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Editor

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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL YEAR IN WEST VIRGINIA -- 1953

By Maurice Brooks

Each January when I begin a review of the preceding year's ornithological happenings in West Virginia I wonder if we are approaching a period of diminishing returns. Of course I should know better - we have only scratched the surface of the state's bird possibilities, and, as new field students come on, they will find that conditions have changed, new species have appeared, and established ones will have changed status. There is no end to ornithological discovery.

Results of observation in any given period will depend on many factors, among them being habitat changes, weather, and the presence of observers in the field at the right times and places. In addition to these rather obvious influents, there are others not so easily assessed - advances and retreats whose causes are tied up in population dynamics and complex ecologic factors. It may be instructive to review some of these factors, obvious and obscure.

Habitat Changes. In several previous annual reviews, I have mentioned the effect of very large increases in the state's water surface. Artificial impoundments, large and small, are profoundly changing the status (in West Virginia) of numerous aquatic bird species, and the influence of these newly-created waters is accelerating. Species which once may have passed over the state without alighting are now making frequent and regular stops at ponds and lakes. There is some evidence that certain species may be shifting their migration routes to take advantage of new feeding and resting areas. Numbers of breeding water birds have increased markedly.

An excellent example of water bird habitat creation is to be found at the Point Pleasant (Mason County) Game Farm. Here the Conservation Commission, through J. C. Appel and his associates, is changing low-grade farm land into attractive water bird range. During 1953 at least 150 Wood Ducks were reared on the area. During migration thousands of waterfowl and water and shorebirds rested and fed here. Bird students from Huntington, Charleston, and other cities are finding this a rewarding area for field work.

Weather Influences. The summer and fall of 1953 were notably dry and warm. At the Parkersburg weather station, data confirm the seriousness of this drought, since the year was the third driest of record. As a result, ponds and lakes dried up, to leave mudflats that were attractive to shorebirds. Perhaps as a further result of drought and warmth, many species migrated later than usual, and remained in West Virginia far beyond their normal times of departure. The peaks of shorebird flight came in mid-September and October, and several species lingered in the area until early December.

White-rumped Sandpipers, unusual in West Virginia, were noted at Fields Park Reservoir, Monongalia County, in August, and at Silver Lake, Preston County, in September. At nearby Deep Creek Lake, in Garrett County, Maryland, Wilson's Phalarope, Stilt Sandpiper, and Dowitcher were seen in late August. The opening of school took observers indoors just at the time "shorebirding" was getting good, so doubtless many things of interest were missed.

Weather conditions were not favorable for the hawk watchers this year. On the two days of major effort, Sept. 19 and Sept. 26, the temperatures were high and the wind from the southwest. Most observers had very poor luck, so far as hawks were concerned. On Sept. 19, the writer's party (Larry Schwab, Bill Berthy, Charlie Thomas, Fred Brooks, Maurice Brooks) counted 385 hawks, mostly Broadwings, at Backbone Mountain, Tucker County. On Sept. 26 we saw only two. It appears that had observers been afield on other days during this period, the counts might have been much higher. In western Maryland an observer on Sept. 18 counted 2500 hawks.

There were other ornithological rewards for the hawk watchers. The diurnal migration of warblers, commented on last year by Wayne Davis and others, was notable on Sept. 19, and to a lesser extent on Sept. 26. Hundreds of warblers, many of them Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, and Magnolia, passed over, particularly during the morning hours. There was also a sizable flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. A surprise was a Wilson's Snipe flying low over Backbone Mountain on Sept. 19.

There were few storms with northwest winds during autumn, so no spectacular flights of waterfowl appeared. A notable number of water birds did linger until very late, however. During the Christmas holiday season, 15 species of aquatic birds were listed at Cheat Lake, including such species as Red-throated Loon, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, Gadwall, Baldpate, Red-head, Buffle-head, Old Squaw, and American and Hooded Mergansers.

Field Observers. Active groups at Wheeling, Morgantown, Charleston, and Huntington continue to give good coverage to these neighborhoods and surrounding areas. An encouraging feature is the development of a group of good young observers in the Morgantown region. These boys (including Charlie and Henry Thomas, Bill Berthy, and Fred Brooks of Morgantown, and Larry Schwab of Kingwood) are doing capable and systematic work, with great enthusiasm. We are badly in need of more observers in the Eastern Panhandle, and in central West Virginia. No one has appeared to take the place of Bill Legg.

Population and Ecologic Factors. Changes in bird ranges are, of course, to be expected, but a series of range extensions now taking place is impossible of explanation with our present knowledge. These include a recent tendency for species of southern distribution to extend their breeding ranges northward and to higher altitudes. Examples would include Black Vulture, Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, and Prairie Warbler. Such changes might be expected as forests are cleared and seasons become warmer. The reverse tendency, in which species of northern distribution are breeding farther south, and at lower altitudes, is much more difficult to account for. Least and Alder Flycatchers, Veeries, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Mountain Vireos, and Savannah Sparrows are good examples of this latter trend.

Each of the past several winters has brought large flights of at least one of the northern finches. In 1951-52, it was, of course, the great flight of Evening Grosbeaks, and in 1952-53, we had phenomenal populations of Pine Siskins. These birds appeared in every part of the state, occurred commonly in flocks of hundreds, and built up in April and early May into flocks of thousands.

The sharp drop in number of Ruffed Grouse, to be expected if the "cyclic" pattern of population fluctuations is to be maintained, has not yet appeared. Wild Turkeys and Bobwhites are at "highs", and there is no evidence of any spectacular drops in their numbers. It has been difficult to get data on the success of Chukar Partridges, many of which were released in mountainous portions of the state. Some individuals survived and bred for one year at least.

Noteworthy Occurrences. At least one new species, based on specimen in hand and preserved, was added to the West Virginia list during the year. This record (made thanks to Ralph Edeburn) will not be disclosed here. Since it awaits publication in The Auk. In the field of sight records, the most notable, perhaps, is in the case of Bohemian Waxwing. During early February four individuals, with the distinctive white wing-patches and chestnut under tail-coverts were seen by Ruth, Fred, and Maurice Brooks in the West Virginia University orchard, Morgantown. A little later Charlie Thomas saw the birds in the same orchard. At about the same time Mrs. Mary C. Seckman and others reported the birds from Clarksburg. These are the first West Virginia records of any kind for the species.

