Members of the Brooks Bird Club have, with this report, completed the tenth annual Christmas Bird Census.

The area covered was virtually the same as worked during the past several years, Oglebay Park, in particular, and surrounding territories in Ohio County, with observations being made on the Ohio River between Wheeling and New River, West Virginia.

Although the weather was not in our favor, being overcast, cold and snowy, birding was good and the total number of individuals - 2123 - which represents 24 species, shows fine results for our efforts and is a worthy count for the territory in winter.

Again Oglebay Park was worked thoroughly by two groups and after an absence of good birding for the past several years proved to be outstanding, although not to be compared with earlier counts. The best finds for the park after four hours in the field was the recording of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ring-necked Pheasant and the Mockingbird. The last-named species has not appeared on the Christmas Census since 1936. 424 individuals, representing 17 species were the results of our efforts at the park.

As usual, Horned Larks were found on the high, grassy ridge of the Wheeling Country Club golf course. While our attention was trained on the Horned Larks, a lone Crow was noticed resting on the grass several hundred feet to the left. When observations were finished on the Larks, the Crow was still sitting, although we were now within perhaps a hundred feet of the bird.
with no apparent cause of alarm, it was agreed that one member of the party should make further approach. Well, the final report is just this: The entire group circled the Crow, several snapped pictures while Mr. Crow just kept looking. Not until one of the boys picked him up and was holding him for another picture did he make any attempt to fly. However, he did and joined other members of his clan in some nearby tree.

The territory which includes the "City Limits List" shows nothing unusual but does list about all residents that occurred in the city during the winter. The 166 individuals represented the following species as recorded: Tufted Titmouse, 4; Chickadee, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 5; English Sparrow, 112; Starlings 5; Cardinal, 6; Crow, 21; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; and Carolina Wren, 2.

At Warwood, on the western slope of the hill facing the Ohio River, the greatest number of individuals were recorded - 1625 - which, however, included 1470 crows. The outstanding record for this territory was one Red-eyed Towhee.

Good observations, but not unusual this winter, were recorded for the Ohio River. Three species were listed in order: 3 Herring Gulls; 7 Scaup Duck, and 40 Black Ducks. In a future issue of THE REDSTART water birds on the Ohio River for the winter of 41-42 will be published.

During the afternoon time out was taken when hot chocolate and cookies were served to all members of the census party at the Bybeck home. Also at this time a large evergreen located on the Bybeck property was decorated with bird food. When finished the tree was much more beneficial than decorative.

The following includes the data necessary for a census report:

Wheeling, West Virginia (Ohio County, both woodlands and open grassy fields and the Ohio River); December 21, 1941; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; weather, dark and overcast, snow flurries falling about noon, strong wind on hilltops and along river; temperature - 7:30 a.m., 32 degrees F., 12:00 a.m., 36 degrees, 6:00 p.m. 30 degrees; observers worked in two groups; total hours afield 28; miles travelled by foot - 11, by car - 27.

The 24 species as recorded with totals are as follows: Crow, 1671; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 9; Cardinal, 19; Tree Sparrow, 53; Chickadee, 78; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 20; Carolina Wren, 6; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Song Sparrow, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 27; Junco, 43; Bluebird, 1; Rockingbird, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; Towhee, 1; Horned Larks, 2; English Sparrow, 112; Starling, 5; Scaup Duck, 7; Black Duck, 40; and Herring Gull, 3.

The following people either participated or contributed to the 1941 Christmas census of the Brooks Bird Club: Misses Dorothy Conrad, Eva Hays, Norma Jepson, Mabel Hopwood, Carolynn Conrad; Messrs. Walter Bybeck, Eyrna Waterman, Alex Wishnew, Arthur Bybeck; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bybeck, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Conrad.

--418 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

-30-
In February during the past two years, we have taken the privilege to give members something of the plans for the current year's Brooks Bird Club Foray. The time has again arrived to acquaint those interested of what we intend to do this year.

We must first advise that whatever our plans may be at the present time, developments within the next few months may cause revisions. Therefore, any announcements made here or in the future, depend upon our power to adapt ourselves to the day to day adjustments of living conditions that are a necessary part of our lives during the war that is now upon us.

So these announcements may be interpreted as our own declarations of policy and as brief outlines of our hopes for continued existence and activity as an organization.

Conditions permitting, we plan to hold the annual Brooks Bird Club Foray at one of the West Virginia State Parks during the third week in June 1942. Those in the past have been held at Lost River State Park but it has been suggested that it would be beneficial to the Division of State Parks if our activities in 1942 be transferred to some other point within their jurisdiction. The officials of the State Division who have observed the Brooks Bird Club in action during their annual Forays or have read some of the reports, believe that a mutually beneficial plan can be worked out that would provide variety for the annual Foray and the more consistent attendants of this unique summer camp and modern educational plan.

