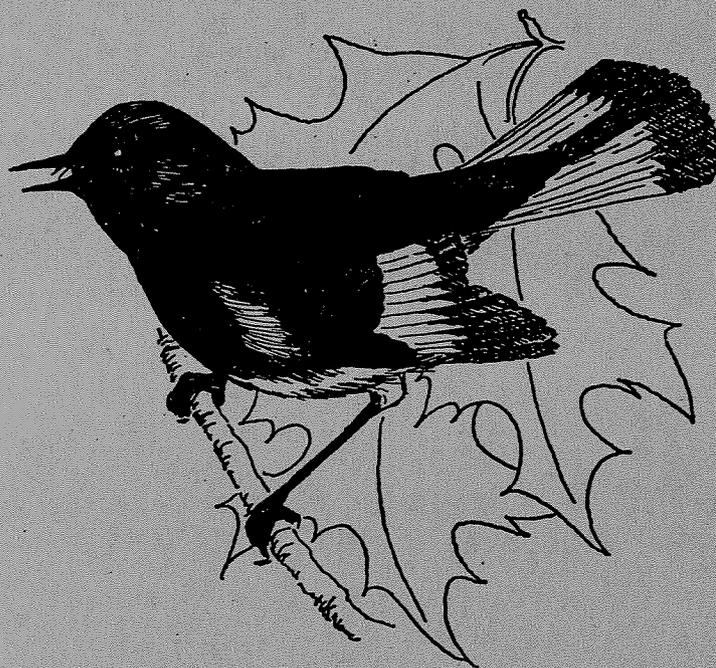


The REDSTART

VOLUME 43—NUMBER 2

APRIL, 1976



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The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.
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 Named in honor of A. B. Brooks, Naturalist

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	Page
Contents	
Fall Migration Study in Kanawha State Forest —Jo and Ray Ashworth	66
Floyd Bartley Memorial Award	68
Whistling Swans on Cheat Lake (Lake Lynn), West Virginia —Laurie Ann Bell	68
Wilson's Warbler Recovery at Dolly Sods —Constance Katholi	69
The Chuck-Will's-Widow Is Back! —Dorothy Conrad	71
Brewer's Blackbird at South Charleston, W. Va. —Kenneth H. Anderson	72
Young Male Harlequin Duck at Bluestone Dam, Hinton, W. Va. —J. Lawrence Smith	73
Bird Kill at Smoke Stack —Mrs. John Stewart	73
A Preliminary Look at the Birds of Salt Fork State Park —Glen Phillips	75
Field Notes —Nevada Laitsch	83
The Gathering Cage —Constance Katholi	87
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Fall Migration Study in Kanawha State Forest

Jo and Ray Ashworth

In the fall of 1975, we initiated a banding project in Kanawha State Forest with the cooperation of Osbra Eye, Superintendent. The aim of the study was to explore the composition of the Fall bird migration in the Forest. It was the first time that any birdbanding had been undertaken in the forest, and Mr. Eye welcomed this opportunity to advance the knowledge of the bird life in this area which had been extensively botanized. The project was in operation for ten consecutive days, September 28 through October 7.

Kanawha State Forest, which encompasses 9,268 acres, lies to the south of Charleston, W. Va. Most of the acreage is covered with mature deciduous woods of the cove hardwood type with an oak-hickory mixture predominating. Differences in elevation range from 704 to 1,587 feet. The very rugged terrain is traversed by a number of trails and roads, and the nets were set along a road just inside the southern boundary of the forest which follows a ridge at an elevation of 1,250 feet. The coordinates at the banding station were 38 deg. 14' latitude, and 81 deg. 38' longitude. The road edges were covered with such herbaceous materials as grasses, goldenrod and asters, and there was a large patch of pokeberry adjacent to the nets.

Typical Fall weather prevailed during the banding period with variations in temperature from lows of 32 deg. F in the early morning to highs in the 60's in the afternoon. There was no precipitation during the course of the study and the winds were less than 10 mph throughout.

Six mist nets were used in the operation; five of them were maintained at a permanent location and the sixth was moved to a new site daily. The nets were opened as near daylight as practical and closed at approximately twelve noon each day for a total of 300 net hours. Three hundred birds of 38 species were banded and released. All the birds were measured and skulled. The accompanying chart shows the daily captures of species and individuals and the final totals. Two-thirds of the birds handled were HY's. In addition, see the breakdown of thrushes by age groups.

Of significant interest is the number of thrushes going through the locality. In fact, 53% of all bandings were thrushes, with the breakdown by species as follows: 75 Swainson's, 44 Gray-cheeked, 37 Wood and 2 Hermit thrushes. However, no veeries were seen or heard. The unusually high proportion of Gray-cheeked thrushes in this group raised grounds for conjecture: one suggestion being that this species may migrate normally at lower elevations or follow the river valleys. It can not be denied that the proximity of the pokeberry feast contributed greatly to the capture of all thrushes.

Warblers of 15 species composed 27% of the total with the ovenbird the most prolific with 20 individuals. A Broad-winged Hawk hit the net—but escaped despite the attempts of the bander to roll the net over the bird. Winter migrants arriving at this time were the 2 Hermit thrushes, 3 Winter wrens, and a White-throated sparrow. Juncos were observed, but not captured. A heavy Blue Jay migration was noted on a number of occasions. Woodpeckers, including Red headed, Pileated,

Red-bellied, Downy, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were sighted.

Plans are already in the making to repeat the project in future years a little earlier in the season. It is also hoped to sample the spring migration through the same station. As time goes on, the data collected at this station may offer an interesting comparison to the data collected from other stations as regards the time of passage of the various species, and the composition of the flocks and age groups.

Visitors to the station included Anne and Harvey Shreve, Norris Gluck, Charles Carlson, and Osbra Eye.

322 Parkview Dr., St. Albans, W. Va.

DAILY CAPTURES OF INDIVIDUALS AND SPECIES

Species	September										October										% of				
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	HY	Tot. Tot.			
Yellow-bellied sapsucker		1																					.3	1	
Downy woodpecker										1													.3	1	
Eastern phoebe		1		1			1																1.0	3	
Eastern wood pewee				1																			.3	1	
Carolina Chickadee	4		3			2		1															3.7	11	
Tufted titmouse	2																						.7	2	
House wren					1																		.3	1	
Winter wren						1	1			1													1.0	3	
Carolina wren					1																		.3	1	
Catbird		1						1															.7	2	
Wood thrush	4	8	7	5	5	1	3	4														68	12.3	37	
Hermit thrush						2																	.7	2	
Swainson's thrush	5	6	5	6	21	8	4	5	7	8	55	25.0	75												
Gray-cheeked thrush		3	3	5	4	6	5	4	8	6	64	14.7	44												
White-eyed vireo	1																						.3	1	
Red-eyed vireo	1		1	1		1																	1.3	4	
Worm-eating warbler								1															.3	1	
Tennessee warbler		3	1	2						3	1												3.3	10	
Nashville warbler				1																			.3	1	
No. Parula warbler		1																					.3	1	
Magnolia warbler	2	3	2	1				2	1														3.7	11	
Bl.-thr. blue warbler	2	1						2		1													2.0	6	
Bl. thr. green warbler	1		1			1																	1.0	3	
Chestnut sided warbler	2																						.7	2	
Bay-breasted warbler	3	2	3					1	2	1													4.0	12	
Blackpoll warbler	1																						.3	1	
Ovenbird	2	6	3	3		1	2		2	1	70	6.7	20												
No. Waterthrush					1																		.3	1	
Yellowthroat	1	1	1	1	1																		2.0	6	
Hooded warbler	1			1		1																	1.0	3	
Am. redstart		1	1																				.7	2	
Scarlet tanager		1																					.3	1	
Cardinal			1		1					1													1.0	3	
Rose-breasted grosbeak						1																	.3	1	
Indigo bunting	1		2		1																		1.7	5	
Am. goldfinch					2	4	2	11															6.3	19	
Field sparrow						1																	.3	1	
White-thr. sparrow											1												.3	1	
38 Total species																									
Daily Individuals	23	40	35	31	38	34	17	30	29	23														300	
Daily Species	11	18	14	13	10	13	8	9	9	11															

Floyd Bartley Memorial Award

Jo and Ray Ashworth, authors of the "Fall Migration Study in Kanawha State Forest," were recipients of the Floyd Bartley Memorial Award for 1975 for the best paper resulting from original field study done in West Virginia or in any portion of Ohio or Pennsylvania covered by the Brooks Bird Club.

