George H. Breiding
Editor

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1954

Charleston (Kanawha County), W. Va., January 2, 1955. Cloudy to clear by 3:00 p.m.; temp. 33°F. to 57°F.; wind WSW, 0-26 m.p.h.; ground bare. Twenty-nine observers in 13 parties. Total party hrs., 75 (56.5 hrs. on foot, 18.5 hrs. by car); Total party miles, 212 (62 mi. on foot, 150 mi. by car). Observers, areas covered, hours afield and miles traveled are as follows:

(1) C. O. Handley, Sr. and John M. Handley; observers worked together from car except for .5 hr.; 6:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; area covered: Kanawha Ave., Kanawha Airport, Coonskin Park, So. Hills in vicinity McCorkle Mansion (Charleston), and Dunbar Fair Grounds; 10.5 hrs. (9.5 hrs. on foot, 1 hr. by car); 36 mi. (9 mi. on foot, 27 mi. by car).

(2) John and Polly Handlan and Don and Martha Shearer; observers worked together on foot during forenoon; John worked alone on foot in afternoon, while the others worked together from car; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; area covered: Kanawha City Land Company property and adjacent area in Kanawha City; 10.5 hrs. (8 hrs. on foot, 2.5 hrs. by car); 32 mi. (12 mi. on foot, 20 mi. by car).

*(3) Mr. and Mrs. George Zeller; observers worked together on foot; 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; area covered: Wards Hollow on Bills Creek (Teays Valley Road); 4 hrs. (all on foot); 3 mi. (all on foot).

(4) Fred Woods and Charles C. Norris; worked together on foot and from car; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; area covered: Joplin Hollow, Davis Creek backwater and Carbide Carbon Picnic Grounds (So. Charleston); 9 hrs. (8.5 hrs. on foot, .5 hr. by car).

(5) George Hurley and John Clair Smith; worked together on foot and from car; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; 10 hrs. (7 hrs. on foot, 3 hrs. by car); 32 mi. (12 mi. on foot, 20 mi. by car).

(6) Elinor Sims; worked alone on foot; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.; area covered: Donley Hollow adjacent to Kanawha City; 4 hrs. (all on foot); 3 mi. (all on foot).

(7) Frank M. Johnson; worked alone from car and on foot; area covered: South Hills (Charleston) and Kanawha State Forest; 7.5 hrs. (3½ hrs. on foot, 4 hrs. by car); 35 mi. (11 mi. on foot, 24 mi. by car).

(8) Gladys Murrey and Hazel Cox; worked together from car and on foot; 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; area covered: South bank of Kanawha River from Kanawha City to Marmet; 3.5 hrs. (1 hr. on foot, 2.5 hrs. by car); 30 mi. (1 mi. on foot, 29 mi. by car).

(9) Gladys Murrey, James Samsell and T. R. Samsell; worked together from car; afternoon; area covered: North bank of Kanawha River; 2 hrs. (all by car); 15 mi. (all by car).

(10) Lucy and Sarah Barber; worked together; area covered: North Charleston; 2.5 hrs. (all on foot); 2 mi. (all on foot).

(11) Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ketchum; area covered: golf course and across railroad from So. Ruffner (Charleston); 3.5 hrs. (all on foot); 1.5 hrs. (all on foot).

(12) Sybil Bell, Nell Hinshelwood, Truth Keeley and Urs Feeley; worked together on foot and from car; area covered: South Hills (Charleston); 4 hrs. (1 hr. on foot, 3 hrs. by car); 5.5 mi. (.5 mi. on foot, 5 mi. by car).

*(13) Mr. and Mrs. Hildre Kantley; worked together; area covered: own farm near Elkview; 5 hrs. (all on foot); 2 mi. (all on foot).

*Note: Count made beyond bounds for Charleston Count.
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Charles Town, (Jefferson County), W. Va. Around ponds and grounds Federal Fish Hatchery, Leetown; along R.R. and stream from Charles Town city-line to Aldridge, Flowing Springs Meadows. Same area as last 3 years. Dec. 31, 1954, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Dull and cloudy. Temp. 30°F. to 45°F.; Wind, SW, 5 to 20 m.p.h. Small open ponds, 10%; small stream banks, 15%; weedy fields, 10%; mature oak forests, 15%; cattail marsh, 25%; farm fields and fencerows, 25%. Four observers in one party. Total hours, 9 (7.5 on foot, 1.5 by car); total miles, 36 (24 by car, 12 on foot).

Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 47; Turkey Vulture, 17; Black Vulture, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 20; (3 coveys); Killdeer, 1; Wilson's Snipe, 5; Screech Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 8; American Crow, 4300 plus; Carolina Chickadee, 34; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Carolina Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 7; 7 American Robin, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 10; Common Starling, 307; House Sparrow, 139; Eastern Meadowlark, 8; Rusty Blackbird, 180; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Cardinal, 27; American Goldfinch, 12; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 31; American Tree Sparrow, 107; Field Sparrow, 6; White-crowned Sparrow, 56; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 102. Total, 39 species, about 5460 individuals.

In area, Dec. 28: Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1.

Dorothy H. Caperton, Ray Harris, Thomas Moore, Clark Miller, (compiler).

