



The Redstart

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Mabel Hopwood, Editor

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WINTER BIRDS OF LOST RIVER STATE PARK
A PRELIMINARY LIST
by
George F. Flourer

This paper is based on observation and reports compiled by the writer over a period of five years, while on duty at Lost River State Park. Several articles and a number of field notes have appeared in THE REDSTART concerning the summer bird life, but to the knowledge of the writer this represents the preliminary list of winter bird observations for Lost River State Park.

The territory referred to as Lost River State Park, located in Hardy County, West Virginia has been thoroughly described in past issues of THE REDSTART (Vol. VII, No. 11, Aug. 1940, pp.68-75; VIII, No. 10, July 1941, pp.72-74). However, the writer notes the following: Lost River State Park is some 3500 acres of rough wooded mountainous country with altitude ranging from 1800 to 3200 feet. The country is wild with very few inroads to lessen the wildness of the territory. The following list shows a total of 38 species:

Canada Goose, Branta canadensis. On November 22, 1942, thirty-two Canada Geese were observed flying South over the Park. On several other occasions geese have alighted on nearby farmlands and were identified as this species.

Common Black Duck, Anas rubripes. Two Black Duck were observed flying over the Park by Mr. Charles Conrad and party on November 22, 1942. The observation was made with the aid of 8x binoculars.

Turkey Vulture, Cathartes aura. Quite common, permanent resident.

Black Vulture, Coragyps atratus. This smaller vulture has been observed here several times but do not know if it is permanent.

Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo borealis. Our most common hawk and is a permanent resident.

Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo lineatus. An immature hawk of this species was shot and posted along the road between the Park and Mathias.

Ruffed Grouse, Bonasa umbellus. This permanent resident can be heard drumming occasionally other than during the mating season. Many examples of their odd behavior during their "Crazy Season" have been observed.

Bob-white, Colinus virginianus. Eighty pair were released on the Park several years ago but they have since scattered to the more open farm lands surrounding the Park and now can be heard from near the boundaries.

Wild Turkey, Meleagris gallpavp. This King of the game birds is more numerous in Hardy County than in almost any other in the state and many are bagged during the open season. Flocks, upward of forty, have been seen on the Park in 1942.

Mourning Dove; Zenaidura macroura. A pair was observed roosting in the nearby pine trees, north of the office this winter.

Screech Owl, Otus asio naevius. This little owl is heard frequently on cold winter nights and is a year-round resident.

Great Horned Owl; Bubo virginianus. Permanent resident and can be heard calling regularly throughout the year. Not rare.

Pileated Woodpecker; Geophiloeus pileatus. Year round resident and fairly common. Occasionally seen on old snags but usually observed flying from one ridge to another. Many examples of their large rectangular holes are observed, especially in dead chestnut stumps.

Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus. Found only on the high ridges outside of the Park on farm lands the year round.

Hairy Woodpecker, Dryobates villosus. Fairly common all year and about as numerous as the following species.

Downy Woodpecker, Pubescens medianus. The Downy can be observed regularly the year round.

Prairie Horned Lark, Otocoris alpestris. Have been observed on the cold, wind-swept fields on the high ridges just outside the Park throughout the winter.

Blue Jay, Cyanocitta cristata. Not nearly as noisy as in other seasons of the year but a permanent resident.

N. Raven, Corvus corax principalis. Never more than four birds were seen at one time. Usually seen in pairs. A year round resident.

Crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos. Not nearly so common as in other parts of the state, but with us throughout the year. The great flights as have been observed in the Ohio Valley and elsewhere, have not been observed at the Park.

Chickadee, Penthestes (?). This little fellow can be seen the year round, and both the two and four-note song is heard.

Tufted Titmouse, Baeolophus bicolor. This all-year resident is usually found in company with the Chickadees and in Winter with the Juncos. They have been observed on the coldest days on Big Ridge (3200 Ft.)

White-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta carolinensis. Quite common and observed the year round.

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta Canadensis. Thus far noted in winter only, rare.

Brown Creeper, Certhis familiaris. Recorded throughout the winter, but more numerous some years than others.

Winter Wren, Nannus hiemalis. A winter visitor and a very welcome one with its "twinkly" song. We do not hear its full song but at times it is quite lengthy. They are quite fearless and will approach within a few feet of the observer.

