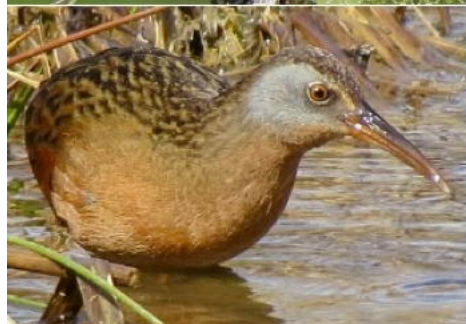
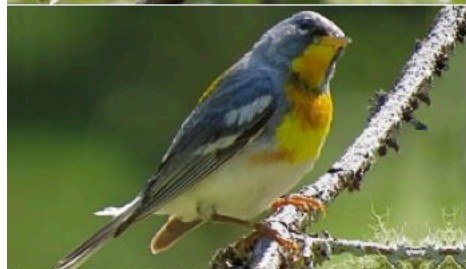
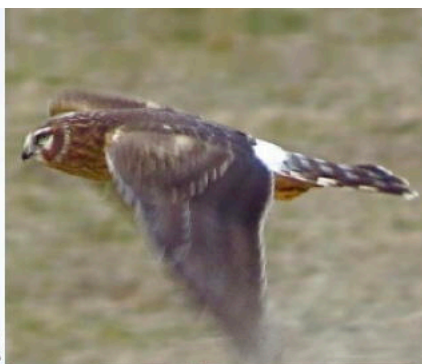


Birds of Augusta County, Virginia



Fifth Edition

Allen Larner & Andrew Clem, Editors

Published by Augusta Bird Club

March 2024

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Birds of Augusta County, Virginia, Summary Manuscript (Reference: "BAC 2020 Summary Manuscript")

Fifth Edition

This summary manuscript is the Fifth Edition (2020) of the Augusta Bird Club's *Birds of Augusta County, Virginia*. The first edition was published in July 1988 with YuLee R. Larner and John F. Mehner co-editors; the second edition was published in November 1998 with YuLee R. Larner as the editor; and the third edition was published in January 2008, again with YuLee R. Larner the editor. The fourth edition was created and edited in two different time frames. The early manuscript entries (from 1 Dec 2007 through 30 Nov 2011) were updated by YuLee R. Larner, with assistance from Stephen C. Rottenborn. The latter entries (from 1 Dec 2011 through 30 Nov 2016) were updated by Dan N. Perkuchin. The fifth edition was updated by H. Allen Larner 3rd, including entries from 1 Dec 2016 through 1 Mar 2020, and was released to the public in March 2024. Both the Fourth and Fifth Editions were made available to the public in electronic format, not print. Andrew G. Clem assisted with editing the Fourth and Fifth Editions, and provided the bird photographs on the cover of this edition. (See notes on reporting conventions and abbreviations at the end of this document.)

EDITORIAL COMMENTS:

This manuscript's species summary information was extracted from information contained within the companion Augusta Bird Club's computerized historical file; i.e., "Birds of Augusta County, Virginia, Historical Document, November 2020;" i.e., all of the species information in this "BAC 2020 Summary Manuscript, 4th Edition" matches corresponding species information contained in the "BAC 2020 Historical Document."

There are three sequence numbers listed in front of each species. For example: "258/253/236. PALM WARBLER."

- The first number corresponds to the September 2017 eBird Virginia Species Checklist, and the "Fifty-Seventh Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds, Volume 133, 2016."
- The second number corresponds to the species order in the Augusta Bird Club's published November 2011 updated blue-checklist; i.e., "Checklist of Birds of August County, Virginia (Revised)." This sequence also corresponds to the AOU Checklist on North American Birds, 1998, and its changes through the 52nd Supplement, July 2011.
- The third number corresponds to the species order presented in the last published Augusta Bird Club's summary manuscript; i.e., "Birds of Augusta County, Virginia, Third Edition, 2008, YuLee R. Larner, Editor."

+++++

1/1/1. FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK

Dendrocygna bicolor

One Winter Record: (6) 8 Dec and (8) photographed 9–14 Dec 1972, Mt. Horeb.

One Fall Record: (3) 25 Oct 1986, Fishersville.

2/3/3. SNOW GOOSE

Chen caerulescens

Status: Rare transient and uncommon winter visitor at ponds and lakes, often with flocks of Canada Geese. Occasionally seen in migration at Rockfish Gap.

Extreme Dates: 19 Sep 1994 – 13 May 2014.

Peak Counts: winter– (12) 10–11 Jan 2015, Fishersville; (12) 9 Dec 2017 Crimora, spring– (7) 2–21 Mar 1997, Swoope; fall– (121) 5 Nov 1987, Rockfish Gap.

3/4/4. ROSS'S GOOSE

Chen rossii

Status: Rare winter visitor.

Extreme Dates: 2 Dec 2012 – 21 Feb 2009.

Four Spring Records: (1) 2–21 Mar 1997, Swoope; (1) 6 Mar 2003, Stuarts Draft sewage treatment plant (may be same bird that was seen in the area in Dec); (1) 5 Apr 2011, Stuarts Draft (possibly a hybrid with Snow Goose); (1) 4–6 Mar 2017, Bells Lane Staunton.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

4/2/2. GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Anser albifrons

Status: Rare spring, fall transient and winter visitor.

Extreme Dates: 16 Oct. 2018 – May 1997.

Six Fall Records: (2) 17–21 Nov 1995, Fishersville; (1) 24–26 Oct 2000, Swoope; (15) 12 Nov 2003, Swoope; (2) 31 Oct 2013, Stuarts Draft. (1) 12 Nov 2017 McCune's, Fishersville (2) 19 Nov 2017 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

Peak Counts: winter– (13) 23–28 Feb 2012, Fishersville / Stuarts Draft; (32) 13 Jan. 2018 Aug. Co.; spring– (13) 1 Mar – 16 Mar 2012, Stuarts Draft; fall– (2) 19 Nov 2017, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch flyover.

5/5/5. BRANT

Branta bernicla

Two Fall/Winter Records: (1) photographed 21 Nov – 4 Dec 1979, Stuarts Draft; (1) 16 Nov – 2 Dec 1985, New Hope.

6/6/6. BARNACLE GOOSE (Category 3)

Branta leucopsis

One Spring Record: (1) 21 Mar 1995, Fishersville.

One Summer Record: (1) 2–31 Jul, 2005, Mint Spring, Walnut Hills Campground, injured; possibly an escapee.

7/7/7. CACKLING GOOSE

Branta hutchinsii

Status: Rare transient and uncommon winter visitor, usually with Canada Geese. Numbers have increased in recent decades. Although most records pertain to the expected nominate race, a few individuals suggesting the possibility of the race *minima* have been reported.

Extreme Dates: 17 Oct 2008 – 17 Mar 2010.

Peak Counts: winter– (16) 24 Jan 2009, throughout the county and (16) 14 Feb 2014, Fishersville, Old Quarry; (17) 2 Feb. 2019 Aug. Co. areas; spring– (6) 8–11 Mar 2005, Staunton & 2–7 Mar 2007, Verona; (6) 1 March 2019, Fishersville (McCunes); fall– (3) 28 Oct 2004, Staunton & 30 Nov 2008, Verona.

8/8/8. CANADA GOOSE

Branta canadensis

Status: Locally common permanent resident, being most common in winter, on lakes, ponds, and marshes; increasing in recent years, though still somewhat local breeder.

Breeding: Nest with one egg, 2 Mar 2005, Annex; nest with 6 eggs, 2 Apr 1988, Stuarts Draft; adults with young, 26 Apr 2008, Augusta County BSD; 2 adults and 2 goslings, 11 May 1986, Lyndhurst; (5) 24 Jun 2012, Augusta County, adults with two hatch-year immatures.

Peak Counts: winter– (2,125) 24 Jan 2009, throughout the county; spring– (1,131) 2 Mar 2007, area lakes and ponds; summer– (203) 6 Jul 2008, throughout the county; fall– (861) 28 Nov 2004, area lakes and ponds.

9/9/9. MUTE SWAN (Category 5)

Cygnus olor

Status: Rare spring transient and winter visitor.

Extreme Dates: 17 Dec 1994 – 31 May 2016.

Two Spring Records: (1) 31 May 2016 Swoope, (1) * May 2019, Stuarts Draft

One Summer Record: (1) June 1993, Staunton, (1) 1–9 June 2016 Swoope

Fall Record: (1) early Nov 1993, Staunton.; (1) 28 Nov 1998, Greenville.

Peak Counts: winter– (2) 29 Feb 2004, Staunton and (2) 7–28 Feb 2011, area lakes and ponds; spring– (3) 9 Apr 2004, Swoope.

10/10/10. TRUMPETER SWAN (Category 4)

Cygnus buccinator

Five Winter Records: (2) with neck collars, 10 Dec 2000 – 20 Jan 2001, VA Rt. 608 near Stuarts Draft; moved to pond on VA Rt. 637 south of U.S. Rt. 250 E, last seen 27 Feb 2001 [confirmed as part of release program in Ohio]; (3–4) 11 Jan – 8 Feb 2014, county lakes and ponds, [one female banded in Lasalle Park, Burlington Ontario, Canada]; (1) Jan 23, 2010 – Fishersville / Stuarts Draft (1) Dec 29, 2017 thru Feb 28, 2018; bird tagged P61 in Burlington Canada; (1) Dec 11, 2019 thru Feb 29 2020 – Waynesboro P61 wing tag; same bird as in 2017.

Four Spring Records: (1) Immature April 6 2011 Fishersville & Stuarts Draft area (4) 1 Mar thru 8 Apr 2014, Stuarts Draft, private lake, one tagged female; (2) 24–26 Mar 2015, Swoope, area lakes and ponds. (1) 1–29 Mar. 2018, Ivy St. Pond Waynesboro.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

11/11/11. TUNDRA SWAN

Cygnus columbianus

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes, ponds, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 17 Oct 2008, 17 May 2015.

One Summer Record: (1) 15 Jun 2009, Lyndhurst.

Peak Counts: winter– (50) 5 Dec 2009, Staunton; spring– (119) 17 Mar 1996, area lakes and ponds; fall– (417) 1 Nov 2009, 400+ in groups flying over Fishersville and 17 in Swoope. (473) 9 Nov. 2017, Augusta Co.

12/12/12. WOOD DUCK

Aix sponsa

Status: Common transient and summer resident, considerably less common in winter; found in a variety of lakes, ponds, rivers, and marshes.

Breeding: Adult with young, 25 Apr 1997, Augusta Springs; female adult with 9 ducklings, 4 May 2016, Staunton; adult female with 7 ducklings, 28 Jun 2014, Mt. Solon; adult female with 10 juveniles, 24 Jul 2014, Swoope; adult with near 3 weeks old young, 21 Aug 2014, Waynesboro; female with 4 half-grown young, 9 Sep 2007, Staunton.

Peak Counts: winter– (15) 25 Feb 2007, area lakes and ponds; (22) 27 Jan 2020, area wetlands; spring– (75) 27 Mar 2005, area lakes and ponds; summer– (26) 17 Jun 2012, area lakes and ponds; (45) 26 Jul 2017 area ponds Aug. Co., fall– (76) 1 Nov 2009, area lakes and ponds.

13/17/17. BLUE-WINGED TEAL

Anas discors

Status: Common transient. Rare summer and winter visitor on ponds, lakes, flooded fields, and marshes.

Peak Counts: winter– (2) 17 Dec 1975, Fishersville and (2) 28–29 Dec 1995, Waynesboro Airport; spring– (184) 14 Apr 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; summer– (12) 2 Jun 1998, Mt. Horeb; fall– (30) 4 Sep 2003, area lakes and ponds.

14/18/18. CINNAMON TEAL

Anas cyanoptera

One Spring Record: (1) 7 May 1987, Stuarts Draft.

15/19/19. NORTHERN SHOVELER

Anas clypeata

Status: Rare transient and uncommon winter visitor on ponds, lakes, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 31 Aug 2019 – 24 May 2016.

One Summer Record: (1) 1–14 Jun 1997, Staunton.

Peak Counts: winter– (25) 7 Feb 2009 and (25) 26 Jan 2012, area lakes and ponds; spring– (23) 1 Mar 2012, Stuarts Draft; fall– (17) 28 Nov 2005, including (10) Staunton and (7) Fishersville.

16/13/13. GADWALL

Anas strepera

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes, ponds, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 28 Aug 2008 – 7 May 1996.

Three Summer Records: (1) 4 Jun – 30 Jul 1996, Fishersville; (1) 3 Jun 2000, Swoope, (1) 1 Jun 2012, Swoope.

Peak Counts: winter– (163) 11 Jan 2014, area lakes and ponds; (170) 17 Dec 2017 Aug. Co. CBC; spring– (132) 1 Mar 2014, Fishersville area lakes and ponds; fall– (66) 16 Nov 2011, area lakes and ponds; (69) 9 Nov 2017, throughout Augusta Co.

17/14/14. AMERICAN WIGEON

Anas americana

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes, ponds, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 7 Aug 2014 – 21 May 2007.

Peak Counts: winter– (39) 8 Dec 2001, Staunton; spring– (102) 17 Mar 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; fall– (13) 17 Oct 2008, Fishersville. (47) 9 Nov 2017 Aug. Co.

18/16/16. MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident, most common in winter, on lakes, ponds, marshes, and rivers.

Breeding: Adult with downy young, 13 Apr 1999, Staunton; nest with 8 eggs, 21 Jun 1984, Greenville AB; adult with 2 downy young, 5 Sep 1998, Staunton BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (662) 28 Dec 1999, area lakes and ponds; spring– (232) 10 Mar 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; summer– (283) 2 Jun 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; fall– (257) 1 Nov 2009, area lakes and ponds.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

19/15/15. AMERICAN BLACK DUCK

Anas rubripes

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes, ponds, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 15 Aug 1989 – 28 May 1998.

One Summer Record: (2) 2–6 Jun 1998, Mt. Horeb.

Peak Counts: winter– (56) 24 Feb 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; spring– (84) 10 Mar 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; fall– (61) 15 Aug 1989, Lyndhurst.

20/20/20. NORTHERN PINTAIL

Anas acuta

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on ponds, lakes, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 1 Sep 1986 – 22 Apr 1999.

Peak Counts: winter– (49) 2 Dec 2014, county lakes and ponds; spring– (38) 3 Mar 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; fall– (21) 27 Oct 2006, Lyndhurst.

21/21/21. GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Anas crecca

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on ponds, lakes, flooded fields, and marshes.

Extreme Dates: 4 Aug 2017 – 27 May 1998.

Two Summer Record: (1) 5 Jun 2001, Staunton; (1) 2 Jun 2013, Swoope.

Peak Counts: winter– (88) 3 Dec 2006, area lakes and ponds; spring– (100) 21 Apr 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; fall– (129) 27 Oct 2006, area lakes and ponds.

22/22/22. CANVASBACK

Aythya valisineria

Status: Uncommon transient and rare winter visitor on ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 30 Oct 1975 – 10 Apr 2003.

Peak Counts: winter– (138) 2 Dec 2014, county lakes and ponds; spring– (26) 1 Mar 2014, county lakes and ponds., (35) 1 March 2019 Aug. Co. areas; fall– (10) 9 Nov 2017, Augusta Co.

23/23/23. REDHEAD

Aythya americana

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 27 Oct 1985 – 27 May 1994.

Peak Counts: winter– (313) 2 Dec 2014, area lakes and ponds; spring– (151) 6 Mar 2014, area lakes and ponds; fall– (10) 30 Nov 2008, area lakes and ponds.

24/24/24. RING-NECKED DUCK

Aythya collaris

Status: Common to uncommon transient and uncommon winter visitor on lakes, ponds, and flooded fields. Occasional fallouts occur during storms in spring and fall.

Extreme Dates: 28 Sep 2013 – 31 May 1996, 1998.

One Late Spring/Early Summer Record: (1) 14 May – 4 Jun 1996, Swoope.

Peak Counts: winter– (146) 2 Dec 2014, area lakes and ponds; spring– (142) 2 Mar 2007, area lakes and ponds; fall– (108) 1 Nov 2009, area lakes and ponds.

25/25/25. GREATER SCAUP

Aythya marila

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 10 Oct 1974 – 25 May 2001.

Peak Counts: winter– (50) 2 Dec 2014, county lakes and ponds; spring– (20) 18 Apr 2013, county lakes and ponds; (45) 2 April 2018, Augusta Co.; fall– (27) 11 Nov 2009, area lakes and ponds.

26/26/26. LESSER SCAUP

Aythya affinis

Status: Rare to uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes, ponds, and flooded fields; more abundant and widespread than Greater Scaup. Occasional fallouts occur during storms in spring and fall.

Extreme Dates: 8 Oct 2006 – 24 May 2008.

One Summer Record: (1) 15–18 Jun 2006, Swoope.

Peak Counts: winter– (161) 2 Dec 2014, county lakes and ponds; spring– (73) 10 Mar 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; (164) 2 April 2018 Aug. Co., fall– (410) 11 Nov 1979, including 260 in Lyndhurst and 150 in Fishersville.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

27/27/27. SURF SCOTER

Melanitta perspicillata

Three Winter Record: (1) 17 Jan 1984, Fishersville; (1) 3 Dec 2014, Fishersville. (1) 26 Dec 2016, Fishersville Quarry.

One Spring Record: (1) 2, 3 May 2013, Staunton.

Five Fall Records: (3) 7 Nov 1977, Fishersville; (1) 14 Nov 1977, Elkhorn Lake; (2) 30 Oct - 1 Nov 2002 (one present to 24 Nov), Boy Scout Lake, Swoope; (2) 30 Oct 2002, Riley's farm, Swoope; (1) 2-3 Nov 2002, Waynesboro Airport pond.

28/28/28. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER

Melanitta fusca

Status: Rare Winter & Spring visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 4 Jan 1985 – 28 Feb 2014.

Six Spring Records: (1) 4 Apr 1973, Fishersville; (3) 26 Mar 1978, Waynesboro; (1) 27 Feb – 2 Mar 2014, Waynesboro; (1) 4 May 2014, Elkhorn Lake, 5th & 6th records. (13) 2 April 2018 Fishersville & Swoope areas

Four Fall Records: (3) 12 Nov 1979, Stuarts Draft; (1) 29 Nov 1985, Lyndhurst; (1) 5 Nov 1986, Fishersville. (2) 9 Nov. 2017, Mint Spring area.

29/29/29. BLACK SCOTER

Melanitta nigra

One Winter Record: (1) female, 8 Dec 2001, Bells Lane, Staunton.

One Spring Record: (1) 5 Apr 2011, Stuarts Draft.

One Fall Record: (6) 1 Nov 2009, Mint Spring.

30/30/30. LONG-TAILED DUCK

Clangula hyemalis

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds. Occasional fallouts occur during storms in spring and fall.

Extreme Dates: 25 Oct 1984 – 20 Apr 1965.

Peak Counts: (8) 2 Dec 2014, Swoope; spring– (44) 29 Mar 1990, Swoope; fall– (26) 22 Nov 1977, Stuarts Draft.

31/31/31. BUFFLEHEAD

Bucephala albeola

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds. Occasional fallouts occur during storms in spring and fall.

Extreme Dates: 20 Oct 2010 – 9 May 2015.

Peak Counts: winter– (74) 2 Dec 2014, area lakes and ponds; spring– (46) 6 Apr 2008, area lakes and ponds; (96) 2 April 2018 Augusta Co.; fall– (170) 22 Nov 1977, area lakes and ponds; (458) 9 Nov 2017, Augusta Co.

32/32/32. COMMON GOLDENEYE

Bucephala clangula

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds. Occasional fallouts occur during storms in spring and fall.

Extreme Dates: 7 Nov 1986 – 9 Apr 2000.

Peak Counts: winter– (5) 2 Dec 2014, county lakes and ponds; (7) 19 Feb. 2019, Aug. Co. areas; spring– (9) 17 Mar 1996, area lakes and ponds; fall– (30) 23 Nov 1977, Fishersville.

33/33/33. HOODED MERGANSER

Lophodytes cucullatus

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds. Rare summer visitor. Occasional fallouts occur during storms in spring and fall. Rare breeder.

Breeding: Adult with one immature, 29 May 2010, old DuPont Pond, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: winter– (368) 8 Dec 2001, throughout the county; spring– (45) 2 Mar 2007, area lakes and ponds; summer– (3) 3 Jun 2012, Waynesboro, Invista Ponds, Allen Lerner; fall– (91) 25 Nov 2012, county lakes and pond.

34/34/34. COMMON MERGANSER

Mergus merganser

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor on lakes, ponds and rivers.

Extreme Dates: 3 Aug 2018 – 28 May 2018.

Five Summer Records: (7) 5–20 Jul 2016, Crimora; (15) 15 Jun 2019, 14 in Deerfield & one in Crimora, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th (?); (1) 8 Jul 2019, Churchville.

Breeding: Adult female with 6 young, 5–20 Jul 2016, Crimora, South River; Adult female with 12 young, 15 Jun 2019, Calfpasture River / Marble Valley, Deerfield.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Peak Counts: Winter– (8) 5 Feb 2015, Staunton; (20) 6 Feb 2019, Bells Lane, Staunton; (30) 16 Jan 2020, Bells Lane; spring– (8) 6 Mar 2014, county lakes, ponds and rivers; (13) 1 Mar 2019, Augusta Co. areas; summer – (15) 15 June 2019, Calfpasture River, Crimora; fall– (2) 8 Nov 2006, Swoope; (7) 3 Aug 2018, Churchville; (2) 9 Nov 2017, Boy Scout Camp, Swoope.

35/35/35. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Mergus serrator

Status: Uncommon to locally common transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds. Occasional fallouts occur during storms in spring and fall.

Extreme Dates: 28 Oct 1987 – 31 May 1998.

Three Summer Records: (1) 30 May – 20 Jul 1983, injured, Waynesboro; (1) 12 Jun & 29 Jul 1998, Mt Horeb; (1) 2 Jun 2001, Frank's Mill.

Peak Counts: winter– (80) 15 Dec 1994, area lakes and ponds, following ice storm; spring– (52) 21 Mar 1983, area lakes and ponds; fall– (51) 23 Nov 1977, Fishersville.

36/36/36. RUDDY DUCK

Oxyura jamaicensis

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds. Occasional fallouts occur during fall storms.

Extreme Dates: 25 Sep 1980 – 31 May 1998.

Four Summer Records: (20) 2 Jun, decreasing to (1) 5 Jul 1998, Mt. Horeb; (2) 16 Jun 2003, Staunton; (2) 1 Jun 2006 with (1) remaining, 2 Jul – 1 Aug, Staunton; (1) 12 Jun 2013, Staunton.

Peak Counts: winter– (373) 2 Dec 2014, area lakes and ponds; spring– (107) 11 Apr 2009, area lakes and ponds (235) 19 April 2018 Augusta Co. (Note: One was a subspecies w/ solid black head, ruddy body & light blue bill.); fall– (263) 27 Oct 2007, area lakes and ponds.

37/40/40. NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Colinus virginianus

Status: Formerly common, now a rare permanent resident in fields, agricultural areas, and brushy woodland edges. Populations of this species have shown dramatic decreases in recent decades, due in part to habitat loss. Most birds seen today are from release programs.

Breeding: Nest with 15 eggs, 15 Jun 1973, Churchville; nest with 17 eggs, 12 Jul 1993, Swoope; adult male with 11 chicks, 23 Jul 2015, Swoope,

Peak Counts: winter– (113) 18 Dec 1976, Augusta County CBC; spring– (67) 3 May 1975, Augusta County BSD; summer– (61) Jun 1966, Churchville BBS; (14) 2 Jun 2005, Churchville BBS; fall– (13) 9 Oct 2004, Staunton.

38/37/37. RING-NECKED PHEASANT (Category 6)

Phasianus colchicus

Status: Formerly a rare and local permanent resident in fields and agricultural areas (introduced). Post 1998 sightings are most likely escaped birds that were released for hunting, not a wild one.

Pre-2013 Documented (8) 18 Dec 1976, Augusta County CBC; (1) 31 Dec 1982, Augusta County CBC; (1) 17 May 1986, Lyndhurst; (1) 22 Apr 1989, near New Hope; and (1) 24 Jun 1998, BBB West Augusta SE6.

Post-2012 Documented Records: (1) 25 Apr 2013, Sherando; (1) 23 May 2015, Grottoes; (1) 4 Nov 2015, Sherando.

Breeding: Formerly a probable breeder, but breeding has never been confirmed.

39/38/38. RUFFED GROUSE

Bonasa umbellus

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in woodlands throughout much of the county, being most abundant in mountainous areas.

