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*The* **REDSTART**

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

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# 124th National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count West Virginia Report

L. E. Helgerman

On December 26, 1904, in the town of Waverly, West Virginia, a small town on the Ohio River just about 10 miles northeast of Parkersburg, the Reverend Earle Amos Brooks conducted the first Christmas Bird Count in WV; he recorded 18 species and tallied 133 birds that day. It was the National Audubon Society's (NAS) 5<sup>th</sup> CBC. The lone participant was the brother of A. B. Brooks, the eponym of the Brooks Bird Club. Ninety-nine years later, we are still counting birds more than ever, and now several of our current counts have 50–70+ years of data.

Let us look back at the 124th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season here in West Virginia.

- The seasonal counts were held between December 14, 2023, and January 5, 2024.
- For the third season in a row, twenty-two counts were officially conducted in the state, the highest number of counts run in the state's history. Nearly half of the state's counties have a CBC.
- This season, 64% of our counts were conducted during the first week of the season, 27% were run before the end of the 2023 and the last two counts were conducted in January, 2024.
- While many of our counts are conducted during the first weekend of the season, 36% of our counts ran on weekdays, with many compilers/participants preferring these weekday counts.
- It is important to note that there are a few CBCs that border WV and collect data from our state. Those results are not reflected in this report. Only CBC circles that have center points in West Virginia are considered our state counts, those are the 22 counts reflected in this report.
- **One hundred twenty-four species** were reported during count days, five species shy of last season, but still above our last 10-year seasonal average of 119.5. Additionally, one count week species was reported this season. The average number of species reported per count was 61.27.

## Season Weather Report

**Temperature Lows:** Most of our counts (72%) reported temperatures at or below freezing. The Pendleton County (20°), and McDowell County (16°) counts had cold temperatures but Inwood (15°) reported the lowest. On the flip side, Hampshire County (36°), Raleigh County (41°), and Tygart Lake (43°) reported the warmest lows. The Wheeling 20<sup>th</sup> December count averaged coldest this season, with a low/high range of 23°–26°.

**Temperature Highs:** With a continuing trend, many counts reported warm temperatures, with 68% of the counts reporting temperatures above 48°. The Huntington (59°) and Morgantown (60°) counts were warm ones, but Point Pleasant (61°) topped them

slightly. The coldest high temperatures came from Pendleton County (35°), Elkins (31°), and Wheeling (26°). The Point Pleasant 30<sup>th</sup> December count averaged as the warmest this season with a low/high range of 34°– 61°.

**Weather Notes:** Nearly a quarter of the counts (23%) reported a trace-to-2" of snow on the ground. Fewer than 18% reported light rain or snow falling at times; 14% reported periods of higher wind speeds of 20–25 mph. No severe weather was reported.

### Effort Report

**Participation:** Just over a quarter of the counts (27%) reported more than twenty participants in the field. Morgantown (WVMO) had the most participation again this season, with a very impressive 79 field birders. It is nice to see that WVMO's participant roster again included several younger birders. Half of the counts reported 10–19 in the field, while the lowest 23% of our counts reported fewer than nine participants. Note: The National Audubon Society (NAS) recommends a minimum of 10 diurnal field participants.

**Diurnal Field Effort:** Half of the counts contributed more than 50 hours of effort on their count days. Both Pendleton County (78.5 hrs.) and Morgantown (88.75 hrs.) reported high effort, but Hampshire County's 41 participants/13 teams tallied 95.75 hrs. of effort, the most. The statewide average for diurnal effort this season was 52.2 hours.

**Miles tallied:** Around a third of the counts (36%) covered more than 300 miles of territory. Inwood (373), Morgantown (393.25), and Lewisburg (405.75) covered the most ground. The statewide average this season was 264 miles; which includes all modes of transportation.

**Feeder Watchers:** Nearly three-quarters of the counts (73%) reported feeder watchers surveying. Pendleton County with 9 and Morgantown with 10 participants included the most. Note: Feeder watchers are a great way to include more local participation and can be very beneficial, reporting species from areas inaccessible to field teams.

**Nocturnal Effort:** Owling was conducted on 64% of the counts. Inwood (7.75 hours X 73 miles) and Morgantown (16.75 hours X 82 miles) reported the greatest nocturnal effort this season.

### 124th West Virginia State - Diurnal Effort

**Total hours Surveying 1,149.25 – Total Miles Covered 5,804**

#### The Breakdown:

**By foot:** 536.75 hours - covering 465.25 miles (average .86 mph)

**By car:** 609.5 hours - covering 5,319.25 miles (average 8.7 mph)

**ATV:** 1 hour - covering 1.5 miles

**By boat:** 2 hours - covering 18.0 miles

### Bird Reports

The avian groups in this report reflect the 2023 American Ornithological Society (AOS) check-list. Most species within the avian groups are placed in order of abundance. Only Count Day data is reflected in this report unless otherwise noted.

Bird Report averages noted in this report are based on the West Virginia CBC data collected during the last 10 years, and is based on 22 counts, the current number conducted in the state.

**Codes:** HC-High Count / LC-Low Count/ CW-Count Week / \* WV CBC State or Count Record. **Species numbers and percentage of counts reporting them:** Example (110/counts 95%).

**Geese/Swans:** **Canada Geese (8,317/counts 95%)** were the third most-abundant species again this season, up from last season, but still average. Reported most seasons but typically in low numbers, **Snow Geese (14)** were reported from Morgantown (1), and Point Pleasant (13) which tallied the most in nine years; there was a cw report from Lewisburg. With only three birds reported in the last ten years during the CBC, **Ross's Geese (3)** were seen on the Lewisburg (1) and \*Raleigh County (2) counts. Since the 106<sup>th</sup> count, **Greater White-fronted Geese (1)** have been sporadically reported. This season \*Huntington (1) and \*Lewisburg (cw) reported this rarer goose, making only eight occasions which includes two cw-only seasons. Only missed once in the last ten years, the **Tundra Swans (19)** reported this season were all from Morgantown (19). Very rarely reported on the CBC, a Mute Swan (1) was found on the Point Pleasant (1) count.

**Ducks:** Seventeen species of waterfowl were reported this season, down from the last few seasons but still average. Species include nine dabbling ducks and eight divers.

**Dabbling ducks:** As expected, **Mallards (2,235/counts 100%)** were the most-reported duck this season, but numbers dipped to the second lowest seen in 10 years, dropping them to the 11<sup>th</sup> most-abundant species from last season's 6<sup>th</sup> place spot. Charles Town (352) and Point Pleasant (388) reported the HCs. **American Black Duck (168/counts 59%)** numbers were slightly below average, Charles Town (38) and Morgantown (46) the HCs. **Gadwall (221/counts 45%)** was way above our 98-bird/10-year average; Charleston (100) reported the amazing HC. **Green-winged Teal (114/counts 36%)** numbers were up big time from our 24-bird average, Inwood (36) and Parkersburg (40) boasted the big HCs. Lingered **Wood Ducks (44/counts 50%)** were double the average, Ona (9) reported the HC. **Northern Pintails (18/counts 14%)** were also up, with Point Pleasant (11) reporting most. Parkersburg (12) reported the only **Blue-winged Teal (12)**, breaking the 10-year/11-bird record. **American Wigeon (11/counts 18%)** numbers were average; Parkersburg (4) reported the HC. Two uncommon **American Black Duck x Mallard hybrids (2)** were found on the Morgantown (2) count.

