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The 2010 Greenbrier County Sortie Bird List

Thomas R. Fox

The 2010 Sortie was held in northwestern Greenbrier County from May 26 to June 2. We mostly studied the area above the elevation of 2,500 feet centered around Cold Knob. This area has been strip mined in the past and is covered with timbered clear-cut areas of various ages. Much timbering is being done at the present time. In addition, 57 electric generating windmills were running and 10 more were being constructed. This mining, timbering, and windmill activity has caused the development of numerous roads of various conditions, none of which are on the county maps. Thanks to the company operating the windmills, we were furnished with a map of the roads.

We also made short trips to Richwood in Nicholas County and below 2,500 feet in Greenbrier County. The area above 2,500 feet is mostly forested. The area below 2,500 feet is mostly hay fields and pastures and small wood lots. Because the habitats are so different, we have attempted to divide the bird list by elevation of above and below 2,500 feet. Above 2,500 feet elevation, 74 species were identified, and below 2,500 feet, 75 species were identified. The total number identified was 106.

The biggest surprise to us was the large number of Mourning Warblers. I believe every clear-cut had at least one. We ran 40 miles of Breeding Bird Surveys and found 17 Mourning Warblers.

Abundance terms used in this report are as follows:

Very common—Seen in large number 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.

Canada Goose—Uncommon, found only at lower elevations.

Mallard—Rare, only found at higher elevation.

Ruffed Grouse—Uncommon, found only at higher elevation.

Turkey—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.

Bobwhite—Rare, found only at one lower elevation site. It is likely that they were raised locally.

Turkey Vulture—Common.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—Rare, one sighted at higher elevation.

Red-shouldered Hawk—Common at higher elevations.

Red-tailed Hawk—Uncommon.

American Kestrel—Rare, only one seen at lower elevation.

Killdeer—Common.

American Woodcock—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.
Rock Pigeon—Uncommon, found only at lower elevations.
Mourning Dove—Common.
Black-billed Cuckoo—Uncommon, two heard at higher elevations.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Uncommon.
Barred Owl—Uncommon, heard at higher elevation.
Chimney Swift—Uncommon.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Uncommon
Belted Kingfisher—Rare, one seen only at lower elevation.
Red-headed Woodpecker—Rare, one found at lower elevation.
Red-bellied Woodpecker—Uncommon.
Downy Woodpecker—Uncommon, found only at lower elevation.
Hairy Woodpecker—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.
Northern Flicker—Common.
Pileated Woodpecker—Uncommon.
Eastern Wood-Pewee—Common.
Acadian Flycatcher—Rare at higher elevations, where only one was found, but common at lower elevations.
Alder Flycatcher—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.
Willow Flycatcher—Rare, found only at lower elevations.
Least Flycatcher—Common, but found only at higher elevations.
Eastern Phoebe—Uncommon.
Great Crested Flycatcher—Uncommon.
Eastern Kingbird—Uncommon, found only at lower elevations.
White-eyed Vireo—Rare, one found at lower elevation.
Yellow-throated Vireo—Rare, one found at higher elevation.
Blue-headed Vireo—Common, found only at higher elevations.
Warbling Vireo—Uncommon, found only at lower elevations.
Red-eyed Vireo—Very common.
Blue Jay—Common.
American Crow—Common.
Common Raven—Common.
Tree Swallow—Uncommon, found only at lower elevations.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Rare at higher elevations, but uncommon at lower elevations.
Barn Swallow—Uncommon at higher elevations, but common at lower elevations.
Carolina Chickadee—Uncommon, found only at lower elevations.
Black-capped Chickadee—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.
Tufted Titmouse—Uncommon, found only at lower elevations.
White-breasted Nuthatch—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.
Brown Creeper—Rare, one was found at higher elevation.

Carolina Wren—Rare, found only at lower elevation.
House Wren—Common.
Winter Wren—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Rare, one was found at lower elevation.
Eastern Bluebird—Common, found only at lower elevation.
Veery—Common, found only at higher elevations.
Swainson's Thrush—Rare, one found at higher elevation.
Hermit Thrush—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.
Wood Thrush—Uncommon.
American Robin—Very common.
Gray Catbird—Common.
Northern Mockingbird—Uncommon, found only at lower elevations.
Brown Thrasher—Common.
European Starling—Common, found only at lower elevations.
Cedar Waxwing—Common.
Golden-winged Warbler—Rare, one was found at a reclaimed strip mine.
Northern Parula—Common, found only at lower elevations.
Yellow Warbler—Common, found only at lower elevations.
Chestnut-sided Warbler—Common
Magnolia Warbler—Uncommon, found only at higher elevations.
Black-throated Blue Warbler—Common, found only at higher elevations.
Black-throated Green Warbler—Uncommon at high elevations and common at lower elevations.
Blackburnian Warbler—Rare, only one found at higher elevation.
Pine Warbler—Rare, one found on an reclaimed strip mine on Cold Knob.
Blackpoll Warbler—Rare, only one found at higher elevation.
Cerulean Warbler—Uncommon, only found at lower elevations.
Black-and-white Warbler—Uncommon at all elevations.
American Redstart—Common.
Worm-eating Warbler—Rare, only one found at lower elevation.
Ovenbird—Common.
Louisiana Waterthrush—Rare, only one found at lower elevation.
Mourning Warbler—Common at higher elevations.
Common Yellowthroat—Uncommon.
Hooded Warbler—Common.
Canada Warbler—Uncommon at higher elevations.
Eastern Towhee—Very common at higher elevations, but only common at lower elevations.
Chipping Sparrow—Common.
Field Sparrow—Common.
Vesper Sparrow—Rare, at higher elevations.

Savannah Sparrow—Rare, only found at lower elevations.
Song Sparrow—Uncommon.
Dark-eyed Junco—Common at higher elevations.
Scarlet Tanager—Common.
Northern Cardinal—Common at lower elevations and uncommon at higher elevations.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Common.
Indigo Bunting—Very common.
Red-winged Blackbird—Uncommon at higher elevations and common at lower elevations.
Eastern Meadowlark—Common at lower elevations.
Common Grackle—Common at lower elevations.
Brown-headed Cowbird—Uncommon.
Orchard Oriole—Common at lower elevations.
Baltimore Oriole—Common at lower elevations.
Purple Finch—Rare, one found at higher elevations.
House Finch—Common at lower elevations.
American Goldfinch—Common.
House Sparrow—Common at lower elevations.

