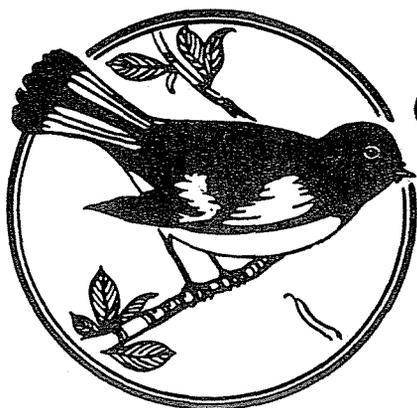


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NATURALIST, OGLEBAY PARK
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA



The Redstart

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Editor

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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL YEAR IN WEST VIRGINIA: 1954

By Maurice Brooks

The most striking feature of these annual ornithological reviews, as I have prepared them for the past several years, is the constant change in bird populations. Time was when we thought of birds as being relatively static, with only minor fluctuations in range and numbers within a given year. Perhaps this was more nearly true when unbroken climax forest covered most of West Virginia -- it certainly isn't true today. Fluctuations of great amplitude are the rule rather than the exception. Bird notes made in any given locality forty or fifty years ago are of little use in determining present-day populations.

This general observation points up a condition upon which I have commented on other occasions; namely, that during recent years birds which we have classified as "southern" have been nesting constantly farther north and at higher elevations, while a number of species which we have thought of as "northern" have been steadily moving southward and to lower elevations. The first of these trends could be accounted for by moderation in the climate and changes in vegetation, but explanations for the obverse fail in accounting for the reverse. There must be an ecological reason behind such movements, but it certainly has eluded the writer.

Such species as Blue-headed Vireo, Least and Alder Flycatchers, Veery, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch and Savannah Sparrow have, during recent years, been found farther south and farther down the slopes than in former times. In contrast, species like Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Prairie Warbler, Black Vulture, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher are appearing farther north, and higher on the slopes, each breeding season. There is no evidence to show that this trend is slowing. Day by day, and year by year, notes from any given locality are quite likely to show continued unexpected shifts in populations.

There can be no doubt that the winter of 1954 will long be remembered by local bird students as "the year the northern birds came". In October word began reaching us that "northern" visitors were showing up on some of the Pennsylvania mountains. In early November C. O. Handley, Wayne Bailey, Jim Beach, and others began finding Pine and Evening Grosbeaks in the spruce country of Randolph and Pocahontas Counties. On one occasion they recorded "thousands" of Evening Grosbeaks near the top of Kennison Mountain, in the Cranberry Glades area.

Near Wheeling, also in November, George Breiding secured a specimen of White-winged Crossbill. During December the same observer checked a Brown-capped Chickadee in Washington County, southwestern Pennsylvania, a species unheard-of previously in that territory.

Almost every group who went into the higher mountains found Evening Grosbeaks during December. A list of Christmas season finds is somewhat as follows: Dec. 22 - about 200 Evening Grosbeaks, in five flocks, feeding in the road between Allegheny Backbone and Canaan Mountain, in Tucker Co., W. Va., (Ruth, Fred, Maurice Brooks); Dec. 26 - 13 Pine Grosbeaks at Cooper's Rock, Preston Co., W. Va. (Charles and Henry Thomas, Larry Schwab, Fred Brooks), also a Goshawk in the Brooks backyard, near Morgantown; Dec. 27 - about 15 Pine Grosbeaks and 11 White-winged Crossbills at Cooper's Rock; two Pine Grosbeaks at Briery Mountain Fire Tower, Preston Co. (Larry Schwab); Dec. 31 - C. S. Robbins and his group, making a Christmas count in Garrett Co., Md., listed Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Red Crossbill, and Northern Shrike; on the same day five observers from Morgantown and Kingwood found Pine Grosbeaks on Backbone Mountain, Garrett Co., Md.

What this adds up to is that Goshawks, Snowy and Saw-whet Owls, Northern Shrikes, Brown-camped Chickadees, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Redpolls, and Snow Buntings were south in 1954. By the end of the year there were no local reports of northern owls, although Saw-whets had been found in Maryland, and the writer saw two Snowy Owls on Kent Island, Md., on Dec. 11. Redpolls were in northeastern Ohio and at State College, Pa., although they had not been found in West Virginia. Neither had Snow Buntings, although these had traveled southward along the mountains, and a flock of 13 was resident near Roan Mountain, Tenn. (F. W. Behrend). In no other year of record were so many northern visitors with us.

The usual concerted hawk-watching was carried on during September, but the week ends on which most people got out, Sept. 18-19 and Sept. 25-26, did not happen to be times of major flights. Broad-wings to the number of 1,000 or more were seen in Maryland or Pennsylvania on Sept. 13, Sept. 22, and Sept. 23, but apparently none of the West Virginia ridges was "manned" on those days.

One interesting feature of the hawk flight, as local observers found it, was the numbers of species seen. Parties found seven or eight different species, even though the totals might not add up to 100 birds. These included a fair number of Pigeon Hawks, a few Peregrines, and an unusual number of Ospreys. There were not many eagles, although both species were reported.

An increasingly significant by-product of hawk-watching is our expanding knowledge of diurnal migration of other birds along these mountain ridges. It was the hawk-counters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey who first learned of the southward movement of Evening Grosbeaks, Snow Buntings, and other northern visitors. West Virginia observers have noted very large flight of wood warblers, and considerable flights of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Blue Jays, and other species. It is remarkable that these flights are so localized—there is a narrow zone of movement along the ridge-top, but down the slopes no flight at all may be found.

So warm and open were the months of January and February that rivers, lakes, and ponds remained free of ice; consequently an unusual number of waterbirds and waterfowl spent the winter. Pied-billed Grebes, Red-throated Loons, and Coots were present, as were such diving ducks as Baldpates, Ruddy's, Hooded Mergansers, and a few Scaups. A surprise was the number of dabbling ducks present - Pintails, Mallards, Gadwalls, and Baldpates principally. By late February most waterfowl species had returned.

The summer started dry and hot, but heavy rains came in August, just in time to flood all the lakes and ponds whose muddy borders might have attracted shorebirds. Morgantown had over twelve inches of rain in August, a record precipitation for the month. Other sections received lesser quantities, but there was practically no shorebird migration west of the Alleghenies.

In the Eastern Panhandle, where Clark Miller has been making many interesting observations, there are a number of ponds and marshes which are attractive to birds that are not usually found in a mountain country. Miller has located several places where King and Virginia Rails, and occasionally Florida Gallinules, nest. Long- and Short-billed Marsh Wrens are both present. A large number of Wilson's Snipes spent the winter. In swampy woods, Prothonotary Warblers breed.

