

Bibbee Nature Club Summer Newsletter--- June 2016

Friends,

Here it is June and our last newsletter was in December of 2015. We've had several events, so I'll get started sharing the details with you.

On **December 19th**, Jim Phillips led the 44th Pipestem Area Christmas Count. Here are all of the birds.

Participants: Bob Baker, Julie McQuade, Laura Miller, Sharyn Ogden, Jim(compiler) & Judy Phillips, Betsy Reeder, J. David & Vince Smith, Allen & Mindy Waldron and Barry Williams.

Canada Goose 321, Gadwall 4, American Black Duck 4, Mallard 34, Ring-necked Duck 28, Bufflehead 8, Hooded Merganser 42, Common Merganser 26, Wild Turkey 52, Pied-billed Grebe 2, Double-crested Cormorant 4, Great Blue Heron 5, Great Egret 1(2nd record for count), Black Vulture 21, Turkey Vulture 38, Golden Eagle 3(1 adult, 2 immature), Cooper's Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 5(all adults), 1 eagle species, Red-shouldered Hawk 5, Red-tailed Hawk 26*, Killdeer 8, Ring-billed Gull 1, Rock Pigeon 100, Mourning Dove 38, Great Horned Owl cw, Red-bellied Woodpecker 29, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7, Downy Woodpecker 16, Hairy Woodpecker 3, Northern Flicker 4, Pileated Woodpecker 12, American Kestrel 4, Eastern Phoebe 2, Blue-headed Vireo 1**(has been found count week on two previous counts), Blue Jay 43, American Crow 144, Common Raven 23*, Carolina chickadee 78, Black-capped Chickadee 3, chickadee species 15, Tufted Titmouse 80, White-breasted Nuthatch 31, Brown Creeper 3, Winter Wren 3, Marsh Wren 1, Carolina Wren 6, Golden-crowned Kinglet 14, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Eastern Bluebird 42, Hermit Thrush 5, American Robin 11, Northern Mockingbird 12, European Starling 247, Cedar Waxwing 23, Yellow-rumped warbler 1, Eastern Towhee 8, Field Sparrow 3, Fox Sparrow 3, Song Sparrow 19, Swamp Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 64, Dark-eyed Junco 215, Northern Cardinal 44, House Finch 22, Purple Finch 4, American Goldfinch 82 and House Sparrow 68. 65 species, 2175 individuals cw=count week
*=record high number **new to count

The Raleigh CBC was on **Sunday Dec. 20th** and we found 44 species for the day. We did the McDowell CBC was on **Sunday Dec. 27th**. We (Alma, Allen and I) agreed the best bird of the day was our last. I noticed this dark "blob" in a tree behind the parking garage in Welch, which upon closer looks turned into a wild turkey. Then we were able to find a couple more. It was 5:30 PM and almost dark, and the turkeys had gone to roost.

Our first event of 2016 was our Annual Eagle count. This was count number 11. My how time flies when you're counting eagles. These were the results from **January 9, 2016**

Bertha- 7 BAEA*(3 adults, 2 1st year, 2 2nd year) 4 GOEA** (1 adult, 3 immatures)

Mouth of the Bluestone River (Pits)- 6 BAEA(3 adult, 3 1st year)

Bluestone State Park- 2 BAEA (adult)

Bluestone Turnpike Trail- no eagles

Rt. 20 Overlook- 2 BAEA (1 2nd year, 1 3rd year)

Camp Brookside- no eagles

Brooks Island (river level & overlook) - 4 BAEA (2 adults, 2 3rd year)

Rt. 122(Greenville)- 10 BAEA(1 adult, 8 2nd year & 1 3rd year

Barger Springs- 1 BAEA(adult)

Stonewall Jackson Lake- 1 BAEA(adult)

Tygart Lake- no eagles

*BAEA = bald eagle **GOEA = golden eagle

67 participants found 33 BAEA(13 adults, 5 1st year, 11 2nd year & 4 3rd year) and 4 GOEA(1 adult, 3 immatures).

Conditions- 37-50 degrees, 90-100% cloud cover, 0-7 mph wind speed, visibility 1-8 miles, no precipitation, water open

Our 9th Spring Eagle count was conducted on **March 5th, 2016**. Here are the wonderful results.

