



The Redstart

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

VOL. XVII, No. 2

March, 1950, Issue

Pages 16-28

W. R. DeGarmo
Editor

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1949: The Ornithological Year in West Virginia Maurice Brooks	16
Fiftieth Christmas Bird Count	19
Field Notes - Notes from Bethany, West Virginia Karl W. Haller	27
Evening Grosbeaks in Elkins, Randolph County W. R. DeGarmo	27
Wilson Ornithological Club Meeting	28
Correction	28

1949: THE ORNITHOLOGICAL YEAR IN WEST VIRGINIA

By Maurice Brooks

The year 1949 opened with a discovery of extraordinary interest in West Virginia ornithology. On January 1, De Garmo found a lark bunting, (Calamospiza melanocorys), at Charleston; and, on January 3, Handley succeeded in collecting this bird, an adult male. The present writer was privileged to be present when the bird was taken. This constitutes perhaps the fifth record for this Great Plains species east of the Mississippi River, and, so far as records show, is the first winter record from eastern United States.

Another climactic event of the year was the concerted, though unsuccessful, attempt on the part of the Brooks Bird Club to rediscover Sutton's warbler, (Dendroica potomac), in the state. West Virginia club members were joined by Roger Tory Peterson, Milton Trautman, Hal H. Harrison, Graham Netting, Fred Scott, and others in an organized foray into Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, the region of the original discovery of the bird. Despite days of organized searching, no Sutton's warblers were found. Other ornithological results of the foray were, however, outstanding.

Breeding pairs, and at least one nest, of blue grosbeaks, (Guiraca caerulea caerulea), were found. Prothonotary warblers, (Protonotaria citrea), were located along the Shenandoah River. The state's first summering long-billed marsh wrens, (Telmatodytes palustris), were discovered near Martinsburg. Scott, who is thoroughly familiar with the birds in Virginia, reports fish crows, (Corvus ossifragus), from the Potomac in the Harper's Ferry region, and from Ridge, Morgan County. A Florida gallinule, (Gallinula chloropus cachinnans), was found by Wylie on the ponds of the Leetown fish hatchery. A bobolink, (Dolichonyx oryzivorus), the first from the Shenandoah Valley in June, was reported by Conrad.

These forays, organized for intensive studies of interesting regions, are attracting more and more ornithologists as the years go by. They are planned to include breeding bird censuses, ecological investigations of many varying habitats, and correlative work in botany, herpetology, and mammalogy. Through them, much of value to West Virginia biology is accruing.

Students at the West Virginia University forestry camp, in Greenbrier County, located a wood ibis, (Guara alba), in late June along Anthony's Creek. It was seen on a number of occasions, and was carefully checked by observers who included Swink, Warder, and others. There were scattered reports of "white" herons from the South, although no spectacular flights reached West Virginia.

The autumnal flight of geese through the state was certainly the heaviest in many years. Some Canada geese, (Branta canadensis), reached our area during the last week in September, but the real flight came on October 25-26. Thousands of geese of three species moved down the Ohio during these two days, and there were many reports from other sections of the state. Of greatest interest were the large flocks of blue and snow geese, (Chen caerulescens and Chen hyperborea), which were seen by Handley, Bailey,

and others in Putnam and adjacent counties. Handley found 1500 birds of these two species on the morning of October 26. They were also reported from Marshall, Roane, Jackson, Kanawha, Cabell, and Pocahontas Counties. When it is recalled that until very recent years these two geese were among our greatest waterfowl rarities, such a flight is indeed remarkable.

Future ornithological generations may find it hard to credit the scarcity of waterfowl and shorebirds in West Virginia during the last years of the Nineteenth, and the early part of the Twentieth centuries. With the construction of large water impoundments, this condition began to change, and the trend toward better waterfowl populations is accelerating with the construction of farm ponds and the return of the beaver to our mountain streams. There are at present some 2500 farm ponds in the state, and there are certainly several hundred beaver ponds. During migration seasons many of these are visited by water birds, sometimes in surprisingly large numbers. A few ducks are remaining to breed adjacent to some of these new ponds. West Virginia is still no paradise for waterfowl, but there were probably more of these birds alighting in the state during 1949 than in any other year in the last seventy-five. It is gratifying to note that there were many reports of redheads, (Aythya americana), and ruddy ducks, (Erismatura jamaicensis rubida), species that appeared threatened only a short time ago.

As we come to know the points of vantage for observation, our picture of the state's autumnal hawk flight becomes clearer. On September 17, at Roaring Plains, on the Grant and Tucker County line, Mr. and Mrs. DeGarmo counted 2681 hawks, most of them broad-wings, (Buteo p. platypterus). DeGarmo and Handley, on October 1, saw a good flight of sharp-shins, (Accipiter striatus velox), and red-tails, (Buteo jamaicensis), from the same lookout. From Pocahontas County there were many reports of large hawk flights during late September, most of the observations having been made along Back Allegheny Mountain. It is encouraging to know that duck hawks, (Falco peregrinus anatum), still breed in the Eastern Panhandle region, although bird students who know the locations of nests are urged to keep this information from our doubtless well-intentioned amateur falconers.

Ruffed grouse, (Bonasa umbellus), are having one of their periods of increasing abundance in the state. Of special interest was an erythric grouse taken in Pocahontas County in the autumn. In this specimen all the feathers normally having black areas were bright chestnut red. This bird was given to Dr. J. J. Murray, of Lexington, Virginia. Wild turkeys, (Meleagris gallopavo), also had a good year, and are, perhaps, in greater numbers than in many seasons past.

