



The Redstart

Published Since 1932 by the Brooks Bird Club, Inc.
Wheeling West Virginia

VOL. XV, Nos. 8-9

Edited by Russell DeGarmo

May-June, 1948

NOTES ON THE BREEDING BIRDS OF WEBSTER COUNTY

During the week of June 8 to 15, 1947, members of the Brooks Bird Club, Inc. were stationed at Camp Caesar, near Cowen, West Virginia, for the duration of the Eighth Annual Foray. As such, this Foray marked the second year in which the group has worked largely in Webster County. The Third Annual Foray, sponsored by the same group, was held at Holly River State Park in June, 1942.

As has been the custom in past years, an effort was made by the group to conduct a fairly intensive biological survey of the region in the immediate vicinity of Camp Caesar. Quite naturally, particular emphasis was placed on the bird life of the region, a study which was made more interesting by a nest hunting contest among the three teams into which the various campers were divided.

The woodland around Camp Caesar is a mixture of various-aged second growth, of oak-hickory and cone hardwood. The elevation along Gauley River near camp according to topographic sheets is about 2250 feet. Ridges near Upper Glade, where some work was done, varied from 2600 to 2664 feet. Between this range in elevation is a wide variety of habitats ranging from open farmland, through brushlands, to fairly mature forest. Included within the study area were a number of small glades. The group visited one of these, a small pond near Cowen, but did not find the time to study others in the vicinity.

The wide variety of habitat quite naturally produced a large number of species of birds. The list of birds for Webster County was further increased by observations made in other sections of the county en route to Gaudineer Knob and Cranberry Glades in Randolph and Pocahontas Counties. During these trips such species as Carolina junco, blue-headed vireo, black-throated blue warbler, and black-capped chickadee were added.

The list of birds recorded for the county during the current Foray is interesting when compared with the report of the 3rd Annual Foray.** In many respects the list of species is similar as is the status of the various species. A total of 74 species was recorded during 1942, as compared with 94 for the current season. Among the birds reported during the previous Foray but not included in this report are

**Mimeographed report of the Brooks Bird Club Foray June 13 - 20, 1942, and The Redstart Vol. IX, Nos. 10 & 11, July - August, 1942.

sharp-shinned hawk, Accipiter velox, red-shouldered hawk, Buteo lineatus, barred owl, Strix varia, and blue-winged warbler, Vermivora pinus.

This report covers all species reported for Webster County during the month of June, 1947, and as such includes a few notes made by the writer and other individuals prior to and after the week of June 8. As previously mentioned, a total of 94 species was recorded for the county, of which breeding records were definitely established for 45 species:

The following narrative account by species includes a brief statement as to the status of each species, including a record of any nests or breeding records established for the period covered by this report. An asterisk (*) before the name indicates a nesting record.

1. Turkey Vulture, Cathartes aura septentrionalis - Scarce around Camp Caesar where the bird was seen on only two or three occasions.
2. Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperi - Insofar as known this hawk was seen only once during the week, near Camp Caesar.
3. Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo borealis - Seen occasionally around Camp Caesar and Cowen, and also recorded on Point Mountain on June 12, and on Black Mountain in Pocahontas County on June 11.
4. Broad-winged Hawk, Buteo p. platypterus - At least two pairs of broad-winged hawks were seen regularly in the vicinity of Camp Caesar. On June 4 three were seen soaring over camp.
5. Bald Eagle; Haliaeetus leucocephalus - One immature bald eagle was reported near Camp Caesar by Howard Heimerdinger.
6. Ruffed Grouse, Bonasa umbellus - Grouse appeared to be none too plentiful in the immediate vicinity of Camp, but several were seen or heard drumming. Maxine Thacker found one bird exhibiting actions characteristic of a nesting bird, but could find no nest.
7. Bob-white, Colinus virginianus - Not found in the immediate vicinity of Camp Caesar, but heard sparingly near Upper Glade and Cowen.
8. *Killdeer, Oxyechus v. vociferus - The only killdeers recorded were in the vicinity of the Cowen Pond, where a brood of newly hatched young was found on June 10 by Mary Jones.
9. Mourning Dove, Zenaidura macroura - Apparently very scarce, since only one pair of birds reported in the vicinity of Camp Caesar; and another pair on Point Mountain on June 12.
10. *Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus a. americanus - Apparently scarce around Camp, being much less common than the following species. Two nests were reported one being in a tangle of grapevines, and another in rhododendron above State Route 20, east of Camp.
11. *Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythrophthalmus - Common around Camp, particularly along Gauley River, where it nested commonly in rhododendron thickets bordering the river. Four of six nests reported were located within 50 feet of the river.

