

ISSN: 0034-2165

*The* **REDSTART**

VOLUME 81, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER, 2014



**PUBLISHED BY THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB**

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# The REDSTART

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*The Redstart* is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October at P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003. The journal of the Brooks Bird Club, it is mailed to all members in good standing. Nonmember subscription price is \$17. Individual copies are \$4, except the Foray issue, which is \$8. Changes of address and requests for back issues should be mailed to P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003. Articles for publication and books for review should be mailed to the editor. Printed on recycled paper.

ISSN: 0034-2165

# Southern West Virginia Eagle Surveys, 2006–2014

James D. Phillips

## Introduction and Methods

During the 1970s, 1980s, and the first half of the 1990s, eagle sightings in southern West Virginia were a rarity. Based on the author's notes and comments from other observers, by 2000 Bald Eagles were being seen at least 10 weeks out of the year. By 2001, this number had grown to 15 weeks per year; by 2001, 22 weeks; and 31 weeks in 2003; 37 weeks in 2004, and 49 weeks by 2005. By 2006, the species could be found year round. Golden Eagles, on the other hand, have been less frequently encountered. While there were some summer records for this species in the early 1970s in Summers County and the 1990s in Mercer County, Golden Eagles were seen more during migration and in winter. Increased sightings of eagles and the presence of multiple individuals caused us to wonder how many birds might actually be using the area. After discussions with local birding enthusiasts, we began our annual eagle surveys in 2006 for the January survey and two years later, a second annual survey in March.

The plan was to place as many volunteers in the field as we could muster. Our focus was New River in Monroe, Summers, and Raleigh Counties. When additional observers were available, we branched out to tributaries such as the Greenbrier and Bluestone Rivers and Indian Creek. Coverage varied according to who was available to watch. We tried to watch from the Virginia/West Virginia line to Sandstone Falls, but the sites covered with most regularity included Bull Falls campground, Bertha campground (both in the Bluestone Wildlife Management area), Bluestone State Park, Bluestone Dam, Hinton, and the southern end of New River Gorge National River in the vicinity of Sandstone Falls. Attempts to encourage participation by other groups along New River in Virginia and in New River Gorge in West Virginia did not catch on.

The survey sites were open to the public and drew quite a number of people. The backbone of the surveys, though, was the volunteer leaders with an expertise in raptor identification. These folks came from the following organizations: Bibbee Nature Club, Three Rivers Avian Center, Hanging Rock Tower Raptor Observatory, New River Gorge National River personnel, West Virginia state park personnel, and to a lesser degree the Brooks Bird Club, Virginia Society of Ornithology, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Master Naturalist Program, and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program personnel. During the nine years of these surveys, at least 300 individuals participated. Many learned identification skills and helped us to get an idea of the minimum number of eagles living in the study area.

Our winter surveys were conducted on the first or second Saturday in January,

and our spring surveys were conducted on the first or second Saturday in March. Each site was manned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Weather data such as temperature, precipitation, wind direction and speed, and cloud cover were noted. Notes were kept as to age and number of birds, and bird activity such as perching, flying, and feeding. If birds left sight of the observers or came into sight, observers kept track of the direction they went or came from. Precise times were noted so as to avoid counting the same birds at nearby sites. If we were in doubt about a bird, it was only counted once. We may have 16 sightings at a site but it may have been the same four birds. So, we went with the minimum number of birds possible or the highest count at one time. At the end of the day we met at the Hinton Dairy Queen and went over the sightings for the day. I collected the sheets, and if need be, continued conversations with observers to be as certain as possible that individual birds were not tallied more than once. During the March counts, observers were encouraged to look for nesting behavior or possible nest sites.

### Results

During early January, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources wildlife biologists conduct an aerial survey for waterfowl and eagles. The territory they cover runs along New River/Bluestone Lake from the West Virginia/Virginia state line to Bluestone Dam. Since this is the nearest survey to ours, I compare their January counts with our January counts from 2006 to 2014 in Table 1. (SWVES denotes southern West Virginia eagle survey; WVDNR denotes West Virginia Department of Natural Resources aerial survey). In Table 2, I provide the data from our March spring survey counts. Both tables provide information on weather conditions, effort, and success rates for finding eagles in the areas covered.

Table 1  
Winter Survey Results

Year	SWVES	WVDNR
2006	4 BAEA, 1 GOEA	2 BAEA
2007	7 BAEA, 1 GOEA	3 BAEA, 1 GOEA
2008	9 BAEA, 1 GOEA	1 BAEA
2009	9 BAEA, 2 GOEA	6 BAEA, 4 GOEA
2010	6 BAEA, 2 GOEA	11 BAEA, 1 GOEA
2011	13 BAEA, 1 GOEA	7 BAEA, 2 GOEA, 1 1ue
2012	19 BAEA, 1 GOEA	11 BAEA, 1 GOEA
2013	27 BAEA, 6 GOEA, 2ue	4 BAEA, 1 GOEA
2014	14 BAEA, 3 GOEA, 1ue	5 BAEA, 1 GOEA

BAEA = Bald Eagle, GOEA = Golden Eagle, ue = unidentified eagle

### Winter Survey Weather Conditions

Year	Temperature(F)	Cloud Cover(%) / Precipitation	Wind(mph)
2006	28-48	1-95%	2-10
2007	55-65	30-100%	2-13
2008	25-52	5-100%	0-2
2009	29-52	0-100%	1-3
2010	10-18	60-100%, flurries	2-3
2011	20-32	10-100%, light snow	0-9
2012	36-57	20-100%, light rain in p.m.	0-3
2013	41-70	10-100%	0-8
2014	39-57	100%, fog & rain	0-2

### Winter Survey Effort

Year	No. of Observers	No. of Sites Reporting Eagles / Total No. of Sites
2006	25	5/12
2007	25	5/11
2008	31	7/12
2009	28	6/12
2010	9	4/6
2011	18	4/7
2012	38	10/14
2013	98	17/21
2014	33	6/8

Table 2  
SWVES Spring Survey Results

Year	
2008	6 BAEA, 2 GOEA
2009	2 BAEA
2010	19 BAEA, 5 GOEA
2011	12 BAEA, 1 GOEA
2012	11 BAEA
2013	10 BAEA, 1 GOEA
2014	29 BAEA, 6 GOEA

BAEA = Bald Eagle, GOEA = Golden Eagle, ue = unidentified eagle

### Spring Survey Weather Conditions

Year	Temperature(F)	Cloud Cover(%) / Precipitation	Wind(mph)
2008	40-61	25-75% light rain in pm	0-7
2009	37-50	100% rain	0-1
2010	28-50	clear	1-2
2011	31-53	clear	calm
2012	33-57	clear	3-5
2013	32-65	0-12%	0-6
2014	35-65	2-80%	0-10

### Spring Survey Effort

Year	# of Observers	# of sites reporting eagles / total # of sites
2008	30	6/12
2009	29	3/8
2010	14	5/6
2011	22	data not available
2012	41	6/7
2013	38	5/9
2014	33	7/11

### Discussion

We believe that our eagle surveys have been useful. We have confirmed the presence of eagle species, made the public aware of their presence as well as their importance in the environment, improved our identification skills, and organized a group of people to look out for the birds. With so much attention from folks who enjoy eagles, people who consider them to be varmints are less likely to harm the birds. The increase in the eagle population does not come without problems for the birds. The Three Rivers Avian Center has treated eagles for lead poisoning, zinc poisoning, interaction between eagles, gun shot, and collision with trains and automobiles. This subject could produce an additional paper.

