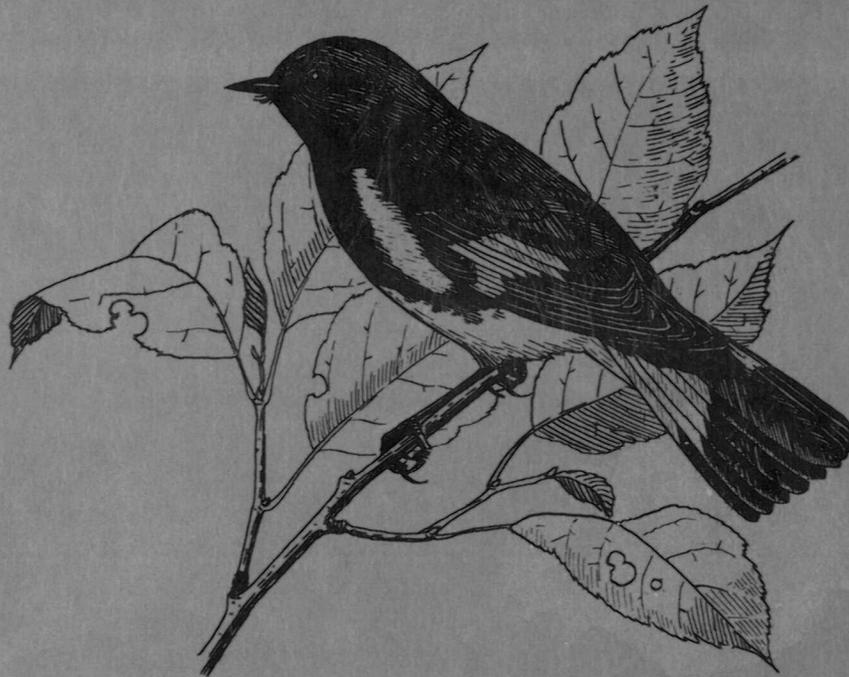


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The REDSTART

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER 1983



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The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Founded September 1932
Named in honor of A. B. Brooks, Naturalist

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POLICY

The policy of this paper shall be governed at all times by the policies of the Brooks Bird Club. The purpose will be to print items of interest concerning birds, their habits, plumages, migrations, nests, young, etc. Information will be given in each issue regarding the passing of migrant birds through the Panhandle area. The programs of the meetings as well as reports of the field trips of the Brooks Bird Club will be included.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting of the Brooks Bird Club was confined to the reading of reports of the officers. It was the unanimous opinion of the Club that, as Mr. J. W. Handlan had done such splendid work as our leader during the first year, he be asked to continue his term. Miss Sarah Hine, who has been our very able Secretary, requested that her nomination be withdrawn due to the pressure of school work. Miss Helen McGill was elected to serve for the coming year. Committees are being appointed by the chairman and will have their plans ready for Oct. 27th.

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Dr. George Sutton for his cooperation. At his invitation, the August meeting was held at his home. Dr. Sutton took part in the discussions of the subjects and later entertained us in a very enjoyable manner. The following Sunday morning he led a group over the hills around Bethany. It was a trip long to be remembered.

BEECH BOTTOM

Recently the group has been introduced to a tiny swamp near stop 45 on the Steubenville Car Line. The Semi-palmated and Solitary Sandpipers were listed almost every trip. Many became acquainted for the first time with the Lesser Yellowlegs. Mr. M. B. Skaggs was with the group one morning when the Rusty Blackbirds were found. Wilson Snipe are not uncommon at this place. Both the Virginia and Sora Rails have been reported. A number of small Sandpipers which most of the group believe to be Baird's were found. Beech Bottom promises well for 1984.

HOBBIES

Why not study some particular branch of bird-lore during the almost barren winter months? Try classification, structure, feathers, plumages, migrations, or take one group of birds, the Sparrows, Warblers, Herons, Hawks; learn all you can of your one subject. Soon others will be coming to you for answers to their questions on your hobby!

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be held on Friday, the 27th.

Fifty Years of Redstarts

With this issue **The Redstart** is fifty years old. Although much was said about the journal of the Brooks Bird Club during our fiftieth anniversary last year, it seemed appropriate to at least mention the passing of this anniversary too. To commemorate the occasion, we reprint the first issue of **The Redstart** on the first page of this issue. It is a tribute to the many people who have worked so hard over the years to keep this journal going. The first editor, Russel West, worked with others in a basement room called the Duck Inn in his house. The first issues were mimeographed there. Later we moved to our present location on Warwood Ave. Other editors were Thomas Shields, John Handlan, James Olsen, Karl Haller, Russell West again, Mabel Hopwood Gorman, Charles Conrad, Maurice Brooks, Russell DeGarmo, George Breiding, George Hall, and my predecessor, George Hurley. Members used to type copy, cut stencils, color in the Redstart on the cover, run off copies, staple them, type addresses, and do numerous other jobs. It is hard for me to see how they did it all. Things are somewhat easier now; our mailing list is computerised, and the labels are printed for us. A professional print shop, Valley Press in Wellsburg, prints the journal, and my electric typewriter is probably a lot better than the ones used by early workers, although it doesn't spell any better. We still depend on loyal workers to mail out the 640 copies that go to our members and exchanges every quarter. We are lucky to have many people interested in natural history who submit articles to us and keep **The Redstart** a vital, interesting enterprise. Naturally we hope to serve Brooks Bird Club members and the State of West Virginia and other nearby states for another 50 years. There doesn't seem to be any decline in interest or enthusiasm on the part of our members and contributors. The future looks bright.

A.R. Buckelew Jr., Editor

Kirtland's Warbler Near Williamstown, W.Va.

Pauline Collett

On May 17, 1983, while birding between Williamstown and Boaz, W.Va. near the Ohio River, I saw a large warbler that I believe was a Kirtland's Warbler. It was after 5:00 p.m. My husband and I were birding just off Route 21. There was a lot of warbler activity as well as vireos, thrushes, tanagers, flycatchers, orioles, Indigo Buntings and cuckoos. We found Black-and-white, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Cape May, Canada, Nashville, Bay-breasted, Redstart, Yellowthroat, and Cerulean Warblers.

There is a variety of habitat there: pasture, trees, saplings, lots of grapevine and honeysuckle tangle and a meandering creek nearby. The trees included water maple, oak, wild cherry, poplar and locust. It was in the edge of an opening in the woods where a power line cut through that I saw the bird. It was in a small tree, an oak, and on an elm beside it. My first thought when I saw it was that it was a Kirtland's Warbler. (We had previous experience with this species at Mio, Michigan). It wagged its tail, but

went into the foliage and moved to the small tree next to it. I watched until it moved out again, and I saw the breast head on. Breast and throat were deep lemon yellow and plain until it met the dark side stripes that were very prominent. It went into the foliage again, and as it moved, it showed a little white in the tail. It again emerged. The wings showed light, but very evident wing bars. Finally it quit foraging and came out and sat on a limb and preened itself for 10-15 minutes. I saw the broken eye ring, the darker line through the eye and lighter above and below the eye.

The sun was shining brightly, and I saw it in perfect light from about 60 feet. My binoculars are 7x35 wide angle. The back appeared to be a dark gray. I couldn't see any stripes. It never turned the right direction to get light on the back, as it faced west most of the time, and there was some dappling of leaf shadow on the back. I think you would have to be looking down on the bird on at least eye level, or have it in your hand, to see stripes on the back. It never sang.

Pat Murphy of Reno, Ohio, also saw a Kirtland's Warbler on her property a year or so ago. George Hall has placed this species on the West Virginia hypothetical list, because the four prior observers had no previous experience with the bird. (George A. Hall, *West Virginia Birds*, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, 1983). If you draw a straight line between Michigan and the Bahamas on the map, it goes right through our area.

5 Pride Court
Belpre, Ohio

A Presumed Mixed Bay-Breasted X Blackburnian Warbler Nesting In West Virginia

George F. Hurley and John W. Jones, II

A nest containing one young bird, apparently the offspring of a male Bay-breasted Warbler and a female Blackburnian Warbler, was found in West Virginia on July 9, 1983. The nest, in a red spruce woods, was off Forest Road 103 about seven miles North of its intersection with W. Va. Route 28 along the border of Randolph and Pendleton counties. This is near Spruce Knob lake in the headwaters of Gandy creek. The Bay-Breasted Warbler had not been reported previously from his area during the nesting season. Its scarcity there would provide conditions favorable to hybridization.

The story started on June 19, 1982 when John Jones, a member of the Brooks Bird club Sortie group studying the area, heard a bird singing in spruce trees which he could not identify. After finding the bird and identifying it as a Bay-breasted Warbler, he led other members of the Sortie group to the spot, and they also saw and heard the bird. Since this was a late sighting for migrant birds, it raised speculation that the bird could be territorial and possibly nesting. Thus, a return trip was scheduled for 1983 for possible additional observations.

Prior to the special 1983 trip, Brooks Bird club participants in the 1983 Foray, operating out of Thornwood, W.Va., visited the area on June 16, 1983. A male Bay-breasted Warbler was observed singing about 300 feet south of the 1982 sighting and about 125 feet up the hillside to the east. Blackburnian Warblers were also seen and heard in the vicinity. The senior author (GFH) saw a male Bay-breasted chasing a female Blackburnian. Dr. Jay Buckelew and Joanne Graham also noted this activity.

