



The Redstart

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SUMMER BIRDS OF TOMLINSON'S RUN STATE PARK

During the 1944 Brooks Bird Club Foray, held at Tomlinson's Run State Park, Hancock County, West Virginia, June 11 to 18, more time was devoted to bird study than to any other phase of natural history. Even though the area has practically all of the species that we are accustomed to observe in our own localities, a great deal of zest and labor was given to finding out as much as possible of the birds of the park.

Although Chandler's "A Preliminary List of the Birds of Tomlinson's Run State Park" (The Redstart, Vol. X, No. 11) is a good indicator of the status of the birds there, a few additions were made to the number of species and a breeding record of some species was established. This report is by no means complete as far as the birds of the area are concerned. Perhaps this paper should be entitled "The Summer Birds of the Tomlinson's Run Park Region," for, in the recording of some species, the strict boundaries of the park were not observed. Such instances are given in the annotations.

As far as can be determined, a possible summer list of 91 species is to be found. The species previously recorded included these six: Sharp-shinned hawk, great-horned owl, bank swallow, cliff swallow, and blue jay. The species added to the list as given in Chandler's report included these thirteen: Black-crowned night heron, lesser scaup (?), red-shouldered hawk, American woodcock, barn owl, pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch (added to summer list only), prairie horned lark, warbling vireo, American redstart, bronzed grackle, savannah sparrow, and Henslow's sparrow.

Throughout the week at the end of each day, members of groups that had been on field trips turned in an estimate of the number of individuals of each species encountered. The numbers in parenthesis are a total of the week's findings. These figures are rather a gauge and are far from being accurate but they merely give one a picture of the relative abundance and quantitative status of the birds of the region.

The compiler of these notes wishes to thank all the Foray members who contributed notes and accounts of their observations. Special acknowledgement is due Lawrence Hicks, William Wylie and Rhys Ritter whose interest and effort helped to make this report much more complete than it would otherwise have been.

In the annotated list which follows, the symbol (*) designates species for which breeding records were established. No attempt at sub-specific identifications was made:

Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias. One individual observed North Fork of Lake (1)

Green Heron, Butorides virescens. Observed along North Fork of Tomlinson Run and flying over the lake. (8)

Black-crowned Night Heron, Nycticorax nycticorax. One example of this species reported. (1)

Scaup Duck, Nyroca sp. A pair of ducks identified as scaup ducks were seen on two occasions. They presumably were examples of N. affinis. (2)

Turkey Vulture, Cathartes aura. Occasionally recorded. (12)

Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperi. One seen flying over the camp area. Several others reported. (4)

Red-tailed Hawk (?), Buteo borealis. A pair of buteos seen from the lower boundary of the park appeared to be this species. Conditions did not permit positive identification. (2)

Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo lineatus. Ritter and Wylie reported that they saw a pair of this species. (2)

Sparrow Hawk, Falco sparverius. Reported to have been observed outside the limits of the park. (1)

Ruffed Grouse, Bonasa umbellus. Common in the wildlife area. (15)

Bob-white, Colinus virginianus. Common about the open areas and the abandoned farm sites now within the park limits. (16)

*Ring-necked Pheasant, Phasianus colchicus. A nest with 16 eggs was observed by a group at New Cumberland. Tracks observed in park. (2)

Killdeer, Oxyechus vociferus. Recorded on several occasions. (6)

American woodcock, Philohela minor. Hicks reported that he found 'borings' which was evidence of the occurrence of this species. (1)

Spotted Sandpiper, Actitis macularia. Seen and heard about the lake. (13)

Rock Dove, Columba livia. Recorded several times. (5)

*Mourning Dove, Zenaidura macroura. Very common, but only one nest was reported containing two eggs. (48)

