



# The Redstart

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Edited by J. W. Handlan

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## AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION MEETS AT PITTSBURGH

by  
Ruth Trimble

The fifty-fourth annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 19-22. The program will open Tuesday, October 20, in the lecture hall of the Museum at 10:00 a. m. Sessions will be held both Wednesday and Thursday, mornings and afternoons, as well. Papers to be presented will include both technical and popular discussions and many of them will be illustrated by slides and motion pictures. These meetings will be open to the public, which is invited to hear the leading ornithologists of America discuss developments in their interesting field of natural history.

The American Ornithologists' Union has a membership of 2,000, drawn from all parts of the United States and Canada, and several hundred are expected to attend this meeting. The local committee anticipates, particularly, a representative attendance from the general Pittsburgh area, including northern West Virginia and eastern Ohio. The meeting will mark the second time the A. O. U. has met in Pittsburgh, the last occasion having been in 1934.

The annual banquet is an attractive feature, scheduled for the night of Wednesday, October 21, at the Hotel Schenley. Dr. George M. Sutton, of Bethany, curator of birds at Cornell University, will serve as toastmaster for this occasion.

On Friday, October 23, visiting ornithologists will be given an opportunity to go to Pymatuning Lake, to inspect the new wildlife sanctuary and observe waterfowl migration. This excursion is being sponsored by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Audubon Society of the Sewickley Valley. Details are to be announced at the meeting.

A special exhibit for display during the A. O. U. meeting, is a loan collection of memorabilia of Dr. Jared P. Kirtland, pioneer ornithologist of Ohio. This will consist of books, portraits, letters, manuscripts and specimens, being assembled by Mr. Bayard H. Christy of Sewickley. Another special feature will be a collection of Dr. George M. Sutton's original paintings of birds of Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. W. E. Clyde Tood, Curator of Ornithology of the Carnegie Museum, and Fellow of the A.O.U., is chairman of the local committee on arrangements.

Dept. of Ornithology  
The Carnegie Museum  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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#### BIRDS RECORDED IN THE REGION OF RICHWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA

by  
Harold Bergner

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The annual mountain camping trip of the Ninth Oglebay Park Nature Training School was centered at Camp Woodbine, Nicholas County, West Virginia, about eight miles from Richwood, the county seat, and very near the Webster County line. Staff and students of the school were in camp June 29 to July 12, inclusive and, in addition to biological field work in the general area indicated, on several occasions worked the famous Cranberry Glades of Pocahontas County.

One hundred and two species of birds were listed during the camp and, considering the season in which the records were made, these presumably are all resident forms. The West Virginia state list includes 289 species and sub-species known to occur, or to have occurred within the state.

In contrast to an imposing total of nests and nesting species listed during the 1935 camp in Randolph County, the 1936 expedition found only thirty-two nests, representing thirteen species. The comparatively later dates upon which the 1936 camp was held undoubtedly played a part in holding to a low figure the total nests found and species found nesting.

The general character of the region in which the lists were made is somewhat indicated by the presence on the record of such birds as the Great Blue Heron, Ruffed Grouse, Barred Owl, Great-horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, Ravens, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch and Swamp Sparrow.

In the accompanying list of the birds recorded during the camping period, the technical names are omitted to conserve space and, in some cases, because of uncertainty as to race.

Great Blue Heron	Hermit Thrush
Green Heron	Olive-backed Thrush
Turkey Vulture	Veery
Red-tailed Hawk	Bluebird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Broad-winged Hawk	Cedar Waxwing
Marsh Hawk	Starling
Sparrow Hawk	White-eyed Vireo
Cooper's Hawk	Blue-headed Vireo
Ruffed Grouse	Red-eyed Vireo
Bob-white	Black and White Warbler
Killdeer	Golden-winged Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Nashville Warbler
Woodcock	Northern Parula Warbler
Mourning Dove	Magnolia Warbler
Cuckoo (sp?)	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Great-horned Owl	Black-throated Green Warbler
Barred Owl	Cerulean Warbler
Whip-poor-will	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Chimney Swift	Ovenbird
Ruby-throated Hummer	Louisiana Waterthrush
Belted Kingfisher	Northern Waterthrush (subsp.?)
Flicker	Kentucky Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Mourning Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Maryland Yellowthroat
Downy Woodpecker	Yellow-breasted Chat
Alder Flycatcher	Hooded Warbler
Acadian Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Crested Flycatcher	Canada Warbler
Kingbird	Blackburnian Warbler
Wood Pewee	American Redstart
Least Flycatcher	English Sparrow
Prairie Horned Lark	Meadowlark
Bank Swallow	Grackle (subsp.?)
Barn Swallow	Cowbird
Blue Jay	Scarlet Tanager
Crow	Cardinal
Raven	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-capped Chickadee	Indigo Bunting
Tufted Titmouse	Purple Finch
White-breasted Nuthatch	Foldfinch
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Red-eyed Towhee
Brown Creeper	Savannah Sparrow
House Wren	Vesper Sparrow
Winter Wren	Carolina Junco
Carolina Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Bewick's Wren	Field Sparrow
Catbird	Swamp Sparrow
Brown Thrasher	Song Sparrow
Robin	Grasshopper Sparrow
Wood Thrush	

