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The REDSTART

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JANUARY - APRIL - JULY, 2024



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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF WEST VIRGINIA

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

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JANUARY - APRIL - JULY, 2024

Contents	Page
JANUARY	
The 2023 Foray, Camp Horseshoe, Tucker County, West Virginia	
The Bird List, 2023 Foray, Tucker County, West Virginia.....	3
—Cynthia Slater	
Singing Male Census, 2023 Foray, Tucker County, West Virginia.....	8
—Martin G. Tingley	
The 2023 Foray Breeding Bird Surveys, Tucker County, West Virginia.....	10
—Ryan Tomazin	
Reptiles and Amphibians, 2023 Foray, Tucker County, West Virginia.....	16
— Martin G. Tingley	
Mammals of the 2023 Foray, Tucker County, West Virginia.....	17
— Don Creamer	
Lepidoptera of the 2023 Foray, Tucker County, West Virginia.....	18
— Ryan Tomazin	
Foray Participants	26
Field Notes Summer Season.....	27
—Casey Rucker	
APRIL	
Banding at Pickett’s Fort State Park, Marion County, West Virginia:	
Spring and Fall Migration 2023	32
—Joey Herron	
Valley Falls State Park Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Station, Marion County, West Virginia 2023.....	36
—Joey Herron	
Twenty-eighth Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee, March 2023	39
—Gary O. Rankin	

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Contents	Page
Field Notes Fall Season.....	40
—Casey Rucker	
Index for Volume 90	47
 JULY	
Southern West Virginia Eagle Surveys, 2015–2023	50
— James Phillips	
American Ornithological Society Taxonomic Changes 2024.....	53
Field Notes Winter Season	55
—Casey Rucker	

The Bird List, 2023 Foray, Tucker County, West Virginia

Cynthia M. Slater

The 2023 Foray was held at Camp Horseshoe, Parsons, West Virginia. This was the first Tucker County BBC Foray to be held at Camp Horseshoe. Past Forays held in Tucker County were at Camp Kidd 4H camp. The 2023 Foray was held from June 2 through June 10. The camp was beautiful, area was gorgeous, weather was perfect. Camp Horseshoe has a mountain setting along Horseshoe Run. It is located approximately seven miles north of St George. Camp Horseshoe was constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Foray birders found 121 bird species. Breeding records for the 2023 Foray are placed in italics in the list below, and abundance terms used in the bird list are as follows:

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

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

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

Rare—Only one or two seen in the entire study region during the study period.

Canada Goose — Common.

Wood Duck — Uncommon.

Mallard — Uncommon.

Common Merganser — Common. Seen on the Cheat River, all-day float. *Female with chicks.*

Wild Turkey — Common.

Ruffed Grouse — Rare. Only 2 were found, one alive and one dead.

Rock Pigeon — Common.

Mourning Dove — Common.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo — Uncommon.

Black-billed Cuckoo — Uncommon.

Eastern Whip-poor-will — Uncommon.

Chimney Swift — Uncommon.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird — Uncommon.

Killdeer — Uncommon.

American Woodcock — Rare.

Green Heron — Uncommon.

Great Blue Heron — Rare.

Black Vulture — Rare.

Turkey Vulture — Common.

Cooper's Hawk — Uncommon.

Northern Goshawk — Rare. Janice Emrick, Tom Fox, Sara Creamer, and Mary Murin found on Rt 9.

Bald Eagle — Uncommon. Seen on the Cheat River, all-day float trip.

Red-shouldered Hawk — Common.

Broad-winged Hawk — Uncommon.

Red-tailed Hawk — Uncommon.

Eastern Screech-Owl — Uncommon.

Barred Owl — Uncommon. Martin Tingley had on his early morning study plot on Mozark Mountain.

Belted Kingfisher — Uncommon. Seen on Cheat River all-day float.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — Common.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — Common.

Downy Woodpecker — Common.

Hairy Woodpecker — Uncommon.

Northern Flicker — Common.

Pileated Woodpecker — Common.

American Kestrel — Uncommon.

Merlin — Uncommon.

Great Crested Flycatcher — Common.

Eastern Kingbird — Common.

Eastern Wood-Pewee — Common.

Acadian Flycatcher — Common.

Alder Flycatcher — Common.

Willow Flycatcher — Uncommon.

Least Flycatcher — Common.

Eastern Phoebe — Common.

White-eyed Vireo — Rare. Juanita and Cindy Slater saw at Fernow Experimental Forest Office parking lot in Parsons.

Yellow-throated Vireo — Uncommon.

Blue-headed Vireo — Common.

Warbling Vireo — Rare.

Red-eyed Vireo — Very common.

Blue Jay — Common.

American Crow — Very common.

Common Raven — Common.

Black-capped Chickadee — Common.

Tufted Titmouse — Common.

Tree Swallow — Uncommon.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow — Uncommon.

Barn Swallow — Uncommon.

Golden-crowned Kinglet — Uncommon.

Cedar Waxwing — Common.

Red-breasted Nuthatch — Uncommon.

White-breasted Nuthatch — Uncommon.

Brown Creeper — Uncommon. *A nest was found at Camp Horseshoe and activity was seen by campers on several occasions.*

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher — Uncommon.

Northern House Wren — Very Common.

Winter Wren — Uncommon.

Carolina Wren — Uncommon.

Gray Catbird — Common.

Brown Thrasher — Common.

Northern Mockingbird — Common.

European Starling — Very common.

Eastern Bluebird — Common.

Veery — Uncommon.

Hermit Thrush — Uncommon.
Wood Thrush — Uncommon.
American Robin — Very Common.
House Sparrow — Uncommon.
House Finch — Uncommon.
Purple Finch — Uncommon.
Red Crossbill — Rare. Orion Metheny, & Ryan Tomazin saw at Big Run Bog.
American Goldfinch — Common.
Grasshopper Sparrow — Common.
Chipping Sparrow — Common.
Field Sparrow — Common.
Dark-eyed Junco — Common.
Savannah Sparrow — Uncommon.
Song Sparrow — Very common.
Swamp Sparrow — Common.
Eastern Towhee — Common.
Yellow-breasted Chat — Rare.
Bobolink — Uncommon.
Eastern Meadowlark — Uncommon.
Orchard Oriole — Rare.
Baltimore Oriole — Common.
Red-winged Blackbird — Very common.
Brown-headed Cowbird — Uncommon.
Common Grackle — Common.
Ovenbird — Common.
Worm-eating Warbler — Common.
Louisiana Waterthrush — Common.
Northern Waterthrush — Common.
Blue-winged Warbler — Rare.

Black-and-white Warbler — Common.

Mourning Warbler — Rare. Ryan Tomazin, Fernow afternoon trip, only two spotted.

Common Yellowthroat — Common.

Hooded Warbler — Common.

American Redstart — Very Common.

Cerulean Warbler — Very Common.

Northern Parula Warbler — Very Common.

Magnolia Warbler — Very Common.

Blackburnian Warbler — Very Common.

Yellow Warbler — Common.

Chestnut-sided Warbler — Common.

Black-throated Blue Warbler — Common.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — Rare.

Yellow-throated Warbler — Common.

Black-throated Green Warbler — Common.

Canada Warbler — Rare. Patty Hogan and Kelly Schetselaar saw while folks were laying out a second study plot on Mozark Mountain that never got used.

Scarlet Tanager — Common.

Northern Cardinal — Common.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak — Common.

Indigo Bunting — Common.

Thanks to Janice Emrick for the only regular bird comments, and to the Foray campers who took the time to tell me their sightings at the night tally of the bird list. There were no observations written in the bird comment book during the entire stay at Foray.

125 North Center Street
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Singing Male Census, 2023 Foray Tucker County, West Virginia

Martin Tingley

The Mozark Mountain plot was surveyed for singing male territories again in 2023; however, due to a shortage of experienced leaders, there was a survey in only one 15-acre plot of the original 60 acres. The Mozark Mountain plot was established in 1991 and repeated in 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016. See Buckelew (2012, 2017), Eddy (1997, 2002, 2007) and Johnson (1992). A comparison of the 2023 census results with the six previous studies on this plot can be seen in Table 1. Although interesting, the comparison of 2023 data is just one plot and the data from 2016 may not be valid, since the 2023 was one plot and 2016 census covered only half of the plot surveyed in past studies on Mozark Mountain. The 2013 census ran the same plot twice.

MOZARK MOUNTAIN (Yellow Birch-Black Cherry-Red Maple)—Location: West Virginia; Tucker County; 8 miles NE of Parsons on Backbone Mountain; SE corner is 39° 06' 34" N, 79° 35' 45" W. Mozark Mountain Quadrangle, USGS, the south edge extends N 10° E. Continuity: Established 1991; Size 12.14 ha. = 30 acres (rectangular, 220 x 660 yards). Description of Plot: See *Redstart* 59:22–24. Coverage: June 14 to June 19, 2024. All trips between 05:35 and 07:35am hours EDT. Total party hours: 21.

Census: Ovenbird, 9 (74, 30); Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4 (33, 13); Hermit Thrush, 3 (25, 10); Canada Warbler, 2 (16, 7); Dark-eyed Junco, 2; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Eastern Towhee, 1; Blue-headed Vireo +; Red-eyed Vireo, +; Black-capped Chickadee, +; Winter Wren, +; American Robin, +; Scarlet Tanager, +; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, +; Hairy Woodpecker, +; Blue Jay, +; Red-breasted Nuthatch, +; Brown Creeper, +; Veery, +. Total: 19 species; 22 territorial males (139/sq. km., 112/100 acres). Remarks: The plot was run by Martin Tingley, Scott Emrick. The plot was run twice a day with a 10-minute delay between starting times. The third plot going in was the only plot run this year, since the excessive growth of rhododendron prevented surveying the other study plots. The weather was overcast with a temperature range from the mid-40s to the mid-50s°F. Census participants: Scott Emrick, Lee Miller, Cindy Slater, Martin Tingley (compiler), Bryan Tolka, Sally Tolka, Shepard Tolka, and Theo Tolka.

Table 1
Mozark Mountain
Males with More Than Three Territories per 100 Acres

Species	year						
	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2023
Red-eyed Vireo	35	16	22	18	12	7	—
Black-throated Green Warbler	17	8	29	15	12	13	7
Ovenbird	10	19	14	12	13	30	54
Dark-eyed Junco	10	9	17	18	12	7	12
Black-throated Blue Warbler	8	7	6	7.5	12	10	24
Veery	5	¾	7	10	¾	10	—
Hermit Thrush	5	5	9	13	5	—	—
Blue-headed Vireo	5	6	6	6	7	7	—
Canada Warbler	5	9	5	15	7	10	12
Magnolia Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	7	
Total Species	25	23	28	28	28	24	19
Total Territories/100 acres	122	87	122	125	102	112	109

Table 1: figures for year 2023 were multiplied by six to take 15 acre plot to 100 acres and round to a whole number.

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204 Barnard Ave
Elkins, WV 26421

The 2023 Foray Breeding Bird Surveys Tucker County, West Virginia

Ryan Tomazin

During the 2023 Foray, eight Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes were run by three teams, centered at Camp Horseshoe, Tucker County, West Virginia. Each route has 20 stops, with each team starting approximately one-half hour before sunrise; a new route was taken each day stopping every half-mile to record all birds heard or observed for a 3-minute period.

Table 1 gives the number of each species recorded on the Breeding Bird Survey routes and the number of stops where each was found.

Table 1
Birds Recorded by Species

Species	Total Individuals	Stops Present
Canada Goose	1	1
Mallard	1	1
Common Merganser	6	4
Wild Turkey	9	5
Mourning Dove	52	40
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9	9
Chimney Swift	1	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	4
Killdeer	5	4
Cooper's Hawk	1	1
Bald Eagle	1	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1
Barred Owl	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	3	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	25	21
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	30	26
Downy Woodpecker	4	4
Hairy Woodpecker	3	3
Pileated Woodpecker	12	11
Northern Flicker	4	3
American Kestrel	1	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	27	26
Acadian Flycatcher	33	24
Alder Flycatcher	14	5
Willow Flycatcher	4	2
Least Flycatcher	6	5
Eastern Phoebe	30	28
Great Crested Flycatcher	3	3

Species	Total Individuals	Stops Present	
Eastern Kingbird	1	1	
Yellow-throated Vireo	6	6	
Blue-headed Vireo	28	21	
Warbling Vireo	1	1	
Red-eyed Vireo	202	105	
Blue Jay	10	8	
American Crow	91	56	
Common Raven	14	11	
Black-capped Chickadee	20	17	
Tufted Titmouse	31	31	
Tree Swallow	3	3	
Barn Swallow	20	7	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	4	
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	7	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	3	
Brown Creeper	2	1	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7	7	
Northern House Wren	23	22	
Winter Wren	10	10	
Carolina Wren	15	14	
European Starling	115	16	
Gray Catbird	44	35	
Brown Thrasher	13	12	
Eastern Bluebird	4	4	
Veery	31	23	
Hermit Thrush	18	15	
Wood Thrush	53	38	
American Robin	156	76	
Cedar Waxwing	45	17	
House Sparrow	1	1	
Purple Finch	1	1	
American Goldfinch	18	14	
Chipping Sparrow	62	43	
Field Sparrow	17	14	+1
Dark-eyed Junco	29	19	
Savannah Sparrow	5	3	
Song Sparrow	95	65	
Swamp Sparrow	2	2	
Eastern Towhee	57	44	
Bobolink	9	5	
Eastern Meadowlark	9	9	
Orchard Oriole	1	1	
Baltimore Oriole	7	6	
Red-winged Blackbird	89	30	
Brown-headed Cowbird	24	14	

Species	Total Individuals	Stops Present
Common Grackle	15	4
Ovenbird	31	22
Worm-eating Warbler	2	2
Louisiana Waterthrush	19	17
Blue-winged Warbler	1	1
Black-and-white Warbler	35	34
Mourning Warbler	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	48	38
Hooded Warbler	33	30
American Redstart	66	45
Cerulean Warbler	4	3
Northern Parula	18	18
Magnolia Warbler	8	8
Blackburnian Warbler	10	9
Yellow Warbler	11	11
Chestnut-sided Warbler	22	19
Black-throated Blue Warbler	11	9
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	2
Yellow-throated Warbler	13	13
Black-throated Green Warbler	39	31
Canada Warbler	7	6
Scarlet Tanager	26	24
Northern Cardinal	39	35
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	12	10
Indigo Bunting	64	48
Total	101 species	

Birds Recorded on the BBS at Seven Tucker County Forays

6/14-22/1991	3,587 individuals	260 stops	13.80 birds per stop
6/14-22/1996	2,796 individuals	240 stops	11.65 birds per stop
6/08-16/2001	3,246 individuals	280 stops	11.59 birds per stop
6/09-17/2006	2,673 individuals	240 stops	11.14 birds per stop
6/11-19/2011	2,211 individuals	220 stops	10.05 birds per stop
6/13-21/2016	2,906 individuals	218 stops	13.33 birds per stop
6/02-10/2023	2,234 individuals	159 stops	14.05 birds per stop

14 Table 3 indicates the 10 most widely distributed species found on the 159 stops on the eight BBS routes and compares this with the previous six Forays in Tucker County. The dramatic increase over the years in American Redstarts is notable.