With so many birds in the area, we set out to find a nest. Although Daniel Harbert and Karen Woodell may have discovered the first Bald Eagle nest in the area as early as July, 2002, this nest was never confirmed. We did confirm a nesting in December, 2009. Volunteers keeping track of the nest have amassed quite a bit of information on the Bald Eagle nesting cycle. Currently, we have confirmed three other Bald Eagle nests and continue to add information so that another article may be produced on that subject in the near future. As is usually the case in nature, as we find answers to our

questions, we also encounter additional questions. That's what keeps us observing and keeping notes. One last benefit of our surveys has been the economic impact. The owners of a Dairy Queen, which overlooks the New River, noticed the number of people the eagles brought in to their establishment and actually provided binoculars for customer use. The sign in front of a local bar advertised NASCAR and Budweiser, but also asked, "Have you seen the eagles?" A mural on the side of a building in Hinton featured John Henry, the railroad, and a Bald Eagle nest. Business owners notice customers with boats, jet skis, rafting sunburns, fishing, and hunting gear. They also notice people with binoculars.

While the SWVES data helps track the addition of the Bald Eagle to the avifauna in this part of the state, the reader may find additional information contributing to this history by referring to the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts on the Audubon Web site using the URL <http://birds.audubon.org/american-birds-annual-summary-christmas-bird-count>; the annual raptor migration data from the hawkwatch in neighboring Monroe County at [www.hangingrocktower.org](http://www.hangingrocktower.org); and the current West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas at <http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/WV/>. Also, see Phillips (2012a, 2012b).

Gratitude is extended to all those who have helped with the surveys, but especially to the following people who have really gone the extra mile: Alma Lowry, Allen and Mindy Waldron, Rodney Davis, Ronald and Wendy Perrone, Brian Hirt, Anthony Mattox, Elizabeth Reeder, Wayne Snyder, Beverly and Charles Wright, Sharyn Ogden, and Judy Phillips.

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## Three Rivers Migration Observatory: Fall Migration 2013

Ronald A. Canterbury

This report summarizes the 19th year of bird banding at the Three Rivers Migration Observatory (TRMO). During the 2013 fall banding season, field assistants and I obtained a fairly poor coverage for TRMO, where the station operated at only one-third capacity (number of nets) and started late (after mid-August). The late start was due to wet weather and other logistical issues. The station was operated 60 days from August 17–November 6, 2013. During numerous days, the nets had to be closed due to rain and/or thunderstorms and high wind, and, therefore, we did not obtain as many net hours typical for this station.

The first half of August was relatively wet in southern West Virginia as compared to the relatively dry, cool air west of the Ohio River during this time. However, the below-average temperatures in late August and into early September did not produce much bird movement from the north into the observatory area. The Blue Jay flight was very large throughout the second half of September. Large flocks of flyover black-birds occurred throughout much of October, but these were, as usual, migratory flocks flying too high for capture with mist nets. The second half of October was relatively cooler than average, but no significant sparrow flights developed in the area.

During the 2013 fall season, 1,041 birds were captured. August banding produced 67 birds during 9 days of banding. During September, 553 birds were captured in 26 days of banding, while October banding produced 382 captures during 19 days of banding. Banding during November totaled 39 birds during 4 days of netting.

The number of species handled was 66. The number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds captured was 53. Table 1 lists the species and number of individuals per species captured during the season, and Figure 1 shows the number of birds captured per day. As usual, the highest number of individuals captured of one species was 261 Tennessee Warblers.

The peak migration occurred on September 19 with the only significant movement of migrants from the north occurring from September 16–19 (Figure 1), while another peak was seen on October 14. The thrush flight was better than in most recent years. While movement of migrants was low in August and through much of September, the migration (mostly late warblers) was better in October than the last several years. In addition, the peak movement for some species was relatively late, such as 4 Ovenbirds on October 11. Relatively late migrants also including a Hooded Warbler on October 14 and a Tennessee Warbler on November 5.

Karen Daniel, Randy Daniel, Lance Perry, Scott Perry, Zach Perry, and Allen Waldron assisted with data collection. Financial support was provided by Southern West Virginia Bird Research Center.

Table 1  
Species List for the Autumn 2013 Season

Species	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Date
American Woodcock	1	Oct. 13			
Mourning Dove	2	Aug. 25	Sep. 17		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	53	Aug. 17	Sep. 26	6	Aug. 17
Downy Woodpecker	3	Sep. 29	Nov. 2		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	Aug. 25	Oct. 10		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	Sep. 5	Sep. 24		
Trail's Flycatcher	2	Sep. 2	Sep. 24		
Least Flycatcher	2	Sep. 19	Sep. 24		
Eastern Phoebe	15	Aug. 25	Oct. 20		
White-eyed Vireo	3	Sep. 18	Sep. 26		
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Sep. 19			
Blue-headed Vireo	13	Aug. 28	Oct. 22	3	Oct. 4
Philadelphia Vireo	1	Sep. 16			
Red-eyed Vireo	11	Aug. 18	Sep. 29		
Blue Jay	9	Sep. 8	Nov. 2	3	Oct. 22
Carolina Chickadee	22	Aug. 18	Nov. 6	8	Oct. 22
Tufted Titmouse	10	Sep. 8	Oct. 14		
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	Oct. 8			
Brown Creeper	1	Oct. 18			
House Wren	8	Aug. 26	Oct. 16		
Winter Wren	2	Oct. 18	Nov. 2		
Carolina Wren	25	Aug. 18	Oct. 23	8	Oct. 22

