Vol. XXVII

Editor: George A. Hall
Field Note Editor: George F. Hurley

CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birds of the 1959 Foray—Mountain Lake, Virginia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. K. Burns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Banding at the 1959 Foray</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph K. Bell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saw-whet Owl Records in West Virginia</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon A. Knight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Notes, The Fall Season, September 1 to November 30</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George F. Hurley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960 Program, The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The study area for the 1959 Foray of the Brooks Bird Club comprised a circle of the usual fifteen-mile radius, centering at the Biological Station of the University of Virginia, in Giles County, Virginia. The greater part of the study area lay within this county, but a considerable sector extended northwestward into West Virginia (Monroe County), and smaller parts of three adjacent counties in Virginia, (Craig, Montgomery, and Pulaski) were included. However, geography and the availability of access roads tended to restrict intensive coverage of the territory to Giles County.

Topographically, the area is rugged and diversified. It includes parts of several major mountain ridges, representing residual masses of the Appalachian Plateau. The ridges are separated by deep valleys, drained by the local tributaries of the New River. Chief among these are Sinking Creek, Little Story and Big Story Creeks, which enter the river from the northeast; and Walker's Creek -- a large stream flowing from the southwest. The wide valley of the New River cuts across this territory from southeast to northwest and enters West Virginia through the great water-gap in Peter's Mountain, known as The Narrows. Of special interest, topographically, is the deep, upper valley of John's Creek, lying to the east of the Salt Pond Mountain - Pott's Mountain massif, which drains northward to Craig's Creek and the James River system. Thus the territory lies athwart the divide between the drainage to the Ohio-Mississippi Rivers and to the Atlantic.

Elevations in the study area range from about 1500 feet on the New River in the vicinity of The Narrows, to an elevation of 4363 feet at the summit of Bald Knob. This peak is the culminating point of this part of the Appalachians and is situated on Salt Pond Mountain, overlooking the lake, about two miles south of the Biological Station. However, other points in this vicinity are only slightly lower. For convenience, in the annotated list, elevations from 1500 to 2500 feet are designated as lower. Included here are the lowlands of the New River and the lower valleys of its principal tributaries. Middle elevations extend approximately from 2500 to 3500 feet. Above this are the high backfors and plateau areas of the Salt Pond Mountain - Pott Mountain - Pott's Mountain complex, and the crests of a few other ridges.

The faunal zone relationships for the territory adjacent to the Biological Station have been characterized by Dr. J. J. Murray in a personal communication as follows. "The area on the Salt Pond Mountain plateau around the lake and the University of Virginia Biological Station is definitely Alleghanian Zone territory. Some of its most characteristic birds are: Least Flycatcher, Veery, Solitary Vireo, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Canada Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Carolina Junco. Because of its proximity to open and warmer areas on the south slopes of the mountain, there is some intrusion of Carolinian species. There is reason to think that fifty years ago conditions on the mountain were affected by a certain amount of Canadian Zone influence, whereas now, after a warmer cycle, there is more Carolinian than Canadian influence." (For a fuller discussion of the faunal relationships of this region see Murray, J. J., A Check-list of the Birds of Virginia, Va. Society Ornith., 1952.)
The Redstart Vol. XXVII No. 1 Page 2

The statement of Dr. Murray as to possible earlier conditions on the plateau, is substantiated by the testimony of surviving witnesses to the effect that, before the days of major lumbering operations, there were considerable areas of coniferous forest (Hemlock, Red Spruce, White Pine) at higher elevations; and by the fact that there are still relict stands of spruce to be found at Mann's Bog and a few other places. Also, in many of the rougher and more inaccessible valleys and ravines, huge old Hemlocks still stand in considerable numbers, and their progeny have been an important element in the reforestation of these areas. Similar conditions are found locally in a few other elevated situations, such as Butt Mountain, the higher parts of Pott's Mountain, and Angel's Rest Mountain west of Pearisburg.

It should be pointed out that little farm land or open pastures remain at present at these higher elevations. The small farms that once were found have almost all disappeared. The land is now largely National Forest, or in the hands of a few large land-owners with conservationist policies. Agriculture is confined almost entirely to the lower valleys, thus placing sharp limitations to the distribution of many birds.

The number of species listed below (108) compares favorably with the lists for other Forays - this in spite of the fact that the great groups of water birds, and shore and wading birds, are virtually unrepresented. No species of duck was found, and gulls and terns were also unrepresented, owing to the scarcity of suitable bodies of water in the study area. Herons, sandpipers, and plovers were represented in each case by a single species. It follows that, by way of compensation, unusually good lists of other groups were found.

The species listed below were reported by members of the Foray working inside the limits of the study area, and within the official period of the Foray (June 6-14, inclusive), with the following minor qualifications. In the case of three species, reported at specific locations but with less than complete certainty, the place was revisited during the following week and the presence of the bird confirmed. In the case of two other species tentatively identified, confirmation could not be made and the names are not included in the list. Appendixed to the list without numbering are three species (A, B, and C) which were considered as "probables" for the territory, and for which a look-out was kept during the Foray, but without success. They were found during the following week within the study area and have been added in a supplementary capacity.

It should not be assumed that the species listed below are in all cases restricted to the particular areas or altitudes from which they are reported. For example, the Louisiana Waterthrush certainly occurs also at lower elevations than those cited. It is obvious that a strict delimitation of the distribution of all species could in any case hardly be made in the limited period covered by the Foray.

All references to Murray in the list which follows are to his Check-list of the Birds of Virginia, cited above.
ANOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

1. Green Heron (Butorides virescens) - Reported by several observers at lower elevations in Sinking Creek and New River valleys.

2. Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura) - Common at all elevations.

3. Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus) - Seen occasionally at lower elevations in Doe Creek and New River valleys.

4. Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus) - Occasional. Seen in the Mann's Bog area and the Big Stony Creek valley.

5. Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) - Apparently rather scarce. Only one reported, from Little Stony Creek valley. However, the bird has previously been found in various parts of the study area.

6. Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) - Fairly common at higher elevations. Usually seen soaring overhead.

7. Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus) - Fairly common and generally distributed.

8. Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus) - Commonly seen and heard in all areas. A nest containing three young was found in a Beech tree about fifty feet from ground in the Pond Drain study area.

9. Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) - Rare. One seen flying over New River near Ripplemead (C. Conrad et al.) and one near Pearisburg (Burns) in the same area.

10. Sparrow Hawk (Falco sparverius) - Rather common at lower altitudes; not reported from higher elevations.

11. Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus) - Very numerous along the higher, forested mountain ridges. Many broods of young reported from Salt Pond and Pott's Mountain areas.

12. Bobwhite (Colinus virginianus) - Common in open country at lower elevations.

13. Ring-necked Pheasant - (Phasianus colchicus) Rare. One reported near Blacksburg by C. O. Handley, Sr.

14. Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) - Scarce. One heard calling on slope of Bald Knob by C. O. Handley, Sr.

15. Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus) - Frequently seen or heard in open country at lower elevations.

16. Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia) - A single one reported by C. O. Handley, Sr., in Little Stony Creek Gorge below the Cascades.

17. Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura) - Common in New River valley and valleys of its larger tributaries; not reported at higher altitudes.
18. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus) - Rather common in New River valley at lower elevations. Not seen on higher mountain tops.

19. Black-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus erythropthalmus) - Occasional. Two reports from middle altitudes (Little Meadows, Clover Hollow).

20. Barred Owl (Strix varia) - Heard a number of times on Salt Pond Mountain in the vicinity of the Station and around the lake. One seen in deep woods at Hunter's Branch near the Station.

21. Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor) - Rare. One seen near the chemical plant on New River above the town of Narrows.

22. Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferus) - Heard a number of times in the vicinity of the Station but less common than usual in this area. One seen on Big Mountain (Burns).

23. Chimney Swift (Chaetura pelagica) - Fairly common at all elevations.

24. Ruby-throated Humming Bird (Archilochus colubris) - Less common than usual in this region but reported at varying elevations from New River to the top of Salt Pond Mountain.

25. Belted Kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon) - Fairly common in lower valleys along larger streams.

26. Yellow-shafted Flicker (Colaptes auratus) - Common at all altitudes.

27. Pileated Woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus) - Occasional. A number of reports from Salt Pond Mountain and a nest found in Pond Drain ravine.

28. Red-bellied Woodpecker (Centurus carolinus) - Fairly common but more numerous at middle and lower elevations.

29. Red-headed Woodpecker (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) - Scarce. Only two reports - from Clover Hollow (June 14) and a point near Blacksburg (June 9 - Chuck Conrad).

30. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius) - Scarcer than usual in this area. Only one reported from power line strip just south of the Station.

31. Hairy Woodpecker (Dendrocopos villosus) - Several reports, all from middle or higher elevations.

32. Downy Woodpecker (Dendrocopos pubescens) - Fairly common at all altitudes.

33. Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus) - Common at lower and middle elevations.

34. Great Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus) - Fairly common at all elevations from New River valley to the Station grounds.

35. Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe) - Common at all elevations.
36. Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)- Fairly common in suitable habitats at middle and lower elevations. Reported from Pond Drain Ravine (3500 ft.) and Cascades road (3000 ft.).

37. Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minutus*)- Very numerous at all higher elevations. One of commonest nesting species on Station grounds.

38. Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*)- Fairly common at all elevations.

39. Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)- Scarce. A single specimen reported from the border of the Blacksburg Airport.

40. Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)- Fairly common along cliffs and bluffs of New River and Sinking Creek.

41. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)- Common in farming areas at middle and lower altitudes.

42. Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*)- Widely but irregularly distributed at all elevations.

43. Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)- Frequently seen on Salt Pond, Pott's and Big Mountains. An odd specimen with a white or ivory beak was seen at close range by Conrad, Phillips, Gicquelais, and Burns, thus settling a much debated question that had provided amusement for skeptics at the Biological Station for three years.

44. Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)- Common throughout the area.

45. Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*)- Widely distributed but not numerous over the entire area at middle and higher altitudes.

46. Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*)- Common throughout area.

47. White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)- Not numerous but distributed widely over the entire area.

48. Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)- Rare. A single individual seen near the Station by the Drusells in an area of scattered pines and hemlocks. An unusual find at this season.

49. House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)- Common at lower elevations.

50. Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)- A single one reported from Walker's Creek in New River Valley. Formerly more common, nesting for many years on the Station grounds.

51. Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)- Not numerous but widely distributed. Usually reported from lower elevations.

52. Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)- Fairly numerous in New River Valley and at lower elevations.

53. Catbird (*Pythetella carolinensis*)- Reported at all elevations but scarcer on the higher mountain tops.
54. Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum)- Fairly common at all elevations. More numerous than usual around the Station area.

55. Robin (Turdus migratorius)- Common everywhere and in all types of habitat.

56. Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina)- Widely distributed at all elevations.

57. Veery (Hylocichla fuscescens)- Found in suitable woodlands at all elevations but apparently more numerous higher up. Common in the Station area and on Pott's Mountain. There were no reports from New River Valley, but the bird was found on Johns Creek and in the lower valley of Big Stony Creek near Kinballton at an elevation of about 1700 feet.

58. Bluebird (Sialia sialis)- A number of reports from farmlands and open country at lower and middle elevations.

59. Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum)- Fairly common at higher altitudes with several pairs nesting in the Station vicinity.

60. Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus)- Rather rare. One individual was reported near Union, W. Va. Both adults and four young were seen perched on a power line near an abandoned nest on Rt. 42 near Simmonsville, Va.

61. Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)- Common at lower elevations.

62. Yellow-throated Vireo (Vireo flavifrons)- Fairly common in New River Valley and along tributary streams up to about 3000 feet.

63. Solitary Vireo (Vireo solitarius)- Common along the tops of Salt Pond, Big and Pott's mountains, and in the higher valleys. A regular nester in the Station area. The local population has been identified as V. s. alticola.

64. Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus)- Very common at all elevations.

65. Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus)- Fairly common along New River and in the valleys of Sinking Creek and Walker's Creek.

66. Black and White Warbler (Mniotilta varia)- Many reports from all elevations. Common around the Station area, where it regularly nests.

67. Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitheros vermivorus)- Scarce. One reported from Big Stony Creek Valley near Kire by Thacker, elevation 2700 feet.

68. Golden-winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera)- Fairly common in old fields and bushy clearings at all altitudes. Reported from Little Meadows, White Pine Lodge, Doe Creek, Johns Creek and Big Stony Creek.