Table 3
Most Widely Distributed Species

	Distribution Rank						Species	Stops		Percent of Total Stops				
	'91	'96	'01	'06	'11	'16		'23	Present	'16	'11	'06	'01	'96
1	2	1	1	1	1	1	Red-eyed Vireo	105	66.0%	71.6%	60.5%	68.3%	46.2%	81.5%
5	3	3	4	2	2	2	American Robin	76	47.8%	40.4%	41.8%	34.6%	44.5%	47.3%
7	8	7	7	13	7	3	Song Sparrow	65	40.9%	30.7%	17.3%	27.1%	25.8%	27.6%
4	5	4	3	4	4	4	American Crow	56	35.2%	33.5%	32.3%	38.8%	34.5%	48.0%
2	3	2	2	5	5	5	Indigo Bunting	48	30.2%	32.6%	30.5%	41.3%	44.5%	54.2%
46	40	16	19	12	19	6	American Redstart	45	28.3%	15.6%	21.8%	7.9%	4.2%	4.2%
8	9	8	5	3	3	7	Eastern Towhee	44	27.7%	37.2%	32.7%	31.7%	23.7%	26.5%
6	6	9	9	8	14	8	Chipping Sparrow	43	27.0%	18.8%	22.3%	25.4%	31.2%	30.7%
19	21	26	29	15	11	9	Mourning Dove	40	25.2%	23.4%	15.9%	7.5%	10.4%	12.3%
3	1	6	6	9	6	10	Wood Thrush	38	23.9%	31.7%	21.4%	29.6%	47.5%	52.3%

We thank the following people who participated in one or more of the survey routes:
Dan Dellatore, Mary Dellatore, Dawn Fox, Tina Long, Orion Metheny, Cindy Slater, and
Ryan Tomazin.

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348 Station Street, Apt. 7
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Reptiles and Amphibians of the 2023 Foray Tucker County, West Virginia

Martin Tingley

CLASS AMPHIBIA

Order Caudata – Salamanders

Red-spotted Newt (*Notophthalmus v. viridescens*)
Northern Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*)
Mountain Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*)
Appalachian Seal Salamander (*Desmognathus m. monticola*)
Redback Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*)
Northern Red Salamander (*Pseudotriton r. ruber*)
Longtail Salamander (*Eurycea l. longicauda*)
Northern Two-lined Salamander (*Eurycea bislineata*)

Order Anura – Toads and Frogs

Eastern American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*)
Northern Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris c. crucifer*)
Bull Frog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)

CLASS REPTILIA

Order Testudines – Turtles

Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra s. serpentina*)
Spiny Softshell Turtle (*Apalone spinifera*)

Suborder Serpentes – Snakes

Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia s. sipedon*)
Northern Brown Snake (*Storeria d. dekayi*)
Eastern Gartersnake (*Thamnophis s. sirtalis*)
Northern Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*)
Black Rat Snake (*Pantherophis obsoletus*)
Smooth Green Snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*)
Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)

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204 Barnard Ave
Elkins, WV 26421

Mammals of the 2023 Foray Tucker County, West Virginia

Don Creamer

CLASS MAMMALIA

Order – Didelphimorphia

Family Didelphidae

Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*)

Order Chiroptera

Family Vespertilionidae

Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

Order – Rodentia

Family Scuriidae—Squirrels

Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)

Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensus*)

Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*)

Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)

Family Cricetidae

White-footed Mouse *Peromyscus Leucopus*)

Order – Lagomorpha

Family Leporidae—Hares, Rabbits

Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

Order – Carnivora

Family Canidae

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

Family Ursidae

Black Bear (*Ursus amiricanus*) - scat only

Family Procyonidae

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

Family Mustelidae

Mink (*Neovison vison*)

Order – Artiodactyla

Family Cervidae—Deer

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Lepidoptera of the 2023 Foray Tucker County, West Virginia

Ryan Tomazin

Evening moth surveys conducted at Horseshoe Run Camp, Monongahela National Forest, Blackwater Falls State Park, Fernow Experimental Forest, with days throughout the county.

BUTTERFLIES

SKIPPER FAMILY – Hesperiiidae

Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*)
Duskywing sp. (*Erynnis/Gesta*)
Dreamy Duskywing (*Erynnis icelus*)
Indian Skipper (*Hesperia sassacus*)
Hobomok Skipper (*Lon hobomok*)
Pepper and Salt Skipper (*Amblyscirtes hegon*)

SWALLOWTAIL FAMILY – Papilionidae

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*)
Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)

WHITES AND SULPHUR FAMILIES – Pieridae

Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)

GOSSAMER WING FAMILY – Lycaenidae

American Copper (*Lycaena hypophlaeas*)
Summer Azure (*Celastrina neglecta*)

BRUSHFOOT FAMILY – Nymphalidae

Great Spangled Fritillary (*Argynnis cybele*)
Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria bellona*)
Red-spotted Purple (*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)
Harris's Checkerspot (*Chlosyne harrisii*)
Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*)
Northern Crescent (*Phyciodes cocyta selenis*)
Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
Northern Pearly-Eye (*Lethe anhedon*)
Little Wood Satyr (*Megisto cymela*)

MOTHS (Numbers before names are Hodges numbers)

0437 Common Bagworm Moth (*Psyche casta*)
0867 Clemens' Agonopterix (*Agonopterix clemensella*)
0878 Canadian Agonopterix Moth (*Agonopterix canadensis*)
0911 Bog Bibarrambla Moth (*Bibarrambla allenella*)

0957 Dotted Leaftier Moth (*Psilocorsis reflexella*)
1059 Newman's Mathildana Moth (*Mathildana newmanella*)
2281 Palmerworm Moth (*Dichomeris ligulella*)
2291 Bilobed Dichomeris Moth (*Dichomeris bilobella*)
2632 *Pseudocaloreas extrinsicella*
2738 Verbena Bud Moth (*Endothenia hebesana*)
2913 Smoky-striped Eucosma Moth (*Eucosma umbrastriana*)
3074 White Pine Coneborer Moth (*Eucopina tocullionana*)
3208 Doubleday's Notocelia Moth (*Notocelia rosaecolana*)
3367 Oak Leafroller Moth (*Ancylis burgessiana*)
3565 Ferruginous Eulia Moth (*Eulia ministrana*)
3625 Gray-banded Leafroller Moth (*Syndemis afflictana*)
3632 Broken-banded Leafroller Moth (*Choristoneura fractivittana*)
3635 Oblique-banded Leafroller Moth (*Choristoneura rosaceana*)
3688 Garden Tortrix (*Clepsis peritana*)
3748 White-lined Leafroller Moth (*Amorbia humerosana*)
4652 Early Button Slug Moth (*Tortricidia testacea*)
4659 Jeweled Tailed Slug Moth (*Packardia geminata*)
4716 Double-striped Scoparia Moth (*Scoparia biplagiialis*)
4717 Dark Brown Scoparia Moth (*Scoparia penumbralis*)
4719 Many-spotted Scoparia Moth (*Scoparia basalis*)
4739 McDunnough's Eudonia (*Eudonia heterosalis*)
4895 Sooty-winged Chalcoela Moth (*Chalcoela iphitalis*)
4945 Pale-winged Crocidophora Moth (*Crocidophora tubercularis*)
4958 White-spotted Sable (*Anania funebris*)
5156 Lucerne Moth (*Nomophila nearctica*)
5159 Grape Leafroller Moth (*Desmia funeralis*)
5176 Yellow-spotted Webworm Moth (*Anageshna primordialis*)
5182 Hollow-spotted Blepharomastix Moth (*Blepharomastix ranalis*)
5226 Splendid Palpita Moth (*Palpita magniferalis*)
5275 Bold-feathered Grass Moth (*Herpetogramma pertextalis*)
5451 Bluegrass Webworm Moth (*Parapediasia teterrellus*)
5464 Snowy Urola Moth (*Urola nivalis*)
5629 Bee Moth (*Aphomia sociella*)
5674 Walnut Shoot Moth (*Acrobasis demotella*)
5995 American Plum Borer Moth (*Euzophera semifuneralis*)
5997 Root Collar Borer Moth (*Euzophera ostricolorella*)
6235 Lettered Habrosyne Moth (*Habrosyne scripta*)
6251 Arched Hooktip (*Drepana arcuata*)
6326 Common Angle (*Macaria aemulataria*)
6330 Birch Angle (*Macaria ulsterata*)
6342 Red-headed Inchworm Moth (*Macaria bisignata*)
6348 Hemlock Angle (*Macaria fissinotata*)
6430 Yellow-veined Geometer Moth (*Orthofidonia flavivenata*)
6570 Four-barred Gray (*Aethalura intertexta*)
6588 Bent-line Gray (*Iridopsis larvaria*)
6597 Small Engrailed (*Ectropis crepuscularia*)

6598 Porcelain Gray (*Protoarmia porcelaria*)
6599 Tulip-tree Beauty (*Epimecis hortaria*)
6620 Canadian Melanolophia Moth (*Melanolophia canadaria*)
6621 Signate Melanolophia Moth (*Melanolophia signataria*)
6638 Powder Moth (*Eufidonia notataria*)
6640 Peppered Moth (*Biston betularia*)
6654 One-spotted Variant (*Hypagyrtis unipunctata*)
6667 White Spring Moth (*Lomographa vestaliata*)
6677 Yellow-dusted Cream Moth (*Cabera erythemaria*)
6725 *Euchlaena muzaria*
6734 Ochre Euchlaena Moth (*Euchlaena marginaria*)
6755 Morrison's Pero Moth (*Pero morrisonaria*)
6796 Pale Beauty (*Campaea perlata*)
6812 Pale Homochlodes Moth (*Homochlodes fritillaria*)
6815 False Yellow-dusted Cream (*Gueneria similaria*)
6822 Ruddy Metarranthis Moth (*Metarranthis duaria*)
6824 *Metarranthis amyrisaria*
6825 Pale Metarranthis Moth (*Metarranthis indeclinata*)
6826 Common Metarranthis Moth (*Metarranthis hypochraria*)
6832 Yellow-washed Metarranthis Moth (*Metarranthis obfirmaria*)
6836 Barred Umber (*Plagodis pulveraria*)
6838 Friendly Probole Moth (*Probole amicaria*)
6840 Lemon Plagodis Moth (*Plagodis serinaria*)
6844 Hollow-spotted Plagodis Moth (*Plagodis alcoolaria*)
6872 Yellow-headed Looper Moth (*Lambdina pellucidaria*)
6894 Curved-lined Looper Moth (*Lambdina fervidaria*)
6964 White Slant-Line (*Tetracis cachexiata*)
7048 White-fringed Emerald (*Nemoria mimosaria*)
7139 Sweetfern Geometer Moth (*Cyclophora pendulinaria*)
7159 Large Lace-border Moth (*Scopula limboundata*)
7189 Orange-barred Carpet Moth (*Dysstroma hersiliata*)
7290 Barberry Geometer Moth (*Rheumaptera meadii*)
7308 White-ribboned Carpet Moth (*Mesoleuca ruficillata*)
7399 Sharp-angled Carpet (*Euphyia intermediata*)
7414 Gem Moth (*Orthonama obstipata*)
7420 *Hydrelia condensata*
7422 Unadorned Carpet Moth (*Hydrelia inornata*)
7423 Fragile White Carpet (*Hydrelia albifera*)
7430 White-striped Black (*Trichodezia albovittata*)
7436 Winterberry Moth (*Rhopobota dietziana*)
7440 Beggar Moth (*Eubaphe mendica*)
7445 Brown Bark Carpet Moth (*Horisme intestinata*)
7474 Common Eupithecia Moth (*Eupithecia miserulata*)
7554-1 Currant Pug (*Eupithecia assimilata*)
7625 Green Pug (*Pasiphila rectangulata*)
7645 Three-patched Bigwing (*Heterophleps refusaria*)
7647 Three-spotted Phillip (*Heterophleps triguttaria*)

