



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

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RYAN TOMAZIN - EDITOR

Editor's Note

By the time you receive your new Mail Bag, Foray will have come and gone. Hopefully, weather and nature cooperated to give the participants an enjoyable time in the eastern panhandle, and that everyone learned a lot.



So, on the topic of 'learning'...you will note that a nice section of this Mail Bag is dedicated to educating our membership on how to use iNaturalist, one of the world's leading citizen science websites/apps. There has been much discussion among BBC Board members as to how the bird club might use this international scientific database to our advantage, especially at Forays.

iNaturalist serves as a bridge between the public and scientists and researchers. It allows for much broader of a pool of data than any one research facility might be able to collect. On our side of things, it can be quick and easy; you take a photo of any kind of organism, you select that photo in the iNaturalist app or on their website, you enter what you think it is (or let iNaturalist give you options to choose from), use your location and add any notes you want, and hit 'enter'. Legions of people in the iNaturalist community can then view what you had and verify it or suggest a better option. Verification by peers makes your data appear viable to researchers.

Where this ties in importantly with the Brooks Bird Club is at Foray, as well as other times where we are in the field, both individually and as a group. The BBC has a 90+ year history of compiling data sets for places and regions we go to, and that is of great scientific importance. However, as print media declines and online search viability becomes more complex, BBC data gets lost in the shuffle. Though timely as we can make it, Redstart and Mail Bag papers and other observations might come out months after something is found, and that data seldom is easily available to the scientific community. By utilizing iNaturalist, Foray data can be entered in, sometimes en masse, and will be immediately viewable by anyone. Projects can be set up for certain time frames or organisms, as was attempted for the 2022 and 2023 Forays, and this data set can be added to and reviewed by members for as long as iNaturalist exists.

Even if you are unsure of what you are seeing, the community peer review can guide you and help you learn more. This also, very importantly, can help expand our member participation in fields other than just birds. In the past five years, my interests in moths, butterflies, dragonflies, bumblebees and more, have increased dramatically due to what I've learned using iNaturalist. I hope you all join the community!

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, SALLY EGAN

Greetings BBC Members!

Hope you are enjoying spring with all the new avian arrivals. It certainly is an exciting time. I was pleased to see so many BBC bird leaders lending their expertise on bird walks and tours at the 63rd WV Wildflower Pilgrimage based at Blackwater Falls State Park. The BBC Foray in Hardy County is just around the corner and I hope to see many of you there for an immersion in all things nature. Happy Birding!

– Your BBC President, Sally Egan

SPRING POETRY FROM OLD HEMLOCK

Spring awakens Old Hemlock's heart,
Where dogwood blooms in petals bright,
Azalea flares in crimson art,
And morning's gold dissolves the night.

Through wooded halls and emerald lanes,
The feathered choir returns once more,
Forty voices lift refrains,
A melody the hills adore.

Mourning doves with gentle sighs,
Kestrel sentries scanning high,
Thrushes weave their soft replies,
As robins paint the dawn-lit sky.

Blue-headed vireos call with grace,
Meadowlarks in fields declare,
Cardinals dressed in crimson lace,
Buntings scatter sapphire air.

Through hemmed-in woods,
the echoes ring,
Red-winged calls in marshes flow,
Towhees flare their ruffled wing,
Goldfinches flash in fleeting glow.

Here, beneath the greening limb,
Where the ancient trees still stand,
Spring's embrace is full to brim,
Its song alive upon the land.

Old Hemlock breathes in light once more,
Wrapped in May's unfolding store.

by LeJay Graffious





FORMER BBC MEMBER JUNE WHEELER PASSES AWAY

June Althea Herman Wheeler, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully, leaving a legacy of kindness, curiosity, and deep devotion to her family and her community.

Born in Scranton, PA, Peter Herman and Hildred Robinson, June graduated from Clark Summit High School and trained in medical technology at the Franklin School of Science and Art in Philadelphia. She married Philip Powell Wheeler on December 19, 1953, and together they raised two children: Stephen Wheeler and Valerie Ellenberger (Walt).

She began her career as a medical technologist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and later worked in insurance underwriting with Aetna in Wheeling, WV, and Pittsburgh, PA.

June had a passion for antiquing, birding, gardening, genealogy, and historic preservation. She was a charter member of the Betty Zane Chapter of Questers and Friends of Wheeling, a board member of the Oglebay Mansion Museum Committee as well as a member of the Wheeling Garden Club. A member of Brooks Bird Club, Wheeling, WV, and Sussex Bird Club, DE, her love of birding prompted her travel around the country and internationally expanding her lengthy life list. She also made contributions to Delaware's Breeding Bird Atlas. Her extensive genealogy work led to membership in the Mayflower Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

A devoted church member, June taught Sunday school, led youth fellowship, and sang in the choirs at Christ United Methodist Church in Wheeling, and later at Grace United Methodist Church in Millsboro, DE.