The purpose of the award is twofold. The anonymous donor wants to honor the memory of Floyd Bartley and at the same time create an interest in research in the field of natural history.

Provisions of the award, to be offered annually for a minimum of ten years, are as follows:

1. The study may be on any of the natural sciences.
2. Contenders for the award need not be members of the Brooks Bird Club nor residents of the area encompassed by the award.
3. Papers published in the **Redstart** or submitted to the Editor during the year will be eligible for consideration.
4. The winner will be chosen by the **Redstart** editorial Board and the BBC Research Committee.
5. Papers done as part of a professional activity and paid for by an employer or as a grant will not be eligible.
6. The award shall be in the amount of \$50.00. If no paper submitted is deemed worthy of the award the money will be added to the next year's award.
7. Foray reports or other collaborative reports which are the result of field work by many people will not be eligible.
8. Manuscripts must be typed double-spaced on one side of white bond paper with a generous left-hand margin.

Editor

Whistling Swans on Cheat Lake (Lake Lynn), West Virginia

On 15 November 1975 at 0630 four observers (L. Clack, J. Staples, R. Whitmore and I) sighted over 2,000 Whistling Swans [*Olor columbianus*] on the northern end of Cheat Lake (Lake Lynn), Monongalia County, West Virginia. The presence of these swans was probably due in part to the cold front which had moved in from the north the previous day. The sighting of this many birds off the normal migratory route was considered noteworthy inasmuch as it was the largest number of swans recorded at any one time in West Virginia (M. Brooks pers comm).

A smaller group, of 497 swans, was individually counted the previous day, 14 November 1975 at 1630 by R. Whitmore and I. The remainder of the swans whose numbers were estimated at over 2,000 probably arrived that night.

The morning of the 15th was clear and the group, including both adults and many young swans, had all left by 0730.

Laurie Ann Bell
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

THE REDSTART—APRIL, 1976

Wilson's Warbler Recovery at Dolly Sods

Constance Katholi

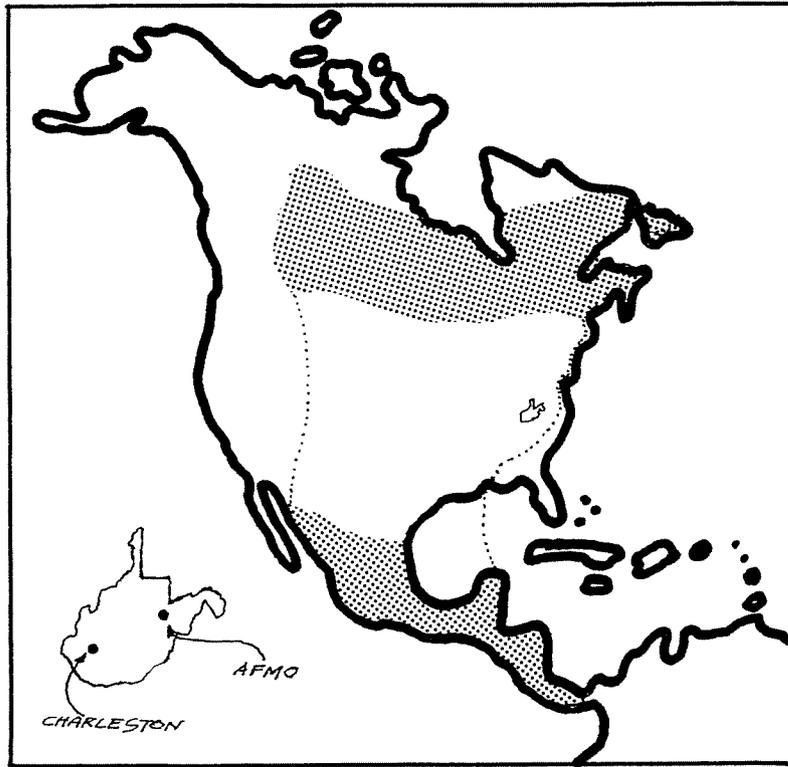
On 11 September 1975 Anne Shreve, the bander in charge on Dolly Sods that day, recovered in the first early wave of warblers a male Wilson's warbler [*Wilsonia pusilla*] band No. 1300-88-835. It was a heavy flight day, which included a dozen or so other Wilson's, and with all the workers hurrying to get the birds processed, not too much thought was given to this recovery, it being assumed that it was a bird banded on the mountain the previous day, which had rested overnight. When this theory did not prove to be correct, inquiries were initiated through the "grapevine" to determine the source of the band, and remarkable to relate it was disclosed that the bird had been banded by another AFMO participant, Connie Katholi,—but **not** at Red Creek, rather instead at her home station in South Charleston on 6 September 1974 almost exactly one year before! This Wilson's was the first ever captured at this latter station, although the species has been observed regularly passing through the woods particularly in spring.

This **recovery** for Katholi carried several special distinctions: 1. For the Red Creek AFMO station on Allegheny Front in Tucker Co., W. Va., it was the second **only foreign retrap**. The first was for a Sharpshin hawk that was banded at Long Point in the same fall (1969) that it was recaptured on the mountain. 2. The Wilson's was the second **only warbler** involved in a recovery situation for Red Creek. The first, which was a true **AFMO recovery**, was a Tennessee banded by George Hall on 7 September 1968 which was recovered by the Powder Mill Preserve on 13 May 1970. This Tennessee was a case of the recapture of a bird going in the opposite direction after 1.5 years,—i.e. on the bird's second trip back north. 3. The fact that a member of an AFMO crew banded a bird at home which was later caught at AFMO recalls a similar circumstance which occurred at Powdermill. A Song Sparrow banded there was caught by a young man, who had served as a summer naturalist at the Preserve and done odd jobs for the Section on Birds at the Carnegie Museum, at his home near Pittsburgh sometime later. And 4. let us not overlook the pleasure and excitement that the recovery brought to me!

This recovery generates fascinating speculation,—although it can be no more than that. Nat. Hist. Press p. 72 states, "The routes followed by migrating birds are in a general way determined by a line drawn between the breeding ground and the non-breeding area. Deviations from these shortest possible routes may develop due to local weather conditions, and especially to topographic features such as seacoasts, mountain ranges and waterways. Though the route followed by the entire species may be geographically broad, coincident with a widespread distribution of its member populations, **individual** birds probably follow rather narrow and well-prescribed migration routes year after year." Lanyon, W.E. in *The Biology of Birds*.

The bird was traveling at very nearly the same time in the month, just a few days earlier in '74 than in '75; he was apparently moving on a migration line somewhat farther to the east than a year ago. What likelihood is there that this bird would ever pass through Charleston again on his journey? What is the traveling time between

THE REDSTART—APRIL, 1976



Migration route of Wilson's Warbler, eastern race [*W. pusilla pusilla*].

the Red Creek latitude and that of South Charleston? Is it one night's flight or less,—or more? Peterson says that the Wilson's breeds from "n. Quebec and n. Manitoba s. to n. Maine, n. New Hampshire, and n. Minnesota; winters in Central America." A glance at a map with the aid of a ruler will reveal what a simple fan-shaped pattern is formed by the migration route of this species. Some ornithologists believe that once a migration route is established by an individual bird, natural selection would work toward its maintenance year after year with only weather conditions causing a detour or delay. Other authorities believe that they do not follow identical paths year after year, or the recovery stations would get far more returns than they now do. The Wilson's is apparently a trans-gulf migrant—with a landing point in Yucatan—a natural focal point, i.e. the base of the fan. A.S. Sprunt, Jr. states that it is very rare indeed that the species is ever observed in Florida in any season. (Florida Bird Life, 1963).