12. Great-horned Owl, Bubo virginianus - No owls were reported during the week of the Foray, but a pair was heard calling at Three Forks of Williams River by the writer on the night of June 28.
13. Eastern Whippoorwill, Antrostomus v. vociferus - Fairly common in the vicinity of Camp Caesar.
14. Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica - Fairly common over most of the area. On June 12 a chimney swift was seen entering a dead snag on Point Mountain, where it may have been breeding.
15. *Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochus colubris - Several pairs were seen around Camp and two nests recorded, one above the Camp infirmary, the other in a hemlock along Gauley River.
16. Belted Kingfisher, Megaceryle a. alcyon - None was recorded during the week of the Foray, but one was seen along Gauley River during the week of June 2. On June 15 the writer found a nest with young along Williams River near the mouth of Lick Branch.
17. *Flicker, Colaptes auratus - Common around Camp and Upper Glade, where they nested in dead chestnuts and other cavities. Of six nests found, one was in a living tree, and another in a cavity in a large knothole.
18. Pileated Woodpecker, Ceophloeus pileatus - Scarce around Camp, but recorded on several occasions.
19. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Centurus carolinus - One bird was seen at Camp on one day, but was not reported at any other time.
20. Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus - One bird seen by Charles Conrad near Cowen on June 11.
21. *Hairy Woodpecker, Dryobates villosus - Scarce around camp. One nest was found by Elizabeth Etz, located high in a dead chestnut, north of Camp.
22. *Downy Woodpecker, Dryobates pubescens - Scarce, but apparently more common than the preceding species. Only one nest was found, by Charles Conrad near Camp Caesar, on June 9.
23. *Eastern Kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus - Only one pair was recorded, and it was nesting near the Cowen Pond. The nest was located on a power pole bordering the railroad.
24. Crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus crinitus - Fairly common around Camp, although no nests were found.
25. *Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe - Common in suitable locations, nesting under cliffs, under bridges and eaves of buildings. One of the seven nests reported was attached to a rock in the streambed of Gauley River, and may have been destroyed by high water resulting from rains during the week-end of June 7.

26. *Acadian Flycatcher, Empidonax virescens - The greater part of all Acadian flycatchers reported were along streams where they showed a preference for hemlocks. A few were found in deep woods where no hemlocks were growing. The only nest reported was attached to a lower branch of a hemlock on Upper Glade Run.
27. *Least Flycatcher, Empidonax minimus - Though not heard in the immediate vicinity of Camp Caesar, this small flycatcher was common in more open terrain, such as near Upper Glade. It was also fairly common on Point Mountain. Only two nests were found, both in fairly open oak woods.
28. *Eastern Wood Pewee, Myiochanes virens - The wood pewee was the most abundant flycatcher around camp. Six nests were reported, three near Camp, two near the Cowen pond, and one near Upper Glade.
29. Horned Lark, Otocoris a. praticola - Recorded near Cowen during the week preceding the Foray, and again on Point Mountain on June 12.
30. Rough-winged Swallow, Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis - Seen occasionally along road banks and railroad cuts. No nests were found, but a pair near Dyer exhibited alarm and indications of nesting in a nearby bank.
31. *Barn Swallow, Hirundo erythrogaster - Scarce due to shortage of suitable nesting spots. Two pairs were found nesting in barns near Upper Glade, and individual birds were seen flying along Gauley River.
32. Purple Martin, Progne s. subis. - Only one bird was seen, at Upper Glade on June 9.
33. *Blue Jay, Cyanocitta cristata - Fairly common, probably more so than might be supposed. Only one nest was found, near the recreation hall.
34. Crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos - Uncommon around Camp Caesar.
35. Appalachian Black-capped Chickadee, Parus atricapillus praticus - Chickadees were heard on Point Mountain, which appeared to be this species. The elevation was between 3900 and 4000 feet.
36. *Northern Carolina Chickadee, Parus carolinensis extimus - Unusually scarce around Camp. Many trips were taken in which no chickadees were seen or heard. One nest was found one-half mile above Camp.
37. Tufted Titmouse, Baeolophus bicolor - Fairly common, though no nests were found.
38. White-breasted nuthatch, Sitta carolinensis - Rather scarce, though seen fairly frequently. No nests reported.
39. *House Wren, Troglodytes aedon (subsp.) - Rather scarce, though found around Upper Glade and Cowen. Two nests were reported.
40. *Bewick's Wren, Thryomanes bewicki - Bewick's wrens were first reported near the entrance to the Camp, and then were found to be common in the vicinity of Upper Glade, and Cowen. One nest was found, and was within 100 yards of the nest of the house wren.

