75 YEARS

with

THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

1932-2007
History of The Brooks Birds Club, Inc.

1932-2007

Albert R. Buckelew Jr., Editor

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A History of the Brooks Bird Club

1932-1982


"What a wedge, what a beetle, what a catapult is an earnest man!" So wrote John W. Handlan in a brief history of the Brooks Bird Club on the occasion of its Twenty-fifth Anniversary.

From a poor memory emerged this quotation from Henry David Thoreau. It is used here as an introduction to a history of the club. The twelve men and one teen-aged girl who were the founders of the organization were, indeed, "earnest men" who have continued for 25 years in an organization of which those of us who helped found it and those who since have joined us are proud.

In September of 1932, the West Virginia Nature Association, which had been erected within the framework of Oglebay Institute, based at Oglebay Park in Wheeling, West Virginia, held a dinner and meeting that later evolved into small groups of "special interest" people. There was a bird group, a botany group, an astronomy group, and even a nature poetry organization. The bird group has survived as The Brooks Bird Club.

The Nature Association was an outgrowth of the public nature walks conducted at 7 AM each Sunday morning by A.B. Brooks, Oglebay Institute naturalist. At the time, the walks had averaged 115 people who came each Sunday to the park for a guided trip around the trails with Mr. Books as leader. On one Sunday, 253 persons appeared to take part in the event. Most of them remained for an outdoor breakfast, which was served at cost at an outdoor picnic site, or, if weather forbade this, in the Park dining room.

At the first meeting of the group interested in bird study, Dr. Matthew F. Zubak proposed the name, which the club still bears – The Brooks Bird Club.

The club had been organized just two months when Russell West produced the first copy of The Redstart, a single mimeographed page that he compiled, edited and had mimeographed as a one-man job. The publication has continued and is now by far the oldest ornithological publication launched in West Virginia.

Early activities of the club were confined, principally, to participation in the mountain camps of the Oglebay Park Nature Leaders Training School, and to the operation of 4 AM "instruction walks" with volunteer leaders from the club membership. Later on, the group expanded its activities to week-end field trips to Pymatuning Lake at Linesville, Pennsylvania and elsewhere for week-end outings for the same purpose.

The scope of club activities gradually increased, but in 1940 the club pulled away from under the wing of Oglebay Institute and was on its own, starting with a week-long nature study foray at Lost River State Park. That started a series of similar, week-long expeditions, which have added considerably to ornithological, botanical and herpetological knowledge of the West Virginia outdoors.

The forays, for example, have provided records for first nestings of such species as Purple Finch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hooded Warbler, Nashville
Warbler and others. Considerable worthwhile work in botany, herpetology and mammalogy have resulted from combined efforts of the camp groups in the past several years.

The club has been favored at the week-long forays by the presence of various outstanding naturalists. To sit at the feet of these people has added much to the largely self-taught nature study of the active members of the organization.

If there ever was an active organization, it is the Brooks Bird Club. Its annual activities occupy almost a third of the week-ends in any one year. Regular events include, of course, the week-long foray but also include such week-end activities as: a trip to Mosquito Lake in the Youngstown, Ohio area; week-end expeditions to such places as Middle Mountain cabins in Randolph County, West Virginia; the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia in search of Sutton’s Warbler, the only known specimens of which were taken by Brooks Bird Club members Karl Haller and Lloyd Poland; a Charleston chapter reunion, now held at FFA-FHA camp near Ripley, West Virginia; the annual reunion of the entire Brooks Birds Club, etc.

Perhaps the most remarkable example of this club’s work consists of the weekly Tuesday night meetings at the Headquarters Chapter club room in Wheeling, which are definitely work sessions. During these meetings at the club room, the club’s journal, The Redstart, is edited, stencils are cut and run on a mimeograph machine and copies are addressed to the membership. In these informal gatherings, too, mail of general interest is condensed and published in a monthly newsletter called The Mail Bag, and the annual foray reports are stenciled, mimeographed and distributed.

A hard core of some six to a dozen Wheeling members and occasional visitors turn out for those self-sacrificing, money saving work meetings. Mail is answered; new acquisitions to the club library are catalogued and arranged on the shelves. This group usually “chips in” for modest refreshments, which are consumed at the end of the meeting.

Departure from Wheeling of many former members resulted in organization of chapters of the Brooks Bird Club at Charleston, the Columbus, Ohio area, Morgantown and elsewhere. Christmas Bird Counts, “century bird days” and other activities are carried out by the chapter groups as well as the parent organization in Wheeling. In 1948 the club became legally incorporated as a non-profit organization. An important step was taken in 1949 with a reorganization converting the club from a local, Wheeling society to an area-wide one.

The Brooks Bird Club, Inc. has learned the old-fashioned, but invaluable custom of making its own entertainment and has found in the pursuit of bird study an opportunity for self-entertainment via the media of songs, talks and stories by members, occasional parties and other activities, which more or less obviate the need for commercial pleasures.

The key to the club’s success appears to lie largely in the field of voluntary effort. Forays, for example, pay no instructors, camp-fire leaders, etc. “It’s a great club and those of us associated with it are proud and happy to be members.”

A forty-year history of the club was presented during the 40th Anniversary celebration at Oglebay Park. Chuck Conrad, one of the founders of the club, details the first ten years of club activities: “The club was purely amateur in leadership and members were recruited from all walks of life and included both men and women. Failure to attend
three consecutive monthly meetings without a legitimate excuse automatically forfeited membership. Dues were ten cents a month or $1.00 a year. The programs for the monthly meetings featured papers prepared by the members themselves. All field trips were in our local territory.

The first annual Christmas Bird Census was taken at Oglebay Park by eight members and a guest from New York. We listed 710 birds and 20 species.

In September 1933, John W. Handlan, who served as club leader the first year, was asked to continue. Sarah Hine was the recording secretary and treasurer. We now had about 30 active members, and we began to sign up what we called ‘corresponding members’ for 50 cents a year. We then decided that we needed a paper to keep the group informed, so *The Redstart* was born. The first issue was a single sheet, printed on one side only and edited by Russell West.

In March 1934, Maurice Brooks, George Sutton and Merit Skaggs were named honorary members. In September 1934 we had our first election of officers as follows:

- **President**: John W. Handlan
- **Secretary-Treasurer**: Helen McGill
- **Redstart Editor**: Tom Shields

Any active members joining the club before this date were considered ‘Charter Members.’ The membership as of October 1, 1934, was composed of 28 Active, 47 Corresponding, and 3 Honorary members.

In March 1935, Maurice Brooks made the following statement, ‘Since the recent meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Club in Pittsburgh, at which so many members of our BBC were present, a number of thoughts have been running through my mind. In the first place, I had not realized that the organization was so active. Secondly, I hadn’t stopped to consider that some of the members have stopped being merely bird students and are now ready to embark on the career of becoming ornithologists. Further, I realize as never before what a tremendous contribution the organization will make to our knowledge of bird life.’

Russ West was elected President in September 1936 and Harold Bergner served as President in 1937.

John Handlan was appointed *The Redstart* Editor in 1935 and served as editor until 1940. During this time, he was also City Editor for the *Wheeling Register*, and it was not uncommon to see big headlines stretched across the paper about some BBC activity. We never had it so good.

About this time, the famous BBC “Old McDonald Quartet” was originated and was the feature of many special events for many years.

Chuck Conrad was appointed Executive Secretary of the BBC in 1937 and has held the position ever since.

In 1938 Bert Cromes retired as a professional chef and became the official chef for the BBC and the Nature School until his death in 1951.

On May 30, 1939 Mike Haller and Lloyd Poland collected a male warbler in a scrub pine and deciduous woods 12 miles south of Martinsburg, Berkeley County, West Virginia. Two days later they collected a female bird four miles north of Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia. The birds were new to ornithologists and are now known as the Sutton Warbler, named in honor of Dr. George M. Sutton.
One of the more memorable incidents in the early days occurred during our first long-distance field trip to Niles, Ohio to observe waterfowl on Meander Lake. We all gathered at the Conrad home in Warwood at 11:00 PM on a Saturday night, had a snack, and departed at midnight. We traveled in convoy and arrived in Niles about 2:30 AM. The only place open was a restaurant, and it was about to close, so out on the street we were. A cop came by and thought it was a holdup. Merit Skaggs arrived just in time to explain that we were birdwatchers from out of town and had misjudged our arrival time.

In November 1939, Polly Handlan headed up a BBC project on banding and applied for a banding permit.

In 1940, John Handlan returned as President of the BBC, and Jim Olsen was appointed The Redstart Editor. This year the Brooks Birds Club foray was born, with the first one-week session being held in June at Lost River State Park, Hardy County, West Virginia, where George Flouer was Assistant Superintendent. We had 28 campers and Chuck Conrad was named first Foray Director.

Then unforeseen things began to happen to the BBC. In February 1941, John Handlan accepted a position with a newspaper in Huntington, West Virginia and resigned as president of the club. George Breiding was appointed as acting president, but before the end of the year, he went to military service, and Chuck Conrad succeeded him in the office. Mike Haller became editor of The Redstart. Mrs. West had decided that the club had used her basement as a meeting place about long enough, so we began to look for new headquarters.

In December 1941 the Brooks Bird Club came face to face with a situation that was far beyond control of any individual or organization. Our country was at war. At this time, President Chuck Conrad said, ‘We will carry on as a club and have monthly meetings as long as we have any active member left.’ And we did so without missing a meeting or a foray.

The next ten years' history of the BBC was written by Dorothy Conrad, charter member, dedicated worker, the only person to attend every foray and most of all other club activities: Each Sunday we joined the 7:00 AM walk at Oglebay Park led by A. B. Brooks. Through the years we always enjoyed following him along the trails, trying to absorb all the knowledge he offered in this beautiful world of nature. On April 26, 1942, our beloved A. B. led his last walk at Oglebay Park and retired to his home at French Creek, West Virginia.

The club used the basement of Russ West’s home for a meeting place during the first ten years of existence. It was dubbed the ‘Duck Inn’ since we had to duck under the porch to enter. Then, on October 27, 1942, we moved to a new clubroom on North Fifth Street in Warwood, Wheeling, West Virginia. Rain or shine the regular Tuesday nights at the clubroom were important work periods to handle business, write letters, plan outings, mimeograph and get out notices and publications. At snack time we would discuss birds, nature and past events.

Due to the war and unsettled conditions along with restricted travel, President Chuck Conrad set up the 1942-43 program for local trips on Sundays, and in late afternoon, the group would stop at one of the members houses for a snack and an enjoyable evening.

Long before Christmas, the clubroom gang began working on Christmas boxes for our 16 fellows and 2 girls serving in the armed forces. All sorts of goodies, snapshots,
and essentials were packed in these boxes. We even made up miniature Esquire booklets for each of the fellows. All received one of these except for Jim Olsen who got only the cover - no 'girlie' pictures!


In 1943, the club had a total of 200 active and corresponding members. It was decided that the section in The Restart titled 'Correspondence' should be a separate publication, thus the The Mail Bag came into existence with Kay Conrad as editor. It officially became the club newsletter that fall, and George Breiding was appointed the new editor. Maurice Brooks became editor of The Restart, starting with the December 1943 issue.

The first Nature School Reunion was held at the clubroom October 23, 1943. Sadness came to the club early in 1944 when club member George Arner of Chester, West Virginia was killed in action. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

The Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club was organized on February 29, 1944 with John Handlan as acting chairman and Gladys Murrey as secretary-treasurer.

On April 4, all of us knew this would be Chuck’s last Tuesday night at the clubroom before leaving for the army.

Word came that A. B. Brooks had passed away at his home on May 15, 1944. On Sunday, August 27 the first annual A. B. Brooks Day was celebrated at 7:30 AM at Oglebay Park. Maurice Brooks led the walk and Pvt. Chuck Conrad represented our club on the program. About 250 persons attended and almost all stayed for an outdoor breakfast.

In September our landlady gave us a week’s notice to vacate the clubroom. Our $4.00 a month rent was a little small compared to the $20.00 she could get from someone else. Well, as John Laitsch would say – “There was considerable confusion for a spell!” Then after many inquiries, our father found, and we rented a place at 707 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling. An SOS went out to the gang, everyone came and the task of moving was accomplished in one evening.

These were the war years and with so many of our members in the armed forces, it was up to our senior members and the girls to carry on. So we all worked at the clubroom compiling correspondence, writing letters, writing articles for the The Mail Bag, packing boxes, holding meetings at homes and carrying on every part of club activities. Carolyn Conrad assumed the Presidency, Eva Hays was Secretary-Treasurer, George Breiding edited the The Mail Bag and Maurice Brooks edited The Restart. A program for the year was arranged following the pattern of past years.

Arrangements were made with Pete Chandler, naturalist at Tomlinson Run State Park at New Cumberland, West Virginia to hold the 1944 foray there. Kay Conrad was acting Executive Secretary and a very successful foray it was.

In 1945, the first nest of the Swainson’s Warbler in the state was discovered by Eleanor Sims in Donnally Hollow near Charleston.

In June 1945, a Checklist of West Virginia Birds by Maurice Brooks was published with a forward by Dr. George M. Sutton. The 1945 foray was held at Cheat Bridge, Randolph County, West Virginia with John Handlan in charge.
On December 22, 1945, Eva Hays was instrumental in saving the lives of 18 Girl Scouts from carbon monoxide fumes. Eva’s health was damaged from the many trips into the building to ensure the safety of the girls. January 25, 1946, was meeting night at the clubroom and a very special night it was, because before the meeting Chuck Conrad walked in and announced that he was out of the service. The 1946 foray was held at Watoge State Park, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. In November, Maurice Brooks resigned as The Redstart editor, and Russell De Garmo was appointed as a replacement.

The 1947 foray was held at Webster Springs, Webster County, West Virginia. On October 17, 1947 seven carloads of BBC’ers were off to Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania. On Saturday night everyone drove to Shartlesville for dinner, where they served 23 different dishes of food. Unfortunately, we had filled up on birch beer beforehand and could not do justice to all the food before us! The Olsens, from Columbus, Ohio, drove 1,000 miles that week-end and found NO HAWKS!

In November the Wilson Society held their annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio. The BBC was well represented by 32 members, six of whom presented papers as part of the meeting.

The 1948 foray was held at Camp Thornwood near Bartow, West Virginia. Work was done in both Pocahontas and Randolph Counties. The club had learned of Aldrich and Stewart’s bird census studies in the spruce belt and decided to follow up with our own studies. Thus we became involved in the singing male census program with Russ De Garmo in charge.

The annual meeting was held at Camp Piedmont near Cadiz, Ohio. A new constitution was presented. It was also decided to combine the annual meeting and annual reunion under one heading and to hold such meetings over the Labor Day week-end. The Wheeling group became the official Headquarters Chapter of the BBC.

The first Mid-Winter Meeting was held at the clubroom on February 18-20, 1949. The Brooks Birds Club and the Huntington Bird Club co-hosted the Wilson Society Meeting at Jackson’s Mill on April 27-30, 1950. Seventy-five BBC members attended and the entire cost per person was $11.46.

The first annual search for the Sutton’s Warbler took place on May 18, 19, 20, 1951 with headquarters at Cliffside Motel in Martinsburg, West Virginia. The exact locations where the birds were collected were visited and thoroughly searched but to no avail.

The 1951 foray was held at Davis, Tucker County, West Virginia. Our headquarters were at the Worden’s Hotel. We were greeted by a large canvas sign reading: HEADQUARTERS OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB – 1951 FORAY.

On August 27, 1951, Chuck Conrad fell down an elevator shaft where he worked at Warwick China in Wheeling. He suffered back injuries and crushed both heels. Both legs were in casts, and he was incapacitated for five months. In spite of all this, the 1951 meeting at Camp Piedmont went on as scheduled. Pete Chandler, who was president of the club, had all the help and cooperation from everyone and the weekend was a great success. Chuck Conrad was made an honorary member at this meeting.

On May 30, 1952, Bill Legg was killed in an automobile accident near Summersville, West Virginia. Bill had contributed much to our knowledge of ornithology in central West Virginia, especially in his studies of Swainson’s Warbler.
The 1952 foray was held in Cabwaylingo State Forest.

The 20th Anniversary of the club was celebrated over the Labor Day week-end at Camp Piedmont. Every effort was made for a big turnout. All of the past presidents and *The Redstart* editors except, Mike Haller who was in the service, were present. Each year was narrated by a different club member who then placed an egg in the BBC redstart nest. It had indeed been a great and fruitful twenty years for our club.

Glen Phillips continues the history of the club when he tells of his impressions and memories during the third decade of the club’s existence: When I was assigned the task of summarizing the history of the BBC during the period of 1952-1962, my first feeling was one of frustration. What could possibly be said that was not recorded for anyone to read in the files of *The Redstart*, the Foray Reports, and the *The Mail Bag*? Then came the realization that not everyone had these files on hand and a statement of how some of our present enjoyable experiences developed might be enlightening to some and a nostalgic review to others.

The decade might be summed up as one of great programs – numerically, scientifically, and academically. The club grew in numbers, the programs of study grew in scope and the members grew in their knowledge and appreciation of nature study. Following the BBC tradition of teaching each other, many new or recent members developed interests and skills that made them pillars in the club. How could we miss when we had teachers like De Garmo, Handlan, Hall, Chandler, the Conrads, Bartley, Hicks, Shields, Breiding, Masteller, Brooks and others, and students like Hurley, the Boechers, the Laitsches, Bell, the Ballentines, the Coles, Worthleys, Anderson, and others too numerous to mention? Many came into the club well versed in one subject and remained to embrace another field of study, sometimes with outstanding results. We lost some leaders, but when the mantle of responsibility was placed on the shoulders of a newer member, it was carried with success and pride.

Let us look at a few of the details of the period in the spirit of accomplishment, enjoyment and fellowship: Pete Chandler was president and Russ De Garmo was editor of *The Redstart* at the beginning of the decade. The foray, which was held at Cabwaylingo, marked a departure from the practice of holding it in the mountains each year and was the first step toward eventual coverage of the entire state. The first quarterly "Field Notes" were published under the editorship of George Hall. Possibly the first record of Blue Goose was made by George Breiding, Bill Wylie, and others in Ohio County. George Hall also compiled the foray bird population studies that De Garmo had edited since 1948. Wayne Davis reported on heavy flights of migrant warblers observed at Bear Rocks on Dolly Sods by Hawk watchers. The significance of this report is that it led to the present-day banding at Red Creek on Allegheny Front Mountain.

In 1953 George Breiding was editor of *The Redstart* and Mable Gorman was editor of *The Mail Bag*. At the Mid-Winter Meeting, Eva Hays was awarded a Life Membership. Hal Harrison made his first foray film at Camp Thornwood, now known as Camp Pocahontas. Russell De Garmo published a five-year study of hawk migration routes and some of the better observation points. Maurice Brooks was writing a yearly article known as ‘The Ornithological Year in West Virginia.’