7648 Bad-wing Moth (*Dyspteris abortivaria*)
7650 Gray Scoopwing (*Callizzia amorata*)
7701 Eastern Tent Caterpillar Moth (*Malacosoma americana*)
7715 Rosy Maple Moth (*Dryocampa rubicunda*)
7746 Io Moth (*Automeris io*)
7757 Polyphemus Moth (*Antheraea polyphemus*)
7758 Luna Moth (*Actias luna*)
7825 Small-eyed Sphinx (*Paonias myops*)
7853 Hummingbird Clearwing (*Hemaris thysbe*)
7885 Virginia Creeper Sphinx (*Darapsa myron*)
7886 Azalea Sphinx (*Darapsa choerilus*)
7896 Angle-lined Prominent (*Clostera inclusa*)
7902 Yellow-necked Caterpillar Moth (*Datana ministra*)
7915 White-dotted Prominent (*Nadata gibbosa*)
7930 Linden Prominent (*Ellida caniplaga*)
7931 Common Gluphisia Moth (*Gluphisia septentrionis*)
7957 Black-spotted Prominent (*Dasylophia anguina*)
7958 Gray-patched Prominent (*Dasylophia thyatiroides*)
7990 Eastern White-blotched Prominent (*Heterocampa pulverea*)
7995 Wavy-lined Heterocampa Moth (*Cecrita biundata*)
8098 Little White Lichen Moth (*Clemensia albata*)
8104 Cadbury's Mystique (*Polygrammate cadburyi*)
8133 Pink-legged Tiger Moth (*Spilosoma latipennis*)
8134 Agreeable Tiger Moth (*Spilosoma congrua*)
8137 Virginian Tiger Moth (*Spilosoma virginica*)
8140 Fall Webworm Moth (*Hyphantria cunea*)
8169 Harnessed Tiger Moth (*Apantesis phalerata*)
8211 Hickory Tussock Moth (*Lophocampa caryae*)
8262 Virginia Ctenucha Moth (*Ctenucha virginica*)
8338 Dark-banded Owlet (*Phalaenophana pyramusalis*)
8348 Grayish Fan-Foot (*Zanclognatha pedipilalis*)
8351 Early Fan-Foot (*Zanclognatha cruralis*)
8355 Morbid Owlet (*Chytolita morbidalis*)
8362 Pale Phalaenostola Moth (*Phalaenostola metonalis*)
8368 Florida Tetanolita Moth (*Tetanolita floridana*)
8393 Ambiguous Moth (*Lascoria ambigualis*)
8404 Spotted Grass Moth (*Rivula propinqualis*)
8421 Broken-lined Hypenodes Moth (*Hypenodes fractilinea*)
8442 Baltimore Snout (*Hypena baltimoralis*)
8446 Deceptive Snout (*Hypena deceptalis*)
8448 Sordid Snout (*Hypena sordidula*)
8490 Decorated Owlet (*Pangrapta decoralis*)
8697 Colorful Zale Moth (*Zale minerea*)
8968 Beautiful Eutelia Moth (*Eutelia pulcherrimus*)
8970 Eyed Baileya Moth (*Baileya ophthalmica*)
9044 Black-bordered Lemon Moth (*Marimatha nigrofimbria*)
9046 Bog Glyph (*Deltote bellicula*)

9047 Large Mossy Glyph (*Protodeltote muscosula*)
 9053 Pink-barred Pseudeustrotia Moth (*Pseudeustrotia carneola*)
 9184 Saddled Yellowhorn (*Colocasia flavicornis*)
 9185 Close-banded Yellowhorn (*Colocasia propinquinella*)
 9200 American Dagger (*Acronicta americana*)
 9236 Ochre Dagger (*Acronicta morula*)
 9247 Sad Dagger (*Acronicta tristis*)
 9285 Hebrew Moth (*Polygrammate hebraeicum*)
 9545 American Angle Shades (*Euplexia benesimilis*)
 9619 Spotted Phosphila Moth (*Phosphila miselioides*)
 9631 Pink-shaded Fern Moth (*Callopietria mollissima*)
 9650 Slowpoke Moth (*Athetis tarda*)
 9663 Three-lined Balsa Moth (*Balsa tristrigella*)
 9664 White-blotched Balsa Moth (*Balsa labecula*)
 9666 Armyworm Moth (*Mythimna unipuncta*)
 9678 Variegated Midget (*Elaphria versicolor*)
 10397 Bristly Cutworm Moth (*Lacinipolia renigera*)
 10487 Ruby Quaker (*Orthosia rubescens*)
 10501 Norman's Quaker (*Crocigrapha normani*)
 10517 Alternate Woodling (*Egira alternans*)
 10521 Confused Woodgrain Moth (*Morrisonia confusa*)
 10563 Ruddy Quaker (*Trichopolia oviduca*)
 10578 Small Brown Quaker (*Pseudorthodes vecors*)
 10587 Cynical Quaker (*Orthodes cynica*)
 10891 Flame-shouldered Dart (*Ochropleura implecta*)
Acleris genus
Agonopterix genus
Antaeotricha genus
 Casebearer Moths
 Crocus Geometer Moths (*Xanthotype*)
 Cutworm Moths and Allies
Glyphidocera genus
Halysidota genus
Hydria genus
Hydriomena genus
Leucania genus
 Litter Moths
Metarranthis genus
 Moss-eating Crambid Snout Moths
Pigritia genus
 Scallop Shell Moths Complex (*Hydria undulata*)
Spilosoma Genus
Spilosomina subtribe
 White-headed Prominent and Allies (*Symmerista albifrons*)
Xestia genus

See moth photos in full color on brooksbirdclub.org



White-ribboned Carpet Moth



Grape Leafroller Moth



Hummingbird Clearwing



Jeweled Tailed Slug Moth



Lettered Habrosyne Moth



Crocus Geometer Moth sp.



Virginia Creeper Sphinx



Rosy Maple Moth



Spotted Phosphila Moth



White-dotted Prominent



Arched Hooktip



Ochre Euchlaena Moth



Angle-lined Prominent



Polyphemus Moth



Harnessed Tiger Moth



Hickory Tussock Moth



Virginia Ctenucha Moth



Colorful Zale Moth



Friendly Probole Moth (dark)



Friendly Probole Moth



Lemon Plagodis Moth



Hebrew Moth



Pink-shaded Fern Moth



White-fringed Emerald



Metarranthis amyrisaria



Hollow-spotted Plagodis



Beggar Moth



Small-eyed Sphinx



Luna Moth



Azalea Sphinx

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2023 FORAY PARTICIPANTS

Patty Arrington, Ashton Berdine, Marjorie Boyd, Michael Breiding, Vincent Bryant, Kevin Cade, Wayne Carey, Don Creamer, Sara Creamer, Dan Dellatorre, Mary Dellatorre, Sally Egan, Janice Emrick*, Scott Emrick, Dawn Fox, Tom Fox, Diane Holsinger, Tina Long, Beth Mankins, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Orion Metheny, Kimberlee Miller, Lee Miller, Mary Murin*, P.J. Murray, Gavin Nupp, Dale Porter, Fred Reehling, Linda Reehling, Jane Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Kelly Schetselaar, Keith Schilstra, Mary Schilstra, Larry Schwab, Cindy Slater, Juanita Slater, Chris Slater-Jones, Michelle Stevens, Deb Tingley, Martin Tingley, Bryan Tolka, Sally Tolka, Shepard Tolka^, Theo Tolka^, Wilma Rue Tolka^, Ryan Tomazin, and Jim Triplett.

Speakers, Field Trip Leaders, and guests included Bill Beatty, Ashton Berdine, Cheyenne Carter, Kevin Dodge, John Fichtner, Dawn Fox, Tom Fox, Aaron Graham, Ed Michael, Jane Michael, Sue Olcott, Sheldon Owen, Jan Runyan, Martin Tingley, and Atlee Wise.

*Director

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Field Notes
Summer Season
June 1 – August 31, 2023

Casey Rucker

It was the ninth-coolest June on record in West Virginia, and summer was 1.5 degrees below normal, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. While June was dry, both July and August were wetter than usual; only July registered slightly above average temperatures.

These notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, and from field notes submitted to the editor by email and regular mail. The full content of the submitted notes by the contributors to the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at the following website: <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>. Please see the accompanying articles in this issue regarding the Foray held during June in Tucker County.

Summer reports continued their decline since a peak during 2020, but a number of rarities provided highlights. A first-state-record **Ferruginous Hawk** was discovered by Nathan Rees in Hancock County on July 5; the juvenile bird had been rehabilitated in Ontario and was also seen in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Although the identification was not without controversy, the West Virginia Bird Records Committee accepted David Daniels's report of the second **Cinnamon Teal** for our state bird list, beginning on August 8 at Fairfax Pond-Rehe Wildlife Management Area in Preston County. Perhaps the most tantalizing find of the summer was the pair of possibly nesting **Sandhill Cranes**, reported in June by many including Sandra Farkas, Diane Holsinger, and Mike Powell, in a number of locations in Canaan Valley, Tucker County. Nesting has been recorded in adjacent Garrett County, Maryland. Increasingly common are visitors from southerly climes, evidenced by the appearance of two lone **Roseate Spoonbills**, one seen along the Greenbrier River Trail in Pocahontas County as reported by Jack O'Connell on July 20, and the other at the Bluestone Wildlife Management Area in Summers County, photographed by Cheryl Miller on August 21 and reported by James Phillips. Alex Tsiatsos spotted a **White Ibis** at Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve in Berkeley County on July 24. There were a mere 140 species reported in 27 West Virginia counties this season; it should be noted that many breeding birds are not reported in summer.

Geese and Ducks – The **Cinnamon Teal** found by David Daniels in Preston County in August is described in the foregoing paragraph. **Canada Geese** were reported from only three counties, **Wood Ducks** from Barbour (RBr), Berkeley (AT), Hardy (WS), Summers (JP), and Wirt (FA) Counties, and **Mallards** were reported from Berkeley (AT), Hardy (WS), Kanawha (HG), and Wirt (FA) Counties. On August 28, Randy Bodkins found three juvenile **Hooded Mergansers** at Cheat Bridge, Randolph County, and in August James Phillips found **Common Mergansers** in two locations in Summers County. On June 7, Hullet Good saw eight **Common Mergansers** swimming single file on the Elk River, Kanawha County.

Quail – In 2022 the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources released 20,000 **Northern Bobwhites** in seven locations around the state. In one of those locations,

Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area in Barbour County, a lone individual **Northern Bobwhite** was reported this summer by Ross Brittain on June 4; another release location was Greenbrier State Forest, and the one other report of a single **Northern Bobwhite** was from Greenbrier County, by Jack O'Connell on July 27.

Turkeys and Grouse – Observers reported **Wild Turkeys** only in Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wirt (FA) Counties, and **Ruffed Grouse** in Wetzel County (WJ).

Pigeons and Doves – **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** continue to reside throughout the state, as reported sporadically.

Cuckoos – Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** continued to be reported sparsely, with observations in only four counties; Ross Brittain banded a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Barbour County, on June 4, and another **Black-billed Cuckoo** serenaded Donny Good at his farm in Roane County during the last week of June.

Goatsuckers and Swifts – Reports of **Common Nighthawks** were down, from Berkeley (WS), Kanawha (RBI), Mercer (JJP), Putnam (CE), Randolph (NZ), and Summers (JJP) Counties. Frederick Atwood's visit to Wirt County during mid-July yielded **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** as well as dozens of other species. **Chimney Swifts** were reported in six counties.

Hummingbirds – Birders in eight counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**. On July 17, Cynthia Burkhart hosted approximately 40 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at her feeders in Ritchie County.

Cranes – The pair of **Sandhill Cranes** who appeared in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, during June are described near the beginning of these notes.

Plovers – **Killdeer** appeared in reports from five counties, and **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen in Hardy (WS) and Mason (MG JK) Counties.

Sandpipers – **Sandpiper** diversity was down this summer in West Virginia, with eight species reported. The only shorebirds found in more than one county were **Least Sandpipers** in Cabell (GR), Mason (MG, JK), and Wirt (FA) Counties, and **Solitary Sandpipers** in Berkeley (AT), Hardy (WS), Mason (MG, JK), and Summers (JP) Counties. Kevin Campbell hosted an **American Woodcock** in his yard in Dallison, Wood County, on August 11. On June 4, Gary Rankin watched a **Greater Yellowlegs** fly around the marina at Beech Fork State Park, Wayne County. All other reports of **sandpipers** came from Mason County: **Stilt Sandpiper** (MG, JK), **Pectoral Sandpiper** (MG, JK, DP), and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (GR, MG, DP, JK).

Terns – Wilma Jarrell saw a **Black Tern** flying above Hannibal Dam, Wetzel County, on August 10.

Cormorants – **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared in James Phillips's reports from Summers County throughout the summer.

Hérons and Egrets – **Great Egrets**, **Green Herons**, and **Great Blue Herons** were reported only from one, five, and three counties, respectively. On the other hand, there were three reports of **Little Blue Heron**, from Berkeley (AT), Cabell (MG, JK, DP), and Mason (MG, JK DP) Counties.

Ibises and Spoonbills – The **White Ibis** observed in Berkeley County in July, and the **Roseate Spoonbills** seen in Pocahontas County in July and Summers County in August, are described near the beginning of these notes.

Vultures – Birders in three counties reported **Black Vultures**, while seven counties boasted **Turkey Vulture** reports.

Hawks and Eagles – The **Ferruginous Hawk** seen in Hancock County in early July is described near the beginning of these notes. West Virginia birders reported relatively few **raptors** this summer. **Osprey** reports were down, coming from only three counties. **Cooper’s Hawks** were reported only in Mercer and Summers Counties (JP). Birders in representative parts of the state reported **Bald Eagles**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, **Broad-winged Hawks**, and **Red-tailed Hawks**.

Owls – **Eastern Screech-Owls** were noted in Mineral (SB), Tucker (CR), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA) Counties; **Great Horned Owls** appeared in Mineral (SB), Wayne (GR), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA) Counties, and James Phillips reported the season’s only **Barred Owls** from his home in Pipestem, Summers County.

Kingfishers – There were reports of **Belted Kingfisher** from five West Virginia counties this summer.

Woodpeckers – **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, **Downy Woodpeckers**, **Hairy Woodpeckers**, **Northern Flickers**, and **Pileated Woodpeckers** all appeared in their usual haunts. Bruni Haydl hosted two **Red-headed Woodpecker fledglings** in her yard in Charles Town, Jefferson County, on July 29.

Falcons – **American Kestrels** inspired reports in Monroe (JP), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA) Counties this summer. Wilma Jarrell reported the only **Peregrine Falcons** of the season, seen at Hannibal Dam, Wetzel County on June 12 and August 10.

Flycatchers – Zealon Wight-Maier saw an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in Little Canaan Wildlife Management Area, Tucker County, on June 18; the sighting was the first during breeding season in the county for many years. **Great Crested Flycatchers**, **Eastern Kingbirds**, **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, **Acadian Flycatchers**, and **Eastern Phoebes** appeared in representative reports throughout the state. On June 4, Ross Brittain found at least one **Willow Flycatcher** at Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Barbour County.

Vireos – **White-eyed**, **Yellow-throated**, **Blue-headed**, **Warbling**, and **Red-eyed vireos** appeared in nesting grounds throughout the state.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens – **Blue Jays**, **American Crows**, and **Common Ravens** were reported in their usual haunts. Kevin Campbell found **Fish Crows** at Stauffer’s Marsh Nature Preserve, Berkeley County, on August 27.

Chickadees and Titmice – **Carolina** and **Black-capped chickadees** occasioned reports in their respective territories in West Virginia. **Tufted Titmice** were widely reported throughout the state.

