



The Redstart

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Wheeling West Virginia

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Edited by Russell DeGarmo

November, December 1947

BROOKS BIRD CLUB PROGRAM
1947-1948

Date	Event	Meeting Place	Time
Oct. 11	N.T.S. Reunion	Oglebay Park	6:00 P.M.
14	X Our Heritage in the Rockies, by Karl Maslowsky	Downtown Center	8:15 P.M.
17,18,19	Field Trip, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary	Dryersville, Pa.	
25-26	Annual Round-up, Charleston Chapter	Charleston, W.Va.	
* 31	Discussion & Planning for new year. Preview of B.B.C. plans for W.O.C. Meeting	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.
Nov. 9	Local Field Trip	Oglebay Park	2:30 P.M.
16	Executive Committee Meeting	1206 Warwood Ave.	7:30 P.M.
* 21	Program: Preview of W.O.C. papers 1947-48 Program Announced Paper on Purple Finch read by Kay Conrad	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.
28,29,30	Annual Meeting Wilson Club Ohio State University	Columbus, Ohio	
Dec. 1	X This Curious World in Nature, by William Ferguson	Downtown Center	8:15 P.M.
14	Local Field Trip & Surprise Party	Clubroom	2:30 P.M.
* 19	Annual Christmas Party	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.
28	Annual Christmas Bird Census	Oglebay Park	9:30 A.M.
31	Renewal of B.B.C. New Year's Party	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.
Jan. 5	X Gopher Country by George Link	Downtown Center	8:15 P.M.
18	Local Field Trip	Clubroom	2:30 P.M.
* 30	Kodacrome Slides Harold Bergner 5-Minute Review Sara Dill Paper - Birds in Your Garden All Winter read by Charlie Doepkin	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.

Date	Event	Meeting Place	Time
Feb. 8	Local Field Trip	Clubroom	2:30 P.M.
14,15	1948 Foray Committee Meeting for Local and Corresponding Members	Clubroom	8:00 P.M.
23	X South Along the Suwannee, by Allen Cruickshank	Downtown Center	8:15 P.M.
* 27	Outdoor Movies - Hughes Barnes 5-Minute Review - Mary L. Wright Paper - Plans for 1948 Foray by Charles Conrad	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.
Mar. 7	Special Club Work Day (free lunch)	Clubroom	2:30 P.M.
21	Field Trip - Tappan and Piedmont Dams	9th St. Wheeling	1:00 P.M.
* 26	Inspection of Nature Lab. under Leadership Karl Haller	Linsly Institute	8:00 P.M.
Apr. 12	Field Trip - Mosquito Lake	Youngstown, Ohio	
16	X Wildlife in Action by O. Sewell Pettingill, Jr.	Downtown Center	8:15 P.M.
17,18	Inspection of Foray Site	Oglebay Park	7:00 A.M.
25	Migration Walk		
* 29	Kodacrome Slides - Judge Worley 5-Minute Review - Martha Haver- field. Paper - How Pigeons Find Their Way Home read by Dwight Koon	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.
May 1,2	Field Trip - Pymatuning Lake	Clubroom	8:00 A.M.
9	Migration Walk	Oglebay Park	7:00 A.M.
16	Century Day - Ohio County	Oglebay Park	7:00 A.M.
* 21	Kodacrome Slides - Mr. C. H. Ritter. Paper - Behind the Leader, read by E. Vanscoy 1948 Foray Checkup Charles Conrad	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.
23	Migration Walk	Oglebay Park	7:00 A.M.
28,29,30,31	Decoration Day Weekend Hocking County Ohio - Leaders: Olsen, Dusi, Hicks, Breiding	Details to be announced	
June 12-20	B.B.C. 1948 Foray Gaudineer Mountain Region, West Virginia		
* 25	Outdoor Meeting - Vanscoy Home	Elm Grove	8:30 P.M.
July 3,4,5	4th July Weekend N.L.T. School	Terra Alta, W. Va.	
17,18	Field Trip - Tom's Run State Park	Clubroom	3:00 P.M.
* 30	Outdoor Meeting	Oglebay Park	8:30 P.M.
Aug. 15	Field Trip - Cadiz, Ohio	9th St. Wheeling	11:00 A.M.
* 27	Outdoor Meeting, Etz Home	Edgewood	8:30 P.M.