Breeding: Nest with 1 egg, 1 Apr 1995, Swoope; adult with recently fledged young, 7 Jun 1997, Frank's Mill; two adults & 9 young, 29 Jun 2013, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob; recently fledged young, 13 Jul 1986, Palo Alto AB.

Peak Counts: winter– (7) 28 Dec 1995, Waynesboro CBC; spring– (16) 1 Apr 1974, Skyline Drive; summer – (18) 1 Jul 2005, Elliott Knob.

40/39/39. WILD TURKEY

Meleagris gallopavo

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in woodlands throughout much of the county.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 26 Apr 1934, Stokesville; hen with 6 small fledglings, 17 Jun 2016, Greenville, 3 adults with 16 young, 31 Jul 1979, Stokesville; adult with 3 quarter-grown young, 8 Sep 2011, near Blue Ridge Parkway; hen with 12 almost fully grown young, 16 Sep 1967, Big Levels.

Peak Counts: winter– (38) 4 Feb 1995, Folly Mills; spring– (25) 14 Apr 2014, throughout county; summer– (25) 17 Aug 1969, Deerfield; fall– (36) 13 Sep 2010, Greenville.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

41/41/41. RED-THROATED LOON

Gavia stellata

One Winter-Only Record: (1) 15–18 Dec 1994, Fishersville.

Two Spring Records: (1) 2–17 Apr 1996, Lyndhurst; (1) 30 Apr 2005, Staunton.

Three Fall-Only Records: (1) 7 Nov 1973, Fishersville; (1) 23 Nov 2006, Lyndhurst; (1) 12 Nov 2009, Swoope.

One Late Fall/Early Winter Record: (1) 29 Nov – 2 Dec 1985, Lyndhurst.

42/42/42. COMMON LOON

Gavia immer

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor, primarily on larger lakes and ponds. Occasional fallouts occur during fall storms; also seen occasionally migrating over Rockfish Gap.

Extreme Dates: 10 Sep 2017 – 30 May 1989.

One Late Spring/Summer Record: (1) 25–27 May 2002, and throughout the summer, Waynesboro.

Three Summer Only Records: (1) 22 Jul 1985, Elkhorn Lake; (-) 30 May 1989, Lofton Dam; (1) 16 Jun 2001, Mt. Solon.

Peak Count: spring– (7) 7 May 2013, area lakes and ponds, Allen Lerner; fall– (74) 12 Nov 2013, Afton Mtn, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

43/43/43. PIED-BILLED GREBE

Podilymbus podiceps

Status: Common to uncommon transient and uncommon winter visitor, primarily on lakes and ponds but also on rivers. Rare summer resident and breeder.

Breeding: Adult with 3 fully fledged immatures, 26 May – 4 Jun 1996, Waynesboro; nest building, 17 Jun, broken egg shell at nest, 14 Jul, and 1 immature, 16 Jul 1998, Mt. Horeb, Crimora BBB; one on nest & one adding to nest, 28 Apr, feeding in pond, 29 Apr, one on nest & one singing, 6 May, immature, 15 Jul 2015, Augusta Springs.

Peak Counts: winter– (5) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC; (5) 2 Dec 2014, lakes, ponds and rivers; spring– (18) 21 Apr 1998, Mt. Horeb; (2) 28 Apr & 6 May 2015, Augusta Springs; (20) 2 April 2018 Aug. Co., fall– (159) 28 Sep 2016, lakes, ponds and rivers.

44/44/44. HORNED GREBE

Podiceps auritus

Status: Uncommon transient and rare winter visitor on lakes and ponds, less frequently on rivers. Occasional fallouts occur during storms from late fall to early spring.

Extreme Dates: 15 Oct 2003 – 8 May 2013.

One Summer Record: (1) injured, 6 Apr – 2 Nov 1972, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: winter– (52) 1 Dec 2008, area lakes and ponds; spring– (29) 14 Mar 1997, area lakes and ponds; (132) 2 Apr. 2018 Aug. Co., fall– (114) 30 Nov 2008, area lakes and ponds.

45/45/45. RED-NECKED GREBE

Podiceps grisegena

Status: Rare spring transient and winter visitor on lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 8 Feb 2014 – 3 May 1994.

Peak Count: winter– (4) 28 Feb 1994, including (1) Fishersville, (1) Franks Mill, (2) Lyndhurst; spring– (2) 24 Mar – 7 Apr 2014, Fishersville.

46/46/46. EARED GREBE

Podiceps nigricollis

Four Fall Records: (1) photographed 16 Aug 1980, Stuarts Draft; (1) photographed 1 Oct 2006, Staunton; (1) 2–4 Oct 2009, Fishersville; (1) 16–17 Nov 2011, Stuarts Draft.

Two Spring Record: (1) 14 Mar 1997, Staunton; (1) 3 Apr 2014, Stuarts Draft.

47/47/68. AMERICAN FLAMINGO

Phoenicopterus ruber

[name formerly "68. GREATER FLAMINGO" in BAC 2008 Summary Manuscript]

One Fall Record: (1) photographed 10–12 Aug 1969, Waynesboro. This was apparently a free-flying bird, arriving about one week before Hurricane *Camille*.

48/48/47. BLACK-CAPPED PETREL

Pterodroma hasitata

One Fall Record: (1) picked up injured, 23 Sep 1989, Verona, following Hurricane *Hugo*; specimen in U. S. National Museum Smithsonian Institution.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

49/49/48. WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD

Phaethon lepturus

One Fall Record: (1) picked up injured, 15 Oct 1954, Staunton, during Hurricane *Hazel*; specimen at Lynchburg College.

50/50/65. WOOD STORK

Mycteria americana

One Spring Record: (1) 26–27 May 2017, Fishersville.

Two Fall Records: (1) immature, 24 Aug 1984, Stuarts Draft, photographed; (3) immatures, 21 Aug 1985, Waynesboro.

51/51/50. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax auritus

Status: Primarily a rare spring and fall transient, rare winter and summer visitor on lakes, ponds, and rivers. Seen regularly migrating in fall during Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season.

Peak Counts: spring– (70) 12 Apr 2011, throughout the county; summer– (2) 11 Jun 1990, Swoope; fall– (44) 3 Oct 1999, Staunton; (341) 23 Oct 2014, Afton, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

52/52/51. ANHINGA

Anhinga anhinga

Two Fall Records: (1) 7 and 10 Sep 2003, Rockfish Gap; (1) 26 Oct 2008, Rockfish Gap.

Two Spring Records: (2) 14 May 2018 Red Mill Crimora; (1) 25–26 May 2018, Mint Spring area.

53/53/49. AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

One Fall Record: (1) 26 Nov 2000, VA Rt. 654, Stuarts Draft.

54/54/52. AMERICAN BITTERN

Botaurus lentiginosus

Status: Rare spring and fall transient in moist meadows, marshes, and at marshy borders of ponds.

Extreme Dates: 5 Apr 1989 – 29 May 1980; 22 Sep 1973 – 15 Oct 2003.

Two Winter Records: (1) 1 Dec 1977, Mt. Solon; (1) 26 Feb 2006, West Augusta (found dead).

Peak Counts: spring– (2) 3 May 1979, Stuarts Draft; (2) 30 Apr 2005, Braley Pond, West Augusta.

55/55/53. LEAST BITTERN

Ixobrychus exilis

Status: Rare summer visitor to wetland areas in Stuarts Draft.

Six Summer Records: (1) 8 Jun 1985, Stuarts Draft; (2) 29 Jun 1985, Stuarts Draft; (1) 25 Jun 1986, Stuarts Draft; (1) 28 Jun 1989, Stuarts Draft. (4) 1 Jun thru 31 Jul 2018 w/ one left on 31 Jul 2018.

Four Spring Records: (1) 12–31 May 2018 Shenandoah Wetlands Bank Stuarts Draft, w/ (4) on 22 May 2018 (each pair as one record); (1) 21 May 2019 Shen. Wetlands Bank, Stuarts Draft.

Two Fall Records: (1) 28 Sep – 4 Oct 1986, Fishersville; (1) 1 Aug – 1 Sep 2018, Shen. Wetlands Bank, Stuarts Draft.

Breeding: June records of this species suggest the possibility of breeding, but no specific evidence of breeding has been observed.

Peak Count: spring– 4 May 2018; summer – (4) 1 Jun 2018.

56/56/54. GREAT BLUE HERON

Ardea herodias

Status: Uncommon but widespread permanent resident in a variety of aquatic and wetland habitats.

Breeding: 14 Feb 2018, courtship display, Middlebrook; Jul – early Aug 2004, 17–20 juveniles and several adults; Franks Mill Rookery (Middle River): 3 occupied nests on 29 Apr 2006, one nest with 3 young on 20 Jun 2006, final young fledged on 31 Jul 2006; 19 nests with 53 young, 2010; 9 adults staking out nest 8 Mar & 7 adults on nest, 12 Mar 2015; Sangers Lane Rookery (Christians Creek): 11 nests with 14 young 2009; 14 nests with 45 young 2010; 18 pairs standing on nest 15 Mar 2013; 52 adults at 51 nests, majority sitting on nest, 40+ adults in the flooded area of open field beside rookery, 18 Apr 2014; 38 to 40 nests, 2 to 3 young per nest, 26 Apr 2016.

Peak Counts: winter– (30) 3 Dec 2002, area lakes, streams, and ponds (47) 23 Feb. 2018; Sangers Lane; (45) Sangers Lane Rookery, 28 Feb 2017; spring– (72) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (35) 29 Jul 2004, county lakes, streams, and ponds; fall– (17) 4 Aug 2007, throughout the county.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

57/57/55. GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba

Status: Uncommon summer visitor and fall transient, rare spring transient around lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 1 Mar 2017 – 5 Nov 2008.

Three Winter Records: (1) 6 Dec 1997, Waynesboro; (1) 2 Feb 1999, Churchville; (1) Feb. 1–28 2017, Fishersville

Peak Counts: spring– (14) 8 Apr 2006, Swoope; summer– (20) 16 Jul 1995, area lakes and ponds; fall– (32) 14 Aug 1998, area lakes and ponds.

58/58/56. SNOWY EGRET

Egretta thula

Four Spring Records: (1) 24 Apr 1981, Verona; (1) 14 May 1986, Stuarts Draft; (5) 28 Apr 1989, Fishersville; (1) 18–19 Apr 2013, Staunton.

Two Summer Records: (1) 2 Jul 1983, Harriston; (1) 29–30 Jul 2016, Fishersville.

One Fall Record: (1) 25–26 Sep 1995, Lyndhurst.

59/59/57. LITTLE BLUE HERON

Egretta caerulea

Three Spring Records: (1) 27 May 1980, Stuarts Draft; (1) 23 Apr 2013, Stuarts Draft; (1) 14–16 April 2019, Shen. Wetlands Bank, Stuarts Draft (adult had white marking in wing, possible study).

Five Summer Records: (3) photographed 14–19 Jul 1984, Middlebrook; (1) 21–24 Jul 1984, Staunton; (1) 28 Jul – 3 Aug 1993, Lyndhurst; (1) 21–22 Jul 2012, Steeles Tavern; (1) 22–29 July 2018, Smith's pond Swoope.

Three Fall Records: (1) 11–19 Aug 1970, Waynesboro; (1) 29 Aug 1995, Lyndhurst; (1) 1 Sep 1996, Augusta Springs Wetlands.

60/60/58. TRICOLORED HERON

Egretta tricolor

One Spring Record: (1) 7 May 2013, Stuarts Draft.

One Fall Record: (1) 4 Aug 1979, New Hope.

61/61/59. CATTLE EGRET

Bubulcus ibis

Status: Primarily a rare spring and fall transient around ponds and pastures.

Extreme Dates: 31 Mar 1977 – 15 May 1971; 13 Aug 1986 – 10 Nov. 2018

Three Summer Records: (1) 16 Jun 1981, Waynesboro; (1) 8 Jun 1985, Stuarts Draft; (1) 11 Jun 2013, Swoope.

Peak Counts: spring– (8) 15 May 1985, Waynesboro; fall– (11) 11 Oct 1987, Verona.

62/62/60. GREEN HERON

Butorides virescens

Status: Primarily a common and widespread transient and summer resident in a variety of aquatic and wetland habitats.

Extreme Dates: 5 Mar 2017 – 19 Nov 2019.

Three Winter Records: (1) 11 Dec 1975, Waynesboro; (1) 31 Dec 1985, Waynesboro; (1) 14 Dec 2011, Staunton.

Breeding: Adult on nest, 3 May 2006, Fishersville; 2 or 3 young, 28 Jun 2016, Piedmont; (4) 18 June 2017 fledged young, Invista Ponds, Waynesboro; 2 recently fledged young 11 Jul; 3 adults + 2 juveniles + 4 chicks, 20–21 Jul; 3 adults + 4 young, 25 Jul; 2 adults + 4 young, 26 Jul 2016, Staunton; 3 downy young in nest 7 Aug; 3 feathered young walking on tree branches 21 Aug 2014, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: spring– (13) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (15) 23 Jul 2009, area lakes and ponds; (28) 30 Jul 2018 area lakes & ponds, fall– (20) 1 Aug 2010, area lakes and ponds, (20) 3 Aug 2018, Augusta Co. areas.

63/63/61. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Nycticorax nycticorax

Status: Rare permanent resident, more frequent during spring and fall migration, in a variety of aquatic and wetland habitats; possible breeder.

Breeding: 4 adults and 2 immatures, summer 1994, Waynesboro; 1 adult and 1 immature 18 Jul 2007, Swoope; (1) immature, 20 Jul 2005, McCormick's Farm, Steeles Tavern. Summer records indicate possible breeding, but no confirmed breeding record.

Peak Counts: winter– (5) 12 Feb – 3 Mar 1976, and (5) 13 Dec 1976 roosting in pine trees, Waynesboro; spring– (10) 13–15 Apr 1999, Waynesboro; summer– (6) 1994, Waynesboro; fall– (4) 14 Aug 2011, Waynesboro.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

64/64/62. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Nyctanassa violacea

Status: Rare transient and summer resident, and possible breeder along the South River in Waynesboro.

Extreme Dates: 6 May 1987 – 26 Sep 1985.

Three documented records since mid-1980s: (1) 2–5 Jul 2009, Swoope; (2) 13 Apr 2011, Waynesboro; (1) 2 Jun 2011, Swoope.

Breeding: Adults and juveniles, summers 1977 – 1986, South River in Waynesboro indicate probable nesting, but no confirmed breeding record.

65/65/63. WHITE IBIS

Eudocimus albus

Status: Rare summer visitor. Foraging in marshes, mudflats, flooded pastures, grassy fields and lake edges.

Extreme Dates: 8 Jul 1998 – 31 Jul 1980.

Three Fall Record: (1) 10–13 Sep 1980, Deerfield; (1) 15 & 19 Jul 2012, Swoope; (2) 17 Aug – 4 Sep 2014, Staunton.

Peak Counts: summer– (2) 16 Jul 2011, Staunton; fall– (2) 17 Aug – 4 Sep 2014, Staunton.

66/66/64. GLOSSY IBIS

Plegadis falcinellus

Three Spring Records: (1) 1 May 1984, Stuarts Draft; (1) 12 May 2007, Staunton; (9 *) 24–26 April 2019, Vance Lane, Stuarts Draft.

One Summer Record: (1) 1 Jun 2012, Staunton, Bell's Lane, Gabriel & Daniel Mapel and Allen Lerner.

Four Fall Records: (1) 2 Oct 1994, New Hope; (1) 18 Aug 1997, Swoope; (1) 1 Jun 2012, Staunton; (1) 14–23 Aug 2014, Swoope.

Peak Count: Spring (8) 24 April 2019 Stuarts Draft.

67/67/64.5 ROSEATE SPOONBILL

Platalea ajaja

One Summer Record: (1) 15–19 Jun 2009, near Lyndhurst.

68/68/66. BLACK VULTURE

Coragyps atratus

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in a variety of habitats.

Breeding: Fuzzy chicks in nest with 1 fledging survivor, nesting on the ground under a large fallen tree, videos + photos, (1–3) 2 Jun – 20 Jul 2015, Parnassus; (2) downy young, 31 Jul 2018, Red Mill Crimora; (2) 12 Sep 2018 fledged young, Red Mill, Crimora.

Peak Counts: winter– (300) 11 Jan 1992, Natural Chimneys; spring– (116) 24 Apr 2010, Augusta County BSD; summer– (55) 7 Jun 2006, throughout the county; fall– (150+) 18 Nov 2008, Staunton; (322) 1994 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch fall season total.

69/69/67. TURKEY VULTURE

Cathartes aura

Status: Common to abundant permanent resident in a variety of habitats, nesting in caves, rocky areas, and dead trees. Generally more widespread than the Black Vulture.

Breeding: Nest with one egg, 13 Apr 1995, Verona; nest with 2 eggs, 3 May and young in nest 2 Jun 2002, VA 254; nest with downy young, 22 Jul 1994, Verona; recently fledged young early Aug 2007, Staunton; young fledged nest occupied 5 days earlier, (2) 21 Aug 2014, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: winter– (981) 19 Dec 1998, Augusta County CBC; spring– (198) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; summer– (125) 26 Jul 2006, throughout the county; fall– (782) 27 Sep 2012, Mint Spring; (1,020) 1993 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch fall season total.

70/70/69. OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus

Status: Primarily an uncommon transient and rare summer visitor. Seen widely at rivers, lakes, and ponds, and in fall also at the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

Extreme Dates: 1 Mar 2015 – 23 Nov 2014 & 2011.

Three Winter Records: (1) 21 Dec 1967, Augusta County CBC; (1) 19 Feb 2007, Waynesboro; (1) 15 Feb 2019, Patton Farm Rd. (South River) Stuarts Draft.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1976 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year; Last 10-year average = 232; Last 33-year average = 168; 40-year total = 5,169.

Peak Counts: spring– (90) 26 Apr 1987, Rockfish Gap; fall– (45) 19 Sep 2009, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (373) 2016 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

71/71/70. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

Elanoides forficatus

One Summer Record: (1) 26 Jul 2012, Sherando Lake.

One Fall Record: (1) 6 Sep 1946, three miles west of Mt. Solon.

One Spring Record: (1) 5 May 2018, Augusta Co. BSD

72/82/81. GOLDEN EAGLE

Aquila chrysaetos

Status: Uncommon fall transient and a rare winter visitor. Seen fairly widely, primarily around open fields, although most records are from Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in fall.

Extreme Dates: 18 Aug 2007 – 23 Feb 2011.

Five Spring Records: (1) 2 Apr 1980, Todd Lake; (1) 9 Mar 2013, New Hope; (1) 4 Mar 2014, New Hope; (1) 6 Mar 2015, Fishersville; (1) 29 April 2019, Augusta Springs.

One Summer Record: (1) 2 Jun 2011, Swoope.

Four Fall County Valley Records: 26 Aug 1984, Franks Mill; (1) 9 Nov 2013, Fishersville; (1) 14 Sep 2015, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch flying westerly; (1) 14 Oct 2016, Newport.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1983 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year except 1992; Last 10-year average = 13; Last 33-year average = 7; 40-year total = 174.

Peak Counts: winter– (3) 13 Jan 2013, Reddish Knob & (3) 1 Jan 2015, Middlebrook; (3) 8 Dec 2016, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; fall– (6) 12 Nov 2014, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (40) 2014 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

73/72/71. MISSISSIPPI KITE

Ictinia mississippiensis

Status: Primarily a rare fall transient at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

Extreme Dates: 14 Aug 2016 – 17 Oct 1998.

Two Spring Records: (1) 13 May 1995, Staunton; (1) 13 May 2018 Little Run Rd., Weyers Cave.

One Summer Record: (1) 13 Jun 1982, Blue Ridge Parkway.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1998 thru 2015; birds were sighted 9 out of 18 years; Last 10-year average = 1; Last 18-year average = 1; 18-year total = 11.

Peak Counts: fall– (3) 9 Sep 2016 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (5) 2016 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

74/74/73. NORTHERN HARRIER

Circus cyaneus

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident, and rare summer visitor, usually seen over open fields. Seen frequently at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch during fall migration.

Breeding: Adult male and female and one juvenile near Swoope, 31 Jul 2004, indicates possible breeding, but no nest found; male carrying long strands of vegetation near Swoope, 11 Feb 2013, indicates possible breeding, but no nest found.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1976 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year except 1978; Last 10-year average = 58; Last 33-year average = 63; 40-year total = 2,099.

Peak Counts: winter– (10) 16 Dec 2000, Augusta County CBC; spring (3) 5 Mar 2009, throughout the county, and 4 Mar 2012, Swoope; fall– (23) 23 Sep 1986, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (159) 1986 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

75/75/74. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

Accipiter striatus

Status: Uncommon summer and winter resident, common and widespread transient. Rare breeder in woodland habitats, occurring in a variety of habitats during winter and migration. Large flights may occur at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in fall.

Breeding: Immature feeding, 28 Jun 2011, Stuarts Draft; adult with 2 immatures, 22 Jul 1996, Waynesboro; adult with 2 immatures, 28 Jul 1999, Staunton.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1976 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year; Last 10-year average = 1,662; Last 33-year average = 1,261; 40-year total = 38,536.

Peak Counts: winter– (10) 18 Dec 1993, Augusta County CBC; spring– (5) 29 Apr 2006, Augusta County BSD; fall– (509) 4 Oct 1986, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (3,644) 1986 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

76/76/75. COOPER'S HAWK

Accipiter cooperii

Status: Uncommon summer and winter resident, common transient. Rare breeder in deciduous woodlands, occurring in a variety of habitats during winter and in migration. Large flights may occur at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in fall. Less common and widespread in the county than Sharp-shinned Hawk in any season.

Breeding: Nest, 2 May, with young, 21 Jun, and fledged young, 5 Jul 1998, Waynesboro BBB; nest with 4 young, late June, fledged 24 Jul 2002, Stuarts Draft; adult female with 3 recently fledged young, 12–25 Jul 2005, Staunton.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1976 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year except 1978; Last 10-year average = 248; Last 33-year average = 165; 40-year total = 4,840.

Peak Counts: winter– (10) 18 Dec 2011, Augusta County CBC (Verona); spring– (7) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, BSD; summer– (4) 24 Jul 2002, Stuarts Draft & 25 Jul 2005, Staunton; fall– (43) 4 Oct 1994, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (401) 2014, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total; (455) 2018 season total.

77/77/76. NORTHERN GOSHAWK

Accipiter gentilis

Status: Rare fall transient, most at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, and rare winter visitor.

Extreme Dates: 1 Sep 2003 & 2001 – 24 Jan 2014. (?)

Three Spring Record: (1) 7 Mar 1988, Waynesboro; (1) 15 & 17 Mar 2013, Waynesboro and Lyndhurst; (1) 30 Apr 2015, New Hope.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1983 thru 2015 birds were sighted all but 3 years; Last 10-year average = 4; Last 33-year average = 3; 33-year total = 115.

Peak Counts: fall– (3) 23 Oct 1999, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (13) 2014 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

78/73/72. BALD EAGLE

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Status: Uncommon spring transient, summer resident; common fall transient and winter visitor. Rare breeder. Seen primarily at rivers, lakes, and ponds, and during fall migration at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

Four Breeding Sites: (I) Deerfield: 4 May 2008, nest with one fully grown young; (II) Swoope: adult and immature at nest, 20 Mar 2010, discovered; (1) 3 Apr 2011, one or two young in nest, first eaglets in nest; continued breeding every year through summer 2016 season, i.e., (2) 28 Jun 2016, juveniles recently fledged, one in nest and one nearby (last sighting); (III) Stuarts Draft: 2 Feb 2017. (IV) Elkhorn Lake, 4 Jul 2019, 2 adults at nest site..

Early Breeding: (4) 22 Apr 2015, Swoope (?), nesting eagles with at least 2 eaglets, discovered; adult and juvenile bald eagles in the area with increasing frequency for 4–5 years before the nest was discovered; (4) 26 Apr 2016, Swoope (?), 2 eaglets in nest + 2 adults nearby (last sighting).

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1983 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year; Last 10-year average = 150; Last 33-year average = 60; 40-year total = 1,048.

Peak Counts: winter– (5) 8 Feb 2014, throughout the county; (18) 1 Dec 2016, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; spring– (9) 23 Apr 2016, Augusta County Raptorthon; (10) 5 May 2018 Augusta Co. BSD; summer– (3) Jun-Aug 1997, Swoope; and (3) 10 Jul 2008, Swoope & Waynesboro; fall– (19) 14 Sep 2010 RGHW; (32) 3 Sep 2017 RGHW one-day count; (83) 18 Sept. 2018 RGHW one-day count; (304) 2016 RGHW season total; (314) 2017 season total; (368) 2018 season total.

