

THE REDSTART

Published by the Brooks Bird Club
Wheeling, W. Va.

VOL. 1, NO. 3

Edited by Tom Shields

March, 1934

MARCH MEETING

Brooks Bird Club

The March meeting of the Brooks Bird Club will be held at the residence of Miss Helen McGill - 109 - 20th Street, Warwood, on Friday evening, April 6, at 8 p.m. The papers of the evening will be:

"Origin of Birds" by Miss Bertha Quanta
"Mendel's Law" by Mr. Clyde Upton
"Relationship of Structure and Habits
of Birds" by Mr. Tom Shields.

Miss Helen McGill, Secretary.

WINTER OBSERVATIONS

American Golden-Eye - A flock comprised of thirty to forty American Golden-Eyes has spent the past month on the Ohio river opposite the Wheeling Machine Products Company plant between Wheeling and Warwood. They were observed through a 20X telescope by Conrad, Shields, and Flower on February 17. Later Conrad and Flower found the head of an American Golden-Eye near the same spot. This is the first record of this species for the West Virginia Panhandle.

Common Loon - On February 17, Conrad, Flower and Shields saw a Common Loon through a 20X telescope on the Ohio River between Wheeling and Warwood.

American Merganser - On February 24, Conrad and Flower observed a male American Merganser on the Ohio river between Wheeling and Warwood, through a 20X telescope at close range.

Red-breasted Merganser - Conrad and Flower saw two female Red-breasted Mergansers on the Ohio river between Wheeling and Warwood, at close range, through a 20X telescope.

Mockingbird - Haller reports that Mockingbirds have spent the winter at Avalon, near Clinton. He has heard their song several times.

Red-bellied Nodpecker - This species has wintered at Avalon according to Haller.

Rusty Blackbird - On February 25 Bergner, Flower and Conrad saw a Rusty Blackbird on the Roxine Farm near Ogley Park. They report that the male was in breeding

plumage. The straw-colored eyes were noted, also the typical blackbird note when the bird left its perch.

Herring Gull - Herring Gulls have appeared again on the Ohio River, Wheeling. Since February 23 Shields and Conrad have seen Gulls at frequent intervals. This is not a new record as Shields saw Herring Gulls in December, 1932; John Handlan reported them on the Ohio on November 11, 1933, and several previous records have been reported. Conrad and Flower observed a Herring Gull eating a catfish on February 24.

Pintail - Conrad and Flower saw a male and a female Pintail on the Ohio River on February 24.

Field Sparrow - Conrad reports hearing a field sparrow sing several times on February 22. This record was duplicated by him on March 5.

--Tom Shields.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Brooks Bird Club was held at the Conrad residence in Warwood on Friday evening, February 23. The papers of the evening were: "The Economic Importance of Birds" by Mrs. A. E. Brooks read by Miss Bertha Quantz; "A New Deal for Birds" by Miss Nelle Mercer, read by Miss Polly Alford; "The Woodpeckers" by Miss Helen McGill. All of these papers were received enthusiastically and a general discussion followed each of them. Some important announcements were made by Chairman Handlan and some interesting observations were reported. After the meeting adjourned Conrad tested the knowledge of the Bird Club in several difficult bird games. Refreshments were served immediately afterwards.

--George Flower

RONEY'S POINT BIRD CLUB

The Roney's Point Bird Club has held field trips during the winter approximately twice a month. The next field trip is planned for March 25, and the members will meet at the Stone House at Roney's Point at 3 p.m. A meeting will be held on March 9 with the following papers to be presented:

"Naturalized Birds" by George Flower
"Families of Birds" by Russell West

Another meeting will be held on April 13 and the papers of the evening will be:

"Specialization of Organs and Senses of Birds" by Bertha Quantz.
"Relationship of Structure and Habits of Birds" by Tom Shields.

During April and May early morning field trips will be held each Sunday and the leaders, who will guide two walks each, will be Upton, West, John Handlan and Shields.

---Russell West.

TRIADELPHIA BIRD CLUB

A. B. Brooks, naturalist, is scheduled to speak on "Birds", with particular reference to the migrations of birds before the assembly of Triadelphia District High School on March 20 at 9 a.m. The program is being sponsored by the high school Bird Club, of which Karl Haller is chairman. Habitat cases of common resident birds lent by the Nature Museum at Oglebay Park will be housed at the school for a special Bird Club exhibit during the week preceding Mr. Brooks' address.

The High School club's February schedule included a talk on "Orders of Birds of Local Occurrence" by Karl Haller, and a "field trip" to the aviary at Wheeling Park for the discussion of the varying structures of bird forms. The early March meeting was utilized for ornithological games and a brief talk on bird nomenclature by John Handlan.

----John Handlan.

THE NILES BIRD STUDY CLUB

The Niles Bird Study Club was organized October 30, 1933 at the instigation of Mr. Merrit B. Skaggs. It meets on alternate Monday evenings at Niles, Ohio. During the 1933-34 winter they are holding walks every Sunday afternoon.

For reference this club is using Chapman's "Birds of Eastern North America". They also have "Portraits of New England Birds" by Puertes and Allan Brooks, and plates from "The Birds of New York" by Puertes.

The program of the group includes:

Feb. 26, 1934 - The Diet of Birds
The Distribution of Birds

March 12, 1934 - What Are the Migratory Birds
We Are Expected to See this Month.
--Russell West.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTEST

Original field work and preparation of papers based on personal observations are bases of a contest announced in February and open to members of the Brooks Bird Club. Contestants will be judged on papers submitted in description of the work accomplished by each on "projects" relating to ornithology and of their own choice. The contest closes September 1, 1934.

--John Handlan.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS OF INTEREST

BLACK VULTURE - I. E. Johnston, educational agent of the West Virginia State Department of Conservation, and who was in Wheeling on February 28, reported two records of the Black Vulture for West Virginia. So far as the editors are aware there exists only one person's published record for the species in West Virginia. On December 12, 1933 Mr. Johnston saw a single Black Vulture near Lewisburg, Greenbrier County. On February 15, 1934, the same observer saw seven birds of this species in the company of 125 Turkey Vultures near Lewisburg.

CANADIAN PINE GROSBREAK - The presence in West Virginia of the Canadian Pine Grosbeak has been reported by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Brooks who, on February 24, 1934, found five birds of this species in the vicinity of French Creek, Upshur County. Mr. Brooks writes that one adult male, two females and two immature birds were seen together. These birds were exceedingly tame and permitted observation at very close range, he reports.

--John Handlan.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Maurice Brooks, of French Creek, W. Va. has accepted honorary membership in the Brooks Bird Club and becomes the club's first member under this classification. His acceptance of election was expressed in a letter to the club chairman, the latter announced. Dr. George M. Sutton, of Bethany, W. Va. and Merritt B. Skaggs, of Niles, Ohio, were elected honorary members at the same time as Mr. Brooks but neither Mr. Skaggs nor Dr. Sutton has as yet informed the club whether he will accept the membership.

--John Handlan.

Contributions to this paper, or comments upon articles published in it will be gladly received by the Editor.
