



The Redstart

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

VOL. X, Nos. 8 & 9

Charles Conrad, Editor

May-June 1943

THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

1943 FORAY

At the April meeting of the Executive Committee of The Brooks Bird Club, it was definitely decided, and plans approved, to hold the fourth Annual Foray. Cards have been sent out announcing this decision and a choice of two dates was submitted so that a selection of one could be made which would benefit the most people. Returns from the preliminary announcement indicate that the Brooks Bird Club Annual Foray will be held from June 13-20, 1943, at Lake Terra Alta, Preston County, W. Va. We hope the time and place will fit in with your plans and that you may be a Foray member this year.

The 1943 Foray will be conducted under the same principle as during the past three years. It offers an opportunity for both the trained leader and the beginner to make a fairly complete biotic study of the territory during the camping period. The Foray, as during the past three years, will have as its director, Mr. Charles Conrad, who, at present, is serving as president of The Brooks Bird Club. The director has already called several meetings and work on the 1943 Foray is progressing rapidly. As a result, a number of items should be carefully noted.

The first official meal served at the Foray will be dinner on Sunday evening June 13, and the concluding meal will be breakfast on Sunday, June 20. Each and every camper will be required to bring the following amount of ration points and rationed supplies to camp: Processed Foods - 12 points; Meat - 16 points; Sugar - 1/2 pound; Coffee - 1/4 pound.

Our camp is located on the shores of Lake Terra Alta about one mile from the town of Terra Alta, Preston County, West Virginia. Elevation at the camp is about 2600 feet and is within walking distance of several higher ridges, which are heavily forested and are abundant with wild life. Although many field trips have been made to Terra Alta, all are of the same opinion - it is one of the finest sections in West Virginia for a Brooks Bird Club Foray.

Campers, this year, will be housed in large 12 x 14 foot tents, which have extra "flies" and wood floors for additional protection. For those who do not care to "rough it", arrangements have been made by the Camp Director to lodge at a fine summer cottage in Terra Alta. These campers will, of course, assume the additional cost.

As in the past years, all phases of nature will be studied. Botany, ornithology, herpetology, mammalogy and geology are some of the subjects that everyone will have an opportunity to work. Those wanting assistance in any particular field will find a privilege in working under one of the volunteer leader "experts". During the entire Foray, Ecology will be stressed more than any one subject. Each day, the ecology of a selected area will be discussed by the group. In this way, the total comments presented and worked out will give an excellent knowledge to each camper, of the inhabitants and conditions of the area. However, the camper is entirely free to spend his time as he desires. The Foray is not meant for compulsory study. Swimming, tennis, mush ball, fishing, horse-shoes and ping-pong are a few of the sports available for leisure time activity.

Field trips, this year, will all be within hiking distance from camp, due to transportation difficulties. All scheduled field trips will be under volunteer leadership. In addition, many small groups and individual trips are always made. Information compiled from the field trips, ecology discussions and the activities at camp will form a basis for the Foray Report which is published by The Brooks Bird Club and mailed to each camper.

A centrally located cabin will serve as the dining hall this year, with three good meals served each day. We are indeed fortunate for we have two excellent cooks to prepare our food - Mr. "Bert" Cromes and Mr. "Bill" Voitle. Both have served as chefs for a number of our camping trips and are highly recommended by all campers.

Personal equipment this year for each camper should include, at least three heavy blankets, a large tick to be filled with straw (straw furnished at camp), a warm outer garment, rain coat, overshoes or hiking boots, towels and the usual personal necessities. Flash lights, notebooks, binoculars, etc. will be invaluable. It is suggested by your Camp Director, to make travel easier, that you ship all luggage. If you so desire, be sure to send them several days in advance and mail to: The Brooks Bird Club Foray, care of Saunders Grocery, Terra Alta, West Virginia. Your Director will see that your luggage is transported from Terra Alta to the camp.