79/78/77. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

Buteo lineatus

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident, rare summer resident in bottomland forests and at woodland edges. Seen frequently at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in fall. Rare breeder.

Breeding: Pair nesting, 1 Mar 2014, Fishersville; adult on nest, 7 Apr 2013, Sherando; building nest, sitting on nest, two chicks in nest, 28 Jan – 5 May 2012, Waynesboro; adult on nest, one fuzzy chick in nest, 15 Mar – 18 May 2013, Waynesboro; nest with 2 adults + 2 chicks, mid-May – 31 Jul 2014, Lone Fountain.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1983 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year; Last 10-year average = 55; Last 33-year average = 37; 40-year total = 1,021

Peak Counts: winter– (15) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC (Verona); spring– (8) 5 May 2013, Augusta County BSD; summer– (3) 12 Jul 2012, West Augusta; fall– (23) 31 Oct 2016, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch one-day count; (168) 2016 RGHW season total.

80/79/78. BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Buteo platypterus

Status: Common spring transient, uncommon summer resident, and abundant fall transient. Breeds sparsely in heavily wooded, mountainous areas, forages primarily in woodlands during migration. Very large flights may occur at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch or over other ridge lines in fall, and large flights can be seen over the Valley floor on occasion, though the number of migrants detected varies considerably from year to year.

Extreme Dates: 15 Mar 1985 – 8 Nov 2018.

Breeding: Nest with 2 young, 7 Jul 1990, Palo Alto AB.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1976 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year; Last 10-year average = 18,717; Last 33-year average = 12,759; 40-year total = 418,023.

Peak Counts: spring– (14) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (5) 29 Jun 2006, Great North Mountain; fall– (11,783) 16 Sep 1986, RGHW one-day count; (32,490) 2010 RGHW season total.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

81/79.5/78.5. SWAINSON'S HAWK — (NEW species!)

Buteo swainsoni

Status: Rare fall migrant

Two records that were rejected by VARCOM: (1) 14 Sep 1992; (2) 5 Sep 1994.

Six Fall Records: Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: (1) 27 Aug 2014 (not counted as a migrant); (1) 4 Oct 2014; (1) 9 Oct 2016; (1) 14 Nov 2018, RGHW; (1) 1 Nov 2019 RGHW; (1) 29 Nov 2019 RGHW.

82/80/79. RED-TAILED HAWK

Buteo jamaicensis

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident, more common during migration and in winter, around open fields and at woodland edges. Large flights may occur at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in fall.

Breeding: Nest building, 30 Jan 2011, New Hope; fixing up nest, (1) 8 Mar 2015, Weyers Cave; nest with 2 downy young, 27 Apr 1995, Springhill; nest with 2 young, 19 Jun 2006, Stribling Springs; adults with recently fledged young, 1 Jul 1984, Mt. Sidney.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1976 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year; Last 10-year average = 693; Last 33-year average = 773; 40-year total = 25,616.

Peak Counts: winter– (113) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC (Verona); spring– (40) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (13) 30 Jul 2012, throughout Augusta County; fall– (751) 6 Nov 1985, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (2,100) 1985 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

Note: At least two records of dark-morph individuals of western races– (1) *calurus*, 25 Dec 1999, Stuarts Draft; (1) possible *harlani*, Fishersville, winters of 1999–2000 and 2000–2001; it or another bird was at this location on 17 Dec 2005.

83/81/80. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

Buteo lagopus

Status: Rare transient and winter resident. Most often seen singly around open fields. Rare fall migrant at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

Extreme Dates: 15 Sep 2001 – 29 Mar 2013

Four Overlapping Fall/Winter/Spring Records: (1) Adult, Stuarts Draft / Lyndhurst, Hall School Rd:

(a) 6 Dec 2009 – 16 Mar 2010; (b) 10 Dec 2010 – 27 Feb 2011; (c) 19 Nov 2011 – 5 Feb 2012; (d) 10 Nov 2012 – 29 Mar 2013.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1983 thru 2015 birds were sighted in 7 years; Last 10-year average = 0; Last 33-year average = 0; 33-year total = 8.

Peak Count: winter– (3) 23 Dec 1989, Augusta County CBC; fall– (2) 2014 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

84/86/85. VIRGINIA RAIL

Rallus limicola

Status: Rare spring & fall visitor (and summer breeder) in wetland areas.

One Winter Record: (1) 19–20 Feb 2016, Staunton, Bells Lane, photographed.

Seven Spring Records: (2) calling, 26 Apr – 10 May 1995, South River Preserve, Stuarts Draft; (1) 30 Apr 2005, Swoope, Augusta County BSD; (1) 27 Apr 2014, (location?), Augusta County BSD; (8) 21–23 April 2018.

***Summer Records** (each pair counts as one record): 1 Jun 2018, Shenandoah Wetlands Bank, Stuarts Draft; 10 Jun 2018, South River Preserve; 10 Jun 2018, Shen. Wetlands Bank; June 22 2019, Shen. Wetlands Bank. (*four or six?)

Late Date: (1) 31 Jul 2018, Shen. Wetlands Bank.

Six Fall Records: (1) 12 Sep 1987, Rockfish Gap; (1) found dead, 23 Aug 1993, Weyers Cave, specimen in Mary Baldwin College collection; (1) calling, 15 Aug 1996, South River Preserve; (1) photographed 27–28 Sep 1997, Greenville; (1) immature, 4 Sep 2001, South River Preserve, Stuarts Draft; (2) 1 Aug – 1 Sep 2018, Shen. Wetlands Bank.

Breeding: Calling birds in Apr, May, and Aug (1995–1996) at the South River Preserve in Stuarts Draft suggest the possibility of breeding at this location, but no nest had been found. (1) Nest with eggs 8 Jun 2018; (5) 22 Jul 2018, adults w/ 3 downy chicks, Shen. Wetlands Bank (?); (3) 22 Jun 2019, 2 adults & one fledged young.

85/87/86. SORA

Porzana carolina

Status: Uncommon transient in marshes and wet fields. Rare breeder, with one nest record.

Extreme Dates: 21 Apr 2018 – 16 May 1998; 4 Aug 1969 – 2 Nov 2019.

One Winter Record: (2) 5 Feb 1966, Waynesboro.

Two Summer Record: (1) 1 Jun 2018 – 22 Jul 2018 Shenandoah Wetlands Bank, Stuarts Draft; (1) 31 Jul 2019, Smith's Pond, Swoope.

Peak Counts: Winter (2) 5 Feb 1966 Waynesboro; spring– (7) 21 Apr 2018 Shen. Wetlands Bank, Stuarts Draft; (13) 27 April 2019, Shen. Wetlands Bank.

Breeding: Nest with 7 eggs, 26 Apr, 9 eggs, 28 Apr, nest deserted 5 May 1973, Frank's Mill; 8–10 Jun 2018, bird giving alarm calls in same area of wetlands (possible nesting site).

Birds of Augusta County 2020

86/88.5/87.5 PURPLE GALLINULE — (NEW species!)

Porphyrio martinica

One Spring Record: (1) 2 Apr 2014, Waynesboro, 2nd Street, found in small stream being attacked by cat, taken to Wildlife Center of Virginia for rehabilitation, released in Back Bay NWR, 7 Apr 2014.

One Spring/ Summer Record: (1) 25 May – 13 Jun 2014, Loth Springs pond (Arch Avenue at South River Greenway), Waynesboro, photographed, multiple observers & multiple observations.

87/88/87. COMMON GALLINULE

Gallinula galeata

[name formerly "87. COMMON MOORHEN " in BAC 2008 Summary Manuscript]

Status: Rare spring transient in marshes and marshy ponds.

Extreme Dates: 11 Apr 2003 – 26 May 2007.

Three Summer Records: (1) 13 Jun 1994, Swoope; (1) 14 Jun – 6 Jul 2005, Swoope; (1) 16–18 Jun 2010, Swoope.

One Fall Record: (1) 3–31 Aug 2011, Waynesboro.

88/89/88. AMERICAN COOT

Fulica americana

Status: Primarily a common to uncommon transient, uncommon winter resident, and rare summer visitor in ponds, lakes, marshes, and flooded fields.

Peak Counts: winter– (200+) 19 Dec 2011, Stuarts Draft; spring– (51) 5 May 1998, Mt. Horeb and area lakes and ponds; fall– (100) 3 Nov 1972, Mt. Horeb.

89/90/89. SANDHILL CRANE

Grus canadensis

Status: Rare fall visitor.

One Spring/Summer/Fall Record: (2) 31 May – 21 Nov 2016, photographed, Kiddsville Rd., Fishersville.

Four Spring-Only Records: (1) photographed 12 May 2003, Waynesboro (accepted by VARCOM in Category 3); (1) 7 Apr 2006, Middlebrook; (1) 28 May 2009, Fishersville; (1) 10–16 Apr 2014, Fishersville.

Two Summer Records: (1) photographed 15–28 Jul 2002, Swoope; (3) adults, early Jul 2004.

Nine Fall Records: (3) 15 Aug 2004 Mt. Solon continuing birds from summer; (25–30) 1 Nov 2009, Blue Ridge/Calf Mountain; (1) 22 Sep 2016, Waynesboro; (2) 17 Nov 2016, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Afton Mtn.; (1) 11 Nov 2017 Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (1) 22 Sep 2018 Quillen's; (3) 28 Sep 2018 RGHW, (1) 31 Oct 2018 Fishersville (6) 28 Nov 2018, RGHW

Four Winter Records: (4) 22 Dec 2018, Fishersville; (12) 25 Feb 2018, Smith's Pond, Swoope; (2) 14 Feb 2019, Verona area; (4) 16 Jan 2020, Bells Lane, Staunton.

Peak Count: winter– (12) 25 Feb 2018, Swoope.

90/96/94. AMERICAN AVOCET

Recurvirostra americana

Status: Rare fall transient.

Two Spring Records: (4) photographed 7 Apr 1988, Lyndhurst; (25) 21 Apr 2002, Bells Lane, Staunton.

91/91/90. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

Pluvialis squatarola

Status: Rare transient, seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 25 Mar 1979 – 19 May 1980; 13 Aug 2000 – 25 Nov 1989.

One Summer Record: (8) 2 Jun 2005, Swoope.

Peak Count: spring– (10) 8 May 1973, Swoope.; Fall (10) 16 Sept 2018 flooded fields Stuarts Draft

92/92/91. AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER

Pluvialis dominica

[name formerly "LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER" in BAC 1988 Summary Manuscript]

Status: Rare fall transient in pastures and agricultural fields.

Extreme Dates: 25 Aug 1988 – 12 Nov 1979.

One Spring Record: (1) 6 Apr 1974, Middlebrook, following western tornados.

Peak Count: fall– (29) 1–2 Nov 1979, Stuarts Draft.

93/94/92.7 LESSER/GREATER SAND-PLOVER

Charadrius mongolus/leschenaultii

One Fall Record: (1) 6–8 Sep 2009, Staunton, photographed. A first for Virginia for either species.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

94/93/92. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

Charadrius semipalmatus

Status: Uncommon transient and rare summer visitor, seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 1 May 1994 – 4 Oct 2015.

Peak Counts: spring– (29) 14 May 1995, area lakes and ponds; summer– (8) 2 Jun 2005, Swoope; fall– (5) 10 Aug 2015, Stuarts Draft.

95/95/93. KILLDEER

Charadrius vociferus

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of open habitats, including pastures, agricultural fields, marshy pond margins, and vacant lots.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 19 Mar 1990, Fishersville and 19 Mar 1997, Waynesboro; recently fledged young, 2 May 1994, New Hope; recently fledged young, 28 Jun 1987, Stuarts Draft; 2 adults w/ 3 young, 5 Jul 2019, Swoope area.

Peak Counts: winter– (670) 2 Dec 1985, Mt. Horeb; spring– (27) 1 Mar 2009, throughout the county; (29) 29 April 2017, Big Spring Day, summer– (200+) 9 Jul 1998, Mt. Horeb; fall– (450) 8 Sep 1985, Lyndhurst.

96/102/100. UPLAND SANDPIPER

Bartramia longicauda

Five Spring Records: (2) 17 Apr 1974, south of New Hope; (2) 11 May 1978, Augusta County BSD, south of New Hope; (1) 5 May 1979, Augusta County BSD, south of New Hope; (1) 5 Apr 1986, Stuarts Draft. (1) 31 Mar 2018, Swoope

One Summer Record: (1–2) 5–15 Jun 1979, south of New Hope (may have included the May 1979 individual).

Two Fall Records: (1) 22 Oct 1977, south of New Hope; (1) 10 Aug – 6 Sep 1980, south of New Hope.

Breeding: 1–2 birds present 5–15 Jun 1979, south of New Hope, suggest the possibility of breeding, but no specific evidence of breeding has been observed.

97/103/101. WHIMBREL

Numenius phaeopus

Two Spring Records: (2) 27 May 1998, Mt. Horeb; (57) 20 May 2018, flying over Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

98/104/102. RUDDY TURNSTONE

Arenaria interpres

Five Spring Records: (1) 4 May 1974, Fishersville; (11) 19 May 1981, New Hope; (5) 19 May 1981, Swoope; (1) 28 May 1992, New Hope; (3) 14 May 1995, Swoope.

Two Fall Record: (1) 13 Aug 1992, Stuarts Draft; (1) 13 Sep 2018, in a flooded field, Stuarts Draft.

99/105/103. RED KNOT

Calidris canutus

One Spring Record: (1) 29 Mar – 2 Apr 1986, Lyndhurst.

100/116/113. RUFF

Philomachus pugnax

One Spring Record: (1) photographed 9 May 1987, New Hope.

101/114/112. STILT SANDPIPER

Calidris himantopus

Status: Rare fall transient at the muddy edges of ponds.

Extreme Dates: 7 Aug 2015 – 24 Oct 2009.

Two Summer Records: (1) 29 Jul 1985, Lyndhurst; (33) 21 Jul 1996, New Hope.

Peak Count: fall– (5) 17 Aug 2013, Swoope.

102/106/104. SANDERLING

Calidris alba

Status: Rare fall transient.

Extreme Dates: 19 Aug 1986 – 30 Oct 1978

One Spring Record: (1) 6 & 10 May 1978, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: fall– (6) 7 Sep 2006, Lyndhurst.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

103/113/111. DUNLIN

Calidris alpina

Status: Uncommon transient at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 27 Mar 2005 – 29 May 1998 and 2008; 7 Aug 1980 – 28 Nov 2013.

Five Winter Records: (1) 29 Dec 1979, New Hope; (2) 18 Feb – 5 May 1980, New Hope; (1) 15 Dec 2013, Augusta County CBC (Verona); (1) 10 Feb. 2018 New Hope Rd. Staunton; (1) 17 Feb 2018, Bells Lane, Staunton

Three Summer Records: (1) 30 Jul 1980, Fishersville; (9) 2 Jun 2005, Swoope; (1) 29 Jul 2007, Swoope.

Peak Counts: spring– (60) 19 May 1981, Swoope; fall– (63) 30 Oct 2002, including 60 in Staunton, 1 in Fishersville, and 2 at Stuarts Draft sewage treatment plant.

104/111/109. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER

Calidris bairdii

Status: Rare fall transient, occurring at the muddy edges of ponds.

Extreme Dates: 23 Aug 1963 – 30 Oct 2017.

Peak Counts: (4) 23 Aug 1963, Mt. Solon.

105/109/107. LEAST SANDPIPER

Calidris minutilla

Status: Uncommon transient, most common in spring, and rare summer visitor. Seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 8 Apr 1988 – 28 Nov 2014.

One Winter Record: (1) 1 Dec 2014, Lyndhurst,

Peak Counts: spring– (79) 9 May 2013, Stuarts Draft; summer– (7) 12 Jul 1998, Mt. Horeb and (7) 31 Jul 2003, Swoope; (11) 31 Jul 2017, Quillen's Pond, Lyndhurst, fall– (21) 14 Aug 2008, Lyndhurst and Staunton; (21) 17 Aug 2013, Swoope and Lyndhurst.

106/110/108. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER

Calidris fuscicollis

Status: Rare spring and fall transient, occurring at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 6 May 1988 – 31 May 1985; 20 Aug 2005 – 3 Oct 2015.

Three Summer Records: (1) 10 Jul 1986, Lyndhurst; (1) 3 Jun 1992, New Hope; (1) 6 Jun 1998, Mt. Horeb.

Peak Count: spring– (6) 13 May 1981, Swoope; Fall– (23) 17 Sept. 2018, Stuarts Draft.

107/115/112.5. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

Tryngites sennh bubrufficollis

Four Fall Record: (1) 27 Sep 2008, Stuarts Draft, submitted to VARCOM; (1) 13 Sep 2018 Stuarts Draft, (2) 14–15 Sep 2018, Stuarts Draft, (3) 17–18 Sep 2018, Stuarts Draft.

108/112/110. PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Calidris melanotos

Status: Uncommon transient and rare summer visitor at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 10 Mar 1979 – 19 Nov 1979.

One Winter/Spring Record: (1) 29 Dec 1979 – 5 Mar 1980, New Hope.

Peak Counts: spring– (225) 21 Mar 1977, Mt. Horeb; summer– (18) 29 Jul 2001, Swoope; fall– (45) 17 Aug 2013, Swoope.

109/107/105. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER

Calidris pusilla

Status: Uncommon transient, most common in spring, and rare summer visitor. Seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 1 May 1994 – 23 Oct 1979.

Peak Counts: spring– (100+) 26 May 1996, Swoope; summer– (35) 28 Jul 1980, Lyndhurst; fall– (75) 3 Oct 2015, Stuarts Draft.

110/108/106. WESTERN SANDPIPER

Calidris mauri

Status: Rare fall transient, with the first southbound “fall” migrants appearing in mid-summer. Seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 1 Aug 2003 – 20 Nov 1992.

Three Summer Records: (2) 2 Jul 1981, Stuarts Draft; (2) 14 Jul 1986, Lyndhurst; (3) 24 Jul 1998, Mt. Horeb.

Peak Count: fall– (15) 3 Nov 1993, New Hope.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

111/117/114. SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

Limnodromus griseus

Status: Rare transient and summer visitor at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 21 Apr 1981 – 1 Nov 2009.

Peak Counts: spring– (192) 14 May 1995, area lakes and ponds; summer– (15) 2 Jun 2005, Swoope; fall– (15) 20 Sep 1987, Stuarts Draft.

112/118/115. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER

Limnodromus scolopaceus

One Winter Record: (1) 7–8 Dec 2012, Staunton.

Two Fall Records: (2) 16 Oct and (1) 17–19 Oct 1992, Stuarts Draft, photographed; (1) 18–19 Sep 2018, Stuarts Draft.

113/120/117. AMERICAN WOODCOCK

Scolopax minor

Status: Primarily uncommon spring transient, breeding in woodlands and conducting courtship rituals in nearby open areas. It is rare throughout the rest of the year, but it is not known whether Jan and Feb birds are overwintering or early migrants. This species is clearly more common in summer than records indicate. The courtship display is best observed in March and April at the Pioneer Farm, at milepost 5.8 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, south of Waynesboro.

Breeding: Four males displaying & one female, witnessed mating culmination, 27 Mar 2012, Blue Ridge Parkway; Adult on nest with 4 eggs, 5 Apr 2003, Summerdean; adult with 2 recently fledged young, 26 Apr 2005, Deerfield; Adults with 6 recently fledged young, 5 May 1997, Stokesville; adults with recently fledged young, 24–28 Jul 1980, west of Churchville;.

Peak Counts: winter– (10+) 28 Feb 2012, Blue Ridge Parkway; spring– (24+) 15 Mar 2012, Blue Ridge Parkway; summer– (5) 5 Jun 1966, Churchville BBS.

114/119/116. WILSON'S SNIPE

Gallinago delicata

[name formerly "COMMON SNIPE" in BAC 1998 Summary Manuscript]

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident at the edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields, often in areas with short herbaceous vegetation.

Extreme Dates: 4 Aug 1979 – 14 May 1996.

Two Summer Records: (1) 25 Jun 1980, Stuarts Draft; (1) 29 Jul 1980, Stuarts Draft.

Peak Counts: winter– (38) 7 Dec 2003, Stuarts Draft; spring– (235+) 2 Apr 2009, including 230+ in Swoope and 5 in area lakes and ponds; fall– (34) 22 Oct 1979, Stuarts Draft.

115/121/118. WILSON'S PHALAROPE

Phalaropus tricolor

One Spring Record: (2) 5 May 1978, Waynesboro.

One Late Summer/Early Fall Record: (1) 27 Jul – 1 Aug 1984, Lyndhurst.

Four Fall Records: (1) 9 Sep 1984, Lyndhurst; (1) 11 Sep 1984, Stuarts Draft {fall 1984 sightings counted as same bird}; (1) 2 Aug 1986, Lyndhurst; (1) 26 Aug 1998, Lyndhurst; (1) 7–12 Aug 2015, Stuarts Draft.

116/122/119. RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

Phalaropus lobatus

Three Spring Records: (1) 15 May 1999, Staunton, Augusta County BSD; (1) 12 May 2008, Fishersville; (8) 7–9 May 2013, Stuarts Draft, birds at four locations: (1) sewage treatment plant, (6) China Clay Rd (two locations) and (1) Mt Vernon Rd.

Four Fall Records: (1) 11–12 Oct 1967, Waynesboro; (1) 30 Oct 2002, Swoope; (1) 9 Sep 2004, Staunton; (2) 14 Sept. 2017, Target Distribution Center pond, Stuarts Draft.

117/123/120. RED PHALAROPE

Phalaropus fulicarius

One Spring Record: (1) 7 May 2013, Stuarts Draft.

One Fall Record: (1) 1–2 Nov 1984, Stuarts Draft.

118/97/95. SPOTTED SANDPIPER

Actitis macularius

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, and rare breeder. Seen at the edges of ponds, lakes, rivers, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 19 Mar 2016 – 3 Nov 2002.

Breeding: Adult & hatch year fledgling, 2 Jun, 2016, Swoope; two adults with one recently fledged young, 20 Jun 1986, Craigsville AB; two adults feeding 1 med-sized chick, 29 Jun 2015, Sherando Upper Lake; (4) 2 adults w/ 2 fledged young, 31 May 2019, Swoope.

Peak Counts: spring– (40) 1 May 2011, Augusta County BSD; summer– (9) 21 Jul 1994, area lakes and ponds; fall– (19) 17 Aug 2013, Swoope and Lyndhurst.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

119/98/96. SOLITARY SANDPIPER

Tringa solitaria

Status: Uncommon transient and rare summer visitor at the muddy edges of ponds and lakes, in flooded fields, and along river margins. Often seen singly at small pools and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 29 Mar 2012 – 6 Nov 2010.

Peak Counts: spring– (64) 7 May 2013, county lakes and ponds; summer– (11) 27 & 29 Jul 1999, area lakes and ponds; fall– (45) 24 Aug 2013, Weyers Cave.

120/99/97. GREATER YELLOWLEGS

Tringa melanoleuca

Status: Uncommon transient, most numerous in spring. Seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 7 Mar 2001 – 27 Nov 2011.

Four Winter Records: (1) 4 Dec 1979, Mt. Horeb; (1) 19 Feb 1985, Fishersville; (1) 2 Jan – 9 Mar 1986, New Hope; (1) 10–20 Dec 1986, Fishersville.

Three Summer Records: (1) 27 Jul 1985; (1) 29 Jul 2001, Bells Lane, Staunton. Allen Lerner, (1) 15 Jul 2014, Swoope.

Peak Counts: spring– (52) 15 Apr 1980, Stuarts Draft; fall– (75) 4 Nov 1972, Mt. Horeb.

121/100/98. WILLET

Tringa semipalmata

Two Spring Records: (1) 25 May 1994, Stuarts Draft; (1) 9 May 1998, Mt. Horeb.

One Summer Record: (4) 21 Jul 1994, New Hope.

Three Fall Records: (1) photographed 9–12 Sep 1981, Stuarts Draft; (1) 11 Sep 1993, New Hope; (1) 23–26 Aug 1994, New Hope.

122/101/99. LESSER YELLOWLEGS

Tringa flavipes

Status: Rare summer visitor and uncommon transient (most numerous in spring). Seen at the muddy edges of ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 8 Mar 2006 & 2008 – 20 Nov 1992.

Peak Counts: spring– (51) 19 Apr 1980, Stuarts Draft; summer– (25) 21 Jul 1994, New Hope; fall– (82) 17 Aug 2013, Swoope.

123/124/122. BONAPARTE'S GULL

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Status: Uncommon spring transient, rare fall transient and winter visitor at ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 17 Oct 2015 – 7 May 2013.

