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THE REDSTART

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APRIL MEETING
Brooks Bird Club

The April meeting of the Brooks Bird Club will be held Friday, April 27 at Oglebay Park in the new club room. The papers for discussion will be:
"Some American Ornithologists" by Rena Wagner
"Current Ornithological Societies" by Paulinebelle Wyss
"Ring-Necked Pheasants" by Russell West
The first paper is an assigned one, while the others are optional papers. Bird Club members are asked to bring their migration lists to the meeting.

Miss Helen McGill, Sec.

FIELD NOTES

MALLARD - On March 24, Tom Shields and Alston Shields saw approximately 15 Mallards on Big Wheeling Creek. The Ducks were studied at close range through field glasses. About 11 of the birds were females.

AMERICAN BITTERN - John Handlan, Russell West, Clyde Upton, and George DeVinney observed two American Bitterns by a pond on the Wheeling Country Club grounds on April 1.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK - Scaup Ducks have been recorded several times recently at Beech Bottom Swamp. Tom Shields reported about 30 of them there on April 5. Conrad and Flouer saw Lesser Scaup Ducks on April 7 and 8, while West and Bergner also observed them at Beech Bottom on April 8.

AMERICAN COOT - West, Conrad, Flouer and Bergner report that they saw an American Coot at Beech Bottom Swamp on April 8.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - Conrad, Flouer and Bergner state they observed this species at Beech Bottom Swamp on April 7 and 8.

RING-NECKED DUCK - Conrad and Flouer state they observed this species on April 7 and 8 at Beech Bottom Swamp. Bergner also reported it there on April 8.

BALDPATE - Conrad and Flower report that a pair of Baldpates were observed at Beech Bottom Swamp on April 7.

SWAMP SPARROW - Polly Alford, Haller and John Handlan saw a Swamp Sparrow at Avalon on April 8.

--Tom Shields

HONORARY MEMBERS

Word has been received from Dr. George M. Sutton, Curator of Birds Cornell University, Merit B. Skaggs, formerly of Niles, now of Cleveland, Ohio, and Maurice Brooks of French Creek, W. Va. concerning their election to honorary membership in the Brooks Bird Club. All three accepted with thanks and expressed their desire to be with us personally and wished us the best of luck in our undertakings.

--George Flower

RONEY'S POINT BIRD CLUB

The next meeting of the Roney's Point Bird Club will be held on April 13. Two papers written by Brooks Bird Club members will be read at the gathering. Mr. Clyde Upton led the Club's first 1934 morning walk on April 8. The group which attended the walk was treated to a view of a Bewick's Wren. Twenty-one other birds were also listed. Leaders for the other early morning walks of this club will be:

April 15 - Clyde Upton	May 6 - Russell West
" 22 - John Handlan	" 13 - Russell West
" 29 - Tom Shields	" 20 - John Handlan
	" 27 - Tom Shields

--Russell West

NILES BIRD CLUB

Merit B. Skaggs, President of the Niles Bird Club, has moved to Cleveland, Ohio, because of business interests. In his absence, Mr. Glenn W. Woods will be the Acting President of this group. The Niles Bird Club will be hosts to 8 or 9 members of the Brooks Bird Club on April 15. A visit to the lakes of the district will be made and it is hoped that some water birds will be found.

--Russell West

TRIADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL BIRD CLUB

Election of officers and discussion of plans for the 1934-35 season will feature the annual meeting of the Triadelphia High School Bird Club to be held in mid-May at Oglebay Park, with the exact date not set. The club members will gather at the Park for an all-morning field trip and will bring picnic lunches to be enjoyed at noon. Following luncheon the club will elect officers for the next school year. Karl

Haller, President, and Sarah Hine, Secretary, are present officers of the high school organization. Press of other school activities compelled cancellation of the last meeting of the high school club. The next meeting, a field trip, will occur on April 16 with another field excursion set for April 30. The mid-May meeting probably will complete this group's activities for the season.