69. Parula Warbler (Parula americana)- Rather common in lower valleys; occasional at higher altitudes up to 3700 feet.

70. Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia)- Common in all the lower valleys and reported twice at nearly 3000 feet in Doe Creek Valley (Burns); not encountered higher up.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Commonality</th>
<th>Distribution Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Magnolia Warbler (Dendroica magnolia)</td>
<td>Uncommon</td>
<td>Two reports; from Little Meadows (Chandler) and the adjacent Cascades road (Burns).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Black-throated Blue Warbler (Dendroica caerulescens)</td>
<td>Common in deciduous woods at middle and higher altitudes.</td>
<td>The local population is believed to consist only of D. c. caernsii.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Black-throated Green Warbler (Dendroica virens)</td>
<td>Not common, but several reports at higher elevations, usually in association with old stands of hazelock.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Cerulean Warbler (Dendroica cerulea)</td>
<td>Rather sparsely distributed in stream valleys.</td>
<td>Two reports: Walker's Creek (Harley, et al.) and Big Stony Creek near Kire (Burns) at an elevation of about 2600 feet. (Previous records exist for John's Creek).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Blackburnian Warbler (Dendroica fusca)</td>
<td>Scatteringly distributed, both in deciduous and in evergreen woods.</td>
<td>Reported from the Station area, the lake, Pond Drain ravine, Post's Mountain and the Cascades area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Chestnut-sided Warbler (Dendroica pensylvanica)</td>
<td>Common in old clearings and open woods at middle and higher elevations.</td>
<td>Commonest warbler nesting in the Station area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Pine Warbler (Dendroica pinus)</td>
<td>Rather scarce.</td>
<td>Two reports: from the Station area and from White Pine Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Prairie Warbler (Dendroica discolor)</td>
<td>Fairly common in valleys and along brushy road-sides; occasional at higher altitudes to flanks of Bald Knob (Handley).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Ovenbird (Seiurus aurocapillus)</td>
<td>Common in deciduous woods at all elevations.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Louisiana Waterthrush (Seiurus motacilla)</td>
<td>Fairly common and frequently reported from valleys and rocky ravines at middle and higher altitudes, especially in Little Stony Creek Valley.</td>
<td>The lack of reports at lower elevations is undoubtedly due to incomplete coverage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas)</td>
<td>Common in suitable habitats at all elevations, to the flank of Bald Knob (4500 feet).</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteria virens)</td>
<td>Rather common in typical habitats at all elevations.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Hooded Warbler (Wilsonia citrina)</td>
<td>Reported for many localities at all altitudes: lower valley of Little Stony Creek and Johns Creek (1800-2500 ft.); Little Meadows, White Pine Lodge, and Cascades area (3000 ft.); and on side of Bald Knob at 4100 ft. (Handley). One was taken on Station grounds and banded by Mrs. Cole (elevation 3850 ft.).</td>
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<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Canada Warbler (Wilsonia canadensis)</td>
<td>Common at all middle and higher altitudes; one of the commonest species around the Station grounds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla)</td>
<td>Common at altitudes up to about 3000 feet; seen occasionally somewhat higher. Not reported from Salt Pond Mountain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Bird Name</td>
<td>Location and Notes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>House Sparrow <em>(Passer domesticus)</em></td>
<td>Common in suitable locations throughout the area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Eastern Meadowlark <em>(Sturnella magna)</em></td>
<td>Common throughout the area in open fields and pastures.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Redwinged Blackbird <em>(Agelaius phoeniceus)</em></td>
<td>General throughout the area in the usual habitats.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Orchard Oriole <em>(Icterus spurius)</em></td>
<td>Reported from several stations in the New River and Sinking Creek valleys.</td>
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<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Baltimore Oriole <em>(Icterus galbula)</em></td>
<td>Reported from many points in the valleys of New River and its larger tributaries. An intact male was found dead on a street in Penbrooke.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Common Grackle <em>(Quiscalus quiscula)</em></td>
<td>Rather numerous at lower elevations.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Brown-headed Cowbird <em>(Molothrus ater)</em></td>
<td>Reported scatteringly from all parts of the area, except higher mountain ridges. A young one was seen being fed by a Summer Tanager in Sinking Creek valley (the Shearers).</td>
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<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Scarlet Tanager <em>(Piranga olivacea)</em></td>
<td>Very common in forested areas throughout the region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Summer Tanager <em>(Piranga rubra)</em></td>
<td>Rare. A single report from near the Lucas Memorial Church, Sinking Creek Valley, elevation 2000 feet. A female was seen feeding a young cowbird (the Shearers).</td>
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<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Cardinal <em>(Richmondienas cardinalis)</em></td>
<td>Common throughout the valleys of the area up to about 3500 feet; absent on the higher mountain ridges.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Rose-breasted Grosbeak <em>(Pheucticus ludovicianus)</em></td>
<td>Irregularly distributed throughout the area; very common at higher altitudes, especially along the top of Salt Pond Mountain and Potter's Mountain. Several pairs nested around the Station.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Blue Grosbeak <em>(Guiraca caerulea)</em></td>
<td>Rare. A single male seen singing in the airport area, Blackshear; a probable sight record near Goldbond in Big Stony Creek Valley (Hurley).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Indigo Bunting <em>(Passerina cyanea)</em></td>
<td>Common in suitable territory at all elevations throughout the area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>American Goldfinch <em>(Spinus tristis)</em></td>
<td>Common throughout the area, especially so in the Little Meadows region.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Rufous-sided Towhee <em>(Pipilo erythropthalmus)</em></td>
<td>Common at all elevations throughout the area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Savannah Sparrow <em>(Passerculus sandwichensis)</em></td>
<td>A single unverified report from the Clover Hollow area (Hurley et al., June 13). This identification should probably be regarded as tentative, as there is no summer record for Virginia. However, there is a record of a bird of the Labrador</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
102. Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum) - Several reports from middle elevations.

103. Vesper Sparrow (Pooecetes gramineus) - A number of reports from middle and lower valley areas.

104. Bachman's Sparrow (Aimophila aestivalis) - Rare. One possible report from Clover Hollow at an elevation of about 2500 feet (Bartley, Hurley, et al.) Although scarce, this bird has been previously reported in the past twenty years from adjacent points in Craig, Montgomery, and Giles counties (Murray, 1952).

105. Slate-colored Junco (Junco hyemalis) - Common on the higher mountains and in the upper valleys. Nests on the Station grounds, frequently using the stone foundation posts beneath the cottages. As far as is known the local population consists only of *J. h. carolinensis*.

106. Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina) - More common at lower altitudes, but occasional on the higher mountain tops. A few nest about the Station grounds at 3850 feet, and around the Hotel at the lake.

107. Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla) - Generally distributed at all altitudes in suitable terrain.

108. Sorg Sparrow (Melospiza melodia) - Common at lower elevations but not found on the higher mountain ridges.

A. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Policoptila caerulea) - John's Creek valley (2500 feet +) and Mill Creek near Narrows (1600 feet +).

B. White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus) - Lower valley of Little Stony Creek (2100 feet +).

C. Kentucky Warbler (Oporornis formosus) - Lower valley of Little Stony Creek, three miles above Pembroke (2100 ft.) and Mill Creek (1600 ft.)

Carnegie Institute of Washington
Baltimore 5, Maryland.
BIRD BANDING AT THE 1959 FORAY

by Ralph K. Bell

When I arrived at Mountain Lake on June 10, Bunny Cole already had the banding operation going full blast. She seemed to have the right intuition when it comes to knowing just where to place the nets to get maximum results.

Nets were placed at four different locations in order to get a fair sampling of the breeding species in the area. These locations were as follows: on or near the campus; near the swimming pool; on Moonshine Dell Trail; and on Pond Drain Ravine near the first sharp curve.

Mrs. Cole banded 77 birds of 20 species in 194 net hours and Bell banded 51 birds of 15 species in 212 net hours, giving a total of 128 birds of 22 species which were banded in 406 net hours. This gives a good ratio of one bird per 3.17 net hours.

Mrs. Cole easily carried away the honors for banding the most birds. She also gave a very excellent demonstration on banding techniques to the persons attending the Brooks Bird Club Foray. Many people will long remember the beautiful colors of the birds brought into camp for everyone to view at close range.

We had hoped to band nestling Broad-winged Hawks, but the young in the nest on Pond Drain Ravine were too small.

Banding data at different locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>On or near Campus</th>
<th>Sw. Pool</th>
<th>Moonshine Dell Tr.</th>
<th>Pond Drain</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Flycatcher</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catbird</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Thrasher</td>
<td>2</td>
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The data above illustrate very well the effect of habitat on the lives of different birds. Only the ovenbird seems equally well at home at all locations on top of the mountain. The Wood Thrush was also found at all locations but not in equal numbers.

Clarksville, Pa.