Jay described it as an "interaction with the female. He would fly at her and drive her from her perch after a brief flurry." Since it happened so fast and there were branches partially obstructing the view, it is not known if actual physical contact occurred. They both heard two Bay-breasted Warblers singing in opposition in the immediate area during that time.

On the same day GFH and Tom Hurley observed a female Blackburnian Warbler about 10 feet from the ground breaking dead twigs off a red spruce tree and carrying them to a green clump of spruce branches overhead about 40 feet high in the same tree. After watching several twig carrying excursions, Tom climbed the tree to search for a possible Blackburnian nest. From his position at the trunk and 10 feet from the clump, Tom could not see any evidence of a nest. (This clump of dense foliage was the actual site of the nest as found later on July 9).

On July 8 members of the special Sortie group visited the area between six and eight PM. No Bay-breasted warblers were seen or heard. (All times are Eastern Daylight Saving). On July 9 at 7 AM both authors returned to the tree where the Foray group had observed the actions noted above. A male Bay-breasted was seen carrying food. Other members of the group nearby were called and all watched the Bay-breasted make two trips to the spruce cluster to which the female Blackburnian had carried twigs in June. The first observation of the male with food was made at 7 AM. At 7:45, after the second trip of the male bird to the cluster with food, GFH climbed the tree to the limb being visited by the male. Sitting against the trunk and only eight feet from the clump where the nest was found later, he observed the male make two additional trips with food. On the fourth visit it left the site still carrying the food. It then fed the female Blackburnian within three feet of the nest after which both birds flew away.

During this observation interval, from 7:45 to 8:35, the female Blackburnian came to within three feet of the nest continually but never went to the nest nor was she ever seen carrying food. She crouched and fluttered her wings several times as some birds do prior to copulation. Both birds gave alarm notes which attracted Solitary Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blackcapped Chickadee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco and Brown-headed Cowbird.

After the fourth food trip, in which the Bay-breasted fed the female Blackburnian, GFH carefully lifted the upper spruce branch of the cluster using a long stick. At about a 30 degree observation angle and a distance of eight feet one young bird about a day old was seen in the uncovered nest. The nest appeared to sit on top of the limb in the branches hidden from view in all directions. All Sortie participants then left the area. On returning about 8PM Glen Phillips saw a male Bay-breasted go to the nest limb three times in a 15 minute period. (From the ground the actual cluster containing the nest was partially obstructed from view by a parallel limb and cluster of branches about four feet directly under it.)

On July 10 GFH visited the site at 7AM. Lying prone on the ground under the nest he observed the male Bay-breasted in the tree about 20 feet above. It sang, approached within 10 feet of him, then to within five feet before flying off out of sight. About 11:30 AM that day several of the group again visited the site. The male sang several times but was not seen. Blackburnian Warblers nearby were feeding fledged young. At 6:05 PM a male Bay-breasted was seen pursuing a female Blackburnian about 30 feet from the nest. The male then sang and fed in the vicinity before flying off out of sight. On returning at 7:25 several members saw a male Bay-breasted momentarily in the nest tree. On July 11 the site was under observation for 25 minutes starting at 7:35 AM. A Bay-breasted sang less than a minute during that time. During the final surveillance, 9 to 9:25 AM on the 11th a female Blackburnian was seen briefly near the nest and a male Bay-breasted appeared momentarily overhead about 20 feet from the nest.



The authors inspect spruce tree nest site of presumed Bay-breasted x Blackburnian nesting near Spruce Knob Lake. Photos by George F. Hurley.

On September 1st the nest was collected by GFH. It was completely free of debris or deposits of any kind. It consisted almost entirely of three to four and one half-inch lengths of spruce twigs from one-sixteenth to one-thirty second of an inch in diameter. It was sparsely lined with tiny black rootlets and what appeared to be animal hairs. It measured three and one-quarter inches in outside diameter; one and three-quarter inches inside; one and three-quarter inches high overall and one and one-half inches deep. It sat on a horizontal limb measuring one and five-eighth inches in diameter at the nest. The nest was 41 feet above the ground and eight from the trunk of a red spruce measuring 24 inches dbh. There were at least a dozen red spruce of comparable size within 50 feet. After the nest and part of the branch holding it were lowered to the ground a number of colored photographs were made.

In correspondence with Dr. George Hall, he noted that hybridization in warblers "is not all that rare." Probably the best known is that of the Blue-winged and Golden-winged. Others include the Blue-winged with Kentucky, Cerulean with Black and White, Bay-breasted with Blackpoll and Bay-breasted with Black and White. The present example is of great interest for two reasons. First, most instances of hybridization are known from collected offspring where the putative parents are simply guessed at. In our case, we think the parents are known and we can only guess what the offspring looks like. Additionally, according to Hall, this is an example of so-called intrageneric hybrids which are more unlikely than the several other types.

Other Brooks Bird club members who assisted in the study include Kenneth Anderson, Elizabeth and Pete Chandler, Mary Courts, Bob DeGarmo, Juanita DeLancy, Cindy Ellis, Eugene Hutton, Virginia Johnson, George Koch, Nevada Laitsch, Ann Pyle, Carolyn Ruddle, Bill Smith, Zettie Stewart and Leon Wilson.

GFH 920 Hughes Drive, St. Albans, W. Va.
JWJ P.O. Box 120, Norton, W. Va.



Nest of presumed Bay-breasted x Blackburnian Warbler.

1982 Christmas Bird Count

Leon Wilson

This year's count produced a lesser number of species than last year, though the total number of birds was greater; a total of 124 species was spotted — compared to last year's 127. There were 200,238 birds identified — up from last year's 170,543. Columbus, Ohio led in two categories: number of species (78) and number of birds (59,227). This is far below last year's record of 90 species set by Buckeye Lake, Ohio, but it is an increase in total numbers of birds, compared to last year's 41,123 recorded by Kingston.

A total of nineteen counts was reported. This is the same total as last year, except there were three fewer counts from West Virginia and three more from Ohio. Thirteen species were recorded by all nineteen counts, while nineteen were reported on only one count. Note that Bonaparte's Gull was reported only from Ashtabula, Ohio, but had over 15,000 observed, while most of the other single species reports had only one individual reported. The Common Grackle replaced the Starling as the most numerous of birds counted.

There was an interesting turn in the status of the House Finch. This year, 396 fewer were seen, an 18% decrease. Seventeen of nineteen counts reported House Finch, one fewer than last year. Other species of special interest to BBC members also recorded changes: the Eastern Bluebird showed a 10% increase, 80 more than last year; the Carolina Wren, on the other hand, showed a 2% decrease, 10 fewer than last year.

Greatest Numbers

1. Common Grackle	34,326
2. Starling	31,818
3. Red-winged Blackbird	19,145
4. Bonaparte's Gull	15,215
5. House Sparrow	13,688
6. Ring-billed Gull	10,529
7. Mourning Dove	10,203
8. Rock Dove	5,984
9. American Crow	5,312
10. Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco	5,288
11. Brown-headed Cowbird	4,552
12. Cardinal	4,270

Observed on one count only

Red-necked Grebe	1
Whistling Swan	1
Northern Shoveler	3
White-winged Scoter	2
Common Merganser	1
Red-breasted Merganser	3
Goshawk	1
Baird's Sandpiper	1
Least Sandpiper	1

Great Black-backed Gull	10
Bonaparte's Gull	15,215
East. Wood Peewee	1
Fish Crow	28
Water Pipit	7
Northern Shrike	2
Northern (Baltimore) Oriole	1
Brewer's Blackbird	5
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1

Box 105
Ona, W. Va.

(See chart on page 114)

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird Arrival and Departure Dates

Helen Conrad

I have been keeping Ruby-throated Hummingbird arrival and departure dates at the Conrad feeder for ten years. Here is a summary of the records:

1972 — May 4, Oct. 6.
1973 — May 2, Sept. 2.
1974 — May 3, Sept. 28.
1975 — May 2, Sept. 26.
1976 — April 26, Sept. 22.
1977 — May 1, Sept. 19.
1978 — April 30, Sept. 25.
1979 — May 4, Sept. 22.
1980 — April 24, Sept. 24.
1981 — April 29, Sept. 20.
1982 — May 3, Oct. 1.
1983 — May 7.

Last year I used 40 cups of sugar and one package of nectar mix. Early in the season I mix one cup of sugar with three cups of water. Later, when more flowers are in bloom, it's one cup of sugar to four cups of water. The mixture is boiled just enough to dissolve the sugar and a very small amount of red food coloring is added to attract the birds.

