



# The Redstart

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The 1941 and 1942  
SPRING MIGRATION REPORT

by  
Dorothy Conrad

Due to the fact that a ten year report was made on "migration Data in the Wheeling Area" (The Redstart Vol. VIII, 7-8, p.p. 47-64) by Russell West, no report of the 1941 spring migration was published. However, records were kept as usual and will be included along with the 1942 report in this article.

Going back to the spring of '41, the records show that in the Wheeling area, we enjoyed, at the beginning of the season and through the month of April, some very fine weather with the temperature reaching nearly that of mid-summer. This did not last for during May we endured a cold, wet, rainy month. Added to this, making observation difficult at the height of observation, was the full foliage of the trees and shrubs which had come forth so fast during the warm April days. Never-the-less, a total of 92 migrants were recorded.

Some water and shore birds, during the season, seemed to be somewhat more frequent, but by no means common as the Wheeling area has no particularly good inducements for such birds. The 16 species recorded, however, were listed in the Big Wheeling Creek territory, on the Ohio River and the one field trip to Cadiz, Ohio, where the species marked (\*) were observed in the section of Tappan Dam.

On Sunday, May 21, at Oglebay Park, we had the good fortune of listing all four thrushes; namely, the Wood, Hermit, Olive-backed and Veery. On this particular morning, the songs of the thrushes were outstanding.

For the first time, a definite record of the White-eyed Vireo was made for the migration chart. The location was on the hillside of Stackyard Hollow, Wheeling. Mr. George Breiding made the first observation on April 30 and continued to keep a careful check on the species. Although he did not find the occupied nest, he did locate a Vireo nest and nearby, adult white-eyes with young. All members of the club were able to see and watch the bird and, for some, it was a new bird for their life list.

Again this year, we listed the Connecticut and Wilson warblers but we failed to get the Pine or Lounning warblers.

George Breiding, on May 18, observed a large flock of approximately fifty Bobolinks in the Big Wheeling Creek territory. Not since 1937 has this bird appeared on the spring migration chart.

As was the custom in former years, early Sunday morning hikers were divided into small groups, with a capable leader, which worked several sections such as, Stackyard Hollow, Stratford Hill, Oglebay Park and Big Wheeling Creek. It seems, Stratford Hill proved the most popular for during the entire 1941 migration period, the bird club cooked breakfast at a camp site in this locality. Much individual work was done throughout this year.

The spring migration of 1942 was very successful and the weather, for a change, was also very favorable. In the beginning it was cool and a bit gloomy but on most of the mornings, the sun shown brightly and aided materially in observation. During the two months period, we had very little rain on our Sunday walks.

Most of the trips this year were made in Oglebay Park with individual work being carried on, other times, at the Big Wheeling Creek area, Ohio River and the Belmont County sections. For the first time in a number of years, no field trip was made to Cadiz, Ohio. Despite the fact that so many of The Brooks Bird Club active, male members are in the armed forces, we still had a well-represented group of members to carry out the study of spring migration. On a number of occasions, we were joined by corresponding members and other groups from the Park. Again this year, we cooked our own out-door breakfast, which now has become a part of the early morning walks.

Total species for the 1942 migration numbers 86 which includes one new species, the Philadelphia Vireo, Vireo philadelphicus. On Sunday, May 24, several members were able to observe, under very favorable conditions, with binoculars, a flock of vireos. Upon our approach, the birds were rather high in the trees, feeding, and from below appeared to be Yellow-throated Vireos, Vireo flavifrons. While examining them for identification, one of the birds began to sing. The song proved unfamiliar, or at least different enough to investigate. In the course of another twenty minutes of observation, as the birds continued feeding, one pair seemed to be in a fighting spirit and came to the low shrubs to dash about. On one occasion they came to perch in clear view, where several of us were close at hand. The whitish line over the eye and the greenish-yellow appearance of the entire under parts, plus the fact that no wing-bars were present proved it to be a Philadelphia Vireo. Chuck Conrad, who was a member of the party, had seen a specimen of this species in hand, which had been collected by Dr. George M. Sutton at Oglebay Park several years ago.

The water and shore birds are perhaps less represented this year due to our limited field trips where these birds might be listed. The species marked with (\*) as usual were listed from the Tappan Dam region near Cadiz, Ohio by corresponding members. Other observations were made in the Big Wheeling Creek Area and on the Ohio River. The Canada Geese were recorded flying over Harwood.

Woodcocks were again recorded at Oglebay Park where several members of the Club observed the birds doing their "sky-dance".