Peak Counts: winter– (53) 22 Dec 1998, Verona; spring– (25) 13 Apr 2011, Bells Lane, Staunton; (96) 2 April 2018 Augusta Co., fall– (100) 22 Nov 1977, Fishersville.

124/125/121. LAUGHING GULL

Leucophaeus atricilla

One Winter Record: (1) 10 Dec 2011, Stuarts Draft.

Two Spring Records: (1) 29 Apr 1998, Mt. Horeb; (1) 11 Apr 2003, Stuarts Draft.

Four Fall Records: (1) 7 Sep 1999 (after hurricane *Dennis*), Staunton; (10) 19 Sep 2003, Weyers Cave (after hurricane *Isabel*); (14) 19 Sep 2003, Stuarts Draft sewage treatment plant (after hurricane *Isabel*); (1) 22 Oct 2005, Stuarts Draft STP.

125/126/123. RING-BILLED GULL

Larus delawarensis

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor at ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 19 Sep 2003, 2014 – 31 May 1997.

One Summer Record: (1) 24 Jul 2004, Staunton.

Peak Counts: winter– (589+) 10 Dec 2011, Stuarts Draft; spring– (100) 2 Mar 2014, Stuarts Draft; (111) 1 March 2019, Augusta Co. areas; fall– (700) 12 Nov 1979, Stuart Draft.

126/127/124. HERRING GULL

Larus argentatus

Status: Rare transient and winter visitor, most often seen at ponds, lakes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 20 Aug 1992 – 13 May 1980.

Peak Counts: winter– (9) 10 Dec 2011, Stuarts Draft; spring– (38) 18 Apr 1987, Stuarts Draft; fall– (35) 5 Nov 1985, Stuarts Draft.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

127/128/125. LEAST TERN

Sternula antillarum

One Summer Record: 15 June 2017 – Mint Spring area

One Fall Record: (1) 19 Sep 1975, Waynesboro.

128/129/126. CASPIAN TERN

Hydroprogne caspia

Status: Rare transient at lakes and ponds.

Extreme Dates: 4 Apr 2008 – 10 May 2016; 15 Aug 2017 – 27 Oct 2013.

Peak Counts: spring– (13) 20 Apr 2009, Fishersville; fall– (10) 3 Oct 1984, including (9) Lyndhurst & (1) Staunton.

129/130/127. BLACK TERN

Chlidonias niger

Status: Rare transient at ponds, lakes, marshes, and flooded fields.

Extreme Dates: 7 May 1986, 2013 – 30 May 1974; 9 Aug 1975 – 8 Sep 2018.

Four Summer Records: (2) 2 Jun 1974, Fishersville; (12) 27 Jul 1988, Stuarts Draft; (1) 6 Jun 1998, Springhill; (42) 6 Jun 1998, decreasing to (19) 9 Jun 1998, Mt. Horeb.

Peak Counts: spring– (2) 7 May 2013, Allen Lerner; fall– (10) 19 Aug 2015, Fishersville.

130/131/128. COMMON TERN

Sterna hirundo

Status: Rare transient at ponds and lakes.

Extreme Dates: 8 May 1998 – 26 May 1973; 18 Aug 1971 – 25 Oct 2009.

Peak Counts: spring– (10) 19 May 1981, Swoope; fall– (14) 4 Oct 1985, Stuarts Draft.

131/132/129. FORSTER'S TERN

Sterna forsteri

Status: Primarily a rare transient at ponds and lakes.

Extreme Dates: 6 Apr 2008 – 20 May 1986; 1 Aug 2009 – 30 Nov 2008.

One Winter Record: (1) 13 Feb 1986, Greenville.

Five Summer Records: (1) 24 Jul 1971, Waynesboro; (1) 29 Jul 2001, Swoope; (1) 23 Jul 2006, Staunton; (2) 5 Jul 2009, Stuarts Draft; (2) 29 Jul 2017, Augusta Co.

Peak Counts: spring– (14) 30 Apr 2014, Stuarts Draft; fall– (6) 1 Aug 2009, Fishersville.

132/133/130. BLACK SKIMMER

Rhynchops niger

One Fall Record: (1) 19 Sep 2003, Stuarts Draft sewage treatment plant (after hurricane *Isabel*).

133/134/131. ROCK PIGEON (Category 5)

Columba livia

Status: Common permanent resident (introduced), breeding in buildings and on bridges, and foraging in agricultural fields and a variety of urban habitats.

Breeding: Nest building, 14 Feb 2009, Staunton; adults nest building, 16 Apr 2005, Staunton; adults feeding fledged young, 19 Jul 1984, Greenville AB.

Peak Counts: winter– (898) 29 Dec 2001, Augusta County CBC; spring– (166) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, BSD; summer– (72) 17 Jun 2012, throughout the county; fall– (518) 26 Nov 2004, throughout the county.

134/135/132. EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (Category 5)

Streptopelia decaocto

Status : Rare spring visitor.

Six Spring Records: (2) 9–28 May 2007, photographed Sangersville. Pair engaged in possible courtship behavior. Local resident stated the birds had been in the vicinity about a month before being identified on 9 May; (2) 18 Mar – 23 May 2014, Mt. Solon; (1) 24 April 2015, Swoope; (1–2) 19 Mar – 19 May 2015, Mt. Solon; (1) 20 Mar 2016, Swoope; (1) 30 May 2019, Swoope.

Two Summer Record: (2) 28 June 2014 Mt. Solon, (1), Jun 2016, Swoope, Cattleman Rd and Livick Rd

Two Fall Records: (1) 4–10 Aug. 2014; (2) 6 Sep 2015, Mt. Solon.

Two Winter Records: (1) 23 Dec 2014; (1) 7 Dec 2016.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

135/137/134. COMMON GROUND-DOVE

Columbina passerina

One Fall Record: (1) found injured and died, 24 Oct 1981, Stuarts Draft; specimen in Virginia Tech collection. This bird appeared on the same day that a Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) was discovered in Rockingham County, following a storm system that moved into this area from the Gulf of Mexico.

136/136/133. MOURNING DOVE

Zenaida macroura

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of habitat types, usually foraging in open areas and avoiding dense, extensive woodlands.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 28 Feb 1986, Waynesboro; nest with 2 eggs, 4 Jul 1964, Staunton; nest with eggs, 2 Sep and with young, 24 Sep 1996, Staunton; (1) 19 Mar 2017, recently fledged young, Rockfish Rd.

Peak Counts: winter– (1,226) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC (Verona); (1,414) 15 Dec 2018 Aug. Co. CBC; spring– (390) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, Big Spring Day; summer– (213) 13 Jul 2008, throughout the county; fall– (201) 22 Nov 2010, New Hope.

PASSENGER PIGEON

Ectopistes migratorius

Status: Extinct.

One fall record: November 1846, near what is now Montgomery Hall Park in Staunton. A letter written by Miss Susan Peyton, who lived in Staunton, about the excitement of millions of “Wild Pigeons” staying for at least 24 hours and giving sportsmen a chance to kill thousands of these birds.

137/138/135. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

Coccyzus americanus

Status: Common transient and summer resident, nesting primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 14 Apr 1986 – 30 Oct 1983.

Breeding: 2 adults with 1 recently fledged young, 5 Jun 2006, Frank’s Mill; adult nesting material in beak, 15 Jul 2014, Staunton; nest with 3 eggs, 29 Jul 1972, Churchville; adult carrying food, 24 Aug 2013, Centerville; adult carrying food, 26 Jul 2018; one fledged young, 29 Jul 2018, Shenandoah Wetlands Bank Stuarts Draft; (6) 3 Aug 2018 family group w/ fledged young.

Peak Counts: spring– (18) 9 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (16) 2 Jun 1995, Churchville BBS; fall– (4) 2 Aug 2014, Mt Sidney; (6) 3 Aug 2018 Shen. Wetlands Bank.

138/139/136. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus

Status: Rare transient and summer resident, nesting primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 23 Apr 2006 – 15 Oct 2017 .

Breeding: Nest with young, 22 May 1989, Staunton.

Peak Counts: spring– (5) 5 May 1988, Rockfish Gap; (5) 15 May 2004, Augusta County BSD; summer– (5) 29 Jun 2008, Great North Mountain.

139/140/137. BARN OWL

Tyto alba

Status: Uncommon and local permanent resident, nesting primarily in artificial structures such as barns, silos, and old buildings.

Breeding: Nest with 5 eggs, 29 Mar 1975, Waynesboro; 2 adults with 4 young, 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; 2 adults with 4 young chicks in nest, 5 May; 5 large chicks 26 May; 5 chicks with white down 5 Jun; 1 adult with 5 chicks (look like adults with white down visible) 23 Jun 2013, Stuart Draft; adults with 2 recently fledged young, 16 Jul 2007, Staunton; nest with 3 young, 8 Nov 1992, Middlebrook; (1) nest with 2 eggs, 4 Jan 2020, Guthrie Rd., Fishersville.

Peak Counts: winter– (4) 22 Dec 1971, 18 Dec 2011, 14 Dec 2014, Augusta County CBC; spring– (6) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD and 5 May 2013, Stuarts Draft; (6) 29 Apr 2017 Big Spring Day, summer– (7) 26 Jul 2004, Swoope; fall– (8) 17 Nov 2007, including 4 in Staunton area and 4 in Stuarts Draft area.

140/141/138. EASTERN SCREECH-OWL

Megascops asio

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Recently fledged young, 24 Mar 1990; 2 adults with 3 recently fledged young, 24 May 1992, Staunton; 2 adults with 3 recently fledged young, 15 Jun 1998, Churchville BBB; 4 recently fledged young, 20 Jul 1974, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: winter– (25) 19 Dec 1987, Augusta County CBC; fall– (8) 4 Sep 2014, Mt Sidney; summer– (25) 3 Jul 2018, Middlebrook area.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

141/142/139. GREAT HORNED OWL

Bubo virginianus

Status: Uncommon but widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Adult on or near nest, 29 Jan – 27 Feb 2013, New Hope; adult on nest, 14 Feb 2009, Stuarts Draft; adults with 2 young in nest, 21 Mar 1999, Fishersville; adult and owlet in nest, 30 Mar and 5 Apr 2016, Augusta County; adult with one half-grown young in nest, 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD.

Peak Counts: winter– (13) 23 Dec 1989, Augusta County CBC; spring– (4) 6 May 2012 and 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (2) 9 Jun 1996, Churchville BBS; (2) 10 Jun 2007, Churchville BBS; fall– (4) 30 Sep 1979, New Hope.

142/143/140. SNOWY OWL

Bubo scandiacus

Two Winter Only Records: (1) photographed, 24 Dec 1982 – 12 Jan 1983, New Hope; (1) 4 Jan 2014, Augusta County CBC, flyover, Sherando.

One Winter/Spring Record: (1) photographed 22 Jan – 5 Mar 1975, Stuarts Draft, Waynesboro.

Comment: Local residents reported that this bird had been seen in the area earlier in Dec. It was found dead on 12 Jan 1983, and taken to Dr. Stuart Porter at the Wildlife Center of Virginia at Weyers Cave. Necropsy revealed that it was a hatch year male, that it died of malnutrition, and that aspergillus infection may have contributed to its death; specimen in Mary Baldwin College collection.

143/144/141. BARRED OWL

Strix varia

Status: Uncommon permanent resident, primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Breeding: Adult on nest, 6 Apr – 5 May 2013, Sherando; 2 adults with 1 recently fledged young, 6 Jun 1978, Stokesville; adult with 1 recently fledged young, 20 Jun 2006, Great North Mountain; 2 recently fledged young giving begging calls, 12 Jul 2015, Shenandoah Nat. Park, near Rockfish Gap south entrance station; (4) 2 adults w/ 2 fledged young 31 May 2019 Augusta Springs.

Peak Counts: spring– (5) 5 May 2013, Augusta County BSD and 21 May 2016, Buffalo Gap; summer– (3) 15 Jun 2008, 1 in Big Levels & 2 on VA Rt. 610; (3) 24 Jun 2017, Todd Lake area, (4) adults w/ fledged young Humpback Rocks, Blue Ridge Parkway.

144/145/142. LONG-EARED OWL

Asio otus

Four Winter Records: (1) found shot dead, Jan 1972, Staunton; (1) found dead, 26 Dec 1983, on highway at intersection of I-81 and I-64, Staunton; specimen in Mary Baldwin College collection; (1) found dead, 7 Feb 1984, on highway at intersection of I-81 and I-64, Staunton; specimen in Virginia Tech collection; (1) 28 Dec 1992, I-81 near Mint Spring exit.

One Spring Record: (3) 9–10 Mar 2016, Swoope area.

One Fall Record: (1) 29 Sep 2011, Waynesboro.

145/146/143. SHORT-EARED OWL

Asio flammeus

Status: Primarily a rare and local winter, spring, & fall visitor, in open and early-successional habitats.

Extreme Dates: 10 Nov 2018 – 10 May 1980.

Six Fall Records: (1) 7 Nov 1982, Weyers Cave; (1) 4 Oct 2004, Stuarts Draft; (2) 15 Nov 2004, Swoope; (1) 28 Nov 2005, Staunton; (1) 31 Nov 2006, Staunton, (1) 10 Nov. 2018, Bells Lane, Staunton.

Peak Counts: winter– (10) 20 Dec 1989, Fishersville; (18) 9 Feb 2018, Bells Lane & Swoope area, spring– (6) 11 Mar 2006, Staunton; (12) 13 March 2018, Bells Lane & Swoope area, fall– (6) 24 Nov 2017, Bells Lane & Swoope area.

146/147/144. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

Aegolius acadicus

Status: Rare winter visitor.

Six Winter Records: (1) picked up dead, 8 Jan 1995, on highway at intersection of I-81 and I-64; (1) 16–23 Dec 1995, Verona; (1) calling, 9–22 Feb 2011, near Waynesboro; (1) 11 & 14 Jan 2016, Beagle Gap, Shenandoah National Park, approx. mile marker 99.5, nocturnal, heard; (1) 19 Jan – 22 Feb 2017, Beagle Gap, Shen. Nat. Park; (1) 20 Jan 2018, Shen. Nat. Park.

Five Spring Records: (1) injured, 29 Mar 1986, west of Churchville, treated at the Wildlife Center of Virginia at Weyers Cave, where it died 16 Dec 1986; (1) injured, 22 Mar 1988, near New Hope, treated at the Wildlife Center, where it remained; (1) 9 May 2006, mile marker 89.9, Skyline Drive during Northern Saw-whet Owl Foray; (1) 9 May 2006, mile marker 90.7, Skyline Drive, during Northern Saw-whet Owl Foray; (1) 20 May 2017, Braley Pond, near West Augusta.

Three Fall Records: (1) 6 Oct 2001, Shenandoah Mountain; (1) 5 Nov 2015, Waynesboro, I-64, Exit 96 road kill. (1) 12–15 Sep 2017, Red Mill, Crimora.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

147/148/145. COMMON NIGHTHAWK

Chordeiles minor

Status: Common transient and uncommon summer resident, sometimes locally abundant during fall migration. Breeds on gravel rooftops and other open, gravelly habitats; population declining in recent years.

Extreme Dates: 4 Apr 2009 – 23 Oct 1999.

Breeding: Nest with 2 eggs, 22 May 1907, Staunton; nest with young, 20 Jun 1986, Stokesville AB; nest with 2 eggs, 5 Jul 1973, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring– (8) 30 Apr 2014, Stuarts Draft; summer– (5) June 1967, Churchville BBS; fall– (2,579+) 1 Sep 2012, Churchville and Fishersville.

148/149/146. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

Caprimulgus carolinensis

Status: Rare transient and rare local summer resident, with records only from relatively low elevations in the Lyndhurst, Stuarts Draft, and Big Levels area.

Extreme Dates: 5 Apr 2017 – 29 Aug 1983.

Breeding: Annually, birds calling throughout the summer in the Big Levels area indicate breeding, but no nests have been found; adult carrying food to probable nest site, 15 Jun 2008, Big Levels.

Peak Counts: spring – (6) 4 May 2006, Big Levels and (6) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (7) 15 Jun 2008, Big Levels.

149/150/147. EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL

Caprimulgus vociferus

Status: Common transient and summer resident in a variety of woodland types, often at higher elevations than those used by the Chuck-will's-widow. Population decreasing in recent years.

Extreme Dates: 29 Mar 1989 – 16 Sep 1967.

Breeding: 2 recently fledged young, 15 Jun 2008, Big Levels; nest with eggs, 17 Jun 1973, Lone Fountain.

Peak Counts: spring– (63) 1 May 2011, Augusta County BSD; summer– (31) 15 Jun 2008, Big Levels and VA Rt. 610.

150/151/148. CHIMNEY SWIFT

Chaetura pelagica

Status: Common transient and summer resident, sometimes locally abundant during fall migration. In Augusta County, observed nesting exclusively in chimneys and other artificial structures.

Extreme Dates: 12 Mar 2014 – 28 Oct. 2018

Breeding: Nest with 5 eggs, 10 Jun 1975, Churchville; nest with young, 18 Jul 1979, Staunton.

Peak Counts: spring– (292) 1 May 2011, Augusta County BSD; summer– (300) 13 Jul 2016, Staunton; fall– (34,000) 9 Sep 2006, Staunton.

151/152/149. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Archilochus colubris

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Extreme Dates: 9 Apr 1998 – 29 Nov 2011

Extremely Rare Sightings: (1) 12–27 Aug 2011, Staunton, ****true female albino****; (1) 17–18 Sep 2011, Lyndhurst, 2nd sighting of the albino.

One Late Fall Record: 30 Nov 2017, Stuarts Draft, bird banded 3 Nov 2017.

Two Winter Records: (1) 4 Dec 2010, Lyndhurst; (1) 1 Dec 2017 – 1 Jan 2018, banded bird, Stuarts Draft.

Breeding: Adult at nest, 23 May 1992, Moffett Creek; 2 well-feathered young in nest, 2 Jul 1982, Fishersville; adult with young in nest, 13 Aug 2007, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring– (13) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, Big Spring Day; (19) 5 May 2018 Aug. Co. BSD; summer– (20) 25 Jul 1984, Verona; fall– (168) 2 Sep 2014, Afton, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, fall migration counters.

152/153/150. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Selasphorus rufus

Status: Rare fall transient.

Extreme Dates: 1 Sep 2014 – 30 Nov 2011

Four Fall Records: (1) 9 Nov 1996, Staunton, immature male, photographed (accepted by VARCOM). (1) mid Oct. 2011, Middlebrook, Stingy Rd., (1) 5 Oct 2012, Stingy Hollow Rd. same bird returned; (1) 3 Nov. 2018, adult male banded 18 Nov 2018, Ox Rd., Stuarts Draft area.

Four Winter Records: (1) 3 Jan. 1997 Staunton, (1) 1 Jan – 28 Feb 2018, Stingy Hollow Rd., (1) 1 Jan – 28 Feb 2013, Stingy Hollow Rd. (same bird); (1) 1–18 Dec 2018; Ox Rd., Stuarts Draft area.

One Spring Record: (1) 10 March – 20 April 2012, Stingy Hollow Rd.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

SELASPHORUS SPECIES

Selasphorus rufus/sasin

Five Fall Records: (1) 14–24 Nov 2008, near Churchville; (1) 21–22 Nov 2008, near Waynesboro; (Both of the 2008 records were accepted by VARCOM as Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds.); (1) 28 Oct. 2011 Greenville; (1) 9–13 Nov 2011, Staunton, photographed (no submission to VARCOM); (1) 5–9 Nov 2012, Stuarts Draft (no submission to VARCOM).

Two Winter Records: 1 Dec 2011 – 28 Feb. 2012, Greenville; (1) 7 Dec. 2018, Staunton.

One Spring Record: (1) 28 March 2012, Greenville.

Species Comment: Field separation of female and immature Rufous and Allen's is very difficult. According to the VSO "Virginia's Birdlife an Annotated Checklist - No. 7," it is "...assumed that the vast majority of unidentified Selasphorous have been Rufous Hummingbirds."

154/155/151. BELTED KINGFISHER

Megasceryle alcyon

Status: Common permanent resident, nesting along rivers and streams, and around ponds and lakes.

Breeding: Nest building, 29 Mar 1992, Swoope; 4 recently fledged young, 22 May 2000, Waynesboro; occupied nest, 27 Jun 2005, Stokesville; occupied nest, 23 Jul 1998, Mt. Sidney BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (26) 27 Dec 1980, Augusta County CBC; spring– (10) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, Big Spring Day; summer– (10) 1 Jul 1997, area lakes and ponds; fall– (9) 4 Aug 2007, throughout the county.

155/156/152. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in oak woodlands. Often seen migrating past the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in fall.

Breeding: Nest with young, 18 May 1989, Lyndhurst; pair excavating a nest hole, 24 May 2015, Mt. Solon; adult carrying food in beak flying to grove of trees, 25 Jun 2016, Swoope; nest with young, 17 Jul 1984, Parnassus AB; 4 adults + 5 juveniles, 29 Aug 2009, Stuarts Draft.

Peak Counts: winter– (8) 30 Dec 2006, Waynesboro CBC; spring– (10) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; summer– (7) 13 Jul 2009, including 4 at Lyndhurst and 3 at Swoope; (9) 26 Jun 2017 Swoope area, (10) 9 June 2018 BBS; fall– (51) 10 Sep 2011, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (131) 20 Aug – 20 Nov 2011, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch season total.

156/157/153. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

Melanerpes carolinus

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Occupied nest, 27 Apr 1994, Staunton; nest with 1 young, 16 May 1986, Lyndhurst; adult feeding fledged young, 20 Jul 1998, Ft. Defiance BBB; adults actively feeding noisy babies in tree cavity nest, 5 Aug 2015, Hermitage.

Peak Counts: winter– (90) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC (Verona); spring– (61) 8 May 1993, Augusta County BSD; (63) 29 April 2017 Big Spring Day, summer– (17) 4 Jun 2006, Churchville BBS; (17) 10 Jun 2007, Churchville BBS; fall– (32) 29 Sep 2008, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

157/158/154. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Sphyrapicus varius

Status: Common transient and winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats; possibly a rare breeder at higher elevations in the western part of the county.

Extreme Dates: 30 Aug 2017 – 13 May 2007.

Two Summer Records: (1) 20 Jul 1986, Reddish Knob; (1) 19 Jun 2010, near Greenville, BBS; (1) 28 Jul 2012, Augusta Springs Wetlands.

Breeding: 4 birds drumming on territory in mixed hardwood forest (3,400 – 3,800 feet) 4 May 1968, head of North River, Shenandoah Mountain; Reddish Knob (4,300 feet) 20 Jul 1986. Summer record suggests possible breeding at higher elevations, but no specific breeding evidence has been observed.

Peak Counts: winter– (13) 18 Dec 1999, Augusta County CBC; spring– (4) 4 May 1968, Shenandoah Mt.; fall– (7) 7 Oct 1976, VA Rt. 610 (Blue Ridge).

158/159/155. DOWNY WOODPECKER

Picoides pubescens

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Adult with 2 recently fledged young, 5 May 1973, Churchville; nest with young, 10 Jun 1973, Churchville; adult with recently fledged young, 21 Jul 1998, Ft. Defiance BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (107) 31 Dec 1983, Augusta County CBC; spring– (46) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (9) Jun 1967, Churchville BBS; fall– (15) 3 Sep 2006, VA Rt. 610 and Blue Ridge Parkway.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

159/160/156. HAIRY WOODPECKER

Picoides villosus

Status: Uncommon permanent resident in a variety of woodland types; generally less common than Downy Woodpecker in any season.

Breeding: Nest building, 5 Apr and nest with young, 5 May 1992, Swoope; nest with young, 28 May 1986, Churchville AB; recently fledged young, 30 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB; adult male feeding 2 fledglings, 15 Jul 2015, Crimora.

Peak Counts: winter– (11) 31 Dec 1977, Augusta County CBC; spring– (11) 29 Apr 2006, Augusta County BSD; (11) 5 May 2018 BSD, summer– (8) 1 Jul 2005, Great North Mountain–FSR 82 & Elliott Knob; fall (5) 3 Sep 2006, VA Rt. 610 and Blue Ridge Parkway.

160/161/157. NORTHERN FLICKER

Colaptes auratus

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident, less common in winter, in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats. Large flights are occasionally recorded at Rockfish Gap in fall.

Breeding: Nest building, 18 Apr 2002, Swoope; occupied nest, 15 May and nest with young, 7 Jul 1973, Churchville; recently fledged young, 10 Jul 1998, Greenville BBB.

