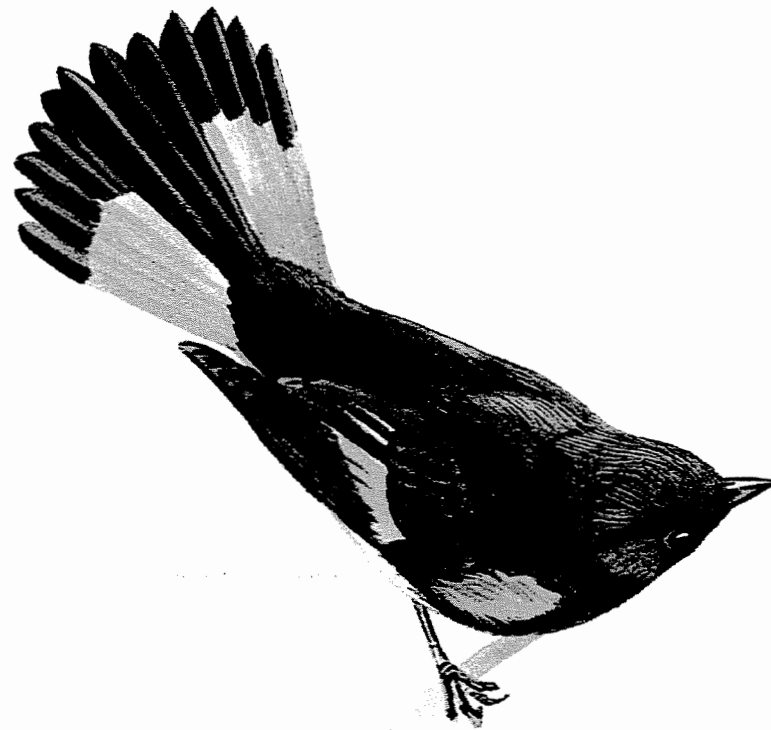


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The **REDSTART**

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	fox@raspet.msstate.edu	

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Our Anniversary Cover

Artist Julie Zickefoose drew the lovely American Redstart on the cover of this special 75th Anniversary issue of *The Redstart*. We are grateful for her support of the Brooks Bird Club's anniversary celebration.

Editorial Staff

Editor • Albert R. Buckelew Jr., Department of Biology, Bethany College, Bethany, WV 26032
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Field Notes Editors • James Triplett and Beverly Triplett, 1198 Fledderjohn Rd., Charleston, WV 25314
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Seventy-five Years of Redstarts

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

When Russell West produced the first issue of *The Redstart*, in October 1933, the Brooks Bird Club had been organized for only a few months. The first issue of *The Redstart* was a single mimeographed page, which West compiled, edited, and mimeographed as a one-man job. The publication has continued and is now by far the oldest, continuously published ornithological journal launched in West Virginia.

In 1963, George Hurley succeeded George Hall as *The Redstart* editor after Hall resigned to become editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*. In 1964, George Hurley became the president of the Club, and the first professionally printed issue of *The Redstart* became a reality. In January 1977, when I became editor of *The Redstart*, I was relatively new to the Brooks Bird Club and West Virginia. I was pleased when Charles Conrad asked me to edit *The Redstart* because I admired its long service to ornithology in West Virginia and the surrounding region, and I knew that editing the fine journal would help me learn about West Virginia birds. Over the years the journal grew to its present, more professional format, but even in the mimeographed form, *The Redstart* was an important contributor to West Virginia ornithology. George Hall once told me that his book, *West Virginia Birds*, would not have been possible as a comprehensive history of our state's bird life without the many observations and articles published in our journal. Hall wrote that, "... *The Redstart* remains the most tangible contribution of the Club to West Virginia Ornithology," and "It is not really possible to know what the status of our knowledge would have been had the Club not existed, but the chances are that West Virginia would have still been in the ornithological dark ages" (Hall, 1982, p. 123). *The Redstart* has recorded the bird observations of many bird enthusiasts, both professional and amateur, over the years. The list of notable *Redstart* authors includes most of the outstanding ornithologists active in West Virginia: George Miksch Sutton, George A. Hall, Hal Harrison, Karl Haller, Maurice Brooks, Harold E. Burt, and many more in recent years. Many of our finest articles are written by amateur BBC members. The best article by an amateur author from each year receives the Floyd Bartley Memorial Award (Table 1), but in many years it has been difficult to choose a winner from a list of outstanding amateur contributions.

The Brooks Bird Club is in a small group of state and regional bird clubs that extends the enthusiasm for bird watching beyond the ordinary hobby into activities that yield important data for keeping track of trends in bird population numbers and occurrence. Since 1992, *The Redstart* has published 281 ten-mile Breeding Bird Surveys and one 25-mile survey and the results of 92 fifteen-acre singing male breeding bird census (spot map) studies, plus six 60- to 75-acre studies and eleven

30-acre studies, most of these from Foray and Sortie camps. Many observations on changes in bird abundance have been published in our pages, and most records of birds new to West Virginia or records of very rare birds and unusual breeding records were published in *The Redstart* over the years. Since 1992, many articles were published on declining numbers or increasing populations of species of interest to our members and on interesting places to find birds in West Virginia. We published articles and notes on state records, breeding records, and West Virginia population trends of the following species: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Ross's Goose, Pacific Black Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Common Merganser, Red-necked Grebe, American White Pelican, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Wood Stork, Black Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite, White-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Gyrfalcon, American Golden-Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Long-tailed Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Eastern Screech-Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Green Violetear, Rufous Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Varied Thrush, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red Crossbill, and Hoary Redpoll.

Table 1
Floyd Bartley Award Winners

1976	Ray and Jo Ashworth	1994	Wendell Argabrite
1979	Harry Slack	1995	Greg Eddy
1980	James D. Phillips	1997	Ann Pyle
1981	J. Lawrence Smith	1998	John Northeimer
1982	Eugene E. Hutton	1999	Joey Herron
1983	Linnie Coon	2000	Anna M. McRae
1984	Patricia Temple	2001	Gary Felton
1986	Melvin Hooker	2002	William Beatty
1987	Jonathan Minear	2003	Matthew Orsie
1988	Julie Beatty	2004	George E. Hall
1989	Lorraine Rollefson	2005	Jane J. Whitaker
1993	Ralph K. Bell	2006	Matthew Orsie

Authors make regular contributions to *The Redstart* on bird banding, and we publish annual reports of Christmas Bird Counts, the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Three Rivers Migration Observatory, Jackson's Mill Migration Observatory, various hawk counts, reports of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee, and our Foray and Sortie results. Our "Field Notes" department keeps our members up-to-date on bird sightings, migrations dates, and bird population trends around the state. Our members maintain their enthusiasm for bird study to this day, and I am a fortunate editor to have no shortage of admirable contributions from which to choose.

Editing of a journal of the quality of *The Redstart* cannot be accomplished without some help, so I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of editors of *Redstart* sections, the editorial board, and our outstanding associate editor, Marjorie Keatley. Several "Field Notes" editors, Glen Phillips (January 1977 through July 1980), Greg Eddy (October 1980 through October 1982), James Phillips (January 1983 through April 2003), Janice Emrick (July 2003 through April 2008), and Beverly Triplett and James Triplett have recorded the seasonal abundance and occurrence of our state's birds. Ralph Bell, and Constance Katholi before him, edited banding columns. Many people have contributed book reviews and notes on ornithological news. Past editors (See Table 2) have been generous with their advice, and some of them were able to continue to contribute articles to *The Redstart*. My hat is off to them. The Brooks Bird Club will make all back issues available online or on a CD in the near future, and perhaps some day we will convert to online publication.

Table 2
Redstart Editors

1933	Russell West
1934	Thomas Shields
1935	John Handlan
1940	James Olsen
1941	Karl Haller
1942	Russell West
1942	Mabel Hopwood Gorman
1943	Charles Conrad
1943	Maurice Brooks
1946	Russell De Garmo
1953	George Breiding
1956	George A. Hall
1963	George Hurley
1977	Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

Reference

Hall, G. A. (1982). The Brooks Bird Club and West Virginia Ornithology: A 50-year Association. *The Redstart*, 49, Fiftieth Anniversary Issue, October 22, 1982.

Department of Biology
Bethany College
Bethany WV 26032

Valley Falls State Park Saw-whet Owl Banding Station: Report for 2006 and 2007

Joey Herron

The second year of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) at Valley Falls State Park (See Table 1) began with high expectations and ended in disappointment with only three owls captured. One of the three captured was already banded. This owl was captured on October 21, 2006, as a hatch year female after being banded 25 days earlier (September 26, 2006) near Duluth, Minnesota. It is 750 miles in a direct line to Duluth from Fairmont, West Virginia. This bird had flown many hundreds of miles, maybe via the Great Lakes, to get to West Virginia. The Hawk Ridge bander from Minnesota, also, had color marked the wings with green paint to study the molt patterns in the wings if the bird were to be captured again.

The first NSWO banded at Valley Falls for the 2006 season was banded on October 18, 2006, and was recaptured 12 days later, October 30, 2006, at a banding station in Virginia near Harrisonburg. This owl had drifted southeast just a few miles before being recaptured. One other owl was captured in the middle of November, bringing the 2006 banding total to three.

The 2007 fall migration started with a flurry of owls being captured in the first few days, easily eclipsing the previous two-year total of 10 (See Table 2). The first six nights of banding yielded 14 owls including a single previously banded owl. Late October and early November appeared to be the height of migration with 33 owls captured, including a night with 17 captures. Banding started on October 12 and ended November 30, with 18 nights of banding yielding 49 Saw-whet Owls, including 4 foreign recaptures, 3 of these from Canada. One of the Canadian owls had been banded in the fall of 2002, making it over five years old.

For most eastern banding stations, 2007 appeared to be a banner year. Almost all stations bested their previous high totals. There were also new reports from northern Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia that birds (Saw-whet Owls) had been caught and banded. A number of reasons for the increase in bandings this year have been mentioned, including a high hatch year survival rate and then a plummet in prey animal populations, sending the owls south for food. As seen in Table 2, almost 75% of the owls captured were hatch year (HY) birds.

I thank Valley Falls State Park superintendent, Ron Fawcett, for the use of the park facilities and for putting up with all the late night visits.

Table 1
Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Summary for 2006

Date	Time	NSWO caught
10/18/06	8:15 p.m. – 12:15 a.m.	1
10/20/06	8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	0
10/21/06	8:15 p.m. – 12:15 a.m.	1 (foreign recapture)
10/25/06	9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	0
10/29/06	9:45 p.m. – 12:45 a.m.	0
11/02/06	9:45 p.m. – 1:15 a.m.	0
11/05/06	7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	0
11/10/06	9:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	0
11/12/06	9:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	0
11/14/06	10:45 p.m. – 1:45 a.m.	1
11/22/06	9:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	0
11/24/06	9:45 p.m. – 12:45 a.m.	0

Total 3

Age

Second year (SY) – F	1
Hatch year (HY) – F2	1 (foreign recapture)

Sex

Female	100%
Male	0%
Unknown	0%

Table 2
Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Summary for 2007

Date	Time	NSWO caught
10/12/07	9:00 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.	2
10/13/07	12:00 a.m. – 4:00 a.m.	2
10/14/07	10:00 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.	5 (1 foreign recapture)
10/15/07	10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	2
10/17/07	9:45 p.m. – 1:15 a.m.	2
10/18/07	10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	1
10/20/07	10:00 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.	0
10/28/07	9:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	6 (2 foreign recaptures)

10/29/07	8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	0
11/01/07	8:45 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.	17 (1 foreign recapture)
11/02/07	9:00 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.	4
11/03/07	9:00 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.	4
11/07/07	10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	2
11/16/07	9:45 p.m. – 1:45 a.m.	2
11/18/07	10:00 p.m. – 5:30 a.m.	1
11/23/07	10:20 p.m. – 1:20 a.m.	0
11/27/07	8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	1
11/29/07	10:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	0

Total 49

Age

Second year (SY)	3 – 6.1%
After hatch year (AHY)	7 – 14.3%
After second year (ASY)	3 – 6.1%
Hatch year (HY)	36 – 73.5%

Sex

Female	61.2%
Male	8.2%
Unknown	30.6%

511 Ohio Ave.
Fairmont, WV 26554

Three Rivers Migration Observatory: Fall Migration 2006

Ronald A. Canterbury

The 12th year of bird banding at the Three Rivers Migration Observatory (TRMO) at Lilly Mountain in Raleigh County, West Virginia, was another poor migration season. Banding was conducted on 75 days from July 31–October 28, 2006. Captured were 2,300 birds, including 48 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that were released unbanded. Table 1 lists the species and number of individuals per species captured. The American Goldfinch ($n = 314$) was the most numerous species captured. This was followed by the Tennessee Warbler with 291 individuals captured.