- *Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus. Common. Two nests reported: one, containing two eggs, the other, four young. (38)
- Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. Recorded occasionally. (8)
- Barn Owl, Tyto pratincola. Heard as it flew over the camp area on two occasions. (2)
- Whip-poor-will, Antrostomus vociferus. Common. Three singing birds could be heard from the camp area each night. (22)
- *Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica. Common. As many as 22 individuals at one time were seen flying over the camp buildings. Chandler located a nest in the chimney of the tool house. (94)
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochus columbris. Observed occasionally. (10)
- Melted Kingfisher, Megaceryle alcyon. Fairly common. (17)
- Flicker, Colaptes auratus. Fairly common. (18)
- Pileated Woodpecker, Ceophloeus pileatus. One observed by a group on the lower edge of the park. One seen at New Cumberland near the park. (2)
- Hairy Woodpecker, Dryobates villosus. Scattered; observed occasionally. (13)
- *Downy Woodpecker, Dryobates pubescens. More common than the preceding species. A 'downy' carrying food and entering a cavity of a dead tree was observed. Conditions did not permit a thorough check. (32)
- Kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus. A few recorded near Pughtown. (5)
- *Crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus crinitus. Regularly recorded. Ritter found two nests of this species. (13)
- Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe. Very common. Seven nests located. (43)
- *Acadian Flycatcher, Empidonax virescens. Common. Two nests located; one by Chandler, one by Ritter. (28)
- Wood Pewee, Myiochanes virens. Recorded only on various occasions. Scattered. Most observers of the group were puzzled as to the rarity of this species. (8)
- *Horned Lark, Otocoris alpestris. A pair was seen on the immediate camp grounds. Maxine Thacker and Carolyn Conrad reported seeing nine individuals in an upland field north of camp. One of these was seen to be fed by another bird in the flock. (15)
- Rough-winged Swallow, Stelgidopteryx ruficollis. Sparingly recorded. (5)
- *Barn Swallow, Hirundo erythrogaster. Commonly observed near the farm buildings and occasionally over the camp area. Maxine Thacker found a nest in a barn at the lower edge of the park. (32)
- Purple Martin, Progne subis. Seen flying over camp several times. Other individuals were reported as to have been noted at Pughtown. (10)

Crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos. Very common. (93)

Chickadee, Penthestes sp. Fairly common. (21)

*Tufted Titmouse, Baeolophus bicolor. Common. Several broods of young on the wing were seen being fed by adult birds. (65)

White-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta carolinensis. Hicks reported seeing this species on one occasion. (1)

*House Wren, Troglodytes aedon. Noted occasionally. One nest reported. (13)

*Bewick's Wren, Thryomanes bewicki. Fairly common. Several pairs observed. The song of this species could be heard regularly on the camp grounds. Recorded at various stations outside the park boundary, particularly on the North Fork of Tomlinson's Run. Hicks found one nest in the cemetery on the north boundary. (30)

*Carolina Wren, Thryothorus ludovicianus. Common in the wildlife area. Carolyn Conrad and Maxine Thacker found a nest of this species with five young ready to leave the nest. (36)

Catbird, Dumetella carolinensis. Observed about the park office. (17)

*Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma rufum. Scattered and generally common, Five nests reported. (29)

*Robin, Turdus migratorius. Not too common within the confines of the park. However, 10 nests were reported: seven of these in the park. (48)

*Wood Thrush, Hylocichla mustelina. Very common in wildlife area. Nine nests reported. (59)

*Bluebird, Sialia sialis. Recorded regularly. (28)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Polioptila caerulea. Occasionally recorded. (18)

Cedar Waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum. Scattered and noted occasionally. (25)

Starling, Sturnus vulgaris. Fairly common. Occasional small flocks seen flying over the camp area. Common about adjacent farms and the picnic area. (40)

*Red-eyed Vireo, Vireo olivaceus. Abundant. From all indications, this species was the most common in the wildlife area. Only one nest was recorded; found by Marjorie Hayward. (84)

Warbling Vireo, Vireo gilvus. One recorded singing in the bottomlands along the lower edge of the park. (1)

Black and White Warbler, Mniotilta varia. Scattered throughout wildlife area. (23)

Worm-eating Warbler, Helmitheros vermivorus. Sparingly recorded. (8)

*Golden-winged Warbler, Vermivora chrysoptera. Observed in three or four sections of the park. Carolyn Conrad and Maxine Thacker found an adult feeding young bird along the Ferndell Road. (6)

Blue-winged Warbler, Vermivora pinus. Heard and seen at six or eight stations during the week. (13)

Yellow Warbler, Dendroica aestiva. Recorded in bottomlands on lower edge of park and in the valley above the north fork of the lake. (19)

Cerulean Warbler, Dendroica cerulea. Uncommon. (6)

*Ovenbird, Seiurus aurocapillus. Most common warbler in the park. Wylie and Breiding flushed a female incubating three eggs in a nest along the trail of the Beechwood extension. (63)