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Sep. 16				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	Oct. 12	Oct. 26	3	Oct. 14	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	Oct. 12	Oct. 20	3	Oct. 18	
Eastern Bluebird	2	Nov. 5				
Veery	1	Sep. 18				
Gray-cheeked Thrush	17	Sep. 12	Oct. 22	3	Sep. 22	
Swainson's Thrush	70	Sep. 7	Nov. 3	4	Oct. 11	
Hermit Thrush	10	Oct. 9	Nov. 6			
Wood Thrush	8	Oct. 5	Oct. 20	3	Oct. 14	
American Robin	3	Oct. 22	Nov. 5			
Gray Catbird	46	Aug. 18	Oct. 22	5	Oct. 1	
Brown Thrasher	1	Sep. 22				
Ovenbird	27	Aug. 24	Oct. 22	4	Oct. 11	
Worm-eating Warbler	3	Sep. 8	Sep. 24			
Blue-winged Warbler	1	Sep. 18				
Black-and-white Warbler	6	Aug. 18	Oct. 1			
Tennessee Warbler	261	Sep. 5	Nov. 5	23	Oct. 4	
Mourning Warbler	1	Sep. 19				
Common Yellowthroat	38	Sep. 16	Oct. 18	3	Oct. 14	
Hooded Warbler	36	Aug. 24	Oct. 14	4	Sep. 19	
American Redstart	30	Sep. 14	Oct. 11	4	Sep. 19	
Cape May Warbler	4	Sep. 5	Sep. 30			
Northern Parula	2	Sep. 24	Oct. 8			
Magnolia Warbler	21	Sep. 14	Oct. 16			
Bay-breasted Warbler	20	Sep. 22	Oct. 2	4	Sep. 29	
Blackburnian Warbler	4	Sep. 19	Sep. 29			
Chestnut-sided Warbler	16	Aug. 25	Sep. 24	3	Sep. 24	

Species	Number	First	Last	Peak No.	Date
Blackpoll Warbler	5	Sep. 29	Oct. 11		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	8	Sep. 5	Oct. 14		
Palm Warbler	6	Sep. 22	Oct. 9		
Black-throated Green Warbler	15	Sep. 19	Oct. 12	6	Sep. 29
Eastern Towhee	16	Sep. 8	Oct. 14		
Chipping Sparrow	7	Aug. 21	Nov. 2		
Field Sparrow	4	Aug. 23	Oct. 18		
Song Sparrow	30	Sep. 9	Nov. 2	3	Oct. 11
Swamp Sparrow	2	Oct. 2	Oct. 18		
White-throated Sparrow	10	Oct. 13	Nov. 6		
Dark-eyed Junco	4	Oct. 26	Nov. 3		
Scarlet Tanager	3	Sep. 16	Sep. 26		
Northern Cardinal	12	Sep. 14	Nov. 5	3	Nov. 5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	Oct. 4			
Indigo Bunting	41	Aug. 22	Oct. 26	4	Sep. 19
Purple Finch	1	Nov. 3			
American Goldfinch	34	Aug. 18	Oct. 14	11	Sep. 26

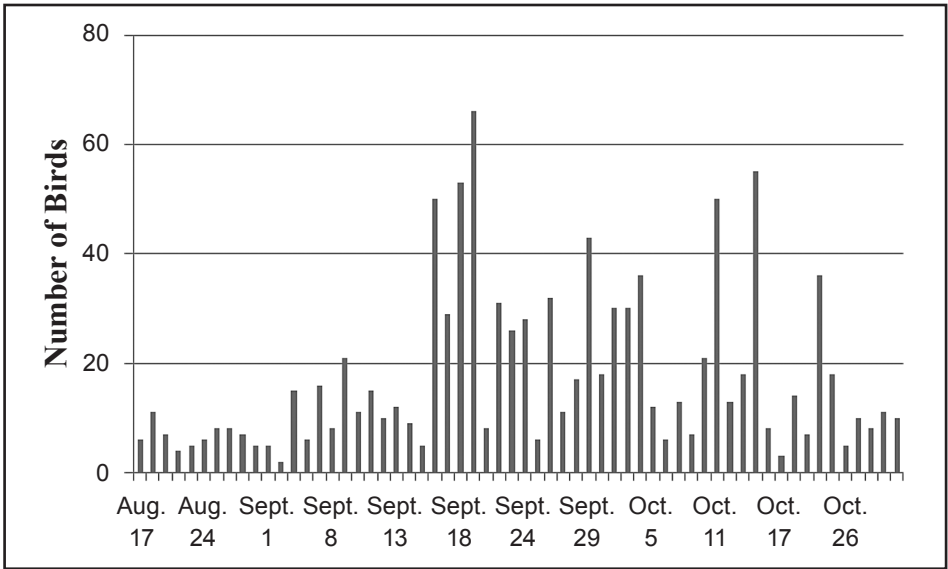


Figure 1. Number of birds captured per day in Autumn 2013 at TRMO.

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## Other Species Visit Hummingbird Feeders in Charleston, West Virginia

Marjorie Keatley

In summer of 2013 I noticed a Downy Woodpecker sitting on one of the hummingbird feeders in our yard in Charleston, West Virginia. That was the first time that I had observed this behavior. The hummingbird activity last summer was busy—hummingbirds zooming constantly among our three feeders and over the fence to the neighbor's feeder. I did not see the woodpecker on the feeder again, but later removed this feeder after squirrels knocked it down and chewed the ports.

The summer of 2014 has been different. When hummingbirds first appeared in the yard, a female and a male would visit infrequently and there was no territorial activity. House Finches and Downy Woodpeckers, however, were constant visitors, causing the hummingbirds to fly away. Both the male and female Downy Woodpeckers visited at different times. The male and the female House Finches were often together, although they also visited separately. The entire finch family would come now and then. While the young finches often were awkward in their attempts to land on the feeder and drink, the adult finches and the woodpeckers would sip repeatedly and at length. The weight of the birds tilted the feeder slightly, causing the liquid to seep from the openings. I did not attempt to time duration or frequency of the visits. The birds were often at the feeders long enough for us to take multiple photos and a short video. Once, I observed the male Downy Woodpecker hopping along the top of the board fence to reach one of the feeders. Squirrels would also use this path to reach the feeder. The other feeder is on a pole about two feet from the kitchen window, affording great looks at the visiting and drinking process. Both the finches and the woodpeckers visited multiple feeders.

An online search yielded multiple sites with photos and observations indicating that orioles are common visitors to hummingbird feeders, with House Finches and Downy Woodpeckers also frequent visitors. Many of the sites state that the finches often just sit at the feeders with no drinking observed. The house finches visiting our feeders were clearly drinking, as were the woodpeckers.

There are multiple containers around our yard with water. The finches and woodpeckers use these but were seen more often this summer at the hummingbird feeders. In mid-June I substituted sweetened water for plain water in a blue plastic water dispenser and hung it near one of the hummingbird feeders to see if the finches and woodpeckers would prefer it to the hummingbird feeders. While birds drank frequently from this dispenser last summer when it was hanging with the other birdseed feeders, I saw it used just once this summer in the new location, filled with sugar water. A House Finch drank from it then flew to one of the hummingbird feeders



Downy Woodpecker at hummingbird feeder. Photo by John Northeimer.

and examined its feeder ports. No other use was observed and the dispenser was removed.