41. Carolina Wren, Thrythorus ludovicianus - The only Carolina wren recorded during the week was a singing male heard daily near Camp. No nest was found.
42. *Catbird, Dumetella carolinensis - Very common, preferring thickets along streams. Eleven nests were reported.
43. *Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma rufum - Rather scarce in the immediate vicinity of Camp Caesar. Three nests were reported, one at Camden-on-Gauley, one near Cowen, and one along Gauley River below Camp.
44. *Robin, Turdus migratorius - One of the most common birds around Camp. A total of 23 nests was reported, some of which appeared to be those of a second brood. Many nests were located in open white oak woods around Camp.
45. *Wood Thrush, Hylocichla mustelina - Very common around Camp and along Gauley River. A total of 15 nests was reported.
46. Eastern Bluebird, Sialia s. sialis - Uncommon in the vicinity of Camp. Two pairs of birds were seen near Upper Glade, including one female carrying food.
47. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Poliophtila ca. caeurlea - Scattered birds were reported throughout the vicinity of the Camp area, and were probably more common than might have been supposed, as they were much less conspicuous than during the beginning of their nesting season. No nests were found.
48. *Cedar Waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum - While these birds were very common in the vicinity of the Camp area, only one nest was found. The birds were under observation by Wendell Swank and the writer. On June 9 they were actively engaged in lining their nest with webs taken from a tent caterpillar nest. One other pair was observed carrying nesting material near the upper end of the Camp area.
49. *Starling, Sturnus v. vulgaris - While these birds were very scarce in the immediate vicinity of Camp Caesar, they were fairly numerous in the open country around Cowen and Upper Glade. In spite of this fact, only two nests were found, both at Upper Glade.
50. White-eyed Vireo, Vireo griseus - During the early part of the week this bird was supposed to be uncommon, as only two birds were noted along Gauley River. Later they were found to be unusually common in the cut-over ericaceous growth north of the camp area. No nests were found in spite of an intensive search.
51. Yellow-throated Vireo, Vireo flavifrons - Uncommon around the Camp area. One male sang regularly within the Camp grounds, but no nest was found.
52. Blue-headed Vireo, Vireo solitarius (subs?) - The only blue-headed vireo heard within the county was on Point Mountain on June 12.
53. *Red-eyed Vireo, Vireo olivaceus - One of the most abundant species in the area, as was indicated both by the seventeen nests reported and the frequency of the persistent songs. No particular preference appeared noticeable though the birds seemed to be quite abundant in the small second growth woodlands around Camp and along Gauley River.

54. Warbling Vireo, Vireo g. gilvus - Insofar as is known, only one bird was reported, a singing bird recorded by Eleanor Sims.
55. *Black and White Warbler, Mniotilta varia - While fairly common on the more mature wooded slopes, this warbler was not so numerous as had been anticipated. Only two nests were found, one of which had very recently been robbed by a predator.
56. Swainson's Warbler, Limnithlypis swainsoni - To many members of the Foray, this was the first opportunity to observe and study Swainson's warbler. In spite of rather careful work along the Gauley River near Camp Caesar, the birds were not found until the afternoon of June 12. After that date several were heard and seen near Bolair above Camp Caesar. As has been characteristic of the habitat in other portions of Webster County, all birds were found in or near the rhododendron thickets bordering the river. Unfavorable weather interfered with an intensive effort to find an occupied nest, although Miss Eleanor Sims reported an old nest of the preceding year. On June 28, while fishing along Williams River, the writer found a singing male about two miles below the Pocahontas County line. Here, once again, the bird was in a rhododendron thicket, but it is of interest to note that the surrounding forest species were of northern hardwood, largely of beech, birch, and maple. Insofar as the writer is aware, this is the first instance of this species being found in this forest type. Careful work along Cranberry or Williams Rivers will probably reveal the presence of the bird in Pocahontas County.
57. Worm-eating Warbler, Helmitheros vermivorus - Scarce around Camp, but found rather regularly in the more mature forest growth on the protected slopes. No nests were found.
58. *Golden-winged Warbler, Vermivora chrysoptera - The brushy cut-over and burned-over lands near Camp Caesar are good golden-winged warbler range, and the bird is accordingly common, although not abundant. At least two individuals with unusual songs were heard and reported by Wayne Davis. In spite of its numbers, only one nest was found, by E. R. Chandler.
59. *Parula Warbler, Compsothlypis americana - This beautiful warbler was fairly common in the growths of hemlock bordering Gauley River and its tributaries. In most instances the greater majority of all birds were found in the vicinity of hemlocks, but on at least two occasions singing males were recorded in deciduous growths with no hemlocks or other evergreens present. Both of the two nests found were in hemlock, one at a height of 15 feet in a tree within the Camp area, and the other near the top of a 40-foot hemlock along Gauley River.
60. *Eastern Yellow Warbler, Dendroica a. aestiva - Exceedingly rare around Camp, but more common around Upper Glade, Cowen Pond, and Cowen. A nest was reported by E. R. Chandler in Cowen.
61. Magnolia Warbler, Dendroica magnolia - The only magnolia warbler recorded for Webster County was found by Wayne Davis in the southern end of the county during the week preceding the Foray.
62. Black-throated Blue Warbler, Dendroica caerulescens - The only bird of this species reported for the county was heard singing on Point Mountain on June 12.

