



The Redstart

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THE REDSTART

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ORNITHOLOGY

Throughout the week of June 8-15, 1946, the members of the seventh annual Foray of the Brooks Bird Club were privileged to study species of birds and fauna representing a wide variety extending from those typically Carolinian and Alleghenian, to those representative only of the Canadian Life zone.

On Watoga State Park, ranging in elevation from 2000 feet on the Greenbrier River, to 3200 feet on a spur of Workman's Ridge, such Carolinian species as Acadian flycatcher (Empidonax virescens), Bewick's wren (Thryomanes bewicki), mockingbird (Mimus P. polyglottos), yellow-breasted chat (Icteria v. virens), hooded warbler, (Wilsonia cirtrina), American redstart (Setophaga ruticilla), and cardinal, (Richmondia cardinalis) were found. On the other hand, it was likewise interesting, if not surprising, to find such northern species as black-capped chickadee (Penthestes atricapillus), red-breasted nuthatch (Sitta canadensis), mountain vireo (Vireo solitarius), magnolia warbler (Dendroica magnolia), Cairn's warbler (Dendroica caerulescens), Blackburnian warbler (Dendroica fusca), and rose-breasted grosbeak, (Hedymeles ludovicianus).

As has always been the custom, some study was also made of birds throughout the county. In Pocahontas County, excursions were taken to Cranberry Glades and to Gaudineer Knob where several species of birds were added to the list. Unfortunately, a downpour of rain cut short the trip to Cranberry Glades on June 12, but the elements were more kind on our trip to Gaudineer Knob on June 14, which was made in the late afternoon, to take advantage of the evening chorus of thrushes, including the robin, wood thrush, veery, olive-backed thrush, and last but not least, the hermit thrush.

During the week 111 species of birds were recorded for Pocahontas County. Of these, 73 were recorded on Watoga State Park and 38 from adjoining sections of the county, including Cranberry Glades and Gaudineer Knob. It is interesting to compare the list of birds recorded on the park with a similar list compiled by I. B. Boggs and his party who spent a week on the park in June, 1945. Boggs (Boggs, I. B., "Some Birds of Watoga State Park" The Redstart, Vol. XIII No. 8, May, 1946, pp 31-32) listed 60 species of birds, nine of which were not recorded during the Foray.

These were sharp-shinned hawk (Accipiter velox), sparrow hawk (Falco sparverius) spotted sandpiper (Actitis macularia) house wren (Troglodytes aedon), veery (Hylocichla fuscescens) blue-gray gnatcatcher (Poliotila c. caerulea), yellow-throated vireo (Vireo flavifrons) eastern warbling vireo (Vireo g. gilvus) and yellow warbler (Dendroica aestiva).

As will be noted in the report of nests, breeding records were obtained for 41 species of birds in the county during the week.

List I is a list of birds observed on Watoga State Park during the week of June 8-15, List II is a list of birds recorded elsewhere in Pocahontas county during the same week. In both lists an asterick (*) represents species recorded as breeding.

LIST I

1. Green Heron, Butorides v. virescens
2. Turkey Vulture, Cathartes aura septentrionalis
3. Black Vulture, Coragyps a. atratus
4. Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperi
5. Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo borealis
6. Broad-winged Hawk, Buteo p. platypterus
7. Ruffed Grouse, Bonasa umbellus*
8. Wild Turkey, Meleagris gallopavo*
9. Woodcock, Philohela minor*
10. Mourning Dove, Zenaidura macroura
11. Yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus
12. Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythrophthalmus
13. Screech Owl, Otus asio*
14. Barred Owl, Strix varia*
15. Whip-poor-will, Antrostomas vociferus
16. Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica
17. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochua colubris*
18. Belted Kingfisher, Megaceryle alcyon
19. Flicker, Colaptes auratus*
20. Pileated woodpecker, Ceophloeus pileatus
21. Hairy Woodpecker, Dryobates villosus
22. Downy Woodpecker, Dryobates pubescens*
23. Crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus crinitus
24. Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe*
25. Acadian Flycatcher, Empidonax virescens*
26. Least Flycatcher, Empidonax minimus*
27. Wood Pewee, Myiochanes virens*
28. Rough-winged Swallow, Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*
29. Barn Swallow, Hirundo erythrogaster
30. Blue Jay, Cyanocitta cristata*
31. Crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos*
32. Black-capped Chickadee, Penthestes atricapillus*
33. Tufted Titmouse, Baeolophus bicolor
34. White-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta carolinensis*
35. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta canadensis
36. Bewick's Wren, Thryomanes bewicki
37. Carolina Wren, Thryothorus ludovicianus
38. Mockingbird, Mimus polyglottos
39. Catbird, Dumetella carolinensis*
40. Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma rufum*