Unusual Nest Record: Nest with 4 eggs in a hole in the ground, photographed 18–30 Jun 1974, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: winter– (65) 21 Dec 1991, Augusta County CBC; spring– (66) 14 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (32) Jun 1966, Churchville BBS; fall– (171) 14 Oct 1991, Rockfish Gap. (431) 13 Oct. 2018, RGHW.

Comments: Two records of intergrade Red-shafted x Yellow-shafted races: (1) found injured, 13 Jun 1986, Lyndhurst, specimen in Mary Baldwin College collection; (1) found dead, 24 Apr 1987, Waynesboro. One record of Red-shafted race: (1) 30 Dec 2005, Waynesboro CBC.

161/162/158. PILEATED WOODPECKER

Dryocopus pileatus

Status: Uncommon to locally common permanent resident in mature woodlands and suburban areas.

Breeding: Nest with young, 28 Mar 1995, Swoope; nest with young, 25 May 1998, Mt. Sidney BBB; recently fledged young, 22 Jun 1984, Deerfield AB; nest with young, 19 Jul 1998, Stuarts Draft BBB; adult feeding 4 young near nest, 24–26 Aug 2016, southern Augusta Co.

Peak Counts: winter– (22) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC (Verona); (27) 14 Dec 2019, Augusta Co. CBC; spring– (36) 5 May 2018, Augusta County BSD; summer– (6) 17 Jun 2007, Great North Mountain; (6) 1 Jun 2014, Swoope; fall– (7) 19 Oct 1973, Skyline Drive (Shen. Nat. Park).

162/83/82. AMERICAN KESTREL

Falco sparverius

Status: Common and widespread transient and winter resident, uncommon summer resident around open fields with scattered trees and other perches. Fairly large flights occur at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in fall.

Breeding: Nest building, 6 Mar 2008, Staunton; nest 4 Apr, young in nest 5 May, fledged young 4 Jun 2000, Arbor Hill; nest 20 Apr, young in nest 14 Jun, fledged young, 29 Jun 1980, Ft. Defiance; nest with young in air shaft, 21 May 2008, AMC, Fishersville; adult pair with 5 juveniles, 23 Jun 2012, Mt. Solon.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1976 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year; Last 10-year average = 207; Last 33-year average = 131; 40-year total = 3,813

Peak Counts: winter– (76) 15 Dec 1990, Augusta County CBC; spring– (20) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, BSD; summer– (9) 23 Jun 2012, throughout county; fall– (88) 8 Oct 2014, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (403) 2014, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

163/84/83. MERLIN

Falco columbarius

Status: Uncommon fall transient and winter visitor, and a rare spring transient in a variety of habitats. Seen fairly widely, although most fall records are from Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

Extreme Dates: 23 Aug 1998 – 7 May 2000.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1976 thru 2015 birds were sighted almost every year. Last 10-year average = 26; Last 33-year average = 15; 40-year total = 390

Peak Counts: winter– (3) 18 Dec 2010, Augusta County CBC; fall– (10) 15 Oct 2005, RGHW; (21) 18 Sep 2018 RGHW; (51) 2016, RGHW season total; (53) 2017 season total; (85) 2018 season total.

164/85/84. PEREGRINE FALCON

Falco peregrinus

Status: Uncommon fall transient and winter visitor, and a rare spring transient. Most fall records are from Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch. Historical breeder.

Extreme Dates: 7 Aug 2011 – 20 May 2001.

Two Summer Records: (1) 23 Jul 2005, immature, Staunton; (1) 8 Jul 2018 Greenville area.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Breeding: Historical breeder - female with 3 young, 4 Apr 1905, Staunton; present 1938 and 1939.

Fall Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: From 1984 thru 2015 birds were sighted every year; Last 10-year average = 30; Last 33-year average = 18; 40-year total = 599.

Peak Counts: spring– (2) 28 Apr 2003, Humpback Rocks, Blue Ridge Parkway; fall– (17) 8 Oct 2014, RGHW; (65) 2014 RGHW season total; winter– (2) 15 Dec. 2018.

165/163/159. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

Contopus cooperi

Status: Rare transient, usually recorded in woodlands at higher elevations.

Extreme Dates: 30 Mar 2005 – 31 May 2015; 18 Aug 1981 – 20 Sep 1972.

Peak Count: spring– (2) 29 & 31 May 2015, Roman Rd., Mt Sidney; fall– (2) singing, 8 Sep 1978, Todd Lake.

166/164/160. EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE

Contopus viren

Status: Common and widespread summer resident in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 20 Apr 1987 – 18 Oct 1972.

Breeding: Pair building nest, 22 May 2013, McCormick Farm, Steeles Tavern; nest with young, 25 Jun 1984, Augusta Springs AB; nesting chicks fledged 1 Jul and young following 2 parents in yard 15 Jul 2015, Crimora; adults feeding recently fledged young, 16 Jul 1998, Sherando BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (56) 14 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (19) 6 Jun 1997, VA Rt. 610; fall– (21) 3 Sep 2006, VA Rt. 610 and Augusta Springs Wetlands.

167/165/161. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER

Empidonax flaviventris

Status: Primarily a rare fall transient in woodlands, generally at higher elevations.

Extreme Dates: 14 Aug 2005 – 23 Sep 1989.

Three Spring Record: (1) 17 May 1983, Weyers Cave; (1) 16 May 2014, Swoope; (1) 18 May 2014, Crimora.

One Summer Record: (1) singing, 10 Jun 1988, Staunton.

Peak Counts: fall– (2) singing, 3 Sep 1987, Afton Mtn., VA Rt. 610.

168/166/162. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER

Empidonax virescens

Status: Common transient and summer resident in cool forests, often in bottomlands near water. Most common in western mountains. Fall status not well-known due to identification difficulties.

Extreme Dates: 14 Apr 2014 – 8 Sep 2014.

Breeding: Three birds chasing and brief copulation, 4 May 2016, Blue Ridge Parkway; adult with 2 recently fledged young, 18 Jun 2006, Great North Mountain; adults feeding recently fledged young, 3 Jul 1998, Stokesville BBB; adult feeding fledged young, 1 Aug 2009, Great North Mountain.

Peak Counts: spring– (46) 22 May 1989, Shenandoah Mountain; summer– (14) 29 Jun 2006, Great North Mountain.

169/167/163. ALDER FLYCATCHER

Empidonax alnorum

Status: Rare spring visitor.

Six Spring Records: (1) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, Big Spring Day; (1) 25 May 2014, Swoope; (-) 30 May 2015, Swoope, (1) 19-21 May 2016, Swoope area; (1) 20 May 2017, Roman Rd., Aug. Co.; (1) 27–29 May 2018, Trimble Mills Rd., Swoope.

Five Summer Record: (2) males singing, 4 Jun – 11 Jul 2000, South River Preserve, Stuarts Draft; (1–4) 9 Jun – 16 Jul 2015, Swoope area; (1) 1–16 Jun 2016, Swoope Area; (1) 8 Jun 2017, Cattleman Rd. Swoope (1) 2 Jun 2018, Trimble Mill Rd., Swoope; (1) 22 Jul 2018, Smith's pond, Swoope.

One Fall Record: (2) 17 Aug 2015, Mount Sidney.

170/168/164. WILLOW FLYCATCHER

Empidonax traillii

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in semi-open bottomland woodlands and riparian habitats. Probably breeds most commonly in the Stuarts Draft-Lyndhurst area. [NOTE: Single silent birds on VA Rt. 610 on 6 and 24 Sep 1994 and 16 Sep 1997, as well as silent birds recorded in spring, could be either this species or the Alder Flycatcher.]

Extreme Dates: 13 Apr 2014 – 10 Aug 2014.

Breeding: Nest, June 1981, Waynesboro; adult and 1 fledgling, 24 Jul 2011, Swoope; adult feeding fledged young, 31 Jul 2011, Middlebrook.

Peak Counts: spring– (12) 15 May 2004, Augusta County BSD; summer– (41) 16 Jun 2001, Stuarts Draft; fall– (5) 1 Aug 2013, Swoope.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

171/169/165. LEAST FLYCATCHER

Empidonax minimus

Status: Rare spring transient and summer, fall visitor in woodlands, primarily at higher elevations. Fall status not well-known due to identification difficulties. Possible breeder at high elevations.

Extreme Dates: 29 Apr 1974 – 16 Sep 2017.

Six Fall Records: (1) calling, 4 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610; (1) 2 Sep 2006, Staunton; (1) 3 Sep 2006, Staunton; (1) calling, 13 Sep 2008, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (1) 15 Aug 2014, Crimora. (1) 16 Sep 2017, VA Rt. 610 / Blue Ridge Parkway.

Breeding: Summer records of singing males suggest the possibility of breeding, but no specific evidence of breeding has been observed.

Peak Count: spring– (5) 17 May 1988, Stuarts Draft; summer– (2) 15 Jul 2014, Swoope.

172/170/166. EASTERN PHOEBE

Sayornis phoebe

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, nesting primarily on bridges, buildings, and other artificial structures; uncommon winter resident.

Breeding: Nest building, 31 Mar 1982, Fishersville; nest with eggs, 13 Apr 1995, Swoope; nest with five eggs, 14 May 1980, Ramseys Draft; recently fledged young, 17 Jul 1998, Craigsville BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (7) 30 Dec 1991, Waynesboro CBC; spring– (54) 14 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (20) 4 Jun 2006, Churchville BBS; fall– (48) 2 Oct 2004, throughout the county.

173/171/167. GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

Myiarchus crinitus

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 19 Apr 2012 – 17 Oct 2017.

Breeding: Pair carrying nest material, 8 May 2011, Stuarts Draft; pair carrying nesting material into a hole of a Sycamore tree by South River, 20 May – 1 Jun, 2015, Crimora; nest with 4 eggs, 7 Jun 1975, Churchville; recently fledged young, 16 Jul 1998, Waynesboro West BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (158) 14 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (10) 3 Jun 2004, Churchville BBS.

174/172/168. WESTERN KINGBIRD

Tyrannus verticalis

One Summer Record: (1) 22 Jun 1979, Centerville; one reported in Stuarts Draft, 6 Sep 1987 was likely this species but was not accepted by VARCOM, due to the possibility of a Cassin's Kingbird not being eliminated.

175/173/169. EASTERN KINGBIRD

Tyrannus tyrannus

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, breeding at woodland edges, in farmland, and in trees surrounded by open fields.

Extreme Dates: 8 Apr 2001 – 5 Oct 2006.

Breeding: Nest building, 6 May 1985, Stokesville AB; two adults nest building, 15 May 2015, Staunton; adult feeding 3 young in nest, 14 Jun 2011, Steeles Tavern; one adult and 3 fledged young, 16 Jul 2016, Staunton; recently fledged young, 30 Jul 1973, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring– (91) 11 May 1992, Augusta County BSD; summer– (21) 1 Jun 2006, throughout the county; (35) 22 Jun 2019, throughout Augusta Co.; fall– (37) 4 Aug 2007, throughout the county.

176/174/170. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

Tyrannus forficatus

Three Summer Records: (1) 29 Jul 1980, near Weyers Cave; (1) 19 Jul 1992, near Springhill; (1) 23 Jul 1992, near Stuarts Draft, 20 miles from the Springhill sighting, possibly the same bird.

177/175/171. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

Lanius ludovicianus

Status: Rare seasonal visitor in farmland and open areas with scattered trees and shrubs, although dramatic declines have occurred in recent years, *hence the following records apply only to the period since 30 Nov 2011:*

Two Spring Records: (1) 20 Dec 2014 – 29 Jan 2015, Mt. Solon; (2) 17 Mar – 14 Apr 2012, Swoope.

Summer Record: NONE.

One Fall Record: (1) 22 Oct 2016, Mt. Solon.

Breeding: A study conducted by Dave Luukkonen and Dr. James Frasier of Virginia Tech recorded nine breeding pairs in Augusta County in 1985 and fifteen pairs in 1986. However, follow-up surveys in 1996 found birds at only one of these nest sites. Nest, 5 Apr and occupied nest, 15 Apr 1995, Swoope; nest with 5 eggs, 8 May 1985, Churchville AB; recently fledged young, 1 Jun 2006, Swoope; pair with 2 recently fledged young, 30 Jun 1999, Moscow; 3 recently fledged young, 10 Jul 1998, Greenville BBB.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Peak Counts: winter– (20) 21 Dec 1974, Augusta County CBC; spring– (4) 30 Jun 1999, Moscow; summer– (3) 3 Jun 1995, Churchville BBS.

178/175.5/171.5. NORTHERN SHRIKE — (NEW species!)

Lanius excubitor

One Winter Record: (1) 19 & 24 Dec 2015, Wolf Ridge Rd. near Emmanuel Church Rd., NW Augusta County, photographed.

179/176/172. WHITE-EYED VIREO

Vireo griseus

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in dense, brushy vegetation in old fields and woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 12 Apr 1989 – 5 Nov 2016.

One Winter Record: (1) 9 Dec 1992, Staunton.

Breeding: Nest building, 27 Apr 1994, Staunton; adult feeding fledged young, 29 Jun 1984, Deerfield AB.

Peak Counts: spring– (14) 8 May 1993, Augusta County BSD; fall– (11) 13 Sep 1996, VA Rt. 610.

180/177/173. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

Vireo flavifrons

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in deciduous woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 15 Apr 2012 – 15 Oct 1968.

Breeding: Adult carrying fecal sac, 3 May 2003, BRP; adults feeding recently fledged young, 16 Jul 1998, Sherando BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (13) 15 May 2004, Augusta County BSD; summer (10) 20 Jun 2015, Augusta Springs; fall– (6) 6 Sep 2007, VA Rt. 610 and Blue Ridge Parkway.

181/178/174. BLUE-HEADED VIREO

Vireo solitarius

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in mixed forests above 2,500 feet. Probably breeds most abundantly in western Augusta County.

Extreme Dates: 20 Mar 2014 – 24 Nov 2002.

Two Winter Record: (2) 17 Dec 1977, Big Levels; (1) 15 Dec 2012, Weyers Cave.

Breeding: New nest just about completed by 2 adults, 27 Apr 2013, Stuarts Draft; nest with 2 eggs, 1 May 1968, Ramseys Draft; multiple pairs on territory building nests and serenading, 8 May 2013, Augusta Springs; 10 adults + 2 hatch-year young, 13 Jul 2014, U.S. Forest Rd. to Benson Run; recently fledged young, 29 Jul 1998, Sherando BBB; 2 adults feeding 2 young in nest, 22 Aug 2015, Reddish Knob.

Peak Counts: spring– (52) 26 Apr 2008, Augusta County BSD; summer– (24) 15 Jun 2008, Reddish Knob, Big Levels, and VA Rt. 610; fall– (15) 6 Sep 2007, VA Rt. 610 and Blue Ridge Parkway.

182/180/176. PHILADELPHIA VIREO

Vireo philadelphicus

Status: A rare transient in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Extreme Dates: 15 Apr 2012 – 6 May 1989, 2012 and 14 Aug 2014 – 17 Oct 1965.

Peak Counts: spring– (2) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; (5) 4 May 2019, Blue Ridge Parkway; fall– (3) 14 Sep 2016, McCormick's Farm, Steeles Tavern.

183/179/175. WARBLING VIREO

Vireo gilvus

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in bottomlands and riparian woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 23 Apr 2002 & 2016 – 4 Oct 1972.

Breeding: Nest building, 12 May 1966, Verona; adults visiting nest, 21 May 2014, Steeles Tavern; occupied nest, 25 May 1990, Springhill.

Peak Count: spring– (13) 15 May 2004, Augusta County BSD; fall– (2) 1 Sep 2012, Steeles Tavern.

184/181/177. RED-EYED VIREO

Vireo olivaceus

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, breeding in a variety of woodland types.

Extreme Dates: 5 Apr 1986 – 1 Nov 1974.

Breeding: Nest building, 3 Jun 1998, Craigsville BBB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 12 Jun 1986, Crimora AB; 20 adults + 1 hatch-year young, 13 Jul 2014, U.S. Forest Rd. to Benson Run; adults feeding recently fledged young, 29 Jul 1998, Sherando.

Peak Counts: spring– (251) 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD; (274) 5 May 2018 BSD, summer– (91) 29 Jun 2008, Great North Mountain; fall– (122) 3 Sep 2006, VA Rt. 610 and Blue Ridge Parkway.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

185/182/178. BLUE JAY

Cyanocitta cristata

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Nest with 5 eggs, 13 Apr 1972, Staunton; nest with 3 young, 27 May 1993, Staunton; occupied nest, 25 Jun 1984, Augusta Springs AB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 31 Jul 1998, Big Levels BBB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 17 Aug 1999, Staunton.

Peak Counts: winter– (916) 16 Dec 1988, Augusta County CBC; spring– (739) 14 May 2005, Staunton; summer– (39) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall– (1,436) 14 Oct 2013, Afton Mtn., Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

186/183/179. AMERICAN CROW

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of habitats.

Breeding: Nest building, 21 Feb 2005, Staunton; nest building, 9 Mar 1998, Mt. Sidney BBB; recently fledged young, 28 May 2008, Staunton; recently fledged young, 25 Jun 1984, Augusta Springs AB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 29 Jul 1998, Sherando BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (23,000) 31 Dec 1965, Augusta County CBC; spring– (369) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, BSD; summer– (152) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall– (500+) 11 Nov 2014, Waynesboro.

187/184/180. FISH CROW

Corvus ossifragus

Status: Uncommon to locally common permanent resident in a variety of habitat types. A large roost is perennially present in the Stuarts Draft–Lyndhurst area. In the mountains and valleys region of Virginia, this species occurs primarily north of the James River. Population now increasing and expanding northward.

Breeding: Nest building, 13 Apr 2002, Fishersville; occupied nest, 1 May, adults feeding recently fledged young 29 May – 15 Jun 1979, Fishersville (first nesting record west of the Blue Ridge mountains); adults feeding recently fledged young, 29 May 1998, Greenville BBB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 15 Jun 1998, Staunton BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (2,140) 3 Jan 1979, Big Levels; spring– (145) 1 Mar 2008, throughout the county; summer– (8) 10 Jun 2007, Churchville BBS; fall– (532) 11 Nov 2014, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Afton Mtn.

188/185/181. COMMON RAVEN

Corvus corax

Status: Uncommon to locally common permanent resident, nesting primarily on cliffs and quarries. Also, discovered successful nesting on I-64 billboard in 2008.

Breeding: Pair carrying nest material, 3 Feb, nest with 4 young, 29 Mar, 4 young fledged, 27 Apr 2008, Fishersville; nest with eggs, 28 Feb, and recently fledged young, 25 Apr 1988, Staunton; pair carrying nesting material, 20 Mar 1998, Ft. Defiance BBB; adult carrying food to 3 young in nest on tower, 17 Apr 2007, VA Rt. 610; 2 fledged young learning to fly, 8 May and 4 fledged young with 2 still in “flight training,” 21 May 2016, Greenville; adults feeding recently fledged young, 27 May 1998, Augusta Springs BBB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 23 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (27) 9 Jan 2008, Waynesboro; (30) 17 Jan 2017 throughout Augusta Co.; spring– (36) 12 May 2015, Crimora; summer– (7) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall– (40) 23 Nov 2015, Afton Mtn., Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch (daily total), incl. one flock of 32; (11) in one flock, 8 Nov 2011, Lyndhurst.

189/186/182. HORNED LARK

Eremophila alpestris

Status: Uncommon permanent resident, becoming locally common in winter. Breeds in pastures and agricultural fields.

Breeding: Nest with 3 eggs, 21 Mar 1970 (snow on the ground), Waynesboro; recently fledged young, 5 May 1998, Churchville BBB; 2 juveniles and 1 adult, 26 Jun 2011, Stuarts Draft; recently fledged young, 26 Jul 1998, Staunton BBB; hatch year juvenile among small flock of males & females, 26 Aug 2013, Weyers Cave.

Peak Counts: winter– (1,000+) 2 Feb 1994, Stuarts Draft; spring– (235) 4 Mar 2014, New Hope; summer– (9) 21 Jun 2012, Stuarts Draft; fall– (740) 27 Nov 2014, throughout the county.

190/189/185. NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

Stelgidopteryx serripennis

Status: Common transient and summer resident, nesting primarily along rivers and in the banks of ponds and lakes.

Extreme Dates: 18 Mar 2007 – 18 Oct 2017.

Breeding: Nest building, 12 Apr 2005, Stuarts Draft sewage treatment plant; adults entering nesting holes, 25 May 1990, Frank’s Mill; nest with 7 young, 2 Jun 1972, Churchville; recently fledged young, 3 Jul 1998, West Augusta BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (100) 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD; summer (33) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall– (100+) 5 Oct 2005, Staunton.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

191/187/183. PURPLE MARTIN

Progne subis

Status: Common transient and locally common summer resident, currently breeding exclusively in artificial nest boxes in the county.

Extreme Dates: 10 Mar 2007 – 25 Sep 1972.

Unseasonal Winter Record: (1) 27 Feb 2001, Stuarts Draft (banded).

Breeding: Nest building, 1 Apr 1988, Waynesboro; occupied nest, 1 Jun 1998, Mt. Sidney BBB; recently fledged young, 2 Aug 1988, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: spring– (129) 1 May 2011, Augusta County BSD; (432) 29 Apr 2017 Aug. Co. BSD, summer– (135) 6 Jul 2008, throughout the county; fall– (65) 2 Aug 2012, Stuarts Draft & Fishersville.

192/188/184. TREE SWALLOW

Tachycineta bicolor

Status: Common transient, summer resident and rare winter visitor. Nesting in nest boxes and natural cavities, often near water or open areas. Increasing in recent years, possibly due to the provision of nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 9 Apr 2000, Staunton; nest, 24 Apr, with eggs, 12 May, and with young, 6 Jun 1978, Fishersville; nest with young, 5 Jul 1998, Staunton BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (3) 28 Feb 2007, McCormick's Farm, Steeles Tavern; (3) 14 Feb 2012, Lyndhurst; (3) 20 Feb 2017, Bells Lane, Staunton; (6) 24 Feb. 2018, Mint Spring area, spring– (500–600) 28 May 1976, Waynesboro; summer– (673) 20 Jul 2014, Swoope; fall– (6,000+) 14 Oct 2010, throughout the county.

[fn46 correction – DNP 022213]

193/190/186. BANK SWALLOW

Riparia riparia

Status: Uncommon to rare transient and rare summer resident, nesting primarily in riverbanks.

Extreme Dates: 9 Apr 1989 – 29 Sep 2009.

Breeding: occupied nest holes, 15 May – 6 Jul 1982, South River in Waynesboro at same 1978 site; 42 active nest holes, 21 May 1985 and throughout summer in dirt bank at a construction site, plus 40+ pairs unsuccessfully attempted nesting, Waynesboro; occupied nest holes, 3 Jul 1978, South River in Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: spring– (40 pairs) 21 May 1985, Waynesboro; summer– (2) 17 Jun 2012, Stuart Draft; fall– (110) 8 Sep 1985, Stuarts Draft.

194/192/188. BARN SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

Status: Abundant and widespread transient and summer resident, nesting primarily on buildings, bridges, and other artificial structures.

Extreme Dates: 16 Mar 2001 – 15 Oct 1990 and 1991.

Breeding: Nest building, 29 Apr 1998, Vesuvius BBB; occupied nest, 18 May 1998, Mt. Sidney BBB; nest with eggs, 22 Jun 1972, Churchville; recently fledged young, 27 Jul 1998, Briery Branch BBB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 19 Aug 2007, Rockfish Gap.

Peak Counts: spring– (620) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; summer– (258) 31 Jul 2010, throughout the county; fall– (741) 2 Aug 2012, throughout Augusta County.

195/191/187. CLIFF SWALLOW

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

Status: Uncommon transient and local summer resident, nesting primarily on the sides of barns and other buildings in relatively open areas.

Extreme Dates: 23 Mar 2011 – 7 Oct 2010.

Breeding: Adults on nest, 6 May 1980, Waynesboro; a colony of at least 85 nests, summer 1998, Crimora BBB; a colony of at least 86 nests, 16 Jun 2001, Stuarts Draft; young bird in mud nest in small shed poked its head out, 28 Jun 2013, Swoope; nest with young, 17 Jul 1993, Swoope.

Peak Counts: spring– (118) 4 May 2002, Augusta County BSD; summer– (103) 23 Jul 2009, Lyndhurst; fall– (250) 7 Sep 1985, Stuarts Draft.

196/193/189. CAROLINA CHICKADEE

Poecile carolinensis

Status: Common permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, except where the Black-capped Chickadee is resident. The contact zone between breeding populations of Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees is believed to lie between Lone Fountain and Ramseys Draft, and some hybridization undoubtedly occurs.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Breeding: Nest building, 19 Mar 1997, Staunton; nest with eggs, 10 Apr 1998, Stuarts Draft BBB; nest with 5 feathered chicks in box on garage, 19 May 2016, Waynesboro; nest with young, 14 Jun 1998, Crimora BBB; recently fledged young, 24 Jul 1998, West Augusta BBB; recently fledged young, 10 Aug 1998, Churchville BBB.

