The Redstart
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The 1942 Foray
by
Charles Conrad

The Brooks Bird Club, like all other organizations, under the present circumstances, had to withhold publishing plans for the 1942 Foray until such a time that it would be reasonably certain such plans could be carried out. If present conditions remain about the same, the Brooks Bird Club 1942 Foray, as announced by folder May 10, will be held June 13-20 inclusive, at Holly River State Park, Webster County, W. Va.

As in 1940 and again in 1941 the Foray offers a new but tried method in biological activity. It gives the trained leader an opportunity to work in a new territory without being hampered with students. Yet it gives beginners a chance to work with experienced biologists and to learn without classes or study. The method gives a fairly complete biotic study of the region in a single week by integrating and consolidating the work of a large number of specialists in various fields. Those wanting assistance in any particular study such as geology, entymology, botany, ornithology, mammalogy, herpetology, etc., will find it a privilege in working under one of the volunteer "experts". Of real value and perhaps a highlight of the week will be the general subject of ecology. A certain period each day is set aside for group discussion of a specified habitat area. Each camper offers observations of the area selected and the combined comments present a fine word picture of the inhabitants and conditions of the zone.

As for the territory to carry on all this activity there is none much better. More than 7,000 acres of unusual mountain country have been set aside as Holly River State Park. From the heavily wooded mountains which range from 1600 to 2700 feet, to the bed of the many clear, cool, streams, there is an abundant growth of rhododendron, oosses and wild flowers. Many
miles of beautiful trails lead through the entire park. Holly River affords swimming, tennis and fishing. Cabins in the cool of the mountain are ideally equipped with electricity, running water, comfortable spring beds, lounges, and other furniture. Bed linens, blankets, and towels are also provided. All you need to bring is your own personal equipment and you know that best. However, don’t forget to bring clothing suitable for the out-of-doors and be sure to prepare for some rainy weather.

The Foray buys its own food supply and hires its own cook. Well-balanced meals are prepared and served to meet the hungriest appetite that one acquires from hiking in the out-of-doors all day. Although the cost of food has advanced the same standard of meals will be served as has been the custom during the past Forays.

Transportation this year offers a bigger problem than ever. However, it can be worked out. Cooperation is the keyword. It is the request of Director Conrad that all campers notify him what means of transportation you have or do not have to get to camp. Many campers will be without a way. You might have room for one more. Another might have poor tires. In all events, the one and only way to help us all is to establish a traffic department as we have. Our plan as in the past is the same, the cost of car expense will be prorated among the passengers.

The Foray committee itself will have many problems to work out between now and June 13. Many of our veteran members have been called to the colors or have moved to other parts. Their help and guidance is sorely missed. However, the newer members of our committee are working well and will be a worthy addition to our group. As has been stated, we are going to a new territory. Tires being what they are, no advance trip could be made to Holly River to work out the details there. But the Conservation Commission has been more cooperative than ever. Not long ago, we were promised that Ra ger George Flouer from Lost River Park would be transferred to Holly River to take care of all necessary arrangements our group requires. In addition, Mr. Bruce Griffith, superintendent of the park, is well known by several members of our club and is just as much interested in having the Foray at Holly River as we are. He is a real outdoors man and could easily be a member of the Foray. Mr. John Handlan, member of the Brooks Bird Club and also working for the Commission, is located at Charleston and has been assisting the committee in every way.

Mr. Handlan has already sent in his reservation which assures the Foray of some good mountaineer stories at the campfires. These campfires are conducted by the campers officially each night. They are not routine affairs but are unique in their expression of the warm friendliness that fills the group during the entire camp.