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Reptiles and Amphibians of the 2010 Sortie

Jane Whitaker

CLASS AMPHIBIA

Order Caudata – Salamanders

Seal Salamander *Desmognathus monticola monticola*

Order Salienta – Toads and Frogs

Eastern American Toad *Bufo a. americana*
Northern Spring Peeper *Hyla c. crucifer*
Gray Treefrog *Hyla versicolor*
Green Frog *Rana clamitans melanota*

CLASS REPTILIA

Order Squamata – Lizards and Snakes

Suborder Sauria – Lizards

Northern Fence Lizard *Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus*

Suborder Serpentes – Snakes

Eastern Garter Snake *Thamnophis s. sirtalis*
Northern Copperhead *Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen*

Reference

Green, N. B., & Pauley, T. K. (1987). *Amphibians and reptiles in West Virginia*.
Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press.

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Butterflies and Moths of the 2010 Sortie

Jane Whitaker

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtails

Zebra Swallowtail	<i>Eurytedes marcellus</i>
Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilo polyxenes asterius</i>
Spicebush Swallowtail	<i>Papilo troilus</i>
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>

Whites and Yellows

Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Clouded Sulphur	<i>Colias philodice</i>

Azures

Summer Azure	<i>Celastrina ladon neglecta</i>
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Brush-footed Butterflies

Great Spangled Fritillary	<i>Speyeria cybele</i>
Pearl Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharo</i>
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>
American Lady	<i>Vanessa vurgubiensis</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta rubi</i>
Red-spotted Purple	<i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>

Skippers

Indian Skipper	<i>Hesperia sassacus</i>
Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Epyrreus clarus</i>
Least skipper	<i>Amgloxypha numetor</i>

MOTHS

Hickory Tussock Moth
Buck Moth

Lophocampa caryae
Hemileuca sp.

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Flowering Plants of the 2010 Greenbrier County Sortie

Kevin Campbell

The following flowering plants were identified during the Brooks Bird Club Greenbrier County Sortie. The Sortie territory primarily covered the northern part of Greenbrier County. This list represents the observations of many attendees of the Sortie, including Christopher Gatens, Thomas and Dawn Fox, Jane Whitaker, and Gordon Vujevic.

The area's geology is primarily sandstone based at the higher elevations and limestone based at the lower elevations. Elevations ranged from 1,700 ft along the Greenbrier River to 4,200 in the Cherry River drainage. From north to south in our territory, we had several diverse habitats to explore. Interesting plants found in the high elevation forests of northern Greenbrier County included; Allegheny Menziesia, Twisted Stalk, Star Flower, and Dwarf Ginseng. The inner Greenbrier River canyon contained many uncommon plants such as Sweetfern, Box Huckleberry, Spring Iris, and Galax. The shale barrens near the Virginia border contained another set of flora including White-haired Leatherflower, Kates Mountain Clover, Downy Arrowwood, and Yellow Buckwheat. Altogether, there were 96 families of plants, 276 genera, and 419 species identified during the May 26 to June 2, 2010 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

PINE FAMILY

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 fraseri*
- Liriodendron tulipifera*

ANNONACEAE

- Asimina triloba*

LAURACEAE

- Sassafras albidum*
- Lindera benzoin*

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

- Hexastylis virginicum*
- Asarum canadense*
- Aristolochia serpentaria*
- Aristolochia macrophylla*

RANUNCULACEAE

- Cimicifuga racemosa*
- Actea pachypoda*
- Anemone quinquefolia*
- Anemone lancifolia*
- Anemone virginiana*
- Hepatica nobilis* var. *acuta*
- Clematis virginiana*
- Clematis albicoma*
- Ranunculus repens*
- Ranunculus acris*
- Aquilegia canadensis*
- Thalictrum thalictroides*
- Thalictrum pubescens*

BERBERIDACEAE

- Podophyllum peltatum*
- Caulophyllum thalictroides*
- Berberis thunbergii*

MENISERMACEAE

- Menispermum canadense*

MAGNOLIA FAMILY

- Cucumber Magnolia
- Mountain Magnolia
- Yellow-Poplar

CUSTARD APPLE FAMILY

- Pawpaw

LAUREL FAMILY

- Sassafras
- Spice Bush

BIRTHWORT FAMILY

- Coltsfoot
- Wild Ginger
- Virginia Snakeroot
- Pipevine

CROWFOOT FAMILY

- Black Cohosh
- Doll's Eyes
- Wood Anemone
- Mountain Anemone
- Thimbleweed
- Sharp-lobed Hepatica
- Virgin's Bower
- White-haired Leatherflower
- Creeping Buttercup
- Tall Buttercup
- Wild Columbine
- Rue Anemone
- Tall Meadowrue

BARBERRY FAMILY

- May-Apple
- Blue Cohosh
- Japanese Barberry

MOONSEED FAMILY

- Canada Moonseed

PAPAVERACEAE

Sanquinaria canadensis

FUMARIACEAE

Corydalis flavula

PLATANACEAE

Platanus occidentalis

HAMAMELIDACEAE

Hamamelis virginiana

ULMACEAE

Ulmus americana

Ulmus rubra

Celtis occidentalis

MORACEAE

Morus alba

URTICACEAE

Urtica dioica

Pilea pumila

JUGLANDACEAE

Juglans cinerea

Juglans nigra

Carya cordiformis

Carya alba

Carya ovata

Carya glabra

MYRICACEAE

Comptonia peregrina

FAGACEAE

Fagus grandifolia

Castanea dentata

Castanea mollissima

Quercus alba

Quercus stellata

POPPY FAMILY

Bloodroot

FUMITORY FAMILY

Yellow Corydalis

PLANE TREE FAMILY

Sycamore

WITCH-HAZEL FAMILY

Witch-Hazel

ELMFAMILY

American Elm

Slippery Elm

Hackberry

MULBERRY FAMILY

White Mulberry

NETTLE FAMILY

Stinging Nettle

Clearweed

WALNUT FAMILY

Butternut

Black Walnut

Bitternut Hickory

Mockernut Hickory

Shagbark Hickory

Pignut Hickory

BAYBERRY FAMILY

Sweet Fern

BEECHFAMILY

American Beech

American Chestnut

Chinese Chestnut

White Oak

Post Oak

Quercus prinus
Quercus imbricaria
Quercus velutina
Quercus rubra
Quercus palustris
Quercus coccinea

Chestnut Oak
Shingle Oak
Black Oak
Red Oak
Pin Oak
Scarlet Oak

BETULACEAE

Corylus americana
Ostrya virginiana
Carpinus caroliniana
Betula alleghaniensis
Betula lenta
Betula nigra
Alnus incana
Alnus glutinosa

BIRCHFAMILY

Hazelnut
Ironwood
Muscletree
Yellow Birch
Black Birch
River Birch
Speckled Alder
Black Alder

PHYTOLACCACEAE

Phytolacca americana

POKEWEEDFAMILY

Pokeweed

CHENOPODIACEAE

Chenopodium album

GOOSEFOOTFAMILY

Lamb's Quarters

AMARANTHACEAE

Amaranthus hybridus

AMARANTH FAMILY

Common Pigweed

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Cerastium viscosum
Silene caroliniana
Saponaria officinalis
Dianthus armeria