Of importance in the waterfowl picture is the breeding and feeding area near Point Pleasant, where J. C. Appel, for the Conservation Commission, is having great success in attracting large numbers of ducks and other water birds. Appel has established the state's first extensive trapping and banding station

for ducks, and results thus far have been excellent. West Virginia, once known as the most "duckless" state in the union, is steadily gaining in waterfowl, both as breeding birds and as migrants.

Students of wildlife management have been carefully watching for sharp fluctuations in the Ruffed Grouse population. According to the theory of "cycles," grouse have periods of high populations, usually during the early years of a decade, and have corresponding "lows", usually near the middle of the decade, the whole cycle being of ten or eleven years' duration. West Virginia grouse have been in good numbers for several years. Biologists of the Conservation Commission predicted a drop during this fall, and hunting results throughout the state would seem to support this, although the drop has certainly not been a sharp one. Cal Price reports an unusual number of the birds near Marlinton, and there are good numbers on Cooper's Rock State Forest. The group counting birds in Garrett Co., Md., on Dec. 31 listed 25 Ruffed Grouse for the day, a number which precludes any possibility that a "crash" has occurred there. Our other native Gallinaceous birds, Bob-white and Wild Turkey, are now as common and well distributed, perhaps, as they have been in many years.

Although the specimen was collected in 1953, publication in 1954 added a new species to the state's list. One of Ralph Edeburn's students brought to him a freshly-killed King Eider, taken along the Ohio River. This is a notable find, since inland records for the species, particularly away from the Great Lakes, are few and far between.

Early returns from the 1954 Christmas counts seem to indicate the wintering of many species which would normally be farther south. In the Wheeling area, Herb Moore, George Breiding, and others have found a number of Phoebes. Meadow-larks, Killdeer, and Mourning Doves were in the Morgantown area during late December. Borderline species such as Field Sparrows, White-throats, and Towhees were unusually common. Robins were in good numbers, even at such high spots as Canaan Valley.

The case of Sutton's Warbler remains as much a mystery as ever, despite concerted efforts on the part of bird students to solve it. Here and there a sight record is made, too often under circumstances that leave doubt as to validity. However, there's always another year.

Hopeful for the future of West Virginia ornithology is the development of a group of young field students who are taking careful notes, doing systematic work, and beginning to publish some of it. They should be given every encouragement.

Division of Forestry
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

BREEDING RECORDS ESTABLISHED BY THE 1954 BROOKS BIRD CLUB FORAY
FAYETTE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA 1/

By George Hurley

There were 177 nests comprising 51 species of birds found during the breeding census of the Fayette County area during the period of the 1954 Foray from June 6th to June 12th. Furthermore, 29 records of young out of the nests added 4 additional species to indicate that at least 55 species were nesting in the area.

1/ For annotated list see: Conrad, Charles. The Redstart 21:4:68.

Using the camp at Beckwith as the center, a circle with a 15-mile radius was drawn to limit the census area. This included almost all of Fayette County. Four stages of nesting were recognized: (1) new nests, (2) nests with eggs (Data cards indicating birds on nests were assumed to be incubating birds), (3) nests with young, and (4) young birds out of nests. The tabulation of nests by species is shown in Table 1. Table 2 lists the individual nests together with all the information available and the names of persons establishing the record.

Even though more nests were found this year than during most Forays, it must not be concluded that this area is more densely populated birdwise than other areas of the state. A record of the man-hours spent in the field seeking nests might disclose more time at Beckwith than at other Forays. Also more of the "regular" campers may be becoming more adept at locating nests.

1316 Hughes Street
St. Albans, West Virginia

TABLE 1

| | New Nests | Eggs | Young | Young Out | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Quail | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| Chimney Swift | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Flicker | | 1 | 3 | | 4 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Kingbird | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Crested Flycatcher | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Phoebe | | 14 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 3 |
| Least Flycatcher | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Wood Pewee | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Rough-winged Swallow | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Barn Swallow | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Cliff Swallow | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Blue Jay | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Chickadee | | | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Tufted Titmouse | | | | 1 | 1 |
| House Wren | | 2 | 2 | | 4 |
| Carolina Wren | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Mockingbird | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Catbird | | 3 | 5 | | 8 |
| Brown Thrasher | 1 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Robin | | 13 | 6 | 2 | 21 |
| Wood Thrush | | 9 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| Bluebird | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Cedar Waxwing | | 4 | | | 4 |
| Starling | | 4 | | | 4 |
| White-eyed Vireo | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | 5 (1 cowbird) | | | 5 |
| Black and White Warbler | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Worm-eating Warbler | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Golden-winged Warbler | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Parula Warbler | | 4 | 1 | | 5 |
| Yellow Warbler | | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Prairie Warbler | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ovenbird | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Louisiana Water Thrush | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Kentucky Warbler | | | 1 | | 1 |

| | New Nests | Eggs | Young | Young Out | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Maryland Yellow-Throat | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Hooded Warbler | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Redstart | | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | 2 | | 1 | 3 |
| English Sparrow | | 3 | 5 | | 8 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Orchard Oriole | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Baltimore Oriole | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Cowbird | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Scarlet Tanager | | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Summer Tanager | 2 | 2 | | | 4 |
| Cardinal | | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Indigo Bunting | | 1 | (1 cowbird) | | 1 |
| Towhee | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Chipping Sparrow | | 4 | | 2 | 6 |
| Field Sparrow | | 5 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| | | | (1 cowbird) | | |
| Song Sparrow | | 4 | 1 | | 5 |

TABLE 2

1. Bobwhite
 - a) On Cotton Hill Road about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Beckwith; in fencerow under clump of grass; 15 eggs. Baker and Limes.
2. Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 - a) Pax Road; apple tree 25 feet high; new nest. Thacker and B. Shields.
 - b) Laurel Creek at old footbridge near camp; 5 feet above ground in rhododendron; 2 young. H. Boecker and T. Shields.
 - c) Babcock; dogwood tree; 15 feet; female incubating. Schaum & C. Miller.
3. Chimney Swift
 - a) Beckwith; Birds observed flying into chimney; Local resident said they nested there. C. Conrad.
4. Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 - a) Above road leading to R. 21 past bridge; 20 feet above ground in hemlock near end of branch; female incubating. T. Shields.
5. Flicker
 - a) End of Laurel Run study area; 30 feet high in dead snag; adult seen carrying food. T. & Heimerdinger.
 - b) Hawk's Nest near refreshment stand; 5 feet in dead tree stump; 2 young. "PW" & B. Shields.
 - c) In camp near cabin #7; 25 feet up in an oak tree; Young. Hobbs & Cole.
 - d) West of Dothan; 20 feet high in apple tree; eggs. Thomas & Hurley.
6. Red-bellied Woodpecker
 - a) In camp area near old water tank; 30 feet up in dead tree; 2 young out of nest. Thomas & B. Shields.
7. Kingbird
 - a) Pax to Mossy road. 40 feet in sycamore; eggs. Thacker & Hurley.
 - b) Cotton Hill road west of Beckwith; sycamore tree 60 feet from ground; eggs. Hurley & Hall.

