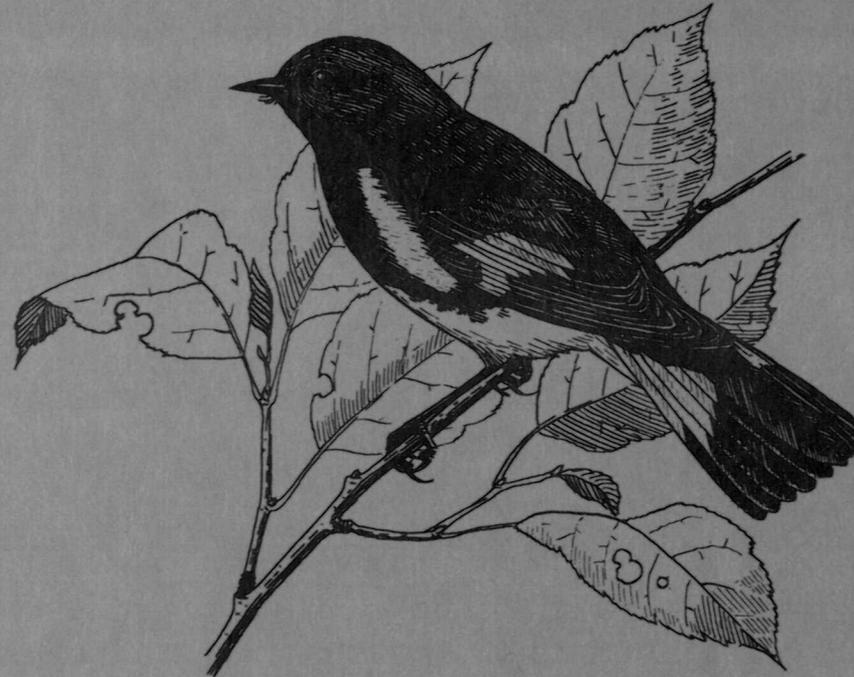


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OCTOBER 1982



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The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

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Charles Louis Conrad
1910-1982

Excerpts from the Memorial Service

William Murray

Brooks Bird Club, Oglebay Park, October 24, 1982

One spirit has touched each of us and each of us considered him friend. Posthumously, Charles Conrad has been an essential presence throughout this week-end.

Cindy Conrad Peters has remembrances of her father associated with the many songs beloved by Bird Club members over the years. These have inspired the following verse and expresses a feeling we all share:

You have laid down all your burdens
Forgotten your wordly woes,
Yet part of you stays here in West Virginia
Where the Rhododendron grows.

Charles Conrad was summoned from among us in the seventy-second year of his life. Those three-score and twelve years were years of learning, of achievement, of service to his fellow men. They were also years of depression-related hardships, of military service, loss of loved ones, and personal injury. But during the long years of our friendships these aspects of his life were never the subject of lengthy conversations. There was very little bitterness or animosity in his nature. Always there was that ready wit and humor that attracted all of us to him. Of course, he had his idiosyncrasies as we all do. We accepted them and few would allow them to interfere with his or her association and friendship with Chuck.

Chuck devoted most of his spare time to the field of nature study but he did find some time to participate in other activities in fraternal and service organizations such as the Elks and Lions Clubs. His personality and humor made him as acceptable in these groups as among birders and weed pickers.

I believe one of the first impressions that most of us would have upon meeting Chuck for the first time would be that of his sense of personal worth, of self confidence, but with an absence of arrogance. His self confidence was matched by his humility. He also took a personal interest in whomever he met. He had that great mental capacity of all true leaders to remember the names and personal histories of those he met.

Although Chuck did not have the advantage of advanced formal education, he was nevertheless an educated man. I am sure all of our learned friends here today would agree that Chuck had the ability to meet and talk with them as equals. I am sure the comment Ralph Waldo Emerson made concerning naturalists applies to Charles Conrad:

"And I think that the naturalist works not for himself, but for the believing mind, which turns his discoveries to revelations, receives them as private tokens of the grand good will of the Creator."

Chuck was always ready to teach and would answer repeated questions from those of us with an inferior ability to remember a bird song or plant name. I am sure he never thought of it as Emerson worded it, but he did look on each bird, plant, mushroom, valley, mountain, and yes, people "as the private tokens of the grand good will of the Creator."

Emerson has also said that, "An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man." And that "No institution will be better than the institutor." Although the Brooks Bird

Club was inspired by A.B. Brooks and organized by John Handlan, but as an entity the Brooks Bird Club is the lengthened shadow of one man - Charles Conrad. As the institutor, Charles Conrad has built a solid foundation, has inspired great numbers of people, was of such stature that he casts a long shadow that should lengthen in the years to come. No man has lived in vain as long as there remains fond memories in the minds of those who come after them. The Brooks Bird Club, as long as it exists, will be a memorial to the life of Chuck Conrad, a testimonial to his love of the out of doors and the people who shared it with him.

We have all experienced a great loss, but we all are the better for having shared a friendship with an outstanding individual. The Brooks Bird Club will continue and grow as the members share the responsibilities that Chuck carried pretty much alone for a great number of years. We all have shared a unique experience, an association of kindred souls, an interesting and rewarding recreational outlet and none of us wants to see that disappear for there would be an even greater void in our lives.

I think that the simplest and most complete summation of our feelings concerning Chuck's death was made by Jo Lane Stern when she said "The salt is missing."

A. B. Brooks, The Brooks Bird Club, and Chuck Conrad

George Miksch Sutton

Presented at the B.B.C. 50th Anniversary Meeting, October 23, 1982

In the summer of 1914 my father moved his family from Fort Worth, Texas to Bethany, a small college town in West Virginia's northern panhandle. I was sixteen years old. I considered myself a professional ornithologist. I kept an "official" notebook. I had wonderful ideas as to what I would be and do in this world. I liked to draw birds and to prepare their skins as "scientific specimens." I subscribed for two bird journals, an unpretentious little monthly called *The Oölogist*, published by R. Magoon Barnes of Lacon, Illinois, and Frank M. Chapman's handsome bimonthly, *Bird-Lore*. The latter had in it wonderful colorplates by a man whose work I had admired for years, Louis Agassiz Fuertes. The pronunciation of that strange name I could only guess at.

Not a soul in Bethany liked birds in what seemed to me the right way. They enjoyed feeding birds in winter, but didn't give a hoot as to whether the chickadees were Carolinas or Black-caps, and they couldn't tell one "chicken hawk" from another. I had never heard of Earle Brooks, at one time the State Ornithologist, of his brother A.B. Brooks, of his nephew Maurice Brooks, or of any other person in West Virginia who was known to be interested in birds. I felt stranded, lost.

Across the state line, in Waynesburg, southwestern Pennsylvania, lived three men, J. Warren Jacobs, Sam S. Dickey, and James B. Carter, whose names often appeared in *The Oölogist*. I wrote to Dickey, a friendship developed, and presently he was mailing me birds whose skins he wanted for his collection. Some of the specimens were large and anything but fresh when they reached me. A Great Blue Heron smelled so badly that for quite a while I was looked upon with disfavor in Bethany's little post office.

I went right on being as "professional" as possible. I walked in all directions about town, becoming familiar with Buffalo Creek and two of its main tributaries, Castleman's Run and Jordon Run. I became especially fond of a wooded glen called Logan's Hollow. Among birds that I saw and heard singing almost every day in summer were the Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers. Nearly every little woodland stream had two bird species that were new to me—the Louisiana Waterthrush and the Acadian Flycatcher. I was disappointed over my inability to find a marsh anywhere. I couldn't find a single spot at which cattails grew. There were no lakes anywhere, no mudflats, no prairies. Nowhere could I find a longspur in winter. Fog that hung in the valleys on summer mornings disturbed me. In Texas I had become used to distant horizons. There were no such horizons here.

But a professional is not to be stopped. The summer of 1916 I spent studying bird drawing under the great Fuertes at Sheldrake Point on Lake Cayuga near Ithaca, New York. In 1917 I donned military uniform as a private in the Students' Army Training Corps. In 1918 I became acquainted with W.E. Clyde Todd at the bewilderingly big Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh and became his assistant. In 1920 I accompanied him on an expedition that took us down the entire Labrador coast from Battle Harbor to Cape Chidley. I wrote extensive notes concerning that expedition. To my surprise Mr. Todd quoted from many of these when he published his final report.

During all those busy years from 1914 to 1920 I heard a good deal about Oglebay Park in Wheeling, a city 17 miles from Bethany, but not until I was living in Pittsburgh, owned a car, and visited Bethany while on vacation did I become acquainted with A.B. Brooks, the "naturalist in residence" there. A.B. and I hit it off instantly for I could tell, even from casual conversation, that he was an authority on the plants and animals of the West Virginia countryside, and he knew full well that I was more than a dabbler in bird study. He asked me to help him with his birdwalks and campfire talks at the park. I developed a special interest in a planting of young pines there, for I had heard that the Kirtland's Warbler nested in young pines in Michigan and I thought it would be wonderful if we could find a population of the rare birds breeding in West Virginia.

Greatly to my regret I never managed to go on one of A.B.'s nature walks. But I could tell, from what he said about plants that we happened to see, that he was more than ordinarily knowledgeable about them. He knew their scientific names, their over-all distribution. Furthermore, he had a literary man's slant on things. He could quote from any number of poets and essayists who had written about things botanical and ornithological.

Whenever I was in Bethany, A.B. visited me, for we were kindred spirits. We had all manner of things to discuss about conservation and conservation laws. My father and mother became deeply fond of him. If he stayed for a meal it was our custom to ask him to quote from one of his favorite authors. He loved a poem titled "Waiting" by John Burroughs. Asked to recite from that poem he would smile, push back his chair, stand, and give us:

"Serene I fold my hands and wait
Nor care for wind, nor tide, nor sea;
I rave no more 'gainst time or fate,
For lo, my own shall come to me."

There was something deeply moving about that dignified performance. We would sit there listening as his fine voice filled the room. How grateful we were for the friendship that made such an experience possible. We were a very small audience, but A.B. treated us as if we were a packed auditorium.

Through A.B. I was to learn of several other West Virginians who were interested in birds "in the right way," among them William A. Lunk, Karl W. Haller, George Breiding, and Charles L. Conrad, all of whom would become good friends of mine. Bill Lunk would base his doctor's degree on a study of Rough-winged Swallows. Karl Haller would wax so professional that years later (1937) he would accompany me on an important Carnegie-Cornell expedition to the wilds of a place called Oklahoma. During a visit with George Breiding at his home near Wheeling I would become acquainted with a nesting pair of Broad-winged Hawks. As for Charles Conrad, who was known as "Chuck" among all his friends, it was through him that I experienced parts of West Virginia that I would never have visited without his insistence that I go there—Gaudineer's Knob and the red spruce forest surrounding it, the Cranesville Bog, the Canaan Valley, Spruce Knob, Cheat Mountain and the Cheat River, to name only a few. At Gaudineer's Knob I heard and saw a real, live black bear, a half-grown animal that must have been lonely for I continued to hear it bleating, bawling, or moaning for a five-minute period before I saw it moving swiftly across a trail.

