



# THE MAIL BAG

A PUBLICATION OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB OF WEST VIRGINIA  
P.O. BOX 4077 • WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003  
THE ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF WEST VIRGINIA

VOL. 81, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2024 RYAN TOMAZIN - EDITOR

## Message from your President & Mail Bag Editor

As the BBC finishes another year of events, environmental studies and evolution, my term as President will come to an end. Two years just breezed on by in a moment. I feel that the progress of the club towards an equitable future is strong. In this time, we've firmly established our strategic planning committee; have leaned on the expertise of our Treasurer, Beth Mankins, to establish a detailed financial procedure for the club; and continue to involve new members in board activities to bring fresh approaches. We will need to continue to diversify our leadership, to hear new ideas and different opinions. It is of utmost importance that the club evolves with a broad range of governance. Good communication is key.



The early winter season has already held quite interesting, even odd trends. Being in the unique position of having a foot in two time zones now, the differences are stark. In the east, warblers and similar migrants hung on much later than normal in a range of locations, but the waterfowl migrations seemed a bit light. However, winter and cold temps arrived in West Virginia more strongly than normal. Conversely, southeastern Minnesota, where I now reside, had legions of waterfowl hanging on until the deep freeze hit at the very end of November, but record warmth prior to that. We've had virtually no snow here, either, and don't look to any time soon. It will be interesting to see what full winter brings in both states. Happy winter and its holidays to all!

– Ryan Tomazin



*The doctors at a foray. I don't remember the name of man on the left with his back to the camera. But we have George Hall PhD, Albert "Jay" Buckelew PhD, Gene Hutton M.D., Kyle Bush M.D., and the picture was taken by me, Dr Greg Eddy PhD.*

## CRANBERRY BONUS BIRD WEEKEND REPORT

The Bonus Bird Weekend in Hillsboro, WV, was a wonderful, relaxing getaway retreat. The weekend of July 4th was perfect as we toured areas of Pocahontas County in the Southern Allegheny Mountains. A great group of folks had the opportunity to spend time in the scenic and remote Cranberry Back Country. Ten members of the Brooks Bird Club arrived Thursday evening for a little nosh and refreshments while watching an incredible sunset from the newly resurfaced deck at the Cranberry Mountain Lodge. For the most part, this became our favorite hangout location during any free time.

Friday and Saturday were filled with good times, botanizing, mushrooming, and birding in Beartown State Park, in Cranberry Glades, and on the Scenic Highway. Observing several species of the Orchidaceae was one of the highlights of the trip. The list included pale green orchid, kidney-leaf twayblade, heartleaf twayblade, Loesel's twayblade, large round-leaved orchid, small green wood orchid, downy rattlesnake plantain, and large purple-fringed orchid. Mushrooms were common and a topic of study from which we all had the privilege of learning and giving more support. Thanks to our fearless mushroom leader who spread them out on paper and labeled them so we could commit them to memory. All this before ingesting the array of edible cooked fungi appetizers on the last evening before gathering around the dinner table for more good food and fellowship. Around 67 to 74 birds were observed. I must admit, I lost track because I got involved in botanizing and watching the incredible, amazing, energetic mushroom hunter. Watching her in action just left me truly mesmerized; it became a full-time spectator sport. What FUN! That type of energy is what we need at every BBC event!

As with every Bird Club event, the time passed so quickly, and we had to separate and go on our different paths home with new fond memories and friendships that linger in our hearts and minds. Thank you everyone for a great, fun, and wonderful trip.

*–Cindy Slater and Friends helped to  
make this write up happen*

# 2024-2025 WEST VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

## Athens/Princeton

Sunday, December 19, 2024  
Ron Canterbury - 513-556-9570  
ron.canterbury@uc.edu

## Bluestone (NEW) - Trial Count

Saturday, December 28, 2024  
Josh Parks - parksjoshua081@gmail.com  
Chris Mullens - mullensc66@gmail.com

## Buffalo Creek - Washington Co., PA/ Ohio & Brooke Co., WV

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
Larry Helgerman - 304-242-8562  
nas.cbc.wv.stateeditor@gmail.com

## Canaan/Tucker Co.

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
Casey Rucker - 304-866-4004  
autoblock@frontiernet.net

## Charles Town

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
Bob Dean - 304-671-4995  
dean8189@gmail.com

