

Contents	Page
The 2009 Cowen Sortie, Webster County, West Virginia	
The 2009 Cowen Sortie Bird List and Atlas Results	
—Thomas R. Fox	102
The 2009 Cowen Sortie Breeding Bird Surveys, Webster County, West Virginia	
—Thomas R. Fox	106
Plants of the 2009 Cowen Sortie, Webster County, West Virginia	
—Kevin Campbell	110
14th Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee: April 2010	126
Field Notes	
—Casey Rucker	128

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The 2009 Cowen Sortie Bird List and Atlas Results

Thomas R. Fox

The Cowen Sortie was held from May 30 through June 5, 2009, headquartered at the home of Dorothy Thomas Fox on Thomas Drive in Cowen, Webster County, West Virginia. This is the area where I began my birding career as a young boy. I have always looked forward to studying this area with the Brooks Bird Club. Our primary study area was western and southern Webster County with sojourns into Nicholas, Clay, Braxton, and Pocahontas Counties. These sojourns were to work atlas blocks, to visit Cranberry Glades, and to conduct the Strange Creek Breeding Bird Survey route in Braxton and Clay Counties.

There is quite a variance in altitude in the study area from a low of 1,500 feet at Webster Springs to over 4,000 feet at Bishop Knob, which is between Williams River and Cranberry River. This variance in altitude gave us many habitats to sample in a short amount of time with a small number of observers, and I am certain many birds went undetected.

The first year of the West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas II was 2009, and it was our primary mission to work as many atlas blocks as were feasible in the study area. Due to the early dates of the Sortie, several species were not within the safe dates and could not be included in the atlas data. Work was done on four atlas blocks. Table 1 gives the atlas blocks and the number of species listed for each.

Table 1
Cowen Sortie Atlas Results

Block Name and Number	Number of Species
Erbacon-6	52
Cowen-6	52 species
Camden on Gauley-6	60 species
Tioga-6	49 species

Breeding evidence is presented in italics in the bird list below. Abundance terms are the standard terms used by The Brooks Bird Club as follows:

Very common—Seen in large numbers every day in all appropriate habitats.

Common—Seen in appropriate habitat every day without any special effort.

Uncommon—Seen in appropriate habitat only with a lot of effort.

Rare—Seen once or twice during the reporting period.

Mallard—Rare. One, probably a domestic, was seen in the Tioga area.
Common Merganser—Rare. One was seen fishing in Williams River at Dyer.
Ruffed Grouse—Uncommon.
Wild Turkey—Common.
Green Heron—Rare. One was seen at the B&O pond near Cowen.
Turkey Vulture—Common.
Red-shouldered Hawk—Uncommon. Cowen Atlas Block.
Broad-winged Hawk—Uncommon. Tioga Atlas Block.
Red-tailed Hawk—Uncommon. Erbacon Atlas Block.
American Kestrel—Rare.
Killdeer—Uncommon. Several were seen at Webster County High School at Upper Glade.
Rock Pigeon—Uncommon. Found at Webster Springs *nesting under the Elk River Bridge*.
Mourning Dove—Common.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Common.
Barred Owl—Rare. Erbacon Atlas Block. No special effort was made to find owls or nightjars.
Chimney Swift—Common.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Common.
Belted Kingfisher—Common.
Red-bellied Woodpecker—Common.
Downy Woodpecker—Common.
Hairy Woodpecker—Common.
Northern Flicker—Common.
Pileated Woodpecker—Common.
Eastern Wood-Pewee—Common.
Acadian Flycatcher—Common.
Alder Flycatcher—Rare. Cranberry Glades.
Willow Flycatcher—Rare.
Least Flycatcher—Uncommon. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Eastern Phoebe—Common.
Great Crested Flycatcher—Uncommon.
Eastern Kingbird—Uncommon. There was very limited habitat for this species in this area.
White-eyed Vireo—Uncommon.
Yellow-throated Vireo—Common.
Blue-headed Vireo—Common.
Red-eyed Vireo—Very common.
Blue Jay—Common.
American Crow—Common.

Common Raven—Common.
Tree Swallow—Common.
Barn Swallow—Common.
Carolina Chickadee—Common.
Black-capped Chickadee—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Tufted Titmouse—Common.
Red-breasted Nuthatch—Uncommon. Cranberry Glades.
Carolina Wren—Common.
House Wren—Common.
Winter Wren—Uncommon. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Common.
Eastern Bluebird—Common.
Veery—Common. Williams River and Cranberry areas.
Swainson's Thrush—Uncommon. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Hermit Thrush—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Wood Thrush—Common.
American Robin—Common.
Gray Catbird—Common.
Brown Thrasher—Common.
European Starling—Common.
Cedar Waxwing—Common.
Blue-winged Warbler—Common.
Golden-winged Warbler—Rare. Two were heard and seen on a reclaimed strip mine near Tioga.
Northern Parula—Common.
Yellow Warbler—Common.
Chestnut-sided Warbler—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Magnolia Warbler—Uncommon. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Black-throated Blue Warbler—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Black-throated Green Warbler—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Blackburnian Warbler—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Yellow-throated Warbler—Common.
Cerulean Warbler—Common.
Black-and-white Warbler—Common.
American Redstart—Common.
Swainson's Warbler—Rare. Found at Swandale in Clay County during the Strange Creek Breeding Bird Survey.
Ovenbird—Common.
Northern Waterthrush—Rare. Cranberry Glades.
Louisiana Waterthrush—Common.

Kentucky Warbler—Common.
Mourning Warbler—Uncommon. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Common Yellowthroat—Common.
Hooded Warbler—Common.
Canada Warbler—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Yellow-breasted Chat—Common.
Summer Tanager—Common.
Scarlet Tanager—Common.
Eastern Towhee—Common.
Chipping Sparrow—Common.
Field Sparrow—Common
Vesper Sparrow—Rare. One was heard on a reclaimed strip mine near Tioga.
Grasshopper Sparrow—Uncommon. Several were heard on a reclaimed strip mine on the Erbacon Atlas Block.
Song Sparrow—Common.
Swamp Sparrow—Rare. Cranberry Glades.
Dark-eyed Junco—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
Northern Cardinal—Common.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Common.
Indigo Bunting—Common.
Red-winged Blackbird—Common
Eastern Meadowlark—Uncommon. Habitat for this species in the study area was limited.
Common Grackle—Common.
Brown-headed Cowbird—Common.
Orchard Oriole—Uncommon.
Baltimore Oriole—Uncommon.
Purple Finch—Common. Williams River and Cranberry River areas.
House Finch—Common. Webster Springs and Cowen.
Pine Siskin—Uncommon. Cranberry Glades.
American Goldfinch—Common.
House Sparrow—Common. Found in all urban areas.

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The 2009 Cowen Sortie Breeding Bird Surveys Webster County, West Virginia

Thomas R. Fox

This was the first time the Brooks Bird Club had conducted a study in this area since 1956 when a Foray was held at Camp Caesar. This was prior to the inception of Breeding Bird Surveys as we now conduct them, so no comparison was possible.