930 Woodland Ave., South Charleston, W. Va.

The Chuck-Will's-Widow Is Back!

Dorothy Conrad

On June 4, 1974 when Stewart Robbins heard the call of a Chuck-will's-widow [*Caprimulgus carolinensis*] at the early Foray at Rackawanna 4-H Camp, Harrisville, W. Va., little did he know the bird to be one of the first published state records for West Virginia. On Thursday, June 7th between 1:00 and 2:00 a.m. he recorded the bird singing 24 times a minute, and his near perfect tape was sent to the Library of Natural Sounds at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

The song of the Chuck-will's-widow rang loud and clear again this year, 1975, from the location on Rock Camp road, where it was heard and recorded previously.

Correspondence sent to me will verify its presence as follows:

VIENNA, W. VA.—The Chuck-will's-widow is there as of May 10th when there was no let up in his calling—250 times in 15 minutes. Location is Bunnell Run road (lower road) down 1/2 mile on right side—on other side of river. Only one bird thus far. On May 18th it was .5 mile in on the same road and his location seemed to change from time to time. I have been arriving just before dark and staying 40 minutes, and he was calling when I left at 9:40 p.m.

Dr. William Armstrong

HARRISVILLE, W. VA.—Terry and I finally got out to check on the Chuck-will's-widow on Sunday night May 25th. We stopped at his tree, on Rock Camp road. No bird, so we drove past Mrs. Hoover's and heard him in the distance. We turned and headed for Bunnell Run road where we heard him much clearer. I was so thrilled to hear him again.

Saturday, June 14th Bob and Pat Murphy, Terry and I, went to Rock Camp road after Pat's nature program at North Bend State Park, and as we entered Terry turned on the recorder. Pat and Bob heard the Chuck-will's-widow for the first time. Pat was so happy and I was glad we could bring this joy to their lives.

On Sunday Terry took our recorder to church and played the Chuck-will's-widow tape for our doctor, Dr. Hatfield (he lives on Pullman road and his property joins Mrs. Hoover's). Doctor said he heard the bird and even a number of years ago when he was making house calls. A boy who lives with them said he heard a Whip-poor-will with a strange call, and their neighbor said "I've been hearing a Whip-poor-will that sounds like it's hoarse."

Bob and Pat Murphy came over Thursday, June 19th hoping to find a Chuck-will's-widow asleep where we heard him on Saturday night, but they couldn't find the spot. The same night around 8:00 p.m. Dr. Hatfield heard a Chuck-will's-widow in his woods on Pullman road.

Friday night we went out and tied a string on his tree on Rock Camp road, so if Pat and Bob came back they could find it. That night at 12:45 a.m. the doctor was out checking and heard two birds at different locations, but far away. His wife heard them also.

Saturday night, June 21st Terry and I went to North Bend State Park and saw Marion Means, Juanita DeLancy, Ann Pyle, Edna and Pearl Gregg, Ernestine Evans and Wilda Woofter. Later we all met on Rock Camp road and it wasn't until Terry played his tape that the Chuck-will's-widow began to sing and then a total of 581

times in 55 minutes and the hour was between ten and eleven o'clock.

Elizabeth Stonestreet and Son Terry

MT. LOOKOUT, W.VA.—(February)—To help verify the Shearers' finding the Chuck-will's-widow here in Nicholas County, you should know that it has been heard in Mt. Lookout also. It was reported to me by Alton McClung during the spring of 1972 or '73 and was heard by two different people. We didn't report it for fear of being called "crazy." It was only heard the one night. I've never heard it yet but am still listening.

Richard Legg

A personal thanks to our club members for checking on the bird. We are interested in knowing the distribution of the Chuck-will's-widow in West Virginia, so anyone who has information would you kindly send it to BBC clubroom.

423 Warwood Ave., Wheeling, W. Va.

Brewer's Blackbird at South Charleston, W.Va.

Hall, in the List of West Virginia Birds, includes the Brewer's Blackbird as hypothetical stating that a number of sight records have been made but none qualify under the rules set up for inclusion as confirmed species. He states that further reports are to be expected. The author would like to add his observation to such reports.

On Sunday, March 14, 1971 at 12:30 P.M. on a bright, sunny, warm day, I observed at eye level, a black shiny bird just outside my picture window. Focusing my 25-power telescope upon him, I entered the following notes: Filled entire scope, iridescent blue-purplish-greenish coloration on head extending into neck as a hood effect, rest of body black; eye-yellowish-white. These are the markings attributed in the field guides for the Brewer's Blackbird, except for the eye. Peterson in "Field Guide to the Birds" says the male has a white eye, although in his "Field Guide to the Western Birds" the eye of the male is listed as pale yellow.

While observing the bird, I also discussed the distinguishing features over the telephone with George Hurley. The bird was visible for 20-30 minutes in two different bare oak trees before it flew away. This closeness of the bird and ease of observation makes identification certain as the Brewer's Blackbird. The author had previously observed this species during a Western trip.

Kenneth H. Anderson
2042 Weberwood Dr.
South Charleston, W. Va.

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Hall, George A., 1971. The List of West Virginia Birds. Redstart, 38,2 (1971).

Young Male Harlequin Duck at Bluestone Dam, Hinton, West Virginia

J. Lawrence Smith

Certainly the most unexpected waterfowl observation during the 1973-74 winter season at the Bluestone Dam was a young male Harlequin Duck [*Histrionicus histrionicus*] seen on three occasions. It was first seen on January 22, 1974 when I was watching a number of Buffleheads and Goldeneyes near the bridge below the dam. Other ducks soon flew in accompanied by a bird that was mostly dark with the exception of some light patches about the head. I found it through the telescope and when it would face in my direction the white on the cheeks almost had the appearance of the "spectacles" of the female Scaup. The duck also had a spot of white above and behind the eye which I was prone to think at the time perhaps marked it a female Scoter.

On February 7 the strange duck was seen in company with Goldeneyes near the dam and this offered me an opportunity to study it for some length of time. There proved to be a greater amount of white than what I had first seen. There was a line of white down the side of the head along with two spots while on the side there was an elongated spot of white immediately before the wing. The tail was outstanding and was suggestive of the tail of the Ruddy Duck.

It was not until February 15 that I became convinced that it was a Harlequin when, luckily, it was again present where I had seen it the week before. After checking various references I had already begun to think it most likely a Harlequin. It was much smaller than the Goldeneyes it was with, but it showed more white than a female Harlequin. After checking Forbush (1925) it seemed without a doubt that it was a male in its first winter plumage.

There is no previous record of the Harlequin Duck for West Virginia. It is interesting to note, however, the presence of one near Blacksburg, Virginia from late February to early April, 1973.

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"Appalachian Region," *American Birds*, 1973 27(3):615.
Forbush, Edward Howe, *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Vol. I, Boston, Mass., 1925, p. 260.

312 Ballengee Street, Hinton, West Virginia

Bird Kill at Smoke Stack

Approximately 2000 birds were killed at a power plant 1103 ft. smoke stack on the night of September 30, 1973. The plant is located at Cheshire, Ohio, on the Ohio River and is under construction. Only the smoke stack is completed. At that time, the construction workers were on strike and the weather varied from rain to drizzle

to thunderstorms with fog at night.

Mr. James Glaspell and Mr. David Hayden, representing a consulting firm, were making an environmental impact study at the time. After the September 30th disaster, they picked up 1600 birds and left from 200 to 400 birds on the ground because of poor conditions. It was impossible for them to count the number of birds of each species and so I have marked X on the chart. Subsequently they checked the plant area daily and were able to make accurate counts of the birds that they found.