Rt. 1, Box 116
Triadelphia, W. Va. 26059

COUNT AREA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Number of Species	64	39	48	64	72	58	58	44	61	78	51	73	36	63	59	35	47	46	65
Number of Individuals	7681	1099	2211	5269	4804	9125	1991	2092	31651	59227	30459	5090	1223	10838	7304	1374	4002	3791	11007
Common Loon	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-necked Grebe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pied-billed Grebe	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	3	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	2
Great Blue Heron	12	—	1	1	23	21	2	3	—	6	—	1	1	—	2	5	1	—	7
Whistling Swan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Canada Goose	13	—	—	63	72	43	—	—	233	135	—	51	30	362	—	472	—	—	17
Mallard	405	29	—	47	30	3	29	513	50	721	158	227	135	50	45	54	*	59	126
Black Duck	18	2	—	36	8	—	13	2	47	613	4	21	1	3	—	27	—	—	—
Gadwall	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Green-winged Teal	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blue-winged Teal	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Widgeon	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	67
Northern Shoveler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Wood Duck	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redhead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canvasback	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Lesser Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Common Goldeneye	—	—	—	—	1	—	35	—	18	25	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bufflehead	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ducks, sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—
White-winged Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruddy Duck	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hooded Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	2	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Merganser	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey Vulture	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	352
Black Vulture	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
Goshawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	—	1	3	2	3	—	1	5	1	—	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	—	—	2	1	2	5	—	—	4	4	1	—	14	1	1	4	3	—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Red-tailed Hawk	7	2	4	6	4	24	1	1	12	35	22	13	2	56	13	—	17	18	17
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	2	—	5	8	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Rough-legged Hawk	—	1	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	3	—	—	—	—
hawks, sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Marsh Hawk	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	2	8	1	2	23	2	—	5	—	—
American Kestrel	42	6	4	33	42	39	—	5	10	63	44	19	9	127	38	9	15	17	30
Ruffed Grouse	3	4	10	8	2	2	8	1	5	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	5	3	3
Bobwhite	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	21	2	1	—	4	2	—	—	3	—
Turkey	*	—	1	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
American Coot	27	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	1	155	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Killdeer	25	—	3	115	51	24	6	6	—	20	—	3	—	97	37	—	—	13	55
American Woodcock	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Snipe	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Baird's Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Least Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Black-backed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	727	3	—	18	5	—	—	—	*	—	—
Ring-billed Gull	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	10080	172	—	252	11	—	—	8	—	—	—
Bonaparte's Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rock Dove	551	112	103	292	28	355	9	2	350	1658	756	225	14	275	214	33	391	214	402
Mourning Dove	554	35	2	368	466	850	134	90	159	2953	813	297	15	1348	1010	42	184	291	592
Screech Owl	2	—	3	1	2	2	—	—	5	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Great Horned Owl	*	—	2	4	—	1	1	—	3	12	3	3	—	1	1	1	—	2	—
Barred Owl	2	—	—	1	2	—	5	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	2	—	—	—	—
Belted Kingfisher	17	7	5	15	10	9	2	3	5	10	3	6	—	4	4	—	5	4	10
Common Flicker	17	1	4	46	20	53	13	1	3	65	70	26	6	63	14	2	13	21	13
Pileated Woodpecker	21	3	6	14	11	21	17	—	—	8	—	1	—	12	7	—	9	2	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	46	9	12	31	16	31	13	15	5	25	20	24	4	47	23	—	30	16	34
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	3	3	—	—	—	—
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	—	1	4	2	5	3	1	—	12	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	*
Hairy Woodpecker	11	4	6	8	3	18	11	5	14	20	7	9	1	4	13	—	21	6	6
Downy Woodpecker	128	32	30	68	49	155	49	31	41	167	88	46	8	62	105	10	59	34	51
Eastern Phoebe	3	—	2	—	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Wood Peewee	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horned Lark	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	12	316	3	10	261	8	4	42	1	162
Blue Jay	243	20	44	189	60	164	31	16	195	598	39	240	20	113	184	33	56	42	136
Common Raven	—	—	19	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
American Crow	103	118	181	195	769	271	221	465	151	239	49	90	5	174	407	9	625	796	444

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Fish Crow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Black-capped Chickadee	2	106	82	—	—	22	161	—	200	7	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	20	11	
Carolina Chickadee	388	—	—	206	139	93	39	—	—	320	93	115	6	135	129	7	99	95	135	
chickadee, sp.	—	—	—	—	—	267	—	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tufted Titmouse	331	34	41	177	95	214	67	51	34	154	73	70	5	77	103	8	79	72	89	
White-breasted Nuthatch	143	31	38	74	51	114	51	29	36	77	52	41	5	62	75	2	48	44	69	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	3	—	3	4	1	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	5	
Brown Creeper	13	1	—	1	2	5	3	2	2	77	87	14	1	16	9	2	4	2	5	
House Wren	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Winter Wren	4	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	
Carolina Wren	89	5	17	101	36	32	15	6	—	14	5	—	—	6	—	1	3	18	41	
Mockingbird	80	1	26	63	35	52	5	—	1	53	17	25	—	11	9	5	3	6	140	
Brown Thrasher	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
American Robin	127	—	—	163	4	114	13	3	52	1241	53	39	—	7	46	—	51	7	15	
Hermit Thrush	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Eastern Bluebird	100	6	2	106	82	141	51	7	—	8	15	22	—	114	67	3	33	67	75	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	59	—	1	1	10	4	12	4	1	15	6	25	3	14	7	—	1	—	10	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Water Pipit	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cedar Waxwing	5	—	1	25	27	41	1	37	28	103	27	57	—	21	27	—	26	—	98	
Northern Shrike	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Logger-head Shrike	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
Starling	1979	89	663	1461	883	1451	108	45	1583	8989	3091	654	245	2332	1694	390	892	955	4314	
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Warbler	14	—	—	28	5	36	33	5	—	74	34	14	—	—	—	—	1	3	32	
House Sparrow	163	84	180	166	19	307	58	232	1560	2253	1259	755	565	2751	1429	100	515	503	789	
Eastern Meadowlark	1	2	—	20	51	5	13	—	—	—	24	1	—	113	1	—	—	—	92	
Red-winged Blackbird	81	—	—	6	9	—	—	—	7	14901	3475	153	6	59	360	54	34	—	—	
Northern (Baltimore)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Oriole	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brewer's Blackbird	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	
Rusty Blackbird	—	—	—	—	200	—	—	—	—	711	12	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	
Common Grackle	2	—	23	1	17	59	2	—	1	16044	18000	5	1	145	10	3	2	2	9	
Brown-headed Cowbird	*	—	8	—	—	30	—	1	6	3141	405	29	12	390	—	—	17	—	530	
blackbirds, sp.	—	—	—	—	—	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cardinal	341	110	86	217	206	425	139	161	125	860	148	270	10	260	239	23	252	182	216	
Evening Grosbeak	*	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	
Purple Finch	79	—	100	67	25	45	33	10	3	198	59	35	2	37	67	28	2	6	139	
House Finch	169	46	44	65	244	473	7	19	233	139	31	1	—	8	28	—	83	79	83	
Common Redpoll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Pine Siskin	—	—	—	7	11	—	2	—	—	2	—	4	—	1	9	—	5	—	—
American Goldfinch	215	20	35	184	221	240	77	22	105	482	116	142	10	248	301	2	76	13	181
Rufous-sided Towhee	49	—	—	57	24	31	1	1	—	3	1	3	—	7	8	—	—	—	1
Savannah Sparrow	—	—	—	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Dark-eyed (Sl-col.) Junco	309	136	341	95	158	524	346	95	208	923	325	309	20	326	320	20	235	93	505
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tree Sparrow	—	—	—	—	14	13	—	28	44	168	372	470	—	98	49	3	99	20	—
Chipping Sparrow	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Field Sparrow	40	1	5	41	12	52	—	—	—	15	5	2	—	14	4	—	1	5	13
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	2	17	3	3	—	1	10	13	2	—	102	24	—	4	8	100
White-throated Sparrow	249	8	3	126	110	246	45	39	7	182	44	17	—	14	12	4	3	9	451
Fox Sparrow	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincoln's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	—	—	—	1	9	6	—	—	—	4	8	12	—	11	7	—	1	2	3
Song Sparrow	355	22	36	229	349	376	57	25	7	242	200	158	6	297	89	5	44	28	153

* Seen in count period but not on count day.

Murder at the Bird Banding Station

Merit B. Skaggs

Our back yard is fenced in and this is a very helpful as we operate a combination bird-banding and bird-feeding station. The fence keeps dogs, cats and small boys from interfering with the activity. Bird feeding is usually done from October until the end of May. The area can be viewed from three of our house windows and often add to our knowledge of bird behaviour.

On January 15, 1983, my wife found a House Sparrow near the feeding area with the entire head missing and part of the breast had been torn away. We were at a loss as to who the killer was. Neither cat nor dog had been seen inside the fenced area.

The answer was supplied two days later. Marion was near the kitchen window watching the Cowbirds, Cardinals, Blue Jays, House Finches and House Sparrows in numbers, plus some Red-winged Blackbirds and a few Common Grackles. Some of these birds were on the feeders but others were on the ground. Suddenly, she called to me and said, "come and see this." We were amazed to see a large Grackle with one foot on a House Sparrow and was savagely pecking the sparrow on the head! I ran out to examine the sparrow and the grackle flew away. Blood was showing on the head and neck area. I brought the sparrow into the garage and it died in a few minutes.

Later, we found another House Sparrow was dead and killed in the same manner. We did not miss the sparrows and wondered why all three of the victims were House Sparrows. Perhaps they were rather greedy and fed too close to the grackle, not recognizing it as an enemy.