Unusual Nest Record: A nest built in a bluebird box in May 1993, in Staunton, contained 11 eggs; 10 eggs hatched and 9 young fledged; normal clutch is 3–8 eggs, commonly 6.

Peak Counts: winter– (293) 29 Dec 1979, Augusta County CBC; spring– (112) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (22) 17 Jun 2012, throughout the county; fall– (40) 29 Aug 2010, Big Levels and VA Rt. 610.

197/194/190. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Poecile atricapillus

Status: Common to uncommon permanent resident in woodlands at higher elevations of western Augusta County. Uncommon to rare and erratic winter visitor at lower elevations and in eastern Augusta County.

Breeding: Recently fledged young, 2 Jun 1998, Palo Alto BBB; family group of 5 birds, 24 Jun 2012, Reddish Knob; two family groups of 27 birds, 13 Jul 2014, U.S. Forest Rd to Benson Run.

Peak Counts: winter– (54) 31 Dec 1983, Augusta County CBC; spring– (22) 26 Apr 2008, Augusta County BSD; summer– (27) 13 Jul 2014, U.S. Forest Rd to Benson Run; fall– (36) 12 Sep 1984, Elliott Knob.

198/195/191. TUFTED TITMOUSE

Baeolophus bicolor

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Nest building, 26 Mar 2011, Waynesboro; nest, 12 Apr and fledged young, 8 May 1992, Swoope; recently fledged young, 8 Jun 1986, Stokesville AB; recently fledged young, 16 Jul 1998, Sherando BBB; recently fledged young, 22 Aug 1998, Staunton BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (236) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC (Verona); spring– (187) 29 Apr 2006, Augusta County BSD; summer– (25) 29 Jun 2006, Great North Mountain; fall– (53) 29 Aug 2010, Big Levels and VA Rt. 610.

199/196/192. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Sitta canadensis

Status: Primarily an uncommon transient and winter resident. Rare summer visitor. Usually in woodlands having conifers. Possibly a rare breeder.

Breeding: Summer records at high elevations in Big Levels, at Reddish Knob, and on Great North Mountain suggest the possibility of breeding, but no specific evidence of breeding has been observed.

Peak Counts: winter– (17) 27 Dec 1980, Augusta County CBC; spring– (45) 6 May 1978, Augusta County BSD; summer– (14) 30 Jun and 6 Jul 1974, Big Levels; fall– (25) 12 Oct 1968, Ramseys Draft.

200/197/193. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Sitta carolinensis

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Nest building, 31 Mar 1981, Sherando; nest with young, 6 Apr 1982, Greenville; adults feeding recently fledged young, 30 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (92) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC (Verona); spring– (26) 29 Apr 2006, Augusta County BSD; (27) 29 Apr 2017 Augusta Co. BSD, summer– (18) 29 Jun 2006, Great North Mountain; fall– (21) 3 Nov 1974, Skyline Drive.

201/198/194. BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH

Sitta pusilla

One Record: (1) north of Waynesboro, 27 Nov 1978 – 15 May 1979; 27 Oct 1979 – 9 May 1980; 17 Aug 1980 – 3 May 1981; 10 Jul 1981 – 12 Nov 1981, apparently the same bird.

202/199/195. BROWN CREEPER

Certhia americana

Status: Primarily an uncommon transient and winter visitor in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats; possibly a rare breeder at high elevations in the western part of the county.

Extreme Dates: 26 Aug 1979 – 31 May 2017.

Six Summer Records: (2) singing, 29 Jun 1980, Shenandoah Mountain; (1) singing, 17 Jun and 2 Jul 1983, Shenandoah Mountain; (2) 1 Jun and 19 Jun 1998, Stokesville BBB; (1) singing, 1 Jun 1998, West Augusta BBB; (1) singing, 28 Jun 2014, West Augusta, Braley Pond Rd.; (1) 11 Jun 2017, Bradley Pond FR 95.

Breeding: Summer records at higher elevations suggest the possibility of breeding, but no specific evidence of breeding has been observed.

Peak Count: (13) 16 Dec 1995, Augusta County CBC.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

203/202/198. HOUSE WREN

Troglodytes aedon

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Extreme Dates: 13 Mar 2012 – 23 Oct 2005.

Two Winter Records: (1) 3 Dec 1978 – 23 Jan 1979, Natural Chimneys; (1) 27 Feb 2011, Stuarts Draft.

Breeding: Nest building in Bluebird box, 13–20 Mar 2012, Waynesboro; nest building, 21 Apr 1995, Staunton; nest with eggs, 26 May 1993, Staunton; occupied nest, 19 Jun 2014, Burketon; adults feeding recently fledged young, 6 Jul 1984, Parnassus AB; nest with 5 eggs, 25 Aug 1973, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring– (82) 2 May 1992, Augusta County BSD; summer– (16) 13 Jun 1975, Churchville BBS; fall (9) 21 Sep 2006, throughout the county.

204/203/199. WINTER WREN

Troglodytes hiemalis

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident in woodlands having dense understory vegetation; rare and local summer resident.

Breeding: Nine records, of singing birds at elevations ranging from 2,600 to 4,000 feet, between 13 May and 31 July (before 1 Apr 1988 ####?) in the Elkhorn Lake area, Elliott Knob, Little Bald Knob, and Ramseys Draft, which indicate breeding, but breeding had not been confirmed; two adults building nest, 6 Jul 2014, Burketon.

Peak Counts: winter– (9) 14 Dec 2014, Augusta Co. CBC (Verona); fall– (5) 16 Oct 1979, Todd Lake.

205/204/200. SEDGE WREN

Cistothorus platensis

Status: Rare fall transient, and rare breeder.

Extreme Dates: 1 Aug 2004 – 11 Oct 2003

Two Summer Only Record: (2–3) 10–12 Jul 2011, New Hope; (1) 3 Jun 2012, New Hope.

One Summer/Early Fall Record: (3) 22 July – 26 Aug 2004 (see Breeding entry)

Breeding: 22 Jul – 26 Aug, 2004, near Middlebrook: including (3) singing males, 22–31 Jul; (2) adults carrying food or nesting material to potential nest site, photographed, 4 Aug; unseen begging young being fed by adults, 22 & 26 Aug, but no nest found.

Peak Count: fall– (5) 8–14 Aug 2005, Middlebrook (same location as 2004 breeding record).

206/205/201. MARSH WREN

Cistothorus palustris

Status: Rare fall transient.

Extreme Dates: 24 Sep 1971 – 18 Oct 1980.

Four Winter Records: (1) 31 Dec 1988, Stuarts Draft; (1) 28 Dec 1994, Stuarts Draft; (1) 28–29 Dec 2001, Fishersville; (1) 17 Dec 2006, Augusta County CBC.

Five Spring Records: (1) 8 May 1971, Waynesboro; (1) 16 May 1998, Stuarts Draft; (1) 14 Apr 2013, Augusta Springs Wetlands. (1) 26 Mar 2017, Trimble Mill & North Mtn. Rd., Swoope; (1) 25 April 2019, Shen. Wetlands Bank, Stuarts Draft.

207/200/196. CAROLINA WREN

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of habitats having patches of dense, brushy vegetation.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 12 Mar 1995, Waynesboro; fledged young, 28 Apr 2009, Stuarts Draft; adults feeding recently fledged young, 23 Jun 1998, Waynesboro East BBB; adult sitting on nest with 3 eggs, 31 Jul, two feathered babies in nest, 22 Aug, nest empty 24 Aug 2014, Staunton.

Peak Counts: winter– (116) 16 Dec 2012, Augusta County CBC (Verona); spring– (150) 6 May 2012, Augusta County Big Spring Day; summer– (21) 4 Jun 2006, Churchville BBS; fall– (43) 3 Sep 2006, VA Rt. 610 and Blue Ridge Parkway.

208/201/197. BEWICK'S WREN

Thryomanes bewickii

Status: Formerly a very rare transient and summer resident in brushy habitats, this species is no longer found in Augusta County. This Appalachian subspecies (*T.b. altus*) has been extirpated from most of its former range. There have been no confirmed sightings since 1979.

Extreme Dates: 5 May 1971 – 3 Oct 1979.

Breeding: 3 pairs nested, summer 1972, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring– (3) 5 May 1971, Lone Fountain; summer– (2) Jun 1967, Churchville BBS.

209/206/204. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

Poliophtila caerulea

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 31 Mar 2003 – 14 Nov 2015.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Breeding: Adult on nest, 23 Apr 2002, South River Preserve, Stuarts Draft; two adults building nearly completed nest near northeast side of pond, 29 Apr 2015, Augusta Spring Wetlands; adults feeding recently fledged young, 30 Jun 1986, Elliott Knob AB; two recently fledged young, 13 Jul 2014, U.S. Forest Rd to Benson Run.
Peak Counts: spring– (72) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; summer– (11) 28 Jun 2014, Buffalo Gap; fall– (10) 2 Sep 1996, Augusta Springs Wetlands.

210/207/202. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

Regulus satrapa

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats. Rare breeder at high elevations.

Extreme Dates: 7 Sep 2019 – 10 May 1980 & 2017.

Five Summer Records: (1) singing, 13 Jul 1984, Ramseys Draft; (3) singing, 26 Jun 2004, Elliott Knob; (3) singing and fledged young begging for food, 1 Jul 2005, Elliott Knob; (8) including fledged young begging for food, 29 Jun 2013, Elliott's Knob; (3) 15 July 2019, Elliott's Knob.

Breeding: Fledged young begging for food, 1 Jul 2005, Elliott Knob; (8) including fledged young begging for food, 29 Jun 2013, Elliott Knob.

Peak Counts: winter– (78) 15 Dec 1990, Augusta County CBC; spring– (15) 24 Mar 2007, McCormick's Farm, Steeles Tavern; fall– (31) 14 Oct 2010, Blue Ridge Parkway.

211/208/203. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

Regulus calendula

Status: Common transient and uncommon winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Extreme Dates: 10 Sep 2017 – 14 May 2003.

One Summer Record: (1) 29 Jul 1998, Shenandoah Mountain.

Peak Counts: winter– (17) 17 Dec 1994, Augusta County CBC; spring– (90) 3 May 1975, Augusta County BSD; fall– (72) 14 Oct 2010, throughout the county.

212/209/205. EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Sialia sialis

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident, less common in winter, in open and sparsely wooded habitats and farmland.

Breeding: Nest with one egg, 18 Mar, and young, 4 Apr 2000, Verona; many records of nests with young, 22 Apr to 22 Aug (year not recorded); nest with young 5 Sep and fledged young, 20 Sep 1998, Vesuvius BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (372) 30 Dec 2000, Augusta County CBC; spring– (219) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; summer– (24) 9 Jun 1996, Churchville BBS; fall– (160) 24 Oct 2008, including: (25) Waynesboro; (115) Lyndhurst; (20) Fishersville.

213/210/205. VEERY

Catharus fuscescens

Status: Uncommon transient in a variety of woodland types, rare summer resident in moist forests above 2,500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 4 Apr 2014 – 30 Oct 2015.

Breeding: Recently fledged young, 21 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB; recently fledged young, 8 Jul 1990, Palo Alto AB.

Peak Counts: spring– (16) 5 May 2013, Augusta County BSD; summer– (17) 15 Jun 2008, Reddish Knob; fall– (32) 22 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610.

214/211/207. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH

Catharus minimus

Status: Ostensibly a rare transient in a variety of woodland types, though undoubtedly much more numerous than records indicate. Counts of nocturnal flight calls at Rockfish Gap indicate that large numbers migrate through the county, at least in fall.

Extreme Dates: 23 Apr 2016 – 13 May 1980; 10 Sep 1987 – 12 Oct 1977.

Peak Counts: spring– (3) 11 May 1991, Augusta County BSD; fall– (2,000 – 3,500) night of 10–11 Oct 1994, flying over Rockfish Gap.

215/211.5/ 207.5. BICKNELL'S THRUSH — (NEW species!)

Catharus bicknelli

One Fall Record: (1) 3 Oct 2016, Fishersville, Augusta Health, night flight call heard two times.

One Spring Record: (1) May 9 2018, Weyers Cave, heard singing.

216/212/208. SWAINSON'S THRUSH

Catharus ustulatus

Status: Uncommon to common transient in a variety of woodland types. Counts of nocturnal flight calls at Rockfish Gap indicate that large numbers migrate through the county, at least in fall.

Extreme Dates: 30 Apr 1984 – 28 May 1973; 30 Aug 1987 – 29 Oct 1967.

Two Winter Records: (1) 3 Dec 1988, Staunton; (1) 5 Dec 1999, Mt. Sidney.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

One Summer Record: (1) 2 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (11) 14 May 1988, Augusta County BSD; fall– (500) night of 10–11 Oct 1994, flying over Rockfish Gap.

217/213/208. HERMIT THRUSH

Catharus guttatus

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident, usually in dense, shady woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 22 Aug. 2018 – 16 May 2015.

Peak Counts: winter– (11) 28 Dec 1995, Waynesboro CBC; spring– (8) 29 Apr 1983, Staunton; fall– (5) 1 Nov 2003, Natural Chimneys.

218/214/210. WOOD THRUSH

Hylocichla mustelina

Status: Common to uncommon transient and summer resident in extensive tracts of woodland.

Extreme Dates: 17 Mar 2009 – 19 Oct 1999.

Breeding: Nest building, 6 May 1992, Staunton; nest building, 26 May 1986, Elliott Knob AB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 28 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB; recently fledged young, 20 Jul 1998, Waynesboro West BBB; adult and 4 two week old young, 10 Aug 2016, Swoope.

Peak Counts: spring– (83) 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD; summer– (23) 29 Jun 2008, Great North Mountain, (23) 20 Jun 2015, Augusta Springs, Little North Mountain; fall– (110) 22 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610.

219/215/211. AMERICAN ROBIN

Turdus migratorius

Status: Abundant and widespread transient and summer resident, uncommon winter resident. Breeds in a variety of habitat types.

Breeding: Nest building, 1 Apr 1998, Crimora BBB; Nest building 8 Apr, 3 eggs 17 Apr, young in nest 30 Apr, fledged 15 May 1969, Staunton; adult gathering nesting material, 13 Aug 2014, Stuarts Draft; Annually, before Nov 1998, 22 Apr – 5 Sep, many records of nests with young.

Unusual Nest Record: Nest with eggs, 6 Mar 1987, Stuarts Draft was extremely early and not consistent with normal nesting dates.

Peak Counts: winter– (3,257+) 3 Feb 2008, Staunton; spring– (1,253) 27 Mar 2011, throughout the county; summer– (180) 4 Jun 2006, Churchville BBS; fall– (18,923) 2 Nov 1986, Rockfish Gap.

220/216/212. GRAY CATBIRD

Dumetella carolinensis

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, and rare winter visitor, in brushy vegetation in old fields and woodlands.

Breeding: Nest with 3 eggs, 11 May 1972, Churchville; Occupied nest, 14 Jun 1998, BBB Waynesboro; nest with 3 eggs, 28 Jul 1985, Churchville; adults feeding recently fledged young, 11–12 Aug 2000, Sherando.

Peak Counts: spring– (92) 13 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; (110) 5 May 2018 Aug. Co. BSD, summer– (18) 2 Jul 2006, Staunton; fall– (16) 30 Sep 1986, Staunton.

221/218/214. BROWN THRASHER

Toxostoma rufum

Status: Common transient and summer resident, and rare winter visitor, in brushy vegetation in old fields, suburban areas, and woodlands.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 5 Apr, and fledged young, 1 May 1988, Stuarts Draft; adult sitting on nest, 13 May 2011, Staunton; two adults and 3 fledglings, 26 May 2013, Stuarts Draft; recently fledged young, 20 Jun 1998, Augusta Springs BBB; recently fledged young, 9 Jul 1984, Parnassus AB.

Peak Counts: spring– (92) 13 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (25) 13 Jul 2008, throughout the county; fall– (11) 4 Aug 2007, throughout the county.

222/217/213. NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

Mimus polyglottos

Status: Common and widespread permanent resident in a variety of habitat types, usually breeding low in dense trees and shrubs.

Breeding: Nest with 3 eggs, 8 Apr 2008, Madrid; nest with 5 eggs, 5 May 1973, Churchville; nest with young, 6 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB; nest with 3 eggs, 16 Jul, and with young, 26 Jul 1973, Churchville; adult feeding 3 recently fledged young, 19 Aug 2007, Rockfish Gap; 2 Apr 2017, carrying nest material, Staunton.

Peak Counts: winter– (200) 18 Dec 1999, Augusta County CBC; spring– (235) 13 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (40) Jun 1966, Churchville BBS; fall– (51) 4 Aug 2007, throughout the county.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

223/219/215. EUROPEAN STARLING (Category 5)

Sturnus vulgaris

Status: Abundant and widespread permanent resident (introduced), nesting in both natural and artificial cavities in a variety of habitat types. May displace other cavity-nesters, especially woodpeckers, from their nests.

Breeding: Nest building, 28 Feb 1988, Waynesboro; nest with eggs, 5 Mar 1987, Waynesboro; adult feeding recently fledged young, 6 May 1969, Staunton; nest with young, 19 Jun 1998, Vesuvius BBB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 6 Jul 1984, Parnassus AB.

Peak Counts: winter– (1,507,707) 19 Dec 1987, Augusta County CBC; (1,000,000) 26 Dec 1970, Waynesboro CBC; spring– (1,564) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, Big Spring Day; summer– (679) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall– (4,000+) 19 Oct 2007, Staunton.

224/220/216. AMERICAN PIPIT

Anthus rubescens

Status: Uncommon and irregular transient and winter visitor in pastures and farmland.

Extreme Dates: 6 Sep 2008 – 15 May 2013.

Peak Counts: winter– (224) 16 Jan 2012, throughout the county; spring– (275) 11 Mar 2000, Swoope; fall– (400) 4 Nov 1974, Stuarts Draft.

225/221/217. CEDAR WAXWING

Bombycilla cedrorum

Status: Common transient and uncommon summer resident and winter resident, in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Nest building, 28 May 1994, Frank's Mill; nest with young, 28 Jun 1979, Lone Fountain; nest building, 17 Jul 1984, Stokesville AB; nest with 3 young, 20 Aug 1981, Churchville; female on nest, 23 Aug and large young in nest, 20 Sep 2011, Steeles Tavern; adult on nest faithfully, then disappeared, suspect that predator destroyed eggs, 31 Aug – 12 Sep 2013, Staunton

Peak Counts: winter– (423) 30 Dec 2000, Augusta County CBC; (500+) Feb. 17 2018, Morris Mill Rd., spring– (380) 16 Mar 2001, Staunton; summer– (75) 4 Jun 2007, Staunton; fall– (1997) 2 Nov 1986, Rockfish Gap.

226/222/280. LAPLAND LONGSPUR

Calcarius lapponicus

Status: Rare fall transient and winter visitor in pastures and farmlands.

Extreme Dates: 13 Nov 1995 – 28 Feb 1994.

One Winter/Early Spring Record: (1) 5 Jan 1994 – 6 Mar 1994, Stuarts Draft.

Two Spring Only Records: (1–3) 25–28 Mar 2013, New Hope; (1) 12 Mar 2015, Weyers Cave.

Peak Counts: winter– (50) 8 Dec 1998, Stuarts Draft; (50+) 8 Dec 1999, Stuarts Draft; fall– (12) 19 Nov 2004, Stuarts Draft.

227/222.5/280.5 SMITH'S LONGSPUR — (NEW species!)

Calcarius pictus

One Winter/Spring Record: (1–2) 23 Feb – 12 Mar 2015, Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, Weyers Cave, after a snow storm; multitude of observers, observations, and photographers each day.

228/223/281. SNOW BUNTING

Plectrophenax nivalis

Status: Primarily a rare and irregular winter visitor in pastures and farmlands.

Extreme Dates: 1 Dec 1972 – 28 Feb 1971.

Five Spring Records: (35) 1 Mar 1971, Middlebrook; (3) 31 Mar 1971, Middlebrook; (1) 12–13 Mar 1972, Middlebrook; (1) 2 Mar 1975, Waynesboro; (1) 7 Mar 2013, New Hope.

Five Fall Records: (1) 20–24 Oct 1980, Reddish Knob; (2) 2 Nov 2001, Elliott Knob; (1) 14 Nov 2004, Stuarts Draft; (1) 31 Oct 2008, Reddish Knob; (1) 4–7 Nov 2012, Reddish Knob.

Peak Counts: winter– (220–300) 5–21 Feb 1978, Middlebrook; (9) 29 Jan 1994, Stuarts Draft.

229/224/245. OVENBIRD

Seiurus aurocapilla

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 7 Apr 2001 – 4 Nov 2019.

Breeding: 37 birds seen in interacting pairs, one did broken wing act on ground trying to lure observer from presumed nest site, 4 May 2016, Blue Ridge Parkway, mile 16–20, adults carrying food, 6 Jun 1998, Elliott Knob BBB; 46 birds including fledged young begging for food, 29 Jun 2013, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob; adult feeding recently fledged young, 6 Jul 1987, Palo Alto AB; recently fledged young, 7 Jun 2009, Todd Lake.

Peak Counts: spring– (188) 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD; (190) 29 Apr 2017, Aug. Co. BSD; (210) 5 May 2018, Aug. Co. BSD; summer– (46) 29 Jun 2013, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob; fall– (11) 3 Sep 1987, VA Rt. 610.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

230/225/243. WORM-EATING WARBLER

Helmitheros vermivorum

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding primarily on slopes and ravines in extensive forests.

Extreme Dates: 12 Apr 2014 – 20 Sep 1994.

Breeding: Nest building, 5 May 2000, Staunton; pair gathering nesting material, 12 May 2012, Big Levels Game Refuge; adult feeding young, 15 Jun 2015, West Augusta; 13 birds including fledged young begging for food, 29 Jun 2013, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob; adult feeding recently fledged young, 5 Jul 1998, Augusta Springs BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (114) 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD; (116) 5 May 2018 BSD, summer– (39) 29 Jun 2008, Great North Mountain; fall– (17) 11 Aug 1996, VA Rt. 610.

231/226/247. LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH

Parkesia motacilla

Status: Common transient and summer resident along running streams in wooded areas.

Extreme Dates: 24 Mar 2009 – 30 Sep 1975.

One Winter Record: (1) 4 Jan 2014, Sherando (Augusta County CBC).

Breeding: Recently fledged young, 29 May 1998, Crimora BBB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 14 Jun 2006, Augusta Springs Wetlands; one fledgling 27 Jun, same area where adults were seen on 4 & 8 Jun 2015, Crimora; recently fledged young, 6 Jul 1987, Palo Alto AB.

Peak Counts: spring: (41) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (17) 29 Jun 1985, Sherando Lake.

232/227/246. NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

Parkesia noveboracensis

Status: Uncommon transient in wooded swamps and moist woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 24 Apr 2008 – 31 May 2014; 31 Aug 1964 – 14 Oct 2014.

Two Summer Records: (1) 23 Jul 2005, Walnut Hills, Mint Spring; (1) 23 Jul 2006, Staunton.

Peak Counts: spring– (10) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; fall– (2) 4 Sep 2016, Staunton.

233/228/218. BACHMAN'S WARBLER

Vermivora bachmanii

One Summer Record: (1) 5 Jul 1937, near Coles Run Hollow, south of Stuarts Draft.

[According to the AOU *Checklist of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition, 1998, **this species is probably extinct.**]

234/229/220. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Vermivora chrysoptera

Status: Rare transient and summer resident in early-successional habitats and old fields, usually breeding at somewhat higher elevations than Blue-winged Warbler. Hybridizes to some extent with Blue-winged Warbler.

Extreme Dates: 25 Apr 1965 & 1974 – 23 Sep 1989.

Breeding: Nest building, 12 May 1985, Deerfield AB.

Peak Count: (10) 30 Jun 1985, Deerfield AB.

235/230/219. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

Vermivora cyanoptera

Status: Rare transient and summer resident in second-growth woodlands and old fields. Hybridizes to some extent with Golden-winged Warbler. Hybrids observed include:

Two “Brewster’s”: (1) 30 Apr, 21 May, and 11 Jun 1994, Augusta Springs Wetlands; (1) 28 Apr 1999, Staunton.

Two “Lawrence’s”: (1) 11 Sep 1993, VA Rt. 610; (1) 28 Aug 2000, Fishersville.