Costs for the entire week at Holly River Park including all expenses except personal equipment will be $20.00 (twenty dollars). Two dollars of this amount should be sent in with registration; eighteen dollars to be paid upon registering at park. The only requirements for campers are they must be twenty-one ears of age or over and in good health. As this is a cooperative affair, the Brooks Bird Club hereby disclaims any responsibility for the individuals.
In addition to Mr. Hendian and his wife the club was at the present time fourteen other reservations. We can accommodate about thirty campers so the first thirty to make reservations will be those accepted for this Foray. Since more than half the quota has already been reached you had better send your registration fee in today and be with us in June. Reservations or further inquiries may be mailed to the Brooks Bird Club, 113 Edgewood Street, Wheeling, W. Va.

416 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

RATHER CHOICE

Occasionally at work during the course of our regular conversation, more than once we got on the subject of nature and several times already, mention of some observation by some fellow workmen has been good enough for publication. Such was the case when I was told the following note by Miss Ethel Jackson who lives at Woodsdale. Miss Jackson has always been interested in nature and to this day still feeds the birds regularly.

"The other days, as I was sitting on the porch I noticed a Wood Thrush gathering nesting material on the ground near the foot of the steps. Being very much in love with the song of the Thrush, I was more than hoping it was building its nest near by. Well, it was, and much closer than I had hoped for the nest was located on a branch just above my head while standing on the porch.

I continued watching the Thrush gather material and noticing some difficulty in securing the proper kind, more to encourage the bird to stay, I went to the kitchen and secured twine which I cut in short lengths. This to my amazement, proved to be just what the thrush ordered. That was soon gone.

A second trip was necessary for more twine and I also added some yarn which I thought would be greatly appreciated. However, soft and colorful as the bits of yarn were, the Wood Thrush still wanted and did pick out the twine".

--Charles Conrad
416 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

A. B. BROOKS' LAST WALK

To the hundreds of people who have walked the trails with A. B. Brooks, Sunday, April 26, will be a memorable day. On that particular Sunday morning, "A. B." as he was called by most of his friends, led his last walk at Oglebay Park as park naturalist. For fourteen years, Mr. Brooks has introduced the beauties of the nature trail to his followers. Every Sunday, regardless of the weather, found "A. B." and nature lovers hiking through the woods. Now, he is retiring to his home at French Creek, W. Va. to write and to study. His influence and teachings, however, will live on at Oglebay and in the hearts of those who knew him best.
For his last walk, even Mother Nature cooperated to make it a success. She was arrayed in her prettiest spring finery to greet Mr. Brooks and his one hundred forty-five friends and acquaintances. The birds sang melodiously as they can only on a balmy spring day. The spring flowers nodded their freshly washed faces from the hillsides and ravines. Never were the trails more lovely, the air sweeter than on Sunday morning, April 26.

Befitting the occasion, the trail selected for his last walk was that known as the Brooks Trail. This was also the scene of the first nature walk led by Mr. Brooks in April 1926.

When the group stopped to rest, to list the birds heard, Mr. Rybeck read a telegram from Kate Oglebay and parts of a letter from John Handlan recalling the first walk led by Mr. Brooks and also his bird notes for these early walks. Other letters and messages were turned over to Mr. Brooks for him to read at his leisure.

At Mr. Brooks request the group sang his favorite, "There's a Long, Long Trail" and Judge Worley from Cadiz recited a part of a proper tribute which was a fitting close for the walk, to Mr. Brooks and his work.

The Brooks Bird Club
113 Edgewood Street
Wheeling, West Virginia

TUESDAY NIGHT, MARCH 31, 1942

Tuesday nights are the backbone of the Brooks Bird Club. On this night in each week, most of the active members congregate in the clubrooms to work on THE REDSTART, discuss birds, greet friends and prepare plans for more publicized activities. But this particular Tuesday night was something special for it became a reunion. All of the remaining Wheeling members were present to greet and to say goodbye to several "defenders of the U.S.". Sergeant George Breiding, a former president, was in town on a visit from Lowry Field, near Denver, Colorado. Sergeant Harold Bargner, a former president, was a visitor from the armored force at Fort Knox, near Louisville, Kentucky. John Handlan, the first president of the Brooks Bird Club, called from Charleston, W.Va. (Polly Handlan was also on the line). Russell West was host for the evening and completed the round-up of the presidents who have officiated during the ten years of existence of the Brooks Bird Club. Every past president was "there" on this Tuesday night.