Inwood, (Berkeley County), W. Va.; southern part of Berkeley County, from Big Spring south to Va. line and from Opequon Creek west to top of North Mountain; no point more than 7½ miles from Inwood. Dec. 28, 1954, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy with short sunny spells, calm. Wind, 5 to 15 m.p.h. Temp. 35° to 50°. Two observers in one party. Total party hours, 9 (7.5 on foot, 1.5 by car). Total party miles, 32 (8 on foot, 24 by car). Apple and cherry orchards, 20%; mature oak forests 10%; pasture fields, 15%; open farm fields, 20%; scrub growth Virginia pine, locust and sumacs, 30%; small streams and marshes, 5%.

Turkey Vulture, 22; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 32, (6 coveys); Killdeer, 3; Wilson's Snipe, 9; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 5; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Blue Jay, 37; American Crow, 590 plus; Carolina Chickadee, 87; Tufted Titmouse, 41; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Carolina Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 14; American Robin, 1; Common Starling, 358; House Sparrow, 126; Red-winged Blackbird, 12; Rusty Blackbird, 113; Brown-headed Cowbird, 14; Cardinal, 71; American Goldfinch, 113; Slate-colored Junco, 109; American Tree Sparrow, 57; Field Sparrow, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 49. Total, 33 species, about 1916 individuals.

At 4:30 a flock of "black birds" was seen very high over Big Spring. There were over 5,000 in the flock but they were so high that they could not be identified.

Seen in the area Dec. 26; Eastern Meadowlark, 2; Jan. 1, 1955, Ruffed Grouse, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1.

Frank Lazzuoli, Clark Miller (compiler).
Morgantown, W. Va. (Suburban areas to Cheat Lake and Cooper's Rock State Forest. Same area as in previous years.) Dec. 26; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 26° to 44°; light intermittent SW breezes; ground bare; practically all of Cheat Lake ice-covered; streams free of ice. Seven observers in four parties. Total party hours, 33 (23 on foot, 10 by car); total party miles, 109 (20 on foot, 89 by car).

Mallard, 2; Pintail, 2; Bufflehead, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Killdeer, 2; Screech Owl, 2; Flicker, 15; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 22; Horned Lark, 54; Blue Jay, 47; Crow, 138; Black-capped Chickadee, 10 (one compact flock; rather common this year); Carolina Chickadee, 104; Tufted Titmouse, 56; White-breasted Nuthatch, 30; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 3; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 27; Robin, 2; Hermit Thrush, 10; Bluebird, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Meadowlark, 4; Grackle, 1; Cardinal, 92; Pine Grosbeak, 13 (first time on local Christmas counts, but common in region this winter); Goldfinch, 26; Towhee, 24; Slate-colored Junco, 89; Tree Sparrow, 51; Field Sparrow, 34; White-throated Sparrow, 14; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 61. Total, 41 species; 989 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 25. Mockingbird, 1; Dec. 27. Mourning Dove, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; White-winged Crossbill, 11).

Bill Berthy, I. B. Boggs, Fred C. Brooks, Larry Schwab, Charles and Henry Thomas, Maurice Brooks (compiler).

Wheeling, W. Va. (7½ mile radius centering Oglebay Park, including Ohio River section, Bear Rock Lakes, Middle Wheeling Creek, vicinity of Camp Giscowheco, and Big Wheeling Creek, vicinity Camp Agaming and surrounding territory; deciduous woods in park and recreational areas; 60%; pasture and meadow, 25%; plow land, 10%; urban, 5% -- December 26, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear, sunny, relatively warm all day; temp. 20° to 45°; wind, SSW to E 2-3 m.p.h.; ground clear, small streams partially frozen and small pools with thin scum of melting ice. Twenty-seven observers in 4 parties (21 in a.m., 35 in p.m.). Total party hours, 216 (172 on foot, 44 by car); total party miles 304 (74 on foot, 230 by car).

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 47; Ruddy Duck, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 7; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Bobwhite, 16; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Killdeer, 1; Am. Woodcock, 1; Rock Dove, 46; Barn Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 8; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 12; Downy Woodpecker, 42; Eastern Phoebe, 3; American Crow, 171 plus; Chickadee (presumably all Carolina), 166; Tufted Titmouse, 55; White-breasted Nuthatch, 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown Creeper, 13; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 37; Am. Robin, 11; Eastern Bluebird, 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Common Starling, 175 plus; House Sparrow, 138 plus; Meadowlark, 8; Cowbird, 3; Cardinal, 108; Am. Goldfinch, 8; Eastern Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 33; Am. Tree Sparrow, 20; Chipping Sparrow, 13; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 23. Total species, 48, about 1243 individuals. Observed in area December 24, White-throated Sparrow, 1; an unidentified Heron observed day of count; Brown-headed Chickadee and Brown Thrasher, December 28, adjacent to census boundaries.