--John W. Handlan

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

MIGRANT SHRIKE - Miss Betty Eckhardt, program director of Oglebay Institute, recently reported an observation of interest to bird students of this region. On March 22 she saw a bird strange to her in trees and shrubbery along the Oglebay Park drive between the Yates house and Picnic Site No. 1. She later described the bird to Mr. A. B. Brooks and John W. Handlan of the Institute staff. The description was recognized by each as fitting very exactly that of a Migrant Shrike. Miss Dorothy Hartung, member of a Pittsburgh group which was present in the Park the week-end of March 24-25, told members of the Brooks Bird Club that on March 25 she and a number of other observers found a bird she believed to be a Migrant Shrike in the same section of the Park in which Miss Eckhardt made her observation. Conrad and Flower reported seeing a Migrant Shrike on April 7 at Beech Bottom. 10

--John W. Handlan

WOODCOCK - Observers at Oglebay Park have had opportunity this Spring to observe the spectacular "sky dance" of American Woodcock, a species which appeared in the Park in late March in considerable numbers. Misses Nelle and Flora Mercer first recorded the bird and observed the aerial "dancing" on the evening of March 27. Mr. A. B. Brooks and others substantiated the record on various occasions after that date. On one occasion an observer was nearly struck by a Woodcock as it rose for its flight. On another, three birds were in the air at once, singing their interesting flight songs as they darted erratically toward the earth. Mr. Brooks says he believes the bird undoubtedly nests in the Park. No nesting record has been made in the Park so far as is known, however, although the American Woodcock has been recorded in the reservation in previous seasons.

--John W. Handlan

INSTRUCTION HIKES

Members of the Brooks Bird Club are participating in the second annual series of "instruction field trips" which began April 7. These walks will continue each Sunday in April and May starting at 5 a.m. at the Nature Museum. The club is engaged in compiling its annual migration chart, which will be published complete in a later issue of "The Redstart".

--John W. Handlan.

CONTEST NEWS

The Brooks Bird Club Contest, announced in February, is rapidly gaining interest. Seven members have announced the titles of their "projects" as follows:

- "Nests in Oglebay Park"-----Polly Alford
- "Study of a Hooded Warbler"-----Clyde Upton

"Study of the Savannah Sparrow"-----Clyde Upton
 "Nocturnal Bird Life"-----Nelle Mercer
 "Blue-Winged Warblers"-----Russell West
 "Shore & Water Birds of the Panhandle"---George Flower
 "Study of the Savannah Sparrow"-----Tom Shields
 "Wood Warblers of the Oglebay Park Region" John Handlan
 ---Charles Conrad

MARCH MEETING
 Brooks Bird Club

The March meeting of the Brooks Bird Club which was postponed until Friday, April 6, was held at the residence of Miss Helen McGill in Warwood. Present at the meeting were thirteen members of the club and four visitors. The scheduled papers for the evening which were very well presented were as follows: "The Origin of Birds" by Miss Bertha Quantz, "The Relationship of Structure and Habits of Birds" by Mr. Tom Shields, and "Mendel's Law" by Mr. Clyde Upton. Interesting discussions followed each paper. Mr. John Handlan also voluntarily read to the club a very humorous newspaper article written by Weare Holbrook for the Baltimore Sun. A meeting of the Executive Committee immediately following the regular meeting and the remainder of those present took part in a number of ornithological games after which refreshments were served by the hostess.

--Harold Bergner

NEW MEMBERS

At the last meeting of the Brooks Bird Club three new members were added: namely, Misses Dorothy and Carolyn Conrad and Mr. Ralph Bergner. From present indications all three will make excellent bird students.

--Charles Conrad

FROM ORNITHOLOGICAL JOURNALS

Of especial interest to West Virginians interested in ornithology are:

The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. XLVI, No. 1, "General Notes" pp.65-66, "Further Notes on the Birds of Cranberry Glades, West Virginia", by Maurice Brooks, French Creek, W. Va.

The Auk, Vol. LI, No. 2, pp. 217-220, "A New Bewick's Wren from the Western Panhandle of Oklahoma", by George Miksch Sutton, Ithaca, N. Y.

Under "General Notes":

P. 231 "Hudsonian Curlew in the West Virginia Panhandle", by George Miksch Sutton, Ithaca, N. Y.

p. 241 "Gray-cheeked Thrush in West Virginia", by Maurice Brooks, French Creek, W. Va.

pp. 248-249 "Notes on West Virginia Water Birds", by Earle A. Brooks, Newton Highlands, Mass.

--John W. Handlan