



# The Redstart

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Edited by Tom Shields

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## JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the Brooks Bird Club will be held Friday, June 15, at the Oglebay Park Camp Lobby at 7. p.m. The papers for discussion will be:

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| "Herons, Bitterns and their Allies" - by Margery Coffield |                        |
| "Wood Warblers" - by Charles Conrad                       |                        |
| Also an optional paper                                    | - by Mrs. A. B. Brooks |

The Bird Club members will be host to the students of the Nature Training School, inasmuch as they will be in session at the Park at the time of the meeting.

## WELCOME!

It is a pleasant privilege to speak for the Brooks Bird Club in extending to Staff and Students of the Seventh Nature Training School a warm welcome and best wishes for success in nature study. The Brooks Bird Club really had its beginnings in past Nature Training Schools through which was generated the interest which crystallized in the organization and activities of the Club. We can express no more sincere wish than that the present School will inspire many of its members to inquire more closely into the lives of wild birds.

May you have "good hunting!" May you enjoy to its utmost the splendid comradeship of the council fire!

—John W. Handlan, Chairman  
The Brooks Bird Club

## SOME ORNITHOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE NATURE SCHOOL

The students and staff of the Oglebay Park Nature Training School, which is holding its seventh annual session this year, have contributed several valuable ornithological notes during this time.

Some of the more outstanding ones are mentioned below:

On June 10, 1932, Clarence Momnier and Clyde Upton found a nest of the Blue-winged Warbler near a branch of Wheeling Creek above the Cedar Rocks Country Club. The nest contained four young. It was on the ground in deep woods. The nest was photographed on the following day, and was seen by many of the students of the Nature School. Russell West found a nest of the species near Wheeling, in May, 1921, but did not publish the record. These are the only two nests of this bird known to have been found in West Virginia.

During the Terra Alta Camp of 1932 the Nature School went to study life forms at the Cranesville Swamp. On June 22 Millard Griffin saw a "strange-looking" owl sitting in a little hemlock tree. R. L. Fricke of the Carnegie Museum, one of the staff, and several of the students, visited the spot and captured this bird with a butterfly net. It proved to be a young Saw-whet Owl. This established the first state breeding record for the species. The Owl died and was mounted for the Carnegie Museum.

At the time of the same camp a trip was made to Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley, by way of Red House, Maryland. During a stop at Red House, on June 24, Dr. Iven Fawcett and B. Stewart found the nest of a Bobolink in a meadow near the road. The nest was photographed. It contained four young birds. This place is close to the West Virginia line. A year later, when the Nature School was again camped at Terra Alta, a group of students went in search of the Bobolink in West Virginia. Those who went to Aurora, 10 miles south of Terra Alta, found this bird common about the meadows there, and were told by Miss Fannie Beechy, a local authority, that the Bobolink remained through the summer. This does not establish a breeding record for West Virginia but it indicates where one is likely to be made.

While visiting Canaan Valley, on June 27, 1933, several Eastern Purple Finches were seen. R. L. Fricke took a male bird whose condition indicated the breeding of the species there. Further search might result in the finding of a nest in this Valley, which is considerably south of the breeding range of this bird as given in the A.O.U. Check-list.

In 1932, at Terra Alta, the Nature School students found 23 nests of 20 species of birds, including the Canada Warbler, Ovenbird, Redstart, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Swamp Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, and Least Flycatcher. In 1933 fewer occupies nests were found on account of the later season, but the total number of birds recorded exceeded that of the previous year. In 1932, the list included 91 species, and in 1933, 106 species.

In addition to the records made during Nature School sessions, records of local interest have been made by members of the staff and student body between sessions: A Gray-cheeked Thrush, which had been crippled, was picked up by Russell West, during the spring of 1932, and brought to a Sunday morning bird walk; a Semipalmated Sandpiper, observed at Beech Bottom by members of the local bird club, was taken, with a Solitary Sandpiper and a Lesser Yellow-legs on September 4, 1933; an Orange-crowned Warbler, which had killed itself by flying against a window of the Steinmetz home in Wheeling, on May 12, 1933, was picked up and handed to Clyde Upton. The Orange-crown and the Semipalmated Sandpiper had not been previously reported for West Virginia. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was taken near Clinton on May 17, 1934, by Karl Haller. On May 16, 1934, John Handlan, A. B. Brooks and Mr. Tighe saw a Yellow-throated Warbler in Oglebay Park, this being, probably, the second or third state record. On May 26, 1934, Tom Shields found a nest of the Savannah Sparrow breeding in West Virginia.