In addition to her children, she is survived by her grandchildren, Emily Seng, Natalie Hill, Sarah Knight, Madeline Krebill, and Andrew Wheeler; and great-grandchildren, Graham Hill, Lucy Seng, and Cameron Hill.

June's vibrant spirit, love of learning, and joyful presence will be remembered always.

LARRY METHENY, MEMBER AND FORAY PARTICIPANT, PASSES

Larry David Metheny, 77, of Bruceton Mills, WV, passed away on April 23, 2025, at Ruby Memorial Hospital. He was born on June 8, 1947, the son of the late Warden and Isa Shaffer Metheny.

Larry attended Bruceton High School and continued his education at West Virginia University for a year before beginning a long and dedicated career with Allegheny Power Company. He retired after 35 years of service at the Fort Martin Power Plant. In his younger years, Larry also proudly served in the National Guard.

A passionate bird enthusiast, Larry found great joy spending time with his wife, Sharon, in their flower garden, where together they spent countless hours feeding and watching birds. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and birding with his children and grandchildren.

Larry will be fondly remembered for his kind spirit, his wealth of knowledge, his gift for storytelling-known lovingly as "Larry lore" and the deep love and care he showed to his family and friends.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife of 41 years, Sharon Walls Metheny of Bruceton Mills; his mother-in-law, Jean Miller Walls; two brothers, Robert Metheny and wife Judy, and Dan Metheny and wife Tammy, all of Bruceton Mills; two sons, Eric Metheny and wife Rachel of Morgantown, WV, and Brian Metheny of Bruceton Mills; and three grandchildren, Orion Metheny and wife Kaylee of Bruceton Mills, Ryley Metheny of Mt. Morris, PA, and Jenna Sypolt of Morgantown, WV. He is also survived by many loving nephews and a niece.

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
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

HELP RECONSTRUCT HANGING ROCK RAPTOR OBSERVATORY

Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory is going to be reconstructed, but only with your monetary assistance. The 501(c)(3) charitable Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation has graciously agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for this extremely important project, and another charitable group, The Friends of Monroe is also helping by setting up an online payment method. To make donations online, visit <https://www.friendsofmonroe.org/donate-to-hanging-rock-raptor-observatory-fire-tower/> All online donations will be given to the fiscal agent.

Or, if you prefer to send checks or cash, mail to:

Greenbrier Valley
Community Foundation
PO Box 1682
Lewisburg, WV 24901

Be sure to write "Hanging Rock Project" on the check memo line or on a note accompanying cash. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.

MORE INFORMATION

This extremely important ornithological study area and popular, scenic birding location had to be closed due to structural defects from weathering. The unbroken record of yearly fall migration counts goes back beyond 70 decades to 1952. A structural engineer has begun evaluating the needs, and a steering committee made up of representatives from the Friends of Monroe, the Friends of Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory, the WV Scenic Trails Association, the Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the Monroe County WV Commission, is working with the USFS staff to move forward with engineering design, planning the demolition, pricing the materials and the construction labor, getting contractor bids, awarding the bid, and overseeing

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN OPEN HOUSES

Wild Area and Wildlife Enthusiast, The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is revising its state wildlife action plan (SWAP) and is asking for your help. The SWAP guides the actions we take to manage and protect wildlife in West Virginia. By assisting the WVDNR you are helping promote conservation and advocate for wildlife resources. We invite your participation in a public open house to learn more about what a SWAP is, what it can do for wildlife, and how you can contribute.

The WVDNR will host public open houses on the following dates and locations,

July 16 - Morgantown at WVU, Percival Hall - Main lobby, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

July 17 - Martinsburg at James Rumsey Vocational and Technical School, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

July 30 - Charleston at the Claudia Workman Wildlife Education Center, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Beverages and light snacks will be provided.

What other opportunities, programs, or products do you feel the WVDNR should offer? Please click [here](#) to answer some basic questions about your preferences and interests. Even if you can't attend an open house, please complete the survey. We want to know what you need or would like to see.

– Kieran O'Malley
Wildlife Resources Section
Wildlife Diversity Unit and Natural Heritage Coordinator
ph (304) 637-0245
Kieran.M.O'Malley@wv.gov
738 Ward Road | Elkins, WV 26241
WVdnr.gov

the construction. The USFS has no money to put towards this project due to congressional budget slashing and DOGE employee terminations. However, the few employees remaining are committed to overseeing the reconstruction project, building back the observatory with the best, long-lasting materials available. It is too early to know exactly how much the project will cost, but it may be in the \$500K ballpark. It is not too early to start donating and letting others know that there is now a local fiscal agent that can receive tax-deductible donations.



Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory - photo by Brian Hirt

WHAT IS iNaturalist

How It Works



1

Record your observations



2

Share with fellow naturalists



3

Discuss your findings

Contribute to Science

Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. We share your findings with scientific data repositories like the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe.



Nature At Your Fingertips



Keep Track

Record your encounters with other organisms and maintain life lists, all in the cloud.



Create Useful Data

Help scientists and resource managers understand when and where organisms occur.



Crowdsource Identifications

Connect with experts who can identify the organisms you observe.



Become a Citizen Scientist

Find a project with a mission that interests you, or start your own.



Learn About Nature

Build your knowledge by talking with other naturalists and helping others.

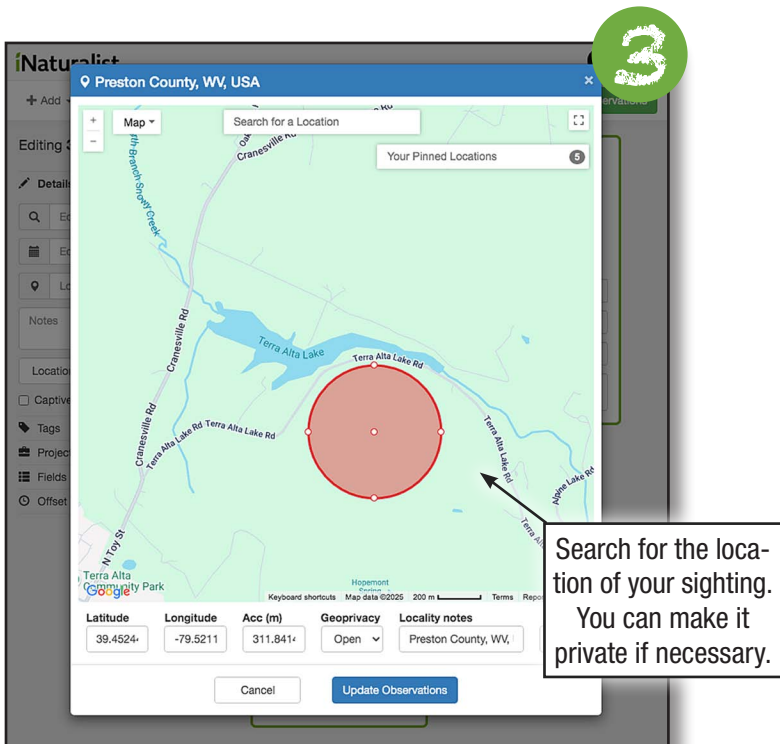
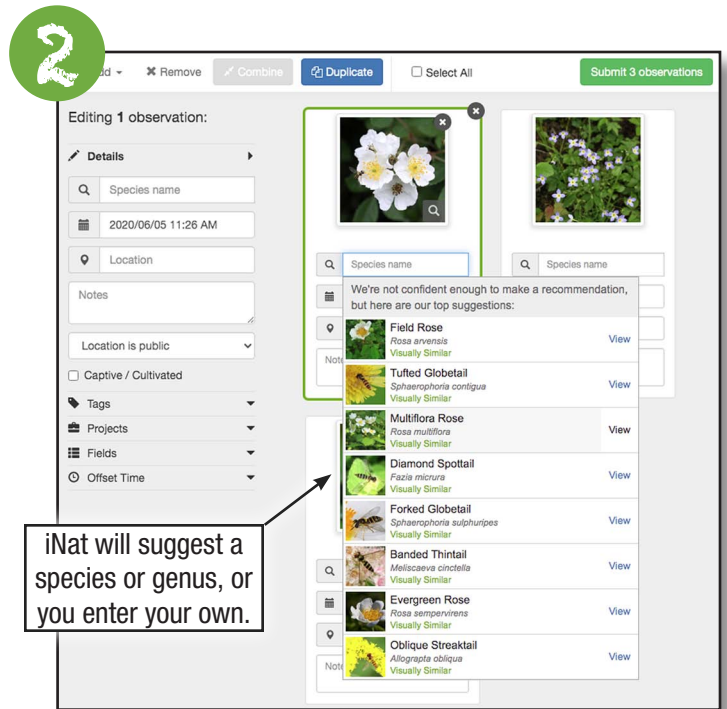
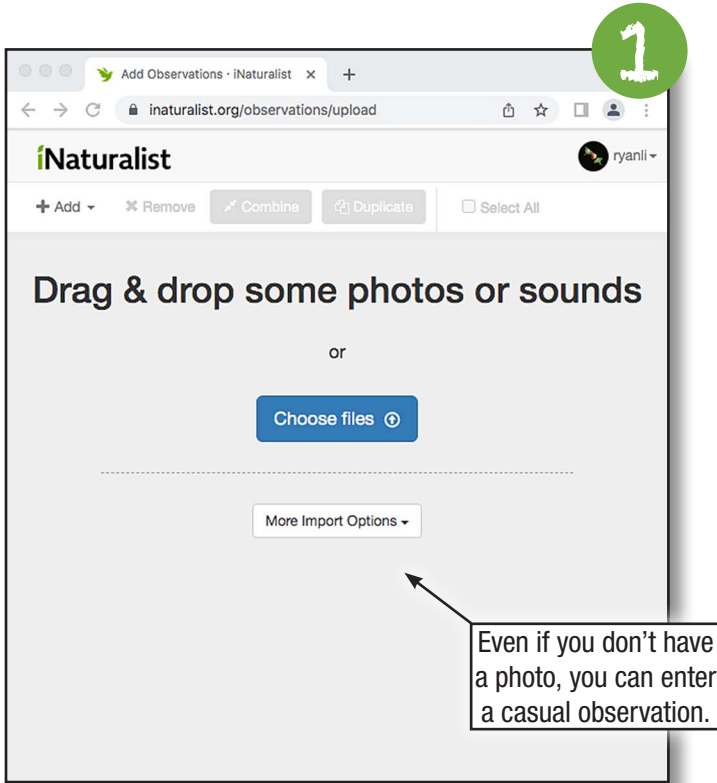