There were no flood lights at the stack, no noise, and the birds were found on the north, west, and finally the northwest side of the structure.

Mrs. John Stewart, 600 Masonic Park Rd., Marietta, Ohio

Stack kill at Cheshire, Ohio 1973

Species	Sept. 30	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7
Flicker	X		1	
Empidonax (sp)	X	2	1	
Brown creeper			4	
Catbird	X			
Woodthrush	X			
Swainson's thrush	X			
Gold-cr. Kinglet	X	1	9	5
Ruby-cr. kinglet	X		1	1
White-eyed vireo	X	1	3	1
Yel-throated vireo	X			
Solitary vireo	X			
Red-eyed vireo	X	5	3	1
Philadelphia vireo				1
Black and White warbler	X			
Tennessee warbler	X	1	1	1
Nashville warbler	X			
Parula warbler	X		1	4
Magnolia warbler	X	4	1	2
Cape May warbler	X			
Black-throated blue warbler	X	1		1
Black-throated green warbler			1	2
Blackburnian warbler	X	1	1	
Chestnut-sided warbler	X	2	1	
Bay-breasted warbler	X			6
Palm warbler	X	1		1
Ovenbird	X			
Kentucky warbler	X			
Yellowthroat	X	2		1
Yellow-breasted chat	X			
Hooded warbler	X			*1
American Redstart	X			
Rose-breasted grosbeak	X			
Indigo bunting	X		1	1

*also 1 unidentified warbler—possibly a hooded warbler.

A Preliminary Look at the Birds of Salt Fork State Park

Glen Phillips

Salt Fork State Park is located near the junction of Interstate 70 and I-77 in Guernsey County, Ohio. The main entrance is approximately seven miles east of the town of Cambridge on U.S. route 22. The park surrounds a man-made, 2970 acre reservoir which was designed as an alternate water supply for Cambridge, but is now used primarily for recreational purposes. The dam was completed in 1967 and construction of the present park facilities began in 1969.

The park includes many recreation facilities: a lodge, cabins, golf course, public beach, camping area with its own beach, marina, as well as a managed public hunting area, many trails and picnic sites. Two of these trails are unique as one is a hard-surfaced trail for the handicapped and another is designed to be used by blind persons.

Following a custom, now established, I offered to conduct some studies to add to the accumulated knowledge of the bird life in the park. Specifically: to conduct a singing male census study on one of the trails in the camping area, so that campers would know what to expect on walks: to gather information on the summer nesting species, so that changes could be noted in the future: and put this information at the disposal of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the camping authorities and summer naturalists at the park.

The documents that were available, so far as could be determined, were the records of Mr. Steven Beissinger, Park Naturalist during the summer of 1974 (June to August inclusive), one winter trip (11/23/74) by the Brooks Bird Club (B.B.C.), three personal records by Mrs. Nevada Laitsch of Brooks Bird Club and two records of field trips by ornithology classes from the Ohio State University (O.S.U.) under the leadership of Mr. Raymond F. Jezerinac, Instructor of Zoology. These trips by the O.S.U. groups were made at the height of the migration and included many non-nesting species.

The singing male census was completed on a trail near the camping registration office and the outdoor stage, thanks to Greg and Anne Eddy who helped with the layout and habitat description of the plot and spent a full day helping identify summer birds. Eighty seven species of birds were found within the park boundaries between May 24 and May 29 1975, of which three (Ring-necked Duck, Swainson's Thrush and Bay-breasted Warbler) probably do not nest in the area. There were also at least seven species, recorded by others but not by me, that are nesting species namely: Cooper's Hawk, Rock Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rough-winged Swallow and House Sparrow. Nests, or young being fed, were found for nine species, these are recorded in the following list. I found only one species, the Savannah Sparrow that had not been recorded by others. Route numbers mentioned in the annotated list are those designated on the Salt Fork State Park Brochure.

The following list is incomplete because there are many more species, mostly migrants, that certainly occur within the park. Additional information is needed on the water birds that must certainly stop on the lake during spring and fall migration,

on the owls and the warblers.

So far as I know, no extensive winter studies have been conducted and the few trips by Brooks Bird Club members are insufficient to determine exactly which are permanent residents, winter residents, etc, though many could be listed fairly accurately by anyone familiar with the birds of the region. This needed information will be documented in time as others enjoy recording birds in the park. Let this list be a guide to further study.

LIST OF SPECIES

- 1 Common Loon—Recorded by the Brooks Bird Club 11/23/74 and by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- 2 Horned Grebe—Seen by the B.B.C. 11/23/74 and recorded by Beissinger during summer of 1974.
- 3 Pied-billed Grebe—Recorded by B.B.C. 11/23/74.
- *4 Great Blue Heron—This species could be found most every day along the lake shores. The wildlife area manager reported a rookery nearby.
- *5 Green Heron—Two sightings, one along county road 58 (5/27) and one at junction of routes 54 and 55.
- 6 Great Egret—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- 7 Canada Goose—Recorded by Beissinger 1974.
- *8 Mallard—Sighted several times, at least three birds near the wildlife area headquarters and two males at the junction of routes 1 and 29 (5/27).
- 9 Black Duck—Recorded by B.B.C. 11/23/74.
- 10 Blue-winged Teal—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- *11 Wood Duck—Two females, one with 6 young and one with 9 were seen 5/29/75 at the junction of routes 54 and 55.
- *12 Ring-necked Duck—One bird was seen near the wildlife area headquarters (5/29/75). It would be interesting to know if the bird was injured and unable to continue its migration.
- *13 Turkey Vulture—Several in the area. One could count 6 or 7 visible on several occasions during three week spent there.
- 14 Cooper's Hawk—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73 and by Beissinger 1974.
- *15 Red-tailed Hawk—Several sightings, two were seen near the public beach (5/27/75) and one was seen on route 51 (5/29).
- 16 Red-shouldered Hawk—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73.
- *17 Broad-winged Hawk—One seen flying over the study plot (5/24).
- 18 Marsh Hawk—Recorded by B.B.C. 11/23/74.
- 19 Osprey—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73 and by Mrs. Laitsch 11/22/73.
- *20 Ruffed Grouse—One drummed consistently on the study plot and a hen with chicks was found there. Mr. Jezerinac found a nest 5/12/74.
- *21 Bobwhite—The population of this species appears good. Probably credit goes to proper planting and wildlife management efforts.
- *22 Ring-necked Pheasant—One male was seen near the wildlife management headquarters. The manager feels that survival and wintering of these birds is poor.
- *23 Killdeer—Common along most any part of the lake shore.
- 24 Ruddy Turnstone—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- *25 American Woodcock—One bird could be heard any evening across route 1 from the picnic area that is near the junction of routes 1 and 5. The date is quite late for a

migrant and the species has been known to nest in nearby areas.

