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Canaan Valley Resort State Park Species Accounts: Vireos

John Northeimer and Marjorie Keatley

Species accounts are based on the 2002 and 2003 breeding bird surveys outlined in *Determining Breeding Bird Occurrence and Distribution Using Fixed-Radius Independent Double-Observer Point Counts, Canaan Valley Resort State Park, West Virginia* by Northeimer and Keatley (2022).

Two vireo species were detected during the point counts: Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) and Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). Vegetation classification and mapping followed descriptions from Cowardin and Golet (1979) and Fortney (1997).

Blue-headed Vireo

The Blue-headed Vireo was detected at 52 points during the survey (Figure 1). It occurred at 27 points (52%) within the deciduous hardwood forest and 14 points (27%) within coniferous and mixed coniferous/hardwood forest, with the balance occurring in the edge between mixed forest and grassland or wet shrub. Buckelew and Hall (1994) listed the main distribution as above 300 meters in the pure spruce or mixed spruce/hardwood stands in the Allegheny Mountains. Gains in abundance occur with both increases in forest cover and elevation (Bailey and Rucker 2021).

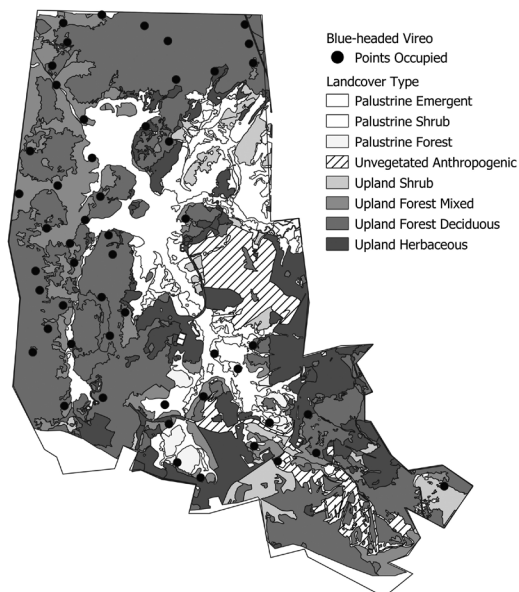


Figure 1: Blue-headed Vireo occurrence and habitat associations.

Birds sitting on nests were documented at two points during the survey—one in the deciduous forest with a canopy composed of American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), and Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) at an elevation of 1,012 meters (3,320 feet) and one in the mixed forest with a canopy composed of Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Black Cherry, and American Beech at an elevation of 991 meters (3,250 feet). These two confirmed breeding records were inadvertently omitted in the original article.

Red-eyed Vireo

The Red-eyed Vireo, the most numerous species encountered during the survey, was detected at 94 points (Figure 2). It occurred at 59 points (63%) within the deciduous hardwood forest and 22 points (23%) primarily within forest and woodland edge. It also occupied points within the mixed

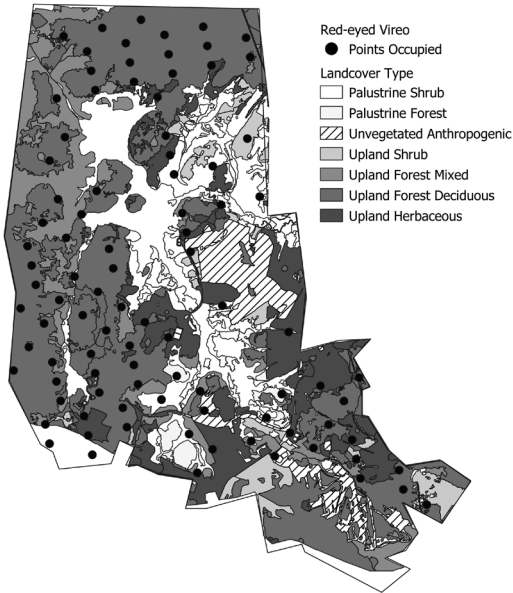


Figure 2: Red-eyed Vireo occurrence and habitat associations.

elevation of 690 meters (2,263 feet). The elevation difference may account for the change in densities. The decrease in density with increasing elevation for the Red-eyed Vireo is reflected in the Second Atlas (Bailey and Rucker 2021).

Sympatry

The two vireo species on the park had overlapping territories, sometimes occurring together at the same point during counts (Figure 3). The Red-eyed Vireo was the sole occupant at 63 of the 115 points occupied by one or both of the two vireos. The Blue-headed Vireo was the sole occupant of 21 points. Their occurrence overlapped at 31 sample points. Red-eyed Vireo territories range between one and two acres (Harrison 1975; Stokes 1979). Blue-headed Vireo territories may reach 15 acres.

A concern often raised is that similarities in vocalizations of the two vireo species may lead to error in identification. Sibley (2001) notes that when the ranges of these two vireos overlap, they use distinctively different song characteristics, making it easier to identify the individual species. This was reflected in the use of the independent double-observer count protocol where the two observers do not interact during the count period. There was an extremely low number of disagreements between observers, both in numbers and relative positions of birds, and in species identification. These disagreements were resolved post-count at each point by additional visual or vocal confirmation.

Hall (1983) and Buckelew and Hall (1994) mention competition between the distribution of the Red-eyed and Solitary [Blue-headed] Vireos when they occur in the same area. When they do overlap in the same area, it has been noted that the two species may utilize different substrates for foraging (Sibley 2001; Wiens 1989). The Blue-headed

forest and wet shrub. Hall (1983) states that it is numerous in the hardwood forests and less common in the mixed hardwood/spruce.

A singing male census conducted by the authors within Canaan Valley Resort State Park during four individual years, between 1994 and 2000, showed an average density for the Red-eyed Vireo of 57 males per square kilometer. The 30-acre plot was located in a northern hardwood stand at an elevation of 1,040 meters (3,415 feet). The canopy was composed of American Beech, Black Cherry, and Red Maple with an understory of American Beech and Striped Maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*). Hall (1983) listed 106 males per square kilometer (100 hectares) within cove and northern hardwood forests in Tucker County, West Virginia, at an

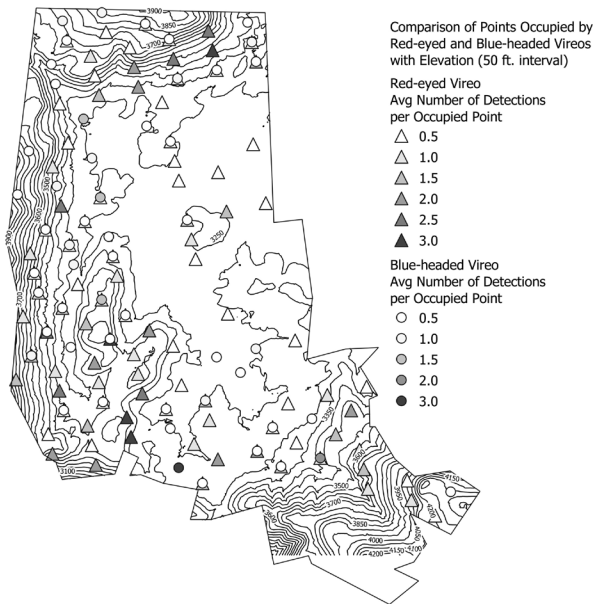


Figure 3: Combined distributions for Red-eyed and Blue-Headed Vireos.

area. The Red-eyed Vireo maintained similar structural elements throughout the total, shared, and solely occupied point categories. It showed the same consistency floristically with American Beech, Black Cherry, and maples the dominant species throughout the categories, except in shared points where Eastern Hemlock was promoted above maples in the understory. The Blue-headed Vireo showed similarities in structural elements within shared points but a decrease in canopy density, a slight decrease in understory density, and an increase in shrub layer density at solely occupied points. It showed marked differences in floristic composition within solely occupied points with a shift toward Yellow Birch in the canopy, Eastern Hemlock and Yellow Birch in the understory, and Red Spruce and Great Rhododendron in the shrub layer. These data are certainly not conclusive, but show that habitat selection at points solely occupied by the Blue-headed Vireo may be different structurally and floristically from those it shares with the Red-eyed Vireo within the Park.

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Vireo prefers mature forests with a sparse understory where it can forage mid-canopy (Bailey and Rucker 2021) with the Red-eyed Vireo being a canopy vegetation forager that is absent when the understory shrub layer is sparse (Ross 1976; Cimprich 2020). To the contrary, Hudman and Chandler (2002), found no significant difference, with the Red-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos using structurally similar habitats and foraging heights in a southern Virginia forest.

We examined the structural and floristic characteristics of the two vireos individually for total points occupied, shared points, and points solely occupied, within the study

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Canaan Valley Resort State Park Species Accounts: Warblers

John Northeimer and Marjorie Keatley

Species accounts are based on the 2002 and 2003 breeding bird surveys outlined in *Determining Breeding Bird Occurrence and Distribution Using Fixed-Radius Independent Double-Observer Point Counts, Canaan Valley Resort State Park, West Virginia* by Northeimer and Keatley (2022).

Fourteen warbler species were detected during the surveys: Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*), Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*), Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*), Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*), Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pennsylvanica*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*), and Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*). Vegetation classification and mapping followed descriptions from Cowardin and Golet (1979) and Fortney (1997).