This being an expected flight year, it was not surprising that a few snowy owls, (Nyctea scandiaca), began to appear in the state in late autumn. One was killed in Pendleton County, and there were reports of birds seen in Tyler, Cabell, and Hampshire Counties. Most bird observers in the state are, however, still looking for the first snowy on their life lists.

On the evening of August 24, Handley noted a flight of nighthawks (Chordeiles minor), over Charleston which he estimated contained 4000 birds. This flight coincided with an unusual outbreak of winged ants, on which

the nighthawks were feeding. Nighthawks began coming through the Morgantown region on August 10, and were in fair numbers throughout the remainder of the month. The Appalachian valleys are, apparently, on the southward migration route of many of these birds.

It would be interesting to know all the places in the state at which cliff swallows, (Petrochelidon pyrrhonota albifrons), form fall aggregations. This flocking was apparent as early as August 8 at Huntersville, Pocahontas County, and there were the usual heavy flocks, every individual seemingly of this species, near Thomas, Red Creek, Durbin, Green Bank, Marlinton, and at other points.

The fall flight of red-breasted nuthatches, (Sitta canadensis), was heavy, and many birds remained into the winter. A ruby-crowned kinglet, (Regulus calendula calendula), at Morgantown on December 31 gave me my first winter record for the species in this locality. Palm warblers, (Dendroica palmarum), lingered into December in a few places. Shields reported a redstart, (Setophaga ruticilla), at Charleston in January, 1949, our only winter record for a bird which should have been in Cuba. Mourning warblers, (Oporornis philadelphicus), were more abundant on their mountain breeding grounds than I have ever seen them previously.

Pine siskins, (Spinus pinus pinus), appeared at scattered localities in December. The only summer record for red crossbills, (Loxia curvirostra), was made by members of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia in June, on Gaudineer Knob. Henslow's sparrows, (Passerherbulus henslowii), continued common in many areas where, a few years ago, they had never been recorded. Breeding found dickcissels, (Spiza americana), in Jackson County, and there were a few reports of lark sparrows, (Chondestes grammacus grammacus). In some places Bachman's sparrows, (Aimophila aestivalis bachmanii), are approaching the abundant status which they reached about 1920, and from which they receded in the 1930's.

During the year the state was visited by groups of bird students representing the Cleveland Bird Club and the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. Ornithologists from outside the state are finding our spruce belt a fertile field for investigation. Within the state the Huntington Bird Study Club and the Brooks Bird Club carried on active programs. Wheeling and Huntington sponsored successful Audubon Screen Tours.

All West Virginia bird students are looking forward to the April, 1950, meetings of the Wilson Ornithological Club at Jackson's Mill. This will be our first opportunity to entertain a national ornithological organization.

West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

FIFTIETH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Charleston (Kanawha County), W. Va. (suburbs, Great Kanawha River valley and adjacent hills and valleys from Marmet to Institute, Elk River and vicinity from Big Chimney to Charleston, So. Charleston to Kanawha State Forest; open farmland and grassland 14%, woodland 43%, wooded river-bottom 43%). -- Dec. 31; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy to overcast; temp. 25° to 48°; no wind; ground bare. Twenty-six observers in fourteen parties. Total hours, 92 (16 at feeders, 68 on foot, 8 by car); total miles, 170 (61 on foot, 109 by car). Pied-billed grebe, 2; hooded merganser, 1; Wilson's snipe, 1; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; Cooper's hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 8; bobwhite, 8 (1 covey); killdeer, 20; rock dove (feral), 43; mourning dove, 11; screech owl, 1; barred owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 3; yellow-shafted flicker, 4; pileated woodpecker, 3; red-bellied woodpecker, 2; red-headed woodpecker, 3; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 14; downy woodpecker, 53; eastern phoebe, 3; horned lark, 21; blue jay, 71; Am. crow, 19; Carolina chickadee, 245; tufted titmouse, 224; white-breasted nuthatch, 38; red-breasted nuthatch, 10; brown creeper, 4; winter wren, 12; Carolina wren, 109; mockingbird, 1; robin, 58; hermit thrush, 14; eastern bluebird, 19; golden-crowned kinglet, 15; ruby-crowned kinglet, 1; cedar waxwing, 12; starling, 716; myrtle warbler, 2; English sparrow, 328; eastern meadowlark, 7; cardinal, 523; Am. goldfinch, 324; purple finch, 8; pine siskin, 2 (C.O.H. Jr.); chipping sparrow, 1 (W.R.D.); eastern towhee, 329; savannah sparrow, 1 (W.R.D.); slate-colored junco, 539; tree sparrow, 128; field sparrow, 237; white-crowned sparrow, 26; white-throated sparrow, 362; fox sparrow, 4; swamp sparrow, 25; song sparrow, 505. TOTAL, 57 species; about 5124 individuals. - (Seen near Chelyan, Kanawha Co., Dec. 29; Catbird, 1 (C.O.H.Sr.). Charleston Chapter Brooks Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. John Handlan, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. DeGarmo, C. O. Handley, Sr., C. O. Handley, Jr., John M. Handley, Sarah Barber, Lucy Barber, Mrs. Frank Norwood, Mrs. Robert Ketchum, Eleanor Sims, Al Shields, James E. McCarty, Sybil Ball, Truth Keeley, Ura Keeley, Herbert Tag, Mr. and Mrs. William Strunk, Gladys Murrey, Pearl Gregg, Edna Gregg, Mrs. W. W. Trent, Frank M. Johnson, R. Wayne Bailey.

