



The Redstart

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

VOL. XV, No. 10

Edited by Russell DeGarmo

July, 1948

A COMPILATION OF SPRING MIGRATION RECORDS
1948

Date of First Arrival Notes*

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Pied-billed Grebe	3/17	3/22			3/27x		3/20
Double-crested Cormorant		4/28					
Great Blue Heron	4/22		3/24		4/17		3/27
Little Blue Heron		Grant 5/14					
Green Heron	4/15	4/12	3/23	Preston 4/24	5/9		5/8
Bl.cr.Night Heron							5/15
American Bittern					5/1		5/15
Least Bittern	4/27						
Whistling Swan							3/25
Canada Goose			3/9				3/20
Gadwall							4/3
Baldpate	3/22	4/17			3/20x	3/6	3/4
Pintail							3/20
Green-winged Teal		4/12					3/27
Blue-winged Teal	4/7	4/13	4/14		3/21x	3/21	3/27
Shoveller		Putnam 3/14					4/3
Wood Duck	3/17						3/25
Redhead	2/16						3/20
Ring-necked Duck	2/16	2/7			3/27x	3/2	3/4
Canvasback					4/13x		3/20
Lesser Scaup Duck	3/26	4/22			3/27x		
American Golden-eye		Winter res. 1/31					
Bufflehead		2/7					
Ruddy Duck	3/2				3/27x		3/27
Hooded Merganser		Pleasants 3/28					
American Merganser		Winter res. 1/31					
Red-breasted Merganser	4/7				3/27x		
Turkey Vulture			3/7				3/27
Broad-winged Hawk		4/17	3/10	4/10	4/24	5/9	

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Marsh Hawk						4/25	
Osprey	4/2		3/24				
King Rail							5/22
Sora					5/15		
Coot	4/1	Pleasants			3/21x	3/20	3/20
Semipalmated Plover		3/28					
Killdeer	2/28	5/16					3/16
Turnstone		Winter res.					5/22
Woodcock		Jackson	2/26	3/18	5/15		3/20
Wilson's Snipe		2/22					
		Putnam			5/1		4/10
		5/9			5/1	5/9	5/8
Spotted Sandpiper	4/14	4/14	5/3	4/17			
Solitary Sandpiper		5/2	5/5	Preston			
				5/9	5/1		4/30
Greater Yellow-legs		Putnam			3/20x		4/10
		5/9					
Lesser Yellow-legs		Putnam			5/8	3/20	
		5/9					
Pectoral Sandpiper							4/10
Least Sandpiper		5/5			5/8		5/29
Red-backed Sandpiper					3/20x		
Stilt Sandpiper		Pocahontas					
		5/17					
Semipalmated Sandpiper		Putnam					
		5/9					
Western Sandpiper(C.O.H)		5/16					
Ring-billed Gull	4/14	3/22					
Bonaparte's Gull		4/20			4/13x		
Common Tern		5/17					
Caspian Tern		4/26					
Mourning Dove		Winter res.		3/30	4/17	4/7	3/20
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/9	5/2		5/11	5/9	5/23	5/31
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/3	5/9		5/1	5/9		5/13
Short-eared Owl		Mason					
		3/14					
Whip-poor-will		Upshur	3/23	4/20	5/9		
		4/20					
Nighthawk		5/5	5/11	Pendleton			
				5/14	5/9	5/10	5/21
Chimney Swift	4/17	4/6	4/17	4/23	4/19	4/24	4/23
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	5/9	Wyoming					
		4/30	4/25	5/2	5/9	5/23	5/18
Belted Kingfisher	2/10	Winter res.					
Kingbird	5/9	Boone					
		4/28	4/26	5/9			5/1
Crested Flycatcher	4/27	4/18	4/24	4/29	4/26	5/23	5/1
Phoebe	3/10	4/3	3/11	3/16	3/18		3/23
Acadian Flycatcher	5/16	5/2		5/9	5/9	5/23	5/21
Alder Flycatcher							5/15
Least Flycatcher		Pocahontas					
		4/24		4/26	5/9		5/8
Wood Pewee	5/4	5/4	5/1	5/10	5/11	5/23	5/15
Prairie Horned Lark	4/16	Winter res.					
Tree Swallow	4/2	5/9		Harts-	5/22		4/10
				town, Pa.			
				4/2			

