



The Redstart

Published Since 1932 by the Brooks Bird Club, Inc.
Wheeling West Virginia

VOL. XV No. 1

Edited by Russell De Garmo

October, 1947

SOME FALL MIGRATION NOTES FOR CENTRAL OHIO

Between August 5 and November 19, 1944, I made some observations on an area called the Interpont, north of the stadium of the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Thirty-six trips were made. On the average, three to three and one-half hours were spent each time, usually in the late afternoon and early evening. The territory worked is a narrow strip of mixed hardwoods (Carolina poplar, box elder, sycamore, black willow are representative species) and underbrush along either side of the Olentangy River. The distance covered was about one and one-tenth of a mile on each side of the stream. The route taken is practically limited to a path on the river bank. The flood plain is tillable, and agriculture is practiced on a small scale. In addition to several large fields, plots of the victory garden type almost reach the shoreline.

Although the movement of the migrant wood warblers was the chief interest, an attempt was made to gather information on the departure of the resident species, and the arrival of winter visitants. The annotated list below is a summary of the data that were collected. The number in parentheses is the total individuals of that species taken into consideration during the study.

Pied-billed Grebe, Podilymbus p. podiceps. One was recorded September 23. (1)

Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias. One was seen on October 14. (1)

Eastern Green Heron, Butorides v. virescens. Nested on or near the area. Last recorded September 23. (2)

Black-crowned Night Heron, Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli. Recorded September 16. (1)

Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperii. One was observed on October 14. This species was known to nest nearby. (1)

- Osprey, Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. One was noted on October 10. (1)
- Killdeer, Charadrius v. vociferus. Apparently nested on or near the area. Seven were seen for the last time on October 7. (7)
- American Woodcock, Philohela minor. One was flushed on August 18. Probably nested within a mile of the area. (1)
- Spotted Sandpiper, Actitis macularia. Recorded throughout the breeding season; last recorded September 9. (2)
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus a. americanus. Last noted September 9. Two were seen copulating on this date. (3)
- Nighthawk, Chordeiles minor. Nested near the area. Last date September 9. (1)
- Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica. Last recorded September 23. (1)
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochus colubris. Last seen September 24. (1)
- Flicker, Colaptes auratus. A nesting species. Not recorded after October 21. (3)
- Eastern Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes e. erythrocephalus. One occurred on August 18. (1)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus v. varius. Eight were recorded for the entire period of study during the last week in September. (8)
- Eastern Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe. Nested near area. Occurred October 14. (2)
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Empidonax flaviventris. One was noted September 26. (1)
- Alder Flycatcher, Empidonax t. traillii. Nested; last date August 31. (2)
- Eastern Wood Pewee, Contopus virens. A nesting species; last date August 18. (3).
- Rough-winged Swallow, Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis. Nested; last date August 8. (4)
- Purple Martin, Progne s. subis. Nested nearby. Last date August 18. (1)
- Brown Creeper, Certhia familiaris. Two were recorded on September 27. This being the first record for the autumn season. (2)
- House Wren, Troglodytes aedon. October 21 was the last date for this nesting species. (1)
- Winter Wren, Troglodytes troglodytes. First recorded October 14. (2)
- Carolina Wren, Thyrothorus lucovicianus. As far as known, this species did not nest on the area but was recorded on August 5 and on other occasions. Eight were counted on August 8. Stray singles or pairs counted thereafter.

Catbird, Dumetella carolinensis. A common breeding species; departed during second week of October.

Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma r. rufum. A nesting species; last date October 14. (1)

Robin, Turdus migratorius. A nesting species; first sizable flock was seen September 9. (36)

Wood Thrush, Hylocichla mustelina. Nesting species; last date September 24. (1)

Hermit Thrush, Hylocichla guttata faxoni. First date September 24; last date October 28. (5)

Olive-backed Thrush, Hylocichla ustulata. First date September 2; last date October 21. Migration rather evenly distributed. If there were any concentration at all, it occurred between September 18 - 25. (18)

Gray-cheeked Thrush, Hylocichla minima. Only one was identified, this was on September 23. (1)

Veery, Hylocichla fuscescens. Two were recorded September 9 and two more on September 27. (4)

Golden-crowned Kinglet, Regulus s. satrapa. First noted September 30; ten were seen on this date. Last recorded October 21. (16)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Regulus c. calendula. First recorded September 24; last date October 21. (14)

Blue-headed Vireo, Vireo solitarius. First seen September 23; last date October 21. (4)

Philadelphia Vireo, Vireo philadelphicus. A bird that was identified as this species was seen October 10. (1)