Run a Bioblitz

Hold an event where people try to find as many species as possible.

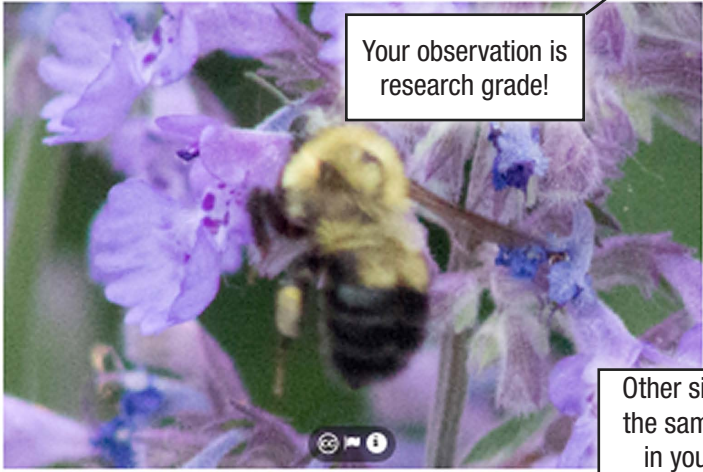
HOW TO SUBMIT SIGHTINGS ON iNATURALIST.ORG

Create a free account and then click on 'Upload' at the top of your screen. This tutorial is for a computer.



All screen shots from iNaturalist.org for educational purposes

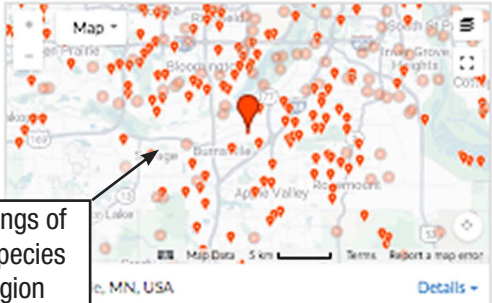
Two-spotted Bumble Bee (*Bombus bimaculatus*) Research Grade Edit



Your observation is research grade!

ryanli
14,488 observations

Observed: Jun 6, 2025 · 3:04 PM CDT
Submitted: Jun 6, 2025 · 8:49 PM CDT



Other sightings of the same species in your region

Be the first to favorite this observation!

Activity

ryanli suggested an ID Improving 1d

Two-spotted Bumble Bee
Bombus bimaculatus Compare

johnascher suggested an ID 1d

Two-spotted Bumble Bee
Bombus bimaculatus

dominiquejoy suggested an ID 9h

Two-spotted Bumble Bee
Bombus bimaculatus

Comment Suggest an Identification

B **I** **≡** **📎** **📷** **📄** Preview

Leave a comment

Done Mark As Reviewed

Who supports your ID, or suggestions.

Community Taxon

Two-spotted Bumble Bee (*Bombus bimaculatus*)
Cumulative IDs: 3 of 3

Agree Compare About

Annotations (4)

Attribute	Value	Agree	Disagree
Alive or Dead	🌱 Alive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of Presence	🌱 Organism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of Presence	Select	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Stage	🌱 Adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	🌱 Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Others can add annotations to your sighting.

Projects (2)

Add to a Project

- Biodiversity of Minnesota.
- Minnesota Bumble Bee Survey

Your sighting is being used in a scientific project.