During the 1953 foray, a certain ill-advised person walked through the men’s dorm ringing a cow bell at 5:00 AM when it was raining and the ‘early risers’ had turned off alarm clocks for much-needed extra sleep.
During 1954 George Hall was the President of the club. Hal Harrison’s 1953 foray film was shown at the Mid-Winter Meeting, and a copy was presented to the club. A trip for waterfowl observation was made to the lakes near Youngstown, Ohio. The Brooks Nature Center at Oglebay Park was dedicated on May 9. Mrs. A. B. Brooks unveiled the plaque, and Dr. George M. Sutton was the main speaker. The foray was held at Camp Beckwith in Fayette County, West Virginia. One of the features was a trip to Cranberry Glades. Wilda Jennings published an article on nesting Mockingbirds in Brooke County, which was much north of their usual range; Nevada Laitsch noted the nest of a Purple Finch at East Liverpool, Ohio, which was far south of their known breeding range.

The 1955 foray was held at Camp Pinnacle in Hardy County, West Virginia. Besides the usual work, fun, food, and fellowship, Chuck was caught in West Virginia’s largest mammal trap, and John Laitsch had an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with a rattlesnake – all three survived. A picnic was held at Laitsch’s Acre – one of several such gatherings there. At the Annual Meeting at Camp Piedmont, Maxine Thacker was elected President and Kay Conrad was appointed Editor of the *The Mail Bag*.

In 1956, a spring water bird trip was made to Mosquito Lake, Ohio. The foray was at Camp Caesar. One of the long-remembered events of the foray was the trip to Hill’s Creek Falls (hereafter referred to by BBC people as ‘Hell’s Canyon’). No convenient steps graced the final embankment to the falls. Great was the effort to reach the falls and even greater was the struggle to get back out. The Laitschs were alleged to have been confused for a spell – since John lost and found his cigars twice, it is surmised they may have been traveling in circles. Pete Chandler, with his daughter Janie and his niece Marnie, missed the falls entirely, wound up in Lobelia and had to be driven back to their car. The Annual Meeting was held at Camp Piedmont. This fall Cow Knob was explored as a place for counting hawks, while another group counted hawks at Reddish Knob.

The 1957 Mid-Winter Meeting featured Hal Harrison’s film “Beyond the Shining Mountains” – a photographic trip over the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition. In January, the club was saddened by the untimely passing of Larry Hicks. A spring waterfowl trip was made to Columbus, Ohio. The home of Ernie Limes served as our headquarters and many of us saw a Saw-Whet Owl of the first time. Chuck received the I. B. Boggs award of the American Camping Association for his contribution to Nature Education. An electrically driven mimeograph machine was added to the clubroom equipment just in time to get out the many pages of material associated with the 25th Anniversary celebration. For this meeting, which was held at Camp Piedmont, Maurice Brooks wrote “25 Years of West Virginia Ornithology;” John Handlan wrote “A Short History of the Brooks Bird Club;” George Breiding expounded on the “Future of the BBC;” and Chuck Conrad explained “The Foray Idea.” Dave Baker was elected President and George Hurley became the editor of ’Field Notes.’ George Hall was now editor of *The Redstart*. The foray was held at Cacapon State Park in the eastern panhandle.

1958 was also a year of intense activity. At the Mid-Winter Meeting, Hal Harrison showed two more of his movies “Sylvan Trails” and “Jungle of Grass.” The spring waterfowl trip this year was to Pymatuning, Pennsylvania in late March. During April the BBC was host to the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting at Oglebay Park. That meeting is a story in itself, including the rededication of “Brooks’ Trail” and
resetting the bronze trail marker. Ralph Bell’s article on “Bird Banding” seems to be his first contribution to The Redstart. The foray was again held at Camp Thornwood, adhering to the pattern of returning every five years to that place. An outstanding event of the foray was the official welcome given celebrity Maxine Thacker on her arrival by train at Durbin – red carpet and all! Of more lasting importance may be the start of migratory bird banding at Red Creek campground on Allegheny Front Mountain by George Hall, Ralph Bell and Charles O. Handlan. The Annual Meeting was held at Camp Piedmont, and a fall field trip was made to Old Man’s Cave State Park in Hocking County, Ohio.

1959 witnessed some changes in locale of some bird club activities. The spring waterfowl trip was headquartered at Cedar Lakes, and we visited the McClintic Wildlife Refuge. The foray was held out of West Virginia for the first time when we went to Mountain Lake Biological Station near Giles, Virginia. During this foray Hal Harrison made the second Foray movie. The Annual Meeting at Camp Piedmont produced one of the best stories of all BBC misadventures. Mrs. Dill and Mrs. Wenger were the camp cooks. Mrs. Wenger was familiar with the habit of some people at forays to get up at 3:30 or 4:00 AM to start work on study areas, but not with those same people playing charades at the reunions. About 4:00 AM Mrs. Wenger awakened Mrs. Dill and informed her that a group of BBC’ers was in the dining room apparently wanting breakfast. Said Mrs. Dill, “Go back to sleep, they haven’t gone to bed yet.”

The winter of 1959-60 was quite mild until the first of February; then it seemed that all the delayed snow and cold weather came at once. The 1960 spring waterfowl trip to McClintic Wildlife Refuge was cancelled because all the water was frozen over. The foray was held at Camp Kidd in Tucker County, West Virginia and gave us an opportunity to study birds at the lower elevations of that county. There was a picnic at Gladys Murrey’s home on July 4 and one at Tomlinson’s Run State Park in August. An additional field trip was on the BBC program when a trip was made to Cook Forest State Park in Pennsylvania. The Annual Meeting was held, as usual, at Camp Piedmont. The fall outing was held at Cedar Lakes, and hawk watches were set up at Boyd’s Gap, Berkeley County; Reddish Knob, Pendleton County; Bear Rocks, Grant County, and Peter’s Mountain, Monroe County.

Captain Perkins was the speaker at the Mid-Winter Meeting. During the meeting a Laura Dill Memorial Fund was discussed. Dorothy Hartung showed her slides of her trip to South America. The spring waterfowl trip was again at McClintic Wildlife Refuge. During 1961, another step was taken to broaden the coverage of BBC forays to areas of the state not previously reported on. This year we held the foray in Wetzel County at the 4-H camp hear New Martinsville. Most foray campers were surprised at the variety and total number of species of birds to be found here. One of the surprises was finding the Yellow-throated Warbler in four or five locations, all north of any previously reported occurrences. A few members were able to attend the dedication of the new dining hall at Camp Thornwood named in honor of our late cook, Laura Dill. P. W. Postlewaite presented a framed portrait of Mrs. Dill on behalf of BBC. The Annual Meeting was held at the Wetzel County 4-H Camp. Clark Miller was elected club President. Articles in The Redstart included “Some Birds of Muskingum County” by Tom Shields; Dr. Burns’ report of finding the Magpie’s nest in Canaan Valley and Karl Haller’s final notes on Beech Bottom Swamp.
All in all, it was a period of growth; a period of development of new programs, leaders and goals; a period of solidification and enjoyment – a period to be proud of. Some projects inaugurated were the Package Program, purchase of an electric mimeograph and an addressograph, the Laura Dill Memorial Fund, Cranesville Swamp purchase assistance, and “Foray Bird” studies. Nothing worthwhile is accomplished without effort and sacrifice, so we owe so much to those who led in the accomplishments and success of the period. It is impossible to span ten years without periods of sadness. We were saddened by the passing of some prominent members during this period, including John Handlan, Laura Dill, George Thorpe, Sodie Llewellyn, Tubby Boggs, Orlo Masteller and Larry Hicks.

Nevada Laitsch, who has been a part of the “BBC scene” since the early 40’s continues the history of the club: When the Brooks Bird Club celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 1962, the membership had grown from a sparce 28 Charter Members to a membership in excess of 300 persons. The time had come for a reassessment of the club’s resources and to take a closer look at future planning to meet the challenge of a changing world.

The effects of better living through science and technology are evident. Ecology, environment, pollutants, pesticides, and air quality were now household words. So during a decade when we were reeling under the impact of environmental changes, we would necessarily become more conservation minded and more involved in related movements designed to halt environmental destruction.

In 1962, the annual foray was held at the Preston County 4-H Camp near Brandonville, West Virginia. The Annual Meeting was at the Wetzel County 4-H Camp. Clark Miller was the President of the club. The Handlan Chapter acquired a room in Sunrise Museum for their meeting room and for nature education exhibits.

In 1963 the BBC pledged full support to the newly formed Nature Conservancy of West Virginia. Leaders for the Wildflower Pilgrimage at Blackwater Falls were furnished by the club for the first time. A “Bluebird project” was sponsored with the headquarters chapter distributing bluebird nesting boxes and encouraging records and reports on the status of the bluebird. The Sutton’s Searchers found a Brown Creeper’s nest along the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County, West Virginia This was the first known creeper’s nest in West Virginia outside the Cheat Mountains. The annual foray was held at Thorn Springs, near Franklin in Pendleton County. George Hurley succeeded George Hall as The Redstart editor when Hall resigned to become editor of The Wilson Bulletin. Nevada Laitsch became "Field Notes" editor and Claude Ross was appointed as The Mail Bag editor. A Parasitic Jaeger found at St. Albans, September 14, 1963, a new bird record for the State.

In 1964, George Hurley became the President of the club. The first professionally printed issue of The Redstart became a reality. Conservation and research committees were named. The foray was held at Camp Pocahontas, formerly known as Thornwood. This was our fourth foray at this camp. A field trip to Terra Alta was made on August 1-3. As a memorial to the late A. B. Brooks, sixty copies of The Birds, a Life magazine publication, were placed in school libraries throughout West Virginia. Graham Netting was elected to Honorary membership in the club during the Mid-Winter Meeting. He was host to the club in September at Powder Mill Nature Reserve, which is operated by Carnegie Museum.
By 1965 it was becoming more difficult to secure camps for forays on dates that were getting later each year due to the lengthening school terms. So we returned to Giles County, Virginia, the locale of the 1959 foray. The biological station was not available, so the Mountain Lake Resort Hotel was used—a rather swanky resort for our purposes. Summer field trips were made to Cook Forest, Pennsylvania and to Cranberry Glades. The “Gathering Cage” by Connie Katholi was added to The Redstart format. This addition was designed to record banding activities for BBC banders, whose numbers were rapidly growing.

Harold Boecher became President in 1966. A new revision of the constitution was adopted. The first 25-mile Breeding Bird Surveys were undertaken by several BBC teams. The first BBC sortie, arranged by the Handlan Chapter took place in Kanawha State Forest during the long Memorial Day weekend. A dozen persons participated. The idea of the sortie or mini-foray was to conduct studies in various parts of West Virginia where information was lacking and foray sites could not be found. It was planned for five days of concentrated fieldwork by a compact group with each person furnishing his own food and shelter. The foray was at Camp Anthony in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. The Cornell Nesting Card Program was first used during this foray. The Sutton’s Searchers scored again by locating the first Yellow-throated Warbler nest in Eastern West Virginia. The Mid-Winter Meeting featured the first paper session by BBC members. Floyd Bartley was made an Honorary member of the club.

In March of 1967 a trip to Spring Hollow, near Columbus, Ohio, was made for migrating waterfowl. The second sortie was held at McClintic Wildlife Station in Mason County, West Virginia. The foray was at Peterkin Conference Center at Romney, Hampshire County, West Virginia. This was our first study of the area and highlights were Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissel, and Lark Sparrows. A route transect method for surveying bird populations at forays was introduced by Jack Linehan and two routes were run. Noteworthy bird records were Cattle Egrets at St. Albans on September 24 and a Hudsonian Godwit in Marshall County on September 29. Dr. Harold Burtt was elected to Honorary membership at the Mid-Winter Meeting.

George Koch became President of the club in 1968. The BBC successfully hosted the Eastern Bird Banding Association at Oglebay Park April 5-7. The sortie was held at Cedar Creek State Park in Gilmer County. We returned to Camp Pocahontas for our fifth foray there. This was the first attempt at a two-week foray. It was well attended and so successful that it was to become traditional. The Labor Day outing was at Davis, West Virginia at the Worden’s Hotel. The Annual Meeting was held in October for the first time at Cedar Lakes. This was in conjunction with the Cedar Lakes weekend sponsored by the Handlan Chapter.

In 1969, we returned to Thorn Springs for the foray, which was now a two-weeks affair. A record number of botanists were attracted to this foray due to the abundance of unusual plants in the limestone areas. The sortie was held in Wayne County for the purpose of recording data on a section soon to be inundated by the Beech Fork dam. A Boreal Chickadee banded at Morgantown was a new bird record for West Virginia.

Ben Kiff became club President in 1970. We went to Nicholas County for the thirty-first annual foray. The week previous to foray, a small group did preliminary bird listing and ran population studies because it was feared that the late date of the foray this far south would handicap breeding bird studies. Many persons attending the foray
became acquainted with Swainson’s Warbler for the first time. Chuck Conrad, George Breiding, Anne Shreeve and Bill Wylie received conservation awards from Governor Arch Moore for their efforts and accomplishments in the field of conservation. Life memberships were awarded to Dorothy and Carolyn Conrad for their long and faithful service to the club.

In 1971 we returned to Camp Anthony for the foray. This was a two-week foray, but the separated weeks were not consecutive. The first week was June 5-12 and the second week was July 3-10. The sortie returned to McClintic Wildlife Station over Memorial Day week-end. A “List of West Virginia Birds” by George Hall was published by the club, first appearing in The Redstart, and another 3,000 copies made for sale by the club with all proceeds going to the club. A project to assist in nature education for students at the Romney School for the Deaf and Blind was undertaken. A Land Acquisition measure was adopted by the club, and a committee was named to investigate places and methods of securing and preserving unique and endangered lands. President Kiff presented a plan for smooth continuity of the club in case the headquarters chapter could no longer function. The Mid-Winter Meeting featured a surprise testimonial tribute to Chuck Conrad for his long and faithful service. George Hall was elected to Honorary membership.

Ralph Bell became club President in 1972. A Daily Bird Checklist was printed by the club and put on sale. The foray was held at EV-UN-Breth Conference Center, Buckhannon, Upshur County, West Virginia. This was of necessity another split two-week foray. During the first week, June 3-10, both Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrid warblers were found. The second week will be remembered as the rainiest foray on record. A new species of bird was recorded in West Virginia at Charles Town when House Finches were seen and banded by Clark Miller. A fund drive for land acquisition began through voluntary contributions and the sale of Chuck Ripper prints of the Scarlet Tanager.

At the end of forty years the club, had grown to a whopping membership of more than 600. Despite this number, contact was kept through our publications and personal communications, therefore we still operate much like a small club. There are three chapters that hold regular meetings, and the yearly program is designed to accommodate the greatest number of members possible. Time and space does not permit comment on many worthwhile activities and achievements, but some long-range programs do merit attention. Breeding Bird population studies have been an integral part of the BBC since 1948. This year eleven studies by BBC members were submitted for publication in American Birds. In a 35 year of distribution of breeding bird censuses in the December issue of that publication, West Virginia led the field in the number of censuses published. BBC people were responsible for nearly all of these studies. The annual hawk counts at Bear Rocks and Peter’s Mountain provide much information on hawk migration. Banding activities are growing. The “Red Creek Boys,” George Hall and Ralph Bell, who operated a station on Allegheny front Mountain for fifteen years, received enough assistance from other BBC banders this fall to operate non-stop as long as weather permitted. Their station is known as A.F.M.O. (Allegheny Front Migration Observatory). A Floyd Bartley Award was established with a monetary gift from a friend of Floyd’s who wished to remain anonymous. A check for $50.00 is given each year to the author of the best article on fieldwork published in that year’s volume of The Redstart. Charleston banders provide
much useful information from yearly work on a Purple Martin roost. The twenty-five mile Breeding Bird Surveys are faithfully carried out in several localities. The work of our botany enthusiasts must not be overlooked. They have contributed greatly to the knowledge of the flora of West Virginia and several discoveries of new plants for the State have been made at forays and field trips.

So grows our scope of interest. We are now aware of, and beginning studies of mosses, lichens and fungi in addition to herptiles, amphibians and mammals. The interest of one person can quickly become the interest of many. So, today as we pause to recall and remember the progress of the first forty years of the club, we realize that we are on the threshold of the future. The future belongs to us - What will the story be when we take a backward look in 1982?

The first event of 1973 was the annual Mid-Winter Meeting at Oglebay Park. The feature of the meeting was the celebration of BBC’s 40th Anniversary. The afternoon session presented a forty-year history of the club. It was compiled in ten-year sections with Chuck Conrad doing 1923 to 1942; Dorothy Conrad 1942 to 1952; Glen Phillips 1952 to 1962, and Nevada Laitsch 1962 to 1972. Chan Robbins gave a slide program on his recent trip to Poland. The evening program was a salute to Charter Members (seven of the twenty-eight original members were present); Past Presidents (exactly one-half of those were present); The Redstart Editors (four of the five past editors were present); The Mail Bag Editors (five of the nine were present); and Honorary Members (four of the nine were present). Captain Perkins showed his film “Wings Over Inland Seas” and the evening was topped off by a special feature – the performance of BBC’s own original Old MacDonald Quartet composed of Pete Chandler, Chuck Conrad, Harold Bergner and George Flouer.

This year a new folder was prepared and distributed. It contained a brief history of the Brooks Bird Club, explained its policies, programs and publications, a classification of memberships and dues, as well as a membership application blank. This is probably the nearest the club has ever come to membership solicitation.

A memorial fund was established by the club, wherein a monetary donation can be given in memory of a departed friend or relative.

A field trip to Killdeer Plains in Ohio was held March 23-25 with headquarters at Delaware, Ohio.

The annual pilgrimage to Harpers Ferry in search of the elusive Sutton’s warbler took place May 25-27.

The sortie location this year was the Big Ugly Public Hunting Area in Lincoln County. Seventeen persons participated. Three population studies were conducted and one 25-mile breeding bird survey was run between May 25-31.

For the first time, since the beginning of the forays, it was necessary to hold a split foray with one week at two different locations. The first week was at Camp Pocahontas in Pocahontas County on June 9-16, and the second week was at Camp Thorn Springs in Pendleton County the following week. A Wildlife Sanctuary Program was adopted by the club and signs were offered for sale.

A Land Acquisition Project was launched.

An all-day picnic was held at the Bell’s home near Clarksville, Pennsylvania in July. An outing was held at Terra Alto August 3-5 and the official Hawk Count week-end was set as September 14-16.
Lowe’s Hotel was the site of the Annual Meeting at Point Pleasant. Field trips were made to McClintic Wildlife Refuge and Kyger Creek ponds.

The appearance of a Wood Ibis at Franklin, West Virginia, made ornithological news. It remained there for two weeks.