Ashtabula, Ohio. Newspaper coverage of the Hicks bird count has been so thorough we shall only sketch here the results. On a dismal, bleak day, Dec. 30, Dr. L. E. Hicks, with a crew of biologists from Columbus, including Dr. M. B. Trautman, Ernest Limes, A. H. Claugus, David Blyth and 17 people from around here, found a total of 3,092 birds of 45 species along the lake plain and shore in a coverage of 232 miles, of which 42 miles were on foot. Six grey shrikes were the most unusual find. Others seen were: Horned Grebe, 3; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Mallard, 36; Black Duck, 44; Redhead, 280; Canvasback, 252; Lesser Scaup, 350; American Golden-eye, 234; Bufflehead, 28; American Merganser, 68; Red-breasted Merganser, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Ring-necked pheasant, 5; Red-backed Sandpiper, 1; Herring Gull, 509; Ring-billed Gull, 78; Bonaparte Gull, 13; Mourning Dove, 1; Saw-whet Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Prairie Horned Lark, 55; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 17; Black-capped Chickadee, 57; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 4; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Wren, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Cedar Waxwing, 101; Starling, 410; English Sparrow, 416; Cardinal, 31; Junco, 25; Tree Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 1; Lapland Longspur, 3; Snow Bunting, 3.

-- From "Carrier Pigeon"
Wharam Nature Club

Brecksville, Ohio. Dec. 31; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; clear and sunny; temp. 33° to 44°; wind, S, 12 m.p.h. Center point Ohio Route #82 and Cuyahoga River, same territory as in 1949-51 but with less coverage; river valley 50%, town suburbs, 10%, woodlands 10%, open farmland 30%. Ground bare; river and canal open. Two observers together, four observers watching feeding stations. Total party hours, 18 (5 on foot, 4 by car, 9 at feeding stations); total party mile, 54 (5 on foot, 49 by car).

Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Blue Jay, 5; Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 37; Tufted Titmouse, 16; White-breasted Nuthatch, 19; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Bluebird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 115; House Sparrow, 159; Cardinal, 23; Purple Finch, 8; Goldfinch, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 12; Tree Sparrow, 48; Song Sparrow, 4. Total species, 19; total individuals, 486. Lack of waterbirds and hawks is unusual. This is about the "poorest" census ever taken here. It was a nice day, but no birds! It shows the lack of birds rather than any abundance.

Cadiz, Ohio. Dec. 26, 1954, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; temperature 25° to 45°, sky clear, ground bare.

Tufted Titmouse 12; Mockingbird 1; Goldfinch, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 65; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Tree Sparrow, 56; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Mourning Dove, 1; Song Sparrow, 17; Cardinal, 42; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 15; Robin, 4; Carolina Chickadee, 46; Carolina Wren, 13; Eastern Bluebird, 88; White-breasted Nuthatch, 29; Black Duck, 120; Mallard, 5; Coot, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 11; Common Sterling, 153; English Sparrow, 134. Total species, 31; total individuals, 774.

H. B. McConnell (54th year); John G. Worley (44th year); L. Milton Ronsheim; David Worley; Mary Ford; Thomas Ford; Clara Worley; Greg Burneson; Harold Haverfield; they worked together and in three separate parties.

With favorable weather Sunday, the annual Christmas Bird Census for publication in the Audubon magazine brought in 31 species and 774 individuals. This is a good
count but well under the 1953 record of 40. This year the lakes in this area were frozen and water birds were hard to locate.

At Tappen Lake about 125 ducks were seen on the ice in the middle of the lake, near some open water. Near the county home six Carolina wrens put on an exhibition in the early morning light, flying in close formation and two robins high in a tree along the railway near town gave the thrills that rewarded the census takers.

Two of the large pileated woodpeckers were unexpectedly found near the Haverfield school house and put on a nice exhibition. The mockingbird was seen near the Worley residence in town. Among the disappointments was the failure, again, to add quail to this year's list.

---Copied from Cadiz Republican

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Steubenville (Jefferson County), Ohio, December 26, 1954; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 20° to 50°. Wind, 2 to 12 m.p.h., S to SW; some gusts to 30 m.p.h. The same four areas in our 15 mile diameter circle, but with a little difference in coverage, with time spent divided differently in the various habitats. Deciduous woods 22%, farmland 20%, pine woods 3%, brush fields 18%, swampy woods 7%, bottomlands along streams 17%, urban 3%, open fields (around cemeteries and golf courses) 10%.

Area 1: Two parties out in this area, one party covered Beatty Park and Union Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery and area adjacent to both cemeteries. The second party worked the Steubenville golf course and some of the area adjacent, including woods along Paddy's Mud Road.

Area 2: Start at Tenney's residence on Island Creek, up road to Ohio 213, along 213 to Pekin, working the farmland adjacent to the road, from Pekin down over Ridge Road to Ohio River, along river opposite Brown's Island, back to Island Creek Road to starting point.

Area 3: Farmland near West Park then from West Park Picnic Grounds of Jefferson State Park, down into and through valley to Jefferson Lake, with Forays into side valleys, Lake area then down Town Fork Valley about two miles, then up side valley to Richmond.

Area 4: The R. L. Dailey farm and adjacent farms and woodlands, southeast of East Springfield, between Route 43 and 646.