- *26 Spotted Sandpiper—Only one sighting during the week. A single bird was noted on the lake shore at the end of route 23 (5/29).
- 27 Solitary sandpiper—Found by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- 28 Lesser Yellowlegs—Found by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- 29 Pectoral Sandpiper—Found by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- 30 Baird's Sandpiper—Found by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- 31 Least Sandpiper—Found by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- 32 Dunlin—Found by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- 33 Stilt Sandpiper—Found by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.
- *34 Ring-billed Gull—On two occasions a single gull was seen, once near the public beach (5/25) and once near park headquarters (5/27).
- 35 Common Tern—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73.
- 36 Rock Dove—Recorded by both O.S.U. groups.
- *37 Mourning Dove—Common and well distributed over the park.
- 38 Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73 and by Mr. Beissinger during the summer of 1974.
- *39 Black-billed Cuckoo—Birds singing the evenly-spaced song associated with this species were heard twice. Once on the hillside south of the study plot (5/25) and once near the junction of routes 54 and 55 (5/28).
- 40 Barred Owl—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73.
- *41 Whip-poor-will—One evening as I was returning from the study plot, I heard four birds calling. One was seen along route 1.
- 42 Common Nighthawk—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73 and by Beissinger during the summer of 1974.
- *43 Chimney Swift—Did not appear common. Six were seen at the edge of the park near an old farmhouse along route 54.
- *44 Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Seen twice near the western end of the study plot.
- *45 Belted Kingfisher—Found once near the flooded covered bridge off route 1 parking area.
- *46 Common Flicker—Found in good numbers. They seemed to prefer the snags of trees killed by the rising water.
- *47 Pileated Woodpecker—Two sightings: one just north of the study plot and one near the junction of routes 54 and 55.
- *48 Red-bellied Woodpecker—Seen on the western end of the study plot (5/25).
- 49 Red-headed Woodpecker—Reported by Beissinger during the summer of 1974.
- *50 Hairy Woodpecker—Two sightings: One on the western end of the study plot (5/25) and one near the junction of routes 54 and 55 (5/28).
- *51 Downy Woodpecker—Most common of the family, as expected. One on the study plot.
- *52 Eastern Kingbird—Probably more common than noted by this observer. They were seen near park headquarters and near parking lot by old covered bridge along route 1.
- *53 Great Crested Flycatcher—At least one on the study plot and one near junction of routes 54 and 55.
- *54 Eastern Phoebe—One nested on the bulletin board at wildlife management

headquarters. Others were seen at the junction of routes 54 and 55 and at the edge of the park on route 54.

*55 Acadian Flycatcher—Could be found in any of the older woods of the park.

*56 Willow Flycatcher—Fairly common, heard near park headquarters, near the public beach and at junction of routes 54 and 55. The one at the last site was at least half a mile from the lake.

*57 Least Flycatcher—Heard and seen (5/28) near the bridge at junction of routes 54 and 55. Could this have been a late migrant or do they nest at this elevation?

*58 Eastern Wood Pewee—Common, one nest was found on the study plot.

*59 Horned Lark—Common, seen and heard near the lodge and along most any of the ridge roads.

*60 Tree Swallow—More common than expected. They showed a preference for trees killed by the rising water of the lake. There was a colony by the flooded covered bridge and a nest was found near the junction of routes 54 and 55.

61 Bank Swallow—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73.

62 Rough-winged Swallow—Recorded during both trips by O.S.U. groups.

*63 Barn Swallow—Quite common, they were everywhere they would be expected. A large colony nested under the bridge of route 1 near the old covered bridge.

64 Purple Martin—Recorded both years by O.S.U. groups and by Beissinger during the summer of 1974.

*65 Blue Jay—Common, but they seemed to be still inhabiting the woods rather than living near the picnic tables as in some parks.

*66 Common Crow—Only fairly common at this time of year.

*67 Chickadee—Beissinger listed the black-capped. All others listed the Carolina Chickadee. The summer residents heard by the author were singing the song of the Carolina, but the author also believes that both species occur during the winter months.

*68 Tufted Titmouse—Seemingly more prevalent than the preceding species. Perhaps they were only more vociferous.

*69 White-breasted Nuthatch—Only two sightings. One on the west end of the study plot and one on the hill near the junction of routes 54 and 55.

*70 House Wren—One on the study plot and one just west of the plot. A few nest boxes would increase the population of this species.

*71 Carolina Wren—One on the study plot, among other places. The absence of old buildings probably limits the numbers of this species.

72 Long-billed Marsh Wren—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.

*73 Mockingbird—One was seen at the camping registration office and one at the horseman's unloading area.

*74 Gray Catbird—Common in the brushy areas.

*75 Brown Thrasher—Fairly common, sightings made near the autumn olive planting on route 55 and south of the park office.

*76 American Robin—Common.

*77 Wood Thrush—Common to any wooded area.

78 Hermit Thrush—Found by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73.

*79 Swainson's Thrush—The morning of 5/25, four were counted on the study plot. At least one remained for three days. In this observer's opinion, they were late

migrants.

80 Veery—Found by O.S.U. on both trips 5/12-13/73 and 5/11-12/74.

*81 Eastern Bluebird—Two were discovered May 24. One was near the overlook on route 1, the other was near the old covered bridge.

*82 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Heard regularly on the study plot, where one nest was found. Rather common throughout the park.

83 Golden-crowned Kinglet—Recorded by B.B.C. 11/23/74.

84 Ruby-crowned Kinglet—Listed by O.S.U. 5/12-13/73.

85 Water Pipit—Recorded by Mrs. Laitsch 10/13/74.

*86 Cedar Waxwing—Heard and seen (5/24) at the junction of routes 1 and 5.

*87 Starling—Common, particularly around the buildings. A nest was found near the junction of routes 54 and 55.

*88 White-eyed Vireo—Two records, one near the park office (5/27) and one near the intersection of routes 1 and 51 (5/28).

*89 Yellow-throated Vireo—Two different birds were singing on the study plot.

90 Solitary Vireo—Listed by O.S.U. on both trips.

*91 Red-eyed Vireo—Common. There were six singing on the study plot.

*92 Warbling Vireo—One noted singing at old covered bridge off parking lot on route 1.

93 Black-and-white Warbler—Listed by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.

*94 Blue-winged Warbler—Two were singing on the census plot. The brushy habitat of the fields contributes to the substantial number of this species throughout the park, particularly on the ridges.

95 Tennessee Warbler—Listed during both trips by O.S.U.

96 Nashville Warbler—Listed during both O.S.U. trips.

97 Parula Warbler—Recorded by Beissinger during the summer of 1974.

*98 Yellow Warbler—Heard and seen throughout the park. The song could be heard almost any time one would stop and listen.

99 Magnolia Warbler—Listed during both trips by O.S.U.

100 Cape May Warbler—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.

101 Black-throated Blue Warbler—Recorded by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.

102 Yellow-rumped Warbler—Listed by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74 and by B.B.C. 11/23/74.

103 Black-throated Green Warbler—Listed on both O.S.U. trips.

*104 Cerulean Warbler—There were three on the census plot. These warblers preferred the larger trees of older woods.

105 Blackburnian Warbler—Recorded on both O.S.U. trips.

106 Chestnut-sided Warbler—Listed on both trips by O.S.U.

*107 Bay-breasted Warbler—one female seen (5/24) on the census plot by Greg and Anne Eddy during the first trip through the plot, thought to be a migrant.

*108 Prairie Warbler—The same condition that contributed to the concentration of Blue-winged Warblers was probably responsible for the many records of Prairie Warblers. Notably near the park office and near the autumn olive planting on route 55.

109 Palm Warbler—Listed by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.

*110 Ovenbird—At the beginning of the census study, two were singing on the plot but they moved off the plot after the second day. Another was heard (5/28) near the

junction of routes 54 and 55.

*111 Louisiana Waterthrush—One was occupying a territory on the census plot and one was singing near the old stone house.

*112 Kentucky Warbler—One was consistent on the study plot and one could be heard on the hillside east of the camping registration office.

*113 Common Yellowthroat—The song could usually be heard throughout the park except on the drier ridges.

*114 Yellow-breasted Chat—The brushy growth of former cultivated fields made desirable habitat for this species. One sang part of the time on the census plot.

115 Wilson's Warbler—Listed by O.S.U. during both trips.

*116 American Redstart—One was heard a few times on the east end of the study plot and one at the bridge near the junction of routes 54 and 55.

117 House Sparrow—Listed by O.S.U. both trips, by Beissinger and the B.B.C. but not by the author during his visit.

*118 Eastern Meadowlark—Easily found near the golf course, public beach and other mowed areas.

*119 Red-winged Blackbird—Common throughout the park.

*120 Orchard Oriole—Two records: One near the site of a former dwelling on the west end of route 54 and one on the access road that leads up the hill from the bridge near the junction of routes 54 and 55. This location was also a former homesite.