Surveys were conducted using standard U. S. Fish and Wildlife protocol for conducting 25-mile breeding bird surveys, but due to time constraints the surveys were run for only 10 miles. The surveys were conducted between 5:30 a. m. and 9:15 a. m. on the following dates and routes:

1. May 31, 2009 – Bishop Knob – Routes 101, 13 and 76.
2. May 31, 2009 – Erbacon Road – Route 9.
3. June 2, 2009 – John Goff Road – Routes 44/6 and 44.
4. June 2, 2009 – Gauley River – Routes 36/3 and 42.
5. June 2, 2009 – Pleasant Ridge – Routes 38 and 34.
6. June 3, 2009 – Elk River Road – Route 7.

Eighty-four species were amassed with the most remarkable species being a Common Merganser feeding in the Williams River. Table 1 shows the birds recorded. Tables 2 and 3 show the 10 most abundant species and the 10 most widely distributed species.

Those participating in the BBS runs were Greg Eddy, Maryanne Krainanski, Gordon Vujevic, Thomas Fox, Dawn Fox, Chris Gatens, and Kevin Campbell.

Table 1
Birds Recorded by Species

Species	Number	Stops Present
Common Merganser	1	1
Wild Turkey	4	1
Green Heron	2	2
Turkey Vulture	3	2
Red-Shouldered Hawk	5	4
Killdeer	2	2
Rock Pigeon	2	1
Mourning Dove	25	22
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	7	6
Chimney Swift	7	3

Species	Number	Stops Present
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	5
Downy Woodpecker	3	3
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1
Northern Flicker	10	10
Pileated Woodpecker	11	10
Eastern Wood-Pewee	23	23
Acadian Flycatcher	23	20
Least Flycatcher	5	5
Eastern Phoebe	13	12
Great Crested Flycatcher	16	15
Yellow-throated Vireo	8	8
Blue-headed Vireo	11	10
Red-eyed Vireo	160	100
Blue Jay	15	14
American Crow	57	37
Common Raven	9	7
Tree Swallow	7	5
Barn Swallow	18	10
Carolina Chickadee	2	2
Black-capped Chickadee	7	6
Tufted Titmouse	29	28
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	5
Carolina Wren	11	11
House Wren	25	15
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7	7
Eastern Bluebird	9	5
Veery	23	15
Hermit Thrush	3	3
Wood Thrush	40	35
American Robin	102	53
Gray Catbird	30	29
Northern Mockingbird	1	1
Brown Thrasher	13	11
Cedar Waxwing	23	15
European Starling	56	12
Blue-winged Warbler	5	5
Golden-winged Warbler	2	2
Northern Parula	22	21

Species	Number	Stops Present
Yellow Warbler	25	22
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	2
Magnolia Warbler	1	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	11	11
Blackburnian Warbler	4	4
Yellow-throated Warbler	7	7
Cerulean Warbler	3	3
Black-and-white Warbler	16	16
American Redstart	42	37
Ovenbird	46	39
Louisiana Waterthrush	6	5
Kentucky Warbler	1	1
Mourning Warbler	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	13	13
Hooded Warbler	24	22
Yellow-breasted Chat	3	3
Scarlet Tanager	41	36
Eastern Towhee	26	24
Chipping Sparrow	23	23
Field Sparrow	18	15
Vesper Sparrow	1	1
Song Sparrow	66	47
Dark-eyed Junco	14	10
Northern Cardinal	49	37
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	3
Indigo Bunting	53	47
Red-winged Blackbird	32	12
Eastern Meadowlark	5	5
Common Grackle	8	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	11	7
Orchard Oriole	2	2
Baltimore Oriole	6	6
American Goldfinch	16	9
House Sparrow	4	2
Total species	84	
Total birds	1,448	

Table 2
Ten Most Abundant Species

Red-eyed Vireo	160
American Robin	102
Song Sparrow	66
American Crow	57
European Starling	56
Indigo Bunting	53
Northern Cardinal	49
Ovenbird	46
American Redstart	42
Scarlet Tanager	41

Table 3
Ten Most Widely Distributed Species

Red-eyed Vireo	100
American Robin	53
Indigo Bunting	47
Song Sparrow	47
Ovenbird	39
American Crow	37
American Redstart	37
Northern Cardinal	37
Scarlet Tanager	36
Wood Thrush	35

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**Flowering Plants of the 2009 Cowen Sortie
Webster County, West Virginia**

Kevin Campbell

The following flowering plants were identified during the Brooks Bird Club Webster County Sortie. The Sortie territory covered the southern half of Webster County. This list represents the observations of many attendees of the Sortie, including Chris Gatens, Dawn Fox, Thomas Fox, and Gordon Vujevic.

The area's geology is primarily sandstone based, with elevations ranging from 1,000 feet along the Elk River to 4,000 feet in the Cranberry River drainage. There were 92 families of plants, 253 genera, and 393 species identified during the May 29–June 4, 2009 Sortie.

The plants are listed phylogenetically according to Gleason and Cronquist's *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* Second Edition with corrections of nomenclature according to the *Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia* by Harmon et al. Common name usage follows Harmon et al.

PINACEAE

Picea rubens
Picea abies
Tsuga canadensis
Pinus strobus
Pinus resinosa
Pinus rigida
Pinus virginiana

PINEFAMILY

Red Spruce
Norway Spruce
Eastern Hemlock
White Pine
Red Pine
Pitch Pine
Virginia Pine