By this time I had become well acquainted with Maurice Brooks, A.B.'s nephew, who was on the faculty of West Virginia University in Morgantown. Maurice and I were closely associated in the affairs of the Wilson Ornithological Society. I shall never forget one thing that he did for me. Knowing that I was to paint a picture of the Carolina race of the Dark-eyed Junco, he drove from the mountains straight to Bethany with a fresh sprig of the plant called hobble-rod, which was to be part of my drawing.

Not for the life of me can I recall the beginnings of the Brooks Bird Club, but Chuck Conrad was one of its founders and those who belonged to it came often to our house in Bethany for a get-together. Chuck always seemed to be in charge of those affairs. It was he who reminded them that it was time to go home. In our music room were two upright pianos, an old mission-style Gabler and a Baldwin, both always in tune, for Mother taught piano lessons and had a woman's chorus in tow. It was always Chuck who requested that my mother and I play two-piano duet. What we played was trivial but merry.

When in Bethany I was always in touch with Chuck Conrad. He had a campfire talk in mind or wanted me to come to Terra Alta—a little-known spot in the mountains—to participate in Foray activities there. As often as I could I went, and a glorious experience it was seeing that capable, warm-hearted young man enjoying himself while making things go. He was so much in evidence, no matter what was happening, that he is part of my every memory of the place. During one visit excitement centered in a new Diesel locomotive that pulled a train through the Terra Alta station at midnight. It did not stop there, but the camp went nightly to see it go through. Its whistle was a dry, hollow bleat, the sort of sound a prehistoric dinosaur might have made. Everybody'd listen for it, a hand would go up for silence, and we'd hear the menacing moan off in the moonlit distance. When the black monster passed, a flurry of hands would wave at the engineer and he, catching the spirit of the occasion, would make his Diesel bleat two, three, or four times just to make us happy. The bleat had an impressive way of changing timbre as it approached, passed, and went on into the night.

And there were the two girls who chose to put their sleeping bags along a trail at some distance from the camp's center, who were awakened by the squawk of a hungry young Barred Owl begging for food, who decided that the cries were those of a drunk bent on doing the camp no good, and who lay there shuddering until the parent owl, determined to "wean" its progeny, came with a mouse that it dangled before the owl and flew off. What could the young bird do but follow?

And there was the on-the-spot playlet put on by the whole camp, a skit based on a story I had told them of losing my trail in the Far North because a flock of pure white ptarmigan, all going to sleep, so filled my footprints in the snow as to make both birds and footprints invisible. What fun it was watching the actors, hunched up on the ground as ptarmigan, getting up and scampering off as the one man, impersonating me, stumbled about looking for his lost trail!

Alonzo Beecher Brooks died on May 15, 1944. That full name I never learned about until very recently. A.B. was A.B. while I knew him and that was enough. But somehow the full name should be part of the record, so I wrote his nephew, Maurice Brooks, about it. In a charming letter dated October 5, 1982, Maurice said: "When A.B. Brooks was born (1872) there was a craze for naming people for some European nobleman or ruler. My grandfather (A.B.'s father) was Adolphus, and A.B. drew the cognomen Alonzo Beecher (the latter for Henry Ward of course). These grandiose names never seemed to inhibit my uncle, so far as I could tell."

I was badly out of touch with all things but the military when A.B. died, for I was in uniform. During those last years of his, A.B. must have greatly enjoyed hearing of the activities of the club that bore his name, especially of the Forays, the first of which took place in June of 1940. I believe he was not able to go on that Foray, which took an enthusiastic group of members to Lost River State Park.

There was a memorial service honoring A.B. at Oglebay Park. Chuck Conrad asked me to take part in the service. This I wanted to do but was at a loss as to just what to emphasize in my talk. Would I stress A.B.'s remarkable knowledge of the plants and animals of his beloved West Virginia countryside? Could I make clear how his belief in the preservation of wilderness had influenced the thousands who had been on walks with him or heard him speak?

My talk was not long. It was an "off the cuff" performance. I said that A.B. had been a positive force in my life. The human side of the man had impressed me greatly—his dignity, his integrity, his belief in things that mattered. Remembering his love of certain poems, I quoted one of them, Coventry Patmore's "Magna Est Veritas" ("Great Is Truth"). I recited the lines twice, to be sure they would sink in:

"Here in this little Bay,
Full of tumultuous life and great repose,
Where, twice a day,
The purposeless glad ocean comes and goes,
Under high cliffs, and far from the huge town
I sit me down.
For want of me the world's course will not fail!
When all its work is done, the lie shall rot;
The truth is great, and shall prevail,
When none cares whether it prevail or not."

A.B. and Chuck, our beloved friends, you have left us. The grief we feel over your leaving is deep. But we know that not all of you has gone. An important part, that which you gave us, your love of the outdoors, your appreciation of the beautiful, is very much alive. What is more, it will not die when we die, for before our going we will have passed it along to others. Even as I speak these words some of it may have reached the farthest corners of the earth.

First Beginning

M. Graham Netting

Presented at the B.B.C. 50th Anniversary Meeting, October 23, 1982

In the halcyon days - or so they seem in retrospect - just before World War I, the poet Vachel Lindsay wandered westward from his home village of Springfield, Illinois, to Colorado and New Mexico, quite penniless but amply supplied with printed handouts, his *Gospel of Beauty* and *Rhymes to be Traded for Bread*. His self-imposed code was to have nothing to do with "cities, railroads, money, baggage, or fellow tramps." (Automobiles were not then a temptation or menace to hikers). Lindsay's gospel infringed upon no faiths; he merely asked that all persons add to their existing creeds the concept that love of beauty is holy because beauty of sky and landscape stem from God. Nor was he an isolationist. He taught that men should travel widely, then return to their homelands to introduce new ideas of beauty, for "the things most worthwhile are one's own hearth and neighborhood."

In Lindsay's day both he and the few conservationists were considered at least a might queer. It was then commonly held that natural resources had been bountifully bestowed upon certain favored peoples for man's use as he saw fit. Attaining the better life through energetic exploitation of whatever was conveniently at hand was a laudable goal.

Seventy years later, when it is generally recognized that concern for the environment is critically important to our future, there are still a few ecologically retarded individuals, like Secretary James Watt, who promote exploitation.

But to go back to the bad environment in which some of us were reared—steel mill and coke battery communities in the Ohio Valley which were so garish and grimy that the description "Hell with the lid off" was only slight exaggeration. Even after the Depression shut down industries the soft coal incompletely burned in residential furnaces darkened the skies. Faulty knowledge of chemistry was evident in the common creed that smoke meant prosperity. It was not until after World War II in Pittsburgh that a vigorously pushed educational campaign taught the voters that smoke is fuel being wasted. I was one of a cadre of speakers who went to public meetings armed with sheets of newspapers and boxes of matches. We would fashion a loose cone of one sheet of paper, light the wide base as we held the cone horizontally, then turn it vertically and try to light the smoke plume from the apex without the bottom flame singeing our fingers.

Even with mills not adding to the smoke pall during Depression years, Pittsburgh, which I'm certain was worse than Wheeling, all too frequently had street lights burning until mid-morning in the winter. In this ugliness we desperately needed some touches of beauty. Wheeling had not only the landscape beauty of Oglebay Park several miles removed from urban congestion, but also a naturalist, A.B. Brooks, as the first director of its Nature Education Center. A.B.'s nature walks combined beauty of locale, beauty of bird plumages and bird music, and ancillary poetry with beauty of phrase. These satisfied a deep emotional need that only those who experienced mill town ugliness may fathom.

Also, as Maurice Brooks described in his tribute at the 36th Foray in 1975, in the depths of the Depression "one quarter of all employables were out of work, looking for something, anything, to occupy their hands and their minds. Things absolutely essential could be bought cheaply."—This I can confirm; Eight o'clock coffee was 3 lbs.

for .39 at the A & P, and large Gulf shrimp once dropped from .17 a pound to .13!—"Above all there was a wealth of youthful enthusiasm; these young people had caught a glimpse of new outdoor experiences, and they liked what they had seen."

A.B.'s quiet dignity emphasized, rather than concealed, the depth of his knowledge of West Virginia's birds, trees, plants, and other life. There were other enthusiastic staff members at Oglebay but A.B. was the magnet, the catalyst; his Sunday morning bird walks brought together a fertile intermixture of age groups and varied occupations from high school students to community leaders. The ferment he sparked could not be contained by nature walks alone; the Brooks Bird Club was organized and grandiose plans outlined for study groups, publications, field excursions, vital participation in Oglebay's summer nature school, and independent forays as well.

I little dreamed when Jane and I were married in 1930 that we would be fortunate enough to achieve a 52-year-plus amalgam of Netting determination and Smith stubbornness, especially remarkable because Jane always gets the nouns in the wrong order! Nor did I imagine when the BBC was organized in 1932 that it would survive to celebrate its 50th anniversary. In communities everywhere people of like interest tend to clump together, but most such aggregations do not attain venerable age. Some are too homogeneous. Pittsburgh once had a group of amateur coleopterists of German extraction who took weekend collecting excursions and met one evening a week to identify and trade beetles in hazardous proximity to steins of beer. Prohibition brought about the end of this association according to a surviving member! Cleveland's Kirtland Society of Natural History started a bank account in 1893, made collectons, and was active for some years, but in 1922 when the inactive account balance of \$800 was discovered by a trustee of the new Cleveland Museum of Natural History only one surviving member, Henry W. Elliott, could be located to authorize the transfer of the Society funds and specimens to the Museum.

Examples could be multiplied indefinitely and clues found to explain many demises, but we still have to learn why the BBC survived. Hilaire Belloc once wrote:

From quiet homes and first beginning
out to the undiscovered ends
there's nothing worth the wear of winning
but laughter and the love of friends.

The BBC formed and cemented innumerable friendships, but other organizations can boast of doing likewise. Far fewer can boast of as rich a component of laughter, song, and story telling. The Quartet from *Rigoletto* exceeded anything I ever heard elsewhere, Uppy's sermons always excited wonder as to where he found his texts, and John Handlan told Riley Wilson stories as expertly as their originator, whom I once heard at a Wilson Club meeting at Jackson's Mill. Riley Wilson, as some of the old timers know, was a newspaper man famed as a raconteur of mountain stories, but a trial to program committee chairmen because he needed several drinks to get in the mood for performing and if he was given as many as he wanted he was in no condition to do so. I once subscribed to the Sunday edition of the *Charleston Gazette* for over a year to get John Handlan's column containing a Riley Wilson story, in nostalgia for those evenings when he had told them to a BBC audience.