The peak banding date was September 27, 2006, during which 127 birds were captured. In general, boreal species were late arriving, and the sparrow migration was earlier and of shorter duration than during a typical fall migration period. Titmice and chickadees were down in numbers. Woodpeckers at this station continue to decline.

The banders who participated this season were Steve Fraley, Janet Meyer, James Meyer, Allen Waldron, and the author. Scott Perry and Andrew Canterbury assisted with data collection. Financial support was provided by Southern West Virginia Bird Research Center. The author thanks James and Janet Meyer, who retired from banding, for all their years of dedication and hard work for the Three Rivers Migration Observatory. In 2006, another major change was the abandonment of all banding localities for TRMO outside of the Lilly Mountain site, with an increase in net hours at Lilly Mountain (to make up for those lost at other banding localities) for future analyses. Most of the warblers, thrushes, and sparrows are typically banded at Lilly Mountain. The only two species-analyses this will impact are the American Goldfinch and House Finch, which are typically banded in much higher numbers at TRMO localities outside of Lilly Mountain, such as Pipestem and Bluefield. Therefore, for future TRMO research and reports, only one banding locality (Lilly Mountain along Rt. 3/27 and 8 miles west of Beckley, West Virginia) will be used.

Table 1
Species List for the Autumn 2006 Season

Species	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Peak Date
Mourning Dove	8	Aug. 4	Sep. 16		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	Aug. 23	Sep. 27		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	48	July 31	Sep. 25	7	Sep. 13
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Aug. 12			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Oct. 22			
Downy Woodpecker	3	Aug. 21	Sep. 30		
Northern Flicker	1	Aug. 18			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	10	Aug. 2	Sep. 25		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	4	Sep. 9	Sep. 27		
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Aug. 5	Aug. 30		
"Traill's" Flycatcher	9	Aug. 6	Sep. 25	3	Aug. 21
Least Flycatcher	5	Aug. 28	Sep. 30		
Eastern Phoebe	28	Aug. 10	Oct. 15	4	Oct. 3
White-eyed Vireo	7	Sep. 3	Oct. 8		
Yellow-throated Vireo	7	Aug. 8	Sep. 21	3	Aug. 21
Blue-headed Vireo	18	Aug. 25	Oct. 10	3	Oct. 10
Red-eyed Vireo	41	Aug. 1	Sep. 27	8	Sep. 9
Blue Jay	18	Aug. 8	Sep. 27	5	Sep. 27
Carolina Chickadee	20	Aug. 8	Sep. 25	6	Sep. 16
Tufted Titmouse	27	July 31	Oct. 28	6	Oct. 22
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	Sep. 16	Oct. 15		
Brown Creeper	3	Sep. 29	Oct. 15		

Species	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Peak Date
Carolina Wren	19	Aug. 1	Oct. 10	4	Sep. 1
House Wren	15	Aug. 7	Oct. 10	4	Sep. 9
Winter Wren	9	Sep. 27	Oct. 15		
Marsh Wren	1	Sep. 30			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	Oct. 10	Oct. 28	5	Oct. 15
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	39	Sep. 29	Oct. 28	10	Oct. 10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5	Aug. 4	Sep. 2		
Veery	4	Sep. 25	Oct. 8		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9	Sep. 25	Oct. 10		
Swainson's Thrush	37	Sep. 9	Sep. 30	6	Sep. 20
Hermit Thrush	5	Oct. 9	Oct. 22		
Wood Thrush	13	Sep. 21	Sep. 30	5	Sep. 27
American Robin	7	Aug. 4	Sep. 30		
Gray Catbird	136	Aug. 8	Oct. 6	9	Sep. 18
Northern Mockingbird	5	Aug. 23	Oct. 6		
Brown Thrasher	5	Sep. 13	Oct. 1		
European Starling	1	Sep. 27			
Cedar Waxwing	6	Aug. 12	Aug. 30		
Blue-winged Warbler	7	Aug. 1	Sep. 10		
Golden-winged Warbler	1	Sep. 11			
Tennessee Warbler	291	Sep. 10	Oct. 6	30	Sep. 27
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Oct. 14			
Nashville Warbler	17	Sep. 21	Oct. 6	4	Sep. 27
Northern Parula	6	Aug. 8	Sep. 29		
Yellow Warbler	1	Sep. 16			

Chestnut-sided Warbler	41	Sep. 2	Sep. 30	7	Sep. 21
Magnolia Warbler	56	Sep. 3	Oct. 6	7	Sep. 21
Cape May Warbler	7	Sep. 21	Oct. 9		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	37	Sep. 10	Sep. 30	5	Sep. 21
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10	Sep. 29	Oct. 6		
Black-throated Green Warbler	16	Sep. 17	Oct. 9	3	Sep. 17
Blackburnian Warbler	7	Aug. 15	Sep. 29		
Yellow-throated Warbler	3	Sep. 8	Sep. 29		
Palm Warbler	29	Sep. 21	Oct. 6	5	Oct. 6
Prairie Warbler	2	Sep. 11	Sep. 20		
Bay-breasted Warbler	19	Sep. 2	Sep. 30	7	Sep. 30
Blackpoll Warbler	18	Sep. 16	Oct. 6	4	Sep. 27
Black-and-white Warbler	19	Aug. 1	Sep. 27	3	Sep. 21
American Redstart	10	Sep. 2	Sep. 26		
Worm-eating Warbler	13	Aug. 8	Sep. 27		
Ovenbird	52	Aug. 3	Sep. 29	8	Sep. 3
Northern Waterthrush	4	Aug. 20	Sep. 29		
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	July 31			
Kentucky Warbler	2	Aug. 1	Aug. 15		
Mourning Warbler	1	Sep. 10			
Common Yellowthroat	69	Aug. 9	Oct. 6	7	Sep. 27
Hooded Warbler	52	Aug. 1	Sep. 25	5	Sep. 21
Wilson's Warbler	3	Sep. 2	Sep. 29		
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	Aug. 15	Sep. 3		
Scarlet Tanager	30	Aug. 1	Sep. 21	12	Aug. 30
Eastern Towhee	23	Sep. 2	Oct. 6	3	Sep. 9

Species	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Peak Date
Chipping Sparrow	31	July 31	Sep. 26	6	Aug. 1
Field Sparrow	19	Aug. 23	Oct. 15	4	Oct. 6
Fox Sparrow	3	Oct. 22	Oct. 28		
Song Sparrow	119	Aug. 6	Oct. 28	9	Oct. 6
Lincoln's Sparrow	9	Sep. 26	Oct. 6		
Swamp Sparrow	43	Sep. 26	Oct. 8	5	Oct. 1
White-throated Sparrow	48	Oct. 9	Oct. 28	10	Oct. 6
White-crowned Sparrow	3	Oct. 15	Oct. 22		
Dark-eyed Junco	21	Oct. 9	Oct. 15	8	Oct. 15
Northern Cardinal	59	Aug. 2	Oct. 15	8	Oct. 1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11	Sep. 16	Sep. 29		
Indigo Bunting	60	Aug. 3	Oct. 1	5	Sep. 29
Red-winged Blackbird	3	Oct. 15	Oct. 15		
Purple Finch	8	Oct. 1	Oct. 15		
House Finch	94	Aug. 8	Oct. 1	23	Sep. 27
American Goldfinch	314	Aug. 15	Oct. 1	49	Sep. 25

University of Cincinnati
 Department of Biological Sciences
 Cincinnati, OH 45221-0006
 E-mail: ron.canterbury@uc.edu

Return of the Raven

J. Lawrence Smith

Few birds are as closely associated with the wilderness in America, the original primeval scene, or places of like appearance today, as the Common Raven. Through destruction of its environment and indiscriminate shooting from the early days of settlement, the bird was greatly reduced in numbers and disappeared from large areas. Prior to the middle of the last century, its widespread return to the mountains of West Virginia attracted the attention of many observers. Within recent decades, ravens have appeared in places where they would not previously have been expected, and they may, in the future, lose their wilderness aura.

Joseph Doddridge (1824) in *Notes on Settlement and Indian Wars*, p. 105, wrote of the abundance of "buzzards, or vultures, grey and bald eagles, ravens" during the early days of settlement. Numbers of these scavengers would be seen near the carcass of a large animal, but all had been greatly reduced in numbers by the time of his writing in 1824. While certainly not a raptorial bird, the feeding habits of the raven are quite similar to vultures.

Interestingly, Doddridge notes, "Crows . . . have of late become very plenty. They were not native of the wilderness." This statement reflects the fact that the crow was lacking in the wilderness scene even though skeletal remains associated with proto-historic Fort Ancient village sites have been unearthed (Guilday, 1971). The habitat created with the coming of farming and the removal and fragmentation of the forest was compatible with the life habits of crows, and needless to say, they prospered.

The almost total removal of the forest cover west of the Allegheny crest by destructive logging practices hastened the disappearance of the raven from western areas. For decades vast areas were little more than a wasteland where wildfires had consumed the resulting litter and denuded the land. All birds dependent upon rather continuous and even heavy forest cover—Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, and Common Raven for example—declined rapidly. Alarm was expressed by persons in the emerging field of wildlife conservation, especially in the case of the turkey, fearing the total extermination of these species within the state.

Ravens found east of the highest mountain ridge that serves as the divide between east and west may have fared better due to more diverse habitat. Strata of Silurian and Devonian age have created countless sites for nesting ravens along the mountain ridges at the Potomac River headwaters and elsewhere. Large areas of pasture and grazing land are often in close proximity to the location of nests. Foraging and scavenging would easily fall into a routine of daily flights from the nest in search of food. As a result of these factors, the early raven population may not have confronted rampant environmental destruction (Brooks, 1908).

Innumerable sites are found in the eastern mountains—along the upper Potomac River as well as in Greenbrier and Monroe Counties—where ravens are permanent throughout the year. Kisers Gap in Pendleton County near Franklin serves as an example (Smith, 2008). Rocks rise high along each side of Dry Run that flows into the South Branch River. Rare is the time when ravens fail to be heard on a drive through the gap. The rocks offer a nest site, while the surrounding farmland provides food. Doubtless countless generations of ravens have lived in the gap with the only reason for leaving being keen competition among individuals.

After the middle of the last century, ravens began turning up beyond the boundaries of their expected breeding range, which was largely in the higher mountains. Charles Conrad (1960) saw three over Wheeling on June 22, 1959. I counted five over Interstate 79 near Morgantown on June 12, 1981, which seemed to have wandered beyond what at least used to be their nesting limits.

Within a period of little more than 20 years, ravens have appeared in the upper Kanawha Valley with their point of origin most likely the New River Gorge. Ravens are frequently seen at Gauley Bridge, Fayette County, throughout the year where high cliffs provide prime nesting sites. I have observed them farther downriver at Boomer not far from the Fayette-Kanawha county line.

Hullet and Donny Good have been diligent in recording ravens in the area of Frame in northern Kanawha County since October, 1997. Some two dozen observations have been made at all seasons in the vicinity of the farm where Hullet spent his boyhood. Five pairs have been seen, and birds of a pair calling to one another in early June, 2006, may well be an indication of nesting. Additional sightings have been made near Big Chimney and Queen Shoals on Elk River.