Date	Event	Meeting Place	Time
Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6	Labor Day Week End	Terra Alta, W. Va.	
12	Reunion Committee Meeting	Clubroom	7:30 P.M.
* 24	Annual B. B. C. Meeting	Clubroom	8:30 P.M.
26	Special club Work Day (Free Lunch)	Clubroom	2:30 P.M.
Oct. 1, 2, 3	Annual Nature Reunion	Oglebay Park	

Dates marked with (*) indicate the regular monthly meeting of the Brooks Bird Club, which is held the last Friday of the month unless changed by mail notice, or as indicated in schedule. All B.B.C. members, friends, and the general public are cordially invited to attend.

The programs for the monthly meetings this year have been well planned, and include either colored slides or movies; a five-minute review paper on the Anatomy of the Bird (person selects own subject); and the main paper (subjects announced) read and discussed by the member elected.

In addition to the monthly meetings, we still meet every Tuesday night at the clubroom, with someone on hand from eight P.M. on. Come join us some night - we always have plenty to do and plenty to eat.

Dates marked with (X) indicate the Audubon Screen Tour Lectures which are being sponsored jointly by the Outdoors Clubs (Wildlife League; Oglebay Nature Committee; Brooks Bird Club): This marks the first time the screen tours have ever been sponsored in Wheeling.

Special notices will be mailed out for all Field Trips; Week-end Outings; Annual Foray; Outdoor Meetings; Annual Reunion, and Special Events.

The Executive Committee will meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Clubroom.

The Brooks Bird Club will again sponsor picnics almost every Sunday during the summer months with the exception of all scheduled dates as noted in the program. The meeting place is at the Race Track, Oglebay Park, from 11:00 A.M. on.

Dates as selected in the above program will be followed as much as possible. If it should be necessary to make a change you will be notified. Keep the schedule handy and join the group whenever you can.

THE WILSON CLUB MEETING

The Wilson Ornithological Club held its 29th Annual Meeting on November 28, 29, and 30, in Columbus, Ohio, with some 32 members of the Brooks Bird Club in attendance. The session opened Friday morning - 9:00 A.M. at the Ohio State Museum with Dr. George Sutton presiding. Eighteen papers were presented that first day - four of which were read by club members:

- Lawrence E. Hicks - Columbus, Ohio - "Recent Progress in Ohio Ornithology"
- Eleanor Sims & W. R. DeGarmo - Charleston, W. Va. - "Notes on Swainson's Warbler in West Virginia."
- M. Graham Netting, Carnegie Museum - "Opportunities for Cooperative Research in Ornithology and Herpetology"

William A. Lunk - University of Michigan - "Some Notes on Hawaiian Birds."

The annual dinner was served at 6:00 P.M. at the Faculty Club with Dr. George Sutton as toastmaster. The menu was written in Latin, so required some concentration to decipher. It proved to be turkey with all the trimmings, with a moulded ice cream slice containing a bright red cardinal in vanilla ice cream.

The after-dinner program was very informal. The toastmaster related one of his interesting experiences while working with the Eskimos at the Hudson Bay region in years past.

The name of each club represented at the meeting was read and members present from that club were asked to rise for recognition. After this there were three mounted bird specimens of unknown origin to be identified for the Museum. Three noted ornithologists were chosen from the audience, namely: - Dr. Lowery, Dr. Emlen, and Dr. Conrad (Chuck named his Scarlet O'Hara) Some fun!

For the serious part of the program, Dr. Lyons Jones, one of two living founders of the Wilson Club, was introduced and presented with a scrap book for letters of appreciation from friends who have known of his untiring interest and hard work during the club's growth and existence. He was then voted honorary President of the Wilson Club. The group then adjourned to the Museum where an informal reception was held along with the auctioning of paintings of noted artists, the money to be used for food for suffering ornithologists of Europe. Almost \$1,000 was realized from the sale.

The Saturday morning session began at 9:00 A.M. and of the nine papers presented in the morning, two were by members.

John W. Handlan - Charleston, W. Va. - read by Elizabeth Etz, Wheeling, W. Va. - "A Brief History of the Brooks Bird Club."

Charles Conrad and James H. Olsen - Wheeling, W. Va., and Columbus, Ohio - "Activities of the Brooks Bird Club."

After luncheon at the Faculty Club the group met at the auditorium at Haggerty Hall to enjoy motion pictures and additional papers illustrated with slides. Edward Morris Brigham, Jr., "Some Photographic Experiences with Spruce Grouse and Trumpeter Swan"; Karl Maslowski - "Filming Owls at Night"; and Ernest P. Edwards - "Mexican Primavera," were all very interesting. This ended the program, and was followed by a brief business session.

