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Ornithologically speaking, 1956 was a good, but not a spectacular, year for West Virginia bird students. No major invasions were noted, no outstanding new finds were made, and few bird species appeared to be unusually abundant. Nevertheless, substantial progress was made in the development of our knowledge of the state's bird life.

For the first time in a good many years, temperatures during 1956 followed closely the 75-year average. Other recent seasons have shown marked departures toward warmer weather, but this past year reversed the trend. Precipitation was also unusually high, the year ending with excesses of seven to eight inches. In Morgantown the month of July had over 10 inches of rain, one of the wettest summer months on record. After experiencing that deluge, the writer spent August in the drought-stricken Southwest — Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Contrasts were almost unbelievable.

The past year has witnessed an acceleration of a puzzling tendency. All available records suggest strongly that our weather, year by year, is becoming warmer. If this be the case, one would expect birds whose centers of abundance are southward to be nesting farther north, and at higher elevations, each season. That this is the case every bird student will realize if he gives a little thought to the matter. To cite a few cases in point, every year finds Summer Tanagers, White-eyed Vireos, Black Vultures, Carolina and Bevick's Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Prairie, Swainson's, Kentucky, and Vorn-eating Warblers more common northward, and breeding at greater elevations. From known weather data, this is exactly what would be expected.

What is completely unexpected is that an opposite tendency, almost as strongly manifested, is also taking place. Birds whose centers of abundance are certainly well north of West Virginia are each year nesting farther south, and at lesser elevations. Examples showing this tendency would include Alder and Least Flycatchers, Blue-headed Vireos, Magrolia, Black-throated Blue, and Blackburnian Warblers, Savannah Sparrows, and (some years at least) White-throated Sparrows. For such a movement I have seen no explanation, nor can I suggest one.

In these write-ups for several past years I have commented on these seemingly-contradictory tendencies. I do so again because they appear to me quite noteworthy, and also because they point up the dangers of too quick generalizations as to populations of living things. A great many authors have cited the northward extensions of plant and animal populations as the strongest evidence of our changing climate. That a reverse movement is also taking place has either not been generally recognized, or it has been conveniently ignored, simply because it does not fit the picture. The truth is, animal populations are dynamic, constantly shifting, and there must be a great variety of factors which cause such movements.
The weather during spring and fall of 1956 was not conducive to large flights of waterbirds and waterfowl. At Cheat Lake, Monongalia County, George Hall and others found fair numbers of Common Loons and Horned Grebes during late autumn and early winter. In the Eastern Panhandle, Clark Miller had a good heron population during summer and fall, with a number of American Egrets present. As for the past several years, the newly created waterfowl area at Point Pleasant, Mason County, has proved a mecca for waterbirds during migration, and a nesting place for what is probably the state's most concentrated duck population. J. C. Appel and others have this area under constant observation, and are turning up many interesting things locally.

Dobbling ducks were scarce both spring and fall, with some expected species rare or absent. Diving ducks were late, and curiously distributed in fall. Formally, the Lesser Scaup is the commonest diver in this area; the past autumn it did not appear at all in Morgantown until late in November, and then in very small numbers. Canvas-backs were more numerous than in any recent season. All Mergansers were remarkably scarce. Canada Geese had, perhaps, their best flight in years; there were few reports of Snow and Blue Geese.

Major hawk flights, if they occurred at all along our ridges, did not fall on week-ends, so most hawk watchers had only moderate luck this past fall. As usual, largest counts were made practically everywhere during the period 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Where the hawks are for the remainder of the daylight hours is an unanswered question. One most unusual feature of the season was that on December 14, Bill Berthy saw a flock of 50-60 Buteos towering over a suburb of Morgantown. They were too high to allow for positive identification.

Most hunters and field observers felt that Ruffed Grouse populations had declined somewhat this past year; that Bobwhites were at, or very near, an all-time high, and that Wild Turkeys generally did not have a good breeding season. Wayne Bailey and others commented on the small size of turkey broods. Ring-necked Pheasants are more common in the Morgantown area than I have ever seen them.

Since water levels in all ponds, lakes, and other impoundments remained high throughout the season, there were few places for shorebirds to feed; consequently the flight was sparse, with few outstanding observations being made. About the only good place for these birds was the Point Pleasant Refuge, where water-levels are controlled. George Freiding and others noted such species as Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers on late November dates along the Ohio River. Miller continues to find good numbers of rails and Florida Gallinules in the marshy areas of the Eastern Panhandle. Some remain there to nest.

The open season of the past year on Mourning Doves seemed to have little effect on the population; indeed, few hunters seem aware that these birds are legal game in West Virginia. Since extensive grain fields are scarce, there are few dove concentrations in the state. Lighthawk flocks migrating through
the Appalachian valleys did not seem as large as usual. Red-headed Woodpeckers are more widely distributed, and are apparently adjusting somewhat to the death of chestnut trees, and the extensive removal of mature oak stands.