Walter Ammon was given proper farewell for on the following morning he was to be inducted into the United States Army. Dwight Koon and Don Kayser were present but they did not know whether or not they would be called before the end of the week. Both of them are in the naval reserves and subject to immediate call.
Letters were read from William Lunk located in March Field near San Francisco, California; John Pattison who is "researching" in chemistry for the U.S. Government (through the Carnegie Foundation) in Pittsburgh; Cadet George Arner at the Officers Training School at the Edgewood Arsenal in Edgewood, Maryland; and the boys in Morgantown, W. Va. who are finishing out their school year before being called to their various assigned posts.

Long distance telephone was brought into play to bring more personalities and individuals to the gathering. "Pete" Chandler in Chester, West Virginia offered his best wishes to the boys who were leaving and the folks who were staying to represent the "production line" and the "home guard". Judge John C. Worley of Cadiz, Ohio, told the folks assembled around the telephone that the occasion seemed like a campfire down at the campground at TerraAlta, West Virginia and he offered greetings and salutations.

After many trials, "Ted" Frankenberg was roused from his bed in the Y.M.C.A. on 66th Street in New York City to give his final "good-bye" and "I'll be with you as soon as I get those power plants built and my deferments and" greeting to the boys who were leaving. Leroy, "Schnitz" and "Skipper" Black sent bon voyage and good luck via long distance phone.

The same medium of instantaneous exchange enabled George, "Marge" and "Jackie" Fieuer to say "Hello, goodluck and goodbye" from Lost River State Park in Hardy County, West Virginia.

Along about midnight, the service men left to get their bit of rest. Practically all the male members of the bird club were in active service or were ready for their call. The few who were left are connected with Civilian Defense, Red Cross First Aid Work or the production of war materials. Only the young ladies remained and every one of these hoped that they would have the opportunity before long of doing their bit, more than the writing of letters, upkeep of morale, and the hope of a speedy return of those in uniform.

Around midnight, there were left only those who were destined to be "the folks behind the men behind the guns". It was a quiet, thoughtful group. Like our men, our thoughts were far away. But one thing we knew. The principles of the Brooks Bird Club would ride out the storm for the "duration". Luxuries can be taken away but not the memories of fine companionship; the standard of living may, of necessity be lowered but you can't take away the impressions of a starry night, the fog, the campfire and the hills.

Russell West
115 Edgewood St.,
Wheeling, West Virginia

MARCH MEETING

On March 27, 1942, Mr. Leroy Black of Frick Park, Pittsburgh, was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Brooks Bird Club. Mr. Black held the interest of the group by showing various pictures of nature life which proved to be highly entertaining, as many of the scenes were very unusual to the average nature lover.
The pictures were of birds in their natural habitat showing in the background - sunsets, waterfalls, plants, etc. These pictures were taken in and around Frick Park and also on Mr. Black's travels.

One picture in particular was the highlight of the group which Mr. Black showed. An owl had decided to swallow a snake. The fact that the snake was longer than the owl did not weaken his determination and the manner in which the owl accomplished the swallowing of the snake was very amusing. After he had completed the task, he locked straight at the camera, and his expression was one of not knowing what to expect next.

Mr. Black has about 60 birds and nests now photographed in natural color. The birds are shown in the order of their return from the south. Another film is devoted to the winter resident birds. When finished, Mr. Black will have a complete picture series of most of the birds and nests in and about the Pittsburgh area.

Mr. Black's pictures are excellent and will compare with the best. Many of his shots took time and patience as well as skill in photographing.

