



# THE MAIL BAG

A PUBLICATION OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB OF WEST VIRGINIA  
P.O. BOX 4077 • WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

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JULY – AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2024

RYAN TOMAZIN - EDITOR

## Message from your President & Mail Bag Editor

It was definitely an interesting Foray for a nature standpoint. High on the list were the record temperatures, hitting mid-to-high 80s many days in the valleys. That did bring out the butterflies and bees, for sure. As for the birds, it was interesting what was common (many warblers and all the high elevation thrushes) and what was rare or absent (wood thrushes, cardinals, most grassland sparrows). There were no rain days, and breeding bird surveys, study plots, and field trips went off without a hitch.



Remember to sign up for the BBC Fall Meeting, which will be held at Tygart Lake State Park, October 18-20, 2024. It has been half a decade since we met there, and with a lake and mud flats right behind the lodge, anything might fly by. Last time, bald eagles and common mergansers flew through. There are ample hiking trails in the park, as well. Members can either mail back the form in the previous issue of the Mail Bag, or else can fill out a digital form on the BBC website and pay through Paypal.



I'd wanted to wait until I started getting things finalized, but as many of you know, I will be leaving Western Pennsylvania and moving to the Minneapolis area in Minnesota, just after the Fall Meeting. At this point, I will finish out my presidency in full, and will continue to edit the Mail Bag and associate edit the Redstart under Casey Rucker. My email address will remain the same, and my address and phone will be listed when everything is straightened out.

I am very excited to be experiencing all new ecosystems, organisms and...winter! The suburb I'm moving to has 76 parks! The local breeding bird survey is available! The prairie potholes are just hours away. Sax-Zim. Great food. A lot more.

Will see everyone on October for a big hoorah!

– Ryan Tomazin



Photo of a misty morning below Spruce Knob during a BBS route by Ryan Tomazin

## Wings of Discovery

In the heart of Monongahela's embrace,  
Where Dolly Sods' wild beauty lies,  
We gather with a shared resolve,  
To watch the birds take to the skies.

With Brooks Bird Club's generous hand,  
We set our nets with gentle care,  
At Allegheny Front's high peak,  
Where nature's wonders fill the air.

Each band we place, a story told,  
Of journeys vast and secrets old,  
From warblers bright to thrushes bold,  
Their paths through time and space unfold.

Volunteers with hearts so true,  
Work side by side, a dedicated crew,  
To track the flights, to learn, to see,  
The marvels of avian mystery.

With every bird that graces our nets,  
We gain a glimpse, we pay our debts,  
To nature's grand and wondrous scheme,  
Supported by the Brooks Bird Club's dream.

So here's to those who band with care,  
And to the Club that helps us dare,  
To understand, to see, to learn,  
In every bird, our passions burn.

At Dolly Sods, where mountains rise,  
We celebrate beneath the skies,  
The gift of knowledge, pure and free,  
In every feathered friend we see.

LeJay Graffious  
Administrator  
Old Hemlock Foundation

**AFMO will open nets for the first time  
on August 24 and close on October 5.**

## 2024 MORGANTOWN BIRDING CUP RESULTS

The 5th annual 2024 Morgantown Birding Cup began on Friday, May 17, at 6pm and ended on Saturday, May 18, at 6pm. Teams of birders in two categories counted all the bird species they encountered during the 24-hour period.

- In the AT-HOME category (all bird species seen within walking or non-motorized travel distance from a team member's residence), the winners are:
- **FIRST PLACE:** The Downsy Woodpeckers! This team of Emma, Michael, and young birders Finn & Graham walked twenty miles around their Preston County home and tallied an impressive 90 species. This is the second victory for the defending champs!
- **SECOND PLACE:** The American Robinsons! This mother & daughter birding duo covered quite a bit of ground around downtown Morgantown for an impressive 82 species.
- **THIRD PLACE:** Zealon! Young birding phenomenon Zealon tallied 80 species around his home in Mon County.
- And **TIED for FOURTH PLACE:** a new team, The Great Blue Garretts (featuring young birder Rhett), and the one-man team Arboretum Adventure (aka Larry Schwab!) with 51 species each.