C. O. Handley, Sr.,
Charleston, W. Va.

Cheat Bridge (Pocahontas and Randolph Counties), W. Va. (7½ mile circle centered 2 miles east of Cheat Bridge; Durbin, Bartow, Thornwood, Cheat Bridge, east and west forks of Greenbrier River, Shaver's Fork, Gaudineer Knob, Whitetop, Cheat Mountain Road, Blister Run, Whitmeadow Run, Red Run, Riffle Creek, Becky Creek; altitude 2200-4449 ft.; pure spruce fir forests 5%, spruce-fir-northern hardwoods 33%, northern hardwoods 37%, open farmland 12%, rhododendron-laurel thickets 3%, marshes and river borders 10%). -- Dec. 29; 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fair; temp. 28° to 42°; wind WSW, 5-10 m.p.h. on ridge; ground bare; marshes and backwaters generally frozen, creeks open. Six observers in 3 parties in morning and 2 in afternoon. Total hours, 27 (4 by car, 23 on foot); total miles, 91 (70 by car, 21 on foot). Cooper's hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 2; ruffed grouse, 6; woodcock, 1 (Blister Run, alt. 3600 ft. -F.R.S.); barred owl, 1; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 7; blue jay, 4; raven, 3;

Am. crow, 5; black-capped chickadee, 115; tufted titmouse, 18; white-breasted nuthatch, 5; red-breasted nuthatch, 19; brown creeper, 3; winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 2; eastern bluebird, 6; golden-crowned kinglet, 62; starling, 260 (250 est., 10); English sparrow, 42; eastern meadowlark, 8; cardinal, 8; purple finch, 2; pine siskin, 24; Am. goldfinch, 2; slate-colored junco, 13; field sparrow, 10; tree sparrow, 10; song sparrow, 4. TOTAL, 32 species; about 649 individuals. - Mr. and Mrs. W. R. DeGarmo, K. Lawless, F. R. Scott, C. E. Stevens, H. Uhlig.

F. R. Scott
Richmond, Va.

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Huntington (Cabell County), W. Va. (same area as 1940 and subsequent counts; open fields deciduous woodlands, mixed conifers, river, ponds, sanctuary, parks, etc.) - Dec. 26; 1:00 a.m. to 5: p.m. Cloudy, showers throughout the day; temp. 45° to 60°; no wind; ground not frozen. Twenty-two observers in 10 parties. Total hours, 55 (48 on foot, 7 by car); total miles, 240 (32 on foot, 208 by car). Great blue heron, 2; black-crowned night heron, 1; mallard duck, 1; black duck, 8; golden-eye duck, 2; buffle-head duck, 3; red-breasted merganser, 2; sparrow hawk, 11; bobwhite, 31; killdeer, 15; woodcock, 1; herring gull, 1; rock dove, 25; mourning dove, 10; barn owl, 1; screech owl, 1; horned owl, 1; barred owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 2; flicker, 8; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 3; hairy woodpecker, 7; downy woodpecker, 36; phoebe, 5; horned lark, 35; blue jay, 53; crow, 1053; Carolina chickadee, 174; tufted titmouse, 128; white-breasted nuthatch, 10; red-breasted nuthatch, 3; brown creeper, 13; winter wren, 3; Carolina wren, 37; mockingbird, 11; robin, 3; hermit thrush, 3; bluebird, 57; golden-crowned kinglet, 4; cedar waxwing, 19; starling, 520; myrtle warbler, 5; pine warbler, 2; English sparrow, 148; meadowlark, 38; red-wing, 3; cardinal, 199; purple finch, 16; pine siskin, 3; goldfinch, 107; eastern towhee, 59; vesper sparrow, 6; junco, 182; tree sparrow, 25; field sparrow, 80; white-throated sparrow, 53; swamp sparrow, 2; song sparrow, 118. TOTAL, 58 species; 3350 individuals. - (Seen in area: 12-8-49 Cooper's hawk with bronzed grackle in claws; both collected. 12-25-49 snowy owl, 25 mi. E. of Huntington toward Pt. Pleasant (Oscar Price). 12-28-49 western palm warbler.) - Virginia Cavendish, Robert Van Blaricom, Hugh Land, Holwell Land, Mrs. H. D. Hale, Nell Rose Hale, James Shires, W. J. McElfresh, Mrs. H. A. Resener, Mrs. Ira Kail, Mrs. Louis Unmusseg, N. B. Green, George Gunnoe, John Mortison, Mrs. John Mortison, Mrs. W. H. Odell, Mrs. W. V. Coakley, Mrs. Grady Risen, James Dunkle, Mrs. C. W. Kerr, William Vickery, R. M. Edeburn (Huntington Bird Study Club reporting).

Ralph M. Edeburn
Huntington, W. Va.

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Morgantown (Monongalia County), W. Va. (vicinity of Morgantown, Fields Park, and Cheat Lake, same general territory as in past several years; farm lands, fallow fields, forestlands and water). - Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fair without wind. Temp. 30° at start, rising to 45° in afternoon. Three observers in two parties, one of which helped only in afternoon. Total

individual hours afield, 23; total miles, 55 (40 by car, 15 on foot). Common loon, 1; horned grebe, 1; pied-billed grebe, 1; bufflehead, 2; ruddy duck, 3; sharp-shinned hawk, 2; Cooper's hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 2; bob-white, 7; barred owl, 1; yellow-shafted flicker, 4; pileated woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 11; horned lark, 14; Am. crow, 35; chickadee, 21; tufted titmouse, 24; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; red-breasted nuthatch, 2; Carolina wren, 19; hermit thrush, 1; eastern bluebird, 8; ruby-crowned kinglet, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 3; starling, 225; myrtle warbler, 1; English sparrow, 400+; cardinal, 30; Am. goldfinch, 22; eastern towhee, 1; slate-colored junco, 67; tree sparrow, 32; field sparrow, 26; song sparrow, 20. TOTAL, 34 species; 941+ individuals.- Aaron H. Rapking, Maurice Brooks, I. B. Boggs.