Extreme Dates: 18 Apr 2006 – 22 Sep 2017.

Breeding: Pair carrying food to nest site, 18 Jun 1981, Sherando.

Peak Count: spring– (5) 30 Apr 2016, Augusta Springs Wetlands; summer– (2) 18 Jun 1981, Sherando; fall– (3) 10 Sep 1978, Natural Chimneys.

236/231/240. BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

Mniotilta varia

Status: Common transient and summer resident in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 4 Apr 2011 – 26 Nov 2012.

Two Winter Records: (1) 4 Dec 1975, Waynesboro; (1) 18 Dec 2010, Ft. Defiance, Augusta County CBC.

Breeding: Nest with young, 14 Jun 1998, Crimora BBB; twelve birds including fledged young, 29 Jun 2013, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob; adults feeding recently fledged young, 12 Jul 1998, Augusta Springs BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (57) 26 Apr 2008, Augusta County BSD; (58) 29 Apr 2017, Aug. Co. BSD, summer– (15) 15 Jun 2008, Reddish Knob; fall– (21) 2 Sep 2006, Staunton and Stuarts Draft.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

237/232/242. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Protonotaria citrea

Status: Rare spring transient.

Extreme Dates: 13 Apr 2014 – 23 May 2009.

One Fall Record: (1) 23 Aug 1993, Swoope.

238/233/244. SWAINSON'S WARBLER

Limnolophus swainsonii

Two Spring Records: (1) singing, 24 May 1985, Todd Lake; (1) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD, Stuarts Draft.

239/234/221. TENNESSEE WARBLER

Oreothlypis peregrina

Status: Uncommon transient in woodland habitats, more common in fall than in spring.

Extreme Dates: 28 Apr 2013 – 25 May 1987; 13 Aug 2014 – 30 Nov 2017.

Peak Counts Spring: (3) 5 May 2018 BSD: fall– (20) 20 Sep 1979, Grand Caverns; (20) 8 Sep 1980, Shenandoah Mountain.

240/235/222. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

Oreothlypis celata

Status: Rare fall transient with eight fall records of single individuals.

Extreme Dates: 6 Sep 1994 – 12 Nov. 2017

Four Spring Record: (1) 24 Apr 1973, Waynesboro; (1) 30 Apr 2016, Sherando Lake; (1) 8 April 2018 Afton; (1) 28 April 2018, Rt. 728 Stokesville.

One Winter Record: (1) 1 Dec 2016, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

241/236/223. NASHVILLE WARBLER

Oreothlypis ruficapilla

Status: Primarily an uncommon transient in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats; possible breeder in mixed woodland at highest elevations.

Extreme Dates: 24 Apr 2013 – 24 May 1980; 28 Aug 2011 – 14 Nov 2005.

One Winter Record: (1) 5 & 8 Dec 1978, Waynesboro.

Two Summer Records: (1) 21 Jun 1980, Todd Lake; (5) 16 Jul 1986, Elliott Knob AB, includes (4) adults and (1) immature.

Breeding: The presence of a fully-fledged immature with adults on Elliott Knob on 16 Jul 1986 suggests the possibility of breeding, but breeding has not been confirmed.

Peak Counts: spring– (10) 9 May 1971, Natural Chimneys; fall– (6) 6 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610.

242/237/249. CONNECTICUT WARBLER

Oporornis agilis

Status: Rare fall transient.

Extreme Dates: 24 Aug 1996 – 25 Oct 1979.

One Spring Record: (2) males singing, 13 May 1975, Humpback Rocks, Blue Ridge Parkway.

Peak Count: fall– (3) 18 Oct 1979, Staunton.

243/238/250. MOURNING WARBLER

Geothlypis philadelphia

Status: Primarily a rare transient. Rare, very local summer resident and breeder in dense, brushy understory vegetation near the summit of Elliott Knob.

Extreme Dates: 29 Apr 2017 – 22 Nov 1979.

Breeding: One recently fledged young and one fully-fledged juvenile, 16 Jun 1986, two different locations on Elliott Knob AB (4,463 feet); indicates the possibility of multiple breeding pairs at this location.

Peak Count: fall– (3) 2 Oct 2014, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Afton; never more than 2 birds during other seasons.

244/239/248. KENTUCKY WARBLER

Geothlypis formosa

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in moist woodlands with dense, brushy undergrowth, often in bottomlands.

Extreme Dates: : 21 Apr 2013 – 11 Sep 1967.

Breeding: Nest with 4 young, 28 Jun 1973, Lone Fountain.

Peak Counts: spring– (7) 8 May 2000, VA Rt. 610 and Blue Ridge Parkway; summer– (4) 16 Jun 1997, VA Rt. 610.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

245/240/251. COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

Geothlypis trichas

Status: Primarily a common transient and summer resident in early-successional habitats, swamps, and dense marshes.

Extreme Dates: 3 Apr 2007 – 4 Nov 2012.

Four Winter Records: (1) 16 Dec 1978, Waynesboro CBC; (1) 16 Dec 1997, Stuarts Draft; (1) 17 Dec 2006, Augusta County CBC; (1) 14 Dec. 2018, Grand Caverns Regional Park.

Breeding: Adult feeding recently fledged young, 27 Jun 2000, South River Preserve, Stuarts Draft; adult feeding recently fledged young, 5 Jul 1998, Augusta Springs BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (22) 15 May 2004, Augusta County BSD; summer– (2) 9 Jun 1996, Churchville BBS and (2) 17 Jun 2012, throughout the county; fall– (56) 5 Sep 2000, including 44 on VA Rt. 610, 6 in Swoope, and 6 in Staunton.

246/241/252. HOODED WARBLER

Setophaga citrina

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in brushy understory vegetation in moist deciduous woodlands, often in bottomlands.

Extreme Dates: 5 Apr 2015 – 24 Oct 1992.

Breeding: Nest with young, 29 Jun 1984, Deerfield AB.

Peak Counts: spring– (30) 10 May 2001, Blue Ridge Parkway, VA Rt. 610, Sherando; (41) 29 Apr 2017, Aug. Co. BSD; summer– (11) 14 Jul 2012, Blue Ridge Parkway; fall– (8) 28 Aug 1987, VA Rt. 610.

247/242/241. AMERICAN REDSTART

Setophaga ruticilla

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in fairly open, often early-successional, deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 14 Apr 2012 – 19 Nov 1996.

Breeding: Female building a nest, 27 Apr 2016, Blue Ridge Parkway (MM 12); female building a nest, 15 May 2013, Blue Ridge Parkway (MM 12); recently fledged young, 16 Jun 1998, Big Levels BBB; seven birds including fledged young begging for food, 29 Jun 2013, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob.

Peak Counts: spring– (109) 10 May 2001, including (88) BRP/VA Rt. 610 and (21) Sherando area; summer– (68) 16 Jun 1997, VA Rt. 610; fall– (109) 13 Sep 1996, VA Rt. 610.

248/243/228. CAPE MAY WARBLER

Setophaga tigrina

Status: Common transient in woodland habitats.

Extreme Dates: 14 Apr 2015 – 26 May 1993; 25 Aug 1996 – 5 Nov 1995.

One Out-of-Season Record: (1) 8 Mar 1988, Waynesboro.

Two Winter Records: (1) 19 Dec 1982 – 12 Feb 1983, Waynesboro; (1) 2 Jan 2006, Fishersville.

Peak Counts: spring– (34) 9 May 1981, Augusta County BSD; fall– (22) 10 Sep 2003, Reddish Knob.

249/244/239. CERULEAN WARBLER

Setophaga cerulea

Status: Uncommon transient and rare summer resident, breeding in mature deciduous forests. Probably most numerous in western mountains.

Extreme Dates: 11 Apr 2008 – 13 Sep 1996.

Breeding: Nest building, 7 May 2000, VA Rt. 610; adult carrying nest material, 9 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB; recently fledged young and used nest, 30 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB; adult carrying food, 16 Jul 1998, Sherando BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (40) 26 Apr 2012, Blue Ridge Parkway & VA Rt. 610; summer– (5) 16 Jun 1997, VA Rt. 610.

250/245/224. NORTHERN PARULA

Setophaga americana

Status: Common to uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in deciduous and mixed woodlands, often in bottomlands.

Extreme Dates: 5 Apr 2017 – 30 Oct 1984.

Breeding: Pair nest building, 9 May 2007, Ramseys Draft; adult feeding recently fledged young, 29 Jun 1984, Deerfield AB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 6 Jul 1987, Palo Alto AB.

Peak Counts: spring– (21) 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD; (22) 5 May 2018 BSD, summer– (17) 13 Jun 2002, Elkhorn Lake area; fall– (4) 25 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610.

251/246/227. MAGNOLIA WARBLER

Setophaga magnolia

Status: Common transient in woodland habitats.

Extreme Dates: 22 Apr 2007 – 26 May 1973; 26 Aug 1980 – 2 Nov 2012.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Four Summer Record: (1) 6 Jun 1983, Grand Caverns; (1) 28 Jun 2014, Staunton; (1) 7 Jun 2018, Humpback Rocks Visitor Center; (1) 9 Jul 2019, Blue Ridge Parkway.

Peak Counts: spring– (6) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; fall– (79) 6 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610.

252/247/237. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER

Setophaga castanea

Status: Uncommon transient in woodland habitats.

Extreme Dates: 27 Apr 2013 – 28 May 1973; 1 Sep 1980 & 1997 – 8 Oct 1979.

Peak Counts: spring– (24) 12 May 1978, Staunton; fall– (24) 21 Sep 1989, VA Rt. 610.

253/248/232. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

Setophaga fusca

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in coniferous forests above 2000 feet. Probably most common in western mountains of Augusta County..

Extreme Dates: 12 Apr 1998 – 16 Oct 1990.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 31 May 1981, Ramseys Draft; pair carrying food, 13 Jun 2002, Elkhorn Lake; hatch-year immature, 24 Jun 2012, Reddish Knob; adult carrying food for young, 25 Jun 1988, Palo Alto AB.

Peak Counts: spring– (34) 26 Apr 2008, Augusta County BSD; summer– (7) 13 Jun 2002, Elkhorn Lake area; fall– (76) 6 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610.

254/249/225. YELLOW WARBLER

Setophaga petechia

Status: Common and widespread transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in fairly open, second-growth deciduous woodlands and riparian habitats.

Extreme Dates: 2 Apr 1967 – 23 Oct 2014.

Breeding: Nest building, 12 May 1966, Verona; singing male in two locations 7+ days, 24 May 2016, Staunton; female feeding young in nest, 4 Jun 2006, Swoope; occupied nest, 2 Jul 1984, Augusta Springs AB.

Peak Counts: spring– (50) 6 May 1978, Augusta County BSD; summer– (9) 13 Jun 2009, throughout the county

255/250/226. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

Setophaga pensylvanica

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in dense, brushy second-growth woodlands, primarily above 2,500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 9 Apr 2000 – 23 Oct 2005.

Breeding: Adult feeding recently fledged young, 10 Jun 1987, Elliott Knob AB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 4 Jul 1987, VA Rt. 610; (2) females carrying food, 1 Jul 2005, Elliott Knob.

Peak Counts: spring– (28) 30 May 1988, Elliott Knob; summer– (13) 1 Jul 2005, Elliott Knob; fall– (47) 6 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610.

256/251/238. BLACKPOLL WARBLER

Setophaga striata

Status: Uncommon transient and rare summer visitor in woodland habitats.

Extreme Dates: 23 Apr 1987 – 2 Nov 2008.

Peak Counts: spring– (24) 11 May 1991, Augusta County BSD; fall– (37) 14 Oct 1995, Blue Ridge Parkway.

257/252/229. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

Setophaga caerulescens

Status: Common to uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in woodlands with dense understory vegetation above 2,500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 18 Apr 1970 – 31 Oct 1977.

One Winter Record – (1) 15 Dec. 2018, Bells Lane, Aug. Co. CBC.

Breeding: Female carrying nest material, 15 Jun 2008, Reddish Knob; adult feeding recently fledged young, 4 Jul 1987, Sherando AB; 2 adults and 1 recently fledged young, 13 Jul 2014, U.S. Forest Rd. to Benson Run.

Peak Counts: spring– (18) 6 May 1989, Augusta County BSD; summer– (17) 26 Jul 1996 Shenandoah Mountain; fall– (14) 29 Sep 1991, VA Rt. 610; (15) 12 Nov 2017, VA Rt. 610, Big Levels area.

258/253/236. PALM WARBLER

Setophaga palmarum

Status: Uncommon transient in a variety of habitats, often in fairly open areas with scattered vegetation. Rare winter visitor.

Extreme Dates: 7 Aug 1992 – 12 May 1989.

Peak Counts: winter– (2) 3 Dec 1984, Waynesboro & (2) 3 Dec 2015, Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport; spring– (6) 29 Apr 2015, Augusta Springs Wetlands; fall– (121) 6 Oct 2000, including 116 in Swoope and 5 at South River Preserve, Stuarts Draft.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

259/254/234. PINE WARBLER

Setophaga pinus

Status: Primarily an uncommon to common transient and summer resident, breeding in dry coniferous and mixed woodlands. Rare winter resident.

Breeding: Adults mating, 21 Mar 2009, Augusta Springs Wetlands; 13 birds with males calling & one female gathering nesting material, 12 Apr 2014, Stuarts Draft; adults feeding recently fledged young, 10 Jun 1987, Elliott Knob AB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 21 Jul 1998, Deerfield BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (2) 21 Dec 1985, Augusta County CBC & (2) 19 Dec 1997 – 25 Feb 1998, near Lyndhurst; spring– (22) 29 Apr 2006, Augusta County BSD; summer– (9) 13 Jun 2002, Elkhorn Lake; fall– (12) 30 Aug 2008, including 6 in Staunton and 6 in Lyndhurst.

260/255/230. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

Setophaga coronata

Status: Primarily a common transient and uncommon winter resident and a rare summer resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats. In recent years, has begun breeding at highest elevations, with summer records on Elliott Knob.

Breeding: Eleven birds including two males & two hatch-year immature with female feeding one, 24 Jun 2012, Reddish Knob, 15 birds including fledged young begging for food, 29 Jun 2013, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob; 1 adult and 2 recently fledged young, 13 Jul 2014, U.S. Forest Rd. to Benson Run; 1 hatch-year juvenile, 28 Jul 2012, Fishersville.

Peak Counts: winter– (263) 18 Dec 1999, Augusta County CBC; spring– (619) 3 May 1975, Augusta County BSD; summer– (15) 29 Jun 2013, Elliott Knob, Great North Mountain; fall– (165) 14 Oct 2010, throughout the county.

261/256/233. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Setophaga dominica

Status: Primarily a rare transient.

Extreme Dates: 8 Apr 2013 – 29 May 2016; 5 Aug 2018 – 17 Sep 2006.

Peak Counts: All sightings are of one bird.

262/257/235. PRAIRIE WARBLER

Setophaga discolor

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in early successional woodlands and old fields.

Extreme Dates: 21 Mar 2012 – 2 Nov 2002.

Breeding: Recently fledged young, 5 Jul 1998, Stuarts Draft BBB; recently fledged young begging for food, 15 Jul 1997, Staunton.

Peak Counts: spring– (8) 24 May 1980, Todd Lake; fall– (5) 2 Sep 2006, Stuarts Draft.

263/258/231. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

Setophaga virens

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in coniferous and mixed woodlands above 2000 feet.

Extreme Dates: 3 Apr 1978 – 30 Oct 2019

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 31 May 1987, West Augusta AB; adult feeding fledged Brown-headed Cowbird and its own fledglings, 30 Jun 2004, Reddish Knob; recently fledged young, 29 Jul 1998, Sherando BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (51) 27 Apr 2014, Augusta County BSD; summer– (9) 15 Jun 2008, Reddish Knob, Big Levels, and VA Rt. 610; (10) 8 Jul 2017, Ramsey's Draft, fall– (118) 6 Sep 1994, VA Rt. 610.

264/259/254. CANADA WARBLER

Cardellina canadensis

Status: Common spring transient. Fairly rare fall transient and local summer resident, breeding primarily in dense, brushy understory vegetation in woodlands above 2,500 feet.

Extreme Dates: 20 Apr 2014 – 29 Sep 1975.

Breeding: Nest building, 30 May 1988, Elliott Knob; adult carrying food, 16 Jun 2006, Little Bald Knob; pair giving distraction display, probably near nest site, 26 Jun 2004, Elliott Knob; two females carrying food, 30 Jun 2004, Reddish Knob.

Peak Counts: spring– (15) 9 May 1981, Augusta County BSD; summer– (22) 1 Jul 2005, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob; fall– (21) 2 Sep 2006, Stuarts Draft.

265/260/253. WILSON'S WARBLER

Cardellina pusilla

Status: Uncommon transient in wooded and suburban habitats.

Extreme Dates: 30 Apr 2005 – 28 May 1973; 28 Aug 1972 – 15 Oct 1993.

Peak Count: spring– (2) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, BSD; fall– (18) 2 Sep 2006, Stuarts Draft.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

266/263/260. BACHMAN'S SPARROW

Aimophila aestivalis

One Spring Historical Record: (1) 14 Apr 1933, Humpback Mountain, Blue Ridge Parkway.

267/271/268. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

Ammodramus savannarum

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in grasslands and farmlands.

Extreme Dates: 23 Mar 2012 – 26 Oct 2000.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 31 May and with young, 12 Jun 1991, Mt. Sidney; recently fledged young, 12 Jul 1998, Augusta Springs BBB; adult carrying nesting material, 23 Jul 2014, Piedmont; nest with young, 12 Sep 1990, Fishersville.

Peak Counts: spring– (61) 14 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (27) 5 Jul 2013, Swoope; fall– (75) 2 Aug 2012, throughout the county.

268/272/269. HENSLOW'S SPARROW

Ammodramus henslowii

Three Fall Records: (1) 8 Nov 1986, Lyndhurst; (1) 27 Sep 1987, Lyndhurst; (1) 2 Nov 1989, Stuarts Draft.

269/273/270. LE CONTE'S SPARROW

Ammodramus leconteii

Three Fall Records: (1) 10 Oct 1979, Staunton; (1) 23 Oct 1979, Stuarts Draft; (1) 21–22 Sep 1986, Stuarts Draft

270/274/271. NELSON'S SPARROW

Ammodramus nelsoni

Two Fall Records: (1) 29 Oct 1995, Stuarts Draft; (1) 13 Oct 2002, VA Rt. 610; (1) 2 Oct 2014, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Afton.

271/264/261. AMERICAN TREE SPARROW

Spizella arborea

Status: Uncommon transient and winter visitor in brushy and weedy fields, farmlands, and woodland edges.

Extreme Dates: 28 Sep 2016 – 24 Apr 2010.

Peak Counts: winter– (134) 28 Dec 1995, Waynesboro CBC; spring– (20) 7 Mar 1978, Middlebrook.

272/265/262. CHIPPING SPARROW

Spizella passerina

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding primarily in open mixed woodlands and woodland edges. Fairly rare winter visitor.

Breeding: Nest with young, 5 May 1998, Stuarts Draft BBB; recently fledged young, 6 Jun 1998, Crimora BBB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 11–12 Aug 2000, Sherando; adult feeding 2 young, 8–9 Sep 2009, Stuarts Draft.

Peak Counts: winter– (5) 3 Jan 2015, Augusta Co CBC (Sherando) and (5) 15 Feb 2016, Staunton; (8) 26 Feb. 2018, Mish Barn Rd., Middlebrook; spring– (319) 6 May 1978, Augusta County BSD; summer– (105) 31 Jul 2010; throughout the county; fall– (311) 18 Oct 2008, throughout the county.

273/266/263. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

Spizella pallida

Status: Rare fall visitor.

Two Winter Record: (1) 18 Dec 1979 – 2 Jan 1980, Waynesboro; (1) 8–28 Feb 2014, Staunton.

Four Spring Records: (1) singing, 9 May 1971, Staunton; (1) singing, 30 Apr 1974, Staunton; (1) singing, 30 Apr 1999, Staunton; (1) 1 Mar – 9 Apr 2014, Staunton.

One Summer Record: (1) 17 Jun 1989, Lyndhurst;

Six Fall Records: (1) 24 Oct 1996, Lyndhurst; (1) 26 Oct 2003, Swoope; (1) 3 Oct 2004, Stuarts Draft; (1) 23 Oct 2005, Lyndhurst; (1) 5 Oct 2006, Swoope. (2) 6 Oct. 2018 RGHW.

Peak Count: fall– (2) 6 Oct 2018, RGHW.

274/267/264. FIELD SPARROW

Spizella pusilla

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in old fields, brushy habitats, and grasslands dominated by tall grasses and forbs. Uncommon winter resident.

Breeding: Nest building, 19 Apr 1998, Crimora BBB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 23 May 1998, Mt. Sidney BBB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 5 Jul 1998, Stokesville BBB; nest with 3 eggs, 26 Aug 1972, Churchville.

Peak Counts: winter– (182) 30 Dec 1978, Augusta County CBC; spring– (138) 14 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (41) Jun 1966, Churchville BBS; (16) 4 Jun 2006, Churchville BBS; fall– (85) 14 Oct 2010, throughout the county.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

275/269/266. LARK SPARROW

Chondestes grammacus

One Winter Record: (1) 19 & 21 Dec 1982, Waynesboro Airport.

Three Winter/Spring Records: (1) 15 Dec 1979 – 26 Mar 1980, Waynesboro Airport; (1) 9 Jan – 12 Apr 1982, Waynesboro Airport; (1) 2 Jan – 1 Apr 2012, Stuarts Draft.

Three Fall Records: (1) 6 Sep 1981, Waynesboro Airport; (1) 13 Sep 1994, Swoope; (1) Oct 3 2019, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

276/275/272. FOX SPARROW

Passerella iliaca

Status: Common transient and uncommon winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, often associated with dense, brushy vegetation.

Extreme Dates: 17 Oct 2012 – 18 Apr 1993.

Peak Counts: winter– (6) 18 Dec 1999, Augusta County CBC; spring– (69) 17 Mar 2014, throughout the county; fall– (10) 7 Nov 2012, Reddish Knob.

277/282/279. DARK-EYED JUNCO

Junco hyemalis

Status: Common transient and winter resident in a variety of habitats. Uncommon summer resident in brushy woodlands above 2,500 feet.

Breeding: Adult feeding fledged young, 28 May 2009, Blue Ridge Parkway; nest with 5 eggs, 15 Jun 2008, Reddish Knob; 57 birds, most were hatch-year immatures, 24 Jun 2012, Reddish Knob; nest with eggs, 13 Jul 1986, Little Bald Knob, Palo Alto AB (4200 feet); 45 birds including family groups, 13 Jul 2014, U.S. Forest Rd. to Benson Run.

Peak Counts: winter– (1695) 18 Dec 2010, Augusta County CBC; spring– (207) 18 Mar 2014, throughout the county; summer– (57) 24 Jun 2012, Reddish Knob; fall– (194) 14 Oct 2010, throughout the county.

278/281/278. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

Zonotrichia leucophrys

Status: Common transient and winter resident, most common in hedgerows, old fields, and forest edges with dense, brushy vegetation.

Extreme Dates: 24 Sep 2013 & 2014 – 25 May 1994.

Two Summer Records: (1) 28 Jun & 12 Jul 1976, Springhill; (1) 9 Jun 2006, Fishersville.

Peak Counts: winter– (374) 18 Dec 2010, Augusta County CBC; spring– (154) 8 Mar 1999, throughout the county; fall– (278) 13 Oct 2010, throughout the county.

279/280/277. HARRIS'S SPARROW

Zonotrichia querula

One Spring Record: (1) 5 Apr – 5 May 2002, photographed, Weyers Cave.

280/279/276. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Zonotrichia albicollis

Status: Primarily a common transient and winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, often associated with dense, brushy vegetation. Rare summer visitor. A hybrid White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco was documented on 18 Oct 1986, Waynesboro.

Peak Counts: winter– (732) 18 Dec 2010, Augusta County CBC; spring– (538) 3 May 1975, Augusta County BSD; fall– (791) 18 Oct 2008, throughout the county.

281/268/265. VESPER SPARROW

Pooecetes gramineus

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident in fields and other open habitats. Fairly rare winter resident.

Breeding: Nest with 3 eggs, 11 May 1967, Fishersville; adults feeding recently fledged young, 25 Jun 1979, Stuarts Draft.

Peak Counts: winter– (4) 23 Mar 2012, Swoope; spring– (99) 4 Apr 1987, Swoope-Middlebrook-Stuarts Draft areas, following spring snowstorm; summer– (12) 22 Jun 1976, Churchville BBS; fall– (24) 5 Oct 1999, Swoope.