EDITORIAL

The year 1960 will be a critical, indeed perhaps a decisive, year in the history of this publication. For twenty-six years the Brooks Bird Club has been publishing THE REDSTART, and the journal has attained a modest amount of importance to the bird students of this region. The outlook for the future, however, is decidedly gloomy, and the very distinct possibility exists that THE REDSTART will have to cease publication after this year. For some years the flow of material being submitted for publication has been dwindling to a trickle and now it has almost dried up completely.

The Editor's first interpretation of this has been to feel that the membership of the Club is losing interest in THE REDSTART, but further reflection seems to indicate that the problem is more complex than this. The problem, indeed, is not peculiar to the Brooks Bird Club, as shown by a recent Editorial asking for more cooperation from members appearing in THE PASSENGER PIGEON, the publication of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, and one of the most elaborate local bird publications. Groups of other kinds are complaining of having trouble maintaining member interest.

It seems to be a characteristic of our times that everyone has, or thinks he has, too many demands upon his time, and accordingly none of these various things gets the attention that it merits.

But regardless of the philosophical speculations behind the question, and despite the irability to precisely pinpoint the blame, the fundamental problem before the Brooks Bird Club is the prevention of the impending tragedy when THE REDSTART perishes. This problem must be recognized by every member of the Club and every member should resolve to do his part.

The Editor can think of several ways in which each member can contribute; some members can write articles of merit if they can overcome the grip of mental inertia; all members can contribute to the vital Field Note Section (this section has constituted about 40% of recent issues and without it THE REDSTART would have gone out of existence years ago); and all members can occasionally make suggestions to the Editor as to the type of articles they would like to read.

I am suddenly struck with the thought that writing this Editorial is like shooting the proverbial arrow into the air. If indeed the membership is not interested in the publication they will never read as far as these lines. If those who do not read them or those who do not heed them are too many, then 1960 will be more than decisive -- it will be fatal, and 1961 will never come for THE REDSTART.

George A. Hall
SAW-WET OWL RECORDS IN WEST VIRGINIA

By Gordon A. Knight

The Saw-whet Owl (Aegolius acadica) frequents the West Virginia mountains in small numbers, a few, at least, probably breeding regularly. Often years go by without reports of this retiring little owl and a high percentage of the records obtained are from dead or injured birds along highways. In fact the first adult specimen from West Virginia was taken in this manner on November 19, 1948, on Kennison Mountain, Pocahontas County (Edeburn, 1950).

This fall while tending the mist nets of an Operation Recovery banding station on Allegheny Front Mountain, Tucker County, I discovered an adult Saw-whet Owl entangled in a net on the morning of September 10, 1959. The bird was banded and was observed by several persons before its subsequent release. Nine days later, on September 19, another Saw-whet Owl was found in the nets at about 10 P.M. This bird, also an adult, was banded and immediately released.

It seems likely, when considering the date, that these birds were local residents rather than migrants. The period of occurrence for wintering and transient Saw-whet Owls for nearby Maryland (the western section of which has conditions quite similar to West Virginia) is October 20-30 to March 20-30 (Stewart and Robbins, 1958).

Late on the evening of April 17, 1959, a Saw-whet Owl was heard calling in Randolph County by Dr. George Hall, Steven Savitt, and the writer (Hall, 1959).

One heard in "Blister Swamp" at the foot of Gaudineer Knob, Randolph County, on the evening of June 3, 1955, by Maurice Brooks and Fred Brooks is another recent record (K. Brooks, 1935).

The first West Virginia specimen, an immature bird, indicating the first breeding record for the state, was collected at Cranefield, Preston County, June 22, 1932 (A. B. Brooks, 1933).

Other early records include three young birds seen near Alpena, Randolph County, in June 1934 by Reynolds Smith (K. Brooks, 1944) and an immature female taken in Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, on June 12, 1936 (Netmore, 1938). At the time this record established Cranberry Glades as the most southerly known breeding station for the species in Eastern United States but it has since been found nesting in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Bent reports that a Saw-whet Owl was seen at Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, on December 24, 1914 (Bent, 1938).

The species was seen near Huntington, Cabell County, on December 30, 1951 and December 21, 1952 by Land. (Seeber & Edeburn, 1952)

Although these few records (less than a dozen in nearly half a century) would seem to indicate that the species is only a casual visitor to the state this likely is not at all the real situation.

The bulk of the state's records are spring and summer dates which point to an established breeding population. Also, the Saw-whet Owl's habits and behavior patterns minimize opportunities for observation.
The species no doubt breeds regularly in the higher mountain areas of the state.

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Wetmore, A.

128 Jones Avenue
Morgantown, W. Va.
1959  
The Fall Season  
September 1 to November 30

September was generally sunny and mild with above normal temperatures and very little precipitation. October had more precipitation but was still warmer than normal. November was about normal with several cold fronts, especially the 14th and 15th to keep the waterfowl moving.

The waterfowl migration was extremely poor. Dressel characterized it as the worst in 40 years of birding in the Poland, Ohio area. An Ohio River census flight by the West Virginia Conservation Commission showed about 100 birds while several thousand were seen at the same time last year. While variety was good, numbers were very low in most species. Swans and Geese were the exception and appeared in good numbers. Shorebirds were also abundant but somewhat late in migration.

A good Hawk migration was observed at Reddish Knob and in Monroe County. A wide variety of song birds was observed in most areas, with a general peak, if one could be determined, from September 15th to 30th.

Some of the more unusual records for the season include MARBLED GODWIT, BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, SURF SCOTER, YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, a late BLUE GRAY Gnatcatcher and an attempted wintering of a PRAIRIE WARBLER.

During the year, Field Notes has mentioned 241 species with at least 14 more appearing in other Restart articles for a total of 255. While less than last year's 261, the total is above average.

COMMON LOON: The migration was about normal in most areas. Small flocks of 10 to 12 were noted in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, Ohio starting about mid-October (VPM and ECD). Singles listed at Conneaut and Pymatuning, Pa. (DFF). Records from Morgantown area start November 8. Twenty-four were seen on November 15 at Deep Creek Lake, Md. (GAH)

RED NECKED GREBE: Four birds at Evans Lake, Ohio on December 2, are the only ones reported (ECD).

HORSED GREBE: Generally a light flight. However, Ferris reported 20 at Pyma- 
tuning, Pa., on November 15. A dozen on Evans Lake, Ohio the first week in November (ECD). Hall saw 30 on November 15 with one flock of 25 at Deep Creek Lake, Md.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: Scarce. Numbers reported are only 10 to 20% of last year. Areas reporting include Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula Counties and Barnesville, Ohio; McClintic Wildlife Station and Morgantown, W. Va.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORNORANT: Single birds listed at Evans Lake, Ohio on October 26 (ECD) and at Cheat Lake on November 8th (GAH).

GREAT BLUE HERON: Savage lists them on the increase in Ashtabula County, Ohio. Mrs. Cain also found great numbers at Barnesville, Ohio. Other areas report low numbers. Singles in November at Mountain Lake Park, Md., on the 8th (GAH); McClintic on the 7th (GFH); Barnesville on the 15th (C&C) and Monroe County on the 8th (Polly Handlan).
COMMON EGRET: Migrants were few this year. The greatest number found was at Berlin Reservoir, Ohio where 22 were seen on September 17 (VPi). The latest date at Barnesville, O., was October 9 where 6 were counted (C&C). Ferris reported 12 at Pymatuning, Pa., on October 18 and lists an unusually late single there on October 26. More common in the Eastern Panhandle (CM). Ken Anderson reported 4 at Bluestone Dam on September 26.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: More common in Eastern Panhandle this year (CM).