I. B. Boggs
Morgantown, W. Va.

Mt. Lookout (Micholas Co.), W. Va. (same area as in 1941 and later counts; deciduous and hemlock woodland 74% pine grove 1%, farmland 25%). - Dec. 29; 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Clear; temp. 24° to 50°; no wind; ground bare. Three observers, separate in a.m., together most of p.m. Total hours, 19; total miles, 19 (on foot). Cooper's hawk, 1; bob-white, 3; yellow-shafted flicker, 3; pileated woodpecker, 7; hairy woodpecker, 4; downy woodpecker, 6; blue jay, 5; Am. crow, 52; chickadee (sp.), 14; tufted titmouse, 41; white-breasted nuthatch, 13; red-breasted nuthatch, 6; brown creeper, 1; Carolina wren, 5; robin, 3; hermit thrush, 2; eastern bluebird, 9; golden-crowned kinglet, 36; starling, 6; English sparrow, 8; eastern meadowlark, 32; cardinal, 57; pine siskin, 1; Am. goldfinch, 56; slate-colored junco, 239; tree sparrow, 18; song sparrow, 10. TOTAL, 27 species; 638 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 30 and 31, black duck, 1; Dec. 30, ruffed grouse, 4; Dec. 31 winter wren.) - W. C. Legg, Alton McClung, Joe Wilmoth.

W. C. Legg
Mt. Lookout, W. Va.

Sago (Upshur County), W. Va. (Thorpe Run and Hampton Cut-off railroad; chiefly fields and woodland borders). Dec. 31; 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wind calm to brisk, clear. Temp. 30° at start, 40° at finish. One observer. Total hours, 3; total miles, 2½ (on foot). Sharp-shinned hawk, 1; ruffed grouse, 1; yellow-shafted flicker, 3; pileated woodpecker, 5; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 5; blue jay, 5; Carolina chickadee, 3; tufted titmouse, 3; white-breasted nuthatch, 3; eastern bluebird, 20; cardinal, 10; slate-colored junco, 50; field sparrow, 12; song sparrow, 5. TOTAL, 15 species; 127 individuals.

E. R. Grose
Sago, W. Va.

Wheeling (Ohio Co.), W. Va. (city proper; Warwood, Oglebay Park, Miller's Hollow, Big Wheeling Creek Valley, Middle Wheeling Creek Valley, Ohio County Air Port, Bear Rock Lake, Avalon Lake, Route 88 to West Liberty; open farmland and fields 25%, deciduous woods 25%, mixed conifers 5%, brushy roadsides 10%, along creeks 25%, city proper 10%). -- Dec. 31; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy but bright; temp. 26° to 40°; wind slight on hilltops only; water mostly frozen on ponds and lakes. Fourteen observers in 4 parties. Total hours, 64, (58 on foot, 6 by car); total miles, 140 (44 on foot, 96 by car). Red-tailed hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 2; broad-winged hawk, 1; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 2; ruffed grouse, 2; bob-white, 2; ring-necked pheasant, 1; killdeer, 1; mourning dove, 2; barn owl, 1; screech owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 4; flicker, 7; pileated woodpecker, 4; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 6; downy woodpecker, 76; horned lark, 5; Am. crow, 225; Carolina chickadee, 160; tufted titmouse, 96; white-breasted nuthatch, 14; red-breasted nuthatch, 2; brown creeper, 8; Carolina wren, 42; robin, 2; veery, 1; bluebird, 12; golden-crowned kinglet, 17; cedar waxwing, 20; starling, 340; myrtle warbler, 2; English sparrow, 510; cardinal, 140; Am. goldfinch, 4; eastern towhee, 1; slate-colored junco, 160; tree sparrow, 84; field sparrow, 2; white-throated sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 130. TOTAL, 43 species; 2099 individuals. (Seen in area during period; herring gull, 1; bob-white, 8; ruby-crowned kinglet, 1). -- Marian Freeman, Rachel Thomas, Carolyn Conrad, William Bruhn, Stewart Freeman, Grant MacNichols, Donald Reese, Pierre Roberts, Earl Vanscoy, Foster Brown, William Wylie, Robert McCausland, Terry Roberts, Charles Conrad. (Headquarters Chapter, The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.).

Carolyn Conrad.
Wheeling, W. Va.