*121 Northern Oriole—Rather common, most sightings were near the lake. Two nests, both in sycamore trees at the lake edge.

*122 Common Grackle—Plentiful in the park, particularly around places most frequented by people, yet they did not have the boldness usually shown by the species in parks and picnic areas. Observed feeding young.

*123 Brown-headed Cowbird—Common throughout the park.

*124 Scarlet Tanager—Sang consistently on the study plot and could be heard from most any stand of trees with a canopy of 25 feet and upward.

*125 Summer Tanager—One sang often near the west end of the study plot and one was heard and seen near the autumn olive plantings on route 55.

*126 Cardinal—Although this permanent resident was found throughout the park, numbers were not as high as the author expected.

127 Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Listed during both visits by O.S.U.

*128 Indigo Bunting—Common throughout the park except in the areas of woodland. Three on the census plot.

*129 American Goldfinch—Seen throughout the park but seemed more prevalent along the ridges, notably the autumn olive planting on route 55.

*130 Rufous-sided Towhee—Common throughout the park. Two on the census plot.

*131 Savannah Sparrow—One individual was found singing from stake markers and a pile of sand near the south end of the parking lot of the public beach.

*132 Grasshopper Sparrow—Heard often along the ridge roads, notably routes 55 and 57.

*133 Henslow's Sparrow—The author would estimate that at least 50 different males of this species were heard in the park in a week, along any ridge road or ridge trail. Four were heard singing simultaneously near the autumn olive plantings on route 55 by the Eddys and the author. It will be interesting to see how long the habitat remains to their liking and how fast the numbers dwindle as the area grows

from neglected fields to underbrush.

*134 Vesper Sparrow—Seen near autumn olive plantings on route 55.

135 Dark-eyed Junco—Seen by B.B.C. 11/24/74.

136 Tree Sparrow—Seen by B.B.C. 11/24/74.

*137 Chipping Sparrow—Seen throughout the park. One specific place being the office at wildlife management headquarters.

*138 Field Sparrow—Also widely distributed in the park. One on the census plot.

139 White-crowned Sparrow—Listed by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.

140 White-throated Sparrow—Listed by O.S.U. during both trips.

141 Swamp Sparrow—Listed by O.S.U. 5/11-12/74.

*142 Song Sparrow—Although no song sparrows were heard on the study plot, they seemed in expected numbers in other places. Noted particularly near park headquarters and at the parking lot near the covered bridge off route 1.

* Identified May 24, 1975 to May 29, 1975 by the author aided by Dr. Greg and Anne Eddy of Rt. 2 Aster Drive, Clinton Hills, Triadelphia, W. Va. 26059.

O.S.U. Ornithology class field trips under the leadership of Mr. Raymond F. Jezerinac, Instructor of Zoology, Ohio State University, University Drive, Newark, Ohio 43055.

Mr. Beissinger. Steven Beissinger, Park Naturalist during the summer of 1974, who helped the author select the site for the census plot and submitted a record of the birds he had found during that summer.

B.B.C. The Brooks Bird Club, 707 Warwood Ave., Wheeling, W. Va. 26003.

Mrs. Laitsch, Mrs. John Laitsch, M.C. 21, Dixonville, East Liverpool, Ohio 44224.

All common names are from the revised edition of the 7th A.O.U. checklist.

HICKORY—MAPLE PARK WOODLAND

Location: Guernsey Co., Ohio, approximately ¼ mile from the registration station for the camping area of Salt Fork State Park; 40 deg. 6' 18" N, 81 deg. 30' 8" W, Old Washington Quadrangle, USGS.

Size: 6.1 ha. = 15 acres (rectangular 1980 x 330 feet, measured longitudinally and estimated laterally).

Topography: Centerline of the plot is essentially East-West, following the north slope of a hill for half the length and following a stream between hills for the other half. Elevation varies from 980 to 880 feet.

Description of Plot: The dominant canopy trees are Sugar Maple [*Acer saccharum*] and Mockernut Hickory [*Carya tomentosa*]. Most prominent in the understory are Poison Ivy [*Rhus radicans*] and Blackberries [*Rubus* sp.]. Among the ground cover plants are many ferns including Christmas Fern [*Polystichum acrostichoides*] and Rattlesnake Fern [*Botrychium virginianum*]. A quantitative survey of the vegetation gave the following results: Trees 3-inches diameter and over, based on six circular 0.1 acre samples, 214/acre; total basal area 68 sq. ft./acre. Species comprising 92% of the total number of trees: Sugar Maple, 25, 12, 13, 67; Mockernut Hickory, 18, 8, 12, 50; Red Oak [*Quercus rubra*], 8, 4, 9, 33; Red Elm [*Ulmus rubra*], 35, 16, 8, 83; American Elm [*U. americana*], 23, 11, 8, 67; White Oak [*Q. alba*], 7, 3, 6, 50; American Hornbeam [*Carpinus caroliniana*], 27, 13, 4, 67; Black Cherry [*Prunus serotina*], 13, 6, 4, 67; Black Oak [*Q. velutina*], 12, 6, 3, 17; Shagbark Hickory [*C. ovata*], 10, 5, 4, 17; dead trees, 17, 8, 24, 67 (figures after each give

number of trees/acre, relative density (%), relative dominance, frequency, in that sequence. Trees by diameter size class: A (3-6 in.) 130, 60, 13, 19; B (6-9 in.) 55, 26, 17, 25; C (9-15 in.) 22, 10, 17, 25; D (15-21 in.) 5, 2, 9, 13; G (33-40 in.) 2, 1, 12, 18 (figures after each class give number of trees/acre, relative density, basal area in square feet/acre, relative dominance. Shrub stems/acre 4758; ground cover 74.6%; canopy cover 85%; average canopy height 70 ft. (range 48-82). Plant names from Flora of West Virginia, Strausbaugh and Core.

CENSUS

Species	Territorial Males	Males per 100 Acres
Red-eyed Vireo	6	40
Acadian Flycatcher	5.5	37
Cerulean Warbler	3	20
Indigo Bunting	3	20
Cardinal	2.5	17
Eastern Wood Pewee	2	13
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	13
Rufous-sided Towhee	2	13
Wood Thrush	1.5	10
Yellow-throated Vireo	1.5	10
Blue-winged Warbler	1.5	10
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	7
Carolina Chickadee	1	7
Tufted Titmouse	1	7
House Wren	1	7
Carolina Wren	1	7
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	7
Kentucky Warbler	1	7
Scarlet Tanager	1	7
Field Sparrow	1	7
Yellow-breasted Chat	0.5	3
Turkey Vulture	+	+
Broad-winged Hawk	+	+
Ruffed Grouse	+	+
Whip-poor-will	+	+
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	+	+
Pileated Woodpecker	+	+
Red-bellied Woodpecker	+	+
Downy Woodpecker	+	+
Blue Jay	+	+
White-breasted Nuthatch	+	+
American Redstart	+	+
Brown-headed Cowbird	+	+
American Goldfinch	+	+
Totals: 34 species	40.	267.

Edge: Bordered on one side by similar habitat and on the other by young deciduous brushland about 25 feet high.

Weather: Hot and humid with thundershowers every afternoon.

Coverage: May 24-29, 1975, ten trips between dawn and 0900, the others at dusk. Total 17 trips, 13 party hours.

Visitors: Black-billed Cuckoo, Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Bay-breasted Warbler, Ovenbird and Summer Tanager.

Remarks: Only two nests were located, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Eastern Wood Pewee. Neither could be reached for examination. This study was undertaken in the camping area of a state park along a hiking trail that is used by the public. The park is relatively new and such information can be used. The spring season was cold and wet which appeared to delay the migration accounting for the presence of such migrants as Swainson's Thrush and Bay-breasted Warbler. There were two ovenbirds on the plot at the start of the census, but they stopped singing or left the area. It is not known if they were still in migration. Possibly the greatest surprise was the Summer Tanager who was seen to visit a fairly open patch of trees about 25 feet high on two occasions. A Ruffed Grouse used a favorite log for drumming on the plot, so the appearance of a female with chicks was not a complete surprise. White-tailed deer, Gray squirrels and Eastern Chipmunks were frequently seen.