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Bank Swallow	5/16			5/5	5/15		5/8
Rough-winged Swallow	5/4	Clay Lewis 4/20		4/25	4/18		4/30
Barn Swallow	4/14	Putnam 4/17	4/7	4/18	4/13	5/23	4/10
Cliff Swallow	5/16	Putnam 5/9	5/1	5/5			5/15
Purple Martin		Jackson Kanawha 4/1	5/3	4/21	3/24	5/8	4/3
House Wren	4/12	4/15	4/24	4/18	4/15	4/22	4/24
Bewick's Wren	3/21	Pocahontas 3/21	3/19	4/10	3/19		
Long-billed Marsh Wren					5/8		5/15
Catbird	4/27	4/24	4/26	4/22	4/16	4/21	4/25
Brown Thrasher	4/5	4/3	3/25	4/8	4/11	4/18	4/20
Robin	1/24	Migrants 2/15					
Wood Thrush	4/20	4/14	4/23	4/20	4/20	4/25	4/25
Hermit Thrush		Winter res. 5/9		4/15	4/18		4/3
Olive-backed Thrush	5/4	5/9		5/5	5/2	5/23	5/11
Gray-cheeked Thrush							5/12
Veery			5/1	5/9	5/9		5/11
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/10	4/7	4/10	4/15	4/16	4/18	5/8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4/2	Winter res.					
Cedar Waxwing		Winter res.					
Migrant Shrike		Putnam 3/14					4/3
Ruby Cr. Kinglet	4/6	4/7	4/13	4/10	4/11	4/25	5/3
White-eyed Vireo	4/15	4/17	4/16	4/20	5/15		
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/22	4/18	4/20	5/1	4/26		5/1
Blue-headed Vireo	4/16	4/17	4/25	4/18	5/9		5/10
Red-eyed Vireo	5/3	4/28	4/26	5/1	4/29	5/9	5/11
Warbling Vireo		4/9		4/20	4/19	5/16	4/25
Black & White Warbler	4/14	4/7	4/12	4/18	5/2	5/8	5/8
Swainson's Warbler		4/18	4/25				
Worm-eating Warbler	5/3	4/17		5/2	5/2	5/23	
Golden-winged Warbler	4/27	Wyoming 4/30		4/30			5/10
Blue-winged Warbler		5/2			4/18	5/2	5/1
Tennessee Warbler	5/14	5/4		4/30	5/8	5/16	5/10
Orange-crowned Warbler							5/15
Nashville Warbler		5/2		4/29	5/9		5/7
Parula Warbler	4/14	4/7	4/16	5/10	4/26		5/10
Yellow Warbler	4/14	4/9	4/20	4/21	4/20	5/9	4/24
Magnolia Warbler	5/3	Putnam Kanawha 5/9		5/9	5/2	5/9	5/10
Cape May Warbler	5/9	5/9		5/2	5/9		5/10
Black thr. Blue Warbler	4/26	Pocahontas 4/25		4/24	5/9	5/9	5/11
Myrtle Warbler	4/2	3/21	3/27	4/18	4/11	5/9	4/16
Black thr. Green Warbler	5/3	4/7	4/13	4/19	4/27	5/9	5/8
Cerulean Warbler		4/18		5/2	4/27	5/9	5/8
Blackburnian Warbler	5/3	4/17	5/1	5/5	5/2	5/9	5/10
Sycamore Warbler		5/9					
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4/26	5/9		5/5	5/2		5/10
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/19	Putnam Kanawha 5/9		5/10	5/18		5/11

