



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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JULY – AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2025

RYAN TOMAZIN - EDITOR

Editor's Note

Greetings to all who actually read the Mail Bag and the Editor's Note. I've probably put more thought and research into the following message than any in the previous 15+ years that I've been editor. Things that need to be said and things that need to be considered. It might not all be pretty, but the world is far from a pretty place these days, and the BBC's contributions to science and research need to continue to be examined.

A number of points have come to the forefront recently, both within the BBC and with the scientific institutions that many of us have volunteered our time and knowledge with over the decades. I will begin with the most urgent, that being the proposed defunding in the 2026 federal "budget" of the bird banding lab, the Breeding Bird Survey, and much, if not all, of the U.S. Geological Survey in regards to scientific data collection. A possible 1,200 jobs may be lost, and with that all the volunteer avenues that the BBC officially, and many members independently, have contributed to. I will reserve my anger and vitriol for the "administration" and what obviously is an attempt to wipe away any and all scientific data in their paving a barrier-free highway for corporate interest with no accountability, but make no mistake that the anger is there.

What does that mean for us as a club and as individuals? It means that non-government run citizen science databases for research such as iNaturalist and eBird, as well as working closely with schools of science at colleges and universities, is of utmost importance. If the government stops all research programs that have shown complete success for 60-100 years, then our means to be relevant in research and the historical scientific record also must evolve quickly to be partnered with non-government institutions. Otherwise, many avian programs just disappear.

This enters a realm that I and others in the BBC have been pushing quite a lot this year: how to incorporate eBird and iNaturalist into what the BBC does to remain relevant in the scientific/avian communities. I'm going to be completely objective in my assessments here, just sticking to numbers and facts. In order for the BBC to grow with the needs of science and to remain relevant, these two platforms must be utilized. The Redstart and Mail Bag do not purposefully reach almost any of the scientific community.

I have looked over each platform's use during the 2025 Foray. I know that much effort was made to show members how to use each app, and neither is difficult in the least for the average person; granted, they're not for everyone. A Foray 2025 Project was set up on iNaturalist, just as I had done in 2022 and 2023, and comprehensive how-to's for each platform were published in the Mail Bag. Unfortunately, only five Foray participant, one of which was not a member, entered photo IDs into iNaturalist, with the most being by the Project coordinator. This is the same that happened in the previous two attempts. Not many more people used eBird.

This is intended to be informative, not accusatory. Just by being outside and keeping lists, we are benefitting nature in some way. However, with nature studies themselves being under attack, and with it being harder and harder to attract the level of scientific minds to the BBC that we've always been accustomed to, it is imperative that more BBCers utilize citizen science apps and websites, as well as any study avenues that other local higher education facilities or nature clubs do. Using iNaturalist, I compared a few states with which I've had some affinity with in regards to birds and other nature. My new home state of Minnesota, which I can wax poetic

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Canaan Valley! I'm enjoying a week of relaxation, but am looking forward to upcoming events. The Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) on Dolly Sods, which the BBC supports and sponsors, operates from mid-August to early October. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who do the numerous jobs that make it happen. It's certainly a labor of love and valuable avian information is gained and shared throughout the world. It is the oldest, continuous bird banding station in North America. Wow!

I hope to see many of you at the BBC Fall Reunion at Tygart Lake State Park in Grafton. Interesting speakers are scheduled and it's always fun to see old friends and make new ones. Unusual waterfowl appear occasionally on the lake and in surrounding areas. Please join us for more BBC adventures!

– Sally Egan, BBC President

about for a hour in regards to all the nature studies programs, has 453 citizen science information collection Projects on iNaturalist. I thought this was great, but Minnesota is far bigger than West Virginia, so I checked Vermont, another state I've loved for their diversity in nature education and research, but is smaller than West Virginia. 551 iNat projects! West Virginia itself? 137 projects, and some are for neighboring states. BBC... we can grown into this! We're at the cusp; the time is now. It is easier than you think, and West Virginia needs us!

BONUS BIRD WEEKEND, JULY 3-6, 2025

A good time was had by the 8 participants who attended the Bonus Bird Weekend at Blackwater Falls State Park. We arrived at our appointed cabin on Thursday evening and after a delicious breakfast on Friday morning, we hiked the Dobbin House and Pase Point Trails. A beautiful view of the Blackwater Canyon was a plus. Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins, Blue-headed Vireos and others were seen or heard. Quite a few fungi were seen along the trail and the interesting plants were Pink Lady Slipper, Poke Milkweed, Glade St. John's Wort, Mountain Spleenwort and Downy Rattlesnake Plantain.