Wherever there are dense stands of alders, no matter what the elevation, Alder Flycatchers seem, sooner or later, to find them. These birds, so long believed to be restricted in breeding season to high mountain bogs, are now nesting at elevations as low as 500-600 feet. Olive-sided Flycatchers, once common in summer in the Spruce Belt, are now scarce, and appear to become more so each year. Most observers who come into our mountains fail to find this species. In fact, this may be the only Spruce Belt bird whose numbers are sharply decreasing.

In many situations on the Allegheny Tableland in Preston County, where Cliff Swallows once had extensive colonies, the birds no longer nest. In others the colonies are much reduced. This seems hard to account for, particularly as the construction of many farm ponds makes available needed mud for nests and additional feeding places. Tremendous migrating flocks of Purple Martins occupied lines and TV aerials around Morgantown in early August this past year, almost a month earlier than they did in 1955. There were at least five major flocks in the Morgantown area, each one containing several thousand birds. I counted over 800 birds on one aerial. Starting about July 15, there were heavy evening flights of Barn Swallows near Morgantown.

An ornithological anomaly, subject of much speculation, is the absence of a breeding population of Blue Jays throughout lower areas of the Monongahela River, from Upshur County to the Pennsylvania line. The same condition holds on the West Virginia side of the Ohio River, although the birds are locally common on the Ohio side. Some graduate student may, someday, find a nice problem in seeking the reasons for this absence; we have no hints at present. There was, however, at least one Blue Jay just outside Morgantown in June and July, the first I have ever seen in summer in this immediate locality.

Bewick's Wrens failed to establish themselves in at least three of their usual nesting territories near Morgantown. Caroline Wrens are to be found to the tops of our mountains where forest cover is not too thick. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were common in dense grass and weedy gardens in mid-September.

No person, in West Virginia at least, reported seeing that puzzling bird, Sutton's Warbler, during the year, although many searched for it. I repeat here what I have written elsewhere - no sight record of this bird is worth publishing, no matter how circumstantial the evidence. Someday, perhaps, specimen may be taken, and we may know more about the status of the bird - as species, race, or hybrid. Such sight records as get into literature serve merely to confuse the picture.

Prothonotary Warblers are turning up in gratifying numbers in swampy, wooded river valleys. Much of the good Swainson's Warbler territory around Charleston is being cleared and built up, but the birds persist in favored
localities there, as they do in less populous portions of the state. Orange-crowned Warblers are either becoming more common in migration or our observers are learning better how to recognize them. The west fall had an exceptionally heavy flight of Cape May Warblers. No large diurnal flights of warblers along mountain ridges were noted by the hawk watchers, however.

No West Virginia specimen of Brewer's Blackbird has yet been recorded, although the eastward appearance of this bird makes it probable that the species has occurred in the state. I heard my first June-singing male Bobolink on one of the University farms just outside Morgantown, although there was no further evidence of the bird's nesting. Rusty Blackbirds were particularly common in migration, and a few spent the winter of 1955-56.

At the Howard Jeffrey's home, near Morgantown, a Dickcissel visited the feeding shelf regularly during the winter of 1955-56. As spring approached it disappeared. On April 2, Fred C. Brooks spotted an adult male Dickcissel at his feeding shelf. It was in high breeding plumage, and it came for scratch feed every day until April 13. These Morgantown records are, so far as I know, the state's first for this species in winter and early spring.

Numerous Evening Grosbeaks, and a few Pine Grosbeaks, remained in West Virginia during late winter and spring of 1956. It is noteworthy, however, that as this is written (late January, 1957), not a single northern finch, nor any other strictly northern species, has been reported during the present winter from any West Virginia station. For the first time in many years, all northern birds have wintered somewhere else.

Near Huntington, Ralph Edeburn and others found Savannah Sparrows during the nesting season, the first such record for the lower Ohio Valley. Sight records of 'pink-sided' Juncos continue to be reported. Most observers who call these birds "Oregon" Juncos fail to mention black heads and rusty-red backs. Doubtless western Juncos do stray into West Virginia occasionally, but we need specimens for positive determination.

As in past years, some of the best ornithological work in the state is being done by technical men on the staff of the Conservation Commission. In alarming numbers, however, these men are leaving West Virginia to accept better-paying jobs elsewhere. It behooves every bird student to work for an improved salary scale for these essential biologists.

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The year 1956 was the fifth year for which these quarterly reports have been compiled and both the cooperation of the observers and the results obtained reached new highs. A total of 27 persons from 17 regions submitted reports. Those regions having regular coverage during the year were: Bluefield, Charleston, Morgantown, Wheeling, Ashtabula, O., Barnesville, O., Columbus, O., Willoughby, O., Youngstown, O., Clerksville, Pa., and Pittsburgh, Pa.

