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The REDSTART

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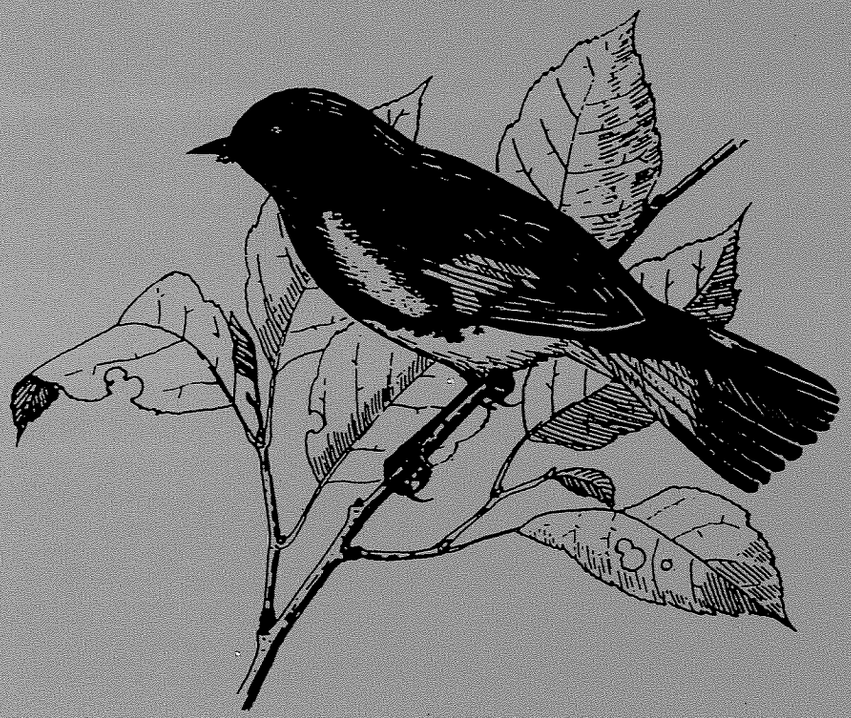

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First Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee
July 1997

During its first year of operation the West Virginia Bird Records Committee acted on several records and held a meeting at the Upshur County Youth Camp on June 27, 1997 at which several procedural matters (both internal and external) were decided and several records were voted.

Procedural Matters

1. In the case of a bird seen by a number of people, only one record form need be submitted to the Committee. The several people seeing the bird should all sign the record form confirming the sighting.

2. In the case of a reintroduced species the bird considered for the record must be the wild raised offspring of an established population.

Records Accepted

Record 97-1 Franklin's Gull - Second accepted record for the state. May 27, 1996, Harris Riverfront Park, Huntington. H. Slack, W. Argabrite, M. Griffith, J.A. Hubbard.

Record 97-2 Long-billed Dowitcher - Second accepted record for the state. May 5, 1996, Robert C. Bird Locks and Dam, Mason County. W. Argabrite.

Record 97-3 Ross' Goose - Second accepted record for the state. January 6, 1997, Robert C. Bird Locks and Dam, Mason County. W. Argabrite, G. Rankin, K. Peters.

Record Not Accepted

Western Grebe - The committee voted not to accept records from 1957 and 1964 of this species reported from the Huntington area.

Birders are reminded that reports should be submitted to the Committee for sightings of species with fewer than five records for the state and for species on the Hypothetical List as well as new species for the state list. It is hoped that people whose records have been accepted will publish notes on the occurrence in *The Redstart*. The Review List of species with fewer than five records and the Hypothetical species is given in an appendix to this report.

The Committee regrets the loss of its secretary, Scott Butterworth, who is leaving the state. The position of secretary will continue to be held by someone in the Nongame-Natural Heritage Program of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Currently the position will be filled by Kathleen Leo.

In February, 1998, the Committee will be replacing one member. Interested people are invited to submit nominations for that position to the secretary.

Submitted by the Committee,
Wendell Argabrite, Robert Dean, Thomas Fox,
George Hall (chair), and James Phillips

Appendix - The Review List

Compiled by Wendell Argabrite

The following 33 species are on the Regular List but have been found fewer than five times:

Great Cormorant - One record. 1914. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 25.

White Ibis - Four records. 1980. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 29, 1985. *The Redstart, 53*(3), 106; 1993. *The Redstart, 61*(2), 74; 1995. *The Redstart, 63*(2), 56.

Glossy Ibis - One record. 1993. *The Redstart, 61*(2), 57.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck - Two records. 1994. *The Redstart, 62*(4), 124.

Trumpeter Swan - One record. 1875. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 31.

Ross' Goose - Two records. 1993. *The Redstart, 62*(4), 122; 1997 (See Records Accepted).

King Eider - One record. 1953. *The Wilson Bulletin, 66*(2), 141.

Swallow-tailed Kite - Two records. 1908. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 44; 1988. *American Birds, 42*:434.

Swainson's Hawk - One record. 1897. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 47.

Yellow Rail - Four records. 1920, 1935, 1939. *West Virginia Birds*, 51; 1984. *The Redstart, 52*(1), 47.

Piping Plover - Two records. 1940. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 54; 1985. *The Redstart, 54,(2)* 54.