And now for the winners in the AT-LARGE category, which can include birds spotted in any of the five West Virginia counties in Mountaineer Audubon's region:

- **FIRST PLACE:** Just Winging It! This team had finished near the top of the pack for the last several years but until this year had missed it by just a few species. This was their year to win the cup with a total of 95 species tallied. The team consists of ACCAers Cheyenne, LeJay, Amy, Ruth, Mike, & Staton.
- [A very distant] **SECOND PLACE:** The Peregrine Fallons! This team tallied most of their species at the soccer fields, then at the Girls On The Run 5k, and at their home, as they shuttled their young birders around to various events. Species total was 58.
- **THIRD PLACE:** The Barretts! This team, which also included several young birders, tallied 55 species, including a family of adorable wood ducks.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fifth Annual Morgantown Birding Cup! We hope you all had a great time counting birds with friends & family. Next year's Cup will likely be held May 16-17, 2025.

– Katie Fallon, Morgantown, WV



Longtime BBC and Handlan Chapter member Jim Triplett receiving his 1000-hour award for volunteering at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Other BBC members that were recognized included Herb Myers (500 hours), his wife Sarah Myers (300), Dan Walker (300), and Mimi Kibler (300).

*Photo taken from the July 2024 CVNWR Volunteer Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 17*

## CONTACT THE EDITOR

Have an interesting story about the nature around your neck of the woods? Want to contribute an article or travelogue? Have a nature-related event that you'd like to tell the Club about? Please contact me by mail, email or phone:

Ryan Tomazin  
348 Station Street, Apt. 7  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
412-220-9726  
wwwarblers@hotmail.com



## CORRESPONDENCE

We would love to hear from members of the BBC. What have you been doing? Have you taken recent trips? What interesting birds or plants have you seen in your locality or backyard?

The Club looks forward to little notes on Christmas cards and dues notices, but feel free to get in touch with us at other times of the year too. Even just a line or two would be of interest to our readers, especially if we haven't seen or heard from you in a while.

Correspondence may be mailed to: Juanita Slater, Corresponding Secretary, c/o BBC, PO Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003.

For those of you who prefer email, correspondences may be sent to: [jslater1120@yahoo.com](mailto:jslater1120@yahoo.com)

## BACK TO BIRDS

*contributed by Janet Belding*

I discovered birds in college, when I met a guy who was studying ornithology. I got hooked on birdwatching, and the guy, who I married. We started life with a field guide, a pair of old binocs, and some used furniture. Bird expeditions consisted of Bob, me, and Peterson's. We didn't know more than a handful of calls, and didn't think they were important. In spite of our deficiencies, nature was surprisingly rewarding. Unfortunately, over the years we became preoccupied with other hobbies, like making a living and raising a family.

Last winter I wondered, "What did I used to enjoy that I don't do now, but could?" Bird watching topped the list.

My first step was to join Brooks Bird Club! I also found great bird information online: Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Facebook bird groups, and videos. I loved Birdcast Migration Tracker, which had me out on our porch at 2 AM, listening to the faint calls of birds high overhead.

Expert birder Russ Young led walks at Spring Hill Cemetery Park in March and April. By the end of the first one, I was convinced that learning bird calls was Step #1 to finding birds! We also attended an annual bird walk at Ward Hollow Wildlife Habitat, and appreciated learning from others. Group walks also gave us a chance to see the Merlin smartphone app, which listens to nearby birds and displays a list of them. When my ancient phone dies, I'm getting Merlin! In the meanwhile, I'm learning calls.

We were excited to add these to our lifelists: blackpoll warblers (WV), tricolor herons (SC), Louisiana herons (SC), summer tanagers (NC), and painted buntings (NC). We were also happy to find an old friend, a common loon looking for fish near a pier in the Outer Banks. We were surprised because we had seen loons previously only in the far north.

We've learned a lot, experienced the thrill of the chase, and have enjoyed the beauty and interest birds add to life. Next up - fall migration!