Nevada Latisch began her term as President at the beginning of 1974. The great energy crisis was in the headlines compounded by gasoline shortages and a threatened trucker strike. When final plans were completed for the Mid-Winter meeting it was not certain whether or not it could be held. However, it was held at Oglebay Park as scheduled with excellent attendance. During the business meeting the following resolution was adopted by the club; 'Whereas, the United States of America has begun only recently to realize its vital functions depend upon the careful protection of its natural resources, such as air, water, minerals, timber, animal life, land, and healthy psyches, and whereas, various environmental protection acts have been promulgated to attain this end through Federal and State governments, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that we do beseech and demand that these governments do not falter in enforcing such acts because of present political and economic pressures, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we are willing to accept the necessary privations as payment for our ancestors’ squandering and as our pledge to their descendants.'

Killdeer Plains was revisited in March for waterfowl observations. The group listed 62 species of birds, which included seeing a number of Short-eared Owls.

The May 1974 sortie was scheduled to coincide with the historical dates of William Brewster’s visit to the Goose Creek area near Petroleum in Ritchie County. Twenty persons took part in the study, and they found quite a contrast between Brewster’s list of birds a century ago and their list in 1974.

The foray was held at the Ritchie County 4-H Camp near Harrisville. The highlight of the foray was the discovery of a Chuck-wills-widow near camp. Leave it to foray people to discover something new, and also leave it to foray people to doubt until shown! Stuart Robbins was given a pretty hard time until he produced the bird. The bird list contained 101 different species.

A field trip to Salt Fork Lake near Cambridge, Ohio was held November 8-10. The Annual Meeting was again held at Lowe’s Hotel in Point Pleasant.

The formal dedication and acceptance of the Greenland Gap Nature Reserve took place on November 3. The Burt family of Wheeling were the owners of this unique piece of property and turned it over to the stewardship of the West Virginia Nature Conservancy, The Brooks Bird Club and Oglebay Institute.

At the Mid-Winter meeting in February of 1975, Judge John Worley was given recognition for 65 years participation in annual Christmas Bird Counts. Eva Hays resigned the office of Secretary-treasurer, due to ill health, after serving in that capacity for twenty-five years. An executive session was called, and it was decided to offer an amendment to the constitution to create three offices to replace the lone office of secretary-treasurer. These offices would be Club Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer. The workload was now much too great for any one person to cope with. Libby De Garmo was named Club Secretary, Helen Conrad Membership Secretary and Bernie Trott was named Treasurer. All would serve in the interim until the Annual Meeting.

The Spring field trip this year was made to Magee Marsh and Lake Erie for waterfowl.
The club successfully hosted the Eastern Bird Banding Association for their annual meeting at Oglebay Park April 4-6. Several BBC members gave papers, and 160 persons attended.

The 1975 foray was held at the Raleigh County 4-H Camp at Daniels, West Virginia. Six population studies were completed and four 25-mile Breeding Bird Surveys were run. A controversial bird was the highlight of the foray. A warbler that had all appearances of a Yellow-throated Warbler but sang a double song of the Parula Warbler was found and later netted and banded. The Sutton's hybrid was known for singing a double Parula song. Subsequent trips back to the area failed to turn up this or any similar bird.

The Labor Day weekend outing was held at Anthony in Greenbrier County. BBC shoulder patches went on sale by the club for $1.00 postpaid.

Club member, Jim Evans, made news in September, when he became lost on Dolly Sods for three days. Search parties failed all efforts to locate him. However, all ended well when Jim came back to the road on the third day not too much the worse for his misadventure.

The club returned to Cedar Lakes Conference Center at Ripley for the Annual Meeting after a lapse of four years. Field trips were made to McClintic Wildlife Refuge and Kyger Creek ponds and Jim’s Ridge. A Membership Booklet containing the names, addresses and class of membership of the entire membership was distributed. The Bibbee Nature Club became an affiliate of the Brooks Bird Club.

Russell Hogg became the club President at the beginning of 1976. The Mid-Winter Meeting was held at Oglebay Park February 27-29. Ray and Jo Ashworth received the Floyd Bartley Award for their published paper entitled "Fall Migration Study in Kanawha State Forest."

Thirty-four club members participated in the spring waterfowl trip to Killdeer Plains on Mark 19-21. They listed 69 species of birds, which included a Saw-whet Owl and 34 Short-eared Owls.

A request went out for information on a newcomer to West Virginia – the House Finch which was rapidly spreading all over the State.

The 1976 foray was another two-week foray and was held at the Braxton County 4-H Camp. Seven population studies were completed, and one 25-mile and six 15-mile Breeding Bird Surveys were carried out. Few of us will forget that we shared the dining hall with Captain Crunch! Eight hundred-forty-two cartons, containing 12 boxes each of this delicious, delectable cereal were stacked at one end of the hall. It seems that this was to be a sale project for the 4-H members. Every foray person that merited special recognition was rewarded with a box of delicious, nutritious Captain Crunch cereal.

The sortie was held at Waiteville in Monroe County. Our accommodations there afforded the luxury of occupying a house with running hot and cold water and working refrigeration. Our only problem was that our benefactor forgot to tell her many friends that the house was occupied by bird watchers and they kept coming in to take their weekly bath.

Sales of the Scarlet Tanager bird print to raise funds for land acquisitions were going well.

As usual, an ambitious program was carried out in 1977 beginning with the Mid-Winter Meeting at Oglebay Park February 19-20. Other spring activities were continued
with good attendance. The 37th annual foray was held at Lost River State Park in Hardy County. This was a return to the site of the very first foray back in 1940.

A copy of Jean Worthley’s Hodgepodge Lodge film, which was filmed at Dolly Sods and featured several BBC members, was given to the club.

The Handlan Chapter published *Birds of the Great Kanawha Valley*, by Charles O. Handley, Sr. and it was an immediate sellout.

The BBC Backyard Sanctuary project had 16,457 acres posted with sanctuary signs in 43 counties in West Virginia.

Albert R. "Jay" Buckelew became editor of *The Redstart*, and Glen Phillips became editor of "Field Notes."

Losses of club members included Charles O. Handley, Sr., Judge John Worley, Ruth Burtt and Louis Sturm.

Ken Anderson became club President in 1978, and the Mid-Winter Meeting was held in February at Oglebay Park.

The BBC and West Virginia University co-hosted the 59th annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at Jackson’s Mill May 4-7. More than 250 persons registered for the meeting. Maurice Brooks was the featured speaker.

The sortie was held at Hungry Beech Nature Preserve in Roane County. The Preserve is property of The Nature Conservancy. The sortie will be well remembered as a return to ‘primitive life’ as we had to rely on self-sufficiency for all facilities including water.

We returned to Camp Pocahontas in June for the two-week foray. This was the seventh foray to be held in this interesting area. Birds of 134 species were listed, six population studies completed, and a dozen 25-mile Breeding Bird Surveys were run.

The Terra Alta weekend in July was well-attended, and a record number of BBC’ers attended the Annual Meeting at Camp Anthony over the Labor Day week-end.

On September 26, 47 BBC members boarded a plane for Switzerland for a 15-day tour of Switzerland and surrounding countries. The tour was arranged by Bob and Margrit McCausland who served as guides. Ornithological research centers were visited as well as refuges and museums. Excellent birding was enjoyed under the guidance of local bird experts. Everyone increased their life list considerably on the trip and returned with enthusiasm for birding trips abroad.

The annual Mid-Winter Meeting became the Early Spring Meeting in 1979 when the only dates we could get at Oglebay Park were March 16-18. However, the weather was fine and a record number of people attended. Harry Slack received the Floyd Bartley Award and George Hurley received a plaque for 14 years as editor of *The Redstart.*

1979 will be remembered as the winter of cold and snow. The BBC clubroom work sessions were cancelled on three nights because of the weather and heavy snow. The Handlan Chapter was forced to cancel two of its activities because of snow.

The club became involved in promoting the designation of Canaan Valley as a National Wildlife Refuge and in creating a Cranberry Wilderness Area in Pocahontas County.

The sortie was held at Mt. Wood Park in Wood County. An invitation to hold the sortie there had been given to the group by park officials in order to have lists of flora and fauna available to park visitors. Since little documented work had been done in this area, the invitation was accepted and a successful sortie resulted.
The 39th foray was held at Camp Galilee, Terra Alta, Preston County. Although much work had been done in the area over the past 50 years, there was little documentation from specialized studies such as our club conducts. This was a most rewarding foray in many respects. All foray studies and activities were carried out during our two-week stay. The club and foray received much favorable publicity through a local resident, Bob Teets. A feature article in the Preston County paper, an article in Bird Watchers Digest and a page in Wonderful West Virginia magazine resulted from Mr. Teets' visits during the foray.

The Labor Day weekend at Camp Anthony became a six-day gathering. It was highlighted by mushroom fanciers who collected enough mushrooms at camp for a three-table display and identified 150 species found there.

Bill Wylie became club President in 1980. The Early Spring Meeting was held at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp March 29-30. The departure from our usual meeting at Oglebay Park was caused by scheduling difficulties. However, Jackson's Mill proved to be ideal since it gave us a preview of the area in which the 1980 foray was to be held. Jim Phillips received the Floyd Bartley Award. Dorothy and Carolyn Conrad became honorary members of the club.

Several BBC people made a spring birding trip to Maryland in early March where they found excellent birding. Both Bald and Golden Eagles were seen as well as many other interesting birds. The sortie took place in late May at Blue Creek in Kanawha County. Our quarters were at Camp Camelot, property of Union Carbide. The Panhandle Nature Club hosted the Sutton Seekers on the annual trip to the eastern panhandle.

The foray was held at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp in Lewis County from May 31 to June 7. The usual foray work schedule was carried out, and another county in West Virginia was sampled.

The big item on the agenda at the Annual Meeting at Cedar Lakes was adoption of several changes and amendments in the BBC Constitution. The amended Constitution was published in The Redstart.

The club was commended by Cornell University for its participation in the North American Nesting Card Program, which is sponsored by the University.

The club received a donation of 61 acres of land in Preston County. The land is situated on a mountaintop near Aurora and overlooks a lovely countryside. The property was given to the club by Dr. Robert Trotter.

The 1981 Early Spring Meeting was held at Jackson's Mill. John Smith received the Floyd Bartley Award for his article on Bewick's Wren published in The Redstart.

The club returned to Camp Anthony in Greenbrier for the 1981 foray. While all the work was carried out in spite of it being "the rainiest foray" ever, not a single outdoor campfire could be held.

The sortie was held at the Charles Handley Public Hunting Area in early June.

On June 23 a chartered bus carrying 40 BBC members left Wheeling on a trip to Michigan to observe the Kirtland's Warbler on its nesting grounds. The trip was indeed a successful one as several Kirtland's Warblers were seen, and many learned the song. An added pleasure was the two days spent with Dr. Larry Walkinshaw, who had worked with the Kirtland's Warbler for nearly fifty years, and Dr. Larry Cuthbert, who is now doing the research. Our trip was under the leadership of Chuck Conrad and Dick Winters of the Fish and Wildlife Service.
Bob Rine took over the duties of editor of The Mail Bag. The year ended with plans being formulated for our 50th anniversary celebration, which is to be held at Oglebay Park October 22-24. Committees have been named and a meeting scheduled for early January.

Greg Eddy became President of the club the first of 1982. The 50th Anniversary committee meeting scheduled for January 10 at the clubroom had to be cancelled due to impossible traveling conditions. We were experiencing a snowy winter! Meetings on the next two Sundays had to be cancelled, and we finally did get together on January 31 and got the wheels moving toward the big celebration.

The 1982 Foray was held at the Peterkin Conference Center at Romney. This was a ten-day foray and a real dandy. Highlights were blue grosbeaks, lark sparrows, bald eagles, and a chuck-wills-widow.

The sortie was held at Spruce Knob in Randolph County. All work was confined to above 3,500 feet elevation. Yellow-rumped Warblers were found at Spruce Knob and Bay-breasted Warblers were listed in the area.

The club was dealt a severe blow when, on July 6, Chuck Conrad passed away following a brief illness. It was difficult to imagine the club without Chuck, as he was one of the founders of the club, its only Executive Secretary and had directed every foray since the beginning. When the question was asked ‘Where does the club go now?’ The answer was – ‘There is only one way to go and that is forward.’ Through Chuck’s leadership and guidance, he left behind trained leadership with a will to carry on. There has never been a doubt since the Brooks Bird Club was formed in 1932 that it would not survive and prosper, so let there never be any doubt henceforth. As we approach our 50th Anniversary let us begin to look forward to a solid future for there are still many things to be discovered and enjoyed.”

Robert Rine

For the past 60 years, the Brooks Bird Club has given immeasurable pleasure and enjoyment to its members and others through birding, "botanizing" and related areas of nature study. It has attracted intelligent, environmentally aware persons who have shared their expertise through books, articles, lectures, slides, field trips and informal conversation. It has added to the body of ornithological and scientific knowledge. With its four major annual meetings and its other scheduled events, the club has provided outdoor experiences that have enriched the lives of thousands of people. The Brooks Bird Club's members and its programs have made it unique among organized groups in the United States. No other club combines the social and esthetic with the scientific aspects of the enjoyment of Nature.

As the club observes its 60th anniversary October 9-11 at Cedar Lakes, it is ready to meet the challenges of the future. It has a steadily increasing membership, now totaling 961, its leadership is experienced and forward-looking and its financial problems are not insurmountable. The need for young members, to insure the survival of the club, has been recognized. Other planning for the future is being done. There is every reason to believe that the club will be as active and viable on its 75th and 100th anniversaries as it is today.

1982

The club experienced both triumph and tragedy in 1982. The triumph was the successful celebration of the club's 50th anniversary, held October 22-24 at Oglebay Park in Wheeling, West Virginia, the birthplace of the club. Nationally known persons who took part were Dr. M. Graham Netting, Chanler S. Robbins, George H. Harrison, Hal H. Harrison and Dr. Maurice Brooks, who was the speaker for the Saturday evening banquet. Dr. Brooks is the nephew of Alonzo Beecher "A.B." Brooks, for whom the club is named. Roger Tory Peterson, who attended some early Forays, could not be present because of the wedding of his step-daughter, but he sent an essay which was printed in the April, 1983 Redstart. Dr. George Miksch Sutton also wrote some recollections of A.B. and others, which were read by his friend Dr. Albert R. "Jay" Buckelew Jr. at the Saturday afternoon session. On the Saturday morning nature walk, Harold O'Leary, a Wheeling actor, impersonated A.B. and recited some of his favorite poems. The actor's deep voice reverberated through the autumnal woods, creating a memorable and lasting effect on the 200 persons present. Dr. Greg E. Eddy, President of the club, presided at the daily sessions. Thirty-three club members served on 18 committees, assuring the success of the weekend, which drew an attendance of 330.

The tragedy was the death on July 6 of Charles Louis "Chuck" Conrad, at the age of 71. He had been Executive Secretary of the club since 1937, Editor of The Mail Bag from 1963 to 1981 and Editor of The Redstart in 1943. The Saturday night program at the 50th anniversary celebration was dedicated to Chuck, and a tree was planted in his memory on Saturday morning. In tribute to Chuck Conrad, Dr. Maurice Brooks said, "Few people in this world have the talent and the opportunity to guide, inspire and preserve a fine
organization for 50 years ... There's only one word for Chuck's leadership—'charismatic.' In its eulogy, The Mail Bag noted that, "the joy of his memory will last far longer than the pain and sorrow of his leaving. Perhaps we can be comforted by the thought that 'the soul could have no rainbow had the eye no tears.' The Brooks Bird Club is a unique organization because Chuck Conrad made it so. It will be his enduring monument."

Dr. Albert R. "Jay" Buckelew Jr., Professor of Biology at Bethany College and a member of the club since 1970, was named Administrator by the Board of Directors on July 31. The former office, Executive Secretary, was retired in honor of Chuck's long service.

The Labor Day weekend was held September 2-7 at the Greenbrier Youth Camp (Anthony) with 77 persons attending. Oliver Johnson, Zettie Stewart and George and Marge Fleur arranged the weekend's activities.

DEATHS – Seal T. Brooks of Hockessin, Delaware, a long-time active member, on May 9.

Roy O. Eichleay, 93, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, on July 23. Robert L. Cooke Sr., 54, of Anthony, West Virginia, the manager of the Greenbrier Youth Camp, site of the club's Labor Day weekends, on July 23. Herman Postlethwaite, 73, of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, on October 31.

Betty Wylie Hand, 61, of Wheeling, sister of BBC Past President Bill Wylie of Morgantown, on November 13.

George S. Newcomer, 65, of Baltimore, Maryland, on November 14. James T. Handlan, 70, a charter member and brother of the late John Handlan, on November 30.

George Miksch Sutton, 84, noted ornithologist and artist, former Bethany College teacher and Honorary Member of the club, on December 7 in Norman, Oklahoma.

Wilma Shaffer (Chet's wife), Peterburg, West Virginia in April.


Marie Wallace, Fairmont, West Virginia in April, Dr. John O. Rankin, Wheeling, West Virginia in August. Dr. R.K. Burns, Bridgewater, Virginia in August. G. Bernard Van Cleve, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in November.

1983

The Early Spring Meeting was held March 4-6 at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia. The weekend was warm, with temperatures in the 70s some of the time. The 94 persons attending heard papers by Dr. George Hall, Hughes Barnes, Dr. Gene Hutton, George Koch, Helen Conrad, George Hurley (read by Ken Anderson), Pat Temple, Dr. Jay Buckelew and Dr. Greg Eddy. The birding was not as good as past years, but the Barred Owl was in its usual place behind Panhandle Cottage.

The Foray was held for the eighth time at Camp Pocahontas (Thornwood) in Pocahontas County. (The Foray is held there every five years.) It was a two-week session, with 110 campers the first week and 60 the second. About 30 stayed both weeks. Karl "Mike" Haller, who has moved from West Virginia to Texas, brought seven female birders from there and they enlivened the first week with their original songs and friendliness. Places visited were Spruce Knob, the Sinks of Gandy, Watoga State Park,
Hills Creek Falls, the Cranberry Glades, Seneca Rocks, Seneca State Forest and the Cass Railroad. The first week 126 species were seen, including four new ones for a Pocahontas Foray – Blackpoll, Yellow-throated and Cerulean Warblers, and Great Blue Heron. The second weekers got an Olive-sided Flycatcher, rarely reported in West Virginia in summer, and a Hooded Merganser. Dr. George Hall's newly published book, West Virginia Birds, quickly sold out in the camp bookstore. It is an outstanding work. Jay Buckelew asked for volunteer field surveyors for the five-year West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project, which will begin in January, 1984.

On May 17 Pauline Collett saw a Kirland's Warbler while birding between Williamstown and Boaz in Wood County, West Virginia. The area is in line with the bird's migratory route from the Bahamas to Michigan.

The sortie was held May 26-31 at Tomlinson Run State Park in Hancock County. Despite frost one morning, the 20 birders censused four 15-acre plots and made two 100 mile surveys. They got 106 species, including migrant warblers still around – Bay-breasted, Canada, Nashville, and Blackburnian. The sortie Committee was Pete and Libby Chandler, Bill and Norma Murray and John and Nevada Laisch.

