REPORT
OF THE
BROOKS
BIRD CLUB
FORAY

LOST RIVER STATE PARK, W. VA.
JUNE 15-22, 1940
This report is dedicated
by the Brooks Bird Club to:

THE WEST VIRGINIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

All members of the 1940 Brooks Bird Club Foray were experienced campers. So it was with the greatest of anticipation that the expedition was planned for Lost River State Park. We had all been accustomed to spend at least part of our vacation time in tents. It might be that we are getting older, but the fact is, that after the Foray, many of the members went on to other camps and slept under canvas.

The comfort and convenience of the cabins in Lost River State Park indicated the thought and care which has been given to the formulation of a state park program. Not only were we pleased with the accommodations available, but we were more than pleased with the cooperation given us by everyone connected with the Division of State Parks.

During our weeks of planning and preparation, we received much help from those in the office in Charleston. A number of letters were promptly answered and information was given over the telephone which enabled us to complete our plans without difficulty. These few paragraphs are words of thanks to the headquarters in Charleston and all others connected with the division. We hope that our conduct justified their confidence.

Before the group arrived at the park, the Ranger had his crew working so everything was in proper order for our reception. It must have been a lot of work for these boys, but they did not object. The Park Ranger, Mr. George F louer gave us the finest help that we could possibly expect. His wife and young son did much to make our stay enjoyable.

Our thanks go also to Mr. Andrew Eye, the Park Superintendent. Not only did he do everything that his position demanded, but went out of his way to see that we were properly supplied with our necessities. His careful records in the office helped to make financial settlement unusually easy.

While plans have not been outlined for the activities of the Brooks Bird Club for 1941, we hope that the success of the Foray during 1940 will have created an impression upon all those connected with the Division of State Parks so that they will be willing to accept us again at Lost River or at one of the other state parks.

An effort has been made by the Bird Club through their publicity to help advertise the state park system. Personal contact with many individuals after the Foray helped in this campaign. We hope that the publicity has been of value and will help to give the public a better appreciation of a very fine state service.

The Brooks Bird Club.
LOST RIVER STATE PARK

The park is located in Hardy County, West Virginia, near the Virginia border. Moorefield, West Virginia and Harrisonburg, Virginia are the principal bases for supplies.

At its lowest point, the park is 1950 feet above sea level. This is where the Howards Lick Run flows toward Mathias, West Virginia. The highest point is on Big Ridge which reaches to 3250 feet above sea level. The 3500 acres are heavily wooded throughout. Few roads cut through the woods and these are mostly typical mountain roads, sometimes impassable for cars.

The country is very wild - probably as "untainted" as can be found in the eastern part of the country. Yet nestled down in the center of the park is the cabin area. Like a little town, the log cabins are strung along a gravelled roadway. The cabins are set off from the road and isolated from one another in the trees. Yet each of them is fully equipped with every convenience that goes to make life easier and more pleasant.

The cabins are well constructed. They are warm and comfortable and the park staff keeps them in good condition at all times.

To spend a week in Lost River State Park is like turning back time for a hundred years and residing in a small settlement in the forest. Yet this is with practically all the conveniences that one would find at home. Visitors come to the park with plans for tennis, swimming, parties, etc. but when their week is over they discover that instead, they have spent most of their time just enjoying life. The quiet sounds of the woods, the rustle of the leaves in the trees, the songs of the birds and the rippling of the streams quiet one's nerves and give complete relaxation. Sleep comes early and it is restful on the fine beds that are furnished.

From the cabin area, trails radiate over the near-by hills, giving about ten miles of pleasant walking. Several of these trails lead to high spots in the park, where the view is found to be incomparable.

The area has always been a favorite tramping grounds for hunters and fishermen. The hunters especially have found these hills to their liking. The mammal list included in this report shows only those which were observed by the members of the Foray, but does not include such creatures as bear which are reported as being, or at least as having been common.

The reaction of the Foray group to their reception and treatment at Lost River State Park is indicative of the reaction of all visitors. We had spent a week in the hills and were discussing plans for 1941. The vote was for a return to Lost River - and for two weeks instead of one. This despite the fact that West Virginia has other parks which are reputed to be as fine as the one we had been visiting.

Any member of the 1940 Foray group will whole-heartedly recommend Lost River State Park as one of the finest places in the world to spend a vacation.

---Russell West
113 Edgewood St.,
Wheeling, W. Va.
Thirty-one members of the Foray today converged upon Lost River State Park. Two from Morgantown and one from Romney were unexpected week-end visitors. Of the remainder, three presumably started late today from Lakewood, Ohio, with the intention of joining us at noon tomorrow; and the others represented Youngstown and Covington, Ohio and Buckhannon, Charleston, Chester, Huntington and Wheeling, West Virginia.

Six cars left from Wheeling after a morning of showers and overcast skies while car drivers picked up passengers and packed equipment and personal baggage. Shortly after 1 p.m. the last of these cars had left Wheeling. It developed that all drivers selected the Morgantown, Mount Storm, Petersburg route to Moorefield and Lost River State Park. We drove under ideal conditions of cool weather and overcast skies and, quite without plan, most of us met in Moorefield about 7 p.m.

Those who never before had visited Lost River Park immediately experienced two thrills. The first was the experience of "crossing the mountain" with its attendant view of the Devil's Basin and other magnificent scenery along this steep route. The second came when they had opportunity to inspect the splendid cabins which are to be occupied for the next week, this after our arrival at the Park shortly before 8 o'clock.

There we were joined by Mr. & Mrs. George Flouer and their son, Jack, by Polly Handlan who had been a guest of the Flouters the preceding week and three Club members whose presence was as pleasant as it was unexpected -- Helen Howell, Bill Bierer and Chet Shaffer.

Chef Bert Cromes and his helper, Chip Bennett, had arrived at the Park with Mr. & Mrs. Charles Conrad somewhat later than had been anticipated and dinner -- originally announced for 8 p.m. -- was postponed an hour in consequence. In the meantime most of us took advantage of a chance to unpack and become settled in our new homes.

Russ West's car, with Byrne Waterman and Paul Palmer as passengers, had not yet arrived when we began dinner at 9 o'clock. Our concern for this group ended with a telephone call from Russ explaining that his car had suffered a mechanical breakdown and was parked in a Moorefield garage for a stay of several days. Helen Howell and George Flouer, two of a number of volunteers for the "rescue" of the stranded trio, already had started for Moorefield when a second phone message told us that a Good Samaritan of that town was bringing the three "over the mountain" via truck.

In the meantime, we were consuming vast quantities of hot roast beef, roast potatoes and all the trimmings. Whip-poor-wills provided music for our first meal in the Park. After dinner a general get-together in Cabin 14-B served as a reception for the three late arrivals. The last sound of which most of us were conscious tonight was that of a heavy rainfall which seemed literally to drown out even the persistent Whip-poor-wills.

Weather: Cool and overcast; rain late in the evening.

Temperature: At Lost River Park, 7 p.m. - 72 degrees.
Sunday, June 16, 1940.