Your simple photo upload is added to the scientific community, where you might hear from other local citizen scientists, research universities and more. After creating your easy submission, you can learn more about where your sighting stands among other people's sightings. Your data in many cases adds new data for an area where yours hasn't been seen before.

SPECIES INFORMATION PAGES HELP YOU LEARN SO MUCH

Life > Plants > Flowering Bluets > Azure Bluet

Azure Bluet (*Houstonia caerulea*)

Native to United States (Source List: [United States Check List](#))

TOP OBSERVER: wanderingeden (Leaderboard, 244)

TOP IDENTIFIER: jim_keesling (Leaderboard, 15,450)

LAST OBSERVATION: June 7, 2025 (View Observation)

TOTAL OBSERVATIONS: 31,165 (View All, View Yours)

CHARTS: Seasonality, History

Is this native or exotic?

See other photos

Have you seen this?

When is it seen?

Map About Taxonomy Status Similar Species Curation

Learn what you have, taxonomy, status, and similar species.

Species range

Recent Observations

Each species has an account page where you can learn about what you might have, can compare similar species, can use photos to establish details, and so much more.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS AROUND THE STATE

I made my first inspection of our nineteen nesting boxes on April 5. The bluebirds have been busy, with eight nests started, five of those nests with the cup formed, and one of those had two eggs already. All of those nests are made of dry pine needles. Two of them are only about 1" deep pine needles, laid on top of what must be a winter's accumulation of 1" or more of bird feces...yuck! I had cleaned out all the boxes in late fall, so all that poop has to have been deposited this winter. Not a very appealing situation to me, but I guess the bluebirds don't care.

The box that had a flying squirrel nest in it last year has a nest built of the same soft, flat, plant material as last year, so I suspect we have the flying squirrel there again. I have yet to figure out just what that material is, or where the squirrel is getting it.

– Cynthia Burkhart, Ritchie Co., 4/7/25

Rainy weather equals good birds. During the last two days, I had a number of male and a few female purple finches at the feeders. It was neat to have purple and house finches on the tube feeder at the same time. No matter how vibrant the house finch, the difference in color is so obvious.

A brown thrasher is getting to be a regular on the suet attached to the walnut tree. Unlike the other birds who feed from the bottom, he perches on top of the basket, bending down to get the suet. Works for him.

I spotted a new bird at the suet. About the size of a goldfinch but a deep gold. Beautiful! I managed to get a photo, confirming that it was a pine warbler. He's been here twice this morning. Definitely a lifer for me.

– Bruni Haydl, Jefferson Co., WV, 4/8/25

I'd caught a mouse in the garage and put it at the edge of the patio so that night creatures would eat it. Usually it is gone by morning. Not this time. When I looked out, there was a chickadee pecking at the mouse belly, pulling fur! That was enough to make me get the grapevine heart stuffed with alpaca wool that I had purchased at auction recently. A Titmouse was pulling on it almost immediately, followed by the chickadee. Nice to provide a bit of luxury in these tough times.

A few days ago a mourning dove crashed into the patio door with such force that it broke its neck. No doubt it was chased by a hawk because they are very familiar with the backyard and usually waddle around like chickens. It was gone by mid-evening, so it was someone's dinner.

This morning, I saw an osprey in a sycamore on Wilt Rd. It may be the same one I saw a week ago on the other side of the Shenandoah on Bloomery Rd. The two pairs of wood ducks were off Rissler Rd. Two Canada geese were sitting on their nest.

The house wren has arrived. The female towhee came several days ago. Not as flashy as the male but very sweet. My birding buddy in the subdivision next door just called with some exciting news. She saw a red-headed woodpecker on her birdcam feeder. It was there at 7:15 but because she's not an early riser she only saw it on tape.

– Bruni Haydl, Jefferson Co., WV, 4/18/25

Even with our windows closed, the spring peepers woke me up at 5:45 this morning. I decided to step out on the porch and see who else was around. Here's my list in order of appearance:

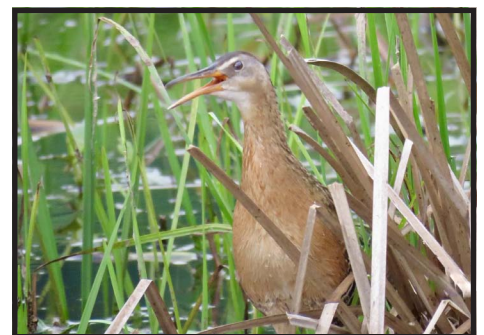
American robin	Northern mockingbird
Mourning dove	Coyotes
Gray catbird	American crow
Brown thrasher	Dogs
Eastern towhee	Red-bellied woodpecker
White-throated sparrow	House wren - first of the year
Northern cardinal	Eastern whip-poor-will- first one I have seen in years
Wild turkey - 2 groups	Tufted titmouse
Wood thrush	Cow
Easter screech-owl	Ruby-throated hummingbird
Song sparrow	Tree swallow
Rooster	