The following persons were regular contributors: R. Bell, H. Burtt, Mrs. D. Celn, Mrs. H. Chapman, Mrs. M. Dickinson, L. Gorman, Mrs. M. Gorman, C. Hendley, G. Hurley, C. Phillips, P. Savage, T. Shields, and B. Van Cleve. Others who submitted reports were: L. Barbour, G. Freiding, E. Chandler, E. Dressel, Miss P. Gregg, H. Haimerdinger, C. Kletzley, Mrs. W. Laitsch, E. McCue, V. McLaughlin, Mrs. R. Nasteller, C. Miller and L. Schwab. Once again the Field Note Editor wishes to thank all these contributors whose efforts have largely been responsible for whatever success this feature has attained.

With this report the present Field Note Editor brings to a close his five year association with this project. It is to be hoped that the new Editor can have the same whole-hearted cooperation over the next several years.

During 1956 a total of 212 species have been listed in the published accounts, 50 additional species have been reported by the contributors and two other species are known to have been present. The regional list for the year then stands at 264 species (plus one hybrid), a new high for the five year period. It is noteworthy that this fine list was attained without benefit of many shorebirds which usually contribute heavily to the total.

The Autumn season was generally mild and was much drier than the earlier part of the year. October and November were about normal in temperature with mild fair weather prevailing until late November. The first snowfall occurred on November 26. December averaged about eight degrees above normal and general cold weather did not set in until Christmas. The total precipitation for the period was about two inches below normal but the year ended with an over seven inch excess in precipitation.

The October migration was generally good with some hold-over from the fine small bird flights in September. On the night of October 3 a very heavy small bird migration occurred over Morgantown but no observations could be made the next day (G. Hall). November and December were uneventful for land birds and the waterfowl migration was not spectacular.

For the first time in several years there was no invasion of northern species (except for the Gray Shrikes and Snowy Owl at Ashtabula, O.). Evening Grosbeaks were unreported from the whole region.

Two outstanding rarities were reported: a Magnificent Frigate-bird at New Kensington, Pa. and a Long-tailed Jaeger at Ashtabula, O.

COMMOD LOON: A very heavy flight at Morgantown from October 11-18 (Hall) but only a few reports from elsewhere.
RED-THROATED LOON: One seen at Presque Isle, Pa. on December 29 (P. Savage).

HORNED GREBEL: Hall and D. Blattler saw one at Morgantown on November 18.

HORNED GREBE: The earliest report was October 25 at Bluefield (Mrs. M. Dickinson). A very good flight in late October and early November at Morgantown and a loose flock totaling about 350 seen at Deep Creek Lake, Md., on November 4 (Hall). Only one record at Pittsburgh, Pa., on December 12 (R. Van Cleve). Still present in small numbers at the end of the period.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: A moderately good flight but no great concentrations were reported.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: One at Morgantown on October 7 and 14 (Hall).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATE-BIRD: The record of the year. One was shot on October 3 at Ely Kensington, Pa., and the specimen turned over to the Carnegie Museum. This is the first known record for Western Pennsylvania and for our region. Full details are to be published elsewhere. (Van Cleve).

GREAT BLUE HERON: Latest migration date was November 11 at Morgantown (Hall) and Barnesville, O. (Mrs. H. Chapman and Mrs. D. Cain). Recorded on Christmas Counts at Charleston (C. Handley), Youngstown, O. (E. Dressel), and Presque Isle, Pa. (Savage).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Two late records, both on Christmas Counts: Ash- tabula, O., December 27 (Savage) and Wheeling, December 29 (T. Shields).

WATERFOWL: A moderately good flight but no spectacular concentrations at any place. Most of the diving ducks were late and in low numbers.

WHISTLING SWAN: Reported from Barnesville, O., November 10-18 (Cain and Chapman) and 55 counted at Presque Isle, Pa, on December 29 (Savage).

CANADA GOOSE: Reports of small flocks of 50-60 came in from all over West Virginia including many in the eastern mountainous part of the State.

SNOW GOOSE: A flock of 27 seen on the Ohio River in Pleasants County on October 21 (J. Casto fide G. Breiding).

BLUE GOOSE: Y. Bailey reported one in the Tygart Valley in Randolph County on November 2 and two were listed at Ashtabula, O., on December 27 (Savage).

GREEN-WING TEAL: One at North Park, Pittsburgh, Pa., on December 30 was an unusual winter record. (Van Cleve). The BSC outing at the McClintic Wildlife Station near Point Pleasant listed about 25 on October 21.

BLUE-WING TEAL: Seventy-five at Point Pleasant on October 21 (BSC) and several at Bluefield on October 19 (Dickinson) were slightly late.