PINK FAMILY

Mouse-Ear Chickweed
Wild Pink
Soapwort
Deptford Pink

POLYGONACEAE

Eriogonum allenii
Rumex acetosella
Rumex crispus
Rumex obtusifolius
Polygonum persicaria
Polygonum sagittatum
Polygonum cuspidatum

SMARTWEED FAMILY

Yellow Buckwheat
Sheep Sorrel
Curly Dock
Broadleaf Dock
Lady's Thumb
Arrowleaf Tearthumb
Japanese Knotweed

CLUSIACEAE

Hypericum hypericoides ssp. *multicaule*
Hypericum prolificum
Hypericum punctatum

TILIACEAE

Tilia americana

VIOLACEAE

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

SALICACEAE

Populus alba
Populus grandidentata
Salix nigra
Salix sericea
Salix pendula
Salix interior

BRASSICACEAE

Brassica nigra
Lepidium campestre
Cardamine diphylla
Cardamine rotundifolia
Arabis laevigata
Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum
Rorippa palustris
Hesperis matronalis
Alliaria petiolata

ERICACEAE

Menziezia pilosa
Rhododendron maximum

MANGOSTEEN FAMILY

St. Andrew's Cross
Shrubby St. John's-Wort
Dotted St. John's-Wort

LINDENFAMILY

Basswood

VIOLETFAMILY

Roundleaf Violet
Bird-Foot Violet
Marsh Blue Violet
Common Blue Violet
Three-lobed Violet
Sweet White Violet
Halberd-Leaf Violet
Canada Violet
Striped Violet

WILLOW FAMILY

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

MUSTARDFAMILY

Black Mustard
Field Cress
Two-leaved Toothwort
Mountain Watercress
Smooth Rockcress
Watercress
Common Yellow Cress
Dame's Rocket
Garlic Mustard

HEATHFAMILY

Allegheny Menziesia
Great Rhododendron

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

Smooth Azalea
Flame Azalea
Mountain Laurel
Sourwood
Teaberry
Trailing Arbutus
Maleberry
Dearberry
Upland Low Blueberry
Black Huckleberry
Box Huckleberry

PYROLACEAE

Chimaphila maculata

WINTERGREEN FAMILY

Spotted Wintergreen

MONOTROPACEAE

Monotropa uniflora

INDIAN PIPE FAMILY

Indian Pipe

DIAPENSIACEAE

Galax urceolata

DIAPENSIA FAMILY

Galax

EBENACEAE

Diospyros virginiana

EBONY FAMILY

Persimmon

PRIMULACEAE

Lysimachia nummularia
Lysimachia quadrifolia
Trientalis borealis

PRIMROSE FAMILY

Moneywort
Whorled Loosestrife
Star Flower

HYDRANGEACEAE

Hydrangea arborescens

HYDRANGEA FAMILY

Wild Hydrangea

GROSSULARIEACEAE

Ribes rotundifolium
Ribes cynosbati

GOOSEBERRY FAMILY

Smooth Gooseberry
Prickly Gooseberry

CRASSULACEAE

Sedum ternatum

ORPINE FAMILY

Wild Stonecrop

SAXIFRAGACEAE

Saxifraga micranthidifolia

SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

Lettuce Saxifrage

Saxifraga virginiensis
Tiarella cordifolia
Mitella diphylla
Heuchera americana

Early Saxifrage
Foamflower
Miterwort
Alumroot

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

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
Hispid Dewberry
Allegheny Blackberry
Tall Agrimony
Garden Burnet
Multiflora Rose
Pasture Rose
Peach
Wild Black Cherry
Choke Cherry
Fire Cherry
Wild Plum
Pear
Apple
Wild Crabapple
Mountainash
Hawthorn
Common Serviceberry

CAESALPINIACEAE

Cercis canadensis

CAESALPINIA FAMILY

Redbud

FABACEAE

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

ELAEAGNACEAE

- Elaeagnus umbellata*

ONAGRACEAE

- Ludwigia alternifolia*
- Oenothera biennis*

CORNACEAE

- Cornus alternifolia*
- Cornus amomum*
- Cornus florida*
- Nyssa sylvatica*

SANTALACEAE

- Pyrularia pubera*

CELASTRACEAE

- Celastrus scandens*
- Euonymus americanus*

AQUIFOLIACEAE

- Ilex opaca*
- Ilex verticillata*
- Ilex montana*

RHAMNACEAE

- Ceanothus americanus*

PEA FAMILY

- Wisteria
- Black Locust
- Hispid Locust
- Crown Vetch
- Red Clover
- White Clover
- Yellow Hop Clover
- Kates Mountain Clover
- Low Hop Clover
- Yellow Sweet Clover
- White Sweet Clover
- Sirecea Lespedeza

OLEASTER

- Autumn Olive

EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY

- Seedbox
- Common Evening-Primrose

DOGWOOD FAMILY

- Alternate-leaved Dogwood
- Kinnikinnik
- Flowering Dogwood
- Black Gum

SANDALWOOD FAMILY

- Buffalonut

STAFFTREE FAMILY

- Climbing Bittersweet
- Strawberry Bush

HOLLY FAMILY

- American Holly
- Winterberry
- Mountain Holly

BUCKTHORN FAMILY

- New Jersey Tea

VITACEAE

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Vitis aestivalis

HIPPOCASTANACEAE

Aesculus flava

ACERACEAE

Acer saccharum

Acer nigrum

Acer spicatum

Acer pensylvanicum

Acer rubrum

Acer saccharinum

Acer negundo

ANACARDIACEAE

Rhus typhina

Rhus copallina

Rhus aromatic

Toxicodendron radicans

SIMAROUBACEAE

Ailanthus altissima

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis stricta

Oxalis grandis

Oxalis violacea

GERANIACEAE

Geranium maculatum

Geranium pusillum

BALSAMINACEAE

Impatiens capensis

Impatiens pallida

ARALIACEAE

Aralia nudicaulis

Aralia racemosa

VINE FAMILY

Virginia Creeper

Summer Grape

HORSE-CHESTNUT FAMILY

Yellow Buckeye

MAPLE FAMILY

Sugar Maple

Black Maple

Mountain Maple

Striped Maple

Red Maple

Silver Maple

Boxelder

CASHEW FAMILY

Staghorn Sumac

Winged Sumac

Fragrant Sumac

Poison Ivy

TREE-OF-HEAVEN FAMILY

Tree-of-Heaven

WOODSORREL FAMILY

Upright Yellow Wood Sorrel

Great Yellow Wood Sorrel

Violet Wood Sorrel

GERANIUM FAMILY

Wild Geranium

Small-Flowered Cranesbill

JEWELWEED FAMILY

Spotted Touch-Me-Not

Pale Touch-Me-Not

GINSENG FAMILY

Wild Sarsaparilla

American Spikenard

Aralia spinosa
Panax trifolius

Hercules' Club
Dwarf Ginseng

APIACEAE

Sanicula odorata
Cryptotaenia canadensis
Osmorhiza claytonia
Daucus carota
Conium maculatum
Taenidia integerrima
Zizia aptera
Pastinaca sativa
Heracleum maximum
Angelica atropurpurea