Transportation, this year, must be provided by the camper. That is one reason why the 1943 Foray is being held at Terra Alta, for the main lines of the B & O Railroad pass through the town and the bus service is good. It is suggested that you contact your local bus or train agent for the time schedule. Taxi service is also available at Terra Alta.

Cost for the entire week at Lake Terra Alta, to include all expense except personal outlays will be sixteen dollars (\$16.00). One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount should be sent in as your registration fee. The other fifteen dollars (\$15.00) will be payable upon your arrival at camp to the club secretary, Miss Eva Hays. Mail your reservation to The Brooks Bird Club, North Fifth Street, Wheeling, West Virginia. The only requirements for

campers attending the 1943 Foray are that they must be twenty-one years of age or over, and in good health. As this is a cooperative affair, The Brooks Bird Club hereby disclaims any responsibility for the individuals.

In conclusion, the Brooks Bird Club Foray is an ideal way to spend a healthful vacation and at the same time learn the wonders of the out-of-doors. In addition, the personal freedom, the friendly companionship, the never-ending song feasts, and the cheerfulness of the evening campfire will make an unforgettable week.

DR. ALLEN'S LECTURE AT STEUBENVILLE

On Thursday, April 8, 1943, a lecture was given by A. A. Allen. It was sponsored by the newly organized Jefferson County Nature Club and was very well attended. Dr. Allen, a prominent man in the field of ornithology, spoke about the home life of birds and showed 1600 feet of kodachrome film. He also explained the technique necessary in photographing birds and in recording their songs.

Among the photographs was the complete biography of the Red-winged Blackbird together with recordings of its song and call notes. However, this was only a small part of the lecture. The Bobolink, Horned Lark, the Ruffed Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Scaup Ducks and many other birds were shown and lectured upon. After the lecture, Dr. Allen answered any questions concerning birds.

A blackout followed the lecture and during this time, several of The Brooks Bird Club members met and talked with Dr. Allen. Also, our members met members of the Jefferson County Nature Club and endeavored to make plans for future cooperation between the clubs. Future plans were also formed between Judge Worley and his group and The Brooks Bird Club.

—Rhys Ritter
R. D. 4, Bethlehem
Wheeling, W. Va.

SPRING MIGRATION WALKS

Again, as in previous years, The Brooks Bird Club is conducting a series of walks covering the Spring Migration of birds. In order to list as many different and representative species as possible, the walks take place at various accessible localities in the Ohio County, including the areas around Big Wheeling Creek, Oglebay Park, Warwood Terrace, Stratford Hill, Wheeling Park, Wheeling Island and Miller's Hollow.

The Brooks Bird Club and the Oglebay Park Nature group are cooperating this year in the matter of supplying leaders for the walks; and for the convenience of the public, walks are planned to take place at the same time at several places. In this way some of the difficulties of transportation can be solved.

As before, one day is set aside on which an effort to reach the century mark will be made. The date, this year, is the 16th of May, and that walk will begin at 7:00 A.M. at big Wheeling Creek.

--Elizabeth Etz
Woodsdale,
Wheeling, West Virginia

MARCH FIELD TRIP TO TAPPAN DAM

A single carload of Wheeling members of The Brooks Bird Club made a field trip to Tappan Dam on Sunday, March 28, 1943. Before going to the dam, we made a stop at the home of Judge Worley who gave us the latest information on the bird life in the Cadiz region. Later in the day, the Judge and his family joined us at the dam.

We were in the field approximately five hours, from two until seven in the evening. Most of the observing was done in the lake territory as can be noted from the fine list of water birds recorded. The weather was clear and cool with the temperature at about 50 degrees and bright sunshine throughout the afternoon.

One of the best observations for the day was the recording of seven Whistling Swans. These birds had been in the territory for several weeks and their departure was expected. Two of the swans were cygnets. Another note of interest was the huge flock of Redheads and the lack of Yellowlegs which we were particularly interested in and recorded by one.