Some years ago, "Captain" John P. Perkins of Conneaut, Ohio took moving pictures aboard an ore-carrier ship on the Great Lakes. He noticed that quite a few birds, both large and small, were tired from flying over the water and came aboard to rest. They would move over the deck to the cabin wall and stand there with some protection from the winds. Perkins reasoned that some small spruce or pine trees might afford more protection or comfort to the weary birds. So, the next time the ship was in port, he purchased several spruce trees in wooden tubs. The idea was soon approved by the birds and they liked to rest in the small tree branches. By sitting still in a chair, he was able to photograph birds at only 8 to 10 feet distance. This being so, "Capt." Perkins brought some more evergreens aboard. His shipmates promptly called the area "Perkins National Forest!"

About 1970, I attended a meeting where Perkins was showing his films. One sequence surprised us as we saw a Rusty Blackbird and several warblers resting near a wall and on the deck. The Blackbird edged up to the smaller bird and suddenly "Whammo" strikes the smaller bird with his bill and knocks the skull open. Other blackbirds also do this, but usually eat the breast area. Perkins stated that only "the Rusty Blackbirds dine on bird brains." So, this was the answer to our observations.

We found a total of four (4) House Sparrows that had the head or breast area eaten away by the Grackle. As far as we know, only one Grackle was observed killing sparrows. We really do not object to the reduction of the number of House Sparrows. But for them it was "Murder At The Bird Banding Station."

3808 Daytona Drive
Austintown
Youngstown, Ohio 44515

Grackles Raid Tree Swallow Nests in Ontario

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.

The above article by Merit Skaggs brings to mind an experience my daughters and I had June 27, 1983 while guests of Greg and Anne Eddy in Ontario, Canada. On that day we visited Algonquin Provincial Park and hiked the Mizzy Lake Trail in hope of seeing Black-backed Woodpeckers at West Rose Lake. We didn't see the woodpecker. We did see Common Grackles enter Tree Swallow nests, spending several minutes in each. The highly agitated adult swallows dived at the intruders and attempted to drive them away with no success. Perhaps this is why we saw no woodpeckers, which were supposed to nest in the same stand of dead trees. According to Arthur C. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers, and Allies*, Dover Pub., New York, 1965), Grackles frequently enter the nests of birds and take eggs and young. They are also known to kill and devour small adult birds. Bent records instances of Grackles killing Pine Siskin, Barn Swallow, Gray-cheeked Thrush and House Sparrow adults.

Biology Dept.
Bethany College
Bethany, W.Va. 26032

Red-Tailed Hawk Eats Carrion

Chad Skaggs

On the way back from Wheeling late one afternoon in January, I noticed a big bird beside the road up ahead, perhaps 500 yards south of the Buffalo Creek bridge. As I passed, I could see that it was a Red-tailed hawk, and it was eating a rabbit that had been killed on the road. The rabbit appeared to have been killed by a car, rather than the hawk, for its hindquarters were mashed. Did the hawk kill the rabbit, and a car hit it later? I don't know, but it looked like a routine road kill. I wasn't sure whether Red-tailed Hawks eat carrion or not, but a little research showed that: "Abundant proof is at hand that the Red-tail greatly prefers the smaller animals...If hard pressed by hunger, however, it will not reject even offal and carrion; dead Crows from about the roosts, poultry which has been thrown on the compost heap, and flesh from the carcasses of goats, sheep and the larger domesticated animals are eaten at such times..." (Pearson, T. Gilbert, et al., *Birds of America*, Doubleday, 1936, p. 73, quoting A.K. Fisher in *The Food of the Hawks and Owls*.)

The hawk was belligerent in the defense of its food. As the car ahead of me passed within a couple of feet of the dead rabbit, the bird, standing over the carcass, raised its wings and opened its mouth threateningly. It made the same threat toward my car as I drove by.

At the bridge, I turned around and drove back up the hill. The hawk still was there, but when I stopped the car it flew up into a nearby tree. I never had seen a Red-tailed launch itself from the ground. With each downbeat of its wings, it kicked both legs backward, as some birds do when taking off from water. About two strokes-and-kicks put it well into the air.

Bethany, W.Va. 26032

Skein, Gaggle or Plump?

Leland S. Devore

A technical treatise on birds this is not, none-the-less I'm reasonably certain you will find in it some data about our avian friends of which you were not previously aware. Of course there is no guarantee this new-found information will enhance your ability as birder, but its a lead-pipe cinch to astound some of your ornithological friends!

Practically every specialized activity or interest-group of man has a vocabulary of its own. Often the words or terms are not self-explanatory; in fact they may bear little or no meaningful relationship to our everyday language. In some fields, most particularly in sports, we do hear many of them frequently and come to accept their specialized meanings. In other less publicized areas, the unique vocabulary is seldom heard and may be quite meaningless to the uninitiated. To compound this confusion, the words may have an accepted and well-known meaning within our daily use, but an entirely different meaning in their specialized context.

The odd terms occur in almost any activity you can think of. Steel making has puddlers and heats, wood cutting has sawhorses and board feet, golf has stymies and birdies, football has blitzes and head-hunters — there is practically no limit to the unusual words and phrases within specific activities.

Having been something of an outdoorsman most of my life, I have found there is a facinating language to describe the grouping of various species of animals. In trying to trace the origin of these terms, with very few exceptions I ran into a blank wall. Most of them apparently are derived from the old English or from various European languages and their origins are lost in antiquity. Many of them are not common knowledge nor are they used in our everyday vocabulary, but their meanings are quite precise and specific.

Perhaps the best example of words used to designate an animal grouping is the various terms applied to wild geese. If the geese are flying they are properly called a skein, but as soon as they land they become a gaggle. If you wish to refer to them without regard to whether they are flying or earth-bound, the correct term is a plump. There is no rhyme nor reason that I can decipher to these terms, but they are accepted words, have specific meanings, and apply only to geese.

Things get even more complex if we fit similar proper terms to ducks, for different species of ducks have different nomenclature for their groupings, and these terms are not interchangeable. For instance a group of mallards is a sord, but teal are a spring and coot are a covert. For other water birds, a gathering of swans is a bank and a group of herons is a siege. Landbirds also figure in the word game. A group of snipe is a wisp, goldfinches gather in a charm; crows, believe it or not, get together in a murder, woodcock in a fall, grouse in a pack, partridge in a covey, larks in an exaltation, nightengales in a watch, peacocks in a muster, pheasants in a nide (or nye), and finally one with some semblance of sense to it, plovers gather in a congregation.

These strange and exotic terms are not the exclusive province of birds; mammals get into the act also. Probably the most common one, and the one many people recognize, is a pride of lions, but their cousins the leopards gather in a leap. Elk and buffalo are not very elite, they gather in a gang. Bears gather in a sloth (or sleuth), badgers in a cete, hares in a husk, roe deer in a bevy, and wolves in a rout. I am particularly fond of the term for foxes; they get together in a skulk. Wild hogs have a strange term, they group into a sounder, but tame domestic hogs gather in a drift. The giraffe goes a bit military and gathers in a corps, while apes grouped together are in a shrewdness, seals

form a pod, and whales a gam. Now you are an expert on animal groupings---linguistically at least!

So you see, lovers of the outdoors DO have their own language. However it is probable that regardless of how high you may rise in the hierarchy of ecologists, ornithologists or outdoorspeople, you will not find your progress impeded unduly if you don't have an intimate acquaintance with these precise and rather archaic terms. Somehow you'll muddle through, and very probably be little worse off for the lack. But consider what an impression you will make if, at the next meeting of your ornithological society you casually remark that last Tuesday you saw a siege of herons or an exaltation of larks. Of course, you may get a lot of strange looks and a veiled suggestion that if you don't wish to attend the next few meetings, the membership will understand. If you try to tell a group of dyed-in-the-wool rough-and-ready hunters that a husk of hares or a skulk of foxes is in the next field, you may get even a little rougher handling. But none-the-less the terms are correct and they can be counted on to produce all sorts of interesting reactions if you wish to discuss them with a new acquaintance at your next cocktail party or social gaggle. Common usage they are not, but they may just be the best conversation starters you will find for years to come.