Ovenbird

The Ovenbird was detected at 41 points during the survey (Figure 1). Its distribution followed the footprint of the northern hardwood forest within the Park. The canopy was dominated by Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*). American Beech was the dominant species in both the

understory and shrub layer. Cover densities were high to moderate in the canopy, moderate in the understory, and low to moderate in the shrub layer. Figure 2 provides detailed floristic and cover density characteristics for all 41 occupied points. Individual species and cover density values represent the number of points where that element occurred out of the total number of points considered. The Ovenbird occurs throughout the state in mature hardwood forests (Buckelew and Hall 1994; Bailey and Rucker 2021). Nests were confirmed at two locations during the survey within mature forests comprised of a dense canopy of Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), American Beech, and Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) and a sparse shrub layer.

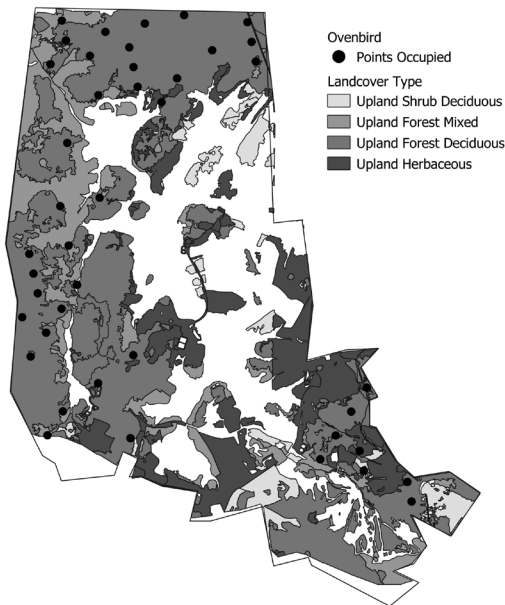
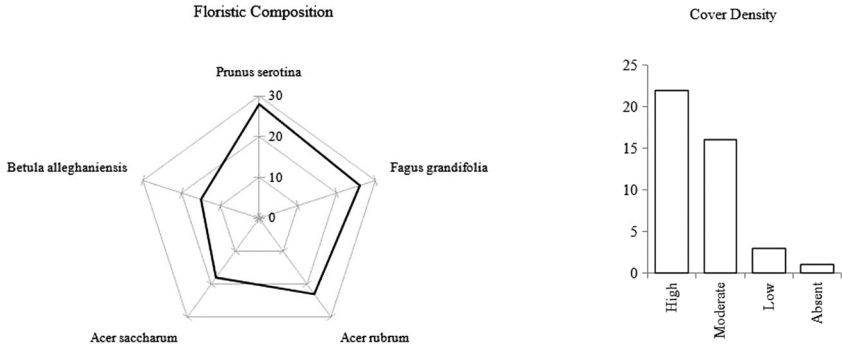
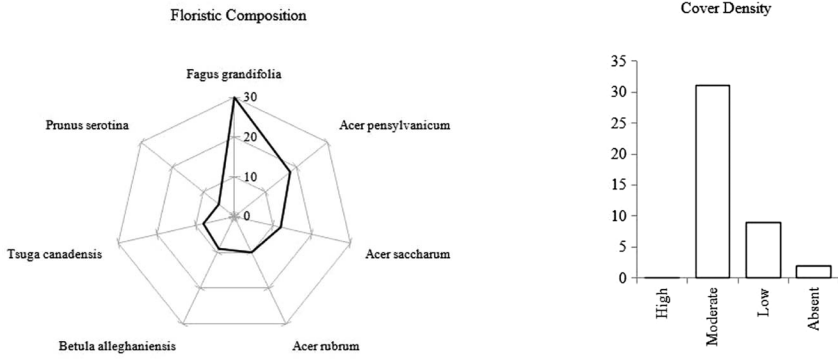


Figure 1: Ovenbird occurrence and habitat associations.

Canopy



Understory



Shrub

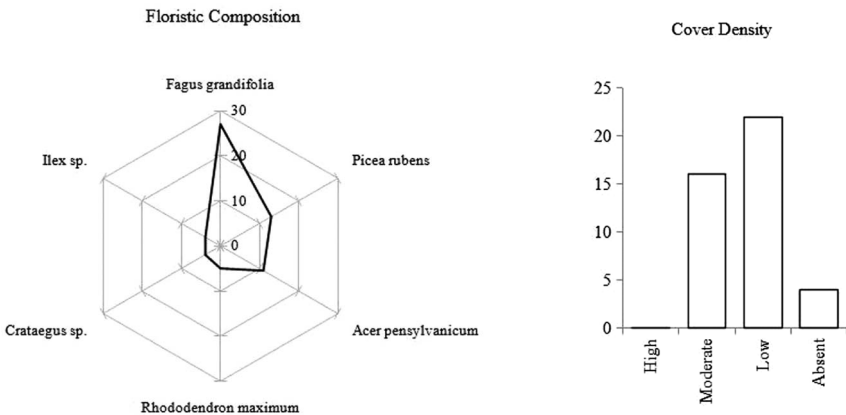


Figure 2: Ovenbird habitat floristic and vegetative cover characteristics.

Northern Waterthrush

The Northern Waterthrush was detected at five points during the survey mainly within palustrine habitats (Figure 3). One was detected in the northern hardwood forest containing a moderately dense shrub layer comprised of Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*), deciduous hollies (*Ilex* spp.), and Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), near a stream.

Hall (1983) lists the Northern Waterthrush as a common local summer resident, found in numbers in Preston, Tucker, Randolph, and Pocahontas Counties, with four definite nesting records from Tucker County. The three breeding records for the species listed in the Second Atlas (Bailey and Rucker 2021) were from Pendleton, Pocahontas, and Randolph Counties, although several probable records were noted from Tucker County. An adult carrying food was observed at one point during the survey. Vegetation at this point was composed of a moderately dense canopy of Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and Yellow Birch and a dense shrub layer of Great Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*). A tributary of the Blackwater River bisected the point. The Northern Waterthrush is listed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources as a species of greatest conservation need.

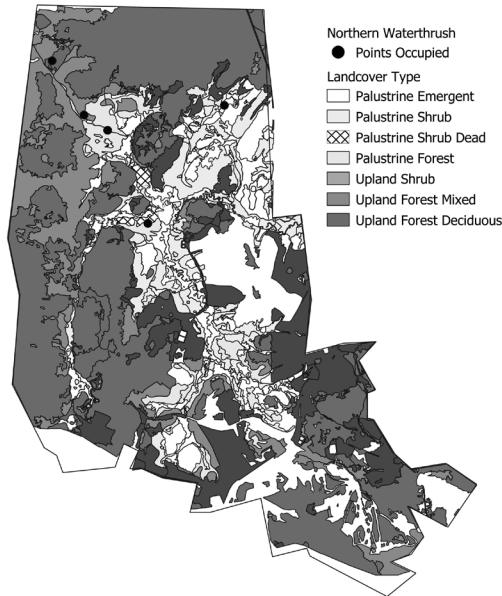


Figure 3: Northern Waterthrush occurrence and habitat associations.

Common Yellowthroat

The Common Yellowthroat, the second most common warbler recorded during the survey, was detected at 68 points within the Park. It showed a preference for wet shrubland and wet shrubby fields but also occurred to a lesser degree along forest edge and shrubby upland herbaceous cover (Figure 4). Stewart (1953) in his *A Life History Study of the Yellowthroat*, suggested that the typical vegetative structure of wetlands may be more important than moisture. In West Virginia, in addition to marshes and the edges of mountain bogs, the Common Yellowthroat frequently nests in weedy fields, brushy second-growth woodland, and forests with suitable weedy fields (Hall 1983; Buckelew and Hall 1994).

Although the Common Yellowthroat occupied more priority blocks than any other warbler during the first atlas and continues to be widespread throughout the State, a four percent decline in numbers was recorded during the Second Atlas. These declines may be related to loss of required habitat through the maturation of forests (Yahner 1997) and other causes. Matthews et al. (2004) predicts a substantial decrease in abundance related to projected shifts in potential evapotranspiration.

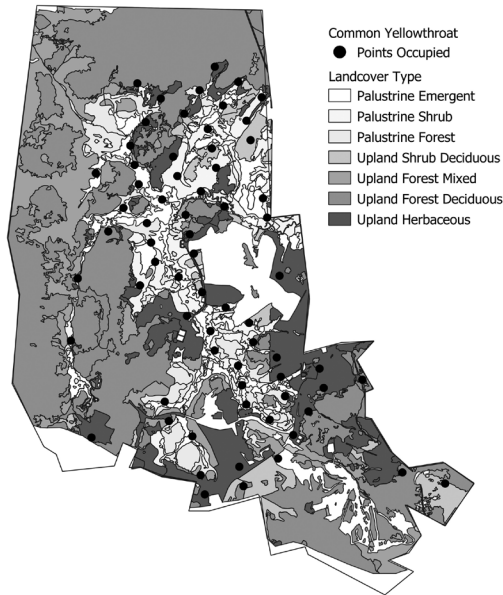


Figure 4: Common Yellowthroat occurrence and habitat associations.