**Diving Ducks:** Good numbers of **Hooded Mergansers (383/counts 68%)** were reported this season, a 10-year high. Morgantown (102) garnered the impressive HC. **Common Merganser (301/counts 73%)** numbers were also above average; Hampshire County (37), Charles Town (46), and Pendleton County (80) all recorded nice HCs. Though **Ring-necked Duck (75/counts 32%)** numbers were average, the Pipestem Area (34) reported a big HC. Divers found in lesser and below-average numbers this season included: **Ruddy Duck (9/counts 14%)**, Point Pleasant (5) HC; **Lesser Scaup (2)** \*Pocahontas County (1) and Point Pleasant (1); **Redhead (2)** Point Pleasant (2); **Common Goldeneye (1)** Pipestem (1).

**Gamebirds:** A ten-year low **Wild Turkey (255/counts 77%)** number was reported, our average being 435-birds. Morgantown (53) reported the HC. **Ruffed Grouse (3)** continues its low trend, Canaan (2) and Morgantown (1), supplied the only birds reported. Rarer, **Northern Bobwhite (cw)** was reported from Lewisburg (cw), the first reported in 17 years on a WV CBC, having been last reported on the 107<sup>th</sup> count.

**Grebes:** Both **Pied-billed Grebes (38/counts 41%)** (Morgantown (16) HC), and **Horned Grebes (3)** (Tygart Lake (3)), were below average.

**Pigeons/Doves:** Below-average numbers of **Rock Pigeons (4,378/counts 95%)** and **Morning Doves (2,475/counts 100%)** were reported with this season. \*Lewisburg (6) reported **Eurasian Collared-doves (6)** for the second time in WV CBC history, up from the four birds reported there on the 122<sup>nd</sup> count.

**Hummingbird:** A rare WV CBC special visitor, a \***Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (1)** had been hanging around a feeder in the \*Elkins (1) circle and was seen on count day. **NAS Editor's Note:** Historically there has only been two other count day, and one cw, reports of a **Rufous Hummingbird** on a WV CBC. Previous reports: 107<sup>th</sup> Oak Hill (1), 112<sup>th</sup> Charles Town (1), and 113<sup>th</sup> Oak Hill (cw).

**Rails:** Although **American Coots (101/counts 23%)** were below average, Charleston (40) reported a good HC. Relatively rare, but now reported most seasons, a **Virginia Rail (1)** was reported from Charles Town (1). Amazingly rare in WV or any count outside Florida or the Coastal Gulf States, a lingering \***Limpkin (1)** was relocated for the \*Charleston (1) count! A very unusual CBC and WV state record (photos taken).

**Shorebirds:** The numbers of **Killdeer (166/counts 64%)** reported were the highest seen in ten years; Ona (47) recorded the big HC. Reported yearly over the last 10 seasons, **Wilson's Snipe (14/counts 27%)** numbers are variable, and this season were just above average, Ona (6) again having the HC. Only found on three occasions in the last 10 years, a **Spotted Sandpiper (1)** was reported on the Pipestem Area (1) count.

**Gulls:** A 10-year low number of **Ring-billed Gulls (35/counts 23%)** were reported this season, Point Pleasant (24) saw most. The only **Herring Gulls (7)** reported were also from the Point Pleasant (7) count.

**Cormorants:** Up slightly, most **Double-crested Cormorants (40/counts 18%)** were seen on the Point Pleasant (25) count, which reported the HC.

**Hérons:** Most of the above-average numbers of **Great Blue Herons (140/counts 77%)** were reported from Parkersburg (19) and Point Pleasant (21), sharing the HCs.

**Vultures:** Both regular vulture species were stable this season. **Turkey Vulture (1,472/counts 91%)**; Lewisburg (281) and Moorefield (303) with the HCs. **Black Vulture (907/counts 68%)**; Lewisburg (235) reported the big HC.

**Eagles/Hawks:** Currently we average seven **Golden Eagles (9+1cw/counts 18%)** per season, this season, six adult and three subadults were reported; Pendleton County (6) provided the big HC. Hawks reported this season with average numbers included; **Northern Harrier (25/counts 45%)**; **Sharp-shinned Hawk (13/counts 59%)**; and **Cooper's Hawk (51/counts 82%)**. The WV **Bald Eagle (176/counts 86%)** numbers continue to impress, seventy-eight were reported as adult and 91 as subadults! Both Pendleton County (40) and Moorefield (53) tallied big HCs. A ten-year record number of \***Red-shouldered Hawks (271/counts 95%)** were recorded this season. Charles Town (41) and Parkersburg (41) shared a nice HC. Numbers of our most abundant buteo, **Red-tailed Hawks (391/cts 100%)** were normal. Morgantown (30), Moorefield (30), and Hampshire County (37) had the HCs. Rarer, but seen most seasons in very low numbers, a **Rough-legged Hawk (1)** was reported on the Athens-Princeton Area (1) count.

**Owls:** Our most-reported CBC owl, the **Eastern Screech-Owl (73/counts 59%)** numbers held steady; Ona (18) reported a substantial HC. With a near 10-year record high, **Great Horned Owl (33/counts 45%)** numbers were just one shy of last season's record count. Inwood (8) and Morgantown (9) recorded the HCs. **Barred Owl (30/counts 55%)** numbers have been consistent the last few seasons; Morgantown (9) enjoyed the big HC.

While not common, **Short-eared Owls (7)** were reported from Point Pleasant (2), Ona (2), and Morgantown (3). Rarer but reported seasonally, **Northern Saw-whet Owl (2)** was found again in Morgantown (2). Down from last season's seven birds, **American Barn Owl (1)**, was reported, as typically, from Moorefield (1). Pocahontas County did report it as a cw species.

**Kingfishers:** A ten-year record number of **Belted Kingfishers (164/counts 100%)** were reported. Morgantown (27) led with its huge HC.

**Woodpeckers:** All seven common woodpecker species were reported again this season with all coming in above the 10-year average except for **Downy**, which was just below normal. Our most vocal woodpecker, **\*Red-bellied Woodpecker (986/counts 100%)**, was reported heavily, Parkersburg (98), Hampshire County (98), and Charles Town (98) all reported similar HCs. The other six *in order of abundance*, and reported on all counts unless otherwise noted are: **Downy Woodpecker (825)** Hampshire County (70), Morgantown (73), and Charles Town (74) had the HCs; **Northern Flicker (465/counts 91%)**, Charles Town (69) with the big HC; **Pileated Woodpecker (383)** Hampshire County (64) stand-alone HC; **Hairy Woodpecker (203/counts 95%)** Morgantown (27) had the nice HC; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (195/counts 95%)** Charles Town (41) contributed another impressive HC. Lastly, a 10-year record number of **\*Red-headed Woodpeckers (62/counts 59%)** was reported; Pendleton County (14) and Hampshire County (17) led with the HCs.

**Falcons:** Two falcons broke a 10-year record by one. The first, **American Kestrels (211/counts 95%)**, who appear to have rebounded somewhat; Moorefield (29) and Point Pleasant (30) contributed nice HCs. The second record breaker was **Peregrine Falcon (13/counts 23%)**, with both Parkersburg (4) and Huntington (4) reporting HCs. An average number of **Merlins (6/counts 14%)** were reported, most from Charleston (4), which had the HC.