Swallows – **Tree Swallows**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, **Purple Martins**, **Barn Swallows**, and **Cliff Swallows** were the subject of relatively few reports this summer.

Kinglets– Herb Myers found **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, on July 14.

Waxwings – Reports of **Cedar Waxwings** came from only four counties, resonating with recent concerns about population drops over the last ten years.

Nuthatches – Laura Ceperley found **Red-breasted Nuthatches** among the birds around her new home in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, during late August.

Creepers –The only **Brown Creepers** of this summer were reported by Herb Myers and Laura Ceperley in Canaan Valley, Tucker County.

Gnatcatchers – Reports of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** in their breeding grounds came from accustomed locations.

Wrens – **Carolina** and **Northern House wrens** appeared in reports from many parts of the state.

Catbirds, Thrashers, and Mockingbirds – **Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Northern Mockingbirds** prompted sparse reports from breeding grounds throughout the state.

Starlings – **European Starlings** continued to occupy widespread habitats throughout our state.

Thrushes – Four breeding species of **thrush** appeared in West Virginia reports this summer. **Eastern Bluebirds, Wood Thrushes, and American Robins** were again seen throughout the state. **Hermit Thrushes** were reported from Tucker County (HMy).

Old World Sparrows – The **House Sparrow** continues throughout the state, although reports came from only three counties.

Finches and Allies – **House Finches** were reported sparsely, and **American Goldfinches** widely, this summer. Jack O’Connell reported the only **Red Crossbills** of the season, at Lake Sherwood, Greenbrier County, on August 18.

Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees – Michael Griffith spotted a juvenile **Lark Sparrow** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County, on August 10. LeJay Graffious confirmed the presence of a **Clay-colored Sparrow** in early-successional habitat at Old Hemlock, Preston County, on June 29. Wade Snyder reported **Savannah Sparrows** at Bardane, Jefferson County, on August 6. **Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Eastern Towhees** were all reported relatively widely in West Virginia this summer.

Chats – Ross Brittain banded a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Barbour County, on June 4, and during mid-July Frederick Atwood found a **Yellow-breasted Chat** in Wirt County.

Blackbirds and Allies – **Eastern Meadowlarks, Orchard and Baltimore orioles, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Common Grackles** were reported in many areas of the state this summer.

Warblers – **Warbler** reports were down compared to last year’s season, with 20 species of breeding **warbler** observed in West Virginia. **Warbler** species are listed below with the counties and contributors. Our summer **warblers** included **Ovenbird** – Barbour (RBr), Summers (JP), and Wirt (FA), **Louisiana Waterthrush** – Mercer (JP) and Wirt (FA), **Northern Waterthrush** – Wetzel (WJ), **Blue-winged** – Barbour (RBr), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA), **Black-and-white** – Barbour (RBr), Mercer (JP), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA), **Kentucky** – Barbour (RBr) and Wirt (FA), **Common Yellowthroat** – Barbour (RBr), Berkeley (AT), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA), **Hooded** – Barbour (RBr), Kanawha (HG), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA), **American Redstart** – Barbour (RBr), Kanawha (HG), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA), **Cerulean** – Summers (JP), **Northern Parula** – Mercer (JP) and Wirt (FA), **Magnolia** – Summers (JJP) and Tucker (HMy), **Blackburnian** – Summers (JP) and Wetzel (WJ), **Yellow** – Berkeley (AT), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA), **Chestnut-sided** – Summers (JP), **Black-throated Blue** – Mercer (JP) and Tucker (HMy, LC), **Pine** – Kanawha (HG) and Wirt (FA), **Yellow-throated** – Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wirt (FA), **Prairie** – Kanawha (HG) and Wirt (FA), and **Black-throated Green** – Mercer and Summers (JP).

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings –**Summer Tanager** reports came from Wetzel (WJ), Wirt (FA), and Wood (KCa) Counties this summer. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings** prompted reports from birders in most parts of the state. A **Dickcissel** reappeared at Hogueland Lane, Grant County, as seen by Frederick Atwood on July 1.

Contributors to the Summer Field Notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Richard Bailey (Rbi), Ross Brittain (RBr), Shannon Burner (SB), Kevin Campbell (KCa), Laura Ceperley (LC), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Hullet Good (HG), Michael Griffith (MG), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Janet Keating (JK), Herb Myers (HMy), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Alex Tsiatsos (AT), and Nancy Zapotacki (NZ).

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Banding at Prickett's Fort State Park Marion County, West Virginia Spring and Fall Migration 2023

Joey Herron

During the spring and fall 2023 season, 85 birds of 33 species were banded. Five birds from previous bandings were also captured. A White-eyed Vireo from 2021, a Hermit Thrush from somewhere else with no report from banding lab yet, a Carolina Wren from 2021, a Carolina Wren from earlier in the year, and a Northern Mockingbird from September 2022. Two new species were added to the species list this year: a Philadelphia Vireo and two Mourning Warblers, bringing the species total to 87. Other highlights this year also included a second record for Lincoln's Sparrow and a third record for Connecticut Warbler. A record was set for captures of Wood Thrush (7 captures), and the warbler count now stands at 18 different species banded.

Since 2008, I have been conducting a birding class for the Lifelong Learners group of Pierpont Community and Technical College in Fairmont, West Virginia. The spring and fall classes usually consist of one classroom session and three or four field sessions at Prickett's Fort State Park during early May and mid to late September and into mid to late October. Other banding takes place as weather permits and as other groups want demonstrations. On average 20–25 days of banding takes place combined from spring and fall bandings.

Prickett's Fort State Park is located along the Monongahela River in Marion County and has a diverse habitat including a large riparian area and many wooded areas with trails and openings. The various habitats support a wide variety of species and provide many good opportunities for observing and banding birds. Nets were set above the main trail area, next to the trail parking lot, which is located west of the visitor's center. Four to five nets are used along an abandoned railroad bed running across a power line right of way. The banding has taken place in this same area every spring and fall since starting in 2008.

Of this total of 87 species, 1,374 birds have been banded from the spring of 2008 to the fall of 2023. Over half the bandings, fifty-two percent, are made up of nine species: Northern Cardinal (122), American Goldfinch (104), Song Sparrow (96), Carolina Chickadee (83), Gray Catbird (76), Indigo Bunting (62), Carolina Wren (60), Yellow-rumped Warbler (58), and Eastern Towhee (49). The following chart shows numbers of new birds banded and species banded.

Species	Number Banded 2023	Banded 2008–2023
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 (not banded)	26 (captured)
Downy Woodpecker	0	10
Northern Flicker	0	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	1
Acadian Flycatcher	0	4

Least Flycatcher	0	1
Willow Flycatcher	0	1
Flycatcher Sp.	0	1
Eastern Phoebe	0	11
Eastern Wood-Pewee	0	1
White-eyed Vireo	2	48
Warbling Vireo	0	5
Philadelphia Vireo (New)	1	1
Red-eyed Vireo	0	21
Blue-headed Vireo	0	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	0	1
Blue Jay	2	9
Carolina Chickadee	2	83
Black-capped Chickadee	0	2
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	3	22
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	0	2
Northern House Wren	0	8
Carolina Wren	8	60
Winter Wren	0	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	24
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	5
Eastern Bluebird	0	2
Swainson's Thrush	0	9
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	1
Hermit Thrush	0	1
Wood Thrush	7	21
American Robin	0	6
Gray Catbird	5	76
Brown Thrasher	0	9
Northern Mockingbird	0	13
Cedar Waxwing	0	8
Ovenbird (New)	0	1
Blue-winged Warbler	1	12
Swainson's Warbler	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	2
Nashville Warbler	0	6
Connecticut Warbler	1	3
Kentucky Warbler	0	6
Common Yellowthroat	0	27
American Redstart	0	11
Mourning Warbler (New)	2	2
Blackburnian Warbler	0	2
Northern Parula	2	8
Magnolia Warbler	4	40

Yellow Warbler	2	17
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler	0	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	58
Prairie Warbler	0	2
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	8
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	1
Wilson's Warbler	1	5
Hooded Warbler	2	10
Cape May Warbler	2	8
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	4
Tennessee Warbler	3	16
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	4
Canada Warbler	0	1
Palm Warbler	0	3
Eastern Towhee	1	49
Chipping Sparrow	1	23
Field Sparrow	1	15
Song Sparrow	7	96
Swamp Sparrow	1	2
White-throated Sparrow	2	36
White-crowned Sparrow	1	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	3
Dark-eyed Junco	0	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	3
Scarlet Tanager	0	5
Northern Cardinal	6	122
Indigo Bunting	6	62
Orchard Oriole	1	19
Baltimore Oriole	1	43
American Goldfinch	2	104
Purple Finch	0	2
House Sparrow	0	1
Killdeer	0	1
Red-winged Blackbird	0	1
Totals	85 (2023)	1374 (all years)

511 Ohio Ave
Fairmont WV



Philadelphia Vireo



Mourning Warbler

Photos by Joey Herron.

Valley Falls State Park
Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Station
Marion County, West Virginia
2023

Joey Herron

After an outstanding year last year, the nineteenth year banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) at Valley Falls State Park fell back into a nearly average year with 26 captures, just five owls under the ten year average.

Banding began on October 22, 2023 and ended on November 19, 2023. The station operated on fifteen nights with the nets being opened for sixty-eight and a half hours. Seven of the fifteen nights yielded owls, with a peak capture of 15 NSWOs captured on the night of November 11. Only three of the seven nights yielded multiple owls. There were no foreign re-traps caught this year, but there was a return from last year. On November 12, an After Hatch Year female was captured that had been banded on November 8, 2022, the 88th owl banded last year! This is only the second return from previous years bandings, but is important in showing that these little owls are regularly migrating through the state of West Virginia.

Unfortunately on two of the four nights when visitors were scheduled there were no owls captured, but on the other two nights many enjoyed the sight of this small owl. A total of 114 visitors came out to see the project on the four public nights that were offered.

Of the 26 captures, 16 were adults, 10 were hatch year birds. Females again lead the way in captures in 2022 with 22, with 2 males and 2 unknowns.

After nineteen years of banding a total of 596 NSWOs have been captured, including 39 foreign recaptures and two returns. The breakdown shows a heavy advantage for females, 80% to 6% for males. The unknown category completes the last 14%. The adult, hatch year ratio is amazingly even with 50.5% adult to 49.5% hatch year individuals. The station has hosted over eighteen hundred visitors from thirteen 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. I would also like to thank Joe Hildreth for his help again this year as he trains to become a bander of these little owls himself, along with Nathan Rees, Terry Watkins, and Kristen King. You folks are the best!

19 year totals

Females	Males	Unknown	Hatch Year	After Hatch Year	Second Year
473	39	84	295	194	107

Banding Summary for 2023

Date	NSWO caught	
10/22/23	0	
10/23/23	0	
11/01/23	1	
11/02/23	0	
11/03/23	1	
11/04/23	0	
11/06/23	0	
11/07/23	2	
11/08/23	0	
11/11/23	15	
11/12/23	5	(1 RETURN)
11/13/23	0	
11/14/23	1	
11/18/23	0	
11/19/23	1	
	<u>Total 26</u>	

Age

After hatch year (AHY)..... 12
Second year (SY)..... 4, 61% (adults)
Hatch year (HY) 10, 39%

Sex

Female – 22, 85%
Male – 2, .5%
Unknown – 2, 7.5%

11 Ohio Ave
Fairmont, WV



Holding an After Hatch Year female Owl that returned from being banded last year at this station.

Photos by Joey Herron.

Twenty-Eighth Report of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee 2023

Gary O. Rankin

West Virginia birders were very active in finding rare birds and submitting reports to the West Virginia Bird Records Committee (WVBRC) for review in 2023. Twelve records were submitted for eleven species (two Limpkin records) in 2023, which is an increase from three records submitted in 2022. All twelve 2023 records were accepted by the committee and are described in more detail below.

The WVBRC met virtually in March, 2023 with the meeting hosted and conducted by Chair Gary Rankin. WVBRC members present were Matt Orsie, David Daniels (Vice-Chair), Mike Slaven, and Wade Snyder, along with Secretary Wil Hershberger. The Committee thanked Gary Rankin for serving as the Chair of the Committee for the last year and thanked Wil Hershberger for his continuing service as WVBRC Secretary. With David Daniels rotating off the WVBRC, Derek Courtney was elected to fill the open member position for a five-year term. Gary Rankin was reelected as the Chair of the WVBRC and Wade Snyder was elected as Vice-Chair.

The potential use of MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System data for documenting the presence of bird species in West Virginia was discussed, as more towers within the state have been developed. Of the twelve primary MOTUS sites in operation, six sites were selected to initiate the review of data for establishment of a state MOTUS list. These sites are Lewis Wetzel WMA, Fox Forest WMA, Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park, Watoga State Park, Three Rivers Avian Center, and Pipestem State Park. Other MOTUS sites are under development, and may also be included for data review in the future. The committee will work with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to acquire and validate data. Other old business included development of a logo for the committee. A design submitted by Wil Hershberger was approved by the committee and will be visible on the Brooks Bird Club website for the WVBRC.

Details of the twelve WVBRC bird reports for 2023 are given below:

WVBRC 2023-1 Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) – A male Painted Bunting was found on April 21st by Robert and Mary Jane Neely at their home in Summers County and seen the next day by Jim and Judy Phillips. Excellent photographic evidence was provided to the committee as documentation.

WVBRC 2023-2 Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) – Bryan Smith found a small flock of Marbled Godwits along the shore of the Ohio River in Cabell County on April 22nd. The godwits were also observed by several other birders. Photographs of groups of two and four birds provided clear evidence for the birds' identities.

WVBRC 2023-3 Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) – A female Ferruginous Hawk was photographed by Nathan Rees on July 5th in Hancock County. This bird was found injured, rehabbed, fitted with a small cellular GPS-tag transmitter and released in Ontario Canada earlier in 2023. It was tracked by David La Puma from Ontario through Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania to West Virginia, where Nathan was contacted about finding the bird for a wellness check. Nathan provided excellent photographic evidence of the hawk to

confirm its identification. This sighting represents the first record for Ferruginous Hawk in West Virginia.

WVBRC 2023-4 Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) – David Daniels found and photographed an adult male Tufted Duck on Alpine Lake in Preston County on March 4th. It was found mixed in with Ring-necked Ducks and both scap species. This is a first record for Tufted Duck in West Virginia.