Unusually large numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons were reported by C. O. Handley and others at Point Pleasant in November. Hugh and Howell Land recorded a European Widgeon in Mason County. DeGarmo and others found Golden Eagles in the mountains on a few occasions. There was a remarkably heavy flight of Sora Rails in Preston County during late September and October. Dr. Earl McCue again found Upland Plovers presumably breeding at the Morgantown Airport.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers migrated in good numbers through the Morgantown area in late August. All observers agree that Olive-sided Flycatchers, once rather widely distributed through the mountains, are becoming increasingly rare and local. The swallow flight during late summer was the heaviest I have ever seen in West Virginia. Barn Swallows, numbered in thousands, moved over Morgantown during late July; Purple Martins flocked to telephone lines and TV aerials in August; and late in that month there were huge flocks of Cliff Swallows throughout the mountains. Wayne Davis collected a beautiful albino Purple Martin at the University Animal Husbandry Farm.

Ravens are moving in closer to Morgantown, having been spotted on a number of occasions within three miles of the town. Olive-backed and Hermit Thrush populations were unusually high in the Spruce Belt. Clark Miller and others have demonstrated the presence of a constant, and perhaps increasing, population of Prothonotary Warblers breeding along the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. There were a number of fall records of Orange-crowned Warblers, particularly in the Mason and Cabell regions. Prairie Warblers nested on the hills surrounding Morgantown. DeGarmo and others noted Northern Water-Thrushes on top of Gaudineer Knob, Randolph County, in June. Wilson's Warblers were unusually common in fall migration.

In the Shenandoah and South Branch Valleys, Blue Grosbeaks seem to be well established and increasing as breeding birds. Davis found Dicksissels in May in Jefferson County, and in June near Morgantown, Red Crossbills were noted during June in the Gaudineer area. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow (race undetermined) was seen by Bill Berthy, Charley Thomas, Fred Brooks, and the writer at Silver Lake, Preston County, on Sept. 26, and near the same time one was seen near Kingwood by Larry Schwab. Swamp Sparrows and Lincoln's Sparrows were notably common in Preston County during late September.

The recently published Seventeenth Breeding-Bird Census (Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 7, No. 6, Dec., 1953) contains two reports which provide a striking parallel. One, by L. Irby Davis and John Morony, Jr., comes from the State of Chiapas, in extreme southern Mexico. The other, by members of the Brooks Bird Club, comes from Pocahontas County, W. Va. Both areas censused were of the same size, and both reports were made in early summer. The Chiapas area had a cover of tropical semi-deciduous forest, and an elevation of 4100 feet. The West Virginia area was in mature deciduous northern hardwoods, at an elevation of 4000 feet.

The Chiapas area held 63 territorial males, with a population of 420 males per hundred acres; the West Virginia area 64 territorial males, with a population of 427 males per hundred acres. As might be expected, the Mexican area was richer in species (55 to 22), but the total populations were remarkably similar in numbers. There were no species common to both areas, but both included woodpeckers, wood warblers, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers, wrens, jays, and finches. In richness of individual birds, West Virginia's mountains would not seem to suffer in comparison with this tropical upland region.

The present edition of A Check-list of West Virginia Birds is now exhausted. With printing costs as they are, it may be some time before a new edition will appear.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 1953 was in all respects an outstanding one for the Brooks Bird Club. The organization remains vigorous and expanding and so we may look forward to 1954 and to future years with pronounced optimism. The established program of the club is now at a point where each event proceeds with only minor difficulties and accordingly the enjoyment of them is greatly enhanced.

All those in attendance agreed that the 1953 Foray in the Cheat Mountain country was the most outstanding of all the fourteen such events that have been held. This was due to three factors: the area visited is perhaps the most outstanding one in the state, both from an ornithological point of view and from the standpoint of a good vacation site; the careful and experienced planning of Foray Director Chuck Conrad, whose always cheerful attitude and whose skill at arranging our program and accommodations in large measure made such things as a low water supply, faulty electrical wiring, and missing bridges seem only of trivial import; and even more importantly the large group (largest yet) of campers whose interest and spirit are largely responsible for the success, of any such event. I hesitate to say that 1953 was the best possible Foray since our director always answers that remark by, "You haven't seen anything. Wait 'till next year."

The other events, mid-winter meeting, annual meeting, Sutton's Warbler outing, Mosquito Lake trip, and the hawk count were in every way successful.

At the recent December executive committee meeting, a summary was made of what had been accomplished on the long range plans made in 1951. Progress was amazingly complete and a full report of this will be made to the membership of the mid-winter meeting.

The only dark spot on the years escutcheon was the loss of our devoted editor, W. R. DeGarmo, both as editor and as an active member. His place in our group cannot be filled. Consider that even if we find another editor (which we have) and that even if the sum total of the efforts of several of us might make up for his loss as a field observer, where can we find another whose grasp of the back country road "shortcuts" can come up to Russ's. The officers and the whole club wish him well for his future endeavours.

We are indeed fortunate in obtaining the services of George Breiding as our new editor. He brings a wealth of scientific and field knowledge as well as considerable experience to the job.

Mention should also be made of the fine work of our MAIL BAG editor, Mabel Gorman, during the past year.

For the future there are two things that strike your president as being of prime importance: (1) We must continue to attract new members, particularly from amongst the group of high school and college students who will be the leaders of that unfortunately not too distant day when you and I will be confined to foraying from a wheel chair. Every member should try during the next year to interest at least one other person in the B.B.C. (2) It is time I believe for us to make every effort, both individually and as a group, to channel our ornithological activities into some serious contributions to the science. Migration watching, century day counts, and rarity chasing are all fun but their lasting value is of some doubt. Each of us can find something worthwhile, even though quite small in scope, which will make a valuable research contribution. The enjoyment of our work will be ever greater, I am sure.

George Hall

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL RESULTS OF THE 1953 FORAY
IN RANDOLPH, POCAHONTAS, AND PENDLETON
COUNTIES, WEST VIRGINIA

Part I: Annotated List of Species Seen

By George A. Hall

Introduction

The fourteenth annual Foray of the Brooks Bird Club was held from June 13 to June 21, 1953 at Camp Thornwood on the Monongahela National Forest near Bartow, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. During that time some sixty people compiled the records of ornithological interest herein reported. In addition to the official period of the Foray several persons were in the area on June 6 and 7 and on June 11 and 12. There was accordingly a coverage of nearly two full weeks.

