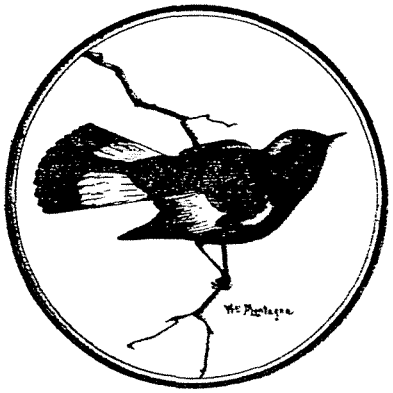

The Redstart

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Wheeling West Virginia

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Field Note Editor: George F. Hurley

CONTENTS

Page

The 1957 Christmas Count 74

A Versatile Indigo 78
M. B. Skaggs

Notes on Feeding Habits of Common Birds 78
Nevada Laitsch

The Annual Meeting of The Brooks Bird Club, Inc., 1958 79
Eva H. Hayes, Secy.

Book Reviews 80
George A. Hall

Field Notes - The Summer Season, June 1 to August 31 81
George F. Hurley

Suggestions for Contributors to the Redstart 86

Officers, Committees, Members, and Exchanges
The Brooks Bird Club Inc. 1958-59 88

THE 1957 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Editor's Note: Only ten counts were submitted this year and a total of 84 species were recorded. Unavoidable delays have held up publication of this report until this late date, but it is hoped that it will serve as a reminder that THE REDSTART desires to publish all Christmas Counts made in our region. Counts for 1958 should be sent to: Ernie Limes, 2636 Minerva Lake Road, Columbus 24, Ohio, no later than January 15, 1959.

Charleston, (Kanawha County), West Virginia; December 28, 1957; 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Heavy overcast - several drizzle showers during the day. The birds moved very little before 8:00 and many had gone to roost by 4:00 P.M.; Temperature, 41-44; Winds variable, 0-20 mph; ground bare, streams overflowing. Twenty-nine observers in 15 parties. Total hours: 80.5 (50.5 on foot, 11.5 by car, 16.5 at feeders); Total party miles: 176.5 (59.5 on foot, 117 by car.). C. O. Handley, Sr., C. O. Handley, Jr., John Handley, Polly Handlan, Ruth Ballentine, George Ballentine, George Hurley, Betsy Winquist, Douglas Winquist, Fred Woods, Ken Anderson, John Handlan, Mrs. Harry Gidley, O. L. Mairs, Ann Shreve, Lillian McGurl, Frank M. Johnson, John Smith, Julian Tinsley, G. P. Jones, Sarah Barber, Lucy Barber, Florence Frostick, Olive Brown, Sybil M. Ball, Truth Keeley, Ura Keeley, Mrs. L. C. Clark and Mrs. G. C. Porter.

Charles Town, (Jefferson County), West Virginia; January 1, 1958; Ponds and grounds of Federal Fish Hatchery, Leetown, along railroad and stream from Charlestown to Aldridge; Flowing Springs Meadow; along the Shenandoah River from Bloomery to Millville. Same area as past six years. Small ponds, 10%; small stream banks, 15%; weedy fields, 10%; mature oak forest, 15%; cat-tail marsh, 25%; farms and fence rows, 25%. 7:15 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.: Cold and breezy all day; Temperature 12-30°; Wind NW. 5-15 m.p.h. Three observers in one party. Total party hours, 10-1/4; 96 on foot, 4-1/4 by car); Total party miles, 82 (7 on foot, 75 by car). Mrs. Hugh Caperton, Donald Clancy, Clark Miller (compiler).

Inwood, (Berkeley County), West Virginia; Southern part of Berkeley County from Big Springs south to the Virginia line and from Opequon Creek west to top of North Mountain; same area as in last 7 years; Apple and cherry orchards, 20%; mature oak forest, 10%; pasture, 15%; open farm fields, 20%; scrub woods, 30%; small streams and marshes, 5%; December 31, 1957; 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Temperature 20-45°; Wind NW. 0-10 m.p.h.; dull and still all day. Three observers in one party; Total party hours, 10 (7 on foot, 3 by car); Total party miles, 59 (8 on foot, 51 by car). Donald Clancy, Clark Miller (compiler), Trecla Miller.

Wheeling, (Ohio County, West Virginia; December 28, 1957, 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Temperature, 46-52. Charles Conrad (compiler).

Lancaster, (Fairfield County), Ohio; December 28, 1958; Three mile radius from center of town. Four observers in two parties. 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Total hours, 28; Total miles 28 (on foot). Charles Goslin, Dr. C. H. Shaw, Florence Branum and Tom Guisinger.