GREBE HERO: Latest dates were October 9 and 11th at Barnesville, O., and McClintic respectively. Not common at McClintic (CM).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Savage saw 10 at Pymatuning, Pa., on October 4th. Six immatures at Barnesville, O., on September 29 (C&C).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Perkins' report of one on the Conneaut River on October 10 is the only record.

MUTE SWAN: Joe Cram (fide Van Cleve) saw one on North Park Lake-Pittsburgh on October 3.

WHISTLING SWAN: The migration was very satisfactory and considerably above last year's, both in numbers and areas reporting. Dressel's observations in Mahoning County, Ohio include 6 at Evans Lake on October 18, 174 on November 7, and 104 at Meander Reservoir on November 8. The first migrants in Ashtabula County, O., were listed on November 1 (PHS). On November 8 at Lake Erie, 8 flocks comprising a total of 900 birds were seen. Gordon Knight (fide Hall) counted 120 over the Monongahela on November 7th while Maxwell saw 50 on Chest River that same day. With the advancing cold front of November 14-15th many observers reported. Ferris at Mosquito had 64; Chapman had 11 at Seneca Lake; Handley reported 34 on Scott Pond at Beverly. Later, on November 17, Miller listed 40 over Inwood. A good proportion of the birds were cygnets.

CANADA GOOSE: Reporters generally agree that it was a most successful Fall for the migration in our area. Numbers at Evans Lake starting on October 5 ranged from 26 to 300 birds all during the season to make it the best that Dressel has had there. Skaggs had 200 on Sherwins Pond near Willoughby, Ohio for more than a month starting in early October. Most other reporters listed several to 50 at any given time.

BRANT: Walter Lesser (fide CMH) reported one at Crystal Lake, Doddridge County, on November 9th and 10th. While occasionally listed in our area, it is uncommon. Five were seen at the Tygart Reservoir near Crafton on November 7 (W. M. Booth).

SNOW GOOSE: Four stayed on Sherwins Pond, Willoughby, Ohio most of October and November (MBS). Ferris listed 2 at Pymatuning on November 1. Leberman reports them in good numbers at Pymatuning. Weren seen at State College, Pa., by Wood.

BLUE GOOSE: Two found at Ashtabula on October 25 (PHS). At Evans Lake, 6 were seen in mid-October (EDC). Skaggs counted 11 at Sherwin's Pond. Two fed on a lawn at Scotts Pond, Beverly on November 15. Dr. J. J. Murray saw one at Lexington, Va., on October 20. On Oct. 21 McClelland recorded one at Butler, Pa., which is unusual in Western Pennsylvania south of Pymatuning (fide BVC).
MALLARD and BLACK DUCK: Flights in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties starting about November 20 were considered normal. Estimates on the several lakes approached several thousand. Hall finds a shift in the Mallard to Black ratio over the last few years. Formerly about 75% of the ducks were Blacks and now the situation is reversed - 75% are Mallards.

GADWALL: Single birds at McClintic on October 11 (GFH) and at Barnesville, O., on November 1 (C&C). Numbers are dangerously low compared to several years ago.

AMERICAN WIDGEON: Low numbers of this species also. Ferris reports largest flock of 30 at Mosquito Lake, Ohio on November 8.

PITTTEL: Chapman reports only a few at Barnesville, Ohio with a November 1st date. Individuals at Morgantown (GAH) and Bear Rock Lakes, Ohio County (GP).

TEAL: Numbers of both BLUE and GREEN WINGED reported at Hebron, Ohio on September 27 (TS). Flock of 24 BLUE WINGED on September 4th at Conneaut Harbor, Ohio (Perkins). A dozen at McClintic on October 11 and singles on November 7 (GFH).

SHOVELER: Ferris reported 10 on November 15 at Pymatuning for the only record.

WOOD DUCK: Subnormal in Mahoning County, Ohio (ECD).

REDHEAD: Few reported at McClintic on November 7 (GFH): Beverly (COH) and Morgantown (GAH) on November 15.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Mrs. Chapman called them plentiful at Barnesville, Ohio on November 1st but other reporters found them so scarce as to be completely lacking in many areas.

CANVASBACK: This is another casualty of recent years. The bag limit this season was set at a very low one duck per hunter for the season. Many people are of the opinion that the season should have been closed on this species. Hochbein (fide Hall), an authority on duck populations, felt numbers were so low that there were more Whistling Swans than Canvasbacks in North America.

SCAUP: Hall's comment - "a very spotty flight" is indicative of the migration. Singles and small flocks reported at Charleston and Beverly on November 15 (COH), wheeling on the 17th (GP), and McClintic on November 17 (GFH).

COOT OR GOLDFEYE: Good flight in Morgantown area where a peak of 19 was recorded on November 19 (GAH). On the 29th, Ferris listed 5 at Pymatuning. A single at Barnesville, Ohio on the 15th (C&C). First arrivals at Highland Park Reservoir, Pittsburgh, Pa., arrived November 8. By the 29th a flock of 29 was counted, the largest number recorded since 1953 for that date.

BUFFLEHEAD: Hall reported a "heavy flight". Statistics show 30 on November 14 and 200 on the 15th in Morgantown area. Fair numbers in Mahoning County, Ohio (ECD). Fourteen at Pymatuning on November 15 (DFF). Also reported at Hebron, Pa. November 21 (TS) and Barnesville, Ohio (C&C).
OLD SQUAW: Two on November 15 at Morgantown (GAH) and one at Tygart Reservoir on November 7 (Booth).

SURF SCOTER: Hall identified 6 at Lake of the Woods on October 18 and 25th. It is his "best record of the Fall" and probably the third for the State. Both others in the same area were by Brooks about 1936 and Hall in 1952. Other recent records for this area include records by Van Cleve at Highland Park, Pa., of singles in 1954 and 1955 which are the only known records for that area. It also occurs on Lake Erie.

COMMON SCOTER: One at Tygart Reservoir on November 7 (Booth).

RUDDY DUCK: The "best autumn flight in five years" at Morgantown (GAH), where 113 were seen on November 15. Handley listed 32 at Beverly the following day. Fair numbers in Mahoning County, Ohio (ECD).

Mergansers: Six HOODED at Mosquito Lake, Ohio on November 8 (DFF). Four at Barnesville, Ohio on the same date (C&C). Good flight at Morgantown where Hall saw 33 on November 15. Several COMMONs at Seneca Lake on the 15th (C&C). Single at Morgantown on the 22nd (GAH). A few RED BREASTED at Seneca Lake, Ohio on November 15 (C&C).

TURKEY VULTURE: Last sighting at Morgantown is November 1 (GAH). Shields recorded last one at Zanesville, Ohio on November 21.