This year, there were three parties out all day and two parties out for a half day each. Clock time this year was 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Party time: Area 1 -- 4 hours by one group in a.m. and 3½ hours in p.m. by the second group; party in Area 2, 8½ hours, Area 3 -- the party recorded 9 hours; and Area 4 -- the party chalked up 8 hours, making a grand total of 33 party hours. Eleven observers in five parties, total party hours, 33; total party miles, 37 (on foot).

Black Duck, 6; Hooded Merganser, 6; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Bobwhite, 24; Mourning Dove, 9; Horned Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 49; Prairie Horned Lark, 35; American Crow, 15; Carolina Chickadee, 133; Tufted Titmouse, 52; White-breasted Nuthatch, 25; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 18; American Robin, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 1; Common Starling, 432; Goldfinch, 1; House Sparrow, 245; Meadowlark, 3; Cardinal, 117; Eastern Towhee, 3; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 110; American Tree Sparrow, 98; Field Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 91. Total species, 36, total individuals, 1515.
Youngstown, Ohio. Jan. 2, 1955. 7½ mile radius circle, centering on Lynn's Corner, Mahoning County, taking in Mahoning, northern Columbiana and southern Trumbull Counties. Temp. 35° to 45°. Calm, sky clear; lakes open. Twenty-eight observers in two parties, 131 miles on foot, 260 miles in car; 105 hrs. on foot, 74 hrs. in car.

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 182; Mallard, 1,263; Black Duck, 733; Gadwall, 2; Pintail, 3; Green-winged Teal, 2; Baldpate, 2; Redhead, 4; Canvasback, 2; L. Scaup, 2; Goldeneye, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; American Merganser, 14; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Marsh Hawk, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 17; Grouse, 1; Bobwhite, 93; Pheasant, 18; Coot, 4; Killdeer, 2; Mourning Dove, 55; Barn Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 8; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 13; Downy Woodpecker, 87; Horned Lark, 21; Blue Jay, 144; Crow, 11,991; (10,000 est. in one roost); Black-capped Chickadee, 286; Tufted Titmouse, 102; White-breasted Nuthatch, 112; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 11; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Robin, 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 18; Cedar Waxwing, 6; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 612; English Sparrow, 726; Meadowlark, 1; Redwing, 3; Rusty Blackbird, 200; Cowbird, 3; Cardinal, 227; Evening Grosbeak, 13; Pine Siskin, 10; Goldfinch, 103; Towhee, 2; Purple Finch, 3; Junco, 289; Tree Sparrow, 439; Field Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 43; Snow Bunting, 3. Total species, 67, total individuals, 18,506.

Grant Cook Bird Club
reported by H. Heimerdingner

FIELD NOTES

1955

1955 THE SPRING SEASON April 1 to June 30

The Spring migration for 1955 can best be described by calling it an extremely interesting one from a negative viewpoint. In 1954 many observers commented that the warbler flight was the poorest in recent years. This year, however, most people said they experienced the poorest May migration they had ever witnessed (the time in one case involved a period of forty years).

Temperatures in April were much higher than normal and rainfall was slightly deficient. May temperatures were slightly above normal and precipitation was only about half of normal. June was warmer than usual and precipitation was slightly deficient. By the end of June the year's total rainfall at the Pittsburgh weather station was 2.70 inches below normal.

The migration was about on time at the first of April but despite the mild weather it gradually fell behind. The May flight was very poor. The birds dribbled through in small numbers and many species failed to appear at all in places. Most species were late in arrival but some were about normal. The summer resident species seemed about normal but most transients were very low. This general situation obtained over much of the whole Northeast.
Different observers in the same regions frequently disagreed on arrival dates and abundance of species. Three examples are worth quoting as illustrations of how confusing and mixed up the migration was. At Wheeling, G. Breiding first noted the House Wren on April 18 but the ones which nested at his home did not arrive until May 5. In the Pittsburgh, Pa. region, J. Mehner first noted Yellow-throats on May 7 but B. Van Cleve failed to find them at Highland Park until May 22. At Morgantown G. Hall found the Yellow-breasted Chats in the University Arboretum about the normal arrival date, but M. Brooks reported that the nesting population near his home had not yet arrived on May 23.

The season produced more than its share of rarities, with reports coming in of Wood Ibis, Black Rail, Laughing Gull and Franklin's Gull. Evening Grosbeaks remained in places until mid-May.

**Common Loon:** Three were present near Youngstown, O., until May 16 (V. McLaughlin) and two were at Morgantown until May 15 (G. Hall). J. Appel recorded one at the McClooktcl Wildlife Station at Point Pleasant on May 9, the first record at that locality.

**Horned Grebe:** McLaughlin reported an aggregation of about 300 at Evans Lake, O., April 26. B. Van Cleve found them at Highland Park, Pa., April 17 and May 1.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Apparently not a very heavy spring flight.

**American Egret:** More reports than is usual in the Spring; two at Pymatuning Lake, Pa., April 2 (H. Heimerdinger), 2 at Beaver Lake, Ohio from April 9 to May 8 (McLaughlin); one at Barnesville, Ohio, on May 2 and several there on June 26 (Mrs. H. Chapman and Mrs. D. Cain).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** One adult at Barnesville, O., April 14 (Chapman & Cain) and one immature near Wardensville on June 16 (Hall).