After lunch, we searched for the elusive Sandhill Crane in Canaan Valley. Two members of our group saw it. The Sandhill Crane eventually flew away as most of us were looking downward. On Saturday morning, we traveled to Big Run (Olsen) Bog. The interesting plants were: Rose Pogonia, Golden Club, Large and Small Cranberry, Bog Clubmoss, Small Green Wood or "Frog" Orchid, Wild Holly, Bog Rosemary, Swamp Laurel and Leatherleaf. No Buckthorn was found.

The Olsen Fire Tower was our next stop where we had lunch and then onto A-Frame Road. Heather, Cross-leaved Heath and Paper Birch were found there much to our delight. On Saturday night in Thomas, we had a great view of the town's fireworks in the backyard of a fellow BBC member and a treat of watermelon, too.

On Sunday morning, we decorated canvas bags and t-shirts with painted imprints of ferns and flowers under the direction of our in-house artist. A few of the birds surrounding our cabin were Field Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, and Cedar Waxwings. A total of 50 bird species were either seen or heard. Quite a weekend of fun, learning and fellowship!

Contributed by Sally Egan

THE BBC TURNS 93 THIS MONTH

Where were you in 1932?



John Pattison, (not named), George Hall, Eva Hays, Russ DeGarmo, Jim Olsen, Maxine Thacker, (not named), John Handlan, Carolyn Conrad, Pete Chandler, Chuck Conrad, and Howard Heimerdinger.

Tomlinson Run State Park, circa 1941

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

SOME NOTES FROM THE 2025 FORAY

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 - We gathered after breakfast to assemble our bag lunches and organize carpooling to follow Bob Dean on an exploration of special local places for birds and nature. I did not take notes, so I asked Bob and he gave me a wonderful rehash of the day!

We were planning to walk to Wilson's Cove, but a steep section of the trail was impassable, so we walked a section of the Tuscarora Trail off Waites Run Rd. Just beyond the parking, there was an active worm-eating warbler nest. While many of us were using binoculars to examine the first nest we had ever seen of this species, the savvier birders in the group were treated to close up views of the tenant, who was walking around the bank near the nest. By the time we "nest observers" found out about that, the bird had flown. Ouch!

On up the trail we wandered. We encountered red-eyed vireos, ovenbird, scarlet tanager, wood thrush, and a blue-gray gnatcatcher. Farther up the gentle trail we encountered worm-eating, black-and-white, and black-throated green warblers, eastern towhee, white-breasted nuthatch, and blue-headed vireo. Many stones were tilted up by Martin, Kelly, and Bob. I don't think they found any salamanders, but Martin found a ring-necked snake on this walk, and a beautiful moth landed on Prim's hand and posed for portraits.

Plants seen were whorled loosestrife, longleaf bluets, downy wood mint, Allegheny menziesia, mountain laurel, and rattlesnake hawkweed. At a small pond Bob found and photographed hairy skullcap, a plant that is rare in our state. If not for the dark clouds gathering, we planned to go a bit farther where Bob said we would have seen five orchid species and other good plants.

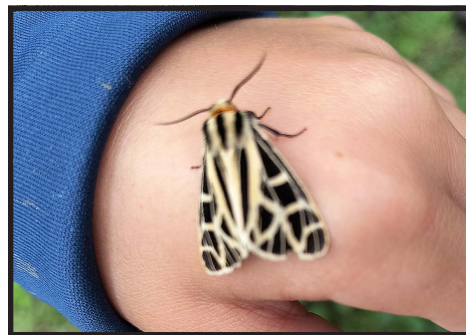
We had our picnic lunch at Waites Run Recreation Area, enjoying the sights and sounds of that little piece of the George Washington National Forest.

After lunch we took a short walk on Old Mine Road. Birds encountered were chipping sparrow, towhee, titmouse,

ovenbird, red-eyed vireo, black-capped chickadee, and pine and worm-eating warblers. Plants included wild indigo, spring iris, bracken, star grass, trailing arbutus and pink lady's slipper.

