

The Redstart

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Twenty-fifth Anniversary Issue

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EDITORIAL

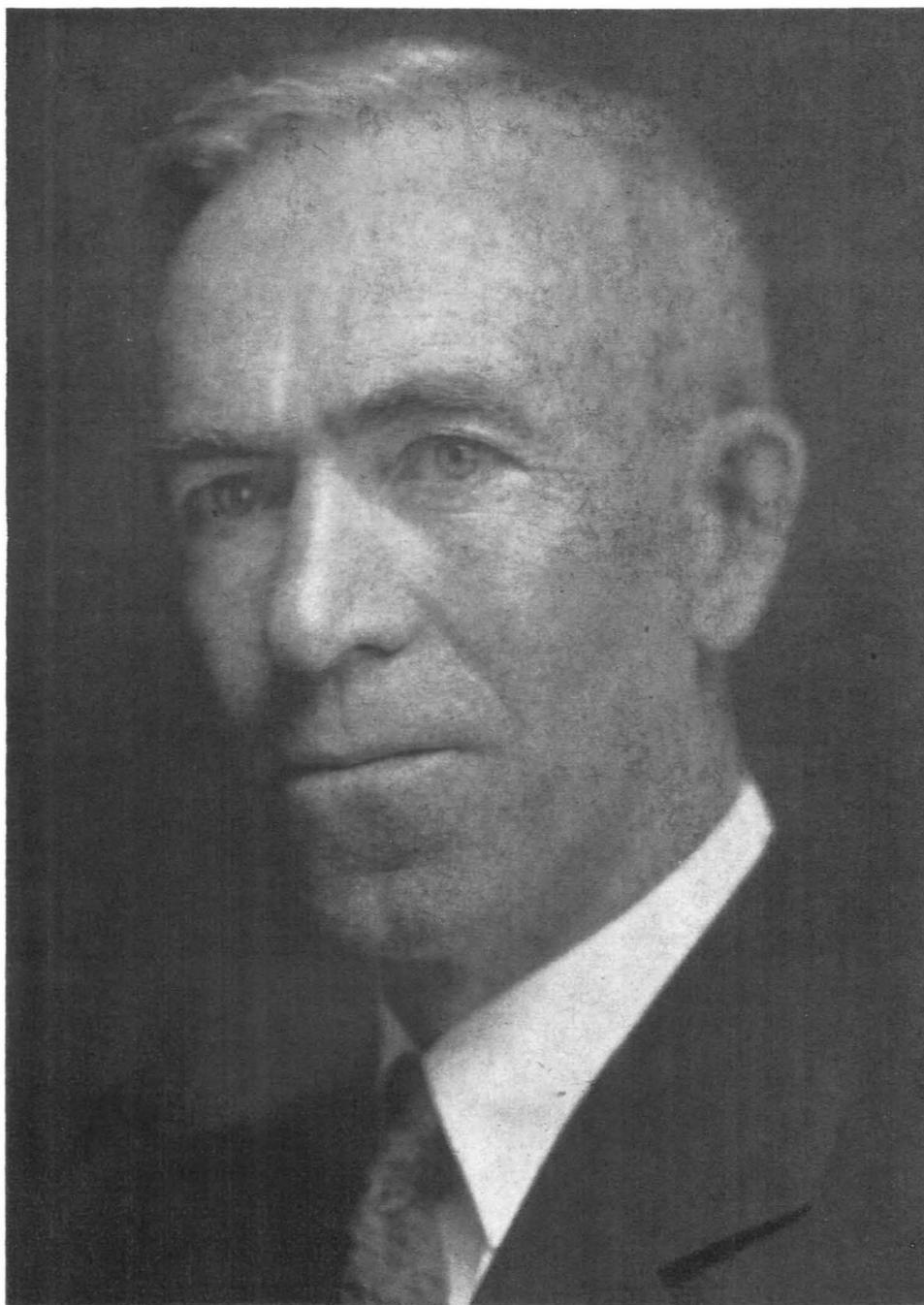
The appearance of the Volume XXV on the masthead of this issue marks a signal event in the history of this journal. Each year many new publications start bravely forth but the mortality rate is high and very few, and these only the strongest, survive to their Twenty-fifth Volume.

It therefore seemed appropriate to pause briefly in our recording of matters ornithological and to issue this special Silver Anniversary Issue. It is human nature to have the desire to brag a little and so this issue is devoted to a bit of laudable boasting about the Club's accomplishments in the last quarter century. Also, as in any expanding organization the largest fraction of our members were not on hand for the humble beginnings and it is hoped that this issue will serve as a handy reminder of our past.

The issue is dedicated to all those several hundred people who have made the Brooks Bird Club what it is and in particular to those nine people who served as Editors for the first 23 volumes and to whom the vigor of the journal can be attributed.

The present Editor is humbly proud of being able to place the XXV on the masthead but he hopes that the journal will continue to grow and improve so that the editor who prepares the Golden Anniversary issue with the big I on the top will feel that the first 25 years were rather small potatoes after all.

GAH



A. B. Brooks

May 6, 1873 - May 16, 1944

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF WEST VIRGINIA ORNITHOLOGY

By Maurice Brooks

The Brooks Bird Club is this year celebrating the first quarter-century of its existence. It is fitting that the organization takes stock of its past, as it looks to the future. Younger members, in particular, can gain perspective on the Club's accomplishments only by hearing about them. Older members will enjoy sharing past experiences in retrospect.

The signal accomplishment of the Brooks Bird Club is that it pioneered in bringing planning, program, and system to West Virginia bird study. In the 69 years of the state's existence (prior to the B.B.C.'s natal date in 1932), West Virginia had been visited by such notable ornithologists as W. E. D. Scott, William Brewster, W. C. Rives, Edward A. Preble, C. Hart Merriam, and others. The state had benefited from the observations of a few resident bird students, among them Thaddeus Surber, the Morgan brothers, Earle, A. B., and Fred Brooks, George Miksch Sutton, P. C. Bibbee, and Charles O. Handley. Quite naturally, most of these observers covered small areas of the state, or were limited by transportation and other difficulties when they tried to study the state's avifauna as a whole.

It remained for the Brooks Bird Club, first state-wide organization of its kind in West Virginia, to see the larger picture, and, aided by improving roads and autos, to map a program for collecting and systematizing notes on all parts of the state. So huge a task has not been completed, nor can it, by its very nature, ever be completed. A fine start has been made, however, and we may expect that the enthusiasm of new members will match or excel that of older ones.

Consider first of all the list of West Virginia birds, species and races, as we knew them in 1932. Bibbee was soon to publish a state-wide list containing 266 forms, and Earle A. Brooks had listed 268 forms in an article in The West Virginia Encyclopedia. These state-wide lists were markedly smaller than were those of bordering states which benefit from ocean or Great Lakes frontage. That condition still prevails, although creation of large and small water impoundments within the state has done much to narrow the gaps.

Today's list of the forms known from West Virginia would include around 330 species and races. Some, but not the majority, of these additions have resulted from descriptions of new races. A substantially greater number represent sound observations on new and interesting species. As bird students have increased, and as the scope of their travels had broadened, new finds have been, and will continue to be, made.

The extension of a state list through the presence of once-in-a-lifetime accidentals and strays has a certain local interest, but very little genuine biological significance. It is important to know how many species we have, but it is vastly more important to know about our resident species - their ranges, habitat requirements, and nesting habits. It is in this field that the B.B.C. can point to its most solid accomplishments.

When the Brooks Bird Club was organized, its central core of members were already participating in the Oglebay Park and mountain nature camps sponsored by

Oglebay Institute. The justly-famous, and highly useful, B.B.C. forays are a logical outgrowth of those mountain camps. I know of no other local bird group in the country conducting field studies of quite this nature. Such a contribution deserves to be called unique.

Consider the motility of a group on one of today's forays. Only a short time ago, a field group was limited to an area which it could cover by walking. This led to fine intensive studies of a limited region, but it could not include meaningful comparisons which are a regular feature of present-day forays. A week's trip now will include visits to perhaps a dozen mountain areas, each with its own individualistic niches and populations. Such comparisons are certain to enrich our ecological knowledge and understanding.

Lest it be thought that today's groups are spreading their efforts too thin, it should be remembered that each foray has as a major portion of its program the making of breeding bird censuses. These counts, conducted in a variety of vegetational situations, are more intensive and systematic than any such studies could have been in former times. The fact that this is a group activity, with a number of observers cooperating and checking on each other's data, gives it added value. No single individual could possibly cover so much ground, nor have so many checks on the accuracy of his observations.