Eastern Warbling Vireo, Vireo g. gilvus. Last observed August 22. Like the red-eyed vireo which also nested on the area, its habits did not allow one to get an approximate departure date. (1)

Black and White Warbler, Mniotilta varia. Observed between August 5 and September 29. Greatest concentrations between August 12 - 18; September 4 - 10; September 24 - 29. From all indications, September 4 - 10 was the time of heaviest flight. (61)

Blue-winged Warbler, Vermivora pinus. Two were recorded August 30. (2)

Tennessee Warbler, Vermivora peregrina. First noted September 1; last date September 27. Movements rather evenly distributed, but greatest lumping occurred between September 14 - 21, and September 23 - 30. (31)

Parula Warbler, Parula americana. Two were seen on September 23 and 24. (4)

Eastern Yellow Warbler, Dendroica petechia. Departure date not determined.

Magnolia Warbler, Dendroica magnolia. First recorded August 18; last date September 29. Greatest concentration between September 23 - 29 with the largest numbers on September 23 and 27. Evidently the most common migrant wood warbler on the area. (120)

Cape May Warbler, Dendroica tigrina. First recorded September 14; last date September 27. Greatest numbers between September 21 - 24. (24)

Black-throated Blue Warbler, Dendroica caerulescens. Spotty and in very small numbers. Two were recorded for the first time on September 5. One was seen on September 7. None was noted again until September 23; last date September 29. (10)

Myrtle Warbler, Dendroica c. coronata. Not very common; only records for October, the first on the 14th, when five individuals were seen. This species generally occurs in small numbers throughout the winter season. (11)

Black-throated Green Warbler, Dendroica virens. First recorded August 18 when two individuals were seen. Scattered and uncommon throughout September; last date September 27; greatest numbers September 21 - 27. (11)

Blackburnian Warbler, Dendroica fusca. Status and occurrence about same as preceding species. First date, August 18. Last date September 24. (10)

Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dendroica pennsylvanica. Uncommon. First date, August 31; last date September 23. (6)

Bay-breasted Warbler, Dendroica castanea. This species was not recorded. Individuals were collected that looked like this species, but in the hand they proved to be the following species: If this species occurred, it was not identified as such.

Blackpoll Warbler, Dendroica striata. First date August 30; last date September 28. Greatest wave between September 23 - 28 with greatest numbers on September 23 and 24. (58)

Palm Warbler, Dendroica palmarum. Scattered and uncommon. First date August 30; last date October 21. The records probably do not give a true representation of this species' movements. (7)

Ovenbird, Seiurus aurocapillus. Fairly common; scattered and no large numbers at any one time. First date August 5; last date September 27; greatest numbers on September 23 and 24. (55)

Grinnell's, or Northern, Waterthrush, Seiurus noveboracensis. Eight individuals were recorded between September 4 and 23. Whether the typical race noveboracensis, or whether the form notabilis was observed was not determined. (8)

Yellow-breasted Chat, Ictera v. virens. One was seen on August 8. This species was known to nest about a mile away. (1)

Wilson's Warbler, Wilsonia p. pusilla. One recorded on September 5 (first date), 7 and 10; five on September 21 (last date). (8)

Canada Warbler, Wilsonia canadensis. Two were observed on September 10. (2)

American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla. Occurred consistently between August 9 and September 29. Greatest numbers occurred between September 7 - 12 and September 23 - 27. (106)

Bobolink, Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Eighteen flew over the area on August 8; nested about a mile away. (18)

Eastern Meadowlark, Sturnella magna. Seven on September 24. Nested nearby. (7)

Redwing, Agelaius phoeniceus. Thirty were seen on September 24; 57 on September 29. (87)

Baltimore Oriole, Icterus galbula. Recorded only once, August 12. Probably nested nearby. (1)

Bronzed Grackle, Quiscalus versicolor. Nested on or near area; not recorded after August 31. (2)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Pheucticus ludovicianus. First date, August 13; last date October 21. Greatest number September 19 - 24. (27)

Indigo Bunting, Passerina cyanea. A nesting species; last date recorded August 24.

Eastern Goldfinch, Spinus t. tristis. Probably nested on or near area; movements erratic after nesting season. (16)

Red-eyed Towhee, Pipilo erythrophthalmus. Four records between first and last date, August 22 (2) and October 21 (8) respectively. Other records August 30 (1) and October 14 (1). (12)

Slate-colored Junco, Junco hyemalis. Seven recorded for first time on September 24. (7)

Tree Sparrow, Spizella a. arborea. Two recorded for first time on October 21. (2)

Chipping Sparrow, Spizella p. passerina. Last recorded October 28. (3)

Field Sparrow, Spizella p. pusilla. Departure date not determined.