We woke today to a wet world. It obviously had rained all night and a drizzle of rain fell intermittently as we assumed slickers and overshoes as the uniform of the day and gathered at Cabin 16 for the first breakfast of the Foray. Canned fruit, cereal, hot sausage and scrambled eggs, supplemented by bread, butter, apple butter and coffee and cocoa disappeared magically -- with "seconds" and "thirds" for anyone interested.

Mary D. Conrad (Mrs. Charles C.) announced a list of dining room helpers (a polite name for dish washers!). Director Chuck Conrad explained the simple rules and regulations for operation of the camp. Simmered down, these consisted, simply of: "Do as you like so far as your own time is concerned, but be on time for meals;" and "If you explore the Park or elsewhere beyond the 'developed' area, take at least one other person with you and leave word where you're headed and when you will return."

After breakfast today, everyone in the party was given a committee assignment, these ranging from collecting material for this journal to gathering wood for campfire purposes.

Four would-be cameramen moved about in search of material for photographs while most of the others undertook an exploration of the Sulphur Springs area and the Copse Cove Trail. The latter group returned with records of some excellent finds of birds' nests and ample evidence to back up individual opinions of the great abundance and variety of Wood Warblers in the Park.

Dinner at 1 p. m. was featured by another splendid menu and a father-and-son act in double talk. The latter made George Flouer grin with pride at the lingual accomplishments of his young son while the audience was convulsed by said son's efforts. By this time, Jack had made friends with all of us and performed all his parlor tricks -- including several bird imitations which were extra-special.

An afternoon of informal exploration of the Park by small groups, of experimenting with bicycle riding on the gravelled park roadways, and of swimming between showers of rain was succeeded by supper and the first campfire. This was held in Cabin 14-B and was directed by John Handlan. Nature observations volunteered by the group showed the splendid possibilities of the Park for nature study.

After meals today and during the campfire, we realized that this group can sing: Harold Bergner, always a competent song leader, showed that a year of work in music has made him even better in that capacity.

Our week-end visitors left us today, Helen Howell and Bill Bierer during the late afternoon and Chet Shaffer late tonight.

Weather: Cool, frequent showers, occasional periods of sunlight.

Temperature: 7 a. m., 64 degrees; noon, 80 degrees; 7 p. m., 70 degrees.

Monday, June 17, 1940.

Clyde E. Upton and Chuck Conrad were leaders today of the Foray's first organized field trips, from 6 to 8:30 a. m. Sixteen, including most of the party's least experienced in bird study were present for the field trips. Harold Olsen
complained bitterly about a forced early morning awakening. His cabin mates, it developed, employed such fiendish devices as the application of ice and over-turning of beds to bring about his thorough recovery from a sound and restful sleep.

High point of the morning hike:

Bergner (from rear of single file group on trail):  "Uppie, is this plant Venus' Looking Glass?"

Upton (at the head of the line): "Yes, that's what it is." (Aside to those near him) "I wouldn't know it even if it was plate glass!"

Peattie has described botanists as people who grub about with their eyes cast down among the lovely of the earth. The grubbers began to appear today with collections of tree-leaves, entire smaller plants, etc. Polly Brundmiller began a collection of insects; Maxine Thacker started the collecting of plant data; Dorothy Conrad made records of mammals seen by the group; Byrne Waterman found himself curator of "herptiles"; and the rest of us spent the day investigating bird life.

We continue to be struck by the virtual absence or the scarcity of birds we are accustomed to consider common species and the abundance of Wood Warblers which most of us see only in migrations near our homes.

George Flower drove a Park truck to Harrisonburg, Va. today on official errands and Chuck and Mary Kay went along to purchase food supplies for the Forey. They returned as we were consuming an excellent dinner which featured spectacularly large pork chops with "refills" more than ample for the particularly carnivorous members of the group!

In the meantime the rest of us spent the day in nature study, despite an almost steady rainfall. We added substantially to records in all fields in which we were interested.

Pete Chandler did a grand job of directing campfire at Cabin 14-B. He introduced to the startled campers the Foray Sympathy Orchestra, with the energetic George Arner as drum major. To the imminent danger of the audience's eyes and noses, Arner twirled an expert broom while his orchestra performed upon such instruments as the harmonica, coffee pot, brushes and a first-aid kit to say nothing of dish pans and a vegetable grater. The effects achieved were nothing short of spectacular; (some folks called it "diabolical." Pete and George said it was done without the use of mirrors.

Weather: Rain.

Temperature: 7 a. m., 62 degrees; noon, 73 degrees; 7 p. m., 68 degrees.

Tuesday, June 18, 1940.

Harold Olsen and Harold Bergner were field trip leaders early this a. m. At breakfast, Chip achieved prominence by a come-back to Russ' name for him -- which was something like: "remains of the work of a Pileated Woodpecker". Chip dubbed West: "Romeo" perhaps the most opprobrious epithet of which he could think without delving into his "men only" vocabulary.

After another morning of independent work on the Park trails, we successfully tangled with the noon-day chile con carne and salad, and spent the afternoon in more nature study -- or in sheer loafing. By this time we had become accustomed to showers of rain so that we paid no attention to them.
At dinner tonight, Mr. and Mrs. John Handlan had as their guest, Mr. Muldoon, a foreman of the CCC camp within the Park, who helped us in a thorough investigation of roast chicken, dressing, gravy and all the trimmings. He proved an interested and interesting guest and particularly enjoyed our singing, to which he himself contributed a good baritone voice.

All the Foray members are saluting the fine spirit displayed by Miss Julia Gombert. Not long before coming to Lost River, she had injured her leg but despite pain - and the required use of crutches - she carries on, contributing her cheery smile to each gathering. Miss Katherine Gombert and Miss Lois Law spend much of their time in Miss Julia's company.

Harold Olsen conducted tonight's campfire program in the picnic shelter, with Upton and this historian doing their best to make one flash-bulb do the work of two! (P. S. - Uppie left the slide over his film pack!) Pete Chandler's request brought an unexpected visitation upon the suffering customers when he asked for the old Nature School reunion "opry". Olsen, West, Chuck, Bergie and Handlan ripped it apart in their usual violent style while looks of incredulous horror spread over the faces of their victims. Otherwise, the campfire was a splendid success. Chip honored us by his presence at campfire tonight.

Mrs. West and Virginia Thayer continued their "razzing" of one another on their dish-washing abilities. Which reminds the writer that he never "heard" such K. P.'s before. "Heard" is used for the remark is concerning the vocal accomplishments of the gals during their half-hour's work in the dining room. The area around the cabin resounds with their voices for they sing all the time they are working.

Weather: Frequent showers.

Temperature: 7 a. m., 66 degrees; noon, 78 degrees; 7 p. m., 70 degrees.

Wednesday, June 18, 1940.

Breakfast was at 7 a. m. and afterwards, all of us but Mrs. West and the Misses Gombert and Lois Law headed for Big Ridge, with George Flouer as leader and guide. We parked our cars at the first big turn in the road and from there took out afoot over the Red Fox Trail toward the mountain crest. Chuck, Chip and Uppie set a murderous pace up the mountain and from time to time we called brief halts, to accommodate slower hikers or those who "botanized" along the way.