*Louisiana Waterthrush, Seiurus noveboracensis. Common along the woodland streams. Various groups reported seeing broods of young on the wing and adult birds carrying food. (41)

Kentucky Warbler, Oporornis formosus. Commonly and regularly recorded. (40)

Yellowthroat, Geothlypis trichas. Scattered and well represented throughout the park. (28)

Yellow-breasted Chat, Icteria virens. Very common. Heavy thickets in the abandoned farms area are responsible for a good population of this species. (81)

*Hooded Warbler, Wilsonia citrina. Fairly common on the wooded slopes. A nest containing two young was found by Maxine Thacker along the old road above the Laurel Trail. (45)

Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla. Chandler reported seeing this species at New Cumberland. Hicks reported seeing it along the Ferndell Road. (2)

*House Sparrow, Passer domesticus. Very common around camp area. In the valley above the north fork of the lake, this species had about a dozen nests built in the forks and crotches of the trees. The nest had a dome shaped appearance and at least two were being used in current nesting activities. (83)

Meadowlark, Sturnella magna. Fairly common at the park entrance and in fields adjacent to the park. (23)

Redwing, Agelaius phoeniceus. Occasionally observed flying over camp. Common in the wet meadows at the North Fork of Tomlinson's Run. (33)

*Baltimore Oriole, Icterus galbula. This species was recorded twice. On both occasions nests were found - one about the farm house at the North Fork of Tomlinson's Run (Breiding); one on ridge near one of the cemeteries (Hicks). (2)

Grackle, Quiscalus quiscula. Recorded at New Cumberland. (1)

*Cowbird, Molothrus ater. Flocks of ten-twelve fed in the field about the camp buildings. One of this species was found on the stone path leading to the park office. Noted in other areas about the park. (65)

Scarlet Tanager, Piranga erythromelas. Common in woodland areas. (50)

*Cardinal, Richmondia cardinalis. Very common. Three nests found. (61)

*Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hedymeles ludovicianus. Recorded twice. A group saw a male carrying food and saw an abandoned nest that might have been of this species -- in the valley of North Fork of Tomlinson's Run. Hicks reported observing this species toward the lower edge of the park on the Ferndell Road. (2)

*Indigo Bunting, Passerina cyanea. Abundant. Hicks and Breiding each reported finding a nest each containing four eggs. (113)

Goldfinch, Spinus tristis. Very common. Small flocks on the wing were observed frequently, while others were seen feeding about the open areas on, and adjacent to, the park. (98)

Towhee, Pipilo erythrophthalmus. Very common about the hillside thickets yet no nests were reported as being found. (70)

Savannah Sparrow, Passerculus sandwichensis. sp John Handlan reported that he observed a single example of this species on the grassy slope above the camp buildings. (1)

Grasshopper Sparrow, Ammodramus savannarum. Common. Singing males were heard in the field at the park entrance. About four or five pairs were believed to have been nesting on the grassy hillside above camp. (39)

Henslow's Sparrow, Passerherbulus henslowi. Hicks observed a lone individual on the eastern sloping fields across the lake opposite camp. (1)

*Vesper Sparrow, Pooecetes gramineus. Heard singing at the park entrance. A pair was seen mating on the camp area; one nest with four eggs was found by Hicks on the east ridge of the park. (22)

*Chipping Sparrow, Spizella passerina. Very common. Three nests found containing eggs and young. (98)

*Field Sparrow, Spizella pusilla. Very common. Four nests found. Two contained a clutch of four eggs each; one with four young; one with two eggs and two young. (78)

*Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia. Common. Two nests found each containing four eggs. (Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Reynolds). (51)

Summary

During the week of June 11, 1944, members of the Brooks Bird Club Foray observed 86 species of birds. Five species known to occur in the region were not recorded. Thirteen species were added to the list as compared to Chandler's report of 1942 in The Redstart. Breeding records were established for 33 species with a total of 74 nests found containing eggs or young.

For the first time on any Brooks Bird Club Foray, a check was made to get an idea of the relative abundance of the bird life. This check was by no means a census of the area; it was just to give one a general picture of the numbers of the birds encountered. Eighteen species were found in numbers of 50 or over. These follow in their highest to lowest numerical sequence: Indigo bunting, 113; chipping sparrow, 98; Goldfinch, 98; chimney swift, 94; crow, 93; house sparrow, 83; red-eyed vireo, 84; yellow-breasted chat, 81; field sparrow, 79; towhee, 70; cowbird, 65; ovenbird, 63; cardinal, 61; woodthrush, 59; scarlet tanager, 50.

