



The Redstart

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Charles Conrad, Editor

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1943 SPRING MIGRATION

by
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Among the many things that will be remembered in the year 1943, other than the war, for members of the Brooks Bird Club, is the Spring Migration. A number of unusual records, the success of "Century Day", the various field trips and the final results made this one of the most interesting and successful migrations for us.

The territory covered was about the same as in previous years. In the Wheeling area, which is in Ohio County, W. Va., field trips were made to Millers' Hollow, Stratford Hill, Oglebay Park, Bethlehem and Warwood Hills. In addition, two trips were made to the Big Wheeling Creek territory to the vicinity of the second steel bridge. This offers the best opportunity for early arrivals with good habitats for shore, water and woodland birds. Also, two expeditions were made to the Tappan Dam area near Cadiz, Ohio. The results of these trips were very gratifying, with a combined total of over seventy species, recorded, which represented a great number of ducks and shore birds. All species listed at Tappan Dam will be marked with an asterisk.

Always an important factor during migration is the weather, and as usually is the case in the Spring of the year, it varied greatly. During the latter part of March and the entire month of April, it was cold and dismal. High temperature of the month was 60 degrees while 35 degrees was low. During the first week in May the weather began to break, and from then to the end of the month was exceptionally favorable for both the birds and the observers. High temperature for May was 84 degrees and low, 38 degrees.

On Sunday, May 9, at Oglebay Park, we listed 71 species which included the Brewster's and Pine Warblers. Also, two possible site records of the Gray-cheeked Thrush. Field notes on all three of these species will be published in a forthcoming issue of THE REDSTART.

One of the high lights of Spring Migration, to members of The Brooks Bird Club is the annual so-called "Century Day." Briefly, it is a day selected at the height of migration when the combined efforts of the group are put forth to record 100 species in Ohio County. To date this has, to our knowledge, never been accomplished. This year on Sunday, May 16, we recorded 101 species with all but two being recorded in the county. The Least and Solitary Sandpipers were listed on Big Wheeling Creek, Marshall Co., W. Va. On only one other occasion did we reach the century mark and then we had to travel to Tappan Dam to list several shore and water birds. Thus, the 99 recorded this year for Ohio County is by far our best effort. Included in the total were a number of outstanding observations, such as, the Rough-legged Hawk (which hasn't been recorded for several years), the Bobolink and Golden-winged Warbler, all recorded at Oglebay Park.

One of the longest field trips we took this spring was to Cadiz, Ohio or the Tappan Dam area. This was the first time that we had visited this territory during the height of migration. Always before, our main purpose was for water and shore birds and the trip was either made in early Spring or early Fall. Although we did make our first journey in March, our good friend, Judge Worley, persuaded us to come back on Sunday, May 23. And we certainly want to thank the Judge, for we really had a great time and had a good day for birds with a very impressive list of 67. This included a number of so-called good migrants and the recording of the Red-backed Sandpiper, which the Judge has promised to write for a future field note.

In a summary of the 1943 Spring Migration, one would say that the usual few early arrivals were recorded in March despite the unfavorable weather which continued throughout April. During April, migrants were rather slow as to numbers and the variety of species recorded. Then, from the first few days in May up to the end of the month, migration was better than it has been for a number of years. The total reached on The Brooks Bird Club migration chart was 98, which is the best compiled total the club has ever recorded. We listed all of the thrushes and recorded 28 wood warblers, with the Wilson's, Mourning and Connecticut, passing by unnoticed. Most common ones included the Blue-winged, Yellow, Oven-bird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Redstart, Yellow-throated, Yellow-breasted Chat and Kentucky Warblers. Fairly common and more abundant than last year the Tennessee, Nashville, Parula, Black-throated Green, Cerulean and Hooded Warblers. The Golden-winged was reported on two different occasions, while the Pine and Brewsters Warblers were recorded each once. The Bobolink was recorded for the first time at Oglebay Park.

In conclusion, one thing which always adds greatly to these migration walks is the outdoor breakfasts which are sponsored by the club and are considered part of the program. It is then that the spirit of good fellowship and friendly discussions take place to make these walks unforgettable events. May this, always, be a part of the club's program.