Once upon the ridge we went to the Cranny Crow Lookout shelter to enjoy the splendid view possible from that point, to take pictures and recover breath from the climb to the crest. From here most of us stopped at the picnic shelter for a short time, but Polly and John went ahead to the fire tower and were perched 80 feet above the ground in it when a typical mountain rainstorm drenched the ridge. After the storm, we used our glasses to see the others coming toward the tower along the ridge trail. Despite fast-moving storm clouds the view from this point was magnificent and cameras again were unlimbered for use.

All too soon we had to leave to make luncheon connections at 1 p. m. On the way down, one of the boys spotted a rattlesnake and some hikers stayed to finish it while the rest of us proceeded down over one of the steepest "trails" any of us had seen. We all arrived at its foot intact with the exception of Uppie who bruised his foot severely as he helped others down the difficult, rocky descent.
Incidentally, the rattler was skinned on the spot of its execution and the skin and carcass were brought back to camp. After luncheon, Professors Arner, Brandmiller and Thacker took part in a careful dissection of the rattler - the job being supervised by Curator Pete Chandler who also tanned the hide. An interesting find was a pair of fangs in the intestines of the snake, presumably its own, broken off in its last prey and swallowed by the snake. Six fertilized eggs were found in the reptile. The heart which had been placed in saline solution, still was beating strongly late tonight.

Mary Jones reported that she had discovered a fine combination: a warm afternoon, the lawn before cabin #14, a blanket, company, and the comings and goings of the Foray members each one with an interesting specimen or some comment on the observations made along the trail.

The "three little belles", Dorothy Conrad, Carolyn Conrad and Dorothy Neuhard frequently find themselves the subjects of the photographers. If these pictures do not turn out well, it is not the fault of the models!

"Willy" Wilson, of Moorefield and the CCC camp, was a dinner guest tonight while we consumed generous steaks but was unable to remain with us for the campfire. This, the final affair of the day, was conducted at the picnic shelter with Russ as leader. Among other interesting features, he introduced three new song leaders -- Mary Diemer Conrad, Leanne Cottle and Maxine Thacker.

A high point was Mack's statement:

"All right! 'I Want to Wake Up in the Morning'"

We all knew that she was naming a song but it was funny, anyhow!

Mabel achieved undying fame tonight at 14-B when she recited her version of an Indian story. At least she intended it to be her version but when the rest of the customers caught the cue offered by some of the ancients, Mabel was interrupted continuously. As a result her brief story consumed the better part of forty-five minutes.

Weather: Scattered showers, otherwise fair.

Temperature: 7. a. m., 66 degrees; noon, 82 degrees; 7 p. m., 72 degrees.

Thursday, June 20, 1940.

Breakfast again was served at 7 a. m. to allow most of the group an early start for Trout Pond, in the George Washington National Forest. Eleven of us remained in camp to work "on our own" while George Flouer led the National Forest Expedition. Some, hiked to Piney Ridge Lookout, which affords a view in some respects even finer than that from Cranny Crow, if more limited.

The out-of-camp expedition had a great time, its members reported upon their return in the late afternoon. Another rattlesnake which proved to be a fine male in good condition, was taken enroute to the pond. It seems worthy of mention that this snake did not employ its rattles until it was attacked by its finders. At the pond, perhaps the nearest approach in West Virginia to a natural lake, numerous observations of interest were made. One of these was the sight of literal hundreds of the water form of the Newt, of which a few examples were brought back to camp.

The Sinks of Lost River could not be noted by the party because of the
stream's heavy volume of water which, presumably discharged only partly into the Sinks, the surplus finding its way overland.

At Wardensville, members of the Trout Pond expedition were "shushed" as they introduced square dancing to one of that town's refreshment establishments. In the meantime Uppie, DeVinney and Handlan had conducted an independent visit to Wardensville and, with enerring instinct had ensconced themselves in the best refreshment place in that community. They lured only a few members of the larger group away from the original stopping point, however.

The story of the "shushing" is this: In the front of the building was a store while the back of the place was furnished with booths and a record-playing machine. The customers had gone into the back room ordered ice cream and as soon as the cones were consumed (and they were eating candy) the record-playing "gave forth" in response to the nickles in the slot. A square dance was started but before it had gotten far, the proprietor "shushed" the "noise". The dance was completed on tip-toes and without the assistance of a caller. After the dance, still on tip-toes, a snake dance was formed which paraded out through the store while each segment of the "snake" held one hand on the shoulder of the person in front of him while the other hand held a finger over the mouth.

Campfire tonight, our first outside effort, was held near the Sulphur Springs and was something special. Uppie conducted it and our guests included Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Eye, their daughter, Chungy, and a youthful niece; Lietu. John Fueg, commandant of the CCC camp and his wife; Superintendent Kaiser, of the CCC Camp; and Mr. Ben McCulla and Ben Jr. of Huntington.

The "orchestral" became a marching band tonight as part of a celebration of "West Virginia Day." Later, Pete Chandler, announced as planning to tell us of the geologic background of the regoin, shouted a long list of words composed chiefly of the technical names of salamanders -- to the complete mystification of most of the audience. Upton quelled this uprising with a bucket of water, for which Pete was prepared in a buttoned-up raincoat. Such innocent bystanders as Mrs. West and Ted were somewhat dampened by this climax. Chip still believes that Uppie and Pete aren't speaking to one another.

Every Foray effort so far has been a complete success and this includes the campfire programs. Frankenberg has general charge of these, seeing that someone is appointed as leader, that the fire is built and that it doesn't rain at the wrong time. He is doing a swell job.

A square dance, in the picnic shelter, followed campfire, with music by a band from the CCC camp.

George DeVinney achieved undying fame during the campfire aftermath when he proposed that we sing "Wagon Wheels" to "take the curse" off some of our nonsensical songs. His suggestion proved an immediate success and a number of encores established "Wagon Wheels" as tops in our repertoire.

Incidentally, it developed during the day that Mrs. West had hiked some seven miles and, unaccustomed to hiking as she is, emerged with colors flying -- less, apparently, than many younger and more experienced companions.

Weather: Fair.

Temperature: 7 a.m., 54 degrees; noon, 66 degrees; 7 p.m. 60 degrees.
Friday, June 21, 1940.

Russ West and John Handlan were leaders of today's 6 a.m. field trips -- starting out with three companions, each, with the thermometer registering 38 degrees. After breakfast, field work was resumed with some additional bird nests discovered, notably, one of Golden-winged Warblers and young, at the automobile parking space for Cabins 18 and 11. This nest, found by Polly, was so close to the driveway, it is a wonder no car had crushed it.

Mary Conrad left us at noon, enroute to Jackson's Mill, and at 4 p.m. we were deserted, also, by Leonne Cottle. (Yes, she was at Lost River, too. We hadn't mentioned her? Perhaps that's because we don't consort with nighthawks!) Russ and Harold and Leonne were "chauffeured" to Moorefield by Willy Wilson. There Russ secured his repaired car, with a pleasant surprise at the modest amount of the repair bill, and drove Harold and Leonne to Romney, from where Leonne was to take a bus for a visit to New York.