- c) Crooked Run road; 2 miles south of Fayetteville; apple tree 20 feet from ground; adult incubating. Hicks & Stahl.

8. Crested Flycatcher

- a) Dothan; dead apple tree 20 feet off ground; eggs. Thomas & Thacker.

9. Phoebe

- a) Under bridge in Beckwith; 4 eggs. Thacker.
b) Ridge study area in ledge of rock; 5 eggs. Thacker & C. Miller.
c) Laurel Run study area; ledge of rock over pool of water; eggs. Thacker.
d) Ridge study area; rock ledge over mine adit; 3 eggs. Thacker & Murrey.
e) Camp area; rock ledge below dining hall; 3 eggs. T. Shields & Murrey.
f) Babeock on retaining wall near swimming pool; Phillips & Hurley. Female
g) Ridge study area; rock cliff; 5 eggs. H. Heimerdinger. /on nest.
h) Laurel Run study area in rock cliff; eggs. H. Heimerdinger.
i) 3 miles west of Fayetteville; 6 feet off ground on cliff; 4 eggs. Stahl
j) Beckwith; cliff; adult incubating. Stahl & Hicks. / & Hicks.
k) Beckwith; under bridge. Bill Shields & Phillips.
l) Camp area beside sabin #4; 4 eggs. Carolyn Conrad & Wright.
m) Beyond end of ridge study area at mine adit; 5 eggs. Beach & C. Miller.
n) Barn west of Dotham; 4 eggs. Thomas & Hurley.
o) Pax road on house porch; 2 young. Thacker & B. Shields.
p) School bus stop building Laurel Run study area. 1 young out of nest.
J. Williamson & J. Handlan.

10. Acadian Flycatcher

- a) Kingston to Oak Hill road along creek; in hemlock 15 feet above ground; new nest. Thomas & Hurley.
b) Road south of camp; 25 feet off ground in hemlock; adult incubating. Sims & J. Handlan.
c) Above Dempsey Road. Female observed feeding young out of nest. E. R. Chandler.

11. Least Flycatcher

- a) Brooks Farm on Laurel Run. Female incubating; nest in walnut tree 20 feet above ground. B. Shields & Phillips.

12. Wood Pewee

- a) Camp area in oak tree 50 feet above ground; incubating. J. Williamson & B. Hobbs.

13. Rough-winged Swallow

- a) Beckwith on cliff. Eggs. 3 nests occupied. Stahl, Sims & Hicks.

14. Barn Swallow

- a) Top floor of barn on Brooks Farm. R. Hummel & Phillips.
b) West of Beckwith on Valley road in barn. 4 eggs. Baker.
c) Barn on Brooks Farm. 3 eggs. J. Hummel & Phillips.

15. Cliff Swallow

- a) Below Cotton Hill Station in hole in rock 4 feet above water. "PW".

16. Blue Jay

- a) Ridge above campfire circle; 40 feet high in oak tree. Eggs. Hobbs & B. Shields.
b) Near dining hall. 40 feet off ground. Young. D. Miller & P. Chandler.

17. Chickadee
- a) Near bridge below camp in pine snag. Young in hole about 8 feet off ground. C. Miller & Thacker.
 - b) 4 young being fed below Beckwith on Route 60. N. Laitsch.
 - c) Near camp entrance. Adult bird feeding 2 young in hemlock. T. Shields.
 - d) Cotton Hill Study area. Adults feed 2 young. Chuck Conrad.
 - e) Adults feeding young. T. Shields.
18. Tufted Titmouse
- a) Adult bird feeding one young on hillside above cabins 3 & 4. T. Shields.
19. House Wren
- a) Crooked Run road south of Fayetteville. Nest 6 feet up in hollow of apple tree. Hicks & Stahl.
 - b) Mr. Darnell's house in Fayetteville. Eggs in box 8 feet from ground. C. Conrad & Phillips.
 - c) Warner Dairy Farm. 4 young in box on porch. G. Hurley & Thacker.
 - d) Kimberly. 9 feet off ground in box on grape arbor. Young. Stahl & Hall.
20. Carolina Wren
- a) Mr. Darnell's house, Fayetteville. Adult feeding young, near feeder. Handlan & Phillips.
 - b) Pax Road. 4 young in box on porch. Thacker & B. Shields.
21. Mockingbird
- a) On Crooked Run Road 2 miles south of Fayetteville. 6 feet above ground in Holly 100 feet from road. 3 young. Hicks & Stahl.
22. Catbird
- a) Field west of camp; greenbrier tangle 5 feet off ground; 3 eggs. Sims & P. Chandler.
 - b) Pax Road. 20 feet above ground in sugar maple; 3 eggs. Thacker & T. Hurley.
 - c) Pax Road near church at Dothan. 15 feet up in black cherry; 3 eggs. Thacker & B. Shields & local lad who climbed tree.
 - d) In rose bush behind swimming pool; 3 young in nest 5 feet up. Thomas & H. Chandler.
 - e) Near Laurel Run census area; in rhododendron 6 feet up. 4 young. Phillips & Chuck Conrad.
 - f) Cotton Hill road 1/4 mile west of Beckwith. 6 feet from ground in bush; Young. Baker & Limes.
 - g) Pax road. Apple orchard in same tree as cuckoo (see 2a above). Nest with 4 young 12 feet above ground. Thacker & B. Shields.
 - h) Front of dining hall. Middle of berry bush. Young. M. Williamson & "PW".
23. Brown Thrasher
- a) Pax road. Apple tree 30 feet up. Both birds, newly finished nest. Thacker & B. Shields.
 - b) Hawk's Nest near observation point; 3 feet up in small pine overgrown with greenbrier. 2 eggs. Thacker & D. Conrad.
 - c) Road west of camp near dam. 30 feet high in hemlock; 1 egg. Sims & Stahl.
 - d) Babcock; 5 feet up in sassafras sapling; 3 eggs. Sims & M. Conrad.
 - e) Field west of camp; 3 feet up in dogwood; 2 eggs. Sims & P. Chandler.
 - f) Field west of camp; 4 feet up in blackberry; 4 eggs. Sims & P. Chandler.

- g) West of camp near dump; in greenbrier 4 feet off ground. 3 eggs on June 9, 4 eggs on June 10. Sims & P. Chandler.
- h) Crooked Run road south of Fayetteville; 20 feet above ground in apple; adult incubating. Hicks & Stahl.
- i) West of camp along trail. 8 feet up. eggs. Hobbs & B. Shields.
- j) Behind swimming pool; 4 feet up in laurel covered with honeysuckle; 3 eggs. Thomas & H. Chandler.
- k) Near men's quarters in bush; 4 feet above ground; eggs. Thomas & "PW".
- l) Near recreation hall; 6 feet off ground in Scrub Pine; 5 young. M. Williamson & J. Handlan.
- m) Field south of camp; 1 young out of nest in dogwood tree. Sims & Stahl.

