



The Redstart

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Charles Conrad, Editor

October-November 1943

A PREVIEW OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB 1943-44 PROGRAM
by
Mary C. Conrad

The new program of the Brooks Bird Club for the fiscal year, which begins October 1, as outlined and presented in this article, is very eventful and complete in every way. The only obstacle in carrying out the program is the war-time conditions that we all must work under. It might be noted, that last year the outlook from our viewpoint, was somewhat the same and when the end of the year had rolled around, the Brooks Bird Club had carried out the planned program about one-hundred percent. Can we do it this year?

The Executive Committee kept in mind the success of last years program, and with several new features, have combined the two. At each of the monthly meetings, as noted in the outline, we will have as the main feature some out-of-town speaker who will either show colored slides or motion pictures. In most cases it will be a corresponding member of the club. Also, each meeting, a paper will be presented by an active member on subjects of ornithology that has already been assigned. This was included in response from the many requests of the membership. In addition, besides the regular short business session and report of committees, will be the reading of the Club Diary, which records all the events and meetings that are carried on here at club headquarters; a report of the B.B.C. Mail Bag, which is a resume of all letters received from all service and corresponding members; educational quizzes on ornithology; and a check on the Monthly Bird Calendar.

The March meeting has been set aside as a "Public Meeting", and will be held at some hall in downtown Wheeling. This meeting will be designed to appeal to the ordinary layman and at the same time, let the people know about the bird club and what they are accomplishing. The program for this meeting has not as yet been completed.

During the Summer months of June, July and August, the regular monthly meetings will be held outdoors and the program for these meetings will be left up to the leader who has already been appointed. This is a new idea and has the approval of the club membership. The July meeting has definitely been scheduled as a "campfire", and will take place at Oglebay Park.

The annual meeting is again scheduled for September, when the annual reports are presented and the election of officers for the new year is held. This is really the most important meeting of the entire year for it is then that the success or failure of the Brooks Bird Club can be made.

We will again meet every Tuesday night for our "weekly get-together" and all members of the Brooks Bird Club and their friends are always welcome to join us. We have been meeting every Tuesday night since the formation of the club and are proud of this record. Although, the meetings are informal in atmosphere, this is when most of the real work of the club is accomplished.

The Executive Committee will meet the second Monday of the month and the meeting place has already been assigned as can be noted in the calendar. It is the duty of this committee to handle and plan all matters concerning the Brooks Bird Club.

One local field trip each month will be held from October through February. These trips will take place on Sunday afternoon and in most cases will cover territory near the home of a club member who will sponsor the walk. In December, the annual Christmas bird census will be taken for Ohio County. Then in March, a field trip to Tappan Dam near Cadiz, Ohio, will afford an opportunity to observe water birds in migration. A second trip into Ohio is planned early in April to Seneca Lake which is reputed to attract large numbers of shore birds. These trips will inaugurate a series of Spring Migration walks which are scheduled for each Sunday morning during April and May. This year, May 14, has been set aside as "century Day", when an attempt will be made to list one-hundred birds within Ohio County.

If, and we mean just that, a 1944 Foray is held, it will again be in June. The time and place will be announced later. This, of course, all depends on the existing conditions next Spring. All we can hope for is a quick victory so that the world gets back to normal and all can join us in the best of all Forays. Under the same restrictions also, are the summer field trips.

Already, before you have had a chance to read over the program outline, a number of things have been completed as scheduled. The Annual Reunion which was held October 1-2-3, from the many comments received from those who were there, and the report given by the Chairman, was a huge success in every way. For the ones who could not attend, a two-page mimeographed letter was sent by the club, recording the high-lights of the events. Christmas boxes were mailed on October 14, to all club members in the service who are overseas. Boxes for all the others, still in this country, are assembled and will be mailed in November. Also, the 1943 Foray Report has been mailed to all those who attended and to the boys in the service.

On the following two pages is the Brooks Bird Club Calendar and Program. Read it over and if, at any time, you have an opportunity to join us, please do so, for you are always welcome, any time, any place.