WVBRC 2023-5 Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) – A juvenile Pacific Loon was found in Preston County on Alpine Lake by David Daniels on November 12th. Photographs documented the key field marks for this species. This record is the second sighting of Pacific Loon in the state.

WVBRC 2023-6 Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) – David and Anne Wills reported a Limpkin on the edge of a small pond at the entrance to a townhouse subdivision near Hurricane in Putnam County on November 14th. Excellent photographic evidence well documented this bird as a Limpkin. This sighting represents the second record of Limpkin in West Virginia.

WVBRC 2023-7 Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) – Another Limpkin record came from Lewis County where Nathan Rees and Kyle Klotz spotted a Limpkin on the banks of Stonewall Jackson Lake on October 9th. This bird was subsequently seen by many birders. Excellent description and documentation photographic evidence were provided. This sighting represents the third record of Limpkin in West Virginia.

WVBRC 2023-8 Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) – Tammy Anderson found and photographed an Arctic Tern in non-breeding plumage at Tygart Lake in Taylor County on June 28th. A number of excellent photographs documented field marks of the tern flying and in several position on the bank. This is a first record for Arctic Tern in the state.

WVBRC 2023-9 Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) – A Western Kingbird was spotted by N. Wade Snyder at Poor House Farm Park in Berkeley County on October 3rd. The bird was easily identified from the photographs provided. This is the second record for Western Kingbird in the state.

WVBRC 2023-10 Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) – A small group of four Black-necked Stilts was spotted at Mill Creek WTP in Randolph County on May 2, 2022 by Rodney Bartgis. Excellent photographs clearly documented the field marks of the stilts. This sighting is the third record for Black-necked Stilt in the state.

WVBRC 2023-11 Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) – David Johnston found a Brewer's Blackbird at the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason County on November 3rd. Photographic evidence and an excellent description were provided as documentation.

WVBRC 2023-12 Cinnamon Teal (*Spatula cyanoptera*) – David Daniels and Trip Bondi photographed a Cinnamon Teal near Reedsville in Preston County on August 8th. The bird remained in the area for several days, being last reported on the 12th. This sighting represents the second record for Cinnamon Teal in West Virginia.

Based on the accepted records for 2023, three new species (Tufted Duck, Arctic Tern and Ferruginous Hawk) were added to the state list. Eurasian Collared-Dove (outside of

Monroe County) was removed from the review list, while Marbled Godwit and Painted Bunting now have five records each and will be removed from the review list in 2025.

All actions of the WVBRC can be viewed on the Brooks Bird Club website at <http://www.brooksbirdclub.org/west-virginia-bird-records-committee.html>. Everyone is encouraged to visit the website and view the state list, review list and actions on submitted records. The WVBRC is especially thankful for the efforts of the Brooks Bird Club and L.E. Helgerman in maintaining and updating this website, and the work of Secretary Wil Hershberger for managing submitted reports and state lists, which is a lot of work!

As always, WVBRC members encourage all birders to submit their observations to the committee. Forms and instructions to submit an observation can be found on the WVBRC website mentioned above. Submitting your observations for potential addition to our state records is a valuable contribution to understanding which species are present in West Virginia. I would encourage you to look at the State and Review Lists, and if you see a bird on the Review List or not on the state list, we encourage you to document the sighting. We are looking forward to seeing reports of the rare birds you find in West Virginia in 2024!

Field Notes Fall Season September 1 – November 30, 2023

Casey Rucker

All three months of the fall were drier than average, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University; a warmer-than-usual October was balanced by a cooler November making for about average temperatures for the fall season.

The following notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, and from field notes submitted to the author by email at autoblock@frontiernet.net, and by regular mail. The full content of the reports submitted 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>. Observations once again came from only 28 of West Virginia's 55 counties during the fall season.

N. Wade Snyder and Alex Tsiatsos discovered a second-state-record **Western Kingbird** at Poor House Farm Park in Berkeley County on October 3. As astonishing, single **Limpkins** peppered the state this fall, appearing at Stonewall Jackson Lake, Lewis County, on October 9 and 10, as reported by Derek Courtney and Terry Bronson, in Hurricane, Putnam County, on November 16 and 17, as reported by Richard Gregg and Rennie Talbert, in Princeton, Mercer County, on November 18, as relayed by Derek Courtney, and in Dunbar, Kanawha County, on November 27, as reported by Jim Triplett. Diversity was down this year, with only 182 species reported in the state during the fall months.

Geese, Swans, and Ducks – Richard Gregg found a previously reported **Ross's Goose** in Nitro, Kanawha County, on November 7, which was the only unusual **goose** report of

the fall. **Canada Geese** were as usual widespread throughout the state. Laura Ceperley watched 55 **Tundra Swans** flying over Canaan Valley, Tucker County, on November 25.

West Virginia birders reported twenty-two species of **ducks** this season, up from the year before. There were reports in at least six counties each of **Wood Ducks**, **Gadwalls**, **Mallards**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Hooded Mergansers** this fall. Reports of the following species came from fewer than six counties, as noted: **Blue-winged Teal**, Summers (MAW) and Wood (TB) Counties; **Northern Shovelers**: Mason County (MG, JK); **American Wigeons**: Mason (MG), Monongalia (DCo), and Summers (JJP) Counties; **American Black Ducks**: Kanawha (JTR) and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **Northern Pintail**: Mason (MG, JK) and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **Canvasback**: Kanawha County (RG); **Redhead**: Mason County (MG, DP); **Ring-necked Ducks**: Barbour (DMi), Kanawha (RG), Mason (MG, JK), Monongalia (DCo), and Wood (TB) Counties; **Greater Scaup**: Cabell (DP), Mason (DP, MG, DP), and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **Lesser Scaup**: Mason (MG, JK) and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; **White-winged Scoter**: Mason County (MG, JK); **Long-tailed Duck**: Cabell County (GR, DP); **Buffleheads**: Barbour (DMi), Mason (MG, JK), Monongalia (DCo), Monroe (JP), and Tucker (LC) Counties; **Common Goldeneye**: Monongalia (DCo); **Common Mergansers**: Jefferson (BH), Monongalia (DCo), and Summers (JP) Counties; **Red-breasted Mergansers**: Mason (MG, JK) and Monongalia (DCo) Counties; and **Ruddy Ducks**: Mason (MG, JK), Monroe (JP), Monongalia (DCo), and Tucker (LC) Counties.

Turkeys, Grouse, and Pheasants – James Phillips reported the only **Wild Turkeys** of the season, from Mercer and Summers Counties. Wilma Jarrell found a **Ruffed Grouse** at her home in Wileyville, Wetzel County, on September 25. Two surprising reports of **Ruffed Grouse** in Monongalia County, appeared on November 5, from Michael Brady and Susan Olcott. On October 11, James Phillips spotted three **Ring-necked Pheasants** on Hans Creek Road, Monroe County, and suspected they had escaped from a nearby hunting reserve.

Grebes – **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared widely throughout the state. **Horned Grebes** appeared in Mason (MG, JK) and Monongalia (DCo) Counties.

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

Cuckoos – Richard Gregg reported the only **Cuckoo** sighting of the fall, in Buffalo, Putnam County, on October 12.

Goatsuckers and Swifts – Reports of **Common Nighthawk** came from Hampshire (SC), Mercer (JJP), Putnam (CE), Summers (JJP, SOg), and Tucker (MK) Counties. There were only three counties with reports of **Chimney Swifts**, with the latest report coming from James Phillips, from his East River Mountain Overlook hawk watch in Mercer County, on October 5.

Hummingbirds – Birders in ten counties reported sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, through late September. The last report was on an eye-popping October 26, when N. Wade Snyder spotted a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** nectaring at salvia blooming in his yard in Berkeley County. Katie Garst observed a probable **Rufous**, but definitely **Selasphorus, Hummingbird** from September 27 to October 3 at a residence in Elkins, Randolph County.

Rails and Coots – On September 30, Terry Bronson spotted a **Sora** at Williamstown Wetlands, Wood County. Reports of **American Coots** came from Kanawha (RG),

Mason (MG, DP, JK), Monongalia (DCo), Monroe (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB) Counties. A **Purple Gallinule** appeared at Kimsey Run Lake, Hardy County, on October 21 to 23, as reported by Derek Courtney and Cynthia Mullens

Limpkins – The four **Limpkin** appearances in the state this fall are described near the beginning of these notes.

Plovers – Reports of **Killdeer** came from nine counties.

Sandpipers – **Sandpiper** reports were flat compared to last fall, as West Virginia birders submitted reports of eleven species. Reports of the following **shorebirds** came from the counties listed: **Stilt Sandpiper**: Wood (TB); **Dunlin**: Mason (MG,JK); **Pectoral Sandpipers**: Jackson (TB), Mason (MG), and Wood (TB); **Semipalmated Sandpipers**: Jackson (TB); **American Woodcock**: Roane (DG); **Wilson’s Snipe**: Barbour (DMi), Mason (MG, DP), Monroe (JP), Tucker (MK), and Wood (TB); **Solitary Sandpiper**: Wood (TB); **Lesser Yellowlegs**: Berkeley (AT), Mason (MG, DP), and Wood (TB); **Greater Yellowlegs**: Jackson (TB), Mason (MG, DP), and Wood (TB); **Red-necked Phalarope**: Berkeley (AT) and Wetzel (WJ); and **Red Phalarope**: Grant (CMu, AG, DH).

Gulls – Inland seabird reports were practically nonexistent, in keeping with recent years. **Bonaparte’s Gulls** were reported in Kanawha (RG) and Mason (MG, JK) Counties, and **Ring-billed Gulls** in Monongalia County (DCo).

Loons – A **Pacific Loon** appeared briefly at Alpine Lake, Preston County, on November 12, as relayed by Derek Courtney from eBird. **Common Loons** were only reported from Kanawha (RG), Mason (MG, JK), Monongalia (DCo) and Summers (JP) Counties.

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

Pelicans – Wendy Perrone reported a flock of fourteen or fifteen **American White Pelicans** in Nicholas County on November 1, in trouble due to freezing temperatures. Michael Griffith and Janet Keating discovered two **American White Pelicans** at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason County, on November 10.

Hérons and Egrets – **Great Egrets** were reported in four counties and **Green Heron** only in Jackson County (TB). **Great Blue Herons** appeared throughout much of West Virginia this fall.

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

Hawks and Eagles – **Osprey** reports were flat this fall, coming from Kanawha (HG), Mercer (JJP), and Summers (JP) Counties. James and Judy Phillips saw a **Golden Eagle** in Summers County, on October 17 and November 19 and 25, and in Mercer County on November 30. **Sharp-shinned** and **Coopers hawks**, **Bald Eagles**, and **Red-shouldered**, **Broad-winged**, and **Red-tailed hawks** were all fairly well represented in reports throughout the state during the fall season. **Northern Harriers** were noted in Barbour (DMi), Jefferson (WS), Mason (NR), Summers (MAW), and Tucker (LC) Counties. Richard Bailey spotted a **Rough-legged Hawk** flying over the Bickle Knob tower, Randolph County, on November 11.

Owls – Reports of **owls** were virtually nonexistent this season. **Eastern Screech-Owl**: Mason (DP); **Great Horned Owls**: Summers (JJP) and Wayne (GR), and **Barred Owls** in Mercer (JP), Summers (JJP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wayne (GR) Counties. Nathan Rees counted eight **Short-eared Owls** on November 25 at the McCausland Memorial Farm, Mason County.

Kingfishers – Reports of **Belted Kingfisher** were up a bit this fall, with sightings in eleven counties.

Woodpeckers – **Red-headed Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers,** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** were all widely reported.

Falcons – It was a slow fall for **falcons** in West Virginia, although **American Kestrels** appeared in six counties. **Merlins** made appearances in Mercer County (JJP), Monongalia County (BJ), Raleigh County (JJP), and Summers County (JP). There were reports of **Peregrine Falcons** from Mercer (JP) and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Flycatchers – The **Western Kingbird** found and photographed by N. Wade Snyder and Alex Tsiatsos in Berkeley County is described near the beginning of these notes. Joey Herron found the season's only **Eastern Kingbird** in Marion County in September. **Eastern Wood-Pewees** appeared in reports from Mercer (JP), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. Michael Griffith, David Patick, and Janet Keating found a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area in Mason County on September 16. **Eastern Phoebes** were widely seen in the state, with reports from nine counties.

Vireos – **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed,** and **Red-eyed vireos** appeared in many counties during September and early October. **Philadelphia Vireos** were spotted in Jackson (TB), Mason (MG, JK), Monongalia (DCo), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Crows, Jays, and Ravens – **Blue Jays, American Crows,** and **Common Ravens** prompted many reports throughout West Virginia. Alex Tsiatsos found a **Fish Crow** at Stauffer's Marsh, Berkeley County, on September 22. On November 9, Bill Johnson reported that a pair of **Fish Crows** appear to be resident at the Pines Country Club in Monongalia County.

Chickadees and Titmice – **Black-capped Chickadees, Carolina Chickadees,** and **Tufted Titmice** appeared widely in state reports.

Larks – Once again, N. Wade Snyder reported the only **Horned Larks** of the season, on November 30 in Bardane, Jefferson County.

Swallows – **Tree Swallows** appeared in six counties, with the latest report on October 31, when Michael Griffith saw approximately three **Tree Swallows** at Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason County. Wilma Jarrell saw two **Barn Swallows** on Fairview Ridge, Wetzel County, on September 15.

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

Waxwings – **Cedar Waxwing** reports continued down this season, with sightings in ten counties throughout the state.

Nuthatches – In the usual two-year pattern of irruptions, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce, with reports only from Roane (DG) and Tucker (CR) Counties. **White-breasted Nuthatches** exhibited their familiar ubiquity.

Creepers – Reports of **Brown Creeper** came from Berkeley (WS), Jefferson (BH), Kanawha (HG), and Randolph (LC) Counties.

Gnatcatchers – Birders in Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (DCo), and Summers (JP) Counties reported **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, all during September.

Wrens – **Carolina Wrens** were as usual reported throughout the state. **Northern House Wren** reports were down, coming from four counties. **Winter Wrens** inspired reports from Kanawha (DG) and Summers (JP) Counties.