Note: The Yellow-throated Warbler referred to may have been the Sycamore Warbler. All the species above mentioned which were taken were sent for identification verification to Dr. Oberholser, of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey.

—A. B. Brooks

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CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Brooks Bird Club is broadening to the extent of including corresponding members on their roll. Letters will be mailed to various bird students who are interested in our club, inviting them to join us. Corresponding members will receive copies of The Redstart and will have the privilege of submitting notes for publication in this journal. They will also be invited to attend our meetings and field trips.

—Tom Shields

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NILES BIRD CLUB

Miss Dolores Noss has resigned her position as secretary of this club, because she is changing her location to Sacramento, California. Mr. Ralph Tucke, 135 Summit Avenue, Niles, Ohio, will act as secretary.

—Tom Shields

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STATE NESTING RECORD

Several West Virginia ornithologists have believed for some time that the Eastern Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*) nests in West Virginia, but until recently their beliefs had not been sustained by any nesting records. The Savannah Sparrow has been seen at several points in this state during the spring and summer months, but searches for its nest have proved fruitless.

However, on May 26, 1934, I had the good fortune to find the nest of an Eastern Savannah Sparrow at Oglebay Park. The nest was just a small, cup-like depression in the ground, lined with grasses. It contained 5 eggs which were quite small. Four of the eggs presented a very pale brown appearance, and were washed with cinnamon-brown, particularly about the large end. The other egg had a tinge of blue along with the pale brown, and the washing was more pronounced on it. No other eggs were added to the nest later.

Mr. A. B. Brooks took photographs of the nest on May 27. He expects to take some more pictures of it after the young are hatched.

This nesting record is the first of this species for West Virginia, and it extends the southern breeding range of the bird several hundred miles. The nest was found at an elevation of approximately 1,250 feet above sea level, one of the highest points in the immediate vicinity.

—Tom Shields

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER COLLECTED

From the field notes of Karl Maller:

Date taken - May 17, 1934

Place - Bethany Pike at Lake Avalon, near Wheeling, W. Va.

Sex - Adult male

Size - About as large as a Field Sparrow or a Black-poll Warbler.

Remarks - The bill is flat and the lower mandible is yellowish and the upper one black. It has a yellow throat and belly. The breast and sides are grayish. The second to fifth primaries of the wing are of equal length; the first is shorter than the fifth. The wing bars are creamy.

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MAY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Brooks Bird Club was held in the new club room at Oglebay Park on Friday evening, May 25. The assigned paper of the evening, "Loons and Grebes", which was prepared and read by Harold Bergner, proved very interesting to the members present. "The Sapsuckers" by Polly Alford was written mostly from her own field study, while a paper by Mr. A. B. Brooks entitled "My Experiences with Pet Birds", was entirely based on personal experiences with his various pet birds since boyhood. The business period of the meeting was taken up with the report of the Executive Committee on the appointment of a committee on corresponding memberships. Most all of the members turned in their Spring Migration lists to the Executive Committee to compile. All of the members received a copy of "A Check-List of West Virginia Birds" by P. C. Bibbee. This was made possible thru the efforts of our chairman, John W. Handlan. The attendance was very good with twenty-four present, including several guests, one a member of the Triadelphia Bird Club.

—George Flower

## BROOKS BIRD CLUB 1934 MIGRATION LIST

UPPER OHIO VALLEY

The following list was compiled from records of competent members of the Brooks Bird Club. Dates shown are first arrival dates.

## ORDER V. CICONIFORMES

Heron and Bitterns

Eastern Green Heron	April 18
American Bittern	" 1

## ORDER VI. ANSERIFORMES

Ducks, Geese, and Swans.

