Friends,
This newsletter covers the details of events from August through November of 2017. Then I give plans for the Christmas Counts in December.

The trip to the Bluestone Wildlife Management Area, Bertha Campground on August 26th was awesome. We had beautiful weather and lots of plants, birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. Participants for the day were: Alma Lowry, Ann McRae, Bob Dameron, Betsy Reeder, Allen Waldron, and Mindy Waldron. Here are our lists.

**Bird List:**
- Bald eagle (5, of all ages)
- Osprey 3 at least
- Scarlet tanager
- Eastern bluebird
- Cedar waxwing
- Tree swallow
- Black vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Pileated woodpecker
- Blue-gray gnatcatcher
- Hairy woodpecker
- Downy woodpecker
- Great egret 4
- Great blue heron 4
- Common raven
- American crow
- Red-winged blackbird
- Northern mockingbird
- Song sparrow
- Carolina wren
- Eastern phoebe
- American goldfinch
- Wood duck
- Canada goose
- Mallard
- Wild turkey
- Belted kingfisher
- Blue jay
- Mourning dove
- Double-crested cormorant
- Killdeer
- Yellow-throated warbler
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted titmouse
- Gray catbird
- Northern cardinal
- Bellepoint birds: Rock dove, house sparrow, and a few of the above species

**Dragonflies:**
- Rainbow Bluet
- Common white tail
- Blue fronted dancer
- Blue dasher

**Butterflies:**
- Pipevine swallowtail
- Tiger swallowtail
- Spicebush swallowtail
- Monarch
- Folded-winged skipper
- Silver-spotted skipper
- Northern Pearly-eyed
- Pearly-eyed
- Hackberry emperor

**Plants:**
- Biennial gaura
- Evening primrose
- Queen anne's lace
- Ragweed
- Great ragweed
- Goldenrod
- Ironweed
- Morning glory
- Tick trefoil
- Heal-all
- Virgin's bower
- Three-seeded mercury
- Dodder
- Wingstem
- Red-osier dogwood
- Carrión flower
- Potato vine
- Spicebush
- Multi-flora rose
- Water parsnip
- Cardinal flower
- False stinging nettle
- Yellow wood-sorrel
- Milkweed
- Lespedeza
- Hog-peanut
- Wood nettle
- Spotted jewelweed
- Whorled loosestrife
- Thin-leaved sunflower
- pokeweed
- Mistflower
- Horse-nettle
- Ground cherry
- Swamp milkweed
- Tall coneflower
- Bindweed
- Bugleweed
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Wild parsley
- Chicory
- Spotted cowbane
- Fleabane
- Am. Knapweed
- Sweet white clover
- Great lobelia
- Red clover
- white clover
- Common monkeyflower
- Virginia knotweed
- Wild ginger
- Groundnut
- Buttonbush
- Bull thistle
- Large-flowered leafcup
- Dogbane
- False digitalis
- Water plantain
- Blue lettuce

Here's Jim Phillips tally for the hawk watch on September 23, 2017. We watched on East River Mountain Overlook, Mercer County, WV from 10:00 AM - 1:15 PM. Allen and I stayed a while longer. The participants for the day were: Jim and Judy Phillips, Josh Parks, Ann McRae, Bev and Chuck Wright, Betsy Reeder, and Allen and Mindy Waldron.

Black Vulture 1
Turkey Vulture 3
Cooper's Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 2
Mourning Dove 1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1
Chimney Swift 4
Red-headed Woodpecker 3
Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
Downy Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 1
Pileated Woodpecker 1
American Kestrel 1
Eastern
Wood-Pewee 1, Eastern Phoebe 1, Blue-headed Vireo 2, Blue Jay 5, American Crow 2, Common Raven 3, Carolina Chickadee 2, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Gray-cheeked Thrush 1, Gray Catbird 1, Cedar Waxwing 1, Song Sparrow 3, Eastern Towhee 1, Scarlet Tanager 1, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4, American Goldfinch 6.

