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FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1932

Named in honor of A. B. Brooks, Naturalist

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THE REDSTART is published quarterly in January, April, July and October by Harless Printing Company, St. Albans, West Virginia. The official organ of the Brooks Bird Club, it is mailed to all members in good standing. Non-member subscription price is $2.50. Individual copies cost $0.50 except the Foray issue which is $1.00. Changes of address and inquiries concerning back issues should be mailed to club headquarters, 707 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, West Virginia. All articles for publication and books for review should be mailed to the Editor.

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BIRDS OF HOLLY RIVER 1942 vs 1966
Marion and Merit Skaggs

A score and four years ago, the Brooks Bird Club's Foray was held at Holly River State Park, Webster county, West Virginia. To-day, the hills, Park buildings and Mr. Jacob Klee are not much different than they were then, but the trees have grown considerably. This is the conclusion the writers reached when we spent the week of June 19, 1966 at Holly River. The habitat of the Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers was gone. But, the tall trees of the forest provided cool shade and welcome relief from the hot June sun that broiled the open spaces. Whereas the 1942 Foray was marked by several rainy days and cool weather, our week at Holly River was all fair weather—hot sunny days but cool nights for good sleeping. The total number of birds listed on the Foray was 74 species. After comparing our notes and observations to the Foray report, we found no significant change in the abundance of forty species. The birds were as follows:


Again comparing our notes and list of birds to the 1942 Foray list, we came to the negative side of the comparison. We found that 21 species either were not found in 1966 or were seemingly present in decreased numbers. Birds marked with an asterisk (*) were on the 1942 list but not found in 1966.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher (1 only), Eastern Kingbird, Rough-winged Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Swainson's Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Meadowlark, Indigo Bunting, Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow.

While changes in habitat probably account for some birds being on this list, two observers can easily miss some birds that would be found by more people giving better coverage. For example, we did see Cedar Waxwings at Rock Cave, some 18 miles from the park, and just did not see any hummingbirds. Although we looked for Swainson's Warbler and had been taught by Bill Legg as to its identification, we did not find it. A search over a larger area might have located suitable habitat for the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers. Strangely, the Mourning Dove did not appear on either the 1942 list or our list of 1966! Can it be that scarce in the area?

On the plus side, birds noted in 1966 that appeared to be more numerous than in 1942 were: Acadian Flycatcher, very common and the 'extra note' song was heard one evening. A nest, 12 feet up in a birch tree and over Laurel Fork held young birds on June 21; The Catbird was very common about the cabins and young birds were observed. At least 3 pairs of Brown Thrashers were observed. Wood Thrush were abundant about the cabins and common in most park areas. This bird furnished most of the volume for the evening chorus. Warm-eating Warblers and Black-throated Green Warblers were much more common than was indicated in 1942. Several singing Blackburnian Warblers were found and the Ovenbird was fairly common, singing on the hillsides and ridges. Louisiana Water-thrush was surprisingly common, not only about the cabins but along the Pickens road. The birds were in full song and much chipping indicated families of young ones were about. Kentucky Warblers were found in several places and we 'Northerners' had to learn the song all over again. The Hooded Warbler was the most common warbler in the park! Evidently conditions are now right to support a dense population whereas the Foray report of 1942 listed this bird as 'not very common'. We classified Cardinals and Scarlet Tanagers as 'common' and saw young birds of both species. Marion fished one baby tanager out of the creek after it fell some 10 feet into the shallow water. The list of more numerous birds' totals 13 species.

Birds found at Holly River in 1966 but not listed in the 1942 Foray report were the following: Great Horned Owl—an seen in day time by Park Naturalist Paul Simmons on June 24; Turkey, several young seen by Park Superintendent Walt R. Shupe; we found three pairs of Least Flycatchers in the Hacker Valley area; Crows did not appear to be common but we did see and hear some; two Ravens were seen and heard on June 25. House Wren, found only at Hacker Valley as was the Warbling Vireo. Near the Hacker Valley cemetery, we found a nesting Orchard Oriole; along the Left Fork of the Holly River, we saw and heard a female Summer Tanager on June 21. The single Rose-breasted Grosbeak was near Cabin 1. Ten species comprise this group.

The 1966 bird list totaled 71 species. Most amusing sight of the week was a yellow cat, atop a fence post in Hacker Valley, duction the swoops of three Barn Swallows.