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

Starlings – Reports from seven counties confirm that **European Starlings** continued to occupy widespread habitats throughout West Virginia.

Thrushes – It was a good fall for **thrushes** in West Virginia. **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Swainson's** and **Wood thrushes**, and **American Robins** were all seen widely in reporting counties. A **Veery** was in a report from Mason County (DP); **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were found in Jefferson (LW), Mason (DP), and Summers (JP) Counties, and **Hermit Thrushes** were reported in Jefferson (BH, LW) and Summers (JP) Counties.

Old World Sparrows – The **House Sparrow** prompted reports only from Summers County this fall.

Pipits – **American Pipits** appeared in Jefferson (WS) and Mason (DP) Counties.

Finches and Allies – **Purple** and **House finches**, and **American Goldfinches** inspired widespread reports throughout the state this fall. The only **Pine Siskin** reported appeared on September 24 at the feeders of James and Judy Phillips in Pipestem, Summers County.

Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees – The **Lark Sparrow** found in Parkersburg on September 3 is described near the beginning of these notes. The most-frequent **emberizid** species in reports this fall were and **Field sparrows**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **White-crowned**, **White-throated**, **Song** and **Lincoln's sparrows**, and **Eastern Towhees**. The following **sparrows** were reported only in the counties listed: **Chipping** in Mercer (JP), **Fox** in Summers (JP); **Savannah** in Mason (MG, DP) and Wood (TB); and **Swamp** in Berkeley (AT, WS) and Summers (JP).

Blackbirds – Reports of **Icterids** were scarce this fall. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were reported in six counties, and the following species were reported from the following counties: **Bobolinks** in Monongalia (DCo), **Eastern Meadowlarks** in Putnam (RG) and Wood (TB), **Orchard Oriole** in Wetzel (WJ), **Brown-headed Cowbird** in Berkeley (AT, WS), **Rusty Blackbirds** in Kanawha (HG), Pendleton (FA), and Roane (DG), and **Common Grackles** in Berkeley (AT, WS), Monongalia (DCo), and Summers (JP).

Warblers – This fall birders in West Virginia found 24 **warbler** species; reports were down from last year. On September 24, David Patick encountered an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Ashton Wetlands, Mason County. On September 16, Derek Courtney spotted two **Connecticut Warblers** and a **Wilson's Warbler**, among many others, at Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area, Monongalia County; meanwhile Michael Griffith, David Patick, and Janet Keating found a **Canada Warbler** at Chief Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area, Mason County. The following **warbler** species listed without contributors were reported in at least seven counties; species reported in six or fewer counties are listed below with the counties and contributors. **Warblers** reported this fall included **Ovenbird** – Monongalia (DCo) and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Black-and-white** – Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (JB) Counties; **Tennessee** – Mason (DP), Mercer (JP), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), Tucker (CR), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Nashville** – Mason (DP), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), Wetzel (WJ), and Wood (TB) Counties; **Common Yellowthroat**; **Hooded** – Mason (DP), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **American Redstart** – Jackson (TB), Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Cape May**; **Northern Parula**; **Magnolia**; **Bay-breasted**; **Blackburnian** – Jackson (TB), Monongalia (DCo), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ)

Counties; **Chestnut-sided** – Kanawha (HG), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Blackpoll** – Summers (JP) and Wetzel (WJ) Counties; **Black-throated Blue** – Mercer (JP), Roane (DG), Summers (JP), and Tucker (CR) Counties; **Palm**; **Pine** – Barbour (DMi), Kanawha (HG), Summers (JP), and Tucker (CR) Counties; **Yellow-rumped**; **Prairie** – Monongalia (DCo) and Summers (JP) Counties; and **Black-throated Green**.

Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings – Hullet Good reported the only **Summer Tanager** of the season, at his home in Milliken, Kanawha County, on September 23. **Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings** prompted reports from birders in most parts of the state.

Contributors to the fall field notes: Frederick Atwood (FA), Terry Bronson (TB), Laura Ceperley (LC), Sam Chapman (SC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), Aaron Graham (AG), Richard Gregg (RG), Michael Griffith (MG), Bruni Haydl (BH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Bill Johnson (BJ), Janet Keating (JK), Mimi Kibler (MK), Donna Mitchell (DMi), Cynthia Mullens (CMu), Sharyn Ogden (SOg), David Patick (DP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Nathan Rees (NR), Casey Rucker (CR), N. Wade Snyder (WS), Mindy Waldron (MW), Allan and Mindy Waldron (MAW), and Lynn Wiseman (LW).

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Redstart Index Volume 90

- accipiter, 24
American Ornithological Society taxonomic changes
2023, 98
Avocet, American, 28
Balogh, Gwen, 11
Beatty, B., 90
Bittern, American, 129
Least, 129
Blackbird, Brewer's, 82, 93–94, 99, 103, 108
Red-winged, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 30, 66, 105, 114, 118,
119, 131
Rusty, 66, 105, 114, 120, 131
Bluebird, Eastern, 5, 11, 30, 66, 104, 114, 118, 119, 131
Bobolink, 6, 11, 30, 131
Bobwhite, Northern, 63
Brittain, Ross, 46
Bufflehead, 62, 101, 110, 119, 127
Bunting, Indigo, 7, 8, 12, 31, 67, 132
Painted, 123, 127, 132
Canvasback, 62, 101, 110, 120, 127
Cardinal, Northern, 7, 8, 12, 31, 56, 67, 105, 115, 118, 119,
132
Catbird, Gray, 5, 8, 11, 30, 65, 104, 113, 120, 131
Chat, Yellow-breasted, 6, 11, 30, 131
Chickadee, Black-capped, 4, 8, 11, 29, 65, 104, 113, 119,
130
Carolina, 29, 30, 65, 104, 113, 118, 119, 130
Christmas Bird Count, 123rd, 108
Chuck-will's-widow, 27, 128
Coot, American, 63, 102, 111, 120, 128
Collared-Dove, Eurasian, 102
Cormorant, Double-crested, 2, 3, 28, 64, 102, 111, 120,
128,
Cowbird, Brown-headed, 6, 11, 30, 66, 105, 114, 119, 131
Crane, Sandhill, 28, 102, 111, 120, 128
Creeper, Brown, 4, 8, 11, 22, 30, 65, 85, 88, 104, 113, 118,
120, 130
Crossbill, Red, 30, 104, 114, 120
Crow, American, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 29, 65, 103, 113, 118, 119,
130
Fish, 65, 130
Cuckoo, Black-billed, 25, 27, 63, 123, 124, 128
Yellow-billed, 2, 10, 25, 27, 63, 123, 124, 126, 128
Dickcissel, 31, 132
Dove, Mourning, 2, 8, 10, 12, 13, 27, 63, 102, 110, 118,
119, 128
Dowitcher, Short-billed, 28, 128
Duck, American Black, 62, 101, 110, 119, 127
Ring-necked, 62, 101, 110, 127
Ruddy, 63, 127
Tufted, 123, 127
Wood, 62, 101, 110, 127
Dunlin, 123, 128
Eagle, Bald, 3, 28, 64, 103, 111, 119, 129
Golden, 64, 103
Egret, Cattle, 28,
Great, 28, 64, 102, 111, 120, 123, 129
Snowy, 123, 129
Emrick, Janice, 16,
Emrick, Scott, 8
Falcon, Peregrine, 29, 64, 103, 112, 120, 129
Field notes, fall season, 62
spring season, 127
summer season, 27
winter season, 101
Finch, House, 5, 30, 66, 104, 114, 118, 119, 131
Purple, 5, 11, 30, 66, 104, 114, 118, 120, 131
Flicker, Northern, 3, 8, 10, 29, 64, 103, 112, 118, 119
Flycatcher, Acadian, 4, 10, 29, 65, 129
Alder, 4, 10, 29, 65, 85, 87, 88, 130
Ash-throated, 57, 62, 64, 112, 120
Great Crested, 3, 10, 29, 64, 129
Least, 4, 10, 65, 130
Olive-sided, 29, 59, 65,
Willow, 4, 10, 29, 65, 130
Yellow-bellied, 53, 65
Fox, Dawn, 20
Gadwall, 62, 101, 110, 119, 127
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray, 5, 11, 30, 65, 130
Godwit, Marbled, 123, 127, 128
Golden-Plover, American, 63
Goldeneye, Common, 101, 110, 120, 127
Goldfinch, American, 5, 11, 30, 66, 104, 114, 118, 119, 131
Goose, Barnacle, 56
Cackling, 62, 101, 109, 120
Canada, 2, 8, 10, 62, 101, 118, 119, 120, 127
Greater White-fronted, 62, 101
Ross's, 62, 101, 127
Snow, 62, 101, 120, 127
Goshawk, Northern, 59, 64, 98
Grackle, Common, 6, 11, 12, 30, 6+6, 105, 114, 119, 131
Grebe, Horned, 63, 102, 110, 120, 127
Pied-billed, 27, 63, 102, 110, 120, 127
Green, Diana, 11
Gregg, Dick, 11
Grosbeak, Blue, 31, 67, 132
Evening, 66, 104, 114, 119, 131
Rose-breasted, 7, 8, 12, 31, 67, 132
Grouse, Ruffed, 27, 63, 102, 110, 120
Gull, Bonaparte's, 63, 102, 111, 120, 128
Great Black-backed,
Herring, 28, 63, 102, 111, 120,
Ring-billed, 102, 111, 119, 128
Harrier, Northern, 28, 64, 111, 119, 120, 129
Hawk, Broad-winged, 28, 64, 103, 129
Cooper's, 28, 64, 103, 111, 129
Red-shouldered, 28, 64, 103, 111, 129
Red-tailed, 28, 64, 103, 111, 129
Rough-legged, 103, 111, 129
Sharp-shinned, 28, 64, 103, 111, 119, 129
Helgerman, L. E., 108
Heron, Great Blue, 3, 28, 64, 102, 111, 118, 120, 129
Green, 3, 10, 28, 64, 129
Little Blue, 28
Night. *See* Night-Heron.
Herron, Joey, 53
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated, 2, 10, 28, 128
Selasphorus, 59, 60–61, 63
Ibis, Glossy, 57, 59–61, 64
Jay, Blue, 4, 8, 11, 29, 65, 103, 112, 118, 119, 130
Junco, Dark-eyed, 5, 8, 11, 25, 30, 66, 74, 76, 105, 114, 118,
119, 131

- Keatley, Marjorie, 34, 38, 135, 74, 85
 Kestrel, American, 3, 29, 64, 103, 112, 118, 119, 129
 Killdeer, 2, 10, 28, 63, 102, 111, 118, 119, 128
 Kingbird, Eastern, 4, 10, 29, 65, 129
 Kingfisher, Belted, 3, 29, 64, 103, 112, 118, 120, 129
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned, 4, 65, 104, 113, 118, 119, 120, 130
 Ruby-crowned, 65, 104, 113, 119, 130
 Kite, Mississippi, 29, 129
 Lark, Horned, 2, 4, 65, 104, 113, 119, 130
 Longspur, Lapland, 66
 Loon, Common, 64, 102, 120, 128
 Red-throated, 64, 128
 Mallard, 2, 10, 27, 62, 101, 109, 118, 118, 120, 123, 127
 Martin, Purple, 29, 130
 McDonald, Peter, 14, 15
 Meadowlark, Eastern, 6, 11, 30, 66, 105, 114, 120, 131
 Merganser, Common, 2, 27, 63, 101, 110, 118, 119, 134
 Hooded, 62, 101, 110, 120, 134
 Red-breasted, 101, 110, 120, 134
 Merlin, 64, 103, 112, 120, 129
 Mockingbird, Northern, 5, 30, 65, 104, 113, 118, 119, 131
 Night-Heron, Black-crowned, 64
 Yellow-crowned, 129
 Nighthawk, Common, 27, 63, 128
 Northeimer, John, 34, 38, 135, 74, 85
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted, 4, 29, 65, 104, 113, 118, 119, 130
 White-breasted, 4, 8, 11, 29, 65, 104, 113, 118, 119, 130
 Oriole, Baltimore, 6, 11, 30, 66, 131
 Orchard, 6, 11, 30, 131
 Osprey, 3, 28, 64, 129
 Ovenbird, 6, 8, 11, 30, 38–39, 66, 131
 Owl, Barn, 29, 103, 112, 129
 Barred, 3, 29, 64, 103, 112, 118, 120, 129
 Great Horned, 29, 64, 103, 112, 129
 Long-eared, 103
 Northern Saw-whet, 64, 103, 112
 Screech. *See* Screech-Owl.
 Short-eared, 64, 103, 112
 Parula, Northern, 6, 12, 30, 67, 132
 Phalarope, Red, 63
 Red-necked, 128
 Phoebe, Eastern, 4, 10, 29, 65, 103, 112, 119, 120, 130
 Pigeon, Rock, 2, 10, 27, 63, 102, 110, 118, 119, 128
 Pintail, Northern, 62, 101, 110, 120, 127
 Pipit, American, 104, 114, 120, 131
 Plover, American Golden *see* Golden-Plover
 Semipalmated, 63, 128
 Rail, Virginia, 102, 110, 120, 128
 Rankin, Gary, 56
 Raven, Common, 4, 11, 29, 65, 103, 113, 118, 119, 130
 Redhead, 101, 110, 120, 127
 Redstart, American, 6, 8, 12, 30, 67, 132
 Robin, American, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 22, 30, 50, 56, 66, 104, 113, 118, 119, 131
 Rucker, Casey, 21, 27, 62, 101, 127
 Sanderling, 28
 Sandpiper, Baird's, 28
 Least, 28, 63, 128
 Pectoral, 28, 63, 128
 Semipalmated, 28, 63, 128
 Solitary, 28, 63, 128
 Spotted, 28, 63, 128
 Stilt, 128
 Western, 25, 27, 28
 White-rumped, 28, 63
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied, 3, 10, 29, 64, 85–86, 103, 112, 118, 119, 129
 Scaup, Greater, 62, 101, 110, 120, 123, 127
 Lesser, 62, 101, 110, 120, 123, 127
 Scoter, Black, 62
 Surf, 62, 101
 White-winged, 62, 101, 110, 120, 127
 Screech-Owl, Eastern, 29, 53, 54, 55, 64, 73, 103, 111, 120, 129
 Shoveler, Northern, 62, 101, 110, 120, 127
 Shrike, Loggerhead, 130
 Northern, 103, 112, 120
 Siskin, Pine, 30, 66, 104, 114, 120, 131
 Slaven, Michael, 25, 58, 99, 123
 Snipe, Wilson's, 63, 102, 111, 120, 128
 Solitaire, Townsend's, 98, 101, 104
 Sora, 28, 63, 128
 Sparrow, American Tree, 66, 105, 114, 120
 Chipping, 5, 11, 12, 13, 25, 30, 66, 74–75, 105, 114, 120, 131
 Clay-colored,
 Field, 5, 25, 30, 66, 75, 105, 114, 118, 119, 131
 Fox, 66, 105, 114, 118, 120, 131
 Grasshopper, 5, 11, 131
 Henslow's, 5, 11, 131
 House, 5, 11, 30, 66, 104, 114, 118, 119, 125, 131
 Lark, 25, 30, 59, 62, 66
 Lincoln's, 66, 105, 114, 120
 Nelson's, 59
 Savannah, 5, 11, 30, 77, 105, 114, 120, 131
 Song, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 30, 66, 78, 81, 105, 114, 118, 119, 131
 Swamp, 5, 11, 30, 66, 79–81, 105, 114, 118, 119, 131
 Vesper, 66, 77, 131
 White-crowned, 66, 105, 114, 118, 119, 131
 White-throated, 66, 105, 114, 118, 119, 131
 Starling, European, 5, 11, 12, 30, 66, 104, 118, 119, 125, 131
 Swallow, Bank, 29, 130
 Barn, 4, 11, 29, 65, 130
 Cliff, 4, 29, 65, 130
 Northern Rough-winged, 4, 29, 65, 130
 Tree, 4, 11, 29, 65, 130
 Swan, Mute, 127
 Tundra, 62, 101, 109, 120
 Swift, Chimney, 2, 10, 19, 18, 63, 128
 Tanager, Scarlet, 7, 8, 12, 31, 67, 132
 Summer, 31, 67, 132
 Teal, Blue-winged, 62, 101, 110, 120, 127
 Green-winged, 62, 101, 110, 120, 127
 Tern, Black, 28,
 Caspian, 64,
 Common, 28, 64,
 Forster's, 64, 128
 Thrasher, Brown, 5, 11, 30, 65, 104, 113, 120, 131
 Thrush, Gray-cheeked, 66,
 Hermit, 5, 11, 30, 66, 104, 114, 118, 119, 131
 Swainson's, 66, 104, 131
 Wood, 5, 8, 11, 30, 66, 131
 Varied, 56
 Tingley, Martin, 8
 Titmouse, Tufted, 4, 8, 11, 29, 65, 104, 113, 118, 119, 130
 Tomazin, Ryan, 2, 10, 21
 Towhee, Eastern, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 25, 30, 66, 74, 82, 105, 114, 118, 119, 131
 Turkey, Wild, 2, 8, 10, 27, 63, 102, 110, 111, 118, 119, 127