Saturday night Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hicks had a reception and buffet dinner at their home for some fifty guests. The evening ended with a campfire and song fest in bird-club style.

Sunday morning a hike around the Buckeye Lake region was scheduled, with Milton B. Trautman as leader. Because of the drop in temperature, the lake had a half inch of ice over most of the surface, so only one group of black ducks was observed.

Luncheon was served at a private yacht club overlooking the lake. A large open fireplace was a welcome sight to the cold hikers. After an enjoyable lunch another hike was in progress. A frozen wood duck was picked up along the edge of the road and upon examination, it was noted that the right leg had been broken

from a trap. The bird was probably thrown aside by the trapper. This hike ended a full week-end of activities enjoyed by every one. We are looking forward to the time when we can be present for another meeting of the Wilson Club. Next year it will be held in Madison, Wisconsin. So, maybe you can attend! Hope so.

Carolyn Conrad
Wheeling, West Virginia

1947 CHRISTMAS COUNT

The bird census taken each year at Christmas time by groups and individuals will be taken by the Wheeling delegation of the B.B.C. on Sunday, December 28. The dates for this year's count are from December 20 through 28. As planned, the group will meet at Oglebay Park to begin the count, and work the radius from that point.

The president of our club urges all members of our organization to conduct a census and would especially like to receive reports from Cadiz, Columbus, Steubenville, Youngstown, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Washington, Pennsylvania; Lexington, Virginia; Charleston, Bluefield, Huntington, Morgantown, Keenan, Martinsburg, and Moorfield, West Virginia.

A letter and form will be mailed to encourage a report of your census so that a comparable report of the tri-state territory can be published in the REDSTART. Please have your report mailed to the Brooks Bird Club, Inc., by January 10.

The Editor

1948 FORAY NEWS

At the December meeting of the Executive Committee, Charles Conrad was again elected General Chairman and 1948 Foray Director. In turn, Chuck appointed members of the Executive Committee to make up the General Committee, with the following corresponding members to cooperate with them: James H. Olsen, Lawrence Hicks, George Breiding, Julian Dusi, Russell DeGarmo, Maxine Thacker, Pauline Handlan, Everett Chandler, John Laitsch, Howard Heimerdinger, Judge John Worley, Clinton Banks, Albert Tenney, Frank Norris, LeRoy Black, Alta Black.

The General Committee will meet and outline preliminary plans prior to an important meeting for both the active and corresponding members of the Committee scheduled to be held at the B.B.C. Clubroom, 707 Warwood Avenue, on Saturday, February 14, 1948, at 8:00 P.M. sharp. All members of the committee will receive a letter prior to the meeting date. In the meantime, be thinking it over and bring your ideas for discussion. Let's make this one outstanding!

1947 SPRING MIGRATION

This annual report of the spring migration in the Wheeling area is based on the reports and observations made by individual members and on regular scheduled field trips sponsored by the Brooks Bird Club during migration.

The territory covered was about the same as in previous years (REDSTART, Vol. XI, No. 11) with a return of several trips made to the small swamp at Beech Bottom in Brook County. Also several field trips were made to Tappan, Clendenin, and Piedmont dams in Harrison County, Ohio.

The weather during migration was again "topsy-turvey." The month of March on the whole was cold with a low of 22° and high of 58°, plus high winds and occasional snow. April was a wet month with numerous frosts and as late as the 26th the thermometer dipped to 26°. During the first week in May the apple blossoms were in full bloom with a cold rainy spell and temperatures from 40° to 70°. On the 10th and 11th the fruit crop was practically destroyed by frost and ice, and a recording of a low of 24° was made. Then followed another rainy spell until the end of May when the temperature reached 58°.

In spite of the weather conditions, migration seemed to be about normal, and when the annual century day count was made on May 11 we succeeded in recording 103 species. A report will be made on this in a later issue of THE RED-START.

In the list below, all species are for Ohio County, West Virginia, unless otherwise noted.