### Websites

**Birdcast Migration Tracker** – <https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/>

**Brooks Bird Club** – [www.brooksbirdclub.org](http://www.brooksbirdclub.org)

**Cornell Bird Lab** – <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search#>

**West Virginia eBird** – <https://ebird.org/region/US-WV>

### Videos

**This is the WORST way to identify a bird** – All Bob Duchesne's videos are good, but this one changed how I birdwatch! –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW9MVJmoRqQ&t=346s>

**Learn 25 Common Backyard Bird Calls** –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Egd73TfeiMA>

## CORRESPONDENCE

The essay "Winter Birding in Southeast Arizona" that appeared in the January-March issue of the Mail Bag is now available for viewing on the web.

You can view the web version here: [www.EpicRoadTrips.us/azb/](http://www.EpicRoadTrips.us/azb/)

The web version includes corrections, additions, and links for all species to the Cornell "All About Birds" web site.

– Mike Breiding - Morgantown WV  
mike@EpicRoadTrips.us

## SOME POCAHONTAS COUNTY FORAY PHOTOS



*Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail*



*Blue-headed Vireo at camp*



*Immature Bald Eagle over Marlinton*



*Common Ringlet at the Mower Tract*

*All photos by Ryan Tomazin  
Color photos on the BBC website*

# INTERESTING SIGHTINGS AROUND THE STATE

*(Editor's note: per standards changing, all non-proper bird names will now be all lower-cased from here on out.)*

*I recorded my first prairie warbler at Old Hemlock. Kay (Evans, who previously created the Old Hemlock estate with her husband, George Bird Evans - Ed.) had one on her list from the 1940s. It was in a three-year-old forest cut. Kay's sighting was when they were allowing the farm field succeed into forest.*

– LeJay Graffious, Preston County, WV, 5/13/24

*Twice in recent days squirrels have scaled the sides of my mother-in-law's house to get at and destroy bird nests and the eggs within.*

*This morning I witnessed a male and female robin take on a squirrel that was going for their nest in one of our maple trees, and at the end it was Robins - 2, Squirrel - 0. They dive bombed him. They pecked at him. They flapped wings in his face, screeching all the while. They made a tremendous kerfluffle as they literally chased the squirrel down the tree trunk and across the yard.*

*I was impressed. Now if I could get them to protect my garden from whatever's digging it up at night .*

– Monty Fowler, Huntington, WV, 5/21/24

*I ran the Dailey breeding bird survey route today that ends up on Cheat Mountain at the end of Stuart Memorial Drive. Warblers: oven-bird, black-and-white, mourning, hooded, American redstart, northern parula, magnolia, blackburnian, chestnut-sided, yellow, black-throated blue, and black-throated green. Also an acadian flycatcher and two winter wrens.*

*One evening last week I found multiple whip-poor-wills and a barred owl in southern Upshur County, and two whips in southern Randolph.*

*At Seneca Rocks last Saturday (5/25) I found worm-eating warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, and black-and-white, hooded, cerulean, northern parula, and yellow warblers, and blue-headed, warbling, and red-eyed vireos. Also several acadian flycatchers.*

*A red-shouldered hawk has been loitering near my yard, and broad-winged hawks have been calling and circling.*

– Casey Rucker, Dry Fork, WV, 5/30/24

*Twenty-three members of the Master Naturals (Morgantown group) and Mountaineer Chapter of National Audubon met at Bruceton Exit 23 and traveled back roads in Preston County to Cranesville Swamp. After several stops to bird along the country roads, we arrived at the fascinating Cranesville Swamp Nature Preserve. This unique preserve is home to fragile plant life and unusual landscapes. As we walked through the woods and around the swamp, we marveled at the tranquility and beauty of the area. The boardwalk provided an easy path though partly submerged to explore, and we encountered various bird species along the way. I was particularly gratified to hear the calls of the veery and black-billed cuckoo, the preserve offered a delightful experience for birdwatchers like us*

*After our enriching visit to Cranesville Swamp, we continued our journey toward Orr. The group split, and some of us followed a Jeep trail along Muddy Creek. The rugged terrain added an adventurous twist to our trip, and the scenic views were worth every bump in the road.*