Poets phrase thoughts in such pleasing fashion that the lilt of the lines may divert criticism of their ideas. I agree with Belloc that love and laughter are essential, but I assert that work and hobbies are also worth the wear of winning. Ideally the work should be both financially and mentally rewarding, and the hobby, or hobbies, should provide opportunity to contribute, to create or to discover something of benefit to the world. If a hobby is in the nature realm it should encourage progress beyond the

identification or technique stage to research at various levels of sophistication. Many Audubon groups offer genteel outdoor walks and bird viewing apparently satisfying to some adults, but largely devoid of appeal to energetic and mentally curious youths. The BBC, I am convinced, has reached this golden anniversary because it has always offered challenging opportunities to add to our knowledge of birds especially, but also of mammals, herptiles, insects and plants in West Virginia and farther afield. Its Forays have been valuable biological surveys of many West Virginia areas, and the **Redstart** has earned an honored place among regional biological publications in libraries around the world.

Oglebay Park experiences spawned the BBC; then further association provided training for later independent operations. Actually, the early relationship was not one-sided, but more a mutually beneficial symbiosis. Happily, Oglebay Institute and the BBC still co-operate in major ways as this meeting evidences. Oglebay staff, notably A.B. Brooks and John Handlan, provided inspiration and leadership; BBC members served as the advance guard for the Nature Leaders Training School at Terra Alta and then handled most of the camp chores. Initially most of the campers were BBC recruits. The Terra Alta encampments welded the group together and provided the experience needed to launch separate Club Forays beginning in 1940.

Each Foray meant year long effort-finding a site, advance study of facilities, transport of gear, feeding campers, scheduling scientific projects, breaking camp, nagging leaders to get their reports in, and publishing the report. This heavy load was borne cheerfully by the Wheeling core group; those of us from farther afield simply enjoyed the Foray activities and annual renewal of friendships that developed over the years. Most years we were very well fed. In early years an elderly chef, Bert Cromes, retired as I recall from a prestigious Wheeling club, performed miracles with only a tarpaulin shielding his "kitchen" from the elements, but in time Bert had to quit. Then one of the tasks of the Foray leader was finding a cook willing to feed a hungry horde under less than ideal conditions. I recall one Foray encamped on the Greenbrier near Marlinton, for which John Handlan had secured the services of a Wheeling man who claimed to be a cook though in fact he was professionally a gambler. On our return from a morning afield the cook opened his oven door to show John and me the fate of a tray of meat patties being readied for lunch. He said, "My God, Johnnie, look at them things, they was as big as a fist when I put them in, now they look like marbles!"

But I must cease reminiscing and get back to my theme. The 1932 aims of the BBC were indeed grandiose, but they have been realized. I have attempted to identify the sinews of success but it took many dedicated people to implement the aims, to exercise the sinews. A.B. Brooks was not only the originator, his teaching and his influence pervaded the early years. John Handlan kept things running efficiently while A.B. communed with veeries, and directed the Nature Training Schools that preceded the Forays. Maurice Brooks was certainly the most broadly knowledgeable teacher over the longest period of years, and the best athletic director for everything from square dancing to bocci, and Ruth's participation gladdened our hearts. I was never active at BBC Headquarters so I may slight some mighty worker, but Clyde Upton, Russ West, Harold Bergner, George Breiding, Chet Shaffer, Tom Shields, Pete Chandler, George Flower and Sody Llewellyn come quickly to mind as stalwarts in camp and in the field, and good entertainers as well. And Helen Burns, Highpockets Hartung, Maxine Thacker, Dottie Gleeson and Gladys Murrey were as active participants in chores as they were in socializing.

I have left for final tribute those who deserve the fullest encomium - the Conrads. Carolyn and Dorothy were probably the most consistent hard workers at the

Headquarters getting out the *Mailbag* and keeping records of all kinds, in the history of the BBC. Mary Kay, and later Helen, carried divers responsibilities and, also, I am certain, shouldered many of Chuck's tasks when he was snowed under. Everyone ever connected with the BBC will agree that Chuck Conrad was a leader without equal. He had the ability to plan and to execute, to set goals and then inspire teams to vie with each other in achieving them. His enthusiasm was so infectious you wanted to be part of the effort. He never spared himself; his energy seemed unbounded, equalled by none of the men and few of the gals. Chuck, more than any other person, made this Golden Anniversary possible. He is foremost in our thoughts and most deserving of our gratitude tonight.

Camp Frame, West Virginia: A Significant Natural Area

Rodney L. Bartgis

Abstract

Camp Frame, in northeastern West Virginia, supports a well-developed shale barren and several plant and animal species considered rare or of scientific interest in the state. A brief natural history of the site and its significant characteristics is given.

As a result of the rapid western expansion of the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan areas into northeastern West Virginia, it is becoming increasingly important to identify and catalogue areas in the easternmost counties that are of natural significance. One such site is Camp Frame, a sixty acre tract owned by the Tricounty 4-H Camp Association and located in Berkeley County two and a half miles northwest of Hedgesville. Located in the Ridge-and-Valley topographic region, the camp occupies a low, broad ridge in the drainage of Back Creek, a large north-flowing tributary of the Potomac River. The site is underlain with Devonian shales and slates and is noted for a rich fossil fauna of marine invertebrates. Although the climate of the region is predominantly continental, it is close enough to the Atlantic Ocean to receive maritime weather. As a result, the area has a higher mean annual precipitation than the main portion of the Ridge-and-Valley to the west. Annual precipitation at the Eastern WV Regional Airport at Martinsburg, nine miles to the southeast, is 37.6 inches a year, with a mean annual frost-free period of 176 days and an average of only fifteen days a year with heavy fog, well below the state average (US Dept. of Agriculture 1966.)

The major portion of the camp is forested by a xeric oak-pine-hickory forest dominated by white oak (*Quercus alba*), chestnut oak (*Q. prinus*), scrub pine (*Pinus virginiana*), table mountain pine (*P. pungens*) and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). The understory is occupied by heaths and scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*.) Steep narrow hollows may be occupied by more mesic woods including yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and a small area supports a stand of American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). The southern boundary of the property is marked by Back Creek and a hydric community of basswoods (*Tilia sp.*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and box-elder (*A. negundo*) has developed on the adjacent floodplain.

The most interesting ecosystem on the property is a shale barren, a xeric habitat endemic to the Ridge-and-Valley that develops on Devonian shales from south-central

Pennsylvania into southwestern Virginia. Fifteen plant taxa are considered endemic to the barrens (Core 1966) and the Camp Frame barren supports eight of these species.

The camp Frame shale barren covers four and a half acres on a south-facing hillside with a seventy-degree slope. The barren ranges in elevation from 500 feet above sea level at the ridge crest to 420 feet lower down the slope. Back Creek is deflected eastward by the foot of the slope and parallels it for the length of the barren. The creek is at an elevation of 380 feet and the slope section between the barren and the floodplain is occupied by gray slate scree. The shale on the barren overlies several layers of slate that frequently outcrop on the barren. The steep slope is formed by undercutting of the slope base by Back Creek during flood events and the slate and shale is transported downslope by gravity and runoff. After downslope movement to the talus, the shales are further removed by runoff while the slate scree remains to accumulate.

The unstable scree is occupied by mesic communities dominated by such woody species as bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*) and basswood (*Tilia heterophylla*). It supports a lush vernal flora of *Trillium sessile*, Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), *Corydalis flavula* and many other species commonly associated with them. This growth extends up the slope as far as the top of the floodplain forest canopy. Above this height the slope is exposed to the extremes in temperature and evapotranspiration that help to maintain the barren.

The first endemic discovered on the Camp Frame barren was Kate's Mountain clover (*Trifolium virginicum*), collected there in 1935 by Lloyd Poland and again in 1937 by H. Ison Shreve (Core 1952). The clover was represented at the barren in 1981 by twelve individuals. Shale barren ragwort (*Senecio antennariifolius*) was collected at the barren by Shreve in 1937, but has not been seen at the camp in recent years. From 1978 through 1981 the author has located six additional endemics at the barren. Shale barren evening-primrose (*Oenothera argillicola*) is most abundant on the slate outcrops of the barren, which supports about fifty individuals. Mountain nailwort (*Paronychia montana*) is usually considered an endemic of the barrens, although it is common in open xeric woods as well. At the camp it is limited to the wooded margins of the barren. Shale barren aster (*Aster oblongifolius* var. *orientis*) is found at the barren concentrated in a zone just above the slate scree. About 150 individuals occur here. Shale barren goldenrod (*Solidago harrisii*) is widely distributed on the barren and numbers about 100 individuals. The other two endemics, shale barren pussytoes (*Antennaria virginica*) and Steele's rockcress (*Arabis serotina*) are restricted to an area of poverty grass (*Danthonia compressa*) at the west end of the barren.

Back Creek has shifted its channel away from the eastern end of the barren and a xeric woods is developing on this stabilizing portion of the barren. The more exposed western section not only supports most of the endemics, it also supports a variety of species considered characteristic of shale barrens, including hairy lip fern (*Cheilanthes lanosa*), slender knotweed (*Polygonum tenue*), a rockcress (*Arabis lyrata*), wild orpine (*Sedum telephoides*), pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*), bird's-foot violet (*Viola pedata*), butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), gray beardtongue (*Penstemon canescens*), summer bluets (*Houstonia longifolia*), and dwarf pink (*Silene pennsylvanica*). Woody species are typically low and scrubby and include scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*), post oak (*Q. stellata*), dwarf hackberry (*Celtis pumila*), *Sassafras albidum*, dwarf hawthorn (*Crataegus uniflora*), wild rose (*Rosa carolina*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) and poison ivy (*R. radicans*).

The Camp Frame shale barren is noteworthy because it has developed away from

the major effects of the Allegheny rain shadow, a sudden decrease in precipitation as one moves eastward across the higher mountains that is often cited as a causative factor in shale barren formation. Additionally, the barren is the only one known in the county and supports a surprisingly rich shale barren flora. Four of the barren's endemics, the clover, ragwort, evening-primrose and goldenrod, are found on the rare and endangered species list for West Virginia (Clarkson et al. 1981).

Also on the state's endangered list is *Pyrola virens*, a wintergreen collected at the camp by Shreve (Core 1972). This collection represents the only one of the species in the state and the southernmost known. Although *Pyrola rotundifolia* occurs at the camp, *P. virens* has not been seen in recent years and is believed extirpated. Also on the list is *Spiraea corymbosa*, a small shrub endemic to the Southern Appalachians that is found throughout the camp's xeric oak-heath woods. *Veronica scutellata*, a speedwell on the list, has been found on a neighboring farm and should be sought at the camp. The shale barren pussytoes, mountain nailwort, and Adam-n-Eve (*Aplectrum hyemale*, an orchid found at the camp) were listed on a previous rare and endangered species list for the state (Fortney et al. 1978) and should be monitored.

Several species on the West Virginia Special Animals List (Natural Heritage Program, 1981) occur at the camp. The wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) is frequently found at the camp, especially near Back Creek. A coastal species that has moved up the Potomac drainage and discovered at the camp by Robert Dean and the author in 1976, the red-bellied turtle (*Chrysemys guttata*) has been noted at several locations in Back Creek. The northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*), a southeastern species known in the state only from the easternmost counties, is common along Back Creek and in backwaters on the floodplain. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) are summer residents. They are not known to breed at the camp, although the latter is known to nest elsewhere in Berkeley County. Although not on the list, the Chuck's-will-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*), a southern bird seldom noted in the state, was observed on a neighboring farm in 1979, 1980 and 1981 and should be sought at the camp.