A total of thirty-seven species were listed for the day, which were as follows:

Red-tailed Hawk	Starling
Sparrow Hawk	Blue-winged Teal
Marsh Hawk	Green-winged Teal
Turkey Vulture	Baldpate
English Sparrow	Scaup Duck
Chipping Sparrow	Shoveller
Tree Sparrow	Black Duck
Robin	Mallard
Bluebird	Pintail
Cardinal	Buffle-head
Goldfinch	Redhead
Rusty Blackbird	Ring-necked
Red-winged Blackbird	Red-breasted Merganser
Meadowlark	Great Blue Heron
Horned Lark	Whistling Swan
Phoebe	Herring Gull
Cowbird	Killdeer
Crow	Lesser Yellow-legs
Chickadee	

Those participating in the field trip were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Conrad, Dorothy and Carolyn Conrad and Billy Wylie from Wheeling; Judge and Mrs. John Worley and sons, John and David, from Cadiz, Ohio.

--Mary Kay Conrad
1206 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

B. B. C. MAIL BAG

During March we received letters from six of our members in the Armed Forces and from three of our corresponding members on the home front.

Dave McAdam sends us word from somewhere in the Pacific. He is in the Navy Air Force and tells us: "Received another copy of the REDSTART today and assure you I was glad to receive it. I will pass it around to the five other Wheeling boys who are stationed around here also." Dave then tells us that where he is the Mongooses are really plentiful - that they were brought over to kill the rats and ended up mating with them, so now there are more of both.

George Flouer who sends us greetings from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station slips in a little nature observation by reporting seeing several V flocks of geese and Killdeer. George also says, "When you write about those Tuesday evenings and meetings, it's pretty hard to keep from jumping the fence and hopping a choo choo to Wheeling." Incidentally, George has just made Aerographer school, graduating as honor man from his company.

Bob Bonenberger whose first letters came from Maryland, now find their way from far-off Washington State. Fort George Wright is the camp. Bob, as usual, has a humorous incident to report. To quote from his letter: "Spokane, Washington is about 8 miles out of camp and I'm going to town tomorrow evening, I hope. You see, I was going tonight but since we did not pass inspection today, we had no passes. Get it? We also had to scrub floors and clean windows and dust our barracks." Then Bob turns a little more serious and says, "This is a very scenic place with the mountains and pine trees on all sides. While enroute, I saw several Buffleheads and Magpies. Also to be seen were Ringnecked Pheasants and various hawks and ducks." Bob ends by saying, "I hope you are still the group you were when I left."

Bernard Kain who is now a Corporal stationed down in Camp Sibert, Alabama, begins his letter with a word of appreciation for letters and Christmas gift. He described his gift as "a typical Brooks Bird Club Christmas gift" and said he has the reading matter of the gift tacked in the lid of his foot locker. Bernard has been doing quite a bit of traveling for Uncle Sam. He says, "Since I left Omaha, Nebraska, I've spent some time in Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, and now I'm temporarily stationed in Alabama. I hear lots of song and field sparrows here and see many bluebirds and have been hearing yellow warblers and hermit thrushes. Could that be true for this locality and this time of year? Please let me know. I caught a black widow spider in my quarters the other night. That

makes the third I've caught in the past three years". Bernard ends by saying, "You folks must have good times at your clubroom writing service men letters and preparing issues of the REDSTART; it reflects in your letters. Now that spring is in the offing, I'll be thinking of all of you and your spring outings".

Don Keyser who reports from Camp Livingston has an interesting little nature note to offer. Says Don: "It is early morning, the meadowlarks and several other birds are singing, the sun is shining and it looks like it is going to be a beautiful day. Reminds me of a day in Terra Alta or Lost River. I have four chemolons and two fence lizards in the hut. They are harnessed with cord and can travel up and down the wall in back of my bunk. I used to have trouble with fellows sitting on my bunk and at my desk, but not anymore, they are afraid of the two big fence lizards which measure 10 inches in length and really look fierce. I keep one on the desk during the day and one on the wall in back of my bunk. When anyone comes near and disturbs them they puff up and hiss loudly".

