



The Redstart

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BIRDS OF THE GLENVILLE SECTION

by
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Editor's Note: This paper by Professor Grose gives much valuable information on the birds of the Glenville region, a territory from which we have had little published ornithological information. Glenville is the county seat of Gilmer county, on the Little Kanawha river in the west-central portion of the state.

THE REDSTART hopes to continue the publication of significant county faunal lists, to the end that we may have a fuller understanding of the state's avifauna, particularly the breeding species.

The writer did not devote as much time to the aquatic birds as he did to the land birds. So there are a good many water birds that he has never seen but most of the land birds of the section he has seen and identified.

The Glenville vicinity is one of the best in the state for the study of the wood warblers, Compsothlypidae; and the members of the sparrow family, Fringillidae.

Common Loon, Gavia immer. Sometimes seen as single individuals during migration.

Pied-billed Grebe, Podilympus podiceps podiceps. Often seen in late winter and early spring.

Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias herodias. Seen sometime in spring and summer.

American Egret, Casmerodius albus egretta. Occasionally seen in the summer time.

Little Blue Heron, Florida caerulea caerulea. Immature form frequently seen in late summer in different parts of Gilmer county.

Black-crowned Night Heron, Nycticorax nycticorax hoacili. One specimen was brought to me from Troy, W. Va.

Eastern Green Heron, Butorides virescens virescens. Formerly quite common along the Little Kanawha River.

American Bittern, Botaurus lentiginosus. Sometimes quite common along the Little Kanawha River.

Whistling Swan, Cygnus columbianus. Apparently an accidental visitant. One individual was found wounded on the Fair Grounds in the winter of 1920. Mr. Blair Gainer caught the bird and tried to restore it to health. It lived for him about a month. I visited the bird several times.

Canada Goose, Branta canadensis. Flocks are seen usually every fall and spring.

Mallard, Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos. Frequently seen in fall and spring.

Black Duck, Anas rubripes tristis. Status much like that of the mallard.

Wood Duck, Aix sponsa. Probably now extinct for this section. I have seen only two individuals, and that was twenty some years ago.

Turkey Vulture, Cathartes aura septentrionalis. Quite common permanent resident. One spring near the line between Gilmer and Lewis counties I saw at least thirty individuals. I counted all I could see. I was on the bus, and the birds were swooping down into a big cove.

Eastern Goshawk, Astur atricapillus atricapillus. Now and then during severe winters a few birds are seen.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, Accipiter velox. Fairly common permanent resident.

Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperi. Status similar to that of the sharp-shinned hawk.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo borealis borealis. Quite common but not abundant.

Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo lineatus lineatus. Apparently not as common as the eastern red-tailed hawk.

Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos canadensis. There is one mounted specimen in the college. The bird was killed at Sand Fork and mounted by Rymer Garrett.

Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Falco sparverius sparverius. Not very common.

Eastern Ruffed Grouse, Bonasa umbellus umbellus. Fairly common but the numbers seem to be on the increase.

Eastern Bob-white, Colinus virginianus virginianus. Fairly common but the number varies from year to year.

- Eastern Wild Turkey, Meleagris gallopavo silvestris. Always some are on Cedar Creek in the Lewis Bennet forest.
- Coot, Fulica americana. Found every spring along the Little Kanawha.
- Killdeer, Oxyechus vociferus vociferus. Found on the Hays land and Fair grounds.
- Woodcock, Philohela minor. Fairly common.
- Wilson's Snipe, Capella delicata. Status very much like that of the Woodcock.
- Spotted Sandpiper, Actitis macularia. Fairly common along the streams.
- Mourning Dove, Zenaidura macroura. Permanent resident. Fairly common.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus americanus. A common summer resident.
- Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. Not as common as the yellow-billed. Perhaps, it is more of a migrant for this section. A specimen was brought to me one spring by a student. The bird had killed itself by flying against something.
- Barn Owl, Tyto alba pratinicola. Rather rare in this section.
- Eastern Screech Owl, Otus asio naevius. A very common bird.
- Great Horned Owl, Bubo virginianus virginianus. Rather common.
- Northern Barred Owl, Strix varia varia. Not common permanent residents. Specimens have been brought to me from the Sand Fork section.
- Eastern Whip-poor-will, Anastrostomus vociferus vociferus. A common summer resident.
- Eastern Nighthawk, Chordeiles minor minor. A common migrant.
- Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica. Common summer resident.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochus colubris. Common summer resident.
- Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Megaceryle alcyon alcyon. Permanent resident but not so common in winter.
- Northern Flicker, Colaptes auratus luteus. Common permanent resident but not so abundant in winter.
- Northern Pileated Woodpecker, Geophloeus pileatus abieticola. Fairly common permanent resident.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Centurus carolinus. Fairly common permanent resident.
- Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus. Rather common permanent resident but the number varies at times.