Fal fe had no especial effort to locate bird nests. In addition to the Acadian Flycatcher nest mentioned above, we saw nests of the Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, each containing 3 or 4 young birds.

The evening chorus was beautiful and dominated by four species: Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush and Acadian Flycatcher. We were able to tape-record some of these songs. Did we enjoy our week at Holly River State Park? Indeed we did.

Willoughby, Ohio

EARLY NATURALISTS ON THE GREENBRIER AND BLACKWATER
John Smith

Two naturalists who contributed greatly to our knowledge of the bird life of West Virginia during the years immediately preceding and following the turn of the century were Thaddeus Surber and Dr. William C. Rives. Surber was a student of the birds of Greenbrier County and Rives studied the birds at Davis in the spruce forests. Even though these areas are quite different ornithologically, the work of both men is discussed in this article because they are related in time and were associated through correspondence.

Thaddeus Surber occupies an important place on the roster of early naturalists in West Virginia due to the number of valuable records of rare, accidental, and now extinct birds he made while living and working in the State. He was born at White Sulphur Springs in 1871 and spent his youth in that area. He worked as a field naturalist for Outram Bangs of Boston and as a field collector for the Field Museum of Natural History of Chicago. He entered federal work with the Bureau of Fisheries in 1903. This work eventually took him to Minnesota where he retired from federal service before becoming superintendent of fish propagation for the State of Minnesota in 1923. He was associated with the federal fish hatchery at White Sulphur Springs during the early years of this century and it was during this time as well as during his youth that his valuable observations were made.
Surber seems to have been endowed with a tremendous amount of luck for being at the right place at the right time and was known by a number of persons who were turning up some rare specimens. Many of the birds he observed would make the heart of any bird student of today skip a beat. No one can ever repeat the observation Surber made as a boy when he saw Carolina Parakeets in Greenbrier County in 1881. Another observation that can never be more than a dream in the mind of a student of West Virginia birds is his record of a Swallow-tailed Kite shot on September 3, 1908. He added the Swallow-tailed Kite to the State's list by his report of the shooting of an adult of this species of western hawk by M. M. Collins during September 1897. He sent the first specimen of the Swallow-tailed Kite for the State, taken near Caldwell on November 2, 1896, to Dr. Rives. He recorded the Swallow-tailed Kite in Greenbrier County from a specimen immobilized by the cold and found near Lewisburg in April 1897.

Surber was not merely a student of the rare and unusual. During 1889 he printed a small ornithological journal called The Loon. Many of his noteworthy records were published in the Loon. He published a list of 121 species of birds he had found in Greenbrier County. Other publications included a list of mammals of West Virginia which is of little value except for its historical importance and some notes on mammals now extinct within the State. The history of West Virginia ornithology owes much to Thaddeus Surber who was observing the bird life of the State long before any of the students of its present natural history were born.

It is indeed fortunate Dr. William C. Rives has left us a record of the birds of the spruce country around Davis, Tucker County, before the area was completely transformed by the blade of the axe. Dr. Rives practiced medicine for many years in Washington, D. C., and to him a very palatable opportunity to study the birds of Virginia. This pursuit was to find fulfillment in the publication of his Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias in 1896.

Dr. Rives made two trips to the Blackwater country, the first in 1891 and the second in 1897. The account of his field work along with a list of the birds collected and observed was published in the Loon in 1898. Concerning the original appearance of the forests, he wrote (3), "These forests which are being thus so rapidly removed consist principally of black spruce (red is the correct species), hemlock, and bird. The spruce being valued for its timber, the main object of its bark. They are very dense and contain trees of magnificent proportions, while they are rendered practically impassable wherever it occurs, by the laurel (Rhododendron maximum), which covers abundantly the extremely rough and uneven surface of the ground and forms continuous 'brakes' of great extent. The forests of evergreens do not, however, occupy the country exclusively. A half mile or so to the north or northwest of Davis, the spruce seems to end and the deciduous trees to be found, and we were told of the existence of beech woods, mention being also made of 'glaides' comparatively open, in a south-easterly direction towards the Canaan Valley; the lumber companies were feverishly at work felling the spruce. He wrote (3), "The destruction of timber which had already begun before the time of my first visit had progressed with startling rapidity, during the six years that had elapsed, and instead of the more or less unbroken sea of green tree tops formerly visible, the eye now rested upon a country disfigured by prostrate logs stripped of their bark, misthappen and unsightly stumps, and dead trees blackened and destroyed by fire."

