

THE REDSTART

Published Monthly by the Brooks Bird Club
Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Va.

Vol. 2 No. 10

Edited by Tom Shields

July 1935

JULY MEETING

Members of the Brooks Bird Club may look forward to the July 26 meeting with interest. In addition to the paper of the evening, which will be "The Worm-eating Warbler" by Karl Haller, there will be a discussion of the birds which some members observed at the camp of the West Virginia Nature Training School, held in June at White Top Mountain, Randolph County, West Virginia.

The meeting is scheduled to convene at 8:00 o'clock P. M. at Oglebay Park, near Wheeling, and Corresponding Members are urged to attend.

A NEW WAY TO SAVE THE HAWKS

by Rosalie Edge

While we have been persuading the individual farmer not to shoot **Hawks**, not all of us have realized the deadliness of organized "Vermin contests" and "hawk shoots." Part of the success of the propoganda of the gun-makers against the birds of prey is that it plays upon men's spirit of good fellowship and induces them to go out in numbers on their expeditions of destruction. The main object is "a day's fun with the boys" and a desire to display good marksmanship. Hawk Mountain, at Drehersville, Pa., was the ideal place for such parties. A passable road took the gunner to the top of the mountain in his car, a short walk brought him to a comfortable seat among the rocks, the local hardware dealer had sent ahead a truck load of ammunition, the Hawks flew across the valley directly toward him and passed right over his head. Tens of thousands of Hawks and Eagles have been so shot by the boys having fun.

The emergency Conservation Committee spoiled all this fun last August by renting Hawk Mountain with an option to buy. Last autumn thousands of Hawks were spared and the eyes of the nature-minded public opened to new possibilities of Hawk preservation. One concentration point is made secure.

How many other such places are there where the Hawks might be guarded in migration? To find these places is a task for every bird club to undertake--but not to reveal, except to those who will protect them.

Hawk Mountain does not aspire to be the "last word" in sanctuaries. Its founders take pride in the fact that it is the first of its kind--a sanctuary for all wild life but primarily for the birds of prey. The 'founders' are all those now contributing to the fund being raised for the purchase of the property. An option calls for the completion of the payment of \$3500 before August. At the time of writing (April) 117 people have contributed, the contributions coming from twenty states, Puerto Rico, Canada, England and Greece. The smallest contribution has been ten cents, so that those who love Stevenson's story of the "Bottle Imp" will see that there is still leeway on the downward scale and the Treasurer of the E. C. C. repeatedly assures us that there is plenty of room at the top.

The E. C. C. has voted that Hawk Mountain shall be held in perpetuity by a trust of five Trustees. The trust will be self-perpetuating, the Trustees replacing themselves in classes. This has proved to be the form of guardianship most suited to maintain a lively interest in an institution and to guarantee the fulfillment of its purposes. It is so that our collegès, hospitals, churches and other institutions are perpetuated. We would guard Hawk Mountain from a certain sleepy indifference that too often overtakes wealthy organizations. A lean, perhaps even a hungry trust, will be on the alert, or so we think. It is a point of view--at any rate, it is the point of view of the E. C. C. which has found its cruse of oil continually replenished by those who are willing to make sacrifices in order to save wild creatures. However, we are broad-minded and will be glad to give sanctuary to any endowment that is looking for a resting-place.

"STUDER'S POPULAR ORNITHOLOGY"

Ornithological text and plates printed more than fifty years ago recently have come into the possession of Alan and William Goulding, sons of Mr. A. E. Goulding of Belle Isle, Wheeling. They are in the form of a copy of "Studer's Popular Ornithology, the Birds of North America," printed by Jacob H. Studer of New York and Columbus, Ohio, in 1881. One hundred and nineteen plates of crayon drawings "artistically drawn and colored from nature" by Theodore Jasper, A. M., M. D. are included with "letter press" descriptive of habits, range, etc. of each species treated. Some 700 species are represented.

The book is in excellent condition with the single exception that the front of the heavy, embossed leather binding is lacking. Indices to common and technical names, text and plates all are complete and in an excellent state of preservation.

Editor Studer assembled most of his text with the aid of scissors and paste pot, quoting liberally from Wilson, Audubon, Nuttall, Coues and others. Occasional editorial comments show Mr. Studer's apparent familiarity with many of his avian subjects. Dr. Jasper's plates present recognizable subjects, for the most part, and

some of the larger birds shown are especially interesting. Subjects drawn to smaller scales, such as the Sparrows and Wood Warblers, are barely recognizable. A stiff formality of backgrounds and surroundings robs the avian figures of charm.