As spring eased into summer, the number of hummingbirds increased and territorial behavior was observed. When the finches and woodpeckers were on the feeders and a hummingbird approached, the hummingbird was more aggressive and

the larger bird often flew. On one occasion, a female hummingbird approached a feeder where a finch was drinking. The hummingbird hovered and spread her tail feathers and the finch flew away. The hummingbird then drank from the feeder.

The finches and woodpeckers continued to use the feeders but with less and less frequency through July and early August. I also observed a Carolina Chickadee at the feeder, accompanied by a juvenile Tufted Titmouse. The titmouse sat on the pole and the chickadee sat at the feeder ports, but I did not see it drink.

At mid-September, the feeders are still up and the occasional hummingbird is visiting, but I have not seen other birds at the feeders for several weeks. I will be watching next summer to see if the feeder sharing continues.



House Finch at hummingbird feeder. Photo by John Northeimer.

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## A.O.U. Taxonomic Changes for 2014

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

The American Ornithologists' Union's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature announced its changes for 2014 in the October issue of *The Auk* (Chesser et al., 2014). The only change of concern to most birders affecting West Virginia birds is a reordering of the birds in the family Columbidae. The new taxonomic order takes the Passenger Pigeon (extinct) and the Inca Dove (only one record for the state) and moves them from the end of the list of pigeons and doves to the top of the list. Other species have changed scientific names, as well, but none of these affect the English names of birds on our state list. Birders might want to check to see if changes made for 2014 affect their North American lists of birds. They might find they have lost or gained a species or two.

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## Book Review

**The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature** by David George Haskell. 2012. New York: Viking Penguin Books. 277 pages including bibliography and index.

*The Forest Unseen* is a delightful book that chronicles the changes in a small area of an old forest over a calendar year. It is written by David George Haskell, a biology professor at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

The author calls the area he observes a mandala. Mandala is described in the dictionary as a geometric figure representing the universe in Hindu and Buddhist symbolism. David Haskell's mandala is a one-meter circle rather randomly chosen on a slope in an old growth forest near the university. The only concession he made for choosing his site was to have a nice rock on which to sit as he observed. The forest is not unlike the "woods" most of us in West Virginia are accustomed to near our homes. We will all be able to identify with his descriptions of the natural phenomena occurring throughout his book.

This project was undertaken by Haskell after having assigned a similar but shorter (lasting only one day) project for his ecology students. Haskell decided to extend his observations to at least biweekly visits to his mandala for a year. There were fewer visits in the winter months and as many as seven during April when spring was bursting forth in all her glory. There are 44 chapters, all fewer than 9 pages in length. The entire book encompasses 243 pages, not counting an excellent bibliography and index.

Each chapter is a treatise on some small observation he has made as he sits for an hour or longer observing the mandala and the events unfolding in front of him. He visited in all kinds of weather from snow and rain to sunny days in midsummer.

The chapters are listed by the date and topic discussed on each visit. The topics range from lichens; deer; snowflakes; slime mold; ticks; seeds; xylem; and in one unique experiment after observing chickadees shivering in freezing weather, he undresses in the cold to observe what it is like to experience the below freezing temperatures without the aid of clothing. He then writes a treatise on how animals and plants cope with these conditions.

Not a book to read at one sitting, this is a book to read slowly, with several readings to fully digest the contents. The articles not only cover a wide span of subjects but they go into a great deal of depth, enough to interest experienced biologists but also to be of interest to the novice learner. I have kept going back to it time and time again and learn something new every time. In fact, I challenge readers to do Dr. Haskell's experiment in their own back yard!

The bibliography is extensive and can be used by educators to supplement their teachings. The book would be a good jumping off point for camp or science projects to teach children and adults to observe the world around them.

Jane Whitaker

## Field Notes Spring Season

March 1– May 31, 2014

Casey Rucker

Cold weather persisted through March, which was the 11<sup>th</sup> coldest on record in West Virginia, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. April and May saw above-normal temperatures in most parts of the Mountain State. All three months saw below-average precipitation in most areas, and dry conditions had spread to 68% of West Virginia by the middle of May.

These notes were gathered from the National Audubon Society sponsored West Virginia Bird Listserv, from 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: <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>.

Birders observed the aftereffects of the frozen Great Lakes with unusually widespread sightings of waterfowl in West Virginia, including an invasion of **Red-necked Grebes**. Overall, 238 species were reported from 39 counties in the state. Birders found 36 species of warbler plus one hybrid during the spring season.

**Ducks, Swans, Geese**—Diane Holsinger spotted 12 **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the Moorefield sewage treatment plant on March 9, Herb Myers saw them the next day, and Frederick Atwood saw the flock on March 15. Hullet Good found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Coonskin Lake, Kanawha County, on March 23, where the bird remained through March 25, as seen by Laura Ceperley and Martha Hopper. There was only one prior record of **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Kanawha County. On March 15, Michael Griffith, Wendell Argabrite, and David Patick saw a blue-morph **Snow Goose** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. Richard and Jeanette Esker led the Mountwood Bird Club on an outing on March 27 that found a blue-morph **Snow Goose** in Wood County. **Canada Geese** returned to their usual winter haunts at lower elevations in West Virginia.

Hullet Good observed a **Mute Swan** at Coonskin Lake, Kanawha County, from March 1 through 22. Gary Rankin, Wendell Argabrite, Michael Griffith, and David Patick found two **Mute Swans** on March 2 at McClintic Wildlife Management Area, Mason County, and the birds were seen there as late as May 8 by Gary Rankin, John Hubbard, Beverly Delidow, Derrick Kolling, and Wendell Argabrite. Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club found two **Mute Swans** in Wood County on March 6, where they were seen by Terry Bronson on March 23. On March 10, Terry Bronson observed two **Trumpeter Swans**, which he identified as escapees, on Cheat Lake, Monongalia County. **Tundra Swans** made appearances in Cabell (GR, WA, MG, DP), Hardy (FA), and Jefferson (MO) Counties.