Ashtabula (Ashtabula Co.), Ohio (Lake Erie shore from west of Ashtabula to Conneaut (14 miles) and most of the lake plain, from shore inland 4 miles; open farmland 50%, swamp forest beech-maple woodlands with much hemlock and some white pine 25%, abandoned fields with aspen-sumac-thornapple thickets 20%, river gorges, swamps, ponds and bottomlands 5%). -- Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mostly clear but some haze; temp. 21° to 29°; wind S, 5 to 15 m.p.h.; ground bare except for remains of drifts in ditches and on north-facing banks. Previous snows rained off 4 days previously. All waters open except stagnant pools frozen the preceding night. Four observers, mostly in two groups. Total party hours, 25 (20 on foot, 5 in auto); total miles, 122 (32 on foot, 90 by auto). Common loon, 1; horned grebe, 2; double-crested cormorant, 3; mallard, 16; black duck, 115; green-winged teal, 1; wood duck, 2; redhead, 1; ring-necked duck, 4; canvasback, 11; lesser scaup, 47; golden-eye, 240; buffle-head, 35; ruddy duck, 1; hooded merganser, 6; Am. merganser, 667; red-breasted merganser, 6; red-tailed hawk, 1; bald eagle, 1; sparrow hawk, 2; ruffed grouse, 2; great black-backed gull, 1; herring gull, 1160; ring-billed gull, 15; Franklin's gull, 6 (first northeastern Ohio winter record); Bonaparte's gull, 1022; screech owl, 1; horned owl, 1; snowy owl, 6; barred owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 3; pileated woodpecker, 2; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 13; horned lark, 2; blue jay, 1; Am. crow, 4; black-capped chickadee, 29; tufted titmouse, 3; white-breasted nuthatch, 5; red-breasted nuthatch, 2;

brown creeper, 1; robin, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 1; cedar waxwing, 40, starling, 260; English sparrow, 235; cardinal, 11; slate-colored junco, 32; tree sparrow, 81; song sparrow, 2; snow bunting, 6. TOTAL, 52 species; 4115 individuals. Also seen on west border of area on Dec. 31: Cooper's hawk, 1; snowy owl, 3; flicker, 1; meadowlark, 3; horned lark, 60; northern shrike, 2 (one coll.). - Lawrence E. Hicks, William Davis, Henry Schuer, A. H. Claugus.

L. E. Hicks
Columbus, Ohio

Brecksville (Cuyahoga County), Ohio (center point U. S. Route 82 and Cuyahoga River; deciduous woodland 50%, open farmland 20%, open fields 25%, town suburbs 5%). Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast but bright; temp. 32 to 48 to 44; ground thawed, river and canal open. Seven observers in four parties. Total hours 30½; total miles by car 190; total miles on foot 33. Great blue heron, 1; mallard, 7; black duck, 15; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; Cooper's hawk, 2; red-tailed hawk, 5; sparrow hawk, 3; ruffed grouse, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 3; ring-billed gull, 1; mourning dove, 11; screech owl, 1; barred owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 3; flicker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 12; downy woodpecker, 41; blue jay, 14; Am. crow, 4; black-capped chickadee, 167; tufted titmouse, 40; white-breasted nuthatch, 42; brown creeper, 10; winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 3; golden-crowned kinglet, 62; starling, 225; English sparrow, 256; cardinal, 55; purple finch, 11; Am. goldfinch, 102; eastern towhee, 1; slate-colored junco, 107; tree sparrow, 118; white-throated sparrow, 2; song sparrow, 36. TOTAL, 36 species; 1366 individuals. Don Eckleberry, Mr. and Mrs. Merit Skaggs, R. W. Hill, Jerry Fiscak, Raymond Smiley, Richard P. Klein.

Richard P. Klein
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Cadiz (Harrison County), Ohio (Largely same area as in past 49 years; fields and woods surrounding town 25%, open, deciduous woods 10%, fields and meadows 25%, brushy thickets 20%, roadsides 10%, Piedmont Lake area 10%, about two miles of west shore under observation). Dec. 26; 8 a.m. to 12: 15 p.m., 1:15 to 4:15 p.m. Heavy overcast, frequent rain squalls most of day, visibility poor, very misty over lake; temp. 40° to 55°; wind SW, fresh breeze, ground bare, entire previous season quite open. Six observers together. Total hours, as group, 7 (2½ by car, 4½ on foot); total miles 44 (41 by car, 3 on foot). Mallard, 48; black duck, 54; American merganser*; red-tailed hawk, 1; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 2; herring gull, 2; rock dove, 45; yellow-shafted flicker, 2; pileated woodpecker, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 2; red-headed woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 5; Am. crow, 7; Carolina chickadee, 7; tufted titmouse, 3; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; Carolina wren, 3; mockingbird, 1; robin, 67; bluebird, 2; starling, 150; myrtle warbler, 3 (first record for count after 49 years); English sparrow, 96; cowbird, 10 (first record); cardinal, 13; Am. goldfinch, 5; slate-colored junco, 7; tree sparrow, 34; song sparrow, 7. TOTAL, 30 species; 581 individuals. (Meadowlark, horned lark, mourning dove, brown creeper, and blue jay seen by John C. Worley and David E. Worley within four days of above count.) Harry B. McConnell and John G. Worley (38th consecutive year of count together in same territory; David E. Worley, Clara C. Worley, John McArthur, James Crowl.

Harry B. McConnell
Cadiz, Ohio

*-Number not given. - Ed.

