

## THE REDSTART

Published Monthly by the Brooks Bird Club  
Wheeling, W. Va.  
(Reprinted 3/16/48)

VOL. I, No. 4

Mabel Hogwood, Editor

January 1943

### THE 1942-43 PROGRAM FOR THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

by  
Carolyn Conrad

The 1942-43 program officially started on September 25 with the election of officers at the annual meeting. Plans for a new club room were made and much time was devoted to cleaning, painting, and decorating an abandoned school room for open house inspection on Friday, October 30. The Club's tenth annual reunion was held at the Jesters Club on October 31 and November 1. The month of November was spent in finishing work on the Percy report for 1942 and doing an issue or two of the journal - THE REDSTART. On November 27 at the monthly meeting T. Sgt. Braiding of Lowry Field, Colorado was the guest speaker. Sgt. Braiding spoke on Bird Ecology in Denver.

In the month of December many Christmas boxes were sent to the club's service men and the monthly meeting's feature was the trimming of a tree for a party planned for Tuesday, December 22. The Christmas bird census was taken on December 27. From the New Year on, the club schedule will keep the reader posted as to activities to follow.

Local afternoon field trips for the months of January, February and March will start from individual club members' homes. The group will hike for about two hours and study all kinds of nature.

Programs for the monthly meetings will include the regular routine of business plus a summary of the club's correspondence received that month from corresponding members and from boys in the service. Excerpts from each letter will be read to the group and then published in THE REDSTART for all to read. The club diary of activities during the current month will be read and a nature game planned for each meeting. Feature subjects of the meetings will include: bird song records with slides picturing the birds; a book review; nature activities in a community; Conservation slides; and a summary of trips and territories covered by the Brooks Bird Club.

No doubt the reader will notice that the spring migration walks are starting at a later hour this year than in previous years. This is due to the consideration of the schedules of street cars and busses, and the time needed to walk to the appointed meeting place. However, remember that E. W. T. is not mother nature's time, so "Our feathered friends" will really be observed an hour earlier than the time stated.

Once each year during migration season a day is set aside when the chief aim is to list 100 species of birds. This is called Century day and will be held on Sunday, May 16, with Big Wheeling Creek as the starting area at 7:00 A.M.

The club is planning an outing for all its members and their families and friends on Decoration Day, May 30. A picnic site will be reserved at Oglebay Park where a picnic lunch will be enjoyed and a program will be presented for the group's interest, including a hike, swimming, a square dance and plenty of singing.

At the present time a Foray in 1943 is very remote, but if possible at all, the most logical place would be Terra Alta. First: because it is almost centrally located; and second: both the B & O and Pennsylvania Railway lines pass through the town, and the bus service is available from Morgantown.

During the months of July and August, weekend trips to Cadiz and Tomlinson Run State Park are scheduled. In previous years the usual procedure has been a joint campfire program on Saturday night with club members in the respective areas, and a bird walk and out-door breakfast Sunday morning.

With September comes Labor Day and a weekend holiday will be in order. Tentative plans are to rent a cabin at Oglebay Park to accommodate all those interested in attending. This month concludes the club's fiscal year, with the election of new officers at the monthly meeting.

Every Tuesday night is open house at the club room on North Fifth Street, Harwood, where the members get together to carry on the club work. Here may be seen typing, mimeographing, assembling THE RESTART, answering club correspondence or just writing friendly letters to members, playing the radio or record machine, or just relaxing. In other words, it is up to the individual as to just what is accomplished during the evening.

Although the club room is in good working condition and fine shape for meetings or visitors, there are any number of little things to be done to make it even nicer, so several Sundays have been set aside to do just that. This time will be spent in filing the issues of THE RESTART from its beginning; making a complete series of the publication, Along The Trail; labelling boxes of supplies; general cleaning up; and anything else needed to be done for general improvement.

At this early date the weekend trips as listed in the program schedule cannot be assured. Notification of any changes will be made for the benefit of those persons interested.