The close juxtaposition of three counties in this region as well as the extreme size of two of them made it inadvisable to use a political boundary to delimit the area covered as has been done in the past; therefore, the region to be covered in this report was arbitrarily fixed as being enclosed in a circle with a twenty mile radius centered at Camp Thornwood. The general character of the region has been described in a separate report. It will suffice here to mention that the region is one of extremely high relief with an altitudinal range of from about 1800 feet in the Tygart and North Fork Valleys to 4860 feet on Spruce Knob. The plant associations range from a Central Hardwoods Forest in the Tygart Valley to a Red Spruce-Northern Hardwood Forest on Shavers Mountain. They include the Mixed Mesophytic Region, an Oak-Pine Forest, and a considerable amount of cleared land. There are no sizeable marsh habitats or water areas.

The field work was concentrated in five general regions:

1. The Valley of the East Fork of the Greenbrier River including the camp area proper, farmland, and the towns of Bartow and Durbin.
2. Shavers Mountain: Three of the population study areas were on this mountain and probably most of the work was done there.
3. The Burner-Middle Mountain System: One population study area was located here and numerous other trips were made to it.
4. Allegheny Mountain
5. The limestone region near Circleville, Pendleton County.

In addition field trips were made to the Greenbrier Valley near Cass, Shavers Fork of the Cheat River at Cheat Bridge, Red Run and Whitetop on Cheat Mountain, Spruce Knob, and Seneca State Forest.

Three previous Forays have covered all or part of the region in which the 1953 work was carried out. The 1945 Foray at Cheat Lodge covered the Shavers Fork, Cheat Mountain and Shavers Mountain region; the 1946 Foray at Watoga State Park covered the Gaudineer Knob region; and the 1948 Foray which was also held at Camp Thornwood covered most of this same region. Table I gives a comparison of the species listed on the four Forays in this region.

Table I

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Species Listed</u>
1945	Cheat Bridge	79 (1)
1946	Watoga State Park	111 (2)
1948	Camp Thornwood	107 (3)
1953	Camp Thornwood	118*

* Of these, four species were listed in areas of such ecological dissimilarity to those covered in previous years that perhaps 113 is a better comparative figure.

The composite list for the four years' coverage is 123 species. In the writer's opinion there are probably only about 10-15 additional species which might be expected to be recorded in this region in the summer. Some of these have indeed been recorded in the past. Table II in the Appendix lists those species found on other Forays but not on this one.

(1) See THE REDSTART Vol. 20 page 64 for Area Survey

A comparison between 1948 and 1953 is inevitable and has been made in many of the annotations in the list below. As was to be expected there was essentially little change in the avifauna of the region in the five year period, since the region is essentially one of stable plant association. The lumbering operations on Shavers Mountain which have occurred in the intervening years have not materially altered the bird life in that area. Of the more common species eleven seemed to be at lower populations than in 1948, although none could be said to be greatly reduced, and eleven were at somewhat higher populations. The quantitative aspects of such a comparison are covered in the Breeding Bird Population Studies.

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

The following list is an indication of the status of the birds of this region as the members of the Brooks Bird Club found them in June of 1953. A total of 118 species was recorded.

The scientific nomenclature is limited to the use of binomials since no collecting was done during the Foray. A discussion of the subspecies occurring in this region has been given by Brooks, (4,5). The vernacular names used are those suggested by Aldrich (6).

The number given in parentheses at the end of the annotations is the number assigned to that species in the report on the breeding records. (To be published in a forthcoming issue. Ed.)

1. Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - Uncommon. There were several reports of one along the East Fork of the Greenbrier, and two were seen near Cass on June 18 by G. Hurley, R. Eggleston, and C. Thomas.
2. Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) - W. R. DeGarmo observed two on Beaver Dam Run, Randolph County on June 17.
3. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - Uncommon. A few were to be seen on most any day in the Greenbrier Valley.
4. Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - G. Harrison and H. Postlethwaite saw two over Allegheny Mountain on June 15.
5. Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) - A pair nested along the road to the Gaudineer Knob Fire Tower and were to be seen at any time. One was seen over camp on June 20. (1)
6. Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) - Uncommon. C. Conrad and G. Phillips saw one at Arbovale on June 17 and G.A. Hall and D. Baker found one on Allegheny Mountain on the same day. H. Heimerdinger saw one over Middle Mountain.
7. Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) - Uncommon. H. Burttt found one near Durbin on June 15; E. R. Chandler saw one on Middle Mountain on June 17; and two were seen on Allegheny Mountain on June 20 by L. E. Hicks and J. Van Meter.
8. Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) - W. R. DeGarmo and the writer saw one over Cheat Mountain on June 7. One was to be seen on almost any day in the virgin spruce tract on Shavers Mountain and it probably nested at that location.
9. Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) - Probably the most common hawk in the region. Nested not far from camp and was to be seen on nearly every day. Numerous records from other places. Two Nests. (2)

10. Sparrow Hawk (Falco sparverius) - The only record was of one seen on several occasions near the Green Bank High School.
11. Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus) - Very common. The grouse population is now extremely high. Numerous broods of young were seen. (3)
12. Bobwhite (Colinus virginianus) - Common in the limestone region in Pendleton County. Moderately common in the Greenbrier Valley near Cass.
13. Wild Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) - The population of the turkey is quite high in contrast to the 1948 Foray when no records were made. Numerous individuals were reported, with most of the records being from the Burner-Middle Mountain region and from Allegheny Mountain, although a few reports were given for the Cheat-Shavers Mountain system. Several broods of young were reported. (48)
14. Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus) - Rather uncommon. Reported from near Circleville and at a few places in the Greenbrier Valley. Young birds were seen on one occasion. (49)
15. Mourning Dove (Zenaidura macroura) - Scarce. A few records for the Greenbrier Valley. According to L. E. Hicks it was much more common in the limestone regions of Pendleton County.
16. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus) - Rare. Only two records. D. Caperton reported one from near Camp on the Middle Mountain Road on June 18 and C. Conrad and E. R. Chandler found one on Allegheny Mountain on June 20.
17. Black-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus erythrophthalmus) - Surprisingly uncommon. The only record was one reported by L. E. Hicks at Red Run on June 16. The species is at a low population level throughout the state.
18. Screech Owl (Otus asio) - L. E. Hicks heard one at Durbin on June 13 and W. R. DeGarmo, C. Miller, and D. Baker saw one at the foot of Shavers Mountain on June 14.
19. Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) - E. R. Chandler heard one on several occasions from the Burner Mountain census area.
20. Barred Owl (Strix varia) - Not common. E. R. Chandler heard one from the Burner Mountain census area and W. R. DeGarmo heard one on Gaudineer Knob. One was heard near camp on several occasions.
21. Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferus) - Uncommon. Several were heard at the foot of Shavers Mountain near Durbin. E. R. Chandler reported one from Burner Mountain.
22. Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor) - Rare. One was seen on Spruce Knob on June 16 by many people and two flew over camp on the evening of June 17.
23. Chimney Swift (Chaetura pelagica) - Very common. One nest. (4)
24. Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Archilochus colubris) - Probably fairly common although only a few were reported, mostly from the camp area.
25. Belted Kingfisher (Megasceryle alcyon) - Moderately common along the Greenbrier River and the East Fork of the Greenbrier. Common along the Tygart River.