## Charleston

Saturday, December 14, 2024  
Doren Burrell - 304-553-8592  
dorenb@gmail.com

## Elkins Area

Thursday, January 2, 2025  
Rich Bailey - 703-307-1790  
wvbirds@gmail.com

## Franklin/Pendleton County

Tuesday, December 18, 2024  
Fred Atwood - 703-242-1675  
fredatwood@yahoo.com

## Hampshire County

Saturday, December 28, 2024  
David Malakoff - 703-851-2206  
hampshirebirdcount@gmail.com

## Huntington

Saturday, December 28, 2024  
David Patick - 304-633-4450  
patick@comcast.net

## Inwood

Sunday, January 5, 2024  
Bob Dean - 304-671-4995  
dean8189@gmail.com

## Lewisburg

Saturday, January 4, 2025  
Benjamin Handley  
304-646-0602 - anddavis@suddenlink.net

## McDowell County

Saturday, December 21, 2024  
Allen Waldron - 304-573-3247  
foodplotmaker1@gmail.com

## Moorefield

Thursday December 19, 2024  
Kyle Rambo - 301-757-0005  
Darrell Good - 681-432-0021  
darzgood@gmail.com

## Morgantown

Saturday, December 14, 2024  
Derek Courtney - 304-841-1015  
derek.dana.courtney@gmail.com

## Oak Hill

Saturday, December 14, 2024  
Rachel Davis - 304-880-8059

## Ona

Saturday, December 21, 2024  
David Patick - 304-633-4450  
patick@comcast.net

## Parkersburg/Wood Co.

Saturday, December 28, 2024  
Richard Esker - eskerrb@gmail.com  
304-863-8765

## Pipestem Area

Saturday, December 14, 2024  
Jim Phillips - 304-466-1275  
jimandjudyphillips@gmail.com

## Pocahontas County

Saturday, December 14, 2024  
Rich Bailey - 703-307-1790  
wvbirds@gmail.com

## Point Pleasant

Saturday, January 4, 2024  
Josh Holland - jhollandua@gmail.com  
304-675-0981

## Raleigh County

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
Allen Waldron - 304-573-3247  
foodplotmaker1@gmail.com

## Tygart Lake

Saturday, December 21, 2024  
Matt McKinney - mckinneyi@ab.edu  
Ross Brittain - rossalanbrittain@gmail.com

## Wheeling

Wednesday, December 18, 2024  
Larry Helgerman - 304-242-8562  
nas.cbc.wv.stateeditor@gmail.com

## 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

12025 County Road 11, Apt. 212

Burnsville, MN 55337

412-874-0482

wwwwarblers@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

## 2024 BBC FALL MEETING REPORT

**Friday, Oct. 18** – The Fall Meeting of the Brooks Bird Club was held at Tygart Lake near Grafton on October 18-20.

Following a Mexican-themed dinner, Cynthia Mullens gave a wonderful presentation of her birding journey through photographs following dinner. Her focus was her year spent observing Northern Harriers in 2022. She fell in love with these raptors that look like owls. Cynthia had recently retired from employment with the federal government over the past 32 years. She developed quite a romance with this species falling in love with not only their appearance but their intelligence in how they hunted their prey. Though not rare, Northern Harriers are migratory. She focused her observations in Monongalia and Preston counties during the winter months.

The NOHA have a disc-like face, white rump and overlap in range with Short-eared Owls. Over a three-month period, she learned the daily timing of the female she observed and her favorite hunting areas particularly around Decker's Creek. Observing the NOHA she also had the opportunity to learn about other species as well. At Zinn Chapel, walking around the pond, she had American Pipets and Nelson Sparrows. The female Harrier tended to drive prey towards the pond and drown it as she hunted flying just above the ground. On one occasion, the Harrier forced a Red-tailed hawk to give up its prey.

One of the questions that Cynthia asked herself during these observations was “am I interfering with her hunting?” Could the NOHA hear my heart beat, my breathing. One of the topics she discussed was an article *Acoustical Location of Prey of Marsh Hawks*. Hawks ears are symmetrical. Her goal was to be ethical in her observations and what she is observing. Her actions were to sit down and observe so she did not interfere with the listening acuity of the bird during the hunting process.

