



# The Redstart

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**Editor:** George A. Hall

**Field Note Editor:** George F. Hurley

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## MIST NETTING OPERATIONS ON ALLEGHENY FRONT MOUNTAIN: 1959

by Gordon A. Knight

The fall, diurnal flights of migratory songbirds along the Allegheny ridges have been known to field observers, particularly hawk counters, for a number of years. Sometimes these flights are of remarkable size.

The possibility of banding some of these birds by employment of mist netting techniques occurred independently to Ralph Bell and Dr. George Hall. Accordingly, an exploratory-type netting program was established in September 1958 on Allegheny Front Mountain, Tucker County, West Virginia under Bell's supervision and assisted by Hall, Ralph Horn, Charles O. Handley, and Richard Hessler.

Recently large-scale banding of migrants at certain Atlantic coastal concentration points during the fall season has yielded some very interesting information, particularly regarding meteorological influences on bird migration. This intense migration study was organized in 1955 and tagged "Operation Recovery-the Atlantic Coastal Netting Project", on the admittedly remote possibility of exchanges between participating stations. From September 1955 through October 31, 1958 over 38,000 birds were banded during the fall migration period at coastal stations between New Brunswick and North Carolina.

The limited banding program undertaken on Allegheny Front in September 1958 was the first such project to operate in the Appalachian Mountains concurrently with coastal operations. In a four day period of operation 54 birds of 19 species were banded in spite of very severe weather conditions (high winds and rain curtailed the work tremendously) and limited time.

However, the results were encouraging and justified further work. In September 1959 a more ambitious program was established under the joint leadership of Ralph Bell and Gordon Knight assisted by Hall, Horn and others. The station was operated continuously from September 3 to 13, and then on the weekends of September 18 to 20, 26 to 27, and October 10 to 11.

The netting area itself is situated on top of Allegheny Front Mountain about 400 yards west of the Allegheny backbone at an elevation of about 3800 feet. Vast areas of blueberries and huckleberries interspersed with small, scattered stands of young Red Spruce, 25 to 35 feet tall, many of which are severely wind-pruned, characterize the mountain top. Here and there are clumps of young northern hardwoods with Red Maple especially abundant. About 500 yards south of the netting area on the Red Creek drainage are several large beaver ponds and cranberry bogs.

The nets were all placed about the Red Creek cabin site and most could be watched from the comfort of a picnic table. The maximum number of nets used in any one day was 17 although 10 was the usual compliment. The Red Creek cabin site is a cleared grassy area of about two acres which is maintained by the Forest Service as a campsite. A covered spring provides cold refreshment for the camper and the stream which it feeds is an attraction for birds and other wildlife. Along the banks of the little stream and in the general area is a dense growth of alders, witch-hazel, and some aspens. The vegetation averages 10 to 12 feet high and the nets work very efficiently here.

The huckleberry crop was excellent and other foods were generally plentiful, particularly before the first frost of September 12. The morning and evening chorus of Towhees from the berry bushes was often remarkable.

It has generally been established that fall migration "waves" reach peaks with weather patterns that are associated with the passage of strong coldfronts. Such weather patterns were eagerly anticipated by the banders on the "Front". Unfortunately, strong "Bermuda highs" largely dominated the weather picture for September and with the exception of one coldfront, which failed to produce a heavy migratory movement, sunny skies, southeasterly breezes, and warm temperatures prevailed. Consequently, migrants trickled through daily in relatively small numbers.

The weather was delightful as far as the comforts of the banders, who actually lived and slept with the nets, were concerned. Camping at the banding site was not only vitalizing, educational, and thoroughly enjoyable but practical too--chirp counts each night would indicate the intensity of nocturnal migration. Incidentally, more commodious quarters are available down over the mountain in the hotel at Davis.

The daily peak of netting activity occurred shortly after sunup when low-flying and "bush-hopping" migrants were passing in numbers southwestward down the ridge. Also at twilight there was always a rush of activity as the local, transient population moved to roost.

In the 18 days of operation 432 birds of 51 species were banded. Wing measurements and estimates of fat deposition were taken from most of the birds handled but, unfortunately, a balance for determining exact body weights was not available.

The principal species banded included the following; 44 yellowthroats, 44 Magnolia Warblers, 36 Catbirds, 31 Swainson's Thrushes, 30 Rufous-sided Towhee, and 26 Cape May Warblers. Actually yellowthroats were much more abundant than this figure indicates as many of these active little creatures slipped through the nets unbanded.

For people working an Operation Recovery banding station the greatest excitement occurs with the capture of the more unusual or locally rare species-- and these were not lacking on Allegheny Front. The Saw-whet Owl, Gray-cheeked Thrush, yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow were noteworthy in this respect. There is not a more satisfying way of introduction to a "life bird" than to meet it in the hand!

Although the total species and numbers of birds banded, as summarized in the table, is a relatively accurate index to composition and density of the passerine migration it is not the complete picture. Some species of small birds, which were often abundant in the area failed to be captured because they flew too high above the vegetation. Large flocks of Robins, from which not a single individual was captured, are the outstanding example. Also in this category is a heavy migration of Blue Jays from which only one bird was banded. No doubt other species slipped by overhead or through the bush undetected.

