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T H E R E D S T A R T

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Edited by Tom Shields

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MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the Brooks Bird Club will be held Friday, May 25 in the Oglebay Park club room. The papers for discussion will be:

"Loons and Grebes" - by Harold Bergner
"Sapsuckers" - - by Polly Alford
"My Experiences with
Pet Birds" - - by A. B. Brooks

All members are asked to bring their migration lists as the final check is to be made. The 1934 Migration List will be published in the next issue of The Redstart. Your friends are invited to attend.

--Helen McGill, Secretary

FIELD TRIP TO NILES

On Sunday, April 15, ten members of the Brooks Bird Club motored to Niles, Ohio. Arriving several hours in advance, an early five o'clock bird jaunt was made prior to the scheduled seven o'clock walk under the guidance of Mr. Glenn W. Woods, acting president of the Niles Bird Study Club.

The morning trips were made in the vicinity of the Niles region, along the lakes. At noon an intermission of three hours was agreed upon, at which time members of the Brooks Bird Club enjoyed dinner at a Youngstown Hotel. At three o'clock members of both clubs met at the Fish Pond in Mill Creek Park, Youngstown. The bird studies continued until six p. m. when members of their respective clubs headed for home.

During the entire day a total of sixty-two species was listed by members of the Brooks Bird Club. Not all can be printed, but some of the more interesting species listed were: Tree Swallow, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Common Loon, Bonaparte's Gull, Osprey, Blue Jay, Blue-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Hooded and American Mergansers, American Pintail, Baldpate, Rough-legged Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, and an unnamed species of Swan.

Through this paper members of the Brooks Bird Club wish to extend their sincere thanks for the hospitality and interest extended. We, in return, hope our invitation to visit Wheeling will be accepted by the Niles Club.

Members of the Brooks Bird Club who made the trip were Misses Helen McGill, Bertha Quantz, Paulinebelle Wyss and Messrs. Russell West, Harold Bergner, Ralph Bergner, George Flouer, Karl Haller, Tom Shields, and Charles Conrad.

---Charles Conrad.

INSTRUCTION HIKES

The early Sunday morning field trips have given the Brooks Bird Club members and their friends many fine opportunities to observe the newly-arrived birds, which are at their best at this time of day. From April 8 until May 27, these walks begin at 5 a.m. regardless of weather conditions. So far, the average attendance has been between ten and fifteen members. These "early birds" then divide up into small-groups of three or four under the leadership of one of the more advanced students. The groups then scatter to different sections of the park to study the birds in the field until 7 o'clock, when they meet the hikers attending the Public Nature Walk, which is led by Mr. A. B. Brooks, Oglebay Park naturalist.

---George Flouer

BIRD STUDENTS COVER PANHANDLE

If any migrating bird gets through the West Virginia Panhandle this Spring without being seen, it will not be the fault of the Brooks Bird Club. The Panhandle is being covered more extensively this year by bird students than ever before. Amateur ornithologists have been active from McMechen to Beech Bottom and from the Ohio River to Roney's Point.

The migration chart of the club will be published in the next issue of the Redstart and should be more representative than any previously published for this district.

A few records of migratory, resident, and visitant birds worth mentioning are: Turkey Vulture on April 14 at Oglebay (Alford, Reiter and Thort); Ruffed Grouse on April 22 at Roney's Point (John Handlan); Tree Swallow on April 28 at Beech Bottom (Conrad, Flouer, and T. Shields); Pileated Woodpecker on April 29 at Oglebay (Conrad); Blue Jay on May 5 at Romine's Farm (Conrad); Virginia Rail at Beech Bottom on May 6 (Haller); and Black-billed Cuckoo at Warwood on May 12 (Conrad and H. Bergner) and again at Oglebay on the same date (Flouer and R. Bergner).

Rusty Blackbirds were seen at Oglebay on April 22 and May 6 by T. Shields and at Beech Bottom on May 6 by Haller. Miss Sarah Hine saw Bobolinks at Oglebay on May 5 and again at a later date. Miss Margery Coffield also reported Bobolinks at Valley Grove. Miss Polly Alford reports a Whip-poor-will on May 5, while Misses Sarah Hine and Ruth McIntyre, and H. Bergner report they heard one singing on May 6.

All of these records were made at Oglebay Park. The group led by T. Shields on the 5 o'clock walk at Oglebay on May 6 made a Park record in listing the Solitary Sandpiper.

Miss Polly Alford and John Handlan turned in an unusual record. Two Palm Warblers were seen by them through 8X glasses at 30 feet at Oglebay Park on May 2. The nervous tail-twitching said to be characteristic of both races of Palm Warblers was pronounced in these individuals. The observers state the plumages of the birds resembled that of *Dendroica p. palmarum*. Mr. A. B. Brooks believes this to be the second record of this species for Oglebay Park. Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. W. E. Baker of Elkins, and he observed the same species at Oglebay on May 10, 1929.