One of her observations was the hunting of Red-tailed hawks and Northern Harriers in the same field. The Harrier would perch in a tree, watching and observing the red-tail hunt. While the Red-tail would fly low over the field to hunt, the Harrier would fly overtop and harass the raptor until they left the field. This was advantageous for the Harrier. By comparison, Northern Harriers fly at approximately 25 miles per hour versus Red-Tailed Hawks who move at approximately 40 mph. The vertical alignment of the hunting and harassment helped to play out the dropping of the prey by the RTHA.

Cynthia discussed her observations regarding the Short-eared owls in relation to the Northern Harriers. The owls tended to hunt at dusk and in the early morning. They fly over a field, land and then run to a clumps of grass in a different locations before re-emerging. They fly into the clumps, pulling themselves down by grabbing the grass.

Her observations of the female Northern Harrier began to end in early March of 2022 with the advent of spring migrations. The next two seasons she did not see the female again though she did observe other Northern Harriers. No two seasons are alike in these observations. She enjoyed the time while it lasted. Cynthia shared her equipment choices which include a Nikon D500 and a Sigma 150-600mm lens and potential use of a tripod.

Her advice to everyone was to not value the photo over the bird. If you have the chance, take the hike and take it in. Ignore your age, it is just a number.

Following Cynthia Mullens presentation, Lee Miller shared information and photographs of the Stemple Ridge property in Aurora on Lead Mine Road. This is a 60-acre hillside owned by the BBC sitting on a ridge. It is the former Trotter property. He and Lejay Graffious had recently walked the property at the request of the BBC. The property is in early succession. There is no parking per se and there is encroachment from an adjoining property owner. A management plan needs to be developed for the property. A discussion was held regarding invasive plants, potential legal liability from trespassers, insurability, posting to be updated as private property, and marking of boundaries. Timbering on adjoining property was noted. Use of four-wheelers on the property, a

deer stand and garbage were also noted. One of the discussions centered around the possibility of obtaining grants and developing the property for Golden-Winged Warbler habitat. Further discussions are to be held on addressing potential actions and uses of the property.

– Beth Mankins

**Sunday, Oct. 20** – Our fall retreat wrapped up this morning with more spectacular weather and fall “eye candy.” Leaves were at their peak, skies remained cloudless, showing their bluest blue and local persimmon trees continued to drop plump, juicy fruit softened from a recent frost.

A few ventured out early for one last walk in the golden woods. White-throated sparrows, dark-eyed juncos and yellow-bellied sapsuckers had moved in and were on display for those who chose one more early morning birding experience. Back at the lodge, we all indulged in an assortment of breakfast “goodies,” and everyone agreed that Tygart Lake Lodge had offered some of the best meals we had experienced in recent years at our BBC events.

*Cont. on Page 6*



*Misty morning at Tygart Lake*



*Soaring red-tailed hawk*

*Fall meeting photos by Greg Gage  
Color photos on the BBC website*

# INTERESTING SIGHTINGS AROUND THE STATE

*We hit the he jackpot today! Six red-headed woodpeckers in one tree between Athens & Princeton, Mercer County. Four adults and 2 juveniles.*

– Jim & Judy Phillips, Pipestem, WV, 8/8/24

*I was picking peaches when two Cape May warblers flew into the tree.*

*Time to watch for birds again. Was overcast with a very few rain drops. A Tennessee warbler, eastern wood pewee, and scarlet tanagers were all feeding near yard. While watching them, I saw a common nighthawk fly by in background. From about 4:15 to 4:30, I saw 42 nighthawks flying through.*

*At 5:00, saw over 20 nighthawks feeding over yard and meadow. Another group feeding to the south-west in the direction the first group went.*

*At 5:20 to the north-east scanned with bins I saw another group of about 50 feeding. I was inside till 7:30, and saw 3 single birds after that.*

*Also saw a bay-breasted warbler, rose-breasted grosbeak, blue-gray gnatcatcher, catbird, brown thrasher, white-eyed and red-eyed vireos, cedar waxwings, and an empid. flycatcher.*

*At least 14 ruby-throated hummingbirds and several of the local birds.*

– Wilma Jarrell, Wileyville, WV, 8/29/24

*Hello fellow birders!*

*We set up a sprinkler in our front yard this morning, and almost immediately had a huge bird party—over 20 species. Highlights were 12 or more northern flickers, red-eyed and white-eyed vireos, brown thrasher, magnolia and Cape May warblers, at least 4 scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles, and a yellow-billed cuckoo! I'm still going through all the pix. (Two photos are at bottom right).*