Census Takers: Greg and Ann Eddy and Glen Phillips (compiler). The Brooks Bird Club, 707 Warwood Ave., Wheeling, W. Va. 26003.



FIELD NOTES

Mrs. Nevada Laitsch, Editor
MC 21, East Liverpool, Ohio

THE FALL SEASON

September 1 through November 30, 1975

The weather was generally good through the Fall season with many warm, sunny days and pleasant nights. There was an absence of cold fronts and frost was not evident in most places until near the end of the period.

The migration was considered to be very good by most reporters. It began early and lasted over a longer period than usual. Two noteworthy records were submitted—a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen in Tucker County, West Virginia and a Yellow-headed Blackbird was recorded at Princeton, West Virginia.

Loons, grebes and herons—**Several Com.** Loons were on Bluestone Lake, Summers Co., W. Va. October 27 (JLS); 4 on Evans Lake, Youngstown, O. October 20 (WB) and 2 in Jefferson Co., W. Va. in November (CM). **Horned Grebes** were more common than usual in November. They were reported at Bluestone Lake (JLS

and JP), a large flock at Youngstown, O. (WB) and a flock of 50 at Charleston, W. Va. (NG). The many reports of **Pied-billed Grebes** indicate that they were quite common. An estimated flock of 500 was seen on the Kanawha river near Charleston on October 10 (NG). **Great Blue Herons** were seen in South Charleston, W. Va. throughout the period (GFH). A flight of 25 to 50 were heard passing over Ken Anderson's home in Charleston around 10 pm October 29 (KA) and 18 birds, flying very high, was seen over Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Va. November 23 (NL). Two **Com. Egrets** were seen in South Charleston Sept. 20 to 26 (GFH). The latest date for **Green Heron** was October 29 at Bluestone Lake (JP). A Black-crowned Night Heron was recorded on the Shenandoah river November 17 (CM).

Swans and geese—The only report of **Whistling Swans** was a flock of about 2000 on Cheat Lake, Morgantown, W. Va. on November 15 (fide GAH). Although a few reporters mentioned small numbers of **Canada Geese**, the flight was not impressive. 4 **Blue Geese** were found in Charleston, W. Va. November 4 and remained there for several weeks (NG).

Waterfowl—The duck flight apparently dribbled through as no concentrations of numbers of ducks were reported. A dozen **Gadwalls** were seen on Bluestone Lake October 20 (JLS). **Wigeons** were more common than usual during the period. **Green-winged Teal** figured in most reports. An **Old Squaw** was seen on the Potomac river near Shepherdstown, W. Va. November 2 (CM). A **Black Scoter** was on Cheat Lake, Morgantown, W. Va. for about three weeks in November (GAH). There have been few sightings of this species in West Virginia.

Vultures and hawks—**Turkey Vultures** were quite common in most areas and more records than usual of **Black Vultures** came from Greenbrier, Summers and Monroe Counties. A **Goshawk** was observed at fairly close range in Washington County, O. October 15 (MO). Reports of **Sharpshinned Hawks** were much greater than usual. The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight was disappointing to counters manning the Appalachian ridges this fall. Heavy rains resulting from hurricane Eloise apparently caused a diversion from the usual pattern. The flight at Allegheny Front Mt. was negligible. The 10 day count at Peters Mt. yielded 2653 and East River Mt. counters saw 867. A **Golden Eagle** was seen near Davis, W. Va. September 7 (GAH) and one passed the Peters Mt. lookout September 21. There were several reports of **Marsh Hawks** during the period.

Gallinaceous and shorebirds—Reports of good numbers of **Bobwhites** came from agricultural areas. A flock of **Turkeys** was seen at Tomlinson Run State Park, Hancock Co. W. Va. during early October (ERC) and they were twice reported at Coonskin Park in Charleston (NG). **Sora Rails** were found again this fall near Gap Mills, Monroe Co. W. Va. (NL). **Coots** staged a good fall flight. A **Semi-palmated Sandpiper** was seen in Greenbrier Co. W. Va. September 7 and October 1 (COH). This was a new bird for Handley's Greenbrier County list. **Killdeer** were very common throughout the period. A **Golden Plover** was found near Lewisburg, W. Va. September 21 as was a **Black-bellied Plover** at the same location on the same date. 3 of the latter were there October 16 (COH). A **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** was seen at Canaan Valley State Park, W. Va. September 7 (GAH). There are no previous published records for this species in West Virginia according to Hall. 6 **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen at Princeton, W. Va. October 17 (JP). **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen in Greenbrier County in late August and a few **Greater**

Yellowlegs and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen there in late August and early September. Mr. Handley also reported **Pectoral Sandpipers**, **Least Sandpipers** and **Semi-palmated Sandpipers** during this period. A female **Northern Phalarope** was observed on one of the lakes at FFA-FHA center near Ripley, W. Va. September 28 (HG). **Com. Snipe** were reported from Youngstown, O., Greenbrier County, W. Va. and McClintic Wildlife Station, Mason County, W. Va.

Cuckoos and owls—Both species of **cuckoos** appeared to be scarce as little mention of either was included in reports. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was banded at Morgantown on the late date of November 4 (GAH). **Screech Owls** were not uncommon at Princeton, W. Va. (JP) and they were heard throughout October and November at East Liverpool, O. Both phases were found at Youngstown, O. in October (WB). **Great Horned Owls** were reported at Princeton, W. Va., Hinton, W. Va. and McClintic Wildlife Station. **Barred Owls** were heard at Frame, W. Va., Moncove Lake, Monroe County, W. Va. and Mt. Davis, Pa.

Goatsuckers—A **Whip-poor-will** was heard singing at Moncove Lake September 19 (NL). **Com. Nighthawks** staged a good flight over most of the region. It was a little later than usual continuing through the second week of September. A late one was seen by Bell near Clarksville, Pa. on October 3. **Chimney Swifts** were considered to be numerous by most reporters and most agreed that they had moved out by the second week of October.

Woodpeckers, flycatchers and swallows—A **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Clarksville, Pa. October 26 was the only record submitted (RKB). The flight of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** appeared to be normal. The earliest date was September 29 when 6 were seen at Charleston (NG). **Hairy Woodpeckers** continue to be scarce at Morgantown (GAH). Great numbers of **flycatchers** (*Empidonax*) moved through the vicinity of Camp Anthony, Greenbrier County, W. Va. over the Labor Day week-end. 6 Phoebes were at Bluestone Lake October 29 (JP). A flock of more than 100 **Tree Swallows** were at Coonskin Park, Charleston on September 24 (NG). A flock of about 2000 **Cliff Swallows** spent the night of September 5 near Lewisburg, W. Va. and a few were seen in that vicinity until September 21 (COH).

Corvids—**Blue Jays** staged a good flight at Allegheny Front Mt. during September and a big flight was noted at Charleston September 22-27 and at East River Mt. September 27. **Com. Ravens** were seen at Peters Mt., Bluestone Lake, Athens, W. Va. and East River Mt. during September.

Chickadees through wrens—The **Black-capped Chickadee** flight was one of the biggest in recent years. It began in earnest in mid October and lasted at least a month. Banders handled unusual numbers of birds and they appeared in equally large numbers at feeders. **White-breasted Nuthatches** were more common at Morgantown than in the past several years (GAH). Most reporters commented on the good numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. The flight was earlier than usual. 52 of this species were banded at the A.F.M.O. station between August 30 and October 12. September 7 was considered an early date for **Brown Creeper** at Elkview, W. Va. (HG). Although there were a few records of **Winter Wrens**, they appeared to be somewhat scarce. 4 were banded at A.F.M.O. and 1 at Clarksville, Pa. A **Bewick's Wren** was seen near Lewisburg Sept. 6 where it is uncommon although it nests on Muddy Creek Mt. about three miles away (COH). **Carolina Wrens** are still maintaining high population levels. Two **Long-billed Marsh Wrens** were seen at

Youngstown, O. November 16 (WB).