*Our exploration led us to Cuzzart, WV, where we enjoyed a well-deserved lunch at Screech Owl Brewery. Surrounded by fellow nature enthusiasts, we shared stories, laughter, and a delicious meal. The brewery's friendly atmosphere made it the perfect spot to refuel before our birdwatching tally.*

*As avid birdwatchers, we kept our eyes and ears open throughout the day. Our efforts paid off, and we tallied an impressive 72 species of birds! From colorful warblers to amazing bobolinks, the diverse avian life in this region left us in awe.*

– LeJay Graffious, Bruceton Mills, WV, 6/1/24

*We have completed 4 sessions of MAPS bird banding. It has been a challenge to get the days planned in between rain days.*

*Our numbers are down at both stations for whatever reason. It is known that bird numbers are declining sharply and our data indicates this. Yesterday at Wolf Creek was slow until our final run at noon, when we had eight birds.*

*We had a nest of Eastern bluebirds fledged at the MAPS station on May 22. We watched/heard the female urge the young out of the box, while the male chased away the other birds that had come to see what all the commotion was. It was a colorful sight to see the blue male try to chase away the red-and-black scarlet tanager. Yesterday, we saw a pair of bluebirds,*



*Mower Tract Merlin  
- photo by Cynthia Mullens*



*Male Scarlet Tanager up close  
- photo by Cynthia Mullens*

**INTERESTING SIGHTINGS (con.)**

*don't know if it is the same, at another nest box across the road.*

*I don't know what others are seeing, but my hummingbird numbers are way down. Yes, I know that when the yellow poplar blooms, numbers are down.*

*We saw a red-headed woodpecker on Ellison Ridge Road last week. I know Alma Lowry and Bob Dameron have also seen red-headed woodpeckers.*

– Mindy Waldron, Bibbee Nature Club, Hinton, WV, 6/2/24

*A flicker showed up for a drink of water and, next thing you know, he's taking a full-fledged bath. Soaked to the skin. I can't remember seeing one ever do that before. He was followed by a male and female Baltimore oriole, male indigo bunting, cardinals, as well as two grackles. My gray catbirds must be the cleanest ones in the neighborhood. They are constantly bathing. So cute to see them feed their offspring too.*

*Last week, a blue grosbeak paid a visit. He was on the rim of the pedestal bath with his back to me. No mistaking that size, purplish blue color and brown wings. I've also seen a female indigo bunting at the ground-bath. Their different shade of brown and the two-tone bill makes them easy to identify. Last night the pair of towhees also showed up.*

*Finally saw a young cardinal. Just now a great crested flycatcher swooped in. Love that puffy head. I'm sitting in front of my bedroom window watching the bird show only 15 feet away.*

*The new yard bird was another visit from the red-eyed vireo.*

– Bruni Haydl, Charles Town, WV, 6/21/24

*Amy Hill and I had an encounter today that may be common on the Chesapeake Bay, but not over Old Hemlock. While we were on the trails in a two old wildlife cut marking the invasive Tree of Heaven for eradication, we heard an osprey call. This is a very unusual bird for Old Hemlock with no ponds. The osprey lifted and flew directly overhead. It was close enough that I could identify a large sunfish in its talons. Within seconds we heard a bald eagle*

*scream and witnessed it trying to steal the "Catch of the Day" from the osprey.*

*Just another example of the joys of being aware of the natural world around us.*  
– LeJay Graffious, Bruceton Mills, WV, 7/1/24

*Today about 9 AM we spotted a juvenile black-crowned night-heron in the New River near Sandstone Falls at the Day-use area. It was feeding in the river with a great blue heron. We lost sight of the night heron around 11 am. Then around 9:30 we spotted 3 immature little blue herons flying and feeding in the river. They are smaller than great egrets, with greenish legs and gray bill. We watched them until around 11 am. Then they flew out of sight. There was the arrival of a couple of people fishing, kayaks and a boat in the river that might have led to their leaving.*