It is a good thing, perhaps, for us to remember how exciting bird study in West Virginia could be in the 1930's. This state with no natural lakes suddenly found itself with artificial water impoundments - Cheat Lake, Tygart Lake, Lake Terra Alta, and Stony River Dam as examples - which completely changed the water bird and waterfowl picture. Bird observers soon came to realize that these aquatic species had been migrating over the state all the time, but that they weren't visiting us simply because they had no suitable places for lighting, feeding, and resting. The birds quickly found our new lakes, and students quickly found the birds. It was a thrilling time to be afield.

During my boyhood around French Creek the sight of a single wild duck which could be identified was a notable event. I reached my majority with a life-list of no more than a dozen water birds of all kinds seen locally. Truly West Virginia was a "duckless" state.

Then the lakes were created, and we began to visit them. On a good autumn day we might expect to see hundreds or thousands of ducks, geese, swans, grebes, loons, coots, and perhaps cormorants on Cheat Lake. In fall, receding shorelines left mud flats which were visited by a dozen species of shorebirds. Species which had been excessively rare, so far as limited observations went, were suddenly common. This will seem strange to those from better-watered regions, but older West Virginians will remember how exciting it all was.

I have always felt that the Brooks Bird Club owes a debt of gratitude to Graham Netting which it can never repay, but which it should take every opportunity of acknowledging. He tempered the natural enthusiasms of a group of beginners with the disciplines of a scientist. He was not content to have the club remain merely "bird-counters"; rather, he constantly raised the question of "why?" to accompany the "what?" and "how many?". He never missed a chance to suggest further lines of inquiry, more careful study, when new observations were made. Most important of

all, perhaps, he took endless time to answer the beginner's questions, to identify his specimens, and to indicate the direction and purpose of additional work. A surprising number of younger biologists benefited from such guidance and such association.

Reflecting the development of the group's thinking, it was soon apparent that a medium for the regular publication of records was demanded. The Redstart was the result, and for twenty-five years it has held an honorable place among local ornithological journals. Almost every issue has included notes and articles which contribute and add to our knowledge of the state's bird life. More material of significance in West Virginia ornithology has appeared in The Redstart than in any other journal.

In earlier years, faunal lists, quite naturally, made up the bulk of the articles. We needed such lists; they didn't exist elsewhere. We still need them, particularly as little-known regions (ornithologically speaking) are visited and studied. B.B.C. members, however, knew there was more than this to ornithology. Tom Shields set the pattern when he found the first West Virginia nest of Savannah Sparrows, studied it intensively, and published the results of his observations. In the years that have followed a large number of bird species have been given intensive attention by B.B.C. members.

One remembers particularly Karl Haller's illuminating work (backed by solid and purposeful collecting) on West Virginia House Wrens, Redwings, and Song Sparrows; Lloyd Poland's studies of the grackles; Bill Lunk's papers on chickadees and on Brewster's and Golden-winged Warblers; Russ DeGarmo's and Eleanor Sims' excellent nesting studies of Swainson's Warbler; Russ and Paulinebelle West's notes on Mourning Warbler. These are merely examples; there are, of course, many others.

Some observations and publications of B.B.C. members have been of more than local importance. Karl Haller and Lloyd Poland discovered Sutton's Warbler, collected the only known specimens, and gave us just about the only reliable information on the bird that we have to this day. Bill Legg, Bill Lunk, George Sutton, Russ DeGarmo, and Eleanor Sims (to mention a few) provided our basic data on the Appalachian population of Swainson's Warbler. Their work has led to a complete revision of our concepts relative to the breeding habitat and requirements of this species - perhaps as radical a revision as has applied to any North American bird species in the last twenty-five years.

In 1950, the Brooks Bird Club was a host organization at the Jackson's Mill meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society. In 1958, the Club will again be sponsor to the Oglebay Park meeting of that organization.

Recent activities of the Club have included systematic hawk counts along many Appalachian crests; studies of diurnal songbird migration in these same places; study visits to Pymatuning Reservoir and to a number of the Muskingum Conservancy lakes in northeastern Ohio, and special field trips to the McClintic Wildlife Refuge, near Point Pleasant, W. Va.

Man (and, as Frank Dugan says, it must be understood that man embraces woman) does not live by birds alone, not even the members of the B.B.C. The Club has always been peculiarly successful in mixing sound scientific work and good fun.

Field trips of a serious nature turn into social occasions at the first suitable opportunity. The group likes to get together, and it has a good time when it does.

To do the routine work in publishing and mailing The Redstart; to set up and tear down camps at the forays, to arrange for cooks, supplies, transportation, and a thousand other details; to lead the singing, start the games, build the morale around campfires and reunions, the B.E.C. has depended upon a few of the faithful who have never failed it. Naming names is a thankless business, since someone deserving will always be left out; nevertheless, we have to think of John and Polly Handlan, Clyde Upton, Harold Bergner, Russ West, Eva Hays, Pete Chandler, Jim Olsen. Most of all, we have to think of the Conrads - Chuck, Kay, Carolyn, and Dorothy - who have carried the main load. When things have needed doing, they were there, and the things got done. I can't think of higher praise.

For family reasons I am hesitant, but I suppose that it's proper to remember the one for whom the Club is named - A. B. Brooks. Without his inspirational leadership, there wouldn't have been any B.E.C. That would have been a great loss; the Club has been important to a good many people.

Division of Forestry,
West Virginia University
Morgantown, W. Va.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

By John W. Handlan

"What a wedge, what a beetle, what a catapult is an earnest man! Who can resist him?"

From a poor memory emerged this quotation from Henry David Thoreau. It is used here as an introduction to a brief history of the Brooks Bird Club. The 12 men and one teen-age girl who were the founders of the organization were, indeed, "earnest men" who have continued for 25 years in an organization of which those of us who helped found it and those who since have joined us are proud.

In September of 1932, the West Virginia Nature Association which had been erected within the framework of Oglebay Institute, based at Oglebay Park, in Wheeling, W. Va., held a dinner and meeting which later evolved into small groups of "special interest" people. There was a bird group, a botany group, an astronomy group and even a nature poetry organization. The bird group has survived as the Brooks Bird Club.

The Nature Association was an outgrowth of the public nature walks conducted at 7 A.M. each Sunday morning by A. B. Brooks, Oglebay Institute naturalist. At the time, the walks had averaged 115 people each Sunday who came to the park for a guided trip around the trails with Mr. Brooks as leader. On one Sunday, 253 people appeared to take part in the event. Most of them remained for an outdoor breakfast which was served at cost at an outdoors picnic site, or, if weather forbade this, in the Park dining room.

At the first meeting of the group interested in bird study Dr. Matthew F. Zubak proposed the name which the club still bears -- the Brooks Bird Club. The club now numbers 375 members who represent 18 states.

The club had been organized just two months when Russell West, then of Wheeling and now of Bridgeport, O., produced the first copy of "The Redstart," a single mimeographed page which he compiled, edited and had mimeographed as a one-man job. The publication has continued and now is by far the oldest ornithological publication launched in West Virginia.

Early activities of the club were confined, principally, to participation in the mountain camps of the Oglebay Park Nature Leaders Training School and to the operation of 4 A.M. "instruction walks" with volunteer leaders from the club membership. Later on, the group expanded its activities to week-end field trips at such locations as the Youngstown, O., lakes to see shore birds and waterfowl, to Pymatuning Lake at Linesville, Pa., for the same purpose, and elsewhere for week-end outings.

The scope of club activities gradually increased, but in 1940 the club pulled away from under the wing of Oglebay Institute and was "on its own," starting with a week-long nature study foray at Lost River Park. That started a series of similar week-long expeditions which have added considerably to ornithological, botanical and herpetological knowledge of the West Virginia outdoors.

The forays, for example, have provided records of the first nestings in the state of such species as the Purple Finch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hooded Warbler, Nashville Warbler and others. Considerable worthwhile work in botany, herpetology and mammalogy have resulted from combined efforts of the camp groups in the past several years.

The club has been favored at the week-long forays by the presence of various outstanding naturalists. To sit at the feet of these people has added much to the largely self-taught nature study of the active and corresponding members of the organization.

If there ever actually was an "active" organization it is the Brooks Bird Club. Its annual activities occupy almost a third of the week-ends in any one year. Regular events include, of course, the week-long foray but also include such week-end activities as: A trip to Mosquito Lake in the area of Youngstown, Ohio; week-end expeditions to such places as Middle Mountain cabins of the U. S. Forest Service in Randolph County, W. Va.; the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia in search of Sutton's Warbler, the only two known specimens of which were taken by Brooks Club members Karl Haller and Lloyd Poland; a Charleston chapter reunion, now held at the FFA-FHA camp near Ripley, W. Va.; the annual reunion of the entire Brooks group at Camp Piedmont, between Cadiz and Cambridge, O., etc. etc.