From June 9 to 15, 1897 Dr. Rives accompanied by Dr. Braslin made Davis his base of operation for forays into the spruce. The Olive-sided Flycatcher had been found along the Blackwater River in 1891, but was absent at the time of their visit in 1897. A female Lesser Scap was shot by a boy on the Blackwater River on June 11 and given to Braslin. On June 12, Braslin collected a 'fine male specimen' of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. About the Junco, Rives wrote (3), 'Abundant everywhere; this and the Song Sparrow were the most numerous species observed.' The Black-throated Blue Warbler was noted as rather common and the Magnolia Warbler was the most common warbler in the spruce. The Black-throated Green was recorded as the least common warbler. The Chestnut-sided Warbler, absent in 1891, was rather common in the half-cleared land. Mourning Warblers were found in a number of clearings. The Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Canada Warbler were all noted as common. On June 14, Braslin collected a male Swainson's Thrush and Rives wrote (3), "This is, so far, the furthest southern record of the species in summer. I am inclined to consider them not uncommon." Ravens were observed on several occasions. A total of 46 species was collected and observed by Rives and Braslin during the June days of 1897 when the virgin spruce was being felled. The countryside would never be the same again.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Many indeed, are the persons who have studied birds at Oglebay Park, and many are the species of birds that have been found there, but little record could be found of population densities. During the fall of 1966, the Ohio Valley Naturalists, most of whom are also members of The Brooks Bird Club, decided to conduct a winter and breeding bird census at Oglebay as a work project. My personal participation in the project meant that I could teach population study methods, indulge in my favorite hobby, and perhaps, make a contribution to Oglebay's bird study records. Several times George Breiding and I had discussed a count of Hooded Warblers in the park, but no work had resulted from the discussions.

Present plans are to study various sections of the park in succeeding years and record both wintering and breeding birds. This should give some insight as to what birds have adapted to park conditions. No attempt will be made to select plots that are homogeneous throughout; but rather, existing conditions will be described as accurately as possible. It is realized that Oglebay has been a study ground for so long that the mention of certain areas in the park brings sentimental connotations to many, and memories of exciting discoveries to others, therefore no attempt will be made to denote favorite birding places.

As a beginning, a plot along a bridle path that intersects Serpentine Trail was chosen. The principal activity here is the passage of equestrian groups. The Cove is typical of many north-facing hillsides in the county. During the spring count the Hooded Warblers were present as expected, but the Blue-winged Warblers were surprisingly prevalent. The other surprise was the absence of Redstarts.

Mrs. Edward Vossler and I conducted separate winter counts to check the reliability of...
the census method. The results were remarkably similar. The census printed below is an average of the two counts.

**MIXED HARDWOODS**

**LOCATION:** The study area is part of the southern drainage of Long Run, Ohio County, four miles northeast of Wheeling, West Virginia. The area is known locally as 'Serpentine Trail' of Oglebay Park.

**SIZE:** 15 acres (rectangular, 110 x 660 yards, measured longitudinally—estimated laterally).

**TOPOGRAPHY:** In this northwestern part of West Virginia, the hilltops average approximately 300 feet above stream level. The long axis of the study plot lies roughly northeast-southwest along a contour about halfway up a 30 to 35 degree slope at approximately 1200 feet elevation.

**PLANT COVER:** The plant cover is typical of many 'north slopes' in the county being covered by second or third growth mixed hardwoods. The canopy is unbroken except for the bridle trail which was used as a center line. The trail varies in width from closed canopy to 30 feet—averaging about 20 feet. The canopy is dominated by Black Cherry (Prunus serotina) 30%, and Black Locust (Robinia pseudo-acacia) 20%, but also contains: White Ash (Fraxinus americana); Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum); Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis); American Elm (Ulmus americana); and Tulip Poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera). About 65% of the canopy is composed of evergreens including: Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis); White Pine (Pinus strobus); Norway Spruce (Picea abies); and Red Pine (Pinus resinosa). Only Hemlock is native to the locality, the others were undoubtedly introduced to the park. The understory is sparse, consisting primarily of Blackberries (Vitis sp.). Representative ground cover plants include: Spring Beauties (Claytonia virginica), Sweet Cicely (Osmorhiza claytonii), Ground Ivy (Nepeta kedecracea), Redstraw (Galium aparine) and Leafcup (Polymnia canadensis).