Black-necked Stilt - One record. 1993. *The Redstart, 61*(2), 57.

Whimbrel - Four records. 1926, 1933, 1949. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 57; 1988. *The Redstart, 56*(1), 27.

Hudsonian Godwit - One record. 1967. 1967. *The Redstart, 35*(1), 59.

Marbled Godwit - Three records. 1986. *The Redstart* 53(4), 138; 1987. *The Redstart, 55*(4), 105; 1988. *The Redstart, 55*(4), 117.

Long-billed Dowitcher - Two records. 1973. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 59. 1996. (See Records Accepted).

Red Phalarope - Four records. 1951, 1961, 1964, 1976. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 61.

Parasitic Jaeger - Two records. 1963, 1973. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 61.

Franklin's Gull - Two records. 1992. *The Redstart, 59*(4), 90; 1996 (See Records Accepted).

Black-legged Kittiwake - Two records. 1902, 1963. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 63.

Sabine's Gull - One record. 1993. *The Redstart, 62*(4), 120.

Sooty Tern - Three records. 1926, 1926, 1975. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 64.

Rufous Hummingbird - Four records, 1988, 1989, 1989. *The Redstart, 58*(4), 107;

Audubon Field Notes, 50(1), 53.
Ash-throated Flycatcher - One record. 1990. *The Redstart, 58*(2), 61.
Boreal Chickadee - Two records. 1969, 1969. *The Redstart, 37*(1), 61.
Varied Thrush - One record. 1993. *The Redstart, 62*(2), 50.
Northern Shrike - Three records. 1887, 1954, 1967. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 111.
Green-tailed Towhee - One record. 1957. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 144.
Spotted Towhee - One record. 1968-69. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 144.
Clay-colored Sparrow - Two records. 1977. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 146; 1992. *The Redstart, 59*(2), 47.
Lark Bunting - Four records. 1949, 1966, 1967, 1969. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 148.
Le Conte's Sparrow - One record. 1936. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 150.
Smith's Longspur - One record. 1987. *The Redstart, 55*(2), 57.
Hoary Redpoll - One record. *The Redstart, 62*(3), 81.

The following 17 species are on the Hypothetical List, and all sightings should be reported to the Committee.
Eared Grebe - One record. 1955. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 25.
Anhinga - One record. 1990. *The Redstart, 58*(4), 107.
Magnificent Frigatebird - One record. *The Redstart, 56*(2), 38.
Harlequin Duck - One record. 1974. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 39.
Black Rail - One record. 1955. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 51.
Clapper Rail - One record. No date given. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 51.
Great Black-backed Gull - Three records. 1945, 1955, 1957. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 63.
Northern Hawk Owl - One record. *American Birds, 40*, 279.
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker - One record. 1962. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 74.
Vermilion Flycatcher - One record. 1956. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 80.
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - Two records. 1950, 1970. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 81.
Bell's Vireo - One record. 1987. *The Redstart, 55*(3), 77.
Kirtland's Warbler - Five records. 1937. 1943, early 1940s, 1954. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 127; 1983. *The Redstart, 50*(4), 107.
Western Tanager - One record. 1944. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 140.
Painted Bunting - One record. 1979. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 143.
Canyon Towhee - One record. 1969. *West Virginia Birds*, p. 144.
Baird's Sparrow - One record. 1984. *The Redstart, 58*(4), 108.

The following species has been recorded more than five times and specimens have been taken, but all records, presumably of bandings, should be reported.
Bicknell's Thrush - Six records. Two specimens and four bandings.

The 1995 Christmas Bird Count Summary*

Leon Wilson

The 1995 Christmas Bird Counts were held between December 16 and December 31, 1995 with the temperature ranging between 8° F. at the starting time in Clarion, Pennsylvania and 50° F. in the afternoon at Charles Town, West Virginia.

There were 118 species of birds reported by 23 separate groups, consisting of one person (three counts) to 46 people (one count). The 118 species totaled 190,595 individuals. The greatest total of individual species was for the American Crow at 57,023, while there were eight species for which only one bird was observed. There were 13 species observed on one count only, and there were 10 species listed on all 23 counts. Count totals ranged from 27 on two counts to 78 at Charles Town, West Virginia.

Following is a list of the species observed:

Common Loon	Blue-winged Teal
Pied-billed Grebe	Northern Shoveler
Horned Grebe	Gadwall
Double-crested Cormorant	American Wigeon
Great Blue Heron	Canvasback
Tundra Swan	Redhead
Mute Swan	Ring-necked Duck
Snow Goose	Greater Scaup
Brant	Common Goldeneye
Canada Goose	Bufflehead
Wood Duck	Hooded Merganser
Green-winged Teal	Common Merganser
Mallard	Red-breasted Merganser
Northern Pintail	Ruddy Duck

**Editor's Note:* Beginning with this 1995 Christmas Bird Count *The Redstart* will publish only a summary of Christmas Bird Counts instead of the more detailed table published up to now. This change was made because of the large number of counts submitted and because we do not wish to publish CBC accounts that may not appear in *National Audubon Society Field Notes*. Complete reports of most CBCs can be found in the Christmas Count issue of *Field Notes*. See "In the Literature" in this issue of *The Redstart* for more information on this topic.

Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
American Kestrel
Ring-necked Pheasant
Ruffed Grouse
Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite
American Coot
Killdeer
Common Snipe
American Woodcock
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Short-eared Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Common Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Horned Lark
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Northern Shrike
Loggerhead Shrike
European Starling
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Cardinal
Eastern Towhee
Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Snow Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Blackbird

Purple Finch
House Finch
Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Eastern Grosbeak
House Sparrow

Greatest Number of Species

Species	Number
American Crow	57,023
European Starling	46,294
Canada Goose	8,680
Rock Dove	7,914
Mourning Dove	5,981
House Sparrow	5,168
Dark-eyed Junco	4,870
Mallard	4,869
chickadee sp.	4,614
Blue Jay	4,022
House Finch	3,877
Northern Cardinal	3,708

Observed on All Counts

Species	Number
Mourning Dove	5,981
Blue Jay	4,022
American Crow	57,023
Tufted Titmouse	2,361
White-breasted Nuthatch	1,687
Eastern Bluebird	1,185
European Starling	46,294
Northern Cardinal	3,708
Song Sparrow	2,873
Dark-eyed Junco	4,870
American Goldfinch	2,077

Observed on One Count Only

Species	Number	Where Observed
Brant	2	Parkersburg, West Virginia
Green-winged Teal	1	Wheeling, West, Virginia
American Wigeon	1	Huntington, West Virginia
Canvasback	1	Huntington, West Virginia
Ring-necked Duck	1	Charles Town, West Virginia
Greater Scaup	4	Charles Town, West Virginia
Bald Eagle	1	Pendleton County, West Virginia
Bonaparte's Gull	2	Ona, West Virginia
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Elkins, West Virginia
Northern Shrike	1	Clarion, Pennsylvania
Savannah Sparrow	2	Morgantown, West Virginia
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	Charles Town, West Virginia
Rusty Blackbird	8	Inwood, West Virginia

Location of Participating Counts

Canaan Valley, Davis, West Virginia
Charleston, West Virginia
Charles Town, West Virginia
Elkins, West Virginia
Elkview, West Virginia
Huntington, West Virginia
Inwood, West Virginia
Morgan County, West Virginia
Morgantown, West Virginia
Ona, West Virginia
Parkersburg, West Virginia
Pendleton County, West Virginia
Pennsboro, West Virginia
Pipestem, West Virginia
Raleigh County, West Virginia
Wheeling, West Virginia
Beaver, Ohio
Salem, Ohio
Beaver, Pennsylvania
Clarion County, Pennsylvania

Clarksville, Pennsylvania
Rector, Pennsylvania
Washington, Pennsylvania

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The 1996 Christmas Bird Count Summary

Leon Wilson

The 1996 Christmas Bird Counts were held between December 20, 1996, and January 5, 1997. The temperature of the different count days varied a great deal; but generally, the winter was milder than usual. Morgantown, West Virginia, and Charles Town, West Virginia, had a range of 4° F. to 32° F. on December 21, 1996. Raleigh County, West Virginia, had 60-70° on December 29, 1995; while Washington, Pennsylvania, had 8-30° on the same day.

There were 121 species of birds reported for the counts, plus one species (Bonaparte's Gull) reported during the count week. Twenty-two groups, consisting of from 1 to 57 observers, took part in the count. The 121 species totaled 93,199 individual birds. The European Starling led all species in numbers, while there were five species for which only one bird was observed. There were 16 species listed on all 22 counts, while 20 species were listed on one count only. Inwood, West Virginia, had the greatest number of species with 73.

The Eastern Bluebird and Carolina Wren numbers didn't vary much from the 1995 count, while the House Finch numbers were lower, especially in West Virginia.

The locations of the participating counts are as follows:

Canaan Valley, West Virginia
Charleston, West Virginia
Charles Town, West Virginia
Elkins, West Virginia
Elkview, West Virginia
Huntington, West Virginia
Inwood, West Virginia
Lewisburg, West Virginia
Oak Hill, West Virginia
Morgantown, West Virginia
Ona, West Virginia
Parkersburg, West Virginia
Pendleton County, West Virginia
Pipestem, West Virginia
Raleigh County, West Virginia
Wheeling, West Virginia
Beaver Creek, Ohio
Salem, Ohio
Beaver, Pennsylvania
Clarion, Pennsylvania
Clarksville, Pennsylvania
Washington, Pennsylvania

List of Species Observed

Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Tundra Swan
Mute Swan
Snow Goose
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Green-winged Teal
Black Duck
Mallard
Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Canvasback
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
American Goldeneye
Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Golden Eagle
American Kestrel
Merlin
Ring-necked Pheasant
Ruffed Grouse
Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite
American Coot
Killdeer
Common Snipe
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl
Saw-whet Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Yellow-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Horned Lark
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
House Wren

Winter Wren
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Northern Shrike
European Starling
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Palm Warbler
Northern Cardinal
Eastern Towhee
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Lapland Longspur
Snow Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Purple Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak
House Sparrow