423 Harwood Avenue  
Wheeling, West Virginia

## 1943 BIRD CLUB CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Jan. 11	Executive Committee Meeting	Hopwood Residence	8:15 P.M.
" 17	Local Field Trip	Hays Residence	12:00 P.M.
" 24	Club Work	Club Room	10:30 A.M.
" 29	Monthly Meeting Guests - L-H & Scout Leaders	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
Feb. 7	Club Work	Club Room	12:00 Noon
" 15	Executive Committee Meeting	Conrad Residence	8:15 P.M.
" 21	Local Field Trip	Joyson Residence	2:00 P.M.
" 26	Monthly Meeting Guests - General Public	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
March 7	Club Work	Club Room	12:00 Noon
" 15	Executive Committee Meeting	Hays Residence	8:15 P.M.
" 21	Local Field Trip	Ets Residence	2:00 P.M.
" 26	Monthly Meeting Guests - School Nature Clubs	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
April 4	Spring Migration Walk	Bridge - Elm Grove	12:00 Noon
" 11	Spring Migration Walk	Oglebay Park	9:00 A.M.
" 12	Executive Committee Meeting	Hopwood Residence	8:15 P.M.
" 18	Spring Migration Walk	Warwood	8:00 A.M.
" 23	Monthly Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
" 25	Spring Migration Walk Guests - Boy & Girl Scouts	Stratford	8:00 A.M.
May 2	Spring Migration Walk	Oglebay Park	7:00 A.M.
" 9	Spring Migration Walk	Oglebay Park	7:00 A.M.
" 10	Executive Committee Meeting	Conrad Residence	8:15 P.M.
" 16	Spring Migration Walk	Big Wheeling Creek	7:00 A.M.
" 23	Spring Migration Walk	Oglebay Park	7:00 A.M.
" 28	Monthly Meeting (Nature Leaders)	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
" 30	Brooks Bird Club Outing	Oglebay Park	10:00 A.M.
June 7	Executive Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
" 12-20	1943 Ferry ???	Terra Alta	
" 25	Monthly Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
July 12	Executive Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
" 17-18	Field Trip	Cadiz	
" 30	Monthly Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
Aug. 9	Executive Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
" 21-22	Field Trip	Tom's R.P.D.	
" 27	Monthly Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
Sept. 4-6	Field Trip ???	Oglebay Park	
" 13	Executive Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.
" 24	Annual Meeting	Club Room	8:15 P.M.

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 CHRISTMAS BOXES
 

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It was 'way before Christmas that the committee on Christmas boxes for the boys in the army and navy started making the rounds at the counters in Wheeling's three "Dins" stores and a few of the grocery and department stores. Some of the boys' weaknesses were known but the rest were guessed at - and the committee ended up with an assortment that surprised even them. Olsen always did like the *Esquire* and so his box contained the cover of the November issue, the other boys having been sent the pages with cartoons and jokes. (At this writing, no note of thanks has been received from Harold, but we assume he appreciated the thoughtfulness behind his gift.) Since most of the boys still brush their teeth (it is hoped) tooth powder (no extra tubes being available to purchase paste) was sent, also soap to keep clean, small amounts of candy and chewing gum, and a few other miscellaneous articles.

The originality of the Bird Club was displayed in the Christmas card enclosed in each package that went (we think it is safe to say) to the north, south, east and west - not only to the 48 States - but to other parts of the globe.

Here's the poem:

This box is from the Gang, it's true,  
 And all fixed - just for you.  
 We hoped you like d the things we picked  
 And especially enjoy that peppermint stick.  
 We walked all over town to find -  
 The most articles we could for a dime;  
 Just to give you a variety  
 And keep you in society.  
 For instance - that *Esquire* always shows the styles,  
 So you'll be tops for miles and miles.  
 Here's hopin' it brings you lots of joy,  
 And makes you a happy soldier (sailer) boy.  
 We wish you luck, good health and cheer  
 A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

From tall, lanky Don Keyser down in Louisiana came the following poem in reply:

Dear Gang: I received the box, it's true,  
 And please believe me, I'm thanking you.  
 I really liked the things you picked  
 When opening each got quite a kick;  
 I think that it was very king  
 Not many pals like you'll find  
 Boy!! It was a variety  
 I can see that it came from your society.

Nooot suits here, I need know no styles  
 It's just plain khaki for miles and miles.  
 Believe me it brought me lots of joy  
 To see you still remember this soldier boy.  
 I wish you all good luck, health and cheer,  
 A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Since all are not poets, the rest just wrote - very nicely - in appreciation. A couple of newsmen to the Armed Forces - and two grand fellows - Bob Rosenberger at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland, and Lyman B. Waterman (Byrne to the reader, but Lyman B. to Uncle Sam) wrote especially nice notes. Bob probably still believes in Santa Claus - he writes (and with what expression) "Gosh, all heck, thanks a ton for the gift, whatever it may be - you see I'm not going to open it 'till Xmas comes 'cause I'll have to have something to do - won't it" - From Byrne, who asks all the questions, and answers them as well - "Yesterday I received a grand surprise. What was it? Well, it was a nice box filled with cleverly wrapped gifts in white tissue paper with green ribbons and stickers. Who sent it? Well, a fine group of friends of mine. How do I feel about the gift? I appreciate it ever so much as it contains besides everything a soldier can use and needs, the finest Christmas cheer that could possibly be sent to a soldier away from home. I do thank you for it. The poem was very good and reminded me so much of the "Bird Club Originality." The Esquire magazine (page 91) had a clever cartoon on it. The first 90 pages must have been left out, but it was still the finest issue ever published. - A very Merry Christmas and a very successful New Year to every one, from the Conrads' "papeese" to Pappy "Devinity."