The number of individuals ranging between the amounts of 25 to 50 were 19 species; between 15 to 25 were 14 species; 5 to 15, also 14 species; under 5, 22 species. If the members of the 1944 Foray wanted to rely seriously on the number of individual birds estimated during the week, the group as a whole could say that number was 2,451.

Without a doubt, on more than one occasion, duplicate reports were turned in for the same bird, and it is likely some were unnoticed or not recorded. This type of sampling easily shows one what birds are the most common in the various associations and habitats.

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NOTES FROM PYMATUNING RESERVOIR

"Pymatuning week-end" for the Brooks Bird Club in the spring of 1946 was April 6th and 7th. Lake Pymatuning, the result of converting a marshy lake into an extensive reservoir, is located about 30 miles south of Lake Erie on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border. The air was clear and cold; there were few clouds; and a strong wind was blowing most of the time.

The total number of species found was 105. Although the number of species was quite large, the numbers of ducks especially, were much smaller on the whole than in previous years at that time. It has been suggested that the diminishing numbers might be attributed to the absence of previously used feeding stations around the lake.

The following members and friends of the Brooks Bird Club attended this outing and contributed to the succeeding list of birds found: From Wheeling, Chuck, Mary Kay and Carolyn Conrad, Dwight and Ruth Koon, Elora Hissom, Libby Hunter, and Art Rybeck. From Morgantown, Jean and Bill Bierer, and Frank Conners, (now of Cleveland). From Mansfield, Ohio, Helen and Lois Lindbeck, Mary Jones, Vera Visscher, and Parilee Fry. From Columbus, Dr. Lawrence Hicks, Tom Campbell, Jane Rector, and George Breiding.

Loon, Common	Duck, Canvas-back
Grebe, Pied-billed	Duck, Scaup
Heron, Great Blue	Duck, Lesser-scaup
Heron, Green	Duck, Golden-eye
Heron, Black-crowned Night	Duck, Buffle-head
Bittern, American	Duck, Ruddy
Swan, Whistling	Merganser, Hooded
Goose, Canada	Merganser, American
Mallard	Merganser, Red-breasted
Duck, Black	Vulture, Turkey
European Widgeon	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
Baldpate	Hawk, Cooper's
Pintail	Hawk, Red-tailed
Teal, Green-winged	Hawk, Red-shouldered
Teal, Blue-winged	Hawk, Broad-winged
Shoveller	Hawk, Rough-legged
Duck, Wood	Eagle, Bald
Duck, Redhead	Hawk, Marsh
Duck, Ring-necked	Hawk, Sparrow

Grouse, Ruffed	Chickadee, Black-capped
Bob-white	Titmouse, Tufted
Pheasant, Ring-necked	Nuthatch, White-breasted
Rail, Virginia	Nuthatch, Red-breasted
Gallinule, Florida	Brown Creeper
Coot	Wren, Winter
Killdeer	Brown Thrasher
Woodcock	Robin
Snipe, Wilson	Bluebird
Plover, Upland	Kinglet, Golden-crowned
Yellow-legs, Greater	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
Yellow-legs, Lesser	Pipit
Sandpiper, White-rumped	Shrike, Migrant
Gull, Black-back	Starling
Gull, Herring	Warbler, Myrtle
Gull, Ring-billed	Sparrow, English
Gull, Bonaparte's	Meadowlark
Dove, Mourning	Blackbird, Red-winged
Owl, Screech	Blackbird, Rusty
Owl, Great Horned	Grackle, Bronzed
Owl, Barred	Cowbird
Owl, Short-eared	Cardinal
Kingfisher, Belted	Purple Finch
Flicker	Goldfinch
Woodpecker, Pileated	Towhee
Woodpecker, Red-bellied	Sparrow, Savannah
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied	Sparrow, Vesper
Woodpecker, Hairy	Junco, Slate-colored
Woodpecker, Downy	Sparrow, Tree
Phoebe	Sparrow, Field
Lark, Horned	Sparrow, Fox
Swallow, Tree	Sparrow, Swamp
Jay, Blue	Sparrow, Song
Crow	

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