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Black-poll Warbler	5/12	5/9		Pendleton 5/15	5/9	5/23	
Pine Warbler		4/3					
Prairie Warbler		4/17	4/12				5/10
Western Palm Warbler		5/9	4/22				4/30
Ovenbird	4/22	4/16	4/25	5/2	5/2	4/25	5/1
Northern Water-thrush	5/16			5/1			
Louisiana Water-thrush	4/7	3/16	3/26	3/28	3/28	4/3	4/25
Kentucky Warbler	4/27	4/19		5/1	4/30	5/16	
Mourning Warbler		5/16					5/22
Yellow-throat	4/14	4/17	4/20	4/25	5/2	5/2	5/8
Yellow-breasted Chat	4/27	Wyoming 4/29	4/25	5/1	4/25	5/2	5/15
Hooded Warbler	4/27	4/17	4/20	5/1	4/28		5/20
Wilson's Warbler	5/16	5/9		5/23	5/9		5/22
Canada Warbler				5/9	5/9		5/10
Redstart	4/27	4/17	4/25	4/22	4/29	5/2	5/8
Bobolink		Putnam 5/9	5/1	5/5	5/9		4/27
Meadowlark		3/16		2/14			3/20
Red-wing	2/28	Putnam 3/14	3/3	3/17	3/21	3/6	3/15
Orchard Oriole	6/7	4/24	4/26	5/9	4/20		5/15
Baltimore Oriole	4/29	4/26	4/22	5/1	4/26	5/6	4/29
Rusty Blackbird		2/29					3/27
Grackle	2/23	3/11		5/9	5/9		3/17
Cowbird	3/22	3/21	3/25	3/19	3/19	3/20	3/20
Scarlet Tanager	4/27	4/18	4/25	4/29	4/26	5/16	5/6
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/3	5/2		5/6	5/3		5/1
Indigo Bunting	5/3	5/2	5/3	4/30	5/2	5/16	5/15
Purple Finch		Pocahontas 3/21			5/2		
Summer Tanager		5/2			5/2		5/6
Savannah Sparrow	3/17	5/9		4/23	4/12		4/10
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/27	Upshur 4/20	4/16	4/21	4/19	4/25	4/23 4/29
Henslow's Sparrow							
Vesper Sparrow	3/22	Pocahontas 3/21	3/19	3/19	3/24	3/31	4/6
Bachman's Sparrow		4/17					
Chipping Sparrow	3/22	4/3	3/23	3/27	3/24	3/27	4/10
Field Sparrow		Winter res.		3/20	3/19	Winter res.	3/26
White-crowned Sparrow	Last date 3/30	4/28	4/9	5/1	4/18	5/15	5/10
White-thr. Sparrow	Last date 5/3	Winter res.	3/16	4/24	5/2	5/2	4/19
Lincoln's Sparrow		5/9					5/10
Swamp Sparrow		Winter res.		Preston 4/18	5/8		4/10

*Ed. Notes: The data shown above are compiled from notes of various groups and individuals throughout the state, and represent in most instances records for first arrivals, or in others, obviously dates on which some species were recorded. For lack of space, no information is included on the status of the various species. A brief outline of each territory follows:

- A. Migration data submitted by Mrs. Miriam G. Dickinson, Bluefield, West Virginia. The territory over which the data were collected included portions of Tazewell County, Virginia; and Mercer County, West Virginia.
- B. Notes of the Charleston, West Virginia, Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club. With the exception of those counties named in this column, all records are from Kanawha County.
- C. Notes from Nicholas County, West Virginia, submitted by W. C. Legg, and Alton McClung.
- D. Morgantown, West Virginia, and vicinity, based on records of William L. Wylie, Rhea Smith and Earl Smith. In a few instances records are listed for counties other than Monongalia.
- E. Ohio County, West Virginia, with exception of those marked (x), which represent observations taken at Tappan Dam, near Cadiz, Ohio.
- F. Jefferson County, Ohio, from notes of A. R. Tenney.
- G. Cuyahoga County, Ohio, from notes of Merit and Marion Skaggs.

STILT SANDPIPER IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY

On May 7, 1948, near Edray, West Virginia, I was fortunate enough to be able to observe a stilt sandpiper (Micropalama himantopus) feeding along the margin of a water-filled depression in an open pasture. The temporary pond was about fifty yards from the highway, but even at that distance, equipped as I was with binoculars and Peterson's "Field Guide to the Birds," I could not definitely determine whether I was looking at a lesser yellow-legs (Totanus flavipes) or a stilt sandpiper. When I started walking across the field toward the pond, the bird hastily waded to the opposite side where it began vigorously bobbing its head up and down in the manner of the stilt sandpiper, and I subsequently noticed transverse bars across its breast and greenish rather than yellow legs.

Five solitary sandpipers (Tringa solitaria solitaria), and perhaps a dozen others that were either the least sandpiper (Eriolia minutilla) or semipalmated sandpiper (Ereunetes pusillus) were also in the vicinity.

The morning of May 7 had been quite rainy and windy, as had the several preceding days.