Perhaps the most remarkable example of this club's work consists of the weekly (Tuesday) meetings at the club room in Wheeling which definitely are work sessions. During these meetings the club's journal "The Redstart" (now a quarterly) is edited, stencils are cut and run on a mimeograph machine and copies are addressed to the membership. In these informal gatherings, too, mail of general interest is condensed and published in a monthly called "The Mail Bag" and the annual foray reports are stencilled, mimeographed and distributed.

A hard core of some six to a dozen Wheeling members and occasional visitors turn out for these self-sacrificing, money saving work meetings. Mail is answered, new acquisitions to the club library are catalogued and arranged on club room shelves. The group usually "chips in" for modest refreshments which are consumed to end the evening.

Departure from Wheeling of many former members has resulted in organization of chapters of the Brooks Club at Charleston, the Columbus, Ohio area, Morgantown, and elsewhere. Christmas bird counts, "century days" and other activities are carried out by the chapter groups as well as by the parent organization at Wheeling. In 1948 the Club became legally incorporated as a non-profit organization. An important step was taken in 1949 with a reorganization converting the Club from a local society to an area-wide one.

The Brooks Club has learned the old-fashioned, but invaluable custom of "making its own entertainment" and has found in the pursuit of bird study an opportunity for self-entertainment via the media of songs, talks and stories by members, occasional "parties" and other activities which more or less obviate the need for commercial pleasures.

The key to the club's success appears to lie largely in the field of voluntary effort. Forays, for example, pay no instructors. Skilled persons in any outdoor fields serve as voluntary instructors, campfire leaders, etc. It's a great club and those of us associated with it are proud and happy to be members.

409 41st Street, S.E.
Charleston, W. Va.

OFFICERS OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB, 1932-1957

PRESIDENT

John W. Handlan (1932-36)
Russell West (1936-37)
Harold Bergner (1937-40)
John W. Handlan (1940-41)
George H. Breiding (1941)
Russell West (1941-42)
Charles L. Conrad (1942-44)
Carolyn Conrad (1944-48)
Karl W. Haller (1948-49)
James H. Olsen (1949-50)
E. R. Chandler (1950-52)
George A. Hall (1952-55)
Maxine Thacker (1955-57)
David F. Baker (1957-)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Carolyn Conrad (1942-44)
Clyde Upton (1946-48)
Harold Bergner (1948-49)
George A. Hall (1949-52)
Maxine Thacker (1952-55)
David F. Baker (1955-57)
Hal H. Harrison (1957-)

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Mary L. Wright (1948-49)
Maxine Thacker (1939-52)
Howard Heimerdinger (1952-55)
Tom Shields (1955-56)
Hal H. Harrison (1956-57)
Clark Miller (1957-)

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sarah Hine (1932-33)
Helen McGill (1933-35)
Carolyn Conrad (1935-39)
Beth Ann Waddell (1939-40)
Carolyn Conrad (1940-41)
Eva Hayes (1941-43)
Jean Semancick (1944-45)
Elizabeth Etz (1945-49)
Eva Hayes (1949-53)
Lester Gorman (1953-56)
Mary K. Conrad (1956-57)
Eva Hayes (1957-)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Charles L. Conrad (1949-)

EDITOR, THE REDSTART

Tom Shields (1933-35)
John W. Handlan (1935-40)
James H. Olsen (1940-41)
Russell West (1941-42)
Mabel Hopwood (1942-43)
Charles L. Conrad (1943)
Maurice G. Brooks (1943-46)
W. Russell DeGarmo (1946-53)
George H. Breiding (1953-56)
George A. Hall (1956-)

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB*

By George H. Breiding

Mr. Toastmaster, Members, and Friends of the Brooks Bird Club:

It certainly is a wonderful feeling of pride and satisfaction to help celebrate the silver anniversary of this unique organization.

It came as some surprise to me to get an invitation to be the speaker at this gathering, and it must have come as a shock to your toastmaster to receive the annual meeting announcement and learn that he was to be in charge of this session.

Of course, our toastmaster is the real good Boy Scout type of fellow so he just brought into play the Scout motto, "Be prepared." In fact, I could never figure out how he ever avoided becoming a girl scout. He's probably scouted a few, but being such a long-time birder he has learned to become as elusive as a Sutton's warbler and never got around to establishing a definite nesting territory. So to our good friend George, I'd like to make this little toast:

A pipe, a book, a friend
A stein that's always full
Here's to the joys of a bachelor's life
A life that is never dull.

Then, too, this fellow Chuck Conrad has to be watched. I received a 'phone call several weeks ago and when I picked up the receiver, a voice said, "How ja like to get a free meal?" I asked, "What's the hook?" So Chuck said, "All you have to do is give a talk at the banquet on Sunday evening." He continued, "Maurice Brooks has agreed to speak on Saturday, and George Hall will be your toastmaster."

I said, "Charles, anybody who would try to follow Maurice Brooks and then vie with George Hall as toastmaster would have to be a half-wit.

You know what this guy Conrad had the gall to say? "That's just what we figgered and that's why we are asking you."

So that immediately put me in a class that I'm not quite sure where I qualify, because you know there are two kinds of persons who make speeches: Those who have something to say and those who have to say something. In either case I'm committed to infringe upon some of your time. You will have to be the judge whether I have something to say or just **have** to say something.

But as I gaze about this particular assemblage of bird watchers I cannot help but think of Ogden Nash's tribute to The Duck:

*An address given at the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of The Brooks Bird Club, Inc., Camp Piedmont, Ohio, September 1, 1957.

Behold the duck
It does not cluck.
A cluck it lacks
It quacks.
It is specially fond
Of a puddle or pond
When it dines or sups
It bottoms ups.

Now to get on to **more** serious business. If the BBC wanted a comedian for this session it could have gone out and hired Jack Benny or Bob Hope. To launch upon more sensible matters I would like to ask this question: What is the future of the Brooks Bird Club? The **answer** is simple: The future belongs to those who prepare for it.

It would be impossible for me, or I think for anyone else, to predict with certainty the future of this organization unless the groundwork is laid now: by planning the work and working the plan.

The Brooks Bird Club is now 25 years of age. In comparison with the human life span, the BBC is a fully recognized adult and should have reached maturity. By maturity I don't mean the beginning of the loss of its vigor and vitality, but a stage or condition where it should begin to yield its best fruits.

The Brooks Bird Club actually is no different from anything else in the world of nature. The Brooks Bird Club can be compared to a natural ecological unit. And as I see it, we want to prevent the Bird Club from being unduly influenced or controlled by adverse environmental factors. The leaders of the BBC must manage the habitat to keep the organism, in this case the organization, alive, moving, and dynamic.

Of course, in the BBC we cannot be as drastic as nature in making changes. Nature can shift the environmental controls and relentlessly cull the weak, the decaying, the aged and the dying. But according to Christian principles and our moral code we just don't eliminate or liquidate those who no longer fit or are unable to hold their place.

It's certainly a basic philosophy of the BBC to provide a place in its program for persons of all interests and ages.

I don't believe there is any argument or any case for difference of opinion that any organization, firm, institution or nation will flourish or deteriorate according to the amount and availability of its resources, both natural and human. And one of the greatest blessings any unit of society can have is a strong, healthy, and up-and-coming generation of young blood.

Perhaps we can predict the future of the BBC by making a survey and gathering information. Suppose we were to make a complete roster of the persons who belong and who have ever belonged to the BBC. Suppose then we would follow up with an attempt to acquire some data, such as the age of the persons when they joined the club, how long they held their membership, where they lived, and their relative degree of participation or activeness.

Next, let's assume the average active BBC member was 30 years of age in 1942. It may be most interesting to determine what it was in 1952 and then project the trend into 1962. Or perhaps if the percentage of certain age groups, say between 15 and 20, 21 to 40, 41 to 60 were determined along with the average tenure for each member, or the percentage of turnover in those age brackets. Almost at a glance the future of the bird club could be forecast unless there is a catastrophe.

And in nature, the dynamics and processes of change are greatly speeded by catastrophe. The speed and the change may be beneficial or detrimental to the organism or unit involved, depending on factors or the weights on the balance and the direction they are heading.

Like a species, an organization will stay healthy if it can produce or attract a certain percentage of new members as well as a certain percentage of young members who will assume the responsibility of perpetuating the group. With a steady influx of new members and youthful members hardly any organization is doomed to extinction.

The BBC then can predict here and now if it is going to observe a golden anniversary. Its future "belongs" to us.

As a 20-year member of this club who has held office or performed duties all up and down the line and looking at the situation from several angles, namely the past, present and future, the continuation of the club hinges on a number of things but generally and simply, there are two: 1) Recruiting new and young members and 2) Expanding the scope of activities or at least intensifying some of those underway.