The first known occurrence of a raven at Charleston was one over the Kanawha City section of the city at Upper Donnally Hollow on May 3, 2000, recorded by Russell Young and Donald and Marilyn Morton (Smith, 2000). More recent records have been made at Spring Hill Cemetery within the city, which include single birds seen October 18, 2003, and December 11, 2005. Most recently, Russell Young found one on Quarry Ridge in the Kanawha City area on June 4, 2007. Observations have been made when ravens should be breeding, but the proximity to the city of actual nesting is unknown at present.

As I drove into the parking lot of the Shoney's restaurant at Flatwoods, Braxton County, in mid-October 1996, a raven flew from the large trash bin where it had been gleaning a meal from discarded leftovers. Due to my preconceived notions of the raven and its primeval-like habitat, the scene hardly seemed a fitting one for the bird. In reality, ravens are opportunists responding to the designs of humankind, and in their willingness to accept the leavings of civilization, Common Ravens have wandered far from the wilderness.

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2847 Virginia Ave.
Hurricane, WV 25526

The Lake Floyd BioBlitz Bird List

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

A BioBlitz is an inventory of all living organisms made in a small area, often an urban park, usually performed over a 24-hour period. On the evening of June 13 to around noon on June 15, 2008, the Lake Floyd community held what may be the first BioBlitz ever performed in West Virginia. Lake Floyd is a private, residential community around a 33-acre lake located a few miles east of Salem, West Virginia, on U.S. Rt. 50. The property encompasses about 700 acres, including the lake with houses around the perimeter, a large amount of mature and secondary growth forest on the hillsides, and a golf course. The weekend weather was mild with a few showers late Saturday afternoon. The weather Sunday morning was warm and sunny. I arrived Saturday afternoon and led a bird walk around the lake before dinner. I led another bird walk in the forest above the north side of the lake Sunday morning, while Joey Herron led a walk in the forest above the southern side of the lake at the same time. The combined list of birds from these walks and from reports made to me by other participants in the BioBlitz follows.

Mallard	Red-eyed Vireo
Great Blue Heron	Blue Jay
Turkey Vulture	American Crow
Broad-winged Hawk	Common Raven
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee
Black-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Carolina Wren
Belted Kingfisher	House Wren
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Downy Woodpecker	Wood Thrush
Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin
Northern Flicker	Gray Catbird
Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Cedar Waxwing
Acadian Flycatcher	Northern Parula
Eastern Phoebe	Yellow Warbler
Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow-throated Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo	Cerulean Warbler
Warbling Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Department of Biology
Bethany College
Bethany, WV 26032

The Lepidoptera of Gilmer Federal Correctional Institution, Gilmer County, West Virginia

George E. Hall

The Gilmer Federal Correctional Institution in Glenville, West Virginia, is situated in heavily forested hills but consists of a series of campus style low buildings with open, grassy areas surrounded by security fences. The entire complex, nearly one hundred acres, is illuminated at night by arc lamp arrays, which attract night flying creatures from a long distance. As a resident of this facility, I have monitored the distribution of birds here since my arrival in March 2004, publishing the results of these surveys in *The Redstart*, 71(4), October 2004. That summer I began noticing that a large variety of insects, especially moths, were also attracted to the lighting, and butterflies were nectaring on clover flowers, which predominates as the ground cover planting. By the end of the season I had begun to collect in earnest, placing the wings of each species very carefully under the plastic pages of a photo album to protect and display them. Thus began a collection that was to grow over the next two years to well over 350 species.

By the end of July 2005, my "book of wings" became known to Linda Butler, professor of entomology at West Virginia University in Morgantown. Through the efforts of Thomas R. Fox, the photo album was delivered to Linda Butler, and we began a collaboration whereby she would supply me with enough materials to properly spread and mount fresh specimens, boxes to ship them in, and resources to identify what I could. I acquired copies of Allen's *The Butterflies of West Virginia and Their Caterpillars*, 1997; Hanfield's marvelous new *Le Guide des Papillons du Quebec*, 1999 (in French); and the new revision of Covell's *A Field Guide to Moths of Eastern North America*, 2005. From that point on through the 2006 season, I collected, mounted, and shipped five Styrofoam boxes full of Lepidoptera (plus assorted Diptera, beetles, dragonflies, etc.) to Linda Butler. She had funding through the Division of Natural Resources to develop a database of Lepidoptera in West Virginia, and my Gilmer County records were a significant addition to this compilation.

The life history and ecology of moths is a fascinating and complex study, and to discover that as many as 400 or more species can be found here attests to the diversity of host plant species in the immediate area, upon which moths are dependent for procreation. Moths will "fly" in cycles, or broods, a weather related result of adults hatching from the pupal stage on or near the host plant, then immediately seek out a mate to breed as most moth adult life-spans are very short, hours to a few days, with very few species able to overwinter. Males can detect through their antennae the unique pheromone emitted by the female, some flying only at certain hours of the day or night; the female then lays her eggs on the host plant where her larvae continue

the life cycle. A dramatic example of this dependence on one or more specific plant species occurred here, where two yuccas are growing in a small compound used for Native American rituals. Certainly not a widespread native species, these yuccas bloomed in late spring, and sure enough, I captured an adult Yucca Moth (*Tegeticula yuccasella*) within 100 feet of the plants.

I found most specimens at rest after dawn, utilizing the facility walls, window ledges, fences, light poles, and grass where I could simply trap them in a clear plastic bag, kill them by freezing or crushing the thorax, before processing each one without damaging wings, legs, or antennae, thus assuring more accurate identification. Some of the strategies developed by moths to camouflage their presence while at rest are most interesting. Many species assume postures where they fold wings, raise hairy tufts, curve the abdomen up, extend the front legs, roll the wings into a tube, or simply blend into a background matching their cryptic patterns, like wood grain or bark. Unfortunately for them, the walls here are a plain light gray so that most moths stood out like sore thumbs. A humorous aspect of my project to collect "bugs" was that it became well known to staff and inmates alike, and I soon had many "assistants" bringing me specimens, delighting in pointing them out, with the occasional staff member escorting me "out of bounds" to secure a nice specimen. Known as Bugman, I found it very amusing that so many hardened inmates were so interested in collecting moths and butterflies.

The butterfly situation has changed since 2004, whereby all vegetation is now kept very low, fence lines are sprayed with herbicide, and hence no flowers are able to form. Then, in 2006, the tree and brush lines were cut way back for security, further eliminating potential habitat for any insects, as well as a number of bird species. In 2004, up to 35 butterfly species were seen or collected as they were nectaring, again captured in clear plastic bags. Now, only the occasional butterfly is caught, and I must rely on sight records for most new species, an example being the Viceroy I spotted last fall.

As the list of confirmed species grew, I was amazed to realize that of the approximately 900 species of macrolepidoptera known in this state, I had found nearly one third of them from a very small sample area. Had I been able to survey all the walls and fence line every day, I doubtless would have many more species. Consider as well that I was finding only those moths attracted to the lights; just how many more are out there, not attracted to lights, will never be known. Also, moths are classified in two ways: the macrolepidoptera, usually larger, are represented by about 18 families (including the skippers, true butterflies, and most of the better-known moths) in eastern North America; and the far less well-known microlepidoptera, usually small to very tiny, containing perhaps 45 families, in the same area. Although some entomologists specialize in the microlepidoptera, and some good data have been published on this group, they remain very difficult to identify, and there are no good field guides for microlepidoptera out there yet. As a result, many of my smallest

specimens will probably stay as unidentified. Even so, I stand at about 50 confirmed species of micros so far, representing 10 of 45 families, which is quite remarkable in itself. In contrast, my list of macros is nearly comprehensive, as we have identified over 300 species in 12 of 14 families as the project ended in 2007. I intend to keep on collecting new species as long as I am here, although Linda Butler's database will be finalized in 2006. (Editor's note: In 2008, after submission of this paper to *The Redstart*, the author was moved from the Gilmer Federal Correctional Complex in Gilmer County, West Virginia, to the FCC in Petersburg, Virginia.)

It is very gratifying to realize the importance of this collection to West Virginia University, as explained to me by Linda Butler. It represents the largest number of species collected at any one location in the state, except for three or four long-standing research sites (including her home). It also provides the only data for Gilmer County and an important head start toward a future database of the microlepidoptera; most exciting of all was the news that about six species were new additions to the WVU database. What follows is the complete list of moths and butterflies encountered through 2007, taken from Linda Butler's database, and including my sight records as well as any specimens destroyed or lost (marked with an asterisk *). The list is arranged by families according to the latest classification scheme as listed in Covell (2005), which he derived from Kristensen (1998). Numbers preceding the species are MONA numbers taken from the latest checklist (Hodges, 1983). As Butler had to rely solely on specimen records for her database, any of my sight records must remain as unverified. Although I made identifications based only on close encounters, there were quite a few that escaped my grasp by an antenna.

INCURVARIIDAE – Yucca and Fairy Moths

198 *Tegeticula yuccasella* (Riley) Yucca moth

TINEIDAE – Clothes Moths

367 *Acrolophus morus* (Grt.) Dark Acrolophus
 372 *Acrolophus plumifrontella* (Clem.) Eastern grass tubeworm moth
 373 *Acrolophus popeanella* (Clem.) Clemen's grass tubeworm moth

OECOPHORIDAE – Oecophorid Moths

882 *Agonopterix robiniella* (Pack.) Locust leafroller moth
 992 *Eihmia zelleriella* (Cham.) Zeller's concealer moth
 1011 *Antaeotricha schlaegeri* (Zell.) Bird-dropping moth
 1014 *Antaeotricha leucillana* (Zell.) Pale bird-dropping moth

YPONOMEUTIDAE – Ermine Moths

2401 *Atteva punctella* (Cram.) Ailanthus webworm moth
 2420 *Yponomeuta multipunctella* (Clem.) American ermine moth

TORTRICIDAE – Tortricid Moths

3497 *Ecdytoplopha insiticiiana* (Zell.) Locust twig borer moth
 3695 *Sparganothis sulfureana* (Clem.) Sparganothis fruitworm moth
 3740 *Platynota idaeusalis* (Wlk.) Tufted apple-bud moth

HESPERIIDAE – Skippers

3870 *Epargyreus clarus* (Cram.) Silver-spotted skipper
 3947 *Erynnis juvenalis* (F.) Juvenal's skipper
 3952 *Erynnis horatius* (Scud. & Burg.) Horace's duskywing
 4004 *Ancyloxypha numitor* (F.) Least skipper
 4013 *Hylephila phyleus* (Drury) Fiery skipper
 4036 *Polites coras* (Cram.) Peck's skipper
 4042 *Polites origenes* (F.) Crossline skipper
 4049 *Atalopedes campestris* (Bdv.) Sachem
 4060 *Poanes zabulon* (Bdv. & Leconte) Zabulon skipper

PAPILIONIDAE – Swallowtail Butterflies

4157 *Battus philenor* (L.) Pipevine swallowtail
 4159 *Papilio polyxenes* (F.) Black swallowtail
 4176 *Papilio glaucus* (L.) Eastern tiger swallowtail
 4181 *Papilio troilus* (L.) Spicebush swallowtail
 4184 *Eurytides marcellus* (Cram.) Zebra swallowtail

PIERIDAE – Whites and Sulphur Butterflies

4197 *Artogeia rapae* (L.) Cabbage white
 4207 *Anthocharis midea* (Hbn.) Falcate orangetip
 4209 *Colias philodice* (Godt.) Clouded sulphur
 4210 *Colias eurytheme* (Bdv.) Orange sulphur
 4237 *Eurema lisa* (Bdv. & Leconte) Little yellow
 4242 *Eurema nicippe* (Cram.) Sleepy orange

LYCAENIDAE – Hairstreaks and Blues

4282	<i>Satyrium falacer</i> (Godt.)	Banded hairstreak
4336	<i>Strymon melinus</i> (Hbn.)	Gray hairstreak
4361	<i>Everes comyntas</i> (Godt.)	Eastern tailed blue
4363	<i>Celastrina ladon</i> (Cram.)	Spring azure

LIBYTHEIDAE – Snout butterflies

4410*	<i>Libytheana bachmanii</i> (Kirtland)	Snout butterfly
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NYMPHALIDAE – Brush-footed Butterflies