Magnolia Warbler

Within the Park the Magnolia Warbler occupied a range of habitat types, occurring primarily within deciduous, mixed deciduous/coniferous, and coniferous forests but also showing a preference for shrubby wetlands. It was detected at 44 points during the survey (Figure 5). Hall (1983) lists peak breeding season numbers in second-growth pure spruce forest, but also in mixed hardwoods-spruce, northern hardwoods, and oak-pine. Buckelew and Hall (1994) listed essentially the same distribution. An adult carrying food was observed at one point composed of a moderately dense canopy of Eastern Hemlock and Yellow Birch, and a dense shrub layer of Great Rhododendron. The Second Atlas noted confirmed and probable nesting records for Tucker County.

The Magnolia Warbler increased by an estimated 52 percent between Atlas periods (Bailey and Rucker 2021). Many variables will impact the future numbers in West Virginia with gains occurring through spruce forest restoration efforts and potential declines resulting from climate change, the elimination of Balsam Fir (Matthews et al. 2004), and the loss of Eastern Hemlock from forests.

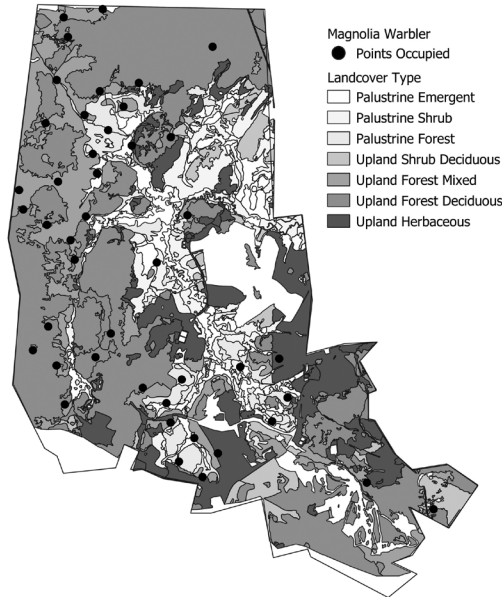


Figure 5: Magnolia Warbler occurrence and habitat associations.

Blackburnian Warbler

The Blackburnian Warbler was detected at six points during the survey, five within coniferous and mixed coniferous/northern hardwood forests, and one at the edge between wet woodland and shrubby field (Figure 6). Eastern Hemlock was the dominant canopy species along with Red Spruce.

The Blackburnian Warbler has a preference for Eastern Hemlock (Morse 2020). Loss of Eastern Hemlock to the woolly adelgid could impact populations in the future. Matthews et al. (2004) attributes potential losses due to climate change primarily with the associated disappearance of Balsam Fir and also Striped Maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) and Eastern Hemlock. Balsam Fir has essentially been extirpated from the Park, although some isolated trees still remained at the time of the survey.

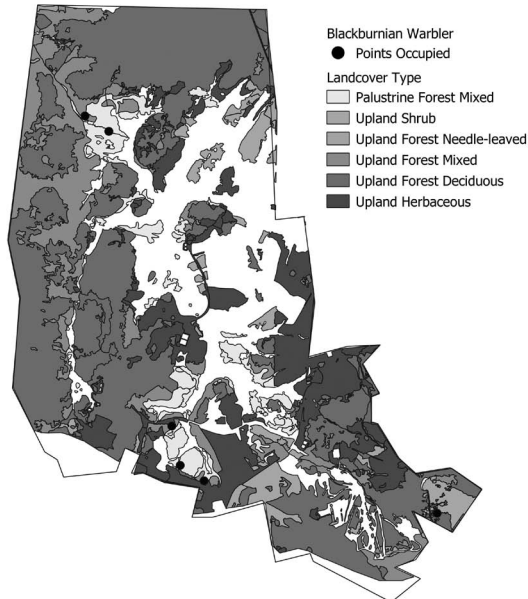


Figure 6: Blackburnian Warbler occurrence and habitat associations.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

The Chestnut-sided Warbler is a bird of brushy stages of plant succession including forest edges, wet shrublands, riparian areas, and old fields during the breeding season (Hall 1983; Buckelew and Hall 1994; Bailey and Rucker 2021). It was detected at 14 points during the survey with the majority of detections occurring in wet shrublands containing combinations of Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*), and Speckled Alder (*Alnus rugosa*) within the northeast areas of the Park (Figure 7). In West Virginia it is more abundant at the higher elevations of the Allegheny Mountains, peaking in abundance at approximately 1,173 meters (3,850 feet) (Bailey and Rucker 2021). It was mainly restricted to the valley floor on the Park at elevations between 988 meters (3,240 feet) and 1,055 meters (3,460 feet).

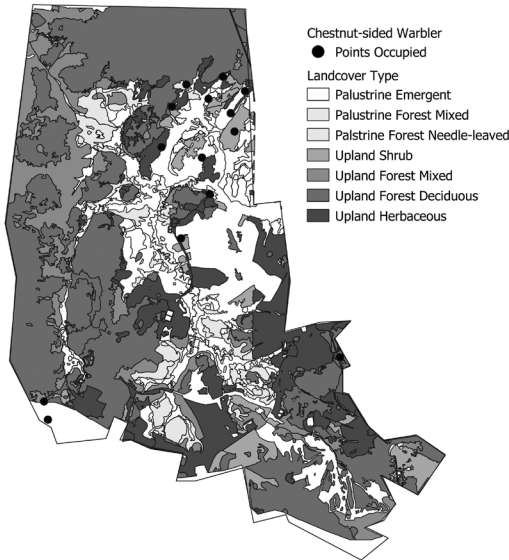


Figure 7: Chestnut-sided Warbler occurrence and habitat associations.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warblers were detected at 15 points during the survey (Figure 8). The species was restricted to the northwestern area of the park within the mixed and deciduous forests. Additional detections at 13 points during the 2001 pilot study along the crest of Canaan Mountain within the coniferous forests (spruce and hemlock) were included in habitat associations (Figure 9). Black-throated Blue Warblers were recorded as possibly breeding in Tucker County during the West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (Buckelew and Hall 1994). Probable breeding records were reported during the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in West Virginia (Bailey and Rucker 2021).

The dominant tree species in the canopy at occupied points were Red Maple and Eastern Hemlock, with an understory including Yellow Birch, Red Spruce, and Eastern Hemlock. The moderately dense shrub layer consisted of Great Rhododendron, Eastern Hemlock, and Mountain Laurel. Figure 10 provides detailed floristic and cover density characteristics for the 28 combined points. Individual species and cover density values represent the number of points where that element occurred out of the total number of points considered.

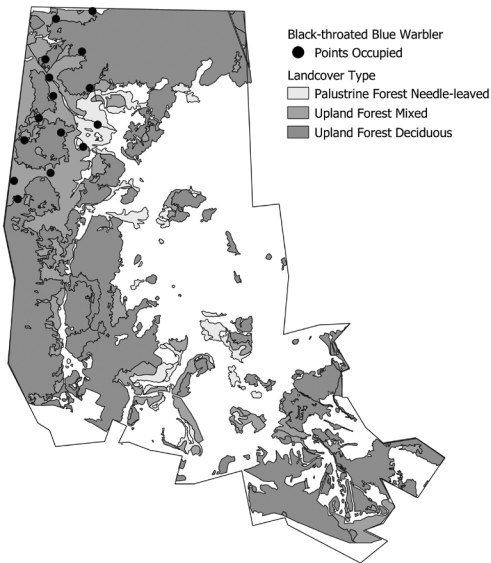


Figure 8: Black-throated Blue Warbler occurrence and habitat associations.

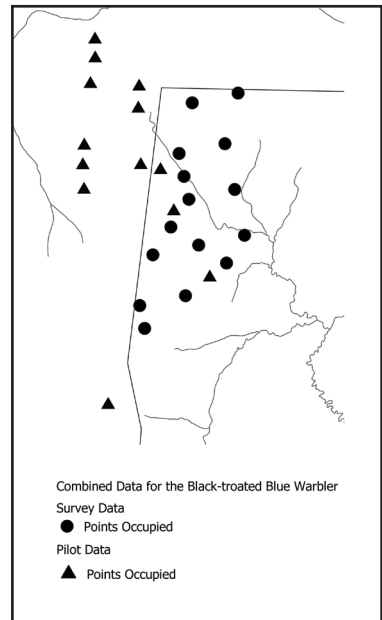
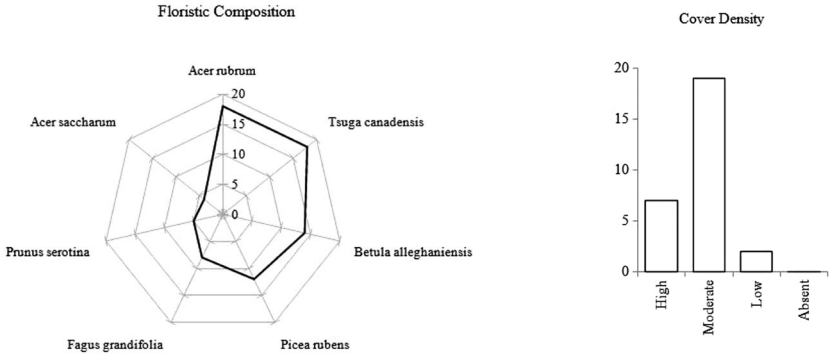
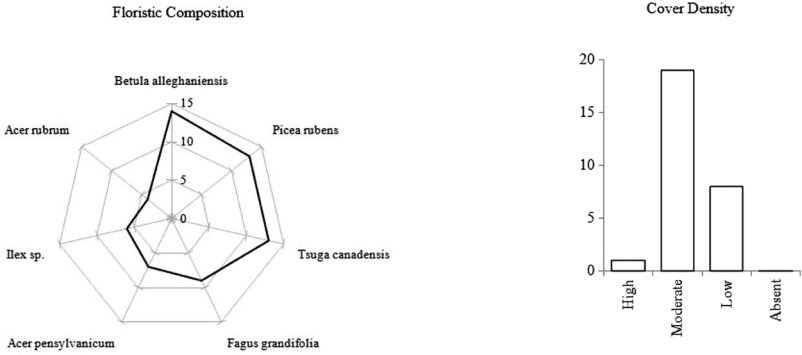