*We were running our MAPS bird banding at the time. Quite a lot of excitement for the morning.*

– Mindy and Allen Waldron, 7/21/24

*Despite the 60 cows on the neighbor's 100+/- acre pasture, the grassland birds were successful in fledging some young. The bobolinks started with 4 pairs but that decreased to 2 that I believe were successful. They've been gone for about 2 weeks now. The grasshopper sparrow young seemed to be all over, as well as the meadow larks. There were 2 pairs of red-headed woodpeckers in surrounding wood lots that were the major consumers of our suet, taking big blobs of it back presumably to their nests. We kept expecting to see the young but they didn't show up until a couple weeks ago. The one neighbor said their pair was there all winter.*

*There are 2 white pine groves on the farm that each had a pair of yellow-throated warblers. They were singing all summer until about 2 weeks ago.*

*As far as our yard birds, the tree swallows had a good year with some successes and some failures. 7 boxes had at least some success with 3 boxes having late nestings. Our high count of fledged and adults was 32 that were hanging around the 3 late nests. They made it difficult for the adults to get in to feed the young and there was a dead young on the ground near each of 2 boxes. After watching another one that was too young to be out of the box, I put it back in.*

*House sparrows showed up early and did some damage but finally a pair picked a box and settled down. I usually wait until a few days before they fledge then dispatch the female and young. This year something beat me to it and the nest was destroyed.*

*3 boxes of house wrens seemed to be active all summer. One box had 3 consecutive nests, with 3 newly hatched young when I checked this morning.*

*Bluebirds were hard to keep track of but I think they had 3 successes.*

– Donna Mitchell, Belington WV, 7/30/24

– *Sightings taken from  
WVBird ListServ*

**WV NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL NESTING UPDATE**

Wanted to let the Brooks Bird Club know that I have found 2 NSWOW nests so far this year. Both are up in the Canaan Loop area, but that's as much info as I can give (I have 36 boxes in that area). There are 5 eggs in one nest and 4 in the other.

I still have a little more than half of the boxes to check so there could be more. I will keep you posted on final results. Need weather to cooperate.

UPDATE - We have had three nesting attempts in the owl boxes this year. One nest of 4 eggs was unfortunate pre-

dated. Another nest of 5 eggs fledged one young already and we banded the other four today. The third nest had 5 eggs when we last checked on 6/20. Plan to check it in about 10 days and possibly band babies.

Overall, a relatively good year that brings us up to 13 total nesting attempts.

No owl nests in the Gaudineer Knob area this year, or any year, which surprises me. I know they are there!

– Ross Brittain

## CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS

Darrell Good  
2409 Dryden Rd.  
Houston, TX 77030  
Email: darzgood@gmail.com

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### HANDLAN CHAPTER

**Sept. 9, 2024** – Evening meeting, South Charleston Public Library, 6:15-7:45pm.

**Oct. 21, 2024** – Evening meeting, South Charleston Public Library, 6:15-7:45pm.

**Nov. 18, 2024** – Evening meeting, South Charleston Public Library, 6:15-7:45pm.

### HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER

**Sept. 14, 2024** – Quinn Farm Picnic, 10 a.m. Bring a dish to share, place settings and a drink.

**October 2024** – Potluck dinner meeting at the Schrader Center, Oglebay, 6:00, date TBA. Bring a dish to share, place settings and a drink.

**November 2024** – Potluck dinner meeting at the Schrader Center, Oglebay, 6:00, date TBA. Bring a dish to share, place settings and a drink.

*Check the BBC website for more details when available.*

### MOUNTWOOD CHAPTER

If you have any questions, call one of these contacts:

**Jon Benedetti** 304-295-8945  
**Barb Hobman** 740-374-5548  
**Terry Bronson** 740-336-3752  
**Dick Esker** 304-863-8765

**Oct. 3, 2024** – Business / Planning Meeting, 10:00am. ORINWR Conference Room. Come at 8:00 for birding before the meeting.