Byrne Waterman from out in Kansas sends us a word picture of what must have been an unusual observation. To quote from Byrne's letter: "Yesterday I had a very thrilling experience - one I will probably never forget. About 2:00 P.M. I saw a large flock of Geese heading in our general direction. When they came close enough for a good look, I was amazed at the number. The fellows and myself estimated that there were a good 2000 - maybe more. Having my bird book in my jacket pocket, I identified the Geese as the Snow Goose - probably the Lesser Snow Goose. They are beautiful white birds with real black wing tips. The position of the birds with respect to the sun made it a very beautiful sight. Later we heard that this large flock joined another large flock about 15 miles north of where we were. Incidentally, the birds were flying north in 4 large V's".

Excerpts from the following three letters are from our corresponding members who are just a little too far away to be with us regularly, but who share the same appreciation of nature through the pages of the REDSTART and by frequent correspondence.

From Hortense Beardsley, Ravenna, Ohio: "My how I wish I could see you folks and have a real "Honest-to-goodness" talk with you about birds. It's a grand thing to have mutual friends and acquaintances all interested in the same subject. There are so few interested in birds here that I'm considered slightly queer! But I do have five good friends who likewise are stricken with Bird-itis, but I am more badly stricken than they are. Best wishes for your continued success and greetings to the Boys in the Service".

Betty Counihan writes: "It's so nice to receive the REDSTART and in that way try to keep in touch with the gang. I was glad to get a list of the addresses of those in the service, too, and intend to hold on to it - although I suppose some of them will change rather often".

Helen Howell, way down in Tennessee sent in a membership and a change of address saying, "We are moving away from the big meadow full of sparrows, occasional bobwhite and killdeer, and frequent bluebirds and bewicks wrens. But we will have four big trees in our yard and a shady meadow across the road which yields , among other things - meadowlarks, bluebirds, robins,

starlings and squirrels. We are only three houses from Lone Oak Road and just two blocks from our former house. Then - I want you to know how much I appreciate the Home Guard sending out the REDSTART regularly. Nice Going! Greetings to you all and all the best".

—Norma Jepson
713 Valley View Avenue
Pleasanton, Wheeling, W. Va.

The first letter to arrive for the club was one from Chester and our good friend Mr. Chandler. He says, "The club is going to have to include Toms Run in their spring schedules in the future because about two weeks ago, we had a flock of 19 ducks on the lake. Charley Long said he thought they were scaups and I didn't have my glasses or Petersons with me, but they sure looked swell floating on the surface near the upper end. One sure thing they weren't chickadees or emus (sp) and they stayed around for a few days".

Next, was a card from George Flouer, Great Lakes. "Dear Gang - received and read the REDSTART today and enjoyed it, especially my article. My! My! One correction tho - it is 'boot' instead of 'boat' training. So called 'cause we wear boots (leggings) all the time. Be seein' you soon. Hope some of the other boys will be home then and I should add some of the girls too". George did see another soldier during his visit here, one he hadn't seen for two years, George Breiding.

Another girl to be added to the service list of the club is army nurse, Elizabeth Hunter, stationed at Nichols General Hospital, down in Louisville, Kentucky. She says in part - "Dear Brooks Bird Clubbers - Did the sun shine for the Sunday hike? It was a be-a-u-ti-ful day in Kentucky. Saw cherry and peach trees in bloom from Cincinnati on down. However, there aren't any trees here for about a square mile, and I haven't seen a robin since Sunday. Then - about this time on Tuesday nite you're all eating sandwiches, or what is the menu tonite? I'm not really hungry, tho! Never will a Tuesday nite go by that I'll not recall those pleasant winter evenings with all of you. Greetings to all and won't the club house ring with the Flouers there! Hi Jackie!"