Mimics and thrushes—**Catbird** numbers appeared to be normal. Several late dates for **Brown Thrashers** were submitted which hints that many may attempt to winter in the region. **Robins** moved through in very good numbers. The **Wood Thrush** migration appeared to be improved over the past few years. Banders reports indicated a good movement of **Hermit Thrushes**. **Swainson's Thrushes** were about normal at Morgantown (GAH) but appeared to be unusually good at Charleston where banders handled 75 **Swainsons** between September 28 and October 7 (fide NG). 44 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were handled at the same station during the same period. Most reporters commented on the good numbers of **Bluebirds**.

Kinglets and Waxwings—There was a heavy flight of both species of **kinglets**. **Ruby-crowned** were especially plentiful during the last two weeks of October. Large flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** were reported in several areas in September and October but they moved out by the first of November.

Vireos and warblers—A **White-eyed Vireo** banded at A.F.M.O. on October 4 was both late and unusual. **Solitary Vireos** lingered well into October. The warbler flight was considered exceptionally good by several reporters. The long period of warm weather was favorable to a steady flight and birds appeared to be well distributed over the region. Early flight peaks occurred at A.F.M.O. September 3-5 and 9-11. There was a major flight September 21-22 but the biggest flight of the year occurred September 27-28. **Tennessee**, **Black-throated Blue** and **Blackpoll** warblers were the leading species in that order. Another big flight was evident October 18-19 when banders handled unusually large numbers of birds and a TV tower kill was noted at Youngstown, O. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** staged a fabulous flight. A very early one was banded at Clarksville, Pa. September 17 (RKB) but the main flight began in early October and continued until the end of the period. Ten **Connecticut Warblers** were banded at A.F.M.O. between September 4 and 28 and an unusually late one was seen at Uniontown, Pa. November 6 (VJ).

Blackbirds and finches—About 100 **Bobolinks** roosted in a cornfield near Lewisburg, W. Va. September 5 and several were seen there two days later (COH). They were observed in the same area on September 22. A **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was seen at Princeton, W. Va. October 15 (JP). The observer was able to see all field marks under good conditions. He received a report from another person who described the bird as the same as the one he saw on the same afternoon. A **Western Tanager** was seen near Washington, Pa. September 1 (SH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were mentioned in most reports. The latest date was October 6 at Greenbrier County. Flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** began to appear in the region during the last week of October and by mid November most reporters were convinced that they had settled in for the winter. 7 **House Finches** were banded at Inwood, W. Va. during the fall (CM) and 3 were coming to the feeder in Uniontown, Pa. November 15 (VJ). A good flight of **Purple Finches** was noted in several areas. There were few reports of **Pine Siskins**. An immature **Red Crossbill** was seen near Anthony, W. Va. September 1 (NL) and a small flight was seen over North Bend State Park on November 15.

Sparrows—The first date for **Dark-eyed Junco** arrival was October 1 and they had arrived in most places in good numbers by mid October. **White-crowned Sparrows** were listed at Charleston October 14 and Lewisburg on the 17th. The flight of

White-throated Sparrows was very heavy beginning earlier than usual and many were reported remaining in the region at the end of the period. There was a better than usual migration of **Swamp Sparrows** with the last date being October 26 at Morgantown. **Song Sparrows** were considered numerous by several reporters.

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The Gathering Cage



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Clarksville, Pa.—The inauguration of the "Blue List" was announced in the December 1971 issue of **American Birds** (Vol. 25, p. 948-49). The Blue List is to be an "early warning system" for species apparently declining within the traditional A.O.U. Check-List area. Not all areas need show a population decline for a certain species, but if a significant part of its range shows a decline, the species name goes on the list. **American Birds'** regional editors and expert field observers list on a questionnaire the species that they feel should be on the Blue List. Twenty-eight correspondents thought the Barn Owl should be on the list in 1975, and seventy-one favor listing it in 1976! Only New Jersey, Florida, the south-west states and the West Coast area reporters seem to think the Barn Owl is in no danger.

I started banding nestling Barn Owls here on the Farm in 1955. Two 50-gallon wooden barrels were put up for them about 1/2 mile apart. Although these barrels deteriorated badly after about 10 years, at least one nesting site has been available to them each year. In spite of this they have not been very successful in raising young here since the early 1960's. The decline in the number of young Barn Owls fledged here is shown in my banding records. The number banded (in each nest) and the banding dates are as follows. The letter (S) indicates the nest site (barrel) on the south side of the farm.

7 young banded May 31, 1955
6 young banded June 5, 1955 (S)
3 young banded June 8, 1956 (S)

- 2 young banded May 30, 1957 (S)
- 5 young banded May 30, 1957
- 5 young banded June 22, 1958
- 5 young banded June 26, 1958 (S)
- 6 young banded May 17, 1959 (S)
- 5 young banded May 23, 1959
- 4 young banded June 18, 1960 (S)
- 2 young banded July 10, 1963
- 1 young banded July 25, 1965 (S)
- 1 young banded June 30, 1968
- 2 young banded July 12, 1970 (at least 2 eggs didn't hatch)

The reasons for the decline are not readily apparent but are probably a combination of several things. The percentage of eggs hatching is 'way down which may suggest a dietary problem, either in the wintering or summer habitat. Racoons became common in the 1960's and even took over the barrel on the north side of the farm to raise their own young. I have often wondered if Racoons would raid Barn Owl nests for eggs or young, but I cannot find any mention of this in the literature. Another reason for the Barn Owl decline here could be caused by the Great Horned Owls. Bent in **Life Histories of N.A. Birds** mentions that the Great Horned Owl seems to be the chief natural enemy of the Barn Owl,—that they have been recorded several times as killing and devouring the gentle and weaker Barn Owl.

My Father told me that the "hoot owls" nested in the wooded hillside across the valley from our farm around 1915, but I never heard them in the 1920's or '30's. Now, farming is on the decline in this area and large woods are much more common. We began hearing the Great Horned Owls in the 1960's and last winter as many as 3 different owls could be heard without leaving the house.

But there are still Barn Owls in this area. In 1957 another barrel was fastened in a Maple tree near the Wm. Haver residence about 3 miles from here. Young Barn Owls have been raised successfully almost every year since at that location. And in February this year (1976), an adult was seen in an abandoned silo about 8 miles north of where they have nested in the past. No doubt there are other nest sites in the area that have not come to my attention.

There have been 4 Barn Owl recoveries (all banded as nestlings). One banded June 5, 1955 was hit by a car on Dec. 19, 1957 approx. 90 miles north of here. Another banded June 8, 1956 was found dead in December that year at Masontown, W. Va. (about 27 miles SSE of the banding site). One banded July 10, 1963 was reported as being found dead not far from the place of banding on Jan. 14, 1970. The fourth recovery was one banded Sept. 26, 1966 (near Carmichaels, Pa.) and found dead near the place of banding in the spring of 1973. Each of the last 2 owls lived approx. 6½ years.

In regard to band size for Barn Owls, the earlier recommendations were for size 6 to be used. I checked one once a month after banding and found the band was bit too snug. Therefore, since 1959 all my Barn Owls are banded with band size 7A.

In an effort to help the declining Barn Owl population, I have put up a new barrel this spring near the old dilapidated barrel on the south side of the farm. However, there is now a Great Horned Owl nest only ¼ mile away, so developments will be watched with interest in the future. **Ralph K. Bell**

THE REDSTART—APRIL, 1976

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