420 Warwood Avenue,  
Wheeling, W. Va.

## INSPECTION OF THE SUTTON COLLECTION

Dr. George M. Sutton, curator of birds for Cornell University, N. Y., on the evening of September 16, 1936, was host to active members of the Brooks Bird Club and their guests at the home of his parents at Bethany, West Virginia.

During the evening, Dr. Sutton exhibited his personal collection of birds taken in West Virginia and explained his methods of preparing and preserving the skins.

On September 19, a dozen club members had the interesting experience of accompanying Dr. Sutton on a collecting trip in Beech Bottom Swamp. Many of the amateurs present never before had seen birds taken in the field.

The fact that the day's collecting included the taking of especially interesting specimens added much to the experience for those present on the field trip. Announcement of the birds taken is, of course, left to Dr. Sutton's pleasure.

-- The Editor

## FIELD NOTES

Solitary Sandpiper at Wheeling, West Virginia.: On September 17, 1936, Mr. Frank Matugo, of R 2240 $\frac{1}{2}$  Main Street, Wheeling, West Virginia, brought to Oglebay Park a badly crippled example of Solitary Sandpiper, Tringa solitaria, which he said he had seen fly into a wire near his home about five o'clock p. m. on the previous evening. The bird had suffered a badly broken wing and was very emaciated and in generally poor condition. J. W. Handlan killed the bird and later gave the specimen to Dr. George M. Sutton, of Bethany, who disposed of it after determining that it would be impossible to make a good skin of it. Dr. Sutton pointed out that the scar tissue over the break in the wing indicated an injury to the member before the bird had completed its misfortune by striking the wire. This old injury may have been responsible for the second accident, in part at least.

-- J. W. Handlan

Great-horned Owl in Belmont County, Ohio: On October 6, 1936, a grade school student appeared at the door of my classroom and asked if I "wanted an owl." Presuming it was another Screech Owl, I said "No," but was surprised to see the child produce a large bundle. The Owl proved to be a Great-horned Owl, Bubo virginianus, which had been shot the previous evening near Lansing, Belmont County, Ohio. A skin of the bird was prepared and is now in the collection of the Bridgeport High School, Bridgeport, Ohio.

-- Paulinebelle Wyss  
Bridgeport, Ohio

Nesting of the Mockingbird in Washington County, Pennsylvania.:

The nest of a Mockingbird, Mimus p. polyglottos, was found near Hickory, Washington County, Pa., in the Spring of 1936 by Mr. J. S. Pates. Mr. Pates was well acquainted with the species at his former home in Kentucky. Miss Virginia Lewis and I visited the nest April 6, 1936, and found it to be built of weed-stems, rootlets, lined with horsehair, fine grass, a few bits of wool and a piece of string. The nest contained four bluish-green eggs, which were spotted and blotched with shades of brown. The location was in a partly-dead plum tree.

Two adult Mockingbirds in the vicinity were easily identified and, on July 11, upon return to the nest for purposes of photography, I found an adult again brooding four eggs. The adults were remarkably fearless and came within arm's reach as I set up the camera at the nest.

-- Thomas John  
Washington, Pa.