The camp is a natural area rich in Appalachian endemics, rare or scientifically interesting species, and shale barren species. Human visitation is the only immediate threat to the shale barren, although continued housing development in the vicinity may adversely affect the animal species. Other significant natural areas in West Virginia's easternmost counties need to be reviewed so that protective measures can be evaluated and initiated.

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Nesting of Pine Siskin and Purple Finch at Morgantown

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Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*) often remain in West Virginia until the middle of May, and there are a number of records of siskins in the spruce belt in early June, but until now there has been no definite evidence that the species has nested in the state.

Siskins were extremely common during the winter of 1981-82, and many came to feed on Niger seeds offered at my home near Morgantown, Monongalia County. Of the many individuals that were banded one, originally banded on 28 February 1982, is of interest. This bird was recaptured on 26 May 1982 at which time it had a well-developed brood patch. While not as firm an evidence of nesting as an actual nest, the presence of a brood patch is taken by persons working on Breeding Bird Atlases to indicate "confirmed" breeding (McLaughlin, S.B., et al., 1982. *Amer. Birds*, 36:6-19). That this bird presumably had been present in Morgantown for three months, further strengthens the argument that breeding did occur there.

A pair of siskins, both banded, remained at this location for a couple of weeks after the supply of Niger seed ran out in late May, and while they were tame and often seen, no young birds were seen and no nest was found.

During the historic 1981-82 invasion Pine Siskins nested at at least 16 places in southwestern Pennsylvania beginning in March (Paul D. Hess, pers. comm.) and birds with brood patches have been captured at the Powdermill Nature Center near Ligonier, Pa. in the spring of both 1981 and 1982 (Robert C. Leberman, pers. comm.).

The present record represents, albeit not as satisfactorily as we might wish, the first breeding record for West Virginia.

Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) have been known to nest in the West Virginia mountains for many years. The species has also nested at relatively low elevations at East Liverpool, O. and Indiana, Pa., but low elevation nesting has not been known for West Virginia, although there is a July record from Huntington (Hall, MS, West Virginia Birds).

A female purple finch netted at my home on 29 May 1982 had a well-developed brood patch, again indicating probable nesting at this locality. This capture possibly shed some light on a puzzling earlier capture. A male Purple Finch which had been banded here as an ASY on 1 February 1981 was recaptured on 18 May and 21 May 1982. At the late May date a Purple Finch ought to be either a breeding bird or a stray migrant, and it would be most unlikely to recapture a migrant on successive years.

The breeding of a Purple Finch on my property is remarkable since this year, for the first time, House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) were abundant there, and may have nested. The experience at Indiana, Pa. (Cora Williams, pers. comm.) has been that the nesting House Finches have almost eliminated the Purple Finch.

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A Sandhill Crane Spends the Summer of 1981 Near Clarion, Pa.

Walter L. Fye

A Sandhill Crane, an unusual species for this area was first noted about June 1, 1981 by some farmers in the Kahle Lake area. I first heard about it from some Clarion St. College students who were doing some studies at the lake.

After several trips to the lake, I finally found where it was feeding. The farmer, a Mr. Rhodes, his family and neighbors were all watching it. I spent about two hours telling them about the Sandhill Crane, the Great Blue Herons and the hawks that they have seen in the area. Of course their first reaction to the hawks was that "the only good hawk is a dead one." But after I explained that the Sparrow Hawks, Marsh Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks were their best friends in keeping down the rodents, they started to watch them. Now I think we have some new friends of hawks and they own several hundred acres.

The crane was feeding in a hay field and seemed to be eating insects. After a nearby wheatfield was cut, it moved into that field and fed on the grain that the combine dropped. It seemed to always have a muddy bill but, as you can see in the picture, the clover was about 14" high, and I could not tell what it was doing. The bird would let people approach within about 100 feet before it walked off.

I sat down for about three hours in this field, and it came up to within 40 feet of me. The crane would fly into these fields around 7 a.m. and then leave and fly back toward the lake around 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. I was never able to see where it spent the night, and none of the fishermen there ever seemed to see it. It also spent a lot of time with some Canada Geese that made their home on a pond in someone's back yard. The Great Blue Herons and the crane would feed together in a cut hayfield and also in a pasture field with some beef cattle.

About the first of September the crane changed fields and stayed in a small cornfield where it was always feeding in the mud but never seemed to eat any of the corn. The last time that it was seen was on Oct. 21, 1981.

R.D. #2, Knox, Pa.

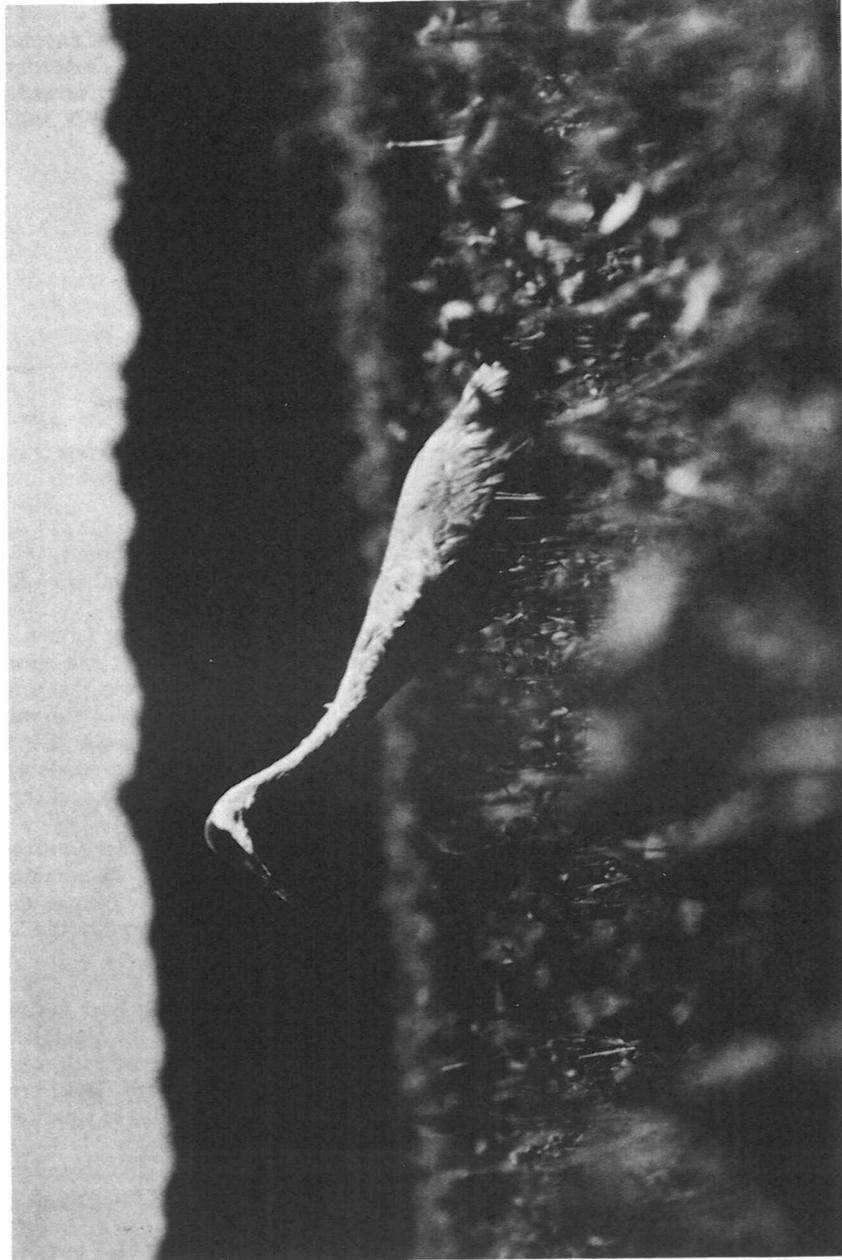


Photo by Walt Fye

Sandhill Crane near Clarion, PA. Summer of 1981.

1981 Christmas Bird Count

Leon Wilson

The number of 1981 Christmas Bird Counts received dropped to nineteen from twenty-one received in 1980. There were eleven reports from West Virginia, six from Ohio, and one each from Pennsylvania and Virginia. There were 127 species sighted on count day plus one more species seen during count week, but not on count day. There was a new leader in total number of species sighted as Buckeye Lake, Ohio reported ninety species while Charlestown, West Virginia, the leader the past two years had only eighty-three this year. Ohio had a clean sweep of the three highest total counts. Kingston with 41,123 had the highest total number of birds, followed by Ashtabula and Columbus. There were nineteen species listed on all counts compared to seventeen last year, while there were twenty-three listed on one count only. There were thirteen species of which only one bird was reported.

The counts this year showed a marked increase in the Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird and House Finch populations. The Carolina Wren increase was 150 or 60%; the Eastern Bluebird increase was 186 or 29%; and the House Finch had 922 more birds or a 75% increase.

Table I
Greatest Numbers

1. Starling	47201
2. Ring-billed Gull	21388
3. House Sparrow	13106
4. Brown-headed Cowbird	7110
5. Mourning Dove	7054
6. Rock Dove	6678
7. Red-winged Blackbird	5907
8. Mallard	5108
9. Dark-eyed Junco	5077
10. Common Crow	4502
11. Cardinal	4162
12. Chickadee, sp.	3533

Table II
Observed on one count only

Double-crested Cormorant	3	Bonaparte's Gull	683
Green Heron	1	Barn Owl	1
Mute Swan	3	Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	1
Northern Shoveler	2	Gray Catbird	1
Redhead	1	Swainson's Thrush	1
Oldsquaw	2	Northern Shrike	3
White-winged Scoter	1	Cape May Warbler	2
Goshawk	1	Pine Warbler	1
Golden Eagle	1	Oregon Junco	1
Bald Eagle	1	Brewer's Blackbird	5
Virginia Rail	1	Red Crossbill	16
Great Black-backed Gull	3		