4420	<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i> (F.)	Question mark
4421*	<i>Polygonia comma</i> (Harr.)	Eastern comma
4432*	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> (L.)	Mourning cloak
4433*	<i>Nymphalis milberti</i> (Godt.)	Milbert's tortoiseshell
4434	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i> (Drury)	American lady
4435	<i>Vanessa cardui</i> (L.)	Painted lady
4437	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i> (L.)	Red admiral
4450	<i>Speyeria cybele</i> (F.)	Great spangled fritillary
4451*	<i>Speyeria aphrodite</i> (F.)	Aphrodite fritillary
4481	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i> (Drury)	Pearl crescent
4490	<i>Charidryas nycteis</i> (Doubleday)	Silvery checkerspot
4522	<i>Basilarchia arthemis astyanax</i> (F.)	Red-spotted purple
4523*	<i>Basilarchia archippus</i> (Cram.)	Viceroy butterfly
4614	<i>Danaus plexippus</i> (L.)	Monarch butterfly

SATYRIDAE – Wood Nymphs

4587*	<i>Cercyonis pegala</i> (F.)	Common wood nymph
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MEGALOPYGIDAE – Flannel Moths

4644	<i>Lagoa crispata</i> (Pack.)	Black-waved flannel moth
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LIMACODIDAE – Slug Caterpillar Moths

4667*	<i>Apoda y-inversum</i> (Pack.)	Inverted Y slug moth
4697	<i>Euclea delphinii</i> (Bdv.)	Spiny oak-slug moth
4700	<i>Sibine stimulea</i> (Clem.)	Saddleback caterpillar moth

PYRALIDAE – Pyralid Moths

4889	<i>Dicymolomia julianalis</i> (Wlk.)	Julia's Dicymolomia moth
4897	<i>Evergestis pallidata</i> (Hufn.)	Purple-backed cabbageworm moth
4949	<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i> (Hbn.)	European corn borer
4975	<i>Achyra rantalis</i> (Gn.)	Garden webworm moth
4980	<i>Helvibotys helvialis</i> (Wlk.)	ncn
5040	<i>Pyrausta bicoloralis</i> (Gn.)	Bicolored Pyrausta moth
5069	<i>Pyrausta tyralis</i> (Gn.)	Coffee-loving Pyrausta moth
5071	<i>Pyrausta acronalis</i> (Wlk.)	ncn
5079	<i>Udea rubigalis</i> (Gn.)	Celery leaftier moth
5142	<i>Diacme elealis</i> (Wlk.)	Paler Diacme moth
5156	<i>Nomophila nearctica</i> (Mun.)	Lucerne moth
5159	<i>Desmia funeralis</i> (Hbn.)	Grape leaffolder moth
5169	<i>Hymenia perspectalis</i> (Hbn.)	Spotted beet webworm moth
5170	<i>Spoladia recurvalis</i> (F.)	Hawaiian beet webworm moth
5182	<i>Blepharomastix ranalis</i> (Gn.)	Hollow-spotted Blepharomastix
5226	<i>Palpita magniferalis</i> (Wlk.)	Splendid Palpita moth
5241	<i>Pantographa limata</i> (G. & R.)	Basswood leafroller moth
5277	<i>Herpetogramma thestealis</i> (Wlk.)	Zigzag Herpetogramma moth
5281	<i>Pilocrocis ramentalis</i> (Led.)	Scraped Pilocrocis moth
5292	<i>Conchylodes ovulalis</i> (Gn.)	Zebra Conchylodes
5362	<i>Crambus agitatellus</i> (Clem.)	Double-banded grass veneer moth
5378	<i>Crambus laqueatellus</i> (Clem.)	Eastern grass veneer moth
5403	<i>Agriphila vulgivagella</i> (Clem.)	Vagabond Crambus
5413	<i>Pediasia trisecta</i> (Wlk.)	Sod webworm moth
5464	<i>Urola nivalis</i> (Drury)	Snowy Urola
5510	<i>Pyralis farinalis</i> (L.)	Meal moth
5524	<i>Hypsopygia costalis</i> (F.)	Clover hayworm moth
5533	<i>Herculia olinalis</i> (Gn.)	ncn
5571	<i>Condylolomia participalis</i> (Grt.)	Drab Condylolomia moth
5606	<i>Tetralopha asperatella</i> (Clem.)	Maple webworm

THYRIDIDAE – Window-winged Moths

6078	<i>Dysodia oclatana</i> (Clem.)	Eyed Dysodia
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PTEROPHORIDAE – Plume Moths

6234	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i> (L.)	Common plume moth
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THYATIRIDAE—Thyatirid Moths

6237 *Pseudothyatira cymatophoroides* (Gn.) Tufted thyatirid

DREPANIDAE—Hooktip Moths

6251 *Drepana arcuata* (Wlk.) Arched hooktip
 6255* *Oreta rosea* (Wlk.) Rose hooktip

GEOMETRIDAE—Inchworm or Geometer Moths

6273 *Itame pustularia* (Gn.) Lesser maple spanworm moth
 6326 *Semiothisa aemulataria* (Wlk.) Common angle
 6331 *Semiothisa promiscuata* (Fgn.) Promiscuous angle
 6335* *Semiothisa aequiferaria* (Wlk.) Woody angle
 6336 *Semiothisa distribuaria* (Hbn.) Southern chocolate angle
 6341* *Semiothisa bicolorata* (F.) Bicolor angle
 6342 *Semiothisa bisignata* (Wlk.) Red-headed inchworm moth
 6352* *Semiothisa granitata* (Gn.) Granite moth
 6386 *Semiothisa ocellinata* (Gn.) Faint-spotted angle
 6443 *Glenoides texanaria* (Hulst) Texas gray
 6582 *Anacamptodes vellivolata* (Hulst) Large purplish gray
 6584* *Anacamptodes humaria* (Gn.) Small purplish gray
 6586 *Anacamptodes defectaria* (Gn.) Brown shaded gray
 6597 *Ectropis crepuscularia* (D. & S.) The small engrailed
 6598 *Protoarmia porcelaria* (Gn.) Porcelain gray
 6599 *Epimecis hortaria* (F.) Tulip-tree beauty
 6620 *Melanolophia canadaria* (Gn.) Canadian Melanolophia
 6621 *Melanolophia signataria* (Wlk.) Signate Melanolophia
 6660 *Phigalia strigataria* (Minot) Small Phigalia
 6667 *Lomographa vestaliata* (Gn.) White spring moth
 6725 *Euchlaena muzaria* (Wlk.) Muzaria Euchlaena
 6726 *Euchlaena obtusaria* (Hbn.) Obtuse Euchlaena
 6733 *Euchlaena amoenaria* (Gn.) Deep yellow Euchlaena
 6737 *Euchlaena tigrinaria* (Gn.) Mottled Euchlaena
 6739 *Euchlaena irraria* (B. & McD.) Least-marked Euchlaena
 6743 *Xanthotype sospeta* (Drury) Crocus geometer
 6796 *Campaea perlata* (Gn.) Pale beauty
 6797 *Ennomos magnaria* (Hbn.) Large maple spanworm
 6818 *Selenia kentaria* (G. & R.) Kent's geometer
 6828 *Metarranthis homuraria* (G. & R.) Purplish Metarranthis

6838 *Probole amicaria* (H.-S.) Friendly Probole
 6840 *Plagodis serinaria* (H.-S.) Lemon Plagodis
 6841 *Plagodis kuetzingi* (Grt.) Purple Plagodis
 6844 *Plagodis alcoolaria* (Gn.) Hollow-spotted Plagodis
 6885 *Besma quercivoraria* (Gn.) Oak Besma
 6892 *Lambdina pellucidaria* (G. & R.) Yellow-headed looper moth
 6894 *Lambdina fervidaria* (Hbn.) Curved-lined looper moth
 6941 *Eusarca confusaria* (Hbn.) Confused Eusarca
 6963 *Tetracis crocallata* (Gn.) Yellow slant-line
 6964 *Tetracis cachexiata* (Gn.) White slant-line
 6966 *Eutrapela clemataria* (J.E. Smith) Curve-toothed geometer
 6974* *Patalene olyzonaria* (Wlk.) Juniper geometer
 6982 *Prochoerodes transversata* (Drury) Large maple spanworm moth
 7033 *Nemoria lixaria* (Gn.) Red-bordered emerald
 7047 *Nemoria rubrifrontaria* (Pack.) Red-fronted emerald
 7058* *Synchlora aerata* (F.) Wavy-lined emerald
 7123 *Idaea obfusaria* (Wlk.) Rippled wave
 7132 *Pleuroprucha insulsaria* (Gn.) Common tan wave
 7146 *Haematopsis grataria* (F.) Chickweed geometer
 7159 *Scopula limboundata* (Haw.) Large lace-border
 7164* *Scopula junctaria* (Wlk.) Simple wave
 7196 *Eulithis diversilineata* (Hbn.) Lesser grapevine looper moth
 7290* *Coryphista meadii* (Pack.) Barberry geometer
 7292 *Hydria prunivorata* (Fgn.) Ferguson's scallop shell
 7307 *Mesoleuca ruficillata* (Gn.) White-ribboned carpet
 7368 *Xanthorhoe labradorensis* (Pack.) Labrador carpet
 7388* *Xanthorhoe ferrugata* (Cl.) Red twin-spot
 7390 *Xanthorhoe lacustrata* (Gn.) Toothed brown carpet
 7399 *Euphyia unangulata* (Haw.) Sharp-angled carpet
 7414 *Orthonama obstipata* (F.) The gem
 7416 *Orthonama centrostrigaria* (Woll.) Bent-line carpet
 7417 *Disclisoprocta stellata* (Gn.) Somber carpet
 7422 *Hydrelia inornata* (Hulst) Unadorned carpet
 7440 *Eubaphe mendica* (Wlk.) The beggar
 7459 *Eupithecia columbiata* (Dyar) ncn
 7474 *Eupithecia miserulata* (Grt.) Common Eupithecia
 7638 *Cladara anguilineata* (G. & R.) Angled-lined carpet
 7647* *Heterophleps triguttaria* (H.-S.) Three-spotted fillip
 7648 *Dyspteris abortivaria* (H.-S.) The bad wing