**Flycatchers:** Fairly common and semi-wintering, **Eastern Phoebe (53/counts 73%)** numbers were good this season, just one off the 10-year high. Pipestem (9) provided the stand-alone HC.

**Vireos:** A vireo on a West Virginia CBC is always a nice rare find, but in the last decade one vireo has become a yearly regular. **White-eyed Vireo (1)** was reported once again from Morgantown (1).

**Shrikes:** A southerly species, but not a state regular, **Loggerhead Shrike (1)** has only been reported two times in the last 10 years. Morgantown (1) reported one this season.

**Jays/Crows/Ravens:** Above-average numbers of **Blue Jays (2884/counts 100%)** were reported, Hampshire County (293) and Parkersburg (326) led with the HCs. Teetering in the top spot yearly, **American Crow (33,594/counts 100%)** was the most-prevalent species this season. Two of the three regular seasonal roosts, Charleston (14K) and Raleigh County (15K) both reported large numbers. Again, this season, Wheeling (WVWH) did not report a crow roost in its historic roosting site. Now being reported regularly on most counts, **Common Raven (462/counts 91%)** numbers were well above average, only being surpassed by one other season. Lewisburg (62) and Pendleton County (64) recorded the HCs.

**Chickadees/Titmice:** In the top 20 species found, **Carolina Chickadee (1,867/counts 77%)** numbers were also well above average, second highest in the 10-year period. Four counts reporting over 210 birds each. In contrast, a 10-year record low number of



**Black-capped Chickadees (450/counts 45%)** were reported, most from the HC in Canaan (107). Another very vocal species, **Tufted Titmice (1,952/counts 100%)** numbers were average; Hampshire County (238) reported the HC.

**Larks:** A species with numbers that can fluctuate greatly, **Horned Lark (151/counts 14%)** numbers were just above the norm. Charles Town (100) reported the most.

**Kinglets:** An average number of **Golden-crowned Kinglets (387/counts 100%)** were reported, Hampshire County (61) having the substantial HC. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet (90/counts 68%)**, were 50% above average, with Hampshire County (20) again reporting a good portion, and the HC.

**Waxwings:** A species whose numbers can vary greatly seasonally on a WV CBC, **Cedar Waxwing (1,783/counts 68%)** numbers were up bigtime, with the second highest number reported in 10 years! Moorefield (268), Inwood (370), and Hampshire County (865) led with the estimated HCs.

**Nuthatches:** An average number of **White-breasted Nuthatches (1,267/counts 100%)**, were reported; Hampshire County (155) had the HC. Variable seasonally, **Red-breasted Nuthatches (42/counts 45%)** numbers were low, with Canaan (10) and Pendleton County (14) reporting the most.

**Treecreepers:** A slightly above-average number of **Brown Creepers (97/counts 82%)** were reported, with Pendleton County (16) supplying an impressive HC.

**Wrens:** Both of our seasonal wrens exceeded their averages. **Carolina Wren (1,692/counts 100%)**; Huntington (144) had the HC. **Winter Wren (96/counts 91%)**; Charles Town (14) provided the sizable HC.

**Mimids:** Slightly above-average were **Northern Mockingbirds (618/counts 95%)**; Inwood (82) and Charles Town (82) had the tying HCs. Breaking the previous 10-year HC, **Brown Thrasher (11/counts 36%)**, no HCs. Lastly, tying a previous HC, **Gray Catbird (9/counts 27%)**, with Morgantown (3) reporting the HC.

**Thrushes:** All seasonal thrush numbers were above average. Greatly variable seasonally, **American Robin (5,701/counts 95%)**; Inwood (1,775) reported the HC by two-fold. **Eastern Bluebirds (1,818/counts 100%)** set a ten-year record number; Hampshire County (240) and Charles Town (254) led with the HCs. **Hermit Thrushes (198/counts 100%)** set another 10-year record, with Inwood (26) and Charles Town (29) having the big HCs.

**Starlings:** The second most-abundant statewide species, **European Starling (30,044/counts 100%)** came in slightly above average, with nearly half (45%) of the circles estimating in excess of 1,000. Point Pleasant, Inwood, and Morgantown each estimated more than 3,000; Moorefield (7,075) boasted the estimated HC.

**Old World Sparrows:** Below-average numbers of **House Sparrows (2,112/counts 100%)** were reported, Athens-Princeton Area (375) recording the HC.

**Pipits:** With extremely variable numbers, this season, **\*American Pipits (468/counts 14%)** hit not only a 10-year high record but an WV CBC historic high! Almost all were reported from **\*Moorefield (444)**, a record-breaking HC! **NAS Editor's note:** AMPIs have been reported on WV CBC count days on 39 occasions, the previous HC was 242 on the 110<sup>th</sup> CBC.

**Finches:** Average numbers of two most-prevalent finches were reported. **American Goldfinch (1,672/counts 100%)**, with Inwood (186) having the HC, and **House Finch (1,147/counts 100%)**; Morgantown (161) and Inwood (171) shared the HCs. Also, with

average numbers, **Purple Finch (51/counts 41%)**; Pendleton County (17) led with the HC. Being a non-irruptive season equated to low **Pine Siskin (22/counts 9%)** numbers; Pendleton County (5) and Morgantown (17) recorded the HC. The only **Red Crossbills (4)** were reported from Pendleton County (4).

**Sparrows:** Twelve species of sparrows were reported this season, three of which were in the top 12 most-abundant statewide species. The following sparrows are listed by abundance, with these additional averages' codes; > above / < below /  $\mu$  average.

- **Dark-eyed Junco *Slate-colored* (4,092</counts 100%)**, Pendleton County (873) HC
- **White-throated Sparrow (2,591>/counts 95%)**, Charles Town (317) and Inwood (369) HCs
- **Song Sparrow (2,125>/counts 100%)**, Morgantown (257) HC
- **White-crowned Sparrow (571>/counts 77%)**, 10-year HC, Lewisburg (145) and Moorefield (146) HCs
- **Field Sparrow (339>/counts 95%)**, Charles Town (54) and Moorefield (79) HCs
- **Eastern Towhee (337 $\mu$ /counts 91%)**, Huntington (42), Ona (48), and Point Pleasant (51) the HCs
- **Swamp Sparrow (168>/counts 86%)**, Morgantown (27) HC
- **American Tree Sparrow (86>/counts 36%)**, Parkersburg (32) HC.

Sparrows typically found in lesser numbers: **Savannah Sparrow (67>/counts 32%)**, 10-year HC, with Point Pleasant (35) contributing the amazing HC. **Fox Sparrow (52 $\mu$ /counts 59%)**; Huntington (10) and Moorefield (12) reported the HCs. **Chipping Sparrow (14</counts 27%)**, lowest in 10 years, evidenced by the HC in Morgantown (7). A very rare sparrow on the CBC, **Lincoln's Sparrow (3>/counts 14%)** has only been reported two other times in the last 10 years; this season, Morgantown (1), Parkersburg (1), and Raleigh County (1) all reported them.

**Blackbirds:** Strangely, the most-prevalent blackbird species this season, **Red-winged Blackbird (318/counts 55%)**, was at a near 10-year low. Hampshire County (52) recorded the HC. Conversely, **Eastern Meadowlark (199/counts 45%)** numbers were a near 10-year high. Moorefield (46) and Point Pleasant (77) shared the HCs. Less-prevalent and both coming in below average, **Brown-headed Cowbirds (88/counts 23%)**, with Morgantown (48) reporting the HC, and **Common Grackle (56/counts 32%)**, Inwood (37) with most.