CARROT FAMILY

Clustered Snakeroot
Honewort
Hairy Sweet Cicely
Queen Anne's Lace
Poison Hemlock
Yellow Pimpernel
Golden Alexanders
Parsnip
Cow-Parsnip
Purple Angelica

GENTIANACEAE

Obolaria virginica

GENTIAN FAMILY

Pennywort

APOCYNACEAE

Vinca minor
Apocynum cannabinum

DOGBANE FAMILY

Periwinkle
Indian Hemp

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Asclepias tuberosa
Asclepias exaltata
Asclepias syriaca
Asclepias quadrifolia

MILKWEED FAMILY

Butterfly Milkweed
Poke Milkweed
Common Milkweed
Four-leaved Milkweed

SOLANACEAE

Solanum carolinense

NIGHTSHADE FAMILY

Horse-Nettle

CONVOLVULACEAE

Calystegia sepium
Calystegia spithamea
Ipomoea pandurata

MORNING-GLORY FAMILY

Hedge Bindweed
Shale Bindweed
Wild Potato Vine

POLEMONIACEAE

Phlox divaricata
Phlox subulata
Phlox stolonifera
Phlox maculata

PHLOX FAMILY

Wild Blue Phlox
Mosspink
Creeping Phlox
Wild Sweet William

HYDROPHYLLACEAE

- Phacelia dubia*
- Hydrophyllum virginianum*
- Hydrophyllum canadense*

BORAGINACEAE

- Cynoglossum virginianum*
- Cynoglossum officinale*
- Echium vulgare*

VERBENACEAE

- Verbena urticifolia*
- Verbena hastata*

LAMIACEAE

- Ajuga reptans*
- Scutellaria elliptica*
- Hedeoma pulegioides*
- Pycnanthemum virginianum*
- Mentha piperita*
- Collinsonia canadensis*
- Meehania cordata*
- Nepeta cataria*
- Glechoma hederacea*
- Prunella vulgaris*
- Lamium amplexicaule*
- Leonurus cardiac*
- Monardia clinopodia*
- Monardia didyma*
- Blephilia hirsute*

CALLITRICHACEAE

- Callitriche heterophylla*

PLANTAGINACEAE

- Plantago rugelii*
- Plantago lanceolata*

OLEACEAE

- Syringa vulgaris*
- Fraxinus americana*

WATERLEAF FAMILY

- Small-flowered Phacelia
- Virginia Waterleaf
- Broad-leaved Waterleaf

BORAGE FAMILY

- Wild Comfrey
- Hounds-Tongue
- Viper's Bugloss

VERVAINFAMILY

- White Vervain
- Blue Vervain

MINT FAMILY

- Bugleweed
- Hairy Skullcap
- American Pennyroyal
- Virginia Mountain-Mint
- Peppermint
- Richweed
- Meehania
- Catnip
- Ground-Ivy
- Heal-All
- Henbit
- Motherwort
- Basil Balm
- Bee Balm
- Hairy Woodmint

WATER-STARWORT FAMILY

- Larger Water Starwort

PLANTAIN FAMILY

- Common Plantain
- Narrow-Leaf Plantain

OLIVE FAMILY

- Lilac
- White Ash

SCROPHULARIACEAE

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

OROBANCHACEAE

Conopholis americana
Epifagus virginiana

ACANTHACEAE

Justica americana

BIGNONIACEAE

Paulownia tomentosa
Catalpa bignonioides
Campsis radicans

CAMPANULACEAE

Triodanis perfoliata

RUBIACEAE

Houstonia longifolia
Houstonia caerulea
Mitchella repens
Galium circaezans
Galium aparine

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Lonicera tatarica
Lonicera morrowii
Lonicera japonica
Triosteum aurantiacum
Viburnum rafinesquianum
Viburnum acerifolium
Viburnum opulus var. *opulus*

FIGWORT FAMILY

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

BROOMRAPE FAMILY

Canceroot
Beechdrops

ACANTHUS FAMILY

Water Willow

BIGNONIA FAMILY

Princess Tree
Cigartree
Trumpet-Creeper

BLUEBELL FAMILY

Venus' Looking Glass

MADDER FAMILY

Summer Bluets
Bluets
Partridge Berry
Wild Liquorice
Cleavers

HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY

Tartarian Honeysuckle
Morrow's Honeysuckle
Japanese Honeysuckle
Wild Coffee
Downy Arrowwood
Maple-Leaf Viburnum
Snowball Tree

Viburnum prunifolium
Viburnum alnifolium
Sambucus canadensis
Sambucus racemosa

Black Haw
Hobble-Bush
Black Elderberry
Red Elderberry

DIPSACACEAE

Dipsacus sylvestris

TEASEL FAMILY

Common Teasel

ASTERACEAE

Helianthus divaricatus
Rudbeckia hirta
Rudbeckia laciniata
Verbesina alternifolia
Coreopsis tripteris
Polymnia canadensis
Smallanthus uvedalius
Silphium trifoliatum
Ambrosia artemisiifolia
Achillea millefolium
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
Matricaria matricariodes
Artemisia vulgaris
Packera anonyma
Packera aurea
Cacalia atriplicifolia
Tussilago farfara
Eurybia divaricatus
Ionactis linariifolius
Erigeron pulchellus
Erigeron philadelphicus
Erigeron strigosus
Erigeron annuus
Antennaria neglecta
Antennaria plantaginifolia
Eupatorium purpureum
Eupatorium fistulosum
Eupatorium perfoliatum
Veronia noveboracensis
Elephantopus carolinianus
Arctium minus
Cirsium vulgare

ASTER FAMILY

Woodland Sunflower
Black-Eyed Susan
Tall Coneflower
Wing-Stem
Tall Coreopsis
White-flowered Leafcup
Yellow-flowered Leafcup
Whorled Rosinweed
Common Ragweed
Yarrow
Ox-Eye Daisy
Pineapple Weed
Mugwort
Small's Ragwort
Golden Ragwort
Pale Indian Plantain
Coltsfoot
White Wood Aster
Stiff Aster
Robin's Plantain
Philadelphia Fleabane
Daisy Fleabane
White-Top
Field Pussytoes
Plantainleaf Everlasting
Wide-leaved Joe-Pye Weed
Common Joe-Pye Weed
Boneset
New York Ironweed
Elephant's-Foot
Common Burdock
Common Thistle