CANVASBACK: This species staged a very good flight throughout the region, the exception to the rule for diving ducks this year. Over 2000 were listed at Presque Isle, Pa., on December 29 (Savage).
LESSER SCAUP: Arrival dates were November 4 at Morgantown (Hall) and November 9 at Bluefield (Dickinson), a little late. Numbers were far below normal at Morgantown.

AMERICAN GOLDEN EYE: Inland records were scanty; seven at Morgantown on December 16 (Hall) and only 25 in the winter flock near Highland Park, Pa. by December 30 (Van Cleve). On Lake Erie, however, 230 were listed at Ashtabula on December 27 and 450 at Presque Isle, Pa. on December 29 (Savage).

OLD SQUAW: One at Barnesville, O. on December 20 (Chapman and Cain) and two at Youngstown, O. on the Christmas Count (Dressel). Oddly enough it was not listed on either of the two Lake Erie Counts.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: One at Mountain Lake Park, Md. on October 28 (Hall), and one at Ashtabula, O. on December 27 (Savage).

AMERICAN SCOTER: Castro saw six of these rare inland birds at Willow Island, Pleasants County on October 28 (Breiding).

GOSHAWK: One at Barnesville, O. on November 16 (Cain).

RED-TAILED HAWK: A few more late December reports than usual.

GOLDEN EAGLE: F. Johnson saw one near Spruce Knob Lake on November 3.

BALD EAGLE: One at Barnesville, O. on October 6 (Cain and Chapman) and one at Presque Isle, Pa. on December 29 (Savage).

MARSH HAWK: Recorded on the Christmas Counts at Wheeling (M. Masteller), Youngstown, O. (Dressel), and Ashtabula, O. (Savage).

TURKEY: The Presque Isle, Pa. Christmas Count listed four, presumably birds released by the State in 1955 (Savage).

VIRGINIA RAIL: Reported from Point Pleasant on October 13 (J. Appel) and on October 17 and 21 (Handley) and from Bluefield on November 11 (Dickinson).

COOT: The largest flock during migration was 115 at Bluefield on November 19 (Dickinson) but elsewhere the fall flight was rather light. Presque Isle, Pa. listed 700 on the Christmas Count (Savage). An oddity was a report submitted by Van Cleve of one seen sitting in a tree on Mt. Washington overlooking the City of Pittsburgh, Pa.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: One at Barnesville, O. on October 6 was a little late (Chapman and Cain).

KILDEER: Reported from nearly every locality in the region during late December with a high count of 52 at Charleston on December 29 (Handley).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: One at Barnesville, O. on November 11 (Cain and Chapman).
WOODCOCK: First reported at Point Pleasant on October 13 (Appel).

WILSON'S SNipe: G. Hurley reported 30 at the McClintic Wildlife Station on October 21. Listed on the Charleston (Hanfley) and Presque Isle, Pa. (Savage) Christmas Counts.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Two rather late records: one at Morgantown on November 11 (Hall and G. Knight) and one at Butler, Pa. from October 16 to November 5 (F. Preston side Van Cleve).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: One at Point Pleasant on October 21 was somewhat late (Hurley).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Last seen at Barnesville, O. on November 19 (Cain and Chapman).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: A crippled bird was found at Ashtabula, O. in early November and was examined by many people before it died. Final identification of the immature bird was made by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. There is only one previous Ohio record. (Savage).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Twenty eight at Presque Isle, Pa. on December 29 and two at Ashtabula, O. on December 27 (Savage).

HERRING GULL: Four at Wheeling on December 9 were rather unusual (C. Conrad and Breiding).

BONAPARTE'S GULL: One at Barnesville, O. on November 18 was a rather unusual inland record (Chapman and Cain).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: Latest dates reported were October 6 at Charleston (K. Anderson) and at Barnesville, O. (Cain and Chapman).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Two at Morgantown on October 13 were rather late (Hall).

BARN OWL: R. Bell reported one at Clarksville, Pa. on December 27.

SNOWY OWL: One at Ashtabula, O. on December 27 (Savage).

LONG-EARED OWL: One seen at North Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. on November 18 and December 22 (A. Scheidel side Van Cleve) and one at Barnesville, O. on December 20 (Chapman and Cain).

CHIMNEY SWIFT: The latest report was November 2 at Bluefield (Dickinson).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: Two at Charleston on October 7 (Hanfley), the only report for the period.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: Hurley reported that they are apparently on the increase in the Charleston region.
YELLON-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: Arrived on October 5, rather late, at Highland Park, Pa. (Van Cleve). Only a few scattered migration reports from elsewhere in the region.

EASTERN PHOEBE: Last seen records varied from October 7 at Highland Park, Pa. (Van Cleve) to October 25 at Wheeling (Breiding) and October 31 at Bluefield (Dickinson). Winer records were two at Wheeling, December 26 (Breiding) and one at Clarksville, Pa., December 27 (Bell).