Hawks: Conrad and party had best flight in recent years at Reddish Knob on September 19 and 20th. Most were BROADWINGS but 25 RED-SHOULDERED were listed as were ROUGH-LEGGED, and MARSH in addition to the usual varieties. At Peters Mountain in Monroe County, the Handlan Chapter had better than the usual count -- 527 BROADWINGS, 5 RED-SHOULDERED, 5 RED-TAILED, 3 COOPERS, only 1 SHARP-SHINNED and no SPARROW HAWKS. Clark Miller had a poor two days, September 13 and 20th, when he listed only 42 in a total of 15 hours. RED-TAILED plentiful in Mahoning County, Ohio (ECD). Three RED-SHOULDERED at McClintic on November 7, which is more than usual for a single trip. McLoughlin had a female PEREGRINE FALCON in his yard near Poland, Ohio on November 2. Perkins listed a ROUGH-LEGGED at Conneaut Creek, Ohio on November 5.

OSPREY: Chapman and Cain reported one on September 27. Conrad saw one at Piedmont Lake, Ohio on September 26.

BOHEMITE: The W. Va. Conservation Commission indicates a lowered population. Miller, however, find them more numerous than ever in the Inwood area.

TURKEY: Phillips says hunters in the Sandy Ridge area of Hardy County, reported a very high population. In the state as a whole, the official kill was 1017 to November 30, compared to a total of 1499 for the entire 1958 season. It is very likely that the total season's bag will not be up to last year's.

RAILS: VIRGINIA RAIL at Seneca Lake, Ohio on September 25 (C&C). Several SORA at McClintic on October 11 (Anderson). A YELLOW RAIL was picked up dead in early November in Westmoreland Co., Penna., the first record away from the Northern part of the state and the latest record (K. C. Parkes).

COMMON GALLINULE: At least 2 pairs nested at Lake Louise (CM).
COOT: Numbers down some at McClintic where only 10 were listed on November 7 (GFH). Hall found more than the usual number but they were not numerous at Morgantown.

PIPING PLOVER: Ahlquist reported one on October 3 at Walnut Beach, Ohio. This is only the fourth sighting in recent years for the area.

KILLDEER: Plentiful in Ashtabula County where flocks to 100 birds were seen with the latest report dated November 29 (PHS). A November 22 record at Deep Creek Lake, Md. (GAR).

GOLDEN PLOVER: Five at Berlin Reservoir, Mahoning County, Ohio on September 20 (ECD). Several at Walnut Beach, Ohio as late as October 12 (PHS). Also at Barnesville, Ohio on September 13 (C&C). Also reported at Pymatuning October 17 (Leberman) and at State College, Pa. (Clarke).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Ferris reports numbers up at Mosquito Lake, O., where he saw 10 on October 10. A late sighting at Walnut Beach, Ohio on November 7 (Ahlquist) and a still later one at Barnesville on November 15 (C&C). Listed at Piedmont Lake, Ohio by C. Conrad.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Berlin Reservoir, Ohio on September 20 (ECD) and various sightings on shores of Lake Erie during September by Savage et al. More records than usual.

WHIMBREL: One bird was seen during the period September 20 - 26 at Oakmont, Allegheny County, Pa., by several observers. While it has been observed at Walnut Beach, its appearance in Allegheny County is quite rare. (fide BVC).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: Ten birds were observed by Perkins and Savage at Pymatuning on September 18, a high number for the area.

YELLOWLEGS: Great concentration of the GREATER at Pymatuning where 75 were seen on September 18 (Perkins). A flock of 30 all during October in same area may be part of the same flock. Common in Inwood (CH). Ten LESSERS at Cherry Run Reservoir, Pittsburgh, Pa. on October 26 (fide BVC).

KNOT: Ahlquist saw 4 at Walnut Beach, Ohio on September 4.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: Ahlquist et al. observed one on November 21 at Walnut Beach, Ohio which is above average for the year.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Most areas with mud flats reported numbers of them with the November 21 date at Walnut Beach, Ohio being quite late.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Davies (fide PHS) saw one at close range on September 20 at Walnut Beach, Ohio. Record of 2 in same area by Ahlquist on November 7. Shields found them at Hebron on September 27 and November 21 (6).

DUNLIN: More reports than usual indicating an increased migration through the area. In the Pymatuning-Erie area, 20 on October 26 and 17 on November 1 constitute the highest numbers ever found there (Ferris). Also reported at Barnesville (6-8), Pine Lake, Mahoning County (20) and Deep Creek Lake (15). Latest date is November 22 at Walnut Beach which is very late.
DOWITCHER: A few stragglers from the Summer include 3 on September 26 at Pymatuning (Ferris); one at Pebron, Ohio on the 27th (TS); and a late October 10 at Walnut Beach, Ohio (Ahlquist).


WESTERN SANDPIPER: Recorded at Barnesville, Ohio, Piedmont Lake, Berlin Reservoir, Ohio with the best record of 30 at the latter on September 20. Fairly common at Inwood in October (CN).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: An uncommon record of a single on September 6 at Walnut Beach, the fourth in 8 years by Postle (fide PHS).

MARBLED GODWIT: Another unusual record at Walnut Beach. Newkirk (fide PHS) saw one on September 2. Previous record in same area on same date in 1956. Also recorded at Mosquito Lake on September 22, 1957.

SANDELLING: Reports from the Ohio Lakes area include Piedmont Lake, Ohio (C&C), Barnesville (C&C), and Berlin Reservoir (ECD) all in mid-September.

RED PHALAROPE: One of the few sightings in Ashtabula County where Savage and Ahlquist saw 2 on November 11 at Walnut Beach. Hicks collected one in July 1937 at Pymatuning.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Dressel saw 2 at Pymatuning in November.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE: Conrad and Chapman both report the species from East Central Ohio. The former at Piedmont Lake, on September 13, and the latter at Seneca Lake on November 15. While all the Phalaropes are uncommon in the area, a few generally appear annually.

GULLS: RING-BILLED common in Mahoning County, Ohio with some HERRING and flocks of 15 to 50 BONAPARTES (McCoughlin). Similar situation at Barnesville, Ohio regarding the first 2 species. A flock of 30 on Ohio River at Moundsville on November 17 (GP).

TERN'S: Dressel mentions a few COMMON'S in Mahoning County, Ohio. Anderson saw a BLACK at Bluestone on September 26.

CUCKCOS: Latest YELLOW-BILLED dates was October 3 both at Pittsburgh (from fide BVC) and Ashtabula (Ahlquist). A BLACK-BILLED became a Carnegie Museum specimen by flying into a window at Gibsonia, Allegheny Co. on October 12, which is a week later than Todd's (birds of Western Pennsylvania) latest record (BVC). The October 31 record of the BLACK-BILLED at Nitro is unusual (Smith).

OWLS: Knight (fide CAH) banded one SAW-WHET on September 10 and one on the 19th on Allegheny Front Mountain. One LONG-EARED reported at Lake Erie on October 17 by Thayer (fide PHS) and 2 seen in Mahoning County, Ohio by Richter (fide VPH).

WHIPPOORWILL: Miller reported bird at Shepherdstown, W. Va. on September 26 which is latest he has ever heard one.

NIGHTHAWK: A few stragglers found on September 21 at Barnesville, Ohio and the 29th at Pittsburgh.
CHIMNEY SWIFT: Late dates are October 10-15 at Morgantown, Charleston, Barnesville and Piedmont, which are about normal. October 17th at Zanesville (TS) and the 18th at Conneaut (Perkins) are just a bit unusual.