**Warblers:** The most regular seasonal warbler, **Yellow-rumped Warblers (599/counts 77%)** were heavily reported in above-average numbers; Moorefield (142) led with the HC. Rarer warblers reported included three **Palm Warblers (3)** on the Point Pleasant (3) count, and two **Pine Warblers (2)**, Morgantown (1) and Pendleton County (1).

**Cardinals:** Numbers were down from last season but **Northern Cardinal (2,809/counts 100%)** numbers remain average. Wheeling (235), Charles Town (237), and Morgantown (256) supplied the HCs.

## Final Notes

Twenty-two Rare Bird Reports were submitted this season, I would like to thank all the participants who followed National Audubon Society's CBC protocol, and sent in those important forms.

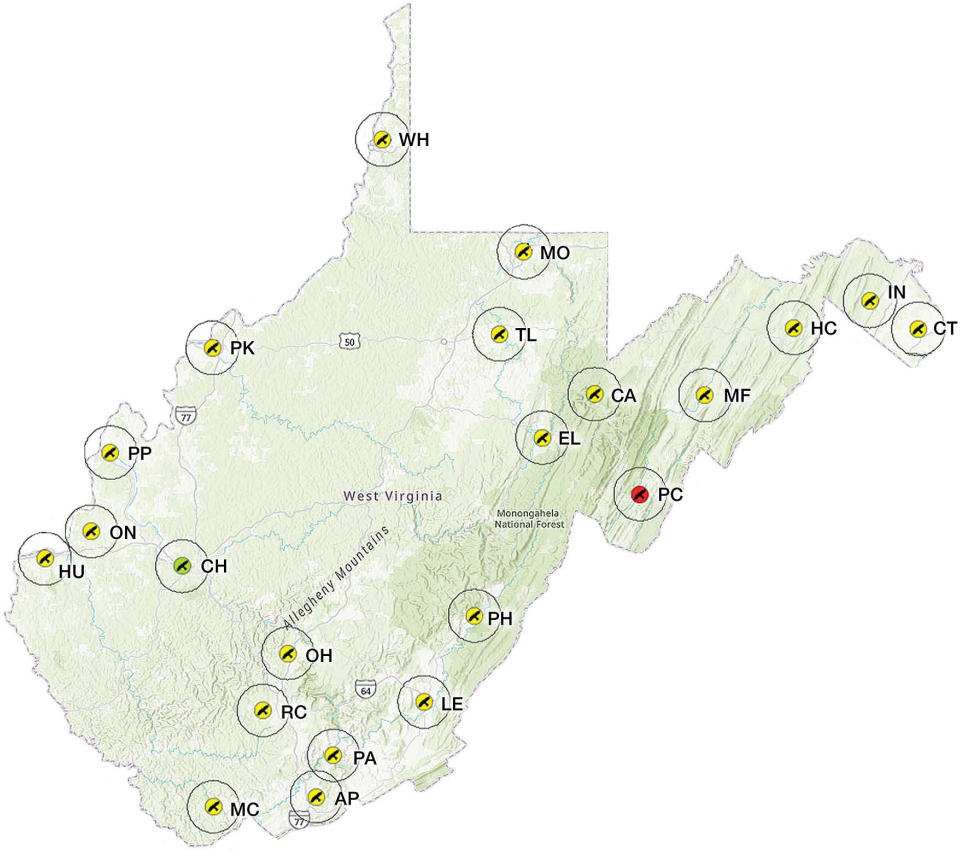
Getting the most accurate data possible on the CBC is very important. The information not only includes the species reported, but all the effort it took to find those species. All information entered is looked at closely by our current twenty-two state compilers, and then by the West Virginia State Editor before we submit our results to the National Audubon Society, adding to the 123 years of avian data previously entered. The NAS CBC is the longest running avian census in the world!

**As always, please help where you can and on as many counts as possible!**

For more information on West Virginia's Christmas Bird Counts and complete seasonal CBC data, go to the Brooks Bird Club website <http://www.brooksbirdclub.org/wv-cbc-results.html> Here you will find where all the West Virginia circles are located, compiler contact information, and count dates (when available) for all state counts.

This was my eighth year as the West Virginia State Editor and I would like to again give thanks to all the state compilers for their dedication and hard work. Without these committed compilers, and all their devoted participants, our state would not have been so well represented during this 124th winter bird survey.

Wheeling, WV 26003



2023-24 West Virginia Christmas Bird Count circles

WVAP Athens-Princeton Area  
 WVCA Canaan  
 WVCH Charleston  
 WVCT Charles Town  
 WVLE Elkins Area  
 WVHC Hampshire County  
 WVHU Huntington  
 WVIN Inwood  
 WVLE Lewisburg  
 WVMC McDowell County  
 WVMF Moorefield

WVMO Morgantown  
 WVOH Oak Hill  
 WVON Ona  
 WVPA Pipestem Area  
 WVPC Pendleton County  
 WVPH Pocahontas County  
 WVPK Parkersburg  
 WVPP Point Pleasant  
 WVRC Raleigh County  
 WVTL Tygart Lake  
 WVWH Wheeling

**Table 1**  
**Species Participation Effort**

**124th NAS Christmas Bird Count**  
Region: West Virginia  
Species/Participants/Effort/Totals

Count Code	CBC Count Name	Species	Field - FW Participants	Parties Max	Total Hrs. Diurnal	Total Birds	Species Found in High Numbers	Single Birds
WVCA	Canaan	43 CW-6	16 FW-4	10	51	1283	EUST-406	4
WVMC	McDowell County	45 CW-0	3 FW-0	2	16	613	No high count species	5
WVEL	Elkins	47 CW-2	15 FW-1	9	43.25	1982	CANG-228 EUST-274 DEJU-403	7
WVOH	Oak Hill	54 CW-0	27 FW-8	10	54.25	2212	AMCR-248 EUST-342 DEJU-181	3
WVAP	Athens-Princeton Area	54 CW-1	7 FW-0	4	29.5	1790	EUST-276 HOSP-375	6
WVRC	Raleigh County	54 CW-2	9 FW-2	7	42.75	17021	AMCR-15,000 EUST-733	9
WVLE	Lewisburg	55 CW-3	19 FW-3	10	63.75	4311	CANG-740 BLVU-235 TUVU-281 AMCR-284 EUST-1150	10
WVCH	Charleston	57 CW-0	19 FW-4	10	36.5	16019	CANG-155 ROPI-256 AMCR-14,000 AMRO-168	6
WVMH	Wheeling	58 CW-0	15 FW-4	12	48	5088	CANG-649 ROPI-418 AMCR-288 AMRO-318 EUST-744 HOSP-268	6
WVTL	Tygart Lake	60 CW-0	9 FW-0	3	27	1905	EUST-424	4
WVPA	Pipestem Area	63 CW-3	12 FW-1	5	27.75	1916	ROPI-185 EUST-178	8
WVPH	Pocahontas County	64 CW-3	16 FW-1	6	47.75	3090	CANG-386 MALL-228 EUST-682 DEJU-262	11
WVHC	Hampshire County	66 CW-2	41 FW-1	13	95.75	7096	BLJA-293 AMCR-274 AMRO-750 EUST-1K CEWA-865 DEJU-712	3
WVHU	Huntington	68 CW-0	18 FW-0	7	66.5	4800	CANG-616 AMCR-568 EUST-1108	8
WVPC	Pendleton County	69 CW-2	12 FW-9	8	78.5	5268	MODD-261 AMCR-589 EUST-1,000 DEJU-873	9
WVON	Ona	71 CW-0	11 FW-0	6	44.25	3325	CANG-449 EUST-484	10
WVMF	Moorefield	72 CW-0	7 FW-2	6	37.75	11711	TUVU-303 ROPI-292 AMRO-409 EUST-7075 AMPI-444 WTSP-291	9
WVIN	Inwood	74 CW-0	21 FW-4	9	63	9800	CANG-348 AMRO-1775 EUST-3375 CEWA-370 DEJU-373 WTSP-386	7
WVCT	Charles Town	77 CW-1	24 FW-4	9	69.75	7280	CANG-454 MALL-352 EABL-254 AMRO-578 EUST-1675 DEJU-332	8
WVPK	Parkersburg	78 CW-0	26 FW-4	9	59	6603	CANG-1,052 MALL-241 ROPI-905 BLJA-326 AMRO-304 EUST-1,100	7
WVPP	Point Pleasant	78 CW-0	15 FW-0	8	58.5	8754	CANG-1,325 MALL-388 ROPI-373 AMCR-447 EUST-3,950	6
WVMO	Morgantown	95 CW-2	79 FW-10	17	88.75	10959	CANG-1051 MALL-282 ROPI-779 AMCR-419 AMRO-531 EUST-3900	12