WOOD PEEPER: A last seen record of October 6 at Highland Park, Pa. was late (Van Cleve).

BLUEJAY: At Wheeling where they are rare Breiding found one on October 5. Hall found them to be fairly common around Morgantown during October.

RED-BREASTED MOURNING: The only reports for the period were on the Christmas Counts at Wheeling (Breiding), Youngstown, O. (Dressel), and Presque Isle, Pa. (Savage).

BROWN CREEPER: Arrival at Highland Park, Pa. was on October 14, about two weeks late (Van Cleve). Apparently a very light migration.

HOUSE WREN: The only last seen date reported was October 18 at Barnesville, O. (Chapman and Cain).

MOCKINGBIRD: One in Ohio County on November 11 (H. Moore fide G. Phillips) and two there on December 29 (Breiding). Two at Clarksville, Pa. on December 27 (Bell).

CATBIRD: Last seen dates were: Pittsburgh, Pa., October 6 (Van Cleve); Wheeling, October 7 (Breiding); Bluefield, October 24 (Dickinson); and Barnesville, O., October 29 (Cain and Chapman).

BROWN THRASHER: Last seen at Pittsburgh, Pa. on October 6 (Van Cleve).

ROBIN: In contrast to last winter Robins were very scarce during late November and December. Van Cleve's figures from a Highland Park Pa. roost show a steady decline after November 4, with 200-350 on November 11; 60-90 on November 19; 15 on November 25; and 2-6 in late December. A few scattered individuals were reported in all parts of the region at the end of the year.

WOOD THRUSH: Last dates were October 7 at Charleston (Anderson) and October 8 at Highland Park, Pa. (Van Cleve).

HERMIT THRUSH: Last reported from Bluefield on October 19 (Dickinson) and from Pittsburgh, Pa., on October 20 (Van Cleve). One in Charleston on the Christmas Count (Hansley).

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH: Last seen dates were October 4 at Bluefield (Dickinson); October 7 at Pittsburgh, Pa. (Van Cleve); and October 20 at Barnesville, O. (Chapman and Cain).
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: Migration extended from about October 6 to November 1 and was rather light. Withering numbers are about normal or a little light.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: The earliest report was from Ligonier, Pa. on October 2 (D. Auerswald fide Van Cleve). The latest date was November 10 at Highland Park, Pa. (Van Cleve). December records were the 20th at Barnesville, O. (Cain and Chapman) and the 29th at Wheeling (Breiding).

WATER PIPIT: The only report was from Barnesville, O. where one was seen on October 14 and about 60 on November 13 (Cain and Chapman).

GRAY SHIKE: Seven listed at Ashtabula, O. on December 27 (Savage).

LOGGERHEAD SHIKE: Reported from Barnesville, O. on December 31 (Chapman and Cain).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: Scarce at Pittsburgh, Pa. where the few records were from September 30 to October 14 (Van Cleve). Reported from Barnesville, O., October 19 (Cain and Chapman); from Bluefield, October 19 (Dickinson) and from Pocahontas County, October 18-23 (Phillips).

RED-EYED VIREO: At Ligonier, Pa. "many" in migration on October 2 (Auerswald). Last seen at Highland Park, Pa. on October 6 (Van Cleve).

WARBLERS: The good fall flight continued until about the middle of October with a total of seventeen species being reported during the month. There were many more early winter records than usual.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Remained late in fair numbers in most places. Van Cleve listed 20-25 on October 6 and 40-45 on October 7 at Highland Park, Pa., and last seen there on October 14. Bell banded several at Clarksville, Pa. on October 12 and Hall collected one at Morgantown on October 13. Reported as late as October 25 at Bluefield (Dickinson).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Only one report, Barnesville, O. on October 7 (Chapman and Cain).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: October 21 at Pittsburgh, Pa. was about a week later than the previous late date (Van Cleve).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Bell banded some as late as October 9 at Clarksville, Pa.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: The good September flight continued into October and at Clarksville, Pa. Bell banded some as late as October 14. Reported on November 4 from both Bluefield (Dickinson) and Barnesville, O. (Chapman and Cain).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Mrs. Dickinson saw one at Bluefield on October 27, the latest date on record there.
MIRACLE WARBLER: A very good, prolonged fall flight. A few stragglers had been reported in September but the bulk of the migration arrived around October 7-10 and continued into November, with the latest report being at Morgantown on November 18 (Hall). Three reported on the Charleston Christmas Count (Handley) and 45 at Presque Isle (Savage).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: October 7 at Barnesville, Oh. (Cain and Chapman) and October 13 at Pittsburgh (Van Cleve) were rather late dates.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Last dates were: October 14 at Pittsburgh (Van Cleve) and Morgantown (Hall); October 13 at Barnesville, Oh. (Cain and Chapman); October 19 at Charleston (Handley); and October 20 at Clarksville, Pa. (Bell).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: Common at Pittsburgh, Pa., in early October and seen there as late as October 28 (Van Cleve). Bell banded them as late as October 20 at Clarksville, Pa.