R.D. 1
Port Deposit
MD 21904

Editor's Note:

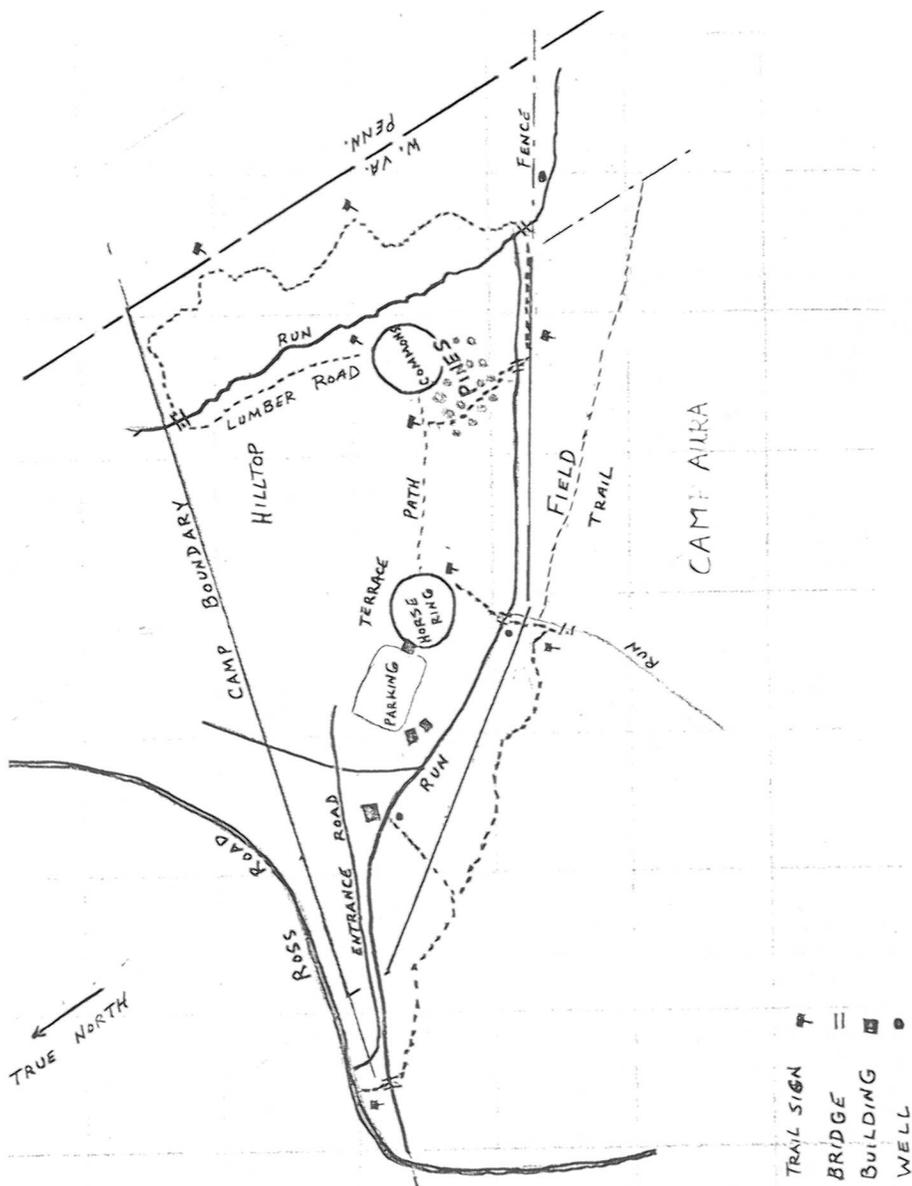
The following article is the second in our new series "Favorite Natural Areas." If you have a favorite botanizing or birding area, why not write an article about it for **The Redstart**. See the July 1983 issue for some hints.

Favorite Natural Areas: Camp Aura, Hancock County, W.Va.

Carl M. Patsche

On May 27, 1976 the first meeting of the Camp Aura Developmental Committee was held. Bob Herron, a long-time resident of the area and 4-H Allstar, had donated about 50 acres of land for the construction of a 4-H camp for Hancock County residents as an alternative to using the group camp at Tomlinson Run State Park. Dan Tabler, the 4-H extension agent at that time and who is now the superintendent of the 4-H camp at Jackson's Mill, felt such an endeavor required the expertise of many local leaders. At that time during one of our first field trips through the area, it was just a path through the old field, past some pine stands, and into the hardwoods of oak and maple trees. In fact these trees used to be tapped for maple syrup. The fields provided many weeds for our edible plant field trip in April of the following year. Records indicate we ate chickweed, goosegrass, nettle, cattails, and drank sassafras tea.

Early in its development, a horse ring and an attendant building were constructed. Rest room and shelter facilities are available to visitors at Camp Aura. However, my chief interest at the camp centers around the Nature Trail which was developed over three summers with the help of members of the Governor's Summer Youth Program and Dean Allen who designed and made the signs, and is now the fire chief in the City of Weirton.



Any wildlife enthusiast may use the Nature Trail at Camp Aura. It provides a pleasant area to observe nature in these times when such places are rare. Just contact the Hancock County 4-H Extension Office in New Cumberland, 1-304-564-3311, extension 53.

The trail begins near the camp entrance gate. After crossing the first of six bridges constructed over the small streams, we see the work of the camp's resident beaver. He began his work during the spring of 1982. He has dammed a pond which is triangular in shape, about 450 square meters. This beaver is most active at dusk. Some have suggested he be unceremoniously removed along with the remainder of his family, but he has caused little damage to nearby trees. His pond provides water for other wildlife such as the many deer at the camp.

Continuing along the trail we come to the fern habitat. Here are found the Lady Fern, *Athyrium filix-femina*, New York Fern, *Thelypteris noveboracensis*, and by-far the most common, Spinulose Woodfern, *Dryopteris spinulosa*.

The Nature Trail runs through many habitats. The visitor is able thus to see many different plants and animals. For instance, the trail leads next to a field which was used to graze cattle 50 years ago.

Succession is seen as the pine trees, whose seeds have drifted in from a nearby stand, invade an area dominated by poverty grass, *Danthonia spicata*. The evergreens have reached a height of about three meters during this period of time. A 4-H leader placed four bluebird houses in the camp, one in this field. A nesting pair was seen at this box May 1. A large stand of Bracken Fern, *Pteridium aquilinum*, may be seen near the nesting box. Farther down the path through the field, we come to a number of large ant hills. These have shifted considerably over the past six years.

The wildflowers in this field are outstanding. Black-eyed Susan appears around July 12. The camera-enthusiast may find many Chicory and Evening Primrose. Early Goldenrod, *Solidago juncea*, appears about July 10. Canada Goldenrod, *Solidago canadense*, is first seen about August 13. Wrinkle-leaf, *Solidago rugosa* is also seen about this time. In early October asters may be seen in the field.

Coming out of the field we enter the stand of pines. These were planted as part of a 4-H conservation project about 1934. Scotch and White Pines have reached heights of about 20 feet. Mushrooms growing under this stand of pines include edibles such as *Clitocybe clavipes*. Inedible *Amanita muscaria* are found in great numbers.

The nature trail continues along a small stream. Bright-red Bee Balm or Oswego Tea, *Monarda didyma*, and Bergamot, pinkish in color, attract many butterflies. Here also are found Tall Bellflower, Coneflowers, and Canada Lily, *Lilium canadense*.

Now the Nature Trail leads us into the forest of Maples, Hickories, and Oaks. Woodpeckers, Veeries, Scarlet Tanagers, and Nuthatches may be seen in this habitat during the day. Red-eyed Vireos, Tufted Titmouses, and Black-capped Chickadees may be heard, if not seen, during the day. And, at night may be heard American Woodcock, Whip-poor-wills, and Spring Peepers near the cattails; these are at the border of the forest where a log building is under construction.

This forest provides a different habitat for other kinds of mushrooms. Here may be found *Pholiota adiposa* on dead trees, *Armillaria mellea* at the base of dead stumps, *Rhodophyllus abortivus* under decaying logs, and *Collybia radicata* rooting where it pleases. At night the eerie glow of foxfire may be seen among the wet wood of a decaying log. *Clitocybe illudens* shines at night in early August.

Coming out of the forest and leaving the Nature Trail one comes to a clearing. If we climb up the nearby hillside, we reach the Vesper Area. Here a rock engraved with a cross marks the place in which worship services may be held. This Groundpine-covered hilltop is the home of the Prairie Warbler. For some reason, many Box turtles



Beaver pond near the entrance to Aura 4-H Camp, Hancock County, W.Va.
Photo by A.R. Buckelew Jr.

have been found here. As we go down toward the pines and pass through the Sassafras saplings, Rufous-sided Towhees and Yellowthroats are seen and heard.

Camp Aura is a pleasant protected wildlife area, as the Brooks Bird Club metal signs tell the visitor. It provides changing habitats for organisms of interest to the bird watcher, the mushroom collector, and the wildflower lover. Anyone may use the camp for study or enjoyment. Field trips or programs on Nature topics are regularly scheduled throughout the year.

Camp Aura is located on the West Virginia-Pennsylvania state line, 20 minutes from Weirton and about 5 miles east of New Cumberland on Ross Road off Hardins Run Road.

224 S. 17th St.
Weirton, W. Virginia 26062

Field Notes

THE SPRING SEASON
March, April and May, 1983



Jim Phillips
809 Thorn Street
Princeton, WV 24740

The spring season was best described as cold and wet. March appeared normal. There were several frosts and freezes during April and quite a bit of precipitation during May. The effect of this weather on the birds was evident in the number of reports of dead Purple Martins throughout the region. There were few reports of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Gary Felton summed up the migration by saying, "A few species arrived later than usual and a few arrived on time but stayed in the vicinity longer than usual."

During March, a Gyrfalcon was seen repeatedly in the Cambridge Springs area of Pennsylvania. A Chuck-will's-widow was heard in central West Virginia during May. The sighting of a Willet near Huntington, W.Va. was also of special interest.

Loons, Grebes, and Herons — A **Common Loon** was seen on the Cheat River near Rowlesburg and five on Alpine Lake, Terra Alta about mid-April (GF). A bird in winter plumage was observed on the Greenbrier River near Seebert, Pocahontas Co. from May 31 to June 3 (JP). **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared to be on time and in normal numbers. The only report of **Horned Grebes** came from Virginia (KF). **Great Blue Herons** were obvious in the area by the third week of March. Two **Great Egrets** were present in Oak Hill, Fayette Co. on April 15 (GW). Finnegan reported eight of these birds in the Harrisonburg, Va. area during April and one near Flemington, W.Va. on April 4. She asks, "What are these birds doing here in the early spring?" In the past they were found only as post-breeding wanderers. A **Snowy Egret** was seen along the Ohio River near the Chesapeake Ohio Airport May 11-13 (ES). A **Little Blue Heron** was on Shenandoah Lake, Va. on May 14 (KF). Two **Cattle Egrets** were seen at Carnifax Ferry State Park on May 16 (BR). **Green-backed Herons** had returned to most areas by the third week of April.