MIMALLONIDAE – Sack-bearer Moths

7662 *Cicinnus melsheimeri* (Harr.) Melsheimer's sack-bearer

APATELODIDAE – Apatelodid Moths

7663 *Apatelodes torrefacta* (J.E. Smith) Spotted Apatelodes

7665 *Olceclostera angelica* (Grt.) The angel

LASIOCAMPIDAE – Tent Caterpillar and Lappet Moths

7674 *Tolype notialis* (Franc.) Small Tolype

7683 *Artace cribraria* (Ljungh) Dot-lined white

7701 *Malacosoma americanum* (F.) Eastern tent caterpillar moth

SATURNIIDAE – Giant Silkworm and Royal Moths

7704 *Eacles imperialis* (Drury) Imperial moth

7706 *Citheronia regalis* (F.) Royal walnut moth

7715 *Dryocampa rubicunda* (F.) Rosy maple moth

7746 *Automeris io* (F.) Io moth

7757 *Antheraea polyphemus* (Cram.) Polyphemus moth

7758 *Actias luna* (L.) Luna moth

7765 *Callosamia angulifera* (Wlk.) Tulip-tree silkworm moth

7767 *Hyalophora cecropia* (L.) Cecropia moth

SPHINGIDAE – Sphinx and Hawk Moths

7771 *Agrius cingulata* (F.) Pink-spotted hawk moth

7775 *Manduca sexta* (L.) Carolina sphinx

7783 *Manduca jasminearum* (Guer.) Ash sphinx

7786 *Ceratomia amyntor* (Geyer) Elm sphinx

7787 *Ceratomia undulosa* (Wlk.) Waved sphinx

7809 *Sphinx kalmiae* (J.E. Smith) Laurel sphinx

7824 *Paonias excaecatus* (J.E. Smith) Blinded sphinx

7825 *Paonias myops* (J.E. Smith) Small-eyed sphinx

7826 *Paonias astylus* (Drury) Huckleberry sphinx

7827 *Laothoe juglandis* (J.E. Smith) Walnut sphinx

7853 *Hemaris thysbe* (F.) Hummingbird clearwing

7859 *Eumorpha pandorus* (Hbn.) Pandorus sphinx

7865 *Eumorpha fasciata* (Sulz.) Banded sphinx

7871 *Deidamia inscripta* (Harr.) Lettered sphinx

7884 *Darapsa versicolor* (Harr.) Hydrangea sphinx

7885 *Darapsa myron* (Cram.) Hog sphinx

7890 *Xylophanes tersa* (L.) Tersa sphinx

NOTODONTIDAE – Prominents

7895 *Clostera albosigma* (Fitch) Sigmoid prominent

7903 *Datana angusii* (G. & R.) Angus's Datana

7906 *Datana contracta* (Wlk.) Contracted Datana

7907 *Datana integerrima* (G. & R.) Walnut caterpillar moth

7915 *Nadata gibbosa* (J.E. Smith) White-dotted prominent

7922 *Pheosiarimosa* (Pack.) Black-rimmed prominent

7931 *Gluphisia septentrionis* (Wlk.) Common Gluphisia

7936 *Furcula borealis* (Guerin-Meneville) White Furcula

7958 *Dasylophia thyatiroides* (Wlk.) Gray-patched prominent

7975 *Macrurocampa marthesia* (Cram.) Mottled prominent

7983 *Heterocampa obliqua* (Pack.) Oblique Heterocampa

7990 *Heterocampa umbrata* (Wlk.) White-blotched Heterocampa

7998 *Lochmaeus manteo* (Doubleday) Variable oakleaf caterpillar moth

8005 *Schizura ipomoeae* (Doubleday) Morning-glory prominent

8011 *Schizura leptinoides* (Grt.) Black-blotched Schizura

8017 *Oligocentria lignicolor* (Wlk.) White-streaked prominent

ARCTIIDAE – Tiger, Lichen, and Wasp Moths

8045.1 *Crambidia pallida* (Pack.) Pale lichen moth

8053 *Crambidia cephalica* (Grt. & Rob.) Yellowheaded lichen moth

8087* *Lycomorpha pholus* (Drury) Black and yellow lichen moth

8098 *Clemensia albata* (Pack.) Little white lichen moth

8107 *Haploa clymene* (Brown) Clymene moth

8108 *Haploa colona* (Hbn.) Colona moth

8109 *Haploa reversa* (Stretch) Reversed Haploa

8110 *Haploa contigua* (Wlk.) The neighbor

8121 *Holomelina aurantiaca* (Hbn.) Orange Holomelina

8129 *Pyrrharctia isabella* (J.E. Smith) Isabella tiger moth

8137 *Spilosoma virginica* (F.) Virginian tiger moth

8140 *Hyphantria cunea* (Drury) Fall webworm moth

8146 *Ecpantheria scribonia* (Stoll) Giant leopard moth

8169 *Apantesis phalerata* (Harr.) Harnessed moth

8196 *Apantesis parthenice* (W. Kirby) Parthenice tiger moth

8203	<i>Halysidota tessellaris</i> (J.E. Smith)	Banded tussock moth
8211	<i>Lophocampa caryae</i> (Harr.)	Hickory tussock moth
8230	<i>Cycnia tenera</i> (Hbn.)	Delicate Cycnia
8238	<i>Euchaetes egle</i> (Drury)	Milkweed tussock moth
8267	<i>Ciseps fulvicollis</i> (Hbn.)	Yellow-collared scape moth

LYMANTRIIDAE – Tussock Moths

8292	<i>Dasychira tephra</i> (Hbn.)	Tephra tussock moth
8296	<i>Dasychira basiflava</i> (Pack.)	Yellow-based tussock moth
8302	<i>Dasychira obliquata</i> (G. & R.)	Streaked tussock moth
8305	<i>Dasychira pinicola</i> (Dyar)	Pine tussock moth
8314	<i>Orgyia defnita</i> (Pack.)	Definite tussock moth

NOCTUIDAE – Owlet or Noctuid Moths

8323	<i>Idia aemula</i> (Hbn.)	Common Idia
8326	<i>Idia rotundalis</i> (Wlk.)	Rotund Idia
8329	<i>Idia diminuendis</i> (B. & McD.)	Orange-spotted Idia
8330	<i>Idia scobialis</i> (Grt.)	Smoky Idia
8338	<i>Phalaenophana pyramusalis</i> (Wlk.)	Dark-banded owlet
8340	<i>Zanclognatha lituralis</i> (Hbn.)	Lettered Zanclognatha
8348	<i>Zanclognatha pedipilalis</i> (Gn.)	Grayish Zanclognatha
8351	<i>Zanclognatha cruralis</i> (Gn.)	Early Zanclognatha
8352	<i>Zanclognatha jacchusalis</i> (Wlk.)	Yellowish Zanclognatha
8353	<i>Zanclognatha ochreipennis</i> (Grt.)	Wavy-lined Zanclognatha
8355	<i>Chytolita morbidalis</i> (Gn.)	Morbid owlet
8364	<i>Phalaenostola larentioides</i> (Grt.)	Black-banded owlet
8366	<i>Tetanolita mynesalis</i> (Wlk.)	Smoky Tetanolita
8370	<i>Bleptina caradrinalis</i> (Gn.)	Bent-winged owlet
8379	<i>Renia factiosalis</i> (Wlk.)	Sociable Renia
8380	<i>Renia nemoralis</i> (B. & McD.)	Chocolate Renia
8381	<i>Renia discoloralis</i> (Gn.)	Discolored Renia
8387	<i>Renia sobrialis</i> (Wlk.)	Sober Renia
8393	<i>Lascoria ambigualis</i> (Wlk.)	Ambiguous moth
8397	<i>Palthis angualis</i> (Hbn.)	Dark-spotted Palthis
8398	<i>Palthis asopialis</i> (Gn.)	Faint-spotted Palthis
8441	<i>Bomolocha manalis</i> (Wlk.)	Flowing-line Bomolocha
8442	<i>Bomolocha baltimoralis</i> (Gn.)	Baltimore Bomolocha
8443	<i>Bomolocha bijugalis</i> (Wlk.)	Dimorphic Bomolocha
8444	<i>Bomolocha palparia</i> (Wlk.)	Mottled Bomolocha

8445	<i>Bomolocha abalienalis</i> (Wlk.)	White-lined Bomolocha
8447	<i>Bomolocha madefactalis</i> (Gn.)	Gray-edged Bomolocha
8447.1	<i>Bomolocha appalachiensis</i> (Butler)	Appalachian Bomolocha
8448	<i>Bomolocha sordidula</i> (Grt.)	Sordid Bomolocha
8452	<i>Bomolocha edictalis</i> (Wlk.)	Large Bomolocha
8465	<i>Plathypena scabra</i> (F.)	Green cloverworm
8479	<i>Spargaloma sexpunctata</i> (Grt.)	Six-spotted gray
8490	<i>Pangrapta decoralis</i> (Hbn.)	Decorated owlet
8500	<i>Metalectra quadrisignata</i> (Wlk.)	Four-spotted fungus moth
8525	<i>Phyprosopus callitrichoides</i> (Grt.)	Curved-lined owlet
854 *	<i>Eudocima</i> sp.	Fruit-piercing moth
8545	<i>Anomis erosa</i> (Hbn.)	Yellow scallop moth
8555	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i> (L.)	The herald
8574	<i>Anticarsia gemmatalis</i> (Hbn.)	Velvetbean caterpillar moth
8591	<i>Phoberia atomaris</i> (Hbn.)	Common oak moth
8592	<i>Cissusa spadix</i> (Cram.)	Black-dotted brown
8600	<i>Melipotis indomita</i> (Wlk.)	Indomitable Melipotis
8649	<i>Ascalapha odorata</i> (L.)	The black witch
8689	<i>Zale lunata</i> (Drury)	Lunate Zale
8692	<i>Zale galbanata</i> (Morr.)	Maple Zale
8695	<i>Zale undularis</i> (Drury)	Black Zale
8697	<i>Zale minerea</i> (Gn.)	Colorful Zale
8717	<i>Zale horrida</i> (Hbn.)	Horrid Zale
8719	<i>Euparthenos nubilis</i> (Hbn.)	Locust underwing
8721	<i>Allothria elonympha</i> (Hbn.)	False underwing
8727	<i>Parallelia bistriaris</i> (Hbn.)	Maple looper moth
8738	<i>Caenurgina crassiuscula</i> (Haw.)	Clover looper moth
8739	<i>Caenurgina erechtea</i> (Cram.)	Forage looper moth
8745	<i>Mocis texana</i> (Morr.)	Texas Mocis
8747	<i>Celiptera frustulum</i> (Gn.)	Black bit moth
8771	<i>Catocala piatrix</i> (Grt.)	The penitent
8778	<i>Catocala habilis</i> (Grt.)	Habilis underwing
8784	<i>Catocala obscura</i> (Stkr.)	Obscure underwing
8785	<i>Catocala residua</i> (Grt.)	Residua underwing
8788	<i>Catocala resecta</i> (Grt.)	Yellow-gray underwing
8792	<i>Catocala vidua</i> (J.E. Smith)	Widow underwing
8795	<i>Catocala palaeogama</i> (Gn.)	Old wife underwing
8798	<i>Catocala neogama</i> (J.E. Smith)	The bride
8801	<i>Catocala ilia</i> (Cram.)	The Ilia underwing
8802	<i>Catocala cerogama</i> (Gn.)	Yellow-banded underwing
8803*	<i>Catocala relictia</i> (Wlk.)	White underwing