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius varius. A good many are seen during the fall and spring migrations.
- Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Dryobates villosus villosus. A permanent resident, but apparently rare now. Formerly the bird was common.
- Northern Downy Woodpecker, Dryobates pubescens medianus. A common permanent resident.
- Eastern Kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus. A common summer resident.
- Northern Crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus crinitus boreus. A common summer resident.
- Eastern Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe. Very common summer resident. A few years ago one individual stayed on the campus most of the winter.
- Acadian Flycatcher, Empidonax virescens. A common summer resident in moist dense woods.
- Alder Flycatcher, Empidonax trailli trailli. Migrant. Not often seen.
- Least Flycatcher, Empidonax minimus. Rare. Seen only during migration.
- Eastern Wood Pewee, Myiarchus virens. Common summer resident.
- Prairie Horned Lark, Otocoris alpestris praticola. Fairly common permanent resident on high flats.
- Tree Swallow, Iridoprocne bicolor. Rather rare summer resident.
- Rough-winged Swallow, Riparia riparia riparia. Very common summer resident.
- Purple Martin, Progne subis subis. Rather common summer resident.
- Barn Swallow, Hirundo erythrogaster. Not a common summer resident.
- Northern Blue Jay, Cyanocitta cristata cristata. An irregular permanent resident. Some winters hundreds of them will be around Glenville. Oftentimes they will form large flocks.
- Northern Raven, Corvus corax principalis. Now extinct for Gilmer County. Was once a permanent resident.
- Eastern Crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos. A common permanent resident.
- Carolina Chickadee, Penthestes carolinensis extimus. A common permanent resident but not seen as often in summer as during winter.
- Tufted Titmouse, Boeolophus bicolor. Status similar to that of the Carolina chickadee.
- Northern White-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta carolinensis carolinensis. A common

permanent resident. During the breeding season the birds are pretty much retiring.

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta canadensis. Most likely a migrant. I have seen a few small flocks in the fall and the spring.

Brown Creeper, Certhia familiaris americana. Fairly common winter visitant.

Eastern House Wren, Troglodytes aedon aedon. Rather rare summer resident, but apparently more common than formerly.

Eastern Winter Wren, Nannus hiemalis hiemalis. Fairly common winter visitant.

Bewick's Wren, Thryomanes bewicki bewicki. A common summer resident.

Carolina Wren, Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus. A common permanent resident, but not as common as formerly.

Eastern Mockingbird, Mimus polyglottus polyglottus. Apparently a permanent resident. I have seen them in winter and late spring. The last one I saw was about the first of May. It was an excellent mocker. I listened to its various notes for an hour or so.

Catbird, Dumetella carolinensis. A very common summer resident.

Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma rufum. A rather common summer resident.

Eastern Robin, Turdus migratorius migratorius. A common permanent resident but irregular in numbers. Usually in winter some of the birds may be found in rich woody coves.

Wood Thrush, Hylocichla ustulata mustelina. A very common summer resident.

Eastern Hermit Thrush, Hylocichla guttata faxoni. Apparently a winter visitant. I have seen a few in mid-winter in the woods.

Olive-backed Thrush, Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni. A very common migrant in the spring migration. The bird is very wary. It travels through about the time the apple trees are in full bloom.

Veery, Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens. Rather rare migrant. I have seen only one for certain.

Eastern Bluebird, Sialia sialis sialis. A common permanent resident. About as many seen in winter as in summer.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Polioptila caerulea caerulea. A common summer resident.

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, Regulus satrapa satrapa. A fairly common winter visitant.

Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Corthylio calendula calendula. Fairly common migrant.

Cedar Waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum. A common permanent resident, but irregular in numbers.

Migrant Shrike, Lanius ludovicianus migrans. A winter visitant I have never seen about Glenville; so I am quoting what I have been told about the species.

Starling, Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris. A very common permanent resident. The birds have moved in since 1918.

White-eyed Vireo, Vireo griseus griseus. Rather common summer resident in dense damp places.

Yellow-throated Vireo, Vireo flavifrons. A common summer resident.

Red-eyed Vireo, Vireo olivaceus. A common summer resident.

Eastern Warbling Vireo, Vireo gilvus gilvus. A common summer resident, I spent three weeks on the identification of this bird.

Black and White Warbler, Mniotilta varia. A rather common summer resident.

Worm-eating Warbler, Helmitheros vermivorus. Rather uncommon summer resident.