The Whip-poor-will, for some unknown reason, was quite common this spring and was recorded in several sections of the county. Usually, the species is localized.

Another note of interest was the recording of the Bewick's Wren on the migration chart. In addition, a definite nesting record, for Ohio County, has been established and will be thoroughly reported by Mr. Walter Rybeck in a later issue of The Redstart.

Taking the Warblers as a group, this migration seemed to be "tops". Although no record was made for the largest list of warblers, most of the observers agreed that there were greater numbers of each species and they seemed to linger longer in our territory. Ideal feeding conditions could be a reason. A possible warbler list would probably total thirty species and of that number, twenty-five appear on this year's list.

We observed the usual number of Black and White and Black-throated green Warblers, which numbered few, as did the Worm-eating. The Tennessee, Nashville, Canada, Redstart and Hooded Warblers were very abundant. On one particular walk, Blackburnian Warblers were observed and heard singing everywhere. The Magnolia, which usually passes unnoticed, was seen, as well as heard.

Again, we listed all in the Blackbird Family except the Bobolink which seems to have escaped our eye except on two occasions. The same is true of the Sparrow Family where all were recorded except the Swamp Sparrow. This bird appeared on the first two migration lists but has not been recorded since.

In keeping with the custom as carried out by The Brooks Bird Club, since 1932, separate record charts, one for each 1941 and 1942 will follow in the usual style and order.

423 Warwood Avenue  
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## BROOKS BIRD CLUB SPRING MIGRATION RECORDS

1941

Pied-billed Grebe	2/28		
Eastern Green Heron	5/11*	Warbling Vireo	4/20
American Bittern	5/12*	White-eyed Vireo	5/20
Baldpate	3/26	Black & White Warbler	4/30
Blue-winged Teal	4/13	Worm-eating Warbler	5/4
Ring-necked Duck	3/31*	Blue-winged Warbler	4/27
Black Duck	3/8	Tennessee	5/11
Pintail	3/30	Nashville Warbler	5/12
Mallard	3/30	Parula Warbler	5/3
Broad-winged Hawk	4/19	Yellow Warbler	4/18
Virginia Rail	4/20	Lagnolia Warbler	5/9
American Coot	5/5	Cape May Warbler	5/8
American Woodcock	3/26	Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/9
Wilson Snipe	4/13	Lyrtle Warbler	4/29
Spotted Sandpiper	4/28	Black-throated Green Warbler	4/29
Solitary Sandpiper	5/12*	Cerulean Warbler	5/1
Greater Yellowlegs	5/4	Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/4
Lesser Yellowlegs	4/6*	Bay-breasted Warbler	5/9
Mourning Dove	3/25	Blackpoll	5/8
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/5	Ovenbird	5/11
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/8	Louisiana Waterthrush	4/6
Whip-poor-will	4/17	Kentucky Warbler	5/2
Nighthawk	5/18	Yellow-throat	5/6
Chimney Swift	3/17	Yellow-breasted Chat	5/5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5/8	Wilson's Warbler	5/26
Kingbird	5/12	Hooded Warbler	4/27
Crested Flycatcher	5/3	Canada Warbler	5/11
Acadian Flycatcher	5/11	American Redstart	4/28
Phoebe	3/21	Blackburnian Warbler	4/29
Least Flycatcher	5/12	Connecticut Warbler	5/12
Wood Pewee	5/9	Bobolink	5/18
Bank Swallow	5/12	Redwing	3/16
Rough-winged Swallow	4/7	Orchard Oriole	5/12
Barn Swallow	4/22	Baltimore Oriole	5/5
Purple Martin	4/6	Grackle	4/1
House Wren	4/28	Cowbird	3/26
Bewick's Wren	5/4*	Scarlet Tanager	4/15
Catbird	4/20	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/6
Brown Thrasher	4/17	Indigo Bunting	4/14
Wood Thrush	4/9	Savannah Sparrow	5/12
Hermit Thrush	4/21	Grasshopper Sparrow	4/30
Olive-backed Thrush	4/9	Vesper Sparrow	3/30
Veery	5/8	Chipping Sparrow	4/5
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/12	Field Sparrow	3/31
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/8	White-crowned Sparrow	5/5
Yellow-throated Vireo	5/12	White-throated Sparrow	4/26
Blue-headed Vireo	4/19	Purple Finch	5/5
Red-eyed Vireo	5/12		