Cattle Egret, Mineral County
– photo by Cynthia Mullens



Willetts, Raleigh County
– Photo by Stollery & Flood



King Rail, Green Bottom, Cabell County
– Photo by Gary Rankin

Carolina Wren
 Carolina chickadee
 American goldfinch
 Blue Jay
 Red-winged blackbird
 White-breasted nuthatch
 Red-shouldered hawk
 Downy woodpecker
 House finch

28 species of birds, 1 domestic bird, 1 mammal species, 2 domestic mammals & 1 amphibian species.

– Jim Phillips, Pipestem, WV, 4/19/25

On April 24th there was a eastern whip-poor-will on my neighbor's farm. I heard it at 10 pm, then again at 3:30 am and it was still going when I got up at 5:30 am. We've lived here for 18 years and it's the first time I've heard one. Haven't heard it since.

The first snipe of the year was in a small wetland, again on neighbor's farm.

– Donna Mitchell, Barbour County, 4/28/25

Happiness is a rose-breasted grosbeak morning. We are at our house on Streeter Road and we have a few rose-breasted grosbeaks visiting our feeders. They are so beautiful in their looks and their songs just resonate everywhere. They are singing all around the house and singing from the feeder close to our front door. It is one of my favorites. Then there are the several brown-headed cowbirds that are also visiting our feeders. These aren't my favorites. They could go visit the herd of cows in the field across the road. We also have ruby-throated hummingbirds, at least 4 males and two females. They do their usual squabbles and chases at the feeders.

We have several other new bird species around the house; lots of chipping sparrows, red-eyed vireos, eastern bluebirds, great-crested flycatcher, brown thrasher, worm-eating warblers, black-throated green warbler, Baltimore oriole, and yellow-rumped warblers. Some of these will stick around and others are just passing through.

– Mindy Waldron, Surveyor, WV, 5/5/25

The heron rookery across from Kirk's at Hinton also has at least 2 double-crested cormorant nests which, according to Rich Bailey, if successful will confirm the species

as a breeder for WV. We had 24 cormorants there this morning!

And the ospreys are nesting at Blue-stone Dam again.

– Jim Phillips, Pipestem, WV, 5/5/25

It looks like the birds are feeding their young. Some packed their bill with suet and took off. We also saw nuthatches, downies and bluebirds feed the little ones. So sweet. Some of the house finch youngsters are easy to recognize by their tufts.

Earlier that morning two cedar wax-wings landed near the birdbath. The red-headed woodpecker still comes by almost daily. Doesn't stay long. The odd looking male pileated with the brown wing patches is a regular as well. His white is now a yellowish color, probably from going in and out of the nest hole feeding his offspring.

The red-winged blackbird that looks so velvety when he is picking up seeds on the patio is actually quite glossy when the sun hits him. There's an advantage to being able to see birds up close.

It turns out there are four red-shouldered hawk chicks in the nest, not three. The last hatchling is so much smaller than the first born or even the middle two. They all seem to get along and are not picking on the little one. And are they ever growing. Pin feathers are coming in and the tail is noticeable. As I was going out my driveway yesterday, an adult lifted off my lawn carrying something. All I could see was something dark the size of my hand and a naked tail. It was most likely a possum.

I'm still able to find an opening in the tree foliage to get some photos and videos. They are so much fun to watch. When I talked to my neighbor, he told me he stopped mowing the area near the nest tree, which I thought was very considerate. He does enjoy having them nest in his yard.

– Bruni Haydl, Jefferson Co., WV, 5/25/25

– Sightings taken from WVBird ListServ



18TH SPRING EAGLE SURVEY

March 1st was the 18th Spring eagle survey. This survey tries to get an idea of eagles on nests in our area.

Eagle Brigade of Southern WV (including Three Rivers Avian Center, Bibbee Nature Club, Hanging Rock Migration Observatory, Pipestem S.P. & guests) BAEA = Bald Eagle, GOEA = Golden Eagle Alderson, Barger Springs & Bellepoint - BAEA - 5 (Adult on nest at Alderson turning egg, adult on nest at Barger Springs & 2 adults changing out and 1 2nd year at Bellepoint nest).

Athens Lake - No eagles.

Brooks Island Overlook - BAEA - 3 (1 adult, 2 eggs, 1 1st year & 1 3rd year).

Greenbrier County Landfill - No eagles.

R.D. Bailey Lake/Mullensville - BAEA - 2 (adults).