Eva Hayes, Secretary
41 Dorman Road, Morningside
Wheeling, W. Va.

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FIELD TRIP TO LAKE PYMATUNING

As usual a representative group observed the spring migration this year on the annual Brooks Bird Club trip to the Lake Pymatuning region on April 11 and 12. The party, made up of groups from Wheeling, Charleston, Lost River State Park, and Moorefield in West Virginia and from Youngstown, Ohio, practically had the entire area to itself.

The weather at Pymatuning, (which is two-thirds in Pennsylvania and one-third in Ohio and about thirty miles south of Lake Erie) was even colder than usual. Many drove through a small blizzard on Saturday. This may have been one of the reasons that fewer large flocks of ducks were observed this year than have been seen in the past. But this was more than made up for by the large variety of species listed.

Because Bert O’Udette, former warden at the sanctuary had been transferred, there was no one who could take the group into the protected area. So observations, aside from the trip to and from Pymatuning, were confined to the two causeways between Andover and Linesville, at the Hartstown swamp (where little was seen), and along the railroad track that borders the sanctuary at Linesville.

On Saturday afternoon, a European widgeon seen near Andover, was of special interest. Quite a large number of Common Loons, sleeping in the lake near the causeway, were very amusing.

After dinner, the cloudy sky began to clear, and visibility remained good for the rest of the trip, but there was always a sharp wind which kept anyone from having a desire to do much birding other than from cars. One group, however,
walked out along the railroad tracks and flushed several Wilson Snipes. Later, most of the group went out on the causeway and watched Canada Geese arrive in big wedge-shaped formations, numbering from about twenty to well over fifty. These flocks coming across the lake against the sunset sky was a thrilling sight. A pied-billed Grebe obligingly swam around in a little swamp just a few feet from the road so that everyone could get a good look at him.

On Sunday we encountered the Canada Geese again. They had assembled into a huge flock conservatively estimated at 1500 geese. We saw them in several places. First, before we had breakfast, they were feeding in a cornfield between the causeways. Later in the day they were in the lake near Andover.

Great Blue Herons were very numerous, seen to pop up every place we stopped. A couple of Red-tailed Hawks being chased by Crows remained in sight for over an hour.

Following is a list of all the birds seen:

- Common Loon
- Horned Grebe
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Great Blue Heron
- Black-crowned Night Heron
- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- Black Duck
- European Widgeon
- Baldpate
- Pintail
- Song Sparrow
- Green-winged Teal
- Blue-winged Teal
- Shoveller
- Wood Duck
- Ring-necked Duck
- Canvas-back
- Lesser Scaup Duck
- Bufflehead
- Ruddy Duck
- American Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Turkey Vulture
- Cooper's Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Marsh Hawk
- Sparrow Hawk
- Ring-necked Pheasant
- Co t
- Killdeer
- Wilson's Snipe
- Herring Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Mourning Dove
- Belded Kingfisher
- Flicker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Phoebe
- Tree Swallow
- Crow
- Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- Carolina Wren
- Robin
- Bluebird
- Starling
- English Sparrow
- Meadowlark
- Red-wing
- Purple Grackle
- Cowbird
- Cardinal
- Savannah Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Field Sparrow

--Walter Rybeck
Park View
Wheeling, West Virginia
BIRD STUDY

Each year during the migration season, the Sunday morning walks are the principal feature of the Brooks Bird Club program. Each Sunday as soon as it is daylight, the group congregates at some announced location to go over the hills through the hollows in a concerted effort to learn what new arrivals might be found. No matter what the weather may be, these trips are conducted for some migrants are sure to be found.