Elizabeth Etz
Wheeling, West Virginia

Eastern Green Heron	April 8	
American Bittern	May 10	Brook County, W. Va.
Great Blue Heron	April 13	Harrison County, Ohio
Baldpate	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Pintail	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Green-winged Teal	March 29	Harrison County, Ohio
Blue-winged Teal	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Shoveller	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Wood Duck	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Red Head	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Ringnecked Duck	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Canvas Back	March 23	Harrison County, Ohio
Ruddy	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Black Duck	April 5,	Harrison County, Ohio
Broad-winged Hawk	April 19	
Red-shouldered Hawk	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
Cooper's Hawk	April 19	
Osprey	April 13	Harrison County, Ohio
American Coot	April 5	Harrison County, Ohio
American Woodcock	March 21	
Wilson Snipe	April 26	Brook County, W. Va.
Spotted Sandpiper	May 11	
Solitary Sandpiper	April 26	Brook County, W. Va.
Greater Yellowlegs	April 26	Brook County, W. Va.
Lesser Yellowlegs	April 26	Brook County, W. Va.
Least Sandpiper	May 11	Brook County, W. Va.
Sora Rail	April 26	Brook County, W. Va.
Pectoral Sandpiper	March 30	Harrison County, Ohio
Mourning Dove	April 1	
Yellowbilled Cuckoo	April 18	
Blackbilled Cuckoo	May 4	
Chimney Swift	April 5	
Hummingbird	April 11	
Crested Flycatcher	May 4	
Phoebe	March 23	
Acadian Flycatcher	May 4	
Least Flycatcher	May 11	
Wood Pewee	May 11	

Bank Swallow	May 11	
Roughwinged Swallow	April 20	
Barn Swallow	April 26	Brook County, W. Va.
Purple Martin	April 6	
House Wren	April 16	
Bewick's Wren	April 3	
Catbird	April 30	
Brown Thrasher	April 13	
Wood Thrush	April 19	
Hermit Thrush	April 19	
Olive-back Thrush	April 27	
Veery	May 8	
Blue gray Gnatcatcher	April 6	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	April 13	
White-eyed Vireo	April 7	
Yellow-throated Vireo	April 27	
Blue-headed Vireo	April 27	
Red-eyed Vireo	May 2	
Warbling Vireo	April 27	
Black & White Warbler	April 26	
Worm-eating Warbler	April 27	
Bluewing Warbler	April 26	
Tennessee Warbler	May 4	
Nashville Warbler	May 4	
Parula Warbler	May 4	
Yellow Warbler	April 15	
Magnolia Warbler	May 11	
Cape May Warbler	May 10	
Black Throated Blue Warbler	May 4	
Myrtle Warbler	April 8	
Black Throated Green Warbler	May 4	
Cerulean Warbler	May 4	
Blackburnian Warbler	May 11	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	May 8	
Bay-breasted Warbler	May 10	
Blackpoll Warbler	May 18	
Ovenbird	May 11	
Louisiana Waterthrush	April 6	
Kentucky Warbler	May 3	
Yellowthroat	May 4	
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 3	
Hooded Warbler	April 28	
Wilson's Warbler	May 11	
Canada Warbler	May 4	
American Redstart	April	
Redwing	March 24	
Orchard Oriole	May 3	
Baltimore Oriole	April 18	
Grackle	March 24	
Cowbird	March 24	
Scarlet Tanager	May 4	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 11	
Indigo Bunting	April 28	
Savannah Sparrow	April 24	

Grasshopper Sparrow	April 24	
Vesper Sparrow	April 5	
Chipping Sparrow	March 21	
Field Sparrow	April 5	
White Crowned Sparrow	May 6	
White Throated Sparrow	March 27	
Swamp Sparrow	April 26	Brook County, W. Va.
Purple Finch	April 22	

1947 FIELD TRIP TO PLEASANTS COUNTY

Last year's field trip to Pleasants County was made on Sunday, May 19, and resulted in the recording of 84 species. This year the annual trip was made on Sunday, May 18, and we were in the field from 9:30 A.M. until 4:05 P.M. in the vicinity of Raven Rock, working both the hill tops and bottom lands along the creek and Ohio River. The total species recorded for the day was 74. Although 10 less than last year, this still represents the average recording for this trip. We kept a time record for the species recorded and by 11:15 A.M. our list showed a total of 47; by 12:30 we had increased it to 58; and by 2:00 P.M. to 65; with the grand total of 74 reached at 4:05 as we departed for home.

The weather in the morning was overcast and chilly with the sun taking over after noon to round out a warm sunny afternoon.