The widespread appearance of many duck species in West Virginia carried over from winter to spring. The **Harlequin Duck** reported during the winter on the Ohio River near Washington, Wood County, was seen March 6 through 9 by Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club, as well as by Matthew Orsie. There were many reports statewide of **Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, American Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Buffleheads, Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks.** Eight counties saw reports of **Greater Scaup:** Grant (FA), Hardy (DH), Marion (AJD), Mason (DP, WA, MG), Monongalia (TB, DCo, JoH), Tucker (CR), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB, MO). Birders in five West Virginia counties reported **White-winged Scoters:** Brooke (TJL, BS), Jefferson (JF), Mason (GR, WA, MG, DP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB, MO); six counties reported **Long-tailed Duck:** Hancock (TJL), Hardy (DC), Jefferson (WS), Mason (MG, WA), Monongalia (TB), and Wood (JB, MO); and **Common Goldeneye** reports came from seven counties: Hardy (DC, DH, HMy, FA), Jefferson (MO, EK, DHa), Mason (GR, WA, MG, DP), Monongalia (TB), Putnam (CE), Wetzel (WJ, BS), and Wood (JB, MO). On March 4, Wilma Jarrell found 12 species of duck, including **Greater Scaup, White-winged Scoter,** and all three **mergansers** on the Ohio River in Wetzel County.

**Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys**—Birders throughout the state reported **Wild Turkeys** and, in appropriate habitat, **Ruffed Grouse.** This is already the year of the **turkey** for Bruni Haydl with many sightings including the 15 tom **Wild Turkeys** and 16 hens that she encountered on April 2 near her home in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

**Loons, Grebes**—**Red-throated Loons** appeared in reports from Jefferson County (JF, MO, WS) and Monongalia County (TB). Ten counties hosted **Common Loons** this spring. There were late sightings of **Common Loons** on May 29, in Marion County by Joey Herron, and in Preston County by James Hoadley.

**Red-necked Grebes** invaded West Virginia this spring, with reports from an eye-popping 21 counties. The latest report was from Gary Rankin, at McClintic WMA, Mason County, on May 4. Birders reported **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** in 15 and 13 counties, respectively. On March 13, Diane Holsinger reported an **Eared Grebe** on the South Branch of the Potomac at Petersburg, Grant County. Gary Rankin found a possible **Eared Grebe** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on March 16, and later that day Wendell Argabrite, David Patick, and Michael Griffith also saw the bird. At the time of these sightings there were only two records for **Eared Grebe** in West Virginia.

**Cormorants**—West Virginia birders reported **Double-crested Cormorants** in 11 counties.

**Bitterns, Herons, Egrets**—On May 7, Gary Rankin, Beverly Delidow, John Hubbard, Derrick Kolling, and Wendell Argabrite located an **American Bittern**

during their Big Day in Cabell and Mason Counties. Gary Rankin found a calling **Least Bittern** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on May 26, and on May 31 Michael Griffith, Wendell Argabrite, and Jerry Westfall saw a **Least Bittern** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County. **Great Blue Herons** and **Green Herons** appeared throughout the state, while **Great Egrets** occasioned reports in only six counties: Barbour (TB), Cabell (MG, DP, WA, DB, ReT, JH, BDe), Jefferson (MO, DHa), Putnam (DB), Wetzell (WJ), and Wood (JB). On April 4, Carol Del-Colle counted 10 **Great Blue Herons** at the rookery on Bloomery Road, Jefferson County. Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite found the season's lone **Little Blue Heron** at Green Bottom WMA, Cabell County, on April 11. Joseph Hildreth spotted a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in southern Monongalia County on April 6, and on May 22 Michael Griffith found a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** near the boardwalk at Green Bottom WMA, Cabell County.

**Vultures**—For the second spring season in a row, birders in 10 West Virginia counties reported seeing **Black Vultures**, while **Turkey Vulture** reports came from 18 counties. On April 25, Jeff Del Col watched two **Turkey Vultures** hissing and squabbling in the presence of a third **Turkey Vulture**, perhaps a female, at his home in Philippi, Barbour County.

**Hawks, Eagles**—**Osprey** and **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the state, generally in small numbers. **Northern Harriers** appeared in reports from Grant County (FA), Jefferson County (DHa, CD, JBz), Mason County (KC), Monroe County (JP), Putnam County (CE), Summers County (JP), and Tucker County (CR, SKi, MK). Reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, **Cooper's Hawks**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, **Broad-winged Hawks**, and **Red-tailed Hawks** were widespread in West Virginia. On April 26, Wil Hershberger and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society found all three breeding *buteo* species at Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area, Berkeley County: **Red-shouldered**, **Broad-winged**, and **Red-tailed Hawks**. The author of these notes enjoyed several visits to his yard in Dry Fork, Tucker County, from **Northern Goshawks** this spring, and on May 28 encountered a pair of **Northern Goshawks** on a mountaintop in southern Preston County. Randy Bodkins reported the only **Rough-legged Hawk** this spring, a March 15 sighting on Rt. 92 in Barbour County. James Phillips reported that two **Golden Eagles** were sighted at Hanging Rock Tower Raptor Observatory in Monroe County on each of the first two days in April. Herb Myers watched an adult **Bald Eagle** jostling with a juvenile **Golden Eagle** at the top of Allegheny Mountain, the border between Randolph and Pendleton Counties, on March 11. **Golden Eagles** also appeared in Randolph County (RB) and Tucker County (EG, SF).

**Rails, Coots**—On April 18, Rennie and Amy Talbert saw and photographed a **Virginia Rail** in Muddlety, Nicholas County, and David Patick saw and heard two **Virginia Rails** in the same location on May 9. On April 21, Gary Rankin and Michael Griffith saw a **Sora** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. On May 10

Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite saw a **Sora** at Green Bottom WMA, Cabell County, and on May 17, David Patick, Michael Griffith, Matthew Orsie, and Gary Rankin found a **Sora** as well as the **Virginia Rails** in Muddlety, Nicholas County. As usual, **American Coots** appeared widely in West Virginia birders' reports.

**Cranes**—Steve Hartman saw four **Sandhill Cranes** at Stauffer's Marsh, Berkeley County, on March 11, as reported by David Myles and Matthew Orsie. Frederick Atwood discovered four **Sandhill Cranes** on Hogueland Lane, Grant County, on March 25.

**Plovers**—On May 28, Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite spotted a **Black-bellied Plover** and three **Semipalmated Plovers** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County. There were additional sightings of **Semipalmated Plovers** in Cabell County (MG, WA), Grant County (FA), and Mason County (MG, GR, JHu, BDe, WA). **Killdeer** were well represented with reports from 20 counties. On May 5, N. Wade Snyder observed a family of **Killdeer**, with several chicks, in Bardane, Jefferson County.