26. Yellow-shafted Flicker (Colaptes auratus) - Found in nearly every location and on every day but not particularly common.
27. Pileated Woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus) - Reasonably common. One was seen flying over camp on several occasions.
28. Red-headed Woodpecker (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) - Rather numerous. G. Hurley saw one near Green Bank (where the only 1948 record was made) on June 13 and reported another from near Bartow on June 20. E. R. Chandler found one on Middle Mountain on June 18. Rather common in the limestone region of Pendleton County according to L. E. Hicks.
29. Hairy Woodpecker (Dendrocopus villosus) - Rather common.
30. Downy Woodpecker (Dendrocopus pubescens) - Uncommon. It was nearly completely absent at the higher elevations. (50)
31. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius) - Only one record, at Red Run, by L. E. Hicks.
32. Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus) - Several records from the region near Cass. Quite common in the Pendleton County limestone region. Not found near Bartow where it nested in 1948.
33. Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus) - Moderately common in the limestone region (L. E. Hicks) but rare elsewhere, the only record being one at Cass on June 6 seen by the writer.
34. Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe) - Common in suitable habitat. Four nests were found. (5)
35. Acadian Flycatcher (Empidonax virescens) - E. R. Chandler reported one from near Circleville on June 18 and L. E. Hicks found one near Bartow.
36. Traill's (Alder) Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii) - Surprisingly rare. The only record was of one found on the slopes of Allegheny Mountain on June 20 by C. Thomas. It was not reported from along Shavers Fork where previous Forays have found it breeding.
37. Least Flycatcher (Empidonax minimus) - Very common at elevations from 2500 to 3000 feet but not found above 3500 feet. Two nests (7)
38. Eastern Wood Pewee (Contopus virens) - Not common. One nest. (8)
39. Olive-sided Flycatcher (Nuttallornis borealis) - Only one record, D. Caperton, M. Thacker, R. Eggleston and the writer saw one on Shavers Mountain on June 18.
40. Horned Lark (Eremophila alpestris) - Uncommon, with very little suitable habitat. Reported on several occasions from the top of Allegheny Mountain and one record from near Cass.
41. Rough-winged Swallow (Stelgidopteryx ruficollis) - Moderately common along the East Fork of the Greenbrier River between camp and Durbin.

42. Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica) - Abundant in all the open farmlands in the valleys of the region. Two nesting colonies were found. (9)
43. Cliff Swallow (Petrochelidon pyrrhonota) - J. Handlan saw one near Green Bank. A small colony nested on the Brown Beard farm at Bartow and individuals were to be seen there regularly. (10)
44. Purple Martin (Progne subis) - W. R. DeGarmo reported one seen flying over Gaudineer Knob on June 14, and C. Conrad saw one at Green Bank on June 17.
45. Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata) - A common bird at high elevations but none were seen in the lower valleys.
46. Common Raven (Corvus corax) - Moderately common, particularly at the higher elevations.
47. American Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) - Common. One nest. (11)
48. Black-capped Chickadee (Parus atricapillus) - Common at all elevations. No specimens were taken but all birds heard singing were referable to this species. Two nests. (12)
49. Tufted Titmouse (Parus bicolor) - Uncommon. A few were found near camp and records were made on Shavers Mountain at 4100 feet and on Burner Mountain at 4000 feet.
50. White-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta carolinensis) - Uncommonly reported but probably rather common.
51. Red-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis) - Very common in the spruce forest. This is at least the second straight year that the population has been high. The nest found on Shavers Mountain on June 16 by D. Baker and the writer is one of the few reported for the state. (13)
52. Brown Creeper (Certhia familiaris) - Common in the spruce forest where the populations were quite a bit higher than in 1948.
53. House Wren (Troglodytes aedon) - Rather uncommon, Three nests. (14)
54. Winter Wren (Troglodytes troglodytes) - Common at high elevations but probably less so than in 1948.
55. Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii) - Only three records. W. R. DeGarmo found one at Arbovale on June 13 and one in Durbin on June 19. L. E. Hicks found one at Circleville on June 19.
56. Carolina Wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus) - Three records: L. E. Hicks found one at Circleville; C. Conrad and G. Phillips found it in Cass and W. R. DeGarmo heard one in Durbin.
57. Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis) - Common to abundant in suitable habitat. Twelve nests were found. (15)

58. Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum) - Common to abundant in the many brushy areas of the region. Probably more common than the last species. Seven nests. (16)
59. Robin (Turdus migratorius) - Very common at all elevations. Nineteen nests were found. (17)
60. Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina) - Common, but the least common of the spotted thrushes. Found on Middle Mountain as high as 3700 feet but not found in the spruce forest on Shavers Mountain. Two nests. (18)
61. Hermit Thrush (Hylocichla guttata) - Common at high elevations on Shavers and Allegheny Mountains. Populations were considerably higher than in 1948. Two nests. (19)
62. Olive-backed Thrush (Hylocichla ustulata) - Very common in the spruce belt. The population on Gaudineer Knob was much higher than in 1948. More common than the hermit thrush.
63. Veery (Hylocichla fuscescens) - Common but the population seemed lower than in 1948; Found near camp at 3000 feet. It was the only thrush found on the Burner Mountain study area and on the young deciduous study area on Shavers Mountain. Three nests. (20)
64. Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis) - Rather uncommon in the farmlands of the area. One nest. (21)
65. Golden-crowned Kinglet (Regulus satrapa) - Rather uncommon in the spruce forests on Shavers and Allegheny Mountains. Lower than in 1948.
66. Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum) - Very common, being at a high in population. Nesting was in full progress and fifteen nests were reported. L. Sturm, R. Freund, and the writer found three nests in one small tree at Cheat Bridge. (22)
67. Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) - One was seen near Durbin on at least two occasions.
68. Common Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) - Moderately common in the farmlands but not recorded elsewhere. One nest. (23)
69. Yellow-throated Vireo (Vireo flavifrons) - Uncommon. L. E. Hicks found them between Germany Valley and Cherry Grove. W. R. DeGarmo reported them from Beverly.
70. Solitary Vireo (Vireo solitarius) - Fairly common in the Spruce Forest and found sparingly at 3000 feet, but somewhat less common than in 1948. Four nests. (24)
71. Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus) - Common to abundant throughout the deciduous forest. Occurred at lesser numbers in the spruce-hardwoods forest. Five nests. (25)
72. Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus) - The only record was from Beverly by W. R. DeGarmo.
73. Black & White Warbler (Mniotilta varia) - Moderately common at the lower elevations. Not recorded in the spruce forest. Young birds out of the nest were seen on two occasions. (51)

74. Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitheros vermivorus) - W. R. DeGarmo heard one on two occasions in the spruce-northern hardwoods census area on Shavers Mountain. L. E. Hicks and J. Beach found one at Circleville on June 19 and E. R. Chandler reported one from Frank Mountain on June 20.
75. Golden-winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera) - Rather common around Camp at 3000 feet and in the Red Run area at 3700 feet. Two nests were found. (26)
76. Parula Warbler (Parula americana) - Much less common than in 1948. Recorded from near Cass at 2500 feet to the top of Shavers Mountain at 4100 feet. Recorded once in the virgin spruce tract.
77. Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia) - Very common in the brushy woods along the Greenbrier River and elsewhere at low elevation but not found on the higher ridges.
78. Magnolia Warbler (Dendroica magnolia) - Abundant at all elevations. Fairly common around camp; very common on Shavers Mountain and the most abundant bird in the young spruce census area on Gaudineer Knob where the population was almost identical with that in 1948. One nest. (27)
79. Black-throated Blue Warbler (Dendroica caerulescens) - Very common at all elevations. It seemed to be somewhat more common at the lower elevations around camp than in 1948. The species has almost disappeared from the young spruce census area on Gaudineer Knob. Five nests. (28)
80. Black-throated Green Warbler (Dendroica virens) - Common. As in 1948 this was the most abundant bird in the mature hardwoods census area on Burner Mountain. The population was about the same as before. It seemed to be rather less common on Shavers Mountain in the spruce-hardwoods forest. One nest. (29)
81. Blackburnian Warbler (Dendroica fusca) - Abundant in the spruce-hardwoods forest on Shavers Mountain. Common in the spruce stands on Allegheny Mountain. Occurred also on Burner Mountain at 4000 feet in a predominantly hardwoods stand and was seen occasionally at elevations as low as 3000 feet.
82. Chestnut-sided Warbler (Dendroica pennsylvanica) - Abundant at all elevations in brushy habitats. This was the dominant bird in the young-hardwoods census area on Shavers Mountain. Somewhat more common than in 1948. Eight nests (30)
83. Ovenbird (Seiurus aurocapillus) - Rather uncommon. In the mature hardwoods census area on Burner Mountain it was abundant. Common along Five Mile Run at 3000 feet. Uncommon at higher elevations on Shavers Mountain. One nest. (31)
84. Northern Water-thrush (Seiurus noveboracensis) - Common. Found along Five Mile Run at 3000 feet as well as along the higher streams. Several pairs were found in the young spruce stand on Gaudineer Knob where there are no streams.
85. Louisiana Water-thrush (Seiurus motacilla) - Uncommon. Found along Five Mile Run at Camp and in the Circleville area. One nest. (32)

86. Mourning Warbler (Oporornis philadelphia) - Very common in suitable habitat, being much more so than in 1948. Found rather commonly along Five Mile Run in the camp area and it was very common along the timber access road on Shavers Mountain. There was a considerable decrease in the amount of singing done by the males from June 6 - 7 until the Foray week. This leads one to postulate that perhaps the male remains relatively silent after the female has begun to incubate. Three nests were found. (33)
87. Common Yellow-throat (Geothlypis trichas) - Common along the wooded edges of the Greenbrier River and other small streams at low elevation. Rather common in the blackberry tangles on Burner Mountain at 3800-4000 feet. Two nests. (34)
88. Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteria virens) - W. R. DeGarmo found one near Cass. They were rather common in the brushy-blackberry tangles on Middle Mountain at about 3700 feet.
89. Hooded Warbler (Wilsonia citrina) - Rare. The only positive record was one seen on the camp bird walk on June 18.
90. Canada Warbler (Wilsonia canadensis) - Abundant in the brushy growth along most of the Forest Service roads. Several pairs were found in the virgin-spruce-hardwoods census area, probably as a result of the increased amount of opening due to the lumbering operations. Five nests. (35)
91. Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla) - Rare. One was heard near camp by L. E. Hicks on one occasion. The only station at which it could always be found was at the foot of Shavers Mountain near Durbin.
92. House Sparrow (Passer domesticus) Only moderately common in the lowland farms and towns. One nest. (36)
93. Bobolink (Dolichonyx oryzivorus) - Only one record. C. Thomas and G. Hurley found it near Bartow on June 18.
94. Eastern Meadowlark (Sturnella magna) - Common in the open farmlands of the Greenbrier Valley.
95. Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus) - Common in the farmlands of the Greenbrier Valley. Five nests. (37)
96. Orchard Oriole (Icterus spurius) - Found in the Pendleton County limestone region where it was rather common and L. E. Hicks found a nest. Occurred also in the Tygart Valley. (38)
97. Baltimore Oriole (Icterus galbula) - Rare. J. Handlan saw one near Cass on June 20, and there were several reports from near Cherry Grove.
98. Common Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula) - Common in the Greenbrier and Tygart Valleys but not found elsewhere. A pair nested on the campgrounds where they had not been seen in 1948. Two nests. (39)
99. Cowbird (Molothrus ater) - Rather uncommon, even in the Greenbrier Valley farming region. Only two examples of nest parasitism were found. (40)
100. Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea) - Moderately common in the forested regions at all elevations. Two nests. (41)