The Handlan Chapter of Charleston elected these officers for 1983-84: Gilbert Walker, President; Stephen Moore, Vice President; Jeannette Hale, Secretary; Norris Gluck, Treasurer; and Othel Rogers, Executive Committee.

The Labor Day weekend at Anthony was hosted by the Bibbee Nature Club, a BBC affiliate, with Zettie Stewart and Oliver Johnson in charge of arrangements. Trips were taken to Sherwood Lake, Organ Cave, Cold Knob, the Shale Barrens, Hopkins Tower and the Monroe County Historical Society Museum. The bird list totaled 94.

At the annual meeting October 14-16 at Cedar Lakes, field trips included Rollins Lake-Gavin Power Plant-McClintic Wildlife Station, the Stanley Farm and the Chief Cornstalk Public Hunting area. Evening slide presentations were on prairie wildflowers, by Esther Reichelderfer; a trip to China, by Ruth Strosnider; Elderhostels in Maine and Illinois, by Dr. Gene Hutton; and a trip to Alaska by George Hurley.

Officers elected for 1984 were William Grafton, President; William Murray, President-elect; Patricia Temple, Vice President; Dr. Jay Buckelew, Administrator; Richard Hogg, Treasurer; Virginia Johnson, Thomas Hurley and Elizabeth Jacobs, directors; and Gerald McGrew, trustee.

The centennial meeting of the American Ornithological Union was held September 26-October 1 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, where it was founded 100 years earlier. About 1200 persons attended, including Dr. George Hall of the BBC, who reported on the meeting in The Mail Bag. Ralph Bell attended the annual meeting of the North American Bluebird Society in Binghampton, New York to receive the Norah Lane Award for "contributions to bluebird conservation."

The five-year Breeding Bird Atlas project, headed by Dr. Jay Buckelew and Dr. George Hall, began on January 1. The Early Spring Meeting was held March 2-4 at Jackson's Mill, with William Murray as Chairman. It was 10 degrees for the Saturday morning field trip and cold throughout the weekend. President Bill Grafton led the Saturday field trip to the Horner Wildlife Refuge. Evening speakers were Dr. Edwin Elliott, a plant pathologist from West Virginia University and Dr. Raymond Swick, historian for the Blennerhassett Park Commission. The bird list totaled 41, including Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Myrtle Warblers, Bluebirds, Mockingbird, Meadowlark and Evening Grosbeak.

Twenty-six members went on a trip to Spain April 9-30. They had a wonderful time and got 122 species. Pat Temple and Ruth Strosnider reported on the trip in *The Mail Bag*.

On April 25, a Snowy Egret and a Common Moorhen were seen at the McClinton Wildlife Station in Mason County. The only other Snowy Egret reported was in May, 1959. The summer was hot and dry. June temperatures and rainfall were normal, but July and August set records for heat and lack of rain. The Foray was held June 7-16 at the Wyoming County Youth Camp at Glen Fork. It was a good area, despite the stifling heat and a plague of gnats. Trips were made to Twin Falls State Park and Mountain Top Farm, owned by the Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Eighty-eight persons attended and the bird list numbered 104.

The Sutton Seekers visited the Harpers Ferry area in June. They got 81 species, but no Sutton's Warbler. The sortie was held June 20-27 at Dolly Sods, and 49 species were seen. Pete Chandler and Dr. George Hall reported on the sortie in *The Mail Bag*. The Labor Day weekend, August 30-September 3, was again arranged by the Bibbee Nature Club. Co-Chairpersons were Zettie Stewart, Oliver Johnson and Barbara Hackworth. Trips were made to Sherwood Lake, Blue Bend-Anthony Creek, Briary Mountain-Cranberry Glades and Wader White Draft. Evening slide programs included the Spain Foray by Dr. Kyle and Eleanor Bush and Oliver Johnson on chickadees and shore birds. The bird list consisted of 97.

The annual meeting October 19-21 at Cedar Lakes included field trips for botanizers led by Dr. Gene Hutton to the Kanawha River, a Kyger Creek-McClinton bird trip led by George and Tom Hurley and a trip to Blennerhassett Island led by Maxine Thacker. Slide programs were presented by Dr. Murray Horick of the Handlan Chapter on his travels; and by George Hurley on the club's 50th anniversary in 1982 at Oglebay Park. At the annual business meeting, officers elected were: William Grafton, President; William Murray, President-elect; Pat Temple, Vice President; Dr. Jay Buckelew, Administrator; Richard Hogg, Treasurer; Libby Chandler, Recording Secretary; Helen Conrad, Membership Secretary; Directors -- Don Nemanich of Wheeling, Ann Pyle of Parkersburg and Philip Graham of Industry, Pennsylvania.


Harold Boecher, 79, of Hallsville, Ohio, January 31 in Parkersburg, West Virginia Hospital. He was President of the Club in 1966-67 and was attended in his last days and
hours by Parkersburg members of the club. A tribute to Harold in *The Mail Bag* was written by Ann Pyle.

Chester R. Hubbard, former state senator and prominent attorney, May 18 in Wheeling.

John Laitsch, husband of Nevada Laitsch, August 16 in East Liverpool, Ohio. He found a new species of fern, which was named for him.

H. Granville Smith, 67, November 19 in Arizona. He lived most of his life in Columbus, Ohio and was a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His life list was 731, making him sixth in the nation.

Dr. Earl L. Core, eminent botanist, December 8 in Morgantown, West Virginia. He was chairman of the Biology Department at West Virginia University 1948-1966. Kyle and Eleanor Bush wrote a tribute to Dr. Core for *The Mail Bag*.

Helen Evans, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania in March. Norine Cann, Alum Creek, West Virginia in May. Edna Gregg, Middlebourne, West Virginia in July. Lloyd Symington, Washington, DC in November.

1985

Seventy-five persons attended the Early Spring Meeting March 1-3 at Jackson's Mill, with headquarters in the West Virginia Building. Speakers included Bill Gillespie, chief of staff to Agriculture Commissioner Gus Douglass and Bob Miles of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, who showed slides of the DNR's program to restore River Otter and Osprey populations to the state. The Saturday afternoon field trip was to Stonewall Jackson Dam, which was under construction and to be finished in 1987. At Sunday morning's meeting, Glen Phillips was named an Honorary Member of the Club, one of only 15 persons so honored. The weather for the weekend was mild, with afternoon temperatures in the 60s.

From March 26 to April 9, 35 members, led by Pat Temple, took a birding trip to Texas, which has more species of birds than any other state. Charles Pierce reported on the trip in *The Mail Bag*.

The foray was held June 8-15 at Lost River State Park in Hardy County, where the Foray was held in 1977 and 1955. Dr. Greg Eddy was Foray Director, replacing Jay Buckelew, who had a commitment in New York City. Greg had to return to his job; however, and was ably replaced by his wife Anne. Committee Chairpersons were: Bill Murray, evening programs; Glen Phillips, population studies; Don Nemanich, breeding bird surveys; Jo Lane Stern, banding; Bill Grafton, plants; Pat and Fritz Temple, Atlas blocks; Harriett Hooker, nest cards; and Emily Grafton, scholarship students. Sunday at Foray, Eleanor Bush found the Forked Spleenwort, which had been found only once before east of the Rockies, in Monroe County, West Virginia. Trips were taken to the home of Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, father of Robert E. Lee; to Helmick Rock, led by Rodney Bartgis to the apple orchard of Elwood Fisher, the largest collection of apple trees in the U.S., some kinds dating back more than 700 years; to the "Trough" of the South branch of the Potomac River, where two adult Bald Eagles and an eaglet in the nest were seen. The foray was attended by 120 persons. The bird list was 111, including six species not previously reported in the county: Pied-bill Grebe, Lesser Scaup, Bobolink, Purple Finch, House Finch and Red Crossbill.
The sortie was held June 19-24 at Kumbrabow State Forest. Twenty-one persons attended and got 84 species.

The Labor Day weekend was held August 29-September 2 at the Greenbrier Youth Camp, the annual site. Zettie Stewart was Chairperson. Trips were taken to the shale barrens at Neola, Cranberry Glades and Sherwood Lake, and to Cold Knob, where DNR personnel, led by Joe Rieffenberger, treed, tranquilized and tagged a 125-pound bear. Winners in a photo contest were Pat Temple (best of show), Betty Fisher, Oliver Johnson, Zettie Stewart and Frank Berisford. Glen Phillips kept the bird list, and the total was 72 with only 6 warblers.

At the Directors meeting in November in Wheeling, Helen Conrad was elected Administrator, succeeding Dr. Jay Buckelew. A budget committee was formed and a $2.00 annual dues increase, to be submitted to the membership in October, was approved.

During the year, Dr. George Hall of Morgantown was elected a Fellow of the American Ornithological Union, joining a select group of 100, which includes only one other West Virginian, Dr. Maurice Brooks.

On September 7, the 100,000th bird was banded at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory on Dolly Sods. The male Blackburnian Warbler was banded by John Findley. The next day, 305 Blackburnian Warblers were banded, a new record, and the total for the day was 1,128 birds, also a record.

On November 6, Michael Griffith of Huntington saw a female Ruddy Shelduck at the Kyger Creek Power Plant on the Ohio River south of Cheshire, Ohio. It was later observed by Arch Griffith, Tom Igou, George Hurley and Cindy Ellis. On November 9, Tom Igou saw a Eurasian Widgeon in the same area, the first fall sighting of the bird in West Virginia. On November 16 George Hurley and Cindy Ellis saw five Brant at Kyger Creek, the first sighting in the southern part of the state.

Leon Wilson compiled 14 Christmas Bird Counts, ten from West Virginia, two from Ohio and one each from Pennsylvania and Virginia. He listed 87,986 birds, 25,158 of them European Starlings; this compared with 312,722 birds in 1984, 249,200 of them starlings.

The weekend before Thanksgiving, a group of members made a waterfowl trip to Chincoteague, Bombay Hook and vicinity. They got 100 species in two and a half days. Anne Eddy reported on the trip in The Mail Bag.

Severe flooding hit 29 of West Virginia's 55 counties in November, leaving 48 persons dead or missing and causing $500 million in damage.


Dr. Frank Murphy, 81, a physician, in Philippi, West Virginia. Dr. George R. Clarke, 68, a physician, in Wheeling. Paula Reymann Steger, 73, December 29 in Wheeling.


1986

It was 8 degrees for the Saturday morning bird walk as the Early Spring Meeting was held February 28-March 1 at Jackson's Mill. Papers were read Friday evening by Gary
Worthington, Dr. Jay Buckelew, Ralph Bell and Dr. Gene Hutton. Saturday's trips were to the Burnsville dam, led by Don Shearer, and to the year's foray site, the Gilmer County Recreation Center. Slides of the club's 50th anniversary were shown by George Hurley, and slides of a trip to China were shown by Henry Allen.

The February trip to East Africa, led by Pat and Fritz Temple, was extensively reported in The Mail Bag and was a memorable experience for those who made the trip. On May 10-11, 18 members, led by Mel and Harriett Hooker, got 107 species on the annual warbler trip to the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge near Port Clinton, Ohio on Lake Erie. The sortie was held May 26-30 at Panther State Forest in McDowell County, with George Hurley in charge.

One hundred nineteen persons attended the foray June 5-13 at the Gilmer County Recreation Center. Many Atlas blocks were worked during the week, and trips were made to Burnsville Lake and Cedar Creek State Park, a little known but excellent state facility. The bird list was 101.

August 10-2 Pat Temple led 23 members on a trip to southeast Arizona, where they got about 190 species and as many as 90 life birds for some birders.

On August 7, Tom Igou of Huntington made the first sighting in West Virginia of a Marbled Godwit at the Hamlin sewage pond in Lincoln County. It was observed later by George Hurley, Leon Wilson, Robert Wilson, Janet Fletcher, Arline Thorn, Gary Rankin and Charles Heilman.

The Labor Day weekend August 28-September 1 attracted 64 members. Trips were to Sherwood Lake, Beartown and Watoga State Parks, Hills Creek Falls and the Slaty Mountain shale barrens in Monroe County. An outstanding evening program was presented by George Daugherty, "the Earl of Elkview," whose slides and music sang the praises of America and West Virginia. The photo contest was won by Joyce Board (best of show), Mabel Edgerton and Ray Sarles.

On September 22, returning from Dolly Sods, Dorothy and Carolyn Conrad were in a car accident at the intersection of U.S. Rts. 50 and 219 at Red House, Maryland. Carolyn was shaken but not hurt, but Dorothy suffered a concussion and leg and face injuries. She remained in the hospital until September 27 and made a complete recovery.

The Annual Meeting October 17-19 at Cedar Lakes included trips to Ben and Maxine Kiff's farm in Putnam County, and to birding and botanizing areas at Kyger Creek Power Plant in Jackson County and at the Gallipolis lock and dam. Pat Temple showed her excellent slides of the Arizona trip. The current officers were re-elected. The bird list was 71. Twenty-three persons, led by Carl Slater, got 96 species on the Eastern Shore trip in mid-November. Four species not usually seen in December were listed on Leon Wilson's Christmas count report: Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Vireo, Cape May Warbler and Vesper Sparrow.

DEATHS - Glen Foster Phillips, 73, June 16 at his home in St. Clairsville, Ohio. He joined the club in 1954 and was voted Honorary Membership in March, 1985. He was "Field Notes" editor in The Redstart 1977-80 and was the key person in running the singing male census. Twenty-three club members attended his funeral in Wheeling. He was buried on a hillside overlooking Oglebay Park.


Zettie E. Stewart, 80, of Prosperity, West Virginia, on August 5 in her sleep. She was an active member, especially on the Labor Day weekends. Her personality and wry sense of humor endeared her to the club members.

Art Dunnell, 78, a member of the HQ chapter, August 9 in Wheeling.

Lorraine Harper, 62, August 10 in Franklin, West Virginia; she was memorialized in The Mail Bag by Carolyn Ruddle.

Cora Williams, known for her banding on Dolly Sods in August. The father of Anne Eddy. The step-father of Jerry Devaul also died in 1986.

Wilma Bruhn, a long-time member of the HQ chapter, at Wheeling, West Virginia in July. Pauline Belle West, Bridgeport, Ohio in November.

1987

The year's activity began as usual with the Early Spring Meeting February 27-March 1 at Jackson's Mill. Eighty-two persons attended, and the meetings were held in Jackson Lodge. Friday evening Dr. Steve Stephenson discussed the decline of the Red Spruce forest in West Virginia. Dr. George Hall discussed the Atlas program, and Dr. Gene Hutton had slides of plants and recorded bird calls. The group visited Stonewall Jackson Dam on Saturday, and that evening's speakers were Bill Gillespie, West Virginia Division of Forestry; Dr. James Szarko of Parkersburg; and Oliver Johnson, who showed slides of Concord State College and Pipestem State Park, the year's foray site.

On April 5, following a 14-inch snowfall, Wendell Argabrite saw a Smith's Longspur at the Gallipolis Locks on the Ohio River. A West Virginia record, it was also seen by Mike Griffith, Janet Fletcher, Arch Griffith, John Hubbard, Leon Wilson and Robert Wilson.

The Foray was held June 4-13, on a college campus for the first time. The arrangement, at Concord College in Mercer County, worked well. Anne Eddy and George Hurley were Co-Directors. Two members of the college faculty gave slide talks and so did club members Ben Burtt, Ed Ilgenfritz, Edgar Smith and Dr. Kyle Bush. Trips were taken to Bramwell, "the millionaire community," Pinnacle Rock, Brush Creek Falls, Camp Creek State Forest, Pipestem, Sandstone Falls, East River Mountain and Bluestone Lake. Attendance was 104 and the bird list was 118.

The sortie was held June 17-20 in the Spruce Knob area (as it was June 16-21, 1982). The bird list was compiled both times by Nevada Laitsch. It totaled 87 in 1982 and 89 in 1987.

On August 10, four Avocets were seen in South Charleston by J. Lawrence Smith and later by Anne Shreve, Jason Means and Jo Ashworth. It was the first sighting in the Kanawha Valley and only the fourth in West Virginia.

The 30th year of banding on Dolly Sods was called an average year by Dr. George Hall.

The Labor Day weekend was successful as usual, with 65 persons attending. Members Bob and Patty Hogan of Roanoke, Virginia were in charge. (Since the death of Zettie Stewart, the Bibbee Club has not been able to arrange for the weekend.) Trips were
made to Blue Bend, Lost World Cavern and Cold Knob, where Joe Rieffenberger's crew had treed another Black Bear.

The Handlan chapter arranged the annual Meeting October 16-18 at Cedar Lakes, with George Hurley as Director. Don and Martha Shearer showed slides of their Mexico trip, and Dr. James Gibson of Penn State University tied in his profession of music with bird songs. Saturday trips were taken to the usual areas. Officers elected were: Nevada Laitsch, President; Bob Hogan, President-elect; Charles Pierce, Vice President; JoAnn Graham, Secretary; Richard and Ann Hogg, Treasurers; Esther Reichelderfer, Kay Dunnell and Charles Bedford, Directors. Sixty-two persons attended the weekend.

Thirty-three persons made the Eastern Shore trip November 12-15, with Carl Slater as leader. The trip is becoming increasingly popular.

Leon Wilson listed 18 Christmas counts, only one concentration of blackbirds (Common Grackles), a low number of Rough-legged Hawks, an increase in Carolina Wrens and a continuing increase in House Finches, now fifth on the most individuals list.

DEATHS – Dr. John C. Halley, a member of HQ chapter and an osteopathic physician for 40 years, January 11 in Moundsville.

Merit Skaggs, 80, a life member and an Honorary Member since 1954, March 30 at Mineral Springs, Ohio.

Clark Miller, 81, a licensed bander, May 25 at his home in Inwood, West Virginia. Dr. Don Nemanich, 50, a Professor of English at West Virginia Northern Community College in Wheeling, an active member of HQ chapter who led breeding bird surveys at forays, August 30 in Wheeling.

Elma Cass, in August in Hebron, Ohio, Harry Sigel, 71, a retired high school teacher and coach in the Pittsburgh area, October 21 in Abingdon, Virginia. Sarah Hugus, 81, a life member, November 4 at her home in Washington, Pennsylvania. Paul Reed, Cadiz, Ohio in October.

1988

At the Early Spring Meeting, February 26-28 at Jackson's Mill, two members received distinguished Service Awards at the Saturday banquet and were voted Honorary Membership the next day. They were Everett R. "Pete" Chandler, President of the club in 1952-53 and Maxine Thacker, a life member and President in 1956. Both have been active in the club for 50 years. Sixty-six persons attended the weekend.

In late April, during the first Old Hemlock Weekend in Preston County, Nevada Laitsch and several others were birding in Swallow Falls State Park nearby in Maryland. They found the first Pine Siskin nest to be reported in Maryland. LeJay and Helen Graffious were in charge of the weekend, as they have been since.