**Oct. 10, 2024** – Leith Run, 9:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown, bring lunch.

**Oct. 12, 2024** – Big Sit. Sunrise to sunset, ORINWR Parking Lot, Ohio River Islands NWR. Come anytime; stay as long as you like.

**Oct. 17, 2024** – Sandy Creek Backwater & area, 9:00am. Boat ramp, Northwest Pipe Drive.

**Oct. 24, 2024** – Middle Island area, 9:00am. Burger King, Rt. 68 & I-77, bring lunch.

**Oct. 31, 2024** – Johnson T Janes Park, 9:00am. Park parking lot, foot of 27th St., Parkersburg.

**Nov. 7, 2024** – Ohio River north, 9:00am. Burger King, Rt. 68 & I-77, bring lunch.

**Nov. 14, 2024** – Seneca Lake, Ohio, 8:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown, bring lunch.

**Nov. 21, 2024** – Ohio River south, 9:00am. Park & Ride, OH Rt. 339/Rt. 7; bring lunch.

**Dec. 5, 2024** – Christmas luncheon. Details later.

**Dec. 12, 2024** – Middle Island area, 9:00am. Burger King, Rt. 68 & I-77, bring lunch.

## NATURE HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

### POTOMAC VALLEY AUDUBON

PVAS leads many birding trips each year; from local bird walks at locations including the USGS Eastern Geological Science Center and our own nature preserves, to trips farther afield like Blackwater NWR and Delaware Bay.

**Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, 2024** – Rolling Ridge Conservancy Bird Walk, 7:30 am - 10:30 am. Join Bill Telfair and Master Naturalist Scot DeGraf for a morning bird walk at Rolling Ridge Conservancy!

Free and open to the public. For ages 8 and older. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required and limited to 15 participants.

Explore the habitat and the bird life with others on the gorgeous trails of Rolling Ridge Conservancy, the larg-

est privately-owned wilderness area near Washington DC and along the entire Appalachian Trail. Anyone with an interest in birding is welcome to join trip leaders Bill and Scot as they explore some of the 1500 acres of protected woodlands. These walks are held on the second Tuesday of every month.

Walking distance is ~2-3 miles at a leisurely pace. Meet at 138 Tupelo Ln, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. The buildings in this area are in a circle and people can park anywhere off the circle.

Please wear sturdy walking shoes, bring along drinking water, and dress for the weather. Walking poles are encouraged. Binoculars will be available for anyone who needs them.

**Sept. 18, 2024** – Bird Walk at Cool Spring Preserve, 7:30 am - 10:30 am. Free and open to the public. For ages 8 and older. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required and limited to 15 participants.

Join trip leader Bill Telfair for a bird walk at Cool Spring Preserve! Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. The trails at Cool Spring Preserve have a lot to offer! From well-maintained footpaths to gorgeous views, the 74 acres of this preserve are home to much wildlife. After the walk, consider visiting the Case Nature Center (open Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm)! Click here to see a list of birds commonly observed at Cool Spring Preserve during September!

Walking distance is approximately 1-2 miles at a leisurely pace. Participants should meet at the back deck (just down from the parking lot) of the Nature Center. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, and bring water. If you have them, binoculars and cameras are recommended.

**Sept. 21, 2024** – 7:30 am - 10:30 am, Bird and Tree Identification Walk at Claymont Retreat Center, 667 Huyett Road, Charles Town, WV.

**Sept. 28, 2024** – 7:30 am - 10:30 am, USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center Bird Walk, 407 Reservoir Road, Kearneysville, WV.

## MOUNTAINEER AUDUBON – FALL 2024 PROGRAMS

*Our programs are free and open to the public — everyone is welcome! All are scheduled for 7 pm on the second Tuesday of the month and are presented via Zoom. All Mountaineer Audubon members who have provided an email address with their membership information will be sent the Zoom invitation link about a week before the program. If you are not a member or not on our email list, and wish to receive the Zoom invitation link, please send a message to our email: [contact+president@mountaineer-audubon.org](mailto:contact+president@mountaineer-audubon.org).*

**Sept. 10, 2024** – 7 pm. “Backyard Habitat for Wildlife: West Virginia Wild Yards”. Presented by Michelle Fonda, WVDNR Wildlife Biologist and WV Wild Yards Program Coordinator. By using native plants and providing food, water, cover, and places to raise young, you can protect wildlife and enjoy the beauty of nature right in your own backyard. This presentation will go over the importance of native plants for wildlife, some do’s and don’ts of creating and maintaining wildlife habitat, and how to get your property certified as a West Virginia Wild Yard.