Steubenville, (Jefferson County), Ohio; December 28, 1957. Deciduous woods, 14%; farmland, 21%; roadside, 36%; brushy fields, 9%; pine land 6%; swampy woods, 7%; cemetery, 7%. 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.; Temperature 40-42 degrees; Wind, westerly 0-12 m.p.h.; Heavy clouds all day with scattered showers. 17 observers in five parties;

Total party hours, 44 (35 on foot, 9 by car); Total party miles, 115 (38 on foot, 77 by car). Clinton S. Banks (compiler), Richard C. Banks, Robert Conti; R. L. Dailey, Dale DeMoss, Earl Farmer, Hattie Fleming, Arthur Johnson, Carl Koch, Ronald McKee, Alberta Miller, Don Miller, Wilfred Miller, Louise Musser, Ralph Musser, Albert R. Tenney, Floyd Wells (The Forest Audubon Club).

Clarksville, (Green County), Pennsylvania; December 28, 1957; Urban area, 2%; open farmland, 35%; deciduous woodland, 53%; brush, 10%. 7 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Cloudy; Wind westerly, moderate to light; Temperature 40-46 degrees. Ralph Horn, Mrs. Harry Enstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Dayton, Mrs. Scott Minor, John Tuckish, and Ralph K. Bell (compiler).

Ligonier, (Westmoreland County), Pennsylvania; December 29, 1957; Auerhaven and vicinity; small woodlot, overgrown fields, cultivated ground, natural sanctuary. Carl Auerswald, Dorothy Auerswald (compiler), Maude Smalley and Verda Yoder.

Pittsburgh, (Allegheny County), Pennsylvania; December 28, 1957; Sixteen separate areas inside the required circle. Deciduous woodland, 54%; coniferous woodland, 1%; brushland, 23%; fields and golf courses, 13%; marshland, 15%; water surface, 3%; urban areas, 5%. 7:30 A.M. to 5:45 P.M. Overcast; Trace of rain; Temperature 30-50 degrees; Wind, WSW, 11.5 m.p.h. Total party hours, 87-1/2 (75 on foot, 12-1/2 by car); Total party miles, 202 (72 on foot, 130 by car). Bernard Van Cleve (compiler) and 49 other observers. (The Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania).

Pymatuning, (Crawford County), Pennsylvania; December 29, 1957; Six mile radius from Linesville; 6:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Sky clear; Temperature 45 degrees; Wind W, 5 m.p.h. Total hours, 10; Total miles, 70 (8 on foot, 62 by car). Joseph Grom (compiler), George Harrison and Hal H. Harrison.

Species	Charleston, W. Va.	Charles Town, W. Va.	Inwood, W. Va.	Wheeling, W. Va.	Lancaster, O.	Steubenville, O.	Clarksville, Pa.	Ligonier, Pa.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Pymatuning, Pa.
Pied-billed Grebe		2								1
Great Blue Heron										500
Canada Goose		3		1					232	200
Mallard										13
Black Duck	3								27	
Ring-necked Duck										
Common Goldeneye		9	8							
Turkey Vulture				2	3	4	1		2	
Cooper's Hawk		1	2	8		2	2		5	3
Red-tailed Hawk	1								1	
Red-shouldered Hawk						2				
Rough-legged Hawk		1								
Marsh Hawk										

Species	Charleston, W. Va.	Charles Town, W. Va.	Inwood, W. Va.	Wheeling, W. Va.	Lancaster, O.	Steubenville, O.	Clarksville, Pa.	Ligonier, Pa.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Pymatuning, Pa.
Pigeon Hawk			1							
Sparrow Hawk	9	1	1		3	3	1			1
Ruffed Grouse	1			3		7			2	2
Bobwhite		11	17	3	24	42				
Ring-necked Pheasant				1	2	1	1	1	23	2
Turkey									1	
Killdeer	11	51	22							
Common Snipe	3	25	15							
Mourning Dove		37			130				3	
Barn Owl							1		1	
Screech Owl	3			1		1	1		3	
Great Horned Owl									1	
Barred Owl	3				1					
Long-eared Owl						1			8	
Belted Kingfisher	1	4	1	1	3	8			2	
Yellow-shafted Flicker	23	2	3		16	3				
Pileated Woodpecker	6	1	2	1	2	3			1	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	1		1	19	10	4			
Red-headed Woodpecker	1					1				
Y.-bellied Sapsucker	5	1		2		4			1	
Hairy Woodpecker	30	2	2	6	4	7	3	2	17	2
Downy Woodpecker	76	8	8	46	51	57	18	2	10	7
Eastern Phoebe				2						
Horned Lark	8					19			28	
Blue Jay	61	4	15		35	33			10	8
Common Crow	344	1900+	227+	293	2	9	581		59	
B.C. Chickadee						18		8	218	19
Carolina Chickadee	264	19	23	95	151					
Chickadee (spp.)				157			81			
Tufted Titmouse	261	3	24	87	54	79	30	4	129	6
White-br. Nuthatch	105	8	9	27	36	27	14	2	79	5
Red-br. Nuthatch	3		1	5					1	
Brown Creeper	13	2		7	4	2	1	1	5	
Winter Wren	5					1				
Bewick's Wren			1							
Carolina Wren	134	2	2	26	21	25	16		24	
Mockingbird	8	17	15	1	1	1	1			
Catbird			1							
Brown Thrasher	3									

