

ISSN: 0034-2165

The **REDSTART**

VOLUME 84, NUMBER 2

APRIL, 2017



PUBLISHED BY THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

2017 - The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Founded September 1932
Named in honor of A. B. Brooks, Naturalist

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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 or e-mailed to the editor. Printed on recycled paper. ISSN: 0034-2165

Editor's Note

Casey Rucker

In spite of trepidation at treading in the footsteps of giants, I am honored to assume the editorship of *The Redstart*. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the Brooks Bird Club and all who are interested in birds and ornithology in West Virginia.

This issue begins a new feature for our journal by our new eBird editor, Michael Slaven. It is entitled *eBird Reports and News*, and is intended to supplement our regular field notes with information culled from eBird, which is increasingly the repository of bird sightings in our state. I hope you will enjoy this addition to our quarterly offerings.

Many apologies to Thomas Fox, whose *Ferns and Fern Allies of the 2016 Camp Kidd Foray, Tucker County, West Virginia*, was omitted from our last issue due to my neglect. Please let me know if you spot errors or omissions in any of our articles, and we will happily publish corrections.

Please consider contributing to *The Redstart*. I am particularly eager for articles by those who have observed birds in a particular location for a number of years or decades, and who can help document the changes, in phenology, numbers of individuals and species, and habitats. In our Anthropocene era, these changes are especially worthy of documentation.

And please send me your comments and suggestions for our journal. I will do my best to uphold *The Redstart's* high standards in documenting birds and birding in the Mountain State.

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The 117th West Virginia Christmas Bird Count

Jane Whitaker

The 117th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count was held from December 14, 2016 through January 5, 2017. West Virginia birders were in the field starting with the Wheeling count December 14 and finishing with the Elkins count on January 3. Twenty-one counts were held over the above time period. Table 5 shows the count location, the number of species seen, total birds observed and the number of species seen. Although Buffalo Creek is reported in Pennsylvania much of its area is in the northern panhandle of West Virginia so it is included in the West Virginia count.

Weather conditions were typical of late December in the Mountain State. Temperatures ranged from the low teens to the mid-sixties with some rain and snow but with mostly cloudy to sunny skies.

Table 1 is the species list which has been updated to follow the 2016 checklist of the American Ornithological Society, which changed its name from the American Ornithologists' Union on October 11, 2016. It will take some adjustments on the casual birder's part as the order has changed dramatically for some species.

Table 2 lists the 20 most abundant species reported in descending order. Red-winged Blackbirds were abundant this year due to large counts in Hampshire, Parkersburg and Wheeling. Turkey Vultures and House Finches dropped out of the top 20.

In Table 3, species observed on one count only are listed as well as the count location. Table 4 shows the species observed on all counts. Due to the small number of observers on the Lewisburg, Oak Hill, and McDowell counts, I listed birds seen on all but one count as well. The count with the missing observation is listed in parentheses.

The weather has been our friend for the past three years so some trends and comparisons can be made between 2016 and the previous years. This is not always possible due to weather extremes in some years.

Waterfowl were plentiful with higher numbers of Canada Goose (#6,971 up to 9,608), Mallard (#1,843 up to 2,628) and Gadwall (#68 up to 123). Hooded Mergansers were down (#351 down to 262) as well as Common Mergansers (#196 down to 88).

Ruffed Grouse (#5 up to 12), Wild Turkey (# 551 up to 1003), and Mourning Dove (2,876 up to 3,791) showed increases. Good news for hunters!

Seven Sandhill Cranes were seen in Raleigh County and a Red-necked Grebe was spotted in Morgantown where a Spotted Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs were also seen.

Double-breasted Cormorants are increasing (#25 up to 69) and an ibis was observed on the Parkersburg count.

Vultures were plentiful but demonstrated interesting results. Black Vultures increased (#786 up to 1,172), while Turkey Vultures decreased markedly (#1,891 down to 979) and fell out of the top 20 observed -Table 2.

Hawk and eagle counts were good with an increase in Coopers Hawk (#36 up to 56) and Golden Eagle (#7 up to 13). Most owl numbers were down: Eastern Screech-Owl (#75 down to 40), Great Horned Owl (#21 down to 11), and Barred Owl (#29 down to 18).

Woodpecker numbers varied: Red-headed (#11 up to 20), Red-bellied (#944 down

to 684), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (#136 down to 61), Northern Flicker (#419 down to 266), and Pileated (#307 down to 265). Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were about the same as last year.

More Peregrine Falcons were observed (#4 up to 10). Eastern Phoebes were on the upswing as well (#18 up to 32). An increase was seen in Blue Jay (#1,469 up to 2,250).

Our winter flocking birds were all over the place. Horned Larks were up (#9 up to 110), Eastern Bluebirds down (1,828 down to 1,366), but Red-winged Blackbirds (#134 up to 1,466) placed in the top 20-Table 2. Common Grackles were more plentiful (#4 up to 307) as well as Brown-headed Cowbirds (#73 up to 234).

The warmer weather may be responsible for a late Gray Catbird in Morgantown, and fewer Purple Finches (#50 down to 17) and Pine Siskins (#602 down to 6). An occasional flock of Red Crossbills is sometimes seen, as was the case this year on the Pipestem Count. Red-breasted Nuthatches (#33 up to 75) were more than double from last year's count.

Sparrow counts were about the same as last year except Eastern Towhee (#547 down to 213) and American Tree Sparrow (#234 down to 169). Swamp Sparrows increased (#2 up to 30). There were also more Northern Cardinals (#2,446 up to 3,431) reported this year.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas Bird Count and particularly the compilers who submitted their data in a timely manner.