Finally, on Squirrel Gap Road on Sandy Ridge, we saw the interesting station of box huckleberry. It is one of only two known sites in West Virginia. The other one is about a mile away. I found that very interesting. It is a large thriving patch, so what makes those two places the only places it grows in the state? I can understand better a random rare plant or a few scattered ones far from their range. This plot is about half an acre, I think. What makes it thrive here and not crop up nearby and spread like an invasive plant? I don't know.

– *contributed by Mimi Kibler*



Anna Tiger Moth - photo by M. Kibler

Foray Wednesday June 18th the day started off very well for Darrell Good, Sallie McElrath and myself. We went on a 10-mile BBS and it was fantastic we started our run in Ashton Woods a gated community near Moorefield, WV, just off of 48. Darrell had the code since he does his winter bird count there. We got Pine Warblers, Whip-poor-wills, Wild Turkeys calling, Blue Grosbeak, several Orchard Orioles, and a Cerulean Warbler among several other species.

After our run ended we were heading into Moorefield on Trough Road when Darrell spotted a Peregrine Falcon flying over the car. We got out and watched it fly away.

I got very little sleep at Foray so I hope I'm remembering correctly because

all the days seem to mesh together as one. I believe that after breakfast Wilma Jarroll and I went with Janice and Scott Emrick to Warden Lake near Wardensville and spotted what we thought could be a Common Loon. As we were focusing in on the Loon for positive identification, a Bald Eagle swooped down and got a fish out of the lake and the loon did the typical call for the common loon, confirming our sighting. Janice got a picture of the loon. The birding was so fantastic that I don't even remember what our evening program was. Of the 30 years I have been coming to Foray, this day was in the top 3 best birding days.

– *contributed by Tina Long*

CORRESPONDENCE

On Tuesday May 6th I met Martin at Greenbank in Pocahontas County to help the Forest Service with their wellness day. We had two birding sessions that day. One class saw a great view of an adult Green Heron. But the highlight was a Merlin, not one but a pair! They did their necessary act of love which lots of us got to watch and then the male brought the female some breakfast. Who says falcons are not romantic? We got to witness one of those rare nature moments that usually you never get to see. It was a beautiful day.

– Cindy Slater, Bridgeport, WV



Martin Tingley at Wellness Day – Photo by Cindy Slater

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS AROUND THE STATE

We have had two days of our bird banding at Fayette County. The first day we caught a Louisiana Waterthrush that ages out to be over 8 years old. We banded him in 2019 as an after second year bird, making his age in 2025 at least 8 years old. Just think about the fact that he has flown his migration trips at least 16 one-way trips. Amazing creatures. Our second day we caught a Swainson's warbler that we had banded as a hatch year bird in 2023. They can find their way back to the exact locations.

– Mindy Waldron, Surveyor, WV, 6/7/25

Three sandhill cranes with necks outstretched and legs trailing behind, one very vocal, flew over my house!!! By the time I could get around to where I could see through the trees they were almost out of sight, but I got a very good look. They were only a couple hundred feet high, headed almost due north.

– Randy Bodkins, Norton, WV, 6/14/25

We had our MAPS bird banding on Saturday July 12 at our station in Fayette County. The number of captures has been down this year. We caught and banded/recapped 18 birds on Saturday. These were our captures: Kentucky warbler (1), our first at this station; Hooded warbler (1), Louisiana waterthrush (2), Swainson's warbler (2), ovenbird (2), red-eyed vireo (3), wood thrush (5); and recaptures of a white-eyed vireo (original capture 2024), and Louisiana waterthrush (original capture 2023).

– Allen and Mindy Waldron, Surveyor, WV, 7/13/25

A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at my home near Hurricane, Putnam County, at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Woke up and heard it singing for a short time but it stopped before I could record the sound. A whip-poor-will was also singing in the distance. It was 55 degrees and damp.

That evening, around 9 p.m., the Chuck-will's-widow was heard singing again close to the house and a whip-poor-will also singing nearby. This time, I was able to record the song and posted it on eBird.

The Chuck-will's widow has not been heard again after that day. However, as many as three whip-poor-wills have been heard regularly since mid-April through mid-June and then sporadically after that.