PINE WARBLER: Hurley reported one coming regularly to his feeder at St. Albans in late December.

PALM WARBLER: This species is sometimes rather rare but the flight was good this year and there was a rash of late December records. Bell banded 95 between September 17 and November 30 and saw the one banded on the last date almost daily through December. Cain and Chapman reported it from Barnesville, Oh. on December 2 and 23. Hurley had two at his feeder in St. Albans in late December. Hurley also reported seeing the eastern race, the Yellow Palm Warbler, at Point Pleasant on two occasions in October.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: The thirteen reported on the Wheeling Christmas Count was a high for recent years (Breiding). Forty seven counted at Charleston on December 29 (Handley) and seven at Youngstown, Oh. on the Christmas Count (Dressel).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: A good flight at Barnesville, Oh. with the earliest record on October 20 (Chapman and Cain). Handley reported a small flock in Hampshire County on October 24.

COWBIRD: A flock of 12 through December at Highland Park, Pa. is the largest wintering flock known for that region (Van Cleve).

SCARLET TANAGER: The only reports were October 7 at Pittsburgh, Pa. (Van Cleve) and October 8 at Bluefield (Dickinson).

SUMMER TANAGER: October 4 at Charleston (Anderson) and at Bluefield (Dickinson) were the only late reports.

CARDINAL: A female feeding a young bird just learning to fly was observed on October 25 at Gibsonia, Pa. (Dr. Pfout, fide Van Cleve).
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: October 15 at Bluefield (Dickinson) was rather late.

PURPLE FINCH: Only two reports: December 28 at Bluefield, (Dickinson) and at Youngstown, O. on the Christmas Count (Dressel).

TOYOTA: The usual scattered November and early December reports but the only Christmas Count report was from Pittsburgh (Van Cleve).

SAVANNAH SPARROW: Bell banded the last ones on October 26 at Clarksville, Pa.

LARK SPARROW: Hurley saw one at the State FFA-FHA Camp in Jackson County on October 21.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: The earliest arrival was October 1 at Wheeling (E. Bowles) and it became common at most places by October 15.

CHIPPING SPARROW: Two late dates were November 4 at Barnesville, O. (Cain and Chapman) and November 16 at Wheeling (Breiding).

TREE SPARROW: The earliest report was October 20 at Ligonier, Pa. (Auerswald). Numbers were low in most places.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: A good fall flight lasting from about October 2 to October 30. Still present in late December at Barnesville, O. (Chapman and Cain) and at Clarksville, Pa. (Bell).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: A good fall flight which started about October 4 and lasted throughout the month. Reported on Christmas Counts from Charleston (Handley), Pittsburgh, Pa. (Van Cleve) and Clarksville, Pa. (Bell).

FOX SPARROW: Reported from Charleston (Handley) and Wheeling (Breiding) on the Christmas Counts but only a few other records for the season.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: The only migration report was from Morgantown on October 14 (Hall). One was caught in a trap at Wheeling on December 29 (Breiding).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Three reported from Ashtabula, O. on December 26 (Savage).

SNOW BUNTING: A total of 39 listed on the Ashtabula, O. Christmas Count (Savage).

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 10.
BIRDS REPORTED BY OBSERVERS ON THE 1956 BROOKS BIRD CLUB FORAY
AT CAMP CAESAR, WEBSTER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

By Evan C. Dressel

INTRODUCTION

The Seventeenth Annual Foray of the Brooks Bird Club was held at Camp Caesar, Webster Co., Va., from June 9 to 17, 1956. The camp is located on Route 20 between Webster Springs and Covey.

While most of the territory studied was in Webster County, portions of Nicholas, Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties lying within the fifteen (15) mile radius are included in this report. The ecology was ideal for bird study. The elevation at the camp is about 2800 feet, with a high for the area of 4600 feet. The Gauley, Williams, Cranberry and Cherry Rivers flow through the area. Cranberry Glades and the Hills Creek Falls area add to the picture. The cover for the terrain ranges from dense forest of hardwoods and conifers through various-aged second growth, bushlands, glades and open farmlands.

No breeding records are included in this list as they will be covered by another report. (Ed. Note: To be published in the next issue of THE RESTART).

NATURALLY LIST OF SPECIES

The following list shows the birds as reported by members of the Brooks Bird Club during the 1956 Foray.

The names both common and scientific are taken from Peterson's Field Guide, 1947 edition.

1. Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias). One bird observed on Covey Pond.