Table 1

Species List

Species	Totals by Species
ANATIDIAE	
Snow Goose	2
Ross's Goose	1
Cackling Goose*	1
Canada Goose	9,608
Mute Swan	9
Tundra Swan	92
Wood Duck	8
Gadwall	123
American Wigeon	12
American Black Duck	143
Mallard	2,628
Blue-winged Teal	1
Northern Shoveler*	7
Northern Pintail	1
American Green-winged Teal	31
Canvasback*	11
Redhead	75
Ring-necked Duck	72

Greater Scaup*	1
Lesser Scaup	27
Scaup spp.	1
Surf Scoter	4
Bufflehead	136
Common Goldeneye	6
Hooded Merganser	351
Common Merganser	196
Red-breasted Merganser	7
Ruddy Duck	108
Duck spp.	54
PHASIANIDAE	
Ring-necked Pheasant	5
Ruffed Grouse	12
Wild Turkey	1,003
PODICIPEDIDAE	
Pied-billed Grebe	88
Horned Grebe*	94
Red-necked Grebe*	1
COLUMBIDAE	
Rock Pigeon	4,537
Mourning Dove	3,791
RALLIDAE	
American Coot	68
GRUIDAE	
Sandhill Crane *	7
CHARADRIIDAE	
Killdeer	38
SCOLOPACIDAE	
Wilson's Snipe	5
Spotted Sandpiper*	1
Greater Yellowlegs*	1
LARIDAE	
Ring-billed Gull	434
Herring Gull	4
GAVIIDAE	
Common Loon	3
PHALACROCORACIDAE	
Double-crested Cormorant	69

ARDEIDAE	
Great Blue Heron	117
THRESKIORNITHIDAE	
Ibis sp.*	cw
CATHARTIDAE	
Black Vulture	1,172
Turkey Vulture	979
Vulture spp.	23
ACCIPITRIDAE	
Bald Eagle	78
Northern Harrier	29
Sharp-shinned Hawk	24
Cooper's Hawk	56
Red-shouldered Hawk	114
Red-tailed Hawk	424
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Golden Eagle	7
TYTONIDAE	
Barn Owl	1
STRIGIDAE	
Eastern Screech-Owl	40
Great Horned Owl	11
Barred Owl	18
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2
ALCEDINIDAE	
Belted Kingfisher	96
PICIDAE	
Red-headed Woodpecker	20
Red-bellied Woodpecker	684
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	61
Downy Woodpecker	845
Hairy Woodpecker	179
Northern Flicker	266
Pileated Woodpecker	265
FALCONIDAE	
American Kestrel	156
Merlin	3
Peregrine Falcon	10
TYRANNIDAE	
Eastern Phoebe	32

LANIIDAE	
Loggerhead Shrike	1
CORVIDAE	
Blue Jay	2,250
American Crow	63,399
Fish Crow	2
Common Raven	303
ALAUDIDAE	
Horned Lark	110
PARIDAE	
Carolina Chickadee	2,265
Black-capped Chickadee	769
Chickadee spp.	170
Tufted Titmouse	2,584
SITTIDAE	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	75
White-breasted Nuthatch	1,323
CERTHIIDAE	
Brown Creeper	70
TROGLODYTIDAE	
Winter Wren	48
Carolina Wren	1,175
REGULIDAE	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	405
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	25
Kinglet spp.	11
TURDIDAE	
Eastern Bluebird	1,366
Hermit Thrush	23
American Robin	591
MIMIDAE	
Gray Catbird*	1
Brown Thrasher	2
Northern Mockingbird	400
STURNIDAE	
European Starling	16,396
BOMBYCILLIDAE	
Cedar Waxwing	291

PASSERIDAE	
House Sparrow	2,691
FRINGILLIDAE	
House Finch	863
Purple Finch	17
Red Crossbill*	11
Pine Siskin	6
American Goldfinch	1,839
PARULIDAE	
Common Yellowthroat	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	126
EMBERIZIDAE	
Eastern Towhee	213
American Tree Sparrow	169
Chipping Sparrow	56
Field Sparrow	200
Savannah Sparrow	30
Fox Sparrow	30
Song Sparrow	1,645
Swamp Sparrow	81
White-throated Sparrow	1,311
White-crowned Sparrow	374
Dark-eyed Junco	4,976
CARDINALIDAE	
Northern Cardinal	3,431
ICTERIDAE	
Red-winged Blackbird	1,466
Eastern Meadowlark	46
Rusty Blackbird	6
Common Grackle	307
Brown-headed Cowbird	234
TOTAL	143,758

* denotes species not observed on the 2015 count

Table 2

Twenty Most Abundant Species in Descending Order

(numbering over 1,172 seen)

American Crow
European Starling
Canada Goose
American Robin
Dark-eyed Junco
Rock Pigeon
Chickadees (Carolina, Black-capped, spp.)
Mourning Dove
Northern Cardinal
House Sparrow
Mallard
Tufted Titmouse
Blue Jay
American Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Bluebird
White-breasted Nuthatch
White-throated Sparrow
Carolina Wren

Table 3

Species Observed on One Count Only

Species	Count Location
Ross's Goose	Ona
Greater Scaup	Morgantown
Surf Scoter	Raleigh
Long-tailed Duck	Morgantown
Ring-necked Pheasant	Buffalo Creek
Red-necked Grebe	Morgantown
Ibis sp.	Parkersburg
Sandhill Crane	Raleigh
Spotted Sandpiper	Morgantown
Greater Yellowlegs	Morgantown
Barn Owl	Moorefield
Fish Crow	Charles Town
Gray Catbird	Morgantown
Common Yellowthroat	Ona
Red Crossbill	Pipestem



Count week ibis species from the Parkersburg count. Photo by Dawn Hewitt

Table 4

Species Observed on All Counts

Mallard
Mourning Dove* (McDowell)
Red-shouldered Hawk* (Lewisburg)
Red-tailed Hawk* (Oak Hill)
Red-bellied Woodpecker* (Oak Hill)
Downy Woodpecker* (Oak Hill)
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped/Carolina Chickadees
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird* (Oak Hill)
European Starling
House Sparrow* (Oak Hill)
American Goldfinch* (Oak Hill)
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal

* denotes species found on all but one count, in parenthesis.