**Least Bittern:** At Barnesville, O., on May 31 (Chapman & Cain); found again in the eastern panhandle marshes in late May (C. Miller). McLaughlin had no reports in the Youngstown region by the end of May.

**Wood Ibis:** Two were seen and photographed at Ashtabula, O., June 30 and July 1 and 2 by P. Savage (fide Heimerdinger).

**Whistling Swan:** The BBC Field Trip saw two large flocks at Mosquito Lake, O., April 3 which, according to McLaughlin, was apparently the peak of the flight.

**Canada Goose:** A few remained at Youngstown, O., until May 10 (McLaughlin). On April 14 a flock of 14 was seen at Spruce Knob Lake in Randolph County. Two of these birds were marked with red dye, which indicated that they apparently had been so marked at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Florida (A. W. Souder fide C. Handley).

**Mallard:** McLaughlin reported a nest in a Wood Duck box at Youngstown, O.

**Black Duck:** Chapman and Cain reported a female with 11 young at Barnesville, O., June 12.

**Pintail:** Mrs. M. Dickinson reported one at Bluefield on April 7, the first record there since 1952. One was still present at Mountain Lake Park, Md. on the late date of May 8 (Hall & L. Schwet).

**European Widgeon:** One at Youngstown, O. on April 24 (McLaughlin).
Wood Duck: Apparently still extending its breeding range in our area and increasing in numbers. Appel reports 24 broods and 198 young at Point Pleasant. Broods of young were also reported from Bluefield (Dickinson) and Barnesville, O. (Chapman & Cain). W. Bailey located a nest at Watoga State Park, Pocahontas County.


Hawks: Practically no reports of the commoner species received.

Broad-winged Hawk: First seen at Barnesville, O. on April 14 (Chapman & Cain) and on April 16 at Wheeling (G. Breiding) and Morgantown (Hall).

Golden Eagle: L. Hicks reported one at Germany Valley, Pendleton Co. on June 16.

Osprey: More reports than usual.

Duck Hawk: One reported at Youngstown, 0., on April 9 (McLaughlin).

Pigeon Hawk: Chapman and Cain reported one at Barnesville, O., on the very unusual date of June 16.

Gallinaceous Birds: The Bobwhite is apparently doing well in Northern Ohio (McLaughlin and L. Barbour). Appel reported two broods of young at the early date of May 18 at Point Pleasant. The Ruffed Grouse populations have apparently declined as had been anticipated for the past two years. On June 30 Bailey found a hen with a brood of 15 young in Pocahontas County. The Turkey populations are also apparently down this year.

King Rail: Appel found a dead female at the Point Pleasant Station on May 12. Apparently again nested in two places in Jefferson County (Miller).

Sora: Found in Berkeley County on May 15 (Miller).

Black Rail: One was reported by Mrs. Dickinson on April 28 at Bluefield. This is the first record of any kind for West Virginia for this species. Its appearance at Bluefield is not unlikely since the Handleys have found it in some numbers at nearby Blacksburg, Va.

Florida Gallinule: Arrived in the Eastern Panhandle on April 17 and three broods of young were raised at one station there (Miller). Reported from Hartstown, Pa. on May 1 (Heimerdinger) and at Pymatuning Lake, Pa. on May 14 (J. Mehner). G. Phillips found one at Wheeling on May 7 and 12 and it was reported from Barnesville, O. on June 6 (Chapman & Cain).

Shorebirds: The spring flight was apparently rather poor over the whole region.

Semipalmated Plover: Only three reports; May 11 at Barnesville, O. (Chapman & Cain), May 14 at Youngstown (Heimerdinger) and May 26 at Reedsville (Hall).

Upland Plover: Miller found the first one in Berkeley County on April 28. Heimerdinger saw them at Jamestown, Pa. on May 1, and Chapman and Cain first saw them at Barnesville, O. on May 4. Handleys saw one in Mason County on May 20.

Yellow-legs: Scattered reports of both species but no large numbers observed.

Red-backed Sandpiper: Heimerdinger found one at Ashtabula, O., on June 5.

Dowitcher: Three at Ashtabula, O., on June 5 (Heimerdinger).
Laughing Gull: Miller saw one near Inwood on April 25 and 26. This is one of the very few spring records for the state.

Bonaparte's Gull: Mohner saw six near Apollo, Pa. on April 16, unusual in that region. Reported also from Barnsville, O., Ashtabula, O. and Youngstown, O.

Common Tern: Hall found three at Morgantown on May 1, very unusual at that station.

Caspian Tern: One at Ashtabula, O., on June 5 (Heimendorger).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The earliest date reported was April 28 at Wheeling (Phillips). Completely absent at Morgantown (Hall).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Only three reports; Pymatuning Lake, Pa., on May 14 (Mehner), Barnsville, O. on May 25 (Chapman & Cain), and Braxton Co. on May 25 (Handley).


Chimney Swift: Arrival dates were from April 11 at Barnsville, O. (Chapman & Cain) to April 20 at Wheeling (Breiding & Phillips). However, Van Cleve did not find them at Highland Park, Pa. until May 8.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Arrived at Beckley on April 23 (R. Klotzley) and were present in Charleston on that date (Hurley). Did not appear in Pittsburgh, Pa. (Van Cleve) and Morgantown (Hall) until May 12.