Observed on All Counts

Species	Number
Mallard	4,226
Red-tailed Hawk	375
Downy Woodpecker	1,013
Pileated Woodpecker	264
Blue Jay	2,108
American Crow	11,251
Chickadee, sp.	3,429
Tufted Titmouse	1,841
White-breasted Nuthatch	1,080
Carolina Wren	637
European Starling	21,915
Northern Cardinal	3,494
Song Sparrow	1,810
White-throated Sparrow	1,188
House Finch	2,197
American Goldfinch	1,484

Observed on One Count Only

Species	Number	Where Observed
Double-crested Cormorant	45	Huntington, West Virginia
Green Heron	1	Raleigh County, West Virginia
Pintail	3	Huntington, West Virginia
Northern Shoveler	12	Inwood, West Virginia
Greater Scaup	3	Ona, West Virginia
Common Merganser	2	Inwood, West Virginia
Rough-legged Hawk	2	Canaan Valley, West Virginia
Merlin	1	Ona, West Virginia
Northern Bobwhite	1	Inwood, West Virginia
Long-eared Owl	1	Clarion, Pennsylvania
Fish Crow	2	Inwood, West Virginia
Northern Shrike	2	Clarion, Pennsylvania
Palm Warbler	1	Huntington, West Virginia
Vesper Sparrow	2	Inwood, West Virginia
Fox Sparrow	2	Pipestem, West Virginia
Lapland Longspur	4	Clarion, Pennsylvania
Snow Bunting	23	Clarion, Pennsylvania
Pine Siskin	2	Pendleton County, West Virginia
Evening Grosbeak	3	Lewisburg, West Virginia

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Allegheny Front Migration Observatory: Fall Migration 1996

George A. Hall

The 39th year of bird-banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO), Grant County, West Virginia, was the poorest season since 1972 when we started to have full operation of the station during the migration period. The station was in continuous operation from August 11 to October 18, 1996. However, the station was closed because of bad weather for an unprecedented seven days, with two additional days having only minimal operation. The remains of Hurricane Fran scored an almost direct hit on the station and other areas of Grant County, causing the loss of two days. Some banding was carried out on 62 days.

A total of 2,002 (lowest ever) birds of 67 species (tie for lowest) was banded with a station effort of 6,792 net hours (fifth highest) giving a capture ratio of 29.48 birds per 100 net hours (lowest). There were 265 birds banded in August (19 days), 1,177 in September (26 days) and 560 in October (17 days). The station has now banded a total of 163,737 birds of 117 species and two hybrids. No new species was captured this year.

Two Dark-eyed Juncos and one Common Yellowthroat, which had been banded at AFMO in 1991, were recaptured this year, as well as a Magnolia Warbler banded in 1993. The recapture of a Veery and a Chestnut-sided Warbler banded in 1995 were also of interest.

The migration pattern is shown in Figure 1. The major peak came immediately after the hurricane. The two small peaks later in September and the October peak came after pronounced frontal passages. The biggest day was September 9 with 191 birds banded, and on only three other days were more than 100 birds banded.

The most numerous species was the Black-throated Blue Warbler with 430 bandings, but this number was 40% below the 10-year average. The Blackpoll Warbler with 208 bandings (66% below average) was second, and the Dark-eyed Junco with 145 bandings (34% below average) was third. Of the 44 species for which a meaningful analysis could be made, 41 were in numbers below the 10-year average. Of these, 26 were more than one standard deviation (*SD*) below that average, and three of these were more than two *SDs* below the average. The three species that were above the average were less than one *SD* above.

The 1,290 warblers banded was 57% below the 10-year average, while the number of all the Neotropical migrants was 70% below that average. Swainson Thrushes were 66% below average, but the Hermit Thrush was 25% above the average.

The 67 species caught tied the lowest total. Flycatchers, woodpeckers, and nuthatches were almost totally absent. Only two Blue Jays were banded, and the

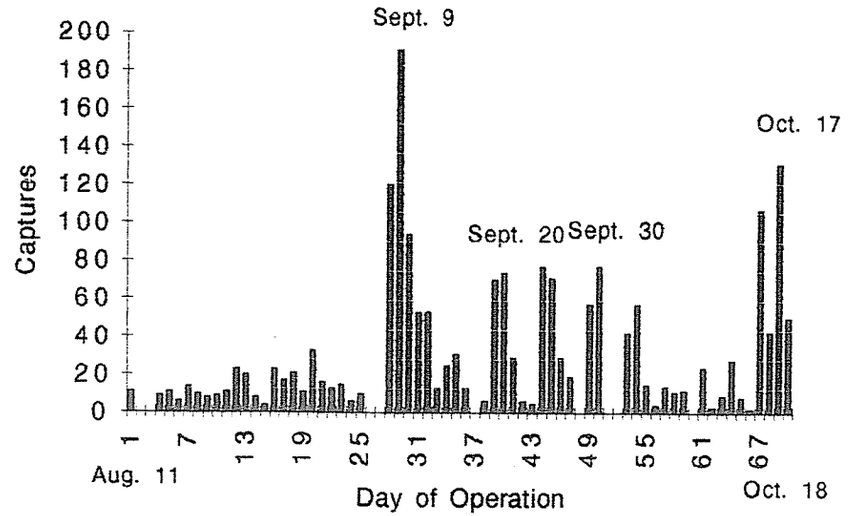

Figure 1. Captures for Days of Operation.

usual flight over the mountain did not occur. Twenty-two species were represented by only one or two individuals.