Carolina Wren, Thryothorus ludovicianus. The Carolina with its cheery song is a welcome songster during the winter. A permanent resident.

Robin, Turdus migratoricus. More numerous in the summer but occasionally seen during the winter months.

Bluebird, Sialia sialis. These so-called "harbingers of Spring" are year-round residents of the Park.

Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Regulus satrapa. Observed or heard occasionally throughout the Winter.

Cedar Waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum. Recorded occasionally. A flock of twenty-four were observed on November 22, 1942 by a group of hikers.

Meadowlark, Sturnella magna. These permanent residents are found in the open fields adjoining the Park.

Cardinal, Richmondia cardinalis. Can be recorded throughout the Winter.

Goldfinch, Spinus tristis. The Goldfinch is found in the park.

Slate-colored Junco, Junco hyemalis. This winter visitor comes early in the fall and stays until late spring. A few are seen on the higher ridges in the summer.

Tree Sparrow, Spizella arborea. Winter visitant only, usually in flocks of six to twelve.

Fox Sparrow, Passerella iliaca. This handsome large sparrow is seen and heard only once in a while during the winter. His soft, beautiful song is a treat to hear.

Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia. Recorded occasionally during the winter.

—Co. #141, 3rd Batl.

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B. B. C. MAIL BAG

February correspondence arrived from all directions - from ten states, from India, and from someplace on the Pacific. The first to arrive had the farthest to travel - it came from Sgt. Harold Bergner somewhere in India. Bergner reported that he received his Christmas package from the Bird Club the day before Christmas and sincerely appreciated the variety of contents. He said, "The photograph album, description of the reunion by West, and the pictures by Handlan really made me homesick." Harold states that the unit to which he is now assigned is engaged in reorganization of the Chinese Army. He is acting as an instructor (with the aid of an interpreter) and is studying the Chinese language at night. Bergner promises a list of the birds he has been able to identify in India, in the near future.

Dwight Koon, somewhere on the Pacific, writes, "I want to express my appreciation and say thanks a million for the Christmas present. I liked the picture of Papoy and the Gang as well as the sardines, cheese and candy". (How's that for variety?). Dwight expressed his gratefulness for the Foray report and the reunion description. Of THE REDSTART, he says, "I also appreciate the monthly REDSTART and read it over and over from cover to cover. That and your letters are something I depend on to keep me balanced and normal".

Another note of appreciation for THE REDSTART was included in a letter to Mabel Horwood from Sawfley Friddle who is now an Aviation Cadet at Orangeburg, South Carolina. Sawfley says, "Thanks a million for adding me to the mailing list of THE REDSTART. I have lost most of my contacts with nature since getting in the Army. It sure will help to receive it."

Several of the boys in the armed forces have changed location recently. Bob Bonenberger has been moved from Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland to the Air Corps at Fort George Wright, Washington. Lt. Frank Conner sends greetings to the gang from Aberdeen Proving Grounds where he was transferred from DuPont in Morgantown, W. Va.

Corporal Sam Shaw sent a friendly little note with a humorous beginning. Says he, "Like a true bird clubber, I'm eating Army chow like a bird - a peck at a time. The other boys too eat like birds - like vultures." Then dropping to a more serious vein, Sam says, "It was good to get that Christmas box and since then, THE REDSTART. You can't imagine what a heartwarming thing it was to a soldier far from home to get that poem which began, "This box is from the Gang!""

One of our last members to join the armed forces was George Flouer who is now with the Navy at Great Lakes Training School. He sent a long descriptive letter to his Mother and Dad telling about his new set-up. Following are a few extracts from his letter - "We're in our permanent ship (Barrack) now and sleep in double bunks. Our company of 106 men is divided into the upper and lower deck (upstairs and down). Our sea bag holds all clothing and linens and our ditty bag our personal articles. The food is usually

good but we always gripe about it anyway. We graduate from 'boat' training April 16, then after a nine-day leave return to a trade school, if we pass the tests. I'm going to try for Aerographer - weather work in aviation." George wrote to the Bird Club more recently and in a much lighter vein. His salutation is typical of the entire letter. It was - "Dear Bird Lcoker-atters - the other night we had a red hot square dance - in our long white underwear. The "girls" wore appropriate newspaper padding. I taught them the Elbow Swing and did they swing it? We danced in our stocking feet so we wouldn't mark up the deck because we'd have that much more steel-wooling to do. We steel wool the decks twice daily. It's called the "Great Lakes Shuffle".