In many respects, the week's final campfire was our best. Because of the cold, we again went to the shelter. George Flouer was leader and our guests included the occupants of Cabin #9: Mr. & Mrs. Art Kelly, Misses Dorothy and Marcella Kelly, Joe Bott and Bob Kirchgessner. Mrs. McCulla and Ben, Jr. of Huntington were also present.

Reports from committee chairman frankly overwhelmed this historian who'd spent all his time on birds without realizing how thoroughly others had gone into other phases of nature study during the Foray. Exceptionally creditable reports were submitted tonight.

George Arner just about said it for all of us when he thanked all of us for helping him to enjoy the best week he'd ever had -- barring next year, when he expected to have an even better time for then he expected to know something about at least one phase of the out-of-doors.

Singing on the campfire program tonight was the best of the week. Perhaps it was the stimulus of the fine reports, of an appreciative number of guests, or just a natural desire to cut loose on the last night of the Foray. We did particularly well on "Wagon Wheels", everyone agreed. Chuck was at his dead-pan best when he climaxed our own version of "Old McDonald" with "Red sheep in the sunset!"

Uppe contributed his "sermon" after the campfire when we had all gathered closer to the flames. With this was an additional attraction, when Palmer did a "baptist" in accompaniment to the sermon. Paul held his hat over his heart, nodded at each point in the sermon and added "halleujahs" whenever Uppe stopped for a breath.

Marge and George Flouer were host and hostess at a wiener roast planned on the spur of the moment at Cabin 14-A. Devinney and Uppe capped the climax when they insisted that Paul Palmer visit them at #14-A and then they both promptly went to sleep leaving Paul to make his way home when ready!

Weather; Fair.

Temperature: 7 a.m., 44 degrees; noon, 62 degrees; 7 p.m., 52 degrees.

(The temperature given in this journal was taken at the hours designated by Mabel Hopwood.)
Saturday, June 22, 1940.

This was the final day of the foray and most of us slept in late, partly to atone for our late hours of the previous night and partly to brace ourselves for the long drive home. We were out of our cabins by 10 a.m., after volunteers had attended to dish-washing and removal of our kitchen equipment and left-over food supplies.

In the meantime, we sat about the table after breakfast to hold an open forum on experiences of the week and advance suggestions for improvements or for general plans looking toward a 1941 Foray. No agreements were decided by actual vote, but in general the Foray members seemed committed to:

Willingness to leave 1941 plans to a Foray Committee;
The desire to return to Lost River State Park for at least one and possibly two more years;
A two-weeks, rather than a one-week Foray;
The addition of more, informal classes, these to remain on the voluntary basis so far as both instructors and students are concerned; the classes to be in connection with, but not to interfere with, the leader's field work;
And to enlarge the number of participants in the Foray if provision can be made to handle more than 30 at a time.

Most of us got away by noon and stopped at Terra Alta, enroute home to inspect the leased property there of the West Virginia Nature Association.

Weather: Cool and overcast with occasional light showers of rain.

Temperature: 7 a.m., 46 degrees.

Conclusion:

It is no part of this historian's job to attempt any estimate of the worth of our nature study at Lost River State Park. Suffice to say that we are in apparently unanimous agreement that we enjoyed greater comfort and convenience, had better food, and more sheer fun than in any week's camp in which any of us had taken part. In addition, each one of us had an opportunity to spend a vacation exactly as each wished - but most of us spent practically all of our time on nature study.

The final campfire, which for a time developed into rather a "testimonial meeting", assured the most skeptical of us that we'd all learned much about the outdoors in the week at the Park. Leaders and less-experienced members of the party, alike, paid their own way and those who had leadership and outdoors knowledge to contribute to the group did much with no thought of personal return.

This historian has had experienced with many organized camps and many informal camps. These ranged from casual fishing expeditions to military camps marked by stiff discipline. He can truthfully testify here that the Foray is the best of its type within his experience -- and the best from every standpoint. And, without realizing it, perhaps, members of the group conducted a very commendable demonstration of adult education -- of nature study for the pleasure and the knowledge we derived from it.

The Brooks Bird Club Foray, hereupon, assumes a foremost place in West Virginia as the best thing of its kind ever attempted.

John W. Handlan
Wheeling, W. Va.
FLOWERING PLANTS

Reading of other portions of this report will give an idea of the location and the physical characteristics of Lost River State Park. The following plant list will continue this suggestion in forming in the reader's mind, a more complete picture of the area. No attempt was made to compile a nearly complete list. Instead, a record was kept of the species noted on field trips and those which were brought to the camp center by those interested in the plant life. As a result the list to follow will serve two purposes: As mentioned, it will help to draw a diagram of the appearance of the park. Secondly it will give to future visitors to this area a brief check-list of many of the more common wild flowers and a few of those which are ordinarily not so common. The list, of course, represents flowers that bloom principally during the middle of June.

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<td>Smooth Sumac</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poison Ivy</td>
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Jewelweed
New Jersey Tea
Virginia Creeper
Cheese Mallow
Common St. John's-wort
Purple Milkwort
Common Blue Violet
Early Blue Violet (Palmate-leaved)
Bird-foot Violet
Common Evening Primrose
Sundrops
Spurge
Wild Sarsaparilla (Single-leaf)
Wild Carrot
Hairy Sweet Cicely
Wild Parsnip
Water Hemlock
Honewort
Sanicle
Golden Alexander
Shinleaf
Pipsissewa
Spotted Wintergreen
False Beechdrops
Indian Pipe
Trailing Arbutus
Wintergreen
Azalea
Blueberry
Huckleberry
Buckberry
Southern Mountain Cranberry
Whorled Loosestrife
Shooting Star
Indian Hemp
Whorled Milkweed
Common Milkweed

Moss Pink
Large-leaved Waterleaf
Hound's Tongue
Viper's Bugloss
Ground Ivy
Self-heal
Motherwort
Lyre-leaved Sage
Clammy Groundcherry
Sand Brier
Common Mullein (Great)
Beard-tongue
Common Speedwell
Cow Wheat
Wood Betony
Cancer-root
Squaw Root
Common Plantain
English Plantain
Bluet
Large Houstonia
Button-bush
Partridge Berry
Bedstraw (white)
Hairy Bedstraw (purple)
Common Elder
Venus' Looking-glass
Inflated Lobelia (Indian Tobacco)
Slender Lobelia (Spiked - Pale)
Albino Slender Lobelia
Golden Ragwort
Black-eyed Susan
Yarrow
Dog Fennel
Hawkweed
Rattlesnake Weed
Ox-eye Daisy
Daisy Fleabane
Zig-zag Goldenrod
Dwarf Dandelion
Common Dandelion
Common Ragweed
Wreath Goldenrod
Wild Lettuce
Lion's Foot
White Snakeroot
Great Indian Plantain
White Wood Aster
New England Aster

Purple-stemmed Aster
White Top
Plantain-leaved Everlasting
Burdock
Thistle

--- Maxine Thacker
Buchannon, W. Va.