101. Cardinal (Richmondia cardinalis) - Only two records. W. R. DeGarmo heard one near Cass on June 13. R. Freund and the writer saw one at Cheat Bridge at an elevation of 3700 feet on June 16.
102. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Pheucticus ludovicianus) - Very common in the forested areas at all elevations.
103. Blue Grosbeak (Guiraca caerulea) - L. E. Hicks reported one from near Circleville on June 17 and it was seen there later by several other observers.
104. Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea) - Common in the brushy woods at middle elevations. Not found around Camp. One nest. (42)
105. Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus) - Uncommon, being at much lower numbers than in 1948. A few pairs were recorded on Gaudineer Knob and along the timber access road on Shavers Mountain. It was not seen about camp where it nested in 1948.
106. Pine Siskin (Spinus pinus) - G. Phillips, R. Eggleston, and J. Flourer saw two on Gaudineer Knob on June 14. This was the only record during the Foray. In April the bird had been quite common in the area, and it had been hoped that a breeding record might be established.
107. American Goldfinch (Spinus tristis) - Common at low elevations.
108. Red Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra) - Several scattered records. W. R. DeGarmo found it on Gaudineer Knob on June 11 and the writer saw one there on June 12. DeGarmo saw two in the virgin spruce tract on June 18 and C. Conrad saw two on White Top on June 18.
109. Eastern Towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus) - Common in suitable habitat. Four nests were found. (43)
110. Savannah Sparrow (Passerculus sandwichensis) - W. R. DeGarmo and the writer heard one near Bartow on June 15.
111. Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum) - Common along the Greenbrier River in the farming country.
112. Henslow's Sparrow (Passerherbulus henslowii) - Rare. W. R. DeGarmo found one near Mill Creek in the Tygart Valley on June 13; E. R. Chandler heard one in the South Branch Valley on June 19 and G. Phillips heard one near Bartow on June 20.
113. Vesper Sparrow (Pooecetes gramineus) - Moderately common in the open land along the Greenbrier River and found also in the open fields on Middle Mountain.
114. Junco (Junco hyemalis) - Abundant at all elevations from 2500 feet up. The breeding cycle was at all stages and independent young birds, nest-building, and all stages in between were observed. Eight nests were found (44).
115. Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina) - Common in all suitable habitats. Seven nests. (45)

116. Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla) - Rather uncommon even in apparently quite suitable regions. Three nests. (46)
117. Swamp Sparrow (Melospiza georgiana) - L. Sturm and the writer found two on Shavers Fork near Cheat Bridge. W. R. DeGarmo reported them to be quite common along Beaver Dam Run.
118. Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia) - Moderately common in the river and stream valleys. One nest. (47)

APPENDIX

Table II

- a. Species seen on the 1945 Foray but not on the 1953 Foray
1. American Woodcock (Philohela minor)
- b. Species seen on the 1946 Foray but not in 1953
1. Cerulean Warbler (Dendroica cerulea)
 2. Prairie Warbler (Dendroica discolor)
 3. Kentucky Warbler (Oporornis formosus)
- c. Species seen on the 1948 Foray but not in 1953
1. Red-bellied Woodpecker (Centurus carolinus)
- d. Species which in the writers opinion may be found in the region in summer but which no Foray has located there.
1. Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)*
 2. Black Duck (Anas rubripes)*
 3. Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis)
 4. Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)*
 5. Saw-whet Owl (Accolius acadicus)*
 6. Short-billed Marsh Wren (Cistothorus platensis)*
 7. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Poliotilla caerulea)
 8. White-eyed Vireo (Virco griseus)
 9. Pine Warbler (Dendroica pinus)
 10. White-winged Crossbill (Loxia leucoptera)*

* These birds have been found at some time in this region. See references. (Brooks, 1944)

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FIELD NOTES

1953

THE AUTUMN SEASON

October 1 to December 31

During the year 1953 a total of twenty three persons submitted one or more reports representing twelve different locations. This is a decided increase in participation since last year but there is still more room for improvement. The regions which have regular coverage are Bluefield, Elkins, Morgantown, Wheeling, the Eastern Panhandle, Barnesville, O., Willoughby, O. and Youngstown, O.

The following persons were regular contributors: L. Barbour, G. Breiding, Mrs. H. Chapman, Mrs. D. Cain, C. Conrad, W. Davis, W. R. DeGarmo, Mrs. M. Dickinson, H. Heimerdinger, and C. Miller. The following submitted at least one report during the year: J. Beach, M. Brooks, E. Chandler, I. Boggs, R. Edeburn, M. Gorman, P. Gregg, V. McLaughlin, M. Masteller, J. Mehner, and M. Skaggs. The Field Notes editor wishes to express his gratitude to these observers and also wishes to urge all other members to send in contributions during the next year.

During 1953 190 species have been noted in the published accounts, 63 additional species have been reported by the observers, and six species which were unreported have occurred in the region. Thus the year's list for the region is 259 species, an increase of fourteen over last year.

The summer drought and high temperatures continued into October when temperatures were generally well above normal and little precipitation occurred. November was generally milder than normal and rain finally occurred over much of the region in the middle of the month. Late November and December were about normal and only two short spells of extremely cold weather had occurred by the end of the year. The first snowfall occurred on November 7 but by the end of the year only one other snowstorm had occurred.

The migration was not very eventful and few outstanding rarities were reported. As yet there is no evidence of any influx of northern species during the winter. According to the schedule this winter should be a flight year for the Snowy Owl but none was reported by the end of the year from our region. There were the usual reports of the "half-hardy" species attempting to winter in our region.

Western Grebe: One was seen at Huntington by J. Shires on December 27.

Pied-billed Grebe: A big flight at Morgantown on October 25 (G. Hall).

Red-throated Loon: One was present at Columbus, O. from November 1 to 7 (H. Burttt), and one was reported at Morgantown on December 26 (I. B. Boggs).