Figure 9: Combined data for the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Canopy



Understory



Shrub

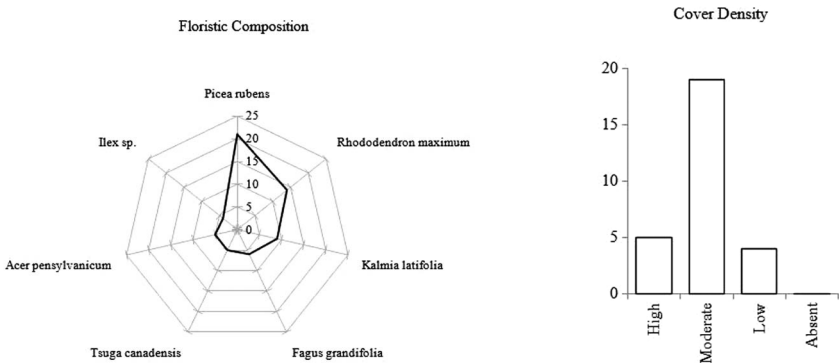


Figure 10: Black-throated Blue Warbler habitat floristic and vegetative cover characteristics.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

The Yellow-rumped Warbler was detected at six points during the survey. Additional detections occurred along Canaan Mountain at nine points and in the valley floor at one point during the 2001 pilot study. These data were combined as the primary habitat for the Yellow-rumped—mature coniferous forest—was not included within the survey sample grid. These combined detections occurred in upland coniferous and mixed coniferous/hardwood forests along the crest of Canaan Mountain and also within shrubby wetlands bordered by woodland and forest at the valley floor (Figure 11). These two areas were separated by pure hardwood and mixed forests along the eastern slope of Canaan Mountain. No detections occurred in this intervening zone during the 2001 pilot study counts or the counts during 2002 and 2003. This distribution may not be unusual, even though most detections occurred in the coniferous forests. The Yellow-rumped Warbler may use diverse breeding habitat (Niemi et al. 2016; Hunt and Flaspohler 2020) including shrubby wetlands (Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas 2022) and more open cover when some mature trees remain (Bailey and Rucker 2021). Figure 12 shows the woodland/wet shrub edge habitat at an occupied point in the valley floor.

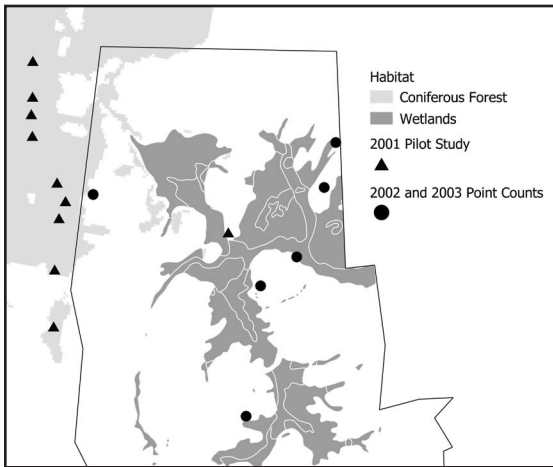


Figure 11: Combined detections.



Figure 12: Woodland/wet shrub edge.

Black-throated Green Warbler

During the survey the Black-throated Green Warbler was detected at 83 sample points solidly within the deciduous hardwood forest (Figure 13). Throughout its range the Black-throated Green Warbler breeds in open coniferous and mixed deciduous forest with less preference for pure hardwood stands (Harrison 1984; Stokes and Stokes 1996). However, in West Virginia it reaches highest numbers at the higher elevations in northern hardwood forests lacking conifers (Hall 1983; Buckelew and Hall 1994; Bailey and Rucker 2021). This observation is confirmed in the survey results where the forest canopy is dominated by American Beech and Black Cherry and other hardwoods. Canopy densities were high to moderate, with a moderately dense understory and low to moderate density shrub layer. Figure 14 provides detailed floristic and cover density characteristics for the 63 occupied points occurring within the northern hardwood forest. Individual species and cover density values represent the number of points where that element occurred out of the total number of points considered.

A singing male census conducted by the authors within the Park during four individual years, between 1994 and 2000, showed an average density for the Black-throated Green Warbler of 41 males per square kilometer. The 30-acre plot was located in a northern hardwood stand at an elevation of 1,040 meters (3,415 feet). The canopy was composed of American Beech, Black Cherry, and Red Maple with an understory of American Beech and Striped Maple.

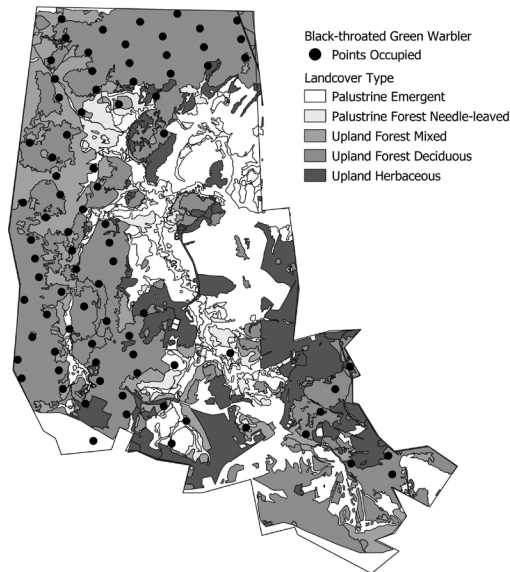
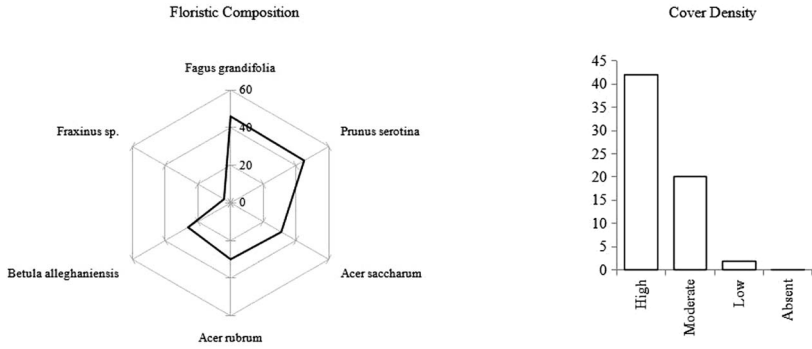
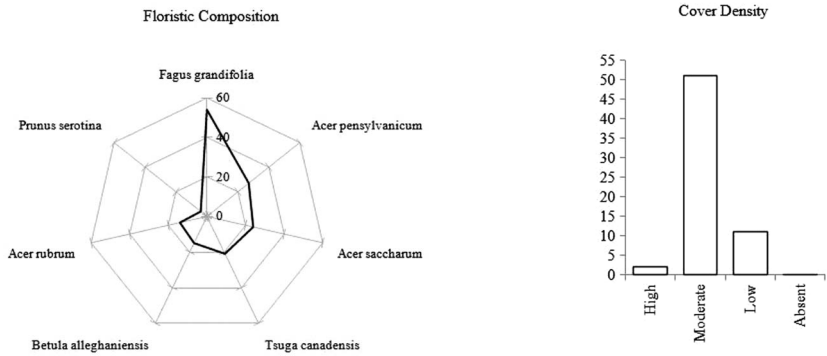


Figure 13: Black-throated Green Warbler occurrence and habitat associations.

Canopy



Understory



Shrub

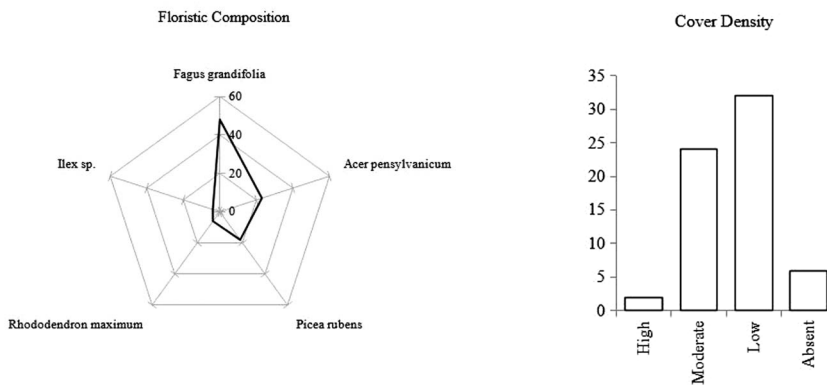


Figure 14: Black-throated Green Warbler habitat floristic and vegetative cover characteristics.