In the course of observations on the flowering plants of the region, specimens were obtained for study, of the ferns represented. These were all found near the cabin area where much of the work was done. There is little doubt that when the far reaches of the park are explored other forms will be added to the list.

Most of the species were well distributed, but there were few concentrations to be found at any point. Oddly enough, the trees of the area showed greater variations in leaf-form than did the few ferns that were seen.

Bracken
Cinnamon Fern
Interrupted Fern
Sensitive Fern
Christmas Fern
Common Polypody
Ebony Spleenwort
New York Fern
Hayscented Fern
Marginal Shield Fern
Intermediate Shield Fern
Maidenhair
Rattlesnake Fern
Broad Beech Fern

Shining Club Moss
Ground Pine

--- Maxine Thacker
Buchannon, W. Va.
Several of the members of the 1940 Brooks Bird Club Foray in Lost River State Park devoted much of their time to the study of the tree life. The heavily wooded hills and valleys were an inducement to this work.

Carefully preparing a forest map should be one of the first jobs of any group working on the biology of any area. The trees have a most profound effect on the other plant life and on the animal life. A list of the trees showing their comparative abundance enables the workers in other fields to formulate a "prospectus" that saves much time and trouble.

After a day or so a number of interesting observations had been made. These were called to the attention of the Foray group and their cooperation was received in collecting specimens of leaves and in the accumulation of data. The following paragraphs will illustrate some of these discoveries and also serve to call to the attention of other visitors to Lost River State Park, not only to the fine opportunities for the study of plants, but also as an attempt to induce others to make careful observations of the trees of this area.

The list is fairly complete. There were a few species which we had expected or which were reported by outside individuals that are not included. These can be added from time to time as further studies are made.

As in other parts of the eastern mountains, the Chestnut has been completely wiped out, at least in so far as mature trees are concerned. In the confines of the park as in other places throughout the mountains, there are many second growth trees apparently coming from the roots of those that have been cut down by the blight. Many were found which were large enough to produce fruit, so that it is thoroughly possible that some of the long hoped-for blight-proof Chestnuts will eventually be found within the park.

The Chestnut Oak is one of the most common trees in the area up to twenty-five hundred feet. To the members of the Foray, it was an unusual experience to find this tree in large numbers. What was more astonishing was the great diversity of leaf-formations. For the first few days, specimens were brought in continuously to the "experts" for identification. Without attempting to describe any of these forms, it is suggested to any future visitors of the park who might be interested in tree study, to make a complete collection of these leaf-forms and the accumulation of sufficient data to explain the diversification. It should be remembered in such a study that the texture will be found to have as many variations as the shape of the leaf. At least this seems true in Lost River State Park.

Another tree which was very common, especially near the cabin area, was the Scrub Oak. While there have not been any recent fires in this part of the mountains, we found many sections where the Scrub Oak had taken complete possession of the hillsides, forming forests through which one could not travel and which were reminiscent of the dense "laurel thickets" of the West Virginia mountains.

While the Slippery Elm was found to be fairly common, for some unknown reasons, we were unable to locate any natural growths of the American Elm. There was one tree planted near a cabin. There is little doubt but what the American Elm may be present but if it is, it is very rare.
The Flowering Dogwood was frequently found in appropriate locations but the leaves did not give the same appearance as those on the trees to be found in the piedmonts. Many of the leaves which were brought in for examination were four times the average size. The typical growth of this species shows a flat top, but most of the trees within the area under consideration grew with a pronounced apical point. The combination of the above facts kept the tree students busy during the entire week trying to convince the others that this was actually the same species with which they were acquainted at home.

The Hercules Club was not common anywhere within the park. A number of trees were found along the lower roadways. Again the variations in the leaves induced a great number of questions and much discussion during the Foray Week.

From the above suggestions, it will be seen that there is something unique in the habitats composing the area known as Lost River State Park. The suggestion was made during the camp that at sometime in the future, careful study be made of the geology of the region and that tests be made of the soil. No one made any attempt to guess the reasons for the unusual appearance of many of the trees. All members of the Foray were too careful to try anything such as this. They left such questions to others better able to determine the facts.

The Tree List

| White Pine          | Cucumber Tree          |
| Scrub Pine          | Sassafras             |
| Pitch Pine          | Witch Hazel           |
| Table Mountain Pine | Sycamore              |
| Red Cedar           | Service Berry         |
| Hemlock             | Black Cherry          |
| White Willow        | Honey Locust          |
| Black Willow        | Common Locust         |
| Butternut           | Staghorn Sumach       |
| Mockernut Hickory   | Dwarf Sumach          |
| Pignut Hickory      | Striped Maple         |
| Bitternut Hickory   | Sugar Maple           |
| Black Birch         | Red Maple             |
| Yellow Birch        | Basswood              |
| Chestnut            | Flowering Dogwood     |
| White Oak           | Black Gum             |
| Chestnut Oak        | Great Laurel          |
| Red Oak             | Mountain Laurel       |
| Pin Oak             | White Ash             |
| Scarlet Oak         | Large-toothed Poplar  |
| Black Oak           | Hercules Club         |
| Scrub Oak           | White Basswood        |
| Slippery Elm        | Tulip Tree            |

-- Byrne Waterman
Edgewood St.
Wheeling, W. Va.
Insects

With but one amateur available for the study of this tremendous group of animals, it was possible but to scratch the surface in any project continuing for but a single week. All members of the Foray cooperated in the collection of insects, especially the more spectacular forms. Satisfactory equipment for this study was not available so that the following list does nothing but give an outline that suggest other forms which normally accompany them.

The success of this brief study brought from those in charge of the Foray a promise that any 1941 expedition of a similar nature would be furnished not only with complete equipment, but all publications that would be of interest and value.

In glancing over the list submitted, it is requested that the reader keep in mind, not only the insects that are mentioned, but also the various species of other animals and plants which are included in other reports. Only in this way can this list be of any value. It represents just one more color in the more or less complete picture which is drawn of Lost River State Park in this report.

The List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Odonata -- Dragon and Damsal Flies</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Orthoptera --</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Family</td>
<td>Gryllidae -- Crickets</td>
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<td>Family</td>
<td>Acrididae -- Short-Horned Grasshopper</td>
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<td>Blattaridae</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parcoblatta pennsylvanica -- Wood Cockroach</td>
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<td>Periplaneta americana -- Cockroach</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Cicada hieroglyphica -- Cicada</td>
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| Family | Membracidae -- Tree Hoppers |
|        | Super-Family -- Jassoidea -- Leaf Hoppers |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Benacus griseus -- Giant Water Bug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Veliidae -- Broad Shouldered Water Strider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Miridae --</td>
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<td>Lygus pratensis -- Tarnished Plant Bug</td>
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<td>Family</td>
<td>Coreidae --</td>
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<td>Acanthocephala sp. -- Leaf-footed Stink Bug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Pentatomidae --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Murgantia histrionica -- Stink Bug</td>
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</table>
Order: Lepidoptera -- Butterflies
Rhopalocera -- Red Spotted Purple
Family -- Nympalidae --
  Basilarchia astyanax -- Red Spotted Purple
Family -- Lycaenidae -- Copper
Family -- Pieridae --
  Colias philodice -- Common Sulphur
Family -- Papilionidae --
  Papilio xuthus -- Tiger Swallow Tail
Family -- Hesperiidae --
  Epargyreus titurus -- Skipper
Heterocera -- Moths
Family -- Noctuidae --
  Catocala sp. -- Underwing