- Double-crested Cormorant: Presque Isle, Pa. on October 3 (J. Mehner); Barnesville, O. on October 11 (Mrs. H. Chapman and Mrs. D. Cain); and at Morgantown on December 26 (Boggs).
- Great Blue Heron: Many late records; December 19 near Inwood, (C. Miller) December 26 at Wheeling (C. Conrad) and December 27 at Huntington (R. Edeburn).
- American Egret: Last seen at Barnesville, O. on October 4 (Chapman and Cain).
- American Bittern: The first record in the Bluefield region since 1947 on October 14 (Mrs. M. Dickinson).
- Waterfowl: Moderate flights at Bluefield (Dickinson) and at Morgantown (Hall). Low numbers in the Eastern Panhandle (Miller). Not very numerous at Presque Isle, Pa. on October 3 or at Pymatuning Lake, Pa. on November 7 (Mehner).
- Blue Goose: Two seen at Huntington on December 27 (Edeburn).
- Godwall: Three at Morgantown, where it is quite uncommon, on December 26 (Boggs).
- Green-winged Teal: Mrs. Dickinson found them on November 6 and 10 at Bluefield, where they are rare.
- Shoveller: Sixteen were seen on December 13 at Bluefield (Dickinson).
- Bufflehead: A heavy flight at Morgantown on December 13 (Hall).
- Old Squaw: A big flight at Morgantown on December 13 when at least twenty were seen (Hall) and three were present on December 26 (Boggs).
- Hooded Merganser: Apparently a widespread flight on December 13 when Dickinson found 27 at Bluefield and Hall saw 12 at Morgantown.
- Rough-legged Hawk: One in Berkeley County on September 20 (Miller), and in Pendleton county on September 26 (J. Beach). One at Pymatuning Lake, Pa. on November 7 (Mehner).
- Duck Hawk: Three records during the annual Hawk count on September 19 and 20 from Tucker and Pocahontas counties (Beach). Miller reported one from Berkeley county on October 4 and L. Barbour reports two at Willoughby, O. on the same day.
- Game Birds: All reports indicate that the Ruffed Grouse populations were extremely high. Turkeys also were at a high level.
- Rails: Miller found King Rails, Virginia Rails, and Soras in the Jefferson county marshes all through the season. Virginia Rails were still present on December 30. Conrad reported Soras and Virginia Rails at Lake Terra Alta on October 17.
- Black-bellied Plover: Six at Presque Isle, Pa. on October 3 and two at Pymatuning Lake, Pa. on November 7 (Mehner).
- Wilson's Snipe: Miller reports a total of 14 found on two Christmas counts in the Eastern Panhandle on December 30 and January 3.
- Canada Goose: Large flocks at Wheeling on October 25 (Conrad). Found at Bluefield, where it is rare, on November 6 (Dickinson). Common at Pymatuning Lake, Pa. on November 7 (Mehner).

- Least Sandpiper: Three still present on December 30 in Jefferson County (Miller).
- Purple Sandpiper: Three seen at Richmond Beach, O. on several occasions in December (P. Smith fide Barbour).
- Avocet: The one reported from Seneca Lake, O. in the last issue remained there until October 3 (Chapman and Cain). One was present near Columbus, O. on September 8 and remained for several days (Burt).
- Glaucous Gull: One at Cleveland, O. on December 20 (J. Akers fide Barbour).
- Bonapartes Gull: A flock of about 300 seen near Gerrardstown on November 5 (Miller).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last seen at Bluefield on October 3 (Dickinson).
- Flicker: One was heard singing in Wheeling on December 26 (Conrad) and one calling at Harmarville, Pa. on December 26 (R. Hawker and Hall).
- Phoebe: Miller reports two apparently wintering at Big Spring, in Berkeley county, the first such occurrence he has noted in that region.
- Blue Jay: Present in Oglebay Park, where they are uncommon, from September 29 to October 26 (G. Breiding).
- Carolina Wren: Probably as reflection of last year's mild winter as well as a good breeding season, this species seems to be at a high population level throughout its normal range. The Pittsburgh, Pa. region is slightly north of the normal limit at which this species survives every winter and so is found there only after mild years. This year Mehner reports one at South Park, Allegheny County, Pa. for the second successive winter on December 26 and Hawker and Hall found several at Harmarville, Pa. on December 27. Barbour reports them increasing near Cleveland, O. where three were seen on December 27.
- Catbird: Last seen at Oglebay Park on October 14 (Breiding) and at Bluefield on October 26 (Dickinson).
- Brown Thrasher: Seen at Bluefield as late as December 5 which suggests a possibly wintering bird (Dickinson).
- Robin: The Huntington group found 20 on their Christmas count on December 27 (Edeburn); one was seen at Morgantown on December 26 (Boggs) and four were seen on December 30 and January 3 in the Eastern Panhandle (Miller).
- Olive-backed Thrush: Seen in Wheeling on October 8 (Conrad) and last seen at Bluefield on October 19 (Dickinson).
- Gray-checked Thrush: First seen on October 4 and last seen on October 7 at Bluefield (Dickinson). This is the only report of this species to be submitted to the Field Notes editor during 1953. Is the bird really that rare or are our observers failing to identify it? This species might be a good migration project for 1954.
- Greenland Wheatear: A sight record for this species was made by P. Savage near Ashtabula, O. in late December. This is the first Ohio record for this species (Barbour).

- Golden-crowned Kinglet: Apparently a good flight all over the region.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The earliest records were; October 4 at Wheeling (Breiding) and at Bluefield (Dickinson). More late December reports than usual; Wheeling, December 26 (Conrad); Huntington, December 26 (Edeburn); Harmarville, Pa. December 27. (Hawker) and Berkeley County, January 3 (Miller).
- Water Pipit: Six at Pymatuning Lake, Pa. on November 7 (Mehner).
- Orange-crowned Warbler: One at Bluefield on October 28, the second record for that region (Dickinson).
- Myrtle Warbler: The fall flight was not as heavy as it frequently is and they did not stay as late. At Morgantown none was seen in December when normally a few are found (Boggs and Hall). A total of 55 were reported at Huntington on December 27 (Edeburn).
- Palm Warbler; Scarce this autumn at Bluefield (Dickinson). None seen at Morgantown (Hall) and unreported elsewhere.
- Hooded Warbler: Breiding reports one present at his feeding station in Oglebay Park on November 18.
- Rusty Blackbird: W. Davis reported a flock of 36 near Hillsboro, Pocahontas county on December 27 and a flock of about 70 (mixed with a few Cowbirds) on December 30 at Burlington, Mineral Co. Miller reported 75 in Jefferson County on December 30.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Last seen at Bluefield on October 13 (Dickinson).
- Towhee: Conrad reported them singing at Wheeling on October 22. Hall found two at Harmarville, Pa. where they are uncommon in winter on December 27.
- Henslow's Sparrow: October 15 at Bluefield (Dickinson).
- Backman's Sparrow: One seen at Huntington on December 27 (Edeburn).
- Tree Sparrow: Breiding reported it was observed at Oglebay Park where it was absent in the past three years; Mrs. Dickinson found one on November 6 and two on November 13 at Bluefield, the first records for that region since 1950. Very common near Willoughby, O. where 426 were counted on the Christmas Count (Barbour). However, they were again uncommon in the Morgantown region (Hall).
- White-throated Sparrow: A good fall flight and reports of late December records came in from all over the region.
- White-crowned Sparrow: A very good flight at Morgantown on October 27 (Hall).
- Lincoln's Sparrow: A moderately good flight at Morgantown in early October.
- Note: Unless otherwise designated all places in the above account are to be understood as referring to the State of West Virginia.

George A. Hall
Morgantown, W. Va.

Contributions for the Season, January 1 to March 31 are due on April 1.

WATER BIRDS AT FIELDS PARK RESERVOIR

MONONGALIA COUNTY, W. VA., 1953.