24. Robin

- a) Northwest of camp in poplar tree in pasture; nest 6 feet up; 3 eggs. Thomas & B. Shields.
- b) Pine grove behind swimming pool; 4 feet above ground; 1 egg. B. Shields & Thomas.
- c) Brooks Farm on Laurel Run; sycamore 25 feet up; eggs. Carolyn Conrad & Phillips.
- d) Dothan near school; 25 feet up in holly; eggs. B. Shields & Thomas.
- e) Dothan near school; 35 feet up in willow tree; eggs. B. Shields & Thacker.
- f) Crooked Run 2 miles south of Fayetteville. 25 feet up in elm. Hicks & Stahl.
- g) Brooks Farm; 30 feet above ground in walnut tree; eggs. Carolyn Conrad & Phillips.
- h) Dothan between Kingston and Oak Hill. 30 feet up in hemlock, incubating. G. Hurley & Thacker.
- i) Hawk's Nest Picnic area; entrance shrubbery 6 feet up; 1 egg. Nick Flouer & B. Shields.
- j) Pax road; 15 feet up in apple tree; incubating. Thacker & B. Shields.
- k) Dothan near school; 50 feet up in maple; young. B. Shields & Murdock.
- l) Cotton Hill road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Beckwith; 10 feet up in apple tree; young. Baker & Burt.
- m) Cotton Hill road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Beckwith; near top of holly tree; young. H. Boecher & Baker.
- n) Babcock near parking area; 20 feet up in dogwood; incubating? adult stayed on nest until tree was shaken. Thacker & group.
- o) Pax road; cherry tree 35 feet; young. Thacker & Hurley.
- p) Beckwith; 25 feet from ground in oak tree; 1 young could be seen from ground. Thacker.
- q) Dothan; 7 feet up in apple tree; 3 young out of nest. Thomas & Hurley.
- r) Laurel Run census area; 6 feet above ground in hemlock; young out of nest. Stahl & Sims.
- s) Four nests reported by Chuck Conrad. No data given.

25. Wood Thrush

- a) Near museum at Hawk's Nest; 8 feet up in tree; 4 eggs. B. Shields & "PW".
- b) Hawk's Nest; 12 feet up in hemlock; 3 eggs. B. Shields & Phillips.
- c) Ravine north of camp; 7 feet up in rhododendron; 2 eggs. Sims & P. Chandler.
- d) Near dam below camp; 9 feet up in hemlock; incubating. Sims & Handlan.
- e) Near Beckley; 6 feet off ground in bush; 4 eggs. Murdock & group.
- f) Route 60 below Beckwith; hemlock; bird on nest. J. & N. Laitsch & "PW".
- g) Picnic area in camp; 12 feet up in tree; incubating. T. Shields.
- h) Hawk's Nest near museum; 6 feet up in maple; 3 eggs. Thacker.

- i) Pax road; 15 feet up in oak; incubating? Thacker & Thomas.
 - j) Near downtown Fayetteville, 15 feet up in sweet gum; 3 young. Hicks & Saeger.
 - k) Near dining hall in holly 10 feet up; 1 young out of nest. J. Williamson & N. Flower.
26. Bluebird
- a) Brooks Farm; hole in apple tree; 7 feet up; 5 eggs. T. Miller & Phillips.
 - b) Brooks Farm; hole in tree trunk; 7 feet up; 4 eggs. D. & Carolyn Conrad.
 - c) Laurel Run on road to Beckwith; fence post; 5 feet; 4 eggs. T. Shields.
 - d) Warner Dairy Farm; fence post; 6 feet; 5 eggs. T. & G. Hurley, also reported by J. Chandler.
 - e) Field south of camp; dead tree; 40 feet high; 1 young seen. Sims & P. Chandler.
 - f) Near Beckley; birdhouse on stump; 2 young. Murdock & Thacker.
 - g) Pax road; on ground; 1 young. B. Shields & Thacker.
27. Cedar Waxwing
- a) Beckwith; 50 feet up in sycamore; incubating?. Thacker & Hurley.
 - b) Crooked Run road south of Fayetteville; 18 feet in apple; incubating. Hicks & Stahl.
 - c) $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Fayetteville in apple orchard; 16 feet in apple tree on end of branch; adult on nest. Stahl & Hicks.
 - d) Dothan in church yard; 40 feet up in locust tree; eggs. H. Chandler & Thacker.
28. Starling
- a) Brooks Farm; 2 nests at corners of house. R. Hummel & Phillips.
 - b) Dothan; 15 feet up in house eaves; eggs. B. Shields & Thomas
 - c) One nest reported by Chuck Conrad.
29. White-eyed Vireo
- a) Brooks Farm; rhododendron; adult feeding. 1 young out of nest. Phillips.
 - b) Above Demsey road; female feeding young out of nest.
30. Red-eyed Vireo
- a) Babcock near "picture rock"; 5 feet; 4 eggs. Thomas & H. Chandler.
 - b) Hawk's Nest behind picnic shelter; 10 feet up in hickory tree; incubating. "PW" & Jack Flower.
 - c) Babcock picnic area; 12 feet up in oak tree; female on nest. Phillips and Gregg.
 - d) Cotton Hill road above mine tipple; 5 feet up in small oak; 1 vireo and 1 cowbird egg. Thacker, Handlan & Hurley.
 - e) Nest reported by Chuck Conrad.
31. Black and White Warbler
- a) Babcock above first scenic view. Young out of nest. H. Chandler and B. Shields.
32. Worm-eating Warbler
- a) Cotton Hill road above coal tipple; on ground at base of maple sapling 4 young. T. Shields & D. Conrad.