Detailed division of these two points shows there is an interrelatedness where one depends on the other. It's like which came first or --- you can't put the cart before the horse.

Again maybe the club ought to do some more investigating in order to guide the administration and set policy. For example, how much would it cost to put on an intensive membership campaign to solicit a select group, say from the Wilson Club, the A. O. U., and other national organizations plus local neighboring organizations like the bird and nature study groups in surrounding states? Would the cost involved produce the desired membership as well as revenues to justify the effort and expense? There are enough persons with professional and business background in the club to determine how far it can go and ascertain the probable results. The same group, perhaps, ought to look into operations a little bit to see if new members of the past 10 years are producing a desired number of productive workers. Admittedly there are different categories of membership and participation, but in our human beehive it's better to have a maximum of workers and a minimum of drones.

Anyone who becomes a member of an organization theoretically should do so with the purpose of contributing to its welfare and not take a passive attitude or what he can get out of it. The greatest personal gain and satisfaction that one can get out of living is derived in giving. The Bird Club was built on the foundation of giving, serving and sharing, not taking and receiving.

I would like to toss a challenge to the incoming regime. I'd go so far as to say that new administration has a golden opportunity for planning the golden anniversary of this club.

When we examine the record we can see if the past has carved a good solid road to greater achievement and strength or whether the road leads to deterioration and oblivion.

The present could be almost critical era for the club because things seem to be going relatively well. When things are going well we have a tendency to be complacent. Complacency like slow erosion or cancer can gnaw away at a vital spot just like thieving vermin. There are several times when the future of the bird club has not only been jeopardized by dimness but actually shrouded in darkness. World War II, for instance, was a good testing point. The home guard rallied and the assault of disintegration was staved off. In fact, it possibly made the club stronger. Again the emergency or the catastrophe forced the process of evolution and the club was able to resist strong environmental change, because it could see the cause and was able to take a course of action to head off disaster.

So we better carefully scrutinize our environment today to see if the factors are letting us forge ahead, hold ground or retreat. Simultaneously we should try to determine if our ideas on progress and success have changed.

In other words, is our system of evaluation the same; is it a good one that is modern or is it poor and defunct?

Maybe we should go back to the ancients for counseling and like Confucius say: "Every man has two ends--one on which to sit, the other to think. Our success depends on the end we use the most. Heads we win, tails we lose."

If we use our heads the BBC will go on to the golden glory of its 50th anniversary. If we sit on our tails the BBC is likely to become tarnished with time and dulled with inertia.

This leads to another epigram: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." If we keep hidden our flame of nature study, conservation and better enjoyment of the simple things of life, how can we as BBC members, bird students, campers, outdoor and nature lovers expect to light up the atmosphere for others who need or want such enrichment in their lives?

It's up to us here and now to decide whether we will have a bigger and better Brooks Bird Club or will we let it slip into a mediocre existence.

We must reaffirm ourselves in the purpose and aims of the BBC and rededicate our thoughts and efforts to its continued and greater success.

To do this we are going to have to extend the activities for studying birds by the individual and also by group effort. We can add impetus by providing small grants and aids for students to undertake special problems and for teachers to get training and by exchange scholarships at all levels to the Forays.

And speaking of the Forays, are they becoming too big or unwieldy and are they retaining the prime purpose for which they were intended? Should the program be geared more to training its participants in the techniques of outdoor education and preparing the membership to become an influence in promoting the school-camping idea and developing leaders in educating the public on how to enjoy and appreciate

the outdoors and curb vandalism, litterbugging and related activities that blight the beauties of the American landscape? Or should the Forays be conducted strictly as vacation outings? Or should they be screened to accommodate a corps of field specialists with only an academic attitude?

What about our members who live in communities that have little, none, or inadequate outdoor recreational facilities and parks? Are they lighting the candle by assuming leadership to dispel the darkness of a backward, slow-thinking and slow-moving public?

We must launch into a strong educational venture in 1958 and complete as soon as possible the project for youths that was started two years ago.

What about the promotion of other activities to stimulate community interest in bird study such as:

- 1) Undertaking local bird art and photo exhibits.
- 2) Sponsoring or augmenting a bird and nature shelf in the local or school library.
- 3) Establishing a bird feeding station for shut-ins or at some hospital or sanatorium.
- 4) Organizing bird feeding parties in winter and field trips for youth, church and civic groups.
- 5) Sponsoring a bird feeder and bird house building contest for youths?
- 6) Contributing bird articles in the local press. Some of this material could be adapted for public service and educational programs for radio and television. Such publicity and public relations gestures will bring popularity and prestige for the BBC. Remember the pen is mightier than the sword.
- 7) Establishing community bird sanctuaries.
- 8) Educating our own membership. "The Mail Bag" in a measure does this, but we need more materials in the way of club philosophy and policy, and stimulating ideas that will motivate us individually and as a club.
- 9) Joining the crusade to save natural wildlife areas. Cranesville Swamp and Canaan Valley are two in West Virginia. Perhaps if the proper strategy had been launched 25 years ago, and the steel operators were prevailed upon, a section or remnant of Beech Bottom swamp may have been saved. Beech Bottom swamp produced both "good" birds and bird students. Now the site is filled and level with no sign of its ever being there. Neither are there any signs of good birds or good birders to be found there.

We should all begin to think and act in terms that will help the Brooks Bird Club to fulfill its destiny. In other words, let's all be better members. We are

entrusted with an obligation to help preserve those intrinsic values of human life, those places and pursuits that will make us leaders in a crusade for those times and things in man's life when he needs to re-create himself physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Above all, we are charged with the task of perpetuating it for those who follow us. We dare not let America altogether lose what might be called "recreational togetherness" or community living involving the participation in the "old-fashioned type" of homemade fun.

I have tried to be general. I have tried to be specific in some areas. Some of my thoughts are not worthy of second consideration, but they are examples of attitudes and modes of planning. I have a number of points that I will not take time to go into. I am sure we could get our heads together and think up plans that may seem ridiculous, but who knows, someday, somewhere, they may work.

So in closing, the future of the Brooks Bird Club is in our hands. That future should be a golden one, symbolizing the end of its next quarter of century of existence. Will it, like gold ore, require the time of heating, purifying and tempering to bring it to the brilliance of its golden age?

I don't have the answer, not even a portion of it, but we as the celebrants of the silver anniversary do -- just like a coin coated with the silver of today on one side and the gold of tomorrow on the other. Remember what Confucious said. Winston Churchill when referring to the dark, bloody, early days of World War II, said, "If the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say this was their finest hour." To paraphrase Churchill: If the Brooks Bird Club and its chapters last for fifty years, let's hope those members of the future will look back on this silver anniversary and say, "They did it for us. It was their golden hour."

Oglebay Institute
Oglebay Park
Wheeling, West Virginia

THE FORAY IDEA

By Chuck Conrad, Foray Director

June is Foray time. That is, to members of the Brooks Bird Club, their families and friends and to a considerable number of other people throughout eastern United States. The Foray has been held annually since 1940 without interruption. During this period nearly two thousand people have attended the Foray.

Previous to 1940, the Brooks Bird Club had operated a number of weekend expeditions. The experience and success of these outings helped in the planning of the first Foray which was held in 1940. The title "Foray" was selected because it best conveyed the idea of moving from one territory to another. The purpose, as originally expressed, was to offer to the members of our club an opportunity to join others in making a week-long ecological study of a particular West Virginia territory. The program is so arranged that both the trained leader and the beginner have an equal opportunity to work and learn without hindering each other. All phases of nature are studied including ecology and conservation. Participation in any activity or study is wholly voluntary. Everyone is free to plan and carry out his own work schedule or to spend his time as he sees fit, subject to the simple rules for camp safety and convenience. This original plan is still followed.

A Foray Director is appointed annually, and he in turn appoints a Foray executive committee. The project is operated on a cooperative basis with various Foray-ers being appointed for specific duties ranging from chairmanship for various branches of field work to responsibility for compiling the annual Foray Report.

Enrollment is open to anyone and as a result the group is made up of anyone from a college student and professor to a millworker or homemaker. Bringing family groups into the Foray setting has contributed to rather than detracted from the ultimate success of the Foray.

The Foray committee decides what area in West Virginia it would like to study. Then a search is made for suitable camping facilities. As a result of this procedure the Foray sites have been quite varied, with accommodations ranging from tents to the most modern cabins. The first Foray was held at Lost River State Park, Hardy County, W. Va. We received the finest cooperation from the Park Commission for the 30 campers that were permitted to attend that first year. It was a huge success, so much so that the 1941 Foray was held at the same park. In 1943 the site was a tent camp at Terra Alta, Preston County, W. Va. The 1944, 47 and 48 camps were held at rehabilitated "3C" camps. In 1951 we set up headquarters at the Warden's Hotel at Davis, West Virginia. Last year's Foray was held at Cacapon State Park near Berkeley Springs in Morgan County.