Mouth of the Bluestone(Pits) - BAEA - 6 (3 first year, 1 second year, 1 third year and 1 sub-adult).

Red Sulphur Springs & State Line nests - BAEA - 1 (adult).

Hans Creek Valley - BAEA - 2 (adults). GOEA - 1.

Greenville nest - BAEA - 2 (adults).

Rich Creek Valley Road & Hillsdale Tollgate Road nests - BAEA - 2 (RCVR - 2 adults, Hillsdale - no eagles).

Lake Stephens nest - BAEA - (3 adults).

Paint Bank & Boiling Springs nests - Brian Hirt & Randall Yoder. BAEA - Total = 2 (1 adult near Boiling Springs nest & 1 1st year at Waiteville).

Greenbrier County Nests - BAEA - 9 (Meadow River - Both adults feeding young, Blue Sulphur Pike - Adult on the nest, other adult nearby, Fairview Road - no eagles, Tuckahoe Lake - Adult on nest, 2nd adult & sub-adult nearby and Howards Creek - 2 adults near nest).

Conditions: 46-67 degrees, 10-60% cloud cover, winds 0-8 mph with gusts to 10-20 mph and no precipitation. 33 participants located 36 BAEA & 1 GOEA.

– Contributed by Jim Phillips
 & Mindy Waldron

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Remember to check on brooksbirdclub.org under the Events/Calendar of Events tab. You'll find dates and times for meetings, outings and field trips.

If your chapter or affiliate has events to advertise, contact webmaster Larry Helgerman at brooksbirdclubweb@gmail.com

MOUNTWOOD CHAPTER

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

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

Aug. 14, 2025 – Greenbottom & RC Byrd L&D, 7:00am. Park & Ride, OH Rt. 339/Rt. 7. Bring lunch.

Aug. 16, 2025 – Annual Picnic, 5:00pm. McDonough Log Shelter "A", McDonough Wildlife Refuge. Bring covered dish, drink & service.

Aug. 21, 2025 – Johnson T Janes Park, 8:00am. JTJ Park parking lot, foot of 27th St., Parkersburg.

Aug. 28, 2025 – McDonough Wildlife Refuge, 8:00am. McDonough parking lot.

Aug. 30, 2025 – Mountwood Park, 8:00am. Beach area (near torpedo). Bring lunch.

Sept. 4, 2025 – Ohio River Islands NWR, 9:00am. ORINWR parking lot.

Sept. 11, 2025 – McDonough Wildlife Refuge, 9:00am. McDonough parking lot.

Sept. 18-19, 2025 – Funk / Killbuck, Ohio – overnight. Details later.

Sept. 25, 2025 – Kroger Wetlands, 9:00am. Kroger Wetlands parking lot, Marietta, OH.

Sept. 27, 2025 – Johnson T Janes Park, 9:00am. JTJ Park parking lot, foot of 27th St., Parkersburg.

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.

July 8, Aug. 12, 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! This is a free/donation-based program. 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 1,500 acres of protected woodlands. These walks are held on the second Tuesday of every month.

Walking Distance: -2-3 miles

Pace/Activities: Leisurely (meandering, many breaks to stop and observe)

Exposure: Forested with dense canopy cover

Terrain: Earthen trail with some hilly, rocky sections that could be slippery when wet. Mostly flat, some gentle slopes

Restroom: Restrooms are available for this program.

Parking/Where to Meet: 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.

What to Bring: 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.

July 16, Aug. 20, 2025 – Bird Walk at Cool Spring Preserve, 7:30 am - 10:30 am. Join Bill Telfair for a morning bird

walk at Cool Spring Preserve! This is a free/donation-based program. For ages 8 and older. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required and limited to 15 participants.

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.

Walking Distance: Approximately 1-2 miles.

Pace/Activities: Leisurely (meandering, many breaks to stop and observe)

Exposure: Partial shade/winter canopy. Some areas of full sun.

Terrain: Hard ground/hiking trail in some areas, mowed grass in other areas. Gentle slopes/rolling hills

Restroom: At the start of the program, Port-a-Pottys will be available. At the end of the program when the Case Nature Center is open, indoor flushing restrooms will be available.

Parking/Where to Meet: Participants should meet at the back deck (just down from the parking lot) of the Nature Center.

What to Bring: Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, and bring water. If you have them, binoculars and cameras are recommended.

Aug. 9, 2025 – Evening Bird Walk at Cacapon State Park @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. This is a free/donation-based program. All ages are welcome, though youth must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required and limited to 10 participants. This program has a minimum of 2 participants.

Join Potomac Valley Master Naturalists JP Miller and Kris Phillips for a bird walk along some of the trails at Cacapon State Park. There is a Full Moon walk at Cacapon State Park that will begin after this bird walk. We will explore some of hiking trails at the park during the last couple of hours of sunlight to look and listen for birds preparing for their evening. Some species we may observe include yellow-billed cuckoos, red-headed woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpeckers,

eastern towhees, scarlet tanagers, eastern kingbirds, and eastern wood-pewees.