33. Golden-winged Warbler
a) Camp near campfire circle; adults feeding 2 young. Thomas, Hurley & others.
34. Parula Warbler
a) Near Laurel Run study area; 18 feet in hemlock on tip of branch. Stahl & Sims.
b) West of Fayetteville; hemlock; female entering nest. Hicks & Stahl.
c) South of Beckwith on back road to camp; hemlock; 2 young. Limes & Baker.
d) Pax road; 15 feet up in hemlock; adult singing near nest. Thacker & P. Chandler.
35. Yellow Warbler
a) Near dining hall; 25 feet up in apple tree; eggs. J. Williamson & N. Flower and P. Chandler.
b) Brooks Farm; 15 feet up in cherry tree; 3 young. Phillips & B. Shields.
c) One nest reported by Chuck Conrad. No data.
36. Prairie Warbler
a) Field west of swimming pool; 4 feet up in black gum; 4 eggs. Thomas & Phillips.
b) Road leading to Hwy. 21 beyond bridge; adults feeding 2 young. T. Shields.
37. Ovenbird
a) Woods above camp; female carrying food, male excited. P. Chandler.
38. Louisiana Water Thrush
a) Near camp pump house; adult feeding 3 young along Laurel Run. Chuck Conrad & C. Miller.
b) New River Gorge near Fayette Junction; adults feeding 3 young. N. Laitsch.
c) Adults feeding young. Thacker & Murrey.
39. Kentucky Warbler
a) Woods above camp; female seen with food. P. Chandler
40. Maryland Yellow Throat
a) Brooks farm; 1 foot up in clump of goldenrod beside barn; 4 young. D. Conrad & T. Miller.
b) Field outside camp; adults feeding young out of nest. Kletzley.
c) New River Gorge at Cotton Hill. 2 young out of nest. Boecher & Sims.
41. Yellow-breasted Chat
a) Near camp entrance hanging in tangle of poison ivy; 1 young out of nest, dead. B. Shields & Thomas.
b) Crooked Run road south of Fayetteville; 4 feet up in elderberry-blackberry tangle; 3 eggs. Hicks & Stahl.
c) Field west of camp; 30 feet up in elder; 3 eggs. Sims & Phillips.
42. Hooded Warbler
a) Woods above camp; female with food, excited. P. Chandler.
43. Redstart
a) Route 60, 3/4 mile below Beckwith; 30 feet up in willow overhanging creek; young. N. Laitsch & "PW".

- b) Cotton Hill study area; 30 feet up in oak tree; eggs. H. Boecher & C. Miller.
 - c) Near campfire circle; 25 feet up in vine; new nest. B. Shields & Phillips.
 - d) Near Fayette station; 20 feet up in sweet gum; female incubating. Hicks & Saeger.
 - e) Near camp on Laurel run. 20 feet up in cedar tree overhanging creek; female on nest. Stahl, Sims, Hicks.
 - f) Cotton Hill road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Beckwith; nest near top of large willow; young. H. Boecher & Baker.
 - g) Hill above camp; male feeding 1 young out of nest. T. Shields.
44. English Sparrow
- a) Mile west of Gauley Bridge; in nest box in yard; young. Phillips & Gregg.
 - b) Between Kingston and Oak Hill in tire hanging in barn; 1 egg. Hurley & Thomas.
 - c) Pax road under porch roof. Young heard. Thacker & B. Shields.
 - d) Gauley Bridge in drain holes opposite hotel; 5 nests; birds carrying food and building materials.
45. Red-winged blackbird
- a) Between Mt. Hope and Pax; grass clump in marshy field; new nest Thomas & B. Shields.
 - b) Gauley Bridge on island in middle of river; 6 feet high in willow tree; eggs. B. Shields & Thomas.
 - c) Brooks Farm; 8 inches off ground in curley dock; 4 eggs. C. Conrad & Phillips.
46. Orchard Oriole
- a) Near dining hall in shagbark hickory in tip of branch; young. Carol Conrad & Thacker.
47. Baltimore Oriole
- a) Cotton Hill road, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Beckwith; 35 feet up in sycamore; young. T. Miller & Phillips.
 - b) Cotton Hill road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Beckwith; top of large sycamore; young. Baker & Limes.
48. Cowbird
- a) Indigo bunting nest; described in 51a below; 1 egg.
 - b) Red-eyed Vireo nest; described in 29d above; 1 egg.
 - c) Field sparrow nest; described in 54g below; 1 young.
49. Scarlet Tanager
- a) New River Gorge near Fayette Junction; 40 feet up on hanging limb; adult feeding young. N. Laitsch & Hurley.
 - b) Cotton Hill road, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Beckwith; sycamore. Baker & Limes.
 - c) Lane above cabins; 25 feet up in beech tree. Thacker & group.
50. Summer Tanager
- a) Camp near cabin 7. Oak tree 30 feet up, eggs. T. Heimerdinger & P. Chandler.
 - b) Cotton Hill road near mine tipple; immature male carrying nesting material on June 7, nest completed June 10. T. Shields.

- c) One-half mile west of Beckwith; 10 feet up in magnolia tree; new nest. Baker & Limes.
- d) Route 82, halfway between Fayetteville and Fayette station; 8 feet up in locust tree; 2 eggs. H. Boecher & Hicks.

51. Cardinal

- a) Laurel Run study area; 3 feet up in brambles; 3 young. H. Chandler & Thomas.
- b) Crooked Run 2 miles south of Fayetteville; 8 feet up in wild cherry; 3 eggs. Hicks & Stahl.
- c) Near Hawk's Nest on road to dam; 3 feet in greenbrier; 4 eggs. Sims & Boecher.

52. Indigo Bunting

- a) Camp near cabin 7; 3 feet in small shrub; 3 eggs & 1 cowbird egg. P. Chandler & H. Boecher.

53. Towhee

- a) Across Laurel Run opposite camp; 5 feet up in apple tree; 4 eggs. Sims & H. Boecher.

54. Chipping Sparrow

- a) Pax road; 20 feet up in locust tree; adult on nest. Thacker & Hurley.
- b) Ridge road; 40 feet up in oak tree; adult on nest. Thacker & Baker.
- c) Side road off Hwy. 21; 20' in oak tree. T. Shields.
- d) Babcock State Park; small Norway Spruce; new nest. Gregg & C. Miller
- e) Hawk's Nest picnic area; adult feeding young out of nest. Phillips & Carolyn Conrad.
- f) Brooks Farm; adults feeding young. Carolyn Conrad & Phillips.

55. Field Sparrow

- a) Cotton Hill, grass clump on ground; 3 eggs. Sims & Boecher.
- b) Crooked Run road, 2 miles south of Fayetteville; 2 feet up in blackberry; 4 eggs. Hicks & Stahl.
- c) Near Beckwith on ground in grassy plot; 5 eggs. Stahl & Sims.
- d) Pine planting near swimming pool in camp; 2 feet up in pine; 4 eggs. Thomas & B. Shields.
- e) Camp area; field in front of cabin 3; base of cherry sapling; 4 eggs. Sager & Limes
- f) Crooked Run road; 2 miles south of Fayetteville; 1 foot high in weeds; 2 young. Hicks & Stahl.
- g) West of camp near dump; clump of weeds on ground; 3 sparrows and 1 cowbird, all hatched on 6-11-54. Sims & P. Chandler.
- h) Field outside camp; 1 foot in clump of alfalfa & vines; 4 young & 1 egg, Kletzley & D. Conrad.
- i) Hillside above cabin 5; adult feeding 2 young out of nest. T. Shields.
- j) Field west of camp; 2 young out of nest. B. Shields & Thomas.