Counts in order of number of species reported.  
CW = Count Week - FW = Feeder Watcher  
Average number of species per count 61.27

**Table 2**  
**Species Distribution and Volume**

124th Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Region: West Virginia - Species Distribution - The Widespread (60) Species  
Count percentages rounded to the nearest whole number

**Species found on twenty-two (100%) of the WV Counts:**

1. Mallard – 2,235
2. Red-tailed Hawk – 391
3. Mourning Dove – 2,475
4. Belted Kingfisher – 164
5. Red-bellied Woodpecker – 986
6. Downy Woodpecker – 825
7. Pileated Woodpecker – 383
8. Blue Jay – 2,884
9. American Crow – 33,594
10. Tufted Titmouse – 1,953
11. White-breasted Nuthatch – 1,267
12. Carolina Wren – 1,692
13. Golden-crowned Kinglet – 387
14. Eastern Bluebird – 1,818
15. Hermit Thrush – 198
16. European Starling – 30,044
17. Dark-eyed Junco (state) – 4,591
18. Song Sparrow – 2,125
19. Northern Cardinal – 2,809
20. House Finch – 1,147
21. American Goldfinch – 1,672
22. House Finch – 2,112

**Species found on twenty-one (95%) of the WV Counts:**

1. Canada Goose – 8,317 +
2. Red-shouldered Hawk – 271
3. Rock Pigeon – 4,378
4. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 195
5. Hairy Woodpecker – 203
6. American Kestrel – 211
7. American Robin – 5,701
8. Northern Mockingbird – 618
9. Field Sparrow – 339
10. White-throated Sparrow – 2,591

**Species found on twenty (91%) of the WV Counts:**

1. Turkey Vulture – 1,472

2. Northern Flicker – 465
3. Common Raven – 462
4. Winter Wren – 96
5. Eastern Towhee – 337

**Species found on nineteen (86%) of the WV Counts:**

1. Bald Eagle – 176
2. Swamp Sparrow – 168

**Species found on eighteen (82%) of the WV Counts:**

1. Cooper's Hawk – 51
2. Brown Creeper – 97

**Species found on seventeen (77%) of the WV Counts:**

1. Wild Turkey – 255
2. Great Blue Heron – 140
3. Carolina Chickadee – 1,867
4. Yellow-rumped Warbler – 599
5. White-crowned Sparrow – 571

**Species found on sixteen (73%) of the WV Counts:**

1. Common Merganser – 301
2. Eastern Phoebe – 53

**Species Found on fifteen (68%) of WV Counts:**

1. Hooded Merganser – 383
2. Black Vulture – 907
3. Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 90
4. Cedar Waxwing – 1,783

**Species Found on fourteen (64%) of WV Counts:**

1. Killdeer – 166

**Species Found on thirteen (59%) of WV Counts:**

1. Sharp-shinned Hawk – 22

2. Eastern Screech-Owl – 73
3. Red-headed Woodpecker – 62
4. Fox Sparrow – 52

**Species Found on twelve (55%) of WV Counts:**

1. Barred Owl – 30
2. Red-winged Blackbird – 318

**Species Found on eleven (50%) of WV Counts:**

1. Wood Duck – 44

**Table 3**  
**124th NAS CBC 2023 – 2024**  
**Region West Virginia - Total Species (124) by Abundance**

1. American Crow – 33,594	35. Golden-crowned Kinglet – 387
2. European Starling – 30,044	36. Hooded Merganser – 383
3. Canada Goose – 8,317	37. Pileated Woodpecker – 383
4. American Robin – 5,701	38. Eastern Towhee – 337
5. Dark-eyed Junco – 4,591	39. Red-winged Blackbird – 318
6. Rick Pigeon – 4,378	40. Common Merganser – 301
7. Blue Jay – 2,884	41. Red-shouldered Hawk – 271
8. Northern Cardinal – 2,809	42. Wild Turkey – 255
9. White-throated Sparrow – 2,591	43. Gadwall – 221
10. Mourning Dove – 2,475	44. American Kestrel – 211
11. Mallard – 2,235	45. Hairy Woodpecker – 203
12. Song Sparrow – 2,125	46. Eastern Meadowlark – 199
13. House Sparrow – 2,112	47. Hermit Thrush – 198
14. Tufted Titmouse – 1953	48. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 195
15. Eastern Bluebird – 1,818	49. Bald Eagle – 176
16. Cedar Waxwing – 1,783	50. American Black Duck – 168
17. Carolina Wren – 1,692	51. Swamp Sparrow – 168
18. American Goldfinch – 1,672	52. Killdeer – 166
19. Carolina Chickadee – 1,867	53. Belted Kingfisher – 164
20. Turkey Vulture – 1,472	54. Horned Lark – 151
21. White-breasted Nuthatch – 1,267	55. <i>chickadee sp.</i> – 141
22. House Finch – 1,147	56. Great Blue Heron – 140
23. Red-bellied Woodpecker – 986	57. Bufflehead – 129
24. Black Vulture – 907	58. Green-winged Teal – 114
25. Downy Woodpecker – 825	59. American Coot – 101
26. Northern Mockingbird – 618	60. Brown Creeper – 97
27. Yellow-rumped Warbler – 599	61. Winter Wren – 96
28. White-crowned Sparrow – 571	62. Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 90
29. American Pipit – 468	63. Brown-headed Cowbird – 88
30. Northern Flicker – 465	64. American Tree Sparrow – 86
31. Common Raven – 462	65. Ring-necked Duck – 75
32. Black-capped Chickadee – 450	66. Eastern Screech-Owl – 73
33. Field Sparrow – 399	67. Savannah Sparrow – 67
34. Red-tailed Hawk – 391	68. Red-headed Woodpecker – 62