It is probable that no one factor is responsible for the poor count. The growth of vegetation at the station lowers the percentage of birds flying over that are caught, but fewer birds seem to be flying over. In particular the three Spruce Budworm specialists, Tennessee (83% below average), Cape May (73% below), and Bay-breasted (93% below) warblers, continue to decline. Certainly the repeated passage north along the coast of tropical storms (at least two besides the infamous Fran) was a factor. Good flights at this station depend on strong westerly winds, both across the continent during the night and at the station during the morning. This seemed seldom to happen.

The visual migrant counts were continued but less time was spent on this project, which ceased on September 26. Only 299 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted (compared with 487 last year), only 45 Blue Jays (compared with 6,459 last year), and 1,319 American Goldfinches (compared with 4,788 last year) were counted. The Monarch Butterfly count was 889 compared with 343 last year.

During the season 1,617 people signed the visitors' book. These visitors came from 23 states, the District of Columbia, England, and British Columbia. The educational part of our operation continued with several grade school and high school classes as well as several college classes visiting the station.

The banders who participated this year were Robert Dean, LeJay Graffious, Sue Heselton, Joan Bell Pattison, Randy Ritter, Janet Shaffer, David Skinner, Judith Ward, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. LeJay

Graffious was also responsible for the banding shelter, and special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 188 of Monterey, Virginia and to David and Sharon Morrison for help in dismantling the shelter. As usual, Genevieve and John Findley were in charge of the netlanes. Ivarean Pierce, who also headed up the Blue Jay-Hummingbird count, Walter Fye, JoAnn and Phil Graham, Ken Heselton, Elizabeth Ritter, and Carl Rowe were present for extended periods.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: David Bell, Dave Brinker, Ken Cross, Robin Dean, Ruth Ann Dean, Kathy Devaul, Donald Donnald, Margaret Donnald, Cynthia Ellis, Jim Evans, Don Findley, Hal Findley, Jenny Findley, Ken Findley, Dawn Fox, Thomas Fox, Helen Ann Graffious, Michael Griffith, Randy Harrison, Linda Hollenberg, Patrick Hurley, Thomas Hurley, Steve Huy, John Jacobs, Marjorie Keatley, Nick Manley, Ty Manley, Carol McCullough, Frederick McCullough, Jack Minear, Jolene Minear, Jonathan Minear, Ben Myers, Goeff Newlin, Tim Newlin, John Northeimer, Susan Olcott, Don Pattison, Charles Pierce, Charlotte Pryor, Joe Schreiber, Dave Seitz, Janice Shepherd, Ryan Stallings, Jenna Thomas, John Thomas, Ryan Tomazin, and Leon Wilson.

We also thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest, Supervisor Chuck Meyers, District Ranger Nancy Feakes, and others of the Potomac District Ranger Station for their cooperation and support. Thanks also to Walt Lesser of the D.N.R. for the use of the Laneville cabin for housing and storage of the shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.

Species List 1996

	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Date
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Sept. 21			
American Woodcock	2	Oct. 12	Oct. 15		
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Aug. 18			
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	Sept. 1	Oct. 2		
Northern Flicker	2	Sept. 21	Sept. 26		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	Oct. 6			
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Aug. 23			
Blue Jay	2	Oct. 2			
Black-capped Chickadee	11	Aug. 16	Oct. 16	5	Oct. 3
Brown Creeper	10	Oct. 2	Oct. 18	4	Oct. 17
Winter Wren	9	Aug. 14	Oct. 15	4	Oct. 15
Golden-crowned Kinglet	114	Sept. 21	Oct. 18	58	Oct. 17
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	68	Sept. 11	Oct. 18	25	Oct. 17

	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Date
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Sept. 9			
Veery	10	Aug. 18	Sept. 11	3	Sept. 9
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Oct. 1			
Swainson's Thrush	109	Aug. 26	Oct. 13	12	Sept. 12
Hermit Thrush	47	Aug. 24	Oct. 18	9	Oct. 18
Wood Thrush	8	Sept. 10	Oct. 5		
American Robin	11	Aug. 14	Oct. 17		
Gray Catbird	5	Aug. 27	Sept. 29		
Cedar Waxwing	12	Aug. 14	Oct. 16		
Solitary Vireo	2	Oct. 9	Oct. 18		
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	Aug. 30			
Philadelphia Vireo	3	Sept. 8			
Red-eyed Vireo	18	Aug. 21	Oct. 12	4	Sept. 9
Tennessee Warbler	83	Aug. 30	Oct. 13	22	Sept. 9
Nashville Warbler	24	Aug. 30	Oct. 12	5	Sept. 20
Northern Parula	1	Aug. 30			
Yellow Warbler	1	Aug. 22			
Chestnut-sided Warbler	18	Aug. 14	Sept. 20		
Magnolia Warbler	77	Aug. 15	Oct. 5	8	Sept. 9
Cape May Warbler	92	Aug. 20	Oct. 2	12	Sept. 12
Black-throated Blue Warbler	430	Aug. 15	Oct. 12	70	Sept. 9
Yellow-rumped Warbler	21	Aug. 15	Oct. 18		
Black-throated Green Warbler	111	Aug. 27	Oct. 18	13	Sept. 9
Blackburnian Warbler	30	Aug. 17	Oct. 1	6	Sept. 9
Palm Warbler	2	Oct. 14	Oct. 18		
Bay-breasted Warbler	10	Sept. 12	Oct. 3		
Blackpoll Warbler	208	Sept. 8	Oct. 15	44	Sept. 30
Black-and-white Warbler	8	Aug. 24	Sept. 24		
American Redstart	17	Aug. 11	Sept. 25	4	Sept. 9
Worm-eating Warbler	7	Aug. 11	Sept. 21		
Ovenbird	38	Aug. 11	Oct. 12		
Northern Waterthrush	1	Aug. 11			
Connecticut Warbler	1	Sept. 13			
Common Yellowthroat	91	Aug. 11	Oct. 11	12	Sept. 8
Hooded Warbler	6	Aug. 11	Sept. 29		
Wilson's Warbler	7	Sept. 3	Sept. 21		
Canada Warbler	6	Aug. 14	Sept. 14		
Scarlet Tanager	3	Aug. 29	Sept. 9		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	15	Aug. 15	Oct. 2		