– Kathi Hoffman, 8/29/24

*Mid-day in Athens, Mercer County, today, we had 204 nighthawks in 15-20 minutes. This evening, we decided to watch from our porch. Between 5:00 and 7:30, we counted 331 nighthawks.*

*Also had a sharp-shinned hawk, a Cape May warbler, 2 pine warblers, and watched an eastern wood pewee feeding the entire time.*

– Jim & Judy Phillips, Pipestem, WV, 8/30/24

*Last night, Aug. 30, Jason White observed 939 Common Nighthawks flying down the Ohio River Valley in Waverly in Wood County.*

*This may be a modern-era eBird record. The all-time record was 200,000 birds on Sept.. 7, 1947 in Charleston in Kanawha County.*

– Terry Bronson, Marietta, OH, 8/31/24

*It seemed like a nice late afternoon walk to the Shenandoah. It turned out to be a bit buggy but just perfect for the flycatchers. They were having a great time. There was a Great Blue Heron on the other side, perched on some tree limbs in the river. Behind him, on the log, was a big turtle. The water was like glass making for a spectacular reflection. Another Great Blue Heron was down river, as was a Great Egret. Haven't seen one for ages. Completing the picture was a double-crested cormorant perched on a log sticking out of the water.*

*One surprise was seeing beaver damage on three trees. Just talked to my neighbor's caretaker and he had noticed it too and will take some protective measures.*

*An unexpected bird was a female rose-breasted grosbeak on the feeder tray. Common yellowthroats are also showing up.*

– Bruni Haydl, Jefferson Co., WV, 9/17/24

*Yesterday morning in my large (20' X 100') wildflower garden, I saw a remarkable sight. Roughly two dozen Tennessee warblers descended upon my garden and stayed for about ten minutes before disappearing as fast as they arrived. I have never seen such a large group*



*Swallow-tailed Kite,  
found August 1, 2024, Wood Co., WV.  
– photo by Jason White*



*Avocets, Marmet Locks and Dam,  
Aug. 2024 – photo by Rick Gregg*



*Yellow-throated Vireo  
– photo by Kathi Hoffman*



*Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
– photo by Kathi Hoffman*

**INTERESTING SIGHTINGS (con.)**

*of warblers of a single species. This morning about a dozen came back, but for just a minute or two. Still cool!*

– Jack O’Connell, Greenbrier Co., WV, 9/23/24

*In our yard, yesterday, we had red-bellied, downy, hairy and pileated woodpeckers, northern flicker, and our first-of-the-season yellow-bellied sapsucker. On the way to Athens in Mercer County, we saw a red-headed woodpecker.*

– Jim & Judy Phillips, Pipestem, WV, 10/7/24

*There were three of us participating in the Big Sit yesterday. We were at our traditional location at Mountain Valley Lake in Summers County, Jumping Branch, WV. It turned out to be an absolutely beautiful day. You can’t complain when the weather cooperates and you’re on the edge of a beautiful lake, and bird watching. Temperature started mid 40’s and when we left had risen to 72. There was very little wind for most of our time. We arrived at 8:20 am and left at 1:20 pm.*

*The waterfowl was basically non-existent. We had 35 total species.*

*Thanks to Alma Lowry and Ann McRae for sharing their time with me yesterday.*

– Mindy Waldron, Surveyor WV, 10/13/24

*We grow our peppers in boxes on the banister of our end porch. That way they get lots of sun, they are too high for deer to reach and we can sit on the porch and enjoy shade from the pepper plants. Insect eating birds patrol the plants, especially Carolina wrens & chickadees.*

*This morning, 2 ruby-crowned kinglets attacked each other in the peppers. After a brief scuffle, one left. The other one sat on a nearby shepherd’s crook with his crown exposed. He then returned to exploring the plants just a few feet from us.*

– Jim & Judy Phillips, Pipestem, WV, 10/13/24

– *Sightings taken from  
WVBird ListServ*

**EAGLE BRIGADE LETTERS FROM JIM PHILLIPS**

9/19/2024 BAEA – 2 immatures over Pipestem (JJP). 5 at Hanging Rock Tower (hereafter HRT).

9/21/2024 BAEA – 8 at East River Mt. Overlook (hereafter ERMO) (3 adults, 4 immatures & 1 ? age). 1 immature at Mercer County Landfill (JJP). Adult along Indian Creek near Greenville (MJ).

9/18/2024 BAEA – 5 (1 adult, 4 immatures) at ERMO.