Steubenville (Jefferson County), Ohio (Party 1: Union Cemetery through Beatty Park to Calvary Cemetery and area south of U. S. 22 to Lover's Lane Road, then to north side of U. S. 22 to Buena Vista, from there to golf course, over golf course to river, along Ohio River opposite Brown's Island. Party 2: from west park picnic grounds of Jefferson State Park down into and through valley to Jefferson Lake, with forays into side valleys. Lake area down Town Fork Valley about two miles then across country to Richmond, from Richmond across country to intersection of Ohio Rt. 43 and country road 45, then along Ohio 43 to Two Ridge Church. Deciduous woods 40%, swampy bottomland 20%, open bottomland 10%, farm land 20%, brushy fields 10%). Dec. 26; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Rainy; temp. 40° to 52°; wind intermittent 0 - 10 m.p.h. Seven observers, 2 parties. Total hours 16, total miles on foot 20. Great blue heron, 1; red-tailed hawk, 1; screech owl, 1; horned owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 2; yellow-shafted flicker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 3; downy woodpecker, 23, horned lark, 3; Am. crow, 5; Carolina chickadee, 48; tufted titmouse, 27; white-breasted nuthatch, 7; brown creeper, 3; house wren, 1; Carolina wren, 7; robin, 15; eastern bluebird, 4; golden-crowned kinglet, 2; starling, 250; English sparrow, 103; cardinal, 68; Am. goldfinch, 33; Henslow's sparrow, 1; slate-colored junco, 84; tree sparrow, 112; field sparrow, 2; song sparrow, 31. TOTAL: 29 species, 841 individuals. Richard Banks, Keith Buchanan, Marjorie Buchanan, Clinton S. Banks, out for all the time; Donald Rarey, Dave Patton, Stan Freedman out part time. Albert Tenney confined to his home by illness, contributed 49 individuals and added 1 species to the number seen in the field. (The Forest Audubon Club)

Clinton S. Banks
Steubenville, Ohio

Sugar Grove (Fairfield County, Ohio. Dec. 26; 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Four observers. Total hours, 30. Black duck, 2; black vulture, 1; sparrow hawk, 3; ruffed grouse, 3; bob-white, 27; ring-necked pheasant, 1; killdeer, 3; mourning dove, 83; belted kingfisher, 2; yellow-shafted flicker, 2; pileated woodpecker, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 13; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 2; hairy woodpecker, 5; downy woodpecker, 68; Am. crow, 2; Carolina chickadee, 193; tufted titmouse, 86; white-breasted nuthatch, 11; brown creeper, 30; winter wren, 4; Carolina wren, 32; prairie marsh wren, 2; robin, 3; hermit thrush, 2; bluebird, 65; golden-crowned kinglet, 1; starling, 278; myrtle warbler, 2; English sparrow, 858; meadowlark, 35; rusty blackbird, 1; cardinal, 145; Am. goldfinch, 80; eastern towhee, 15; slate-colored junco, 225; tree sparrow, 109; white-throated sparrow, 1; song sparrow 94. TOTAL, 39 species; 2490 individuals. Robert Goslin, L. E. Hicks, Ernest Limes, John Pattison.

L. E. Hicks
Columbus, Ohio

Youngstown (Mahoning County), Ohio. (Evans, Pine, Meander and Mosquito Lakes and vicinity; lakes and marshes 30%, woodland 30%, open farmland 40%). Dec. 26; 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Warm, rainy; temp., 40° to 62°. Twenty-three observers in 11 parties. Total hours 104. Pied-billed grebe, 1; Canada goose, 378; mallard, 290, black duck, 736; gadwall, 6; baldpate, 13; pintail, 13; redhead, 3; canvas-back, 1; American golden-eye, 9; hooded merganser, 15; American merganser, 12; red-breasted merganser, 3; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; Cooper's hawk, 3; red-tailed hawk, 4; red-shouldered hawk, 4; bald eagle, 2; marsh hawk, 3; sparrow hawk, 21; ruffed grouse, 1;

bob-white, 52; ring-necked pheasant, 16; herring gull, 3; ring-billed gull, 1; mourning dove, 158; barn owl, 2; screech owl, 3; horned owl, 1; snowy owl, 1; barred owl, 1; short-eared owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 1; yellow-shafted flicker, 12; red-bellied woodpecker, 8; red-headed woodpecker, 7; hairy woodpecker, 13; downy woodpecker, 70; northern horned lark, 30; prairie horned lark, 38; blue jay, 83; Am. crow, 1103; black-capped chickadee, 217; tufted titmouse, 208; white-breasted nuthatch, 79; red-breasted nuthatch, 8; brown creeper, 16; winter wren, 3; catbird, 3; robin, 8; eastern bluebird, 2; golden-crowned kinglet, 32; cedar waxwing, 39; starling, 1801; English sparrow, 824; eastern meadowlark, 4; red-wing, 1; cardinal, 84; evening grosbeak, 8; pine siskin, 7; Am. goldfinch, 64; eastern towhee, 2; slate-colored junco, 133; tree sparrow 481; field sparrow, 3; swamp sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 62; snow bunting, 251; Lapland longspur, 2. TOTAL, 69 species; 7466 individuals.- Grant Cook Bird Club. Misses Cook, Turner, Webb; Messers. Baker, Berman, Barrow, Biorklund, Brown, Culbertson, Dressel, Ferris, Findley, Hartley, Heimerdinger, Johnson, Marshall, Miller, Minich, Mollenkopf, Madtes, Murray, Richter, Wardle.