63. Black-throated Green Warbler, Dendroica virens - A few were found among the hemlock trees bordering Gauley River, but the bird was much more common along the wooded ridge near Upper Glade where they were confined to deciduous woodlands. No nests were found.
64. Cerulean Warbler, Dendroica cerulea - Rather uncommon in the vicinity of Camp, where its song was sometimes confused with that of the parula warbler.
65. Blackburnian Warbler, Dendroica fusca - Very locally distributed, but found in both hemlock and deciduous woodlands.
66. *Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dendroica pennsylvanica - Fairly common in some spots, abundant in the cut-over area north of Camp Caesar. Only one nest was found, by Rhys Ritter.
67. *Prairie Warbler, Dendroica discolor - Rare around Camp, only one bird known to range along Upper Glade Run. One nest was found at Camden-on-Gauley by Wayne Davis.
68. Oven-bird, Seiurus aurocapillus - Scarce right around Camp, but more common west of Camp in the more mature woodland. No nests were found.
69. Water-thrush, Seiurus noveboracensis - Northern water-thrushes were found at the head of the stream above Camp and along Upper Glade Run. In both locations they were found with Louisiana water-thrushes in the same territory.
70. *Louisiana Water-thrush, Seiurus motacilla - Common all along the streams around Camp. One nest, with four eggs, was found by Eleanor Sims.
71. Kentucky Warbler, Oporornis formosus - Common throughout the area, but no nests were found.
72. Yellow-throat, Geothlypis trichas - Not too common around Camp, but more so around Cowen and the Cowen Pond.
73. *Yellow-breasted Chat, Icteria v. virens - Fairly common; two nests were found one by W. R. DeGarmo and the other by E. R. Chandler. One was in a laurel thicket, and the other in an alder thicket. Two completed but unoccupied nests were also found by the writer in a dense tangle of green-brier and rose north of Camp.
74. *Hooded Warbler, Wilsonia citrina - Fairly common, particularly along the river slopes, where a nest in laurel was found by Harold Olsen.
75. Canada Warbler, Wilsonia canadensis - Reported in Webster County only from Point Mountain on June 12.
76. *American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla - Very abundant along the valleys, less so on the slopes and ridges. Four nests were reported, three along the river below Camp, the other at Camden-on-Gauley.
77. *English Sparrow, Passer domesticus - Around the Camp this bird was very uncommon. One pair nested under the roof of the Assembly Hall, the only pair known to nest near Camp. Elsewhere, one pair was seen feeding young under the eaves of a house at Upper Glade. Here and in Cowen English sparrows were more common.