Veery, 5, 11, 30, 66, 104, 131
 Vireo, Blue-headed, 4, 11, 29, 34, 65, 130
 Philadelphia, 65, 130
 Red-eyed, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 29, 34, 65, 130
 Warbling, 4, 11, 29, 65, 130
 White-eyed, 4, 10, 29, 65, 103, 112, 120, 130
 Yellow-throated, 4, 29, 65, 130
 Vulture, Black, 3, 28, 64, 103, 111, 118, 119, 129
 Turkey, 3, 28, 64, 103, 111, 118, 119, 129
 Warbler, Bay-breasted, 67, 132
 Black-and-white, 6, 8, 12, 30, 66, 132
 Black-throated Blue, 6, 8, 12, 31, 38, 45, 67, 105, 114,
 120, 132
 Black-throated Green, 7, 8, 12, 31, 38, 48, 67, 132
 Blackburnian, 6, 30, 38, 43, 67, 134
 Blackpoll, 67, 132
 Blue-winged, 6, 12, 30, 38, 51, 66, 125, 131
 Canada, 7, 38, 50, 66, 67, 132
 Cape May, 30, 67, 130
 Cerulean, 6, 30, 56, 125, 132
 Chestnut-sided, 6, 8, 12, 31, 38, 44, 67, 132
 Connecticut, 59, 66
 Golden-winged, 38, 51, 125, 131
 Hooded, 6, 8, 12, 27, 30, 38, 50, 67, 132
 Kentucky, 6, 12, 30, 66, 132
 Magnolia, 6, 8, 12, 30, 38, 42, 67, 132
 Mourning, 132
 Myrtle. *See* Yellow-rumped
 Nashville, 50, 67, 132
 Palm, 67, 132
 Pine, 7, 31, 67, 105, 114, 120, 132
 Prairie, 7, 12, 31, 67, 132
 Swainson's, 56, 125, 132
 Tennessee, 30, 66, 132
 Wilson's, 67, 132
 Worm-eating, 30, 131
 Yellow, 6, 12, 30, 38, 51, 67, 132
 Yellow-rumped, 7, 38, 47, 105, 114, 118, 119, 132
 Yellow-throated, 7, 12, 31, 67
 Waterthrush, Louisiana, 6, 8, 12, 30, 131
 Northern, 6, 8, 30, 38, 40, 66, 131
 Waxwing, Cedar, 4, 8, 11, 29, 65, 104, 113, 119, 130
 Whip-poor-will, Eastern, 2, 27, 128
 Wigeon, American, 62, 101, 110, 120, 127
 Willet, 123, 127, 128
 Wood-Pewee, Eastern, 4, 8, 10, 12, 13, 29, 65, 128
 Woodcock, American, 2, 63, 102, 11, 120, 128
 Woodpecker, Downy, 3, 8, 10, 29, 64, 103, 112, 118, 119,
 129
 Hairy, 3, 8, 10, 29, 64, 103, 112, 118, 119, 129
 Pileated, 3, 8, 10, 29, 64, 103, 112, 118, 119, 129
 Red-bellied, 3, 6, 24, 52, 80, 91, 97, 98, 106
 Red-headed, 3, 8, 10, 29, 64, 103, 112, 118, 119, 129
 Wren, Carolina, 5, 8, 11, 30, 65, 104, 113, 118, 119, 130
 House, 5, 11, 30, 65,
 Marsh, 59, 65, 130
 Sedge, 65,
 Winter, 5, 30, 65, 104, 113, 118, 120, 130
 Yellowlegs, Greater, 28, 63, 128
 Lesser, 28, 63, 128
 Yellowthroat, Common, 6, 8, 12, 31, 30, 38, 41, 67, 105,
 114, 120, 132

Southern West Virginia Eagle Surveys, 2015-2023

James Phillips

The eagle surveys of southern West Virginia have been conducted since 2006 (winter surveys) and 2008 (spring surveys). The counts for 2006–2014 have appeared in *The Redstart*, October, 2014. The area covered includes areas primarily in Mercer, Summers, Raleigh, Monroe and Greenbrier Counties, and a small section of Giles County, VA.

Volunteer leaders are stationed at various points along Indian & Hans Creeks and New, Bluestone and Greenbrier Rivers. Three groups run linear routes. Volunteers come from Three Rivers Avian Center, Hanging Rock Migration Observatory, Bibbee Nature Club and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) & Parks. Each site watches from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., making note of weather conditions and eagle sightings. The time is recorded for each eagle as well as sex, age, how long visible, and directions from which the bird came and went. This detail aids in compilation and reduces the possibility of counting an individual more than once. The group has been dubbed the Eagle Brigade of Southern WV by state ornithologist, Richard Bailey. The surveys are open to the public.

Eagles were an unusual sighting during the 1980s and 1990s. After 2000, we began to encounter eagles, especially bald eagles, more often. The question became, how many eagles do we have in the area? To get a handle on this question, we decided to start with a winter survey. The WVDNR was conducting aerial surveys for waterfowl at the time and included eagles in the surveys. The DNR focus was along New River from the WV/VA line to Bluestone Dam. Our results are compared to their results in the earlier article. They have since ended their eagle surveys, although continue to monitor known nest sites. Spring surveys were added two years later to have lots of eyes looking for indications of breeding. The winter counts are usually the first Saturday after January 5 so as not to compete with the last day of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count season. The spring counts are usually the first or second Saturday in March depending on the timing of a Brooks Bird Club meeting and the golf schedule of one of our site leaders.

The following tables present our data according to number of individual eagles and which species seen, weather conditions and number of participants, total number of parties and number of sites experiencing eagles.

Table 1
Winter Survey Results

Year	
2015	56 BAEA, 2 GOEA
2016	33 BAEA, 4 GOEA
2017	50 BAEA, 1 GOEA
2018	50 BAEA, 2 GOEA
2019	56 BAEA, 2 GOEA
2020	71 BAEA, 2 GOEA
2021	53 BAEA, 1 UE
2022	56 BAEA, 3 GOEA
2023	79 BAEA

BAEA = Bald Eagle, GOEA = Golden Eagle & UE = Unidentified Eagle

Winter Survey Weather Conditions

Year	Temperature	Cloud Cover(%)	Precipitation	Wind(mph)
2015	9-26 degrees	0%		0-3 mph
2016	37-50 degrees	90-100%		0-7 mph
2017	12-22 degrees	10-100%		0-8 mph N
2018	4-20 degrees	10-75%%		0-11 mph
2019	30-39 degrees	100%	snow	0-5 mph NE
2020	55-73 degrees	70-100%		0-25 mph
2021	25-39 degrees	90-100%		0-3 mph
2022	3-35 degrees	0-2%		0-4 mph
2023	28-50 degrees	0-50%		0-17 mph

Winter Survey Effort

Year	# of Observers	# of Sites with Eagles/Total # of Sites
2015	31	7/7
2016	67	8/11
2017	13	6/7
2018	23	9/11
2019	39	9/11
2020	70	9/10
2021	36	11/13
2022	35	15/19
2023	46	16/18

Table 2
Spring Eagle Survey Results

Year	
2015	24 BAEA
2016	33 BAEA, 4 GOEA
2017	40 BAEA
2018	31 BAEA, 4 GOEA
2019	34 BAEA, 1 GOEA & 1UE
2020	29 BAEA, 1 GOEA & 1UE
2021	28 BAEA, 4 GOEA
2022	23 BAEA
2023	72 BAEA 3 GOEA

Spring Eagle Survey Weather

Year	Temperature	Cloud Cover(%)	Precipitation	Wind(mph)
2015	Data not available			
2016	34-53 degrees	50-100%		0-3 mph
2017	28-46 degrees	0-90%		0-9 mph W
2018	30-52 degrees	0-1%		0-19 mph
2019	38-49 degrees	100%		0-10 mph N
2020	31-43 degrees	70-100%		1-20 mph N
2021	24-55 degrees	0-30%		0-8 mph

Year	Temperature	Cloud Cover(%)	Precipitation	Wind(mph)
2022	23-28 degrees	90-100%	1-2" snow	0-15 mph
2023	37-52 degrees	25-100%		0.5-7 mph

Spring Eagle Survey Effort

Year	# of Observers	# of Sites with Eagles/Total # of Sites
2015	29	7/8
2016	61	9/11
2017	42	8/8
2018	71	10/11
2019	66	9/12
2020	30	11/11
2021	33	12/14
2022	12	10/11
2023	43	14/22

Temperatures for the winter surveys ranged from 3 to 73 degrees Fahrenheit and spring surveys ranged from 23 to 55 degrees. Wind speeds ranged from 0 to 25 mph on winter surveys and spring surveys ranged from 0 to 20 mph. Sky conditions ranged from clear to completely overcast. Participant numbers ranged from 13 to 70 for winter counts and spring surveys ranged from 12 to 71 participants. The winter eagle counts have ranged from 33 to 79 for Bald Eagles and 0 to 4 for Golden Eagles while the spring counts have ranged from 23 to 72 for Bald Eagles and 0 to 4 Golden Eagles.

We feel that the surveys have accomplished our goals. We documented that Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles are a part of our southern West Virginia environment. By adding the Spring Eagle Surveys we have established nesting in our area for the Bald Eagle. A subset of the Eagle Brigade has gone forward to monitor nests in southern West Virginia and nearby counties in Virginia. Our nest data is submitted to Rich Bailey with WVDNR and Sergio Harding with the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries. More importantly is our contact with hundreds of people who were interested in eagles or became interested after participating in our surveys. This is the backbone of conservation.

None of this information would be available without the dedication and enthusiasm of the site leaders – Allen & Mindy Waldron, Alma Lowry, Bob Dameron, Jerry Gladwell, Rodney & Julie Bragg, Dale Porter, Rodney Davis, Sharyn Ogden, Julie & Corey McQuade, Jeff Hajenga, Brian Hirt, Doug Sissung, Charlie Kahle, Ron and Wendy Perrone of Three Rivers Avian Center and their staff and volunteers, Betsy Reeder, Bev and Chuck Wright, Leigh Prince, David and Jim Shrewsbury, Maury Johnson, Doug Wood, Diane Anastis, Bev and Jim Triplett, Bob and Gladys Carter, Mark Mengele, Bryn Kusic, Kermit Stover and Buddy Shaver.

Additional note – At the end of each survey we meet at the Hinton Dairy Queen to discuss the day and share stories. We usually fill up half to three-quarters of one of the dining rooms. At one point, the owners of the DQ provided binoculars to their patrons if they needed them. One of the local bar & grill establishments even went so far as to put the following message on their sign; “Budweiser, Nascar and Have you seen the eagles?” Several of us wear our binoculars into the DQ and encourage other participants to do

the same while dining, pumping gas at the Go-mart or, buying snacks & drinks at a convenience store. Businesses in the Hinton area are aware of the number of people who are hunters (gun racks & game tied on top of the vehicle), fishermen (boats & fishing poles) and folks (campers & that obvious I'm not from around here look) out to enjoy the local state parks, national park and wildlife management area. It is good to add birders to that list.

We plan to continue the surveys as long as enough people are willing to volunteer their time.

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American Ornithological Society Taxonomic Changes for 2024

Casey Rucker

The Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) published the sixty-fourth supplement to the AOS Check-list on July 18, and made the article publicly available immediately (Chesser et al. 2024). An extralimital change that may be of interest to West Virginia birders is that Audubon's Shearwater was split into five species, and our Atlantic species is now Sargasso Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*).