Bibbee Nature Club participated in the BIG SIT birding event on October 7th. It was a gorgeous day with plenty of birds to keep us busy looking to the sky. We sit at Mountain Valley Lake near Jumping Branch WV. We registered with the Big Sit website, painted our 17 foot circle on the dam, put out a bird feeder and were ready for the day. Allen, Alma and I got there around 7 AM and were immediately busy looking at birds flying over the lake and identifying the birds on the lake. Ann McRae showed up later as did David Hundley. The fog cleared and left us with a beautiful fall day. Allen and I stayed until around 6 PM hoping to find species number 50. Wasn’t to be. We ended up with 49 species for the day. We were the only group in WV to turn in our results, so I’ll claim us the WV Champion for the day. The Best Dam Sitters for the Big Sit in 2017. Another thanks to Alma, Ann and David for their help. I’ll share our story of the visitors who showed up with lots of questions about what we were doing and who we were. After talking with them and telling them that we were bird watchers, they disclosed that they thought we were "Wiccans (witches)" painting a circle in the grass on the dam. They couldn’t figure out what we were doing out in the daylight. Here is our list.


Our Annual Dinner was on October 14th. We had dinner at The Market Restaurant in Hinton. We enjoyed the food and time spent catching up and discussing the future of BNC. If you’re in the area, I recommend the restaurant.

On Nov. 4th members of Bibbee Nature Club met with our friends from the Buchanan County (in Virginia) Bird Club to look for waterfowl along our rivers. This was Roger Mayhorn’s account of the day. “Eleven birders from the Buchanan County Bird Club and the Bibbee Nature Club joined birding skills today to find birds in the Hinton WV area and along the New River to Sandstone Falls. In spite of some spotty rain and cloudy skies we
logged 43 different species. There was a lot of kidding and joking around among the group which added to the fun of finding the birds. After finding Common Loons, American Coots and Pied-billed Grebes at Bluestone Lake we then drove to Mountain Valley Lake where we added several duck species, a large flock of Canada Geese and more grebes. Next, we drove back to Hinton to Bellepoint Park just below the Bluestone Dam. There we found a Brown Creeper, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Blue Herons, Common Mergansers and a late migrating Osprey. The Dairy Queen in Hinton was the next stop for an enjoyable lunch while watching several deer, more ducks and Great Blue Herons along the shores of New River. Just as we stepped outside of the DQ a Bald Eagle went sailing by overhead.

We then started the 8 mile drive downriver toward Sandstone Falls. We added Hooded Mergansers, Black Ducks and Yellow-rumped Warblers to the list and another beautiful, adult Bald Eagle.” Below is the day’s complete list.


That catches us up through November. In December we will have the Christmas Bird Counts. This is the plan so far.

**Pipestem CBC**: December 16, 2017. Contact Jim Philips jimandjudyphillips@gmail.com

Waldrons - will do Mountain Valley Lake, check Bellepoint on way through, go to Forest Hill and on to Bluestone WMA and Bertha, then return on Zion Mt. Road to Hinton.

Julie McQuade - Pipestem S.P. & nature center feeders

Betsy Reeder-Jumping Branch, Cave Ridge & Madams Creek

Jim & Judy - Pipestem side roads and if we don’t have another group we will do Bluestone S.P., Dam & Hinton.

**Raleigh Co. CBC**: December 17, 2017 Contact Allen Waldron awaldron@suddenlink.net

Jim Phillips- usual route

Allen Waldron- Lake Stephens, Maple Meadow and areas in between

Mindy Waldron and Alma Lowry- Sweeney'sburg, N. Sandbranch Rd., Eccles, and areas not covered.

Mindy finishes with crows in Beckley.

**McDowell Co. CBC**: December 22, 2017 Contact Allen Waldron awaldron@suddenlink.net

Allen Waldron, Mindy Waldron, Bob Dameron, Alma Lowry cover what we can of the area.

Other counts that you might be interested in.

**Oak Hill CBC** December 20, 2017

**Buchanan CBC** December 23, 2017

**Athens/Princeton CBC** December 26, 2017 Contact Ron Canterbury

Allen and Mindy Waldron- Rt. 19 to Pikeview HS. Then to Spanishburg, and Princeton and then any area not covered.

Jim Phillips- Athens area and usual route
Julie McQuade - usual route
Tazewell CBC December 28, 2017 Contact Sarah Cromer
Allen and Mindy Waldron - usual territory.

Anyone can join any of the groups above or help in any of the counts. Contact the person involved or myself for more information.

Allen and I will be out of town right before our CBCs. I'd like to get all details taken care of before we leave town, so if you are interested in either Raleigh or McDowell, please let me know ASAP. Thanks.

As you'll see on the 2018 schedule, we begin the year with eagles. If interested, contact Jim Phillips.

I will continue to send out information through email. So make sure I have your current email address.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take care and enjoy the natural world.

Mindy Waldron
Bibbee Nature Club