The Foray day begins with a bird hike each morning at 6:15 a.m. under the guidance of appointed leaders who recognize the birds both by sight and song. A check list is kept by each group, and a report is usually made at breakfast time. The camp list compiled during the Foray usually numbers well over 100 species of birds. A bird Nesting Contest is conducted at every Foray, with three competing teams which include almost every camper. Captains for each team are chosen, and

appropriate awards are given to the winning team at the final campfire. The contest, of course, stimulates nest hunting, which in turn establishes breeding records for the territory. The Foray can boast of several state first nesting records that have been turned up by the campers.

Another activity that features each Foray is the Bird Population Study, which was established in 1948 and continued each year since. The studies are conducted scientifically by the so-called "expert" bird enthusiasts in camp. Usually three 15-acre plots are studied, and the results made up into separate reports. Our bird population studies in various sections of West Virginia have received excellent comments from many professional ornithologists.

Daily field trips in all phases of nature study are usually scheduled, under expert leadership, for both the morning and afternoon. Combined lists are kept of trees, flowers, ferns, mammals, reptiles, etc. Specimens are collected for identification and for the camp museum, which features a display of the various plants and animals in the territory being worked. Every effort is made to offer assistance in whatever is of the greatest interest to the campers. During the week, side trips are made to various points of interest in the immediate area.

After a long, hard day in the field, the evening offers two highlights of the Foray; movies and campfires. Some of the best wildlife colored movies obtainable are shown along with our own Foray film in color produced by Hal H. Harrison. Also, several series of color slides are shown. The campfire program usually starts about twilight around a blazing fire. After reports of the day's activities have been given, and when all the voices blend in a song, the warm friendliness of the entire group can be felt.

Special features of each Foray include a Sunday night Vesper service, held outdoors if possible, and a public campfire program when residents of the near-by area are invited to hear reports on what the campers have found in that particular locale. Invariably, the local citizens are amazed with our "finds".

Additional attractions besides the camp museum is a Nick-Nack store containing everything from candy to Bobby-pins; a nature library for individual study and reference; a camp "lab" equipped with all the essentials for field work; coffee for the early morning hikers and a late snack for everyone after the campfire.

One of the special aspects of the Foray is its appeal to people in all walks of life, regardless of education, economic or social level. A common interest, nature and the study of the out-of-doors bonds them together each June for a wonderful week at the Foray.

The Brooks Bird Club is justly proud of the Foray. It has been said that nowhere else in this country can there be found a similar event that is so outstanding as the Foray.

137 North 11th Street
Wheeling, West Virginia

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

By E. R. Chandler

Brooks, A. B. (deceased). Founder of the club which bears his name. Naturalist and inspiring leader who started the Nature Training School at Oglebay Park where many of us got our start in study and appreciation of nature in its many forms. A. B. Brooks was born in French Creek, W. Va., educated at West Virginia University, and worked for West Virginia Geological and Biological Survey (Published Forest Resources of West Virginia). Worked for West Virginia University and published West Virginia Trees Bulletin 175, West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. Worked for Chestnut Blight Eradication Project, West Virginia; New York Department of Forestry; and in 1921 became first Chief Game Protector of West Virginia. Finished his active work at Oglebay Park. Published articles on ornithology in Bird Lore, The West Virginia Review, West Virginia Wild Life, The Auk, The Wilson Bulletin and early issues of The Redstart. Collaborated with Earl A. Brooks on The Birds of West Virginia for the West Virginia Encyclopedia. (Titles and reference for above from A Descriptive Bibliography of West Virginia Ornithology, by Earl A. Brooks).

Brooks, Earle A. Rev. (D.D.) (deceased). Distinguished student and writer on West Virginia ornithology from the 1890's through the 1930's. Earle A. Brooks was born at French Creek, W. Va.; educated at West Virginia University and Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh. Held Presbyterian pastorates at Charleston, West Virginia, Waverly, West Virginia, Weston, West Virginia and Boston, Massachusetts. Taught outdoor education at Boston University and Sargeant School of Physical Education. Author of A Handbook of the Outdoors. Dr. Brooks published articles in: The Oologist, Bird Lore, The Auk, West Virginia Wild Life, West Virginia School Journal, West Virginia Arbor Day Manual, and various reports of West Virginia Agriculture Department, Forest, Game and Fish Warden reports. Some articles of note - 1877 The Birds of Upshur County - 1909 List of Birds found in West Virginia - 1916 Game Birds of West Virginia - 1926 A Checklist of Birds of West Virginia - 1929 The Birds of West Virginia for the West Virginia Encyclopedia. In 1938 he published the most helpful A Discriptive Bibliography of West Virginia Ornithology.

Cromes, Albert (deceased). Lived most of his life in the Wheeling area. Cooked for the Nature Training Schools and Brook Bird Club Forays and outings. He could turn out a good meal with any kind of equipment from the crudest fireplace to the most up to date range. Bert was fond of the members of the Brooks Club and we were equally fond of him. He was interested in the out of doors and many forms of bird life, particularly whip-poor-wills, although to our knowledge he did not write on the subject. He was in his 80's when he died at his home in Wheeling a few years ago.

Brooks, Maurice. Long time member and friend of the Brooks Bird Club. A recognized authority on the bird life of West Virginia. Born at French Creek, W. Va.; educated at West Virginia Wesleyan, West Virginia University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan. State 4-H Club Agent, 1923-1934, and at present Professor of Wildlife Management and Forester, West Virginia, Agriculture Experiment Station. Taught at University of Virginia and University of Minnesota. Served 8 years on West Virginia Conservation Commission, and was Director of the West

Virginia Conservation School, Jackson's Mill. Author, The Pteridophytes of West Virginia, A Check-list of West Virginia Birds, Black Walnut and It's Effects on Surrounding Vegetation, and the West Virginia chapter in Pettingill's A Guide to Bird Finding, etc.

Maurice is a past president of the Wilson Ornithological Society. For many years he has published articles on West Virginia bird life in: Bird Lore, The Auk, The Wilson Bulletin, The Cardinal, The Nature Historical Society of Maryland Bulletin, The Raven, The Redstart - for Titles see Bibliography mentioned above.

Conrad, Charles. Charter member and well known spark plug of the Brooks Bird Club. Born in Warwood, Wheeling, W. Va. Graduated from Warwood High School, one time decorator for the Warwick China Company; and now President of Conrad Crafters, decorators of china and art ware. Served two years in the Army, including service in Europe. Married Mary K. Diemer, popular Ohio Valley Home Economist. Three children: Carol, Joan and Cindy. Chuck's interest began at Oglebay Park under A. B. Brooks. Attended most of the early nature training schools and later was director of the Mountain camp. He has held all the offices in Brooks Bird Club and has been Director of all Forays except those held during his army service. He is a member of the Nature Committee of Oglebay Institute, Member of A.O.U. and The Wilson Society.

Published articles appear in Bird Lore and The Redstart.

Handlan, John W. One of the organizers and first president of the Brooks Bird Club. Well known story teller and outdoors writer. Born at Wheeling, West Virginia in 1901. Graduated from Triadelphia High School and attended the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. Most of life time spent in newspaper work except for nine years as public relations man at Oglebay Park for Oglebay Institute. Married Pauline (Polly) Alford in 1934.

When asked to supply some biographical material, John sent along the following notes: "Attended first Oglebay Park Nature Training School (1928) and either managed or attended the mountain camps of this school for eight years. Attended all but three Brooks Bird Club Forays. Helped organize and was first president of the Brooks Bird Club at Oglebay Park. Served two years as editor of The Redstart. At Charleston, where we've lived since 1941, helped organize Handlan chapter of Brooks Club which continues to be a going concern although my own work hours preclude me from much active participation. No special writing or ornithological discoveries although I have been present for several "firsts" reported by Forays, one of which I managed (the war-time Foray at Cheat Lodge, Randolph County). I have contributed frequently to The Redstart and have written for other ornithological periodicals at intervals. I have spoken before the Virginia Society of Ornithology, The Wilson Club meeting at Pittsburgh, and assisted at the campfire program of The Wilson Club at Jackson's Mill five years ago. I have been a member of The Wilson Club, The American Ornithologists Union and the Virginia Society of Ornithology, although I no longer belong to those organizations. I write a weekly nature column for "The Charleston Gazette" and, in 1957, was awarded a plaque offered by West Virginia Sportsmen, Inc. for the best conservation writing of 1956."

Harrison, Hal H. Widely known writer, photographer and lecturer on wild life. Born 1906. Graduated from Tarentum High School, attended University of Pittsburgh and University of Pennsylvania. Married Sylvia in 1934. They have two children, a son George, a senior at Pennsylvania State University and daughter Gretchen, a senior in Tarentum High School.