Order: Diptera --
Family -- Tipulidae --
  Tipula abdominalis -- Crane Fly
Family -- Asilidae --
  Erax sp. -- Robber Fly

Order: Coleoptera --
Family -- Cicindelidae --
  Cicindela sexguttata -- Tiger Beetle
Family -- Carabidae --
  Cypris sp. -- Purple Ground Beetle
  Harpalus sp. -- Ground Beetle
  Dicaelus elongatus -- Ground Beetle
Family -- Elateridae --
  Alaus ocellatus -- Eyed Elater
  Melanotus communis -- Click Beetle
Family -- Buprestidae -- Wood Borer
Family -- Lampyridae -- Fire Flies
Family -- Passalidae --
  Passalus cornutus - Stag Beetle
Family -- Scarabaeidae --
  Phyllophaga sp. -- June Beetle
  Macrodactylus subspinosus -- Rose Beetle
  Popillia japonica -- Japanese Beetle
Family -- Cerambycidae --
  Hypermellus sp. -- Long-Horned Beetle

Order: Hymenoptera --
Super Family -- Tenthredoidea -- Sawfly
Family -- Formicidae -- Ant.
Family -- Vespidae --
  Monobia quadridens -- Potter Wasp
Family -- Colletidae --
  Colletes sp. -- Bee

--- Pauline Brandmiller
Canfield, Ohio
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

To many people the group of animals listed on this page are obnoxious. To others, principally those interested in nature study in one form or another, they are fascinating. At any rate, they are to be found everywhere, with the possible exception of the centers of the largest cities. All urban and suburban areas have their representative quota.

A thousand people could go camping in any part of West Virginia, yet none of them might see any of the animals listed below. On the other hand, a group of nature students could go into the same area and come out with many specimens of reptiles and amphibians.

No attempt was made to collect a representative series of forms of these creatures. The list to follow is of those which were picked up incidentally to the other work carried on.

Red-spotted Newt  
Two-lined Salamander  
Fat-tailed Salamander  
Slimy Salamander  
Dusky Salamander  
Red Salamander  
American Toad  
Fowler’s Toad  
Leopard Frog  
Fence Lizard  
Skink  
Ring-necked Snake  
Pilot Blacksnake  
Garter Snake  
Timber Rattlesnake  
Box Turtle  
Wood Turtle

--- Byrne Waterman  
Edgewood St.  
Wheeling, W. Va.
A PRELIMINARY LIST OF SUMMER BIRDS OF HARDY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

by

Harold Olsen

During the week of June 15-22, 1940, some 30 members of The Brooks Bird Club conducted a general nature study foray with headquarters at Lost River State Park, Hardy County, West Virginia. In the Park, the group occupied six of the comfortable cabins available for rental to the public and its members spent most of their daylight hours in intensive nature study. Much of this field work was devoted to the study of the birds of the Park and its immediate surroundings. In addition, various members of the group made bird study observations of interest in the course of brief stops during their motor trips to and from the Park.

It was a duty of the writer to collect and compile all these notes and records of observations and to prepare this brief summary of what is, essentially, a secretarial report of the ornithological notes rather than records kept by one individual. The greater part of the observations deal with the Park itself. Others treat of parts of Hardy County beyond the Park borders and a few notes are recorded beyond the county and are so designated in the summary which accompanies this paper.

At Lost River Park, we found ourselves in a reserve of more than 3,500 acres, of which less than 100 acres are "developed" to permit building of cabins, a swimming pool, playground, etc. The Park is a semi-wilderness area, with its remote sections made comparatively easy of access by bridle paths and foot-trails. This area offered us elevations which ranged from 1,800 feet above sea level to 3,200 feet at the highest point in the Park.

The Park area is generally mountainous and rugged and is covered with a mixed deciduous and coniferous growth with exceptionally heavy undergrowth of Mountain Laurel in most sections. Occasional rocky, barren cliffs and steep declivities occur. A few magnificent Hemlocks and White Pines give some idea of the type of timber which once must have occupied a section of this great area. Forest fires have not touched the Park since its acquisition by the State in 1934, but previous to that time a number of damaging fires occurred in the territory, their scars now covered by the fast growth which ordinarily succeeds such disasters.
Magnificent views from lookout points within the Park, the courtesy and consideration of Mr. Andrew Eye, Park Custodian, and Mr. George Flouer, his assistant, and the novelty of urban comforts and facilities in a wild, mountain section all played a part in making bird study and other "naturizing" in this area a memorable experience.

To return to the compilation of bird records: our combined list reached an even hundred species. We were successful (and fortunate) in establishing a number of breeding records for the Park and the County which, considering that virtually nothing has appeared in print concerning Hardy County ornithology, have considerable importance. Pleased as we were by a varied and large list of species recorded in some five days actual field work, we were particularly impressed by the numbers, the sheer abundance of certain species -- the Ruffed Grouse, for example, and various species of wood warblers known to most of us as migrants only.

In the list which follows, species for which breeding records were established are marked this, (*). Species recorded within Hardy County but not within Lost River Park itself are marked (H); and species recorded elsewhere than within Hardy County are marked (X). No collecting of birds was done and no attempt is made in the list to indicate races, regardless of probabilities in that direction. The technical nomenclature is that of the 1931 A. O. U. Check-List.

**Egret** (?)(H). A white heron was noted in flight above Lost River and was not positively identified, although tentatively listed as an American Egret, *Casmerodius albus*.

**Green Heron**. *Butorides virescens*. (H). Several noted along Lost River and along the South Branch of the Potomac in Hardy County. One seen at Red House, Md.

**Turkey Vulture**. *Cathartes aura*. Rather common.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**. *Accipiter velox*. One individual noted.

**Cooper's Hawk**. *Accipiter cooperi*. Several individuals seen.

**Red-tailed Hawk**. *Buteo borealis*. A few listed.

**Broad-winged Hawk**. *Buteo platypterus*. Frequently heard and seen.

**Bald Eagle**. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Charles Conrad and Harold Bergner saw a mature example of this species in good light and with the aid of good binoculars. It seems difficult to explain the presence of this bird.

**Ruffed Grouse**. *Bonasa umbellus*. (*). Common. Grouse often were heard drumming near the sleeping cabins. Hens with downy young were seen on a number of occasions and various members of the party caught Grouse chicks in their hands for examination before the chicks were returned to freedom. Hens with chicks in charge were uniformly brave in attempting to defend their young.

**Bob-white**. *Colinus virginianus*. We established few records in the wooded park for this species, but they apparently were very common in the nearby Lost River Valley.

**Killdeer**. *Oxyechus vociferus*. (H). A few were noted at Moorefield and near Mathias.
Spotted Sandpiper. Actitus macularia. (H). In same situations as the above species.