**WINTER COUNT**

**WEATHER:** Temperatures ranged from 17 degrees F. on December 2, 1966, with five inches of snow on the ground, to 62 degrees F. on December 8th. The average temperature was 35.5 degrees F. It was cloudy to partly cloudy on most trips. Eight trips were made with snow on the ground.

**COVERAGE:** Twenty trips were made, well distributed between December 2, 1966 and February 19. Totalling about 18.5 man-hours. Six counts were started prior to 8:00 AM, five from 10:00 to 11:00 AM and nine counts were made after 1:40 PM.

**REMARKS:** December 8, with the temperature up to 62 degrees, moths and gnats were flying about in numbers. Starting between January 2 and 8, some dead or dying locust trees were removed from about 1% of the area leaving a roughly circular opening about 75 feet in diameter with practically no cover. This portion became even more attractive to birds as a feeding plot after being disturbed. Chickadees, Cardinals and Downy Woodpeckers were observed on each trip; Tufted Titmice and Nuthatches were missed on only one trip.

**CENSUS PARTICIPANTS:** Glen Phillips, Mrs. Wilma Bruhn, Jack Kain, Charles Conrad, Mrs. Nevada Laitsc, Mary Catherine Becker, Ruth Weller, Lee Parker, and Mrs. E.W. Vossler, compiler.

**SPECS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Average per trip</th>
<th>Average per 100 acres</th>
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<td>Chickadee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardinal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tufted Titmouse</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>18.6</td>
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<td>Downy Woodpecker</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>14.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-breasted Nuthatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starling</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Crow</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Waxwing</td>
<td>.95</td>
<td>6.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slate-colored Junco</td>
<td>.8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden-crowned Kinglet</td>
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<td>5.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-bellied Woodpecker</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
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<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
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<td>Rufous Grouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-throated Sparrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</td>
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<td>.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-shafted Flicker</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Sparrow</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals: 23 species</td>
<td>27.75</td>
<td>185.</td>
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</table>

**SPRING COUNT**

**COVERAGE:** Twenty trips were made through the area, concentrated near 5:00 AM and 6:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. Total party-hours amounted to approximately 18.

**CENSUS:**

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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Territorial Males</th>
<th>Males Per 100 Acres</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rufous-sided Towhee</td>
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<td>Red-eyed Vireo</td>
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<td>26.7</td>
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<td>Indigo Bunting</td>
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<td>23.3</td>
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<td>Cardinal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acadian Flycatcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-winged Warbler</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</td>
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<td>Tufted Titmouse</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Chickadee</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Thrush</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE REDSTART—OCTOBER, 1968
Species | Territorial Males | Males Per 100 Acres
---|---|---

Carib | 1.0 | 6.7
Downy Woodpecker | 1.0 | 6.7
Yellow-shafted Flicker | 1.0 | 6.7
Kentucky Warbler | 1.0 | 6.7
Scarlet Tanager | 0.5 | 3.3
Eastern Wood Peewee | 0.5 | 3.3
Blue Jay | + | +
Common Crow | + | +
Brown-headed Cowbird | + | +
Baltimore Oriole | + | +
White-breasted Nuthatch | + | +
Great Crested Flycatcher | + | +
Hairy Woodpecker | + | +
Robin | + | +
Red-bellied Woodpecker | + | +
Yellow-billed Cuckoo | + | +

Totals: 29 Species 41.5 276.8

**VISITORS:** American Goldfinch, Chimney Swift, Carolina Wren, Parula Warbler, Yellow-throat, Cedar Waxwing, Common Grackle, Belted Kingfisher, and Black-billed Cuckoo.

**REMARKS:** During the study, both Downy Woodpeckers and Carolina Chickadees were feeding young throughout the plot.

**CENSUS PARTICIPANTS:** Mrs. Edward Vossler, Dorothy Broemsen, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Donaldson, Earl Vanscoy, Mark Jenkins, Mike McCutcheon, Duncan McKay and Glen Phillips, compiler.

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FAMILY; s-Student; l-Life, sus-Sustaining, sub-Subscription

Weatherwise, the Summer Season might be described as a season of extremes. June was a cool month with temperatures averaging well below normal. Low readings June 14 and 21 and July 3 broke all previous records at Pittsburgh, Pa.

Most of July was quite hot and dry with drought conditions prevailing in most areas. Thunderstorms brought relief to the southern part of the region about mid-month and pastures, gardens and vegetation made a remarkable recovery.