Species	Charleston, W. Va.	Charles Town, W. Va.	Inwood, W. Va.	Wheeling, W. Va.	Lancaster, O.	Steubenville, O.	Clarksville, Pa.	Ligonier, Pa.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Pymatuning, Pa.
Robin	747	2	42	18	110	224	2	1	163	
Hermit Thrash	5									
Eastern Bluebird	30	3	5	2	24	10	5			
Golden-cr. Kinglet	23	7	9	9	2	14			8	9
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	9									
Cedar Waxwing	10	11			15				1	
Loggerhead Shrike			2							
Starling	709	885	2907	246	440	563	218		181	40
Myrtle Warbler	25			1						
Pine Warbler	1									
Palm Warbler	1									
House Sparrow	413	190	171	125	489	291	69		440	50
E. Meadowlark	21	8	8		11	3	11		2	
Red-winged Blackbird		8	8			1				
Rusty Blackbird			5							
Common Grackle					2					
Br.-headed Cowbird		4	3		7					
Cardinal	313	34	62	101	167	138	78	5	210	6
Evening Grosbeak									2	
Purple Finch	7									
Pine Siskin	6								4	
Am. Goldfinch	140	41	91	15	8	39			96	11
Rufous-sided Towhee	53				7					
Savannah Sparrow			1							
Slate-colored Junco	203	14	46	93	106	157	68	24	158	1
Tree Sparrow	13	6	70	14	84	111	18	10	81	27
Field Sparrow	43	3				3				
Wh.-cr. Sparrow	10	65	2							
Wh.-th. Sparrow	132	11	6	1	2				5	
Fox Sparrow	4									
Swamp Sparrow	4									
Song Sparrow	256	19	20	19	76	74	12	2	53	10
Total Species	53	42	41	35	36	41	25	12	41	23
Total Individuals	4569	3426	3861	1082	2056	2149	1253	62	2358	926
Party Hours	80.5	10-1/4	10	?	28	44	?	?	87-1/2	10
Party Miles	176.5	82	59	?	28	115	?	?	202	70
Parties	15	1	1	?	2	5	?	?	16	1
Persons	29	3	3	?	4	17	7	4	50	3

A VERSATILE INDIGO

Although some of our native birds have decreased in numbers because of changing habitats as civilization cleared away the forests, other birds have changed their habits and have adapted themselves to new conditions. For example, the Robin is probably as numerous as it ever was in the early days. The Pileated Woodpecker has learned to survive in less extensive areas of forest than formerly existed.

In July of 1958, I visited Cincinnati and heard an Indigo Bunting singing outside of the motel where I was staying. Now, I have often noticed Indigo Buntings singing from tree tops and telephone wires and have noted that the males prefer to sing from a dead branch of a living tree, especially if the dead limb is near the tree top. This particular bird was singing in turn from three TV antennas! There were no dead tree limbs near and no trees of any size so he was using the most exposed singing perches available. Quite a modern fellow, who did the best he could with what was available.

M. B. Skaggs
Willoughby, Ohio

NOTES ON FEEDING HABITS OF COMMON BIRDS

With rapidly changing landscapes and ways of living it has become an interesting study how different birds have coped with situations and changed their feeding habits in their fight for survival. To me, the House Sparrow has been a very good example. They can do as much with a sunflower seed as a Cardinal can and I have been fooled many times as they fed upside down on elm blossoms.