Rock Dove. Columba livia.

Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus americanus. The only cuckoos seen under good conditions for identification were of this species. We failed to record the Black-billed Cuckoo in Hardy County.

Barred Owl. Strix varia. Occasionally heard at night within the Park.

Whip-poor-will. Antrostomus vociferus. Abundant and very tame. Individuals sang persistently from the vantage point of window sills and from other perches within a very few feet of observers.

Nighthawk. Chordeiles minor. (H)

Chimney Swift. Chaetura pelagica.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Archilochus colubris.

Belted Kingfisher. Megaceryle alcyon. (H).

Flicker. Colaptes auratus.

Pileated Woodpecker. Dryocopus pileatus. Heard and seen in the Park on numerous occasions, this fine species actually appeared to be fully as plentiful there as the preceding species.

Hairy Woodpecker. Dryobates villosus.

Downy Woodpecker. Dryobates pubescens.

Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus. Apparently quite common in lower altitudes within the Park and the County. A few noted at elevations up to 3,000 feet.

Crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus.

Phoebe. Sayornis phoebe. (*). On June 17th, two nests of this species were found; one, empty, on the porch of Cabin 18; the other, containing three eggs, on a cliffside near Camp Hardy, CCC encampment just beyond the borders of the Park. On June 19, a nest with five eggs was located on the porch of Cabin 2 in the Park.

Acadian Flycatcher. Empidonax virescens. (*). A nest of this species containing three young birds was found on the Dead End Trail in the Park on June 19th.

Least Flycatcher. Empidonax minimus. (*). A nest high in an elm which had been under observation for several days, was identified on June 21st as that of the Least Flycatcher. The nest was near the motor road leading to the Park stables.
Wood Peewee. **Hylochares virens.** (*). A nest of this species which held four eggs was found June 18th near Cabin 6 in the Park. On June 20th, another nest was located in the Park and one was found at the Trout Pond in the George Washington National Forest. On June 21st, the group located a nest near the information booth at the Park entrance. Two adult birds were seen feeding young, just from the nest, near the Bird Club cabins, during the the week.

Horned Lark. **Clocorics alpestris.** (H).

Bank Swallow. **Riparia riparia.** (H).

Rough-winged Swallow. **Stelgidopteryx ruficollis.** (H).

Barn Swallow. **Hirundo erythrogaster.** (*). Two nests of this species were found under the eaves of a barn near Wardensville, in Hardy County, on June 20th.

Cliff Swallow. **Petrochelidon albifrons.** (H).

Purple Martin. **Progne subis.** (H).

Blue Jay. **Cyanocitta cristata.**

Raven. **Corvus corax.** Clyde Upton reported close views of an individual which flew above him as he was adjusting a camera along a trail in the Park.

Crow. **Corvus brachyrhynchos.** Comparatively uncommon in this heavily wooded area.

Chickadee. **Pentastes sp.** ? Chickadees heard singing in the Park sang a two-note song, said to be characteristic of the Black-capped Chickadee, **P. atricapillus.** We had expected to find **P. carolinensis** in the Park and its environs, presumably the northern race of the species described by Sutton and Todd as **P. c. extimus.**

Tufted Titmouse. **Baeolophus bicolor.** Apparently more common that the last species.

White-breasted Nuthatch. **Sitta carolinensis.** (*). Two adults were seen feeding young on June 22nd.

House Wren. **Trogloglytes aedon.** (H).

Bewick's Wren. **Thryomanes bewicki.** (H). An individual was heard singing about a house in Mathias, Hardy County.

Carolina Wren. **Thryothorus ludovicianus.** Seemingly uncommon in the Park. A few heard at lower elevations there.

Mockingbird. **Mimus polyglottos.** (H).

Catbird. **Dumetella carolinensis.** (*). A nest of this species with three young and one sterile egg was found in a Hemlock six feet above ground one June 17th. Another nest in a similar situation, found on June 21st contained five eggs. Two adults were observed feeding young near Cabin 11 on June 21st.

Brown Thrasher. **Toxostoma rufum.**
Robin. *Turdus migratorius*. (*). Six nests, all occupied, were found in the Park in locations varying from projections on cabins to the one which was over 50 feet above ground in a tree.

Wood Thrush. *Hylocichla mustelina*. (*). Young examples of this species were noted on June 16th and 21st; adults were seen feeding young which obviously had just left the nest.


Bluebird. *Sialis sialis*. (*). A nest was observed near Mathias, Hardy County on June 18th.

Cedar Waxwing. *Bombycilla cedrorum*.


Yellow-throated Vireo. *Vireo flavifrons*. (*). A nest of this species was found June 22nd in a pine tree, 30 feet above ground on the Piney Ridge Trail. Its situation forbade examination but the nest obviously was occupied.

Blue-headed Vireo. *Vireo solitarius*. Apparently rather common in the Park. Observers along the trails seldom were beyond sound of the voice of this species, but no nests were found.

Red-eyed Vireo. *Vireo olivaceus*. (*). One nest was found in a sapling, three feet above ground on June 17th.


Black and White Warbler. *A niotilta varia*. (*). Young of this species, some of them obviously just from the nest, were noted on a number of occasions and in many instances adults were observed feeding these young birds. The adults were among the common warblers noted in the Park.

Worm-eating Warbler. *Helmitheros vermivorus*. (*). A nest of this species, containing five well-grown young, was discovered along the Sulphur Spring trail on June 16th. The nest was constructed of oak leaves on a steep hillside and was partially roofed over by the same building material. By June 18th the young had left the nest.

Golden-winged Warbler. *Vermivora chrysoptera*. (*). A nest with three young was found June 17th at the junction of the Staghorn Trail and Cabin Drive, in tall grass concealed by heavy undergrowth of Laurel and deciduous saplings. A nest found on June 21st was so close to the automobile parking lot for Cabin 11 that we marvelled that cars had not crushed it. This nest contained two well-grown young and one egg. This warbler was especially common along the Cabin Drive with a pair in possession of virtually every 50 feet of "territory" along the way for a distance of about a mile. On numerous occasions adults were seen carrying food.
Parula Warbler. *Compsothlypis americana*. (*) On June 18th a nest of this wood warbler was located over 50 feet above ground in a Hemlock tree near the Sulphur Spring, and clearly visible from the Dead End Trail in the Park. Adults were observed feeding an undetermined number of young in the nest which was inaccessible for closer inspection. At least two birds of those found in the Hemlock woods sang the "double song" of the Parula described by Karl Haller as that sung by the male example of his newly described Sutton's Warbler, *Dendroica potomac*. Neither of these singing birds were closely observed at any time, inasmuch as they kept well in the tops of trees 75-80 feet in height.

Yellow Warbler. *Dendroica aestival*. Very few members of our party reported this species from the Park and it appeared to be rather scantily represented in the Lost River valley between Mathias and Wardensville.

Magnolia Warbler. *Dendroica magnolia*. (X). One homeward-bound motor party found individuals of this species at Swallow Falls, Maryland.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. *Dendroica caerulecens*. A few individuals of this species were reported from the Park but it appeared to be comparatively uncommon.