August was very hot and humid.

There were two concentrated efforts at field work by the club. A small group conducted a study near Glenville in Gilmer County, W. Va. from May 29 to June 2. The annual foray was held at Camp Pocahontas in Pocahontas County, W. Va. June 8 through June 21. This was the fifth such study in this area.

Detailed results of these studies will appear in following issues of this journal.

The most outstanding event of the nesting season was the successful nesting of a pair of Ospreys in Hancock County, W. Va.

Grebos and Herons—Pied-billed Grebes were found near Lisbon, Ohio July 28. Good numbers of Great Blue Herons, including several immatures were seen on this date. A Common Egret was seen at Carmichaels, Pa. July 14-18 (RKB).

Waterfowl—Mallard and Wood Ducks were more common than usual in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. Broods counted on the Shenandoah river in early August indicated a good nesting season (CM). Lots of Wood Ducks were found at McClintic Wildlife Station near Point Pleasant, W. Va. August 28 (CK). Populations of both species appeared normal in Columbiana County, Ohio.

Vultures and Hawks—More Turkey Vultures were seen in Northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania this summer than usual. A Bald Eagle was seen on several occasions during the summer in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia (CM). The nest of a pair of Ospreys in Hancock County was under observation from March until late May. Two nearly full grown young birds were about ready to leave the nest when last observed (ERC). The Sparrow Hawk population seems down in the Ohio Valley and in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

Gallinaceous and Shorebirds—Bobwhites had a good year in the Charleston, W. Va. area (NG) and were plentiful in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia (CM). Turkeys were seen on several occasions in Pocahontas County, W. Va.
during the BBC foray. Young were also seen in Kanawha State Forest by Osbra Eye fide (NG). Neither Virginia Rails nor Soras were in the usual numbers at marshes in Columbiana County, Ohio this summer (NL). Killdeer populations appeared to be normal. Four pairs of Upland Plovers were found in different locations near Clarksdale, Pa. (RKB). The August migration of shorebirds appeared very poor. Several reporters commented on the scarcity of Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers.

Doves, Cuckoos and Owls—Mourning Dove numbers appear good despite the wet May. The only encouraging note on Cuckoos came from Charleston, W. Va. where Gluck reported almost normal populations. Others reported them scarce or below normal. At least four families of Barred Owls were in Kanawha State Forest fide (NG). They were heard on several occasions during the foray in Pocahontas county and in Lincoln County, W. Va. in July.

Nighthawks and Hummingbirds—Common Nighthawks staged a heavy migration beginning the last week of August and were still moving through in good numbers as late as Sept. 8. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were considered scarce by most all reporters.

Woodpeckers—This is one family that seems to be doing better than average. Even the Red-headed Woodpecker is making a comeback. Yellow-bellied Sap suckers were found at several locations in Pocahontas County during the Foray. Two nests containing young were located on Burner Mountain during this period.

Flycatchers—All flycatchers were non existent at Hartland Farm near Lewisburg, W. Va. until mid July (COH). Phoebes were very plentiful in the Charleston, W. Va. area (NG). Acadian Flycatchers were extremely common in Gilmer County, W. Va. May 29-June 2. A Trail’s Flycatcher was found nesting in this area May 30. Trail’s flycatchers were not uncommon in suitable habitat in Pocahontas County during the Foray.

Swallows—Tree Swallows were found in Gilmer County, W. Va. May 29-June 2. They nested successfully in a Bluebird box on Bell’s farm near Clarksdale, Pa. One pair of Cliff Swallows nested on the Bell farm fledging only 4 young from two nestings. All swallows were rare at Cove Mountain, Monroe County, W. Va. (HC). Reporters submitted mixed comments on Purple Martins. A check on the roost near Charleston, W. Va. August 27 revealed extremely good numbers of migrating martins. They moved out on Sept. 1 and 2 (CK).

Jays and Crows—Blue Jays continue to spread. A late nesting occurred near Lewisburg, W. Va. when the brood left the nest Aug. 7 (COH). Common Ravens were noticeably increased in Tucker and Pocahontas Counties in W. Va.