Golden-winged Warbler, Vermivora chrysoptera. A migrant but not common.

Blue-winged Warbler, Vermivora pinus. A rare migrant. I have seen only two individuals. Miss Lena E. Charter claims that she saw two or three one spring.

Tennessee Warbler, Vermivora peregrina. A migrant. Passes through in the latter part of May.

Nashville Warbler, Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla. A migrant. Not very common.

Northern Parula Warbler, Comptulypis americana pusilla. Probably a migrant. I have seen only one individual at Glenville, and this was about the first of May.

Eastern Yellow Warbler, Dendroica aestiva aestiva. A very common summer resident

Magnolia Warbler, Dendroica magnolia. A rather rare migrant now. Formerly, it was much more common.

Cape May Warbler, Dendroica tigrina. Formerly, it was a very common migrant.

Black-throated Blue Warbler, Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens. A migrant, but not common.

Myrtle Warbler, Dendroica coronata. A common migrant; but some now and then winter about Glenville.

Black-throated Green Warbler, Dendroica virens virens. A fairly common summer resident.

- Cerulean Warbler, Dendroica cerulea. A fairly common summer resident.
- Blackburnian Warbler, Dendroica fusca. A fairly common migrant.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dendroica pennsylvanica. A migrant but not common.
- Bay-breasted Warbler, Dendroica castanea. An irregular migrant. Some springs I have seen hundreds of them in flocks.
- Black-poll Warbler, Dendroica striata. Not a very common migrant. I have never seen more than half a dozen.
- Prairie Warbler, Dendroica discolor. A common summer resident in brushy fields, especially brushy hillsides.
- Oven Bird, Seiurus aurocapillus. Fairly common summer resident.
- Louisiana Water Thrush, Seiurus motacilla. A rather common summer resident along streams.
- Kentucky Warbler, Oporornis formosus. A very common summer resident.
- Mourning Warbler, Oporornis philadelphia. A very rare migrant. I have seen only two individuals.
- Maryland Yellow Throat, Geothlypis trichas trichas. A very common summer resident.
- Yellow-breasted Chat, Icteria virens virens. A very common summer resident.
- Hooded Warbler, Wilsonia citrina. A common summer resident.
- Wilson's Warbler, Wilsonia pusilla pusilla. A rather rare migrant.
- Canada Warbler, Wilsonia canadensis. A migrant. Not common anymore.
- American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla. A fairly common summer resident.
- House Sparrow, Passer domesticus domesticus. A very common permanent resident.
- Bobolink, Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Apparently a migrant. I have seen only four males.
- Eastern Meadowlark, Sturnella magna magna. A very common bird. Occasionally some winter near Glenville.
- Eastern Red-wing Blackbird, Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus. A common summer resident.
- Orchard Oriole, Icterus spurius. A common summer resident. The immature male gives the beginner quite often a headache on its identification.
- Baltimore Oriole, Icterus galbula. A very common summer resident.

- Rusty Blackbird, Euphagus carolinus. Sometimes seen as a migrant.
- Bronzed Grackle, Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. A very common summer resident.
- Eastern Cowbird, Molothrus ater ater. A very common bird. Some frequently winter about Glenville.
- Scarlet Tanager, Piranga erythromelas. A fairly common summer resident.
- Summer Tanager, Piranga rubra rubra. Status very much the same as that of the Scarlet Tanager.
- Eastern Cardinal, Richmondea cardinalis cardinalis. A very common permanent resident.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hedymeles ludovicianus. Now fairly rare migrant.
- Indigo Bunting, Passerina cyanea. A common summer resident.
- Eastern Purple Finch, Carpodacus purpureus purpureus. Usually an abundant migrant. I have seen a few at Glenville during the winter.
- Pine Siskin, Spinus pinus pinus. An irregular winter visitant. One winter a very large flock was about Glenville; Perhaps, there were two or three hundred birds in this flock. Several winters after this one I saw a small flock of twenty some individuals about a mile from the town of Glenville.
- Eastern Goldfinch, Spinus tristis tristis. A very common permanent resident. They do not seem to be as numerous in winter as in summer. They are usually found in flocks during the winter time.
- Red-eyed Towhee, Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus. A common summer resident, but frequently winters in the Glenville section.
- Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow, Ammodramus savannarum australis. A rather common summer resident in pasture fields.
- Eastern Vesper Sparrow, Poocetes gramineus gramineus. A common summer resident
- Eastern Lark Sparrow, Chondestes grammacus grammacus. Was formerly a common summer resident, but for the past eight or ten years the species apparently quit the Glenville section. I saw one individual the spring of 1942.
- Bachman's Sparrow, Aimophila aestivalis bachmani. A rare summer resident. I have found one nest of this bird. It was on the ground in an old fence row.
- Slate-colored Junco, Junco hyemalis hyemalis. A very common winter visitant.
- Eastern Tree Sparrow, Spizella arborea arborea. A common winter visitant.
- Eastern Chipping Sparrow, Spizella passerina passerina. A very common summer resident.