– Kevin Cade, Putnam County, WV, 7/22/25

A juvenile least bittern flew across road in front of our car. Got very clear view. Heron shape, large heron bill and trailing legs. Overall color light below and buffy above. We drove, parked and started walking towards pond it landed around. Bird gave least bittern calls, but we did not have a device ready to record. It did not call again and we were not able to see it again.

– Kathi Hoffman, Nicholas, West Virginia, 7/22/25

We were notified that the chimney swift tower at Camp Creek State Park has nesting chimney swifts. Have any of the other towers produced nesting swifts? The young are near to fledging.

– Mindy and Allen Waldron, Surveyor, WV, 8/3/25



Laughing gull, Cabell County.
– Photo by David Johnston

A first year laughing gull in early molt was found at the Harris Riverfront Park Boat Ramp. Seen in close flyby, brown back with scaly pattern. Wing darker toward tips with trailing white edges.

– David Johnston, Cabell County, WV, 8/5/25

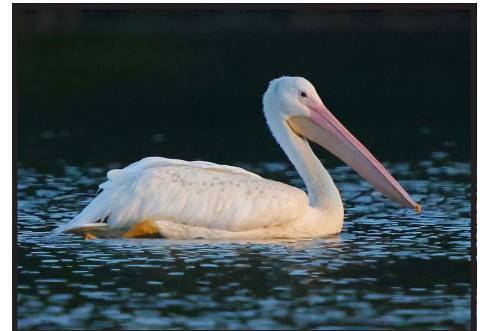
– Sightings taken from
WVBird ListServ



White pelicans at Marmet Locks and Dam.
– photo by Richard Gregg



Wilson's phalarope, Pocahontas County.
– Photo by Cynthia Mullens



White pelican, Stonewall Jackson Lake.
– Photo by David Mayle

MOUNTAINEER AUDUBON – FALL 2025 OUTINGS

Fall 2025 Field Trips & Local Birding Events

All the field trips listed below are free and open to everyone. No birding experience is required. Check Mountaineer Audubon's Facebook page for updates about our trips. Please contact Field Trip Coordinator Katie Fallon (katie@accawv.org) with any questions.

Sept. 12, 2025, 8am – Shorebirds at Doe Run. Join Cheyenne Carter, Mike Bergen, Nate Rees, and Cynthia Mullens on a walk down the paved road from the campground to check out migrating shorebirds at Doe Run. After we will check Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for migrating warblers and other birds. Please meet at the parking lot of the Tygart Lake boat launch on the WMA side, not the state park (coordinates: 39.266972, -80.016639).

Sept. 20, 2025, 7:30am – Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area. Mid-September in West Virginia is peak time to head out and enjoy lingering breeders and passage migrants as they make their way south. One of the most sought-after and hard-to-find warblers in North America is the Connecticut Warbler. Little Indian Creek WMA just happens to be one of the very best spots to see these skulkers during migration. Join leader Derek Courtney for a morning of birding fun as we seek out the elusive Connecticut Warbler and whatever else happens to be around. Meet at 7:30am at the gravel parking lot by the gate off Birchfield Run Road (coordinates: 39.59539, -80.06615). Walking will be on mostly flat, gravel roads. The road leading to the parking area can be a little rough at times depending on weather/maintenance; email trip leader Derek Courtney with questions: derek.dana.courtney@gmail.com.

Sept. 28, 2025, 12pm – Cooper's Rock State Forest. Join Katie Fallon on the main overlook at Cooper's Rock to watch for migrating raptors. This will be a "sit" rather than a walk. All ages welcome. This event will be cancelled or rescheduled in the case of pouring rain; please check our Facebook page for updates.

Oct. 4, 2025, 8:30am – Ohiopyle State Park, Ohiopyle, PA, Historic Train Station. Join us for a fall bird walk along the Great Allegheny Passage Bike Trail. The walk follows the Youghiogheny River through forested habitat. We will meet in front of the historic Train Station, 7 Sheridan St., Ohiopyle, PA. Leaders: Jane and Alan Clark 304-288-9543. Coordinates 39.869908, -79.492126

Nov. 22, 2025, 8am: Cheat Lake Fall Waterfowl Trip. Join Mountaineer Audubon and trip leader Derek Courtney for a tour around Cheat Lake, one of West Virginia's most productive areas for waterfowl viewing. This trip will involve minimal level-ground walking at most stops. Wind can make Cheat Lake quite cold, so participants should dress appropriately. We will meet at Almost Heaven Desserts in Cheat Lake at 8am and will drive to the locations. Participants may also arrive earlier at 7am if they wish to have breakfast at the same location. Leader: Derek Courtney.