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: Scattered reports of birds particularly in the Southern sections up to December 1. Plentiful at McClintic as late as October 11 (GFH).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Decreasing in Morgantown (GAH) and areas of Charleston (AS) but increasing at McClintic. At St. Albans they have been coming to the writer's feeder for the first time.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: More reports may indicate a heavier migration into the area. The September 20 date at Pittsburgh is the earliest (BVC).

EASTERN KING BIRD: Shields saw one at Blue Rock, Ohio on September 26 which is about 3 weeks later than normal migration.

PHOEBE: A number of mid- and late October reports. Five at McClintic October 11 (GFH) with a single on November 7. November 15 at Barnesville, Ohio (C&C).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: One was banded on Allegheny Front by Bell, on September 12. Chapman found one at Barnesville, Ohio on October 16.

OTHER FLYCATCHERS: An OLIVE-SIDED at Poland, Ohio October 15; also one at Charleston October 24 (Anderson). Bell banded a LEAST at Clarksville on September 6. This is the first time he has noticed the bird there. WOOD PEWEE October 11 in Hocking County, Ohio (CC).

SWallows: Latest date for the BARN is September 18 at Barnesville, Ohio where a dozen were seen. TREES at same place on a very late October 18.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE: Van Cleve reports 3 at Highland Park, Pittsburgh on September 27 which he notes are definitely escapes. Miller reported seeing one East of Uniontown, Pa. on November 15. Gluck saw one at Blackwater Falls in mid-October. The status of the latter 2, whether true migrants or escapes, is not known to the writer. One also at Port Republic, Va. on September 21 (N. Carpenter).

CROW: McLaughlin reports that the annual big roost in Mahoning County may not be active this year due to hunters systematically "shooting up" the birds.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: The peak movement at Clarksville, Pa. was about November 1 on which day Bell had 8 birds in his net at one time. Rather heavy migration there but only modest at Pittsburgh.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Very few reports. The earliest date is September 13 at Pittsburgh (BVC). Had not been reported in Charleston area by December 1.

BROWN CREEPER: Many observers listed it. About normal at Morgantown after several lean years (GAH). First date is September 27 at Pittsburgh (BVC).

WRENS: October 26 at Barnesville is the latest for the HOUSE WREN (C&C). Numerous WINTER WREN reports with the earliest at Pittsburgh on September 27 (BVC). CAROLINIA population up. LONG and SHORT-HILLED MARSH WREN dates, both late, are October 4 and 12 respectively at Conneaut (JPP).
MOKINGBIRD: One wintering at feeder in Indiana, Pa. (fide BVC). Fairly common in other more southern areas.

CATBIRD: Thirty-six banded in September on Allegheny Front (GAH). A pair present at Wyatt to November 17 (CM). Last northern date is October 15 at Pittsburgh (BVC).

ROBIN: Plentiful at Poland, Ohio, Wheeling, and Charleston but down at Pittsburgh. MoBee found a partial albino at Clarksburg and also listed some 400 at Fairmont on October 6.

WOOD THRUSH: A very late November 8 record at Indiana, Pa. by Williams who is regarded as a competent observer by Van Cleve.

HERMIT THRUSH: Scarce at Pittsburgh. The first time in 6 years that Bell hasn't banded any. Singles in Ashtabula area in mid-October.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: An unusually late November 9 at Indiana, Pa. by Williams (fide BVC). Todd's late date is October 14. Also one at Ashtabula during most of October (JA).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: Five banded on Allegheny Front during September (GAH). One at Barnesville, Ohio September 12 (C&C).

BLUEBIRD: Practically all observers say that numbers are back up to normal.

BLUE-GRAY GnatCatcher: One bird was at State College, Pa. from mid-November to December 1 (Bordner) which is very unusual.

KINGLETS: A good flight of GOLDEN-CROWNED on Allegheny Front starting October 11 (GAH). Good numbers at Pittsburgh and Ashtabula. RUBY-CROWNED population subnormal at Pittsburgh (BVC). Good flight at Allegheny Front where 10 were banded (GAH).

WATER PIPIT: Migrating at Reddish Knob on September 19 (CC). Six near Nitro on October 31 (JS). Two at Wyatt on September 24 (IM). Fifty at Morgantown on November 7 (GAH).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Late date is October 11 at Conkles Hollow, Hocking Co. Ohio (CC).

RED-EYED VIREO: Heaviest migration about September 15-20 at Charleston (AS). The October 11 date at Hocking County, Ohio is latest (CC).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Rare in our area, four of these were banded at Allegheny Front (GAH). Savage listed one on September 11 at Ashtabula, Ohio. Also one at Pittsburgh on September 26 (BVC).

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: Scarce at Pittsburgh. Mrs. Cain had one in her yard at Barnesville on November 16 which is very late.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Very scarce and late at Pittsburgh where the peak was October 4 with the last date the 6th (BVC). In numbers in Hocking County October 10 (TS).
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Found at Wyatt, W. Va. on October 2 (LM) and 6 at Ashtabula, Ohio on the 4th (JA).

MASHVILLE WARBLER: Some late dates are October 7 - Pittsburgh (BVC); the 25th at Conneaut (JPP); and a very late November 8 at Morgantown (GAH).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Widely reported in good numbers. 44 were banded on Allegheny Front with highs on September 7 and 27 (GAH).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Good flights in Hocking County, October 10-11 (CC), and at Poland (ECD). Late date is October 25 at Pittsburgh (BVC).

MYRTLE WARBLER: Common in most areas except Pittsburgh. 40 at Ashtabula on October 3 (JA).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: Many September, October reports with Van Cleve's Pittsburgh record of October 25 the latest date.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Four at Orwell, Ohio on October 4 is latest report (DFF).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: McBee saw one at close range at Wyatt on September 21. Also one on the 11th at Charleston (JS). October 10-11 in Hocking County, Ohio (CC)

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Van Cleve heard one in full song September 19 at Pittsburgh where the season was normal otherwise. Shields record of October 17th at Blue Rock, Ohio is latest date.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: An unusually heavy concentration at Ashtabula where Savage saw a flock of 50 on September 19. October 11 at Conkle's Hollow, Ohio (CC).

PINE WARBLER: Three at Barnesville on September 24 (C&C). One at writer's feeder all during period.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: One bird coming to writer's feeder daily in company with Pine and Myrtle.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Uncommon in the area even in migration but 3 were banded during September on Allegheny Front (GAH). Singles listed at Barnesville September 20, Walnut Beach September 7, and Conneaut October 8 (JPP).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Five of this uncommon migrant banded at Allegheny Front (GAH). Also at Conneaut September 10 (JPP) and the 19th at Barnesville (C&C).