This summer, much to my disgust, House Sparrows took over the martin house, which has never housed martins, but has served as a nesting site for Crested Flycatchers and wrens. Recently as I idly watched a female sparrow feeding young I became curious when I noticed that her food supply was very abundant. It seemed no problem at all to return with food in a matter of seconds. On checking with binoculars I saw that she was feeding young on Japanese Beetles which were ravishing my flowers and shrubs. I observed her feeding on several different days and times and while she varied the diet from time to time the main course seemed to be Japanese Beetles. Before the brood left the nest it was difficult to find a beetle on the "acre".

I recall that only last year we were invaded by flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds (we had never had them on the "acre" before) which completely cleaned the area of bag worms. It was interesting to observe their tactics as they retreived the worms from the tightly closed cocoon. I tolerate flocks of Starlings mainly because of their good work on the larvae of the Japanese Beetle. So, while these examples are of birds commonly thought of as pests perhaps we should be a little more tolerant toward them for they do their bit toward the "balance of nature."

Nevada Laitsch
MC 21
East Liverpool, Ohio

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB, INC., 1958

The 1958 Annual Meeting of The Brooks Bird Club was held on August 31, 1958 at Camp Piedmont, Ohio. President David F. Baker presided.

Reports were submitted by the Treasurer, the Auditing Committee, the Executive Director, the REDSTART Editor, the MAILBAG Editor, and representatives of the local chapters.

Following a discussion of possible Foray sites and a report from the Exploratory Committee, it was unanimously voted to hold the 1959 Foray from June 6 to 14 at the University of Virginia Biological Station, Mountain Lake, Giles County, Virginia.

The Field Trip Chairman reported on the activities of the past year and summarized the possibilities for the next year. One new trip, a November outing to Hocking County, Ohio under the sponsorship of the Central Ohio Chapter has been added.

The Secretary read a list of new applicants for membership received since the last meeting and these were duly elected.

The Nominating Committee submitted its report and there being no further nominations from the floor the following slate of officers was elected unanimously.

President:	David F. Baker
1st Vice President:	Hal H. Harrison
2nd Vice President:	Clark Miller
Secretary-Treasurer:	Eva H. Hayes
Elected members of the Executive Committee (two year terms):	Howard Heimerdinger Glen Phillips John Laitsch

On September 1, 1958 the Executive Committee met at Camp Piedmont and appointed the following officials.

Trustee (three year term):	Harold Boecher
Trustee (two year term to fill a vacancy:	Louis Gicquelais
Redstart Editor:	George A. Hall
Mailbag Editor:	Nevada Laitsch
Foray Director:	Charles Conrad

Eva H. Hayes, Secretary

BOOK REVIEWS

The Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia - Joseph James Murray. 1957. 59 pp, one map. Virginia Society of Ornithology, Sweet Briar, Virginia, Virginia Avifauna Number 1. $0.50 (copies obtained from F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26 Virginia).-- As the series title indicates our neighboring society is undertaking an ambitious project of publication of the results of their many years field work. They could have selected no better starting point than the present volume. Dr. Murray has actively studied the birds of his home county (the Lexington, Virginia region) for thirty years and has also drawn on the records of many other ornithologists of that region. The result is both a readable account and a valuable scientific contribution. After a brief description of the county and the ornithological work done, there follows an annotated list of the 264 species known for the county. Where taxonomic work has been done subspecies are listed also. Each account summarizes the principal records and average phenological dates for the species. Since Rockbridge County compares with much of West Virginia this account should be read by all West Virginia ornithologists. The Virginia Society is to be congratulated on issuing this and it is to be hoped that many subsequent volumes in the series will be issued.

Birds of Maryland and The District of Columbia - Robert E. Stewart and Chandler S. Robbins. 1958. 401 pages, 1 figure, 69 maps. United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. North American Fauna Number 62 (paperbound) $1.75 (obtainable at the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington).-- This is possibly the best State bird publication to appear in recent years. It is not a luxurious book and has no lavish illustrations but is packed full of valuable data. The authors have drawn on the extensive literature of the ornithology of this region, upon the notes taken by the many active field workers, upon the extensive files of the Fish and Wildlife Service and finally upon the results of ten years (1945 to 1955) intensive field work of their own. The result is a book that could hardly be equaled by any other state in country (Offhand I would say that only the work on California Birds by Grinnell and Miller comes near approaching this one.) A brief historical summary is given followed by a discussion of the physiography and forest types of the region. The State is then broken into three main geographical regions and six subregions and discussions are given of the avifauna of each. The principal account is then an annotated listing of the 334 species known for the region. As is customary each species is discussed under the headings of Status (in the various regions), Habitat, Nesting Season Dates, Spring and Fall Migration Dates. The unique contribution comes in three topics listed for most species that are not usually found in such lists: Breeding Population Density, (attempts were made to census one or two habitats for all species of birds); Maximum Counts (numbers reported in various regions) and Banding Records - (the authors banded nearly 18,000 birds in the region during the study). All recoveries from these and other birds banded in the region and for birds recovered in Maryland but banded elsewhere are given and if these records are numerous maps are given). In addition to the banding recovery maps and two general maps of the State, maps giving the breeding ranges of about 70 species are given.