Flicker: The first arrival at Highland Park, Pa. was April 8 (Van Cleve).

Pileated Woodpecker: It is gratifying to note that several reports from regions where this species has been scarce indicate that it is increasing in numbers.

Eastern Kingbird: Arrival dates were: April 20 at Bluefield (Dickinson), May 1 at Barnsville, O. (Chapman & Cain), May 7 at Wheeling (Phillips), May 6 in Eastern Panhandle (Miller). Was not found in the Morgantown region until May 20 (Hall).

Least Flycatcher: Arrival dates were about on time, April 24 at Bluefield (Dickinson) to May 5 at Wheeling (Breiding). On May 30 M. Skaggs found them at Gates Mills, O., where it is a rare nesting species. It was recorded several times during the summer by Breiding at the site where he previously reported it for Ohio County during the breeding season.
Alder Flycatcher: Again spent the summer in the eastern panhandle marshes (Miller); also in Ohio County (Shields & Broiding).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Observed May 15 at Youngstown, O., where it is very rare (McLaughlin).

Tree Swallow: Arrived somewhat late in most regions and the numbers were somewhat lower than usual.

Rough-winged Swallow: The earliest date was April 4 at Wheeling (Broiding). Other dates were about normal from April 14-19.

Bank Swallow: Arrived at Bluefield, April 25 (Dickinson). Much more common than usual at Morgantown (Hall).

Barn Swallow: Arrived at Bluefield (Dickinson) and Barnesville, O., on April 12. All other stations reported them on April 16-17.

Cliff Swallow: McLaughlin reported a small colony near Youngstown, O., May 1. Completely absent in the Morgantown and Terra Alta region (Hall).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: More than the usual number of spring reports. Quite common at Barnesville, O. (Chapman & Cain) and at Morgantown.

Brown Creeper: Apparently rather scarce with relatively few reports.

House Wren: Arrival dates were a little late, April 18 to 24. Van Cleve reported lower than normal numbers at Pittsburgh, Pa.

Winter Wren: Still at Barnesville, O. on May 12 (Chapman & Cain).

Catbird: Arrival dates were from April 15 (Wheeling, M. Gorman) to April 23 (Charleston, Hurley). At more southerly Bluefield they were not seen until April 28 (Dickinson) and at Pittsburgh they were not found until May 1 (Van Cleve).

Brown Thrasher: The earliest date was April 5 at Bluefield (Dickinson), but nearly all other stations reported them on April 17.

Wood Thrush: Arrival dates were concentrated between April 19 and 22.

Hornit Thrush: Again rather scarce in migration. The only reports were from Beckley (Klotzloy), Barnesville, O. (Chapman & Cain), and Pittsburgh, Pa. Where one remained until May 12 (Van Cleve). The population in the Cheat Mountains on May 27 was somewhat lower than in most years (Hall).

Olivo-backed Thrush: Another poor year as several observers commented on its scarcity. However, Mrs. Dickinson recorded them on May 9 and 18 at Bluefield where it is a rare spring migrant. Hall found that the evening chorus on Gaudineer Knob on May 27 was much reduced over former years.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Only one report, Barnesville, O., May 1 (Chapman & Cain).

Veery: All observers reported it to be very low this year. Phillips heard one singing in Wetzel County on May 28.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Arrival dates were from April 9 at Charleston (Hurley) to April 23 at Wheeling (Phillips & Shields).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Arrival dates were very uniform, April 14-17 at all stations. More common than usual and more singing than usual at Pittsburgh (Van Cleve).

Red-eyed Vireo: Most regions reported the arrival on May 2-4. Present on April 17 at Charleston (Hurley) and on April 23 at Beckley (Kletzley).

Philadelphia Vireo: Reported from Barnesville, O. on May 6 (Chapman & Cain) and from the eastern panhandle, May 15 (Miller).

Warblers: To most bird watchers the success of a spring migration stands or falls on the warbler flight. This year the flight was uniformly poor in all regions. The resident species arrived about on time or a little late and in normal numbers but the transients were nearly absent. Practically all the expected species were reported in one region or another but many were missed in a given region. Numbers were very low. Only two "waves" were reported, May 7 at Sewickley, Pa. (Mehner) and May 11 at Wheeling (Breiding).

Prothonotary Warbler: First found in the eastern panhandle, May 8 (Miller) and D. Miller found a nest again this year along the Shenandoah River near Millville. The BBC field trip located one at a new eastern panhandle station, along Opoquon Creek in Berkeley County. Skaggs found a few at Pymatuning Lake, Pa. on May 21 and in Geauga County, O. on May 30.

Golden-winged Warbler: Chapman and Cain reported one on May 2 at Barnesville, O. where it is rare. E. Chandler had a report of a nest in Hancock County, the first such county record.

Blue-winged Warbler: Arrived at Wheeling on April 21 (Gorman). Rather common at Barnesville, O. (Chapman & Cain). Mehner reported a heavy migration at Sewickley, Pa. on May 7.