—1206 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

B. B. C. Calendar
1943 - 44

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Oct. 1-2-3	Annual Nature Reunion	Clubroom	Continuous
5	Weekly "Get-together" (Meet regularly EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT)	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
11	Executive Committee Meeting	423 Warwood Ave.	8:15 P.M.
24	Local Field Trip Oglebay Park	Site No. 1	2:00 P.M.
29	Monthly Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
Nov. 7	Clubroom Work	Clubroom	12:00 Noon
8	Executive Committee Meeting	713 Valley View Ave.	8:15 P.M.
21	Local Field Trip Bethlehem	Ritter Residence	2:00 P.M.
23	Thanksgiving Party	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
26	Monthly Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
Dec. 13	Executive Committee Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
21	Christmas Party	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
26	Christmas Census	Woodsdale	9:00 A.M.
28	Monthly Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
Jan. 9	Clubroom Work	Clubroom	12:00 Noon
10	Executive Committee Meeting	11 Dorman Road	8:15 P.M.
23	Local Field Trip Edgewood Hill	Doepken Residence	2:00 P.M.
28	Monthly Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
Feb. 8	Clubroom "Round-up"	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
14	Executive Committee Meeting	1206 Warwood Ave.	8:15 P.M.
20	Stratford Hill	Etz Residence	2:00 P.M.
25	Monthly Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
March 5	Clubroom Work	Clubroom	1:00 P.M.
13	Executive Committee Meeting	487 National Road	8:15 P.M.
19	Field Trip Tappan Dam	10th St., Wheeling	1:00 P.M.
31	Monthly Meeting (Public)	Downtown	8:15 P.M.
April 2	Field Trip Seneca Lake	10th St., Wheeling	12:00 Noon
10	Executive Committee Meeting	423 Warwood Ave.	8:15 P.M.
16	Spring Migration-Big Wheeling Creek	Bridge, Elm Grove	1:30 P.M.
23	" " -Oglebay Park	Site No. 1	8:00 A.M.
28	Monthly Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
30	Spring Migration-Stratford Hill	Old Spring House	8:00 A.M.
May 7	Spring Migration-Oglebay Park	Hill Top	7:00 A.M.
8	Executive Committee Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
14	Century Day	Woodsdale	7:00 A.M.
21	Spring Migration-Oglebay Park	Site No. 1	7:00 A.M.
26	Monthly Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
28	Tomlinson State Park	Clubroom	8:00 A.M.

June	5	Executive Committee Meeting	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.
	?	1944 B.B.C. FORAY ? ? ?	(Date and Place to be announced)	
	?	B.B.C. Summer Outings	" " " " " "	" " " "
	30	Monthly Meeting (Outdoors)	Conrad Residence	8:15 P.M.
July	10	Executive Committee Meeting	713 Valley View	8:15 P.M.
		B.B.C. Summer Outings	(Date and Place to be announced)	
	16	Field Trip Cadiz, Ohio	10th St., Wheeling	7:00 A.M.
	28	Monthly Meeting (Campfire)	Oglebay Hill Top	8:15 P.M.
August	12-13	Tomlinson Run State Park	423 Warwood Ave.	6:00 P.M.
	14	Executive Committee Meeting	1206 " "	8:15 P.M.
		B.B.C. Summer Outings		
	25	Monthly Meeting (Outdoors)	Park View	8:15 P.M.
Sept.	2-3-4	Week-end, Terra Alta ? ? ?	(Additional announcements)	
	11	Executive Committee Meeting	11 Dorman Road	8:15 P.M.
	29	ANNUAL B.B.C. MEETING	Clubroom	8:15 P.M.