CUPRESSACEAE

Thuja occidentalis
Juniperis virginiana

CYPRESSFAMILY

Arborvitae
Red Cedar

MAGNOLIACEAE

Magnolia acuminata
Magnolia tripetala
Magnolia fraseri
Liriodendron tulipifera

MAGNOLIAFAMILY

Cucumber Magnolia
Umbrella Magnolia
Mountain Magnolia
Yellow-Poplar

ANNONACEAE

Asimina triloba

CUSTARDAPPLEFAMILY

Pawpaw

LAURACEAE

Sassafras albidum

Lindera benzoin

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

Hexastylis virginicum

Asarum canadense

Aristolochia macrophylla

NYMPHAEACEAE

Nymphaea odorata

CABOMBACEAE

Brasenia schreberi

RANUNCULACEAE

Trautvetteria caroliniensis

Cimicifuga racemosa

Actea pachypoda

Aconitum uncinatum ssp. *muticum*

Anemone quinquefolia

Anemone lancifolia

Anemone virginiana

Hepatica nobilis var. *obtusa*

Hepatica nobilis var. *acuta*

Clematis virginiana

Ranunculus acris

Aquilegia canadensis

Thalictrum thalictroides

Thalictrum pubescens

Xanthorhiza simplicissima

BERBERIDACEAE

Podophyllum peltatum

Caulophyllum thalictroides

Berberis thunbergii

MENISERMACEAE

Menispermum canadense

LAUREL FAMILY

Sassafras

Spice Bush

BIRTHWORT FAMILY

Coltsfoot

Wild Ginger

Pipevine

WATER-LILY FAMILY

Fragrant Waterlily

WATER SHIELD FAMILY

Water Shield

CROWFOOT FAMILY

Tasselrue

Black Cohosh

Doll's Eyes

Blue Monkshood

Wood Anemone

Mountain Anemone

Thimbleweed

Round-lobed Hepatica

Sharp-lobed Hepatica

Virgin's Bower

Tall Buttercup

Wild Columbine

Rue Anemone

Tall Meadowrue

Shrubby Yellowroot

BARBERRY FAMILY

May-apple

Blue Cohosh

Japanese Barberry

MOONSEED FAMILY

Canada Moonseed

PAPAVERACEAE

Sanquinaria canadensis

PLATANACEAE

Platanus occidentalis

HAMAMELIDACEAE

Hamamelis virginiana

ULMACEAE

Ulmus Americana

Ulmus rubra

MORACEAE

Morus alba

URTICACEAE

Urtica dioica

Pilea pumila

JUGLANDACEAE

Juglans cinerea

Juglans nigra

Carya cordiformis

Carya alba

Carya ovata

Carya glabra

FAGACEAE

Fagus grandifolia

Castanea dentata

Castanea mollissima

Quercus alba

Quercus prinus

Quercus muehlenbergii

Quercus velutina

Quercus rubra

Quercus coccinea

BETULACEAE

Ostrya virginiana

POPPY FAMILY

Bloodroot

PLANE TREE FAMILY

Sycamore

WITCH-HAZEL FAMILY

Witch Hazel

ELM FAMILY

American Elm

Slippery Elm

MULBERRY FAMILY

White Mulberry

NETTLE FAMILY

Stinging Nettle

Clearweed

WALNUT FAMILY

Butternut

Black Walnut

Bitternut Hickory

Mockernut Hickory

Shagbark Hickory

Pignut Hickory

BEECH FAMILY

American Beech

American Chestnut

Chinese Chestnut

White Oak

Chestnut Oak

Yellow Oak

Black Oak

Red Oak

Scarlet Oak

BIRCH FAMILY

Ironwood

<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Musclewood
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Black Birch
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch
<i>Alnus incana</i>	Speckled Alder
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Brookside Alder
PHYTOLACCACEAE	POKEWEED FAMILY
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Pokeweed
CHENOPODIACEAE	GOOSEFOOT FAMILY
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Lamb's Quarters
AMARANTHACEAE	AMARANTH FAMILY
<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	Common Pigweed
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	PINK FAMILY
<i>Cerastium viscosum</i>	Mouse-ear Chickweed
<i>Stellaria pubera</i>	Great Chickweed
<i>Stellaria longifolia</i>	Longleaf Stitchwort
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford Pink
POLYGONACEAE	SMARTWEED FAMILY
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep Sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broadleaf Dock
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Lady's Thumb
<i>Polygonum sagittatum</i>	Arrowleaf Tearthumb
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese Knotweed
CLUSIACEAE	MANGOSTEEN FAMILY
<i>Hypericum hypericoides</i> ssp. <i>multicaule</i>	St. Andrew's Cross
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort
<i>Hypericum punctatum</i>	Dotted St. John's-wort
TILIACEAE	LINDEN FAMILY
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood
VIOLACEAE	VIOLET FAMILY
<i>Viola rotundifolia</i>	Roundleaf Violet

Viola cucullata
Viola sororia
Viola triloba
Viola blanda
Viola hastata
Viola canadensis
Viola striata

Marsh Blue Violet
Common Blue Violet
Three-lobed Violet
Sweet White Violet
Halberd-leaf Violet
Canada Violet
Striped Violet

SALICACEAE

Populus alba
Populus grandidentata
Populus tremuloides
Salix nigra
Salix sericea
Salix pendula

WILLOWFAMILY

White Poplar
Bigtooth Aspen
Quaking Aspen
Black Willow
Silky Willow
Weeping Willow

BRASSICACEAE

Cardamine diphylla
Rorippa palustris
Hesperis matronalis
Alliaria petiolata

MUSTARD FAMILY

Two-leaved Toothwort
Common Yellow Cress
Dame's Rocket
Garlic Mustard

ERICACEAE

Rhododendron maximum
Rhododendron periclymenoides
Rhododendron prinophyllum
Rhododendron arborescens
Rhododendron calendulaceum
Kalmia latifolia
Oxydendrum arboreum
Gaultheria procumbens
Epigaea repens
Lyonia ligustrina
Vaccinium stamineum
Vaccinium pallidum
Gaylussacia baccata

HEATHFAMILY

Rhododendron
Pinxter Flower
Rose Azalea
Smooth Azalea
Flame Azalea
Mountain Laurel
Sourwood
Teaberry
Trailing Arbutus
Maleberry
Dearberry
Upland Low Blueberry
Black Huckleberry

PYROLACEAE

Chimaphila maculata

WINTERGREENFAMILY

Spotted Wintergreen

MONOTROPACEAE

Monotropa uniflora

EBENACEAE

Diospyros virginiana

PRIMULACEAE

Lysimachia nummularia

Lysimachia quadrifolia

HYDRANGEACEAE

Hydrangea arborescens

GROSSULARIACEAE

Ribes rotundifolium

Ribes cynosbati

CRASSULACEAE

Sedum ternatum

SAXIFRAGACEAE

Saxifraga virginiensis

Tiarella cordifolia

Heuchera parviflora

Heuchera americana

ROSACEAE

Physocarpus opulifolius

Spiraea japonica

Spiraea alba

Aruncus dioicus

Porteranthus trifoliatus

Fragaria virginiana

Duchesnea indica

Potentilla simplex

Potentilla recta

Geum vernum

Geum canadense

Geum laciniatum

Rubus odoratus

Rubus occidentalis

INDIAN PIPE FAMILY

Indian Pipe

EBONY FAMILY

Persimmon

PRIMROSE FAMILY

Moneywort

Whorled Loosestrife

HYDRANGEA FAMILY

Wild Hydrangea

GOOSEBERRY FAMILY

Smooth Gooseberry

Prickly Gooseberry

ORPINE FAMILY

Wild Stonecrop

SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

Early Saxifrage

Foamflower

Small-flowered Heuchera

Alumroot

ROSE FAMILY

Ninebark

Japanese Spiraea

Pipestem

Goatsbeard

Bowman's Root

Virginia Strawberry

Indian Strawberry

Common Cinquefoil

Upright Cinquefoil

Spring Avens

White Avens

Rough Avens

Flowering Raspberry

Black Raspberry

Rubus hispidus
Rubus allegheniensis
Agrimonia gryposepala
Rosa multiflora
Rosa palustris
Rosa carolina
Prunus persica
Prunus serotina
Prunus pennsylvanica
Prunus americana
Pyrus communis
Pyrus malus
Pyrus coronaria
Crataegus sp.
Amelanchier arborea