Nov. 23, 2025, 10am: Young Birders' Walk at the West Virginia Botanic Garden, led by Katie Fallon and friends from the ACCA and WV Young Birders Club. Register in advance: www.wvbg.org.

Fall 2025 Programs

Our programs are free and open to the public — everyone is welcome! We will meet in person at 7 pm in the Wildlife Lab of Percival Hall on the WVU campus for the 2025 programs and via Zoom for all programs. All presentations will be recorded.

Sept. 9, 2025 – Mollee Brown: "Birding Behind Bars: Sharing Birds and Nature at Hazelton Penitentiary" This year, Mollee began teaching about birds and nature at the Hazelton Federal Correctional Facility. Without access to optics, the outdoors, or even windows in the Hazelton classrooms, she designed and taught a curriculum to

spark curiosity and appreciation for the natural world. In this presentation, Mollee will share stories, student reflections, and lessons learned about how these classes transformed the way both she and her students see nature — and how such approaches can inspire connection in the most unexpected places. We will meet at 5 pm for dinner prior to the presentation at Ta-Khrai Thai Cafe on 2862 University Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505. Please email Cheyenne Carter at cheyennecarterleigh@gmail.com to let her know you are coming.

Oct. 14, 2025 – Orion Metheny: "A Glimpse into the Summer Breeding Season at Glade Run MAPS Station". Orion just finished up his second summer running a MAPS station at his property on Glade Run. He will share what MAPS goals are and trends he is seeing at his station. We will meet at 5 pm for dinner prior to the presentation at Ogawa on 2920 University Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505. Please email Cheyenne Carter at cheyennecarterleigh@gmail.com to let her know you are coming.

Nov. 11, 2025 – Cleo McMahan: "Investigating Eastern Screech Owl Response Rate to Environment Variables Using Audio Playback". Cleo started her interest in birds as a junior undergrad taking her first ornithology class. Now a masters student at West Liberty University, she will share her thesis work on screech owl behavior and response time during audio lure surveys. We will meet at 5 pm for dinner prior to the presentation at Black Bear Burritos on 3119 University Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505. Please email Cheyenne Carter at cheyennecarterleigh@gmail.com to let her know you are coming.



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

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.

Oct. 2, 2025 – Business / Planning Meeting, 10:00am. ORINWR Conference Room. Come at 8:00 for birding before the meeting.

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

Oct. 11, 2025 – Big Sit, sunrise to sunset. ORINWR Parking Lot, Ohio River Islands NWR. Come anytime, stay as long as you like.

Oct. 16, 2025 – Sandy Creek Backwater & area, 9:00am. Boat ramp, Northwest Pipe Drive.

Oct. 23, 2025 – Middle Island area, 9:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. Bring lunch.

Oct. 30, 2025 – Johnson T Janes Park, 9:00am. JTJ Park parking lot, foot of 27th St., Parkersburg.

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

Nov. 13, 2025 – Seneca Lake, Ohio, 8:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. Bring lunch.

Nov. 20, 2025 – Ohio River South, 9:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. Bring lunch.

Dec. 4, 2025 – Christmas luncheon. Details later.

Dec. 11, 2025 – Middle Island area, 9:00am. WV Welcome Center, Williamstown. 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 National Wildlife Refuge and Delaware Bay.

Our current recurring guided bird walks include:

– Tuesday mornings at Rolling Ridge Conservancy Lands near Harpers Ferry, WV
 – Frequent walks at USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center

Check our calendar www.potomacaudubon.org to learn more and register for upcoming trips and events.

If you're interested in leading bird walks for our organization, please reach out to us at Info@PotomacAudubon.org or 681-252-1387.

MOUNTAINEER AUDUBON - FALL EVENTS IN TUCKER COUNTY, WV

All are invited to upcoming events in Tucker County that are free and open to people of all abilities. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars if you have them. Dress for the weather and check Facebook and websites for updates before heading in case they are rescheduled or cancelled. For more free nature events, visit the [Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation page](#), the [BWFSP Nature Center events page](#), and the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge Facebook page or website.