Nuthatches and Wrens—Red-breasted Nuthatches were not uncommon at higher elevations in the Cheat Mountains during the Foray. Bewick’s Wrens were found in three locations near Clarksdale, Pa. during the summer. One pair was accompanied by three young. They were listed in several locations in Pocahontas County during the Foray. One was heard near Glenville, W. Va. May 30 (NL). Carolina Wrens had an exceptionally good year.

Thrushes—The large flocks of Robins in most parts of the region before the end of the period indicated a very successful nesting season. The Veery population was quite good in Pocahontas County during June. Bluebirds showed marked increases generally.

Gnatcatchers, Kinglets and Waxwings—Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were plentiful this summer. The number of Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared greater in the area covered by the BBC Foray than in previous forays. Cedar Waxwings have recovered their numbers after a sparse year or two.

Vireos—Solitary Vireos were found in better than expected numbers in Pocahontas and Randolph counties (W. Va.) during June.

Warblers—Warblers continued to be on the short side in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia (CM). Yellow Warblers were believed up at Clarksdale, Pa. (RKB). Black-throated Green Warblers were found with young for the second year near East Liverpool, Ohio (ERd-NL). They were listed at Cove Mountain, Monroe County, W. Va. in July (HC). Blackburnian Warblers were found nesting in a pine plantation near Camp Pocahontas during the Foray. Yellowthroats were considered very rare in the Cove Mountain area (HC). Yellow-throated Warblers were plentiful in the Charleston, W. Va. area (CK-NG).

Blackbirds—There was no apparent decrease in Blackbird populations. Scarlet Tanagers were abundant in Pocahontas County, W. Va. during the Foray. Their numbers were about equal to Summer Tanagers in Gilmer County, W. Va.

Grosbeaks—Foray people found a definite increase in Cardinals in Pocahontas County. This had been an uncommon bird during previous forays there. Blue Grosbeaks were found in Grant County, W. Va. between Maysville and Antiock on August 28 (GHd).

Sparrrows—Pine Siskins were listed at higher elevations in Pocahontas County during the two week foray June 8-21. Red Crossbills were also found in this locality during this period. The number of Song Sparrows appeared slightly lower in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia (CM). They compared favorably in the Lewisburg area (COH) and were increased at Charleston, W. Va. (CK). Contributors: Ralph K. Bell, RKB; George H. Breiding, GHB; Helga Cernicek, HC; Everett R. Chandler, ERC; Norris Gluck, NG; Charles O. Handley, Sr. COH; Connie Katholi, CK; Clark Miller, CM; Mrs. Nevada Laitsch, MC 21, East Liverpool, Ohio.

The Gathering Cage

Constance Katholi, Editor
930 Woodland Ave.
South Charleston, W. Va.

SUMMIT LAKE, WISCONSIN

Banding news from Summit Lake is mostly bad. When I returned home from Foray, I immediately checked the Tree Swallow boxes in order to band the nestlings before they left the nest. The weather was very cold with highs each day only in the low fifties, dropping at night into the thirties. It rained continuously day and night. Reports in the local papers indicated that it had been that way most of June.
Thirteen boxes in the yard had been occupied originally, with Bluebirds in one and Tree Swallows in the other twelve. Forty-seven swallow eggs had been laid and five bluebird eggs. Upon rechecking I found 19 dead Tree Swallows, 3 unhatched eggs, and only 9 live young. The other 16 possible swallows were unaccounted for; presumably they left concealment at the edge of the yard for two days, and then he disappeared. The Tree Swallows in the other twelve. Forty-seven swallow eggs had

ing the young, unable to fly, hiding in the weeds. One little fellow was observed sitting in the 9 young which I did band, one was found dead in the yard later. They left the nest within two days of banding, and most were observed to be too weak to fly. As the cold weather continued, the parents still unable to find food, had the added problem of locating the young, unable to fly, hiding in the weeds. One little fellow was observed sitting in concealment at the edge of the yard for two days, and then he disappeared. The Bluebirds fared no better, having hatched only two of their eggs, and both of those young died.

Unfortunately, Tree Swallows do not attempt second broods in our latitude even if their eggs do not hatch, or the young die. As soon as they have fledged the young, or the nest has failed, they simply disappear,—and I never see them again until April of the next spring. Bluebirds this far north do not usually try a second brood if the first is successful, however, I am happy to report that my pair did nest again and produced four young.