The fact that Purple Finches are common in this district is worthy of mention. Almost all of the active members of the club have had the opportunity to see and hear this bird sing during the present migration period. Heretofore the Purple Finch was considered a rare visitant by us.

---Tom Shields.

WEST VIRGINIA NATURE TRAINING SCHOOL

The seventh annual Nature Training School which will be held this year, will open at Oglebay Park on June 11 and will continue at the Park up to and including June 23. On June 24 a trans-Allegheny trip will take the group to Camp Frame, which is at the end of a road leaving state route No. 9 about half way between Berkeley Springs and Martinsburg, Berkeley County, W. Va.

Much of the acreage of Oglebay Park is wooded, laced by spring-fed brooks and in places very rugged, with a maximum elevation of 1300 feet. Open fields, as well as the wooded sections of the park make it a splendid center for nature study and will prove very attractive to the out-of-town campers for studying birds of this territory. However, making it equally attractive to bird students of this section will be the very capable staff of instructors in bird study, which will include Mr. Maurice Brooks, Instructor in Biology, Upshur County High School, W. Va., and Mr. A. B. Brooks, resident naturalist, Oglebay Institute Staff at Oglebay Park.

What will probably be of even more interest to the bird students of this section will be the ten day camping trip at Camp Frame, where they will have the opportunity of observing and studying the habits of such birds as the Broad-winged Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Barred Owl, Mockingbird, Migrant Shrike, Worm-eating Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Purple Grackle, which are common in that vicinity.

The entire outdoors provides class rooms and laboratories for the staff and students of the Nature Training School. Intensive field work, supplemented by lectures, occupies the attention of staff and students throughout the school session. Since the start of the school a number of ornithological observations of scientific interest have been made by students and their instructors.

The staff at Camp Frame will include besides those above-mentioned R. L. Fricke, preparator, Dept. of Education, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pa., M. Graham Netting, Curator of Herpetology, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, and Fred W. Gray, fern, moss, lichen specialist, Philippi, W. Va.

If there is any doubt about the opportunities and advisability of attending the Nature Training School, we suggest that you just talk to someone who has been to any of the previous schools.

-- Harold Bergner.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AT OGLEBAY

Officials and distinguished members of various ornithological societies have been visitors this spring to Oglebay Park and have joined in the activities of the Brooks Bird Club. The guest register at Oglebay Park camp includes the names of: O. C. Reiter of Pittsburgh, and George B. Thorp of Pittsburgh, president and second vice-president, respectively, of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania; Dr. Paul Visscher, president of the Cleveland Bird Club; and C. M. Shipman, member of the Cleveland Bird Club and authority upon the Bald Eagle.

--John Handlan

RONEY'S POINT NATURE CLUB

During May, The Roney's Point Nature Club is holding walks each Sunday at 6:30 a.m. The walks are being led by advanced bird students of the Brooks Bird Club. Beginning the first week of June, the Roney's Point group will have walks on alternate Sundays at 7 a.m. The next meeting of the club is scheduled for June 8, and will take place at the home of Miss Marie Blayney.

--Russell West

TRIADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL BIRD CLUB

Members of the Triadelphia High School Bird Club on May 12 concluded their first season of activity with a field trip and picnic luncheon at Oglebay Park. The Club members present voted unanimously to postpone election of officers until reorganization of the group in September, 1934. Mr. J. V. Giffen, instructor in biology at the High School, was present for the occasion and concurred in the decision of the club.

Thirty-eight students of the school were on the membership roll by the end of the season. Mr. Karl Haller and Miss Sarah Hine, both members of the Brooks Bird Club, served as chairman and secretary, respectively, of the High School organization during its first season with J. W. Handlan, of the Brooks Bird Club, as advisor. The organization is officially affiliated with the Brooks Bird Club.

--John Handlan

NILES BIRD CLUB

The Niles Bird Club was host to ten members of the Brooks Bird Club on April 15. Two field trips were taken to the lakes in the vicinity of Niles and many birds were recorded. This club has a wonderful opportunity for studying birds and they seem to be making the most of it. Their interest in bird study is great. At present the members of the club are working on a migration list, which we hope to publish in the next issue of The Redstart.

--Tom Shields.

CAROLINA WREN

I found a nest of a Carolina Wren during the first week of April. It had four eggs in it. The nest was about one foot from the ground in a dead stump of a tree. The eggs hatched during the last week in April. These Wrens were not as tame as they usually are. I could not get any closer than 20 feet to the nest before they flew from it.

--Karl Haller

BROOKS BIRD CLUB CONTEST

As previously announced, the Brooks Bird Club is holding an ornithology contest. The contestants will be judged on field work in connection with their projects and on papers covering these projects. Participants may choose their own subject. The contest is open to members of the club, and the closing date is September 1, 1934.

Some of the contestants have already begun work on their projects. Considerable interest has been aroused by the contest. Two new entrants have announced their projects. Sarah Hine has chosen "Bird Eggs," while Karl Haller will make "A study of the Red-Winged Blackbird."