Prenanthes serpentaria
Prenanthes trifoliata
Lactuca biennis
Hieracium caespitosum
Krigia biflora
Taraxacum officinale
Lapsana communis
Cichorium intybus
Hypochaeris radicata

Gall-of-the-Earth
Lion's Foot
Tall Blue Lettuce
Field Hawkweed
Cynthia
Common Dandelion
Nipplewort
Chicory
Cat's-Ear

ALISMATACEAE

Alisma subcordatum
Sagittaria latifolia

WATER PLANTAIN FAMILY

Common Water Plantain
Wapato

ACORACEAE

Acorus calamus

SWEET FLAG FAMILY

Sweet Flag

ARACEAE

Symplocarpus foetidus
Arisaema triphyllum ssp. triphyllum

ARUM FAMILY

Skunk Cabbage
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 obtuse
Dulichium arundinaceum
Carex plantaginea
Carex torta
Carex gynandra
Carex lurida
Carex intumescens

SEDGE FAMILY

Black Bulrush
Woolgrass
Blunt Spikerush
Three-Way Sedge
Plantain-Leaved Sedge
Twisted Sedge
Nodding Sedge
Sallow Sedge
Greater Bladder Sedge

POACEAE

Poa pratensis

GRASS FAMILY

Kentucky Bluegrass

Dactylis glomerata
Holcus lanatus
Anthoxanthum odoratum
Phalaris arundinacea
Phleum pratensis
Bromus inermis
Elymus hystrix
Danthonia spicata
Phragmites australis
Dichanthelium clandestinum
Andropogon virginicus

Orchard Grass
Velvet Grass
Sweet Vernal Grass
Reed Canary Grass
Timothy
Smooth Bromegrass
Bottle-Brush Grass
Poverty Oat-Grass
Reed
Deertongue Grass
Broomsedge

TYPHACEAE

Typha latifolia

CATTAIL FAMILY

Broad-leaved Cattail

LILIACEAE

Varatrum viride
Hemerocallis fulva
Allium cernuum
Allium tricoccum
Lilium canadense
Trillium undulatum
Trillium grandiflorum
Trillium erectum
Medeola virginiana
Clintonia umbellulata
Uvularia perfoliata
Disporum lanuginosum
Streptopus lanceolatus
Maianthemum racemosum
Maianthemum canadense
Convallaria majuscula
Asparagus officinalis
Polygonatum pubescens
Polygonatum biflorum

LILY FAMILY

False Hellebore
Common Day Lily
Wild Onion
Ramp
Canada Lily
Painted Trillium
Large-flowered Trillium
Wake Robin
Indian Cucumber-Root
White Clintonia
Mealy Bellwort
Hairy Disporum
Twisted Stalk
False Solomon's Seal
Canada Mayflower
American Lilly-of-the-Valley
Asparagus
Downy Solomon's Seal
Great Solomon's Seal

AGAVACEAE

Yucca filamentosa

AGAVE FAMILY

Adam's Needle

SMILACACEAE

Smilax herbacea

CATBRIER FAMILY

Carrion Flower

Smilax tamnoides
Smilax rotundifolia

Hispid Greenbrier
Common Greenbrier

DIOSCOREACEAE

Dioscorea villosa
Dioscorea oppositifolia

YAMFAMILY

Wild Yam
Cinnamon Vine

IRIDACEAE

Sisyrinchium angustifolium
Iris verna
Iris cristata
Iris pseudacorus

IRISFAMILY

Blue-eyed Grass
Spring Iris
Crested Dwarf Iris
Yellow Iris

ORCHIDACEAE

Goodyera pubescens
Orchis spectabilis
Platanthera clavellata
Platanthera orbiculata
Platanthera lacera
Aplectrum hyemale

ORCHIDFAMILY

Downy Rattlesnake Plantain
Showy Orchis
Small Green Wood Orchid
Large Round-leaved Orchid
Ragged Fringed Orchid
Puttyroot

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311 Alleman Hill Rd.
Walker, WV 26180

Brown Creeper Nest in Ohio County

William Beatty

At 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, 2010, I met a group of 19 people at the Schrader Environmental Education Center in Wheeling, West Virginia, for an Edible Wild Plants Workshop. After a short talk at the Schrader Center, we traveled to West Liberty University for a field trip. We went into Brewster's Hollow, on WLU's property, from Weidman Run Rd. At the first place we stopped, there was a Louisiana Waterthrush singing loudly very nearby. As the topic of the field trip was botany-related, I was reluctant to talk about birds, but I did identify this loud song. Other interesting birds were singing, but I stayed focused on edible wild plants. One of the workshop participants, Mary Cottle, walked about 10 yards up onto the hillside away from the group. She saw a bird that reminded her of a bird "the size of a hummingbird." It had gone up under a piece of loose bark on a dead American Elm tree. Mary mentioned this to Jan Runyan, and since Jan was the only one with binoculars, she went to check it out. While Jan and Mary watched the site, no bird visited the spot again. They noticed that, under a long piece of bark hanging from the tree, there was apparent nesting material close to where the bark was attached to the tree. When Mary and Jan rejoined the group they told me what they had seen and we talked briefly about the bird. I thought it sounded like a Brown Creeper nest site, but that would have been very unlikely.

I remembered hearing about a confirmed Brown Creeper nesting in Ohio County from sometime in the 1960s. Betty Vossler had found the nest and others had gone to see it (Vossler, 1967). An earlier nesting was discovered on Century Day in 1965 by William A. Noonan in Oglebay Park, Wheeling. (Laitsch, 1965) There had not been another confirmed Brown Creeper nesting site in the county since then. Mary told me that the bird she had seen had a thin curved beak. Her description also reminded me of a Carolina Wren, and I had photographed a Carolina Wren years earlier close to that spot. Its nest had been low and well hidden and out of sight between two tree roots. About two and a half hours later, as we left the hollow, near where Jan and Mary had looked for the bird, I heard the call notes of a Brown Creeper. Then I became really interested, but was still teaching about plants, and did not stop to check things out more closely. No Brown Creeper song was heard.

On Monday, April 26, Jan Runyan, Greg Eddy, and I drove to WLU to check out the possible nest site. In Brewster's Hollow the weather was mid-50s and cloudy with on-and-off light rain. We watched the apparent nest site for a long time, but nothing happened. There were no visual or auditory signs of Brown Creepers. Greg and I began talking and not watching, but Jan was still paying attention. She alerted us that a bird had just come out from under the bark. Moments later, from the direction that

Brown Creeper nest at West Liberty, Ohio County, West Virginia, April, 2010. Photo by Jan Runyan.

bird had flown, we heard loud repeated Brown Creeper call notes from about 20 yards away across the stream. Higher up from the hill we were on, there was also another fainter Brown Creeper call. After about 3 minutes, the calls ceased. About 10 minutes later, we saw a Brown Creeper fly onto a nearby tree, then to the tree where the apparent nest site was and up under the piece of loose bark. The Brown Creeper was carrying nesting material. We left without seeing any other activity. No Brown Creeper songs were heard that day.