The Lark Sparrow in Hampshire County, W. Va.: Sunday morning, July 19, while walking at Stump's Grove, along the South Branch of the Potomac, in Hampshire County, West Virginia, I saw an adult Lark Sparrow, Chondestes g. grammacus feeding a young bird. The fledgling was in a small tree near the highway and the adult went to it frequently, with food. The inference is that the species nested in the vicinity, as the young bird apparently could not have traveled far from the nest.

-- I. B. Boggs  
Morgantown, W. Va.

Races of the Song Sparrow and House Wren in West Virginia: There have been returned to me, recently, certain specimens of the Song Sparrow and the House Wren sent for determination to the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. Six specimens from the northern Panhandle of West Virginia were identified as Melospiza melodia melodia, the Eastern Song Sparrow, as were two collected in Preston County, West Virginia. Nine others, taken in Monongalia, Preston, Pocahontas and other central counties were determined to be M. m. beata, the Mississippi Song Sparrow. Dr. H. C. Oberholzer made the identifications, but said they should be regarded as tentative because of the confusion of literature on Song Sparrows in the eastern States.

Five House Wrens taken in the Eastern half of West Virginia, all were determined to be Troglodytes domesticus baldwini.

-- Karl Haller  
Morgantown, W. Va.

Editor's Note: Four March Song Sparrows, taken at Oglebay Park, Ohio County, West Virginia in 1932 by Dr. Max Peet were found by Mr. W. E. C. Todd, of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, to be referable to M. m. beata, whereas all of Haller's birds taken in the Northern Panhandle, of which Ohio County is a part, proved to be M. m. melodia (REDSTART, III, No. 6, p. 46, March, 1936).

A Field Trip in Northwestern Pennsylvania: Messrs. Maurice Brooks, Abe Margolin and I, on June 1-4, 1936, visited the Pymatuning Lake and Erie Bay areas in Northwestern Pennsylvania. At Erie Bay, on June 2, we found a small flock of Ruddy Turnstones which had lingered beyond the usual migration period. We found a nest of the Piping Plover at Gull Point where the "peep, peep," of this little shore denizen was heard on every hand. In the same vicinity were scores of Common Terns whose nests were plentiful upon the beach. A solitary Knot was found in the same vicinity. "Peeps" were numerous as were Ring-billed Gulls, Herring Gulls, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Least Bitterns, Northern Yellowthroats and other warblers. We found many true nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wrens, as well as decoy nests.

June 3 was a red-letter day for us at Pymatuning. We visited the rookery of the Black-crowned Night Herons where more than forty nests were evident, both eggs and young being noted. This rookery is west of Linesville and in the opposite direction the Great Blue Herons were nesting. Along the bank separating the two reservoirs we found a King Rail feeding, to our surprise and pleasure.

Ducks were plentiful on the open lake and the inlets where they were feeding. Before the day closed we listed a dozen species; Mallard, Black, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood, Redhead, Ring-necked, Scaup, American Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy. Nests of the Mallard and Blue-winged Teal were found, both containing eggs. Young Blacks and Mallards were on the lake.

Another interesting find of the day was a nest of the American Bittern, containing four eggs and two young. This was shown to us by a Mr. McQuiston, of Sharon, Pennsylvania.

Black Terns were fishing on some parts of the lake and the borders of the lake were alive with Warblers. We noted, also, the Least, Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers and an occasional Veery serenaded us.

During the four-day field trip, one hundred and thirty species were listed, the most interesting of them, to us, mentioned above. Pymatuning is a paradise for nature enthusiasts, and promises to be of more interest from year to year.

-- I. B. Boggs  
Morgantown, W. Va.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

The A. O. U. Meeting; It is hoped that as many members of The Brooks Bird Club as possible will be able to attend, part at least, of the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Pittsburgh, October 19-22. Virtually all active members of the Brooks club, it is realized, find it next to impossible to be free for mid-week activities covering several days. On the other hand, it may be years before a meeting of the A. O. U. occurs in such close proximity to the homes of the majority of the active membership and contact with this organization would be well-worth personal sacrifice on our part.

As tentatively planned, there will be both technical and popular sessions, starting on October 20, the first day of the meeting to be given over to business sessions, elections, etc. The meeting will conclude with a field trip to Pymatuning Lake on October 23, Friday.

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The Redstart is distributed free to all members of The Brooks Bird Club. Active Members (elected to membership) pay annual dues of \$1.00. Corresponding Members (membership upon application) pay annual dues of 50 cents.

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