Canada Warbler

The Canada Warbler was detected at five points during the survey within a mixture of forest types (Figure 15). Four of the five had dense shrub layers and all contained either, or both, Great Rhododendron and Red Spruce (Figure 16). Elevations ranged from 988 meters (3,240 feet) to 1,173 meters (3,850 feet). The Canada Warbler is listed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources as a species of greatest conservation need. It faces an uncertain future with a 39 percent decline recorded by Second Atlas surveyors (Bailey and Rucker 2021). Potential causes of decline include loss of understory and complexity of the shrub layer, a loss of certain tree species (Matthews et al. 2004), and predicted climate change.

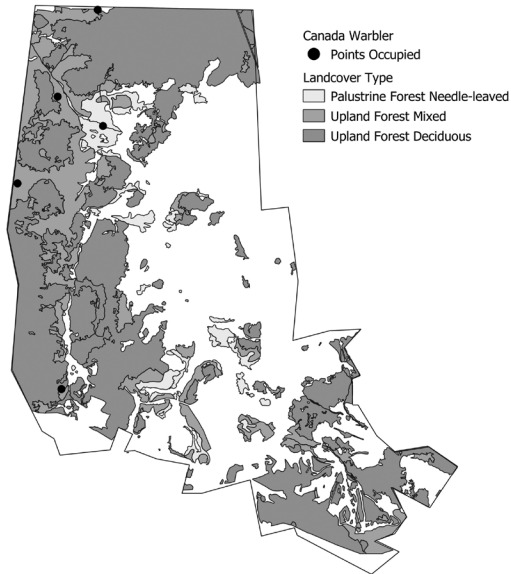


Figure 15: Canada Warbler occurrence and habitat associations



Figure 16: Typical habitat characteristics for the Canada Warbler

Species Occurring in Low Numbers or of Special Interest

Several warbler species were detected during the survey in low numbers for which full accounts were not completed. One species, the Nashville Warbler, was not detected during the survey but represents a species of interest in Tucker County, West Virginia.

Hooded Warbler

The Hooded Warbler was detected at two points—one within a wooded shrubland composed of Black Cherry, St. John's Wort (*Hypericum* spp.), and Hawthorn; and the second along the edge between a woodland composed of Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and field (grasses/forbs).

Yellow Warbler

The Yellow Warbler was detected at two points—one within the edge between a mixed woodland composed of Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) and Eastern Hemlock and a shrubland composed of Black Cherry and Hawthorn; and the second within a wet shrubland composed of Speckled Alder and Meadowsweet.

Golden-winged Warbler

The single point occupied by the Golden-winged Warbler occurred along the edge between a wet mixed forest composed of Eastern Hemlock, Red Spruce, and Black Cherry and a shrubby field composed of grasses, forbs, and willows (*Salix* spp.). The Golden-winged Warbler is listed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources as a species of greatest conservation need.

Blue-winged Warbler

The single point occupied by the Blue-winged Warbler occurred within a wet shrubland composed of Meadowsweet, Hawthorn, and willows. The Blue-winged Warbler is listed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources as a species of greatest conservation need.

Nashville Warbler

The small existing populations, as well as habitat requirements, make this species vulnerable to decline within West Virginia. Climate change may result in a drastic reduction or disappearance of this species in the state resulting from a contraction northward of its southern range boundary (Matthews et al. 2004; Bailey and Rucker 2021). The Nashville Warbler is listed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources as a species of greatest conservation need.

Although the Nashville Warbler was not detected during the survey, it was detected during earlier point counts (Northeimer, unpublished data) in the spruce forest along the crest of Canaan Mountain at the same point in 1997 and 1998 and an additional point in 1998. Both points were composed of a canopy of Red Spruce and Eastern Hemlock and a shrub layer of Great Rhododendron, Red Spruce, and Mountain Laurel at elevations of 1,143 meters (3,750 feet) and 1,158 meters (3,800 feet).

The Second Atlas did not record this species on Canaan Mountain, attributing its absence to a maturing forest or possibly lack of effort. No detections occurred along the Canaan Mountain route during the pilot study in 2001, where earlier detections were recorded on point counts during 1997 and 1998. Maturation of the forest over the last 20 years may have indeed impacted this species along Canaan Mountain where a historic population once existed. Areas of open canopy with dense shrub layers in combination with the presence of wetlands and areas of saturated soil created by local geology and topography persist along Canaan Mountain. Additional targeted detection efforts may result in the discovery of an existing population.

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**Valley Falls State Park
Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Station
Marion County, West Virginia:
An Extraordinary and Record-Setting Year
2022**

Joey Herron

The eighteenth year of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) at Valley Falls State Park produced a record-setting total of 105 owls, which surpassed the ten year average by a whopping 77 owls and surpassed the previous high year of 2016's 53 owls!

Banding began on October 21 and ended on December 1. The station operated on seventeen nights with the nets being opened for seventy-six and a quarter hours. Twelve of the seventeen nights yielded owls with a peak capture of 44 NSWO's captured on the night of October 27. Nine of the twelve nights yielded multiple owls. Six foreign re-traps were caught this year setting another record. An owl that had been banded in Rector, Pennsylvania, on October 24, 2022, was one of the recaps caught on October 28, 2022, four days later.

Unfortunately on three of the four nights that visitors were scheduled there was inclement weather.

Of the 105 captures, 47 were adults, 58 were hatch year birds. Females again lead the way in captures in 2022 with 90, with 2 males and 13 unknowns.

After eighteen years of banding, a total of 570 NSWOs have been captured, including 39 foreign recaptures and one return. The breakdown shows a heavy advantage for females, 80% to 6% for males. The unknown category completes the last 14%. The adult, hatch year ratio is amazingly even with 50% adult to 50% 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, and Nathan Rees for his help on the big night of 44.

18 year totals

Females	Males	Unknown	Hatch Year	After Hatch Year	Second Year
351	37	82	285	182	103

Banding Summary for 2022

Date	NSWO caught
10/21/22	0
10/22/22	0
	(1 Eastern Screech-Owl)
10/24/22	9 (1FR)
10/25/22	1
10/27/22	44 (1 FR) *record night

Date	NSWO caught
10/28/22	7 (1 FR)
10/30/22	3 (1 Eastern Screech-Owl)
11/2/22	17
11/4/22	0
11/7/22	2 (1 FR)
11/8/22	7 (1 FR)
11/9/22	5
11/13/22	0
11/14/22	8
11/20/22	0
11/23/22	1 (FR)
12/1/22	1 *first December capture
	<u>Total 105, 6 FRs,</u>
	<u>2 Eastern Screech-Owls</u>

Age

After hatch year (AHY)..... 33
 Second year (SY)..... 14, 45% (adults)
 Hatch year (HY) 58, 55%

Sex

Female – 90..... 86%
 Male – 2 2%
 Unknown – 13 12%

511 Ohio Ave
 Fairmont, WV



The 500th NSWOB banded,
a Hatch Year Female



Holding #500 banded Owl in 18 years



Eastern Screech Owl
Red phase

Twenty-Seventh Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee – 2022

Gary O. Rankin

Although West Virginia birders are returning to the field to enjoy the many bird species that grace our state, only three rare bird reports were submitted to the West Virginia Bird Records Committee (WVBRC) for review in 2022, which is a decrease in number from the eight records reviewed in 2021. All three 2022 records were accepted by the committee and are described in more detail below.

The WVBRC met virtually in mid-February, 2023 with the meeting hosted and conducted by Chair Ross Brittain. WVBRC members present were Jesse Fallon, Matt Orsie, David Daniels (Vice-Chair), Rich Bailey, Mike Slaven, Gary Rankin and Wade Snyder (Alternate), along with Secretary Wil Hershberger. The Committee thanked Ross Brittain for his service to the WVBRC and for serving as the Chair of the Committee for the last year and thanked Wil Hershberger for his continuing service as WVBRC Secretary. With Ross rotating off the WVBRC, Wade Snyder was elected to fill the open member position for a five-year term, and Josh Holland was elected as the new Alternate. Gary Rankin was elected as the new Chair of the WVBRC and David Daniels was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

The potential use of MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System data for documenting the presence of bird species in West Virginia was discussed. Towers to record data from transmitters on tagged birds are currently present near the Ohio-West Virginia and Virginia-West Virginia borders. Plans are in place to add more towers across the state, with early work focused on bats. Unfortunately, at the current two border sites, it would not be possible to determine if the birds were within the borders of West Virginia or not. Language was added to the bylaws to allow the inclusion of MOTUS data records once the system is able to determine that detected birds are within the borders of West Virginia. Other old business included (1) removing hypothetical sightings of Black Rail and Kirkland's Warbler since confirmed sightings are now available and (2) elevating Barnacle Goose to the state review list from the exotic bird list based on numerous sightings of this species in the region.