Box 105
Ona, West Virginia

Count Area	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Charleston W. Va.	Charlestown W. Va.	Franklin W. Va.	Huntington W. Va.	Inwood W. Va.	Lewisburg W. Va.	Oak Hill W. Va.	Ona W. Va.	Parkersburg Wood County W. Va.	Pipestem W. Va.	Wheeling- Bethany W. Va.	Ashland Ohio	Ashtabula Ohio	Beaver Creek Ohio	Buckeye Lake Ohio	Columbus Ohio	Kingston Ohio	Jefferson Green County Pennsylvania	Ottobine Rockingham Co. Virginia
Number of Species	67	83	50	64	63	51	49	73	59	65	42	47	68	51	90	71	61	48	71
Number of Individuals	7758	8490	2405	4268	3452	3752	1835	8257	9980	1751	1934	1674	28910	4320	9202	20064	41123	2593	8775
Horned Grebe		1													1				
Pied-billed Grebe	4	3							1				1		3				
Double-cr. Cormorant																			
Great Blue Heron	11	8	1	1					2		9		2	*	3	1	1		5
Green Heron								1											
Mute Swan		3																	
Whistling Swan	1																		
Canada Goose		34		157		130		71	6	2			32		33	128	232		
Mallard	310	220	12	124	125	5	7	250	4	110	340	5	49		778	2231	420	46	72
Black Duck	11	91		3			2	96	5	35	4		4		38	768	80		8
Gadwall																4			4
Pintail									4			3			3	7	4		
Green-winged Teal								1							1				
American Widgeon	5			1											1	*	1		95
Northern Shoveler																			2
Wood Duck	3	2		2				2							3	*			2
Redhead													1						
Ring-necked Duck	1														6			1	10
Canvasback								2											
Lesser Scaup		2						2											
Common Goldeneye		3																	
Bufflehead	4									19			16		4	12			*
Oldsquaw										8			15		2				
White-winged Scoter													2		1				
Ruddy Duck				1															
Hooded Merganser		11						1							1				
Common Merganser		5		5							10	5			2		1		
Red-breasted Merganser													1		4				
Turkey Vulture		76	*		1		1			2									276
Black Vulture		3	4																277
Goshawk													1						
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	2	1				4		2	2			3
Cooper's Hawk	2	1		4			1	2	4	3		1	1	2	7	6	5	3	5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Red-tailed Hawk	7	10	11	4	10	3	1	10	20	7	9	4	16	17	14	22	33	6	17
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	1		6			2	8				3	2	1		1			
Rough-legged Hawk		1				1						2	3		3		14		
Hawk, sp.														1					
Golden Eagle			1																
Bald Eagle										1									
Marsh Hawk		1						3	4	1	1	1			3	1	28		
American Kestrel	20	17	12	21	19	7	1	50	30	1	3	10	21	11	25	65	96	20	27
Ruffed Grouse	2		3			5	1	5	5	4			3	5	2			4	
Bobwhite		53		8	17	15		2							3	1			6
Ring-necked Pheasant		26			2								1	2	12	3	42	2	3
Turkey			2			1				10									
Virginia Rail					1														
American Coot	14									6	1		1		10				13
Killdeer	20	70	3	8	13			6		6					2	5			43
Common Snipe		27			18	4	1	1				2			5		4	2	29
Great Black-backed Gull													3						
Herring Gull								1					630		6				
Ring-billed Gull											16		21300	1	3	68			
Bonaparte's Gull													683						
Rock Dove	297	616	121	257	194	78	81	148	1266	3	48	198	342	92	45	1988	361	89	454
Mourning Dove	347	281	53	187	116	214	212	191	756	55	83	46	431	425	879	1632	708	65	373
Barn Owl															1				
Screech Owl	1	1	1		2			1	1	1	8			2	3	6	2	2	9
Great Horned Owl	1	1	1	2	3	8		1	2	1			1	2	4	10	1	4	
Snowy Owl													*						
Barred Owl	3	1		1	2			1		3		3	1	3	1				
Short-eared Owl															3		3		
Belted Kingfisher	7	24	5	7	3	2	*	10	6	4	3	1	2	12	5	11	6	2	12
Common (Yel.-sh.) Flicker	108	11	4	17	14	7	17	16	23	13	4	6	7	37	35	14	5	22	
Pileated Woodpecker	32	6	5	4	17	4	9	11	8	7	2	3	1	11	2	7	3	2	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	48	63	14	33	17	10	6	28	25	4	10	13	8	26	39	21	18	8	24
Red-headed Woodpecker	*	6	1	2		2	3								5	2	2		3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	3	3	2	3		2	2	5	1	1	1			5	5	2		2
Hairy Woodpecker	13	30	7	14	4	3	7	6	14	6	4	9	16	21	7	8	3	4	7
Downy Woodpecker	95	112	44	77	46	29	26	56	74	28	40	92	68	104	90	259	71	22	60
No. Three-toed Wood.														1					
Eastern Phoebe	7	1		2	1	2		1		2				1					
Horned Lark	*	20	*		4	97		2						9	752	23	139	*	832
Blue Jay	513	176	82	240	46	61	58	152	312	53	23	68	167	182	146	511	79	38	182

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Common Raven		1	29																4
American Crow	105	176	348	165	205	357	293	337	298	130	62	60	144	96	85	174	111	977	379
Fish Crow		1																	15
Black-capped Chickadee	1	4	91			22			5	36		78	354	274	5	6	1	25	29
Carolina Chickadee	594	121		170	38	23	59	206	355	74	60	2	36	135	445	107	68	109	
Tufted Titmouse	354	144	88	97	71	63	54	66	198	59	104	55	34	156	84	135	60	50	104
White-breasted Nuthatch	127	56	47	61	18	25	37	50	104	23	34	39	49	108	52	103	47	24	44
Red-breasted Nuthatch	24	4	1	6	3		6	4	7	20	2	3	4	11	22	19	*		11
Brown Creeper	16	9	7	2	3			9	5	3	4	6	2	17	16	115	24	2	3
Winter Wren	1	1			2	1		1		18					1	1	1	1	3
Carolina Wren	72	55	16	58	8	7	12	63	24	17	11			7	2	5	1	6	35
Mockingbird	49	79	10	55	48	15	15	49	36	4			1	1	3	66	6	3	61
Gray Catbird															1				
Brown Thrasher	2			1						1			1		1	1			1
American Robin	210	22	8	83	3	103	23	974	66	13	2		10	212	58	167	4	8	76
Hermit Thrush	1	1			2	1	1	2	1	3									
Swainson's Thrush										1									
Eastern Bluebird	140	35	23	43	36	38	27	92	145	57		7	6	32	3		48	26	67
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	18	5	2	3		7	2	9	1	3	5		74	25	9	4	*	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	2			1			*							1				
Water Pipet										10									17
Cedar Waxwing	73	66		85	1	12	26	28	21	12			16	14	21	14		12	99
Northern Shrike													3						
Loggerhead Shrike		2	3		2	2												1	5
Starling	1453	3275	409	788	1250	1503	229	1729	1531	29	332	208	1502	590	1772	4620	24000	373	1608
Cape May Warbler									2										
Yel.-rumped (Myrtle) War.	71	2		26	5		3	32	10	27	13	6			6	5	1	1	72
Pine Warbler								1											
House Sparrow	125	734	121	181	395	87	122	19	274	69	180	191	1591	730	2203	2430	2750	205	699
Eastern Meadowlark		33		9	25	33	9	23	25	1				2	2	3	*		129
Red-winged Blackbird	36	4		3	32		1	1472		9	1		1	2	34	11	4300		1
Rusty Blackbird		112			5			69							17	11	80		
Brewer's Blackbird																5			
Common Grackle	160	42		8	1			988	220	7			1		31	28	322	2	
Brown-headed Cowbird		21	4	2	2	90		16	51		21	12		*	241	875	5700	1	74
Blackbirds, sp.									2300										
Cardinal	410	325	45	256	120	80	46	138	273	48	150	125	321	281	325	819	153	92	155
Evening Grosbeak		2	*	10	24				35	32		1	12	1			18	1	2
Purple Finch	32	1	1	24	10	26	11	11	58	1			21		7	8		8	156
House Finch	155	127	124	170	40	20	65	78	365	34	29	6	156	27	39	126		149	438

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Common Redpoll	1											10							
Pine Siskin	*		125	47			3	3	7	20			1	2	27	93		8	13
American Goldfinch	234	59	56	174	52	185	46	56	164	100	27	81	114	72	131	387	165		213
Red Crossbill	*							16											
Rufous-sided Towhee	134	3		52	1	2	18	39	18		2			1	3	2	1		2
Savannah Sparrow								7							1	1			12
Dark-eyed (SL.-col.) Junco	229	85	386	127	172	137	158	136	398	365	109	97	249	280	387	923	167	141	531
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco															1				
Tree Sparrow	6	153	1	3	51		1	5	36		23	115	427	234	120	252	395	37	3
Chipping Sparrow		16	1		2								1						
Field Sparrow	11	1	6	7	10	15	13	19	30	4		6	2	*	5	3	5	8	37
White-crowned Sparrow	30	198		4	34	27		13	13		1				17	17	85	8	188
White-throated Sparrow	555	335	31	205	64	131	56	120	151	41	43	3	20	10	30	74	8	7	392
Fox Sparrow		27		1		1				1			1	*	1	1			1
Swamp Sparrow	1	1		2	3		2	25	2	1		3	1	15	7	5	9		
Song Sparrow	422	115	28	149	34	55	49	217	165	70	111	35	15	88	243	223	209	23	110
Snow Bunting															9	2			

*Seen during count period, but not on count day.

Food Preferences of Birds

George Hurley

Many people who feed birds during the winter are concerned with the problem of food preferences of birds. I have a window feeder at which I offer sunflower seeds, cracked corn (chick starter size) and peanut butter (usually only in the coldest weather). In the Fall of 1981 my neighbor gave me a bag of Chinese chestnuts from his tree (about a peck). I sat the bag on the basement floor, temporarily. Shortly after that we were out of town for about a week. On returning I found an area of about two square feet of the floor covered with dead maggots each about a quarter of an inch long. They were swept up and put in a sealed glass jar thinking that the birds might like them later.

A simple experiment to determine the food preferences of various species of birds was conducted on January 15 and 27, 1982 at the window feeder. A glob of peanut butter, about a teaspoonful, was smeared on each side of the feeder. Inside each glob a small pile of the dead maggots, totalling about 20, was placed. In the center of the feeder a pile of sunflower seeds and cracked corn was poured. The relative areas covered were - peanut butter 2 square inches, maggots 1 square inch and mixed seeds about 25 square inches. The individual piles were in close juxtaposition. Both days were cold, in the range of 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

During about a half hour each day the first preference of each species visiting the feeder was noted as follows:

Species	Visits	First Preference			
		Maggots	Peanut Butter	Corn	Sunflower
Carolina Wren	21	20	1		
Mockingbird	9	8	1		
Tufted Titmouse	11		6	1	4
Cardinal	10		5		5
Mourning Dove	2			2	
White-throated Sp.	21	8	4	6	3
Blue Jay	1				1

Such a simple experiment doesn't prove that the species listed prefer the foods they first sampled. In some instances they took one peck at the pile closest to where they landed and then hopped to another pile. In other visits they hopped past a pile or two and then started to feed. It could be conjectured that some were getting tired of the same day-after-day offerings and were ready for something different. Of course, maggots are more in the line of natural foods for some of the species of birds and could have, indeed, been preferred food. This would be the case for the wren, at least.

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Down East with The Conrads and Perkins

J. P. Perkins

It is often said that, "The best laid plans of mice and men go astray." I don't know about the mice, but the carefully made plans of the Conrads and Perkins for a trip down east turned out to be near perfect.

After six months of planning, letter writing and making reservations, we were off and running at 0815 hours June 18, 1982. It was a rainy morning, but our spirits were not dampened one bit. By afternoon the sun was shining and higher temperatures prevailed.