Occasionally we hear from some members indirectly through personal letters to club members. When the information is of general interest we pass it along. For instance, Don Keyser wrote Carolyn Conrad that he has been working as a company aid man with an infantry outfit and with them has covered the new obstacle course. A part of this, Don reports, was crawling about 200 yards under machine-gun fire. Don says, "I expect to leave for O.C.S. the middle of March or April. It looks very much like it will be infantry now as officers are needed there".

Carolyn also heard from Sgt. Breiding who says, "I attended the North American Wildlife Conference. All the boys who are something in the Conservation 'racket' were there. I had breakfast with T. D. Gray one morning - sat at the banquet with Larry Hicks. Also got reacquainted with some of the men who were out here for the A.O.U. meeting a year and a half ago. Among them, Doc Pearson of "Birds of America" fame."

More news by the grapevine method comes to the club from Polly Handlan who was a Tuesday Night visitor at the clubroom in February. Polly had a letter from Ted Frankenberg, parts of which were meant for the club. Ted said, "Reports of the reunion didn't show one speck more sense than in the days when Arner, Frankenberg, et al, were around and that was as it should be - a free country ought to have some organization for the people who are not quite crazy enough to lock up, and the Bird Club sure fills the bill!" Ted also sent thanks to the gang for the Christmas box which he received sometime in January.

Mabel Hopwood received a letter from Encil Hawkins, a corresponding member of the Bird Club, who is now in Baltimore working for the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Corporation. He was pleased to receive THE REDSTART since he has lost contact with nature lovers. Encil says, "The blue jays are in great abundance here. Also, this is a paradise for water fowl studies. There are more varieties of water fowl in a radius of one mile than in all West Va.

Merit B. Skaggs in Cleveland sends greetings to everyone. Says he enjoys THE REDSTART as well as the distinction of being one of the first honorary members of the club. He reports that the Kirtland Bird Club (now two years old) has many of the same activities as the Brooks Bird Club. Incidentally, their club stationary is unusual in that it tells the world what the club is. to quote Skaggs - it reads, "The Kirtland Bird Club - a group of bird students banded together in common interests. Club named in honor of Dr. J. P. Kirtland. Affiliated with the Cleveland Museum of National History."

Chester Shaeffer, "Chet" to us, writes from Knoxville that he is still teaching at the Tennessee School for the Blind. Besides his teaching duties, he is leading three scout troops. Chet asks to be remembered to all the gang - on all the fronts.

---(Mrs.) Mary Kay Conrad
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PATTISON AND LEGG

The army is doing a magnificent job in placing men in positions where their individualities and their capacities are used to the best advantage. We have been watching with much interest the assignment of our members when induction occurs. We now have proof that the army is going to the extreme in assigning men to the positions for which they are best fitted.

Two examples of the present army attitude can be cited from the experiences of two of the club members. William C. Legg of Nicholas County, West Va. was inducted in September of 1942. He received his assignment, and knowing "Bill" as we do, we are sure that he did an excellent job and made a good soldier. But the army believed that he could do a still better job if he were in Nicholas County in the farming country. Apparently the army realizes that it is important to have good reliable men doing some of the important jobs behind the lines.

The other draftee in mind in this connection is John Pattison. "Pat" received his induction notice from his local draft board a day or so after starting to work for the Koppers Company in their new butadiene plant. Pat told the writer (after his induction) that no matter where he was assigned, he intended to be the best soldier in his outfit. But again, the army showed wisdom. Instead of keeping Pat in a uniform, he was released with the understanding that he would return to the Koppers Company where he could exercise his knowledge of chemistry and help to produce the rubber that is much needed by both civilians and the armed forces.

In this brief article we are not flag-waving or discussing the principles of democracy. We are, though, offering our bit of thanks to the wisdom and foresight of the men who are running the U. S. Army. We believe that such actions as are outlined in this note indicate that the War Department and the high command have a clear outlook on the necessities occasioned by the war.

"Bill" Legg and "Pat" Pattison - we welcome you back to join us in producing the things that are necessary to keep those men in uniform going. We have a big job back of the line, much of the materials and much of the manpower has gone, so the job must be done with less than we normally would have to do it with. Greetings to you and welcome back.

---Russell West
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