8805	<i>Catocala unijuga</i> (Wlk.)	Once-married underwing	9284	<i>Agriopodes teratophora</i> (H.-S.)	The green marvel
8849	<i>Catocala andromedae</i> (Gn.)	Andromeda underwing	9285	<i>Polygrammate hebraeicum</i> (Hbn.)	The Hebrew
8876	<i>Catocala micronympha</i> (Gn.)	Little nymph	9301	<i>Eudryas grata</i> (F.)	Beautiful wood-nymph
8876.9	<i>Catocala micronympha fratercula</i> (G. & R.)	Little bride	9309	<i>Psychomorpha epimenis</i> (Drury)	Grapevine epimenis
8885	<i>Argyrogramma verruca</i> (F.)	Golden looper moth	9328	<i>Apamea nigrior</i> (Sm.)	Black-dashed Apamea
8889	<i>Agrapha oxygramma</i> (Gey.)	Sharp-stigma looper moth	9329	<i>Apamea cariosa</i> (Gn.)	ncn
8890	<i>Pseudoplusia includens</i> (Wlk.)	Soybean looper moth	9332	<i>Apamea vulgaris</i> (G. & R.)	Common Apamea
8898	<i>Allagrapha aerea</i> (Hbn.)	Unspotted looper moth	9406	<i>Oligia fractilinea</i> (Grt.)	Broken-line brocade
8907	<i>Autographa biloba</i> (Steph.)	Bilobed looper moth	9410	<i>Oligia crytora</i> (Franc.)	ncn
8908	<i>Autographa precatationis</i> (Gn.)	Common looper moth	9420	<i>Oligia illocata</i> (Wlk.)	Wandering brocade
8924	<i>Anagrapha falcifera</i> (Kby.)	Celery looper moth	9453	<i>Helotropha reniformis</i> (Grt.)	ncn
8962	<i>Paectes abrostoloides</i> (Gn.)	Large Paectes	9466	<i>Papaipema cataphracta</i> (Grt.)	Burdock borer moth
8970	<i>Baileya ophthalmica</i> (Gn.)	Eyed Bailey	9471	<i>Papaipema arctivorens</i> (Hamp.)	Northern burdock borer moth
8973	<i>Baileya australis</i> (Grt.)	Small Bailey	9473	<i>Papaipema impecuniosa</i> (Grt.)	Aster borer moth
9037	<i>Hyperstrotia pervertens</i> (B. & McD.)	Dotted graylet	9492	<i>Papaipema marginidens</i> (Gn.)	ncn
9040	<i>Hyperstrotia secta</i> (Grt.)	Black-patched graylet	9556	<i>Chytonix palliatricula</i> (Gn.)	Cloaked marvel
9044	<i>Thioptera nigrofimbria</i> (Gn.)	Black-bordered lemon moth	9556.1	<i>Chytonix palliatricula iaspis</i> (Gn.)	Cloaked marvel
9047	<i>Lithacodia muscosula</i> (Gn.)	Large mossy Lithacodia	9631	<i>Callopietria mollissima</i> (Gn.)	Pink-shaded fern moth
9049	<i>Lithacodia synochitis</i> (G. & R.)	Black-dotted Lithacodia	9637	<i>Magusa orbifera</i> (Wlk.)	Orbed narrow-wing
9051	<i>Lithacodia musta</i> (G. & R.)	Small mossy Lithacodia	9638	<i>Amphipyra pyramidoides</i> (Gn.)	Copper underwing
9053	<i>Lithacodia carneola</i> (Gn.)	Pink-barred Lithacodia	9650	<i>Anorthodes tarda</i> (Gn.)	The slowpoke
9057	<i>Homophoberia apicosa</i> (Haw.)	Black wedge-spot	9666	<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i> (J.E. Smith)	Fall armyworm moth
9182	<i>Panthea furcilla</i> (Pack.)	Eastern Panthea	9669	<i>Spodoptera ornithogalli</i> (Gn.)	Yellow-striped armyworm moth
9184	<i>Colocasia flavicornis</i> (Sm.)	Yellowhorn	9678	<i>Elaphria versicolor</i> (Grt.)	Variiegated midget
9185	<i>Colocasia propinquinelinea</i> (Grt.)	Close-banded yellowhorn	9688	<i>Galgula partita</i> (Gn.)	The wedgling
9189	<i>Charadra deridens</i> (Gn.)	The laugh	9696	<i>Platysenta vecors</i> (Gn.)	Dusky groundling
9200	<i>Acronicta americana</i> (Harr.)	American dagger moth	9699	<i>Platysenta sutor</i> (Gn.)	The cobbler
9209	<i>Acronicta radcliffei</i> (Harv.)	Radcliffe's dagger moth	9881*	<i>Homoglaea hircina</i> (Morr.)	Goat sawfly
9221	<i>Acronicta funeralis</i> (G. & R.)	Funerary dagger moth	9944	<i>Metaxaglaea viatica</i> (Grt.)	Roadside sawfly
9227	<i>Acronicta laetifica</i> (Sm.)	Pleasant dagger moth	9952	<i>Eucirroedia pampina</i> (Gn.)	Scalloped sawfly
9235	<i>Acronicta spinigera</i> (Gn.)	Nondescript dagger moth	9957	<i>Sunira bicolorago</i> (Gn.)	Bicolored sawfly
9238	<i>Acronicta lobeliae</i> (Gn.)	Lobeliae dagger moth	9961	<i>Anathix ralla</i> (G. & R.)	Dotted sawfly
9240	<i>Acronicta pruni</i> (Harr.)	Prunus dagger moth	10012	<i>Eutolyte electilis</i> (Morr.)	Chosen sawfly
9243	<i>Acronicta ovata</i> (Grt.)	Ovate dagger moth	10013	<i>Eutolyte grandis</i> (Sm.)	Gray sawfly
9245	<i>Acronicta haesitata</i> (Grt.)	Hesitant dagger moth	10016	<i>Copipanolis styracis</i> (Gn.)	Fawn sawfly
9249	<i>Acronicta increta</i> (Morr.)	Raspberry bud dagger moth	10020	<i>Psaphida thaxteriana</i> (Grt.)	Thaxta's pinion moth
9251	<i>Acronicta retardata</i> (Wlk.)	Retarded dagger moth	10200	<i>Cucullia asteroides</i> (Gn.)	The asteroid
9253	<i>Acronicta subochrea</i> (Grt.)	Puzzling dagger moth	10202	<i>Cucullia convexpennis</i> (G. & R.)	Brown-hooded owl
9254	<i>Acronicta afflicta</i> (Grt.)	Afflicted dagger moth	10289	<i>Polia goodelli</i> (Grt.)	Disparaged arches
9257*	<i>Acronicta impleta</i> (Wlk.)	Yellow-haired dagger moth	10292	<i>Melanchra adjuncta</i> (Gn.)	Hitched arches
9264	<i>Acronicta longa</i> (Gn.)	Long-winged dagger moth	10368	<i>Lacinipolia meditata</i> (Grt.)	The thinker

10397	<i>Lacinipolia renigera</i> (Steph.)	Bristly cutworm moth
10438	<i>Pseudaletia unipuncta</i> (Haw.)	Armyworm moth
10445	<i>Leucania linda</i> (Franc.)	Linda's wainscot
10446	<i>Leucania multilinea</i> (Wlk.)	Many-lined wainscot
10518	<i>Achatia distincta</i> (Hbn.)	Distinct quaker
10520	<i>Morrisonia evicta</i> (Grt.)	Bicolored woodgrain
10521	<i>Morrisonia confusa</i> (Hbn.)	Confused woodgrain
10524	<i>Nephelodes minians</i> (Gn.)	Bronzed cutworm moth
10578	<i>Pseudorthodes vecors</i> (Gn.)	Small brown quaker
10585	<i>Orthodes crenulata</i> (Butler)	Rustic quaker
10663	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i> (Hufn.)	Ipsilon dart
10903	<i>Euagrotis illapsa</i> (Wlk.)	Snowy dart
10911	<i>Anicla infecta</i> (Ochs.)	Green cutworm moth
10915	<i>Peridroma saucia</i> (Hbn.)	Variegated cutworm moth
10941.1	<i>Noctua promuba</i> (L.)	Large yellow underwing
10942	<i>Xestia adela</i> (Franc.)	Greater black-letter dart
10943	<i>Xestia normaniana</i> (Grt.)	Norman's dart
10998	<i>Choephorafungorum</i> (G. & R.)	Bent-line dart
11008*	<i>Eueretagrotis perattenta</i> (Grt.)	Two-spot dart
11029	<i>Abagrotis alternata</i> (Grt.)	Greater red dart
11068	<i>Heliothis zea</i> (Boddie)	Corn earworm moth
11071	<i>Heliothis virescens</i> (F.)	Tobacco budworm moth
11128	<i>Schinia arcigera</i> (Gn.)	Arcigera flower moth
11135	<i>Schinia rivulosa</i> (Gn.)	Ragweed flower moth

ncn = no common name

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Unit C-South
P.O. Box 90043
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Field Notes
Spring Season
March - May, 2008

James Triplett and Beverly Triplett

The spring weather was quite average according to the data from the Cornell University Climate Center. The average temperature for the state for the spring period was 51.1°F and the average precipitation was 14.15 inches. The precipitation amounts were 116% of normal, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center of Cornell University. The precipitation amounts further helped to relieve some of last year's drought in the state.

These notes were gathered from the National Audubon Society sponsored West Virginia Bird Listserv and from field notes submitted to the editor by phone, e-mail, and regular mail. The full content of the submitted notes by the contributors of the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at the following Web site: www.list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html. Birders in around 21 out of 55 West Virginia counties regularly report their bird sightings on the WV Listserv.

Jon Benedetti, of the Mountwood Bird Club, reported that migration was spread over a longer period than usual. According to the Mountwood Bird Club, there were no super days, but several good days. They also stated that there were not the numbers of birds usually seen on migration, and there seemed to be a smaller number of breeding birds.

Ducks, Swans, and Geese—Wilma Jarrell had the only **Snow Geese** noted during the spring season. **Canada Geese** were seen throughout the state. Three observations of **Mute Swans** were received from Fayette County, on May 28, from Jim and Barb Smith; Pleasants County, March 11, from John Tharp; and on March 8, from the Mountwood Bird Club, Wood County. Barry Williams found two **Trumpeter Swans** in Greenbrier County on the Greenbrier River near the Caldwell Bridge on March 3, 2008. Previous sightings from the same location are described in the winter "Field Notes" for 2007-2008. Elliott Kirschbaum saw **Tundra Swans** in Jefferson County. The **Tundra Swans** were seen, also, in Mason County by Wendell Argabrite and in Wood County by Matthew Orsie. There were many reports of **Wood Ducks**, **Gadwalls**, **American Wigeons**, **American Black Ducks**, **Mallards**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Northern Pintails**, **Green-winged Teals**, **Blue-winged Teals**, and **Ring-necked Ducks**. **Canvasbacks** were only listed in Jefferson County (MO), Mason County (DP), Wood County (MBC), and Wetzel County (WJ). Jefferson County (MO), Preston County (GF), and Putnam County (CE) had the only three sightings of **Redheads**.

Maggi Perl, Lincoln County, noted a **Greater Scaup** on May 10. **Lesser Scaups**, **Long-tailed Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, **Common Goldeneyes**, all three **Mergansers**, and

Ruddy Ducks were seen in Putnam (CE, KK) and Mason Counties (KK). Steve Gillespie observed one male and three female **Surf Scoters** on May 5 on the Kanawha River, Putnam County. Chandler Robbins noted that the **White-winged Scoter** seen on March 1, on the Ohio River at Belmont, was a "lifetime bird in West Virginia" for him. The sighting was on a field trip that took place during the BBC Midwinter Meeting at Northbend State Park.

Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys—**Ruffed Grouse** were noted in Jefferson County (MO), Preston County (GF), Putnam County (CE), and Wetzel County (WJ), **Wild Turkeys** were reported in many area.

Northern Bobwhite was only noted by Matthew Orsie in Berkeley County on March 4 and Jefferson County on May 14.

Loons, Grebes—**Common Loons** were observed in six counties. On April 6, James Triplett saw a male in full breeding plumage at the I-64 Bridge in Charleston while doing a Peregrine Falcon survey. Other sightings were from Cabell (KK), Jefferson (MO), Mason (WA), Raleigh (MW), and Summers (JJP) Counties. **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** were found throughout the state during the period. Kimberly Kazmierski saw a **Red-necked Grebe** on March 6 in Cabell County.

Pelicans—Cindy Ellis noted an unusual sighting of an **American White Pelican** at the Winfield Locks on April 15.

Cormorants—Wilma Jarrell noted that nine **Double-crested Cormorants** flew over her yard on April 27. **Cormorants** were also found in Jefferson (MO), Kanawha (JBT), Putnam (CE), Summers (JJP), and Wood (MBC) Counties.

Bitterns, Herons, Egrets—Wendell Argabrite and Michael Griffith saw a single **American Bittern** in Cabell County on May 16. **Least Bitterns** were noted in Cabell County by Wendell Argabrite on May 23 and Gary Rankin on April 27. **Great Blue Herons** occurred quite often throughout the state. The large rookery of **Great Blue Herons** located on the Kanawha River at the Mason-Putnam county line was busy this season. Cynthia Ellis counted 20 occupied nests on March 20. James Triplett and Steve Gillespie checked out the same rookery by boat on May 5 and counted at least 20 **Great Blue Herons** on the nests. **Great Egrets** were listed in seven counties. **Snowy Egrets** were sighted in Wood County at Sandy Creek backwater by the Mountwood Bird Club, only the third time listed during the spring season for the Club. Sharon Kerns saw a **Little Blue Heron** in Pocahontas County on May 8. **Green Herons** were common throughout the season. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed in Pendleton County by Dianna Simms on March 30.

Vultures—**Black Vultures** were reported in five counties. **Turkey Vultures** were listed by most reporting areas.

