pipestem, Summers County, on June 18. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers** all appeared in their usual haunts. Once

again sparsely reported, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was noted only from Randolph County (RBi).

Falcons – American Kestrels inspired reports in Barbour (DMi), Greenbrier (RBi), Jefferson (WS), Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), Summers (JP), Randolph (RBi), Tucker (MK), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties this summer. Jim Triplett watched a pair of **Merlins** *courting in the air* at Canaan Valley State Park, Tucker County, on July 4. **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in Kanawha (RG, JTr), Mason (MG, RG), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Flycatchers – Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Acadian Flycatchers, and Eastern Phoebes were all widely reported in the state. On August 10, Wilma Jarrell found an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on her property in Wileyville, Wetzel County, and the bird lingered until the next day. The following *Empidonax* species were reported in the counties and by the contributors listed: **Alder Flycatchers**: Pocahontas (RBi, JJP), Randolph (RBi), and Tucker (JTr), **Willow Flycatchers**: Jefferson (BT) and Tucker (JTr), and **Least Flycatchers**: Pocahontas and Randolph (RBi).

Vireos – White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, and Red-eyed vireos appeared in nesting grounds throughout the state. **Warbling Vireo** reports were even scarcer this summer, coming only from Jefferson (BT), Marion (JoH), and Summers (JP) Counties.

Shrikes – Richard Bailey reported a **Loggerhead Shrike** in Greenbrier County on June 8.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens – Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens were reported in their usual territories. N. Wade Snyder reported the only **Fish Crow** of the season, from Bardane, Jefferson County, on June 21.

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

Swallows – Tree Swallows, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Barn Swallows, and Cliff Swallows were the subject of summer reports from many areas of West Virginia. **Purple Martins** prompted reports from Cabell County (ReT), Jefferson County (BT), Kanawha County (RG), Mason County (GR, MG, JK, DP), Raleigh County (SWi), and Summers County (JP).

Kinglets – Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported in Pocahontas County (JP, RBi), Randolph County (DMi), and Tucker County (CR).

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

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

Creepers – Reports of Brown Creeper this summer were from Pocahontas (JP), Randolph (RBi), Summers (JP), and Tucker (CR) Counties.

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

Wrens – At least one Sedge Wren lingered through the end of August in Canaan Valley State Park, as described near the beginning of these notes. **House and Carolina wrens** appeared in reports from many parts of the state. **Winter Wrens** were reported in Pocahontas (RBi) and Randolph (DMi) Counties.

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

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

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

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

Finches and Allies – **House Finches** and **American Goldfinches** were reported widely this summer. Jim Triplett reported the only **Purple Finches** of the season, from Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County, on August 26; and **Red Crossbill** reports came only from Pocahontas County (DP) and Tucker County (SF).

Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees – **Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Eastern Towhees** were all widely reported in West Virginia this summer. Richard Bailey reported the only **Grasshopper Sparrow** of the season, from Greenbrier County on June 8. The following **sparrows** were reported only in the counties listed: **Dark-eyed Junco** in Monroe (JP), Pocahontas (RBi, DMi), Randolph (DMi), and Tucker (HMy), **Vesper** in Monroe (JP) and Tucker (CR), and **Swamp** in Tucker (JTr).

Chats – Carole and Bill Telfair reported the only **Yellow-breasted Chats** of the season, from Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area, Jefferson County, on June 25.

Blackbirds and Allies – **Bobolinks** inspired reports from Monroe (JP), Pocahontas (RBi), and Randolph (RBi) Counties this summer. **Eastern Meadowlarks, Orchard and Baltimore orioles, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Common Grackles** were reported in many areas of the state this summer.