Common Mallard	March 24
Blue-winged Teal	April 7
Lesser Scaup Duck	" 5

## ORDER IX. GRUIFORMES

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots.

Virginia Rail	May 6
American Coot	April 7

## ORDER X. CHARADRIIFORMES

Woodcock, Snipe, Sandpipers, Etc.

Woodcock	March 26
Wilson's Snipe	" 24
Spotted Sandpiper	April 21
Eastern Solitary Sandpiper	" 28
Lesser Yellow-legs	" 28

## ORDER XI. COLUMBIFORMES

Pigeons and Doves

Eastern Mourning Dove	March 25
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## ORDER XIII. CUCULIFORMES

Cuckoos, Anis, Etc.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	May 12
Black-billed Cuckoo	May 12

## ORDER XV. CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Nighthawks, Whip-poor-wills, Etc.

Eastern Whip-poor-will	May 5
Eastern Nighthawk	May 11

## ORDER XVI. MICROPODIFORMES

Swifts

Chimney Swift	April 16
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Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	May 13
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## ORDER XIX. PASSERIFORMES

Flycatchers.

Kingbird	May 11
Northern Crested Flycatcher	May 1
Eastern Phoebe	March 17
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	May 17
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Acadian Flycatcher	May 8
Least Flycatcher	May 6
Eastern Wood Pewee	May 6

Swallows.

Tree Swallow	April 28
Bank Swallow	" 18
Rough-winged Swallow	" 21
Barn Swallow	" 7
Purple Martin	March 16

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch	April 8
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Wrens

House Wren	April 6
Bewick's Wren	April 7

Thrashers, Mockingbirds, Etc.

Catbird April 27  
Brown Thrasher " 17

Thrushes, Bluebirds, Etc.

Wood Thrush April 22  
Eastern Hermit Thrush April 8  
Olive-backed Thrush May 6  
Veery May 13

Old-World Warblers, Kinglets  
and Gnatcatchers.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers April 22  
Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet April 8

Shrikes

Migrant Shrike March 22

Vireos

Yellow-throated Vireo May 5  
Blue-headed Vireo " 5  
Red-eyed Vireo " 6  
Eastern Warbling Vireo April 29

Wood Warblers

Black & White Warbler April 29  
Worm-eating Warbler April 29  
Golden-winged Warbler May 20  
Blue-winged Warbler April 28  
Tennessee Warbler May 11  
Nashville Warbler May 5  
Northern Parula Warbler May 12  
Eastern Yellow Warbler April 25  
Magnolia Warbler May 6  
Cape May Warbler May 12  
Black-throated Blue Warbler May 2  
Myrtle Warbler April 28  
Black-throated Green Warbler April 27  
Cerulean Warbler May 3

Blackburnian Warbler May 2  
Yellow-throated Warbler " 16  
Chestnut-sided Warbler April 28  
Bay-breasted Warbler May 11  
Black Poll Warbler May 12  
Palm Warbler " 2  
Oven-bird " 12  
Northern Water-Thrush " 13  
Louisiana Water-Thrush April 6  
Kentucky Warbler May 4  
Maryland Yellow-throat " 4  
Yellow-breasted Chat " 1  
Hooded Warbler " 6  
Canada Warbler " 12  
American Redstart April 29

Meadowlarks, Blackbirds,  
and Orioles

Bobolink May 5  
Eastern Red-winged Blackbird March 17  
Orchard Oriole May 5  
Baltimore Oriole April 29  
Cowbird March 18

Tanagers

Scarlet Tanager May 2

Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows  
and Buntings

Rose-breasted Grosbeak May 11  
Indigo Bunting " 6  
Eastern Purple Finch April 7  
Eastern Savannah Sparrow April 7  
Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow April 7  
Eastern Vesper Sparrow March 31  
Eastern Chipping Sparrow March 31  
Field Sparrow March 24  
White-crowned Sparrow April 24  
White-throated Sparrow April 23  
Swamp Sparrow April 8