Accipitridae—**Ospreys** were noted in most reporting areas throughout the state. Jeanette Esker noted that Ospreys returned about a week early to their nesting sites at Belleville, Neale Island, Muskingum Island, Willow Island Dam, and Grandview Island in the Wood County vicinity. **Bald Eagles** were commonly listed throughout

the state. New to the Wood County list was a **Golden Eagle** seen by Jon Benedetti, John Tharp, and Bill Butler on Middle Island on the Migratory Bird Count on May 10. The bird soared over the Ohio River and over the Island for about 20 minutes. Also, Matthew Orsie saw a **Golden Eagle** on March 17 in Pendleton County. **Northern Harriers** were observed in five counties: Cabell (JBT), Mason (JBT), Putnam (CE), Wayne (GR), and Wood (MBC). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were reported in most areas. Rob Tallman listed **Northern Goshawks** in Pocahontas County on March 19. **Red-Shouldered, Red-tailed, and Broad-winged Hawks** were frequently seen throughout the state. Jeanette and Dick Esker saw a "nearly all white," perhaps albino, **Red-tailed Hawk** on a nest on April 19, at Belleville, Jackson County. Bob Summers found two chicks in the same nest on April 24.

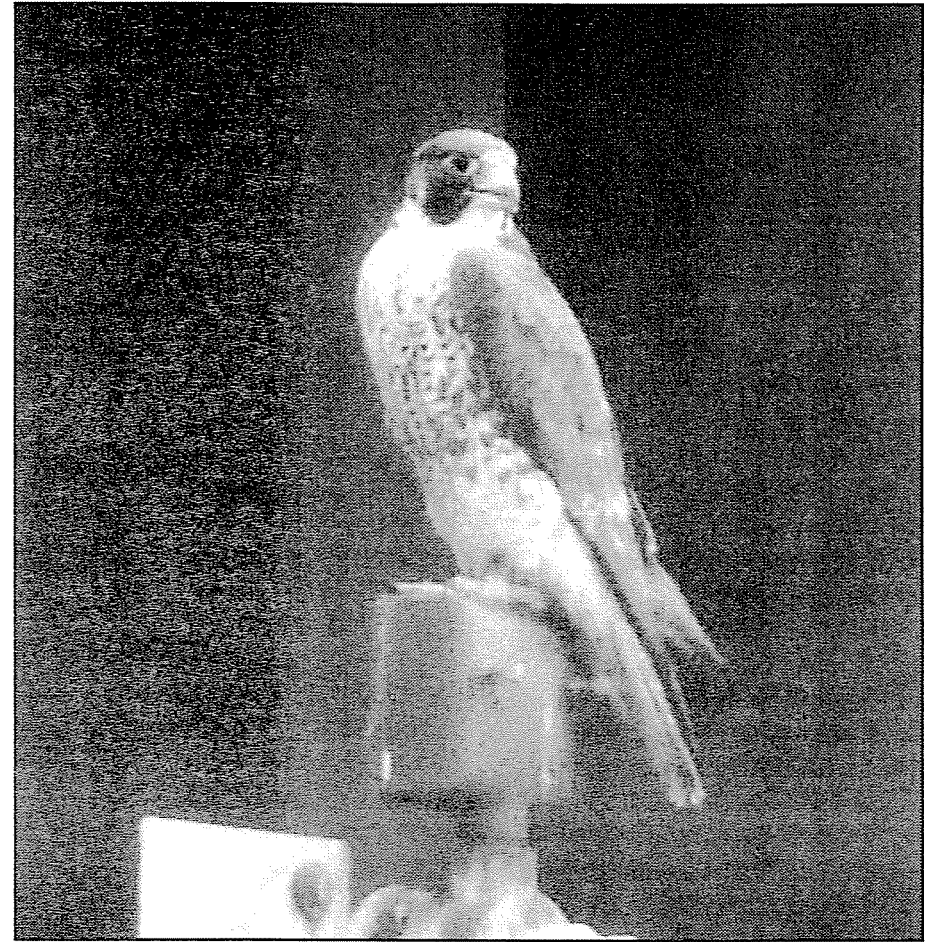
Falcons—**American Kestrels** were spotted regularly over the entire area. **Peregrine Falcons** were noted in six counties: Berkeley (RT), Kanawha (JBT), Mason (MO), and Preston (GF) around a pond near Reedsville, Putnam (CE), on the Winfield Bridge, and Wood (MBC). At the Parkersburg-Belpre Bridge, members of the Mountwood Bird Club found adult **Peregrine Falcons**, with green and black bands, and three chicks in a nest under the bridge in a structural joint. James Triplett and Beverly Triplett first saw a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** with ID bands of green and black with readable numbers under the I-64 Bridge on March 29. Rob Tallman, an ornithologist with the WV Division of Natural Resources (DNR), confirmed that the juvenile, # 66Y, had been banded in the New River Gorge by the WV DNR in the summer of 2007. The other **Peregrine Falcon**, an adult, # 60Z, had been banded in the New River Gorge, also in the summer of 2007. The pair remained in the Fort Hill area for all of the spring season.

Rails, Coots—James and Louise Casto saw a **Yellow Rail** in Cabell County on April 25. The Handlan Bird Club, Kanawha County, listed a **King Rail** on their Century Day Count, May 10. **Virginia Rails** were observed in Cabell County (WA, DP) and Jefferson County (MO). **Soras** were noted in Cabell County (DP), Jefferson County (MO), and Pocahontas County (SK). **American Coots** were frequent in most of the state's waters.

Cranes—Bob Summers and Margaret Straley saw **Sandhill Cranes** in the Roane-Jackson county border area on April 14.

Plovers—Gary Felton and John Boback saw **Black-bellied Plovers** near Reedsville, Preston County, on the Migratory Bird Count on May 10. They were also reported by Wendell Argabrite on May 23 in Mason County at the Apple Grove Fish Hatchery. **Semipalmated Plovers** were noted in Jefferson County (MO), Mason County (WA), and Preston County (GF). **Killdeer** were widespread throughout the state. James Triplett, Beverly Triplett, John Fichtner, and the Frozen Camp Master Naturalists saw a family of **Killdeer** with chicks on the grounds of the Roane-Jackson County Vocational Center in May.

Sandpipers—Fifteen species were noted during the spring season. **Greater** and



Peregrine Falcon on the I-64 Bridge on April 26, 2008. Photo by James Triplett.

Lesser Yellowlegs were listed in several counties. **Solitary** and **Spotted Sandpipers** were in many areas. Of note was the listing by Wendell Argabrite of 10 **Solitary Sandpipers** at the Apple Grove Fish Hatchery on May 15, and 25 to 50 **Spotted Sandpipers** at the same location during the last two weeks in May. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen in very large numbers at the Apple Grove Fish Hatchery by Wendell Argabrite, who estimated at least 150, and David Patick et al. noted 103 the last week of May. **Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, and American Woodcock** were noticed in several areas. **Wilson's Snipes** were abundant in nine counties. Approximately 60 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found at the Apple Grove Fish Hatchery (WA). There was one report of a **Baird's Sandpiper** by Don and Marilyn Morton at St. Albans, Kanawha County, on the May 10 Century Day Count with the Handlan Bird Club. Other infrequently noted species included **Wilson's Phalarope,**

Short-billed Dowitcher, Red-necked Phalaropes, and Sanderlings, mostly listed in Mason County. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was seen by Wendell Argabrite, James Triplett, Steve Gillespie, and many others, at the Apple Grove Fish Hatchery in mid-May. Gary Felton noted that a flock of 36 **Dunlins** near Reedsville was the largest he had ever seen in that part of the state.

Gulls and Terns—Eight species of gulls occurred during the spring. **Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls** were widespread throughout the area. James Phillips counted at least 350 **Herring Gulls** on March 28 in Summers County. Gary Felton had a **Greater Black-backed Gull** in Preston County on April 29. Gary Rankin saw a **Caspian Tern** in Cabell County on April 13. Other terns sighted included the **Common Tern** (WA, MG), **Forster's Tern**, and the **Black Tern**. Gary Rankin found two **Forster's Terns** at Beech Fork Lake, Cabell County, on April 26. Maggie Pearl saw **Forster's Terns** at the Upper Mud Fork Wildlife Management Area in Lincoln County on May 10. Barry Williams found a **Black Tern** on a pond near Lewisburg on May 12.

Rock Pigeons and Mourning Doves were widespread throughout the state.

Cuckoos—Cindy Ellish had a good look at a pair of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at her home in Putnam County on May 17. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were also noted in Summers County (JJP) and Wetzell County (WJ). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were seen in four counties: Cabell (DP), Preston (GF), Randolph (RT), and Summers (JJP).

Owls—Only three species of owls were listed. David Carr, Hardy County, saw a **Barn Owl** on March 25. **Barred Owls** occurred in Jefferson County (BH), Pocahontas County (RT), Summers County (RP), and Wayne County (GR). Ron Perrone, Summers County, commented on a **Great Horned Owl** discovered on March 11.

Nighthawks, Whip-poor-wills—Jefferson County (CD) and Putnam County (KK) had findings of **Common Nighthawks**. The only two sightings of **Whip-poor-wills** were from Thomas Fox in Calhoun County and Kevin Cade in Putnam County.

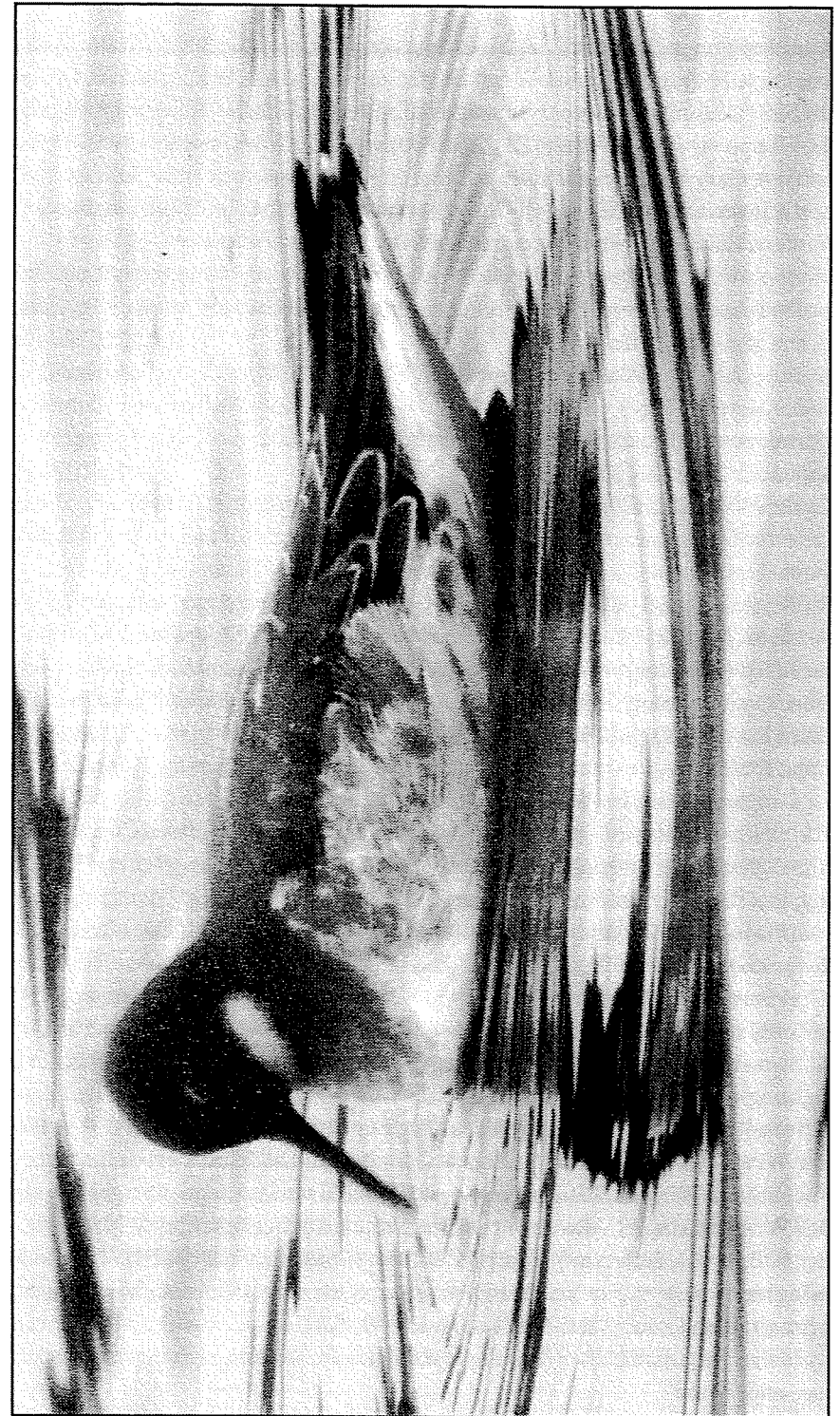
Chimney Swifts—Five counties listed **Chimney Swifts**: Berkley (MO), Cabell (DP), Jefferson (MO), Putnam (KK), and Raleigh (MAW).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds—The beginning of the spring season brought many comments about the decline in numbers of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** returning to feeders this year. As the season progressed, the numbers gradually increased. Natural nectars seemed to be more abundant this year and the hummers didn't get to feeders until later in the season. We had reports from just four counties this spring: Jefferson (EK), Kanawha (JBT), Putnam (CE), and Raleigh.