Brewster's Warbler: Mrs. Dickinson found one at Bluefield, May 6, the first record for this hybrid at that locality.

Tennessee Warbler: Arrived about on time but its distribution was erratic. Van Cleve reported them more abundant than usual at Pittsburgh, Pa. and Breiding found them to be common at Wheeling, but at Morgantown they were in greatly reduced numbers (Hall).

Parula Warbler: A few scattered reports during migration but absent or greatly reduced in several regions. The numbers in the Cheat Mountains in late May were about normal (Hall), and the 1955 Foray found them to be quite common in Hardy County.

Yellow Warbler: Arrival dates were from May 16-22.

Magnolia Warbler: Very scarce. Breiding saw a good flight at Wheeling on May 11 but they were absent in several places. Hall estimated that the population on Gaudineer Knob on May 27 was slightly lower than in the 1953 breeding bird census.

Cape May Warbler: Breiding found a good flight at Wheeling on May 9 and 11 but elsewhere they were scarce and one or two records were the most any region reported.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Had arrived at its nesting grounds in the Randolph County Mountains on April 23 (Hall). Numbers were about normal at the Terra Alta breeding station. Not many migration reports were received.
Myrtle Warbler: Low in numbers this year but in most regions they were present from mid-April to mid-May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: At Morgantown the flight was a little early and they were in good numbers (Hall) but at Pittsburgh they were late and in low numbers (Van Cleve).

Blackburnian Warbler: Rather scarce in most regions and the arrival was late. Kletzley found them at Beckley on April 21. The BBC field trip to Middle Mountain failed to find them on April 22-24 whereas in 1954 they had been abundant at that time. Breiding observed a good flight at Wheeling on May 11. The nesting population in the virgin spruce area on Shaver's Mountain was about normal on May 27 (Hall).

Black-poll Warbler: Very scarce except at Wheeling where Breiding and others found it on several occasions. The field trip to the eastern panhandle, May 21-22, found it to be much lower than in previous years.

Pine Warbler: Hall collected one on April 30 at Morgantown where it is quite uncommon.

Palm Warbler: Unreported from the entire region.

Oven-bird: Present at Charleston on April 17 (Hurley) but not found at Pittsburgh until May 4 (Van Cleve) and at Morgantown, May 8. Dickinson found a nest with five young at Bluefield on May 31.

Louisiana Water-thrush: At most regions it arrived at about the normal time, April 13-17. In Charleston it was present on April 9 (Hurley) and at Barnesville, O. it arrived on April 24 (Chapman & Cain).

Kentucky Warbler: Arrival dates were concentrated between May 3 and 7.

Mourning Warbler: Van Cleve found one at Pittsburgh, Pa., where it is very rare, on May 29. Hall found slightly above normal population in the Goudinoor Knob region on May 27.


Canada Warbler: Very scarce and few reports.

Redstart: Arrived about on time and in normal numbers, the exception to the rule for the Parulidae this year.

Bobolink: The summer population in Hancock County continues to increase (Chandler). Arrived late at most stations.

Orchard Oriole: Uncommon in most places. Skaggs reports an apparently unmated male which sang throughout May and June at Willoughby, O., where it is rare.

Baltimore Oriole: Arrived about on time. Breiding reported a "wave" at Wheeling on May 6 and Mohner reported a heavy flight at Pymatuning Lake, Pa., on May 14-15. Skaggs reported young out of the nest on the very early date of June 2 at Willoughby, O.

Scarlet Tanager: Arrived on time and in normal numbers.
Summer Tanager: Only two reports outside of its normal range, Barnesville, O. on May 7 (Chapman & Cain) and Morgantown on May 8 (Hall). The BBC Foray group found it almost completely absent in the Hardy County region.

Rosa-breasted Grosbeak: Chapman and Cain had only one record at Barnesville, O., May 20, and Hall found it very scarce at Morgantown. The population at Willoughby, O. was above normal (Skaggs) and at that place Barbour estimated four pairs nesting within 100 yards of his home. Van Cleve estimated nine pairs nesting in Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Indigo Bunting: The earliest date was April 30, Charleston (M. Thacker), and the latest arrival was May 12 at Morgantown (Hall). Elsewhere arrival was between May 3 and 7.

Evening Grosbeak: Reported from Wetzel County as late as April 4 (H. Moore fide Broiding), Hurley found them at St. Albans, April 10; McLaughlin reported them in the Morgantown region as late as mid-May.

Purple Finch: On April 28 a flight of about 1000 was seen at Butler, Pa. (F. Preston fide Van Cleve) and on April 30 - May 1 they were extraordinarily abundant at Morgantown (Hall). McLaughlin reports the possible nesting again in the Youngstown, O. region.

Pine Siskin: Only one report; May 20 at Wheeling (Broiding).

Goldfinch: Very common to abundant in most West Virginia localities, but Van Cleve found them uncommon at Pittsburgh, Pa.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Arrival dates were between April 14 and 24.

Henslow's Sparrow: Reported from Wheeling (Phillips) and Charleston (Hurley) on April 25. Soon at Barnesville, O. on June 12 (Chapman & Cain). Skaggs reported lower than normal numbers at Willoughby, O.