Table 5**Location of Participating Counts, Total Species, Number of Birds, and Observers**

Count Location	Species	Number	Obs.
Athens- Princeton, WV	49	2,135	10
Buffalo Creek, PA	66	7,939	28
Canaan, WV	57	1,696	19
Charleston, WV	66	2,850	33
Charles Town, WV	62	4,892	16
Elkins, WV	46	2,850	18
Hampshire County, WV	60	5,508	35
Huntington, WV	70	7,185	12
Inwood, WV	68	6,613	26
Lewisburg, WV	57	4,302	15
McDowell County, WV	33	559	4
Moorefield, WV	63	3,649	12
Morgantown, WV	91	4,815	23
Oak Hill, WV	24	137	3
Ona, WV	72	3,010	18
Parkersburg, WV	76	10,941	28
Pendleton, WV	62	4,913	8
Pipestem, WV	67	2,105	9
Pocahontas, WV	51	2,124	14
Raleigh County, WV	56	14,631	3
Wheeling, WV	70	51,098	26

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Valley Falls State Park Saw-whet Owl Banding Station – 2016

Joey Herron

The twelfth year of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) at Valley Falls State Park yielded 53 owls, the highest year for captures since this project began in 2005, replacing the 2007 total of 49.

Banding began on 10/15/2016 and ended on 12/05/2016. The total of fifty-three owls captured in 2016 was 86% above the 10 year average, including two foreign recaptures and a single red-morph Eastern Screech Owl.

The station operated on sixteen nights with the nets being opened for sixty-two hours. Ten of the nights yielded owls with a peak capture of twenty-six NSWO's captured on the night of November 6th, a one-night record eclipsing the previous one-night record of 17 in 2007.

The station had 120 visitors from six states, including students from the West Virginia University Wildlife Society and various groups and organizations from all over the state. Fortunately on three of the nights with visitors, owls were captured, with a single owl captured one night after everyone had left. A special thanks to Meghan Jensen, a graduate assistant at West Virginia University, who coordinated and ran an experimental project at Cooper's Rock State Forest for the third year. The station there only captured a couple of owls on a few nights of operation, giving some WVU wildlife students some experience with this tiny eastern owl.

Of the 53 captures, 23 were adults, 30 were hatch-year birds. Females again lead the way in captures in 2016 with 46, with 3 males and 4 unknowns. An owl caught on November 6th was an individual that was banded as a second year bird in 2013 in Pennsylvania.

After twelve years of banding a total of 359 NSWOs have been captured, including 30 foreign recaptures and one return. The breakdown shows a heavy advantage for females, 75% to 8% for males. The unknown category completes the last 17%. The adult-to-hatch-year ratio is almost even with 52% adult to 48% hatch-year individuals. The station has hosted over thirteen hundred visitors from ten states and the District of Columbia.

Again, I would like to thank Valley Falls State Park superintendent, Brett Harshbarger for the use of the park facilities and allowing visitors to experience the fall migration. Without Brett's support, this operation would not be possible.

12 year totals

Females	Males	Unknown	Hatch Year	After Hatch Year	Second Year
279	26	54	177	115	67

Banding Summary for 2016

Date	NSWO caught
10/15/16	0
10/22/16	2
10/23/16	1

Banding Summary for 2016

Date	NSWO caught
10/24/16	6
10/28/16	1
10/29/16	1
11/4/16	6 (1 foreign) (1 Eastern Screech-Owl)
11/5/16	5
11/6/16	26 (1 foreign) RECORD NIGHT
11/7/16	4
11/11/16	0
11/17/16	1
11/18/16	0
11/21/16	0
11/22/16	0
12/5/16	0
	<u>Total 53</u>

Age

After hatch year (AHY).....	10	
Second year (SY).....	13	43% (adults: AHY & SY)
Hatch year (HY).....	30	57%

Sex

Female – 46.....	88%
Male – 3.....	5%
Unknown – 4.....	7%

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Piping Plover in Gallipolis Ferry, WV

Gary O. Rankin

Although this fall wasn't a good season for shorebird sightings in our area, storms in early August offered the possibility that a few shorebirds might have stopped over at the Gallipolis Ferry "sand pit" in Mason County to avoid the weather. The sand pit has resulted from the Letart Corporation excavating sand and gravel from land between WV Route 2 and the Ohio River. The sand pit is actually a small reservoir that has hosted numerous ducks, geese, raptors and gulls at various times of the year, breeding Bank Swallows during spring and summer, and shorebirds primarily during migration. Viewing of the water and shoreline is only possible from a vantage point on Plymale Lane just after the last house on the right side of the road. So, on the afternoon of August 6, 2016, I headed to the sand pit with hopes of finding a few migrating shorebirds.

Shortly after beginning to scan a sand spit on the south bank with my spotting scope on 40x, I noticed a small shorebird moving quickly and then stopping only to move quickly again. The bird was much smaller than the Killdeer foraging on the sand spit but larger than a nearby Least Sandpiper. It had a pale gray back and wings, a pale gray breast band that didn't meet in the center of the breast and orange legs and feet (see photos). The bill appeared dark. I concluded that the bird was a Piping Plover transitioning to nonbreeding plumage. I was familiar with Piping Plover having seen them several times in six other states. After calling Mike Griffith and texting David Patick, I watched the plover until Mike arrived and confirmed my identification. While David was out of town, he drove home overnight and Mike and I returned to the sand pit with David the next morning. The plover was easily relocated in the same area where Mike Griffith and I had seen it the previous day. David Patick took a few photos through his scope and later in the morning, Derek Courtney arrived and also photographed the plover. The Piping Plover remained at the sand pit for thirteen days and was last reported on August 18, 2016. Over that time the Piping Plover was observed by many others.



Photo by Derek Courtney

Piping Plovers breed in mid-west Canada, the Dakotas, Nebraska and along the Great Lakes, and a second population breeds along the Atlantic coast from the northern part of South Carolina to Newfoundland. They migrate southward each fall to the Gulf of Mexico, the southern Atlantic coast and into the Caribbean. There are two subspecies of Piping Plover- *C. m. melodus* of the Atlantic coast and *C. m. circumcinctus* of the Great Plains and Great Lakes. The origin of the Piping Plover reported at Gallipolis Ferry is unclear but most likely originated from the population of *C. m. circumcinctus*.

The Gallipolis Ferry Piping Plover report is just the third recorded sighting of a Piping Plover in West Virginia. The first report was from Leetown, Jefferson County on April 14, 1940¹. The second report of a Piping Plover in West Virginia was on July, 26, 1985 when one was reported in South Charleston, Kanawha Co. Thus, a Piping Plover has not been reported in West Virginia in over 30 years, making it a rare bird indeed.