Belted Kingfishers were found around the entire area.

Woodpeckers—All seven species of woodpeckers that are listed on the *Birds of West Virginia Field Checklist* were observed in the areas of the state that regularly report findings to the editors.

Flycatchers—Eight species of flycatchers were sighted this spring. The most common sightings throughout the area were the **Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, Acadian,**



Red-necked Phalarope at the Apple Grove Fish Hatchery. May 16, 2008. Photo by James Triplett.

Eastern Phoebe, and **Eastern Kingbird**. Less common were the **Alder, Willow, and Great Crested Flycatchers** and **Western Kingbird**. Cabell (WA), Ohio (RT), and Putnam (CE) Counties had the only notes on the **Alder Flycatcher**. Birders in Barbour (JBo), Jefferson (MO), Pleasant (JB), and Putnam (CE) Counties noted the **Willow Flycatcher**. Gary Felton remarked that the May 5 appearance of the **Willow Flycatcher** was the earliest in Preston County. Matthew Orsie had the only sighting of the **Western Kingbird**, which occurred in Jefferson County on April 19.

Vireos—Five species of vireos were widespread in the reporting areas. Included were the **White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, and Red-eyed Vireo**.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens—**American Crows** and **Blue Jays** were abundant statewide. Matthew Orsie, in Jefferson County, noted the only **Fish Crows**. **Common Ravens** occurred in Fayette (MW), Marion (SO), Raleigh, Tucker (CR), Wetzel (WJ) and Summers Counties (JJP).

Larks—Gary Rankins saw **Horned Larks** on April 3 in Cabell County. They were also reported by Matthew Orsie in Jefferson County on March 9 and by David Patick on March 1 in Mason County.

Swallows—**Tree Swallows, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, and Barn Swallows** were each observed in good numbers around the state. Wilma Jarrell saw all six species listed on the *Birds of West Virginia Field Checklist* above the Hannibal Dam. Matthew Orsie commented that March 9 was the earliest he had recorded the **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** in Jefferson County. **Purple Martins, Bank Swallows, and Cliff Swallows** were observed in smaller numbers. Cynthia Ellis observed a **Cliff Swallow** nest at the Winfield Locks on May 6.

Chickadees, Titmice—**Carolina Chickadees** and **Tufted Titmice** were abundant throughout the reporting areas of the state. On April 9, Casey Rucker, Tucker County, had the only report of **Black-capped Chickadees**.

Nuthatches—**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were observed in six counties and **White-breasted Nuthatches** were abundant in all reporting counties.

Creepers—The counties of Fayette (MW), Jefferson (MO), and Summers (JJP) had the only observations noted of the **Brown Creeper**. Matthew Orsie said that his recording on May 17 was the latest he had ever seen the **Brown Creeper**. His previous last sighting for the season was on April 24.

Wrens—**Carolina and House Wrens** appeared quite often throughout the state. **Winter Wrens** were observed in Jefferson County (MO) and Summers County (RP). At Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, Wendell Argabrite saw a **Sedge Wren** on May 23. **Marsh Wrens** were spotted at Greenbottom WMA, Cabell County (DP, et al.), Jefferson County (MO), and Pleasants County (JB).

Kinglets—**Ruby Crowned Kinglets** were regularly noted throughout the state during migration. From March 29 through May 9, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were observed in eight counties: Berkley, Fayette, Jefferson, Randolph, Summers, Tucker, Wayne, and Wood.

Gnatcatchers—**Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were conspicuous in every area reporting.

Thrushes—Six members of the Thrush family were observed during the spring period. **Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, Swainson's Thrushes, and Wood Thrushes** were observed in most of the regularly reporting counties. As expected, the **American Robin** was seen throughout most counties. The **Veery** was seen only in Pocahontas (SK), Putnam (MA), Summers (JJP), and Wood Counties (JB).

Mockingbirds and Thrashers—**Gray Catbirds** were observed in Preston (GF), Raleigh, Summers (JJP), and Tucker (CK) Counties. The **Northern Mockingbird** was a regular visitor at most sites. **Brown Thrashers** were frequently observed throughout the state.

European Starlings—**European Starlings** were very abundant over the entire state.

Pipits—**American Pipits** were noted in Jackson (KK), Jefferson (MO), and Wood Counties (JT).

Cedar Waxwings were observed only in Cabell (KK) and Jefferson Counties (MO).

Warblers—The following warblers on the *Birds of West Virginia Field Checklist* were noted during the spring season. The first dates of sightings were as follows: **Blue-winged**-April 20 (Cabell County, DP), **Golden-winged**-March 9 (Wood County, JT), **Tennessee**-May 4 (Wayne, DP), **Nashville**-April 3 (Jefferson, MO), **Northern Parula**-April 10 (Jefferson, MO), **Yellow**-April 10 (Cabell, KC), **Chestnut-sided**-April 27 (Cabell, JNMK), **Magnolia**-April 19 (Raleigh, MW), **Cape May**-May 4 (Jefferson, MO), **Black-throated Blue**-May 2 (Berkley, MO), **Yellow-rumped**-March 2 (Cabell, SA), **Black-throated Green**-March 29 (Raleigh, MW), **Blackburnian**-April 28 (Wetzel, WJ), **Yellow-throated**-April 5 (Fayette, MW), **Pine**-March 9 (Pocahontas, DW), **Prairie**-April 19 (Jefferson, MO; Wayne, DP), **Palm**-April 12 (Jefferson, MO), **Bay-breasted**-May 4 (Wayne, DP), **Blackpoll**-May 10 (Summers, JJP; Wayne, SA), **Cerulean**-April 19 (Wayne, DP), **Black-and-white**-April 10 (Summers, JJP), **American Redstart**-April 19 (Wayne, DP), **Prothonotary**-April 17 (Jefferson, MO), **Worm-eating**-April 19 (Wayne, DP), **Swainson's**-April 27 (Raleigh, MAW), **Ovenbird**-April 17 (Wetzel, WJ), **Northern Waterthrush**-April 27 (Preston, GF), **Louisiana Waterthrush**-March 23 (Summers, JJP), **Kentucky**-April 19 (Wayne, DP), **Mourning**-May 2 (Cabell, WA), **Common Yellowthroat**-March 2 (Cabell, SA), **Hooded**-April 18 (Wayne, JNMK), **Wilson's**-May 10 (Pleasants, JB) **Canada**-April 6 (Jefferson, MO), **Yellow-breasted Chat**-April 26 (Tucker, CR; Wetzel, WJ).

John Northeimer said that his sighting of a **Nashville Warbler** on May 14 was a late report for Cabell County. Cynthia Ellis saw a very large number of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at the State Capitol on March 4. Matthew Orsie said that the May 5 sighting of a **Blackburnian Warbler** was his earliest record for Jefferson County. During the month of May, members of the Handlan Bird Club, Kanawha County, had three sightings of **Swainson's Warblers** as follows: Russell Young in Kanawha City,

James Waggy in Coonskin Park, and James Triplett and James Waggy at Kanawha State Forest. A **Swainson's Warbler** was also listed by Mindy and Allen Waldron at Maple Meadows, Raleigh County, on April 27.

Tanagers—**Summer Tanagers** were only listed in three counties: Summers (JJP) on May 9, and on May 4 in Wayne (DP), and Wood (JB). **Scarlet Tanagers** were sighted in 14 counties. The earliest report was on April 17 in Cabell County by John Northeimer and Marjorie Keatley.

Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos—The earliest report of the **Eastern Towhee** was on March 2 by Wendell Argabrite. Twelve species of sparrows were noted. The following list includes the earliest reported date and location: **American Tree Sparrow**, March 9, Raleigh County (MW); **Chipping**, March 9, Raleigh County (MW); **Field**, March 14, Tucker County (CR); **Vesper**, March 29, Mason County (DP); **Savannah**, March 9, Cabell County (JBT); **Grasshopper**, April 15, Berkeley County (MO); **Fox**, March 3, Greenbrier County (BW); **Song**, March 2, Cabell County (SAI); **Lincoln**, March 2, Cabell (SAI); **White-throated**, March 2, Cabell (SAI); **White-crowned**, March 2, Cabell (SAI). The **Dark-eyed Junco** was sighted in seven counties.

Cardinals and Allies—**Northern Cardinals** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were common in all state reporting areas. Wendell Argabrite found **Blue Grosbeaks** at Greenbottom WMA on May 2. James Triplett saw a male and a female **Blue Grosbeak** at Apple Grove Fish Hatchery on May 16. Several other birders saw the **Blue Grosbeaks** at the same location during May (DP, WA, and MG). **Indigo Buntings** were first listed on April 26 by Jon Benedetti in Wood County.

Bobolinks, Blackbirds, and Allies—**Bobolinks** were sighted in seven counties, with the earliest report on April 2 in Tucker County (CR). **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Eastern Meadowlarks**, **Rusty Blackbirds**, and **Common Grackles** were all noted in large numbers throughout the state. Wilma Jarrell noted that she has seen more **Rusty Blackbirds** this spring than ever before. **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, **Orchard Orioles**, and **Baltimore Orioles** were seen in good numbers in the entire reporting area.

Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies—**Purple Finches**, **House Finches**, and **American Goldfinches** were seen in moderate numbers. **Pine Siskins** were listed in four counties: Greenbrier (BW), Jefferson (EK), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (CR). **Red Crossbills** were seen flying over the Nature Center at Pipestem State Park on May 8 by James Phillips. **Evening Grosbeaks** were noted by Casey Rucker in Tucker County on March 4.

House Sparrows were common throughout the entire state.

Contributors—Susan Aaron (SA), Scott Albaugh (SAI), Wendell Argabrite (WA), Jon Benedetti (JB), Deborah Beutler (DBe), John Boback (JBo), Shannon Burner (SB), Doren Burrell (DB), David Carr (DC), James and Louise Casto (JLC), Marquette Crocket (MC), Pat Dawson (PD), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Beverly Delidow (BD), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Richard (Dick) and Jeanette Esker (DJE), Richard (Dick) Esker

(DE), Gary Felton (GF), Thomas Fox (TF), Steve Gillespie (SG), Michael Griffith (MG), Bruni Haydl (BH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), William and Emily Johnson (BEJ), Kimberly Kazmierski (KK), Marjorie Keatley (MK), Sharon Kerns (SK), Elliot Kirschbaum (EK), Mountwood Bird Club (MBC), John Northeimer and Marjorie Keatley (JNMK), Susan Olcott (SO), Matthew Orsie (MO), David Patick, M.D. (DP), Maggi Perl (MP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rankin (CR), James and Barbara Smith (JBS), Margaret Straley (MS), Robert Summers and Margaret Straley (BSMS), Robert Tallman (RT), John Tharp (JT), James Triplett and Beverly Triplett (JBT), James Waggy (JWa), Mindy and Allen Waldron (MAW), Mindy Waldron (MW), Barry Williams (BW), Jane Whitaker (JW), and Russ Young.

1198 Fledderjohn Rd.
Charleston, WV 25314
jtrippy@suddenlinkmail.com