282/270/267. SAVANNAH SPARROW

Passerculus sandwichensis

Status: Common transient, uncommon winter and summer resident in pastures and farmlands.

Breeding: One recently fledged young, 2 Jun 2005, Swoope; adult with recently fledged young, 2 Jul 2006, Staunton; adult carrying food for young, 17 Jul 1986, Waynesboro West AB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 5 Aug 1991, Fishersville.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Peak Counts: winter– (73) 7 Dec 2003, including 41 Swoope and 32 throughout the county; spring– (109) 9 Apr 1999, Swoope; summer– (6) 19 Jul 2008, Swoope and Bells Lane; (10) 29 Jul 2017, Livick Rd., Swoope; fall– (427) 13 Oct 2007, throughout the county.

283/276/273. SONG SPARROW

Melospiza melodia

Status: Abundant permanent resident in a variety of habitats, generally avoiding the interiors of extensive woodland.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 15 Apr and recently fledged young, 17 May 1988, Stuarts Draft; recently fledged young, 15 May 1997, Staunton; recently fledged young, 8 Jun 1998, Ft. Defiance BBB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 13 Aug 2000, Fishersville; adult feeding recently fledged young, 24 Aug 1989, Stuarts Draft.

Peak Counts: winter– (200) 20 Dec 1986, Augusta County CBC; spring– (227) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; summer– (75) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall– (1005) 18 Oct 2008, throughout the county.

284/277/274. LINCOLN'S SPARROW

Melospiza lincolnii

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident in old fields and brushy edges.

Extreme Dates: 9 Sep 2010 – 14 May 1983.

Peak Count: winter– (2) 4 Jan 2014, Sherando (Waynesboro CBC); fall– (67) 18 Oct 2008, throughout the county.

285/278/275. SWAMP SPARROW

Melospiza georgiana

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident in marshes, moist fields, and damp edges.

Extreme Dates: 9 Sep 2004 – 25 May 2009.

Peak Counts: winter– (38) 28 Dec 1995, Waynesboro CBC; spring– (11) 30 Apr 2005, Augusta County BSD; fall– (131) 14 Oct 2010, throughout the county.

286/262/259. EASTERN TOWHEE

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

Status: Common transient and summer resident, breeding in dense, brushy vegetation in old fields, open woodlands, and forest edges. Uncommon winter resident.

Breeding: Recently fledged young, 10 May 1992, Swoope; adult carrying fecal sac, 10 Jun 1987, Elliott Knob AB; recently fledged young, 5 Jul 1998, Augusta Springs BBB; nest with eggs, 12 Aug 1932, Stokesville; pair with 3 recently fledged young, 23 Sep 1989, VA Rt. 610.

Peak Counts: winter– (25) 21 Dec 1991, Augusta County CBC; spring– (174) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; (200) 5 May 2018 Aug. Co. BSD, summer– (60) 15 Jun 2008, including 23 on VA Rt. 610 and Big Levels and 37 on Reddish Knob; fall– (75) 14 Oct 2010, throughout the county.

287/261/255. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

Icteria virens

Status: Common transient and summer resident, in dense, brushy vegetation in old fields and early-successional woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 21 Apr 2012 – 26 Sep 1971.

Breeding: Nest building, 22 Jun 1984, Deerfield AB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 5 Jul 1998, Stuarts Draft BBB.

Peak Counts: spring– (15) 9 May 1981, Augusta County BSD; summer– (6) 16 Jun 1997, VA Rt. 610.

288/283/256. SUMMER TANAGER

Piranga rubra

Status: Primarily a rare transient spring & summer.

Extreme Dates: 18 Apr 2018 – 23 May 2016; 19 Aug 1999 – 18 Oct 2008.

Seven Summer Records: (1) singing, 26 Jun 1981, Natural Chimneys; (1) 6 Jul 1986, Skyline Drive; (1) singing, 3 Jun 1998, West Augusta BBB; (1) 15 Jul 1998, Waynesboro West BBB; (1) 28 Jun 2014, Swoope. (1) 7 Jun 2018, Riprap overlook, Shenandoah Nat. Park; (1) 14 Jun 2018, Humpback Rocks, Blue Ridge Parkway.

Breeding: The summer records suggest possible breeding, but no specific breeding evidence has been observed.

Peak Counts: (2) 8 May 1993 & 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD; (2) 29 Apr 2017 Aug. Co. BSD.

289/284/257. SCARLET TANAGER

Piranga olivacea

Status: Common transient and summer resident in deciduous and mixed woodlands.

Extreme Dates: 3 Apr 2012 – 19 Oct 2000

One Late Fall Historical Record: (1) found dead, 10 Nov 1967, Waynesboro.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Breeding: Nest building, 7 May 2000, VA Rt. 610; recently fledged young, 13 Jun 1998, Big Levels BBB; fledged young begging for food, 1 Jul 2005, Elliott Knob; adult feeding young Brown-headed Cowbird, 2 Jul 2006, Staunton; nest with 3 eggs, 31 Jul 1973, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring– (102) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; (111) 5 May 2018 BSD, summer– (48) 29 Jun 2008, Great North Mountain; fall– (46) 13 Sep 1996, VA Rt. 610.

290/285/258. WESTERN TANAGER

Piranga ludoviciana

Two Spring Records: (1) 27–29 Mar 2004, Staunton, photographed; (1) 3–5 May 2015, Stuarts Draft, photographed.

291/286/282. NORTHERN CARDINAL

Cardinalis cardinalis

Status: Common permanent resident in a variety of habitats, most common in areas with brushy vegetation.

Breeding: Nest building, 20 Mar 1990, Staunton; nest with eggs, 28 Apr 1988, Waynesboro; occupied nest, 12 Jun 1998, Parnassus BBB; recently fledged young, 18 Jul 1998, Vesuvius BBB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 18 Sep 1999, Blue Ridge Parkway.

Peak Counts: winter– (344) 18 Dec 2010, Augusta County CBC; spring– (296) 14 May 1983, Augusta County BSD; summer– (67) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall– (61) 18 Oct 2008, throughout the county.

292/287/283. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

Pheucticus ludovicianus

Status: Primarily an uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding mainly in deciduous forests above 2000 feet.

Extreme Dates: 17 Apr 2013 – 13 Nov 1995.

Three Winter Records: (1) 5 Feb 1975, Waynesboro; (1) 21 Jan 1984, Frank's Mill; (1) 14 Jan 1997, Staunton.

Unusual Early Spring Record: (1) 6 Mar 1994, Staunton, speculated that it overwintered.

Breeding: Adult carrying food to young in nest, 20 Jun 1998, Elliott Knob BBB; adult feeding recently fledged young, 6 Jul 1986, Skyline Drive; recently fledged young, 21 Aug 1985, West Augusta AB.

Peak Counts: spring– (19) 2 May 2009, Augusta County BSD; summer– (6) 1 Jul 2005, Great North Mountain; fall– (79) night of 20–21 Sep 1994, flying over VA Rt. 610.

293/288/284. BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

Pheucticus melanocephalus

One Spring Record: (2) one male (photographed) and one female, 8 May 1987, Waynesboro.

294/289/285. BLUE GROSBEAK

Passerina caerulea

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in old fields and bottomland thickets.

Extreme Dates: 18 Apr 1970 – 15 Oct 1991 & 2012.

Breeding: Recently fledged young, 21 Jun 1984, Ft. Defiance AB; pair carrying food to nest site, 25 Jul 2004, Swoope; adult feeding young in nest, 4 Aug 2007, Swoope; recently fledged young, 23 Aug 1972, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring– (14) 3 May 1975, Augusta County BSD; summer– (12) 9 Jun 2011, throughout the county; fall– (10) 7 Aug 2012, throughout the county.

295/290/286. INDIGO BUNTING

Passerina cyanea

Status: Abundant transient and summer resident in old fields, woodland edges, and brushy thickets.

Extreme Dates: 26 Mar 1989 – 31 Oct 2018

One Winter Record: (1) 21 Feb 1995, Waynesboro.

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 3 Jun 1972, Churchville; one fledged young begging for food, 1 Jul 2005, Elliott Knob; adult feeding recently fledged young, 10 Jul 1998, Greenville BBB; nest with 3 eggs, 3 Aug 1972, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring– (232) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; summer– (61) 17 Jun 2012, throughout the county; fall– (150+) 20 Aug 2005, Lyndhurst.

296/291/287. PAINTED BUNTING

Passerina ciris

One Winter/Spring Record: (1) photographed, 10 Dec 2007 – 26 Apr 2008, Verona.

One Spring Record: (1) photographed, 15–21 Apr 1993, Staunton.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

297/292/288. DICKCISSEL

Spiza americana

Status: Primarily a rare and irregular transient, rare summer resident and rare winter visitor. Breeding in grasslands, hayfields, and alfalfa fields. Mowing destroying some nests.

Breeding: Nest with 4 eggs, 13 Jun 1979, Harriston; two nests — one with eggs and one with young, 19 Jul 1973, Stuarts Draft; female feeding 3 recently fledged young, 4 Aug 2011, Swoope; active nest site with 3 or 4 young in July, young fledged and stayed in the vicinity of the nest site for approximately 4 weeks under maternal care 20 Jul, young and female moved to farm yard trees 17 Aug, female still carrying food to young in yard 19–20 Aug 2013, Swoope.

Peak Counts: winter— (4) 18 Dec 1993, Augusta County CBC; spring (10) 25 May 1962, Stuarts Draft and (10) 26 May 2000, Swoope; summer — (16) 9 Jun 2011, throughout the county; fall— (7) 4 Aug 2011, Swoope.

298/296/292. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

Three Spring Records: (1) 11 Apr 1974, Swoope; (1) 24 Apr – 9 May 1992, Staunton; (1) 27 May 2006, Staunton.

One Fall Record: (1) 13 Sep 2015, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Afton.

299/293/289. BOBOLINK

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Status: Uncommon to locally common transient in open farmland and pastures. Rare and local summer resident and breeder in fields at higher elevations in the Swoope area.

Extreme Dates: 22 April 2018 – 11 Oct 1980.

Breeding: Pair, 1 Jun 2016, Swoope; Adult carrying food to nest site 23 Jun and feeding recently fledged young 28 Jun & 11 Jul 1998, Churchville BBB; Two family groups, 15 Jul 2012, Swoope; adult with recently fledged young, 24 Jul 2011, Swoope.

Peak Counts: spring— (255) 6 May 1988, Stuarts Draft; summer— (75) 21 Jul 2016, Swoope; (150+) 29 July 2017, Swoope, fall— (2,000) 7 Sep and (6,000) 9 Sep 1980, Fishersville.

300/295/291. EASTERN MEADOWLARK

Sturnella magna

Status: Common permanent resident, uncommon in winter, in open, grassy fields.

Breeding: Nest with 3 young, 29 Apr 1989, New Hope; recently fledged young, 6 May 1999, Fishersville; recently fledged young, 10 Jun 1972, Churchville; adults with recently fledged young, 2 Jul 2006, Staunton, nest with 2 eggs, 22 Jul 1975, Churchville.

Peak Counts: winter— (241) 23 Dec 1989, Augusta County CBC; spring— (406) 3 May 1975, Augusta County BSD; summer— (348) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall— (297) 18 Oct 2008, throughout the county.

301/301/297. ORCHARD ORIOLE

Icterus spurius

Status: Uncommon transient and summer resident, breeding in open woodlands, along fence lines in farmlands, and suburban areas.

Extreme Dates: 7 Apr 2004 – 12 Oct 2014.

Breeding: Nest with 5 eggs, 16 May 1970, Staunton; one adult guarding nest with eggs, 24 May 2015, Verona, Middle River; nest building, 10 Jun 1998, Stuarts Draft BBB; nest with young, 10 Jul 1998, Greenville BBB; recently fledged young, 4 Aug 1972, Churchville.

Peak Counts: spring— (18) 6 May 2012, Augusta County, BSD; summer— (15) 5 Jun 2005, New Hope and Swoope; fall— (8) 17 Aug 1992, Stuarts Draft.

302/302/298. BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Icterus galbula

Status: Primarily a common transient and summer resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats, often nesting in sycamore trees near water. Rare winter visitor with all sightings of single individuals.

Breeding: Nest with large young, 9 May 2005, Staunton; pair building a nest, 11 May 2013, Verona; adults feeding 3 young in nest, 16 Jun 2011, Steeles Tavern; recently fledged young, 29 Jun 1985, Deerfield AB.

Peak Counts: spring— (46) 6 May 1978 and (46) 8 May 1992, Augusta County BSD; summer— (7) 3 Jun 2004, Churchville BBS; fall— (20) 3 Aug 2014, Swoope.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE

Icterus parisorum

First Winter Record: (1) 14–29 Feb 2020, one bird at feeders in Swoope area of Augusta County, first state record.

First Spring Record: (1) 1 Mar 2020, Swoope (same as above).

Birds of Augusta County 2020

303/294/290. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Agelaius phoeniceus

Status: Abundant transient and summer resident, breeding in moist fields, marshes, and bottomland thickets. Uncommon to locally common winter resident.

Breeding: Nest with 4 eggs, 9 May 2001, Swoope; recently fledged young, 3 Jun 1998, Staunton BBB; adults with recently fledged young, 2 Jul 2006, Staunton; recently fledged young, 9 Jul 1984, Parnassus AB; female feeding fledged young, 4 Aug 2011, Swoope.

Peak Counts: winter– (46,603) 29 Dec 1984, Augusta County CBC; spring– (1,155) 6 Mar 2014, including (1,130) Stuarts Draft, & (25) Staunton; summer– (621) Jun 1966, Churchville BBS (1,107) 29 July 2017, Aug. Co.; fall– (1,059) 26 Oct 2015, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Afton.

304/300/296. BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

Molothrus ater

Status: Abundant transient and summer resident, common winter resident. Forages in open habitats, lays eggs in nests of a variety of hosts.

Breeding: Recently fledged young being fed by Northern Cardinal, 24 May 1981, Fishersville; recently fledged young, 29 Jun 2013, Great North Mountain, Elliott Knob, Blue-headed Vireo & Chestnut-sided Warbler nearby; recently fledged young being fed by Black-and-white Warbler, 30 Jun 1998, Sherando BBB; recently fledged young being fed by Blue-headed Vireo, 6 Jul 1987, Palo Alto AB; recently fledged young being fed by Song Sparrow, 31 Jul 1998, Staunton BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (47,384) 29 Dec 1984, Augusta County CBC; spring– (465+) 18 Mar 2007, throughout the county; summer– (30) 22 Jul 2009, Fishersville; fall– (9,000) 4 Oct 1986, throughout the county; (9,100) 26 Nov 2017 Mint Spring area.

305/297/293. RUSTY BLACKBIRD

Euphagus carolinus

Status: Uncommon transient and rare winter resident in a variety of habitats, often near water.

Extreme Dates: 14 Sep 2014 – 2 May 1999.

Peak Counts: winter– (1,011) 18 Dec 1976, Augusta County CBC; spring– (89) 6 Mar 2014, Stuarts Draft; fall– (500+) 18 Nov 2004, Stuarts Draft.

306/298/294. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

Euphagus cyanocephalus

Status: Rare winter visitor and spring transient.

Extreme Dates: 9 Dec 2005 – 11 Apr 1980, 1987, & 2004.

Four Fall Records: (1) 25 Nov 1989, Lyndhurst; (1) 6 Nov 2008, Swoope; (1) 14 Sep 2014, Afton, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch. (4) 26 Nov 2017 Mint Spring Area.

Peak Count: winter– (5) 18 Dec 2011, Augusta County CBC (Verona).; spring– (16) 11 Apr 2004, Swoope & Lyndhurst. Fall – (4) 26 Nov 2017, Mint Spring area.

307/299/295. COMMON GRACKLE

Quiscalus quiscula

Status: Abundant transient and summer resident, common winter resident, in a variety of habitats.

Breeding: Nest building, 15 Mar 1988, Staunton; recently fledged young, 30 May 1998, Stuarts Draft BBB; recently fledged young, 20 Jun 1998, Augusta Springs BBB; recently fledged young, 9 Jul 1984, Parnassus AB.

Peak Counts: winter– (1,221,834) 19 Dec 1987, Augusta County CBC; spring– (1,242) 3 May 1975, Augusta County BSD; summer– (2,476) Jun 1966, Churchville BBS; (581) 2 Jun 2005, throughout the county; fall– (9,500) 12 Nov 2006, Stuarts Draft.

308/310/306. EVENING GROSBEAK

Coccothraustes vespertinus

Status: Uncommon to rare and irregular transient and winter resident, often seen visiting feeders during irruption years. Population has decreased drastically since the 1995 irruption.

Extreme Dates: 22 Sep 1990 and 1993 – 28 May 1972.

One Summer Record: (1) 12 Jun 1980, Staunton.

Fall/Winter Record: Irruption in November and December 1995 in Augusta County and surrounding areas. In response to YuLee Larner's column in the Staunton News Leader, there were 141 reports from 41 localities of 1,527 birds from 4 to 18 November.

Peak Count: winter– (255) 31 Dec 1977, Augusta County CBC.

309/304/300. HOUSE FINCH (Category 5)

Carpodacus mexicanus

Status: Abundant permanent resident in a variety of habitats, often in close association with human habitations. Introduced from western North America.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

Breeding: Nest with eggs, 28 Mar 2001, Arbor Hill; recently fledged young, 24 Apr 1992, Staunton; nest with eggs, 14 Apr and with young, 10 May 1976, Staunton, the first documented nest record for the state of Virginia; recently fledged young, 26 Jul 1998, Staunton BBB.

Peak Counts: winter– (1,124) 17 Dec 1988, Augusta County CBC; spring– (137) 6 May 2012, Augusta County BSD; summer– (20) 10 Jun 2007, Churchville BBS; fall– (500) 1 Nov 1982, Fishersville.

310/303/299. PURPLE FINCH

Carpodacus purpureus

Status: Uncommon transient and winter resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Extreme Dates: 11 Sep 2002 and 2004 – 22 May 1978.

Peak Counts: winter– (160) 30 Dec 1978, Augusta County CBC; spring– (191) 6 May 1978, Augusta County BSD; fall– (70+) 21 Oct 2005, Swoope.

311/307/303. COMMON REDPOLL

Acanthis flammea

Status: Rare and irregular winter visitor, usually seen visiting feeders during irruption years.

Extreme Dates: 23 Jan 1978 – 28 Feb 1994.

One Winter/ Spring Record: 1994 Invasion: throughout Virginia beginning in January. Reports in Staunton and Augusta County of from one to 30 birds from 13 different locations; present in Staunton and Swoope through 23 March and in Stuarts Draft through 2 April 1994: including (30) 27 Jan – 13 Mar 1994, Staunton; and (30) 30 Jan – 27 Feb 1994, Stuarts Draft.

One Spring Record (since 1994 invasion): (1) 3–13 Mar 2011, photographed, Fishersville.

Two Fall Records: (1) 15 Nov 1993, Waynesboro; (4) 19 Sep 2011, Stuarts Draft.

Peak Counts: winter– (75) 15 Feb 1972, Churchville.

312/305/301. RED CROSSBILL

Loxia curvirostra

Status: Moved from “rare” relative abundance for all seasons to “accidental.” Only five sightings have been documented since 1986.

Winter Records: (24) 25 Feb 1982, Shenandoah Mountain; (6) 31 Dec 2004, Shenandoah Mountain; (15) 22 Jan 2006, Shenandoah Mountain, near Confederate Breastworks; (1) 17 Feb 2013, Staunton, Frog Pond Rd.

Spring Records: (24) 25 Apr 1982, Shenandoah Mountain. (9) 20 May 2017 SR 95 Bradley Pond area high elevation near W. Va. Line

Summer Records (Breeding): Summer 1985–1986 records of adults and immatures from Ramseys Draft (U.S. Rt. 250 on Shenandoah Mountain), Stokesville, and Reddish Knob areas, and immatures east of mile marker 87 on Blue Ridge Parkway, may indicate breeding, but no specific evidence of breeding has been observed; (4) 22 Jun 2017, Waynesboro.

Fall Records: (29) 22 Nov 1973, Sherando; (12) 17 Nov 1981, Reddish Knob; (12) 24 Nov 2012, Afton Mtn., Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; (1) 20 Oct 2016, Afton Mtn., Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

Peak Counts: winter– 24 Feb 1982 Shen. Mtn.; spring– (24) 25 Apr 1982 Shen. Mtn.; summer– (9) 10 Jun 2018, Reddish Knob, Fall – (29) 22 Nov 1973, Sherando.

313/306/302. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

Loxia leucoptera

Three Winter Records: (3) 4 and 7 Feb 1970, Waynesboro; (1) 21 Feb 1970, Waynesboro; (15) 7 Feb 1972, Waynesboro.

Five Spring Records: (3) 11 Mar 1972, Pioneer Farm, Blue Ridge Parkway; (9) 28 Mar 1972, Arbor Hill; (1) 6–8 May 1978, Staunton, trapped for scientific research by Curt Adkisson of Virginia Tech on 8 May; (1) 21–23 Mar 2002, Staunton; (1) 8–10 Apr 2002, Stuarts Draft.

Two Fall Records: (1) 4 Nov 1971, Pioneer Farm, Blue Ridge Parkway; (1) 3 Nov 2001, Fishersville.

314/308/304. PINE SISKIN

Spinus pinus

Status: Primarily an uncommon to rare transient and winter visitor. May be locally common during irruption years, when often seen at feeders. Possible breeder at higher elevations.

Extreme Dates: 3 Oct 1990 – 30 May 2009.

Winter Interesting Sightings: On 14 Feb 1998, during an unprecedented irruption in Virginia, in response to a request for information through YuLee Lerner’s column in the *Staunton News Leader*, 61 observers from Augusta, Bath, Highland, and Rockbridge Counties reported a total of 2,222 Pine Siskins that were seen at area feeders.

Two Summer Record: (1) 1 Jun 2009, Staunton; (1) 7 Jun 2016, New Hope.

Possible Breeding Records: Two entries may simply be early migrants or dispersants; (-) 12–15 May 1998, BBB Big Levels, collecting dog hairs from a basket of nest materials; (-) 16 May 1998, BBB Waynesboro East, adults engaged in courtship feeding.

Peak Counts: winter– (625) 25 Feb 1982, Ramseys Draft; spring– (310) 4 Apr 1968, Big Levels; fall– (501) 27 Oct (year?), throughout the county.

Birds of Augusta County 2020

315/309/305. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Spinus tristis

Status: Common permanent resident in a variety of wooded and suburban habitats.

Breeding: Nest, 27 Jun 2000, Stuarts Draft; nest building, 15 Jul 1998, Augusta Springs BBB; nest with young, 21 Aug 1972, Churchville; nest with 5 eggs, 30 Aug 1973; both adults feeding three recently fledged young, 27 Sep – 7 Oct 2012, Stuarts Draft; Oct 10 2019, adult feeding 2 fledged young, Stuarts Draft

Peak Counts: winter– (430) 31 Dec 1977, Augusta County CBC; spring– (594) 4 May 2004, Augusta County BSD; summer– (79) 31 Jul 2010, throughout the county; fall– (850+) 23 Oct 2008, including 150 in Lyndhurst and 700+ at Boy Scout Camp, Swoope, where acres of sunflowers were planted.

316/311/307. HOUSE SPARROW (Category 5)

Passer domesticus

Status: Abundant permanent resident (introduced) in close proximity to human habitations.

Breeding: Nest building, 16 Feb 2004, Staunton; female feeding recently fledged young, 18 Apr 1984, Staunton; occupied nest, 7 Jun 1987, Sherando AB; adults feeding recently fledged young, 24 Aug 1989, Stuarts Draft.

Peak Counts: winter– (1,204) 31 Dec 1977, Augusta County CBC; spring– (440) 6 May 1978, Augusta County BSD; summer– (140) Jun 1966, Churchville BBS; fall– (79) 4 Aug 2007, throughout the county.

+++++

EXPLANATIONS:

SEASONS:

Spring	=	March – May
Summer	=	June – July
Fall	=	August – November
Winter	=	December – February

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE:

Abundant	=	Likely in large numbers in proper habitat/season.
Common	=	Seen most of the time or in small numbers in proper habitat/season.
Uncommon	=	Occurs in small numbers or in limited habitat.
Rare	=	Occurs irregularly in small numbers.
Accidental	=	No more than five records in the given season.

ABBREVIATIONS (REGULAR BIRD COUNTS):

BBB : Breeding Bird Blitz

BSD : Big Spring Day

CBC : Christmas Bird Count (One CBC is centered in the Staunton-Verona area, and one is centered near Waynesboro.)

RGHW : Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch

For more information about these bird counts and other such club-related endeavors, see www.augustabirdclub.org.