Howard Heimerdinger
Girard, Ohio

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Princess Anne and Norfolk Counties), Virginia. (refuge area including Long Island, ocean beach from Sandbridge to North Carolina line, Knott's Island (the Va. part), Sigma, Pungo, Pleasant Ridge, North Landing River ferry; open farmland 5%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 16%, ocean beach 17%, marshes and inland bay 52%). - Dec. 31; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 28° - 46°; wind SW, 5-12 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Nine observers in 1 to 4 parties. Total hours, 27 (2 in car, 5 in truck on beach and in marsh, 3 in motorboat, 17 on foot); total miles, 90 (55 by car, 20 by truck, 6 by boat, 9 on foot). Common loon, 1; horned grebe, 1; pied-billed grebe, 3; gannet, 7; double-crested cormorant, 2; great blue heron, 10; little blue heron, 1 (im.); black-crowned night heron, 53; whistling swan, 2363 (2000 est., 63); Canada goose, 2722 (2000 est., 722); snow goose, 1000 (est.); blue goose, 8; mallard, 1; black duck, 446 (300 est., 146); gadwall, 2; baldpate, 4300 (est.); pintail, 3000 (est.); green-winged teal, 58; redhead, 4000 (est.); canvas-back, 400 (est.); scaup duck (sp.), 1500 (est.); Am. golden-eye, 14; buffle-head, 22; old squaw, 3; white-winged scoter, 22; surf scoter, 25; Am. scoter, 95; ruddy duck, 81; hooded merganser, 5; Am. merganser, 1; red-breasted merganser, 1; turkey vulture, 9; black vulture, 25; Cooper's hawk, 2; red-tailed hawk, 2; bald eagle, 8; marsh hawk, 15; peregrine falcon, 2; sparrow hawk, 9; king rail, 3; Am. coot, 4000 (est.); killdeer, 1; sandpiper, 3; great black-backed gull, 9; herring gull, 68; ring-billed gull, 395 (200 est., 195); laughing gull, 10; mourning dove, 5; barred owl 1; belted kingfisher, 2; yellow-shafted flicker, 22; pileated woodpecker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker, 3; downy woodpecker, 8; eastern phoebe, 3; blue jay, 4; Am. crow, 61; fish crow, 168; Carolina chickadee, 24; tufted titmouse, 7; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; brown-headed nuthatch, 11; house wren, 3 (C.E.S.); winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 46; long-billed marsh wren, 4; short-billed marsh wren, 10; mocking bird, 17; catbird, 16; brown thrasher, 1; robin, 85; hermit thrush, 12; eastern bluebird, 24; golden-crowned kinglet, 25; ruby-crowned kinglet, 15; Am. pipit, 135; starling, 59; Cape May warbler, 1 (with palm warblers - K.L., F.R.B., C.E.S.); myrtle warbler, 627; pine warbler, 2; palm warbler (western), 3; yellow-throat, 11; English sparrow, 44;

eastern meadowlark, 46; red-wing, 207; boat-tailed grackle, 24; cardinal, 39; purple finch, 2; Am. goldfinch, 93; eastern towhee, 31 savannah sparrow, 60; sharp-tailed sparrow, 3; slate-colored junco, 32; field sparrow, 35; white-throated sparrow, 146; fox sparrow, 3; swamp sparrow, 182; song sparrow, 164. TOTAL, 98 species; about 30,540 individuals. - P. Fuller, J. H. Grey, K. Lawless, Mike Michell, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Perkins, Mrs. A. C. Reed, F. R. Scott, C. E. Stevens.

F. R. Scott
Richmond, Va.

Richmond (Chesterfield and Henrico Counties and city of Richmond), Va. (Same area as in 5 preceding years, Richmond east to Curles Neck, but with the addition of Meadowville and other adjacent areas on the south side of the James River; open farmland 38%, pine woodlands 10%, deciduous woodlands 17%, residential districts 3%, maple-gum swamp 10%, marshes and river shore 16%, brush fields 6%). - Dec. 27; 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fair; temp. 57°-69°; wind S veering to W, 4-10 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Three observers in two parties. Total hours, 18 (on foot); total miles, 70(55 by car, 15 on foot). Common loon, 1; pied-billed grebe, 17; great blue heron, 3; Canada goose, 4498 (4150 est., 348); snow goose, 2; blue goose, 3 (2 ad., 1 im., present in area since Nov. 14 - F.R.B.); mallard, 122; black duck, 264 (250 est., 14); baldpate, 38; pintail, 22; shoveller, 1; wood duck, 2; ring-necked duck, 104; lesser scaup duck, 3; ruddy duck, 2; hooded merganser, 6; Am. merganser, 6; turkey vulture, 9; black vulture, 38; red-tailed hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 2; bald eagle, 8; sparrow hawk, 6; bob-white, 13; Am. coot, 122; killdeer, 25; woodcock, 1; Wilson's snipe, 35; herring gull, 5; ring-billed gull, 251; mourning dove, 1; belted kingfisher, 2; yellow-shafted flicker, 19; pileated woodpecker, 4; red-bellied woodpecker, 16; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 2; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 22; eastern phoebe, 3; horned lark (prairie), 12; blue jay, 9; Am. crow, 117; Carolina chickadee, 48; tufted titmouse, 25; white-breasted nuthatch, 7; brown creeper, 9; winter wren, 3; Carolina wren, 46; mockingbird, 25; robin, 5; hermit thrush, 3; eastern bluebird, 56; golden-crowned kinglet, 37; ruby-crowned kinglet, 12; Am. pipit, 62; cedar waxwing, 2; loggerhead shrike, 5; starling, 220 (100 est., 120); myrtle warbler, 32; English sparrow, 36; eastern meadowlark, 48; red-wing, 314 (300 est., 14); brown-headed cowbird, 150 (est.); cardinal, 75; purple finch, 29; Am. goldfinch, 67; eastern towhee, 24; savannah sparrow, 3; slate-colored junco, 177; field sparrow, 86; white-throated sparrow, 375; fox sparrow, 2; swamp sparrow, 12; song sparrow, 99. TOTAL, 74 species; about 7906 individuals. K. Lawless, F. R. Scott, C. E. Stevens.