B. B. C. PROGRAM

OCTOBER

1943-44 B.B.C. Program - Mrs. Conrad
 The Distribution of Birds - Wylie
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Dorothy Conrad

NOVEMBER

Movies - Leroy Black, Pittsburgh
 The Migration of Birds - Breiding
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Mrs. Doepken

DECEMBER

Slides - I. B. Boggs, Morgantown
 The Voice of Birds - Ritter
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Marion Buzzard

JANUARY

Slides - Ray Reed, Cadiz, Ohio
 The Nesting Season - Mr. Doepken
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Carolyn Conrad

FEBRUARY

Illustrated Talk - Charles Conrad
 The Plumage of Birds - Elizabeth Etz
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Mrs. Flourer

MARCH

PUBLIC MEETING (Program and
 Meeting Place to be announced)

APRIL

Lecture - E. R. Chandler, Chester
 The Food of Birds - Vanscoy
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Norma Jepson

MAY

Pre-Foray Discussion, or
 Slides - George Breiding
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Mrs. Conrad

JUNE

Outdoor Meeting
 Leader - Charles Conrad
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Ritter

JULY

Outdoor Meeting
 Leader - George Breiding
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Marion Buzzard

AUGUST

Outdoor Meeting
 Leader - Charles Doepken
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Wylie

SEPTEMBER

ANNUAL MEETING
 B.B.C. Mail Bag - Ruth Gallagher

At every monthly meeting will be the regular business session, the B.B.C. Diary, the monthly Bird Calendar and Weather Report and Educational Games.

 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of The Brooks Bird Club was held on Friday, October 1, at 8:30 P.M. at the Clubroom, Fifth Street, Warwood. Twenty-four were present, including a number of out of town members. The meeting was postponed a week so that it could be part of the Annual Nature Reunion and also give some corresponding members the opportunity to attend.

After the regular business session of the club was taken care of, the September Club Diary and B.B.C. Mail Bag were read and the annual reports were given by the various chairmen.

The first report read was that of the President, which was a joint-report since he was also appointed Executive Chairman. The president stated that the situation was very dark for the bird club at the beginning of the fiscal year and then noted the excellent progress and accomplishments that had been made. In concluding, he thanked everyone for the fine cooperation and expressed the hope that it would continue during the next year.

The report of the Secretary-Treasurer showed that all business had been completed and a nice balance remained on hand. The books were left open, by the Secretary, for general inspection.

A general report was given on the club correspondence for the year with a total of 138 letters written and 132 letters received.

The Editors report spoke well for the REDSTART, despite the fact that during the year, three different people had served as editor.

Other reports were made by the Chairmen of the following committees: Field Trips; Publicity; Membership; Bird Club Diary; Club Lunches and the B.B.C. Mail Bag. All reports were accepted and turned in to the Secretary. These have been placed on file at the clubroom and are there for your reading and inspection at any time.

The election of officers for the year 1943-44 was next in order and the President opened nominations for the various offices and conducted the election. Mrs. John Diemer and Dr. Lawrence Hicks served as tellers. The results of the election were as follows:

President	Charles Conrad
Vice-President	Carolyn Conrad
Secretary-Treasurer	Eva Hays
Editor of <u>REDSTART</u>	Maurice Brooks
Club Editor	To be appointed
Financial Chairman	Norma Jepson
Program Director	Mary C. Conrad

At the conclusion of the meeting, several interesting games were played under the direction of Dorothy Conrad. Refreshments were served later in the evening.

—Eva Hays, Secretary
 11 Dorman Road
 Wheeling, W. Va.

NEW EDITOR

In December 1943, the Brooks Bird Club Executive Committee appointed as Editor of THE REDSTART, Miss Mabel Hopwood. She fulfilled her duties in this capacity until she was married and took up residence in Eastern United States in April, 1943. At this time, Charles Conrad assumed the post as acting Editor and will continue to do so until November 15, 1943.

We are happy to announce that with the December issue of THE REDSTART, Mr. Maurice G. Brooks will accept the position of Editor. Maurice, as he is known to most members of the Brooks Bird Club, is at present, a professor in the Division of Forestry, West Virginia University. He has been long affiliated with many ornithological and wildlife organizations throughout the country. His most recent and closest association has been with the Wilson Club and the A.O.U., acting as the Secretary and Councillor for each of these organizations respectively.

Without a doubt, with Maurice Brooks at the helm, THE REDSTART will reach a new peak in its importance as an ornithological journal. We know of no one who has a better first-hand knowledge of the birds and wildlife of the State of West Virginia. This fact alone will soon make its effect felt in the Club's official publication.