**Table 3 (cont.)**  
**Total Species by Abundance**

69. Rusty Blackbird – 59	113. Palm Warbler – 3
70. Common Grackle – 56	114. Lincoln’s Sparrow – 3
71. Eastern Phoebe – 53	115. American Black Duck x Mall (hy.) – 2
72. Fox Sparrow – 52	116. Redhead – 2
73. Cooper’s Hawk – 51	117. Lesser Scaup – 2
74. Purple Finch – 51	118. Common Loon – 2
75. Wood Duck – 44	119. Northern Saw-whet Owl – 2
76. Mallard ( <i>domestic</i> ) – 43	120. <i>diurnal raptor sp.</i> – 2
77. Red-breasted Nuthatch – 42	121. Pine Warbler – 2
78. Double-crested Cormorant – 40	122. Greater White-fronted Goose – 1
79. Pied-billed Grebe – 38	123. Mute Swan – 1
80. Ring-billed Gull – 35	124. Common Goldeneye – 1
81. Great Horned Owl – 33	125. Rough-legged Hawk – 1
82. <i>dabbling duck sp.</i> – 30	126. <i>buteo sp.</i> – 1
83. Barred Owl – 30	127. Virginia Rail – 1
84. Northern Harrier – 25	128. Limpkin – 1
85. <i>kinglet sp.</i> – 24	129. Spotted Sandpiper – 1
86. Sharp-shinned Hawk – 22	130. American Woodcock – 1
87. Pine Siskin – 22	131. American Barn Owl – 1
88. Tundra Swan – 19	132. Rufous/Allen’s Hummingbird – 1
89. Northern Pintail – 18	133. <i>woodpecker sp.</i> – 1
90. Snow Goose – 14	134. Loggerhead Shrike – 1
91. Wilson’s Snipe – 14	135. White-eyed Vireo – 1
92. Chipping Sparrow – 14	136. Carolina x BC Chickadee (hy.) – 1
93. Peregrine Falcon – 13	137. Northern Bobwhite – CW
94. Blue-winged Teal – 12	
95. <i>duck sp.</i> - 12	
96. American Wigeon – 11	124 Species – 1 count week species
97. Brown Thrasher – 11	
98. Ruddy Duck – 9	
99. Golden Eagle – 9	
100. Gray Catbird – 9	
101. Herring Gull – 7	
102. Short-eared Owl – 7	
103. Eurasian Collared-Dove – 6	
104. Merlin – 6	
105. Northern Shoveler – 4	
106. <i>eagle sp.</i> – 4	
107. Fish Crow – 4	
108. Red Crossbill – 4	
109. Ross’s Goose – 3	
110. Ruffed Grouse – 3	
111. Horned Grebe – 3	
112. <i>accipiter sp.</i> – 3	



**Table 4**  
**124th NAS CBC - Weather - Region WV**

Count	Date	Low Temp	High Temp	AM Clouds	PM Clouds	AM Rain	PM Rain	AM Snow	PM Snow
WVCH	16-Dec	28	54	cloudy	pt. clear	light	none	none	none
WVCT	16-Dec	22	58	pt. cloudy	pt. cloudy	none	none	none	none
WVMO	16-Dec	28	60	clear	clear	none	none	none	none
WVOH	16-Dec	27	58	pt. cloudy	clear	none	none	none	none
WVON	16-Dec	21	61*	pt. cloudy	pt. cloudy	none	none	none	none
WVPA	16-Dec	21	54	pt. cloudy	pt. cloudy	none	none	none	none
WVPH	16-Dec	20	52	clear	pt. cloudy	none	none	none	none
WVPH	16-Dec	29	58	pt. cloudy	pt. cloudy	none	none	none	none
WVPK	16-Dec	35	49	cloudy	cloudy	light	light	none	none
WVCA	17-Dec	41	48	cloudy	cloudy	light	light	none	none
WVRC	17-Dec	37	46	pt. clear	pt. clear	light	none	none	light
WVMF	18-Dec	26	35	cloudy	pt. cloudy	none	none	light	none
WVPC	19-Dec	16	50	clear	clear	none	none	none	none
WVMC	20-Dec	23	26	clear	clear	none	none	none	none
WVWH	20-Dec	32	59	pt. cloudy	pt. cloudy	none	none	none	none
WVHU	23-Dec	32	49	foggy	pt. clear	none	none	none	none
WVAP	28-Dec	43	48	local fog	pt. cloudy	none	none	none	none
WVTL	28-Dec	36	44	pt. cloudy	pt. cloudy	none	none	none	none
WVHC	30-Dec	32	39	cloudy	cloudy	none	none	light/none	light/none
WVLE	30-Dec	34	61*	clear	clear	none	none	none	none
WVPP	30-Dec	25	31	cloudy	cloudy	none	none	light	none
WVEL	2-Jan	15*	43	clear	clear	none	none	none	none

CBC Season 12/14/23 - 1/5/24  
 Count order: Date conducted  
 \* Low & High extremes

WVWH average lowest  
 WVPP average highest

**Table 5**  
**Regional Status Report**

**124th Audubon Christmas Bird Count**  
Region: West Virginia, Status Report  
**Twenty-two Active Circles**  
WV CBC State Editor: L. E. Helgerman

Count Code	Count Circle Name	Circle Compiler(s)	Contact Information
WVAP	Athens-Princeton Area	Ron Canterbury	ron.canterbury@uc.edu
WVCA	Canaan	Casey Rucker	autoblock@frontiernet.net
WVCH	Charleston	Doren Burrell	g.immer@doren.net
WVCT	Charles Town	Bob Dean	bobdean52@gmail.com
WVEL	Elkins Area	Rich Bailey	richard.s.bailey@wv.gov
WVHC	Hampshire County	David Malakoff	malakoff@comcast.net
WVHU	Huntington	David Patick	patick@comcast.net
WVIN	Inwood	Bob Dean	bobdean52@gmail.com
WVLE	Lewisburg	Ben Handley	ben@potteryalley.com
		Larry Davis	anldavis@suddenlink.net
WVMC	McDowell County	Allen Waldron	awaldron@suddenlink.net
WVMF	Moorefield	Kyle Rambo	kerambo@gmail.com
		Darrell Good	darzgood@gmail.com
WVMO	Morgantown	LeJay Graffious	lejaygraffious@gmail.com
WVOH	Oak Hill	Rachel Davis	rachel.davis8059@gmail.com
WVON	Ona	David Patick	patick@comcast.net
WVPA	Pipestem Area	Jim Phillips	jimandjudyphillips@gmail.com
WVPC	Pendleton County	Fred Atwood	fredatwood@yahoo.com
WVPH	Pocahontas County	Rich Bailey	richard.s.bailey@wv.gov
WVPK	Parkersburg	Dick Esker	eskerrb@frontier.com
WVPP	Point Pleasant	Josh Holland	jhollandua@gmail.com
WVRC	Raleigh County	Allen Waldron	awaldron@suddenlink.net
WVTL	Tygart Lake	Matthew McKinney	mckinneymi@ab.edu
		Ross Brittain	rossalanbrittain@gmail.com
WVWH	Wheeling	Molly Check	molly.check@gmail.com

**Field Notes**  
**Spring Season**  
**March 1 – May 31, 2024**

Casey Rucker

All three months were warmer than normal, in the second-warmest spring in West Virginia since 1895, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. March and May were drier than average, and April was wetter than normal.

These notes were gathered from the West Virginia Birds Listserv, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, from bird-count results, and from field notes submitted to the editor by email and regular mail. The full content of the submitted reports by the contributors of the WV Listserv may be viewed by visiting the archives at <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>.