Our first stop was at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in New York state. It wasn't the best time to visit this refuge, but it did give us a chance to stretch our legs. We added several species of birds to our trip list.

One thing about traveling the Interstate Highways one can surely roll a lot of real estate beneath the wheels. It was necessary for us to push right along as we had a dead line of 0700 hours on the 19th to meet in Cutler, Maine. Our journey took us down the Mohawk Valley and through the Tacona and Berkshire mountains. A very beautiful drive and very few stops were made. By afternoon on the 18th we were back on the interstate and headed north.

Our trip list steadily grew as we saw many birds fly across the highways. This called for some instant identification on our part. Chuck was an excellent copilot as were Helen and Ruth. Lots of advice etc. Of course some of the directions were given after we had passed the proper turnoffs.

In due time we arrived in Jonesport, Maine and found the pink, two-and-a-half story house where we were to stay for two or three nights. In our correspondence with Capt. Barna Norton, he had instructed us to go in the back door and make ourselves at home and this we did.

We waited and we waited for Norton to show up and give us instructions on sleeping arrangements. We turned on TV and really did make ourselves at home.

There were four bedrooms available, but we did not want to turn in and have some one come in during the night and kick us out. Finally we did contact Capt. Norton, and in a round about way, come to find out he just lived across the lawn from where we were.

We had made arrangements with Capt. Norton to go on his boat out to Machias Seal Island lying some ten miles out in the Atlantic. Norton said that the weather didn't look too favorable for a trip in the morning due to storm warnings down the coast, and also because of fresh winds blowing at the time. However he said that he would call us if a trip was possible. We all turned in with our hopes of seeing the Puffins somewhat dimmed.

At 0500 hours there was a tremendous pounding on our doors and Capt. Norton informed us that we were going and to be in Cutler, Me. by 0700 hours. The scramble was on. We hurriedly dressed, made breakfast and packed a lunch, and we were off. A fast drive to Cutler and we were boarding the boat at the allotted time. There were six other passengers and the Captain. Two didn't make it and were left behind.

The seas were a little heavy to begin with but not too uncomfortable. I suspect several of the passengers were loaded with Dramamine. After about 45 minutes we

could see the flashing light on Machias Seal Island and another half hour saw us all landed and on our way to the blinds to watch the sea birds.

Machias Seal is noted for the many birds that nest there. A recent survey showed that approximately 2,100 pairs of Arctic Terns, 100 prs. Common Terns, 800 prs. Puffins, and 40 prs. of Razorbill Auks are currently nesting on the island. Truly Machias Seal is a remarkable Island. Birds on the water, in the air and underfoot. Thousands of them. We all spent most of the time in the blinds watching and photographing the birds at close range.

All too soon the boat horn sounded, and we had to leave this most interesting island. Leache's Storm Petrels also nest in burrows on the island but they are strictly nocturnal and we did not get to see them. On our trip out we saw Northern Fulmars and Shearwaters, as well as long lines of Common Eider Ducks and Black-backed and Herring Gulls.

The ride back in to Cutler was nice and the water smooth as glass. We all thought the trip was wonderful and we agreed that we had lucked out weatherwise.

Space does not permit me to go into details regarding the rest of our stay in Jonesport and Maine so we'll be off to the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec, Canada.

We arrived in Percé, Quebec late in the afternoon of June 22nd and found lodging for the night. We also indulged in eating an excellent dinner of seafoods. After dinner we did a little shopping. Although French was spoken entirely by the natives we got along just fine.

The next morning was spent over a leisurely breakfast and a little sight seeing as the boat to Bonaventura Island did not leave until 1030 hours.

When the boat did leave we were on it and again we lucked out on weather conditions. The boat passed close to Percé Rocher (Pierced Rock), and we all got a good look at this large hole through a tremendous rock rising out of the sea. The trip around Bonaventura was an experience indeed. On the high cliffs thousands and thousands of sea birds were nesting. There were Gannets, Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Common Murres. The air was filled with wheeling screaming birds and hundreds dotted the water as we ran in close to the Island. Truly a wonderful sight.

After circling the island the Captain put us all ashore and informed us to be back on the dock at 1500 hours, or we would have to spend the night on the island. The trail across the island to the gannetry was supposed to be a mile and a quarter long, a 45 minute hike it said. Well, that was the longest 1¼ miles I ever hiked. I made it OK, but—with only three minutes to spare. However the hike was worth it just to see thousands of Gannets nesting beak to tail along the edge of the cliff. I had ten minutes to shoot the movie sequences I wanted before starting back. Chuck and Helen beat Ruth and I back to the dock, but I think Chuck took some pep pills. The hike was not uneventful as we added several more interesting birds to our trip list. I saw my first Blackpoll Warbler in breeding plumage which was great. I have seen hundreds of them in the fall aboard ship and at home.

We were in no hurry to leave this town of Percé, but late in the morning of June 24th, we were once again on our way. At the village of Gaspé, we turned northward toward the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This route passed through pure wilderness and we took our time. There were flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches along the way, and we stopped to see these very brightly colored birds in their breeding plumage. By the time we reached the gulf, we had seen approximately 200 Evening Grosbeaks and nearly as many Purple Finches. We also saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher perched on the tip of a spruce tree just like the book says. If we would have had more time, we could have run up an impressive bird list along this route.

The drive up the St. Lawrence River was beautiful and made without mishap. We spent a morning touring Montreal and the high light of this trip was a visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral. A very remarkable edifice.

Our journey continued on and back into the good old U.S.A. via the Thousand Island Bridge. Once again we could understand the language and know what people were saying.

On the final day out we visited Niagara Falls, both American and Canadian. The falls were beautiful on this bright, sunny, (and hot) day. I think there must have been a million people, or so it seemed, at the falls. Never again on a Sunday.

We arrived back in Conneaut late Sunday afternoon and we all agreed that it was a wonderful trip. 3,077 miles, 124 species of birds and seven lifers for the Perkins'.

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The Mushroom Flora of Greenbrier County, W.Va.

Bob Burrell

For a number of years the Brooks Bird Club has conducted a late summer, Labor Day weekend foray at Camp Anthony WV. The base camp is located in Greenbrier County near the confluence of Anthony Creek with the Greenbrier River. The great variety of habitats nearby at the beginning of the mushroom season has afforded a unique opportunity to study the fungal flora in a concentrated fashion. In addition to the general area near the base camp and the alluvial, flood plain forest near the confluence of the rivers, collection sites also included Peach Orchard Trail, the Hopkins Fire Tower area, the Interpretive Trail for the Blind near Blue Bend, the Virgin White Pine area near Neola, Beartown State Park, and the Cranberry Bog of Droop Mountain State Park. It is the purpose of this report to review and summarize the collection records of fleshy fungi of Greenbrier County for the seven year period, 1976-82.

It has been the practice of those interested to attempt to identify all fleshy fungi found and to keep records from year to year. Identified specimens are labelled and displayed at each foray. The numbers of species identified by year are presented in Table I together with a general assessment of the weather-collecting conditions for each year. A number of observations may be made about these data. Although the increasing ability of the participants to identify the specimens partially explains the increasing numbers of species collected in recent years, significant numbers of never-collected-before species continue to be found as indicated by the 1978, 1981, and 1982 records. The weather conditions seem to have little effect on the numbers of species found, but they certainly affect the number of individuals found within each species. Such data have not been collected, however.

An analysis of the number of positively-identified species collected by major group and by genus are presented in Table II. Agarics or gilled fungi of course predominate since there are more species in this group. The actual numbers of boletes and polypores are greater than those given here since boletes are very difficult to identify and many woody or crustose polypores have not been collected for identification. Similarly, many more species of the genera *Boletus*, *Lactarius*, and *Russula* have not been identified and thus do not appear in the Table. These genera are large, variable,

and contain many species difficult to identify. The genus *Amanita* is extremely well represented and several rare members of its section *Lepidella* have been collected there.

The relative frequency of representation in a genus changes from year to year although no data are given. In 1980 and 1982 many species of *Lactarius* (Milky Caps) were collected while few were found in 1981, which was an excellent year for boletes (Fleshy Pore fungi). Several other points should be emphasized: (1) As intensive as our efforts have been, our studies cover only a small part of Greenbrier County at just one specific time of year. A thorough study of an entire county would be impossible. (2) The composition of the fungal flora taken one month earlier or one month later would look entirely different inasmuch as individual species make seasonal appearances as do other plants. No seasonal studies of a given location are available for any area of West Virginia. (3) Further complicating any serious study of fleshy fungi is the ephemeral nature of the fruiting bodies (one has to be present at a precise time to see the structure that does not last long) and the fact that some species do not make annual appearances (see Table I). In 1978 and 1980, the exceedingly striking Birch Boletellus made appearances, but has not been seen at other times. Its location and striking appearance could not have been missed. Thus, collecting an all-inclusive species list even for a small area may take years. Indeed, our studies have continued for 7 years and we are still adding new finds to the list.

Very few studies of fleshy fungi have been performed in West Virginia (see Table III). McIlvaine (1902), an amateur, published a well known encyclopedia of mushrooms several years after having made detailed notes of collections made while working as an engineer in the "West Virginia mountains." The number of species that he states as definitely appearing in W.Va. is given in Table III. Two rather well known collections were known to exist in W.Va. for several years, one by the early Fayette County naturalist, Nuttall and a WVU collection of species ("wood rotters") mainly of interest to foresters made by a Professor Orton. Several other minor reports appearing in the 1930's mainly in the *Proceedings of the West Virginia Academy of Sciences* are also known to occur.

In 1977 the North American Mycological Society, a national group of amateur mushroom enthusiasts held a foray centered mainly around Concord College in Mercer County. The number of species collected at the foray numbered at least 278, but this number is too high. Many of the collecting field trips were made to Mountain Lake Biological Station in nearby Virginia. The startling conclusion to be reached from Table III is that through the efforts of the Brooks Bird Club, no area in West Virginia has been studied so extensively (as reflected in numbers of species collected) as has Greenbrier County, W.Va. It is clear that our survey is far from complete.

TABLE I
GREENBRIER COUNTY SUMMARY

Year	Species Found	Condition
1976	15-20	Very dry
1977	50	Moderate
1978	95 (34)*	Lush
1979	? **	Moderate
1980	162	Lush
1981	102 (39)*	Very dry
1982	146 (30)*	Dry

*Number in parentheses indicates the number of species not previously collected.