This book should be read by all West Virginia ornithologists for comparative purposes. If nothing more it can serve to make us envious of our neighbor on two counts: (1) We can envy the lengthy species list since Maryland extends from the Ocean to the crest of the Alleghenies its list of birds is perhaps one of the

longest in the East and (2) we can envy a State in which such competent professional workers have accumulated such extensive data.

George A. Hall

FIELD NOTES

1958 THE SUMMER SEASON June 1 to August 31

The cold, wet Spring weather continued into Summer so that it was one of the wettest on record in most areas and in general cooler than usual. Ground nesting birds suffered because of this and many first nestings were not successful. As a result many late nestings were observed. The abundant rainfall did produce an excellent crop of weed seeds, mast, berries and insects so that plenty of food remains for wintering species.

The shorebird migration was practically non-existent on the inland lakes and waters since most were filled-leaving little or no mud flats. The outstanding exception was found at Walnut Beach, Ashtabula where broad beaches and more extensive mud flats were found due to the artificial lowering of the Lake by diversion of water through the Chicago drainage canal. This year seemed to be the best ever and, we are indebted to Savage and Ahlquist for many excellent records such as Piping Plover, Knot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Forster's Tern and Franklin's Gull.

Some species which were adversely affected by the cold Winter and Spring were scarce as expected. These include the Bluebird, Phoebe and some of the swallows, and perhaps the House Wren to a lesser extent.

Higher local populations of Blue Jays were reported at East Liverpool, Ohio and Nitro and St. Albans. Cardinals appeared spotty and were definitely below normal in St. Albans. Generalizations are difficult to make since so few observers were active during this period. No attempt has been made to include the birds of Pocahontas County as found by the Club during the June Foray since a very complete account is being published elsewhere in the Redstart.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: One family of 6 observed at Geneva Swamp, south of Conneaut Lake, Pa., on June 22.

GREAT BLUE HERON: A new herony found in New Lyme Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio where 78 nests were counted. At least 47 of these contained a total of 77 immature birds. Another heronry at North Richmond, also Ashtabula Co., was heavily populated. There seems to be an increase of herons in the Ashtabula Co. area. At Barnesville, Ohio they were plentiful this season. Others reported at Presque Isle, Pymatuning and Wheeling.

COMMON EGRET: Two observed at Wheeling on July 17. The first migrants arrived at Linesville on July 27. On the same day one bird was seen on Lake Erie. They were not plentiful at Seneca Lake, Ohio, where only 5 were seen on July 23.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: One bird noted on July 27 at Geneva Swamp, Pa.

GREEN HERON: Numerous birds counted in Northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Also plentiful in creeks and marshes in Kanawha and Putnam Counties - as many as 8 being counted at Armour Creek on one trip.

AMERICAN BITTERN: One flushed from pond near Hurricane, Putnam County on July 10.

MALLARD: The first of the migrants is thought to have arrived at Walnut Beach, Ohio on July 30. A hen with seven young was found at Seneca Lake, Ohio on July 25. At Nitro, four juveniles were counted on July 10.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: The first flocking record was noted at Ashtabula, Ohio where three birds were found on July 30 with a flock of other ducks. This is about a week earlier than usual.

WOOD DUCK: Observed along the Kanawha River in Putnam County the end of June. Seven immature birds at Seneca Lake, Ohio on August 18.

TURKEY VULTURE: Numerous in the Greenbrier Valley. Normal numbers in Putnam county.

OSPREY: One adult and one immature observed at Barnesville, Ohio on August 31. No other hawk records of note.

BOB-WHITE: Noted in various locations in Putnam County. Not in writer's neighborhood this year possibly due to the high density of cats and dogs.

COMMON GALLINULE: Listed at Hartstown Marsh, Pa. on June 27.

PIPING PLOVER: Jon Ahlquist saw one on July 25 at Walnut Beach, Ohio. One is occasionally reported from this area but this is still a good record. Another was observed on August 11 in the same area.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: On July 26 twelve birds were observed at Walnut Beach, Ohio. The BBC party on the shorebird trip August 17 and 18 listed six at Ashtabula Harbor. An estimated 25 birds were seen at Seneca Lake, Ohio on June 8.