Hullet Good discovered a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Coonskin Park, Kanawha County, on May 16; it was the first county sighting of the species. The number of reports was sharply down from those of recent years. During the spring season only 172 species were reported in West Virginia, with 32 of 55 counties contributing to our state's avian lore. Birders found 29 species of warbler during the spring season.

**Geese, Swans, and Ducks** – The **Eurasian Wigeon** found by Hullet Good on May 16 is described above. **Canada Geese** continued to be widespread, and David Patick saw the resident **Mute Swan** at McClintic Wildlife Management Area, Mason County, on April 27.

Duck sightings in West Virginia were much lower during this warm spring compared to earlier years, and diversity was down to 16 species reported. **Wood Ducks** and **Mallards** were reported in five-to-nine counties during the spring. The following species were reported only in the counties listed: **Blue-winged Teal** in Mercer (JP), Monongalia (LeJ, LS), and Summers (JP); **Northern Shovelers** in Mercer (JP); **American Wigeons** in Kanawha (HG) and Mercer (JP); **American Black Ducks** in Mercer (JP); **Ring-necked Ducks** in Mercer (JP), Summers (JP), and Tucker (HMy, JTr); **Greater Scaup** in Monongalia (DCo) and Tucker (HMy); **Lesser Scaup** in Monongalia (DCo), Mercer (JP), and Summers (JP); **Surf Scoter** in Grant (DH); **Buffleheads** in Monongalia (DCo, LeJ), Raleigh (MAW), and Summers (JP); **Hooded Mergansers** in Tucker (HMy), Summers (JP), and Wood (TB); **Common Mergansers** in Kanawha (HG), Summers (JP), and Tucker (CR); **Red-breasted Mergansers** in Grant (DH) and Monongalia (DCo); and **Ruddy Ducks** in Kanawha (HG).

**Turkeys** – Birders in only four counties reported **Wild Turkeys**.

**Grebes** – Birders reported **Pied-billed Grebes** in four counties, and **Horned Grebes** in Grant County (DH).

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

**Cuckoos** – Reports of **Cuckoos** continue to dwindle. Once again, Donny Good found the first **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed cuckoos** of the season, on May 5 in the vicinity of his farm in Roane County. Other reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** came from Preston (LeJ) and Summers (JP) Counties.

**Goatsuckers and Swifts** – Reports of **nightjars** continued to be sparse this spring. Donny Good heard both **Chuck-will’s-widow** and **Whip-poor-will** near his farm in Roane County on April 15. Kevin Campbell reported that once again **Chuck-will’s-widows** began singing on Spyder Ridge, Wood County, on April 28. Other reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** came from five counties, while those of **Chimney Swifts** came only from Ohio (PM) and Summers (JP) Counties.

**Hummingbirds** – **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** began arriving on April 14, the same date as the year before; James and Judy Phillips reported the first sighting at their feeder in Pipestem, Summers County. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** also appeared in reports from eight other counties throughout the state.

**Rails and Coots** – On April 27, David Patick found a **Virginia Rail** and three **Soras** at McClintic Wildlife Management Area, Mason County.

**Cranes** – Cynthia Mullens spotted a pair of **Sandhill Cranes** at Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Barbour County on March 3. Bill Blauvelt relayed Michael Brady’s report of a **Sandhill Crane** at Cranesville Swamp, Preston County, on April 29.

**Plovers** – It was another sparse spring for **plovers**. **Killdeer** reports came from four counties; Michael Griffith found 42 **Semipalmated Plovers** on Plymale Lane, Mason County, on May 12.

**Sandpipers** – Only eight **sandpiper** species made appearances in the Mountain State; reports were vanishingly scarce. On May 12, Michael Griffith found two **Dunlin**, 25 **Least Sandpipers**, 45 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, a **Solitary Sandpiper**, 15 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and nine **Greater Yellowlegs** on Plymale Lane, Mason County. **American Woodcocks** were reported in Randolph (MK), Summers (JJP), and Tucker (SAn, HMy) Counties. **Spotted Sandpiper** reports came from Mercer (JP), Monongalia (DCo), and Summers (JP) Counties; and Wilma Jarrell found the only other reported **Solitary Sandpiper** at Proctor, Wetzel County, on April 21.

**Gulls and Terns** – Seven **Ring-billed Gulls** were at Cheat Lake on March 16, as seen by Derek Courtney and the Mountaineer Audubon Society.

**Loons** – On April 6, James Phillips discovered a pair of **Common Loons** on the Bluestone River, Summers County. Mindy and Allen Waldren found as many as five **Common Loons** on Lake Stephens, Raleigh County, during April.

**Cormorants** – West Virginia birders reported **Double-crested Cormorants** in only Raleigh (MAW) and Summers (JP) Counties this spring.

**Pelicans** – Terry Bronson saw two **American White Pelicans** at the mouth of French Creek, Pleasants County, on May 31.

**Hérons and Egrets** – **Hérons** inspired few reports this spring. LeJay Graffious listened to the calls of an **American Bittern** at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker County, on April 25. On April 7, David Daniels spotted a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** on the Deckers Creek Trail in Preston County; Cynthia Mullens found it there the next day. James Phillips reported the only **Green Heron** of the season, in Bluestone State Park, Summers County, on May 31. **Great Egret** reports came from Greenbrier (JO) and Summers (JP) Counties. **Great Blue Herons** were mentioned only in Monongalia (DCo), Ritchie (CB), and Summers (JP) Counties.

**Hawks, Eagles, and Kites** – Raptor reports were also scanty this season. **Osprey** were reported from Jackson (KCa), Kanawha (HG), Summers (JJP), and Wetzel (WJ) Counties, beginning on March 7 when James and Judy Phillips saw one at their home in Pipestem,

Summers County. **Accipiter** reports remained few this spring, with **Sharp-shinned Hawks** reported only in Jefferson (JN), Kanawha (HG), and Summers (JP) Counties and **Cooper's Hawks** observed in Kanawha (HG) and Summers (JP) Counties. Reports of **Bald Eagles**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, **Broad-winged Hawks**, and **Red-tailed Hawks** were relatively widespread in West Virginia during the season. On March 13 Bruni Haydl spied two **Bald Eagle nestlings** near her home in Charles Town, Jefferson County.

**Owls** – Owl reports continued to be infrequent. **Eastern Screech-Owl** reports came only from Roane (DG) and Summers (JJP) Counties, **Great Horned Owl** only from James Phillips, in Monroe and Summers Counties, and **Barred Owl** from Summers (JP) and Tucker (CR) Counties.

**Kingfishers** – **Belted Kingfisher** reports were flat in West Virginia this season, with reports from seven counties.

**Woodpeckers** – **Red-headed Woodpeckers** inspired reports in six counties, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** in Preston (LeJ) and Tucker (LC) Counties, and **Hairy Woodpeckers** in five counties. Our state's other five species of **woodpecker** were all widely reported.

**Falcons** – LeJay Graffious reported the only **American Kestrels** of the season, a pair frequenting a nest box at Old Hemlock, Preston County, through the spring. James Phillips reported the lone **Peregrine Falcon** of the season, in Hinton, Summers County, on March 10.