Hispid Dewberry
Allegheny Blackberry
Tall Agrimony
Multiflora Rose
Swamp Rose
Pasture Rose
Peach
Wild Black Cherry
Fire Cherry
Wild Plum
Pear
Apple
Wild Crab Apple
Hawthorn
Common Serviceberry

CAESALPINIAIACEAE

Cercis canadensis
Senna hebecarpa

CAESALPINIA FAMILY

Redbud
Wild Hairy-fruited Senna

FABACEAE

Wisteria sp.
Robinia pseudo-acacia
Robinia viscosa
Robinia hispida
Coronilla varia
Trifolium pratense
Trifolium repens
Trifolium aureum
Trifolium campestre
Melilotus officinalis
Melilotus albus
Lathyrus odoratus
Lespedeza cuneata

PEA FAMILY

Wisteria
Black Locust
Clammy Locust
Hispid Locust
Crown Vetch
Red Clover
White Clover
Yellow Hop Clover
Low Hop Clover
Yellow Sweet Clover
White Sweet Clover
Sweet Pea
Sirecea Lespedeza

ELAEAGNACEAE

Elaeagnus umbellata

OLEASTER

Autumn Olive

ONAGRACEAE

Ludwigia alternifolia
Oenothera biennis

EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY

Seedbox
Common Evening-Primrose

CORNACEAE

Cornus alternifolia
Cornus amomum
Cornus florida
Nyssa sylvatica

CELASTRACEAE

Celastrus scandens
Euonymus americanus

AQUIFOLIACEAE

Ilex opaca
Ilex verticillata
Ilex montana

VITACEAE

Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Vitis aestivalis

HIPPOCASTANACEAE

Aesculus hippocastanum
Aesculus flava

ACERACEAE

Acer saccharum
Acer nigrum
Acer spicatum
Acer pensylvanicum
Acer rubrum
Acer saccharinum
Acer negundo

ANACARDIACEAE

Rhus typhina
Rhus copallina
Toxicodendron radicans

SIMAROUBACEAE

Ailanthus altissima

DOGWOODFAMILY

Alternate-leaved Dogwood
Kinnikinnik
Flowering Dogwood
Black Gum

STAFFTREEFAMILY

Climbing Bittersweet
Strawberry Bush

HOLLYFAMILY

American Holly
Winterberry
Mountain Holly

VINEFAMILY

Virginia Creeper
Summer Grape

HORSE-CHESTNUTFAMILY

Horse-Chestnut
Yellow Buckeye

MAPLEFAMILY

Sugar Maple
Black Maple
Mountain Maple
Striped Maple
Red Maple
Silver Maple
Boxelder

CASHEWFAMILY

Staghorn Sumac
Winged Sumac
Poison Ivy

TREE-OF-HEAVENFAMILY

Tree-of-Heaven

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis stricta
Oxalis grandis
Oxalis violacea

GERANIACEAE

Geranium maculatum
Geranium

BALSAMINACEAE

Impatiens capensis
Impatiens pallida

ARALIACEAE

Aralia nudicaulis
Aralia racemosa
Aralia spinosa

APIACEAE

Cryptotaenia canadensis
Daucus carota
Conium maculatum
Taenidia integerrima
Zizia aptera
Heracleum lanatum
Angelica atropurpurea

GENTIANACEAE

Obolaria virginica

APOCYNACEAE

Vinca minor
Apocynum cannabinum
Apocynum xfloribundum

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Asclepias tuberosa
Asclepias exaltata
Asclepias syriaca
Asclepias quadrifolia

WOOD SORREL FAMILY

Upright Yellow Wood Sorrel
Great Yellow Wood Sorrel
Violet Wood Sorrel

GERANIUM FAMILY

Wild Geranium

JEWELWEED FAMILY

Spotted Touch-me-not
Pale Touch-me-not

GINSENG FAMILY

Wild Sarsaparilla
American Spikenard
Hercules' Club

CARROT FAMILY

Honewort
Queen Anne's Lace
Poison Hemlock
Yellow Pimpernel
Golden Alexanders
Cow Parsnip
Purple Angelica

GENTIAN FAMILY

Pennywort

DOGBANE FAMILY

Periwinkle
Indian Hemp
Intermediate Dogbane

MILKWEED FAMILY

Butterfly Milkweed
Poke Milkweed
Common Milkweed
Four-leaved Milkweed

SOLANACEAE

Solanum carolinense

CONVOLVULACEAE

Calystegia sepium

Ipomoea pandurata

POLEMONIACEAE

Phlox divaricata

Phlox stolonifera

Phlox maculata

HYDROPHYLLACEAE

Phacelia dubia

Hydrophyllum virginianum

Hydrophyllum canadense

BORAGINACEAE

Echium vulgare

VERBENACEAE

Verbena urticifolia

Verbena hastata

LAMIACEAE

Ajuja reptans

Scutellaria elliptica

Pycnanthemum virginianum

Mentha piperita

Collinsonia Canadensis

Meehania cordata

Glechoma hederacea

Prunella vulgaris

Lamium amplexicaule

Monardia clinopodia

Monardia didyma

CALLITRICHACEAE

Callitriche heterophylla

NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

Horse-nettle

MORNING-GLORY FAMILY

Hedge Bindweed

Wild Potato Vine

Phlox Family

Wild Blue Phlox

Creeping Phlox

Wild Sweet William

WATERLEAF FAMILY

Small-flowered Phacelia

Virginia Waterleaf

Broad-leaved Waterleaf

BORAGE FAMILY

Viper's Bugloss

VERVAIN FAMILY

White Vervain

Blue Vervain

MINT FAMILY

Bugleweed

Hairy Skullcap

Virginia Mountain-Mint

Peppermint

Richweed

Meehania

Ground-ivy

Heal-all

Henbit

Basil Balm

Bee Balm

WATER-STARWORT FAMILY

Larger Water Starwort

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago rugelii
Plantago lanceolata

OLEACEAE

Syringa vulgaris
Fraxinus americana

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Verbascum blattaria
Verbascum thapsus
Chelone glabra
Penstemon digitalis
Veronica officinalis????
Veronica anagallis-aquatica
Pedicularis canadensis
Melampyrum lineare var. *latifolium*
Pedicularis Canadensis

OROBANCHACEAE

Conopholis americana
Epifagus virginiana

ACANTHACEAE

Justica americana

BIGNONIACEAE

Paulownia tomentosa
Catalpa bignonioides
Campsis radicans

CAMPANULACEAE

Triodanis perfoliata

RUBIACEAE

Houstonia serpyllifolia
Houstonia caerulea
Mitchella repens
Galium circaezans
Galium aparine

PLANTAIN FAMILY

Common Plantain
Narrowleaf Plantain

OLIVE FAMILY

Lilac
White Ash

FIGWORT FAMILY

Moth Mullein
Great Mullein
Turtlehead
Foxglove Beardtongue
Common Speedwell
Water Speedwell
Common Lousewort
Cow-wheat
Common Lousewort