KILLDEER: Bird is more numerous in Ashtabula County, Ohio area this year possibly due to habitat improvement. A flock of fifty was found at Cedar Lakes FFA Camp, Jackson County in early August.

AM. GOLDEN PLOVER: One reported at Seneca Lake, Ohio on August 31 while August 26 is first at Walnut Beach, Ohio.

BLACK BELLIED PLOVER: The BBC group saw 2 at Presque Isle, Pa. on August 17.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: One at Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio on August 17.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: The nesting population at Walnut Beach, Ohio is increasing. The BBC group found them at Presque Isle, Pa. on August 17.

WILLET: Savage saw 2 at Walnut Beach, Ohio on July 2 which is his earliest migration record for the species. This bird was still in good Summer plumage.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: At Seneca Lake, Ohio on August 31. An earlier than usual record at Walnut Beach, Ohio where it was observed on July 13.

KNOT: This bird is rather rare in the Lake area and the fact that 8 birds were reported at Walnut Beach, Ohio on August 28 makes the record even better. Eight to 20 birds were reported during the 1956 migration also.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Observed on July 25 at Seneca Lake, Ohio; July 29 at Walnut Beach, Ohio; and at Presque Isle, Pa. on August 17.

WHITE RUMPE SANDPIPER: Savage listed one at Walnut Beach, Ohio on August 31. Generally, at least one appears in the area during migration.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: The BBC group visiting Walnut Beach, Ohio on August 17 observed one bird at close range for about 15 minutes and agreed on identification. Usually a few are reported every Fall.

DOWITCHER: Three at Walnut Beach, Ohio on July 3 which is at least 2 weeks early. John Thayer observed seven at Walnut Beach, Ohio on July 26.

STILT SANDPIPER: One bird listed on August 14 at Walnut Beach, Ohio.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: Usually the earliest of the shore birds to appear in Fall migration. This year they first appeared on July 6 which is about a week before normal arrival.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: A single bird identified by Owen Davies (fide Savage) at Walnut Beach, Ohio on August 24.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Another rare shore bird. This one bird was identified at close range (6 feet) at Walnut Beach, Ohio on August 31 by Paul Savage.

SANDERLING: Arrived a little early at Walnut Beach, Ohio. Four birds were seen on July 29. BBC members listed several small flocks at Presque Isle, Pa. on August 17.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Another excellent find made by Jon Alquist and corroborated by Paul Savage. It was recorded at Walnut Beach, Ohio on August 20 and observed regularly for 3 days before leaving.

GULLS: A storm on July 26 drove an estimated 2000 RING-BILLED and 110 BONAPARTE'S to Walnut Beach, Ohio. For the latter, at least, this is an early date for such a concentration of birds. Both gulls along with the HERRING GULL were common at Presque Isle, Pa. on August 17. Jon Alquist, who is a 14 year old budding ornithologist, listed the only FRANKLIN'S GULL, at Walnut Beach on July 3. One BLACK-BACKED GULL was observed at close range by the BBC group on August 17 at Presque Isle, Pa. Another very good record.

TERNS: COMMON TERNS arrived at Walnut Beach, Ohio about July 6. On the 27th a total of 400 was observed including many juveniles being fed by adults. Two CASPIANS were noted on July 29 in adult plumage. The greatest concentration occurred on August 20 when 24 were seen. BLACKS nested on muskrat feeding mounds at Geneva Swamp, Pa. where 10 were counted on June 22. 18 COMMONS were

seen at Seneca Lake, Ohio, on July 25 while the BBC group saw BLACK TERNS as well as the others listed here on the Presque Isle trip of August 17.

FORSTER'S TERN: Alquist, who lives near Walnut Beach and checked it every day during the period, scored on this bird on August 10. He saw 2 and Savage later saw 5. A rare, but regular straggler in this region.

MOURNING DOVE: Plentiful in Ohio areas as well as McClintic Game area north of Pt. Pleasant.

YELLOW BILLED CUCKOO: At East Liverpool, Ohio a pair was nesting on August 29 which is late.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: There was a good flight at Barnesville on August 24. Although this date is about normal for Wheeling also, they were about a week later there. Smaller than usual numbers were reported from Charleston.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: Several observers at Charleston had chimneys where swifts nested.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Were scarce in Wheeling and Barnesville, Ohio. They were found in no mal numbers at Nitro. Nevada Laitsch saw more birds more often this year at East Liverpool, Ohio where they fed on Phlox and scarlet sage.

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: One observer lists them as plentiful in Kanawha and Putnam Counties while numbers were down at Clarksville, Pa.