	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Date
Indigo Bunting	1	Aug. 27			
Eastern Towhee	8	Aug. 23	Oct. 15		
Field Sparrow	5	Aug. 19	Oct. 15		
Savannah Sparrow	4	Aug. 21	Aug. 29		
Henslow's Sparrow	1	Oct. 15			
Fox Sparrow	2	Oct. 17	Oct. 18		
Song Sparrow	2	Sept. 8	Oct. 10		
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	Sept. 25	Oct. 16		
Swamp Sparrow	6	Aug. 19	Oct. 16		
White-throated Sparrow	41	Oct. 2	Oct. 18	22	Oct. 15
White-crowned Sparrow	7	Oct. 11	Oct. 15		
Dark-eyed Junco	145	Aug. 11	Oct. 18	28	Oct. 17
Baltimore Oriole	1	Aug. 26			
Purple Finch	4	Aug. 20	Oct. 4		
American Goldfinch	10	Aug. 17	Sept. 22		

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Field Notes
Fall Season

September-November, 1996

James D. Phillips, Editor

Several days of rain were present during September as well as the remnants of Hurricane Fran early in the month. October was mild. November saw cold temperatures and some early snowfall. The most uncommon sighting for the season was probably the 14 American White Pelicans in Wood County(MBC). Also exciting was the 15 Bald Eagle day on Hanging Rocks, Monroe County(JD). The total hawk count for East River Mountain, Mercer County ranked eighth highest in the 22 years of counts(AM). George Hall reported the banding at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant County to have been the poorest since 1972.

Pied-billed Grebes were found from late September throughout the season. **Horned Grebes** began appearing by late October(AM). Fourteen **American White Pelicans** were observed flying over Leachtown, Wood County on October 3(MBC). **Double-crested Cormorants** were commonly seen. Birds were found in Summers(JP), Wood(MBC), Kanawha(HG), Fayette(HG), and Cabell(HS) counties. Harry Slack observed about 475 cormorants flying over Huntington, Cabell County on November 8. **Great Blue Herons** were found throughout the period and region. **Great Egrets** were seen in Mercer(AM), Summers(IL), Cabell(HS), Kanawha(HG), and Wood(MBC) counties. Twenty-one birds were seen in Wood County. Two **Cattle Egrets** were seen in Crown City, Ohio, just across the Ohio River(HS) and north of Huntington, West Virginia. The last report for **Green Heron** was September 24 in Wood County(MBC).

The only report of **Tundra Swan** was one individual near London, Kanawha County in mid-November(HG). **Canada Geese**, **Mallards** and **Wood Ducks** seemed to be thriving. **Green-winged Teals** were passing through in mid-October. The only report of **Northern Shovelers** came from Wood County in mid-October(MBC). **Gadwalls** were seen from mid-October(HG) to the end of the period(JP). **Ring-necked Ducks** and a few **Lesser Scaups** could be located across the region. **Common Goldeneyes** had returned to New River, Summers County by mid-November and **Hooded Mergansers** were back on New River by the third week of October(JP). **Common Mergansers** were seen near Gauley Bridge, Fayette County on November 16(HG). **Ruddy Ducks** were seen in Wood County the third week of October(MBC).

Black Vultures were only reported from Mercer(AM), Monroe and Summers(JP) counties. The large roost of mostly **Turkey Vultures** remains above the mouth of Bluestone River, Summers County, and a smaller roost is near the mouth of East

River, Mercer County(JP). The last report of **Turkey Vultures** for Wood County was November 27(MBC). Ann McRae's report of the hawkwatching station on East River Mountain was the only full report received. Thirty-four **Ospreys** were seen during the season on East River Mountain, while the Hanging Rocks group on Peters Mountain, Monroe County, had a record 43 **Ospreys** in one day, September 18(JD). Other sightings came from Braxton(HG), Cabell(HS), Summers(JP), and Wood(MBC) counties. They were found in Wood County until the second week of November. McRae reported two **Bald Eagles** from East River Mountain, while Jerry Davis reported 15 in one day, September 19, at Hanging Rocks. No one found **Northern Harriers**. East River Mountain hawkwatchers only counted 58 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and 29 **Cooper's Hawks**(AM). Sharp-shins were noted from Kanawha(HG) and Summers(JP) counties. The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight seemed to peak (judging from East River Mountain) September 19-21(AM). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen from East River Mountain on September 18 and 19(AM), and Peters Mountain on September 19(JD). One unidentified eagle was reported from East River Mountain(AM). Fourteen **American Kestrels** were counted from East River Mountain as well as three **Peregrine Falcons**(AM). A **Merlin** was seen in Wood County the second week of October, and a **Peregrine Falcon** was present for a few days earlier that month(MBC). **Ruffed Grouse** seem pretty scarce, while **Wild Turkeys** continue to flourish.