The foray was held June 2-11 at Camp Pocahontas, formerly Camp Thornwood, also the National Science Camp. This continued the club's policy of returning to Thornwood every five years, where the territory covers almost 700 square miles. Souvenir cups were given to the nine persons who attended all nine forays at Thornwood: Dr. George Hall, Pete and Libby Chandler, Carolyn and Dorothy Conrad, Maxine Thacker, Bill and Norma Murray and Karl "Mike" Haller. Trips were made to Blister Swamp, the Green Bank Radio Observatory, the Cass Railroad, Spruce Knob, the Sinks of Gandy and Seneca State Forest. Speakers, most using slides, were Dr. George Hall, Carroll and Martin
Rudy, Jean Worthley, Jim and Beth Bullard, Elsa Tompson, LeJay Graffious, Ruth Strosnider and Dr. Curt Adkisson of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. It was 32 degrees on June 5 and June 10 and in the 30s two other mornings. The bird list was 128 (It was 126 in 1983) and 110 persons attended.

In June, club member Dick Winters reported 206 male Kirtland's Warblers counted in Michigan and a record number of cowbirds trapped.

Seventeen persons attended the sortie June 14-29 at Greenland Gap, Grant County. They got 117 species, including Red Crossbills, Blue Grosbeaks, a Bewick's Wren and eight Dickcissels.

On June 18 Gary Worthington and Don Kodak found the first confirmed nest in West Virginia of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. It was in the Cranberry Wilderness near Webster Springs.

From July 7-17, a group of members toured the Canadian Maritime Provinces on New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, etc, including Seal Island and Acadia National Park. They got 127 species. Banding on Dolly Sods, from August 15 to October 244, was called "the poorest year in recent times" by Dr. George Hall. The total was 6,344 birds banded of 80 species.

The Labor Day weekend was held September 1-5 with Bob and Patty Hogan again in charge. Trips were made to the Cranberry Blades and Allegheny Mountain Trail and stops were made at two overlooks on the Highland Scenic Highway. Sixty-five persons attended, and the bird list was 77.

On September 29, William Tolin of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Elkins sighted a Magnificent Frigatebird on the Ohio River at mile 288 below Guyan Creek. It was a first in West Virginia.

At the annual meeting October 14-16 at Cedar Lakes, the usual trips were taken, and the group heard of the state's plans for the Green Bottom area. Fifty-nine persons attended, and the bird list was 58. Carl Slater was again in charge of the Eastern Shore trip November 10-13 on the Delmarva Peninsula. The group got 105 species.

On December 20, Dr. Gene Hutton, Ephe Olliver and Tom Allen confirmed a Rufous Hummingbird at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. James Rightmire in Parsons, where it was first seen on October 9. Robert Alm and Bill and Mona Lou Beaver also saw one September 21 at Union in Monroe County. These were first records for West Virginia.

Leon Wilson reported 14 Christmas Bird Counts, with House Finches moving to third on the "most seen" list. The Canada Goose and the Blue Jay moved into the top 12, replacing the Common Grackle and the Song Sparrow.

DEATHS – Howard Fiedler, husband of Dorothy, January 12 in Spring City, Tennessee. Esther Reichelderfer, May 1 of a heart attack at her home in Columbus, Ohio. She was the club's most traveled member, and her life list exceeded the magical 700.

Dr. Norman Bayard "Bike" Green, 83, professor emeritus of biology at Marshall University, May 23 in Huntington. He was coauthor, with Dr. Thomas K. Pauley, of *Amphibians and Reptiles in West Virginia.*

Margaret Hutton, wife of Dr. Gene Hutton and a member of the Elkins City Council for 10 years, August 5 in Elkins.

Thomas E. Shields, 79, a charter member of the club, October 16 at his home in Brockway, Pennsylvania.
Oliver Johnson, 78, of Lerona, West Virginia, November 4 after an emergency operation. His contributions to the club through the years were immeasurable.

Nina F. Baird, a retired teacher and long-time member, November 10 in Charleston.

1989

The Early Spring Meeting February 24-26 at Jackson’s Mill attracted 53 persons. At the Saturday “bird hunt,” which has become an annual custom, Reba Pfalzgraf’s team won with 24 species and 462 birds. Programs were presented by Dr. Gene Hutton, Bob Burrell and Dr. Steven Stephenson, a botanist from Fairmont State College.

May 2-10 a group led by Pat Temple took a Feltner tour of south Florida. They visited the Everglades, Key West, the Dry Tortugas and other areas.

The sortie was held May 28-June 3 at Nathaniel Mountain Public Hunting Area in Hampshire County. The group saw 100 species, and Dr. Kyle Bush reported in The Redstart.

All 110 persons attending the 50th foray, June 8-17 at Camp Pioneer near Beverly in Randolph County, received a suitably inscribed souvenir mug. Dorothy Conrad, who attended all 50 Forays, received a plaque in honor of the achievement. It was excellent territory, with a range in elevation such that some groups, on a steep mountainside could hear the Winter Wren signing above and the Kentucky Warbler below. Trips were to Kumrabow State Forest, the High Falls of Cheat, the Sinks of Gandy, Gaudineer Knob, Bickle Knob, Bowden Cave and Helvetia. Jay Buckelew found a new site for Running Buffalo Clover on Rich Mountain. (The plant, thought to be extinct in West Virginia, was re-discovered in 1983 in Fayette County by Rodney Bartgis, a club member, but that population was extirpated prior to Buckelew’s discovery.) It was perhaps the wettest Foray, with rain almost every day. The bird list was 126.

Banding on Dolly Sods, from August 13 to October 16, was "the most disappointing year in the history of the station," according to Dr. George Hall. Rain from the fringes of Hurricane Hugo was a factor, closing the station seven days. The total was 4,152 birds of 82 species, including the first banding of a Henslow’s Sparrow.

At the Labor Day weekend, August 31-September 4, a bear was seen during the Friday morning bird walk. It was near camp on the road to Gunpowder Ridge. Trips were made to the Lewisburg historical district, Kate’s Mountain, Droop Mountain and the Greenbrier River Trail. Forty-three persons attended. The bird list was 61, including five warblers.

On September 9, George Hurley and Anne Eddy, who have been Co-Directors of the Foray, were married at Epephany Methodist Church in Vienna, Virginia.

During the Annual Meeting October 13-15 at Cedar Lakes, the area was scouted for good study areas, in anticipation of the 1990 Foray. New officers elected were Robert Hogan, President; Charles Pierce, President-elect; Carl Slater, Vice President; Helen Conrad, Administrator; Richard Hogg, Treasurer; Ann Hogg, Assistant Treasurer; and Jane Anderson, Recording Secretary.

The East River Mountain Hawk Count was conducted by the Bibbee Nature Club, a BBC affiliate. Ann McRae reported 1,469 hawks counted in 129 hours over 37 days, with much fog and rain, and a Peregrine Falcon was seen. This compared with 3,975 hawks in 163 hours over 32 days in 1988.
On the Eastern Shore trip November 9-12, the bird list totaled 131. Leon Wilson reported 19 Christmas counts, 13 in West Virginia. He said the Carolina Wren and Eastern Bluebird populations continued stable after their recovery from the winter of 1984-85.

DEATHS – Mrs. Hughes (Henrietta) Barnes of New Concord, Ohio on February 17 at age 75. She taught school for 34 years and was a long time BBC member.

Elizabeth B. Stonestreet, 73, a member since 1974, May 4 in Harrisville, West Virginia.

Gilbert Walker, 71, a former President of the Handlan chapter, May 11 in Marmet, West Virginia.

Ann Llewellyn, a retired Teacher and member since the 1930s, in Laurel, Maryland. Stella Celeste Stanley, 71, an active member of the Handlan chapter, July 8 in Charleston. Dorothy Ann (Mrs. Hugh) Troth, August 1 at her home in Ashland, Ohio.

Claude Ross, 78, a member of HQ chapter, November 2, while visiting his daughter in Springfield, Ohio.

Robert Charles Kletzly, 70, a wildlife biologist and member for more than 30 years, November 9 in Elkins, West Virginia.

1990

Sixty-one persons attended the Early Spring Meeting February 23-25 at Jackson's Mill. Dr. George Hall and Dr. Jay Buckelew talked about the Atlas project. Discussing Neotropical migrants, Dr. Hall said the Cerulean Warbler is declining in numbers and may be in trouble. Ginny Kronenberger's and Oran Mathey's teams won the "bird hunt," and Bill and Norma Murray were named to Chair the 60th anniversary observance of the club October 9-11, 1992 at Cedar Lakes.

On April 19, 24 members attended an Earth Day Symposium on "Endangered and Threatened Species in West Virginia" at Bethany College. Organized by Dr. Jay Buckelew of the Bethany faculty, it featured four of West Virginia's best natural scientists – Thomas J. Allen, a wildlife biologist with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources; Dr. George Hall, whose credentials are known to all BBC members; Dr. Katherine Gregg, a Biology professor at West Virginia Wesleyan College; and Mary Etta Hight, professor of Biology at Marshall University. Also featured were Dr. Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University and his wife Anne, nationally recognized experts on Population Biology.

On April 27-29, 50 persons attended the Old Hemlock weekend in Preston County. Charles Pierce reported on the weekend in The Mail Bag.

The foray was held June 1-8 at Cedar Lakes with 109 persons attending. Speakers were Dr. Jim Arnold on spiders; Greg Rawlings of the Sunrise Museum in Charleston on astronomy; Bill Gillespie, West Virginia forester, on trees; Bill Tolin, West Virginia DNR, on the Ohio River Island Wildlife Refuge; and Marilyn Ortt of Marietta College, on plants. The bird list of 102 was highlighted by Blue Grosbeaks and Bank Swallows.

The sortie was held June 12-17 at Seneca State Forest in Pocahontas County, with George Hurley in charge. The 17 persons who attended got 95 species of birds.

The June Kirtland's Warbler census showed 265 singing males, a 25 percent increase, the largest increase since 502 were counted in 1961. On June 16, 10 club members
attended a party honoring Dr. Maurice Brooks of Morgantown on the 90th anniversary of his birth. He is a professor emeritus at West Virginia University and was the first Honorary Member of the club, in 1934.

Robert Hogan, elected President of the club in October, 1989, was unable to perform his duties because of personal problems. He was succeeded in office during the summer by President-elect Charles Pierce.

From July 18 to 31, Pat Temple led a group of members on a birding trip to the Pacific Northwest, ranging from Seattle to Vancouver. On the Labor Day weekend, August 30-September 3 at the Greenbrier Youth Camp, trips were taken to the Cranberry Glades and the Highland Scenic Highway, where Black Mountain reaches a height of 4,400; Coleman's Cliffs; Droop mountain and Beartown State Park. Slide programs were by Mel Hooker and Leon Wilson on Dolly Sods, Jack Gill on Elderhostel trips, and Pat Temple on the Northwest trip. The bird list totaled 80.

The Handlan chapter was in charge of the annual meeting October 12-14 at Cedar Lakes. Don and Marilyn Morton of Charleston showed slides of their trip to Costa Rica; and Brian Hagenbach of Huntington, a biologist and environmental activist, talked about the threatened old growth forests of the Northwest. These officers were elected: Charles Pierce, President; Carl Slater, President-elect; LeJay Graffious, Vice President; Helen Conrad, Administrator; Jerry Devaul, Treasurer; Delores Devaul, Treasurer; Delores Devaul, Assistant treasurer; Jane Anderson, Secretary; Directors M. Ashton Berdine, Carolyn Ruddle and Beth Bullard; and Emily Grafton to replace LeJay Graffious, who became Vice President. The resignation of Dick Hogg as Treasurer was accepted. He had served ably for 14 years, which was noted with thanks and appreciation. Fifty-six persons attended and the bird list was 62, including six warblers (It was 63 in 1989.)

The banding on Dolly Sods August 13-October 15 was the 13th best year, with 4,991 birds of 78 species banded.

At the Directors' meeting November 3 in Wheeling, President Pierce, citing the Constitution's statement that the foray is the "core activity" of the club, appointed a Foray Committee: President-elect Carl Slater, Chairman; Bill Grafton, LeJay Graffious, Bill Smith, Judy Ward, Maxine Thacker, Tom Fox, Libby Chandler, Nevada Laitsch and Beth Bullard. It was also noted that the Zettie Stewart Nature Club of southern West Virginia had not met the requirement for an Affiliate (two paid BBC memberships) and thus had been dropped as an Affiliate.

On November 3, Dr. Gene Hutton and Reba Pfalzgraf were married at the home of Dr. Hutton's daughter in Gastonia, North Carolina.

Sixty-five persons enjoyed the Eastern Shore trip November 8-11, with Carl Slater again in charge. On December 15, during the Christmas count in Jefferson County, Robert S. dean and Weber L. Hershberger sighted an Ash-throated Flycatcher, a first record for West Virginia.

DEATHS – Norma Wilson Ellis, 90, of Ona, West Virginia, sister of Leon Wilson, on January 3.

William Strunk, a woodcarver, whose carving of an American Redstart hangs in the clubroom, January 27 in Rockville, Maryland. Dr. James Lanham, husband of Charlotte, a member since 1973, in February at Stowe, Ohio.

Earl Vanscoy, 84, an active member of HQ chapter, March 2 in Wheeling.
Jane Smith Netting, 82, botanist and writer and wife of Dr. M. Graham Netting, June 12 in Latrobe, Pennsylvania after emergency surgery.

Gerald F. "Jerry" McGrew, 82, of Washington, West Virginia, who is best remembered for picking blueberries on Dolly Sods and then making pancakes with them for the banding group, in July.

George Koch, 82, of Cross Lanes, West Virginia, President of the club in 1968-1970, an influential leader and "elder statesman," in Charleston.

Molly Crispens, 80, August 27 in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Zoe Darnall Hoover, 94, mother of Virginia Bly Hoover, November 17 at her home in French Creek, West Virginia.

Captain Paul Perkins of Conneaut, Ohio, a long-time active member who also contributed articles to The Redstart and The Mail Bag, in February in Conneaut.


1991

Speakers at the Early Spring Meeting February 22-24 at Jackson's Mill were Dr. George Hall; Dr. Gene Hutton; William Gillespie, State Forester; and Dale Thurber, a graduate student at West Virginia University who spoke on his research at Sleepy Creek Public Hunting and Fishing Area into the response of bird species to gypsy moth defoliation. Forty-three species were sighted in the Saturday afternoon "bird hunt." Seventy-three persons attended the weekend.

Sixty-two persons attended the fourth Old Hemlock Weekend April 26-28 in Preston County. With LeJay and Helen Graffious making arrangements, this has become a popular outing. The group got 89 species.

Mel and Harriett Hooker and Pat Temple once again led a successful warbler trip to the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge on Lake Erie, May 17-19.

After 10 years, the sortie returned June 4-9 to the Handley Public Hunting and Fishing Area in Pocahontas County. Sixteen persons saw 110 species and six Black Bears.

The foray returned to Camp Kidd in Tucker County after 31 years. The number of species seen was the same as 1960, 123. A water shortage, which postponed shower baths for two days, was only a temporary inconvenience. Trips were taken to Dolly Sods, Olsen Bog, the Canaan valley and the Forest Service Ranger Station in Parsons. Jay Buckelew led a seven-mile hike into the Otter Creek Wilderness Area. Speakers, with slides, were Jerry Wilson, in charge of the Ohio River Island National Wildlife Refuge; and members Carroll Rudy, Cindy Ellis and Jo Wood. Theresa Arre, a wildlife biologist with the Forest Service, attended several sessions and led a spelunking trip for the scholarship campers. Foray attendance was 119.

From July 9-19, Pat Temple led a birding tour of Colorado and described it in her usual competent way in two installments in The Mail Bag. The Terra Alta weekend, July 25-28, was interestingly reported in The Mail Bag by Nevada Laitsch. At the Labor Day weekend August 29-September 2, trips were taken to Buzzard Rock, Lake Sherwood, Kate's Mountain, Babcock State Park and the New River Gorge and Visitor's Center. Sixty-one persons saw 66 species of birds during the weekend.
At Cedar Lakes October 11-13, the usual trips were taken and Robert Leech of the Handlan chapter showed slides of his extended stay in the Galapagos Islands. At the annual business meeting, Ralph Bell of the nominating committee presented this slate of officers, which was elected unanimously: Carl Slater, President; LeJay Graffitiou, President-elect; Tom Fox, Vice President. Norma Murray was elected a director to replace Tom Fox. Elected to three-year terms as directors were Cindy Ellis, Bill Grafton and Joe Rieffenberger.

At the Board of Directors meeting November 2 in Wheeling, George Hurley led a discussion of short- and long-term fund-raising, as the club has had to use reserve funds to meet current expenses. Dr. Jay Buckelew noted that 3,000 copies of the *West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas* will be printed by the University of Pittsburgh Press. He said there were 34,000 sightings of birds recorded in the six years of field work.

On the Eastern Shore waterfowl trip November 7-10, leader Carl Slater coined an acronym – NEST, for November Eastern Shore Trip. The group saw 112 species, including at least 25,000 Snow Geese at Bombay Hook. The first Christmas Bird Count in Canaan Valley was led on December 18 by Jim Phillips. Several other club members, including President Charlie Pierce, were among the 13 persons on hand for the count. Temperatures were in the 20s, the wind was 20 mph, and by the end of the day six inches of snow had fallen. The group got 38 species and about 1,200 individuals.

DEATHS – James A. Evans, 86, of Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, who often camped with his wife Helen at Dolly Sods during the banding, on January 27.

C.J.S. "Jack" Durham, 86, of Great Falls, Virginia, who with his wife Ethel attended most club events until his infirmity in 1987, on March 17. Eight club members attended a memorial service April 27 at his home.

John N. Pattison, 71, an early member of the club who was nationally known for his research into auto pollution control systems, on March 20 at his home in Fort Myers, Florida.

Ruth M. Ballentine, 91, a member of the Handlan chapter in Charleston where she had lived since the 1950s, May 15 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Elmer Worthley, 70, of Finksburg, Maryland, a renowned botanist, in June after returning home from the foray.

Wilda Jane Jennings, 84, of Wellsburg, West Virginia, a long-time active member of HQ chapter, July 4 in a Wheeling hospital.

Nelson Ciancone, 54, of Bellaire, Ohio, on July 7 at home.

Walter C. "Corb" Knoblaugh, 82, a Wheeling native who took the nature walks led by A. B. Brooks and was a friend of the late Chuck Conrad, August 5 in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Harold E. Burtt, 101, a retired The Ohio State University psychologist who banded more than 164,000 birds and wrote several books, August 15 in Columbus, Ohio.

Janice Musser of Huntington, West Virginia, a member for many years who attended forays and other events, October 17 in a nursing home.

Elizabeth Francis, 91, of Baltimore, Maryland, who welcomed the Sutton Seekers at her summer home in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, on November 22 of a stroke.

Bill and Norma Murray were in charge of arrangements, as usual, for the Early Spring Meeting February 21-23 at Jackson's Mill. At the Friday evening session, Dr. George Hall, just back from three weeks in Venezuela, talked about his trip and about Neotropical migrants. The other speaker was Paul Harmon of Elkins, a botanist with the Department of Natural Resources. He talked about his work on the National Heritage Program, which is designed to preserve plants and other threatened species. President Carl Slater appointed a Publication Committee, with Greg Eddy as chairman. The Committee's first project was to consider a new method of printing *The Redstart* to reduce costs. Seventy-two persons attended the weekend and the bird list totaled 52.

