



The Redstart

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Karl W. Haller, Editor

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PROGRAM FOR 1941-1942

by
Russell West

The tenth annual program for the Brooks Bird Club has been announced by the Executive Committee headed by Charles Conrad. It may seem complete to others but to the active members it represents but a portion of the year's activities. Additional events will be announced from time to time; other field trips will be conducted without pre-arrangement; executive committee meetings will be held when necessary.

Even when these additions are given consideration, there is more to tell. The principal factor that cannot be included in such a list is the Tuesday evening "Open House" at the clubroom. It is doubted if any other group has an activity to match these unique weekly gatherings. In some future issue of THE REDSTART this feature will be outlined in greater detail.

The 1941-1942 program has one important diversion from those of the past. It is now believed that we were in error in basing annual plans on the monthly meetings. Actually the field work of this group of bird students has been the dominant activity. Therefore the proposed program depends almost entirely upon field trips, thereby making the monthly meetings incidental and for the purpose of formally perfecting and announcing plans. The meetings will be devoted to necessary business and to working on publications and exhibits.

It is a pleasure to announce illustrated discussions by three members of the Club. On January 30, Karl (Mike) Haller will describe his recent trip into the Hudson Bay region of Canada with W. E. Clyde Todd, Curator of Ornithology, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. March 27 is the date on which LeRoy Black, Naturalist in Fricke Park, Pittsburgh, Pa., has been invited to discuss the activities in connection with his work and to display

some of the incomparable pictures which he has taken. The third of the illustrated discussions will be by John (Judge) Worley of Cadiz, Ohio. Many of the fine pictures of flowers to be used this evening of May 29 have been taken on trips into the West Virginia mountains.

The data shown on the schedule includes only those items which we feel under the present day unsettled conditions can be definitely considered. Additions to the program will be announced in THE REDSTART and general notices will be mailed to all members before the important dates.

Field trips to points other than those shown on the schedule may be planned to:

Cliffside, Harpers Ferry, W. Va. - Eastern Panhandle Bird Students
West Virginia State Parks (Watoga, Holly River, Babcock)
Gilmer County 4-H Camp, Glenville, W. Va.
Muskingum (Ohio) Cons. Dist. - Ohio Bird Students
Charleston, W. Va. - Charleston Bird Club
Pittsburgh, Pa. - Parks and Museums
Huntington, W. Va. - Marshall College
Cleveland, Ohio - Kirtland and Cleveland Bird Clubs
Morgantown, W. Va. - West Virginia University
Columbus, Ohio - Ohio School of Conservation
Cincinnati, Ohio - Cincinnati Audubon Society
Youngstown, Ohio - Water Areas
Terra Alta, W. Va. - Our Campgrounds

Informal invitations have already been received for most of these field trips from members in the areas listed. The corresponding members who would enjoy these visits and who would volunteer to aid in the preparation of plans should write to the Club headquarters in Wheeling as soon as possible. Their suggestions will receive prompt attention.

The "local field trips" are scheduled to start in the afternoons at 2:30. Fires and feeds usually terminate these affairs. Winter birds, mammals and trees receive careful consideration by the trained leaders during these trips.

Last year's program included a series of eight discussions by James Handlan. The subject, concerning the relationship of the principal groups of animals, was illustrated by drawings and charts and by actual dissection of specimens by the students. During January and February of the present year, Karl Haller has offered to give a series of lessons illustrating techniques in the preparation of bird study skins.

April and May follow the usual pattern. Each Sunday morning at daylight, active members will start out for a field study of the migrating bird life. Usually one leader is accompanied by three or four beginning bird students. This permits careful training in the identification of the migrants. It also gives the other experienced students an opportunity to work unhampered in making a detailed study of the numbers of individuals and species to be found.

During the week of June 13-20 will be held the third annual Foray in one of the West Virginia State Parks. The first two Forays have been completely successful. Not only is much excellent biological field work accomplished but a number of educational plans are tested. But of course the close companionship of thirty-five interested and interesting people for a week is a most attractive feature.

The campgrounds at Terra Alta will receive frequent visits by the Club. A number of weekends will be devoted to group activities and there is little doubt that on occasion a carload or two of the active members will pack up for an unannounced trip to their favorite spot in Preston County.

Climaxing another year of activity will be the Annual Reunion in Wheeling. Not only will this affair be like those in the past, a grand meeting of good folks, but it will also be the celebration of the Tenth Birthday of the Brooks Bird Club. Already plans are being made to make this the finest Reunion we have ever held. So keep these dates open, October 2-3-4, 1942.

The dates outlined here and on the schedule are understood to be tentative. Meeting places and schedule changes will be announced in THE REDSTART or by mail.