BOPOLINK: Perkins saw 12 on September 8 at Walnut Beach. Bird is generally not noted in Fall migration.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Perhaps the outstanding record of the period. Perkins found 2 at Walnut Beach on September 3 in a cattail marsh. The only other sighting in Ashtabula County is one by Hicks in April 1937, at Pymatuning. Todd lists a single in Western Pennsylvania in 1928.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Van Cleve's five-year record for the late date of September 5 was broken this year when last birds were seen in mid-August.
COMMON GRACKLE: Flocks of several hundred passed through Warwood, Wheeling in mid-September (CC). An approximate 3,000 in Ann Shreve's section of Charleston in early October, the first time they have appeared in the area in numbers. Huge flocks of mixed BLACKBIRDS migrated through Wheeling in late September. An estimated 200 in Southeast Charleston November 11 (COH).

SCARLET TAFFAGER: A late record of October 10 in Hocking County (CC).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Late dates are September 25- Barnesville (C&C); October 3- Pittsburgh (BVC); and an unusually late October 30 at Conneaut Creek (JPP) where the previous late date is about October 10.

BLUE GROSBEAK: Mrs. Cain, at Barnesville, Ohio reported 2 on September 29.

INDIGO BUNTING: Mrs. Cain had one feeding in her yard in the snow November 28.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Fairly widespread but not in any great numbers. From mid-November to December 1, Dressel had reports from 6 areas near Lima, Ohio where up to 20 birds were coming to feeders. Single at Barnesville October 13 (C&C). Several at Morgantown November 15 (GAH). Also at Pittsburgh, State College, Pa. where Bordner (fide GAH) banded 123 to December 2; Meadville and Indiana, Pa., where 27 were at a feeder on November 11. A December 4 report from Buckhannon (McCue).

PURPLE FINCH: Arrived about October 25 which is earlier than usual in Charleston area (AS). Also seem to be more common in Kanawha Valley (GFH).

COMMON REDPOPP: Miller (fide ECD) saw a flock of 200 west of Youngstown on November 1.

PIE SISKIN: Three November records include 5 at Conneaut on the 2nd (JPP), 4 at Charleston on the 10th, and 3 at Nitro on the 26th (JS).

SAVANNAH SPARROW: The latest reported was October 9 at Barnesville (C&C).

VESPER SPARROW: Williams (fide BVC) had a later than usual one on November 8 near Indiana, Penna.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: About normal in numbers and perhaps a bit late in arriving. The earliest at Pittsburgh was September 17 (BVC) but the main flock didn't arrive until mid-October. Conrad reported some 500 at Rowlesburg on October 31.

TREE SPARROW: Scarce in most areas. Two exceptions are Poland, Ohio and Morgantown. At Poland, Dressel reports a normal season, while Hall indicates above normal numbers.

CHIPPING SPARROW: The migration peak was about September 28. Last date at Pittsburgh is November 1, while Bell banded 1 on November 8, at Clarks-ville, Pa.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Very good flight at Willoughby, Ohio where Skaggs banded 46 starting October 4. Also plentiful at Inwood (CH).
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Very common in Charleston and St. Albans areas where they are coming to many feeders this year for the first time. McGurl has up to 150 birds daily. Where people have been seeing 2 or 3, they now see 20 or 30. Other areas generally agree they are plentiful. An early one banded September 20 at Allegheny Front. September 26 at Pittsbugh.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Skaggs banded only 2 at Willoughby, Ohio. Reported dates range from September 19 to October 10. Fair flight at Morgantown on October 17-31.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Davies (fide PHS) reported one at Walnut Beach on September 20 which is early.

SNOW BUNTING: Savage reported numerous flocks over wide areas of Ashtabula County, Ohio. For example, 400 on November 8 at Walnut Beach and 35 on the 30th at Orwell, Ohio.

Key to Contributors for this period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS</td>
<td>Paul H. Savage</td>
<td>Ashtabula County, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JA</td>
<td>Jon A. Ahlquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFF</td>
<td>Duane Ferris</td>
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<td>JPP</td>
<td>J. Paul Perkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVC</td>
<td>Bernard Van Cleve</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TS</td>
<td>Tom Shields</td>
<td>Zanesville, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>C&amp;C</td>
<td>Mrs. Cain &amp; Mrs. Chapman</td>
<td>Barnesville, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBS</td>
<td>Merit B. Skaggs</td>
<td>Willoughby, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECD</td>
<td>Evan C. Dressel</td>
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<tr>
<td>VPM</td>
<td>Vincent P. McLaughlin</td>
<td>Trumbull &amp; Mahoning Counties, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>RKB</td>
<td>Ralph K. Bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>Charles Conrad</td>
<td>Wheeling, W. Va.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>Glen Phillips</td>
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<tr>
<td>JS</td>
<td>John Smith</td>
<td>Nitro, W. Va.</td>
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<td>AS</td>
<td>Ann Shreve</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Clark Miller</td>
<td>Inwood, W. Va.</td>
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Many thanks to the above reporters and others who contributed observations during the year and so helped to make Field Notes more valuable.

George F. Hurley
920 Hughes Drive
St. Albans, W. Va.

Contributions for the Winter Season, December 1 to February 29, are due on March 15. For the Spring Season, March 1 to May 31, they will be due on June 15.
Here is the schedule for our Brooks Bird Club program for 1960. We hope that you will check the dates on your calendar, keep this schedule handy and join the group whenever possible. The highlight of the 1960 program will be the 21th annual BBC Foray to be held in June at 4-E Camp Kidd, Parsons, W. Va.

Leaders or Chapters have been appointed to take charge of details and the program committee expects them to take care of all local details. All members will be notified by special bulletin or through THE MAILBAG for each activity or any change in the schedule that might be necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LEADER OR SPONSOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Write to your Club &amp; Editor</td>
<td>MAILBAG Editor</td>
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<td>February 6-7</td>
<td>Annual Mid-Winter Meeting</td>
<td>Headquarters Chapter</td>
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<td>March 12-13</td>
<td>Field Trip, Point Pleasant</td>
<td>Hurley &amp; Kletzly</td>
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<td>April 22-24</td>
<td>Field Trip, Middle Mountain</td>
<td>Laitesch &amp; Conrad</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1 or 8 or 15</td>
<td>Century Day Bird Counts</td>
<td>Evan Dressel</td>
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<td>May 20-22</td>
<td>Field Trip, Sutton's Warbler Project, Harpers Ferry, W. Va.</td>
<td>Miller's, Capertons, Walkers, Newcomers</td>
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<td>July 23-24</td>
<td>Cook's Forest</td>
<td>Heimerdingers</td>
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<td>August ?</td>
<td>Field Trip, Presque Isle</td>
<td>Bell-Hall-Knight</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Operation Recovery (entire month)</td>
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<td>September 3-4-5</td>
<td>Bear Rocks, Tucker County, W. Va.</td>
<td>Club Officers</td>
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<td>September 16-18</td>
<td>Annual Meeting and Reunion</td>
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<td>October 14-16</td>
<td>Camp Piedmont, Ohio</td>
<td>Chuck Conrad</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td>Annual Meeting Executive Comm.</td>
<td>Handlan Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24--Jan.1</td>
<td>Christmas Bird Census Counts</td>
<td>At the Clubroom</td>
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SPECIAL LOCAL SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- June: Oglebay Park
- July: Murray Manor
- Aug.: Laitesch's Acre

SEASONAL FIELD NOTES DUE

- December 15
- March 15
- June 15
- September 15

Mail to: George Hurley
920 Hughes Drive
St Albans, W. Va.