The foray was held June 4-13 at the Raleigh County 4-H Camp near Daniels, where it was held in 1975. The bird list was 123, compared to 110 in 1975, but the territory was somewhat smaller then. Co-Directors were George and Anne Hurley. Other leaders were: Dr. Greg Eddy, bird list; Jim Bullard, census plots; Tom Hurley, nest cards; Ralph Bell and Ann Pyle, breeding bird surveys; Jay Fox and Dave Bell, mammals; Lynn Barnhart, herptiles; and Eleanor Bush and Dr. Gene Hutton, plants. Trips were taken to Grandview State Park and the New River Gorge National River area. Eighty-seven persons attended, the food and accommodations were good and the consensus was that it was another successful and enjoyable foray.

The 1992 sortie was held June 16-20 in the Spruce Knob area with headquarters at Shot Cherry cabin. Participating were 15 members and a guest. The group recorded 84 species. Eugene and Reba Hutton were in charge.

DEATHS - Helen Devore, wife of Leland, in January in Fort Deposit, MD. William Faherty of Frostburg, Maryland, in January.

John H. Newcomer, 77, of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, on February 23. He owned the Cliffside Motel in Harpers Ferry, where Chuck Conrad and other club members stayed many times while on field trips.

Bernard Trott, 79, of Triadelphia, West Virginia, on March 9. He was a former treasurer of the club, an active member of HQ chapter and Chairman of the club's nest card program.

Les McDowell, 89, of Charleston, a nature photographer and long-time member of the Handlan chapter, on March 29. Ruth Noonan, 73, on April 1 in a Reidsville, North Carolina, nursing home. Woodrow Hinchman of Davis, West Virginia, in April after a long illness.

Norris Gluck, 85, on May 5 in Charleston. An active member for more than 30 years, he was a skilled nest finder and often birded in Coonskin Park in Charleston, where chickadees and titmice ate seeds from his hat and his hands.

Eva Hays Eutsler, 77, on May 13 in Charlottesville, Virginia. She was Secretary-Treasurer of the club in the 1940s and 1950s.

Osbra Eye, 64, of Raleigh County, July 18 in Beckley after a short illness. He attended the 1992 Foray in June and led several members on a hike along Pinch and Glade Creeks. He was a naturalist, environmentalist and nature photographer. He was former West Virginia Chief of Operations of Parks and Tourism and a former Park Superintendent at Kanawha State Forest.

James Darby, Cross Lanes, West Virginia, in March.
History of The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.:
Highlights of the years 1993 to 2007

Compiled by Dawn Fox and Matt Fox

Administrator’s 15 Year Report

As Administrator of the Brooks Bird Club for most of the last fifteen years, I’ve been in a position to notice, with poignant clarity, just how many changes have taken place. Granted, most of these changes have gone unnoticed by the general membership. On the other hand, the club officers, committee chairs and their support groups, and anyone involved in the workings of headquarters will be aware of the difference in operations and work loads by those who do their thing on a daily basis.

The tremendous gap left by the passing of Helen Comad necessitated everyone pulling together in order to keep the Club going in a straight line. And they did…! Bill Murray accepting the post of Mail Bag Editor, Jay Buckelew continuing to do the superb job he does as The Redstart Editor, Jerry Devaul with his flawless money balancing act in his role as Treasurer, Carolyn Comad doing everything she did as Membership and Corresponding Secretary, not to mention being my Gray Bishop, whispering into my ear all of the things I forgot to do, and so many others doing their part. What would we have done without them? The officers of the Club as they come through every year being elected to their various posts; the Chapter Presidents and support people; the countless program givers, foray and sortie supporters, bird banders, trip leaders, all giving of their precious time for no compensation other than an occasional “At-A-Boy.” How can we ever thank them?

As we entered the twenty-first century, new challenges were waiting for us. Some of the work horses were getting a little chaffed by the harness straps from pulling so hard for so long and needed their turn to ride in the wagon for a while. Fortunately there were folks standing in the wings to step in and try their hand at pulling the plow: Greg Eddy, as editor of The Mail Bag, Juanita Slater as Membership Chairperson, Scott Emrick as Treasurer, and the slate after slate of new officers every year, ready to do their part. Please…do just two things for me. Help those people who are doing all the tasks necessary to make The Brooks Bird Club the truly fine organization that it has become. And second, if you’re asked to do whatever you’re asked to do, do it well. In the words of Tevye in “Fiddler on the Roof,” if you get tired of pulling the wagon, push for a while.

Carl Slater

P.S. In reading this over, I realize how many names I should have mentioned. Please forgive me for not giving everyone who has worked so hard their moment of mention. Let your reward be as the words from Emerson’s Rhodora…”beauty is its own excuse for being…”
A Current History of the Brooks Bird Club

The basic activities for the club during the past fifteen years has been those that have been proven to be successful. The November Board of Directors meeting sets up the yearly schedule. The year begins with the Christmas Bird Count followed by the early Mid-Winter Meeting in February. From 1992 to 99, the meetings were held on the last weekend of the month at Jackson's Mill in Weston, WV. In 2000 and 2001, the Bethany College Conference Center at Bethany, West Virginia was the site. In 2002, Camp Virgil Tate located in the Charleston area was the meeting place. The 2003-2005 meetings were held at Camp Virgil Tate and the 2006 and 2007 meetings were held at North Bend State Park. The 2003 meeting was cancelled due to high water.

In 1992 the Current Reserve fund was established. The income from which goes to the General Fund and income from the Foray and Educational Fund is used for scholarships to the foray. The John Handlan Memorial Fund covers the cost of publishing various nature related literature. Also, in 1992, 24 BBCers attended the dedication of the Ohio River Island Refuge on May 28th.

The BBC 60th Anniversary was observed at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center on October 9-11, 1992.

The BBC Handbook was completed after a number of years of preparation in 1993 and copies were presented to the line officers at the Annual Meeting in 1993.


Terra Alta weekends were held at the Oglebay Mountain Camp in 1994, 1995, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007. Starting in July 2007, the Terra Alta weekends have become "bonus bird weekends." The 2001 Bonus Bird Weekend was in Bartow, West Virginia, 2002 was held at Oglebay's Mountain Camp at Terra Alta, 2003 was at Alpine Lake Resort in Terra Alta, 2004 was at the Mountain Camp at Terra Alta, 2005 was held at Wildernest Inn in Petersburg, West Virginia and 2006 and 2007 were both at the Oglebay Mountain camp at Terra Alta.

Annual Membership Meetings were on second or third weekends in October at Cedar Lakes Conference Center covering the years 1992-1998. We moved to North Bend State Park for our 1999 and 2000 meetings and Tygart Lake State Park from 2001-2006. The 2007 meeting, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary, will be held at Oglebay Park in Wheeling, West Virginia.

*The Birding Guide to West Virginia* was published in 1999 as a result of Jim Bullard's hard work.

The club voted at the 1999 Membership Meeting to purchase *The Birds of North America* series for $1,875. The club became one of only three institutions in the state to purchase the valuable research tool. The series is stored in Carl Slater's office in Wheeling. The club ratified a new Constitution at the Midwinter meeting on February 25, 2001. It decreases the number of members on the Board of Directors, now known as the Board of Trustees. Other changes were made to conform to governmental regulations.

In order to cover areas of West Virginia that do not have facilities that could house a foray, it was decide that a smaller group would go into these areas and do a study project similar to that done at a foray. This was designated a sortie which would occur, generally
in June, either before or after foray. The forays and sorties for the past fifteen years are listed in the Appendix.

Club members have a love of travel and groups up to 40 have gone to southern California in 1994; Holland in 1995; West Texas 1996; Costa Rica 1997; Great Britain 1998; Italy and Switzerland in 2000; Spain 2002; South Africa 2004; Ireland and England 2005; Texas-Arizona in 2006; and Greece and Turkey in 2007.

A matter of concern to the club is that of memberships. There are currently 370 regular memberships, which include families and individuals. There are also 58 exchanges and libraries that maintain a membership.

Leadership of the Brooks Bird Club during the past fifteen years was fulfilled by the presidents listed in the Appendix. Any organization to prosper must have leaders with ability and dedication. Our presidents have shown excellent leadership.

Bill Murray

**Breeding Bird Census**

The Brooks Bird Club has been conducting Breeding Bird Census studies population studies (also termed Spot Mapping) every year starting in 1948. Our interest in this type of study started in 1947 when two club members met personnel of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service running three census plots on Shaver's Mountain. Club members ran those three plots, now known as Gaudineer Knob, Virgin Spruce and Northern Hardwood Forest, plus an additional one on Burner Mountain, called Burner Mountain plot, in the years 1948, 1953, 1958, 1964. Those four plots plus two more added in 1968, Upland Black Cherry Forest and Blister Run Swamp, have been studied once in every five-year period through 2003. The only exceptions being that the Northern Hardwood Forest was not studied in 1964, 1988 or 1998, and the Gaudineer Knob plot was not studied in 1988. Other plots were run in the area some years but were never repeated. These studies are the longest run quantitative breeding bird studies in West Virginia and also among the longest run in the United States. In other years club members ran plots at each Foray and sortie. Several of those plots have also been repeated. Nearly all of these plots were of 15 acres. We usually have a limited amount of time to conduct these studies and a 110 by 660 yard plot with one centerline is fairly easy to layout and run. After John Terborgh's criticism of our methods in his book *Where Have All the Birds Gone*, we had a meeting with Chan Robbins to determine if or what we could do to improve our studies. The chief result of that meeting has been to do our studies over at least seven days and enlarge them to at least 30 acres when possible. The results have been mixed. We are conducting the studies for 7 days, but it has been difficult to always find places to layout plots of greater than 15 acres, especially plots wider than 110 yards. In spite of this, we have managed to conduct several plots of at least 30 acres, one of 45 acres, one of 60 acres and one of 75 acres. Some of these plots have been repeated.

Over the past 20 years, we lost all of the personnel that were in charge of these studies and nearly all of the personnel that conducted the studies. In spite of this, we now have many, if not more, trained, experienced and capable birders conducting these studies.
than 20 years ago. These studies have become one of the most popular activities at our forays and sorties.

Greg Eddy

**The Redstart since 1992**

In 1977, when I became editor of *The Redstart*, I was relatively new to the Brooks Bird Club and West Virginia. I was pleased when Chuck Conrad asked me to edit *The Redstart*, because I admired its long service to Ornithology in West Virginia and the surrounding region, and I knew that editing the fine journal would help me learn about West Virginia birds. In 1932, the first issue of *The Redstart* was a single mimeographed sheet. Over the years the journal grew to its present more professional format. But even in the mimeographed form, *The Redstart* was an important contributor to West Virginia Ornithology. George Hall once told me that his book, *West Virginia Birds*, would not have been possible as a comprehensive history of our state's bird life without the many observations and articles published in our journal. George has written that, "It is not really possible to know what the status of our knowledge would have been had the Club not existed, but the chances are that West Virginia would have still been in the ornithological dark ages." *The Redstart* has recorded the bird observations of many bird enthusiasts, both professional and amateur, over the years. The list of notable *Redstart* authors includes most of the outstanding ornithologists active in West Virginia: George A Hall, George M. Sutton, Hal Harrison, Maurice Brooks, Harold E. Burtt, and many more in recent years. Many of our finest articles are published by amateur BBC members. The best from each year receives the Floyd Bartley Memorial Award (Table 1), but in many years it has been difficult to choose a winner from a list of outstanding amateur contributions.

The Brooks Bird Club is in a small group of state and regional bird clubs that extends the enthusiasm for bird watching beyond the ordinary hobby into activities that yield important data for keeping track of trends in bird population numbers and occurrence. Since 1992, *The Redstart* has published 281 10-mi Breeding Bird Surveys and one 25-mi survey and the results of 92 15-acre Male Breeding Bird Census (Spot Map) Studies, plus 6 60 to 75-acre studies and 11 30-acre studies, most of these from foray and sortie camps. Not published in *The Redstart* are the results of many BBS, Male Census Studies and Point Counts conducted by individual members. Many observations on changes in bird abundance have been published in our pages, and most records of birds new to West Virginia or records of very rare birds and unusual breeding records were published in *The Redstart* over the years. Since 1992, many articles were published on declining numbers or increasing populations of species of interest to our members and articles on interesting places to find birds in West Virginia. We published articles and notes on state records, breeding records, and West Virginia populations trends of the following species: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Ross's Goose, Pacific Black Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Common Merganser, Red-necked Grebe, American White Pelican, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Wood Stork, Black Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite, White-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Gyrfalcon, American

Table 1 – Bartley Award Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Ray and Jo Ashworth</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Wendell Argabrite</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Harry Slack</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Greg Eddy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Eugene E. Hutton</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Joey Herron</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Linnie Coon</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Anna M. McRae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Patricia Temple</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Gary Felton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Melvin Hooker</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>William Beatty</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Jonathan Minear</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Matthew Orsie</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Julie Beatty</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>George E. Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Lorraine Rollefson</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Jane J. Whitaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Ralph K. Bell</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Matthew Orsie</td>
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Authors make regular contributions to *The Redstart* on bird banding, and we publish annual reports of Christmas Bird Counts, the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Three Rivers Migration Observatory, Jackson's Mill Migration Observatory, various hawk counts, reports of the West Virginia Bird Records Committee, and our foray and sortie results. Our "Field Notes" department keeps our members up-to-date on bird sightings, migrations dates, and bird population trends around the state. Our members maintain their enthusiasm for bird study to this day, and I am a fortunate editor to have no shortage of admirable contributions to choose from.

Editing of a journal of the quality of *The Redstart* cannot be accomplished without some help, so I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of editors of *Redstart* sections, the editorial board, and our outstanding associate editor, Marjorie Keatley. Several "Field Notes" editors, Glen Phillips (January 1977 through July 1980), Greg Eddy (October 1980 through October 1982), Jim Phillips (January 1983 through April 2003) and Janice Emrick (July 2003 through the present) have recorded the seasonal abundance and occurrence of our state's birds. Many people have contributed book reviews and notes on ornithological news. Past editors (See Appendix) have been generous with their advice, and some of them were able to continue to contribute articles to *The Redstart*. My hat is off to them. I'm having too much fun to quit, so I hope the club will want me to continue as editor for at least a few more years.

Albert R. Buckelew, Jr
Bird Banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory

Perhaps it would be best to give a little history about why I started to band birds up on Dolly Sods in West Virginia in the first place. In the 1950's, Brooks Bird Club members gathered on various mountaintops in West Virginia to count fall migrating hawks. One of the popular places was Bear Rocks on the northern end of Dolly Sods, where perhaps 20-40 BBC members would gather on Fall weekends, weather permitting, to count hawks. It was during these weekends that some of us on Bear Rocks noticed large numbers of migrating warblers going by. At the same time, a famous BBC member, Chan Robbins (a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) along with others, had already started a cooperative banding study of the fall migration of passerines along the Atlantic Coast called Operation Recovery. I wrote to him and asked what he thought about putting up some nets on Dolly Sods to try and catch some of the migrants that were apparently following the Allegheny Front mountain ridge. Chan thought it was a great idea, so I contacted Charles Handley, Chief Division of Game for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and asked for his permission to band in West Virginia. He not only gave the authorization, he thought it was such a great idea to catch a sampling of the migrants going over Dolly Sods, that he brought up some mist nets and assisted in the project.

The Red Creek campground was selected because there was off-road parking, a couple of outhouses, and a reliable spring available for drinking water. The birds banded were mostly migrants that had landed and were feeding in the surrounding bushes. For the first five years, the banding was done at the campground. During this time, many migrants were noticed flying over going in a southwest direction. I followed deer trails to the edge of the mountain (approximately 200 yards northeast of the campground), and saw the migrants coming up, flying much lower through a slight gap in the ridge, which formed a natural bowl at the rim of the mountain. Therefore, in 1963, after this discovery, the entire banding operation was moved out to this location. The total number of birds captured and banded increased dramatically after this move.

There have been 51 licensed bird banders who have participated in the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) since it was started in 1958. The following is a list of the banders who have banded at AFMO since 1987: Lynn Barnhart, Ralph Bell, Barbara Bilsborough, Bob Dean, Walter Fye, Betty Gatewood, LeJay Graffious, George Hall, Ken and Sue Heselton, Robert and Patricia Hogan, Steve Huy, George and Cleo Mayfield, Fred and Carol McCullough, Eph Olliver, Joan Pattison, Randy and Beth Ritter, Janet Shaffer, David Skinner, Julie Simpson, Trudy Smith, Jo Lane Stern, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson and Charles Ziegenfus. In addition to the banders, there are also many experienced net tenders, recorders, people to help maintain the net lanes, and do numerous other volunteer jobs needed to keep the station running smoothly. For more information about AFMO, see: Pattison, Joan Bell (2003). History of the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory. The Redstart, 70 (4), 116-131.

In the early 1980’s, LeJay Graffious built a much needed banding shed. He and his helpers put it up and take it down each fall as required by the Forest Service. Starting in 1972, John and Genevieve Findley really gave the banding operation on Dolly Sods a big boost, because they volunteered as campground hosts for the Forest Service and helped
out at the banding station for the next 25 years. Randy and Beth Ritter took over as
campground hosts in 1997 and have continued being hosts to date. The writer was the
only bander the first year (1958) and wrote the summaries for AFMO in 1958 and 1960.
Then George Hall asked me if he could begin writing the summaries. He did a wonderful
job compiling all of the banders' information and continued to write the summaries
through the years until 2003. Since then, my daughter, Joan Bell Pattison and I have
written the summaries with the computer help of Bill Agee and Ken Heselton. Joan is a
licensed bander and leads AFMO with me. She has been assisting me in many ways since
1954 when I obtained my banding license, and she understands the vision I have always
had the for the AFMO station.

Generally, bird captures were much greater during the 1972 to 1991 period, when an
average of 6,399 birds were banded per year, while the average for the 10-year period
(1992-2001) was 4,179. Various reasons are given for possible causes for fewer birds
being caught at AFMO, but I believe a major cause was due to the increasing height of
the Red Spruce and deciduous trees both in front and back of the nets. This caused more
birds to fly high over the mist nets without getting caught. During the 20-year period
(1972-1991), there were 13 years when over 5,000 birds were caught and banded, while
in the 10-year period (1992-2001), there have been only 2 years when over 5,000 birds
were banded. Thanks to Bill Agee for providing computer expertise to chart these figures.

Because of the declining number of birds being captured, a permit was issued by the
U. S. Forest Service to reduce vegetation height at the area around the banding station
back to its original state when many birds were able to fly low to keep out of the wind,
and we would be able to continue our research by capturing them in our mist nets. We
were able to do just that during the summer of 2004. Tom Fox, his family and other
volunteers at AFMO worked very hard to put the station back to as close as possible to
the way it was when I started the station. The numbers of birds captured and banded
increased substantially in the next two years. In 2005, we banded 5,562 birds and in 2006
we banded 6,784 birds. These were the two best years' totals for birds banded since 1999.