On Wednesday, April 28, Mary Grey and I went to the Brown Creeper site at about 5 p.m. About five minutes after we arrived, we heard the buzzy trill of the call note. At about 5:20 p.m., the bird came right to the tree, crept up to the nest site, and went in. This was clearly a nest site, but we still had not heard the song. On Monday, May 4, Mary Grey and Larry Helgerman visited the nest site. They again observed the bird visiting the nest and heard the call notes. On Sunday, May 10, Jan Runyan and I visited the nest site for the last time. We observed both parents carrying food including several caterpillars and one moth to the nest. We again heard several call notes and finally heard the male singing. He sang 14 times in about a 5-minute period. None of us visited the nest site again after that. The nest location was 40 degrees 09'23.05" N by 80 degrees 35'58.19" W.

Brown Creepers have nested, also, in Brooke County (Buckelew, 1978) and Hancock County (Laitsch, 1969) in the West Virginia Northern Panhandle. As is the case of the nest discussed here, all of these nests were found under the loose bark of dead American Elm trees.

References

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158 Genteel Ridge Road
Wellsburg, WV 26070

Field Notes Winter Season

December 1, 2010—February 28, 2011

Casey Rucker

Winter started out very cold for West Virginia, gradually warming as it went on. December temperatures were 9.4 degrees below normal, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, making it the fourth coldest on record since 1895. By February, temperatures statewide had risen to 2.5 degrees above normal. January was dry, with only 64% of normal precipitation, but otherwise precipitation was about average statewide.

These notes were gathered from the National Audubon Society sponsored West Virginia Bird Listserv, from Christmas Bird Count (CBC) 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; the results of the Christmas Bird Counts may be found at <http://www.audubon.org/Bird/cbc/>; and see Jane Whitaker's CBC report (*The Redstart*, 78(2), 48-54.)

The rarity of the season was a pair of Harlequin Ducks. Wendell Argabrite and Michael Griffith found them at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam on January 9, for the second state record of this bird and the first sighting in more than 30 years. Overall, West Virginia birders reported 142 species in the state during the winter.

Ducks, Swans, Geese—On January 15, Matthew Orsie and Michael Griffith saw two **Greater White-fronted Geese** on the Ohio River near Friendly in Tyler County. Wendell Argabrite found an immature **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on February 2, also on the Ohio River. **Snow Geese** made appearances in Preston (TB, GF), Tyler (MO, MG), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood Counties (DJE). Several **Ross's Geese** brightened reports from Mason (DCo), Preston (DCo, GF), and Raleigh Counties (WS). There were three reports of **Cackling Goose**, no longer a review species in West Virginia as of 2011. Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite saw two and probably three **Cackling Geese** a few miles south of the Belleville Dam, in Jackson County, on January 21. Derek Courtney found a single **Cackling Goose** on February 1 near Point Pleasant in Mason County. Frederick Atwood saw a **Cackling Goose** in Grant County on February 21. **Canada Geese** were, as usual, widespread throughout the state. The first **Mute Swan** reported this season was a single bird found by the Monongalia County Christmas Bird Count on December 18, and relocated on January 10 by Derek Courtney. Matthew Orsie and Michael Griffith saw a **Mute Swan** along the Ohio River at Willow Island Lock and Dam, Pleasants County, on January 15, and Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite saw

perhaps the same individual nearby on January 22. Cynthia Ellis observed two **Mute Swans** at the Armour Creek backwater, Putnam County beginning on January 30 through the middle of February. Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club saw three **Mute Swans** during their outing in Pleasants and Wood Counties on February 24. **Tundra Swans** were relatively abundant, appearing in reports from seven counties: Jefferson (KW), Kanawha (DBe), Monongalia (KA), Pendleton (CBC), Preston (GF), Tucker (MCh), and Wetzel (WJ, TB). There were many reports statewide of **Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, American Black Ducks, Mallards, Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks**. There were reports from five or fewer counties of these waterfowl species: **Blue-winged Teal**: Tucker (JDz) and Wood (DCo) Counties **Northern Shoveler**: Jefferson (MO), Mason (DP, MG), and Wood (CBC) Counties; **Greater Scaup**: Cabell (BBo), Jefferson (MO), Mason (DP), Monongalia (DCo), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Harlequin Duck**: as reported above, Mason (WA, MG); and **Long-tailed Duck**: Cabell (JJH, BBo, ReT, MG, DP, GR), Kanawha (BW), Mason (MG), Putnam (WA), and Wetzel (WJ, DCo). It was a good season for scoters in our state. Wilma Jarrell spotted two **Surf Scoters** as well as this season's only **American (Black) Scoter** at Hannibal Lock and Dam in Wetzel County on December 7, and David Patick, Wendell Argabrite, and Michael Griffith found an immature **Surf Scoter** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, in Mason County, on New Year's Day, and the bird (or another just like it) was seen there for a number of weeks. On January 9, Gary Rankin saw a pair of **White-winged Scoters** at the same place, as reported by Wendell Argabrite, and the next day Derek Courtney saw a single **White-winged Scoter** on the Monongahela River in Monongalia County. Michael Griffin and Wendell Argabrite saw another **White-winged Scoter** at Winfield Lock and Dam, Putnam County, on January 21 and again on January 28.

Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys—Derek Courtney found a **Ring-necked Pheasant** in Wetzel County on January 5. **Ruffed Grouse** appeared on the tallies of Christmas Bird Counts in McDowell, Pendleton, and Tucker Counties, and were reported separately in Preston County by LeJay Graffious on December 15 as part of the Mountaineer CBC count week. Birders throughout the state reported **Wild Turkeys**, particularly in Christmas Bird Counts.

Loons, Grebes—Kevin Cade found four **Common Loons** at Beech Lake Fork Marina, Wayne County, on December 5. Single **Common Loons** appeared in early December at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County (DCo, TB), and at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason County, where the individual remained until February 12 (DP, WA, MG, GR, SA, MO, CE). It was a good winter for grebes. Reports of **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were plentiful throughout the state. The state's only reported **Red-necked Grebe** lingered for almost a week in mid-February at Belleville Lock and Dam in Wood County (JB, DCo, MG, WA), and the well-observed **Eared Grebe** at

Alpine Lake in Preston County was last reported on December 6 by Gary Felton.