Black-throated Green Warbler. *Dendroica virens*. Wherever pines and Hemlocks grew in numbers in the Park we found Black-throated Greens, which seemed common in local areas there. Adults carrying food were seen on a number of occasions, but in no case did any lead us to nests nor were young birds seen.

Cerulean Warbler. *Dendroica cerulea*. This species was present in the Park in considerable numbers.

Blackburnian Warbler. *Dendroica fusca*. This species appeared in scant numbers in notes secured for this compilation, occasional single male birds accounting for most of the records, although pairs occasionally were reported.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. *Dendroica pensylvanica*. (*). Adult birds were seen feeding young on June 18th and another family was observed out of the nest on June 22nd. One nest was located which, on June 22nd, contained three eggs. Clyde Upton secured a splendid close-up photograph of a brooding bird at this nest.

Prairie Warbler. *Dendroica discolor*. This warbler proved rather common in lower elevations of the Park and, though birds seldom were observed closely, the characteristic song of the species was heard frequently throughout the week.

Oven-bird. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. (*). This ground-haunting warbler was among the most abundant birds of the Park and one seldom was out of hearing of the voices of these birds while in the big reservation. A nest, with two eggs, was found on June 17th on Dead End Trail. On numerous occasions Oven-birds were noted feeding young which were unable to fly.

Louisiana Waterthrush. *Seiurus motacilla*. (*). Adults of this species were observed feeding young on several occasions, the young in some instances not yet able to fly.

Yellow-throat. *Geothlypis trichas*. (H). This bird was not seen or heard in the vicinity of the high mountain "balds" in the Park, but was recorded just beyond the Park borders in the river valley.
Yellow-breasted Chat. *Icteria virens.* Common at lower elevations.

Hooded Warbler. *Wilsonia citrina.* (*). One nest of this species was noted on June 16th, the nest containing four young birds. This family was located along the Copse Cove Trail, the nest some two feet from the ground in Mountain Laurel. A second nest was found near the Park's western boundary on June 21st, this containing two eggs of the Hooded Warbler and two of the Cowbird -- the latter the only case of parasitism noted in examination of some 68 nests in the Park.

Canada Warbler. *Wilsonia canadensis.* (X). One party observed this species near Swallow Falls, Maryland.

American Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla.* (*). Four nests of the abundant Redstart were found by the party, two on June 15th, one on June 17th and the fourth on June 21st. One was too high to be accessible to observers (at least 40 feet above ground in an oak). Two others contained well-grown nestlings, and the fourth nest was still in the process of building on June 21st with a male and a female both participating in the work. Two adults were seen feeding young out of a nest on June 21st.

English Sparrow. *Passer domesticus.* A few birds of this species usually were to be seen near the stables.


Meadowlark. *Sturnella magna.*

Redwing. *Agelaius phoeniceus.*

Orchard Oriole. *Icterus spurius.* (H)

Baltimore Oriole. *Icterus galbula.*

Crackle. *Zonotrichia palaeola.*

Cowbird. *Molothrus ater.*

Scarlet Tanager. *Piranga erythrorhyncha.* (*). A nest of this species was found high in a pine on June 16th.

Summer Tanager. *Piranga rubra.* (X). One party found this species in the Smoke Hole near Upper Tract, Pendleton County, W. Va.

Cardinal. *Richmondena cardinalis.* We found this species uncommon in the Park.


Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea.*

Goldfinch. *Spinus tristis.*

Towne. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus.* (*). A nest was found on June 16th, four feet above ground in a sapling. The nest contained four eggs.
Grasshopper Sparrow. *Ammodramus savannarum.*

Vesper Sparrow. *Poecetes gramineus.*

Junco. *Junco hyemalis.* (X). Individuals were seen on Spruce Knob in Pendleton County, W. Va.

Chipping Sparrow. *Spizella passerina.* (*). Six nests of this species were found in the vicinity of the "developed" area, two nests containing eggs and the others young birds.


Observations of mammals which occurred during the Brooks Bird Club Foray based on Lost River State Park, Hardy County, W. Va., June 15-22, 1940, were necessarily incidental. No trapping or shooting of animals occurred during the week which was principally devoted to the study of birds and of plant life with incidental excursions into the field of herpetology and entomology. Accordingly, such mammals as were observed by the Foray party were met, more or less, through accident rather than intent and the total number of species reported for the week is small.

These remarks will also explain the almost complete absence of definite statements on the determination of specific forms:

Shrew. Cryptotis (?). One observer of some experience attempted without success to capture a Shrew of very small size which was found burrowing in leaf mold. Discovery of three skulls assigned to this genus in the Eastern Panhandle (J. Lloyd Poland, Miss.) lends at least speculative weight to the presence of Cryptotis in Hardy County.

Bat. Genera? Bats were regularly observed in the Park.

Weasel. Mustela sp. (?). A single individual was observed. Based entirely on probable range, the common Weasel of the county probably is Mustela novaboracensis.

Skunk. Mephitis sp. (?) The single example noted probably belonged to the Striped Skunk group, possibly to M. nigra, the Eastern Skunk. The range of the Alleghenian Spotted Skunk, Spilogale putorius appears to include Hardy County, however, and the individual seen may have been referable to this species.

Woodchuck. Marmota monax. One example reported. Comparative lack of clearings and cultivated ground, pastures, etc. in this general region probably results in this species being uncommon in the area.

Chipmunk. Tamias striatus. This species was common throughout the Park.

Red Squirrel. Sciurus hudsonicus. Residents of the Park appeared surprised at reports of the presence of this species, but it was seen at various times, always in the vicinity of conifers. Presumably, examples found in the Park may be referred to S. h. loquax, the Southern Red Squirrel.

Gray Squirrel. Sciurus carolinensis. Abundant in the Park, literal dozens of individuals being met with in the course of a few hours walk along any of the Park trails. Gray Squirrels taken in Ohio County, W. Va. have been referred to S. c. leucotis, the Northern Gray Squirrel.

White-footed Mouse. Peromyscus maniculatus. One family of these beautiful little animals was found established in a Park cabin.

Meadow Mouse. Microtus pennsylvanicus. One example observed.
Cottontail. *Sylvilagus floridanus*. Apparently common in the vicinity of clearings, however small, this species often was noted along automobile roads, on lawns, etc. with the Park.

Virginia Deer. *Odocoileus virginianus*. Virtually every member of our party saw Deer on one or more occasions. Deer are "salted" regularly at the Park and ordinarily appear in the cabin area shortly before dusk.

We failed to observe a number of interesting mammals known to occur in the Park (and previously taken there) such as the Virginia Opossum, the Black Bear, the Raccoon, the Mink, the Gray Fox and Red Fox, the Bay Lynx, or Wildcat, the Fox Squirrel, etc.

-- Dorothy Conrad  
423 Warwood Ave.  
Wheeling, W.Va.
THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB - 1940 FORAY

FINANCIAL REPORT

**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>27 fees at $15.00 each</td>
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**EXPENSES**

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Net Income returned to the
Brooks Bird Club General Fund 98.92
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"Chip" Bennett, Helper