After seeing many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flying over AFMO, and reading
Laurie Goodrich's count of them at Hawk Mountain, I contacted her and decided to begin
counting flyovers at AFMO in 1990. Ivareen Pierce coordinated the count from 1990-
1996, JoAnn Graham from 1997-2003, and Donald Pattison from 2004 to date. Many
dedicated assistants help in this count. Today, the Flyover Count's major emphasis is on
Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Blue Jays, Monarch Butterflies, dragonflies and American
Goldfinches; however, everything seen and identified is noted. I believe this flyover
information is very useful and will become even more important in the future.

We have banded 212,344 birds at AFMO in the 49 continuous years of banding since
1958. Of the birds banded, we have had reports of 53 birds that were recovered. Two
birds of special interest are: a Hermit Thrush banded by Charles Ziegenfus on October
27, 1995 that was caught and released by a bander in Yakutat, Alaska on September 3,
1999 (It was perhaps still on its nesting ground), and a Yellow Palm Warbler banded by
LeJay Graffious on October 7, 1995 that died when it hit the World Trade Center in New
York on April 2, 2000. We have also had 12 foreign recoveries (birds banded elsewhere
and recaptured at AFMO). One of special interest is a Blackpoll Warbler banded 3 miles
south of Pierre, South Dakota on May 24, 2005, apparently on its way north to nest, and
recaptured at AFMO on September 15, 2005 on its way south for the winter.
Two longevity records for birds banded at AFMO are a Dark-eyed Junco banded by this writer as an after-hatch-year (AHY) bird on August 13, 1991. Its last recapture at AFMO was recorded on October 5, 2001. This is a longevity record in North America for this species, authenticated and recorded at the Bird Banding Laboratory, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, by M. K. Klimkiewicz. The second bird is an Eastern Towhee banded by Lynn Barnhart as a hatch-year (HY) bird on August 26, 1993, and its last recapture at AFMO was recorded on October 9, 2002. No doubt both of these birds nested on Dolly Sods.

Migrants caught are influenced by the weather conditions. Strong Westerly winds keep the migrating birds lower and more catches are made in the nets. If the winds are out of the east, few birds are caught (or even seen). Also, the banding station is above 3,800’ in elevation and the whole mountaintop may be immersed in clouds and the birds do not like to migrate at such times.

Our justification for banding birds at AFMO is to increase our knowledge about what bird species use this migration route, find out by recoveries what routes the banded birds have taken or where they spend their winters and summers, determine whether the majority of the species we catch are hatch-year or after-hatch-year, and over a long period of time hopefully find out if a species is increasing or decreasing in population. Also, the educational value to the visitors is very important. Each year elementary, high school, college, and Christian schools visit the station, along with bird clubs, boy scouts, and other groups. More than 1,000 visitors to AFMO sign our guest book each Fall from the United States and Canada, and we have had visitors from more than 30 countries over the years. We hope the banding operation will influence many young and old alike to develop an interest in the environment and help save any species of birds that may be threatened.

Finally, we wish to thank all the personnel from the Monongahela National Forest and others of the Potomac District Ranger Station for being so cooperative and supportive of AFMO high up on the mountain at Dolly Sods, West Virginia. Fall, 2007, will be our 50th year at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory.

Ralph K. Bell

Brooks Bird Club Chapters and Affiliated Clubs

BBC Headquarters Chapter

The BBC Headquarters Chapter continues to conduct monthly meetings at Oglebay Park’s Schrader Environmental Center in Wheeling. The winter monthly evening meetings (October through April) normally start with a cover dish dinner that is followed by a short meeting including bird observations. An interesting program on birds, wildlife, or related environmental topics is then presented.

During the summer months of May through September, afternoon birding excursions are enjoyed in the West Virginia/Ohio Tri-State area ending with a cover dish dinner.

The Headquarters Chapter, in conjunction with the Oglebay Institute Schrader Center, hosts the annual Christmas Bird Count for the upper Ohio Valley Tri-State area. The
BBC Chapter also volunteers as leaders for the Schrader Environmental Center’s workshops.

Volunteers from HQ Chapter mail out the club publications, The Redstart and The Mail Bag, maintain the club library, host the annual Board Meeting, deal with the sanctuary signs, nest cards, and many other BBC projects.

**Handlan Chapter: 1992-2007**

This period has been one of action and vitality for Brooks Bird Club folks in the Charleston area.

We've worked hard! We held classes at Sunrise Museum and made presentations to groups of all ages. One couple makes 6-8 presentations yearly and has done so for 10 years. We have manned information booths at a science teachers' convention, county fairs, and an interstate highway visitors' center. We helped with a city pigeon problem.

We devised a chart of local bird sightings, a standardized club observation form, and a bird checklist for a municipal cemetery. Beginning in 2000, we have held study groups called "Fireside Chats." In 1996 we published a revised issue of "Birds of the Kanawha Valley" which resulted in two printings. 2002 brought us the booklet "Kanawha Valley Ornithology and Handlan Chapter History." Our annual bird counts now include the Christmas Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and the spring migration count, "Century Day". We continue to use and lend our collection of bird books, videos, a scope, and binoculars.

Our travels have taken us to places such as Kyger Creek, Greenbottom, John Amos Power Plant, Carbide Tech Center, Kanawha Falls, Beech Fork, Peters Mountain, Sandstone Falls, Bluestone, Fort Hill (crow's roost), and Buffalo/Robertsburg (heron rookery).

We were saddened in 1994 when Harry Young brought in purple martins, killed in an April cold snap; and in 1996 when vandals burned the observation tower where we watched hawks on Peters Mountain. But the tower was rebuilt and, we note that, in 1994 we made our first annual donation to the Three Rivers Avian Center.

We've had fun! We have club caps and walkie-talkies... and group pictures and ice cream socials even if is 40 degrees and raining or we are besieged by yellow-jackets. Our educational presenters have roll-up silhouettes of the wingspans of hummingbirds and condors, to allow children to "stretch their wings." Those folks give out candy corn and candy worms too, so kids can "eat like a bird." Amazing bird quizzes have been a feature of our holiday dinner for years!

We will continue! We gave life memberships to our faithful Ken and Jane Anderson; and Marilyn and Don Morton and John Lawrence Smith. We enjoy following the careers of "our" kids, including Dr. Bryan Watts and Bart Paxton (with the Center for Conservation Biology) and John David Anderson. From our senior members, such as Laura Koch, to 12 year-old Cameron Kazmierski, Handlan Chapter folks look forward to the future!

Addendum---Since the above was written several years ago, Handlan Chapter has celebrated its own 60th anniversary in 2004 and designed a logo and brochure. Our website is accessible through “Links” on the BBC site and we arranged online and print
resources with the State Cultural Center Library. An article on shorebirds was part of the “Wonderful West Virginia” magazine issued in February, 2006 and we endorsed the Wilderness Proposal for the Monongahela National Forest. Handlan members helped with birding festivals at Cass and Fayetteville and worked with officials of local dams, wetlands, and plant nurseries. A digital projector was purchased. We gratefully found homes for our book collections at the office of the Friends of Blackwater and at a public library. That library, at South Charleston, co-hosted a Bird Day event in March, 2006. Many local bird resources were featured and the day was capped by the presentation, “Attracting Birds to a West Virginia Garden,” by veteran BBC member, Doug Jolley.

Cynthia D. Ellis

The Bibbee Nature Club

In 1974, a group of southern West Virginia nature enthusiasts, led by Oliver Johnson formed the Bibbee Nature Club. Named for long-time biology professor and ornithologist, Dr. P.C. Bibbee (Concord College, now Concord University), the club soon became an affiliate of the Brooks Bird Club and has members in southern West Virginia as well as south western Virginia.

The club calendar of events boasts a variety of nature oriented activities. Birding activities include spring & fall migration counts, Christmas bird count, waterfowl & feeder counts and banding. Other field trips focus on wild flowers, trees, butterflies, ferns and mushrooms usually in state or national parks and forests in the area. Indoor programs are highlighted by the annual wild foods dinner in October.

The club is open to anyone with an avid interest in nature. All ages and talents are welcome. Dues are minimum with student, individual & family rates available. For more information contact Mindy Waldron, President, Box 256, 13 Daniel Drive, Surveyor, WV 25932.

James Phillips

The Leon Wilson Bird Club

Leon Wilson Bird Club...a Huntington affiliate of Brooks Bird Club.

In 1940, nine charter members started a Bird Study Club. Closely aligned with Marshall College and assisted by Dr. N. Bayard Green and Dr. Ralph Edeburn, the group grew in numbers and activities and became the Huntington Bird Club. As with other state groups, the Huntington folks established traditional seasonal migration and winter bird counts and conducted field trips and surveys. They worked with Cabell County schools to foster nature education. The club became the Tri-State Audubon Society and, like the Charleston chapter, hosted shows of Audubon bird and nature films. One veteran member proudly claimed by the club is West Virginia nature artist Chuck Ripper. In 2004 this group became an affiliate of Brooks Bird Club, with the name of a much-loved bird-bander, Leon Wilson, as part of its title. Educational programs and fieldwork continue,
with the members meeting each month at 7 p.m. on fourth Thursdays at Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. Outdoor trips are announced by way of an email and telephone club list and continue to feature locations in the West Virginia/Kentucky/Ohio areas. Rotary Park has been long studied; Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area, Beech Fork State Park, and the grounds of the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam are frequented more recently. Individual members have worked with personnel at these sites in regard to preservation of habitat and a bluebird trail is maintained at Beech Fork. This club’s nearby regions of the wide Ohio River and its attendant fields and bottomlands make the area especially abundant in waterfowl and shorebird sightings for our state. The annual Christmas counts continue to be a winter treat; the Ona area count will be December 17, 2007, and the Huntington Count is TBA. For more information contact Wendell Argabrite at 304 736-5747, Wargabrite@aol.com.

Ann McRae and James Phillips

The Mountwood Bird Club Chapter

The Mountwood Bird Club was formed in 1978 and currently has 33 members. It became a chapter of the Brooks Bird Club, Inc. in 2005. The club has a very active schedule with a birding outing nearly every week of the year, including some out-of-town trips and occasional evening programs. Membership is open to all who enjoy birding.

Club members also help local schools and Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations with birding related activities. They also support local government organizations like the Division of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife Services in their programs.

The Mountwood Bird Club sponsors the annual Parkersburg Christmas Bird Count and the Spring Migration Count. They maintain a checklist and early and late dates for Wood County. They collect and report the quarterly sightings for the area. For more information contact Richard and Jeanette Esker, 7 Wellesley Drive, Washington, WV 26181 Telephone No. 304-863-8765

Richard B. Esker

In Memoriam: 1992 – 2007

BBC members, whose obituaries appeared in The Mailbag after June 1992, are remembered below:

1992

James W. Morris, a club member for many years, July 19 at Centerville, Ohio. Mrs. William (Wanda) Perry of Annapolis, Maryland, August 17. The family had a summer place in Anthony, and they often joined us for dinner during our Labor Day outings. Sara Kidd, September 23, in Clermont, Florida.
Merrill Wood, Sr., September 23, 1992. A Biology professor at Penn State University for 38 years and a BBC member, Professor Wood was an inspiration and counselor to Ralph Bell when Ralph began his banding career.

Helen Bott Conrad, October 12, 1992. Helen served the BBC in many capacities, dedicating the last 21 years of her life to our club. In a bitter coincidence Helen missed the BBC 60th anniversary, which she had worked very hard to help prepare, just as her husband, Chuck, had missed the 50th anniversary, which was celebrated only weeks after his death. Helen served the club as Administrator, Membership Secretary, and many other capacities. Bill Murray wrote, "Helen's contribution to the Brooks Bird Club had exceeded that of a paid employee. Herc motivation lay in her love for Chuck and her desire to do all she could for an organization that was the prime force in his life. Her reward was the knowledge that the Brooks Bird Club prospered, grew and matured into an organization that will continue because of the interest and participation on the part of all its members."

Everett R. "Pete" Chandler, 87 on November 8, 1992. He "liked the early morning best." Pete served the BBC as President 1982-83. He wrote many reports for The Redstart. Bob Rine remembered him in The Mail Bag as "the last member of a stalwart triumvirate that included George Koch and Glen Phillips. These three were effective elders of the club over several decades. They laid out study areas and worked them; they led field trips; at the campfires, they sang songs and recited poems. They shared their abundant knowledge. They lived the club."

Melvin T. Hooker, 79, in Ashland, Ohio on December 25. Mel spent much time during the fall migration at AFMO at Dolly Sods. He published several articles on AFMO in The Redstart. He designed the logos used on all printed matter and souvenirs for the BBC 60th anniversary.

1993

Maurice Brooks, 92, on January 10. Professor, naturalist, author and an Honorary Member of the BBC; Maurice was A.B. Brooks' nephew. He was best known for his book, The Appalachians. He was retired from his position of professor of Wildlife Management in the West Virginia University School of Forestry. Maurice served the BBC as editor of The Redstart, 1943 – 45.

Dr. Robert Kunkel, 91, February 6. He was husband of Martha Burt Kunkel, who engaged in activities at Oglebay Park during the time that A.B. Brooks directed the Nature Program there. Long-time members of the BBC, the club used their Greenland Gap home for several club activities including the 1988 sortie.

Elizabeth "Libby" Hunter, June 2 at Martinsburg, West Virginia. She attended many forays and other BBC functions.

Mrs. Jack (Betty) Linehan, 73, at home in Newark, Delaware on May 4. Mrs. Joe (Fran) Doherty of Sun City, Arizona. Mrs. Paul Harwood in June.

Harriet Sheets, August 9. She was a member of the club for many years and went on the club's Florida trip. Mrs. Clinton (Elizabeth) Banks, 92, October 26. She attended many BBC activities in the early years. Pearl Gregg, 90, on November 5. She and her sister Edna (deceased 1984) were long-time active members of the club.
Howard O. Heimerdinger, 84, of Brevard, North Carolina on December 25. Club members used his home as headquarters for field trips to Mosquito Lake, Youngstown, Ohio, in the early years. He attended many forays.
Margaret Blackburn of McKeesport, Pennsylvania on December 29.

1994

Ruth Rowe of Knox, Pennsylvania on March 3. Ruth worked tending the net lanes at AFMO. Her family wrote that taking birds out of the nets at AFMO and bringing them into the banding station was a delight and joy to her.
Jean James Demorest, 93, of Winchester, Virginia, formerly of Columbus, Ohio on April 6.
Mark Haymond, 83, of Point Pleasant, West Virginia.
Albert Carl Daily, 88, of Warwood, Wheeling, an active member of Headquarters Chapter.
Mrs. Jerry (Anne) McGrew, 86, of Washington, West Virginia on May 12. She played the piano for our worship service at BBC functions.
Charles T. Miller of College Park, Maryland on August 30. Helen J. VanMeter, 87, on September 29 at Chillicothe, Ohio.

1995

Ronald Vineyard, 70, of Buckhannon, West Virginia on January 11.
Clinton Banks, 94, of Sebring and formerly of Steubenville, Ohio on January 13. Clinton was founder of the forest Audubon Club of Steubenville in 1945 and served as its president for 33 years.
Dr. John Robinson Weimer, husband of Betty Weimer, at age 71 in Buckhannon, West Virginia. John was a Bethany College alumnus. He was a foray participant for many years.
Patricia Murphy, 69, of Reno, Ohio on June 15. She was a member of the BBC for 31 years and Assistant Editor of Bird Watcher's Digest for 12 years. She became a Life member in 1979. According to Elsa Thompson, "Her enthusiasm for the out-of-doors convinced the Thompsons to start the Bird Watcher's Digest.
Polly Ballowe, 84, a Charter member of the BBC, on May 17. She resided in Wheeling at Oglebay Park where she was secretary and camp manager for Oglebay Institute. She married John Handlan, and in 1941 they moved to Charleston, West Virginia.
Mrs. Jack (Ethel) Durham, 90, on May 14 in Great Falls, Virginia. Bob Rine wrote in The Mail Bag that she and the late Jack Durham loved forays, "where Ethel spent many pleasant hours botanizing with Kyle and Eleanor Bush, Betty and Charlie Baer, Dorothy and Carolyn Conrad, Mary Rieffenberger and her many other friends in the club."
Hubert Dean Stanley, 86, of Ravenswood, West Virginia on August 24.
Katherine H. Sigel, 81, of Abingdon, Virginia on March 7.
Lloyd Poland on November 2, 1994. He and Karl Haller discovered the Sutton's Warbler, a hybrid of the Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler, in 1939 near Martinsburg, West Virginia, where Lloyd resided at the time. The bird, considered a new
species at the time, was named for Dr. George M. Sutton, well-known ornithologist and artist, whom Karl, then a senior at Bethany College, knew well from accompanying him on several expeditions.

Josephine Lane Stern, 88, a resident of Elkins, West Virginia on September 3. Many will remember her for her banding activities at foray and AFMO.

Gladys "Bunny" Cole, 86, on September 11. For nearly 20 years she oversaw the operation of the volunteer-staffed Maryland Ornithological Society banding station in Ocean City Maryland. Working with Chan Robbins, she got a chance to record rare visits to Maryland of Rufous Hummingbird, Western Wood Peewee, and Painted Bunting.

Mrs. Ralph (Betty) Bell, 82, on October 16 in Clarksville, Pennsylvania. She attended many BBC activities with her husband Ralph. Betty loved to knit and made some beautiful quilts.

Richard "Dick" Hogg, 79, on October 20 in Wheeling. Dick served as Brooke County Sheriff and Chief of Police in Wellsburg. He was a devoted BBC member and served the club as Treasurer for many years.

Mrs. Russell (Ruby) Hogg on November 10.

Samuel Cockayne Shaw, 82, on December 23 in Glendale, West Virginia. He had been a member of the Brooks Bird Club since 1942. Sam was owner and publisher of the Moundsville Daily Echo since 1951.

Dr. Paul Harwood on December 30 in Ashland, Ohio. Paul was an expert on West Virginia dragonflies, which he collected and identified at several forays. At his first foray in 1973 at Thorn Spring in Pendleton County, West Virginia, a number of campers accompanied him while searching the area and 51 species were collected and identified. Five specimens were new for the county.

Shawkey Lilly of Beckley, West Virginia on December 12.

1996

Elwood "Woody" Burris, 74, of Elm Grove, Wheeling, West Virginia, on May 25.

Dr. Morris Graham Netting, 91, on August 26 at Powderrmill, Pennsylvania. Graham was an Honorary member of the BBC. He was a curator at the Carnegie Museum, and he served as an instructor at A. B. Brooks' Nature School. He attended a number of forays. Graham founded the Powderrmill Nature Reserve and co-founded the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Mrs. Ray (Jo) Ashworth, 68, of St. Albans, West Virginia on June 16. Jo attended forays and banded birds at AFMO at Dolly Sods. She obtained foray scholarships for a number of her students who went on to become biologists.