Cormorants, Herons, Egrets—Reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** came from Jefferson (KW), Kanawha (CBC), Mason (DP, WA, MG, GR, CE), Monongalia (TB), Pleasants (JB, MO, TB, DCo, LeJ), Putnam (CE, KK), Summers (CBC), and Wood Counties (CBC). **Great Blue Herons** appeared throughout the state, primarily in lower elevations. On December 12, David Patick and Michael Griffith saw a **Great Egret** at Crab Creek Campground, Mason County, and on New Year's Day they were joined by Wendell Argabrite and found a **Great Egret** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. In Wood County, Dick and Jeannette Esker saw a **Great Egret** on December 2 at the Sandy Creek Backwater, and likely the same **Great Egret** was a first for the Parkersburg Christmas Bird Count on December 18.

Vultures—**Black Vultures** and **Turkey Vultures** were mentioned in scattered reports throughout the state, in 9 counties for **Black Vulture**, and 12 counties for **Turkey Vulture**.

Hawks, Eagles—**Bald Eagles** were widely reported, generally in small numbers. James and Judy Phillips, together with other observers on the Winter Eagle Survey of the New and Bluestone Rivers, Summers County, saw 14 **Bald Eagles** on January 8. In all, birders in 18 counties reported **Bald Eagles** during the winter. **Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Cooper's Hawks** appeared in reports from birders throughout the state. There were numerous sightings of **Northern Goshawks** in Randolph County late December through the end of January, including several in Elkins (RB, SK, RBo, DCo). On December 30, Matthew Orsie found a **Northern Goshawk** near the Norwood subdivision in Jefferson County. Birders in most parts of the state reported **Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks**, with **Rough-legged Hawks** appearing in 11 counties. David Carr saw an immature **Golden Eagle** at his home in Arkansas, Hardy County, on December 4. Thomas Fox saw a **Golden Eagle** soaring over Spencer, Roane County, on February 11, and another **Golden Eagle** at his home in Millstone, Calhoun County, on February 24. Other counties reporting **Golden Eagle** included Grant (DCo, FA), Randolph (MC), and Tucker (JDz).

Falcons—Many birders reported **American Kestrels** in most parts of the state. Joey Herron spotted a **Merlin** in Fairmont, Marion County, on Christmas Eve, and reports of **Merlin** in Fairmont continued through February 22 (DCo, JoH). Kyle Aldinger found another **Merlin** in Morgantown, Monongalia County, on January 11, and Morgantown reports continued through February 22 as well (GF, DCo, BEJ). Gary Rankin saw a **Merlin** in Huntington, Cabell County, on February 12. Reports of **Peregrine Falcons** came from Jefferson (BW, JL), Kanawha (CBC, BW, KK, CE), Mason (DP, WA, MG), Monongalia (KA), Pleasants (JB), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood Counties (CBC, MO, MG, WA).

Rails, Coots—Matt Orsie's team located a **Virginia Rail** during the Charles Town CBC in Jefferson County on December 18, and also found a **Virginia Rail** in

Jefferson County on January 1. Derek Courtney saw a **Virginia Rail** at Altona Marsh, Berkeley County, on January 15. **American Coots** appeared in 12 counties this winter.

Plovers—Killdeer were moderately well represented with reports from 11 counties. There was no report of more than a few **Killdeer** in one place.

Sandpipers—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 four counties reported single **Wilson's Snipes**. One **American Woodcock** appeared in each of Cabell (TI, MG), Hardy (DCo), Putnam (CE), and Summers Counties (JJP).

Gulls, Terns—For the second winter in a row, birders found no larid rarities in West Virginia this season. Derek Courtney saw a flock of 75 **Bonaparte's Gulls** on the Monongahela River near the Cheat Lake Dam, Monongalia County, on December 13, and Terry Bronson and Matthew Orsie saw a single **Bonaparte's Gull** in the same area on December 16. Small numbers of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported in Mason (MG, WA) and Pendleton (FA, CBC) Counties. Reports of **Ring-billed Gulls**, almost all in small numbers, came from 23 counties, and birders in eight Counties reported **Herring Gulls**, also in small numbers.

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

Owls—Derek Courtney saw the only **Barn Owl** reported this winter, in Moorefield, Hardy County. Six counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls**: Cabell (WA, MG), Monongalia (DCo), Pendleton (CBC), Preston (DCo), Summers (CBC), and Wood (CBC). Four counties' Christmas Bird Counts reported **Great Horned Owls** [Berkeley, Pendleton, Raleigh, Summers (count week), and Tucker]. Three reporters heard **Great Horned Owls** at home: Rennie Talbert in Barboursville, Cabell County, on December 18; Cynthia Ellis in Red House, Putnam County, on February 21; and Wilma Jarrell in Wileyville, Wetzel County, on Christmas Eve. On December 11, in Monongalia County, Terry Bronson found a **Great Horned Owl** on Morgan's Run Road in Cheat Lake State Park, and Derek Courtney found a **Great Horned Owl** at Cooper's Rock State Park. Eleven counties reported **Barred Owl**: Berkeley (WH), Cabell (WA, MG); Grant (FA), Hampshire (CBC); Jefferson (CD, KW, MO, SS, BH), McDowell (CBC), Mercer (CBC), Monongalia (DCo), Putnam (CE), Raleigh (WS), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (CBC, CR). The editor of these notes heard **Long-eared Owls** near Brandywine, Pendleton County, during the Pendleton CBC on December 18, and then heard another **Long-eared Owl** at home in Dry Fork, Tucker County, on December 31. Derek Courtney subsequently found **Long-eared Owls** in both locations. Jay (A. R.) and Susan Buckelew and James Triplett and Beverly Triplett found a **Short-eared Owl** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on January 28, and the bird remained at least until February 1, as reported by Derek Courtney.

Kingfishers—Lower elevations in many parts of the state hosted **Belted King-**

fishers, according to many reports.

Woodpeckers—Kevin Cade and Rennie Talbert separately found **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Beech Fork Lake Dam, Wayne County, on January 30. Hullett Good found two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in mid-February near Amma, Roane County. Matthew Orsie, David Carr, and Derek Courtney all found **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Kimsey Run, Hardy County, and the Pendleton CBC was the only CBC in our state to find **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers**, **Northern Flickers**, and **Pileated Woodpeckers** were the subjects of widespread reports in West Virginia over the winter.

Flycatchers—Reports of **Eastern Phoebe** only came from five counties this winter: Harrison (JoS), Jefferson (MO), Kanawha (CBC), Monongalia (WS, CBC), and Summers (CBC).

Shrikes—The Pipestem CBC in Summers County reported a **Loggerhead Shrike** for the first time since 1974. On January 5 Matthew Orsie found a **Loggerhead Shrike** off Route 340 near Charles Town, and the **shrike** was relocated on January 15 (DCo) and February 24 (MO).

Crows, Jays, Ravens—**Blue Jays**, **American Crows** and **Common Ravens** were reported in their usual haunts throughout the state. In Jefferson County, Matthew Orsie found five **Fish Crows** near the Norwood subdivision on December 30, and Carol Del-Colle found a **Fish Crow** near Route 51 on February 9.