Wayne Bailey
Conservation Commission
Charleston, West Virginia

THE BEAVER-DUCK RELATIONSHIP IN WEST VIRGINIA

Beaver have made many areas in West Virginia suitable for ducks by providing the necessary food and cover conditions. Before beaver became established, there were practically no areas where waterfowl could nest and successfully raise their young. There are no natural lakes, and about the only species of duck that the large streams supported was the wood duck (Aix sponsa).

The increase in beaver ponds has been responsible for a gradual increase in the numbers of black ducks (Anus rubripes) and mallards (Anus platyrhynchos). In 1941 when the writer was making a study of beaver in West Virginia, neither black ducks

nor mallards were found. Now, however, almost every area that has a number of beaver ponds supports a breeding pair of either the black duck or the mallard.

Although ducks are common, only one nest was observed. This was the nest of a black duck, found in Grant County on McGinnis Branch, a tributary of the Potomac River. It was located in a thicket of greenbrier (Smilax sp.) 160 yards from water. A tunnel beside a log formed an entrance through the greenbrier to the nest. Three sides of the nest were built of leaves, sticks, and mud, and the fourth was formed by the log. The rim of the nest was built up to about six inches from the ground, and the center of the nest was about four inches deep. The nest was first found on April 24, 1948, by Jeff Renn, of Bayard, who discovered it accidentally while fishing. When the nest was discovered, the hen was not on it, and the eggs were covered with down. The next day, when fishing in the area, Renn noticed the duck leave the nest, went to it, and was able to see thirteen eggs, as they were not then covered with down. One week later, on April 30, Renn returned to the nest and found only a few egg shells. The writer visited the area on May 13 and found shells of four eggs in the nest. Condition of the shells indicated that the nest was successful; however, the young ducks were not observed. Two adult black ducks and a female wood duck were seen in the vicinity.

There are indications that successful nests are produced quite frequently on beaver ponds. Young mallards have been observed on Beaverdam Run, Bennett Run, and on a tributary of Laurel Fork of Cheat River, below Bennett Run, all in Randolph County. The young of black ducks have been observed in Canaan Valley, Tucker County; and on Beaverdam Run and Bennett Run, Randolph County.

It has been found that beaver ponds now supply much more food for ducks than is being utilized. Pondweeds (Potamogeton), smartweeds (Polygonum), bulrushes (Scirpus), cut grass (Leersia), bur-reeds (Sparganium), sedges (Carex), and manna grasses (Glyceria), all plants utilized by ducks, have been found in beaver ponds.

Normally, ducks return to nest in the same locality in which they were raised, which means that the suitable habitat which now exists will eventually be occupied, providing decimating factors do not wipe out the annual increase in population. It is encouraging to note an increase in the nesting duck population on beaver ponds within the last two years. If this increase continues at the present rate, the black duck and mallard will no longer be rare birds in the mountainous sections of West Virginia.

Wendell G. Swank
Conservation Commission
Elkins, West Virginia

BIRD FLUCTUATIONS IN GILMER COUNTY

It might be of some interest to make below brief comments on some of the fluctuating birds in my community.

The lark sparrow (Chondestes grammacus) was a very common summer resident fifteen to twenty years ago. I have not seen or heard one in my locality for ten years or longer. The Bachman's sparrow (Aimophila aestivalis bachmanii) was fairly common during the time of the lark sparrow. I have not seen or heard one for a good many years.

The sparrow hawk (Falco sparverius) was a very common bird during my boyhood days. They would fly freely from one dead tree to another in my father's pasture fields,

and give their notes: klee klee klee, or killy killy killy. And when they did this, I never saw one of them disturb a songbird. I have seen songbirds and these hawks in the same tree; but I suspect that during the breeding season some small birds are taken by them.

The bob-white (Colinus virginianus) has been a non-entity on my farm and locality for the past two years. I think the past two severe winters and the gray foxes are the chief agencies that have destroyed them.

Some other species are showing decided fluctuations in my area. Last summer I did not see or hear a Baltimore oriole (Icterus galbula). The Carolina wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus) is rather uncommon in this territory; formerly it was our most common wren.

The birds I have just mentioned have shown the greatest fluctuations. Of course, all species fluctuate to some extent.

E. R. Grose
Sago, West Virginia