56. Song Sparrow

- a) Crooked Run road; 2 miles south of Fayetteville; 2 feet in shrubby St. John's wort. Hicks & Stahl
- b) Creek bank in alder bush beside creek; 2 eggs on 6-6, 3 eggs on 6-8-54. Stahl & Sims.
- c) Dothan; 5 feet in rose bush; 5 eggs. Thomas & Thacker.
- d) Cotton Hill road, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Beckwith; base of small blackberry bush on bank; 4 eggs. Baker and Limes.
- e) Between Kingston & Oak Hill; 4 feet up in rose bush; 4 young. Hurley.

FIELD NOTES

1954

THE AUTUMN SEASON

October 1 to December 31

Thirty-one persons representing fourteen localities contributed to these quarterly reports during the year 1954. The regions that now have regular coverage in West Virginia are: Bluefield, Charleston, Chester, Inwood, Kingwood, Morgantown, Wheeling, and Barnesville, Willoughby, Youngstown in Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The following persons were regular contributors: L. Barbour, G. Breiding, Mrs. D. Cain, E. Chandler, Mrs. H. Chapman, Mrs. M. Dickinson, L. Gorman, M. Gorman, H. Heimerdinger, G. Hurley, J. Mahner, C. Miller, G. Phillips, and L. Schwab. Others who submitted at least one report were: J. Beach, M. Brooks, R. Burns, M. Freeman, S. Freeman, P. Gregg, P. Handlan, C. Handley, H. Harrison, R. Kletzly, E. McCue, V. McLaughlin, T. Shields, M. Skaggs, and M. Thacker. The Field Notes Editor again wishes to thank these faithful cooperators and again urges all other members to send in notes for 1955. Our coverage of the whole region is growing slowly but we still have a long way to go.

During 1954 a total of 183 species have been listed in the published accounts, 65 additional species have been reported by the observers, and 5 other species are known to have occurred in our region. The year's list then stands at 253 species, a decrease of 6 over last year's high.

After six successive quarterly reports in which the seasons have been characterized as being uneventful, it is indeed a pleasure to report that this Fall Season has certainly been an eventful and interesting one. Early October continued to be dry and mild and the heavy warbler migration in progress in September continued into October without interruption. All regions reported many unusual and even spectacular last seen dates. This migration was still in good progress until about the middle of the month when climatic disturbances associated with the passage of "Hurricane Hazel" along the coast induced most of the birds to leave. The weather remained mild and stragglers were still reported but the last of October was rather uneventful. A cold wave, with heavy snow along Lake Erie, ushered in the month of November and the first waterfowl migration began. Most of November was milder than normal with about normal precipitation. December was mostly mild and dry, although the season's first prolonged cold spell occurred about mid-month and snowfall was general over the whole area.

In October reports from the East and North indicated that there was about to be an influx of far northern species, but most of our observers were unprepared for the near fantastic invasion of northern birds into our area which occurred in November and December. One or more reports came in of Goshawk, Snowy Owl, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown-capped Chickadee, Northern Shrike, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, and White-winged Crossbill. Added to this assortment were the exceptional number of reports of half-hardy birds wintering in the region. From the reports at hand it would seem that approximately 90 species were known to be present in our region during the last half of December. Truly it was an eventful fall and early winter.

Holboell's Grebe: C. Handley and F. Johnson observed four on the Kanawha River at Charleston on December 3.

Horned Grebe: The earliest date was October 31 at Alpena, Randolph County (J. Beach) and Cheat Lake (G. Hall). Reported from Wheeling in early November (T. Shields), and Charleston on December 3 (Handley).

Pied-billed Grebe: Apparently more numerous than usual but no larger concentrations were reported. One at Wheeling on December 26 (W. Yenke).

Double-crested Cormorant: One at Cheat Lake on November 7 (Hall).

Waterfowl: The mild weather held back any flight before the opening of the hunting season and most regions observed very poor flights. Handley observed a rather varied flight at Charleston in early December, listing 156 individuals of seven species on December 3.

Canada Goose: The only report of a sizeable flight was at Triadelphia on October 27 (G. Phillips). C. Miller observed one at Luwood on December 10.

Snow Goose: On October 24 L. Barbour saw a flock of 75 at Willoughby, Ohio.

Gadwall: Five on Cheat Lake on November 2 (Hall).

Blue-winged Teal: Handley reported three at Charleston on December 3, a rather late date.

Wood Duck: This species continues to do well. J. Menner reports a flock of 12 near Apollo, Pa. on October 2, and Miller estimated close to 300 at Lees-town on October 17. Mrs. M. Dickinson saw 25 at Bluefield on November 4 and reports them still present there on December 30.

Old Squaw: Two at Charleston on December 2 (Handley).

White-winged Scoter: Hall observed two on Cheat Lake on November 7 and Handley saw one at Charleston on December 2.

Surf Scoter: B. Van Cleve found one at Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. on October 16. This species has not been previously reported in Western Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie.

Ruddy Duck: Two December records; Handley found three at Charleston on December 2 and Yenke saw one at Wheeling on December 26.

Goshawk: M. Brooks observed one at his home in Morgantown on December 26 and upon several occasions thereafter. None were reported during the hawk counting period this year.

Cooper's Hawk: The number of reports of birds seen in late December in all parts of the region would indicate that this permanent resident is at a fairly high population level.

Red-tailed Hawk: Many more reports of wintering birds than is usual.

Red-shouldered Hawk: As with the preceding an unusually high number of reports of wintering birds.

Rough-legged Hawk: Three were reported during the September hawk counting period (Beach).

Golden-Eagle: W. Tawser and Van Cleve saw one on the Blue Ridge near Charles Town on September 18 and R. Burns reported three at Droop Mountain, Pocahontas County on September 25.

Duck Hawk: A total of seven was reported during the Hawk Count activities.

Rails: Miller reported that they were plentiful at Altona Marsh in early November.

Showbirds: The continued high water levels in most areas produced a generally disappointing migration.

Killdeer: There were many reports of late December records, including 23 on the Charleston Christmas Count, January 2, but Miller reported them to be unusually low in the Eastern Panhandle.

American Woodcock: Shields reports one at Wheeling on December 26.

Wilson's Snipe: In the Eastern Panhandle they were common during November and again this year they are apparently wintering in numbers at that location (Miller). One at Charleston on January 2. (G. Hurley).

Greater Yellowlegs: A rather late one seen at Cheat Lake on October 31 (Hall, E. McCue and R. Conn).

Spotted Sandpiper: A rather late record at Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. on October 23 (Van Cleve).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Recorded at Barnesville, O. on October 3 (Mrs. H. Chapman and Mrs. D. Cain).