A record 687 **American Coots** spent some time on a pond near Falls Mill, Virginia in early November(AM), while Harry Slack found about 500 of these birds at Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County. The only report of plovers and sandpipers came from Wood County(MBC). **Semi-palmated Plovers** were present until October 19. Both **yellowlegs** were noted in September. **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen at Sand Creek on September 1. **Solitary**, **Spotted**, and **Least sandpipers** were noted the first half of September. **Dunlin** were found from October 10 through November 3. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen from September 7 to October 19. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were present for most of a week in October. **Common Snipes** were noted for about six weeks late in the season. Two **American Woodcocks** were banded at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO)(GH).

Bonaparte's Gulls were noted from Wood County(MBC) the third week of October and Cabell County on November 26(HS). **Ring-billed Gulls** were present from mid-October(MBC) through mid-November(HG). Three **Caspian Terns** were seen at Huntington September 6(HS), and single **Black Terns** were noted in Huntington(HS) and Pipestem, Summers County(JP) on September 4. The last date for **Black-billed Cuckoo** was September 19(MBC) and for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was October 6(HG). **Great Horned** and **Barred owls** were mentioned by several observers, but no one commented on **Eastern Screech-Owls**. Five **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at AFMO(GH).

The last date for **Common Nighthawk** was October 4 in Mercer County(AM). No one mentioned seeing large flights of this species. **Whip-poor-wills** were last noted in Ritchie County on September 1(VC). **Chimney Swifts** were last noted October 7 as were **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**(MBC). **Belted Kingfishers** seemed to be doing well. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen in Monroe, Mercer, Summers(JP), Wood(MBC), and Roane(HG) counties. The other woodpeckers seemed to be in expected numbers. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** had returned by the first week of October(JP).

Flycatchers were nearly absent from AFMO in Grant County(GH), and other observers made little mention of them. The only note of swallows were **Tree** and **Rough-winged swallows** moving along New River, Summers County during the second half of September(JP). Banders at AFMO(GH) and hawkwatchers at East River Mountain(AM) mentioned not seeing large flights of **Blue Jays** during the season. **Brown Creepers** had returned to most areas by mid-October. The early date for **Winter Wrens** was October 9 in Summers County(JP). Both **kinglets** had returned by mid-October. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were gone by he second week of September.

At AFMO **Swainson's Thrushes** were 66% below average while **Hermit Thrushes** were 25% above average(GH). The late date for **Wood Thrush** was one visiting a birdbath in Bluefield, Mercer County on November 7(AM). The last date for **Solitary Vireo** was October 27(JP) and for **Red-eyed Vireo** was October 12(GH). The only report of **Water Pipit** came from Wood County(VC) in late September. At AFMO the two most numerous species that were banded were **Black-throated Blue** and **Blackpoll Warblers**(GH).

The last date for **Indigo Bunting** was September 26(MBC) and the last date for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was October 22(GH). **American Tree Sparrows** were noted November 30 in Wood County(MBC). **Chipping Sparrows** were still present late in the season. **Vesper** and **Savannah sparrows** were seen in Wood County(MBC). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was banded at AFMO on October 15(GH). **Fox Sparrows** were appearing in some areas by mid-October. **White-throated Sparrows** were present by October 6(JP). A few **White-crowned Sparrows** were appearing by the first half of October. **Dark-eyed Juncos** seemed a bit late returning to some areas. **Purple Finches** were on time and in usual numbers. **Pine Siskins** were only seen November 12 in Wood County(MBC).

Contributors—Virginia Cronenberger(VC), Jerry Davis(JD), Hullet Good(HG), George Hall(GH), Virginia Bly Hoover(VH), Ira Lilly (IL), Ann McRae(AM), Grady McRae(GM), Mountwood Bird Club(MBC), Harry Slack(HS).

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In the Literature

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

I attended the 78th Annual Meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Society, which was held in joint session April 17-20, 1997, with the Annual Spring Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society. One hundred nine interesting papers and posters were presented at the meeting. David A. Rintoul's poster, "Possible Effect of the Mandatory Participation Fee on the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Database," should be of particular interest to local bird clubs that participate in the annual count and researchers who use the CBC data. Rintoul analyzed the 1990-91 CBC data by comparing the counts published in *American Birds* (now *National Audubon Society Field Notes*) with counts published in regional and state journals. He discovered two causes of serious degradation of the database, which he says probably result from local groups attempting to avoid the participant fee charged by National Audubon. The fee was then, as it is now, $5 for each participant. On many counts some participants are listed as nonpaying feeder watchers. Thus the participant numbers are inaccurate and lead one to underestimate the participant effort, an important factor in comparing the numbers of birds found on counts.