There was also discussion of creating a logo for the WVRBC. It was noted that most bird groups/organizations in our area have logos, including the recent creation of a logo for the Allegheny Front Migratory Observatory (AMFO). Several bird species were mentioned to be part of the logo including Northern Cardinal, Swainson's Warbler, Cerulean Warbler and Great Knot, however no decisions were made. The logo for the WVBRC will be developed during the coming year.

Details of the three WVBRC bird reports for 2022 are given below:

WVBRC 2022-1 Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)-Mimi Kibler was walking a bike path near Porterwood in Tucker County on March 7 when she noticed a robin-sized bird. Texting back and forth with Casey Rucker, she provided a detailed description of the bird and was able to confirm its identity as a male Varied Thrush. This is the third record of a Varied Thrush in West Virginia, with over 20 years elapsing since the last sighting in the state.

WVBRC 2022-2 Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)- On April 28, Daniel Jonas was birding the backwater of Sandy Creek near the Ohio River in Wood County when he spotted a small group of Glossy Ibis. Excellent photographic evidence was provided to document the sighting, which was confirmed by several other birders including Terry Bronson, Jon Benedetti, Jason White, and Michael Schramm.

WVBRC 2022-3 Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) – Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were found by Wade Snyder on the afternoon of November 29 in Jefferson County. Excellent photographic evidence was provided to the committee along with voice recordings which were analyzed and confirmed that the two birds were indeed Ash-throated Flycatchers. This record represents only the second sighting of this species in West Virginia.

All actions of the WVBRC can be seen on our website at <http://www.brooksbirdclub.org/west-virginia-bird-records-committee.html>. We would encourage everyone to visit the website to view the state list, review list and actions on submitted records. The WVBRC is particularly thankful for the efforts of the Brooks Bird Club and L.E. Helgerman in maintaining and updating this website, and the work of Secretary Wil Hershberger for managing all of the reports and lists, which is not a trivial task!

The WVBRC members would like to encourage all birders to submit their observations to the committee. Forms and instructions to submit an observation can be found on the WVBRC website mentioned above. Submitting your observations for potential addition to our state records is an important contribution to our knowledge base of which species are being documented in West Virginia. Start by looking at the State and Review Lists, and if you see a bird not on the state list, we encourage you to document the sighting. We are looking forward to seeing reports of the rare birds you find in West Virginia in 2023!

2022 Floyd Bartley Memorial Award Announced

John Northeimer and Marjorie Keatley were awarded the 2022 Floyd Bartley Memorial Award for their articles, “Determining Breeding Bird Occurrence and Distribution Using Fixed-Radius Independent Double-Observer Point Counts, Canaan Valley Resort State Park, West Virginia,” “Canaan Valley Resort State Park Species Accounts: Wrens,” and “Canaan Valley Resort State Park Species Accounts: Thrushes,” which appeared in the April and July 2022 issues of *The Redstart*, Vol. 89, Nos. 2 and 3, pp. 30–45, 60–65, and 66–74, respectively. The award includes a cash prize of \$100.

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

1976	Ray and Jo Ashworth
1979	Harry Slack
1980	James D. Phillips
1981	J. Lawrence Smith
1982	Eugene E. Hutton
1983	Linnie Coon
1984	Patricia Temple

1985 Melvin Hooker
1987 Jonathan Minear
1988 Julie Beatty
1989 Lorraine Rollefson
1993 Ralph K. Bell
1994 Wendell Argabrite
1995 Greg Eddy
1997 Ann Pyle
1998 John Northeimer
1999 Joey Herron
2000 Anna M. McRae
2001 Gary Felton
2002 William Beatty
2003 Matthew Orsie
2004 George E. Hall
2005 Jane J. Whitaker
2006 Matthew Orsie
2008 Rosie Campbell
2009 Jane J. Whitaker and Reba Hutton
2010 James Triplett and Beverly Triplett
2011 Joey Herron
2012 Scott Pendleton
2013 Douglas McClure Wood and Cynthia D. Ellis
2015 John Boback
2016 Jan Runyan
2017 David Patick
2018 Joey Herron
2019 Mindy Waldron, Allen Waldron, Keith Richardson,
and Bob Dameron
2020 Jane Whitaker

e-Bird Notes
Fall Season
September 1 – November 30, 2022

Mike Slaven



Figure 1 Glossy Ibises at laural Point Soccer Fields. Photo by Mike Slaven

This fall season was productive for eBirders; most expected species were reported in decent numbers, while a few rarities tuned up as well. This quarterly report ranges from some of the smallest birds that could be seen in West Virginia, the *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, to one the largest, the Glossy Ibis. Both present a bit of a challenge for accurate identification to the level of species, but that will be addressed after a brief roundup of some highlights from eBird observation from this autumn season.

The fall season started out with a rare Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) being reported in Wood County. Olive-Sided Flycatchers (*Contopus cooperi*) were listed twelve times in September, in Berkekey, Jackson, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Wood Counties. One very lucky eBirder saw a Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) at Bear Rocks Preserve in the Dolly Sods Wilderness area in Tucker County on October 9. It was quite an impressive sight, I am sure, as one could tell from the written description of the sighting. This fall was also a good year for some of the harder-to-spot warblers. Connecticut Warblers (*Oporornis agilis*) particularly were reported in more locations and with more frequency than I have seen since I have been an eBird reviewer. The most productive county was Monongalia, with twenty separate eBird reports. Other counties reporting Connecticut Warblers included Braxton, Cabell, Fayette, Grant, Jefferson, Kanawha, Preston, and Wood. Nelson's Sparrows were reported in Jefferson County and Preston County. Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*) appeared on twenty lists this past fall, with reports from Barbour, Cabell, Monongalia, Preston, and Randolph Counties.

In this report, I would like to talk about two common occurrences, particularly during fall migration and just beyond. This is the season where one is likely to see uncommon

species such as Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis falcinellus*), and the other is the appearance of vagrant hummingbirds, most commonly two members of the *Selasphorus* genus, Rufous (*Selasphorus rufus*) and Allen's (*Selasphorus sasin*) hummingbirds, and even Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*Archilochus alexandri*). These very small and very large birds can present more of a challenge to correctly identify than one might initially think. The two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds can be especially hard to identify. The home ranges of both species are on or near the Pacific Coast, so eastern birders do not often see them, but increasingly they are being reported in the East. It is probable small numbers of individuals chose to migrate across the county before heading south, rather than sticking to a coastal route south and then to Mexico.

There are many theories as to why this alternate migration pattern occurs, and the answer is not yet clear. Perhaps a few birds choosing another route instead of the normal route along the Pacific Coast helps ensure that in case some disaster happens, a few birds will still arrive on the wintering grounds. There are several reports of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in West Virginia in most years in the last decade, usually beginning in the second week of October and sometimes lasting into early January. Leaving a feeder out just in case is not a bad idea. And it could add a rewarding experience to birding. Birders have argued in the past that having feeders out in the fall would decrease the survival rates of hummingbirds by causing them to delay migration south, but that has largely been disproven. The birds that arrive in the fall are hungry and trying to build energy reserves to continue their flights, and feeder nectar helps them gain strength to go on.

This season there was only one report, from Preston County. It was originally recorded as a Rufous Hummingbird, but the report was modified to *Selasphorus* species after review. It can be very tricky trying to identify the specific species of these hummingbirds, particularly the females, and one of the only sure ways to distinguish between many Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds in various plumages is to get a clear view of the spread tail of the bird. If the second tail feather from the center is notched at the tip, it is a Rufous. This is frustratingly hard to do, and a reason why many are not recorded to the level of species. I was lucky enough to have a female Rufous Hummingbird in my backyard several years ago. It was banded on November 19, 2014, by Robert Mulvihill of the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, who confirmed my field identification. If a hummingbird arrives at your feeder after October 10, I recommend having it banded for scientific research. It is not harmful for the bird and could provide useful information on the patterns of alternate migratory routes. And it will be positively identified by the bander.

Another highlight of the fall was the sighting of Glossy Ibises from September 13 to 15 on soccer fields at Laurel Point in Monongalia County. There were ten eBird reports, most with pictures over those days. I was lucky enough to photograph the ibises before they left. These rare visitors have become more prevalent in the last few years and have been on the WVBRC review list, but after this year they will almost certainly no longer be on that list since they have been reported often enough to remove them. These ibises remain rare, however, and they will be flagged as such on eBird, so if you see them try to photograph them and prepare accurate field notes to help reviewers, since it will be important information for the database at Cornell. An Ibis is unmistakable, but there are a few things to look for when making a field identification. First, is it a Glossy Ibis or one of the two other possible species, White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) and the White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)? An adult White-faced Ibis can be reliably told apart from a Glossy



Figure 2. Robert Mulvihill measures the wingspan of a Monongalia County Rufous Hummingbird in 2014. Photo by Mike Slaven

Ibis by a patch of pink skin in front of its eye. The Glossy does not have this patch. Note that this feature does not appear in juveniles, and it can be almost impossible to discern young ibises from the facial patch. A close look at the eye, however, shows a red eye on the White-faced Ibis that does not occur on the Glossy. A White Ibis presents fewer challenges, since the adults are, in fact, white, and the juveniles, while darker on the back, have white underparts.