**Oct. 8, 2024** – 7 pm. “Conservation of Birds along the Mountain Valley Pipeline”. Presented by Andrew MacKenzie, Lead Survey Avian Biologist. Andrew will discuss a little background on the Mountain Valley Pipeline project, why he was surveying for birds, and the methods used while surveying, along with the common birds found along the pipeline.

**Nov. 12, 2024** – 7 pm. “Bird-window Collisions: How Serious It Is, Why and Where It Happens, and How To Prevent Them”. Presented by Peter G. Saenger, Acopian Ornithological Specialist, Acopian Center for Ornithology, Muhlenberg College, and Leigh Altadonna. An average of 3.5 million birds dies daily in the U.S. alone from collisions with glass. During the presentation the speakers will review the numbers, why and where collisions are occurring, and how you can prevent or reduce these collisions.

## SNAPSHOT OF BALD EAGLE SPRING BREEDING RECORDS FROM SOUTHERN WV

*Compiled by Jim Phillips*

4/22/2024 BAEA – Sub-adult along Hans Creek (MJ). Adult over Rich Creek, VA (SO and adult next to Greenville nest (JJP).

4/23/2024 BAEA – Adult seen near Low Moor, VA (MJ). Adult at Barger Springs nest (JJP, LP).

4/24/2024 BAEA – 2 chicks in the Red Sulphur Springs nest (RB). Both adults at the Meadow River nest and chick standing on rim of nest. Adult on the Blue Sulphur Pike nest (PW). Anthony Creek nest tree fell during the winter. Eagles still being seen in the area (PH). Both adults and 2 chicks in the Paint Bank, VA, nest (BH). Adult near the Bluestone nest (JJP).

4/25/2024 BAEA – 2 eaglets in the Maggie, VA, nest (DH). No eagles seen at MP26 nest (SF).

4/28/2024 BAEA – 2 adults flying around the Greenville nest (JJP).

4/29/2024 BAEA – Adult in remodeled old nest along Rich Creek Valley Rd. (SO, JJP).

3 immatures at Greenville an adult at the Pits (JJP).

5/4/2024 BAEA – Adult at Glenwood Park (CM).

5/5/2024 BAEA – Change out at the Rich Creek Valley Road nest (SO). Both adults and 3 eaglets at Covington, Jackson River nest (CK).

5/7/2024 BAEA – Immature over New River at Madams Creek and adult next to Brooks Island nest (JJP). TRAC reports that both adults have been in and out of the Brooks Island nest.

5/9/2024 BAEA – Adult and one eaglet in Falling Springs nest (CK). Adult near Paint Bank nest (JJP).

5/10/2024 BAEA – 2 eaglets in Lake Moomaw, Grieviers Ridge nest (CK).

5/11/2024 BAEA – One chick in Howard’s Creek nest, one adult & possibly one chick in Blue Sulphur Pike nest and no eagles at Fairview Rd. (PW).

5/14/2024 Adult caught a fish at the Pits (JJP).

5/15/2024 BAEA – 2 adults, 1 chick at Meadow River nest (PW). Adult seemed to be feeding chick in Rich Creek Valley Rd. nest, 2 healthy looking chicks in Red Sulphur Springs nest and 1 adult and 1 chick in Barger Springs nest (JJP).



*Adult and immature bald eagles above Marlinton, WV, 6/20/23. Photo by Ryan Tomazin*



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**Were YOU at Foray?**

*It was a great week for  
birds, travel and...moths!*

*Close-up on a Polyphemus Moth  
at Ed.'s moth sheet along  
Burner Mountain Road.*

*Photo by Ryan Tomazin*

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