During the thirty-day period preceding the writing of this article, nine members of the Brooks Bird Club have signified their intention of attending the 1942 Foray. These members are, at the present time, confident that their plans can be drawn far enough ahead to permit their registration now. This would seem to indicate that the Brooks Bird Club is already in a position to prepare definite plans for a Foray for June 1942 for there is no minimum number that need be required to make this affair a success.

The active members of the Brooks Bird Club desire at the date of this issue to inform the corresponding members that they will shortly call a meeting of the Executive Committee to prepare plans for a Foray for this year. These plans will necessarily be more extensive than the preliminary plans of other years. In the past it has been possible to assign definite work to particular individuals as much as six months in advance. This year the Executive Committee will prepare plans, not on the basis of individuals and their capabilities, but on the basis of work to be done. Then if conditions change that will make it necessary for an individual who has been assigned definite work to enter the army or to move to another part of the country, the work can be taken over by someone else.

This plan is far less satisfactory, but it will assure our corresponding members that their interests are being considered. During their ten years of cooperation, the membership of the Brooks Bird Club have proved that they are most adaptable.
to change and that they can take care of emergencies. So we can definitely say
at this time that we are planning a Foray during June of 1942. Where it will be, and
which individuals will carry the various responsibilities, will be a matter of future
announcement. We further assure our membership, that should conditions be such that
private transportation not be available as it has been in other years, plans will be
prepared that will permit interested members to participate.

For the information of those to whom the Brooks Bird Club Foray is a new and
unknown factor, let us briefly review one or two of the salient points of the
past and the prospects for the future.

The Foray is a summer camp, unique not only in the manner of cooperative super-
vision and instruction, but an affair of such comradeship that we doubt if its
equal can be found. Each year, under the leadership of the active members, the
Brooks Bird Club accepts the registration of thirty members to a week's camp
and study in the mountains of West Virginia. Rather than use the traditional man-
er of tent camps, the facilities of one of the West Virginia State Parks is
utilized. These areas are situated in the most picturesque and remote sections
of West Virginia. In almost every case they include territory which is almost
unknown from a biological standpoint.

The Brooks Bird Club plans its Forays at the time when the breeding season of
birds is at its height. This serves the basis for bird study in the Park or
County in which it is located. But many of those attending are not interested in
birds, or are interested only as a side-line. Some have smatterings of
geology, botany, entomology, and some are general biologists. Advantage is
taken of this fact. Each individual is permitted to exercise his individual
desires in a study of the territory. Much personal work is done but much of
this work has an additional dividend for the worker invariably finds time to
explain to others something of his hobby. In this way specialists in one branch
are introduced to the work in other forms of biology.

In the evenings after the dinner dishes are put away, comes one of the most
unusual programs to be found in any course of biological study. One person is
assigned as "leader" in a discussion. A particular biological area is selected, a
road-side, a stream-bank, a scrub forest, a stream. With this as the basis, the
leader begins a general conversation of his findings in this type of area during
the day. This leader might be an entomologist. His observations will be aug-
mented by the bird student, the botanist, the tree student, the geologist, and
the cook.

Many plans have been advanced, many suggestions have been tried by professional
teachers in an attempt to bring before their students a proper understanding of
the term "ecology" and its bearing on the lives of men and other animals. We
have proven in past Forays that this subject, not only can be taught, but can be
brought to form a part of the lives of the students and can be used to make the
study of biology and its many ramifications one of intense interest.

So we are proud to tell you again that somewhere, somehow, the Brooks Bird Club
will continue in 1942 and will offer for the pleasure and instruction of its
members a Foray, unique in conception and operation, an expedition for explora-
tion and adventure far enough from homes to make it interesting and exciting and
close enough to make it convenient and inexpensive.

Russell West
113 Edgewood St.,
Wheeling, W. Va.
Creston; W. Va. Christmas Census:—

Since it was the writer's duty to be in Wirt County when the Bird Club was taking the 1941 Christmas Census at Wheeling, he, as a committee of one, spent the entire day of December 22, 1941, in the field.

Starting on foot from Creston about 8 a.m. with the temperature at 50 degrees, an area of approximately one square mile was carefully covered by 6 p.m. as dusk halted further activities.

All in all, I was very much pleased with the results of my day in the field, and feel sure it is a list quite representative of Wirt County for this time of the year. However, other species were noted on different occasions such as the Robin, Bluebird and Golden-crowned Kinglet which are not included in the census list but were observed the following week.

The total number of birds listed for the day was 351 which represented 15 species and are published in the order recorded: Song Sparrow, 15; Tree Sparrow, 55; Junco, 60; Titmouse, 65; Chickadee (Sp.) 50; Rufed Grouse, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Cardinal, 24; W. B. Nightie, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Carolina Wren, 17; Crow, 1; and English Sparrow, 40.