Again one new species, the olive-backed thrush, was added to the county list which now stands at an even 100 as far as the records of the Brooks Bird Club are concerned. The olive-back was heard a number of times, and on one occasion three members of the party observed a singing bird at close range with the aid of binoculars. The recording of such species as the white-eyed vireo, golden-winged and prairie warblers and summer tanager always made the trip to Pleasants County a high success for club members. Making the trip this year were Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Kay Conrad, Pete Chandler, Bob McCausland, and Chuck Conrad. Species recorded on the 1947 trip were as follows:

Turkey vulture, sharp-shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk, broad-winged hawk, bob-white, mourning dove, yellow-billed cuckoo, black-billed cuckoo, chimney swift, flicker, downy woodpecker, crested flycatcher, phoebe, Acadian flycatcher, least flycatcher, wood pewee, rough-winged swallow, barn swallow, blue jay, crow, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, house wren, Carolina wren, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, olive-backed thrush, bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, cedar waxwing, starling, white-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, blue-headed vireo, red-eyed vireo, warbling vireo, black and white warbler, worm-eating warbler, golden-winged warbler, Tennessee warbler, Nashville warbler, parula warbler, yellow warbler, Cape May warbler, cerulean warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, prairie warbler, oven-bird, Louisiana water-thrush, Kentucky warbler, yellow-throat, yellow-breasted chat, hooded warbler, Canada warbler, redstart, English sparrow, meadowlark, red-wing, cowbird, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, cardinal indigo bunting, goldfinch, towhee, grasshopper sparrow, vesper sparrow, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, song sparrow.

Dorothy Conrad
Wheeling, West Virginia

FIELD NOTES

In June, 1947, we were fortunate in having our home painted. During the process of applying the two coats of paint a pair of phoebes, Sayornis phoebe, built a nest on a horizontal roof support, and raised a family of four. From the very beginning the adult birds had no fear of the painters as they approached the nesting territory. When the first coat was applied the nest was moved with the adult bird on the nest and remaining there as the painter finished his job. When the second coat was applied the adults continued to feed the young, and again the nest was moved without much concern from the adults. The nest was abandoned two days after the painters had completed the painting.

Kay Conrad
Wheeling, West Virginia

During the period of July 26-29, 1947, in Harrison County, West Virginia, two miles from the town of Lumberport, barn owls, Tyto alba pratincola, were under observation in the top of a broken sycamore tree some 60 feet from the ground. Four owls were seen at one time in the tree and on several occasions the same number were observed in flight.

William Wylie
Wheeling, West Virginia

An unusual migration of red-wing blackbirds, Agelaius phoeniceus, was observed along the Ohio River at Warwood, Ohio County, West Virginia, in the fall of 1946. The "chatter and calls" of red-wings first attracted the attention of the writer, and upon observation for the first time on Thursday, October 24, the flock was estimated at between seven and ten thousand. They only remained for half a day, being continually on the move down the river along the West Virginia shore. Again on Tuesday, October 29, a flock of approximately four to five hundred were observed, with the last flock of two to four thousand recorded on November 1. There were no other red-wings recorded after the last date. In 15 years of birding, this was the first time I have ever recorded these huge flocks of migrating red-wings.

Chuck Conrad
Wheeling, West Virginia

A Cheat Warbler

My wife and I spent several days on Cheat Mountain, Randolph County, during July, 1947. We kept looking for warbler nests although we realized that it was rather late in the season. Near the roadside sign that reads "Cheat Mountain - Elevation 3802 feet," we saw a male chestnut-sided warbler, Dendroica pennsylvanica, that seemed quite excited at our presence. We watched and noted that he carried a worm in his beak. In the past this had been a good sign that young birds were in the nest, so I made some bands ready in case the young were large enough to band.

After a few minutes we saw the warbler drop into some blackberry bushes along the road and we could see him feed a bird in the nest. I approached the nest and soon saw the female chestnut-sided warbler on the nest. She stayed on the

nest until I was only three or four feet from her, then flew to a nearby tree and began scolding. The male put on a "crippled bird" act with his wings and tail held in drooping position. Surely the nest contained young birds!

Imagine my surprise when I peered into a nest that was absolutely empty! It was then very evident that instead of feeding young birds, the male warbler had fed the female as she sat on an empty nest. This was the first time we have encountered such a performance and we wonder if other readers of THE REDSTART have noted anything along this line. Was the female "cheating" because she was on Cheat Mountain?

We visited the nest several days later but the birds were not evident, so we collected the nest.

Marion and Merit Skaggs
Cleveland, Ohio

In the late summer and early fall of 1946, many members of the Brooks Bird Club in the Wheeling area were, at one time or another, able to hear numerous calls of the barred owl, Strix varia. This, the observers can assure you, is quite unusual in this territory. During the August meeting of the club which was held out of doors at the Etz residence, the barred owls continued to call all evening long. Elizabeth Etz and Charlie Doepken had recorded them several times before the meeting date. Clyde Upton reported having heard them in Elm Grove (Wheeling suburb) on the nights of October 8 and 15.

Charles Conrad
Wheeling, West Virginia