9/19/2024 BAEA – 5 at HRT.

9/20/2024 BAEA – 3 immatures at ERMO. 2 at HRT.

9/21/2024 BAEA 10 at HRT. 8 (3 adults, 4 immatures & 1 ? age) at ERMO.

9/22/2024 BAEA – 3 at HRT. 4 (1 adult, 1 sub-adult & 2 immatures) at ERMO.

9/23/2024 BAEA – 1 at HRT. 2 adults perched next to each other at Brooks Island nest (JJP).

9/24/2024 BAEA – 2 immatures at ERMO.

9/25/2024 BAEA – Immature at the Pits (JJP).

9/26/2024 BAEA – Adult at Falls Mills Lake (JJP).

9/27/2024 BAEA -Adult & juvenile at the Pits (KKH).

9/28/2024 BAEA – Adult at ERMO.

9/29/2024 High winds and 6” of rain from remnants of Hurricane Helene so we decided to check for damaged bald eagle nests. BAEA – 2 adults at Brooks Island nest, 1 adult at Red Sulphur Springs nest and no eagles at Barger Springs nest (JJP). Couldn’t get to State Line, Bluestone or Bertha nests because of high water. Alderson and Bellepoint nests not yet visible because of foliage.

Those of you who have been monitoring nests may want to check them for damage when it is safe to do so.

9/30/2024 BAEA – 1 immature at ERMO.

10/2/2024 BAEA –11 at HRT and 2 immatures at ERMO.

•••

10/3/2024 BAEA – 1 at Hanging Rock Tower (hereafter HRT) and an immature at East River Mt. Overlook (hereafter ERMO). Immature on roadkill on Vago Rd. Greenbrier County on 9/17/2024 (JO).

10/4/2024 BAEA – 15 at HRT. Immature at ERMO. Nest check after Hurricane Helene - Meadow River & Blue Sulphur Pike nests good with 2 adults near each (PW).

10/6/2024 BAEA – 2 adults at Brooks Island net (JJP).

10/7/2024 BAEA – 60 at HRT record one day count. Adult near the Bellepoint nest (JJP).

10/8/2024 BAEA – 1 at HRT. 1 3rd year at ERMO.

10/9/2024 BAEA – 7 at HRT.

10/11/2024 BAEA – 7 at HRT.

10/12/2024 BAEA – 1 at Mt. Valley Lake (MW). Adult at Bellepoint (JJP).

10/13/2024 GOEA – Adult at ERMO. BAEA – Adult & immature at ERMO 10/14/2024 GOEA – Adult at ERMO. BAEA – 7 at HRT & 1 adult and 2 immatures at ERMO.

10/15/2024 BAEA – Adult & immature at Bellepoint (JJP).

10/16/2024 4 at HRT.

10/17/2024 BAEA – 15 at HRT.

10/18/2024 BAEA – 3 adult, 1 sub-adult and 5 immatures along Hans Creek Rd. and adult at Brooks Island nest (JJP). 5 at HRT.

10/20/2024 BAEA – 5 at HRT.

10/21/2024 BAEA – 1 immature at ERMO.

10/22/2024 BAEA – 3 adults, 2 sub-adults at Big Spruce Overlook, Highland Scenic Highway, Pocahontas County (JJP).

– 20th Winter Eagle Survey - January 11, 2025

– 18th Spring Eagle Survey - March 1, 2025

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### MOUNTWOOD CHAPTER

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

**Jon Benedetti** 304-488-8148  
**Barb Hobman** 740-374-5548  
**Terry Bronson** 740-336-3752  
**Dick Esker** 304-863-8765

**Jan. 9, 2025** – Ohio River Eagle Watch, 9:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. Bring lunch or stop at Quinets.

**Jan. 16, 2025** – “The Wilds”, Ohio, all-day trip, 9:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. Bring lunch.