**Records lost.

TABLE II
SPECIES SUMMARY

By Group		By Genus	
Agarics	182	Boletus	23
Chanterelles	11	Suillus	9
Boletes	42	Polyporus	12
Polypores	33	Amanita	24
Toothed	9	Clitocybe	12
Corals	17	Lactarius	22
Puffball	14	Russula	24
Jelly	4		
Ascoc	17		

TABLE III
FUNGAL STUDIES OF WEST VIRGINIA

Name	Date	Location	Species Listed
McIlvaine	1881-85	W.Va. Mountains	199
Nuttall	1890's	Fayette Co.	220
Orton	1920's-30's	Various	148
NAMA Foray	1977	Mercer Co.	278
BBC	1976-82	Greenbrier Co.	330

References

McIlvaine, C. and Macadam, R.K., 1902. *One Thousand American Fungi*. Dover, New York (1972 Reprint).
1412 Western Ave.
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Meet Mr. Big

Esther C. Reichelderfer

"Cur-cur-cur, cur-cur-cur." When I hear this I look for Mr. Big. Sometimes he's high on the trunk on the Silver Maple in the patio at the rear of the house. From there he'll back down the trunk to the low limb holding the large hanging suet feeder. Then with his body almost horizontal he'll move out the branch to the wire and drop down on the feeder. From inside the house just a short fifteen feet away I study his flaming crest and his red mustache marking, thrill to his impressive eighteen inch size, watch the strong back bill dig into the white fat, and check that his toe hold is true woodpecker. This close study of Mr. Big, *Dryocopus pileatus*, the Pileated Woodpecker began six years ago with his first visit and has continued with short interruptions ever since. The initial visit was to a feeder hung on the trunk of the Plane Tree on the street-side of the house. I've watched as he defended his place at the suet there against aggressive starlings and grackles, never giving an inch in his sure possession. It was after one of the first of these bouts that seemed to establish his control that I thought of him as Mr. Big.

When he finishes at the front feeder, he zigs inches to the right or left of the feeder and then climbs quickly up the tree ten or twelve feet before he flies off with strong deliberate wing strokes to the electric pole at the edge of the street. Once there he pulls to the top of the pole and often stays on this lofty perch as much as ten minutes while traffic passes in the street below. Again I note the absence of fear that in the city seems unexpected from this forest dweller.

Mrs. Big comes too-comes most often and she too dines at all of the feeders. Once when the suet supply was low in the big feeders, she chose to use, to cling to, and to eat from a feeder only four inches square making a ridiculous and contrived picture as she did so. Traffic at the five suet holders is heavy; flickers, chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, nuthatches, sparrows, starlings, grackles and the Brown Creeper eat there and the line moves! But it is the unmistakable and adaptable Mr. Big, giving his lower and stronger flicker-like "cur-cur-cur," who delights me most and whose every move I watch and record.

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FIELD NOTES

Spring 1982
(March, April and May)



Greg Eddy, Editor
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There were only a few reports of waves of migrants. Most observers noted that the migration was long and even; that is good but not spectacular. The weather may have been a factor. April was one of the driest on record. Snow fell even on the southern part of our area on April 16 and record low temperatures were set at that time. The first part of May was also very dry. An occurrence of interest to birders in northern West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania was the 17 year locust (Cicada) outbreak. Ralph Bell says the loud noise made by the locusts is why he heard only one Henslow's Sparrow this spring.

Some of the interesting observations this period were the Yellow-crowned Night Heron in southwestern Pennsylvania, very rare there, and the waterfowl and shorebirds seen on Lake Erie.

Loons, Grebes and Herons—Early sightings of **Common Loons** included one in Rockingham Co., Va. on April 4 (KF, five on Pickerington Pond in Franklin and Fairfield Counties, Ohio on April 9 (ER) and on April 12 one was seen on the Cheat River at Rowlesburg and one on Alpine Lake, Terra Alta (GF). A **Red-necked Grebe** was seen at Oakland, Md. on March 6 (GF). **Horned Grebes** were observed at several locations in early April. The earliest **Pied-billed Grebe** was observed on March 15 at Kingwood (GF). A **Double-crested Cormorant** as seen on May 19 between Princeton and Hinton (OJ). A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was seen April 27 near Clarksville, Pa. (RB). Two pairs of **Black-crowned Night Herons** returned to the heronry near Linville, Va. which was destroyed last year. The birds left after only two days (KF).

Waterfowl—A **Whistling Swan** stayed at Coonskin Park, Charleston from early December until April 9 (NG). Twenty one were observed on the Scioto River north of Columbus, Ohio on March 3 (ER). **Canada Geese** left their wintering grounds and were moving through our area the first two weeks of March. Five nests were observed on a small island in Walden Pond, in Blendon Woods Metro Park, Columbus, Ohio on March 30 (ER). Four **White-fronted Geese** were observed in a field near Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ohio with six **Snow Geese**, one **Ross' Goose** and other waterfowl (ER). Many duck species moved into southern W.Va. the beginning of March and reached northern W.Va. by the middle of March. Most of the migrants finished moving through our area by the middle of April. **Mallards** with young were observed May 9 and **Wood Duck** with young were observed May 21 in southern W.Va. (JP).

Vultures and Hawks—The first sightings of **Turkey Vultures** was March 12 at Seneca Lake, Ohio (GP) and in Greene Co., Pa. (RB). George Breiding reports seeing more vultures more often and I agree. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed by several BBC members at the Jackson's Mill meeting on March 6. Three were seen in Rockingham Co., Va. a week later (KF) and 14 were seen in migration at Crane Creek State Park on Lake Erie March 28 (ER). **Two Golden Eagles** were observed at Ottawa

Nat. Wildlife Refuge Ohio on April 22 (ER) and three in Highland Co., Va. on March 10 (KF). A **Bald Eagle** was nesting at Ottawa NWF by March 22 (ER) and Bill Armstrong observed three immature Bald Eagles on the ice on Seneca Lake, Ohio on Feb. 28. The only sighting of a **Northern Harrier** outside of the Virginia area, where 10 were seen during migration (KF), was one seen at Princeton on April 4 (JP).

Quail and Shorebirds—Many more **Bobwhite** were observed in Va. (KF) and Jim Phillips reports seeing the first in the Princeton area he has seen in years. The only reports on rails is a **Sora Rall** seen in the Rowlesburg area on April 18 (GF), and that all rails are scarcer than usual in Ohio (ER). Ralph Bell banded a **Common Gallinule** on April 14 at his farm in Greene Co., Pa. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen at Princeton on March 16 (JP). They were not seen in Va. until May (KF). **Migrating Killdeer** were first seen in most areas about March 10 or 11. **Amer. Golden Plovers** migrated through the Columbus, Ohio area March 31 and early April (ER). Oliver Johnson reports **American Woodcock** seem to be in good numbers and the first nesting was seen on April 13. **Common Snipe** moved through between the middle of March and late April. The last seen in the Va. area was on April 9 and that was the first date they were seen at Columbus. A **Whimbrel** and a **Willet** were seen at Crane Creek State Park, Ohio on May 20 (ER). **Upland Sandpipers** are reported from Oakland, Md. where three were seen on May 21 (GF), and Rockingham Co., Va. where 18 were first seen April 16 (KF). We had quite a few reports of **Spotted Sandpipers** and **Solitary Sandpipers**. The earliest date for a Solitary was April 10, seen at Carmichaels, Pa. (FB). In most areas both species were first seen a week or so later than that. The peak of the **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** migration was probably the middle of April. They were seen in our area from mid-March to mid-May. A **Purple Sandpiper** was observed in Rockingham Co., Va. on May 10 (KF). That is a record for that area. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen in the Va. area, Princeton and central Ohio. The dates were generally from early April to the beginning of May. A few **Least Sandpipers** were observed in Rockingham Co. from late April through May (KF). One **Western Sandpiper** was seen in Augusta Co., Va. on April 30 (KF). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was observed by many birders at Ottawa NWR on May 21 (ER).

Gulls through Cuckoos—A **Glaucous Gull** was seen near Oakland, Md. by Gary Felton on March 6. A **Herring Gull** was seen on the Cheat River near Rowlesburg on April 11 (GF) and as usual a few were seen with flocks of **Ring-billed Gulls**. For example a mixed flock of as many as 100 were seen in the Princeton area during March (JP). The flock which winters on the Ohio River at Chester left by the first of March. A few **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen in our area during migration. A **Forster's Tern** was seen on Shenandoah Lake, Va. on April 30 (KF). Six **Common Terns** were observed on the Monongahela River, at Rivesville, Marion Co. on May 12 (GB). A **Caspian Tern** on Pickerington Pond, Franklin Co., Ohio on May 1 was a first ever there (ER), and five **Black Terns** were seen there on May 8. **Mourning Doves** were seen gathering nesting material by March 10 (EER). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** arrived a day or two earlier than **Black-billed Cuckoos** this year. The earliest was a Yellow-billed on April 28 in Rockingham Co., Va.

Owls through Kingfishers—Three **Barn Owl** nests are reported in the Va. area (KF). A **Long-eared Owl** was observed in Crane Creek State Park, Ohio on March 14 and three sightings were made in Greenlawn Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio (ER). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen as late as March 23 at Killdeer Plains, Ohio (ER). Two were observed in Augusta Co., Va. from Feb. 2 to April 11 (KF). The **Saw-whet Owl** migration through central Ohio was reported as good to excellent. One to three could be seen every day the first 15 days in April in Greenlawn Cemetery, Columbus (ER).

Chuck-will's-widows were again reported in Rockingham and Augusta counties, Va. (KF). A **Whip-poor-will** started calling April 27 near Chester (EER). The first **Chimney Swift** seen at Chester was on April 15 (EER). They were observed a few days later than that at most locations. Reports on **Belted Kingfishers** are mixed. Some observers report them as normal and others note that they are missing from some of their usual locations.

Flycatchers—The first date for an **Eastern Kingbird** was April 21 for one seen in Rockingham Co. (KF). April 25 was the first date for a **Great Crested Flycatcher**. It was seen at Hawks Nest State Park. (NG). Some observers report that observations of this species may be below normal. However they were above normal in Coonskin Park (NG). Most observers saw their first **Eastern Phoebe** the second week of March. First dates for the other flycatchers were during the first week of May. **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen in Rockingham Co., Va. (KF) and in Columbus, Ohio (ER).

Swallows—**Tree Swallows** were seen in several locations during the last week of March. They seem to be more common in our area. Ralph Bell has found at least eight nests in his area. The first date for **Rough-winged Swallows** was March 21. They were seen in Fairfield Co., Ohio with **Tree Swallows** (ER). **Barn Swallows** were seen at Clendenin on March 27 (HG). Most observers saw their first during the second week of April. The first **Purple Martins** returned to Rockingham Co., Va. on March 18. Most observers did not see them until mid-April.

Wrens, Mimics and Thrushes—I agree with George Breiding. **House Wrens** seem to be on the increase, and **Carolina Wrens** are still down in numbers in many areas. **Gray Catbirds** arrived in most areas the beginning of May. This is three or four days later than last year. The earliest report of a **Brown Thrasher** was March 29 when one was seen in Pickaway Co., Ohio (GP). Thrashers and Thrushes seem to be in about normal numbers. Except the **Eastern Bluebirds**, which may be on the increase in some areas.

Kinglets through Vireos—**Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen in Waynesburg, Pa. on April 14 (FB). This is after their last date for the Va. area. A total of 143 **Water Pipits** were counted between March 27 and May 11 in Rockingham and Augusta Counties, Va. (KF). A late **Northern Shrike** was observed at Ottawa NWR on March 28 (ER). **Loggerhead Shrike** were seen at the Athens reservoir from March 31 to the end of the period (JP) and in the Va. area where they winter (KF). They breed at both locations. Most observers gave first dates for **White-eyed Vireos** between April 15 and early May. The Chandlers believe there are more than usual. Ralph Bell says the same is true for the **Warbling Vireos**. The other vireos seem to be about normal.