The Brooks Bird Club is proud to announce their tenth annual program, knowing full well that it is as replete with diversified activities as could be desired. They want it known that corresponding members and friends will always find a welcome wherever the Bird Club may be and we assure our readers that the program is outlined for them as well as for the active members.

It is with pride and anticipation that we begin our tenth year.

1941 REUNION PICTURES

LeRoy Black, Naturalist, Fricke Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. took a number of pictures of the "actors" in the Reunion entertainment. Samples of these on display in the clubroom have received such approval that Black has offered to furnish them to club members at cost, which is 25¢ each (add 10¢ for postage). All photos show the entertainers in full costume. Order by number sending remittances to the Brooks Bird Club, 113 Edgewood Street, Wheeling, West, Virginia.

- Titles:
- (1) Dr. Mu-Mu (Waterman)
 - (2) Follies Quartet (Conrad, West, Haller and Koon)
 - (3) Blond Toots (Conrad)
 - (4) Mlle. Fifi (Haller)
 - (5) Playgirl (West)
 - (6) The Dissection (Upton)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE - 1941-1942

October 31	Monthly Meeting
November 8-9	Morgantown, W. Va. - Conner's Camp
November 23	Local Field Trip
November 28	Monthly Meeting
December 14	Local Field Trip
December 19	Monthly Meeting
December 23	Christmas Celebration
December 28	Bird's Christmas Tree
December 31	New Year's Party
January 18	Local Field Trip
January 30	Monthly Meeting - Haller (Illustrated)
February 15	Local Field Trip
February 27	Monthly Meeting
March 15	Local Field Trip
March 27	Monthly Meeting - Black (Illustrated)
April 5	Five A. M. Migration Study
April 11-12	Pymatuning Lake, Linesville, Pa.
April 19	Five A. M. Migration Study
April 24	Monthly Meeting
April 26	Five A. M. Migration Study
May 3	Five A. M. Migration Study
May 10	Five A. M. Migration Study
May 17	Five A. M. Migration Study
May 24	Pleasants County, W. Va.
May 29	Monthly Meeting - Worley (Illustrated)
May 30-31	Terra Alta, Preston County, W. Va.
June 13-20	Annual Foray
June 23	Post Foray Round-up
June 26	Monthly Meeting
July 4-5	Week-end Field Trip
July 18	Cadiz (Ohio) Campfire
July 31	Monthly Meeting
August 16	Tomlinson's Run Park, W. Va., Campfire
August 17	Tomlinson's Run Park, W. Va., Field Trip
August 28	Monthly Meeting
September 5-6	Labor Day Field Trip
September 26	Annual Meeting
October 2-3-4	Reunion - Tenth Anniversary

TEN YEARS OF ACTIVITIES
THE
BROOKS BIRD CLUB

The climax of a long series of discussions arrived on September 27, 1932. All through the spring and summer of that year several people interested in the study of birds had talked over their problems of learning more about the things that interested them. Few books were available; no trained observers were in the locality with both the inclination and the time to give the necessary help to these people.

A small group were discussing their observations of birds one day when one expressed a question that was puzzling. Another of the group carefully and in detail gave his opinion of the correct answer. A short while later another asked a question and someone else had the answer available. The basis of The Brooks Bird Club was as simple as this. If three young men interested in bird study could pool their knowledge so that each could have the sum total knowledge of the three, then why not increase the size of the group in one way or another and thus each one would thereby become more proficient in his favorite study.

At the initial meeting the second principle was introduced. Each member was assigned a particular topic for study. Data was accumulated from every available source (and with the growth of the group, libraries were being built), notes made and then digested into a brief paper. At first, none of the work was original but as time went on, individual projects became more and more to the front.

For the past nine years - and in the plans for the tenth year - these original suggestions have been carried through. Is it to these ideas that we can attribute the success of The Brooks Bird Club?

Almost all of those who were present when the organization was first perfected are still connected as active members, if they are still residents of the Wheeling area, or as corresponding members if it has been necessary to change their residence. All through the years, the members have not only kept their affiliations but have whole-heartedly supported every activity that has been approved. Each has offered his individual ideas and has supported or disapproved those of others. This, the third principle of the Brooks Bird Club, that each should express his own convictions in discussion. After a suggestion had been accepted, individual criticisms are made only to improve the plan. This democratic arrangement has had much to do with the constant improvement of the organization.

The inauguration of a publication gave each member the opportunity of writing observations made in the field and the knowledge that many eminent ornithologists would give consideration to the importance of the work. The expansion of the club was also possible through the medium of THE REDSTART for as soon as interested parties outside the immediate Wheeling area learned that it was possible to keep in touch with the active group, they requested permission to form a corresponding membership and the privilege of receiving

the monthly publication. But after a number of corresponding members had been accepted, occasions arose when these individuals wanted to attend some of the activities in Wheeling. Arrangements were made to accommodate these members and soon invitations were received to visit other points.