423 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

Pied-billed Grebe	4/18	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5/2
Green Heron	4/25	Yellow-throated Vireo	5/1
*Black Duck	3/21	Blue-headed Vireo	5/2
*Baldpate	3/21	Red-eyed Vireo	5/9
*Pintail	3/21	Warbling Vireo	4/27
*Green-winged Teal	3/21	Black & White Warbler	4/25
*Blue-winged Teal	3/21	Worm-eating Warbler	5/2
*Shoveller	3/21	Golden-winged Warbler	5/9
*Ring-necked Duck	3/21	Blue-winged Warbler	5/1
*Ruddy Duck	3/21	Tennessee Warbler	5/9
*Goshawk	3/21	Nashville Warbler	5/1
*Broad-winged Hawk	5/23	Parula Warbler	5/9
*Rough-legged Hawk	5/16	Yellow Warbler	4/21
Coot	4/18	Magnolia Warbler	5/1
*Semipalmated Plover	5/23	Cape May Warbler	5/6
Woodcock	3/18	Black-throated Blue	5/1
Wilson Snipe	4/11	Brewster's Warbler	5/9
Spotted Sandpiper	4/25	Myrtle Warbler	4/25
Solitary Sandpiper	5/16	Black-throated Green	4/30
*Greater Yellow-legs	5/2	Cerulean Warbler	5/1
*Lesser Yellow-legs	5/23	Blackburnian Warbler	5/1
Least Sandpiper	5/16	Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/2
*Red-backed Sandpiper	5/23	Bay-breasted Warbler	5/9
Mourning Dove	4/7	Blackpoll Warbler	5/12
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/9	Pine Warbler	5/9
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/9	Ovenbird	4/30
Whip-poor-will	5/1	Louisiana Waterthrush	4/4
Nighthawk	5/16	Kentucky Warbler	5/1
Chimney Swift	4/24	Yellow-throated Warbler	5/1
Hummingbird	5/9	Yellow-breasted Chat	5/2
Crested Flycatcher	4/30	Hooded Warbler	4/30
Acadian Flycatcher	5/15	Canada Warbler	5/16
Phoebe	4/18	American Redstart	5/11
Least Flycatcher	5/15	Bobolink	5/16
Wood Pewee	5/9	Red-winged Blackbird	3/29
Bank Swallow	4/26	Orchard Oriole	5/16
Roughwinged Swallow	5/2	Baltimore Oriole	4/26
Barn Swallow	5/2	Grackle	3/13
Purple Martin	4/30	Cowbird	3/25
Tree Swallow	4/25	Scarlet Tanager	5/8
House Wren	4/11	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/6
Bewick's Wren	4/9	Indigo Bunting	5/5
Catbird	4/23	Savannah Sparrow	5/16
Brown Thrasher	4/18	Grasshopper Sparrow	4/25
Wood Thrush	4/15	Vesper Sparrow	4/25
Hermit Thrush	4/17	Chipping Sparrow	3/31
Olive-backed Thrush	5/9	Field Sparrow	3/28
Veery	5/9	White-crowned Sparrow	4/18
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/25	White-throated Sparrow	4/18

ANNOUNCING THE 1943 NATURE REUNION

At the August meeting of The Brooks Bird Club, a unanimous vote was cast to hold the Annual Nature Reunion. Announcements already have been mailed to some two hundred persons stating that the Reunion will be three big days, beginning Friday, October 1 at 8:00 P.M. and ending Sunday, October 3, at 2:00 P. M. Headquarters for the affair will be at the clubroom of the Bird Club at Fifth Street, Warwood.

A very efficient committee was appointed and already have plans well-formulated for a very successful Reunion. The Committee has secured the use of an adjoining clubroom of the Civilian Defense Corps, which is well equipped to serve a banquet. A general plan of the activities for the Reunion was outlined in the announcement, along with the time schedule and the cost, which is only \$3.50 for the whole works.

If you are one who can attend (and we do hope you are), please check all the events you plan to attend and get your reservation in as soon as possible. This is of utmost importance for those who must do the work here at headquarters with food points, lodging, and the general planning for your Reunion.

If you cannot make it, do the next best thing and let us hear from you. We are always glad to hear from you and we make it a special point to read your messages to the Reunion gang. Address your letters to Mr. Charles Conrad, 1206 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, W. Va.

---The Reunion Committee
Eva H. Hays, Secretary

CADIZ FIELD TRIP

On Sunday, May 23, one car loaded with Brooks Bird Club members left for Cadiz, Ohio and arrived there about 9:00 A.M. Upon our arrival, we went directly to the home of Judge Worley to find out the plans for the day and to extend greetings to the Worley family. Our next stop was to a private picnic spot for an outdoor breakfast! Here we were joined by Harold Haverfield and Ray Reed, both from Cadiz. After a delicious breakfast, we headed for the lake, making several stops on the way.

Since it was a little late in the season for ducks and shore birds, only seven species were recorded. However, other migrants were plentiful and a compiled total of 67 species were listed. We spent the entire day in the field and did not return to Wheeling until after dark.

The compiled list of birds recorded are in A.O.U. check-list order and are as follows: Green Heron, Mallard, Black Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow,

Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mocking Bird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Bluebird, Startling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

---William Wylie
National Road
Wheeling, W. Va.

B. B. C. MAIL BAG

Incoming mail was not as plentiful during July and August as in previous months because of the large volume of mail received before and during the Foray.