Waterfowl — A **Mute Swan** was present in the Clarksville, Pa. area (first for Greene Co.) from March 28 to May 1 (RB). **Canada Geese** are now found throughout most of the area. **Wood Ducks** were found in the Princeton, Mercer Co. area as early as March

12. Felton reported this species with young on May 27. **Mallards** were present in several areas throughout the period. **Blue-winged Teal** were noted as early as March 20 in Greenbrier (CH) and Mercer (JP) Counties. Their numbers were considered above normal in the Virginia section of our region (KF). **Northern Shovelers** were seen at Coonskin Park, Charleston (NG) on April 12 and at Yellow Creek State Park, Pa. on April 23 (RMH). **Gadwalls** were passing through the region during the last week of March and the first week of April. There were widespread reports of **American Wigeons** and the peak of their migration seemed to be during the third week of March. **Redheads** were seen in Oakland, Md. on March 23 (GF) and a month later at Yellow Creek State Park (RMH). Most **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen during the third week of March but some could still be found as late as April 9. **Lesser Scaup** could be found in the region from late March through late May. A pair of **Oldsquaws** in breeding plumage were seen on Shenandoah Lake, Va. on April 16 (KF). **Buffleheads** were reported from Oakland, Md. Terra Alta, W.Va. (GF) and Mercer County during the third week of March. No flocks of any size were found. **Hooded Mergansers** were moving through the area at about the same time. There were several reports of **Red-breasted Mergansers**. The only **Ruddy Ducks** found were those in southern West Virginia during March (JP).

Hawks and Vultures — **Black Vultures** were seen in the Bluestone Lake area, Summers County from March 27 through the end of the period (JP). The earliest date for **Turkey Vultures** was March 5 in Elkview, Kanawha Co. (HG). On April 5 Bob Richardson saw a Turkey Vulture with a 3x6 inch blue wing tag. The tag was on the left wing and the bird was in Carnifax Ferry State Park. The reports of **Ospreys** were encouraging. All sightings were between mid-April and the end of May. They were seen in Preston (GF), Fayette (GW) (HG), Jackson (BR) and Monroe (JP) Counties in W.Va. In Pennsylvania they were reported from Washington, Indiana (RMH) and Greene (RB) Counties. An immature **Bald Eagle** was seen on two occasions in Yellow Creek State Park, Pa. during April (RMH) and an adult was seen March 4 in Highland Co., Va. (KF). A **Northern Harrier** was seen in Yellow Creek State Park on March 26 (RMH). The only mention of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** came from Pennsylvania (RMH). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were considered scarce in Coonskin (NG). The only other report came from Elkview (HG). **Broadwinged Hawks** had returned to W.Va. by April 16 (NG), to Va. by April 10 (KF) and to Pa. by April 23 (RMH). Finnegan reported an immature **Golden Eagle** over Canaan Valley on May 23 and in Highland County, Va. on March 4 and 15.

The **American Kestrel** population seems to be experiencing an upswing in northern W.Va. (GB) and the Kanawha Valley (HG). The Higbees found two of these birds defending a nest box against **European Starlings** near Armstrong, Indiana Co., Pa. By May 10 these same falcons were incubating eggs in the box. The previously mentioned **Gyr Falcon** was a gray phase bird. It was in the vicinity of a game commission farm near Cambridge Springs, Crawford Co., Pa. through March 16 (GP).

Grouse, Rails and Shorebirds — **Ruffed Grouse** seem to be in good numbers in most of the region. A **Virginia Rail** was seen at Tomlinson Run State Park on May 27 (NL). **American Coots** were present from March 27 (HG) to April 23 (RMH). The Higbees saw a flock of 60 birds in Yellow Creek State Park, Pa. on April 3. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were near Princeton, Mercer Co. (JP) on May 3 and the next day this species was observed near Huntington, Cabell Co. (ES). The **Killdeer** population appears to be normal through most of the region. **Greater Yellowlegs** moved through from April 9 Athens, Mercer Co. (JP) to May 11 Yellow Creek State Park (RMH). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen in Greenbrier Co. on May 8 (CH). Many **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen during the period. The high count was 13 in Oak Hill, Fayette Co. on May 15 (GW). A

Willet was found resting on a concrete mooring cell in the Ohio River at 12th Street, Huntington on May 4 (ES). Most reporters considered the **Spotted Sandpipers** to be normal or above normal. Worthington saw 18 of these birds along New River between Thurmond and Fayette Station, Fayette Co. on May 8.

Upland Sandpipers were seen in Oak Hill, Fayette Co. (GW) and Oakland, Md. (GF). Finnegan reported eleven birds in a hay field in Virginia. Two **Ruddy Turnstones** were in Yellow Creek State Park, Pa. on May 11 (RMH). **Least Sandpipers** were found in Greenbrier (CH) and Preston (GF) Counties during the first half of May. The **Pectoral Sandpiper** numbers were considered low in Virginia (KF). No one else mentioned this species. After a storm, three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were present in Mt. Crawford, Va. (KF). **Amer. Woodcocks** were nesting by March 18 in Armstrong Co., Pa. A nest was found to have four eggs but about two weeks later it had been destroyed (RMH).

Gulls and Terns — A single **Bonaparte's Gull** (first in three years) was seen near Fayetteville, Fayette Co. on April 24 (GW). **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported from Kanawha (NG), Preston (GF), Greenbrier (CH) and Mercer (JP) Counties from mid-March to the first of May. A **Herring Gull** was in Oak Hill on April 10 (GW). A **Caspian Tern** was observed for 20 minutes on Shenandoah Lake, Va. on April 15 (KF). Worthington saw 15 **Common Terns** on the Kanawha River near Glen Ferris on April 27. Two **Forster's Terns** were at Shenandoah Lake on April 15 and 16 (KF) and three were in Yellow Creek State Park on May 14 (RMH). A **Black Tern** was on Silver Lake, Va. on May 9 (KF).

Doves through Kingfisher — The **Mourning Dove** population seems to be in good shape. Maxine Thacker reports a dove at her feeder using its right wing as an umbrella. The wing was held over its back one rainy morning. The reader can draw his own conclusion. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** had returned by May 6 (HG) but there were few reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos**. The Broadway, Va. **Barn-Owls** hatched at least two young on May 18 (KF). According to Finnegan most of the silos and old barns of her area probably house this species. **Eastern Screech-Owls**, **Great Horned** and **Barred Owls** were reported from Armstrong Co., Pa. (RMH), Kanawha Valley (HG) and southern W.Va. Two **Long-eared Owls** were in Yellow-Creek State Park, Pa. until March 20 (RMH). The **Short-eared Owls** which wintered in Augusta Co., Va. were last seen March 27 (KF).

Common Nighthawks had returned to Virginia by April 29 (KF) and West Virginia by May 2 (NG). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was heard calling for 30 minutes or more ½ mile west of Carnifax Ferry State Park on May 20 (BR). **Whip-poor-wills** had returned to the French Creek area by April 28 (MT). **Chimney Swifts** had returned by mid-April. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen in Elkview on April 30 (HG). These birds were especially abundant on the Pipestem Area Century Day Count a week later (JP). **Belted Kingfishers** were listed as more common than ever by Good but other reports were less optimistic.

Woodpeckers and Flycatchers — The only **Red-headed Woodpeckers** reported for W.Va. were the two in Greenbrier Co. (CH). There were 14 reports from Va. with five active nest holes (KF). Most contributors considered the other woodpeckers to be in usual numbers. The first date for **Eastern Wood Pewees** was April 28 in Va. (KF) and the first week of May elsewhere. **Acadian Flycatchers** had returned by May 10 (HG). **Willow Flycatchers** were first heard in Belmont Co., Ohio on May 17 (GP). Ralph Bell found a record 14 on his Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). None were reported from W.Va. **Least Flycatchers** went through the Rowlesburg, Preston Co. area on April 28 (GF). **Eastern Phoebe**s had returned to most of the area by the first week of March. **Great Crested Flycatcher** reports were mixed. Some observers found them to be early and

others late. In the southern part of the region they seemed less numerous than usual (OJ). Gluck found **Eastern Kingbirds** on April 30. Other areas reported this species a few days to a week later. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was in Fayetteville, Fayette Co. on May 5 (GW). This species was also reported from Augusta Co., Va. as late as May 28 (KF).

Swallows — **Purple Martins** returned by the first week of April. Several people found dead martins in and around their boxes after some late freezes. The first sighting of **Tree Swallows** was a flock of a few dozen along New River, Summers Co. on March 27 (JP). Gluck found **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** in the Kanawha Valley by April 12. **Bank Swallows** were in Rowlesburg on May 28 (GF). **Cliff Swallows** had returned to Coonskin, Kanawha Co. by April 12 (NG). There were many reports of **Barn Swallows**. The first ones were back April 8 (GF). Several mixed flocks were seen. The largest was a flock of 150 on Plum Orchard Lake, Fayette Co. on April 17 (GW).