John Lash, 61, on November 18 in Wheeling. John was a member of the Headquarters Chapter.

1997

Dr. William Leroy Black, 87, of California, Pennsylvania on February 15.

Dr. Kyle Bush, 83, on March 6 in Philippi, West Virginia, where he was Chief of Surgery at the Myers Clinic and Broaddus Hospital. He and his wife, Eleanor contributed
nature articles to the Barbour Democrat for 16 years. Kyle and Eleanor gave much of their time to the BBC, participating in forays and sorties.


Clifford Coon, 79, of Comfort, West Virginia on August 13. He and his wife, Linnie, participated at many forays and Handlan Chapter events.

Dr. Robert M. Alm, 75, on August 11. He helped in the repair of the original fire tower on Peters Mountain along with George Hurley, George Koch, George Flouer and Ken Anderson.

1998

Russell Hogg, 87, on January 23. Russ enjoyed photography of wild flowers.

Robert L. McCausland, 68, on February 7 in Leysin, Switzerland. Many recall the wonderful trips to Europe Bob organized for BBC members.

Frances Springton, 86, on January 4 in Rosedale, West Virginia.

William E. Athey, 83, of New Martinsville, West Virginia, on March 26 and his wife, Gail Athey, 86, on November 29. Bill, was a member for many years.

Leo David Patterson, 78, of Burlington, West Virginia on May 19. He was the retired owner of Sun Valley Farm in Burlington, which has been posted with the club's sanctuary signs since 1983.

Wilson Hughes Barnes, 92, on July 12. Hughes was park naturalist at Oglebay Park in the 1940s, and he taught Biology at Muskingum College from 1948 to 1974.

Dorothy Caperton, 86, on August 12 in Charles Town, West Virginia. She was an Ornithologist and a member of the BBC since 1956.

Harriet Hooker on Thanksgiving eve. Harriet and her late husband Mel spent weeks helping at the AFMO banding station each fall for several years. They organized the first trip to Crane Creek State Park and the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge on Lake Erie. They lived in Ashland, Ohio.

Robert H. Smith of Hopkinsville, Kentucky on November 17.

Eloise Wensel of Westminster, Maryland on November 20. BBCers who attend the Eastern Shore Trip will remember her.

1999

Hal H. Harrison, 92, on January 15 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Hal was President of the BBC in 1960, and he was an Honorary member. He attended forays in the late 1940s to the mid 1960s. Hal was a outstanding nature photographer. He produced a film about the 1959 foray at Mountain Lake, Virginia. Hal served as the Outdoors Editor for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. His books included A Field Guide to Birds' Nests (East) and A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests, Wood Warblers' World and The World of the Snake.

Carol Ann Stickel, 56, on January 7 in Danbury, Connecticut. Carol Ann was daughter of Chuck and Mary Kay Conrad. She enjoyed the Foray in 1996 at Camp Kidd, her last activity with the club.


Corinne Scott of Princeton, West Virginia. She had been a member since 1963.
Gladys Murrey, 94, on March 12 at Sistersville, West Virginia. Gladys began her membership in the BBC in 1934. She attended forays and most other activities of the club.

Dolores Dawn Hodge Wilson, 80, on April 17. Dolores attended many club functions and spent considerable time with her husband, Leon, at the banding station on Dolly Sods.

Corrine Scott, 78, of Boone County, West Virginia.

Yvonne Uel Johnson, 84, of Lerona, West Virginia, on May 25. She was a member of the Bibbee Nature Club. She and her late husband, Oliver were long-time members of the BBC.

Chet Shaffer, a member since 1934.

Linnie Irene Coon, 84, on June 27. She taught Biology in the Charleston area high schools. She and her late husband Clifford attended many club activities.

Joan D. Davis, 73, of Dayton, Ohio on October 29.

Genevieve Findley on November 4. She and her husband John spent the better part of two months at AFMO on Dolly Sods as campground hosts for nearly 20 years beginning in the early 70s.

2000

John L. Findley, 87, on January 15 in Flemington, West Virginia. Know as the "Mayor" of Dolly Sods. He and his late wife, Genevieve, spent the entire banding period on the mountain at Dolly Sods for many years. John wrote several articles for The Redstart.

William Noonan, 82, on February 2 in Lexington, North Carolina. he was well known to Headquarters Chapter members as the husband of Libby Chandler.

Grace White Grant, 86, of Charleston on February 6. She was a member for more than 20 years.

Jessie McFarland Repik, 67, of Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Elizabeth Fisher of Sykesville, Maryland, a member for over 35 years. mary Moore Rieffenberger wrote that on forays, Betty would generally be seen with her Gray's Manual of Botany tucked under her arm. Her extensive knowledge of botany was appreciated by all.

Harriet Sutton Gilbert Smith, 79, on March 3 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. She was a very active member, attending many forays and other outings.

Dr. David H. Smith, 77, on August 9 in Wheeling.

Theodore Frankenberg, 90, on July 13 in Sebring, Ohio. Ted was active in the BBC in the early days.

George Francis Hurley, 82, in Fairfax, Virginia on September 20. George was Editor of The Redstart from 1963 until 1976. He served as president of the club in 1964. He and his wife, Anne directed foray from 1986 through 1994. He was an active member of the Handlan Chapter for many years.

Roland Dyer Cowger, 87, on November 25 in Fort Seybert, West Virginia.

Mary Elizabeth Armstrong, 82, of Marietta, Ohio on November 15.
2001

Dr. Eugene E. Hutton on March 6 in Elkins, West Virginia. Doc was both an extremely talented botanist and an avid birder. He eagerly shared his knowledge with foray campers for many years. He attended many BBC events. Gene contributed many articles to The Redstart and won the Bartley Award in 1982.

Kathryn Dunnell, 86, on April 14. Kay and her husband Art were active members of the Headquarters chapter.

Oran Bland Matthey, 73, on April 20 at Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Dorothy Eleanor Conrad on August 18. Dorothy was a Charter member of the BBC and had attended every foray until this year.

Ephe M. Olliver on October 18. He was retired Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest, and he is remembered as a bird bander on Dolly Sods. Ephe was the first president of the West Virginia Chapter of the Izak Walton League of America. He was a past president of the West Virginia Nature Conservancy.

John D. Gill, 78, in Morgantown on August 8.

2002


Maxine Clark Kiff, 87, on February 6 in Florida. Maxine was a bird bander for 30 years.

Ruth Chalfant Strosnider, 91, on July 1. Ruth was generous with her slides and talks on her many trips to see birds around the world.

Frederick L. Witt, 95, in Wheeling on December 8. Fred was an active member of the Headquarters Chapter.

2003

Grant Pattison. Joan and Don Pattison lost their son Grant on January 19 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Grant was Ralph Bell's grandson.

Mary Catherine Becker, 86, on February 23 in Wheeling. Mary was an active member of the Headquarters Chapter.

Fred Brundage Temple, 85, on March 14 in Wheeling. Fritz enjoyed field trips at foray and with members of the Headquarters Chapter.

Frank Flouer, 90, of Union, West Virginia on April 3. Frank was a Charter member of the BBC. Frank, Chuck Conrad and Harold Bergner, all of Warwood, enjoyed the 7 o'clock bird walks with A. B. Brooks at Oglebay Park.

Jon Ann Diener, 73, near Kissimmee, Florida in March. She attended forays in the 1990s with her husband Dick Diener.

Ben Myers of Knox, Pennsylvania on May 30. Ben and his wife Evelyn helped at AFMO on Dolly Sods, where they camped with Walter Fye.

Harry Carl Young Sr., 92, of Charleston on June 22.
Virginia Bly Hoover, 86, of French Creek, West Virginia on May 24. She was a noted authority on the settlement of French Creek. She traveled extensively, enjoying the birds of the world.

2004

Dr. George Mayfield, 76, on April 21 in Columbia, Tennessee. George banded birds at Dolly Sods and attended forays in the early 80s.

William Lewis Wylie, 77, on August 15 at Kingwood, West Virginia. Bill was President of the BBC in 1980 and 1981. He was a retired professor of Forestry at West Virginia University.

Glenn L. Haynes, on August 9. Glenn was an active member of the Mt. Wood Bird Club.

Dollie Smithson Stover, 65, of Harper, West Virginia on July 3. Dollie was an avid bird bander. She and her son, Ron Canterbury ran the Three Rivers Banding Station in southern West Virginia.

2005

Nevada I. Laitsch, 92, of East Liverpool, Ohio on April 13. Nevada was President of the BBC twice and editor of *The Mail Bag* for several years. She wrote many articles for *The Redstart* and also served as "Field Notes" Editor. She edited and wrote much of the history of the club's first 50 years as found above. Dr. Greg Eddy wrote in *The Mail Bag*, "Everyone had so much respect for her because she could be counted on as a focused calming voice of reason and knowledge."

Gary L. Butts, 65, of Hardy County on April 1. Gary helped the BBC hold foray in Hardy County.

Patrick Fye, grandson of Walter Fye, on August 28.

Mary Lou Brown, 93, on July 16 in Pittsburgh. Mary Lou was an accomplished botanist, lending a hand with plant studies at many forays.

Marian E. Means, 89, formerly of Vienna, West Virginia on October 1. Marian was an active member for many years.

2006

Walter C. Fox, 83, on January 14. Walter was Thomas Fox's father.

Juanita E. DeLacey, 84, on April 5 at Point Pleasant, West Virginia. She was a long-time member of the club.

Roger Emrick of Elida, Ohio on May 14. Roger was Scott Emrick's father.

Dr. Arline Roush Thorn, 59, of St. Albans on July 2.

Dr. William A. Lunk, 87, on May 18. Dr. Lunk, an Ornithologist, was curator at the University of Michigan Museum. While a student at the University of Michigan, he worked under Dr. George M. Sutton, whom he met at the BBC.

Dr. Robert Trotter, 91, on June 16 in Kingwood, West Virginia.

Dr. John Lindsay, III, 55, on October 19 in Morgantown.

Ella Hite Berisford, 86, of Buckhannon, West Virginia on September 20.
2007

Joan T. Rine, 77, of Wheeling, West Virginia on January 3. Her husband, Robert, is an active member of the BBC.

George Breiding, 89, on February 2 in Morgantown, West Virginia. George was Director of Nature Education and Naturalist at Oglebay Park from 1950 to 1963. He published articles in *The Auk, The Wilson Bulletin* and *The Redstart*.

Katherine Price McNaughton, 89, in March. Kitty Price was a life member of the BBC. She served as Director of the cooperative banding operations called "operation Recovery" from July 1969 to 1972.

Elizabeth "Janice" Hassig, 91, of New Martinsville, West Virginia on May 31. An active member of the BBC for many years.

I defer to William Murray, who wrote in *The Mail Bag* in 1995: "We rejoice ... that the BBC has prospered and grown, in the enrichment it has brought into our lives, but that number, also, has brought sadness as we gathered at the grave sites in which old friends and trail companions find their final resting place." Let us remember our departed companions as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of The Brooks Bird Club.

Albert R. Buckelew Jr.
Appendices

Charter Members of the Brooks Bird Club

Polly Alford Ballowe  James Handlan
Harold Bergner  Helen Howell
Marie Bleyney  Sarah Hine Dill
A.B. Brooks  Helen McGill Tighe
Mrs. A.B. Brooks  Nell Mercer Bergner
Marjorie Coffield  Bertha Quantz
Carolyn Conrad  Thomas Shields
Charles Conrad  Leo Tighe
Dorothy Conrad  Clyde Upton
Dorothy Cunningham  Rena Wagner
George Devinney  Russell West
Charles J. Doepken  Paulinebelle West
George Flouer  Ralph Bergner
Karl Haller

BBC Forays

1940 Lost River State Park (Hardy County), Mathias
1941 Lost River State Park (Hardy County), Mathias
1942 Holly River State Park (Webster County), Hacker Valley
1943 Oglebay Nature Camp (Preston County), Terra Alta
1944 Tomlinson Run State Park (Hancock County), New Cumberland
1945 Cheat Bridge (Randolph County)
1946 Watoga State Park (Pocahontas County), Huntersville
1947 Camp Caesar (Webster County), Cowan
1948 Camp Thornwood (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1949 VFW Youth Camp (Jefferson County), Jones Spring
1950 Camp Anne Bailey (Greenbrier County), Lewisburg (Caldwell)
1951 Wardens Hotel (Tucker County), Davis
1952 Cabwaylingo State Forest (Wayne County), Dunlow
1953 Camp Thornwood (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1954 Camp Beckwith 4-H Camp (Fayette County), Fayetteville
1955 4-H Camp Pinnacle (Hardy County), Wardensville
1956 Camp Caesar (Webster County), Cowan
1957 Cacapon State Park (Morgan County), Berkley Springs
1958 Camp Thornwood (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1959 Mt. Lake, Virginia (Giles County), Pembroke, Virginia
1960 Camp Kidd (Tucker County 4-H Camp), Parsons
1961 Wetzel County 4-H Camp, New Martinsville
1962 Preston County 4-H Camp, Brandonville
1963  4-H Camp Thorn Spring (Pendleton County), Franklin
1964  Camp Pocahontas (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1965  Mt. Lake, Virginia (Giles County), Pembroke, Virginia
1966  Greenbrier County Youth Camp, Anthony
1967  Camp Peterkin (Hampshire County), Romney
1968  Camp Pocahontas (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1969  4-H Camp Thorn Springs (Pendleton County), Franklin
1970  Nicholas County 4-H Camp, Summersville
1971  Greenbrier County Youth Camp, Anthony
1972  Evenbreth Church Camp (Upshur County), Buckhannon
1973  Camp Pocahontas (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1974  4-H Camp Thorn Springs (Pendleton County), Franklin
1975  4-H Camp Rackawanna (Ritchie County), Harrisville
1976  Raleigh County 4-H Camp, Beckley (Daniels)
1977  Braxton County 4-H Camp, Sutton (Flatwoods)
1978  Lost River State Park (Hardy County), Mathias
1979  Camp Pocahontas (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1980  Camp Galilee (Preston County), Terra Alta
1981  Jackson’s Mill State 4-H Camp (Lewis County), Weston
1982  Greenbrier County Youth Camp, Anthony
1983  Peterkin Conference Center (Hampshire County), Romney
1984  Camp Pocahontas, (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1985  Wyoming County Youth Camp, Glen Fork
1986  Lost River State Park (Hardy County), Mathias
1987  Gilmer County Recreation Center, Glenville
1988  Concord College, (Mercer County), Athens
1989  Camp Pocahontas (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1990  Camp Pioneer 4-H Camp, (Randolph County), Beverly
1991  Cedar Lakes Conference Center (Jackson County), Ripley
1992  Camp Kidd (Tucker County 4-H Camp), Parsons
1993  Raleigh County 4-H Camp, Beckley
1994  Camp Pocahontas (Pocahontas County), Bartow
1995  Greenbrier County Youth Camp, Anthony
1996  Wetzel County 4-H Camp, New Martinsville
1997  Camp Kidd (Tucker County 4-H Camp), Parsons
1998  Upshur County Youth Camp, Selbyville
1999  Camp Pocahontas (Pocahontas County), Bartow
2000  Spring Heights Education Center, Spencer
2001  Concord College (Mercer County), Athens
2002  Camp Kidd (Tucker County 4-H Camp), Parsons
2003  Upshur County Youth Camp, Selbyville
2004  Camp Pocahontas (Pocahontas County), Bartow
2005  Lost River Retreat Center (Hardy County), Lost River
2006  Camp Galilee (Preston County), Terra Alta
2007  Camp Kidd (Tucker County 4-H Camp), Parsons
2008  Upshur County Youth Camp, Selbyville
**BBC Sorties**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Kanawha State Forest (Kanawha County)</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>McClintic Wildlife Station (Mason County)</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Cedar Creek State Park (Gilmer County)</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Beech Fork Area before Beech Fork Dam (Wayne County)</td>
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<td>Nicholas County</td>
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<td>1971</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>North Bend State Park (Richie County)</td>
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<td>Big Bend Hunting Area (Lincoln County)</td>
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<td>Goose Creek Area (Ritchie County), Petroleum</td>
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<td>Waiteville (Monroe County)</td>
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<td>Peters Mountain (Monroe County)</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Hungry Beech Nature Preserve (Roan County)</td>
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<td>Mt. Wood Park (Wood County)</td>
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<td>Blue Creek (Kanawha County)</td>
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<td>Tomlinson Run State Park (Hancock County)</td>
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<td>Dolly Sods (Grant County)</td>
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<td>1985</td>
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<td>Wyoming County Youth Camp</td>
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<td>Summers County 4-H Camp (Summers and Monroe Counties)</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Wetzel County 4-H Camp</td>
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BBC Presidents

1932-33 John Handlan, Leader
1934 John Handlan
1936 Russell West
1937 Harold Bergner
1940 John Handlan
1941 John Handlan
1941 George Breiding, acting
1941 Charles Conrad, acting
1942 Russell West
1942 Charles Conrad
1943 Carolyn Conrad
1948 Karl Haller
1950 James Olsen
1952 E. R. Chandler
1954 Dr. George A. Hall
1956 Maxine Thacker
1957 David Baker
1960 Hal Harrison
1962 Clark Miller
1964 George Hurley
1966 Harold Boecher

1968 George Koch
1970 Ben Kiff
1972 Ralph Bell
1974 Nevada Laitsch
1976 Russell Hogg
1978 Kenneth Anderson
1980 William Wylie
1982 Dr. Greg Eddy
1984 William Grafton
1986 William Murray
1988 Nevada Laitsch
1990 Robert Hogan
1990 Charles Pierce
1992 Carl Slater
1994 LeJay Graffious
1996 Thomas R. Fox
1998 James Bullard
2000 Cynthia Ellis
2002 Frederick McCullough
2004 Dawn Fox
2006 Jane Whitaker

Redstart Editors

1933 Russell West
1934 Thomas Shields
1935 John Handlan
1940 James Olsen
1941 Karl Haller
1942 Russell West
1942 Mabel Hopwood Gorman

1943 Charles Conrad
1943 Maurice Brooks
1946 Russell De Garmo
1953 George Breiding
1956 Dr. George A. Hall
1963 George Hurley
1977 Dr. Albert R. Buckelew, Jr.

Mail Bag Editors

1943 George Breiding
1944 George Breiding, Jean Bierer
1946 George Breiding
1950 Mary Kay Conrad
1952 Mabel Gorman
1955 Mary Kay Conrad
1957 Nevada Laitsch

1961 Claude Ross
1963 Charles Conrad
1981 Robert Rine
1992 Nevada Laitsch
1994 William Murray
2002 Dr. Greg Eddy
Executive Secretary – Charles L. Conrad 1937 - 1982

Administrators

Dr. Albert R. "Jay" Buckelew 1982 - 1985
Helen B. Conrad 1986 - 1992
Carl Slater 1993 - present