This could be called a "compound principle" for it entails many angles: The Contacts with professional ornithologists through the medium of THE REDSTART; the close association through the publication; frequent mimeographed notices; occasional personal contacts with the corresponding members; and the willingness the active members have demonstrated to help others interested in the out of doors. All of these have been a direct result of the publication of THE REDSTART which is still a major activity of the Club.

While most of the members are experienced bird students and devote much of their time to this hobby, the active members find many other diversions to keep them busy. The mimeograph owned by the club is used as much as most commercial machines. The writing and accumulation of the notes for THE REDSTART is a "spare time" activity. The design, coloring, and mailing of announcements takes place a dozen times a year. Field trips around the Wheeling area and week-end excursions form the backbone of the club program. These are but some of the reasons which are used for the many meetings of the members. Instead of having an annual banquet or monthly programs, the schedule calls for close cooperation and almost daily contact among the members.

The leadership of the Brooks Bird Club is probably unique. There is no one individual with the privilege of being dictatorial. The officers are nominated from the floor at the annual meeting and elected by secret ballot. These officers comprise the Executive Committee. Each member has an assigned job for which he is responsible but each has permission to request assistance in his work. As each member has some proficiency in the study of birds, those most experienced in this work meet with resistance when they make the slightest attempt to dominate the others. So each individual not only has his own responsibilities but he also feels perfectly free to question any others who make a statement that does not sound plausible.

Considering the factors mentioned - and realizing this is not the complete story of The Brooks Bird Club - to what could be attributed the success of the organization? It has been successful, there is no doubt, for today after nine years of operation, the club is stronger and more firmly established than ever before. The new program calls for more varied activities than any in the past. The members, both active and corresponding, are more closely welded into a unit than in any previous period. More friends and acquaintances are expressing approval of the work each month.

But even if the club is not considered successful, we can honestly say that through our association with the members of this organization and through the meeting of so many new friends, our lives have been made more complete and far more satisfactory.

--Russell West
113 Edgewood St.,
Wheeling, W. Va.

A. O. U. MEETING - 1941

The Fifty-ninth Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, Sept. 1-6, 1941 with a registered attendance of 238. A total of 45 scientific papers were read - many illustrated by color slides or films. The three days of program sessions included a like number of evening entertainments, Open House at the Museum, the Annual Dinner, two evenings of special showings of color films and business meetings of various sections. On Friday 116 ornithologists in attendance visited Mt. Evans, Echo Lake and Summit Lake to study alpine habitats and their bird life. On Saturday 46 persons visited various prairie habitats and reservoirs east of Denver.

Officers elected for the new year were as follows: President, Dr. James P. Chapin, New York City; Vice-Presidents, George Willett, Los Angeles, and Dr. J. L. Peters, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Secretary, Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio; Treasurer, Rudyerd Boulton, Chicago, Illinois; Council: Hoyes Lloyd, Ottawa, Canada, George M. Sutton, Ithaca, New York and Frederick C. Lincoln, Washington, D. C.

The Brewster Memorial Medal was awarded to the late Donald R. Dickey and to Adrian J. Van Rossem of the California Institute of Technology for their book on the birds of Salvador. Three Fellows, Alfred M. Bailey, Denver, Colorado, James A. Munro, British Columbia and Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio; two Honorary Fellows, David A. Bannerman and Herbert Lynes of England and two Corresponding Fellows, Julian Huxley and Bernard W. Tucker of England, were elected.

In addition to 268 new Associate members, 10 new Members were named: John W. Aldrich, Washington, D. C., William H. Behie, Salt Lake City, Ian M. Cowan, British Columbia, David E. Davis, Wilmette, Illinois, Philip A. DuMont, Washington, D. C., John T. Emlen, Davis, California, Frederick N. Hamerstrom, Jr., Ann Arbor, Michigan, Hamilton M. Laing, British Columbia, Robert T. Orr, San Francisco, California, Edward S. Thomas, Columbus, Ohio.

The 1942 meeting will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

--Lawrence E. Hicks
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

ANNUAL MEETING

For the tenth consecutive year an election of officers were conducted. This meeting was held in the Clubroom on September 26, 1941, and was attended by all the active members.

The final results indicated a fine mixture of members of long standing and others of more recent admission. The new officers whose terms run to the adjournment of the 1942 annual meeting are: President, Russell West; Secretary-Treasurer, Eva Hayes; Editor, Karl Haller; Along-the-Trail Director, Dwight Koon, Executive Committee Chairman, Charles Conrad.