**Sandpipers**—**Sandpiper** reports were about average this spring, with 18 **sandpiper** species making an appearance. On May 21, Barry Williams saw his first West Virginia **Whimbrel** near Lewisburg, Greenbrier County. On May 7, Gary Rankin, Beverly Delidow, John Hubbard, Derrick Kolling, and Wendell Argabrite found a **Long-billed Dowitcher** during their Big Day in Cabell and Mason Counties. Observers reported **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers** in 17 and 13 counties, respectively. Reports of **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Wilson's Snipe** came from 9 counties each, and birders found **American Woodcocks** in 14 counties. The following species were reported in the counties listed: **Willet** in Cabell (WA) and Taylor (JH); **Lesser Yellowlegs** in Berkeley (BD), Cabell (MG, WA), Grant (FA), Marion (TB, JoH), Mason (MG, DP, WA, JHu, BDe), and Pocahontas (DP); **Upland Sandpiper** in Mason (WA, MG); **Stilt Sandpiper** in Mason (MG, WA); **Dunlin** in Cabell (DP, WA, MG); **Least Sandpipers** in Cabell (MG, WA), Jefferson (WS), Marion (JoH), Mason (MG, DP, WA), Pocahontas (DP), and Preston (JBo); **White-rumped Sandpipers** in Mason (WA, MG, DP, MO, GR) and Summers (JP); **Pectoral Sandpipers** in Cabell (MG, WA) and Grant (FA); **Short-billed Dowitchers** in Mason (GR, JHu, BDe, WA, MG); **Wilson's Phalaropes** in Mason (GR, MG, WA); and **Red-necked Phalarope**, in Mason (MG, WA, DP, MO, GR). On May 10, Michael Griffith and Wendell Argabrite had a good day for shorebirds, finding 5 **Semipalmated Plovers** and 12 **Least Sandpipers** at Green Bottom WMA, Cabell County, and 20 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 30 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 60 **Least Sandpipers**, 7 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and a pair of **Wilson's Phalaropes** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County.

**Gulls and Terns**—There were sightings of **Bonaparte's Gulls** in Cabell (MG), Jefferson (CD, MO, DHa, NK, JF, BH), Mason (DP, WA, MG, GR), Monongalia (TB), and Pleasants (TB, DCo) Counties. **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported widely throughout the state, and **Herring Gulls** were reported in eight counties: Brooke (BS), Jackson (CE), Jefferson (CD), Mason (GR, WA, MG, DP, JHu, BDe), Monongalia (TB),

Putnam (CE), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB, MO). Tucker Lutter spotted an **Iceland Gull** on the Ohio River, Brooke County, on March 3. On March 13 Terry Bronson and Ian Batterman discovered a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** in Star City, Monongalia County. Wilma Jarrell found a first-winter **Great Black-backed Gull** near Hannibal Dam, Wetzel County, on March 4.

**Tern** sightings were sparse as usual this season. Birders in Mason (WA), Ohio (JBo), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties found **Caspian Terns**. Michael Griffith saw a **Common Tern** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on April 25. Reports of **Forster's Terns** came from Jefferson (MO, DHa), Mason (MG), Monongalia (TB), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

**Pigeons, Doves**—Amy and Rennie Talbert saw and photographed a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in Barboursville, Cabell County, on April 13. **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state.

**Cuckoos**—Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** began to arrive throughout the state in early May, and by the end of the season **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** had been reported in seven counties, and **Black-billed Cuckoos** in nine counties. On May 1, Willa Grafton photographed a **Black-billed Cuckoo** and heard a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** near her home in Heaters, Braxton County.

**Owls**—Owl reports were scanty this spring. Birders in only four West Virginia counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls**: Barbour (JD), Jefferson (JBz, DHa), Marion (TB), and Tucker (CR). On March 8 James and Judy Phillips heard a **Great Horned Owl** in Pipestem, Summers County, and two **Great Horned Owls** there on May 28. On March 21 Hullet Good heard the hooting of **Great Horned Owl** in his yard in Milliken, Kanawha County. **Barred Owl** reports were widespread as usual, with sightings in 10 counties.

**Goatsuckers, Swifts**—**Common Nighthawks** continued to be relatively scarce, with appearances beginning early in May, in Cabell (MG), Jefferson (WS), Putnam (KK), Randolph (RBo), and Tucker (CR) Counties. Frederick Atwood re-found a **Chuck-Will's-Widow** along North Mill Creek Road, Grant County, on May 25. **Eastern Whip-Poor-Wills** were seen and heard in many parts of West Virginia this spring, with reports from eight counties. **Chimney Swifts** began to return during the middle of April, and by late May there were 15 counties with reports of the species.

**Hummingbirds**—**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** began arriving in mid-April, and inspired reports from 14 counties throughout the state. Cynthia Ellis hosted the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** reported in West Virginia this year, on April 12 at her home in Red House, Putnam County.

**Kingfishers**—Once again, **Belted Kingfishers** prompted widespread reports throughout West Virginia this spring.

**Woodpeckers**—Our state's seven species of **woodpeckers** were all widely reported, with sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in five counties: Braxton (GN),

Hardy (DC, FA), Jefferson (JBz), Tucker (LH), and Wood (JB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a new yard bird for Bruni Haydl on May 2 in Charles Town, Jefferson County. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** inspired reports in 12 counties.

**Falcons**—West Virginia birders reported **American Kestrels** in only eight counties. **Merlins** were spotted in Kanawha County (JWa), Monongalia County (JBo), Tucker County (RTo), and Wetzel County (WJ). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings came only from Jefferson (DHa), Mason (DP, WA, MG, MO), and Summers (JP) Counties.

**Flycatchers**—Beverly Delidow discovered an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on her road in West Huntington, Wayne County, on April 28. On May 23, Jerry Westfall saw and heard two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** near the boardwalk at Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County. The next day David Carr encountered a pair of **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, one singing, in George Washington National Forest, Hardy County. Widely-reported throughout the state were **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, **Acadian Flycatchers**, **Eastern Phoebes**, **Great Crested Flycatchers**, and **Eastern Kingbirds**. Birders in Marion County (JoH), Monongalia County (DCo, LeJ, LS), Pocahontas County (DP), Preston County (TB, JBo), and Tucker County (CR, HMy, MK, SKi) reported **Alder Flycatcher**. Reports of **Willow Flycatcher** came from Jefferson (WS), Mercer (JJP), Preston (TB), Tucker (CR, HMy), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties, and **Least Flycatcher** from Cabell (MG), Grant (FA), Monongalia (TB, LeJ), Randolph (HMy, RTo), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

**Shrikes**—Richard Bailey reported that **Loggerhead Shrikes** were found in the Greenbrier Valley, Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties on several occasions this spring.

**Vireos**—Our five breeding **vireos**, **White-eyed**, **Yellow-throated**, **Blue-headed**, **Warbling**, and **Red-eyed**, returned to nesting grounds throughout the state beginning in early April. Gary Rankin, David Patick, and Michael Griffith found a **Philadelphia Vireo** on the ridges of Wayne County on May 4, and on May 17 Terry Bronson and the Mountaineer Audubon Society saw a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Dorsey's Knob Park in Morgantown, Monongalia County.