Western Sandpiper: Barnesville, O. on October 2 (Chapman and Cain).

Mourning Dove: One at Morgantown on December 27 (Brooks).

Barn Owl: One reported by C. Conrad at Oglebay Park on December 26.

Snowy Owl: Reported from Columbus, O. in November (L. Hicks).

Long-eared Owl: This bird is not often reported in our region although it undoubtedly occurs not uncommonly. Six were found in the Pittsburgh, Pa. region on the Christmas Count, December 26 (Mehner).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Several very late records: October 13 at Morgantown (McCue); October 17 at Charleston (Hurley); October 21 at Bluefield (Dickinson); and a very late one found freshly killed on November 11 near the Marshall-Wetzel County line (G. Breiding).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Two late records; Morgantown, October 11 (McCue) and Charleston, October 24 (Handley).

Whip-poor-will: A late record at Oglebay Park on October 8 (L. Krieg).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Two late records: October 9 at Morgantown (McCue) and October 10 at Bluefield (Dickinson).

Phoebe: Three very late records; Pittsburgh, Pa., December 26 (Mehner) and Wheeling, December 26 (three individuals on the Christmas Count) and December 30 (Breiding).

Wood Peewee: Some late records were also reported for this species; October 3 at Pittsburgh, Pa. (Van Cleve); October 4 at Bluefield (Dickinson); October 10 at Wheeling (Shields) and the very late date of October 28 at Morgantown (McCue).

Horned Lark: Two individuals of the Northern race were seen in a flock of the Prairie form at South Park, Pa. on December 26 (Mehner).

Blue Jay: This species continues to be exceptionally common, even in regions where it is normally absent or rare. A comparison of Christmas Counts in three regions is interesting; Pittsburgh, Pa., 1953-0, 1954-8; Charleston, 1953-31; 1954-57; Morgantown, 1953-6, 1954-47. Miller reports them more common than he has ever seen them in the Eastern Panhandle.

Black-capped Chickadee: Many observers overlook the not too obvious fact that this species makes occasional irruptions South of its normal range. It has been fairly common around Morgantown where it is not normally found at low elevations (Brooks and Hall). It is not normally found in the Eastern Panhandle where Miller reports two on December 13 and 19. At Pittsburgh, Pa. where this species is the normal one, Van Cleve reports the numbers about trebled over last year. At that locality 140 were listed on the Christmas Count compared with 73 in 1953.

Brown-capped Chickadee: Possibly the record of the Winter. Breiding verified the report of one at the A. W. Donnan residence West Middleton, Pa. on December 28. According to Todd's, Birds of Western Pennsylvania this species had not occurred in that region prior to 1940 and so this may be a new species for the regional list. Outside our region this species has been reported commonly in New Jersey and one was collected in Maryland, the first State record. The Pennsylvania example was first noted by Mr. Donnan on December 26. The bird apparently departed January 28, 1955.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Rather more reports than usual. Seven were listed on the Wheeling Christmas Count.

Catbird: The general departure was quite late. Breiding found one at West Middleton, Pa. on December 28 and one was listed on the Pittsburgh, Pa. Christmas Count, December 26. In early January A. W. Donnan's at West Middleton had two "regulars" at a feeding station.

Brown Thrasher: Three late December records; One at Charleston on the Christmas Count, January 2, one at West Middleton, Pa. on December 28 (Breiding) and one at Buckhannon on January 1 (McCue).

Robin: There were numerous reports of wintering flocks. Phillips found a near perfect albino at Wheeling on October 30. Mehner reports that on November 6 there was a sudden influx at Highland Park, Pa. several weeks after the birds had departed.

Olive-backed Thrush: This species was another which stayed late. Late dates were October 6 at Wheeling (Breiding), October 10 at Bluefield (Dickinson), October 14 at Barnesville, O. (Chapman and Cain), and October 26 at Morgantown (McCue). A phenomenal record was the listing of four at Charleston on the Christmas Count, January 2. In 1953 only two were listed for all of United States.

Northern Shrike: One at Butler, Pa. on December 25 (F. Preston vide Brooks).

Migrant Shrike: Two at Bluefield on December 31 (Dickinson).

Vireos: There were records for all species through the first half of October from most regions.

Warblers: The heavy Fall flight reported in the previous issue continued only slightly diminished after the beginning of October. A total of 23 species were reported after October 1. The following discussion includes only the more unusual species or the more unusual last seen dates.

Blue-winged Warbler: Wheeling, October 10 (Shields).

Tennessee Warbler: Van Cleve called this the most abundant Fall warbler at Pittsburgh, Pa. with a peak in early October and records as late as October 17. Hall found them at Morgantown as late as October 10 and Dickinson reported them at Bluefield as late as October 25.

Orange-crowned Warbler: McCue reported one at Morgantown on October 14, the last of a very good Fall flight at that location.

Yellow-Warbler: Still in Wheeling on October 12 (Conrad).

Magnolia Warbler: Records at Morgantown on October 22 (McCue) and at Bluefield on October 23 (Dickinson) are late but Van Cleve's record at Pittsburgh, Pa. on November 7 is a whole month later than previously recorded there.

Cape-May Warbler: Continued to be fairly common in most places in early October with the latest dates being October 14 at Barnesville, O. (Chapman and Cain) and October 15 at Morgantown (Hall).

Myrtle Warbler: Arrival dates came about October 10-12 at most places except at Barnesville, O. where it did not appear until November 7. Van Cleve and Mehner felt that the flight at Pittsburgh, Pa. was very low. There were very few Christmas Count reports but Mrs. Dickinson reports one at Bluefield on January 3, her first January record there.

Bay-Breasted Warbler: The flight continued to be good after the first of October and one was reported at Charleston as late as October 17 (Hurley).

Pine Warbler: One at Charleston on the Christmas Count, January 2.

Mourning Warbler: Mrs. Dickinson reported them at Bluefield on October 1 and 10, her first Fall records there.

Connecticut Warbler: McCue found them at Morgantown on October 5 and 14.

Hooded Warbler: A late date, October 17 at Charleston (Hurley).

Redstart: At Morgantown on October 14 (McCue) and another late Charleston date, October 17 (Hurley).

Meadowlark: Late December and hence apparent wintering records at Wheeling, Morgantown and Charleston.

Cowbird: Three were reported on the Wheeling Christmas Count, December 26, the first such occurrence in recent years (Breiding).