Crow through Shrike — Handley reports a **Fish Crow** in Greenbrier Co. on May 7. Also he reports a **Common Raven** on the Hartland Farm, Greenbrier Co. as a rarity. No one else noted this species. In southern W.Va. along the Bluestone River, Mercer and Summers Counties this bird is a regular nesting species. The last **Brown Creeper** was seen March 12 (HG). The **Carolina Wren** reports seemed encouraging. **House Wrens** had returned by April 9 (NG). Breiding suggests that the **Winter Wren** may be an intermittent breeder in Cooper's Rock State Forest although forty years ago it was listed as a migrant and winter visitant.

The first date for **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** was April 8 in Summers Co. (OJ). **Eastern Bluebirds** are considered to be in normal numbers or perhaps to be increasing. Felton found **Swainson's Thrushes** moving through Preston Co. during May. **Wood Thrushes** had returned to most of the region by the last week of April and the first of May. **Gray Catbirds** were back by April 28 (NG) and **Brown Thrashers** were back even earlier, April 12. Good considered **Northern Mockingbirds** to be on the increase. Good sized flocks of **Water Pipits**, some numbering as many as 200 individuals, were seen in Va. during April (KF). Most **Loggerhead Shrikes** are reported from Va. where the species appears to be in pretty good shape. There were none reported from W.Va. but Laitsch found one five miles north of East Liverpool, Ohio on May 12.

Vireos and Warblers — **White-eyed Vireos** were in Coonskin on April 27 (NG). **Solitary Vireos** could be found in Indiana Co., Pa. by the end of April (RMH). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were first seen in Coonskin April 27 (NG). Bell reports that he found more on his BBS routes this year than he has found for 18 years. Arrival dates for **Warbling Vireos** ranged from late April to early May. **Red-eyed Vireos** were not seen until May 4 (HG).

Blue-winged Warblers were seen in early May in Frame (HG) and Bluestone State Park, Summers Co. (JP). Breiding found them to be common along the Ohio River but less common in Monongalia Co. **N. Parula Warblers** were rather abundant in Va. this season (KF). Many of the warblers appeared to arrive late and remain a bit longer than usual. No true waves of migration were noticed except for a mixed flock of nine species in Babcock State Park, Fayette Co. May 15 (GW). Breiding found a **Prothonotary Warbler** for the fourth year near Boaz, Wood Co.

Tanagers through Finches — **Summer Tanagers** were in Coonskin April 27 (NG), Elkview on May 1 (HG) and in Indiana Co., Pa. a week later (RMH). The **Scarlet Tanagers** arrived about the same time. **N. Cardinals** were listed as being in normal numbers in Greenbrier Co. (CH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were passing through the region during the first half of May. **Indigo Buntings** appeared in normal numbers about the first of May. At least two male **Dickcissels** were in a field in Augusta Co., Va. May 10-17 (KF). The field was mowed and the birds left. Two other males were found

in the county. Arrival of **Chipping Sparrows** seemed to be irregular. They were found in Coonskin on April 5 and in Elkview on April 27. **Vesper Sparrows** were in Yellow Creek State Park, Pa. April 23 (RMH). A few **Savannah Sparrows** were in Greenbrier Co. during late April and early May (CH). The peak of their migration in Va. was April 5 (KF). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were considered common only in Va. (KF). On April 30 14 **Henslow's Sparrows** were in the Cross Creek Co. Park, Washington Co., Pa. and on May 1 11 were seen near West Lebanon, Pa. (RMH). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were in Monongalia Co. on May 13 and a single bird on May 24 (GB). Four of these birds were found in Va. during the period (KF). **White-throated Sparrows** were still in the area May 7 (JP) and **White-crowned Sparrows** were still in Indiana Co., Pa. on May 20 (RMH). **Dark-eyed Juncos** could still be found in southern W.Va. on May 7 (JP) and Va. on May 15 (KF).

Flocks of as many as 75 **Bobolinks** were seen in Augusta Co., Va. during April and three birds were seen in Canaan Valley on May 25 (KF). Handley reported a flock in Greenbrier Co. on May 22. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were considered to be in normal numbers in W.Va. but Bell reports a decrease in Greene Co., Pa. since 1971 probably due to a decrease in habitat. A flock of about 300 migrating **Common Grackles** with some **Rusty Blackbirds** was seen in Summers Co. on April 19 (OJ). **Orchard and Northern Orioles** returned by the end of April. Some **Purple Finches** could still be found in the region through the end of May. Most of the contributors are not familiar with the nesting habits of the **House Finch** but they are fast becoming knowledgeable on the subject. Gluck reports that the birds will raise a second brood in the same nest. Felton notes that the male and female share in the feeding of fledglings. He watched this happen on April 25. Is this an early date for young to be out of the nest? I found a nest with four young in Hinton, Summers Co. on May 17. The preferred nest site seems to be spruce trees near houses. The Higbees report two nests (three young and four young) in Indiana Co., Pa. on May 15. In Ohio Co. nest building began on April 14 (GP). It may be interesting to compare the habits of our eastern birds with those of their parent stock in the west.

Red Crossbills appear to be a regular sighting in Va. (KF). They were reported from Shenandoah Mt., Shenandoah National Park, Todd Lake and along Rt. 33 on the Va. W.Va. line. The last report for **Evening Grosbeaks** was April 22 in the Elkview area (HG).

Contributors: Ralph Bell (RB), George Breiding (GB), Kathleen Finnegan (KF), Gary Felton (GF), Norris Gluck (NG), Hullet Good (HG), C.O. Handley, Jr. (CH), Roger and Margaret Higbee (RMH), Oliver Johnson (OJ), Virginia Johnson (VJ), Nevada Laitsch (NL), Glen Phillips (GP), Bob Richardson (BR), Edwin Smith (ES), Maxine Thacker (MT), and Gary Worthington (GW).

Banding News

Edited by
Ralph K. Bell, Editor
R.D. 1, Box 229
Clarksville, Pa. 15322



Clarksville, Pa. — The Chimney Swift is not a very early migrant in the spring as it apparently lives completely on flying insects. My first arrival dates here in Southwestern Pennsylvania range from April 8 (1965) to April 30 (1931) with the average being close to April 20. Five arrival dates were on April 17 and no doubt people in towns or cities often see them earlier as swifts seem to first stop at communal roosts at a large chimney in a school or factory that has been used as a safe night haven for many years.

But even if the swift is not an early migrant, they can have problems of just keeping alive during cold rainy periods when there is little or no insect hatch. I remember once seeing dead adult swifts on a heavily traveled road during such a period in early May. The road went through a big cut in a large hill and what few insects there were had evidently concentrated in that warmer pass. The swifts were darting between and around the speeding cars catching insects and many were eventually hit and killed.

The Chimney Swift was always a bird of special interest to me here on the farm in my teen years - never alighting in a tree and that special way of holding their wings and dropping into a chimney made them a subject of wonder. Also, each summer, the young could be heard chattering as they were being fed in our chimney. Sometimes the noise came from the bottom of the chimney where they had fallen when their nest had broken loose from the chimney wall - probably during or soon after a heavy rain when the glutinous saliva that the swifts used to fastened the twigs and nest to the wall weakened. Such was the case this year when I happened to be in the house on July 7 and heard the nest and young hit the metal covering of the fire place. When I removed the cover I found wedged between it and the grate, two young still clinging tightly to their stick nest. Since there had been five eggs in the nest on June 24, I searched through the paper ashes and found another young which no doubt would have perished.

After banding the three young, I nailed a short stick (forming a T) on a long lath, then fastened a small can on the other end. The swift nest containing the three young was put in the small can and all lowered into the chimney until the stick (forming the T) rested on the top of the chimney. That evening the mother swift was sitting on the young as if nothing had happened. All three big young were still in the nest on July 16 but a week later were noted clinging to the chimney walls not far from the nest. They had all left the chimney by Aug. 2 but returned each evening with the parents to roost.

As late as 1940 the winter quarters of the Chimney Swift was unknown. But recoveries of banded birds later proved that they did indeed winter in South America as had been suspected. Bander Ben Coffey of Memphis, Tenn. reported in *Bird Banding*, Vol. XXVII, p. 84 that 13 bands from Chimney Swifts found their way from Indians in the Yanayaco River region of Peru to the American Embassy at Lima, Peru. The 13 (five from Memphis, Tenn.) had been banded at various times from 1936 through Oct. 13, 1940, and were apparently picked up, by a trader, from the Indians in December 1943. The bands evidently came from a large number of birds, probably from various flocks at different times, and could have been held for some time by the Indians. Ben Coffey also reported banding a Chimney Swift in Sept. 1954 that was

captured Nov. 7, 1954 at Trujillo, Peru. Trujillo is located on the coast, 300 miles northwest of Lima. My brother Frank lived in Peru for many years and told me that approximately 400 Chimney Swifts stayed in a chimney in Lima, Peru for at least 3 different summers (it is summer there when we have winter).

