

## Bibbee Nature Club Summer/Fall Newsletter for 2016

We'll start off this newsletter with a recap. There was no event in June or July. Some members did bird, pick berries and talk at Blueberry Hill in July. Everyone can always use a beautiful day sharing stories, picking (and eating) berries, and watching for the occasional birds. It was great having Margaret and Bill Hank join us for the day. Others were Alma Lowry, her daughter, Lisa, Beth Nelson, Wanda Dameron, and Wade Snyder. We were fortunate that Wade and family, in town visiting, decided to come to the patch. Blueberry Hill is such a great time that we have included it in the 2017 schedule.

**August** found us going back to Bluestone Wildlife Management Area, at the Bertha campground. We're very relieved that the area was kept open and maintained. Thanks to Summers County for stepping up in this project. We had a good group with us for the day. The checklist of species that we heard or saw for the day are enclosed within this newsletter.

**September** found Jim and Judy Phillips on East River Mountain looking for hawks. It's good that we are covering that area again for raptors. Those helping were Mark Elliott, Josh Parks and Patty & Andy Arrington. They found 19 species, which were.  
Black Vulture 6, Turkey Vulture 4, Osprey 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 1, Broad-winged Hawk 8, Red-tailed Hawk 2, hawk sp. 1, unidentified eagle, Mourning Dove 2, Chimney Swift 10, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, Red-headed Woodpecker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 5, American Crow 2, Common Raven 2, Cedar Waxwing 20, Eastern Towhee 1, Scarlet Tanager 4, American Goldfinch 5.

In **October** we have our Annual Dinner and meeting. We held it in Hinton this year. We had a meal of very good food provided by members. I have enclosed the minutes of the meeting and a menu of food in this newsletter.

On **October 8<sup>th</sup>** we participated in the Big Sit event at Mountain Valley Lake. This is always a great time. Though the rain, cool weather and later wind made this day a little tiresome at times. I really want to thank those who came out to help. Alma Lowry, Beth Nelson, Jim and Judy Phillips, David Hundley, and Betsy Reeder were there throughout the day to help Allen and I. Our total of 45 species for the day was low a couple of species, so we can't claim best group in WV. The Mountwood club had 46 for the day. Here is our list of species for the day: Canada goose Wood duck Mallard Blue-winged teal Wild turkey Pied-billed grebe Great blue heron Black Vulture Turkey Vulture Northern Harrier Sharp-shinned hawk Cooper's hawk Red-tailed hawk Killdeer Mourning dove Chimney swift, a few hundred Red-bellied woodpecker Northern flicker Pileated woodpecker Merlin E. phoebe Blue jay American crow C. raven Tree swallow Barn swallow C. chickadee Tufted titmouse Red-breasted nuthatch White-breasted nuthatch C. wren E. bluebird American robin Gray catbird N. mockingbird E. starling Cedar waxwing Yellow-rumped warbler E. towhee Field sparrow Song sparrow N. cardinal Rose-breasted grosbeak Red-winged blackbird American goldfinch.

On **November 19<sup>th</sup>** a hardy few ventured out for the day when weather was supposed to turn nasty. It wasn't the usual hot day we have grown accustomed to, but it was cold enough for gloves and hats. Beth Nelson and Julie McQuade joined us for a few hours of birding in Hinton. We found David Johnston at Bellepoint Park and birded with him while there. We started at Bluestone Lake with eagles and ended up along River Road with Hooded Mergansers. Two beautiful species for the day. Our list is: C. goose, Mallard, Common mergansers, Hooded mergansers, Wild turkey, Pied-billed grebe, Great blue heron, Turkey and black vulture, Bald eagle, Cooper's hawk, Killdeer, Rock pigeon, Mourning dove, Hairy woodpecker, A. crow, C. raven, C. chickadee, T. titmouse, White-breasted nuthatch, Golden-crowned kinglet, C. wren, Winter wren, E. starling, Song sparrow, S-c junco, N. cardinal, Red-winged blackbird House sparrow.

So now we are ready for the **December** events. The Pipestem Christmas Bird Count is on **Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>**. Jim Phillips ([jimandjudyphillips@gmail.com](mailto:jimandjudyphillips@gmail.com)) is the compiler and you can contact him for information. Here is what he gave me as of today. Julie McQuade at Pipestem State Park. Margaret and Bill Hank might get to Sand Knob if weather and health are good. Jim will cover areas that need covering. Waldron's are going to do usual route to Bertha and back.

On **December 18<sup>th</sup>** we hold the Raleigh County Christmas Bird Count. Allen Waldron is the compiler. We'd love to have some assistance with this count even if just for a couple of hours. The count area covers Beckley, Sophia, Lester, Glen Daniel, Lake Stephens, and around Tamarack. If you can help, give Allen a call, (3045733247) or an email ([awaldron@suddenlink.net](mailto:awaldron@suddenlink.net)).

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>** is the Athens/Princeton CBC. Ron Canterbury is the compiler. You can contact him ([roncanterbury@aol.com](mailto:roncanterbury@aol.com)) for information. Allen and I help with this one as well, so you can contact us if needed.

**December 30<sup>th</sup>** is the McDowell CBC. Yes we really enjoy going to McDowell Co to look for birds. And anyone can join us. Allen is the compiler for this one as well, get a hold of him if you are interested.

Enclosed you will find the schedule for 2017. Please make sure you put it up somewhere and keep it handy for the year. You'll see that many of the events don't have a specific day for them. That is because I had to do a lot of rescheduling during 2016 and we'll choose a date closer to the time.

Please update any postal/email addresses with me, if needed.

Have a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Mindy Waldron, President  
Bibbee Nature Club