**Flycatchers** – Reports of **flycatchers** dipped compared to last year. First-reported dates, counties, and observers are listed in parentheses: **Great Crested Flycatchers** and **Eastern Kingbirds** (April 19, Raleigh, MAW), **Eastern Wood-Pewees** (April 24, Summers, JP), **Acadian Flycatchers** (May 30, Randolph, CR), **Alder Flycatchers** (May 21, Tucker, MK), **Willow Flycatcher** (May 25, Ohio, PM), **Least Flycatchers** (May 31, Summers, JP), and **Eastern Phoebe** (March 4, Summers, JP).

**Vireos** – Our five breeding **vireos** returned to nesting grounds throughout the state beginning on the dates listed, along with counties and observers: **White-eyed** (April 19, Ohio, PM), **Yellow-throated** (April 18, Summers, JP), **Blue-headed** (April 1, Summers, JP), **Warbling** (April 30, Summers, JP), and **Red-eyed** (April 19, Raleigh, MAW).

**Jays, Crows, and Ravens** – **Blue Jays**, **American Crows**, and **Common Ravens** were reported widely throughout the state.

**Chickadees** and **Titmice** – **Black-capped** and **Carolina chickadees** as well as **Tufted Titmice** were reported in their usual habitats in West Virginia this spring.

**Swallows** – **Tree Swallows** had already made appearances in West Virginia at the end of February, and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** arrived on March 29 in Summers County (JP); both species appeared widely. **Purple Martins** began to arrive on March 20 in Summers County (JP), and were also reported in Jefferson County (BH). James and Judy Phillips spotted the season's first **Barn Swallow**, on April 5 in Hinton, Summers County; and **Cliff Swallows**, at Bellepoint Park, Summers County, on April 10. **Barn Swallows** made widespread returns to West Virginia this spring, and **Cliff Swallows** inspired one subsequent report from Kanawha County (HG).

**Kinglets** – Birders reported **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** in six West Virginia counties during the season, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in only four.

**Waxwings** – **Cedar Waxwing** reports came from only six counties.

**Nuthatches** – The reliable **White-breasted Nuthatch** continued its widespread presence.

**Creepers – Brown Creeper** reports remained sparse this season, coming from only three counties.

**Gnatcatchers** – On April 7 in Camp Creek State Park, Mercer County, James Phillips found a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** subsequently returned to haunts throughout the state.

**Wrens – Carolina and Northern House wrens** appeared in good numbers in reports from all over the state. On April 14, Lee J. Graffious found an early **Northern House Wren** in Bruceton Mills, Preston County.

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

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

**Thrushes – Thrush** reports were down a bit this spring. **Eastern Bluebirds, Wood Thrushes, and American Robins** were reported widely in their breeding areas in the state. **Veery** was reported only in Tucker County (MK), **Swainson’s Thrushes** in Cabell (DP) and Ohio (PM) Counties, and **Hermit Thrushes** in Monongalia (LS), Summers (JP), and Tucker (MPo) Counties.

**Weaver Finches** – The **House Sparrow** continues to occupy our state, primarily in urban and farm settings.

**Finches and Allies – House and Purple finches and American Goldfinches** made appearances throughout the state. **Pine Siskins** were scarce, with reports coming only from Jefferson (BH) and Tucker (CR) Counties.

**Sparrows, Juncos, and Towhees** – Only nine **sparrow** species made appearances in accustomed haunts throughout our state. Herb Myers found the only reported **Fox Sparrow** of the season, in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, on April 5. Sparsely reported **White-throated Sparrows** stayed through early May. Returning **sparrow** species made first appearances this season in reports from the following counties: **Grasshopper** on April 8 in Barbour (DMi) and **Swamp** on March 10 in Summers (JP). **Chipping, Field, and Song sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Eastern Towhees** were already present in some areas at the start of the spring season, and by its end were reported in many areas of the state.

**Chats** – A **Yellow-breasted Chat** appeared on May 1 at Willa Grafton’s farm in Braxton County. **Yellow-breasted Chats** also made early May appearances in Mason (DP) and Ohio (PM) Counties.

**Blackbirds and Allies – Bobolinks** returned to Barbour County, on May 7, as observed by Donna Mitchell, and also appeared in reports from Preston (LeJ) and Tucker (CR) Counties. There were many West Virginia reports of **Eastern Meadowlarks, Orchard and Baltimore orioles, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Common Grackles**. On April 2, Wilma Jarrell discovered a **Brewer’s Blackbird** at her home in Wileyville, Wetzel County.

**Warblers** – The following **warblers**, all regular migrants through or breeders in West Virginia, made their first-of-season appearances in the following counties: **Ovenbird**: April 17, Marion (AW), **Worm-eating Warbler**: May 25, Pendleton (CR), **Louisiana Waterthrush**: April 7, Summers (JP), **Golden-winged Warbler**: April 29, Lewis (JTr), **Blue-winged Warbler**: April 19, Wetzel (WJ), **Black-and-white Warbler**: April 1,

Summers (JP), **Prothonotary Warbler**: April 27, Mason (DP), **Tennessee Warbler**: May 11, Monongalia (KF), **Nashville Warbler**: April 24, Monongalia (LS), **Mourning Warbler**: May 30, Randolph (CR), **Kentucky Warbler**: April 24, Monongalia (LS), **Common Yellowthroat**: April 5, Raleigh (MAW), **Hooded Warbler**: April 17, Wetzel (WJ), **American Redstart**: April 17, Summers (WP), **Cape May Warbler**: May 22, Preston (LeJ), **Cerulean Warbler**: May 30, Summers (JP), **Northern Parula**: April 18, Summers (JP), **Magnolia Warbler**: May 18, Tucker (MK), **Bay-breasted Warbler**: May 11, Monongalia (KF), **Blackburnian Warbler**: May 18, Tucker (MK), **Yellow Warbler**: April 18, Summers (JP), **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: April 24, Summers (JP), **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: April 20, Raleigh (MAW), **Pine Warbler**: March 8, Summers (JJP), **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: March 3, Jefferson (BH), **Yellow-throated Warbler**: April 6, Raleigh (MAW), **Prairie Warbler**: May 13, Preston (LeJ), **Black-throated Green Warbler**: April 20, Raleigh (MAW), and **Canada Warbler**: May 16, Tucker (MK). Half of these **warbler** species appeared on or before the “first-seen” dates in George A. Hall’s *West Virginia Birds*.

**Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings – Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings** prompted numerous reports from birders in most parts of the state.

Contributors to the Spring Field Notes: Sarah Anderson (SAn), Cynthia Burkhart (CB), Laura Ceperley (LC), Derek Courtney (DCo), Katie Fallon (KF), Donny Good (DG), Hullet Good (HG), LeJay Graffious (LeJ), Bruni Haydl (BH), Diane Holsinger (DH), Wilma Jarrell (WJ), Mimi Kibler (MK), Paul McKay (PM), Donna Mitchell (DMi), Herb Myers (HMy), Jean Neely (JN), Jack O’Connell (JO), David Patick (DP), Wendy Perrone (WP), James Phillips (JP), James and Judy Phillips (JJP), Mike Powell (MPo), Casey Rucker (CR), Larry Schwab (LS), James Triplett (JTr), Mindy and Allen Waldron (MAW), and Andy Weaks (AW).

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## ERRATUM

In “Field Notes, Fall Season September 1 – November 30, 2023,” which appeared in the July 2024 issue (*Redstart* 91(1–3)), the **Limpkin** reported in Princeton, Mercer County, in fact represented a mislocated report from North Carolina.







## **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](mailto: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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Place</b>
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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