¹ J.L. Poland, *Redstart* 8:8892.

² J. Smith, *Redstart* 54: 54.

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Lavalette, WV 25535

Ferns and Fern Allies of the 2016 Camp Kidd Foray, Tucker County, West Virginia

Thomas R. Fox

There were no new ferns or fern allies located during the 2016 Camp Kidd Foray. See Fox and Fox (2002). All ferns and fern allies were found on past Forays held in Tucker County were relocated except for one, which was *Botrychium matricarifolium* (Daisy-leaved Grape Fern).

During the Foray Richard L. Diener and I relocated the *Isoetes* sp. (Quillwort), which was found by Gordon D. Vujevic during the 2006 Camp Kidd Foray (Vujevic 2007). It was not producing spores at the time we discovered it, so I returned in August 2016 and collected spores that enabled us to positively identify it as *Isoetes engelmanni* (Engelmann's Quillwort). *Isoetes engelmanni* was reported by Ann Pyle (1997) at a second location during the 1996 Foray. These plants were found in the Big Run Bog on Backbone Mt. We relocated this population again this year. I thank everyone who searched for and reported the ferns and fern allies they found.

Plant manuals used for our report were Gleason and Cronquist (2006) and Strausbaugh and Core (1977).

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eBird Reports and News

Michael Slaven

I am Mike Slaven, the Regional eBird reviewer for West Virginia. I am very pleased to be given the chance to add another component to the fine reporting and research done in *The Redstart*. In this and upcoming issues, I will report on some of the quarterly highlights in West Virginia birding that occur to me as I read the many eBird field reports that come in from around the state and nearby. There will be the occasional rarity, vagrant, or noteworthy field report along with other data that might otherwise go unreported in this journal. Cornell's eBird is extremely useful for taking a long-term look at trends that are changing the environment and furthering the science and the enjoyment of birding. It's fascinating to watch the reports come in over time.

This report covers September–November 2016, and contains some interesting birds and some trends that bear watching.

In September, a Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) was seen by at least twelve observers on eBird from September 4 to September 16. The Baird's Sandpiper is fairly common in the Midwest and the western portion of the US, with a fair number of sightings along the Atlantic flyway in September. The place where the Baird's is less common during its fall migration is essentially West Virginia and points directly to the north and south, probably because of the higher elevations and lack of foraging that the birds face here. But in 2016, there is a consistent pattern of sightings in September from North Carolina right into Pennsylvania, including Grant County, WV. A single bird was spotted there on Thorn Run Road, and proved to be an obligingly easy to observe bird for several eBirders.

October brought another interesting vagrant to the region. A Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was seen by multiple observers in Hardy County at a private residence on High Knob Road in October and November. The bird was tentatively identified only as a *Selasphorus* species, but was later determined to be a Rufous after slow-motion video was able to isolate the notched R2 tail feathers that are diagnostic of the species. Rufous Hummingbirds have shown an increasing tendency to stray into the eastern United States in the fall and early winter in recent years. Thanks to a very generous property owner, multiple observers were able to see this rare visitor.

Another now-expected visitor during the fall migration in September and early October is the Connecticut Warbler. Never here in great numbers or in widespread distribution, the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) is fairly dependable at Little Indian Creek in late September and early October. This is a species that eBird has helped to bring to the attention of birders statewide. Many birders have diligently searched for these short-term visitors for years without much luck, but eBird has helped to define the kind of habitat and refine the dates of arrival and departure for this warbler. This is a clear benefit to eBird reporting—your reports become part of an increasingly sophisticated database that you add to and from which you will benefit too. The conditions, habitat and dates of arrival could potentially help birders to find similar zones in which to find this species in more locations statewide.

If you have not used eBird before, or if you have not done so lately, here are a few suggestions that might help you get the most out of the platform.

Report *all* the birds you see. That includes introduced birds and exotics that are not on the ABA list. Why do this? It is because the distribution of these birds has its own effect on the ecosystems that they inhabit and is part of the avian populations that are tracked by eBird.

Be specific when you name the location for sightings. Lists that cover areas greater than five miles or only give the county are scientifically almost useless. If you are trying to protect a sensitive species from too much attention, or hoping to respect a property owner's privacy, simply wait to make your report until the bird has moved on or indicate to me that you want to make this report invisible to general users.

Try to avoid simply checking boxes with an "X" when you fill out your eBird reports. Please give a rough estimate of numbers of birds you have seen if at all possible. An "X" in the American Robin box is not anything out of the ordinary, but a number like 5000 American Robins would be really significant and be a useful part of the data. Sometimes you may receive a flag on your eBird report when you submit a list for a "high count," but do not be tempted to lower your number until the flag goes away. What happens is that when a report is flagged for a high count of a species, I check the filters for your region and adjust the limits if it is needed. Therefore, one of the best ways to improve the filters for the region in which you bird is to try to accurately give your counts.

Report all birds both seen and heard. Although eBird does not stipulate that you follow this practice, this gives a more accurate picture of the populations and diversity of species in the area you are birding.

To get started in eBird, simply go to <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> and follow the simple instructions to begin entering your lists. In the next issue, I plan to show you a couple of examples of how the data from eBird can help give a glimpse into the larger picture of our region's migration and distribution patterns. Until then, Happy birding!

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Book Review

Ryan Tomazin

Listening to a Continent Sing: Bird Song by Bicycle from the Atlantic to the Pacific by Donald Kroodsma. 2016. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 311 pages.

Donald Kroodsma's newest book, *Listening to a Continent Sing: Bird Song by Bicycle from the Atlantic to the Pacific*, adds to his library of impressive ornithological audio studies. This book documents a journey that the author and his son took from the Atlantic to Pacific coasts, recording the singing birds the entire way. The result is as much of an experience for the reader as it is a book. Throughout the pages, QR codes, which require a smart phone, allow the reader to access bird songs and calls of individuals as Kroodsma writes about them on the same page. This approach personalizes the birds in the text in a way not conveyed in similar books.