A newsy letter from Pvt. Don E. Keyser who was stationed at Camp Livingston, La. at the time the letter was written. Don wrote, "I really hated to leave and come back here but you know this is one job I can't and wouldn't quit until it is over. I am now working in the station hospital as a laboratory technician. It is very interesting work and I really like it. The new clubroom is really OK; I never expected anything so spacious, it was really a surprise and I hope to get to see it again soon. The Foray was wonderful. I know not of any place in the world I would rather have been than there with you people. My only regret is that I was late in getting there and the time I had, went too fast. Correction on the score of that last mush ball game -- 63-33, the way I count; 33-32, Chuck's way. We'll play another game some day to settle it. Wishing you all the best of health and luck."

A nice long letter from Pete Chandler in Chester, W. Va. -- "The last week in June I got a job at Kobuta, Koppers Construction Company, as a time-checker and have been at it since. I work from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. six or seven days a week and spend about two-thirds of the time looking for men working. The old Herptile searching practice really put me in good form to say nothing of nest-hunting experiences on the Forays. I discovered that Pat Pattison works in the laboratory of the Koppers United Company. He is living in Beaver Falls and Rosemary is working there. He wanted to know all about the Foray. I am in hopes the gang can arrange for a visit to Tomlinson's Run State Park this summer. We could have a Saturday night campfire and late party, a morning walk, and breakfast in the park. Pick a week-end and let me know about a week or more in advance. ---Now you tell me sump'n."

Maxine Thacker's letter from Buckhannon, W. Va. has an undercurrent of nostalgia: "Sometimes, I think you all up there conspire to tell me all the pleasant things the crowd does, and makes me miss them all the more. But I didn't get the point of your reference to 'Livingston and Stanley' being there. Whom did you mean? I have a couple of songs you all might like. One is called, 'The Prune Song' and the other is, 'Never Make Love in a Buggy'. Ever hear either of them? I had a grand time at Jackson's Mill. Tubby Boggs took some of us out on early morning walks. My regards to all."

A letter from our good friend and camp neighbor, Mr. E. C. Nine, Terra Alta, W. Va.: "I was glad to hear from you and thanks for the pictures. I received the lock and put it on the building and also took care of the fixtures from the gas connections. Hope to see you all back this fall."

Cpl. Lyman B. Waterman, Los Angeles, Calif., sent a very welcome letter which reads in part: "Another Tuesday night -- back in Wheeling on North Fifth Street, a grand bunch of 'guys and gals' are just about ready to close up for the evening because it's midnight there. It seems that every Tuesday night I always get a bit restless and would give anything to tear back to Wheeling just for the evening. Maybe my wish will come true some day. I know there must be a nice group as 'The Redstart' looks swell and is certainly appreciated. My copy came one day when I was out in the field and I sat down and read it twice from cover to cover. I laughed about Walter Ammon writing about sleeping in a bed of poison ivy as last Wednesday, I unrolled my blankets on a red ant hill and woke up in the morning just covered with those crawling creatures. I think I had them on me for three days. Anyway, 'The Redstart' is better than the home town paper. John's article on the Sunday Morning Walk certainly brought back memories. Those, we will never forget. Well folks, time to close -- but keep up the GRAND work on 'The Redstart' and 'Keep 'Em Smiling'."

A very interesting V-mail letter from Lt. George Arner in Sicily: "I have just received my May-June Redstart and find I have been late in sending you my change of address. This War business has really given me a Cook's tour of a lot of places I would never have seen. And thanks to the B.B.C. (and I don't mean British Broadcasting Co.), I've been able to see and appreciate a lot more than I would have in pre-Foray days. The bird life in Africa was very plentiful, exotic in coloring and very vivid songs."

---Eva H. Hays
11 Dorman Road
Wheeling, W. Va.

The death of Bayard H. Christy, of Sewickley, Pa., came as a shocking surprise to all members of The Brooks Bird Club. Several members of our club knew Mr. Christy personally, while all of us knew him as an outstanding bird man and Editor of the very fine bird journal, "The Cardinal" and letting it stand as a monument to his contribution in bird study is a worthy one. Therefore, we, the members of The Brooks Bird Club wish to express our deepest sympathy in the death of Mr. Christy.

Members and friends of The Brooks Bird Club will be grieved to learn of the death of one of their members, Miss Betty Counihan of Wheeling, W. Va. Betty had been in ill health for over a year at Ohio County Sanitarium when death overtook her on August 12, 1943. She was employed for six years as secretary to the director of Oglebay Institute serving Dr. Nat T. Frame and Mr. Ford T. Shepherd. It was during this time that Betty was most active in the club especially in the publication of THE REDSTART. Betty's many friends will miss her and we, of The Brooks Bird Club wish to extend our deepest sympathy to her parents and to her sister, Ursula.