BROOMRAPE FAMILY

Cancerroot
Beechdrops

ACANTHUS FAMILY

Water Willow

BIGNONIA FAMILY

Paulownia
Cigartree
Trumpet-creeper

BLUEBELL FAMILY

Venus' Looking Glass

MADDER FAMILY

Thyme-leaved Bluets
Bluets
Partridge Berry
Wild Liquorice
Cleavers

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

- Lonicera tatarica*
- Lonicera morrowii*
- Lonicera japonica*
- Triosteum aurantiacum*
- Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum*
- Viburnum acerifolium*
- Viburnum opulus* var. *opulus*
- Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides*
- Viburnum prunifolium*
- Viburnum alnifolium*
- Sambucus canadensis*
- Sambucus racemosa*

DIPSACACEAE

- Dipsacus sylvestris*

ASTERACEAE

- Rudbeckia hirta*
- Rudbeckia laciniata*
- Verbesina alternifolia*
- Coreopsis tripteris*
- Smallanthus uvedalius*
- Ambrosia artemisiifolia*
- Achillea millefolium*
- Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*
- Matricaria matricarioides*
- Artemisia vulgaris*
- Packera anonyma*
- Packera aurea*
- Scenecio vulgaris*
- Cacalia atriplicifolia*
- Tussilago farfara*
- Eurybia divaricata*
- Erigeron pulchellus*
- Erigeron philadelphicus*
- Erigeron strigosus*
- Erigeron annuus*
- Antennaria neglecta*
- Antennaria plantaginifolia*
- Eupatorium fistulosum*

HONEYSUCKLEFAMILY

- Tartarian Honeysuckle
- Morrow's Honeysuckle
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Wild Coffee
- Smooth Arrowwood
- Maple-Leaf Viburnum
- Snowball Tree
- Wild Raisin
- Black Haw
- Hobble-Bush
- Black Elderberry
- Red Elderberry

TEASELFAMILY

- Common Teasel

ASTER FAMILY

- Black-eyed Susan
- Tall Coneflower
- Wing-Stem
- Tall Coreopsis
- Yellow-flowered Leafcup
- Common Ragweed
- Yarrow
- Ox-eye Daisy
- Pineapple Weed
- Mugwort
- Small's Ragwort
- Golden Ragwort
- Common Groundsel
- Pale Indian Plantain
- Coltsfoot
- White Wood Aster
- Robin's Plantain
- Philadelphia Fleabane
- Daisy Fleabane
- White-Top
- Field Pussytoes
- Plantainleaf Everlasting
- Common Joe-Pye Weed

Eupatorium perfoliatum
Veronia noveboracensis
Elephantopus carolinianus
Arctium minus
Cirsium vulgare
Prenanthes serpentina
Prenanthes trifoliata
Lactuca biennis
Krigia biflora
Taraxacum officinale
Cichorium intybus
Hypochaeris radicata

Boneset
New York Ironweed
Elephant's-Foot
Common Burdock
Common Thistle
Gall-of-the-Earth
Lion's Foot
Tall Blue Lettuce
Cynthia
Common Dandelion
Chicory
Cat's-ear

ALISMATACEAE

Alisma subcordatum
Sagittaria latifolia

WATER PLANTAIN FAMILY

Common Water Plantain
Wapato

POTAMOGETONACEAE

Potamogeton epihydrus

PONDWEED FAMILY

Floating Pondweed

ACORACEAE

Acorus calamus

SWEET FLAG FAMILY

Sweet Flag

ARACEAE

Symplocarpus foetidus
Arisaema triphyllum ssp. *triphyllum*
Arisaema triphyllum ssp. *stewardsonii*

ARUM FAMILY

Skunk Cabbage
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Bog Jack-in-the-Pulpit

COMMELINACEAE

Tradescantia virginiana

SPIDERWORT FAMILY

Spiderwort

JUNCACEAE

Juncus tenuis
Juncus effusus

RUSH FAMILY

Yard Rush
Common Rush

CYPERACEAE

Scirpus atrovirens
Scirpus cyperinus
Eleocharis obtusa
Dulichium arundinaceum
Carex vulpinoidea

SEDGE FAMILY

Black Bulrush
Woolgrass
Blunt Spikerush
Three-way Sedge
Foxtail Sedge

Carex stipata
Carex tribuloides
Carex scoparia
Carex plantaginea
Carex debilis
Carex swanii
Carex gynandra
Carex stricta
Carex folliculata
Carex lurida
Carex intumescens
Cymophyllus fraserianus

Stalk-grain Sedge
Blunt Broom Sedge
Pointed Broom Sedge
Plantain-leaved Sedge
White-edge Sedge
Swan's Sedge
Nodding Sedge
Tussock Sedge
Northern Long Sedge
Sallow Sedge
Greater Bladder Sedge
Fraser's Sedge

POACEAE

Festuca subverticillata
Poa pratensis
Dactylis glomerata
Holcus lanatus
Phalaris arundinacea
Phleum pratensis
Elymus hystrix
Phragmites australis
Andropogon virginicus

GRASS FAMILY

Nodding Fescue
Kentucky Bluegrass
Orchard Grass
Velvet Grass
Reed Canary Grass
Timothy
Bottle-brush Grass
Reed
Broomsedge

SPARGANIACEAE

Sparganium americanum

BUR-REED FAMILY

American Burreed

TYPHACEAE

Typha latifolia

CATTAIL FAMILY

Broad-leaved Cattail

LILIACEAE

Varatrum viride
Hemerocallis fulva
Allium cernuum
Lilium canadense
Lilium superbum
Trillium undulatum
Trillium grandiflorum
Trillium erectum
Medeola virginiana
Clintonia umbellulata

LILY FAMILY

False Hellebore
Common Day Lily
Wild Onion
Canada Lily
Turk's Cap Lily
Painted Trillium
Large flowered Trillium
Wake Robin
Indian Cucumber-Root
White Clintonia

<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Large-Flowered Bellwort
<i>Uvularia perfoliata</i>	Mealy Bellwort
<i>Disporum lanuginosum</i>	Hairy Disporum
<i>Streptopus lanceolatus</i>	Twisted Stalk
<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	False Solomon's Seal
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada Mayflower
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Asparagus
<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>	Yellow Stargrass
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Great Solomon's Seal
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Adam's Needle
<i>Smilax herbacea</i>	Carrion Flower
<i>Smilax hispida</i>	Hispid Greenbrier
<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>	Common Greenbrier

DIOSCOREACEAE

Discorea villosa

YAMFAMILY

Wild Yam

IRIDACEAE

Sisyrinchium angustifolium

Iris pseudacorus

IRIS FAMILY

Blue-eyed Grass

Yellow Iris

ORCHIDACEAE

Goodyera pubescens

Orchis spectabilis

Platanthera clavellata

Platanthera orbiculata

Platanthera lacera

Platanthera pycodes

Aplectrum hyemale

ORCHID FAMILY

Downy Rattlesnake Plantain

Showy Orchis

Small Green Wood Orchid

Large Round-leaved Orchid

Ragged Fringed Orchid

Purple Fringed Orchid

Puttyroot

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Gleason, H. A., & Cronquist, A. (1991). *Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada*, 2nd edition. Bronx, NY: New York Botanical Garden.