Eastern Field Sparrow, Spizella pusilla pusilla. A common summer resident. Sometimes a few will winter.

White-crowned Sparrow, Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys. A rather rare migrant. I have seen only a few individuals.

White-throated Sparrow, Zonotrichia albicollis. A very common migrant.

Eastern Fox Sparrow, Passerella iliaca iliaca. Not common. Perchance, chiefly a migrant. However, twenty some years ago I saw some as late as November.

Eastern Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia melodia. A common permanent resident.

Snow Bunting, Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis. A rare winter visitant. I have never seen the species. One winter during a hard snow storm Mr. Kee Chenoweth saw a flock of birds at Northview. From the description of the birds, I took the flock to be snow buntings.

—Sago, W. Va.

SPRING BIRD NOTES

As noted by Boggs in the March REDSTART, the Spring of 1945 has been notable for the early arrival of migrants which normally spend the winter in southern United States just a short distance to the south of us. Thus, phoebes, woodcocks, grackles, redwings, and cowbirds were to be found ten days to two weeks before their normal arrival dates.

For the species which normally winter in the West Indies, Mexico, and Central America however, no such early migration was noted. Most of the wood warblers have arrived at about the usual times, and we have had the interesting spectacle of the forest out in practically full leaf, three to four weeks earlier than in a normal season, with few birds of any kind, and practically no warblers, to be found in it. Just outside Morgantown is a fine area of dogwood and crabapple that is usually one of our best warbler territories. This year, the trees were in bloom on April 10, at least a month early, and not a single warbler, vireo, tanager, or other forest migrant species could be found.

During the second week in April, I spent some time in southern West Virginia, finding conditions most unusual as to the blooming of plants. In the New River Gorge, in Fayette County, the forests were in almost complete leaf on April 11, and the silverbeels, Halesia tetraptera, which are so conspicuous locally, and which normally bloom the last of April, were at least ten days past their prime. Despite the wealth of flower and foliage, no warblers except the black and white were noted.

Across the Raleigh Plateau, south and east of Beckley, the predominant oaks were in practically winter condition, but we noted the most unusual sight of dogwoods in full bloom while the service berries, Amelanchier, were just bursting their buds. Normally the service precedes the dogwood by at least a month.

Along the Greenbrier River, in the White Sulphur Springs territory, the season was well advanced, floristically, but no warblers at all were heard on the 12th of April. On the morning of the 13th, we heard black and white, parula, and black-throated green warblers. Up near the crest of Peters' Mountain, in Monroe County, I was interested to find, in the mixed stands of white, pitch, scrub, and Table Mountain pine, a good-sized flock of siskins.

Parts of April 13 and 14 were spent on Gaudineer Knob, in the Cheat range. Around the fire tower, at 4400 feet elevation, I was surprised to hear a full evening chorus of hermit thrushes. I had never before heard them in full song earlier than the first of May. Winter wrens, purple finches, and juncos were singing, and, much to my delight, I heard for the first time in the West Virginia mountains a male red crossbill in full song.

—M.G.B.

THE WEST VIRGINIA CONSERVATION SCHOOL

During the two weeks of July 16-29, 1945, at the State 4-H Camp, Jackson's Mill, W. Va., there will be held a conservation training school primarily for teachers and prospective teachers. This is a cooperative venture between West Virginia University, Marshall College, Concord College, and Potomac State School, and it has the active support of the State Conservation Commission, and the Soil Conservation Service.

Two courses, one at the undergraduate and one at the graduate, level will be offered. Either will carry two hours of resident credit at any of the cooperating schools.

The work will consist principally of three phases, the identification of common plants and animals in biotic communities, the application of conservation principles to these communities, and the adaptation of this work to teaching at the elementary and secondary school levels. Much of the work will be in the field, and it is the purpose to offer training in the whole field of conservation of renewable resources, soil, water, forest, wildlife, and human.

The permanent staff will include Miss Frances Laird and N. Bayard Green, of Marshall College; E. Meade McNeill, of Concord College; James T. Handlan, of Potomac State School; George Sharpe, of the West Virginia Agricultural Extension Division; and Maurice Brooks, West Virginia University, director of the school. There will be visiting specialists and lecturers to present certain phases of the field.

—M.G.B.