In addition to the highlighted bird, the author also recorded background bird songs, as well as other insect and mammalian calls, and all are listed in full on the accompanying website, <http://listeningtoacontinentsing.com>. All recordings are in chronological order, species order and state order, and are available as downloadable mp3 files, for those who prefer having the files on their computers.

Kroodsma's journey was inspired by two things: his desire to travel by bicycle with his son, and his decision as to whether he wants to continue to be a professor, or if he wants to become a full-time avian audio documentarian. The travels were taken over a decade ago, and it is obvious that the author chose the latter decision. Pre-dawn songsters, barking dogs and varying weather put the reader inside the story with ease, and Kroodsma's light-hearted writing style makes for a book that I would recommend to all.

Field Notes

Fall Season

September 1 – November 30, 2016

Casey Rucker

It was the third-warmest fall since records began in West Virginia, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. All three months averaged warmer than 20th-century mean temperatures, and September was the fourth-warmest on record. September and November were drier than average, and on September 27 more than 96 percent of the state was abnormally dry, according to the US Drought Monitor. October was damper than usual.

These notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, from field notes submitted to the author by e-mail, at autob-ock@frontiernet.net, and by 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 from 36 of the 55 West Virginia counties reported sightings during the fall season.

It was a quiet season for birding in West Virginia. There were no reports of review-list species in the state, but see below for reports of rare-but-regular species such as **Rufous Hummingbird**, **American Golden-Plover**, **Cattle Egret**, **Sedge Wren**, and **Lapland Longspur**. A low total of 204 species was reported in the state during the fall months.

Geese, Swans, Ducks – For the second year in a row, warm temperatures did not herald abundant **waterfowl** sightings in West Virginia this fall. On October 16 Gary Rankin watched two flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** migrating along the Ohio River by Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County. Terry Bronson saw what appeared to be twelve blue-morph **Snow Geese** flying in formation above Pedlar Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County, on October 9. On November 11, James Farley and Tom Masters saw an immature blue-morph **Snow Goose** in Martinsburg, Berkeley County. **Canada Geese** were as usual widespread throughout the state. There were only two reports of **Tundra Swans** this fall, both at Cheat Lake, Monongalia County: Derek Courtney saw eight on November 12, and Katie Fallon photographed a flock of approximately 36 on November 21, as reported by Terry Bronson.

West Virginia birders reported 21 species of **ducks**. There were reports in at least six counties each of **Wood Ducks**, **Gadwalls**, **American Black Ducks**, **Mallards**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, **Hooded Mergansers**, and **Ruddy Ducks** this fall. Reports of the following species came from fewer than six counties, as noted: **American Wigeons**: Fayette (SWi), Grant (FA), Nicholas (SWi), Preston (TB), and Summers (JP) Counties; **Blue-winged Teal**: Grant (FA), Marion (TB), Monongalia (TB), Summers (MAW, JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Northern Shovelers**: Grant (FA), Tucker (HMy), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Green-winged Teal**: Mason (DP, MG), Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), Putnam (CE, KK), and Summers (JP) Counties; **Canvasbacks**: Preston County (TB); **Redheads**: Mason (DP, MG), Nicholas (SWi), Putnam (BMi), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Greater Scaup**: Nicholas County (SWi); **Lesser Scaup**: Mason (GR, MG, DP), Monongalia (DCo, TB), and Nicholas (SWi) Counties; **Surf Scoter**: Grant County (FA); **Black Scoters**: Monongalia County (DCo); **Common Mergansers**:

Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Pendleton (HMy), and Summers (JP) Counties; and **Red-breasted Mergansers**: Nicholas County (SWi).

Grouse, Turkeys – Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** came only from Raleigh County (RC), Randolph County (DG), Summers County (JP), and Tucker County (CR). **Wild Turkeys** inspired reports from eight counties.

Grebes – **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared widely throughout the state, while birders found **Horned Grebes** in only in Cabell (JsH), Grant (FA), Monongalia (TB), Nicholas (SWi), and Pendleton (FA) Counties.

Pigeons and Doves – **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state.

Cuckoos – **Cuckoo** sightings were up in West Virginia this fall, likely associated with the cicada hatch in the summer. Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** came from Grant (FA), Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (HG), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), Tucker (CR), Wayne (BDe), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Hullet Good hosted a **Black-billed Cuckoo** on his property at Milliken, Kanawha County, on September 22. On September 30, James Phillips found a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Bluestone State Park, Summers County.

Goatsuckers and Swifts – **Common Nighthawks** appeared in reports from the following counties: Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (LC), Mercer (JJP), Monongalia (GN), Preston (TB), Putnam (CE, KK), Summers (JJP), and Taylor (EG). Cynthia Ellis reported on September 12 that she had counted 212 **Common Nighthawks** from her home in Red House, Putnam County, during the migration season. There were eight counties with reports of **Chimney Swifts**, with the last sighting on October 12, by Deborah Hale and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

Hummingbirds – Birders in sixteen counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, primarily in September. The last report was on October 16, when Ron Canterbury saw a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at Three Rivers Migration Observatory, Raleigh County. Diane Holsinger saw a **Rufous Hummingbird** at a residence near Moorefield, Hardy County, on October 12, and the bird remained at least through November 27 (SC, SWi, MJ). Matthew Orsie photographed a **Rufous Hummingbird** found the day before by Barry Marts in Inwood, Jefferson County, on October 20.

Rails and Coots – On October 29, Frederick Atwood spotted a **Virginia Rail** at South Mill Creek Lake, Grant County. Gary Rankin found a **Sora** at Green Bottom WMA, Cabell County, on October 16 and again, with Michael Griffith, seven days later. **American Coots** appeared in birders' reports from only seven counties.

Plovers – David Patick discovered an **American Golden-Plover** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on September 10, and the bird remained at least through September 24 (SWi, DP, MG). Frederick Atwood saw another **American Golden-Plover** at South Mill Creek Lake, Grant County, on October 9. **Semipalmated Plovers** appeared in Mason County (GR, SWi, DP, MG) and Taylor County (TB, JH). **Killdeer** were well-represented with reports from fifteen counties.