2. Green Heron (Butorides virescens). Two birds on Covey Pond on several occasions by several individuals.


4. Lesser Scaup Duck (Aythya affinis). Eight birds reported by Thacker on Covey Pond. Seen regularly by other campers.

5. Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura). Occasional. Reported on two occasions along the Williams River by Conrad and Burley.

+Editors Note: See W. R. DeGarmo, Notes on the Breeding Birds of Webster County, The Restart, XIV, p. 47-55 (1949) for a comparable list made in the same territory during the 1947 Foray. Four additional species were recorded in 1947 in this region.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus)</td>
<td>Three reports each on different dates. One in Camp Caesar.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Cooper’s Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)</td>
<td>One report from Cranberry Glades by Heimerding and Conrad.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)</td>
<td>One report at Three Forks of Williams River by Chandler and Heimerding</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus)</td>
<td>Three records. Tom Shields reports one bird over upper camp area.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus)</td>
<td>Occasional. The most generally reported of all hawk species.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Sparrow Hawk (Falco sparverius)</td>
<td>Occasional. In open area away from Camp.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus)</td>
<td>Common both in and around the camp area. Reports of drumming and broods of young.</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus)</td>
<td>Occasional. Two reported by George and Ruth Ballentine at Cowen Pond.</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Mourning Dove (Zenaidura macroura)</td>
<td>Rare. One record of bird on the wing on Upper Glade P. O. Road.</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus)</td>
<td>Common in camp and throughout the area.</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Screech Owl (Otus asio)</td>
<td>Two reports. One in camp by L. Sturm and one along road to Dyer by G. Murray.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Barred Owl (Strix varia)</td>
<td>Two records. One heard by Heimerding and Chandler on Upper Glade Run study area and one by D. Baker on Pleasant Ridge study area.</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferus)</td>
<td>Very common throughout the area.</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Chimney Swift (Chaetura pelagica)</td>
<td>Listed as common throughout the area.</td>
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25. Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*). Fairly common in proper habitat.


27. Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylatomus pileatus*). Common. Reported from camp, study areas and throughout the area.


29. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Rare. One reported at entrance to Cranberry Glades by Jacobs, Cogger, J. and M. Laitesch.


33. Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). Very common. A regular listing around the camp.

34. Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). Very common. One of the most common birds around camp.

35. Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*). Listed as occasional to common by various observers.


37. Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). Reported as occasional to common in the proper habitat.

38. Vood Pewee (*Contopus virens*). Very common in all wooded areas.

39. Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). Rare. Two reported; one on Pleasant Ridge Road and one near Cranberry Glades.


41. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Common throughout the area.
42. Cliff Swallow (Petrochelidon pyrrhonota). Rare. One report from near Lobelia. - F. Chandler.


46. Black-capped Chickadee (Parus atricapillus). Rare. Two reports, both from the higher elevations.

47. Carolina Chickadee (Parus carolinensis). Common and very well distributed. Regular listing in camp area.


49. White-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta carolinensis). Occasional to common. Listed regularly in camp.

50. Red-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis). Rare. One report from Briery Knob.

51. House Wren (Troglodytes aedon). Rare around camp. More common in village areas.

52. Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii). Occasional. Seen along Pleasant Ridge Road and in the vicinity of Lobelia.

53. Carolina Wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus). Rare. Seen near Bolair and in the clearing above Upper Glade study area.

54. Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis). Very common throughout the area.


60. Veery (Hylocichla fuscescens). Rare. Two reports, Cranberry Glades by Ruth Fallentine and Briery Knob by Phillips, Burns and H. Chandler.


63. Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum). Common. Reports well distributed throughout the territory.

64. Sterling (Sturnus vulgaris). None reported in camp but fairly common in open farm lands and in towns.


67. Solitary Vireo (Vireo solitarius). Rare. One reported at Rear Yellow Hollow by Heimerdinger and Chandler.

68. Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus). Probably the most abundant species in the area.


70. Black and White Warbler (Amiostilta varia). Most campers reported the bird to be common.

71. Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitheros vermivorus). Occasional. Reported by several campers in vicinity of Camp Caesar. One young bird seen in camp.

72. Golden-winged Warbler (Verminora chrysoptera). Common throughout area. Several seen and heard around camp. Baker reported several pairs on Pleasant Ridge beyond study area and beyond camp study area.

73. Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora pinus). Rare. Hicks reported one male bird at end of the swinging bridge at Dyer.

74. Nashville Warbler (Vermivora ruficollis). Rare. One record from Cranberry Glades by Conrad, Heimerdinger and Dr. Burns.

75. Parula Warbler (Parula americana). Very common in camp area, and in hemlocks along rivers and small streams throughout the area.

76. Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia). Occasional. Not many in camp area but more plentiful in Cowen and similar habitats.