Carol Rudl

Columbus, Ohio

The new decoy trap continues to give a good account of itself in contrast to the old trap in its declining years. It appears that the life expectancy of such a trap, with the type of hazards present here, is about four years. By the end of August I banded 7500 birds as contrasted with 3100 last year for a similar period, and 3000 in 1966. However in 1965 during the hey-day of the old trap the figure was 9500. Doubtless the size of the population is involved but the effectiveness of the trap itself is likewise a factor.

Through the summer I have been "bothered" by the grackles getting re-trapped. It takes longer to handle a "repeat" than to band a new bird. The bookkeeping also is more exacting since I put all repeats on individual slips for subsequent analysis, while I can record 133 new bands in one fell swoop: "Grackle AHY-U 873-31326 to 388." The grackles are the most notable repeaters. So far this year, out of 2457 banded, 429 have repeated, i.e. 17%. For other species on different samples the approximate corresponding figures are 13%, red wings 7%, and starlings 2%. One rascal (grackle) has repeated 58 times since mid June.

The cause of these inter-species differences is not self-evident. It is not due merely to the size of the local population because that affects the number banded rather than the proportion that repeat. It could be the stability of the population in the sense that more individual grackles remain in the area. Several hundred WLS cards indicate that proportionately more of my grackles are recovered right here in Columbus than is the case with the other species. But then there must be some cause back of that.

I suspect that we are dealing here with personality differences. Socially inclined birds enter the trap to join the decoys. A lazy bird may find it easier to re-enter the trap for food than to forage widely, just as some birds habitually patronize a backyard feeder. I have had birds winter in the trap. (Cf. EBBA News 1967, vol. 39, 23-25.) A complacent bird may follow the easy way while a more agitated individual moves on to try elsewhere. A marked tendency toward survival, such as characters starlings, may keep individuals on the move. As I have said before, personality is just as important a factor in bird behavior as in human psychology. Harold E. Burt

MIDDLE RIDGE, South Charleston

When the burden of the computers becomes so great that a bander is ready to turn in his permit, it seems that the good fairy comes along and drops the piece de resistance. Sometimes this is in the form of a distant recovery or picking up one's own band from another location. Mine was a life bird in a net just a few yards from our back door. I've bored my birding friends for years trying to make Phoebes, Kingbirds, or anything else vaguely resembling an Olive-sided Flycatcher, into that species. There it was in my hand; and it was so unexpected I wasn't sure what it was until I lifted the wing and saw the downy puff of white feathers. There was no one to show it to except a slumber party of four teenager girls who couldn't really see the point of being awakened at 10 a.m. to see an Olive-sided Flycatcher. I'm completely confident that one day they'll be glad!

Further establishment of the migration path between southwestern Pennsylvania and Charleston came on a banding recovery card, this time for a starling. Banded here as an adult male on January 5, 1967, it was "found dead" west of Connellsville, Pa. on April 28 of the same year. Additionally, a Blue Jay banded by C. Katholi in South Charleston on May 4, 1967 was recovered dead on the Monocle Turnpike near New Bethlehem, Pa. on November 6, 1968. This is about seventy miles due north of Connellsville, still maintaining the same migration angle. The interesting consideration here is that the jay, which apparently was banded while on the northbound journey in the spring, did not go south again the following fall—unless he was on his way at the time of disaster. To these two may be added the two Purple Martins, banded by RKB at Clarksville as birds of the year, and recovered in the nets at the South Charleston Roost the following month on their southbound trip—as reported in this column at an earlier date. Anne Shreve

HARTLAND, Lewisburg, W. Va.

"I have been having an interesting time with Indigo Buntings this fall. Last spring I planted a small patch of bird feed below my garden. The seed costs less than a dollar, and the red-top millet in the seed mixture has attracted numerous Song Sparrows and buntings. I placed two nets between the millet patch and my multiflora rose hedge, and also a series of one-cell traps around the edge of the food plot. More than 100 buntings have been banded since mid-August, whereas last year I banded only seven the entire season. My station is not Indigo Bunting habitat, so the food plot has really paid off.

"In a letter from Joe Riefenberger I learned that he and Bob Kletzly had recently banded their 300th Woodcock of this season. They had had 35 recaptures as well from the years 1966 and 1967, but none older than that."