Hal has been affiliated with A.O.U. and The Wilson Society for many years. He is a member of Outdoor Writers Association of America and Charter member and former director of Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association. Past President, Audubon Society of West Pennsylvania, joined the Brooks Bird Club in 1947 and has attended five Forays.

Hal's main occupation is lecturing although he has been outdoor editor of Pittsburgh Post Gazette for 10 years. He has presented all his lectures (6 full length productions) in Wheeling and most club members have seen them.

As to future plans, Hal expects to do a film on the Dakotas and one on the Cascades of Washington. He is now working on a commercial contract with Hyde Bird Feeder Company, a 30 minute color movie entitled "Yards of Happiness".

Many of his productions are family affairs with Sylvia acting as projectionist and son George assists with field work. Both children are majoring in journalism and photography and will probably continue along Dad's line of work.

Hal says his life long ambition is to photograph all the warblers of North America in color, and at present writing, has 34 in his collection.

Skaggs, Merit B. Long associated with Brooks Bird Club. Well known for his work on birds in the Cleveland Ohio area. First associated with members of the Brooks Bird Club in 1931 or 32, when on nature walks led by A. B. Brooks in Oglebay Park. When Brooks Bird Club was organized, Merit introduced the members to shore bird studies in the Youngstown Ohio area.

Merit's activities in Ornithology include: finding of first Buff Breasted Sandpiper recorded in Youngstown area (1930), first record of Lark Bunting in Ohio (1944). In 1940-42 made breeding bird population studies along the sand dunes of Lake Erie and open field - published in Audubon Field Notes. Bird Bander since 1940 and has banded over 6000 birds. Studied activities of Lincoln sparrow, seven records of Gambel's sparrow (Cleveland). Has banded 30 Prothonotary Warblers and 2 Oregon Juncos. He has seen most of the birds known to have been found in Ohio. Among his published works Merit has compiled How to Know the Cleveland Shore Birds, Bird Life, 1943, and an outstanding article on the Prothonotary Warbler in The Redstart. Many of the issues of The Redstart contain notes and articles written by Merit Skaggs.

Sutton, George M. Ph.D. Internationally famous Ornithologist and bird artist. The following notes taken from Who's Who in America at Dr. Sutton's suggestion. Born in Bethany, Nebraska, 1898. B. S. Bethany College (West Virginia) 1919. S.C.D. 1952, University of Pittsburgh 1923-25. Ph.D. Cornell University 1932. Unmarried. Member staff, Carnegie Museum 1919-25. Pennsylvania State Ornithologist 1925-29 and taught Ornithology at University of Pittsburgh 1925.

Curator of birds, Cornell University 1931-45, later at University of Michigan. Dr. Sutton was on numerous expeditions to the far north Labrador, Southampton Island, Hudson Bay between 1920 and 1930. Discovered the nest of the Blue Goose and eggs of Harris' sparrow on these expeditions. He also has been on scientific expeditions to Southwestern United States, and Mexico.

Dr. Sutton has devoted much time to painting birds from life. He has illustrated numerous books on birds including W.E.C. Todd's Birds of Western Pennsylvania. During the war Dr. Sutton served as a Major in the Army Air Force assigned to the Arctic Section A.A.F. Tactical Center 1943-45. At present he is Professor of Zoology and Curator of Birds at University of Oklahoma and Ornithologist of Oklahoma Biological Survey. He is adviser to Arctic Institute of North America, a fellow of

A.O.U., past president of Wilson Ornithological Society, member of Sigma Xi and many other learned and scientific societies. He is Honorary Trustee of Oglebay Institute.

Dr. Sutton is a prolific writer on bird life, his early articles on West Virginia birds appearing (1920-1938) in Bird Lore, The Auk, The Oologist, and The Wilson Bulletin, Cardinal, and Redstart. He is a contributing editor of Audubon Magazine and other periodicals.

He is author of several books including: Esquimo Year, 1934
Birds of the Wilderness, 1936
American Birds, 1951

A note from Dr. Sutton says that this summer he is giving a field course, "having a grand time ba ding road runners, etc.". (University of Oklahoma)
To quote further, "I am hard at work on a Birds of Oklahoma, the M.S. of which I hope to finish before Christmas. My Arctic work will not come out until I have at least seen Siberia. My illustrations for Georgia Birds are in press now. So you see I'm not in the grave yet. As Always, Doc Sutton".

(I wish to thank the above members for help in compiling information and Maurice Brooks in particular for notes on A. B. Brooks and Dr. Earl A. Brooks.)

239 Virginia Avenue
Chester, W. Va.

DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

George Arner	Mrs. Catherine Diemer
I. B. Boggs	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Doepkin
A. B. Brooks	Mrs. Ora Flouer
E. A. Brooks	Lawrence E. Hicks
Richard D. Cole	Harry B. McConnell
Albert Cromes	Dale Miller
	Wayne Wilson

FIELD NOTES

1957

THE AUTUMN SEASON OCTOBER 1 to NOVEMBER 30

This report is a departure from the regular three month system in an attempt to arrange the seasons closer to the normal pattern of ornithological behavior. Thus, the winter season will cover December through February. The spring migration will start with March so as to include the early migrants with those normally found in May. Editorial comments for this period are limited to conform to the limited experience of the present writer.

The great flights of both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls in Southern West Virginia toward the end of the period were highly unusual. Along with these gulls were great concentrations of ducks including Canvas-backs and Oldsquaw which are very rarely seen in this area. The Goldeneye flight is interesting in that reports from all areas were limited to the last ten days in November so that it is quite likely that the entire migration occurred during this period.

The influx of such northern visitors as Evening Grosbeaks, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins, while not so heavy as those of the 1954-55 winter season, was considerably greater than usual.

The Warbler migration was good to spectacular in some areas and poor in others. The heaviest flights ever recorded in the Girard, O. area were observed on September 21 while the big flight in the Eastern Panhandle occurred a week later. Murrelets were particularly plentiful in most areas except in the Morgantown and Eastern areas. A fair number of migrating Warblers were observed on dates which are somewhat later than normal.

COMMON LOON: The usual small groups were observed by the Grant Cook Club at Youngstown, O. starting about September 20. (HOH) The first record at Morgantown is November 3 (GAH) Handley saw one on the Great Kanawha at Charleston on November 23. Reports from Bluefield November 3 to 24 (MGD).

HORNED GREBE: Good flights were reported from four areas in November. Two hundred were seen on Lake Erie on November 3. (P.H. Savage). C. O. Handley lists 105 on the Kanawha River at Charleston on the 23rd. A brisk wind and later a heavy daytime fog "grounded" hundreds of water birds on the river. Bailey reported 10-20 near Marlinton November 23 on the Greenbrier River as part of the "greatest concentration of waterfowl" he had ever seen in that area. A storm the night before had interrupted the migration. Johnny Smith saw one on the Kanawha at Nitro on November 24. A nice flight was recorded at Morgantown on the 24th.

RED-NECKED GREBE: Howard Walding reported two on Lake Erie, November 11 along with a large number of HORNED GREBES.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: Unusually scarce at Morgantown. This agrees with observations made at McClintic Wildlife Station near Point Pleasant. (GFH)

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: One listed at Cheat Lake which is about par for the season. (GAH)

- GREAT BLUE HERON:** One at the McClintic Wildlife Station October 19. A November 3 record at Terra Alta. (GAH) Four still at Girard, Ohio (HOH) at end of November.
- COMMON EGRET:** At Pymatuning 25 were recorded on September 29, 75 on October 5 and the last sighting was of 5 on November 12. (PHS)
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** A November 9 record at Inwood. (GM)
- LEAST BITTERN:** One at Andover Causeway, Ohio September 29 not reported earlier. (PHS)
- WHISTLING SWAN:** The first fall flight of 100 was observed on Lake Erie on October 27 (IN). Ten were reported on the Great Kanawha at Charleston October 26. (COH) A good migration in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties, Ohio extended from October 22 thru the first week in November. The early November flights were especially good with upwards of 400 birds listed on each of several lakes. The normal pattern in this area covers 2 or 3 days. (HOH)
- CANADA GOOSE:** Two thousand on Pymatuning October 12 (PHS). Listed as very common in Girard, Ohio vicinity (HOH). Flocks ranged from 5 to 200 at each of the various lakes under observation. The latest report listed 110 on November 27. An unusual observation came from Charleston where an injured goose was caught which had a piece of fish line dangling from its mouth (Frank M. Johnson). Savage saw one of the so-called Richardson Goose subspecies at Pymatuning on October 12. Warden Shelby said it had been there the entire summer.
- BLUE GOOSE:** One report from Girard, Ohio of 6 birds. (HOH)
- BLACK DUCK:** Noted at McClintic Wildlife Station on October 19. Also reported on the Ohio River near Moundsville during November with the largest number, 25, observed on November 27. (Glenn Phillips) Recorded on October 27 at Cheat Lake (GAH) and at Wheeling on November 10 and 27. (CC)
- GADWALL:** The earliest record on October 8 at Barnesville, Ohio. (Mrs. Chapman) Two at Pymatuning on October 27 (PHS), ten at Cheat Lake October 27 (GAH) where they are not commonly found. In the Girard, Ohio area they were more common than usual with flocks of 10-60 during the period and one big flock close to 800 on November 27. (HOH)
- AMERICAN WIDGEON:** K. Anderson reports 6 at McClintic November 30. On October 27 G.A.H. noted 300 on Cheat Lake which was the weekend of the first snow, Clark Miller reports them to be plentiful at Inwood.
- PINTAIL:** Several reported at the McClintic Station November 30 (GFH) also at Cheat Lake on October 27. (GAH).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** Three near Gore, Virginia on November 23 (GM). A small flock at McClintic on November 30. (Johnny Smith)