The book, printed two years before the formation of the American Ornithologists Union and a few years before the appearance of the first A. O. U. Check-List, presents a hodge-podge order of subjects as amusing as it is bewildering to a reviewer accustomed to modern systematic arrangement of orders and families. The "Long-tailed Duck" (Old Squaw) is sandwiched in between the Barred Owl and the "Ash-colored Hawk" (Goshawk). Figures of the Bobolink appear on the same plate with those of the "Red-headed Tuck" (Redhead), and immediately after plate and text concerning "The Red-winged Starling" (Red-winged Blackbird).

The "Great Auk" was listed as "a very rare bird" and an account given of the then last known specimen said by Ruthven Deane to have been found dead near St. Augustine, Labrador, in November, 1870. This specimen was sold to a European collection for \$200.00. There are interesting quotations from Wilson and Audubon on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Passenger Pigeon, even then lessening in numbers.

A young friend of Alan Goulding found the old book during an inspection of the family attic and sold it to the Goulding brothers for a nominal sum. It is well worth the examination of present-day students of ornithology.

--- John W. Handlan
Wheeling, W. Va.

FIRST NESTING RECORD OF THE HERMIT THRUSH FOR WEST VIRGINIA

The first field trip conducted at the White Top Camp of the West Virginia Nature Training School was held on the morning of June 23, 1935. Mr. Maurice Brooks, who was co-operating with Mr. A. B. Brooks in the leadership of the group, had given a brief review of the possibilities of bird life in that area. He had stressed the importance of studying the nesting birds in the region and mentioned several for which no nesting records had been made in West Virginia.

About 150 yards from the camp, which was on White Top Mountain, Randolph County, W. Va., the group was halted to observe a Hermit Thrush, Hylocichla guttata subsp., perched on a branch near the road. The possibility of young being near was suggested as the bird held a worm in its mouth. Mr. A. B. Brooks, along with four or five of the group, stayed at this point while the others went on.

Within just a few minutes, Mr. Brooks signaled the fact that the nest had been found, and another new state record was chalked up to the credit of the West Virginia Nature School.

The nest was situated in a small cavity beneath a root on the road bank in a position very similar to that of the Juncos which nested commonly in the region.

The same afternoon, Mr. Edward Raney, a member of the staff, was walking down the road on the other side of the hill when he flushed a Hermit Thrush from another nest in the bank of the road.

Both nests were under continual observation by the members of the school during its ten days in session. Many interesting notes were made on the behavior of the adult birds while feeding young.

--- Russell West
Wheeling, W. Va.

RECENT WEST VIRGINIA FIELD NOTES

On a number of recent trips through various parts of the state we have been fortunate in making some bird observations of unusual interest, and a summary of them will be given below.

Coragyps atratus atratus. Black Vulture. Four of these birds were seen flying with a number of Turkey Vultures near Peter's Gap, Hardy County, on the afternoon of April 28. The smaller size, white on the wing, and characteristically different flight were all quite noticeable. This is, we believe, the first Hardy County record, and the first record for so many of the birds this far north in West Virginia. Charles O. Handly has reported seeing fourteen individuals together in Greenbrier County. Since the birds were seen right at the Hardy-Grant County-line, it is worth recording the species from Grant County.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. Osprey. These birds seldom appear in numbers in West Virginia, but several were seen on May 4 as we were traveling along the South Branch of the Potomac River through Pendleton and Grant Counties. Hunters were shooting at them, not missing such a fine opportunity to attack this particular kind of "vermin." At one point we saw an Osprey attacked by a flock of Bank Swallows, the Osprey having approached too close to their nesting colony.

Larus philadelphia. Nonaparte's Gull. The Allegheny Table-land is not our idea of the perfect place for sea gulls, but an individual of this species was seen flying along the road near Mt. Storm, Grant County, on the afternoon of May 4.

Corvus corax principalis. Northern Raven. Within ten miles of the State University, at Cooper's Rocks, Monongalia County, Frank Conner, Jr., a Morgantown High School student, has located the nest of a pair of Ravens. The nest has been visited by a number of local persons, and since the old birds have not been in evidence for some time, two of the young have been taken alive by the finder of the nest. He is having the interesting experience of raising the birds, and will, we think, write an account of his find for one of the ornithological journals.

Telmatodytes palustris subsp. Marsh Wren. Since Marsh Wrens of the Long-billed species are infrequently recorded from the state, we wish to recount seeing one on May 4 in a little swamp just east of White Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County.

The following Warblers have been seen at various points in the state, a very heavy wave having been noticed on April 28 and May 4, in the South Branch Valley. This first wave was at least ten days ahead of the main wave to strike Morgantown. We have seen Black and White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Pine Warbler, Northern Prairie Warbler, Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler and Redstart, a total of twenty-five species to date. Most of these have been in Grant and Hardy Counties.