So, with the outlook on the much brighter side for THE REDSTART, the entire membership of the Brooks Bird Club offers its sincerest best wishes and promises its utmost support and cooperation to the new Editor.

—George Breiding, Club Editor
487 National Road
Wheeling, W. Va.

THE NEW B.B.C. MAIL BAG

Complying with the order of the Executive Committee, this will be the last time, "The B.B.C. Mail Bag" will appear in the pages of THE REDSTART. Beginning with all the letters that were received by the club during the month of October, a four-page mimeographed monthly news letter will be published by the Brooks Bird Club.

The new publication will have several additional features added to the usual correspondence and will be under the editorship of our Club Editor, Mr. George Breiding. Already, a very appropriate heading has been designed by the club artist, Carolyn Conrad, and will soon be ready for printing. How soon we will be able to get the first issue to you, is yet uncertain. However, in the future, we do plan to mail it to you, fifteen days after the mailing of THE REDSTART.

The first edition of "The B.B.C. Mail Bag", as it will be known will be sent to the regular club mailing list. If you like it — let us know?

—The Editor

B. B. C. MAIL BAG

Many interesting letters were received during September from our members in scattered parts of the world.

From somewhere in Brazil, Lt. Frank Conner writes he will have two summers this year because he arrived there just as the rainy season was over. "As you well know, the bird life here is entirely different from that of West Virginia. So far, I haven't seen one familiar bird, not even an English Sparrow or the common Crow. On the boat trip down, I spotted several kinds of sea gulls and also many schools of flying fish, which I could not find listed in Audubons, 'Birds of America'. I am referring the matter to you for action as certainly Flying fish should also be included in any book of ornithology. There is one thing you could do for me if you would. I would like a good book on the birds of South America. If you could find a good one, I would be glad to mail you a check. Let me know if there is anything available as all the books, I find here are written in Portuguese, which is still so much Greek to me."

A nice long letter came from Lt. Elizabeth Hunter, Louisville, Ky. "The last time I wrote you was a 'Bon Voyage' for the Foray and now it is almost Reunion time, whether you have it or not. Reunion for too many years to count, has been as much a part of Fall as the turning of the leaves and the gentle damp mist. I could almost always count on a week-end then, but Uncle Sam is a bit different. One just doesn't ask but, never-the-less, this day-to-day living is becoming less strange. A carnival has moved into the field next to our quarters. How 'bout joining me for a ride on the dips?"

A short letter from David McAdam, Bkr. 3/c, in the Pacific, who said he enjoyed the Christmas Census of 1942, and had passed the article around to all the wheeling boys there, and of course, he asked us to keep sending THE REDSTART and any other mail we might wish to direct his way.

From Ted Frankenberg, Lt. (j.G.) in the Pacific. "A couple of REDSTARTS back, you were asking the few remaining civilians in the organization to help boost the Club's treasury and the enclosed moneyorder is just to prove to you all that even if the service members cannot do much to help run the Club for the next five or six years, they can at least help in other ways. Since all of us out here get our REDSTARTS free, you can count the money as my advance registration for camp in 1949, if you have to have some proper place to account for it."

A V-mail letter from Pvt. Don Keyser, North Africa. "Here I am in North Africa — not too bad but not too good. I've found that West Virginia is not a good place to be from — it is a good place to be. Believe it or not, the other night I heard a group of men in a passing truck singing, 'Be Kind To Your Web-footed Friends' — imagine in Africa yet!"

A letter from Mary Jones, Mansfield, Ohio. "Being with you all again over Labor Day was almost as good as going to the Foray. We surely did have fun, didn't we? I am looking forward to the Reunion."

—Ruth Gallagher
85 Washington Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

FIELD NOTES

Purple Martin Concentration at Charleston, W. Va.