F. R. Scott
Richmond, Va.

Auburn, Alabama, and vicinity. (mixed pine woodland 50%, agricultural and waste land 45%, farm ponds 5%). Dec. 31; 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear and sunny to high overcast; temp. 55° at 8:15 a.m.; wind negligible. Two observers in one party. Total hours 6; total miles 74 (2 on foot, 72 by car). Great blue heron, 2; ring-necked duck, 1; black vulture, 27; marsh hawk, 3; killdeer, 9; rock dove, 11; mourning dove, 8; belted kingfisher, 3; yellow-shafted flicker, 3; red-bellied woodpecker, 2; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 2; eastern phoebe, 3; blue jay, 8;

Am. crow, 15; brown creeper, 1; Carolina wren, 5; mockingbird, 6; brown thrasher, 1; robin, 19; hermit thrush, 1; eastern bluebird, 87; golden-crowned kinglet, 5; ruby-crowned kinglet, 1; migrant shrike, 14; myrtle warbler, 2; pine warbler, 4; English sparrow, 29; eastern meadowlark, 45; cowbird, 2; cardinal, 15; Am. goldfinch, 57; eastern towhee, 12; slate-colored junco, 2; chipping sparrow, 37; field sparrow, 6; white-throated sparrow, 11; song sparrow, 18; TOTAL, 39 species; 478 individuals. Rosemary and Julian lusi.

Julian Dusi
Auburn, Alabama

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FIELD NOTES

Notes from Bethany, West Virginia - While walking along Buffalo Creek near Bethany, Brooke County, on May 28, 1949, my companion, Bob McCullough, spotted a thrush in a tangle of wild grape vines several yards distant. The appearance of the thrush was that of an olive-back (Hylocichla ustulata), but due to poor light and heavy foliage was not readily identified by us. It was collected and found to be a grey-cheeked thrush (Hylocichla minima). This latter species should be regularly reported as a migrant through the northern panhandle but due to its general shyness and close similarity to the olive-back, it often goes unnoticed.

With Bill Wylie on June 3, 1949 while searching for birds in Logan Hollow just west of Bethany, we heard the song of a veery (Hylocichla fuscescens), seemingly far away. However, on careful approach in the direction of the songster, we found him singing a whisper song about forty feet from us. Logan Hollow is very cool with a good canopy of leaves overhead and considerable undergrowth. This type of habitat would be suitable for the veery and it should be looked for here as well as in similar localities as a possible nesting species. Continuing our search, we flushed a female ruffed grouse (Bonasa umbellus), with about 10 downy young. The chicks were quite young and not yet able to fly so that we easily caught one by hand. After the female put on a show of feigning and whining, the youngster was released. During the late 1930's while attending Bethany College, I made many spring field trips to this spot where I always encountered grouse. However, this was my first experience in finding a female with young. This same day we also noted two pileated woodpeckers (Ceratogapus pileatus).

1st Lt. Karl W. Haller, Dct. B, 1100th USAF S.R.G., P.O.Box 5500, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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Evening Grosbeaks in Elkins, Randolph County - On the morning of February 25, 1950, T. R. Samsell called the writer to advise that a flock of approximately 20 evening grosbeaks (Hesperiphona v. vespertina) was in his back yard. When Mrs. DeGarmo and I arrived a short time later, they had disappeared. Since that date, however, flocks of evening grosbeaks have been seen regularly in various sections of Elkins. Near the City Park are two flocks totaling approximately 30 birds. They have attracted wide attention

locally by being regular visitors to several winter feeders where they indicate a liking for sunflower seeds. At the time this note is written, mid-April, the birds are still in Elkins. - W. R. DeGarmo, Elkins, W. Va.

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WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB MEETING

The 1950 meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club is to be held at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, from April 27 - 30. It marks the first meeting of a national ornithological organization in the State, so is of particular interest to the Brooks Bird Club. The latter organization and the Huntington Bird Study Club are hosts to the W.O.C.

Jackson's Mill is the site of one of the nation's finest 4-H Camps and is fully equipped to accommodate a large crowd. In its rural setting the meeting will be unique by its complete informality. The central theme of the sessions will be the bird life of the Southern Appalachians. Included on the program will be one paper by two members of the B.B.C. on the wild turkey in West Virginia. Otherwise, members of the host clubs will be on hand to greet and assist arrivals, serve as guides on local field trips, furnish transportation from trains and busses, and assist in entertainment.

Following the regular sessions on April 28 and 29, two field trips will be organized for Sunday, April 30. One will be to Holly River State Park in Webster County, where it is hoped that Swainson's warbler will have arrived, and where the group will have an opportunity to encounter such species as the Bewick's wren, white-eyed vireo, hooded warbler, and yellow-breasted chat. The second field trip will be to the Cheat Mountains and Gaudineer Knob in Randolph County. Although the season will be a bit early, there are possibilities of finding a number of interesting northern species in or adjacent to the spruce belt. The prize will, of course, be the red crossbill, should it be found. Such birds as the olive-backed and hermit thrushes, olive-sided flycatcher, purple finch, pine siskin, northern waterthrush, mourning warbler, red-breasted nuthatch, winter wren, Carolina junco, alder flycatcher and swamp sparrow are all good possibilities.

It will be several years before another meeting of the Wilson Club is held within a reasonable distance of West Virginia. Everyone interested in birds or the outdoors should make every effort to be at Jackson's Mill from April 27 to 30. See you there. - The Editor.

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CORRECTION

Ed. Note: - In Vol. XVII, No. 1, the name of Karl W. Haller was inadvertently omitted from the list of B.B.C. members constituting the Executive Committee. Mr. Haller is a recent past president of the B.B.C. As such, he automatically becomes a member of this Committee.