Sandpipers – **Sandpiper** reports were once again relatively few this fall, as West Virginia birders reported members of only fourteen species. On September 30, Michael Griffith found a juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. Reports of the following **shorebirds** came from the counties listed: **Sanderling**: Mason (SWi, DP, MG, GR) and Taylor (TB, JH); **Dunlin**: Mason (GR,

MG) and Taylor (JH); **Baird's Sandpiper**: Grant (FA, JBo, SWi, RBo); **Least Sandpipers**: Cabell (MG), Greenbrier (DP), Mason (GR, DP), and Taylor (TB, JH); **Pectoral Sandpipers**: Cabell (MG) and Grant (FA); **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: Mason (GR); **Wilson's Snipe**: Cabell (MG, DP), Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), and Tucker (RBo); **American Woodcock**: Wood (KCa); **Spotted Sandpipers**: Grant (FA), Mason (SWi, DP, MG, GR), Monongalia (TB), Summers (JP), Taylor (TB), and Tucker (HMy); **Solitary Sandpipers**: Barbour (TB), Grant (FA), Greenbrier (DP), Hardy (FA), Lewis (TB), Mason (GR, DP, MG), and Preston (TB); **Greater Yellowlegs**: Mason (GR), Summers (JP), and Taylor (TB, JH); **Willet**: Mason (BMi) and Nicholas (SWi); and **Lesser Yellowlegs**: Cabell (MG, GR), Grant (FA), and Mason (GR, MG).

Gulls and Terns – Once again it was a slow season for inland **seabirds**, which were mostly observed in small numbers. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were sighted in Jefferson (DHa), Monongalia (TB), and Nicholas (SWi) Counties; reports of **Ring-billed Gulls** came from Kanawha (RG), Monongalia (TB), Nicholas (SWi), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB, DD) Counties; and **Herring Gulls** were reported in Mason (GR, MG DP), Monongalia (DCo), Nicholas (SWi), Taylor (JH), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB) Counties. On September 10, John Boback watched two **Black Terns** feeding at Tygart Lake State Park, Taylor County. Steven Wilson found a single **Forster's Tern** at Summersville Lake, Nicholas County on October 11.

Loons – There were reports of **Common Loons** from only three counties this warm fall: Mason (MG), Monongalia (DCo), and Nicholas (SWi).

Cormorants – Reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** came from ten counties.

Hérons and Egrets – **Great Blue Herons**, **Great Egrets**, and **Green Herons** appeared throughout much of West Virginia this fall. William Mills spotted an adult **Little Blue Heron** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on September 4. On October 31, David Daniels found a **Cattle Egret** near Reedsville, Preston County, as reported by Terry Bronson.

Vultures – Reports of **Black Vultures** came from nine counties, while seventeen counties had reports of **Turkey Vultures**.

Hawks and Eagles – It was a good fall for raptor reports. **Osprey**, **Bald Eagles**, **Northern Harriers**, **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, **Cooper's Hawks**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, and **Red-tailed Hawks** were all well-represented in reports throughout the state during the fall season. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** visited the feeders of Bruni Haydl during the month of October in Charles Town, Jefferson County, as she reported on October 23. Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory (HRRO) watchers in Monroe County recorded 4,783 **raptors** this season. Highlights included a record-high count of 635 **Red-Tailed Hawks**. Matthew Orsie tallied 1,129 **Broad-winged Hawks** flying over Cacapon State Park, Morgan County, on September 16. **Broad-winged Hawks** also appeared in Jefferson County (WS, DHa), Kanawha County (BMi), Marion County (TB), Mercer County (JP), Monroe County (JP), Randolph County (RBi), and Tucker County (FA). A **Golden Eagle** was a life bird for Richard Gregg, thanks to Brian Hirt at HRRO, Monroe County, on October 20. Three days later a **Golden Eagle** was a new yard bird for Paul Saffold in Inwood, Berkeley County, and a life bird for Theresa Saffold. **Golden Eagles** also made appearances in Greenbrier (BWi), Mercer (JP), Randolph (CR), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (CR) Counties.

Owls – Birders in ten counties reported **Eastern Screech-Owls**: Berkeley (PS),

Grant (FA), Jefferson (JBz), Pendleton (FA), Pocahontas (DP), Raleigh (RC), Randolph (HMy), Summers (JJP), Taylor (LC), and Wayne (GR); there were reports of **Great Horned Owls** in seven counties: Berkeley (PS), Jefferson (WS, JBz), Ohio (PM), Randolph (RBI), Summers (JJP), Wayne (GR), and Wetzel (WJ); and observers reported **Barred Owls** in four counties: Grant (FA), Kanawha (LC), Randolph (HMy), and Tucker (TB). On October 14, Joette Borzik listened to a **Great Horned Owl** duet in her yard in Jefferson County, her first time for multiple yard **Great Horned Owls**. The author of these notes listened to a **Long-eared Owl** calling on a quiet October 17 evening outside his house in Dry Fork, Tucker County.

Kingfishers – There were reports of **Belted Kingfisher** in thirteen counties.

Woodpeckers – Wilma Jarrell hosted a juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** in her yard in Wileyville, Wetzel County, on September 9 and 10. West Virginia birders reported sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in six other counties: Grant (FA), Jefferson (JBz, DHa), Monroe (JP), Putnam (CE), Roane (DG), and Tucker (FA). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers** were all widely reported.

Falcons – It was another good fall for **falcons** in West Virginia. **American Kestrels** continued to appear widely throughout the state. **Merlins** made many appearances, with reports from Hardy County (DH), Kanawha County (LC, GR), Mercer County (JP), Monongalia County (TB), Monroe County (JP), Randolph County (TB), Summers County (MAW), Tucker County (CR), and Wetzel County (WJ). There were reports of **Peregrine Falcons** from eight counties: Kanawha (RG), Mason (GR), Monroe (JP), Ohio (PM), Pleasants (TB, DD), Raleigh (DB), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ).