Mouth of Indian Creek - GOEA* (1 immature), 1 unidentified eagle

Bertha - BAEA** 10(3 adult, 5 1styr, 2 2ndyr), 3 GOEA(adult)

Pits - BAEA 3(2 4thyr, 1 2ndyr)

Bluestone State Park - BAEA (2 adult)

Bluestone Turnpike Trail - no eagles

Falls Mills, VA- 2 unidentified eagles

Rt. 20 Overlook - BAEA 6(1 adult, 1 4thyr, 1 3rdyr, 2 2ndyr, 1 1styr) and 1 unidentified eagle

Camp Brookside - no eagles

Brooks - BAEA(2 adult)

Barger Springs - BAEA 2(adults)

Rt. 122 - BAEA 8(1 adult, 1 4thyr, 4 2ndyr & 2 1styr)

*GOEA = Golden Eagle **BAEA = Bald Eagle

61 participants found 33 BAEA(11 adult, 8 1st year, 9 2nd year, 1 3rd year & 4 4th year), 4 GOEA(3 adults, 1 immature) and 4 unidentified eagles at 9/11 sites. Two eggs reported in one nest, 1 reported and 1 suspected in two other Bald Eagle nests.

Conditions: 34-53 degrees, 50-100% cloud cover, 0-3 mph wind speed, no precipitation and water was open.

On **March 26th** we started the day with a wildflower walk along a road near Talcott, WV. It seemed like it might be a bit early, but we got a good selection of wildflowers and early spring migrant birds. It was a gorgeous morning to be outside with plenty of friendly and inquisitive conversations. After the walk everyone had lunch at different restaurants in Hinton. Then we rejoined for a very entertaining talk from Hinton resident John Vuolo on his hike on the Appalachian Trail. He had a lot of good information and insights into what it would take to attempt and complete such an awesome adventure. I will say that everyone had an enjoyable time. We had a good turnout for the day with 20 friends joining us for the day. After the talk a few of us went to take a look at the Bluestone eagle nest. We saw one eagle sitting on the nest.

On **Saturday April 23rd**, some members of BNC conducted a wildflower and bird walk as part of the Spring Festival at Camp Creek State Park. We had a good crowd of interested people for the walk. There weren't a great many wildflowers in bloom for us, but enough that everyone had a good time. It was a strange spring. A lot of plants popped up early in March, and then with cold weather in the first part of April, plants slowed down their growth. The food and Lumberjack entertainment for the Festival was great. It is truly an event worth attending.

Our Annual Spring Bird count was on **May 14th**, same day as International Migratory Bird Day. It was our 45th Spring Count. Great work by Jim Phillips to accomplish this milestone. Here are the day's details reaching 100 species.

Participants: Julie McQuade, Laura Miller, Beth Nelson, Jim(compiler) & Judy Phillips, Betsy Reeder, Kristen Richmond, Allen & Mindy Waldron.

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, **Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow.**

June is the month for Breeding Bird Surveys around the country. Each survey is 25 miles long, traveling over a designated route. We stop every half mile and listen/look for birds for 3 minutes. On our Pedro BBS in Monroe Co. we had 11 whip-poor-wills and 1 chuck-wills-widow, even before we reached our beginning point.

This catches us up on the details for the events of the last six months. **Now for the future. We won't have events in June or July. There wasn't interest in the picnic at Camp Creek State Park, so it was cancelled. Summer time is a difficult time to get people involved. We won't have an event in July either.**

We will try for the end of summer trip to Bertha/Bluestone WMA. We'll check it out ahead of time to see what condition the area is in. I believe it is opened again for camping. We are on the schedule for **August 27th**. We'll meet at Bellepoint Park in Hinton at 9:00 AM. We'll travel to Bertha for wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies, and birds. Bring a lunch and plan to make a day of it.

We are banding birds near Sandstone Falls this summer. The remaining dates are: June 28, July 6, July 14, July 24, and July 30. Check with us to make sure we haven't had to change the date due to weather or people conflicts. We have already had to adjust the schedule for the June 16th. We moved it up a couple of days with the prospect of rainy weather. We love visitors.

We have scheduled a hawk watch on East River Mountain for **September 24th** from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We meet at the top of the mountain and keep our eyes to the sky. Bring a chair, binoculars, hat and sunscreen, food and water.

We are planning on having our Annual Dinner and meeting on **October 1st** from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. We have a great meal and time for catching up. We'll discuss and do some planning for 2017. The Dinner will be at the US Dept. of Agriculture Building near the Athens exit from I-77.

On **October 8th** we'll participate in the International BIG SIT event. This is a great fun, relaxing time. We need people to help us locate birds. So mark this on your calendar and plan to join us. Nothing beats a great day sitting beside a beautiful lake with friends. We'll be at Mountain Valley Lake north of Hinton again this year. No reason to change what works. We hope lots of people will participate so we can keep our record going of the "Best Dam Sitters in West Virginia".

Our Christmas Bird Counts in December are scheduled on these dates:

Pipestem Area Christmas Count: December 17

Raleigh County Christmas Count: December 18

McDowell County Christmas Count: December 30

Hang on to this newsletter so you can keep track of our wonderful upcoming events.

Enjoy the summer and stay cool. Keep in touch and share your stories with us.

Mindy Waldron, President
Bibbee Nature Club