78. Meadowlark, Sturnella magna - Common in the meadows along Upper Glade Run and Cowen. Insofar as known no nests were found.
79. *Red-wing, Agelaius p. phoeniceus - The greater part of all red-wings were seen at Cowen Pond and in other glades near Cowen. At the Cowen Pond recent rains had raised the water level to about 18 inches above normal. Many nests had apparently been destroyed, as a result of which many new nests were under construction. A total of 23 nests were found by the party visiting the pond on the morning of June 10.
80. Orchard Oriole, Icterus spurius - Insofar as known only one orchard oriole was seen, at Upper Glade by the writer on June 9.
81. Bronzed Grackle, Quiscalus versicolor ? - A number of grackles were seen near Cowen and at Upper Glade. They are presumed to be of this species.
82. *Eastern Cowbird, Molothrus a. ater - Fairly common, although eggs and young were found in only three nests; those of red-eyed vireo, hooded warbler, and yellow-breasted chat.
83. *Scarlet Tanager, Piranga olivacea - Unusually common throughout the area. A total of six nests were found.
84. *Cardinal, Richmondia c. cardinalis - Common around Camp. Due to their early-nesting habits, only two occupied nests were found, one of which was at a height of 25 feet.
85. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hedymeles ludovicianus - One rose-breasted grosbeak was reported near Camp, apparently a wandering male, heard at a number of points throughout the morning of June 13. Other birds were seen and heard on Point Mountain on June 12.
86. *Indigo Bunting, Passerina cyanea - In spite of the fact that this species was fairly common around Camp, only two nests were found.
87. Eastern Goldfinch, Spinus t. tristis - Fairly common throughout the area. One female was seen carrying nesting material, but the nest was not found.
88. *Red-eyed Towhee, Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus - Common throughout the area. Six nests were found, of which three were off the ground.
89. Grasshopper Sparrow, Ammodramus savannarum pratensis - Fairly common in the meadows and pastures between Upper Glade Run and Cowen. No nests were found.
90. Vesper Sparrow, Poocetes g. gramineus - Rather uncommon, due to limited suitable habitat. Reported from Upper Glade and Point Mountain.
91. Carolina Junco, Junco hyemalis carolinensis - Reported only from Point Mountain on June 12.
92. *Chipping Sparrow, Spizella p. passerina - Common around Camp and along Gauley River. Eleven nests were found, one at a height of 30 feet.
93. *Field Sparrow, Spizella p. pusilla - Fairly common, particularly around the open fields. Five nests were reported.

94. *Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia euphonia - Common along streams, particularly Gauley River. Only two nests were found.

W. R. DeGarmo
Charleston, W. Va.

NOTES ON BIRDS RECORDED IN POCAHONTAS, RANDOLPH AND
NICHOLAS COUNTY DURING EIGHTH ANNUAL FORAY

In addition to the study of bird life conducted in Webster County by members of the Brooks Bird Club during the week of June 8-15, 1947, three trips to other points of interest resulted in records of other species of birds not reported for Webster County. On June 10 a small group visited Mt. Lookout in Nicholas County. On June 11 a larger group took a rather extended trip to Cranberry Glades and Black Mountain in Pocahontas County; and on June 12 several members of the Foray journeyed to Gaudineer Knob, at the edge of Pocahontas and Randolph Counties. The following list of birds was noted, all of which were not reported for Webster County:

1. Great Blue Heron, Ardea h. herodias - Reported near Mt. Lookout in Nicholas County.
2. Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo lineatus - Reported from Point Mountain in Randolph County.
3. Sparrow Hawk, Falco sparverius - Recorded from Randolph County near Huttonsville, on June 12.
4. Nighthawk, Chordeiles m. minor - Heard on Gaudineer Knob on the evening of June 12.
5. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus v. varius - Reported on June 13 by group who remained on Gaudineer Knob over night.
6. Winter Wren, Tannus hiemalis subsp.? - Heard on Gaudineer Knob by group on morning of June 13. Heard also on Black Mountain in Pocahontas County on June 11.
7. Hermit Thrush, Hylocichla guttata faxoni - This thrush was heard in song from a number of points: Gaudineer Knob, Black Mountain, and Cranberry Glades.
8. Olive-backed Thrush, Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni - Heard at Cranberry Glades and Gaudineer Knob. At the latter location the bird was abundant.
9. Veery, Hylocichla fuscescens - Fairly common on the lower slopes of Gaudineer Knob, Shaver's Fork of Cheat River, and Cranberry Glades.
10. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Regulus s. satrapa - Reported from Gaudineer Knob.
11. Mourning Warbler, Oporornis philadelphia - Fairly common at Cranberry Glades and along Shaver's Fork at Cheat River.
12. Purple Finch, Carpodacus p. purpureus - Fairly common on Gaudineer Knob.
13. *Swamp Sparrow, Melospiza georgiana - Common at Cranberry Glades where one nest was found by Lawrence Hicks. Also reported at Blister Pine Swamp near the base of Gaudineer Knob.