77. Magnolia Warbler (Dendroica magnolia). None reported in the camp area. Two reports; one for Pocahontas County, Route 39 in spruce and hemlock woods and one for Briery Knob.
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<tr>
<td>78. Black-throated Blue Warbler (<em>Dendroica caerulescens</em>). None recorded in the camp area. One seen along the Williams River, 4 miles from Dyer and three or four about 15 miles from Dyer.</td>
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<td>80. Cerulean Warbler (<em>Dendroica cerulea</em>). Common to numerous throughout the area.</td>
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<td>81. Blackburnian Warbler (<em>Dendroica fusca</em>). Common along the Gauley River, the Williams River and in the Briery Knob area.</td>
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<td>82. Chestnut-sided Warbler (<em>Dendroica pensylvanica</em>). Common throughout the area.</td>
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<td>83. Prairie Warbler (<em>Dendroica discolor</em>). Rare around camp, but occasional in outlying areas. Reported on Pleasant Ridge by D. Conrad, H. Vyman, Baker and Phillips, and on the Dyer Road by Heimerling.</td>
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<td>84. Ovenbird (<em>Seiurus aurocapillus</em>). Common over much of the area.</td>
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<td>85. Northern Water Thrush (<em>Seiurus noveboracensis</em>). Baker and Thomas report a number heard in the area of Cranberry Glades.</td>
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<td>86. Louisiana Water Thrush (<em>Seiurus motacilla</em>). Common along streams throughout the entire area.</td>
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<td>87. Kentucky Warbler (<em>Oporornis formosus</em>). Occasional to common in the camp area and along the Gauley and Williams Rivers.</td>
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<td>88. Mourning Warbler (<em>Oporornis philadelphia</em>). Rare. One heard near the entrance of Cranberry Glades.</td>
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<td>89. Maryland Yellow-throat (<em>Geothlypis trichas</em>). Not too common around camp but common in the Coven and Briery Knob areas.</td>
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<td>90. Yellow-breasted Chat (<em>Icteria virens</em>). Common in the Gauley and Williams River valleys. Listed regularly around camp.</td>
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<td>91. Hooded Warbler (<em>Wilsonia citrina</em>). Listed as common by most observers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>92. Wilson's Warbler (<em>Wilsonia pusilla</em>). Tom Shields reports seeing and hearing this species on top of <em>Mill</em> near Upper Glade Run study area. (Ed. Note: Not known to breed south of Northern New Hampshire. Belated spring migrant?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>93. Canada Warbler (<em>Wilsonia canadensis</em>). Occasional, but well distributed. Seen in camp and reported from White Oak Creek, Cranberry Glades, and the Williams River.</td>
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</table>
94. Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla). Common throughout the area, but more abundant in valleys and lower lands. Occasional to rare at higher elevations.

95. House Sparrow (Passer domesticus). In sparsely populated areas and around camp this bird was only occasional but was more plentiful in villages, cities, and around farm and suburban buildings.


97. Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus). Common around Cowen and in similar ecological areas.

98. Orchard Oriole (Icterus spurius). Rare to occasional. Reported seen along Pleasant Ridge Road at Bolair and Cowen.

99. Baltimore Oriole (Icterus galbula). Rare to occasional. One seen on Route 20, four miles south of Diana, and one at the church on Upper Glades Road. A pair was seen nesting at Cowen.


102. Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea). Very common throughout the area.

103. Cardinal (Richmondena cardinalis). Common around camp and throughout the whole area.

104. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Pheucticus ludovicianus). Occasional. Tom Shields reports one in Camp Caesar. Other reports; one on road to Hill Creek Falls and a pair near Bolair.

105. Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea). Common in the camp area. G. Murray reported a pair at the swinging bridge near Owens.


107. Common Goldfinch (Spinus tristis). Occasional to common throughout the area.

108. Towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus). Common throughout the area.

110. Vesper Sparrow (Poecetes gramineus), Occasional. Seen in two separate places near Pleasant Ridge study area.

111. Slate-colored Junco (Junco hyemalis). Occasional. Reports from three areas - Summit Lake, Briery Knob and Cranberry Glades.

112. Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina). Common throughout the entire area.

113. Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla), Common. Well distributed over the entire area, particularly so in more open areas.

114. Swamp Sparrow (Melospiza georgiana). Occasional in proper ecological situations. Several heard singing and seen in the Cranberry Glades area.

115. Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Very common throughout the whole area.

Western Reserve Road
R. D. 1
Poland, Ohio

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REMEMBER

1957

The year 1957-58 will be the Brooks Bird Club Silver Anniversary year. Plan now to participate in all the regular and special events of the year.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Reunion - September 1957

Wilson Ornithological Society National Meeting
Oglebay Park - April 1958

Annual Foray - Camp Torwood - June 1958