The fourth letter to arrive was from Ted Frankenberg somewhere in the Pacific and he begins - "Dear Gang: Your letter of 2/9/43 and the Feb-March issue of the REDSTART are in front of me so you have some idea of how well I've caught up with the news. George Flouer hasn't shown up in this part of the world, but I'd sure enjoy seeing some of the old gang. Probably the most interesting part of the REDSTART, to me, is the section you devote to notes from the various fellows. I notice that out of 21 names only 5 have addresses that suggest they are out of the country. Also, that 7 of the group have become officers - must be good training they got in the bird club, for I'd think 33% was a mighty high average for any organization...Sure hope you all can make a weekend or two at Terra Alta this year, and for the next couple of years until we get back for a real reunion, camp, and gab-fest such as there never was before". Ted is now a Lt. (j.g.).

On April 18th a letter was written out in Louisiana by Don Keyser. "Dear Gang: I received your letter of the 13th today. 'Sunday morning migration walks' - those words look plenty good to me. I haven't had much time to do

any birding and besides no one seems to take a lot of interest in that sort of thing around here. "What's a boid club?", asks the fellow from Brooklyn, so you explain: "What! you go chasin boids around - you call dat a good time. Brudder, youse nuts! De only boid I ever walked to see was me brudder, de jail boid. Ha, Ha. You throw a shoe at him, laugh and forget it. But the next day on the hike, you find yourself pointing out the birds you know to Brooklyn, at his request of "what kinda boid is dat?" You meet all kinds of characters here, believe me".

The gang had a surprise when they received word that this soldier was in the hospital. It was Bob Bonenberger, stationed in Mississippi. He wrote, "The fellow in the song 'I've Got Six Pence' who has but two for himself is better off than he realizes. I've got no pence. Yep! They took them from me on the day I entered the hospital in order to keep me from running away. So as I lay here wondering who is employing my pants and shirt at the present time, I also wonder how many more days they intend to keep me in this place. Maybe I'll become a permanent party here - who cares - why the two beautiful nurses we have actually stimulate my heart so much that they think I need rest; therefore, I remain in bed. The REDSTART arrived just one hour ago and I have read the entire six pages and figure I'd best drop a line to the moral builders at North Fifth Street, Warwood. Happy Easter to all.

From Lt. Frank Conner who has just been moved from Aberdeen, Md. to Pedricktown, New Jersey came this letter. "Dear Gang: Thought I would drop you all a line to thank you for your last letter and give my change of address. The bird life around here would be greatly appreciated by all bird clubbers who had time to study it. In passing I have noted several types of gulls and terns, and many types of duck. I discovered one duck nest with 10 eggs. However, they were stolen by a crane or some animal later on. Also found a crow's nest (come nite time - I'm going to swipe a young one). Listed goldfinches, horned larks, red-winged blackbirds, herons and many others. Plan to take a Sunday off soon, and see what I really can find. Must sign off now and thanks for sending the REDSTART.

The club received a field note from Polly Handlan of Charleston and T/Sgt. George Breiding, which will be published in the near future. Also an Easter Greeting card from Mabel Hopwood, now working in Arlington, W. Va., and one from Don Keyser.

And now may we say, thanks, "nice people" for all your letters and cards, and always remember that we, here at home, enjoy hearing what you are doing and look forward to your letters.

--Carolyn Conrad
Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.

ADDRESSES OF MEMBERS IN THE ARMED SERVICES

Lt. Walter L. Ammon
125 Armd. Engr. Bn., 14th Div.,
Camp Chaffee, Arkansas

Lt. George Arner
Company A., 3rd Chem. Bn.,
Fort Bliss, Texas

T/Sgt. Harold Bergner #35200333
73rd Ord. Co., A.P.O. 883
c/o Postmaster, New York City

Lt. William E. Bierer
Co. B, 46th A.I.R., A.P.O. 255
c/o Postmaster, Nashville, Tenn.

Sgt. Ralph C. Bischof
Co. B., 39th Inf. Ing. Bn.,
Camp Croft, S. C.