**Jan. 23, 2025** – Muskingum River - west, 9:00am. Rinky Dink’s in Marietta. Bring lunch.

**Jan. 30, 2025** – Sandy Creek Backwater & area, 9:00am. Boat ramp, Northwest Drive.

**Feb. 6, 2025** – Ohio River North, 9:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. Bring lunch.

**Feb. 13, 2025** – Ohio River South, 9:00am. Park & Ride, OH, Rt. 339 / Rt. 7. Bring lunch.

**Feb. 20-21, 2025** – Funk / Killbuck, Ohio - overnight. Details later.

**Feb. 27, 2025** – Sandy Creek Backwater & area, 9:00am. Boat ramp Northwest Drive.

**Mar. 6, 2025** – Seneca Lake, Ohio, 8:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. Bring lunch.

**Mar. 13, 2025** – Ohio River North, 9:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. Bring lunch.

**Mar. 20, 2025** – Ohio River Islands NWR, 9:00am. ORINWR Parking Lot.

**Mar. 27, 2025** – Washington Bottom Area, 9:00am. Washington Works Trail parking lot.

### 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).*

**January 11, 2025** – Field Trip, Saturday, 5:30pm: Owl Program & Walk at the West Virginia Botanic Garden. Join the ACCA for a live owl presentation at 5:30pm, followed by a walk in the garden to look and listen for owls. Register in advance: [www.wvbg.org](http://www.wvbg.org).

**January 14, 2025** – 7 pm, “Inclusive Research Initiatives at ACCA: Engaging the Public in Avian Studies.” Presented by Evan McWreath, MA, Director of Conservation Research, ACCA (The Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia). The ACCA is dedicated to conserving wild birds in the region through research, education, and rehabilitation efforts. Our projects, which include nesting studies (turkey vulture and American kestrel), toxicology research, rehabilitation success monitoring, and movement ecology, all integrate educational components to engage the community. By involving the public in these initiatives, we strengthen conservation efforts and foster a deeper connection to avian preservation.

## 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.

**Jan. 14, Feb. 11, 2025** – 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 largest 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.



## BBC Fall Meeting Report

*Cont. from Page 3*

After breakfast, a brief religious service was held followed by our last official BBC meeting. We learned that our 2025 Foray will be held at Camp Pinnacle located in Hardy County near Lost River. We have not held Foray in Hardy County for many years, and we look forward to exploring that location again.

After our meeting, we said our good-byes and wished Ryan Tomazin the very best as he will be relocating and heading to Minnesota for new adventures in just a few days. We truly appreciate all the hard work and many hours he has devoted to this organization. He will be missed!

As we loaded our vehicles and headed toward our respective homes, we left with a renewed appreciation of all that “Mother Nature” has to offer, and we look forward to creating new memories with our BBC friends on future adventures.

– Mary Murin

# BROOKS BIRD CLUB EARLY SPRING MEETING

## MARCH 7-9, 2025

### NORTH BEND STATE PARK

The Early Spring Meeting will be at North Bend State Park. Come and join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, programs, field trips, adventures and our board and general membership meetings. Registration and check-in time is 3:00 pm on Friday with dinner at 6:30 pm. Departure will be on Sunday after the annual membership meeting.

North Bend State Park is nestled in the north-western section of WV and is easily accessible from four-lane U.S. 50 that goes from Parkersburg to Clarksburg across north central WV.

\* Driving east, take U.S. 50 to junction with WV 31 South. Take WV 31 South to Cairo and follow the signs to the park.

\* Driving west, take US 50 to WV 16 at Ellenboro, then WV 16 to Harrisville and follow the signs to the park.

Lunch on Sunday is not included since, in the past, many left before lunch. The price for the weekend has been reduced accordingly. You may still have lunch at the dining room on Sunday but you will have to pay for it separately.

**Deadline for reservations is February 5, 2025**

Make checks payable to **BROOKS BIRD CLUB** and mail to:

**Richard Esker**  
**104 Wellesley Dr.**  
**Washington, WV 26181**

-----  
NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### **FULL TIME – INCLUDES ALL MEALS, LODGING AND REGISTRATION**

2 PEOPLE PER ROOM \$190.00 EACH ..... \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PERSON SHARING ROOM \_\_\_\_\_

(Roommate will be assigned if no preference is given.)

SINGLE ROOM \$285.00 EACH..... \$\_\_\_\_\_

#### **PART TIME - CALL OR SEND E-MAIL FOR PART-TIME COSTS.**

304-916-4140 [eskerrb@frontier.com](mailto:eskerrb@frontier.com)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_

**INCLUDE E-MAIL OR MAIL ADDRESS FOR RESERVATION CONFIRMATION**

---

**THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB**  
P.O. BOX 4077  
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

www.brooksbirdclub.org



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### **Fall meeting astronomy**

*Comet Tsuchinshan the first  
night at Tygart Lake  
State Park in mid-October*

*Photo by Greg Gage*

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