Charley Handley

Woodland Avenue, South Charleston

A male goldfinch one of thirty which I banded March 1, 1968 on my terrace in Grid 382-0814 was taken in the net recently; with a female, by Anne Shreve on Middle Ridge, two air miles to the south in Grid 381-0814. They appeared to be a breeding pair, which alone leads to interesting speculation regarding the migratory habits of this species in this area. Additionally, this is the first exchange of birds between us in the (few) years that I have been banding. Perhaps we will have more exchanges in her present location.
this instance we are having a good laugh because the recovery card will read from CARPENTER, W. Va. to EMMONS, W. Va! These are the names assigned to our respective grids by the Machine-Determination-of-Grid-Locations, as set forth in MTA#10. A longer and more interesting flight for the goldfinch to be sure, but one totally unplottable. To ease the confusion I should explain that the town of Carpenter can not now be located on any map. A "ghost town," it is no longer in existence, apparently having been gobbled up by the installation of Guthrie Air Force Base some years ago. I felt a kinship for the man-without-a-country. I lived and banded NOWHERE! A letter to the Banding Office, however, set the record straight, and I reside again in South Charleston. (Banding of the BBC, have you a problem of this kind? If so, write your friendly Banding Office, attention Larry Hood, and you will find a sympathetic ear.) But getting back to Emmons, it is for real, one of a string of derelict coal towns, typical of Appalachia, in the lower part of Grid 381-0814,--somewhat removed from Middle Ridge. (Emmons currently is famous for Jay Rockefeller's community project there.) To an out-of-state recoverer of a banded bird, granted, Emmons is as satisfactory as Ruth or Olcott, to pinpoint the banding origin of the bird, but to those concerned locally the new designations can prove irritating,—albeit comical at times. Connie Katholi

Postscript:
In connection with the above-mentioned problem of 10-minute grid designations, Charley Handley wrote me that the name assigned to his grid was WHITCOMB,—"better known locally as the ole swimmin' hole on the Greenbrier River,"—not a prominent town, nor even an incorporated one. (In fact, it does not appear on the 1968 West Virginia Official State Highway Map.) He said that he had applied to the Banding Office for a change of name for his banding station to Lewisburg. At the same time he requested that the grid in which McClintic Wildlife Refuge is located be named either Lakin or Point Pleasant, instead of, as now, Cheshire, Ohio. It seems nonsensical to assign an Ohio town name to a grid lying almost 90% in West Virginia, and to one which has in this instance a local point such as the refuge. Furthermore, Charley believes that in those cases where there is only one station in a 10-minute grid it would be as well to use the bander's own address, thus eliminating confusion and giving the person who reports the band a better idea as to the location of the banding station. C.K.

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**Red-bellied Woodpecker and Hickory Nut**

One October 30, I had been picking hickory nuts in Gilmer County and as I was looking up into the tree, a Red-bellied Woodpecker flew in, and hanging upside down, it removed a hickory nut from a partly-opened husk which was still attached to the branch. It carried the nut in its bill, over to the main trunk, placed it in a crevice of the bark and proceeded to try to drill it with its bill. After it had drilled for a minute or so, it carried the nut to another spot on the trunk and drilled some more. I was not able to determine if the bird succeeded in cracking the nut but it appeared to know what it was trying to accomplish.

—Norris Gluck

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Original papers in the field of natural history are published in the Redstart. Papers are judged on the basis of their contributions to original data, ideas, or interpretations. Scientific accuracy is most important and to this end an Advisory Board, selected by the Editorial Staff, will review submitted papers. Papers should be typewritten, double spaced and on one side of the paper only. Clarity and correctness of presentation are very important.

**SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS**

**TITLE.** The title should be descriptive and concise, preferably containing no more than ten words. Avoid scientific names if possible.

**REFERENCES.** References should be listed alphabetically by author and referred to in the text by author and year.

**TABLES.** Keep tables simple and easy to follow so they may be understood without reference to the text.

**ILLUSTRATIONS.** Illustrations should be suitable for reproduction without retouching. Sharp, glossy prints with good contrast reproduce best. Attach to each a brief legend. Do not write on the back of photographs. Line drawings and diagrams reproduce best if in black ink.

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Authors should strive for conciseness of thought and clarity of expression. Some papers may fit the following outline for presentation:

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**DATA.** The actual results of the investigation along with the methods used for collecting the data.

**CONCLUSIONS.** Interpretation of the data.

**FUTURE WORK.** As a result of the investigation, what work remains to be done.

**SUMMARY.** For longer articles it is desirable to present a brief summary of the work.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY.** Many papers will not fit this type of presentation. Sometimes a simple sequence-of-events arrangement will serve.

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