I hope to see many of you in the field this year!

Mike Slaven
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Monongalia County

Field Notes
Fall Season
September 1 – November 30, 2022

Casey Rucker

September and October were both slightly cooler and drier than average, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, followed by a November that was much warmer and wetter than usual.

The following notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, and from field notes submitted to the author by email at autoblock@frontiernet.net, and by regular mail. The full content of the reports submitted by the contributors of the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at the following web site: <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>. Observations were again less widespread, with reports from only 28 of West Virginia's 55 counties during the fall season.

N. Wade Snyder discovered two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** in Bardane, Jefferson County, on November 29; it was the second state record for the species. After five years' absence in the state, a **Lark Sparrow** was spotted by John Benedetti and Bruce Wunderlich in Parkersburg, Wood County, on September 3. Diversity rose this year, with 209 species reported in the state during the fall months.

Geese, Swans, and Ducks – The sandpit at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, was frequented by one or more of both **Snow Geese** and **Ross's Geese** on November 12 (MG, DP, JK), November 24 (GR), and November 27 (GR, MG, DP), when a **Greater White-fronted Goose** also appeared. On November 11, Derek Courtney discovered five **Cackling Geese** among a flock of 134 **Canada Geese** at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County, the latter of which were as usual widespread throughout the state. Reports of **Tundra Swans** rose from the year before, coming from Barbour (DMi), Mason (MG, DP, JK), Monongalia (DCo, HC), Taylor (CMu), and Wood (JB) Counties.

West Virginia birders reported nineteen species of **ducks** this season, though reports remained sporadic. There were reports in at least six counties each of **Wood Ducks**, **Gadwalls**, **Mallards**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, and **Hooded Mergansers** this fall. Reports of the following species came from fewer than six counties, as noted: **Blue-winged Teal**: Grant (FA), Marion (JoH), Mason (GR, MG, JK), Taylor (JoH), and Wood (TB) Counties; **Northern Shovelers**: Mason (GR, MG, JK), Monongalia (DCo), Taylor (CMu), and Tucker (CR) Counties; **Hardy** (DH), Counties; **American Wigeons**: Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (DCo, HC), and Taylor (DCo, HC) Counties; **American Black Ducks**: Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), Mercer (JJP), Monongalia (DCo) and Summers (MW) Counties; **Northern Pintail**: Jackson (TB), Mason (GR, MG, JK), and Monongalia (DCo, HC) Counties; **Green-winged Teal**: Mason (DP, MG, JK) and Monongalia (DCo, HC) Counties; **Canvasback**: Monongalia County (DCo); **Greater Scaup**: Mason (GR, DP, MG) and Monongalia (HC, DCo) Counties; **Lesser Scaup**: Jackson (TB), Mason (GR, MG, JK), and Monongalia (DCo, HC) Counties; **Surf Scoters**: Monongalia (DCo); **White-winged Scoters**: Wood County (TB); **Black Scoters**: Barbour (DMi), Monongalia (DCo, HC), Wayne (GR), and Wood (JB) Counties;

Common Mergansers: Marion (JoH), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties, and **Ruddy Ducks:** Jackson (TB), Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), Monroe (JP), and Monongalia (DCo, HC) Counties.

Quail – Northern Bobwhite were noted in Greenbrier (LC) and Kanawha (JTr) Counties.

Turkeys and Grouse – Wild Turkeys inspired reports from only five counties this fall. The editor of these notes startled a **Ruffed Grouse** in Blackwater Falls State Park, Tucker County, on November 12.

Grebes – Pied-billed Grebes appeared widely throughout the state. Hannah Clipp and Derek Courtney spotted the season's sole **Horned** and **Red-necked grebes**, at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County, beginning on November 12.

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

Cuckoos – Cuckoo sightings practically disappeared this fall in West Virginia, with **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** reported in only three counties and **Black-billed Cuckoos** in only one.

Goatsuckers and **Swifts** – Reports of **Common Nighthawk** came from Barbour (DMi), Berkeley (MO), Marion (JoH), Randolph (JeH), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (MK) Counties. There were nine counties with reports of **Chimney Swifts**, with the latest report coming from Mindy Waldron, reporting on the Bibbee Nature Club's Big Sit in Mountain Valley Lake, Summers County, on October 8.

Hummingbirds – Birders in twelve counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, through late September. The last report was on September 29, when James and Judy Phillips hosted a lingering **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at their home in Pipestem, Summers County.

Rails and Coots – On October 31, Gary Rankin, David Patick, Michael Griffith, and Janet Keating found a **Sora** at Ashton Ponds, Mason County. Reports of **American Coots** came from Kanawha (RG), Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), Mercer (JJP), and Monongalia (DCo, HC) Counties.

Plovers – Frederick Atwood watched a calling **American Golden-Plover** fly over Mount Storm Lake, Grant County, on October 1. Reports of **Killdeer** came from seven counties. There were two **Semipalmated Plovers** at Crab Creek, Mason County, on October 4, as observed by Gary Rankin and Michael Griffith; the species continued to be seen in the county through the late date of October 16 (GR, MG, DP).

Sandpipers – **Sandpiper** reports were down compared to last fall, as West Virginia birders submitted reports of only eleven species. Reports of the following **shorebirds** came from the counties listed: **Least Sandpiper:** Mason (DP); **White-rumped Sandpipers:** Mason (GR, MG, JK); **Pectoral Sandpipers:** Grant (FA) and Mason (GR, MG, JK); **Semipalmated Sandpipers:** Pendleton (FA); **American Woodcock:** Wayne (GR); **Wilson's Snipe:** Barbour (DMi), Fayette (MAW), Jackson (TB), and Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP); **Spotted Sandpiper:** Summers (MW); **Solitary Sandpiper:** Marion (JoH), Mason (GR, MG), Pendleton (FA), and Tucker (JTr, MK); **Lesser Yellowlegs:** Barbour (DMi), Hardy (FA), and Pendleton (FA); **Greater Yellowlegs:** Grant (FA) and Mason (GR, MG, JK); and **Red Phalarope:** Marion (JH, JoH).

Gulls and Terns – The fall was slow for inland seabirds, in keeping with recent years. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported in Barbour (DMi), Mason (MG, DP, JK, GR),

and Monongalia (DCo, HC) Counties, reports of **Herring Gulls** came from Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP) and Monongalia (HC, DCo) Counties.

On October 1, Frederick Atwood spotted a **Caspian Tern** at Belle Babb Lane and two **Caspian Terns** at Mount Storm Lake, both in Grant County. Donna Mitchell saw several **Common Terns** at Teter Creek Lake, Barbour County on September 2. On October 1, Gary Rankin spotted a **Forster's Tern** at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington, Cabell County.

Loons – Common Loons were only reported from Monongalia (DCo, HC) and Monroe (JP) Counties.

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

Hérons and Egrets – Great Blue Herons appeared throughout much of West Virginia this fall. **Great Egrets** were reported in three counties and **Green Herons** in four. Michael Griffith, Janet Keating, and Gary Rankin saw two juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on September 24.

Ibises – On September 13, Joseph Hildreth reported that Brian McMillan had found two **Glossy Ibises** in Morgantown, Monongalia County.

Vultures – Reports of **Black Vultures** came from seven counties, while fourteen counties had reports of **Turkey Vultures**.

Hawks and Eagles – Osprey reports were down this fall, coming only from Kanawha (HG), Mercer (JJP), and Summers (MW) Counties. **Sharp-shinned** and **Coopers hawks**, **Bald Eagles**, and **Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, and Red-tailed hawks** were all well represented in reports throughout the state during the fall season. James and Judy Phillips saw a **Golden Eagle** in Mercer County on November 14 and 23. **Northern Harriers** were noted in Greenbrier (JO), Jefferson (BH), Mason (GR, MG, JK, DP), Mercer (JP), and Tucker (CR) Counties. A **Northern Goshawk** was sighted on Dolly Sods, Randolph County, in early September, as reported to me by Ryan Tomazin.

Owls – Reports of **owls** were scarce this season. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were reported in Cabell (GR, MG), Marion (JoH), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties, while **Great Horned Owls** were observed in Barbour (DMi), Marion (JoH), and Summers (JJP) Counties; observers reported **Barred Owls** in Barbour (DMi), Marion (JoH), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Orion Metheny found a **Short-eared Owl** on October 27 on Crab Orchard Road in Preston County. Joey Herron banded a record 44 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at Valley Falls State Park, Marion County, on October 28.

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

Woodpeckers – Red-headed Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers were all widely reported.

Falcons – It was a slow fall for the rarer **falcons** in West Virginia, although **American Kestrels** continued to appear widely throughout the state. **Merlins** made appearances in Mason County (DP), Mercer County (JJP), Preston County (LeJ), Raleigh County (JJP), and Tucker County (HMy, CR). There were reports of **Peregrine Falcons** from four counties: Cabell (GR), Mercer (JJP), Monongalia (JoH), and Wood (JB).