Since so many of THE REDSTART'S readers are familiar with the region about Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County, Maryland, it may be worth recording a single Gadwall, Chaulelasmus streperus, seen there on April 14. On the same day there was an unusually heavy flight of Scaup Ducks (sp.?) on the lake, and a single Herring Gull was seen.

--- Ruth Brooks
Maurice Brooks
Morgantown, W. Va.

BIRDS' PARADISE, HOME OF THE WHITE CARDINAL
by Emerson L. Moore

My home is a small farm, near route 18 and about 25 miles south of Sistersville, W. Va. It is a part of my father's farm, the place where I spent my boyhood days, and is mostly hilly, watered by two small streams that join near my humble dwelling. Here I spent my days among the flowers, birds and trees until my father's death. Always a lover of Nature and especially of our song and game birds, I have given them much attention, though handicapped by defective eyesight and then by total loss of sight.

The part of the farm I now own, some forty acres, is being rapidly reforested, being almost covered with beautiful young trees of many varieties, including poplar, ash, hickory, walnut, beech, pine, wild cherry, sassafras and many others, also berry bushes, wild grape vines and numerous wild flowers furnishing food for the birds.

I call my place Birds' Paradise because of the hundreds of song and game birds that come to live with me and help to while away the sometimes long, weary hours. All birds native to this section are now with me and the valley is one big concert hall filled with glorious music every day, especially early in the morning.

For years, Cardinals have nested and reared their broods in the roses and other shrubbery surrounding my house. They spend the winter in the same hedges and in some of the out-buildings. As many as a dozen have been seen at one time feeding with my chickens. I keep feed out for all the birds during snowy weather.

Late last summer, 1934, a neighbor and his son were passing when they discovered a White Cardinal near my barn. It was in the company of several other Cardinals. The neighbor came by the house to inform me of his discovery. During the autumn and early winter, this White Cardinal was seen almost every day by the school-boys who passed, a score or more persons seeing it on different occasions. It was last seen the early part of January, 1935, and was perhaps the victim of some stray cat or other prowling vermin.

This bird was pure white except for a little reddish brown beneath the wings. No pictures of this rare bird were secured, which was unfortunate.

CLUB CONTRIBUTES TOWARD HAWK SANCTUARY

The Brooks Bird Club, in its regular April meeting, voted the sum of \$5.00 from the Club treasury as a contribution toward the outright purchase of Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania by the Emergency Conservation Committee, with headquarters in New York. The sanctuary, on Blue Mountain, a ridge of the Kittatinny in Berks and Schuylkill Counties, Pennsylvania, is now under option to the Committee.

For a number of years the location has been the scene of an infamous and indiscriminate slaughter of Hawks by gunners who posted themselves along the mountain ridge. The ridge apparently is in direct line of a main autumnal flight lane of migrating Hawks. It has been established as the world's first "Hawk Sanctuary" although it constitutes a sanctuary for all other forms of wild life as well. The Emergency Conservation Committee is raising a fund to purchase the location and provide for its continuance as an inviolate sanctuary.

--- John W. Handlan
Wheeling, W. Va.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since the last report of Corresponding Members in the April issue of THE REDSTART, nine new members have been added to this class of membership, which now totals 89. THE REDSTART is now sent to eleven states and the District of Columbia, the latter being represented by Mr. Chris P. Sorensen, who signed for a two year membership. Two other memberships of interest to all are those of Mr. Edward Raney of New Castle, Pa., an instructor at the 1935 Nature Training School and judge of the 1934 Field Project papers, and of Mr. H. J. Weikart, Youngstown, Ohio, a member of several Nature Schools. The remaining new members are: Mr. E. R. Grose, Sago,

Upshur, County, W. Va., Thomas John and Robert Jeffrey, Washington, Pa., Edna Cotherman, New Cumberland, W. Va., Mary C. Edwards, Youngstown, Ohio and Harriet Stansbury, Cleveland, Ohio.

--- Charles Conrad
Corresponding Secretary.

NOTES FROM VAUGHAN, WEST VIRGINIA

On December 19, December 27, 1934 and January 4, 1935, I saw the Towhee, Pipilo erythrophthalmus subsp. I understand this is usually a more southern bird, but it seems to like our winters, having spent the last two with us. I do not recall seeing any females in winter.

The Red-winged Blackbird, Agelaius phoeniceus subsp., arrived here on January 1, 1934, but this year (1935) it did not appear until January 8. I have seen but two of these birds this year.

--- Alfred Winnell
Vaughan, West Virginia.

THE REDSTART is published monthly by the Brooks Bird Club, and is distributed to all members of that organization.

Active Membership Dues ---- \$1.20 per year
Corresponding Membership Dues -50¢ " "

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