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14th Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee: April 2010

The West Virginia Bird Records Committee held its annual meeting at the Old Hemlock Foundation near Brandonville, West Virginia, on April 25, 2010. At the meeting, action was taken on three records.

Records Accepted:

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (2009-10). This is the second accepted record for the state. The heron was seen between July 26, 2009, and August 2, 2009, at Stauffer's Marsh south of Shanghai, Berkeley County. Jon and B. J. Little submitted an excellent write-up on the observation with photographs. Other observers with previous experience to see bird were Wendell Argabrite, David Patick, Bob Dean, and Matthew Orsie.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) (2009-12). This is the fourth accepted record for the state. Five geese were seen and photographed on 10-27-2009 at Apline Lake, north of Terra Alta, Preston County. Report submitted by Derek Courtney. An excellent description was submitted along with the photographic evidence.

Other Business:

1. Two changes to the ByLaws were discussed to further clarify criteria for "Accepted" and "Hypothetical" records: The first change, under the section of what an Accepted record is, follows: If a species is already on the "Regular West Virginia State List" and there is a second through fifth record submitted, these new submissions do not have to meet the same requirements as a FIRST record acceptance (e.g., specimen, photograph, three persons, etc.). The new record is either accepted or rejected. It does NOT become a "Hypothetical" record.

The second change, under the section of what a "Hypothetical" record is, follows: The Hypothetical category applies ONLY to records submitted that do not meet the criteria for the "Regular West Virginia State List," AND the submitted species is not currently on the "Regular West Virginia State List." Subsequent submissions on the species can be:

Accepted to the "Regular West Virginia State List"

Placed again as a "Hypothetical"

Rejected

If and when a submission meets acceptance to the "Regular West Virginia State List," any previous "Hypothetical" records for that species will move over to the "Regular WV State List."

2. Discussions were held on the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources participation on the West Virginia Bird Record Committee. Rob Tallman informed us

that the West Virginia DNR would like to maintain a member on the committee. This could be a voting or non-voting member. Rob Tallman is currently a voting member. All voting records of the last two years were given to him for inclusion into the DNR historical database / data files.

3. Nominations opened for a new committee member to replace Jon Benedetti whose term has expired. James Phillips was elected as a new committee member. Nominations also opened for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. LeJay Graffious was unanimously elected Chairman. Mindy Waldron was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

Submitted by the committee: Jon Benedetti, Robert Dean, LeJay Graffious, Matthew Orsie, Casey Rucker, Rob Tallman, and Mindy Waldron.

Field Notes Winter Season

December 1, 2009–February 28, 2010

Casey Rucker

This winter season was memorable for cold temperatures and heavy snow for many localities in the state. A series of snowstorms and blizzards battered us, with as much as 233 inches of snow falling in the Allegheny highlands in just three months. Overall, the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University reported below-normal average temperatures of 29.2°F and above-average precipitation of 11.51 inches.

These notes were gathered from the National Audubon Society sponsored West Virginia Bird Listserv, from Christmas Bird Count results, and from field notes submitted to the editor by e-mail and regular mail. The full content of the submitted notes by the contributors of the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at the following web site: www.list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html, and the results of the Christmas Bird Count may be found at <http://www.audubon.org/Bird/cbc/>.

The season was notable for the absence of irruptive boreal finches, with not a single crossbill reported in the state and very few Pine Siskins.

Ducks, Swans, and Geese—During a 10-day period at the turn of the year, fortunate birders found **Greater White-fronted Geese** in several parts of the state. On December 29, Matthew Orsie saw seven **Greater White-fronted Geese** on Country Club Road in Jefferson County, citing Kate Weatherby as the original spotter, and the geese were still there on January 12, as found by Carol Del Colle. Sue Olcott relayed Kyle Aldinger's report of two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the Morgantown Lock and Dam, Monongalia County, on January 9, and on the same day David Patick reported that he and Michael Griffith had seen one on the Ohio River at Gallipolis in Mason County. **Snow Geese** made appearances in Kanawha County (BBo, CE, KK, BW), Putnam County (KK), Tucker County (DCo), and Wetzel County (WJ). There were four reports of **Cackling Geese**, still a review list species in West Virginia. Gary Rankin saw a lone **Cackling Goose** flying over Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area on Christmas Day, and two days later David Patick and Michael Griffith reported seeing what may have been the same bird flying over the Glenwood Post Office. Wilma Jarrell found a single **Cackling Goose** on January 2 at Hannibal Lock and Dam in Wetzel County, and Michael Griffith saw four **Cackling Geese** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on January 12. **Canada Geese** were, as usual, widespread throughout the state. The first **Mute Swans** reported this season were two individuals found by the Hampshire County Christmas Bird Count on January 2.

Terry Bronson twice saw a **Mute Swan** along the Monongahela River in Morgantown, Monongalia County, on January 10, and on January 22 Roger Hardaway observed two **Mute Swans** at Winfield Locks and Dam, Putnam County. Terry Bronson saw three **Tundra Swans** flying over Cheat Lake Park on December 1, and two **Tundra Swans** at Cheat Lake on December 30, both observations in Monongalia County. On January 5 a flock of perhaps 40 **Tundra Swans** flew over Jeffrey del Col as he drove out of Philippi on Route 119 in Preston County, and Alan Waldron saw a lone **Tundra Swan** on Lake Stephens, Raleigh County, on January 10. Although there were many reports statewide of **Gadwalls, American Wigeons, American Black Ducks, Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaups, Buffleheads, Hooded** and **Common Mergansers**, and **Ruddy Ducks**, cold temperatures meant less open water, reducing the number of sightings of many species of waterfowl. There were reports from five or fewer counties of these waterfowl species: **Wood Duck**: Jefferson (MO) and Monongalia (TB, JBo) Counties; **Northern Shoveler**: Jefferson County (MO); **Northern Pintail**: Barbour (DCo), Kanawha (JT), Mason (DP), and Monongalia (TB) Counties; **Green-winged Teal**: Barbour (DCo), Jefferson (MO), Summers (BW), Tucker (MO, CR), and Webster (GR) Counties; **Canvasback**: Jefferson (MO), Mason (MG), Ohio (JBo), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Redhead**: Jefferson (MO), Kanawha (JT), Monongalia (TB), Putnam (KC), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Greater Scaup**: Cabell (ReT), Jefferson (MO), Kanawha (JT), Monongalia (TB), and Preston (DCo) Counties; **Common Goldeneye**: Jefferson (MO), Mason (DP), and Monongalia (TB) Counties; **Red-breasted Merganser**: Jefferson (MO), Monongalia (LeJ), and Summers (JJP) Counties. Wilma Jarrell found a **Surf Scoter** at Hannibal Lock and Dam in Wetzel County on January 29, and the **White-winged Scoter** found in November by LeJay Graffious was relocated on December 7 by Terry Bronson at Cheat Lake Park in Monongalia County. Jon Benedetti found the only reported **Long-tailed Duck** this winter, on the Ohio River from Belleville Lock and Dam, Wood County, on February 11.

Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys—**Ruffed Grouse** appeared on the tallies of Christmas Bird Counts in Greenbrier, Hampshire, Monongalia, and Summers Counties. Birders throughout the state reported **Wild Turkeys**, particularly in Christmas Bird Counts.

Loons, Grebes—A **Red-throated Loon** lingered at Locust Hill, Jefferson County, through at least December 1, as reported by Matthew Orsie. On the same day, Terry Bronson observed 18 **Common Loons** at Sunset Beach Marina at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County. Derek Courtney found a single **Common Loon** at Alpine Lake, Preston County on December 10, and the Randolph County Christmas Bird Count also reported a lone loon. **Pied-billed Grebes** were the only widely-reported grebe species this winter. **Horned Grebes** showed up in only five counties: Jefferson (MO), Mason (DP), Monongalia (TB), Randolph (RT), and Wetzel (WJ); and Wilma Jarrell found the state's only reported **Red-necked Grebe** on February 5 at Hannibal Lock and Dam in Wetzel County.

Cormorants, Herons, Egrets—Reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** came from Kanawha County (CE), Mason County (MG, DP), Putnam County (CE, KK), Wayne County (GR), and Wetzel County (WJ). **Great Blue Herons** appeared in lower elevations throughout the state. James Triplett saw five **Great Blue Herons** at the Kanawha State Forest Winter Walk on January 9.

Vultures—Black Vultures were well represented throughout the state, in 15 counties. Their relatives were relatively sparser as only 18 counties had reports of **Turkey Vultures**.

Hawks and Eagles—The Hampshire County Christmas Bird Count found the only **Osprey** in the state, while **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the state, generally in small numbers. James and Judy Phillips saw 12 **Bald Eagles** at the mouth of the Bluestone River, Summers County, on February 18, and Thomas Fox observed two immatures near Grantsville, Calhoun County. In all, birders in 18 counties reported **Bald Eagles**. **Northern Harriers** appeared in reports from Barbour County (JD), Mason County (DP), Putnam County (KK), Taylor County (JLT), and Wayne County (GR). There were **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper’s Hawks** in reports from birders throughout the state. **Northern Goshawks** were yard birds for a lucky few this winter. Bill and Emilie Johnson watched one from their house in Morgantown, Monongalia County, beginning on December 23 and periodically through the last day of February. On February 6, Robert Dean found a **Northern Goshawk** flying by his home in Martinsburg, Berkeley County. Steve Kimbrell found Tucker County’s only reported **Northern Goshawk** on December 14 on FR 80 in Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Birders in most parts of the state reported **Red-shouldered Hawks** and **Red-tailed Hawks**. **Rough-legged Hawks** appeared in Cabell County (CBC), Hardy County (MO), Randolph County (CBC), Tucker County (CR, KS, MO, SK), and Upshur County (WT). On January 15 Rob Tallman and Bill Tolin found a **Rough-legged Hawk** near Beverly, Randolph County. Pendleton County resumed its Christmas Bird Count this winter after a hiatus of some years, and participants found five **Golden Eagles** on December 14. Other counties reporting **Golden Eagle** included Hampshire (CBC), Hardy (DC), Harrison (SO), Pocahontas and Randolph (both RT), and Summers (CBC).

Falcons—Many birders reported **American Kestrels** in most parts of the state. Terry Bronson found a female **Merlin** near the Decker’s Creek Trail in Preston County on December 16, and another **Merlin** was a yard bird for Derek Courtney in Morgantown, Monongalia County, on February 2. Reports of **Peregrine Falcons** came from Kanawha County (KK), Mason County (DP), Monongalia County (TB), Putnam County (KK), Summers County (CK), and Wood County (CBC).

Rails, Coots—Matthew Orsie located a **Virginia Rail** during a tour of southern Jefferson County on January 7. **American Coots** appeared in only nine counties this winter, again likely due to lack of open water.

Plovers—Killdeer were well represented with reports from 15 counties. On

December 12, David Patick and Michael Griffith saw 66 **Killdeer** in the Crab Creek area and another 32 **Killdeer** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dame, both in Mason County. The Cabell County Christmas Bird Count found 34 **Killdeer**.

Sandpipers—Severe winter weather does not favor shorebirds, and this season was no exception. Only two species of sandpiper made appearances in the state, and neither was common. Birders in six counties reported single **Wilson’s Snipes**, and the Cabell County Christmas Bird Count found two. One **American Woodcock** appeared in each of Berkeley County (SCR), Cabell County (MG) and Summers County (WP).

Gulls and Terns—In contrast to several recent winters, there were no reports of unusual gulls in West Virginia this season. One of our winter storms brought a flock of 151 **Bonaparte’s Gulls** and 237 **Ring-billed Gulls** to the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County, as reported by Matthew Orsie on December 5. Early December saw the only other **Bonaparte’s Gull** sightings in the state, one by Terry Bronson on December 4 at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County, and the other by Derek Courtney at Alpine Lake, Preston County on December 10. **Ring-billed Gulls** were well-represented in birders’ reports in many areas. Wilma Jarrell observed 338 on the water at Hannibal Dam, Wetzel County, on December 22, then watched another 144 fly in to join the flock. **Herring Gulls** appeared in reports throughout the state as well, though in much smaller numbers.

Columbidae—**Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state, as reported primarily by Christmas Bird Counts.

Owls—Two Christmas Bird Counts reported **Barn Owls**: five in Moorefield, Hardy County, and one in Pocahontas County. On December 17 Richard Esker reported another **Barn Owl** roosting in the Ohio River valley in the Belleville area of Wood County. Eight counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls**: Berkeley (CBC), Cabell (CBC), Hardy (CBC), Mercer (JJP), Monongalia (TB), Pendleton (CBC), Randolph (RT) and Wood (CBC). Seven counties’ Christmas Bird Counts reported **Great Horned Owls** (Berkeley, Cabell, Fayette, Monongalia, Pendleton, and Randolph). Three reporters heard **Great Horned Owls** at home: Wilma Jarrell in Wileyville, Wetzel County; James Phillips in Pipestem, Summers County; and Gary Rankin in Lavalette, Wayne County. Nine counties reported **Barred Owl**: Cabell (CBC); Fayette (CBC), Hampshire (CBC); Jefferson (CD), Monongalia (DCo), Preston (LeJ), Raleigh (CBC), and Summers (JJP). One **Short-eared Owl** was reported as a “count week” bird in the Cabell County Christmas Bird Count.