Flycatchers – Two **Ash-throated Flycatchers**, spotted by N. Wade Snyder on November 29 in Jefferson County, are mentioned near the beginning of these notes. **Great Crested Flycatchers** made appearances in Monongalia (DCo) and Preston (LeJ)

Counties in September. Joey Herron found the season's only **Eastern Kingbird** in Marion County in September. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports increased this fall, coming from Jackson (TB), Marion (JoH), Preston (LeJ), Summers (JP), and Wood (JB) Counties. On September 15, Wilma Jarrell discovered a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** on Fairview Ridge, Wetzel County. **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and **Eastern Phoebes** were widely seen in the state, with reports from six and thirteen counties respectively. The following **flycatchers** were reported in the following counties: **Alder Flycatcher**: Monongalia (DCo); **Willow Flycatcher**: Cabell (GR, MG); and **Least Flycatcher**: Mason (DP) and Wood (JB).

Vireos – White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, and Red-eyed vireos appeared in many counties during September and early October. **Philadelphia Vireos** were spotted in Berkeley (MO), Cabell (GR, MG), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties. **Warbling Vireos** were only reported from Kanawha (HG), Marion (JoH), and Wood (JB) Counties.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens – Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens prompted many reports throughout West Virginia. Fred Atwood observed the only reported **Fish Crows** of the season, in Franklin, Pendleton County, on October 2.

Chickadees and Titmice – Black-capped Chickadees, Carolina Chickadees, and Tufted Titmice appeared widely in state reports.

Larks – N. Wade Snyder reported the only **Horned Larks** of the season, on October 15 in Bardane, Jefferson County.

Swallows – Tree Swallows appeared in seven counties, with the latest report on October 20, when Michael Griffith and Janet Keating saw approximately 150 **Tree Swallows** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. On October 1, Frederick Atwood found **Tree, Northern Rough-winged, and Barn swallows** in both Grant and Hardy Counties, and , and **Cliff Swallows** in Grant County. Gary Rankin and Michael Griffith reported the only other **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** of the season, at Crab Creek, Mason County, on October 4.

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

Waxwings – Cedar Waxwing reports were up this season, with sightings in fifteen counties throughout the state.

Nuthatches – In the usual two-year pattern of irruptions, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen widely, with reports from thirteen counties. **White-breasted Nuthatches** exhibited their familiar ubiquity.

Creepers – Reports of **Brown Creeper** came from Jefferson (LW, BH), Kanawha (LC, RG), Pendleton (FA), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Gnatcatchers – Birders in Marion (JoH), Preston (LeJ), Summers (JP), and Wood (JB) Counties reported **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, all during September.

Wrens – Carolina Wrens were as usual reported throughout the state. **House Wren** reports were up, coming from eight counties. **Winter Wrens** inspired reports from Monongalia (DCo), Preston (LeJ), and Summers (JP) Counties. Jon Benedetti relayed Michael Schramm's discovery of a **Sedge Wren** in Johnson T. Janes Park in Parkersburg, Wood County, on October 31; Michael Griffith spotted a **Marsh Wren** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, on September 27, and possibly the same bird was there on October 7 (GR, MG).

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

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

Thrushes – It was a good fall for **thrushes** in West Virginia. **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Gray-checked**, **Swainson's** and **Wood thrushes**, and **American Robins** were all seen widely in reporting counties. **Veeries** were in reports from Randolph (RTo), Wayne (GR, MG), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Hermit Thrushes** were reported in Fayette (MAW), Marion (JoH), Preston (LeJ), and Summers (JP) Counties.

Old World Sparrows – The **House Sparrow** prompted reports from only five counties this fall.

Finches and Allies – **Evening Grosbeaks**, **Purple** and **House finches**, and **American Goldfinches** inspired widespread reports throughout the state this fall. The only reports of **Pine Siskins** were from Jefferson (BH) and Summers (JJP) Counties.

Longspurs – Gary Rankin, Michael Griffith, and Janet Keating found a **Lapland Longspur** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on November 7.

Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees – The **Lark Sparrow** found in Parkersburg on September 3 is described near the beginning of these notes. The most-frequent **emberizid** species in reports this fall were **Chipping** and **Field sparrows**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **White-throated**, **Song**, and **Swamp sparrows**, and **Eastern Towhees**. The following **sparrows** were reported only in the counties listed: **Fox** in Cabell (GR, MG, JK, DP), and Tucker (CR) Counties; **American Tree** in Mason County (GR, DP, MG); **White-crowned** in Fayette (MAW), Mason (MG, GR, JK), and Ritchie (CB) Counties; **Vesper** in Mason County (GR, MG, JK, DP); **Savannah** in Mason (GR, MG, DP, JK) and Preston (LeJ) Counties; and **Lincoln's** in Grant (FA), Greenbrier (JO), Mason (DP, JK), Monongalia (DCo), and Preston (LeJ) Counties.

Blackbirds – Reports of Icterids rose this fall. West Virginia birders reported sightings of **Eastern Meadowlarks** in seven counties. **Baltimore Orioles** were observed during September in Preston (LeJ), Wayne (GR, MG), and Wood (JB) Counties. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were reported in nine counties, **Brown-headed Cowbird** reports in three counties, while **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in Fayette (MAW), Marion (JoH), Ritchie (CB), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. **Common Grackles** were reported in four counties.

Warblers – This fall birders in West Virginia found 29 **warbler** species; reports increased from last year. On September 16 Wilma Jarrell discovered two **Northern Waterthrushes** at her home in Wileyville, Wetzel County. Derek Courtney and Mountaineer Audubon members found a record five **Connecticut Warblers** on September 17 at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County, and three days later Terry Bronson and Mountwood Bird Club enjoyed the same spectacle. Joey Herron also spotted a **Connecticut Warbler**, in September in Marion County. On September 20, Hullet Good hosted the season's only reported **Kentucky Warbler**, during a six-week early fall when an eye-popping 17 **warbler** species visited his home in Milliken, Kanawha County. Jon Benedetti saw the only **Canada Warbler** reported this fall, at McDonough Wildlife Refuge, Wood County, on September 6. The following **warbler** species listed without contributors were reported in at least seven counties; species reported in six or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. **Warblers** reported this fall included **Ovenbird** – Jefferson (BH), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (DCo), Randolph (RTo), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties; **Blue-winged** – Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (DCo), and Wood (JB) Counties; **Black-and-white**; **Tennessee**; **Orange-**

crowned – Cabell (GR, MG) and Hardy (RTo) Counties; **Nashville** – Jefferson (BH), Marion (JoH), Monongalia (DCo), Preston (LeJ), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties; **Common Yellowthroat; Hooded; American Redstart; Cape May; Northern Parula; Magnolia; Bay-breasted; Blackburnian; Chestnut-sided; Blackpoll** – Marion (JoH), Monongalia (DCo), Preston (LeJ), Summers (JP), and Wood (JB) Counties; **Black-throated Blue** – Preston (LeJ), Summers (JP), and Wood (JB) Counties; **Palm; Pine; Yellow-rumped; Yellow-throated; Prairie** – Kanawha (HG), Mason (DP), Monongalia (DCo, HC), and Summers (JP) Counties; **Black-throated Green; Canada** – Wood County (JB); and **Wilson’s** – Cabell (DP), Grant (FA), and Kanawha (HG) Counties.

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings – **Summer Tanagers** appeared in reports from Wayne (GR, MG) and Wood (JB) Counties. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings** prompted reports from birders in most parts of the state.

Contributors to the fall field notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Jon Benedetti (JB), Terry Bronson (TB), Cynthia Burkhart (CB), Laura Ceperley (LC), Hannah Clipp (HC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Jeff Hajenga (JeH), Bruni Haydl (BH), Joey Herron (JoH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Janet Keating (JK), Mimi Kibler (MK), Donna Mitchell (DMi), Cynthia Mullens (CMu), Herb Myers (HMy), Jack O’Connell (JO), Matthew Orsie (MO), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Ryan Tomazin (RTo), Mindy Waldron (MW), Allan and Mindy Waldron (MAW), and Lynn Wiseman (LW).

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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.

2023 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
January	BBC Membership Month	
January	Trip to Killdeer Plains (Contact: Dick Esker)	
February	Write article for The Mail Bag and The Redstart	
Feb. 23-24	Funk/Killbuck Marsh Field Trip (Contact: Dick Esker)	
March 10-12	Early Spring Meeting (Contact: Dick Esker).....	North Bend State Park
March 18	Waterfowl Field Trip (Day Trip)	Seneca Lake, OH
April 22	BBC/Three Rivers Bird Club (day trip)	Raccoon Creek State Park, PA (Contact Ryan Tomazin)
May 11-14	Wildflower Pilgrimage	Blackwater Falls State Park
May 13	International Migratory Bird Day (local chapters)	
June 2-10	Foray – Camp Horseshoe	Parsons, WV (Contact: Janice Emrick or Mary Murin)
Aug.-Oct.	Bird Banding – TBD	Dolly Sods
Oct.	BBC Annual Fall Meeting.....	Date & location TBD (Contact: Cindy Slater)
Nov. 8-12	Eastern Shore (Contact: Cindy Slater)	
Dec. 14-Jan. 5	Christmas Bird Counts.....	Statewide

BBC FORAYS

2023 Camp Horseshoe, Tucker 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

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

<http://brooksbirdclub.org>

The dates for the 2023 BBC programs may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the web page or in The Mail Bag.

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