41. Robin, Turdus migratorius *
42. Wood Thrush, Hylocichla mustelina *
43. Bluebird, Sialia sialia *
44. Cedar Waxwing, Bombycilla cedorum *
45. Solitary Vireo, Vireo solitarius *
46. Red-eyed Vireo, Vireo Olivaceus *
47. Black and White Warbler, Mniotilta varia *
48. Worm-eating Warbler, Helminthos vermivorus *
49. Golden-winged Warbler, Vermivora chrysoptera *
50. Parula Warbler, Compothlypis americana *
51. Magnolia Warbler, Dendroica magnolia *
52. Cairn's Warbler, Dendroica caerulescens
53. Black-throated Green Warbler, Dendroica virens
54. Cerulean Warbler, Dendroica cerulea
55. Blackburnian Warbler, Dendroica fusca
56. Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dendroica pennsylvanica *
57. Ovenbird, Seiurus aurocapillus *
58. Louisiana Water Thrush, Seiurus motocilla *
59. Yellowthroat, Geothlypis trichas
60. Yellow-breasted Chat, Icteria virens
61. Hooded Warbler, Wilsonia citrina *
62. Canada Warbler, Wilsonia canadensis *
63. American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla
64. Cowbird, Molothrus ater
65. Scarlet Tanager, Piranga erythromelas
66. Cardinal, Richmondia cardinalis *
67. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hedymeles ludovicianus
68. Indigo Bunting, Passerina cyanea *
69. Goldfinch, Spinus tristis
70. Red-eyed Towhee, Pipilo erythrophthalmus *
71. Chipping Sparrow, Spizella passerina *
72. Field Sparrow, Spizella pusilla *
73. Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia *

List II

1. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Accipiter velox
2. Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo lineatus
3. Sparrow Hawk, Falco sparverius
4. Bob-white, Colinus virginianus
5. Killdeer, Oxyechus vociferus
6. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Centurus carolinus
7. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius
8. Eastern Kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus
9. Alder Flycatcher, Nuttallornis mesoliucus
10. Olive-sided Flycatcher, Empidonax trailli
11. Cliff Swallow, Petrochelidon albifrons
12. Purple Martin, Progne subis
13. Raven, Corvux corax
14. House Wren, Troglodytes aedon *
15. Winter Wren, Nannus hiemalis
16. Hermit Thrush, Hylocichla guttata
17. Clive-backed Thrush, Hylocichla ustulata
18. Veery, Hylocichla fuscescens
19. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Regulus satrapa
20. Migrant Shrike, Lanius ludovicianus migrans
21. Starling, Sturnus vulgaris *
22. Warbling Vireo, Vireo gilvus
23. Yellow Warbler, Dendroica aestiva

24. Prairie Warbler, Dendroica discolor
25. Northern Water Thrush, Seiurus noveboracensis
26. Kentucky Warbler, Oporornis formosus
27. Mourning Warbler, Oporornis philadelphia
28. English Sparrow, Passer domesticus
29. Meadowlark, Sturnella magna
30. Red-wing, Aeglaeus phoeniceus *
31. Baltimore Oriole, Icterus galbula
32. Grackle, Quiscalus quiscula
33. Purple Finch, Carpodacus purpureus
34. Savanna Sparrow, Passerculus sandwichensis
35. Grasshopper Sparrow, Ammodramus savannarum
36. Vesper Sparrow, Poocetes gramineus
37. Carolina Junco, Junco hyemalis
38. Swamp Sparrow, Melospiza georgiana

-- Russell DeGarmo
Charleston, W. Va.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Ornithological Report as printed in the 1946 Foray Report is being published in this issue of The Redstart for two reasons: first, so that the information compiled will be recorded in the files of The Redstart as a permanent record; and second, so that the entire membership of the club may have a copy of the report.

Each year at the Annual Foray all those who attend participate in a "Bird and Nesting Contest." The group is organized and divided into teams and compete for honors throughout the week. This system stimulates the greatest of interest and a world of results in the way of bird study.

Master charts and detailed information are kept on each species, each nesting record, and each observation. This is then compiled and in turn written in report form for the Foray Report.