Kingfishers—Lower elevations in many parts of the state hosted **Belted Kingfishers**, according to many reports.

Woodpeckers—Our state’s seven species of woodpeckers were all widely reported, with **Red-headed Woodpeckers** being reported in three Christmas Bird Counts, in Greenbrier, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties. On a cold December 15, Diane Holsinger saw an immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** near Marlinton, Pocahontas County. On Martin Luther King Day, Bruni Haydl found a **Red-headed Woodpecker** near an oak grove on Kabletown Road in Jefferson County.

Flycatchers—Reports of **Eastern Phoebe** only came from nine counties during this snowy winter: Berkeley (WH), Cabell (CBC), Greenbrier (CBC), Hampshire (CBC), Jefferson (CD, BH, MO), McDowell (CBC), Pendleton (CBC), Summers (JJP), and Wood (CBC).

Shrikes—Jefferson County hosted the only two **Loggerhead Shrikes** reported this winter. David Myles was scouting for the Jefferson County Christmas Bird Count on December 7 when he spotted a **Loggerhead Shrike** on Paynes Ford Road outside of Leetown. On January 16, Jon and B.J. Little were helping conduct the Raptor Society Mid-Winter Census when they found another Jefferson County **Loggerhead Shrike**.

Vireos—Not a single vireo of any species appeared in any report this winter.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens—**Blue Jays**, **American Crows**, and **Common Ravens** were reported widely throughout the state. Matthew Orsie found five **Fish Crows** at the Jefferson Crossing shopping center in Charles Town, Jefferson County, on January 30, and the Pendleton County Christmas Bird Count turned up one **Fish Crow** on December 14.

Larks—**Horned Larks** appeared to observers participating in Christmas Bird Counts in Berkshire, Hampshire, and Hardy Counties. Wendell Argabrite, Michael Griffith, and David Patick braved the cold and snow in Ashton, Mason County, on January 30 to be rewarded with a flock of 100 **Horned Larks**. Reports of **Horned Larks** also came from Jefferson County (DM, MO), Mason County (MG, DP), Tucker County (SK), and Wetzel County (WJ).

Paridae—Both species of chickadee made their usual appearances in their bifurcated territories in West Virginia. **Tufted Titmice** were well reported throughout the state as well.

Nuthatches—**Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared sparsely this winter, showing up in small numbers in Christmas Bird Counts in nine counties: Berkeley, Cabell, Calhoun, Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Pocahontas, Tucker, and Wood. Bill Johnson submitted the only other report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, on January 10 in Morgantown, Monongalia County. **White-breasted Nuthatches** occupied their usual spots in reports from throughout the state.

Creepers—Birders in 17 counties reported **Brown Creeper**: Berkeley (CBC), Cabell (CBC), Fayette (CBC), Greenbrier (CBC), Hampshire (CBC), Hardy (CBC), Jefferson (DM), Monongalia (KA), Ohio (CBC), Pendleton (CBC), Pocahontas (CBC), Preston (TB), Randolph (CBC), Summers (CBC), Tucker (CR), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (CBC).

Wrens—**Carolina** and **Winter Wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from all over the state.

Kinglets—Perhaps due to the snowy weather **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were familiar sights in most parts of the state this winter. Six Christmas Bird Counts located **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, in Berkeley, Cabell, Hampshire, Raleigh, Randolph, and Wood Counties.

Thrushes—Eastern Bluebirds appeared in the majority of regularly reporting counties. Fourteen counties noted the **Hermit Thrush**, including Barbour, Berkeley, Cabell, Fayette, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Jefferson, McDowell, Monongalia, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Summers, and Wood. **American Robin** was, as usual, seen throughout most reporting counties.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers—The Pendleton County Christmas Bird Count found one **Gray Catbird** on December 14. There were widespread reports of **Northern Mockingbird**, and **Brown Thrashers** appeared in Cabell (TI), McDowell (CBC), Mercer (TI), Summers (JJP), and Wood (CBC) Counties.

Starlings—European Starlings continued their widespread occupation of habitats throughout our state.

Pipits—The **American Pipit** hot spot of the state was Cabell County on its Christmas Bird Count Day, December 22, when participants found 130 of the birds. Matthew Orsie found one **American Pipit** in Jefferson County on December 17 and on January 22 he saw 48 of them. Wendell Argabrite, Michael Griffith and David Patick found seven **American Pipits** in Mason County on January 30.

Waxwings—Cedar Waxwings appeared on birders' reports from many parts of the state.

Warblers—Birders in lower elevations saw Myrtle-race **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at locations throughout the state. Much more unexpectedly, John Morrison reported a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the suet feeder at his home off Grafton Road, Monongalia County, on January 3.

Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs—Eastern Towhees made their usual appearances in many parts of the state, and one plucky male spent the entire winter in the snow-filled yard of the editor of these notes in Tucker County, a first for him. On the other hand, Hullet C. Good reports that this winter was the first in 45 years where he and his wife Donny saw no towhees at their Elk River home. In addition, **American Tree, Chipping, Field, Fox, Song, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows**, as well as **Dark-eyed Juncos**, appeared widely. The Berkeley County Christmas Bird Count found a **Vesper Sparrow** on January 2. On December 22, Stan Corwin-Roach reported the third year in a row that a **Lark Sparrow** has shown up at his feeders in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, and the bird was still there on February 13, as reported by Matthew Orsie. **Savannah Sparrows** graced Christmas Bird Counts in Cabell and Hardy Counties, and were reported individually by David Patick at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason County on December 27 and by Matthew Orsie on Meyerstown Road, Jefferson County on January 12. David Patick made our single report of a lone **Lapland Longspur**, at the Gallipolis Ferry Fields in Mason County.

Cardinals and Buntings—Birders throughout the state reported **Northern Cardinals** in good numbers. Mike Breiding found the only **Snow Bunting** reported in the state this winter, on December 3 near the entrance to Dorsey Knob Park in Monongalia County.

Icterids—Many reports of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Eastern Meadowlarks**, **Common Grackles**, and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** came from areas all over the state. Observers found **Rusty Blackbirds** in seven counties: Hardy (DC), Jefferson (JL), Kanawha (DB), Pocahontas (CBC), Randolph (RT, WT), Summers (JJP), and Wetzel (WJ).

Finches and allies—This winter was not an irruption year for any northerly finches. There were no reports even of resident **Red Crossbills** in Pocahontas, Preston, or Tucker Counties. Feeders in most parts of the state saw the usual visits from **Purple Finches**, **House Finches**, and **American Goldfinches**. **Pine Siskins** were present in very small numbers, reported in only six counties: Barbour (JD), Monongalia (SO), Pendleton (CBC), Pocahontas (CBC), Tucker (CBC), and Wetzel (WJ). There was only one report this winter of **Evening Grosbeaks**, at the feeders of Mike Sayre in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, on December 14.

Weaver Finches—The **House Sparrow** continues throughout the state, primarily in urban settings.

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