We will walk approximately 2 miles through the woods along paths with some uphill and downhill portions. There will be time to stop, look and listen throughout the walk. Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes for walking on uneven paths. Dress for the weather. Bring water and snacks. Bring a pair of binoculars for better viewing of the birds. Any type of binoculars will help. We will have a couple of pairs of binoculars for people to borrow. Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills.

More information about the location at: Cacapon Resort State Park – West Virginia State Parks

Walking Distance: approximately 2 miles

Pace/Activities: Leisurely (meandering, many breaks to stop and observe)

Exposure: Some areas are covered by forest canopy, some areas are open.

Terrain: Earthen trail with some hilly, rocky sections that could be slippery when wet. Gentle slopes/rolling hills

Restroom: There are bathrooms inside the Lodge.

Parking/Where to Meet: Meet at the boat ramp at 6:30. Note there is parking nearby. See the location circled in red on the map to the right. Click here to view the full map.

What to Bring: Dress for the weather. Bring water and snacks. Bring a pair of binoculars for better viewing of the birds. Any type of binoculars will help. We will have a couple of pairs of binoculars for people to borrow.



BBCer PHILLIP E. GRAHAM PASSES

The memory of Phillip E. Graham of Industry, Pennsylvania, who passed away on June 9, 2025 at the age of 92, will forever remain in the hearts of those touched by this precious presence in their lives. Family and friends are welcome to send flowers or leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

He was predeceased by: his parents, Hugh Graham and Elsie Graham; his wife Joann Hope Alcock; his children, Sharon Kay and Phillip Wayne; his brothers, Howard William "Bill" Graham and Nathan Hugh Graham; and his granddaughter Maribeth Graham.

He is survived by: his daughter Debra Deem of Industry; his sister Maxine Gerkin of Minnesota; his grandchildren, Nate Deem (Casey), Ben Deem (Kim) and Deanna Graham; his great grandchildren, Nate, Isaac, Wyatt Deem and Kyra Graham; and his great great grandchildren, Lennon and Violet. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews.

MARGARET HANK, LONGTIME BIBBEE CLUB MEMBER, PASSES AWAY

Margaret Jane (Campbell) Hank of Hinton, WV went home to be with the Lord on Monday, June 9, 2025 at the age of 93. She passed peacefully in her sleep at the home she had lived in for 59 years. Born on April 1, 1932 in Jumping Branch, WV, Margaret was the daughter of the late Jennings Bryan and Lottie Jane (Coulter) Campbell.

She graduated from Hinton High School in 1949 and was first employed as the first non-family worker at the original Dairy Queen in Hinton. She also worked as a telephone operator and medical clerk. Margaret attended Central Baptist Church and loved being around her family and friends. She volunteered as a reader in area grade schools early in her retirement and was an avid lifelong birdwatcher. Margaret was a joy to be

around and will be sadly missed by all those who knew her.

Margaret was the last surviving member of her generation. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, William "Bill" Hank; a son, James Russell "Russ" Hank; daughter-in-law, Linda Weaver Hank; brothers, Buddy Campbell and Jack Campbell; sisters, Louise Lilly Simmons, June Neely, Bonnie Lilly, Jewell Lilly, and Barbara Thompson.

Those left to cherish her memory include her son, Mark Hank of Reading, MA; grandchildren, Sara Hank of Hampstead, NC and Zachary Hank of Reading, MA; great grandchild, Paisleigh Wilson of Hampstead, NC; and several nieces and nephews.

MAPS BANDING SCHEDULE FOR 2025

New River Bird (NRBO) Observatory MAPS Period 2025, upcoming dates:

NRBO

Period 7 – June 30-July 9

Scheduled date - Monday July 7

Period 8 – July 10-19

Scheduled date - Saturday July 19

Period 9

July 20-29

Scheduled date - Saturday 26

Period 10

July 30- August 8

Scheduled date - Saturday August 2

This is a tentative schedule. Dates may change due to scheduling conflicts or weather. Please contact Allen Waldron (foodplotmaker1@gmail.com 304.573.3247) before planning a visit to the site.

The Wolf Creek (NRBO) Bird Observatory is at Wolf Creek Park between Oak Hill and Fayetteville off Rt. 19. It is the New River Birding and Nature Center (on Google Maps).

Allen and Mindy Waldron

Bob Dameron

Keith Richardson



•••

“Oh, hello!”

*As the snowbirds moved along,
plenty of spring migrants and
great rarities were ushered in.*

Photo by N. Wade Snyder

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