- WOOD DUCK: C.O.H. reports 13 at McClintic on October 19. Uncommon in the Girard, Ohio area. (HOH). Last at Bluefield, October 21 (MGD).
- REDHEAD: Listed at Cheat Lake on October 27 (GAH). Flock of 24 at Charleston November 23 (COH). Not common in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties, Ohio. (HOH)
- CANVAS-BACK: The flight of ducks at Charleston November 23 included 5 of these diving ducks. (COH) Not as common as usual at Girard, Ohio. (HOH)
- SCAUP: Conrad saw 20 on the Ohio at Wheeling on November 17. Thirty at Charleston November 23. (COH) Several at McClintic November 30. (GPH)
- COMMON GOLDENEYE: The flight occurred during the latter part of November as evidenced by records of 30 at Girard, Ohio (HOH November 20; 1 near Gore, Virginia November 23 (CH); 8 at Wheeling November 24 (CC); at Cheat Lake on November 24 (GAH) and on November 30 at Barnesville, Ohio (Mrs. Cain).
- RUFFLEHEAD: A good flight November 1 in Girard, Ohio area (HOH). Savage lists 6 on Lake Erie in the Walnut Beach, O. area on November 3. There were 26 in the flock reported at Charleston November 23 by COH. On the same date some seen on Greenbrier near Marlinton (RWB) and 2 near Gore, Va. (John Poland).
- OLDSQUAW: One bird was seen October 27 at Cheat Lake where it normally (GAH) doesn't occur until mid-December. At Charleston 1 female was observed (COH). This is a very unusual listing for the Southern West Virginia area.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: One in Virginia near Bluefield from November 5 to 24, the first record for that area (MGD).
- RUDDY DUCK: Listed on October 18 at Barnesville, Ohio (Mrs. Chapman). One listed at McClintic October 19 (GPH). Hundreds recorded in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties, Ohio on November 1 weekend (HOH). Also listed in the November 23 flight at Charleston were 34 of these ducks. (COH)
- HOODED MERGANSER: At McClintic several of the BBC-Ripley outing group listed one on October 19. Jon Amlquist reported 16 at Pymatuning on October 27, while the flight at Charleston November 23 produced 22. (COH)
- COMMON MERGANSER: A few at Girard, Ohio, on November 20 constitutes the only report. (HOH)
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Twenty-six were seen November 20 in Girard, Ohio area (HOH). The inclement weather of November 23 also 'grounded' 52 of these fish-eating ducks on the Kanawha at Charleston. (COH)
- GOSHAWK: and ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: One record of each on November 12 at Girard, Ohio. (HOH)
- BALD EAGLE: Savage reported 2 on October 10 at Pymatuning. Ray Sickles reports 3 successful nests the past year. Two of these were in the Black Jack area and one in Ford Isle area, both at Pymatuning.

- PEREGRINE FALCON:** One of these rare hawks was observed sitting on a stump in a mud flat in Mosquito Reservoir on October 6 by P.H.S. There is **no** indication on his report that it tried to catch the **GOLDEN PLOVER** which it **was** watching. Both birds were observed for about half an hour. To get both of these in the same field of view would be a real treat for most of us. Whether this is the same pair of birds involved in a similar observation from the **same** area September 22 (HOH) where the hawk was actually chasing the plover is not known. Reminds one of the cat and mouse cartoons where time is called for rest at intervals during the chase.
- PIGEON HAWK:** One record of this rare hawk at Barnesville, Ohio. (Mrs. Chapman)
- TURKEY:** C.O.H. found them plentiful in the Burner Mountain area during early October.
- COMMON GALLINULE:** Several broods during the summer season listed in the Inwood area on October 25. (MGD) Several birds observed as late as October 20 (CM) and at Bluefield on October 25. (MGD)
- AMERICAN COOT:** Earliest report is October 3 at Barnesville, Ohio (Mrs. Cain). C.O.H. reports 5 for October 19. Not so numerous at McClintic as in previous years.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:** One at McClintic on October 19. (COH) Savage says they were more numerous than usual in the Lake Erie area this year. His last sighting is October 27.
- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER:** Good flights in Girard, Ohio area (HOH) during September with 30 being noted on the 22nd. They were more numerous than the **BLACK BELLED**. At Seneca Lake, Ohio 4 were seen on October 3. (Mrs. Chapman)
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Cain reported two on October 12 at Seneca Lake, Ohio. Five reported at Walnut Beach, Ohio on October 27. (PHS)
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK:** One bird at Nitro on October 7. (JS)
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** The BBC- outing group saw 2 at McClintic on October 19. At Inwood the last date is November 9 (CM) while the Girard, Ohio late date is November 14. (HOH)
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** Eight were seen at Walnut Beach, Ohio (PHS) on October 19, and also at other times during this period. Latest date at Seneca Lake, Ohio is November 2. (Chapman and Cain)
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** A few listed at Girard, Ohio (HOH). Mrs. Chapman saw one for the first time at Seneca Lake, Ohio on October 3.
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** Savage writes that they were numerous all during the season. His latest record is for 13 on October 17.

- DUNLIN (RED-BACKED SANDPIPER): The same Walnut Beach, Ohio area attracted 10 of these on October 12. They were seen regularly until November 16. (PHS) Latest date at Seneca Lake, O. was November 2. (Mrs. Cain) Common in Trumbull Co., O. during early November. (HOH)
- DOWITCHER: Savage observed several during September and until October 8 at Walnut Beach, O.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: One recorded at Seneca Lake, O. October 3 which is apparently very rare since Mrs. Chapman indicates it as a life record for her.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER: On October 19 one bird was seen at Walnut Beach, O. (PHS)
- MARbled GODWIT: Although this was a September 22 record it is included here because it is unusual. Duane Ferris lists 1 at Mosquito Lake, O. on that date.
- SANDERLING: Savage saw 24 at Walnut Beach, O. on October 9. Heimerdinger reports 10 during November in Girard, O. area.
- NORTHERN PHALAROPE: An unusual record of 1 at Seneca Lake, Ohio October 3. (Chapman and Cain)
- HERRING GULL: The largest flight observed in recent years in southern West Virginia on November 23. At Charleston 200 were listed as well as 200 RING-BILLED GULLS. It is unusual to see so many of these birds in this particular area. The same day R. W. Bailey reported the greatest accumulation he had ever seen in West Virginia on the Greenbrier River at Marlinton. Most of the 100 he saw were RING-BILLED with perhaps a dozen HERRING. Numbers of the latter were observed at Moundsville on the Ohio River during this same period. (GP)
- TERNS: BLACK and COMMON. Both kinds were listed as common in Mahoning and Trumbull Co. lake areas. (HOH) A few CASPIANS were noted. (H. Johnson)
- MOURNING DOVE: Anderson reports a single flock of at least 100 at McClintic November 30. Also report from Clarksville, Pa. on November 29. (RKB)
- OWLS: Plenty of BARN OWLS reports from the Girard, O. area most of which were not checked to determine if authentic. (HOH) Several reports of BARRED and SCREECH OWLS from scattered areas.
- CHIMNEY SWIFT: A late season report at Barnesville, O. October 5. (Mrs. Cain)
- WOODPECKERS: The earliest report for the YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER is September 23 at Morgantown. (McCue) A Nitro record on October 5. (JS) Handley records Flickers common in Burner Mountain area and HAIRY WOODPECKER as being the most common woodpecker in that area in October.
- EASTERN PHOEBE: Rather late season observations at Clarksville, Pa. October 13 (RKB), and at Bluefield on October 21. (MGD)

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: A late occurrence at Ravenswood October 13. (JS) Also at Morgantown on October 10. (McCue)

BLUE JAY: Abundant on the Capitol grounds at Charleston. (COH) Conservation Commission people report them unusually common in Kanawha County.