Flycatchers – It was a scanty fall season for **flycatchers** in West Virginia. James Phillips spotted an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Hanging Rock Tower, Monroe County, on September 6; five days later Terry Bronson, David Daniels, and Michael Slaven saw an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County. On October 18 Randy Bodkins discovered an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Barbour County. Reports of **Eastern Wood-Pewees** came from nine counties, with the latest report coming on October 11 from Carol Del-Colle, who watched an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** hawk insects in her yard in Summit Point, Jefferson County. David Patick spotted one **Acadian Flycatcher** on a Mason County ridge on September 10. **Eastern Phoebes** were reported widely in the state. Fred Atwood spotted a **Great Crested Flycatcher** on Hogueland Lane in Grant County, on September 4. **Eastern Kingbirds** appeared in early-September reports from Jefferson (JBz) and Pocahontas (DP) Counties.

Shrikes – The only report of a **Loggerhead Shrike** during the fall was a single individual observed by James and Judy Phillips near Sinks Grove, Monroe County, on September 11.

Vireos – **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, and Red-eyed Vireos** appeared in counties throughout the state during September and early October, with **Blue-headed Vireos** continuing through October 24 (JBz). Reporting birders observed **Philadelphia Vireos** in Berkeley (PS), Cabell (DP, MG, GR), Mason (GR, MG), Preston (TB), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; and **Warbling Vireos** were reported in Grant (FA), Jefferson (JBz), Preston (TB), and Summers (JP) Counties.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens – **Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens**

prompted many reports throughout West Virginia. **Fish Crows** inspired reports from Grant (FA) and Jefferson (DH_a, JBz) Counties during the fall.

Larks – Horned Larks appeared this fall only in reports from Grant (FA) and Jefferson (DH_a) Counties.

Swallows – Tree Swallows lingered in eight counties as late as October 23, when Gary Rankin and Michael Griffith saw more than 50 **Tree Swallows** at Green Bottom WMA, Cabell County. On September 3, Frederick Atwood saw 25 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** near Petersburg, Grant County. **Cliff Swallows** appeared in Grant (FA), Kanawha (HG), and Tucker (FA) Counties. **Barn Swallows** appeared in seven counties, mostly in early September.

Chickadees and Titmice – Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees made their usual appearances in their bifurcated territories in West Virginia. **Tufted Titmice** were widely reported throughout the state as well.

Nuthatches – Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared widely throughout West Virginia, with reports from twelve counties. Herb Myers hosted a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** for the first time since 2004 at his feeders in Harman, Randolph County, on September 30. **White-breasted Nuthatches** occupied their usual spots in reports from throughout the state.

Creepers – Reports of **Brown Creeper** came from thirteen counties throughout the state.

Wrens – House Wren reports were scattered through September in Marion (TB), Monongalia (TB), Pendleton (FA), Pleasants (JB), and Pocahontas (DP) Counties, and there was a late sighting on October 30 by Gary Rankin and Michael Griffith at Green Bottom WMA, Cabell County. **Winter Wrens** were widespread this fall, inspiring reports from thirteen counties. **Marsh Wren** reports came from Barbour (TB), Cabell (MG, DP, GR), and Mason (GR) Counties. **Carolina Wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from throughout of the state.

Gnatcatchers – Birders in Grant (FA), Jefferson (DH_a), Mason (GR, MG), Pendleton (FA), Pocahontas (DP), and Tucker (FA) Counties reported **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, all during September.

Kinglets – Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets inspired reports throughout the state this fall.

Thrushes – It was an average fall for **thrushes** in West Virginia. **Eastern Bluebirds, Swainson's Thrushes, Wood Thrushes,** and **American Robins** were all seen widely in reporting counties. Reports of **Veery** came from Grant (FA), Kanawha (LC), Monongalia (LS), and Summers (JP) Counties. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** appeared in Jefferson (JBz), Kanawha (RG), Mason (DP, MG), Monongalia (TB), Summers (JJP), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (GR) Counties, and **Hermit Thrushes** occasioned reports in Grant (FA), Hardy (FA), Jefferson (CD), Kanawha (LC), Pendleton (FA), Pocahontas (DP), Summers (JP), and Tucker (FA) Counties. Jon Benedetti and the Mountwood Bird Club found **Swainson's** and **Wood Thrushes** at McDonough Wildlife Refuge, Wood County, on September 29.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers – There were reports of **Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers,** and **Northern Mockingbirds** from counties throughout the state this fall.

Starlings – Despite reports from only eight counties, **European Starlings** no doubt continued to occupy widespread habitats throughout West Virginia. N. Wade Snyder

watched a spectacular murmuration of approximately 2,000 **European Starlings** coming to roost in Ranson, Jefferson County, on September 19.

Waxwings – Cedar Waxwings prompted reports from 22 counties throughout the state. John Snyder hosted a small flock of **Cedar Waxwings** at his home in Nicholas County on September 9, the first he had seen in a long time.

Weaver Finches – The House Sparrow prompted reports from only five counties this fall. In spite of this lack of attention, the species no doubt continues throughout the state, primarily in urban and agricultural settings.

Pipits – American Pipits appeared only in reports from Grant (FA), Jefferson (DHa), and Lewis (SWi) Counties this fall.

Finches and Allies – House Finches, Purple Finches, and American Goldfinches inspired widespread reports in West Virginia this fall. James Phillips discovered at least seven **Red Crossbills** at Pipestem State Park, Summer County, on November 2, and he reported that Carl and Sherry Chapman saw thirteen **Red Crossbills** at the same location on November 25. Reports of **Pine Siskins** were sparse in the state, coming only from Grant (FA), Jefferson (BH), Kanawha (FA), and Tucker (CR) Counties.