This is the tenth consecutive year that this program has been carried on. The plan is to divide into small groups each under the leadership of a trained and experienced birder student. In this manner the newer members receive supervision and instruction merely by being present and listening to the discussions of bi ds and bird songs. At the same time, the balance of the experienced workers are permitted to join any of the groups or to work by themselves. This plan added to the field trips to Pymatuning, the Tappan Dam area in Ohio, Terra Alta, West Virginia, and Tomlinson’s Run State Park permit a very complete course in bird study for those who belong to the club. And to climax the work, the annual Ferey held during June not only permits additional bird study but allows members to branch out their interests into other biological fields under expert leadership or to bring to their bird study a better understanding of the relationship of other animals and plants.

The weekly get-together on Tuesday nights permits discussions not only of the birds seen on the field trips but to read and to talk about their habits and songs. Speakers at the monthly meetings help to round out the study program and when these are not available motion pictures serve as admirable substitutes. During the winter months some member gives a brief course in a manner similar to that used in colleges on some subject relating to birds. So while not all of the club members are expert students, everyone is sure to have a fairly well-rounded knowledge of the birds that visit this area.

—Russell West
113 Edgewood St.,
Wheeling, W.Va.

THE GOOSE LOOKERS

Honk! Honk! At the call of the Great Gander Arthur, the Goose Lookers took flight to Oglebay Park, some by rail migration and some by auto, eventually leading to Oglebay Park where they spent Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17. The Goose Lookers spent Saturday afternoon visiting places of interest in the Park, including the Sunken Garden, the Mansion and the telescope. Saturday evening the group assembled at Redbud Cabin and exchanged stories of past happenings.
Having written the Brooks Bird Club of their intended visit, the Goose Lockers had Chuck Conrad as their guest during the evening. Chuck gave a general outline of club activities and exhibited the club scrap book and publications including copies of the Redstart.

Members of the Bird Club acted as leaders on an early morning walk. A total of 72 birds were listed. After the walk, members of the Bird Club had a very enjoyable breakfast with the Goose Lockers. The visitors expressed their appreciation to the members of the Bird Club who walked and talked with them.

The Goose Lockers were named back in 1925 when a special train was chartered to make a trip to Jack Miner's place in Canada to observe the great concentration of Canada Geese. From that meeting an organization of 41 charter members was formed and has since been known as "The Goose Lockers". This was their first visit with the Brooks Bird Club and a hearty invitation was extended to them to come again.

--Mabel W. Hopwood
1800 Marshall st.,
Benwood, W. Va.

ABSTRACTS FROM LETTERS

Our day starts at 5:30 A.M. We have five lectures in the morning and four in the afternoon. Free time is between 6-7 and 9-10 P.M. but you have to clean your room the last hour so they inspect with white gloves. Between 7-9 P.M. is study time and we must stay in our rooms. They give us assignments so long that I can barely read over them let alone study.

The instructors are all from West Point or V. M. I. Technical instructors, M. I. T., or from the technical division at the Arsenal. They are terrific on spine and polish and Military courtesy and etiquette. I shine my shoes at least six times a day. But enough of that.

Now for you. Keep up the work - don't let the Club die out. What I am looking forward to when and if I come back is another Foray trip and to sit in on some of your meetings. The things that you do and believe in are some of the few normal things in this chaotic state. Something that always brings me out of my doldrums is to take a walk and see a few birds. A poorly written paragraph but one seldom can express gracefully the things about which one cares most.

Sing a song for me and write when you can.

P. S. We occasionally have classes outdoors and the damn birds do make it hard for me to concentrate.

Cadet George Arner
Edgewood Arsenal
Edgewood, Maryland
I have been getting quite a kick out of the migration and you’ll see why when I start to sound off some of the birds. First let me tell you about the most interesting trip I had with the Museum staff on Wednesday of this week. Mr. Alfred Bailey, the director was going out to get some movies of the Golden Eagle at the nest. Our trip took us out on the plains among the buttes just below where Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado meet. Fred Brandenburg of the museum staff was a member of the party. We climbed up to the edge of the cliff and had a look down over the ledge and there lay a little white fluffy ball of down. Beside it was a great big old dead jack-rabbit. The old bird left the nest or was out on the plains hunting while we made our approach. Fred and I got Bailey and his camera all rigged up in a blind right out on the edge of a straight wall so he could do the "shooting". We piled rocks and boulders up around him so he was completely hidden. We left Bailey there for the rest of the day in the company of the Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, Prairie Falcon, Chipping and Lark Sparrows, Western Mourning Dove, White Throated Swifts, Brewer's Blackbird, Montana Horned Owl and the Boreas Horned Larks.