- Scarlet Tanager: Still present at Morgantown on October 13 (McCue).
- Summer Tanager: A late record from Charleston, October 16 (Hurley).
- Cardinal: Mehner reports adults feeding young just out of the nest at Pittsburgh, Pa. on October 4, a very late nesting date.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Mrs. Dickinson reports one from Bluefield on November 1, her latest date of record there.
- Evening Grosbeak: The hawk watchers in New Jersey had found Evening Grosbeaks flying the ridges in early October but the earliest report from our region was October 31 when Barbour saw two at Willoughby, O. W. Bailey and H. Uhlig reported them on November 1 on Cheat Mountain. From the middle of November on they were reported by the "thousands" all over the mountainous portion of the state. Bailey reported that many were killed by passing cars while feeding on the highways when the countryside was completely snow covered in December. Hurley found them in Nicholas County on December 12 and Dickinson found them at Bluefield on December 16. To date no reports have come from regions of lower elevation in the state.
- Pine Grosbeak: Handley, Beach, and R. Kletzly found about 20 near Camp Thornwood on November 16. A. Schulz observed a flock in Tucker County on December 2. Thirteen were found at Cooper's Rock State Forest on December 26 (Brooks et al). These latter were still present in early January.
- White-winged Crossbill: One was found at Wheeling on November 18 (Phillips and Breiding). Brooks observed a flock of 11 at Cooper's Rock State Forest on December 27.
- Towhee: More reports of wintering birds than usual.
- Junco: Arrival dates ranged from October 2 at Morgantown (McCue) and Pittsburgh, Pa. (Van Cleve), to October 24 at Inwood (Miller).
- Tree Sparrow: Arrived rather late, November 14 at Barnesville (Chapman and Cain) and Inwood (Miller) to November 21 at Wheeling (Shields) and Pittsburgh, Pa. (Van Cleve). Rather scarce again this year.
- Chipping Sparrow: A flock of 13 at Wheeling on December 26 is most unusual, (Breiding).
- White-crowned Sparrow: Many more reports of late December birds than usual.
- Fox Sparrow: Reported on the Christmas Counts from Charleston, Morgantown, and Wheeling.
- Note: Unless otherwise designated all places in the above account are to be understood as referring to the state of West Virginia.

George A. Hall
Morgantown, West Virginia

Contributions for the Season, January 1 to March 31 are due on April 1.

BREEDING BIRD POPULATION STUDIES
FOR 1954 FORAY

The Brooks Bird Club laid out and studied two areas for the purpose of making breeding bird censuses at the 1954 Foray in Fayette County, West Virginia. A total of 53 man-hours was devoted to this project.

Census DataI. Lowland (Valley) Census Area

The area is located on Laurel Creek, a few hundred yards below the 4-H Camp used as Foray headquarters.

Size: 15 acres (roughly rectangular, 110 x 660 yards).

Forest Cover Type: Broadly speaking, foresters would classify the area as a Hemlock--Yellow Poplar forest cover type. These two species are predominate although hemlock is considerably more abundant as a result of selective logging of the yellow poplar and other hardwood species in years past. Associated with the predominant species are black oak, white oak, red oak, sycamore, some black gum, red maple, cucumber tree and hickory. Other species occur in lesser abundance. A more complete list of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs found on this site are enumerated in Mr. Worthley's report elsewhere in the 1954 Foray Report. Rhododendron is very abundant as a shrub species in the understory.

Edge: Laurel Creek roughly formed the boundary on one side (although not consistently); far end and other side similar to census area. Starting end had cleared hillside just outside census area.

Topography: Elevation 1300' approximately. Area bisected by a narrow black-topped road which formed the center line of the strip. One-half of the area is steep hill-side; the other consists of creek, creek-bank, and road.

Coverage: June 7 to 11, 8 trips, 26.5 man-hours.

Census: Parula Warbler, 6.5 (44); Wood Thrush, 6 (40); Catbird, 5 (34); Louisiana Water-Thrush, 4 (27); Black and White Warbler, 3 (20); Cardinal, 3 (20); Towhee, 3 (20); Phoebe, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Hooded Warbler, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1.5; Wood Pewee, 1.5; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1.5; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Crested Flycatcher, 1; Cerulean Warbler, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Flicker, 0.5; White-eyed Vireo, 0.5; Kingfisher + Downy Woodpecker, +; Summer Tanager, +.

Total: 24 Species; 50 territorial males (335 per 100 acres)

Visitors: Red-shouldered Hawk, Chimney Swift, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Cowbird, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch.

Note on Visitors: Jays, Chickadees, and Titmice were seen wandering through the area in family groups, but had abandoned all pretense to territorial rights. The reader will note that in Area II, the Chickadee and Titmouse were still on territory. The Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher and Robin were maintaining territories on the cleared hillside just before the starting end of the strip.

II. Upland (Ridge) Census Area

This area is located about two miles west of Beckwith P. O., immediately below the crest of a ridge. The area was laid out parallel to the ridge.

Size: Same as Lowland (Valley) census area.

Forest Cover Type: White Oak or White Oak-Red Oak-Hickory. White oak is the predominant species, or was prior to logging in the area several years ago. Black oak, red oak, bur oak, yellow poplar, scarlet oak, and some hickory are associates. Repeated forest fires have occurred on this ridge. A more complete list of vegetation species is available in Mr. Worthley's report as in the case of Area I.

Edge and Topography: In its physical aspects, this area was the most unusual ever surveyed by the Brooks Bird Club. A bull-dozed trail and strip-mine formed the center line of the census strip; along one side of this was a perpendicular shale rock face and an exposed coal seam. Three mine shafts had been driven horizontally into the rock face to exploit this seam. Two had been abandoned; the third, located just beyond the far end of the strip was being retimbered for use. (In fact, on Monday morning, the first census group found a bulldozer had preceded them down the road and had removed most of the station markers; they were forced to relocate them before they could start the census.) Above the rock face was a very steep hillside, badly eroded in places, mature trees growing above this on the top of the ridge. The down slope was littered with dumpings from the mines, and material pushed down by the bulldozer; it was covered with low growing vegetation almost to the edge of the area.

Coverage: June 7 to 11, 8 trips, 26.5 man-hours.

Census: Towhee, 7 (47); Yellow-breasted Chat, 6 (40); Golden-winged Warbler, 5 (34); Indigo Bunting, 5 (34); Phoebe, 4.5 (30); Cerulean Warbler, 3.5 (24); Black and White Warbler, 3 (20); Hooded Warbler, 3 (20); Worm-eating Warbler, 2.5 (17); Am. Redstart, 2.5 (17); White-eyed Vireo, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Cardinal, 2; Field Sparrow, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1.5; Tufted Titmouse, 1.5; Carolina Wren, 1.5; Summer Tanager, 1.5; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Wood Pewee 1; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Wood Thrush, 1; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 1; (Maryland?) Yellowthroat, 1; Black-billed Cuckoo, +; Crested Flycatcher, -; Chestnut-side Warbler, +.

Total: 29 Species; 65 territorial males (436 per 100 acres)

Visitors: Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Acadian Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, Cowbird, and Goldfinch.

Howard Heimerdinger