Warblers – Birders in West Virginia found 31 **warbler** species this fall, and reports were once again more numerous than last year. **Warbler** species reported in six or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. Species listed without contributors were reported in at least seven counties. **Warblers** reported this fall included **Ovenbird** – Mason (GR, MG, DP), Monongalia (TB), Pendleton (FA), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Northern Waterthrush** – Summers County (JP); **Golden-winged** – Mason County (DP, MG, GR); **Blue-winged** – Cabell (DP, MG, GR), Mason (GR, MG), and Tucker (FA) Counties; **Black-and-white; Tennessee; Orange-crowned** – Berkeley (PS) and Monongalia (SWi, TB, DCo) Counties; **Nashville; Connecticut** – Monongalia County (DCo, JBo, TB); **Kentucky** – Pocahontas County (DP); **Common Yellowthroat; Hooded:** Cabell (DP, MG), Kanawha (HG), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (TB), Preston (TB), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **American Redstart; Cape May; Cerulean:** Mason County (MG), **Northern Parula:** Berkeley (PS), Cabell (DP, MG), Jefferson (DHa), Monongalia (DCo), Pleasants (TB, DD), and Pocahontas (DP) Counties; **Magnolia; Bay-breasted; Blackburnian; Yellow** – Berkeley County (PS); **Chestnut-sided:** Hardy (DH, KKi), Jefferson (DHa), Mason (DP, GR, MG), Monongalia (TB), and Pocahontas (DP) Counties; **Blackpoll; Black-throated Blue; Palm; Pine; Yellow-rumped; Yellow-throated; Prairie:** Berkeley (PS), Grant (FA), Mason (GR, MG, DP), Monongalia (DCo, TB, HMy), and Pendleton (FA) Counties; **Black-throated Green; Canada** – Berkeley (PS) and Mason (GR) Counties; and **Wilson's** – Kanawha (HG) and Monongalia (TB, SWi) Counties. For the fifth consecutive autumn Derek Courtney found multiple **Connecticut Warblers** at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County, as he reported on September 17 and 25. Deborah Hale saw a late **Northern Parula** in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, on November 3.

Towhees, Sparrows, and Juncos – For the fifth year in a row, **Nelson's Sparrow** was West Virginia's **emberizid** of the fall season, this time at Ashton Wetlands, Mason County, where Michael Griffith found one on November 6. The most-frequent **emberizid** species in reports this fall were **Eastern Towhee** and **Chipping, Field, Song, Lincoln's, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows**, as well as **Dark-eyed**

Juncos. The following were reported only as listed: **Vesper** in Wetzel County (WJ); **Savannah** in Grant (FA), Hardy (DH, KKi), Jefferson (DHa), Mason (DP, MG, GR), Preston (TB), and Tucker (TB) Counties; and **Fox** in Cabell (GR), Jefferson (LW), Randolph (HMy), Tucker (MK), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings – Summer Tanagers only appeared in reports from Kanawha (HG) and Mason (GR, MG) Counties. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings** prompted reports from birders in most parts of the state. Frederick Atwood found two **Blue Grosbeaks** on Hogueland Lane in Grant County on September 4, and seven days later, David Patick, Michael Griffith, and Gary Rankin saw two **Blue Grosbeaks** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County.

Blackbirds – Frederick Atwood saw the only **Bobolinks** reported this season, on September 4 near Moorefield, Hardy County, and on October 9 in Grant County. West Virginia birders reported many sightings of **Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, Rusty Blackbirds, and Common Grackles.** Deborah Hale watched clouds of **Common Grackles** numbering in the hundreds at Cool Springs, Jefferson County, on November 2. On October 27, Ross Brittain and his ornithology class found **Red-winged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, and Brown-headed Cowbirds** at Pleasant Creek WMA, Barbour County. Other **Brown-headed Cowbird** reports came only from Jefferson County (DHa, BH, LW) and Preston County (TB). Laura Ceperley, Martha Hopper, Andrea Dalton, Elaine George, and Luanne Bowers watched several **Baltimore Orioles** at Tygart Lake State Park, Taylor County, on September 8. **Baltimore Orioles** also appeared in reports from Jefferson (DHa), Mason (GR, MG), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Contributors to the Fall Field Notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (RBi), John Boback (JBo), Randy Bodkins (RBo), Joette Borzik (JBz), Terry Bronson (TB), Doren Burrell (DB), Kevin Campbell (KCa), Ron Canterbury (RC), Laura Ceperley (LC), Sam Chapman (SC), Derek Courtney (DCo), David Daniels (DD), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Beverly Delidow (BDe), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Elaine George (EG), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Deborah Hale (DHa), Bruni Haydl (BH), Joseph Hildreth (JH), Joshua Holland (JsH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Mark Johnson (MJ), Kim Kazmierski (KK), Mimi Kibler (MK), Kathy King (KKi), Paul McKay (PM), William Mills (BMi), Herb Myers (HMy), Gretchen Nareff (GN), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), Paul Saffold (PS), Larry Schwab (LS), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Mindy and Allan Waldron (MAW), Barry Williams (BWi), Steven Wilson (SWi), and Lynn Wiseman (LW).

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2017 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
January	BBC Membership Month	Wheeling, WV
February	Write an article for the Mail Bag or The Redstart	mail to editors
February 1-3	Trip to Killdeer Plains (Contact Gene Hilton)	
March 3-5	Early Spring Meeting (Contact Dick Esker)	North Bend State Park Harrisville, WV
March 9-10	Funk/Killbuck Marsh (overnight trip — contact Dick Esker)	
March 11	Waterfowl Field Trip (day trip) (Contact Carl Slater)	Seneca Lake, OH
April 22	Three Rivers Bird Club (day trip)	Raccoon Creek State Park, PA (Contact Ryan Tomazin)
May 4-7	Wildflower Pilgrimage, Blackwater Falls State Park	Davis, WV
May 13	International Migratory Bird Day/ N. American Migration Count	local chapters
June 9-17	Foray - 2017 Lost River Retreat Center, Hardy County	Lost City, WV (contact Janice Emrick or Ryan Tomazin)
August-October	Bird Banding	Dolly Sods, WV
October 20-22	BBC 85th Anniv./Annual Meeting	Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV
November 8-12	Eastern Shore (Contact Carl Slater)	
Dec. 14-Jan. 5, '18	Christmas Bird Counts	local chapters

BBC FORAYS (dates and places tentative)

2017 Lost River Retreat Center, Hardy County Lost City, WV June 9-17, 2017
 2018 Thornwood 4-H Camp, Pocahontas County Thornwood, WV TBD

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Winter: March 15 Spring: June 15 Summer: September 15 Fall: December 15
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The dates for the 2017 BBC program may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the web page or in The Mail Bag.

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