George Brieding from Lowry Field, Colorado, says, "Dear Gang - your gift package arrived in good shape and came as a very pleasant surprise. In fact I was tickled to death. Hope y'all enjoy a fine holiday season. Thanks loads for thinkin' of me." From Scott Field, Illinois, Mike Haller sends his thanks and a little wish for the future - "Dear Gang - many thanks for the box of assortments. It came as quite a surprise and if all the fellows have their boxes by now, I'm sure they will appreciate it as much as I. Here's hoping we'll be together next Christmas."

Bill Lank, somewhere out in the world, sent his appreciation long before Christmas, having received the box early and opened it; he says, "Thanks so much for the Xmas box." From Paul West came a care - "Hello Bird Clubbers - sure was nice of you to send me the nice present. - They call me an air mechanic, but all I have been doing since we left school is K.P. and Guard Duty."

Another thank you note included this - "The box was swell, and I had a lot of fun rooting around wondering what else I was going to find. One thing about it though, has caused me many sleepless nights and hours of worry and study; so to relieve my mind, tell me this - was the peppermint stick put in the box to fit the poem, or was the poem written to fit the peppermint stick? It's driving me to drink; in fact I had one heck of a coke bill this month. Seriously though, gang, it was very nice and I appreciate it a lot. Rather imagine a few of those packages did right smart traveling before they arrived." If you haven't guessed it - it was from Walter Amson.

Some of the 21 packages sent may still be traveling since only about half of the boys have replied. Among the greetings at Christmas came a card from Sgt. Berguar somewhere in India, and from Dave McAdams who recently changed oceans - and is now on the Pacific. A wire came from Dwight Koon who is also "somewhere in the Pacific."

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## NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year was the first Christmas in the new club room, so a beautiful Christmas tree was trimmed and set in the corner by the divan to light the room and greet each of us on Tuesday night, December 22nd. The gifts were placed under the tree and before the party began much pleasure and enjoyment was obtained while looking over the greeting cards from boys in the service and from corresponding members. "White Christmas, Silent Night, Jingle Bells and Little Town of Bethlehem" were among the records played.

President Conrad then stated that after much persuasion and pleading he had obtained the services of several great movie stars for the dramatization of Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol." Mary Kay Conrad read the cast and after brief introductions the play began. Ronald Coleman played Scrooge better than ever before.

The records took about half an hour and the presents were then distributed. The clubroom received a clock, dish towels, dishes, silverware, hand towels, dishpan, a sauce pan, and several other small items. Papry Deviney drew present number one. Much to his surprise he received a little green organdy apron which he immediately put on and wore as he helped to serve the refreshments. After several nice gifts were opened, everyone enjoyed a good laugh when Mr. Flower (Ranger George's father) received a box of smelly bath powder, and Mrs. Flower received a box of flea powder (she doesn't even own a dog, either.) The writer received two pairs of white socks, size 11-1/2 but a trade was negotiated with President Conrad and all was well.

A nice lunch and the singing of Christmas carols concluded the 1942 Christmas party.

Carolyn Conrad  
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Editor's Note: We are living in a world of changes; fast, frequent, unexpected changes - resulting in just one more change - in the editorship of THE REDSTART. In the past there have been several very capable editors of this publication, making it hard to live up to the high standards they have set. However, your new editor pledges; first, to do her best to maintain those same high standards; and, second, to get out issues monthly, each designed to keep those "abroad" in touch with us at home, and to let our boys on the fighting front know that we are keeping THE REDSTART "flying" and the Brooks Bird Club rolling along. They will not let us down, and we must and will do all in our power not to let them down.

Correction: THE REDSTART is based on 12 monthly issues a year beginning with October. The Oct. Nov. issue should be Nos. 1-2 and the Dec. issue should be No. 3 instead of No. 2 as it is marked.