As has recently been the case, no species was added to or deleted from the West Virginia bird list. There are several changes, however, affecting birds seen in our state.

- The Least Bittern has been moved from its former genus, *Ixobrychus*, and is now *Botaurus exilis*.
- Cattle Egrets have been moved into the genus *Ardea*, and were split. Our species is now Western Cattle-Egret (*Ardea ibis*); the Eastern Cattle-Egret (*Ardea coromanda*) is found in Asia and Australasia.
- Night-herons no longer have a hyphen: Black-crowned Night Heron and Yellow-crowned Night Heron.
- Barn Owls have been split into three species. In North America there is now the American Barn Owl (*Tyto furcata*).
- A southern species was split from Northern Flicker, which remains *Colaptes auratus*. The new species is Guatemalan Flicker (*Colaptes mexicanoides*).
- House Wren has been split into seven species; in West Virginia it is now the Northern House Wren, retaining the scientific name *Troglodytes aedon*.
- While American Pipits remain *Anthus rubescens*, an additional species was split, the Siberian Pipit (*Anthus japonicus*).
- All redpolls are now one species, Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*).

The taxonomic order of plovers was shuffled, but the changes do not affect the order of species that occur in West Virginia. The order of herons also changed, as follows:

Least Bittern

American Bittern

Little Blue Heron

Tricolored Heron

Snowy Egret

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Black-crowned Night Heron

Green Heron

Western Cattle-Egret

Great Blue Heron

Wil Hershberger, Secretary of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee, maintains our state list, which is available online at links located at the bottom of the page on <https://www.brooksbirdclub.org/west-virginia-bird-records-committee.html>.

Reference

R. T. Chesser, S. M. Billerman, K. J. Burns, C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, B. E. Hernández-Baños, R. A. Jiménez, O. Johnson, A. W. Kratter, N. A. Mason, P. C. Rasmussen, and J. V. Remsen, Jr. 2024. Sixty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Checklist of North American birds. *Ornithology* 141, ukae019. <https://academic.oup.com/auk/article/141/3/ukae019/7716004>.

Field Notes
Winter Season
December 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024

Casey Rucker

All three months were warmer than usual, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. By the end of the winter, precipitation amounts equalled the historic average for the three months.

These notes were gathered from (a) the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, (b) Christmas Bird Count (CBC) results, and (c) field notes submitted to the editor by email and regular mail. The full content of the notes submitted 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>, and the results of the Christmas Bird Counts may be found at <http://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx>.

A lingering **Limpkin** found on the Charleston Christmas Bird Count on December 16 was the sole rarity of the season. Overall, bird diversity dipped again compared to the previous winter, with 127 species reported from 29 of West Virginia's 55 counties.

Geese, Swans, and Ducks – Sightings of **geese** were once again relatively sparse in West Virginia this winter. **Snow Geese** appeared in Berkeley (CBC) and Mason (GR, MG, DP) Counties; **Ross's Geese** inspired reports from Greenbrier (CBC), Mason (GR, MG), and Raleigh (CBC) Counties. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported in Greenbrier (CBC), Mason (GR, MG, TB), and Pleasants (TB) Counties. Reports of **Canada Geese** were as usual widespread throughout the state. Terry Bronson saw four **Cackling Geese** and the continuing **Mute Swan** at McClintic Wildlife Management Area in Mason County on January 26. **Tundra Swans** were observed in Kanawha (RG), Mason (MG, DP), Monongalia (CBC), Randolph (JBk), and Tucker (RBo, MK) Counties.

Waterfowl numbers were up a bit this winter. The following species made appearances in at least ten West Virginia counties: **Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, Mallards, American Black Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, and Hooded and Common mergansers**, while birders in six to nine counties found **American Wigeons, Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, and Buffleheads**. The following birds inspired reports from the counties listed: **Northern Shovelers** in Kanawha (RG), Monongalia (CBC), and Pendleton (CBC); **Canvasbacks** in Greenbrier (JO), Kanawha (RG), and Wetzel (WJ); **Redheads** in Kanawha (RG), Mason (MG, DP), and Mercer (JP); **Greater Scaup** in Mason (MG, DP), Mercer (JP) and Wetzel (WJ); **Common Goldeneyes** in Summers (CBC) and Wetzel (WJ); and **Ruddy Ducks** in Kanawha (CBC), Mason (MG, DP), Monongalia (CBC), Raleigh (MW), and Wetzel (WJ).

Quail – A count-week **Northern Bobwhite** was found on the Lewisburg Christmas Bird Count on December 30 in Greenbrier County.

Turkeys and Grouse – **Wild Turkey** sightings were widespread, including many on the tallies of Christmas Bird Counts. **Ruffed Grouse** reports came from Christmas Bird Counts in Monongalia and Tucker Counties.

Grebes – Pied-billed Grebes were reported widely throughout the state, while reports of **Horned Grebes** came only from Cabell (GR) and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Pigeons and Doves – Rock Pigeons and Mourning Doves continue to reside throughout the state, as reported primarily in Christmas Bird Counts. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** have apparently settled in to Greenbrier County, where the Lewisburg Christmas Bird Count found them on December 30.

Hummingbirds – A *Selasphorus* hummingbird, most likely a **Rufous**, appeared a feeder at a residence in Elkins in late December and early January, and was recorded in the Elkins Christmas Bird Count on January 2.

Rails and Coots – The lone reported **Virginia Rail** of the season was found in the Charles Town Christmas Bird Count in Jefferson County on December 16. **American Coots** inspired reports in Kanawha (CBC), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (CBC), and Pocahontas (CBC) Counties this winter.

Limpkins – A lingering representative of the **Limpkin** invasion of the fall was found in the Charleston Christmas Bird Count in Kanawha County.

Plovers – Reports of **Killdeer** were down a hair this winter, with records from nine counties.

Sandpipers – American Woodcock were observed in the Raleigh and Tucker County Christmas Bird Counts on December 17, as well as during February in Summers (JP) and Wetzel (WJ) Counties. **Wilson's Snipe** were widespread this season, with reports from Hardy (CBC), Monongalia (CBC), Pendleton (CBC), Raleigh (CBC), Summers (CBC), and Tucker (LC) Counties.

Gulls – It was a sparse season for winter **gulls** in West Virginia once again. Birders reported **Ring-billed Gulls** in eight West Virginia counties. **Herring Gulls** appeared in reports from Mason (GR, MG, DP), Summers (JP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Loons – Reports of **Common Loons** came from Mason (GR, MG), and Monongalia (CBC) Counties.

Cormorants – There were reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** from only Mason (GR, MG) and Monongalia (CBC) Counties this winter.

Hérons – Great Blue Herons appeared throughout the state this winter.

Vultures – Reports of **Black** and **Turkey vultures** came from fourteen and seventeen counties, respectively.

Eagles and Hawks – Golden Eagles inspired reports from Berkeley (CBC), Hardy (CBC), Monroe (JJP), Pendleton (CBC), Summers (CBC), and Tucker (AG) Counties. **Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's hawks, Bald Eagles**, and **Red-shouldered** and **Red-tailed hawks** appeared widely throughout West Virginia during the winter season. The 19th Winter Eagle Survey on January 20 found 42 **Bald Eagles** and one **Golden Eagle** in Greenbrier, Monroe, Raleigh, and Summers Counties, as reported by James Phillips. **Rough-legged Hawks** were once again scarce during this warm winter, inspiring reports only from Mercer County (CBC).

Owls – Barn Owls were reported only in the Moorefield Christmas Bird Count in Hardy County. Reports of **Eastern Screech-Owls** and of **Great Horned Owls** came from ten and six counties respectively. Birders in twelve counties reported **Barred Owls**. **Short-eared Owls** appeared in Mason County (CBC) and Tucker County (RBo, MK). The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** found during the Morgantown Christmas Bird Count, Monongalia County, on December 16, was the only one reported this season.

Kingfishers – West Virginia birders in twenty-one counties reported **Belted Kingfishers**.

Woodpeckers – **Red-headed Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers** were all subjects of widespread reports in West Virginia over the winter.

Falcons – **American Kestrels** and **Merlins** were well-represented in Christmas Bird Counts and other reports in most parts of the state. Reports of **Peregrine Falcons** came from Kanawha (RG), Mason (GR, MG), Monongalia (CBC), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties.

Flycatchers – Reports of **Eastern Phoebe** came from fourteen counties this winter.

Vireos – For the seventh year in a row the Morgantown Christmas Bird Count recorded a **White-eyed Vireo**, on December 16 in Monongalia County.

Shrikes – The Lewisburg Christmas Bird Count found a **Loggerhead Shrike** in Greenbrier County, on December 30.

Jays, Crows, and Ravens – **Blue Jays, American Crows, and Common Ravens** appeared in their usual haunts throughout the state. **Fish Crows** appeared in Christmas Bird Counts in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, and in Monongalia County, their apparent new home.

Chickadees and Titmice – **Carolina and Black-capped chickadees** appeared in reports from their overlapping territories throughout West Virginia. **Tufted Titmice** occupied their usual spots in reports from throughout the state.

Larks – Reports of **Horned Larks** came only from Berkeley County (CBC), Hardy County (CBC), Jefferson County (WS), and Mason County (MG, DP).

Swallows – James and Judy Phillips spotted the first **Tree Swallows** of the year on February 24 over the New River in Hinton, Summers County.

Kinglets – **Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets** were both familiar sights in most parts of the state this winter.

Waxwings – **Cedar Waxwing** sightings were up this winter, coming from 12 counties.

Nuthatches – In spite of being an off year, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** inspired reports in eight counties. **White-breasted Nuthatches** were as usual widely reported throughout the state.

Creepers – Birders in fifteen West Virginia counties reported **Brown Creepers**.

Wrens – West Virginia birders reported **Winter** and **Carolina wrens** in good numbers statewide.

Catbirds, Thrashers, and Mockingbirds – **Gray Catbirds** and **Brown Thrashers** were reported in six counties each during this warm winter. West Virginians reported **Northern Mockingbirds** widely in lower elevations over the winter season.

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

Thrushes – **Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, and American Robins** appeared in good numbers in our state this winter, mostly at lower elevations.

Old World Sparrows – Thanks to Christmas Bird Counts, we have been assured that the **House Sparrow** continues throughout the state, primarily in urban and farm settings.

Pipits – Reports of **American Pipits** came from Hampshire County (CBC) and Pleasants County (TB).

Finches and Allies – **House and Purple finches** and **American Goldfinches** appeared widely in West Virginia this winter. **Red Crossbills** were found in Greenbrier

County (JO) and Pendleton County (CBC). **Pine Siskins** were seen in Berkeley (CBC), Harrison (JMa), Jefferson (BH), Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (CBC), Pendleton (CBC), Preston (LeJ), Ritchie (CB) Counties.

Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees – On the weekend of December 16–17, **Lincoln’s Sparrows** appeared in Christmas Bird Counts in Monongalia and Raleigh Counties. **Chipping, Field, Fox, American Tree, White-crowned, White-throated, Song,** and **Swamp sparrows**, as well as **Dark-eyed Juncos** and **Eastern Towhees**, appeared widely. **Savannah Sparrows** were observed in Mason County (GR, MG) and in Christmas Bird Counts in Berkeley, Hardy, Jefferson, and Monongalia Counties.

Blackbirds and Allies – Reports of **Eastern Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds,** and **Common Grackles** came from most reporting areas in the state. **Rusty Blackbirds** were only observed in Hampshire (CBC), Kanawha (CBC, HG), Monongalia (CBC), Ritchie (CB), and Wood (CBC) Counties.

Warblers – **Pine Warblers** appeared more often than usual this winter, in Kanawha (HG), Monongalia (CBC), Pendleton (CBC), and Tucker (MK) Counties. Birders in lower elevations saw Myrtle-race **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at locations throughout the state.

Cardinals – Birders throughout the state reported **Northern Cardinals** in good numbers. Hullet Good hosted a leucistic **Cardinal** at his home in Milliken, Kanawha County, this winter; on December 6 he watched four adult male **Cardinals** chasing it.

Contributors to the Winter Field Notes: Randy Bodkins (RBo), Terry Bronson (TB), Cynthia Burkhart (CB), John Burkhart (JBk), Laura Ceperley (LC), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Aaron Graham (AG), Michael Griffith (MG), Richard Gregg (RG), Bruni Haydl (BH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Mimi Kibler (MK), Jodie Marie (JMa), Jack O’Connell (JO), David Patick (DP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Gary Rankin (GR), Casey Rucker (CR), N. Wade Snyder (WS), and Mindy Waldron (MW).

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REDSTART EDITORIAL POLICY

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 autoblock@frontiernet.net 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 P.O. Box 2, Seneca Rocks, WV 26884.

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, \$20; Individual, \$35; Family, \$40; Sustaining, \$60; Life, \$550; Family Life, \$700. Checks should be written payable to The Brooks Bird Club and mailed to P.O. Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003.

2024 Calendar of Events The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
January	BBC Membership Month	
February	Write article for The Mail Bag and The Redstart	
Feb. 22-23	Funk/Killbuck Marsh Field Trip (Contact: Dick Esker)	
March 8-10	Early Spring Meeting (Contact: Dick Esker).....	North Bend State Park
March 18	Waterfowl Field Trip (Day Trip)	Seneca Lake, OH
April 20	BBC/Three Rivers Bird Club (day trip)	Raccoon Creek State Park, PA (Contact Ryan Tomazin)
May 9-11	Wildflower Pilgrimage	Blackwater Falls State Park
May 11	International Migratory Bird Day (local chapters)	
June 15-21	Foray – Camp Thornwood.....	Thornwood, WV (Contact: Cindy Slater or Mary Murin)
July 4	Bonus Birding Weekend, Cranberry Glades area (Contact: Cindy Slater)	
Aug.-Oct.	Bird Banding – TBD	Dolly Sods
Oct. 18-20	BBC Annual Fall Meeting.....	Tygart Lake State Park (Contact: Cindy Slater)
Nov. 6-10	Eastern Shore (Contact: Cindy Slater)	
Dec. 14-Jan. 5	Christmas Bird Counts.....	Statewide

BBC FORAYS

2024 Camp Thornwood, Pocahontas County

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 2024 BBC programs may be changed if necessary. Changes will be announced on the web page or in The Mail Bag.

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