--Tom Shields

APRIL MEETING

On Friday evening, April 27, the regular monthly meeting of the Brooks Bird Club was held in the club house at Oglebay Park. The scheduled assigned paper and the two optional ones were very interesting and well prepared. A detailed report of the Niles bird trip was given jointly by Harold Bergner and Tom Shields. The club voted to extend an invitation to the Cleveland Bird Club and a group of girls from the Bethany Y. W. C. A., who were in camp for Sunday, April 29, to attend the five o'clock walk. Tom Shields, editor of The Redstart, again announced that all contributions worthy of printing would be gladly accepted. After the meeting we adjourned to the Alford-Mercer cottage and listened to recorded bird songs. We all wish to thank our chairman, John Handlan, who made this possible. Eighteen members and one guest, Mrs. Charles Doepken, were present.

--Charles Conrad

FIELD TESTS PASSED

Mrs. A. B. Brooks and Misses Nelle Mercer and Polly Alford on May 7 successfully passed that part of the "Redstart" tests of the Brooks Bird Club which calls for identification of bird songs in the field. A. B. Brooks was leader and designated the bird songs and calls to be recorded. Thirty-eight birds were designated by the leader and each of the three correctly designated 35 birds by call or song. None of the three "missed" the same birds, the examiner said.

--John Handlan

YOUNGSTOWN DISTRICT MIGRATION LIST

We are pleased to print below the migration list for Trumbull County, Ohio, compiled by the late G. L. Fordyce. The dates were reached by averaging first arrival records.

Feb. 15 Robin	April 28 Chimney Swift
Feb. 18 Bluebird	April 28 Catbird
Feb. 28 Bronzed Grackle	April 28 Ovenbird
March 2 Red-winged Blackbird	April 28 Tree Swallow
March 2 Flicker	April 29 House Wren
March 4 Song Sparrow	April 29 Crested Flycatcher
March 7 Fox Sparrow	April 29 Md. Yellow-throat
March 9 Meadowlark	April 30 Baltimore Oriole
March 13 Phoebe	April 30 Warbling Vireo
March 17 Towhee	April 30 Yellow Warbler
March 23 Golden-crowned Kinglet	May 2 Bobolink
March 24 Vesper Sparrow	May 3 Orchard Oriole
March 24 Field Sparrow	May 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
March 24 Belted Kingfisher	May 4 Grasshopper Sparrow
March 31 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	May 4 Olive-backed Thrush
March 31 Hermit Thrush	May 5 White Crowned Sparrow
April 1 Brown Creeper	May 5 Scarlet Tanager
April 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	May 5 American Redstart
April 6 Chipping Sparrow	May 8 Indigo Bunting
April 6 Cedar Waxwing	May 8 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
April 7 Brown Thrasher	May 8 Nighthawk
April 9 Barn Swallow	May 9 Kingbird
April 10 Rusty Blackbird	May 11 Ruby-th. Hummingbird
April 14 Louisiana Water-Thrush	May 11 Cliff Swallow
April 14 Red-headed Woodpecker	May 12 Red-eyed Vireo
April 16 Purple Martin	May 14 Veery
April 17 Bank Swallow	May 15 Wood Pewee
April 19 White-throated Sparrow	May 16 Black-billed Cuckoo
April 25 Whip-poor-will	May 17 Yellow-bellied
April 27 Wood Thrush	Flycatcher

Dates should not vary more than ten days in any year. Year round residents are not listed. Warblers migrate from about April 20 to May 20.

JIM HANDLAN ACTIVE

Forty-one species of birds were recorded near Morgantown, W. Va. on May 5 by Jim Handlan, Jr., active member of the Brooks Bird Club and a student at West Virginia University. A copy of his field list for the day shows that he recorded nine Wood Warblers. These are: Yellow, Louisiana Water-thrush, Black and White, American Redstart, Hooded, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Ovenbird and Yellow-breasted Chat. He writes that Purple Finches were abundant in the region in which he made his list and that he recorded, among other interesting species, the Blue-headed Vireo.

--John Handlan

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER SEEN

Record of the Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica d. dominica*, was established for Oglebay Park during the first of the mid-week public field trips on Wednesday, May 16. The observers were Mr. A. B. Brooks, Mr. Tagg and Mr. J. W. Handlan, none of whom had recorded the species previously. The bird was observed in the large Hackberry tree near the rear of the Oglebay Park mansion at close range through 8x glasses. The specimen under observation appeared to have the yellow mark before the eye which distinguishes it from its own sub-specific form, the Sycamore Warbler.

The Yellow-throated Warbler is a Mississippi Valley form and so far as is known here the species has been recorded but once before in West Virginia. The find constitutes an Oglebay Park record, Mr. Brooks says.

--John Handlan

The Editor wishes to thank those who helped in the preparation of this paper.