The Editor

BREEDING BIRDS

The list which follows represents actual occupied nests, or nests under construction, reported by members of the Brooks Club foray at Watoga state park, Pocahontas County. Nests not actually found in the park are so designated in the list which follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>Location, Situation, etc.</u>
Woodcock	R. Olsen	Near old ferry on Greenbrier river on edge of park; adult incubating three eggs.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Remington	25 feet up in tree at rear of No. 2 pump house; nest under constru'n
Flicker	Hicks-Jones	20 feet up in dead apple tree at Mill Point; adult at nest.
	Olsen-Visscher	In apple tree; 4 young
	Etz	
	Visscher	8 feet up in apple tree; 3 young
Downy Woodpecker	DeGarmo	25 feet up in Locust; adult birds feeding young.
	Jo Trumbo	12 feet up in dead stub; adult at nest.
Phoebe	Hesen	10 feet on rock ledge, Island Lick run; under construction
	DeGarmo	Under cliff at waterfall; 4 eggs
	DeGarmo	Under bridge; 4 young; one left nest as observer approached.
	DeGarmo	Under bridge; 2 eggs
	Heimerdinger	Under cabin eaves; 3 young
	Hicks-Jones	Under bridge; adult at nest
	Hicks-Jones	In culvert; under construction
	Hicks-Jones	Rock cliff; 2 young, 2 eggs
	Jo Trumbo	On pipe at swimming pool; adult on nest.
	DeGarmo	Under cabin eaves; 4 eggs
	Sims	On cabin porch; 3 eggs
	Law	On cabin porch; 5 eggs

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>Location, Situation, etc.</u>
	H. Olsen	On cabin porch; under construction.
	Olsen-Visscher-Well Etz	house; (?) young.
	Davis	Under bridge; 4 young.
	Etz	Under bridge; one egg.
	Etz	Administration building; 4 eggs
	Etz	Under bridge; 4 young.
	Davis	Barn rafters; 3 eggs.
	Bailey	On pump house; 4 eggs.
	(a) Visscher-Etz	On residence out of park; (?) young
	Visscher	On residence out of park; (?) young (not same as (a))
	J. Laitsch	Rock ledge; 3 young.
	(b) A. Garges	Under bridge. (b)
	A. Garges	Under bridge; (not same as (x)).
Acadian Flycatcher	DeGarmo	30 feet up in hemlock at edge of park along Greenbrier river; at least one young.
Wood Peewee	H. Bergner	3 feet up in sugar maple; adult on nest.
Blue Jay	J. Handlan	20 feet up in yellow birch; 3 eggs.
	DeGarmo	5 feet up in rhododendron; 4 well- grown young.
Chickadee	Davis	3 feet up in dead tree; under construction.
House Wren	Jones-Hicks	5 feet up in fence post at Mill point; adult carrying food.
Catbird	J. Handlan	5 feet up in rhododendron; adult flushed from empty nest.
	Hesen	7 feet up in ninebark; 3 eggs.
	Hesen	5 feet up in rhododendron; 5 young; partly fledged.
	(a) Hicks	Adult on nest