Walter Amen
America Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

Christmas Census, Edgewood, Maryland:—

Editor's Note: The following is a report of the birds seen and heard by Private George Ammon on Thursday, December 25, 1941, at or near his station, Edgewood, Maryland. Mr. Arner has been located at Edgewood Arsenal for the past four months and has become well acquainted with the winter bird life in that region. The census as published has not been edited and is given to you as only Mr. Arner could report.

"The committee in wild life Aves of Edgewood Arsenal begs to report the list for Christmas Day included the following: Swamp Sparrows, 26; Song Sparrows, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 9; Cedar Wrenning, 14; Chickadees, 11; White-breasted Nightie, 7; Juncos, 29; English Sparrow, 42; Starling, 67; Crows, 129; Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 8; Marsh Hawk (?) Herring Gull, 19; and a flock of approximately fifty Red-breasted Mergansers.

"The Mergansers," continues Mr. Arner, "nearly got me shot. The hospital is fronted with the air-field and to the rear are many swamps. A favorite spot for the ducks is the sewerage disposal plant.

The committee was strolling down the road leading to this place when suddenly four armed civilian guards popped out of the bushes and without much ado gave him
the third and many subsequent degrees concerning his actions. There the committee stood without his gas mask, a horrible crime in itself, no class 'A' identification card, tuch, tuch; and treading on grounds that were out of bounds to most anyone less than a general.

"Being by nature quite peaceable, outflanked and outnumbered and even with less fire power, broke down and confessed he was merely a blind student at heart and was by no means a combination of a Jap and Nazi spy there to steal the plans of the unfinished sewerage disposal plant. Whereas, the guards freed him and he calmly walked into the bushes and through the woods to the bay and saw his ducks."

Private George Arner
Edgewood Arsenal
Edgewood, Maryland

Tappan Dam Area Records:

Editor's Note: The following is an old note in THE REDSTART files sent in by Judge John Worley of Cadiz, Ohio, back in 1939 which is worthy of publication and will be of value to all who are following the bird life at the Tappan area.

"Yesterday, April 11, 1939, Bob Patterson, a friend, and myself were in the Tappan Dam area for the entire afternoon and recorded the following 683 individuals of 22 species:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ducks</th>
<th>Others</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pintail</td>
<td>Osprey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ringneck</td>
<td>Great Blue Heron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotop</td>
<td>Herring Gull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bald-pate</td>
<td>Red-breasted Merganser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>Pied-billed Grebe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenwinged Teal</td>
<td>Loon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluelwinged Teal</td>
<td>Yellowlegs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bufflehead</td>
<td>Spotted Sandpipers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood Duck</td>
<td>Kyrple Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Duck</td>
<td>Tree Swallow</td>
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<td>Shoveler</td>
<td>Coot</td>
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</tbody>
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Ruddys and Redheads have been seen here in the past few days, and Bonaparte Gulls were listed a week ago, April 5th. The shore birds have, of course, not begun to come in as yet to any extent. The nature of the pools is such that we can get close to the ducks in several places."

Judge John Worley
Cadiz, Ohio
Observations on Hawks:-

The Christmas holidays of 1941 were something new to me in that I spent nearly two weeks visiting relatives in Dallas, Texas. The journey was made by auto via Cincinnati, Ohio; Vincennes, Indiana; Poplar Bluff, Missouri; Little Rock, Arkansas; Texarkana, Texas; to Dallas.

One of the most interesting phases of the trip was the large number of hawks observed along the highways, and especially throughout the more level country. Although I kept no list of birds, probably the most abundant of all hawks was the Sparrow Hawk. Next in abundance were the Swainson's Hawks. Occasionally a Red-shoulder flew close enough for careful observation. Red-tailed Hawks of both sexes, were seen and less frequently a Cooper's or Sharp-shinned Hawk would dart across the road. It was pleasing to see many hawks over this broad area to the southwest.

Karl Haller
6 Martindill Terrace
Wheeling, W. Va.

City Meadowlarks:-

Living in a city apartment is pretty nice in zero weather - I thought the birds would think so too, while the ground was covered with snow. I tried bread crumbs and crusts of bread on my kitchen window ledge but couldn't lure a bird to it; in disgust I threw them down on the walk to some English Sparrows playing around the barberry hedge. They scrambled about and fought over the bread until they had eaten all I put out. The next morning I threw out some other bread crusts and watched. The usual number of sparrows came and ate with great gusto. While watching I saw a larger bird come sedately up the walk, drive the sparrows away, eat the bread and stay perhaps five minutes. In spite of Charleston's scot it was easily identified as a Meadowlark, coming to an inside court of the Kanawha Village Apartments for foot, January 8, 1942.

On another occasion, in November, I heard and watched a Mockingbird near the Village. I've not seen or heard one since. Though they are seen here from time to time they do not seem to be plentiful.

Polly Handlan
Kanawha Village Apts.,
Charleston, W. Va.