Warblers—The migration was not as heavy as last year. The peak was about the end of the first week in May. The first migrating warbler was a **Louisiana Waterthrush** seen by Anne Shreve in the Charleston area on March 20 (NG). **Yellow-throated Warblers** are still increasing in numbers and extending their range. They are now a summer resident in the Chester area (EEC). **Northern Waterthrushes** and **Prothonotary Warblers** were observed in migration at Chester. I expect that changing habitats explains the decrease in **Yellow-breasted Chats** and **Golden-winged Warblers** in many areas.

Blackbirds and Tanagers—Flocks of **Bobolinks** were seen near Pipestem State Park on May 8 (OJ) and flocks were observed in Rockingham Co., Va. between May 5 and 29 (KF). They left Greene Co., Pa. May 12 (RB) and were seen near Chester on May 13 (EEC). Like many of you I consider the first **Red-winged Blackbird** as the beginning of spring. Spring comes to Columbus, Ohio on March 1 (ER), Rockingham Co., Va. on March 2, Kanawha Co. (NG and HG) and Preston Co. on March 11 (GF), Washington, Pa. on March 19 (GP) and Chester on March 20 (EEC). An early **Northern Oriole** was

seen April 22 in Kanawha Co. (HG). Ralph Bell has the most **Orchard Orioles** ever nesting on his farm in Greene Co., Pa. **Rusty Blackbirds** moved through the Princeton area on March 8 (JP). **Tanagers** returned on schedule. George Breiding observed a **Summer Tanager** in the W.Va. University Arboretum for the first time in 18 years.

Blue Grosbeaks and Finches—**Blue Grosbeaks** returned to the Va. area by May 6 (KF). They are fairly common there. Not many **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported this year. They left Bell's farm in Greene Co., Pa. on May 12. They appeared in the Princeton area March 14 and left the first week of May (JP). We have only a few scattered reports of **Purple Finches**. They were usually observed during April. Two **Pine Grosbeaks** were seen in the Charleston area on April 4 (NG). **Common Redpolls** were observed in Greenlawn Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio on March 14 (ER), Highland Co., Va. March 10 (KF) and Rowlesburg March 7 (GF). **Pine Siskins** were reported by most observers. They left usually by the middle of May, but stayed in Greenlawn Cemetery, where they nested last year (ER). **White-winged Crossbills** were seen by many BBC members during the spring meeting at Jackson's Mill, March 5-7. Ralph Bell reports they had a good winter. He banded his last two on March 14.

Sparrows—A **Savannah Sparrow** was seen at a feeder when it snowed on April 6 (JP). **Henslow's Sparrows** were observed at Barkcamp State Park near Cambridge, Ohio on April 25 (GP) and at Rowlesburg on April 18 (GF). Ralph Bell reports hearing only one this spring because of the Cicada noise. An **Oregon Junco** race stayed all winter and left Rowlesburg April 9 (GF). **Amer. Tree Sparrows** were seen as late as April 9 in Columbus, Ohio (ER). **Snow Buntings** were observed with **Horned Larks** on March 13 near Camp Creek north of Princeton (JP).

Contributors: William Armstrong, Frank Bell (FB), Ralph Bell (RB), George Breiding (GB), Everett and Elizabeth Chandler (EEC), Gary Felton (GF), Kathleen Finnegan (KF), Norris Gluck (NG), Hullet Good (HG), Virginia Bly Hoover (VH), Oliver Johnson (OJ), Virginia Johnson (VJ), Glen Phillips (GP), Jim Phillips (JP), and Esther Reichelderfer (ER).

New Field Notes Editor

Jim Phillips is the new Field Notes editor. His duties begin with winter season 1982-1983. Please send your contributions to him at 809 Thorn St., Princeton, W.Va. 24740.

Book Reviews

The Falcons of the World by Tom J. Cade. 1982, Cornell Univ. Press, P.O. Box 250 Ithaca, N.Y. 14850, illus., 188 pp., Price \$38.50.

The Falcons of the World is a beautifully illustrated, authoritative book that belongs on the shelf of everyone who thrills to the sight of a hovering kestrel or a Peregrine's stooping attack. Tom Cade, well known for his efforts to rehabilitate the Peregrine in the United States, discusses 39 species of the closely related members of the falcon Genus. The book is divided into two sections. The first covers falcon biology including discussion of anatomical and behavior characters, distribution, migration, diet, flight, hunting technique, breeding behavior, molts, and falcons and man. Cade gives a complete discussion of reversed sexual dimorphism, the phenomenon so prevalent in falcons where the female of a species is considerably larger than the male. His treatment of falconry is relevant and balanced. In fact Cade maintains that falconry "is really a specialized form of bird-watching." I am sorry there isn't a little more about falconry techniques, especially those applied to captive rearing of falcons. These techniques have been used with success by Cade and his colleagues to re-establish the Peregrine in some of its former range in the United States, but little is written here about the actual techniques used.

Cade's discussion of man's influence on falcons is continued in each species description in the second part of the book. The chapter on the Peregrine is worth the book's price alone. The story of DDT and the decline of the Peregrine in the northern hemisphere are well told. All the species descriptions are packed with information on the biology, ecology, and conservation of each bird. All of the information is up-to-date and available nowhere else in one book. The extensive discussion of the American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Gyrfalcon, and Merlin will be welcomed by North American ornithologists. I was also interested in the less known falcons such as the Moluccan Kestrel and the interesting group of kestrel species that share parts of Africa.

R. David Digby's illustrations of each species are outstanding and make the book a visual treasure. I would like to have seen more immature and juvenile plumages illustrated, but Digby has done a magnificent job. Many of the species are shown in typical habitat settings. There are range maps, a bibliography, and an index at the end of the book.

Request for Information

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies in 1982 still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear.

In 1982 bright blue wing tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags have combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird have the same combination). When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: BANDING OFFICE, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.

Call for Bird Feeder and House Designs

A new book, tentatively titled **The Audubon Society Handbook for Attracting Birds**, will include innovative homemade designs for bird feeders, houses and baths. The author, Stephen W. Kress, is looking for improvements to standard models of feeders and houses and original designs for any homemade bird attracting creations. Novel approaches to repelling squirrels, cats and nuisance birds are also welcome. In addition to the handbook, some of the submitted material may be selected for articles in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's new magazine, **The Living Bird Quarterly**. The designers of selected plans will be acknowledged in the book and articles.

Mail detailed plans with measurements (and photographs if available) to:

Dr. Stephen W. Kress
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

PATRONIZE YOUR CLUB STORE

Ornithological Books for Sale

- The list of West Virginia Birds by George A. Hall \$.50
32 page booklet, cover illus. by Carol Rudy. Reprint of a Redstart article gives facts on status and breeding records for every bird species in the state of W. Va.
- Birds of Pennsylvania by Merrill Wood \$2.00
- A Field Guide to Bird's Nests by Hal H. Harrison \$8.00
Peterson Field Guide Series, 257 pps., 222 color photos of nests and eggs, 222 bird sketches. Info. on range, habitat, etc. for species East of Miss. R. H.H.H. is past president of the BBC and honorary member. Autographed.
- Field Guide to Western Bird's Nests by Hal H. Harrison \$10.95
- Birds of North America by Robbins, Bruun and Zimm. illus. by Arthur Singer.
Popular field guide, excellent color illus., range maps, field marks. Autographed.
Softback \$5.70
Hardback \$7.00
- Family Nature Guide by Jean Worthley \$7.25
- Dozen Birding Hotspots by George Harrison. Autographed \$10.95
- The Backyard Birdwatcher by George Harrison. Autographed \$13.75

Add \$1.00 for postage per order.

- Bumper Tag - Beware of sudden stops bird watchers car \$1.00
- Bumper Tag - BBC \$1.00
- BBC Shoulder Patch \$1.00

REDSTART EDITORIAL POLICY

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 on one side of the paper only. Clarity and conciseness of presentation are very important.

BROOKS BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The Brooks Bird Club is a non-profit organization whose objective is to encourage the study and conservation of birds and other phases of natural history. Membership includes subscriptions to the REDSTART and MAILBAG and entitles one to all the privileges offered by the Club. Classes of membership are: Student, \$5.00; Active, \$12.00; Family \$15.00; Sustaining, \$25.00; Life, \$200.00. Checks should be written payable to the Brooks Bird Club and mailed to 707 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, West Virginia.

1982 Program The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
January 1-31	BBC Membership Month	Mail to H.Q., Wheeling, WV
February 1-28	Write article or observation	Mail to: for the REDSTART
March 5-7	Early Spring Meeting - Jackson's Mill	Dr. A. R. Buckelew Weston, WV
March 25-28	Butternut Lodge, Ottawa Refuge	Port Clinton, Ohio
April 4	Waterfowl Field Trip	Seneca Lake, Ohio
May 2 or 9	Century Day Count	All local groups
June 1-30	25-Mile Breeding Bird Surveys	All local groups
June 3-12	BBC Foray - Peterkin Conf. Center	Romney, WV
June 25-30	Field Trip - Anne Eddy's Parents' Lodge . .	Rosseau, Canada
July 21-25	Field Trip - Preston County	Terra Alta, WV
August 21-31	Operation Bird Banding	Red Creek, WV
September 1-30	Operation Bird Banding	Red Creek, WV
September 2-7	BBC Reunion & Annual Meeting	Anthony, WV
September 17-19	Weekend Hawk Counts	W. Va. Mountains
October 22-24	BBC 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - Oglebay Park	Wheeling, WV
November 6	BBC Annual Board of Directors Meeting	BBC Clubroom, Wheeling
December 18-31	Christmas Bird Counts	All local groups

BBC FORAYS

1982 — May 29 - June 12, Camp Peterkin, Romney, WV
 1983 — June 4 - June 18, Camp Pocahontas, Bartow, WV
 1984 — June 7 - June 16, Wyoming Youth Camp, Wyoming Co., WV

Activities of Special Interest

April 23-25	DNR Spring Nature Tour	Hawk's Nest State Park
May 1-3	DNR Webster County Nature Tour	Camp Caesar, WV
May 15	W. VA. Youth Conservation Day	Holly River State Park
May 20-23	Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage	Blackwater Falls, WV
	"SORTIE"	Contact George Koch

SEASONAL FIELD AND BANDING NOTES DUE

March 15	June 15	September 15	December 15
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MAIL: Field Notes to: Dr. Greg E. Eddy, 1746 Pine Valley Drive, Vienna, Va. 22180
 Banding Notes to: Ralph K. Bell, R.D. 1, Box 229, Clarksville, Pa. 15322

The dates for the 1982 BBC program were selected as most appropriate for our scheduled activity and place. Some dates and places have not been confirmed at this early date so some changes beyond our control might be necessary. When such is the case, notification will be made as soon as possible in the MAIL BAG.