COMMON RAVEN: Handley lists several sightings in Pocahontas Co. on November 2 and 3.

COMMON CROW: Accumulating since early November in the Girard O. area in great flocks. (HOH)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Most areas report heavier than usual influxes. The earliest date is October 4 at Nitro. (JS)

BROWN CREEPER: A very early September 26 record at a feeder in Ashtabula, O. (PHS) The earliest record from the Southern area is October 4 at Nitro. (JS) October 8 at Morgantown observed by Earl N. McCue.

CAROLINA WREN: Many noted during Fall in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties, Ohio where they aren't often listed during breeding season. (HOH)

BROWN THRASHER: A November 3 report from Valley Grove (GP which may be wintering there.

HERMIT THRUSH: Arrival dates are October 9 at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB) and October 12 at Nitro. (JS)

CEDAR WAXWING: Savage saw 100 at Plymouth Marsh and Walnut Beach, O. October 27.

VIREOS: RED-EYED October 2 at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB), WHITE-EYED, SOLITARY, and PHILADELPHIA all on October 6 at Barnesville, O. (Mrs. Chapman) also a SOLITARY near Cass October 11. (GP)

WARBLERS: The fall flight was generally good. H. A. Johnson reports the heaviest flights ever noted in the Girard, O. area during a rainy September 21 weekend. Hundreds of the common ones were noted. An unusual one was a HOODED. In the same area HOH noted a large number of MYRTLES and PALMS. MYRTLES were plentiful during this period in the Charleston area and several observers listed them regularly at feeders (GFH & Ann Shreve). At Barnesville, O. Mrs. Cain lists MYRTLES as common on October 20 while Clark Miller finds them scarce at Inwood. George Hall found MYRTLES scarce at Morgantown.

Dates of other warblers some of which seem unusually late:

BLACK-AND-WHITE	Oct. 19	McClintic	BEC-outing
*ORANGE-CROWNED	Nov. 21	Barnesville, O.	Mrs. Chapman
NASHVILLE	Oct. 13	Presque Isle, Pa.	PHS
PARULA	Nov. 5	Morgantown	McCue
YELLOW	Nov. 7	Morgantown	McCue

* Todd "Birds of Western Penna" says the ORANGE-CROWNED is mostly gone by middle of October but may linger later.

This seems rather late.

MAGNOLIA	Oct. 4	Nitro	JS
	Oct. 13	Presque Isle, Pa.	PHS
CAPE MAY	Oct. 14	Barnesville, O.	Mrs. Cain
	Nov. 3	Morgantown	McCue

This is also a late sighting.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN	Oct. 6	Barnesville, O.	Mrs. Chapman
	Oct. 31	Morgantown	McCue
BLACKBURNIAN	Oct. 19	McClintic	BBC-outing
BAY-BREASTED	Oct. 4	Nitro (3)	JS
	Oct. 24	Morgantown	McCue
WILSON'S	Oct. 4	Nitro	JS
	Oct. 6	Barnesville, O.	Mrs. Cain

also about 6 other records in Charleston about this time.

BLACKBIRDS: A few RED-WING were noted at McClintic on October 19 by BBC outing. Bell lists 35 RED-WINGS on November 6 at Clarksville, Pa., which seems to be a late record. MEADOWLARKS still present at Girard, O. November 27. (HOH) Several hundred RUSTY BLACKBIRDS on November 1 and about 600 birds consisting of RUSTY, REDWING and COWBIRDS on November 10 in Girard, O. area. (HOH)

SCARLET Tanager: One report from Morgantown October 8. (McCue)

EVENING GROSBEAK: Bell saw 6 on October 10 and 13 on October 13 at Clarksville, Pa. They are listed by Bailey on October 11 in the Middle Mt. area near Minnehaha Springs and about the same time in the Williams River-Cranberry area. By December 1 he notes they are conspicuous by their absence. The BBC outing group observed a dozen for a half hour in excellent light at close range on the FFA-FHA campgrounds at Ripley on October 20. The first sighting in many years in the Ashtabula, O. area is reported where Savage recorded 10 on November 1. Handley saw 30 in the Burner-Middle Mt. area on November 2. Also reported at Yellow Springs November 23. (CM), Barnesville, O. November 24 (Cain) in October at Oglebay Park (CC), and November 23 at Bluefield. (MGD)

PURPLE FINCH: On October 20 the BBC observers saw 4 on the FFA-FHA campgrounds. Savage listed one at Walnut Beach, Ohio October 19. Also reported at Yellow Springs October 13. (CM)

PINE SISKIN: The BBC outing at Ripley turned up 25 on October 20 on the campgrounds. Other reports; October 13 at Yellow Springs (CM) and November 20 at Barnesville, O. (Mrs. Chapman); October 25 and 28 at Bluefield. (MGD)

SAVANNAH SPARROW: Bell reports a good migration at Clarksville, Pa. with the best flights during the October 3-11 period.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: A single report at Charleston on October 26. (COH)

VESPER SPARROW: One recorded at Charleston October 28. (COH)

CHIPPING SPARROW: An October 30 record at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB)

TREE SPARROW: Noted October 21 at Barnesville, O. and at Inwood November 30 but it had not been seen at Morgantown by December 1. (GAN)

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: The migration peak at Clarksville, Pa. came about October 10. (RMB) This was poor compared to earlier years. At McClintic they were more plentiful than **WHITE-THROATED** in a ratio of at least 50-1. Records over the past several years indicate that this is about average for the area. A light migration at Morgantown. (GAN)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Bell indicates that the migration was poor in Greene Co. Pa. with the peak occurring about November 19. Migration light at Morgantown. More plentiful than usual at Inwood. (CM)

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: A very late November 24. record at Barnesville, O. (Chapman and Cain). Todd indicates that October 20 in Western Penna. is exceptionally late.

SNOW BUNTING: Records taken at Walnut Beach, Ohio (PHS) show 10 on October 19.

All places reported are in West Virginia unless otherwise stated.

Key to contributors for this period:

COH	Charles O. Handley	GAN	George A Hall
HW	Howard Walding	HOH	Howard Heimerdinger
GP	Glenn Phillips	CM	Clark Miller
RKB	Ralph K. Bell	CC	Chuck Conrad
RMB	R. W. Bailey	GFM	George Hurley
JS	Johnny Smith	MCD	Mrs. Miriam G. Dickinson
PHS	Paul H. Savage		

Next Field Notes contributions are due March 10 for December, January, and February. To assist the editor it would be very helpful if contributors list observations according to the A.O.U. checklist. Thank you.

George F. Hurley
920 Hughes Drive
St. Albans, West Virginia

1958 PROGRAM -- BROOKS BIRD CLUB, INC.

Here is the schedule for our Brooks Bird Club program for 1958. We hope that you will check the dates on your calendar, keep this schedule handy and join the group whenever possible. The highlight of the 1958 program will be the International Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at Oglebay Park in April. Leaders or Chapters have been appointed to take charge of details and the program committee expects them to see that each event is a success. All members will be notified by special bulletin or through the MAILBAG for each activity or any change in the schedule.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>LEADER OR SPONSOR</u>
January 12	Write to your Club	MAILBAG Editor
February 22-23	Annual Mid-Winter Meeting	Headquarters Chapter
March 22-23	Field Trip, Pymatuning	Hal H. Harrison
April 12-13	Field Trip, Middle Mountain	Hall and Conrad
April 24-27	W.O.S. Meeting Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Va.	Brooks Bird Club, Inc.
May 4 or 11	Century Day Bird Counts	Howard Heimerdinger
May 16-18	Field Trip, Sutton's Warbler Project, Harpers Ferry, W. Va.	Miller, Capertons and Newcomers
June 14-22	Annual BBC Foray, Camp Thornwood	Pocahontas County, West Virginia
July 27	Outing at Laitsch's Acre	John & Nevada Laitsch
August	Field Trip, Girard, Ohio	Heimerdingers
Aug. 30-Sept. 1	Annual Meeting and Reunion Camp Piedmont, Ohio	Club Officers
Sept. 20-21	Annual Hawk Migration Count	Chuck Conrad
October 17-19	Fall Outing, Charleston, W. Va.	Handlan Chapter
November 1-2	Field Trip, Hocking County, Ohio	Central Ohio Chapter
November 16	Write to your Club	MAILBAG Editor
December 6	Annual Meeting Executive Comm.	At the Clubroom
Dec. 20-Jan. 2	Christmas Bird Census Counts	Ernie Limes

Seasonal Field Notes Due

December 10	March 10	June 10	September 10
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