W. R. DeGarmo
Charleston, W. Va.

B. B. C. SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Included in the schedule of the Brooks Bird Club are the regular annual early spring field trips to various points of bird interest. This year the first trip of this series was the one made to Tappan Dam, Cadiz, Ohio, on Sunday, March 21, 1948. Our purpose, of course, was to observe water birds - but at the end of the day we had recorded very few. Several of the group agreed there were less water fowl on the lake than in past springs. However, there were more fishermen, more boats, and more water. That, most of us felt, was a big factor in keeping the ducks on the wing.

The weather was warm and a bit overcast. Members of our club from Steubenville and Cadiz, Ohio; Donora, Pennsylvania; and Wheeling, West Virginia, met at the lake and were guided to various key points by Judge John Worley.

Of special interest in the total list of 34 species were the osprey, horned grebe, and ring-billed gull.

* * * * *

Our next field trip was to Mosquito Lake at Girard, Ohio, and was really outstanding. We not only covered that lake, but also Pine Lake at Youngstown, Meander and Girard reservoirs. Water birds were everywhere, and during the two days, April 3 and 4, the group was in the field as much as possible. We established headquarters at the Heimerdingers, and Howard was our capable leader. He even furnished high-powered glasses and telescope.

For the two days we recorded 56 species, and estimated that we had observed approximately 20,000 water fowl. Of this total, 22 species were water birds. Of interest among the ducks were the great numbers of red-heads, and the recording of the green-winged teal, American golden-eye, and buffle-head. We also listed both the black and turkey vultures.

The outstanding observation for the two-day trip was that of recording five short-eared owls. We watched these owls on several occasions as they hunted and presumably played over the open field lands. They are much like a hawk in looks and in their mannerisms of hunting low over the field such as the marsh hawk does. At one time we saw four short-eared owls on the wing.

Our two-day list for this trip was as follows: Common loon, pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, mallard, black duck, baldpate, pintail, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, redhead, ring-necked duck, canvas-back, lesser scaup duck, American golden-eye, buffle-head, ruddy duck, American merganser, turkey vulture, black vulture, sharp-shinned hawk, marsh hawk, sparrow hawk, coot, killdeer, herring gull, ring-billed gull, rock dove, mourning dove, short-eared owl, flicker, red-headed woodpecker, downy woodpecker, phoebe, horned lark, purple martin, blue jay, crow, Carolina chickadee, brown creeper, robin, bluebird, cedar waxwing, starling, English sparrow, meadowlark, red-wing, purple grackle, cowbird, cardinal, goldfinch, towhee, vesper sparrow, slate-colored junco, tree sparrow, field sparrow, song sparrow.

* * * * *

The last of the early spring trips was one of combined business and pleasure, when we inspected the Foray camp site on April 24-25 at Camp Thornwood, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Our group this time numbered 18, and the total compiled list reached 66 species; which represents quite an impressive list for this time of year. The early morning chorus of the winter wrens; the great number of black-throated green warblers; the song of the red-breasted nuthatch; the call of the raven; the drumming of the ruffed grouse; the song of the northern water-thrush; and the call note of the veery were highlights that will make this trip long remembered.

We also saw a goodly number of deer; and on Sunday, under the leadership of Russell DeGarmo and Wendell Swank, we observed several old beaver dams that had been destroyed by the Conservation Commission in an effort to improve the stream as a trout habitat, and one still active dam. The estimate of beaver in the state now stands at about 4,000.

Wayne Davis, who set out a number of small mammal traps, collected two lemmings which were quite interesting to us after hearing Dr. Sutton's story about them when he visited the Hudson's Bay region.

The total list for the two-day trip, all recorded in Pocahontas County, follows: Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, broad-winged hawk, ruffed grouse, barred owl, pileated woodpecker, least flycatcher, rough-winged swallow, blue jay, raven, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, red-breasted nuthatch, winter wren, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, hermit thrush, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, blue-headed vireo, black-throated blue warbler, black-throated green warbler, ovenbird, northern waterthrush, purple finch, towhee, slate-colored junco, field sparrow, swamp sparrow.

* * * * *

We are sorry to report that the club did not get to make the annual field trip to Pymatuning at Linesville, Pennsylvania this year. Several obstacles prevented the trip; however, George Thorpe passes the information along to us in a letter that some eighty bird-loving people were present for the field trip and recorded a total of 90 species. If notes on that trip can be secured, we will publish them later.

Charles Conrad
Wheeling, West Virginia

N O T I C E

If your group does not have the Spring Migration records and Century Day lists in, please forward both to the club as soon as possible.