RED HEADED WOODPECKER: John Smith recorded one juvenile in Nitro where it had not been listed in recent years.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: It is, apparently, becoming more plentiful in Mason and Putnam Counties.

EASTERN PHOEBE: The word here, after the poor migration, is scarce. Comments include "very scarce" at Willoughby, Ohio; "extremely scarce" at East Liverpool, Ohio; "down by 50%" at Clarksville, Pa. I heard none in St. Albans until late in August.

OTHER FLYCATCHERS: ALDER FLYCATCHERS are reported increasing at Clarksville, Pa. but ACADIAN numbers this year are down about half. CRESTED seemed to be numerous in the Nitro area and at the McClintic Wildlife Station.

SWALLOWS: Conrad found young BARN SWALLOWS in the nest in Marshall County on August 20. At Clarksville, Pa. they were found in normal numbers which is encouraging news after so many died of starvation in the Spring. Smith says they were common in the Greenbrier Valley. The last of the migrants at Clarksville was recorded on August 29. CLIFFS and BANKS were banded at Clarksville, Pa. indicating they are probably nesting there. The migration of PURPLE MARTINS in Wheeling started about July 15 and flocks increased in size from 5 to 432 counted on July 26. Then until the middle of August only a few were counted daily. On August 18 Conrad estimated a flight of 3500 to 5000 in a 20 minute period in late evening.

BLUE JAY: Populations very high at Nitro where five nests in one small area were under observation. This is also a big year for them at St. Albans where 10 to 20 birds could be seen almost any time of day toward the end of August. More birds were noted at East Liverpool, Ohio this year also.

WRENS: The HOUSE WREN was noticeably absent in some areas. At East Liverpool, Ohio this was the first year in twenty that Laitsch's did not have them nesting on "The Acre". At Willoughby, Ohio the population was down perhaps 20%. A decrease in numbers was also noted at St. Albans. On the other hand the CAROLINA population seemed to be increasing. Such reports came from East Liverpool, Ohio, Nitro, and St. Albans. One pair of BEWICK'S with young was seen on June 29 at Barnesville, Ohio. There is evidence that the SHORT BILLED MARSH WREN nested at Barnesville, Ohio where one young and one adult were seen.

MOCKINGBIRD: Several were seen in the Nitro area during July. One was heard and seen in St. Albans in early August. No evidence of nesting at either location.

ROBINS: Not so plentiful in most areas. They were considered less by 50% at Clarksville, Pa. At Nitro some birds raised three broods.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: The population remained low in most areas. Successful nestings in St. Albans brought numbers to near normal. They were considered scarce in Mason County, Western Pa. and practically non-existent at East Liverpool, Ohio. A very late nesting was recorded by Conrad in Marshall County where young out of the nest were seen on August 18.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Smith saw one at Frankfort in early June and two at Princeton on August 15.

VIREOS: RED EYED, WHITE EYED, and WARBLING about normal in Kanawha County. The YELLOW THROATED moved into the East Liverpool, Ohio area in mid-August. The RED EYED was considered scarce in this same area.

WARBLERS: Not enough reports to indicate the relative abundance of the various species. Ahlquist sighted a GOLDEN WINGED in Saybrook Township, Ohio on June 14 which is considered a good record since the bird is rare in that region. John Smith observed a BREWSTER'S at close range at Nitro on June 21 which is a good record. Bell banded a CAPE MAY on August 28, the first migrant of its kind for the season.

BOBOLINK: Nested at Calcutta, Ohio as usual. They were seen in the Barnesville, Ohio area on June 29 and presumed to be nesting although no nests were found.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD: Out of the nest by June 6 at Clarksville, Pa. They were flocking at Wheeling in late August.

COMMON GRACKLE: Increasing in the Willoughby, Ohio area. They started flocking toward the end of July at Clarksville, Pa. and in mid-August at Wheeling.

CARDINAL: The writer finds them strikingly scarce in St. Albans this year. Unfortunately, no other reporters have commented so that a general statement is not possible. The condition at St. Albans may be another result of an increasing population of air rifles and cats.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: On July 4, Smith saw one pair in Southside, Mason County. Conrad flushed one from a nest containing 4 eggs in Marshall County on August 20. This seems to be another late nesting.

SONG SPARROW: First nestings apparently produced few young due to the wet weather while later attempts were more successful. Here in St. Albans they were considered under normal.

ERRATUM: The reported late date for the YELLOW BELLIED SAPSUCKER at Glen Dale Heights listed in the June 1958 Redstart should be April 18 instead of May 18.