Sept. 6, 2025, 8AM – **Bird Walk at BWFSP.** Join volunteer Laura Ceperley for an easy 1–2-mile stroll on pavement and packed trails. Meet at the Nature Center, BWFSP. This walk is repeated every month, including Oct 4 at 8 AM.

Sept. 6, 2025, 9.30AM – **Paws at the Falls.** Meet at the overflow/bus parking near Blackwater Falls for a dog-friendly morning learning the principles of B.A.R.K. and Leave-No-Trace.

Sept. 6, Saturday, 10AM – **What's Blooming on the Refuge?** Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center and carpool to the site (locations vary). This walk will also be held Oct 4 at 10 AM.

Sept. 13, 2025, 8AM – **Bird the Beall.** An easy 1–2-mile stroll with Laura along pavement and dirt trails. Meet at the Beall Parking lot in the CVNWR, which is on Beall Lane up from Cortland Road. This walk is repeated every month, including Oct 11. Check Facebook for times.

Sept. 18-20, 2025, Thursday-Saturday – Nature Center at BWF State Park. **36th Annual Stargazer Weekend** hosted by the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society. Includes star parties, weather permitting, and speakers.

Sept. 20, 2025, 6PM-7:30PM – **Useful and Medicinal Plants of Canaan Valley.** Join us for this presentation by naturalist and wilderness survival instructor Mark Chapin on the edible and medicinal plants found in Canaan Valley. Refuge Visitor Center, 6263 Appalachian Hwy, Davis, WV 26260.

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 26-28, 2025 – **Leaf Peepers/Fall Festival.** Music, food, runs, walks, and vendors around the Valley.

Sept. 27, 2025, 10AM – Hike on National Public Land Day. Meet at the sled run in BWFSP for a 1.5-mile hike on packed trails.

Sept. 27, 2025 11AM – **Beaver Walk.** Join volunteer Robin on a stroll on the Freeland Boardwalk and learn about nature's ecosystem engineers. Repeated on Saturday, Oct 25. Freeland Boardwalk is on the CVNWR, 1119 Freeland Rd, Davis, WV 26260.

BROOKS BIRD CLUB FALL RETREAT & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TYGART LAKE STATE PARK, WV ~ OCTOBER 10-12, 2025

It is that time of year for our Fall Retreat, and we had so much fun at Tygart Lake last year that everyone decided to have it there again in 2025. There are some beautiful trails around the park that we can explore, along with other neat areas. Friday, there will be a board meeting at 1:30pm. Folks will be able to check into the Lodge Friday around 4pm, get settled and spend some time catching up with old friends, or meeting and making new ones. Dinner will be scheduled at 6:30pm. After dinner, there will be a nature photography program by Nathan Rees, possible questions, and weather-pending, possibly fire pits outside for extended visits before we must call it a night.

Saturday after breakfast, which will start at 8am, we will pick up our box lunch and set out for our day trip. (Trip options and destinations to be determined.) We will return to the lodge in time to clean up for our banquet dinner at 6:30pm. Julie Zickefoose will be our keynote speaker on Saturday Night.

On Sunday morning after breakfast, we will have our Annual Membership Meeting at 9:00am. Anyone wishing to have Sunday lunch before heading home it will be on their own in the dining room.

Check out is at 11am, when we will say our farewells until the next time we are fortunate enough to cross paths. I look forward to seeing you there! Any questions, please call or text Cindy at 724-570-8502.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS OCTOBER 3, 2025

Make checks payable to Brooks Bird Club, Inc. and send with your reservation to:

Cindy Slater - 125 North Center Street Bridgeport WV 26330

Email: Mountaingirl127@gmail.com

or use the BBC website.

You must be a BROOKS BIRD CLUB MEMBER TO ATTEND any of the weekend events.

PLEASE CONTACT CINDY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.



NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. NO. _____ EMAIL _____

Name of person sharing room _____

(2 people per room) If you need a roommate, we'll get you one. Roommate will be assigned if no preference given

COMPLETE WEEKEND: _____ No. Attending @ \$295.00 Double Occupancy \$ _____

_____ Single Room Supplement @ \$345.00 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



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

www.brooksbirdclub.org



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**Happy 93rd birthday,
BBC!**

*(back row): Bill Legg,
Kay Conrad & Carolyn Conrad;*

*(front row): Eva Hays,
George Breiding & John Handlan*

Photo from the BBC Archives

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