White-throated Sparrow, Zonotrichia albicollis. First date September 26 (23); last date October 28, (23). Probably lingered much later. (190)

Eastern Fox Sparrow, Passerella i. iliaca. Recorded three times, one each time; September 21, October 14 and November 19. (3)

George H. Breiding
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

FALL MIGRATION 1946, MERCER COUNTY

The following dates on fall migration are based on a limited number of field trips here in Mercer County. In all instances in which two dates are shown, they represent the first and last dates on which the species was seen. A single date, unless otherwise indicated, represents the last date for the bird. By "C" I mean a general distribution without any great numbers.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATES(1946)</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATES(1946)</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Horned Grebe	11/18	(8)	Red-eyed Vireo	9/22	C
Pied-billed Grebe	9/18-11/22	C	Black & White Warbler	10/14	C
Great Blue Heron	9/13	R	Tennessee Warbler	9/8-10/23	C
E. Green Heron	10/24	R	Yellow Warbler	8/19	C
Canada Goose	11/6	(5)	Magnolia Warbler	9/4-9/26	C
Blue Goose	11/6	(5)	Cape May Warbler	8/28-10/28	C
Black Duck	11/18	C-R	Black-th. Blue Warbler	9/9	R
Pintail	11/18	(only)	Myrtle Warbler	9/4-10/27	C
Baldpate	11/3-11/18	C	Black-th. Green Warbler	9/3-9/22	C
Wood Duck	11/15(last)	C	Blackburnian Warbler	9/3-9/15	R
Redhead	11/15	R	Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/18	C
Ring-necked Duck	11/12-11/18	C	Bay-breasted Warbler	9/3-9/26	C
Scaup	11/18	C	Palm Warbler	9/18-10/20	C
Bufflehead	11/18	R	Ovenbird	9/4	C-A
Florida Gallinule	9/8-10/27	C	Yellowthroat	9/17	C
American Coot	10/27-11/12	C-A	Yellow-breasted Chat	9/21	C
American Woodcock	11/12	R	Wilson's Warbler	9/22	R
Nighthawk	8/24-8/27	R	Canada Warbler	9/5	R
Chimney Swift	8/19	C	American Redstart	9/18	C
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	9/21	C	Redwing	11/15	A
Phoebe	10/15	C	Grackle	12/22	A
Acadian Flycatcher	9/22	R	Cowbird	10/17	C
Wood Pewee	9/22	C	Scarlet Tanager	9/7	C-R
Prairie Horned Lark	10/17	R	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/22-10/24	C
Winter Wren	9/29(first)	R	Indigo Bunting	9/26	C
Long-billed Marsh Wren	9/8 (first)	R	Savannah Sparrow	10/24	R
Catbird	10/14	C	Vesper Sparrow	10/27	C
Brown Thrasher	10/14	C	Junco	11/12 (first)	
Wood Thrush	9/26	C	Chipping Sparrow	10/27	C-A
Olive-backed Thrush	9/18-9/29	C	White-crowned Sparrow	10/14 (first)	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10/17(first)	C	White-throated Sparrow	10/17 (first)	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10/16(first)	C	Swamp Sparrow	10/24 (first)	
White-eyed Vireo	9/19	C			
Yellow-throated Vireo	9/19	C			
Blue-headed Vireo	9/19-9/26	R			

Mrs. W. W. Dickinson
Bluefield, West Virginia

COMMON TERN AT McMECHEN

At McMechen, West Virginia, on May 7, 1947, we found a flight of 17 common terns, Sterna h. hirundo, in company with three species of gulls. These birds were all perched, close together, on the guide wall to U. S. Ohio River Dam #13, thus giving opportunity for size comparison. All 17 terns seemed in adult plumage. Of the gulls, three were ring-bills, Larus delawarensis, two immature Bonapartes, Larus philadelphia, and one immature herring, Larus argentatus.

The terns were watched for nearly two hours both sitting and in flight, and all characteristics were clearly seen.

For May the weather was very cold and windy with afternoon temperatures of 45° F. several days. At times the wind blew so hard we could not hold the binoculars steady. We noted that the birds were always pointed into the wind. A most amazing thing was the way a group of six or seven terns could veer slightly and fade completely from sight against the water background. We "lost" them several times that way. They were fishing successfully, and fearlessly approached to within a very few feet of fishermen along the bank.

On May 6 none of these birds were at the dam, and on May 8 only a lone tern remained. Mr. C. W. Shields of McMechen accompanied us every day.