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Ralph Bell	Clarksville, Pa.
M. B. Skaggs	Willoughby, Ohio
Nevada Laitsch	East Liverpool, Ohio
Mrs. David Cain	Barnesville, Ohio
Mrs. H. Chapman	Barnesville, Ohio
Paul Savage	Ashtabula County, Ohio
	Presque Isle and Pymatuning Reservoir
C. L. Conrad	Wheeling, W. Va.
John Smith	Nitro, W. Va.
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Contributions for the season September 1 to November 30 are due on December 10.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE REDSTART

The pages of this Journal are open to all members and we are constantly desirous of receiving contributions. Articles for THE REDSTART fall into three categories: (1) Lead Articles - those which are several pages long and either report the results of intensive or extensive investigations or discuss some phase of ornithology from an informative standpoint; (2) Routine Articles - such as Christmas counts, Century Day Lists, etc.; and (3) Notes - brief accounts, usually less than one page of interesting observations. Included in this last category would be accounts of rare or unusual records for the State or region. Type two articles are well taken care of but we need more of types one and three.

The following suggestions for authors will make editorial job easier, although none are absolutely required.

1. All articles should be typed, preferably double spaced, and on one side of a sheet of paper.

2. The bird names, both common and scientific, of the Fifth AOU Checklist should be used. In agreement with other ornithological publications the common names of all species should be capitalized. Scientific names should be underlined and usually should not be used except in long faunal lists or in taxonomic papers.

3. All long lists of bird records, including records submitted to the Field Note Editor should follow the AOU Checklist order in so far as is possible.

4. THE REDSTART has no fixed policy on unsubstantiated sight records. Notes reporting the occurrence of very rare species should contain full details, preferably as recorded in the field, so that readers in later years may fully evaluate the worth of such records.

The Editor would also be interested in receiving requests from members about the types of articles they would like to see. Speak up and we will see what we can do about getting them written.

All Articles and Notes should be sent to the Editor:

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Notes on Migration, unusual occurrences and other observations that do not merit separate publication should be sent to the Field Notes Editor:

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1958 - 59

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Audubon Magazine - National Audubon Society,1130 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.
Audubon News Letter - Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.
Call Notes - Huntington Bird Club, Marshall College, Huntington, W. Va.
Carnegie Magazine - Carnegie Museum, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.
Cassinia - Delaware Valley Ornithological Sciences, 19th & The Parkway, Philadelphia 3, Pa.
Cleveland Audubon Society - 1191 East 80th St., Cleveland 3, Ohio
Evening Grosbeak - 159 Elm Street, Northampton, Mass.
Forest Audubon Club - 202 Wilma Ave., Steubenville, Ohio
Indiana Audubon Quarterly - Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana
Indiana Audubon Year Book - 3604 Temple Ave., Indianapolis 18, Ind.
Iowa Bird Life - Iowa Ornithologists Union, Cornell College, Mount Vernon,/Iowa
Kentucky Warbler - University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky.
Lancaster County Bird Club Bulletin - 318 N. President Ave., Lancaster, Pa.
Library - Fish & Wildlife Service - Room 2258A South Interior Bldg. Washington 25, D. C.
Maryland Bird Life - Maryland Ornithological Society,Inc., 2101 Bolton St. Baltimore 17, Md.
Migrant - 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton, Tenn.
Natural History - American Museum of Natural History, 79th St. at Central Park West, New York 24, N. Y.
Nature Conservancy - 4200 22nd Street NE, Washington 18, D. C.
Nebraska Bird Review - 101 Morrill Hall, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln 8, Neb.
New Hampshire Bird News - Audubon Society, Walpole, New Hampshire
Oglebay Institute - Nature Museum, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Va.
Ohio Cardinal - 5795 Mill Creek Blvd., Youngstown 12, Ohio

Ohio County Public Library - Wheeling, W. Va.
Ohio State University - Curator of Natural History, Columbus, Ohio
Owl - Ridgewood Audubon Society, 21 South Van Dien Ave., Ridgewood, N. J.
Passenger Pigeon - Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., Adams, Wisconsin
Prothonotary - Buffalo Ornithological Society, Kenmore 17, N. Y.
Raven - Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 109 East Broadway, Louisville, Ky.
Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery - 500 Museum Road, Reading, Pa.
West Virginia Conservation Magazine - Dept. of Education, Charleston, W. Va.
West Virginia University - Morgantown, W. Va.
Wharram Nature Club - 97 W. 44th St., Ashtabula, Ohio
Wildlife Review - Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland
Wilson Bulletin - Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan

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