**Crows, Jays, Ravens**—**Blue Jays**, **American Crows** and **Common Ravens** were reported widely throughout the state. Rodney Bartgis saw and heard a **Fish Crow** calling repeatedly at the Elkins airport, Randolph County, on April 1. It was the first he has found west of the Allegheny front. **Fish Crows** also prompted reports in Grant County (FA), Hardy County (FA), and Jefferson County (WS, JBz, SS, EK, DHa, JF).

**Larks**—**Horned Larks** appeared in small numbers in many West Virginia locations, with reports from Grant County (FA), Jefferson County (DHa, BH, JBL), Kanawha County (JWa), Mason County (DP, WA, MG), and Tucker County (CR, RBo).

**Swallows**—**Purple Martins** were reported in Berkeley (CD), Cabell (LC, MH, DB), Jefferson (DHa, MO, JBz), Mason (MG, WA, DP, GR), Putnam (CE), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB, DCo) Counties. **Tree Swallows** had already made



several appearances in West Virginia despite cold temperatures at the end of the winter, and joined **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** in widespread returns to West Virginia this spring. Reports of **Bank Swallows** came from Grant County (FA), Hardy County (FA), Jefferson County (JBz), Mason County (DP, WA, MG, GR), and Wetzel County (WJ). Many birders saw **Cliff Swallows** this spring, with reports from nine counties.

**Chickadees, Titmice**—**Black-capped** and **Carolina Chickadees** were reported in their usual habitats in West Virginia this spring. **Tufted Titmice** appeared throughout our state as well.

**Nuthatches**—Birders reported **Red-breasted Nuthatches** only in Pocahontas (DP), Randolph (FA), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wayne (DP, GR) Counties this spring. **White-breasted Nuthatches** continued to appear widely.

**Creepers**—West Virginia birders found many **Brown Creepers** this season, with reports from 10 counties.

**Wrens**—**Carolina** and **House Wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from all over the state. **Winter Wrens** were reported in Greenbrier (RBI), Jefferson (DH<sub>a</sub>, JF), Pocahontas (DP), Preston (TB), Randolph (RT<sub>o</sub>), and Tucker (LC, MH, HMy, CR) Counties.

**Gnatcatchers**—Beginning in early April, **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** returned to breeding grounds throughout the state.

**Kinglets**—Birders observed **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in 13 West Virginia counties this spring, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** in 15 counties during the season.

**Thrushes**—The usual seven species of **thrush** were found in West Virginia this spring. **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Hermit** and **Wood Thrushes**, and **American Robins** were seen throughout most reporting counties. **Veeries** made appearances in Jefferson (DH<sub>a</sub>), Monongalia (TB), Preston (JBo, TB), Randolph (HMy), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Michael Griffith encountered a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** amid a migrant fallout in Huntington's Rotary Park, Cabell County, on May 6. On May 13 Terry Bronson and the Mountaineer Audubon Society saw a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Core Arboretum in Morgantown, Monongalia County. Reports of **Swainson's Thrush** were sparse, with sightings only in Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), Wayne (GR, DP, MG), and Wood (JB) Counties.

**Mockingbirds, Thrashers**—During the spring season **Gray Catbirds**, **Northern Mockingbirds**, and **Brown Thrashers** once again serenaded their breeding grounds in West Virginia.

**Starlings**—**European Starlings** continued their broad occupation of habitats in our state.

**Pipits**—**American Pipits** made appearances in Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Jefferson (WS, MO, DH<sub>a</sub>, WS, JF), Monongalia (TB), Tucker (MK), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (DJE) Counties.

**Waxwings**—**Cedar Waxwings** were reported in nine counties this spring:

Berkeley (JF), Fayette (DBe), Grant (FA), Jefferson (CD, DHa, JBz, WS), Kanawha (HG), Marion (SO, TB), Preston (TB), Tucker (CR), and Wood (JB).

**Warblers—Brewster’s Warblers** appeared in reports from Pocahontas County (DP) and Preston County (CR, JBo), and Richard Bailey located five **Brewster’s Warblers** in Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties during mid-May. The following warblers, all regular migrants through or breeders in West Virginia, made their first-of-season appearances in the following counties: **Ovenbird**: April 13, Wayne (GR, DP, MG); **Worm-Eating Warbler**: April 22, Kanawha (CE); **Louisiana Waterthrush**: March 29, Kanawha (DB); **Northern Waterthrush**: April 17, Wood (DJE); **Golden-winged Warbler**: May 2, Randolph (HMy) and Wetzel (WJ); **Blue-winged Warbler**: April 12, Wayne (GN); **Black-and-white Warbler**: April 10, Summers (JP); **Prothonotary Warbler**: May 1, Jefferson (DHa); **Swainson’s Warbler**: April 28, Kanawha (DWo); **Tennessee Warbler**: May 2, Cabell (MG); **Orange-crowned Warbler**: May 2, Cabell (MG); **Nashville Warbler**: April 27, Cabell (DP), Taylor (TB), and Wood (JB); **Mourning Warbler**: May 6, Cabell (MG); **Kentucky Warbler**: April 26, Wood (JB); **Common Yellowthroat**: April 16, Jefferson (JBz); **Hooded Warbler**: April 12, Cabell (DP, WA, MG); **American Redstart**: April 13, Wayne (GR, DP, MG); **Cape May Warbler**: May 1, Cabell (DP) and Jefferson (DHa); **Cerulean Warbler**: April 22, Kanawha (CE); **Northern Parula**: April 12, Wood (JB); **Magnolia Warbler**: April 28, Jefferson (SS) and Wood (JB, PC); **Bay-breasted Warbler**: April 29, Jefferson (DHa); **Blackburnian Warbler**: April 26, Fayette (DBe); **Yellow Warbler**: April 13, Kanawha (LC) and Wayne (GR, DP, MG); **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: April 28, Randolph (HMy); **Blackpoll Warbler**: May 3, Cabell (GR); **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: April 28, Jefferson (JBz); **Palm Warbler**: March 27, Jefferson (JF); **Pine Warbler**: March 9, Summers (JJP); **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: March 5, Monongalia (TB); **Yellow-throated Warbler**: April 3, Cabell (MG) and Marion (JoH); **Prairie Warbler**: April 13, Grant (FA) and Wayne (GR, DP, MG); **Black-throated Green Warbler**: April 1, Boone (MG); **Canada Warbler**: May 4, Wetzel (WJ); **Wilson’s Warbler**: May 4, Wayne (GR, MG); and **Yellow-breasted Chat**: April 27, Cabell/Wayne (MG, WA). On May 18, Derek Courtney and LeJay Graffious found many **Blue-winged Warblers**, **Prairie Warblers**, and **Yellow-breasted Chats** at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County.

**Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos—Eastern Towhees** began to appear at the start of the spring season, and by its end were reported from all areas of the state. Thirteen species of sparrows made appearances in accustomed haunts throughout our state. Reports of **American Tree Sparrow** came from Berkeley (BD), Grant (FA), Jefferson (JBL, DHa, JF), Monongalia (GN, TB), and Tucker (CR) Counties. **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** lingered till the middle of May, and both species were widely reported. Resident and returning **sparrow** species made first appearances this season in reports from the following counties: **Chipping** on

March 11 in Monongalia (GN), **Field** on March 12 in Jefferson (WS), **Vesper** on March 29 in Cabell (MG) and Hardy (DC), **Savannah** on March 24 in Hardy (FA), **Grasshopper** on April 15 in Jefferson (WS), **Fox** on March 1 in Kanawha (HG), **Song** on March 3 in Jefferson (WS), **Lincoln's** on May 3 in Wood (JB), **Swamp** on March 21 in Grant (FA), and **Dark-eyed Junco** on March 1 in Taylor (TB).

**Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings**—**Summer Tanagers** were observed in Cabell (MG), Wayne (MG, GR), and Wood (JB) Counties. Seventeen counties hosted sightings of returning **Scarlet Tanagers**, the first of which was on April 17 in Wood County by Richard and Jeannette Esker and the Mountwood Bird Club. **Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings** prompted numerous reports from birders in most parts of the state. **Blue Grosbeaks** were the subjects of reports only from Fayette (RBi), Jefferson (DH<sub>a</sub>), and Monongalia (TB) Counties.

**Blackbirds, Allies**—**Bobolinks** returned to seven reporting counties, with an early first appearance on April 25 in Jefferson County, where Deborah Hale and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society saw them near Harpers Ferry. There were many West Virginia reports of **Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, Rusty Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles**.

**Finches, Allies**—The absence of winter **finches** during the winter carried over into spring. On April 2, a **Purple Finch** paid the first visit of the year to Joette Borzik's feeders in Jefferson County. **Purple Finches, House Finches, and American Goldfinches** appeared in reports from appropriate habitats throughout the state. **Red Crossbills** appeared on the border of Hardy County and Virginia on March 22 to Jon and B. J. Little, and on May 3 to Frederick Atwood. Frederick Atwood also saw and heard a **Red Crossbill** in Dolly Sods, Grant and Tucker Counties, on May 25. **Pine Siskins** continued their winter scarcity, with reports only from Randolph (HMy), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

**Weaver Finches**—The **House Sparrow** continues to colonize our state, primarily in urban settings.

Contributors to the Spring Field Notes: Wendell Argabrite (WA), Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (RBi), Rodney Bartgis (RB), Jon Benedetti (JB), Deborah Beutler (DBe), John Boback (JBo), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Terry Bronson (TB), Doren Burrell (DB), Kevin Cade (KC), David Carr (DC), Laura Ceperley (LC), Pat Collins (PC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Robert Dean (BD), Jeffrey del Col (JD), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Beverly Delidow (BDe), Amanda and Julian Dymacek (AJD), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Richard and Jeannette Esker (DJE), James Farley (JF), Sarah Fletcher (SF), Elaine George (EG), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DH<sub>a</sub>), Bruni Haydl (BH), L. E. Herrick (LH), Joey Herron (JoH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Martha Hopper (MH), John Hubbard (JHu), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Kim Kazmierski (KK), Stephen

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Original papers in the field of natural history are published in *The Redstart*. Papers are judged on the basis of their contributions to original data, ideas, or interpretations. Scientific accuracy and clarity are most important, and to this end, an advisory board, selected by the editorial staff, will review submitted papers as needed. Papers should be submitted in Word, by e-mail if possible, to [jbuckelew@bethanywv.edu](mailto:jbuckelew@bethanywv.edu) or on a CD and sent to the editor; otherwise, papers should be typewritten, double-spaced on one side of the paper only, and sent to the editor at 111 Logan Ct., Bethany, WV 26032.

## BROOKS BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The Brooks Bird Club, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose objective is to encourage the study and conservation of birds and other phases of natural history. Membership includes subscriptions to *The Redstart* and *Mail Bag* and entitles one to all the privileges offered by the Club. Classes of membership are Student, \$10; Individual, \$25; Family, \$30; Sustaining, \$50; Life, \$500; Family Life, \$650. Checks should be written payable to The Brooks Bird Club and mailed to P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003.

## 2014 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
January	BBC Membership Month .....	Wheeling, WV
February	Write an article for the <i>Mail Bag</i> or <i>The Redstart</i> .....	mail to editors
February 5-7	Trip to Killdeer Plains (Contact Gene Hilton 304-428-8641)	
March 13-14	Early Spring Meeting (Contact Dick Esker) .....	North Bend State Park
March 16	Waterfowl Field Trip (day trip) (Contact Carl Slater) .....	Seneca Lake, OH
April 26	Three Rivers Bird Club (day trip) (Contact Ryan Tomazin)	Raccoon Creek State Park, PA
May 10	International Migratory Bird Day, N. American Migration Count .....	local chapters
May 8-11	Wildflower Pilgrimage, Blackwater Falls State Park .....	Davis, WV
May 30-June 6	Sortie (Contact Dawn Fox) R. D. Bailey WMA .....	Mingo Co., WV
June 13-20	Foray - Camp Pioneer, Randolph County .....	Beverly, WV
July 25-27	Terra Alta Bonus Bird Weekend (Contact Carl Slater) .....	Terra Alta, WV
August 16-Oct. 4	Bird Banding .....	Dolly Sods, WV
September 13	Board of Trustees Meeting, Oglebay Pk (Contact Carl Slater) ....	Wheeling, WV
October 17-19	BBC Reunion/Annual Meeting, Blackwater Falls State Park .....	Davis, WV
November 12-16	Eastern Shore (Contact Carl Slater)	
Dec. 14-Jan. 5, '15	Christmas Bird Counts (Send reports to Jane Whitaker) .....	local groups

### BBC FORAYS (dates and places tentative)

2014	Camp Pioneer, Randolph County	Beverly, WV
2015	Camp Galilee, Preston County	Terra Alta, WV
2016	Camp Kidd, Tucker County	Parsons, WV

### SEASONAL FIELD NOTES DUE

Winter: March 15      Spring: June 15      Summer: September 15      Fall: December 15  
 MAIL TO: Casey Rucker, P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884      autoblock@frontiernet.net

### ARTICLES FOR THE MAIL BAG DUE

February 15      May 15      August 15      November 15  
 MAIL TO: Ryan Tomazin, 348 Station St., Apt. 7, Bridgeville, PA 15017      wwwarblers@hotmail.com

### <http://brooksbirdclub.org>

The dates for the 2014 BBC program may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the Web page or in *The Mail Bag*.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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