Warblers – **Warbler** reports were also down, with 24 species of breeding **warbler** observed in West Virginia. **Warbler** species reported in five or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. Species simply listed were reported in at least six counties. Our summer **warblers** included **Ovenbird, Worm-eating** – Lincoln (DWO), Mercer (JP), Monroe (DWO, JP, MAW), and Pocahontas (RBi), **Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged** – Lincoln (DWO), Raleigh (SWi), and Randolph (RBi), **Black-and-white, Swainson's** – Boone (DWO), Lincoln (DWO), Raleigh (SWi), and Wyoming (MAW), **Mourning** – Randolph (RBi), **Kentucky** – Monongalia (DCo), Raleigh (SWi), Randolph (RBi), and Wyoming (MAW), **Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, American Redstart, Cape May** – Tucker (JTr), **Cerulean** – Jefferson (BT), Kanawha (JTr), Raleigh (SWi), and Wyoming (MAW), **Northern Parula, Magnolia:** Pocahontas (RBi), Randolph (RBi), Tucker (JTr, MK), and Wetzel (WJ), **Blackburnian:** Mason (JK, MG) and Randolph (RBi), **Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Pine** – Wetzel (WJ), **Yellow-rumped:** Pocahontas (RBi, JP) and Randolph (DMi), **Yellow-throated** – Marion (JoH), Raleigh (SWi), Summers (JP), Tucker (MK), and Wyoming (MAW), **Black-throated Green, and Canada** – Pocahontas (RBi) and Randolph (RBi).

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings – Wilma Jarrell reported the only **Summer Tanager** of the summer, from Fairview Ridge in Wetzel County on August 11. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, and Indigo Buntings** prompted numerous reports from birders in most parts of the state. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** appeared in reports from Monroe (JP), Pocahontas (RBI), Randolph (RBI), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen in Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP) and Monroe (MAW) Counties.

Contributors to the Summer Field Notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (RBI), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Terry Bronson (TB), Kevin Campbell (KCa), Hannah Clipp (HC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Sandra Farkas (SF), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), Aaron Graham (AG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Bruni Haydl (BH), Joey Herron (JoH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Mark Johnson (MJ), Janet Keating (JK), Mimi Kibler (MK), Paul McKay (PM), Herb Myers (HMy), Donna Mitchell (DMi), Jack O'Connell (JO), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Rennie Talbert (ReT), Carole and Bill Telfair (BT), James Triplett (JTr), Mindy Waldron (AW), Mindy and Allen Waldron (MAW), and Steven Wilson (SWi).

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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 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.

2022 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

| Date | Activity | Place |
|----------------------|--|--|
| January | BBC Membership Month | Wheeling, WV |
| January | Trip to Killdeer Plains (Contact Dick Esker) | |
| February | Write an article for The Redstart and Mail Bag | |
| Feb 24-25 | Killbuck Marsh (overnight trip — contact Dick Esker) | |
| March 4-6 | Early Spring Meeting (Contact Dick Esker) | North Bend State Park Harrisville, WV |
| March 12 | Waterfowl Field Trip (day trip)..... | Seneca Lake, OH |
| April 23 | BBC/Three Rivers Bird Club (day trip) (Contact Ryan Tomazin) | Raccoon Creek State Park, PA |
| May 5-8 | Wildflower Pilgrimage | Blackwater Falls State Park, WV |
| May 14 | International Migratory Bird Day | |
| June 3-11 | Foray – Camp Galilee..... (contact Janice Emrick or Ryan Tomazin) | Terra Alta, WV |
| August–October | Bird Banding | Dolly Sods, WV |
| October 28-30 | BBC Fall Reunion & Meeting, | Hawk’s Nest State Park |
| | BBC 90th Anniversary (Contact Cindy Slater) | Ansted, WV |
| November 9-13 | Eastern Shore (Contact Cindy Slater) | |
| Dec. 14–Jan. 5, 2023 | Christmas Bird Count..... | Statewide |

*Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19 in 2022,
please visit the BBC website calendar for updates throughout the year.*

BBC FORAYS

2022 Camp Galilee, Terra Alta, Preston County
2023 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 2022 BBC programs may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the web page or in The Mail Bag.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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