Louise and Alston Shields
Charleston, West Virginia

NICHOLAS COUNTY NOTES

On October 26, 1946, a young boy killed his first hawk at a farm pond in Mt. Lookout. It was an osprey, Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. On November 30, I recorded another one near the same pond. A taxidermist is mounting the specimen for the boy.

In December, 1946, a neighbor killed a wild goose out of a flock of six in a cornfield at Mt. Lookout. The bird wore a band on a leg with the following inscription on it: "W. J. Jack Miner, Kingsville, Ontario, Canada. Ye are God's children. 1 Cor. 1-39: 1F 45." The Miner Sanctuary was notified and they reported that the bird was a Canada goose, Branta canadensis, which verified our previous identification.

On March 25, 1947, a pectoral sandpiper, Erolia melanotos, was flushed from a wet meadow with a flock of killdeers, Charadrius v. vociferus. The bird would not have been noticed, more than likely, had it not given its call notes which were strange to me. I followed it about through the meadows and wheat field and feel that the identification is a correct one:

W. C. Legg
Alton McClung
Mt. Lookout, West Virginia

CASPIAN TERN ON KANAWHA RIVER

On the afternoon of September 16, 1947, I happened to glance out of an office window in the Capitol building overlooking the Kanawha River, and saw a large tern flying downstream. Some 30 minutes later, en route out of town, I checked the wide expanse of the river just below the mouth of Elk River, and found the bird, still feeding over the shallow water. It was a Caspian tern, Hydroprogne caspia imperator, in good plumage.

Before leaving town, I called Alston Shields, who, in turn, contacted Dr. Gordon D. Sauer. Both observers, later in the afternoon, visited the area and saw the bird. In addition to the Caspian tern, a black tern, Chilodonia nigra surinamensis, was also seen in the same area by Dr. Sauer.

This record, in the knowledge of the writer, is the third for the species in West Virginia. A specimen was taken by Bibbee near Speedway, in Mercer county on October 5, 1928, and there is an older record for the Ohio River.

On September 22 "two large white birds with red bills" were reported at the same location in early morning. At noon, with C. O. Handley, we checked the area, but found only one Bonaparte's gull, Larus philadelphia.

W. R. DeGarmo
Charleston, West Virginia

A NEW RACE OF THE RUFFED GROUSE IN WEST VIRGINIA

The Twenty-Second Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds (1) includes: "Bonasa umbellus monticola Todd. Appalachian Ruffed Grouse . . . (4000 feet elevation, two and one-half miles east of Cheat Bridge, West Virginia) Additional subspecies. Appalachian mountains from Pennsylvania to Georgia."

The race was proposed seven years previous to this publication by W. E. C. Todd, of Pittsburgh (2) as follows:

"Bonasa umbellus monticola subsp. nov.

Appalachian Ruffed Grouse

" Type No. 984 Collection Karl W. Haller; adult male; two and one-half miles east of Cheat Bridge, Randolph County, West Virginia, (4000 feet elevation) October 10, 1939; Karl W. Haller.

"Subspecific characters - Similar to Bonasa umbellus umbellus (Linnaeus) but general coloration darker; the under parts more regularly and more heavily barred and more strongly suffused with buff.

"Range - The Appalachian Mountain region (presumably) from West Virginia southward, but the exact latitudinal and altitudinal limits are not yet known."

Brooks Bird Club members should be particularly interested in this newly described race, not alone because the type derives from a territory with which many of them are familiar, but because of the identities of those involved in the work leading to the inclusion of the race in the Check-List supplement.

W. E. Clyde Todd, curator of ornithology for the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, is known personally to many Brooks Club members who, of course, know Karl Haller, a fellow member. The A.O.U. committee on classification and nomenclature is headed by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who has done considerable work in West Virginia.

Dr. Wetmore's discussion of the ruffed grouse in West Virginia (3) was based on work of a 1936 ornithological exploration of the state in which he was leader. Incidentally, Dr. Wetmore referred West Virginia ruffed grouse, including two taken by E. A. Preble in Cranberry Glades in 1909, to Bonasa u. togata, the Canada ruffed grouse. In this connection it is interesting to note that Dr. Earle A. Brooks in his "Birds of West Virginia" in the West Virginia Encyclopedia, published at Charleston in 1929, expressed the belief that grouse from higher elevations in the state should be referred to the Canada ruffed grouse, rather than the eastern ruffed grouse, B. u. umbellus, to which he consigned most of the grouse of the state.

(1) Auk, Vol. 64, No. 3, July, 1947, p. 447.

(2) Auk, Vol. 57, No. 3, July, 1940, p. 392.

(3) Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum, Observations on the Birds of West Virginia, Vol. 84, pp 406-7, 1937.