Slate-colored Junco: Last seen dates ranged from April 14 at Wheeling (Shields) to May 7 at Pittsburgh - very late (Van Cleve).

Chipping Sparrow: Arrival dates were from April 4 at Coalburg (Handley) to April 12 at Pittsburgh, Pa. (Van Cleve).

Tree Sparrow: Last seen dates reported were April 5 at Willoughby, O. (Skaggs) and April 9 at Wheeling (Shields).

White-crowned Sparrow: Phillips reported one at Wheeling on April 2, possibly a wintering bird. Rather scarce over most of the region.

White-throated Sparrow: Uncommon again this year. Last seen at Pittsburgh, Pa. on May 15 (Van Cleve).

Fox Sparrow: Van Cleve found them at Pittsburgh, Pa. from April 2 to April 10. Shields had five records from the Wheeling region in April.

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, West Virginia

Contributions for the Season, July 1 to September 30 are due on October 1.
GOSHAWK AT MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

On the evening of December 18, 1954, Larry Schwab, Maurice Brooks, and the writer observed a Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis striicapillus) perched upon a clothes line near the Brooks home at Morgantown, West Virginia. The bird was in immature plumage. A week later when we had about decided that he was merely passing through, we discovered him in a very peculiar place. Noticing that some of the smaller birds seemed frightened at something, the writer stepped outside and discovered the Goshawk sitting on our neighbor's waste can. As is often the case, the bird displayed little fear of humans at any time.

Before the Goshawk appeared, the writer was feeding three pairs of Carolina Chickadees (Parus carolinensis), two pairs of Tufted Titmice (Parus bicolor), and two pairs of White-breasted Nuthatches (Sitta carolinensis). Immediately after he appeared in the neighborhood, all but two pairs of Chickadees were frightened away.

On March 3, 1955, the writer again saw an immature Goshawk (possibly the same one) land in a tree near his home.

Fred Carson Brooks
Morgantown, West Virginia

Gleanings from a Bird Watcher's Diary
Spring, 1955

Nesting material placed near kitchen window provided us with much enjoyment and good views of many birds which came in readily for string, Kleenex and fine rope. Also when we brushed the dog, the created flycatcher carried huge bundles of hair away to the woodland west of "the acre." (1) Birds observed taking nesting material from our cache included Baltimore Oriole (Icterus galbula), Goldfinch (Spinus tristis), Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus), Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum), Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus), Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina), Robin (Turdus migratorius), Chipping Sparrow (Spizella Passerina), and Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia).

On May 28 a goldfinch was observed taking nesting material (fine strands of soft rope). On May 29, I located the nest in a maple tree. This seems to be a very early nesting record for the goldfinch.

Warbling Vireos (Vireo gilvus) were scarce. Didn't return to locality for second nesting but Red-eyed Vireo moved in closer to nest on the acre.

Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura) nested within about 50 feet of house.

June 8 - Alder Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii) seen and heard again this year in swampl area northwest of the acre. Bird seen and heard intermittently throughout summer. Observed carrying food June 21.

July 1 - Alder Flycatchers heard in 3 locations within 30 minutes, about 1½ miles apart. 1954 was first I had seen or heard Alders in this locality. From distribution on July 1 surely there must be many moving in.

Failed to locate nest of Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus) this year but saw and heard them several times from April until July 25. Female observed gathering nesting material (fine willow bark from dead twigs on June 10). Males could be heard singing in several locations during summer.

(1) "The acre" refers to "Laitsch's acre", the residence of the writer, where members of the Brooks Bird Club enjoy an annual outing.
We visited Highland Park in Pittsburgh, Pa., July 13. As we parked the car a Purple Finch was giving out a good song in tree above the car.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) observed atop elm tree on the acre on three occasions, second week of July.

On returning from the BBC Foray I heard what I believe to be Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) singing on hillside east of the acre. The song was so fresh in my mind from "Pinnacle" that there was no question in my mind. Song continued up until July 26. July 24 we had some controversy as to whether it was a Prairie Warbler or a Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). We could not locate the bird that day. Other field sparrows in the locality use the typical field sparrow song. Perhaps I will have to wait until next year to prove it was a rairie.

Nesting activities in this area seemed highly successful. We have seen no parent birds feeding Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). We removed cowbird eggs from Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) and Chipping Sparrow nests.

Nevada Leitsch  
East Liverpool, Ohio

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**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting and Reunion of the Brooks Bird Club will be held on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, September 3-4-5 at Camp Piedmont, near Smyrna, Ohio. Every member of the BBC is expected to attend and a cordial invitation is extended to your friends to join us.

This big event officially opens on Saturday afternoon with registration. The Reunion Banquet will be served promptly at 6:30 (EST) and the Annual Meeting of the Brooks Bird Club will be held after lunch on Sunday with President George Hall presiding. On the agenda will be the election of officers, reports of various committees and round table discussions.

We can't let you in on the details or plans now but from past events you know we will have a good program and plenty of fun. About the middle of August you will receive from club headquarters the regular bulletin and reservation blank.

All we want you to do now is to check the dates September 3-4-5, arrange your work so you will be free that week-end and join the rest at Camp Piedmont.

The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.