Out on the prairies below, Fred and I made some interesting observations of the Mountain Plover and the McCown's Longspur. We found the nest of the Plover and Mr. Bailey told me later that he doubted if over ten ornithologists in the country have seen the nest of this species. He fed me all up when fellows like Chapman, Chapin and Grinnell were included in the bunch.

I kept tab on the number of White-rumped Shrikes I ran into and at the close of the day the total count was 70. Only after having observed the Shrike three or four times before I couldn’t believe that there were that many in the country to run up a count like that in one day. The distance covered in getting that many was about 300 miles.

The Lark Bunting, the Colorado state bird, has returned and they made a very spectacular sight in their different flight formations that showed off their black and white color pattern. Of course, out in that country it was only natural to see the Burrowing Owl and the Swainson’s Hawk which I think is a real beauty—the Terrible wasn't it? No foolin', it is a fine looking bird.

After we went back to the rocks and got "the boss" out of the blind and were seen in the marshes and ponds along the roads. The Western Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Blue Winged Teal, Avocets, Western Red-Tailed Hawk and the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk all added to the day’s pleasure.

A group of other birds that I have come in contact with in the last ten days or so, are the Sage Thrasher, Green Tailed Towhee, Cinnamon Teal Gadwall, Townsend's Solitaire, Western Flycatcher, Pine Siskin, Lutescent Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Western House Wren, Western Marsh Wren, Sora Rail, Yellowheaded Blackbird, Long-billed Dowitcher, Forster's Tern, American Bittern and the Black-crowned Night Heron.

--Sgt. George H. Breiding
Lowry Field, Colorado
NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF BOYS IN THE ARMED SERVICE

Private Walter Ammon
Company K
2nd Engineering School Regiment
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Cadet George Armer
Officers Candidate Course
Edgewood Arsenal
Edgewood, Maryland

Sergeant Harold Bergner
A. P. O. 1060
c/o Postmaster
New York City

Lieutenant William E. Bierer
Company E
1st S. T. R.
Fort Benning, Georgia

Private Ralph Bischof
Company B
Camp Croft, South Carolina

Sergeant George H. Breiding
Hq. & Hq. Squadron APTS
Lowry Field, Colorado

Lieutenant Frank Conner
445 Richwood Avenue
Morgantown, West Virginia

Private Karl Haller
398 S. S. Flight D 387
Keesler Field, Mississippi

Harold Jacobs
124 S. Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Private Bernard L. Kain
Army War Show
C. W. S. War Section
Akron, Ohio

Dwight Zoon C.M. 2/C
Br. & Company B, P.S.H.Y.
Bremerton, Washington

Private William Lunk
Company D, 15th SS Regiment
U. S. Signal Corps
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

David W. McAdam, Seaman S.C.
U. S. S. Poconoko
First Division
c/o N. Y. Postmaster
New York, New York

Sergeant Richard R. McAdam
U. S. Army
405 Ordnance Detachment
Townsend, Georgia

Private Robert Murray
A.S.H. - 35,205520
1-1 Fort Greeley
Kodiak, Alaska

Harold Olsen
618 Del Mar Boulevard
Corpus Christi, Texas

The above addresses are the latest available. We do know that several of the boys are being moved at this time or are anticipating a change in the near future. Just as soon as we receive any changes in addresses, they will be published in THE REDSTART in a forthcoming issue.

--Jean Semancik, Corresponding Secretary
729 Main Street
Wheeling, West Virginia