I made only one major attempt to band Chimney Swifts here in large numbers. That was on Sept. 21, 1956 in a large old mill chimney that is no longer used in the nearby town of Zollersville, Pa. Each fall many swifts use this chimney before departing for points farther south. A lot of work is involved and preliminary preparations had to be made. First, two long extension ladders were needed - one to get to the roof of the mill and a second to climb from the roof to the high chimney. Measurements of the chimney opening were taken and a collecting cage was built that would hold lots of swifts without smothering them. Then, after the swifts had gone to roost the evening before the big day, a wire frame was placed over the chimney top opening (wire must be used so as not to smother the roosting swifts).

Then the next morning my sub-permittee Ralph Horn and I took trap, bands, etc. over to the old mill. Excitement and anticipation always runs high at such a happening and we were not disappointed as lots of swifts could be seen down in the chimney. The wire covering was removed and the big gathering cage put in place but not much happened until a tin can (tied to a long string) was dropped down the chimney. As each bunch of swifts were collected, they were carried down to the roof of the mill where they were banded and released. By mid-afternoon, we had banded a total of 1060 swifts and removed the trap so the remaining hundreds could leave and catch insects before dark. The 1060 banded seems like a lot of birds but is really a small number when compared to 7,377 taken from a chimney at Rome, Georgia on Sept. 19, 1954 by bander Gordon L. Hight. Also, on Sept. 27, 1953, Mr. Hight had captured 5,558 there and the proceedings were recorded in photographs by *Life Magazine* personnel and published in the Nov. 16, 1953 issue.

Only two of the 1060 swifts banded here were later reported - one was found dead over 400 miles due north at North Bay, Ontario the next summer on July 16, 1957. The other one was also found dead (on June 1, 1957) about two miles from the place of banding. In addition to the 1060 swifts banded, there were three others that carried bands - one had been banded by Mr. Hight at Rome, Georgia on Sept. 21, 1952. The other two had been banded by Mr. Clive E. Smith near Chattanooga, Tenn. in 1953 - one on Sept. 27 and the other on Oct. 4.

The young swifts usually leave the nest chimney by the first week in August and have been known to come back to the home chimney to roost for at least a month. However, large flocks are often forming by the end of August and these roost in a favorite chimney. As the season advances, some chimneys may harbor several thousand swifts each night. In this area, most flocks leave the first week in October, but a few birds may occasionally be seen later. My latest date here was a single bird on Oct. 16, 1979. When a large flock leaves a chimney, they may all leave the same day. Russell Horn, the late owner of the vacant mill in Zollersville, told me that on Oct. 4, 1963, over 1500 swifts entered the chimney that evening and the next evening not a single swift was seen.

On Aug. 11, 1979, a neighbor called and said she believed a bird was in her stove and would I see if I could get it out. It proved to be a Chimney Swift - with no toe nails. Evidently it was an old bird and its toe nails had worn off from years of clinging to chimney walls. Chimney Swifts have been reported to live 14 years (Kennard, *Bird Banding*, Vol. 46, No. 1 p. 64). Loss of nails was probably never a problem before the coming of man and his chimneys when swifts nested in hollow trees. Whether the loss

of toe nails is widespread is not known; I have never noticed any comments on this in the literature. One thing seems certain, a swift with no toe nails would really have problems trying to cling to a chimney wall each night.

Ralph K. Bell

Book Reviews

The Birdwatchers Activity Book by Donald S. Heintzelman. 1983, Stackpole Books, Cameron and Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, PA 17105, illus., 250 pp., Price \$11.95, paperback.

The Birdwatcher's Activity Book by Donald S. Heintzelman is not really a book which will have broad appeal to Brooks Bird Club members. In fact, my first reaction at the conclusion of reading it was that it could very well have been written by a member of the club, since practically every idea, activity and project which he cites is something the club has already thought of or is doing.

His first chapter, entitled "Bird-watching Basics," would be useful only to people who couldn't tell an American Goldfinch from an Evening Grosbeak. The second and third chapters, covering behavior and habitat are somewhat more sophisticated. However, most of the information contained in them could be found in the introduction to any good, standard field guide.

Chapters four through ten explore a wide variety of productive activities for individuals and groups. Among the suggestions are: limited area studies such as the famous published works for Cape May, the Maine coast, Buckeye Lake; atlasing; setting up observatories and research stations; waterfowl studies and wetlands preservation; hawk watches and raptor protective efforts such as educational campaigns and special hawk watch weeks; urban projects such as surveys of city parks; using the facilities and scientific collections of museums; bird feeding (This chapter contains an excellent summary of the study done by Alfred Geis on food preferences.); collecting bird related art and artifacts; promoting "locally endangered species" projects by public relations efforts involving schools, government agencies, the media, public hearings.

With few exceptions, the suggested ideas in the book would need an organized group for their pursuit, so its chief value might be in encouraging individual novice bird-watchers to join a good active bird club. Readers who are affiliated with an organization which is not as active or involved as it might be could use ideas from the book to urge greater effort and participation on the part of their various clubs.

The book contains excellent bibliographic information both as lists of subject related materials at the end of each chapter and as suggested readings included in the text.

Pat Temple
506 Hazlett Ave.
Wheeling, W.Va. 26003

Bird Habitats in Britain by R.J. Fuller. 1982, Poyser Ltd., England, Distributed in the U.S. by Buteo Books, P.O. Box 481, Vermillion, S.D. 57069, illus., 320 pp., Price \$31.50.

I bought this book to get some ideas about eventual use of the data we will generate with our West Virginia breeding bird atlas project. The British are way ahead of us in cataloguing bird distribution and use of various habitats at different times of the year by birds. **Bird Habitats in Britain** is a synthesis of data from **The Atlas of Breeding**

Birds in Britain and Ireland, from the British Trust for Ornithology's **The Register of Ornithological Sites**, and from a large selection of articles from the literature. The Register is a file of bird habitats generated to a large degree by the volunteer efforts of many of the same people who contributed to the British atlas study. The Register was not published to protect special areas and endangered birds from disturbance, but enough information is drawn from it by Fuller to give us an excellent overview of habitats in Britain.

The information presented by Fuller includes description of habitat, characteristic plants and birds, and the effects of habitat change on species distribution; use by breeding and winter birds; effects of pollution and habitat destruction (sometimes called reclamation in Britain). Birds associated with different types of vegetation in each habitat and detailed description of plant communities, are also presented.

There are many tables, diagrams and maps. Donald Watson's drawings and many habitat photographs make the book more interesting, especially for those unfamiliar with British terms such as moor, coppice, carr, fen, and heath.

I don't know of any single book that brings together so much data about bird distribution and habitat in the U.S. The possibilities are exciting. Breeding bird atlas studies are a good first step. This book serves as a model for our future work. It should also be read by anyone planning a birding tour of Great Britain. The maps, tables and detailed bird distribution studies should enable anyone to find a wide variety of interesting habitats and birds there.

A. R. Buckelew Jr.
Editor

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. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags had combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird each had the same combination). In addition, all birds received a metal legband on one leg and a plastic legband (yellow with a black horizontal stripe) on the other leg.

In 1982 many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies 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.

In 1983 many terns tagged in 1981 and 1982 were back at their colonies. In that year red wing tags (with yellow lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and green tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks.

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.

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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
West Virginia Birds by George Hall	\$20.00
The High Alleghenies by J. Lawrence Smith	\$15.00
Dozen Birding Hotspots by George Harrison. Autographed	\$10.95
The Backyard Birdwatcher by George Harrison. Autographed	\$14.75
Add \$1.00 for postage per order.	
Bumper Tag - Beware of sudden stops bird watchers car	\$1.00
Bumper Tag - BBC	\$1.00
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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 26003.

1983 Program The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
February 1-28	Write article or observation for The Redstart	Mail to: Dr. A. R. Buckelew
March 4-6	Mid-Winter Meeting-Jackson's Mill	Weston, WV
March 20	Waterfowl Field Trip	Seneca Lake, Ohio
May 5-8	Butternut Lodge Field Trip-Ottawa Refuge	Port Clinton, Ohio
May 1 or 8	Century Day Count	All local groups
May 26-31	Sortie-Tomlinson Run St. Park	Hancock Co., WV
June 1-30	25-Mile Breeding Bird Surveys	All local groups
June 4-18	BBC Foray-4-H Camp-Thornwood	Pocahontas Co., WV
July 20-24	Field Trip-Terra Alta	Preston Co., WV
August 21-31	Bird Banding	Red Creek, WV
September 1-30	Bird Banding continues	Red Creek, WV
September 1-6	BBC Reunion-Greenbrier Youth Camp ...	Anthony, WV
September 16-18	Hawk Counts	W.Va. Mountains
October 14-16	Annual Meeting-Cedar Lakes	Ripley, WV
November 5	Board of Directors Meeting, Headquarters	Wheeling, WV
December 17-30	Christmas Bird Counts	All local groups
ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST		
April 9-10	Audubon Weekend at Bethany College ...	Bethany, WV
May 12-15	Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage ...	Blackwater Falls, WV

BBC FORAYS

1983 — June 4 - June 18, Camp Pocahontas, Bartow, WV
 1984 — June 7 - June 16, Wyoming Youth Camp, Wyoming Co., WV

SEASONAL FIELD AND BANDING NOTES DUE

March 15 June 15 September 15 December 15

MAIL: Field Notes to: James D. Phillips, 809 Thorn St., Princeton, WV 24740
 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.