Larks—**Horned Larks** appeared to observers participating in Christmas Bird Counts in Jefferson, Monongalia, and Pendleton Counties. Other reports of **Horned Larks** came from Hardy (MJ, DCo), Jefferson (MO, CD), Mason (DP, WA, MG, GR, MO), and Monroe Counties (WS).

Swallows—**Tree Swallows** returned to Greenbottom WMA in Cabell County on February 26, as observed by Michael Griffith, Wendell Argabrite, and David Patick, and to McClintic WMA in Mason County on February 28, as reported by Cynthia Ellis.

Paridae—Birders reported both **Carolina** and **Black-capped Chickadees** in their bifurcated territories throughout West Virginia. **Tufted Titmice** occupied their usual spots in reports from throughout the state.

Nuthatches—**Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared sparsely this winter, showing up in small numbers in Christmas Bird Counts in six Counties: Kanawha, Monongalia, Pendleton, Summers, Tucker, and Wood. Other reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** came from Barbour (JD), Berkeley (DSy), Hardy (DC), Jefferson (KW), Putnam (CE), and Randolph Counties (HM). **White-breasted Nuthatches** were well reported throughout the state as usual.

Creepers—Birders in 13 counties reported **Brown Creeper**: Barbour (JD), Berkeley (WH), Cabell (CBC), Jefferson (KW, BH, CD), Kanawha (MK, JN, CBC), Mason (DP, WA, MG), Monongalia (TB), Pendleton (CBC), Raleigh (WS), Summers (CBC), Tucker (CBC), Wayne (KC), and Wood (CBC).

Wrens—**Carolina** and **Winter Wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from all over the state. The Kanawha CBC on December 18 located a very late **House Wren** in Kanawha County.

Kinglets—**Golden-crowned Kinglets** were familiar sights in most parts of the state this winter. Four Christmas Bird Counts located **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, in Kanawha, Monongalia, Pendleton, and Summers Counties. Terry Bronson found a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** on New Year's Day at White Park in Morgantown, Monongalia County.

Thrushes—**Eastern Bluebirds** appeared widely among reporting counties. Stephen Kimbrell located a **Swainson's Thrush** near Elkins, Randolph County, on December 22. **Hermit Thrushes** were relatively scarce, prompting reports from only nine Counties: Hardy, Kanawha, McDowell, Mercer, Monongalia, Pendleton, Preston, Raleigh, and Summers. Benjamin Borda's backyard in Huntington, Cabell County, hosted the season's only reported **Wood Thrush** on December 1. **American Robins** seemed hard to find in many parts of the state in January, according to a number of reporters, but widespread numbers were being reported throughout our state by February.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers—On December 18, for the second year in a row, the Pendleton County Christmas Bird Count found one **Gray Catbird**, and another **Gray Catbird** was only the second record of the bird for the Charles Town CBC in Jefferson County, on December 19. Matthew Orsie relocated the **catbird** on January 1. There were widespread reports of **Northern Mockingbird**, and **Brown Thrashers** appeared in McDowell (CBC), Raleigh (CBC), and Summers (JJP) Counties.

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

Pipits—Jon and B.J. Little found more than 70 **American Pipits** near Kimsey Run Lake in Hardy County on January 2. The Pendleton CBC more than doubled its previous-record number of **American Pipits** in Pendleton County on December 18, when participants found 67 of the birds. **American Pipits** made appearances in four other Counties, including Cabell (MG, BBo, DP), Hardy (MJ), Jefferson (CBC, MO, JBz, DCo, CD, JL), Mason (MG), and Summers (CBC).

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

Longspurs, Buntings—Gary Rankin discovered a **Lapland Longspur** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on December 26, where likely the same bird continued to be observed by reporters until February 2 (CE, MG, WA). In Jefferson County, Matthew Orsie found a **Lapland Longspur** near Meyerstown, on January 18, and Derek Courtney saw a **Lapland Longspur** at the Kabletown Road fields on January 23. Joette Borzik found a **Snow Bunting** in Jefferson County on January 13, and Carol Del Colle and Matthew Orsie were able, also, to see the bird. On January 23 Derek Courtney saw what might have been the same **Snow Bunting** in a nearby location.

Warblers—Birders in lower elevations saw Myrtle-race **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at locations throughout the state. **Pine Warblers** appeared in West Virginia at the beginning and the end of the season, at Hullet Good's son's house near Elk River, Kanawha County on December 5, and singing in the yard of James and Judy Phillips in Pipestem, Summers County, on February 22. David Patick and Wendell Argabrite found a late **Palm Warbler** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason County on December 12.

Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos—**Eastern Towhees** made their usual appearances in many parts of the state. In addition, **American Tree, Field, Fox, Song, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows**, as well as **Dark-eyed Juncos**, appeared widely. Birders reported **Chipping Sparrows** only in Cabell (CE), Jefferson (JBz, CD, MO), Monongalia (CBC), Preston (GF), and Wood (CBC) Counties (GF). On January 12, Stan Corwin-Roach reported the fourth year in a row that a **Lark Sparrow** has shown up at his feeders in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, and he reported the bird as still there on February 24. Terry Bronson found a **Savannah Sparrow** in Monongalia County on December 9 while scouting for the Morgantown CBC and **Savannah Sparrows** appeared in Christmas Bird Counts in Jefferson and Tucker Counties. **Savannah Sparrows** were also reported at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason County by Michael Griffith, David Patick, Wendell Argabrite, and Cynthia Ellis over the course of the season. A Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge bird walk led by the editor of these notes found two **Lincoln's Sparrows** on December 12 at the Freeland Road boardwalk, Tucker County.

Cardinals, Grosbeaks—Birders throughout the state reported **Northern Cardinals** in good numbers.

Icterids—Many reports of **Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds** came from areas all over the state. Observers found **Eastern Meadowlarks** in four counties: Mason (MG, WA), Pendleton (CBC), Preston (GF), and Wood (CBC).

Finches, Allies—This winter was not an irruption year for any northerly finches, but **Common Redpolls** made a couple of appearances. The only **Red Crossbills** reported during the season were the eight individuals found by Matthew Orsie at Briery Branch Gap in Pendleton County on February 20. Feeders in most parts of the state saw the usual visits from **Purple Finches, House Finches, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches**. Wilma Jarrell looked out at the blowing snow around her feeders in Wileyville, Wetzel County, on January 8, and remarked to her husband that there should be **Redpolls** with such weather. Sure enough, four **Common Redpolls** showed up there in the afternoon. The only other **Common Redpoll** reported was at the feeders of the editor of these notes, a female who arrived on December 14 and stayed through the end of the winter season, with a perfect record of appearing for visiting birders. There were only two reports this winter of **Evening Grosbeaks**, both near Cortland Road in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, on January 10 (CR) and January 23 (DCo).

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

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