## BROOKS BIRD CLUB SPRING MIGRATION RECORDS

1942

Pied-billed Grebe	3/22	Warbling Vireo	4/27
Eastern Green Heron	4/11	Philadelphia Vireo	5/24
American Bittern	4/4*	Black & White Warbler	5/3
Blue-winged Teal	4/4*	Worm-eating Warbler	5/3
Black Duck	3/22	Blue-winged Warbler	4/28
Lallard	3/12	Tennessee Warbler	4/28
Canada Goose	3/16	Nashville Warbler	4/26
American Coot	4/4*	Parula Warbler	5/16
American Woodcock	3/12	Yellow Warbler	4/15
Wilson Snipe	4/4	Lagnolia	5/3
Spotted Sandpiper	4/4	Cape May Warbler	5/3
Greater Yellowlegs	4/4*	Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/16
Mourning Dove	3/12	Myrtle Warbler	4/19
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/3	Black-throated Green Warbler	4/26
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/16	Cerulean Warbler	5/2
Whip-poor-will	4/26	Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/3
Nighthawk	5/3	Bay-breasted Warbler	5/3
Chimney Swift	4/26	Blackpoll Warbler	5/16
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4/27	Ovenbird	5/3
Kingbird	5/16	Louisiana Waterthrush	4/2
Crested Flycatcher	4/30	Kentucky Warbler	4/26
Acadian Flycatcher	5/3	Yellow-throat	4/27
Phoebe	3/15	Yellow-breasted Chat	4/29
Least Flycatcher	5/3	Hooded Warbler	5/1
Wood Pewee	5/3	Canada Warbler	5/16
Bank Swallow	4/19	American Redstart	4/30
Rough-winged Swallow	4/19	Blackburnian Warbler	5/3
Barn Swallow	4/26	Redwing	3/12
Purple Martin	3/26	Orchard Oriole	5/2
Tree Swallow	4/4*	Baltimore Oriole	4/28
House wren	4/8	Grackle	3/14
Bewick's Wren	4/6	Cowbird	3/14
Catbird	4/21	Scarlet Tanager	5/3
Brown Thrasher	4/18	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/17
Wood Thrush	4/27	Indigo Bunting	4/6
Hermit Thrush	5/9	Savannah Sparrow	4/4
Olive-backed Thrush	5/3	Grasshopper Sparrow	4/4
Veery	5/16	Vesper Sparrow	4/4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/16	Chipping Sparrow	4/2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/18	Field Sparrow	3/15
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/26	White-crowned Sparrow	4/26
Blue-headed Vireo	4/26	White-throated Sparrow	4/26
Red-eyed Vireo	4/26	Purple Finch	4/16

## NOVEMBER MEETING

A very fine program and good attendance marked the regular monthly meeting of the club on Friday, November 27.

President Charles Conrad presided over the meeting which opened with the regular reading of minutes of the last meeting and those of the Executive Committee meeting. All minutes were approved as read. Payment of bills was ordered and report of the Treasury was given.

Progress was reported by all the Chairmen of the various committees and club activities for the month of December was read by the Secretary as follows:

Monday, December 14	-	Executive Committee meeting
Tuesday, December 15	-	Committee Reports by Chairmen
Friday, December 18	-	Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, December 22	-	Clubroom Christmas Party
Sunday, December 27	-	The Brooks Bird Club Christmas Bird Census

A number of communications were read and some were turned over to the Executive Committee for their decision.

The program for the evening was a detailed report of a recent trip to Lost River State Park by several members of the Club. Although the expedition was made purely to visit our good friends, the Flowers, a number of field trips were made and records kept, along with notes concerning the highlights of the trip. The report was made very interesting by calling on four members of the party; Misses Carolyn Conrad and Libby Hunter and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Conrad, for discussions.

The highlight of the evening, however, was the personal appearance of Sergeant George Breiding, from Lowry Field, Colorado. "The pleasure to be back and attend a Brooks Bird Club meeting was a real thrill", said Sergeant Breiding. For, perhaps, the better part of the next hour, Sergeant Breiding continued to tell about the Colorado bird life and the wonderful opportunities presented the bird student. This is especially true at Denver where the University is located and several groups are interested. "One, can by climbing the high mountains," continued Sergeant Breiding, "pass through most of the life zone without travelling more than fifty miles." In addition to the many interesting observations, Sergeant Breiding had a large number of pictures to show the group.

Eva H. Hays, Secretary  
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Due to unavoidable circumstances, it was necessary to appoint a new Editor of THE REDSTART. At a meeting of the Executive Committee, the following Editorial staff was appointed: Mabel Hopwood, Editor; Elizabeth Etz and Carolyn Conrad, Co-Editors.