During late August and through mid-September 1942, we have observed particularly large concentrations of the Purple Martin, Progne subis, in Kanawha City, suburb of Charleston, West Virginia. Numbers of residences in Kanawha City are equipped with "built in" homes for Martins, with openings admitting the birds to boxes located in attic lofts, the boxes barring intrusion of the birds into the attics themselves. A few Martin boxes erected on poles also are evident. During the Spring and Summer of 1942, a few of these big swallows were usually to be seen during a casual walk in Kanawha City, but beginning about the second week in August the numbers of birds increased in spectacular fashion.

Telephone lines appeared to be favorite roosting places. During a brief tour of the town just before dusk on August 13, it was estimated that at least 2,500 birds were roosting in groups of 100 to 500 and no attempt to count Martins still foraging in the air was made. On September 1, one roosting flock near Kanawha Village was estimated at more than 600 individuals. On September 7, Mr. J. T. Handlan, of Wheeling and John Handlan estimated at least 500 birds in a flock which returned again and again to a large tree near the Village in between brief, circling flights during which few, if any, of the birds appeared to be feeding. This was at 10 A.M., of a bright, warm day. On various other occasions, the same type of flock movements were noted, as if the birds were motivated by a play instinct rather than by a desire of food.

As this is written (September 22), a comparatively few Martins still are to be found in the vicinity of Kanawha City.

—John and Polly Handlan
409 41st St., S.E.
Charleston, W. Va.

Late Summer Bird List at Terra Alta, W. Va.

The following list of birds is the compiled records for three days of late summer birding at Lake Terra Alta, on September 5-6-7, 1942. Contributions were turned in by all the campers. The weather was quite favorable, being for the most part clear and warm, with a soft blowing breeze. Showers fell both Saturday and Monday, but in no way, hampered the birding. The species in the order they were recorded are:

Broad-winged Hawk, Osprey, Pied-billed Grebe, Black and White Warbler, Robin, Catbird, Goldfinch, Turkey Vulture, Whip-poor-will, Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing, Green Heron, Song Sparrow, Kingfisher, Coopers Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Veery, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow, Meadowlark, Tufted Titmouse, Black Duck, Crow, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Wood Pewee, Grackle, Starling, English Sparrow, Bluebird, Scaup Duck and Screech Owl.

—Dorothy Conrad
423 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

Additional Notes on the Woodcock

Several years ago, the writer had an article published in The REDSTART telling of observations made of the courtship of the Woodcock, Philohela minor, in Lost River State Park, Hardy County. As recalled, these observations were made for two seasons and in the succeeding years, they failed to perform on their former grounds and several other likely points were "patrolled" but without success. Then, this Summer 1942, reports came of "strange looking birds with a long bill and a very short tail" being observed in two separate sections of the Park, neither spot being near where the courtship flights had been seen previously. These birds proved to be the young of woodcock and one time the mother and two young were flushed. It might be added, that at one spot along the stream bank in front of cabin 14 A-B, they were particularly tame, as cabin occupants said they could walk, in daylight, to within a few feet of the birds before they would fly.

—George Flouer, AER. M 3/c
Squantum, Mass.

Several Interesting Observations

In making a trip from Wheeling to Elizabeth, West Virginia, by auto, on March 22, 1942, several interesting observations were made by the writer.

Between Sistersville and Parkersburg, on Route 2, a distance of about 40 miles, the following species were recorded with the aid of 8x binoculars: Five Black Ducks, Anas rubripes, were observed near the shore-line; while another flock of 75 Mallards, Anas platyrhynchos, and 25 Scaup Duck, Myroca?, were seen several hundred feet from the West Virginia shore-line; a lone Pied-billed Grebe Podilymbus podiceps, was also noted. Near Proctor, several pairs of Blue-winged Teal, Querquedula discors, were observed in a small pond along the road.

—Charles Conrad
1206 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

Osprey Observation

On Friday, September 24, 1943, I identified an Osprey, Pandion Haliaetus carolinensis, in the vicinity of Dimmydale on Big Wheeling Creek. The bird was also seen by Rhys Ritter, and was observed after that a number of times, being last recorded on October 5. This is the first record of the Osprey in Ohio County, according to the bird club records, since 1940.

—William Wylie
National Road
Wheeling, W. Va.