The data are also becoming increasingly fragmented as many groups avoid the fee altogether by submitting their counts for publication only in regional or state journals or in bird club newsletters rather than sending their CBCs to *Field Notes*. Rintoul found 400 circles not reported in *American Birds* for the 1990-91 CBC. Three of these "phantom reports" were published in a table in *The Redstart* in 1991: those for Elkins, Elkview, and Phillipi (Wilson, 1991). State and regional journals are hard to find, making use of the database difficult for researchers. Furthermore, the form and content of local published reports often differ from those of the CBC issue of *Field Notes*. For example, in the past *The Redstart* has published a table that includes the species and number of each species seen on each count, but no information on number of participants, parties, party miles by foot and by car, weather, and other important data included in the Audubon publication. Rintoul recommends that Audubon eliminate the participant fee and request voluntary donations from participants to support the expensive CBC edition of the *Field Notes*.

The Redstart, beginning with the 1995 and 1996 CBCs (See "The 1995 Christmas Bird Count Summary" by Leon Wilson in this issue.) will publish only a summary of the counts received so as not to be a party to the loss of data discussed here, and because the increase in CBC reports received has resulted in a very large table, taking too much space in our journal. Participating in a practice that results in the loss of scientific data runs counter to an important goal of The Brooks Bird Club—the nurturing of scientific research in ornithology by our members. Perhaps Audubon will realize the damage its high fees are doing to the CBC database and reduce or eliminate the participant fee, but in the meantime I urge groups who have not sent their CBC report to Audubon to find a way to raise the money for the participant fees and send the reports to Audubon.

It has also come to our attention that the American Birding Association will assume the publication of the regional "Field Notes" from National Audubon beginning perhaps as soon as the fall of this year. The regional editors will remain the same. The annual Christmas Bird Count issue of *Field Notes* will continue to be published by National Audubon in some form.

Reference

Wilson, L. P. 1991. The 1990 Christmas bird count. *The Redstart*, *58*(4), 114-123.

Book Reviews

Made for Each Other by Ronald M. Lanner. 1996. New York: Oxford University Press, 160 pp., 4 color plates, $15.95, paper covers.

Lanner's interesting book discusses the mutual symbiosis between birds and pines, focusing especially on Clark's Nutcracker, a member of the crow family, and the whitebark pine. Lanner makes the case for coevolution of birds and pines. Some pines have evolved nutritious, wingless seeds, held in upright cones in response to birds that cache seeds, resulting in dispersal of the seeds. Whitebark pine is a keystone species in the subalpine forest habitat of the northern Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Whitebark pine, an early successional species of the dry, open treeline habitat, prepares the way for Englemann spruce and subalpine fir, which need the shade and moist soil under the pines for their seeds to take root. Red squirrels and grizzly bears also depend on whitebark pine seeds, but the squirrel middens do not aide in dispersal of the pine. Bears dig into the middens for nutritious pine seeds, but only the Clark's Nutcracker caches the seeds in such a way to result in dispersal of whitebark pines into new habitat. Clark's Nutcracker and the pine, according to Lanner's account, are ecosystem builders.

In yet another case of human impact on the environment, it appears that the whitebark pine and the ecosystem that depends on it are endangered. Among the threats to the pine discussed by Lanner are a human-introduced fungal disease, fire prevention, and possibly global warming.

Anyone interested in complex ecosystem interactions of birds and plants will find this book interesting, and anyone who has thrilled to the sight of Clark's Nutcracker in its remote subalpine habitat will want to read this book.

Chickadees, Tits, Nuthatches & Treecreepers by Simon Harrap and David Quinn. 1995. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 464 pp., 36 color plates, $45, hard covers.

Our chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and treecreepers have their counterparts all around the world. Birders will find the diversity of these groups as presented in this book fascinating. Species accounts cover identification, voice, distribution and migrations, habitat, population, range, habits, breeding, molts, geographical variation, and relationships with closely related species. The introduction includes an interesting discussion of classification. The current trend, according to the authors, is to split allopatric populations (those populations of a bird found in different parts of the world) into species and treat the species as members of a "superspecies." For example the Red-breasted, Corsican, and Chinese nuthatches, although very similar in appearance, even indistinguishable, have been split in this book into three species. The authors maintain that splitting encourages the study of related species and may result in more protection of those that are threatened. Also in the introduction, the notes on the species accounts include a very thorough and detailed discussion on bird colors.

The species accounts are excellent. There is a very good discussion of Black-capped and Carolina chickadee hybrid zones and hybridization. The color plates, at least of the species that I know, are detailed and accurate. These and the discussion of chickadee plumages should help people learn to distinguish Black-capped and Carolina chickadees in the field.

A. R. Buckelew Jr.

Erratum

In the book review of *American Women Afield: Writings by Pioneering Women Naturalists* by Marcia Myers Bonta, the year Florence Merriam Bailey joined the American Ornithologists' Union was 1885, not 1855, which, as George Hall pointed out to us, is eight years before she was born and 28 years before the AOU was formed.

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