Fred C. Brooks and William F. Berthy

The area surrounding Morgantown, West Virginia, has few places suitable for observing shorebirds and waders; however, the drought during the summer and fall of 1953 produced some mudflats which ordinarily would not exist. The best of these were at Fields Park Reservoir.

Fields Park Reservoir is normally a pond of about 13 acres located at the western foot of the first Cheat Mountains ridge three miles east of Morgantown. The reservoir is a part of Morgantown's city water system. It lies at an elevation of about 1200 feet, and is almost completely surrounded by woods. During the summer and fall of 1953 it dried up progressively until only about two acres of water remained. This drying up created a series of mudflats which attracted shorebirds and waders which ordinarily are not found in the area.

During August and early September, the writers, with Maurice Brooks, and sometimes with Tom Berthy, and Charles and Henry Thomas, made regular trips to the area. Counts were made of all waterbirds and shorebirds seen. Results of the counts are given in the following table:

	Aug. 8	Aug. 10	Aug. 12	Aug. 14	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 28	Sept. 2	Sept. 5	Sept. 11	Sept. 13	TOTALS
Pied-billed Grebe											1	1
Great Blue Heron	1	1		1								3
Green Heron	1		1									2
Blue-winged Teal									13			13
Semipalmated Plover	1											1
Killdeer	3	25	25	30	35	35	35	20	25	15		248
Spotted Sandpiper	4	5	2	2	5	6	1	3	3	3		34
Solitary Sandpiper	3	1			1		1		4			10
Pectoral Sandpiper	4				2	2						8
White-rumped Sandpiper		1										1
Least Sandpiper						1						1
Semipalmated Sandpiper		2		1	4	3	1					11

Water Birds Observed at Fields Park Reservoir, August-September, 1953.

The list of species is not extensive but by the end of the period the reservoir was so nearly dried up that few birds were visiting it. The best find was the White-rumped Sandpiper Erolia fuscicollis, seen on August 10. So far as is known this is the first record for the species in the Morgantown region. The opening of school prevented later visits which might have yielded additional species.

The visits to Fields Park produced other bird records of interest. On two occasions Ospreys, Pandion halioetus, were seen flying over the lake, and once a fish was actually caught. On several trips a pair of Ravens, Corvus Corax, were seen and heard flying over the area, the closest approach of these birds to Morgantown that we know of in recent years. A Sparrow Hawk, Falco sparverius, seemed to enjoy stooping at flocks of Killdeers, Charadrius vociferus, and other shorebirds, although it never seemed seriously to be trying to attack any of them.

Morgantown, West Virginia

MEMORANDUM ON NIGHTHAWKS NESTING
AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

One of the newer buildings at Nela Park in Cleveland houses the Nela Lamp Works and is a one story building. The roof is nearly flat and is of the standard tar with gravel on top variety. Early in June, 1953, one of the General Electric employees found a brownish bird incubating two eggs laid on the gravel, with no attempt at making a nest, and near a ventilator.

One of the eggs hatched on Sunday, June 14 and the other hatched the next day. The young birds were mottled and blended in well with the gravel background so they were hard to see. One bird, apparently the mother, spent the day either brooding or nestled up close to the young birds. She would allow people to approach within 2 or 3 feet before flying to a nearby tree or object on the roof where she would carefully watch the intruders.

On June 26, when the birds were 11 days old, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands were placed on the birds legs and the numbers recorded. By July 3, the birds had grown considerably but still huddled close to their mother. The gape, or mouth had developed to a large size as these birds will obtain food by "scooping" it out of the air as they fly through the afternoon and evening skies.

On July 10, one of the birds was on a driveway at 8:30 a.m. and at noon was not far away. Although not full grown it appeared to fly well when approached too closely. The other bird was not in sight.

We hope these two young birds survive their winter "vacation" flight to southern South America and return next year to keep the skies above Cleveland just a little more free of insects than they would otherwise be.

M. B. Skaggs

A CASE OF INCREASING RETURNS

In October 1953, I established a feeding station for birds in the backyard of my home in 1102 Highland Street, Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

At that time, a small flock of English Sparrows took command of the feeding stations and other more desirable species of birds failed to use the station. I concluded that the sparrows would have to be eliminated. I would trap and destroy them.

On October 3 when I set the trap, I counted 11 English Sparrows in the flock that made my yard their headquarters. I kept a faithful record of all sparrows that I trapped and destroyed.

On January 3, 1954, just two months later, I had eliminated 148 English Sparrows through my trapping program. On January 3, I counted 16 English Sparrows at my feeder, exactly five more than had been there on October 3.

That day, I ceased my trapping program and conceded my backyard to the persistent finches.

Hal H. Harrison
Tarentum, Pennsylvania

1954 PROGRAM - BROOKS BIRD CLUB, INC.

Wheeling, West Virginia

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Leader or Sponsor</u>
January	Club Projects Vesper Sparrow Study Indigo Bunting Study	George Hall Larry Hicks
February 20 - 21	Mid-Winter Meeting (Annual)	Headquarters Chapter Wheeling, W. Va.
March 27 - 28	Field Trip, Mosquito Lake Area, Girard, Ohio	Grant Cook Bird Club Youngstown, Ohio
April	Spring Migration and field notes Send reports:	George Hall
April 24 - 25	Field Trip, Middle Mt. Cabins, Windell, W. Va.	Jim Beach
May 2-9-16	Century Day Runs, Chapters and groups Send reports:	George Breiding
May 21-22-23	Field Trip, Sutton's Warbler Project, Harpers Ferry, W. Va.	Clark Miller
June 5-13	Annual Foray, Camp Beckwith, Fayette County, W. Va. --- Chuck Conrad, George Hall, Pete Chandler	
July 25	Laitsch's Acre--	Pete Chandler & John Laitsch
August 15	Field Trip, Shore Bird Migration, Girard, Ohio	Howard Heimerdinger
Sept. 4-5-6	Annual Meeting & Reunion, Camp Piedmont, Ohio	George Hall
Sept. 18-19	Annual Hawk Count	Jim Beach
Oct. 9-10	Fall Outing, Charleston, W. Va.	Handlan Chapter
Oct. 16-17	Fall Outing, Marietta, Ohio.	Central Ohio Chapter
November 20	Meeting of Executive and Foray Committees, Clubroom	Wheeling, W. Va.
Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Christmas Bird Census Counts Send reports:	George Breiding
December 18	Headquarters Chapter, Christmas Party, Clubroom	Wheeling, W. Va.