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>Location, Situation, etc.</u>
	Hicks	Adult on nest; (not same as a).
	DeGarmo	4 feet up in mountain laurel; one young.
	Heimerdinger	3 feet up in rhododendron; two eggs.
	Heimerdinger	7 feet up in pine; 6 young.
	Sims	4 feet up in blackberry; 2 eggs.
	H. Bergner	4 feet up in rhododendron; 4 eggs.
	Bailey	5 feet up in ninebark; 3 eggs.
	Visscher	In rhododendron; 2 eggs.
	Visscher	7 feet up in rhododendron; 3 eggs.
	Davis	8 feet up in ninebark; young.
	Sims	5 feet up in laurel; 4 young.
	Sims	4 feet up in laurel; 4 young.
	Sims	four nests with eggs or young; details not listed.
	Sims	4 feet up in rhododendron; 3 eggs.
	Chandler	4 feet up in laurel; 4 young.
	Thacker	4 feet up in rhododendron; 1 egg.
	J. Laitsch	6 feet up in rhododendron; 3 eggs.
	R. Olsen	4 feet in rhododendron; 3 eggs.
	Burdette	6 feet up in rhododendron; 4 eggs.
Brown Thrasher	Jones-Hicks	3 feet up in juniper at Mill Point 2 eggs.
Robin	Chandler	Nest with 4 eggs.
	Law	4 feet up in rhododendron; 2 eggs.
	Law	Nest with one young.
	Olsen	Nest with 4 eggs.
	H. Bergner	40 feet up in maple; young.
	Visscher-Etz	15 feet up in apple tree; young.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>Location, Situation, etc.</u>
	Jo Trumbo	On window sill; adult on nest.
	N. Laitsch	10 feet up in apple; one egg.
	H. Heimerdinger	25 feet up in ash; adult flushed from nest.
	Hicks-Jones	Barn below haymow at Mill Point; 4 young.
	Hicks-Jones	15 feet up in willow; under construction; Mill Point.
	Hicks-Jones	4 feet up in apple at Huntersville; one egg.
Wood Thrush	Hicks	6 feet up in rhododendron; 2 eggs.
	Hicks	5 feet up in rhododendron; under construction.
	Hicks	6 feet up in rhododendron; mud being added to nest.
	C. L. Conrad	3 feet up in shrub; Bear Run trail; 3 young.
	Strunk-	10 feet up in rhododendron near Cabin 10; 2 eggs.
	B. Bergner	20 feet up in tree near Cabin 4; 3 young.
	Sims	5 feet up in rhododendron; 5 eggs.
	Burdette	On Island Lick run between Cabin 10 and dam; nest completed.
	Burdette	Along Island Lick run; mud being added to nest.
Bluebird	Olsen-Visscher Etz	In apple tree on Laurel run; 2 young.
Cedar Waxwing	Hicks-Jones	20 feet up in willow at Mill Point adult incubating.
	Hicks-Jones	35 feet up in willow at Mill Point adult incubating.
Starling	Olsen-Visscher Etz	In apple tree on Laurel Run; 3 young.
Mountain Vireo	DeGarmo	10 feet up in red maple; nest completed; adults <u>bold</u> at nest.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>Location, Situation, etc.</u>
Red-eyed Vireo	Chandler	15 feet up in tree near lake below Bear Run trail; adult incubating.
	Burdette	20 feet up in birch tree near Cabin 6; adults at nest.
	Sims	20 feet up in tree near Cabin 25; adult incubating.
WOOD WARBLERS		
Black & White	Davis	Near pump station 1; 5 young.
	Etz	Near administration building; 4 young.
	Bailey	Nest with 2 young.
	Burdette	Bear run mountain; 3 young.
	DeGarmo	Park edge near old ferry landing; nest under construction.
	DeGarmo	On road near Cabin 8; blacksnake found swallowing newly-hatched young; two eggs in nest.
Worm-eating	Davis	Bear run trail near quarry; 5 young.
	G. Flower	Bear run trail; 5 young
	F. Handlan	Bear run trail; near lake; 5 young.
Golden-winged	Davis	Near Cabin 8; 5 young.
Parula	Hicks-Jones	35 feet up in hemlock at Mill Point; 3 young.
	DeGarmo-Hicks Others	30 feet in hemlock near Cabin 10; nest under construction.
Magnolia	N. Laitsch	3 feet up in hemlock at Cabin 25; 4 young.
Chestnut-sided	Davis	6 feet up near Cabin 8; 3 young.
	Sims	Nest with 4 eggs.
	Gregg	2 feet up in laurel near Cabin 1; 3 young.
	Gregg	5 feet up in laurel near spring house; 3 eggs.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>Location, Situation, etc.</u>
	Mrs. Doepken	4 feet up in laurel near Cabin 5; 4 young.
	Thacker	18 inches up in laurel; 4 young.
	DeGarmo	In laurel on road at Cabin 6; nest near completion.
	P. Handlan	2 feet up in shrub at Cabin 6; nest near completion.
	N. Laitsch	2 feet up in shrub at Cabin 12; 4 young.
Oven-bird	P. Handlan	On arboretum trail; 4 young.
	Burdette	Along Island Lick run; 4 young.
Hooded	Burdette and Collins	4 feet up in rhododendron near Cabin 10; 4 young.
Canada	P. Handlan and DeGarmo	Under tuft of moss near arboretum trail, nest fairly open; 4 young.
SPARROWS, ETC.		
Cardinal	R. Olsen	5 feet up in birch at Fair's camp near park line; 2 eggs.
	DeGarmo	In greenbrier and rhododendron near old ferry entrance to park; nest under construction.
Indigo Bunting	DeGarmo	2 feet up in blackberry at top of Kennison mountain (elev. 3,986 ft) 4 eggs.
	DeGarmo	In corylus bush 18 inches up on island in Greenbrier river; 4 eggs.
Towhee	Thacker	Near cabin 6 on power line clear- ing; 2 eggs.
	C.L. Conrad	Between Cabins 4-5; 4 young ready to fly.
	Wingard	Honeymoon trail; 3 eggs.
Chipping Sparrow	Etz	Near pump house #1; 3 young.
Field Sparrow	Etz	Above pump house #1; under con- struction.
	Hicks-Jones	2 feet up in juniper at Mill Point; 4 young.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>Location, Situation, etc.</u>
	Hicks-Jones	2 feet up in juniper at Mill Point; adult incubating.

TOTALS: 130 nests representing 34 species.

In addition, breeding records were established in the park by reports of the following young birds unable to fly, or barely able to fly, found in the park; barred owl, screech owl, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Louisiana water-thrush.

-- John Handlan
Charleston, W.Va.