Pvt. Robert Bonenberger
44th Airdrome Sq.,
Gulfport Field, Miss.

T/Sgt. George H. Breiding
Hq. & Hq. Squadron APTS
Lowry Field, Colorado

Lt. Frank E. Conner, Jr.,
O.C.S. Headquarters
Bldg., #T-110
Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.

George Flourer, S 2/c U.S.N.R.
Aero School, Class 41
U. S. N. A. T. S.
Lakehurst, N. J.

Theodore Frankenberg, Lt, (j.g.)
U.S.S. North Carolina
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

A/C Saufley Friddle
Squadron A
Hawthorne School of Aeronautics
Orangeburg, South Carolina

Lt. Elizabeth Hunter
Nichols General Hospital
Louisville, Kentucky

Pvt. Bernard L. Kain
Army War Show, C.W.S. War Section
Omaha, Nebraska

R. Dwight Koon CM 1/c
8th N.C.B. Co. B
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Lt. William Lunk
Hdqs. Co. Reporting Bn.,
515 Sig. A. W. Regt. A.P.O. 958
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Pfc. Robert Murray, A.S.N. 35205520
Hdq. & Hdq. Co. 1st Bn, 201st Inf.
A.P.O. 986, c/o Postmaster
Seattle, Washington

J. Harold Olsen, Radio Technician
502 Del Mar Boulevard
Corpus Christi, Texas

Pvt. Herman Postlethwaite
Hq. Co. 68th Signal Bn.
Camp McCain, Miss.

Cpl. Samuel Shaw
Company B; U. S. Army Signal Corps
Warrenton, Va.

Pfc. Lyman B. Waterman
2nd Armd. Signal Co.,
9th Armd. Division
A.P.O. 259; Camp Funston
Fort Riley, Kansas

Ensign Jean E. Wilson, U.S.N.R.
B.O.O. A-54, N.O.B.
Norfolk, Virginia

Cpl. Paul West
545 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group
Army Air Base,
Sioux City, Iowa

FIELD NOTES

Myrtle Warblers, Roadrunners, Texas:

Having crawled from a bed many a cold morning in spring to stand with head thrown back searching for warblers among tall trees for hours on end, it was a real treat for the writer to sit in a comfortable easy chair and watch a dozen or more Myrtle Warblers, Dendroica coronata, flit about in a small shrub just three feet from the door of the house.

These warblers were around the house every night when the writer returned from the Naval Base, and were found rustling in the leaves in the flower beds, flitting from limb to limb in the small trees and shrubs in the yard, and calling constantly.

On one occasion it was possible to walk within two feet of a pair of birds and stretch out an arm toward them (slowly, of course) before they noticed the intrusion and flew away.

Once or twice each evening they would dart at a Mockingbird to drive it away from the particular bush it happened to have chosen as a perch. Mockingbirds are very common here and are probably the same sub-species as is found in the East. As permanent residents they abound everywhere. The writer has never seen a Robin (plain old Turdus migratorius) since his arrival in Texas on April 1, 1942.

On a trip to San Antonio, Texas, and again on a trip into Mexico, Roadrunners, Geococcyx californianus, were seen to dash across the road in front of the car. It reminded the writer of taking a Christmas Census in the pines at Oglebay, the manner in which they surprised you so.

—J. Harold Olsen, RT, USNR
502 Del Mar Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas

Mourning Doves in Wetzel County:

As I passed through the lower part of Wetzel County on Route 2 last January 2, 1942, I saw flying well ahead two large birds. Their direction of flight made it necessary to fly over the road, which they did. However, instead of continuing, they came to rest on a nearby fence wire. Due to the heavy snow that covered the ground, which made travel at about ten miles per hour, identification of the birds was easily established as that of Mourning Doves, Zenaidura macroura carolinensis. This observation, as the writer knows, has little or no ornithological importance, but it does show that the Mourning Dove winters in our territory and can occasionally be recorded.

—Charles Conrad
1206 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, W. Va.