Ruffed Grouse were abundant and one which was caught and released without being banded displayed no gratitude as it wheeled and flew straight through the net and away! Wild turkeys were seen near the area by berry pickers and hunters.

A flock of about a dozen Ravens added interest and atmosphere to the daily activities. A Great Horned Owl occasionally hooted from the timbered shoulder of the mountain.

One might ask why bother to band these migrating birds. It is fun but also much more than that. And it is true that the chance of having a band found on one of these birds, many of which winter in Central and South America, is remote. However, banded birds from the coast have been picked up in South America so the possibility of recovery is a real one. But as equally important is the knowledge gained from continuous daily sampling and observation of the migration phenomena. From data collected at a station such as this one the composition and intensity of migration at a given locality becomes more than speculation. Geographic and weather factors and their relation to bird movements become more apparent.

A Swamp Sparrow which was banded by Bell on the "Front" in September 1958 was retrapped in September 1959 and possibilities for other returns increase as the number of banded birds for the station also increases. Such returns are important in studies of bird movements and life histories. Although the turnover rate was high (about 86%) there were some noteworthy repeats. Two Cape May Warblers repeated on the same day, obviously much fatter than on the day of banding, which was exactly one week earlier.

The data gathered at Allegheny Front are of particular interest because they represent the first such work from the Allegheny highlands. The work is also valuable for comparative purposes notable with the Atlantic coastal operations. A comprehensive analysis of the 1959 Operation Recovery project (a monumental task) is being completed by regional compilers and will be published this summer.

We believe that the project this year was a distinct success and everyone who participated learned something new and had a delightful time. We have accumulated some interesting and valuable data on fall migration in the West Virginia mountains and future efforts will gleam much more.

Definite plans for Operation Recovery: Allegheny Front 1960 have been formulated. Continuous operation (which in itself is highly desirable) throughout September is anticipated along with a generally expanded program--more nets, greater coverage, and increased participation is invited. Additional personnel will make possible sample counts of nocturnal and diurnal migrants, study of bird movement into and out of the netting area, and study of migration routes over the local mountain complex. The possibility of netting on the mountain slopes at lower elevation needs to be investigated.

You can help in this worthwhile project and banding experience certainly is not required. You will profit greatly from the experience and a good time is virtually assured.

So come and see for yourself what those fall warblers really look like!

Daily Banding Totals, Allegheny Front Mt., Tucker Co., W.Va., Sept-Oct 1959

| Date:           | S3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 26 | 27 | Oct 10 | 11 | Total |
|-----------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|----|-------|
| Cooper's Hawk   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| Saw-whet Owl    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |        |    | 2     |
| Hummingbird     |    |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |        |    | 3     |
| Downy Wood p.   |    | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        | 1  | 2     |
| Yel-bell. Fly.  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| Wood Pewee      |    |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| Blue Jay        |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| Blk-cap. Chick. |    |   | 1 |   | 2 |   |   | 1  |    | 1  | 2  |    | 1  |    |    |    |        | 3  | 12    |
| Titmouse        |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| House Wren      |    | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| Catbird         | 3  | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1  | 1  |    |    | 2  | 3  | 3  | 1  | 6  |        |    | 36    |
| Br. Thrasher    | 3  |   |   | 1 | 2 |   | 1 |    |    |    |    | 2  | 2  |    |    | 1  |        |    | 10    |
| Wood Thrush     | 1  |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 2     |
| Hermit Thr.     |    | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 3     |
| Swainson's Th.  |    |   |   |   | 1 |   | 1 |    | 1  | 4  | 2  | 5  | 6  | 5  | 2  | 4  | 1      |    | 31    |
| Gray-cheek Th.  | 1  |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 2  |        |    | 5     |
| Golden-cr King. |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| Ruby-cr. King.  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    | 2  |    |    |    | 3  | 1      | 4  | 10    |
| Waxwing         |    |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |        |    | 2     |
| Solitary Vireo  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |        |    | 2     |
| Red-eyed Vireo  | 1  |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  |    |    |        |    | 4     |
| Phila. Vireo    | 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | 2  |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |        |    | 4     |
| Tenn. Warbler   | 1  |   |   | 3 |   | 1 | 2 |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |        |    | 8     |
| Nashville War.  | 2  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1      |    | 3     |
| Magnolia War.   | 6  | 2 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3  | 3  | 1  | 5  | 2  | 1  | 1  |    | 8  |        |    | 44    |
| Cape May War.   |    |   |   |   | 1 |   |   | 2  |    | 1  | 2  | 7  | 4  | 6  | 1  | 1  |        |    | 26    |
| B-t. Blue War.  | 4  | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 3  | 1  | 2  | 1  | 1  |        |    | 24    |
| B-t. Green War. | 2  |   |   | 3 |   |   |   | 2  |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |        |    | 10    |
| Blackburnian    | 1  |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 2     |
| Chest.-sided    |    | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 3     |
| Bay-breast      | 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| Black-poll      |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 2     |
| Ovenbird        | 2  |   |   |   |   | 1 | 1 |    |    | 1  |    | 4  | 1  | 2  |    | 2  |        |    | 14    |
| N. Waterthrush  |    |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    | 1     |
| Connecticut     |    |   |   |   |   | 1 | 1 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |        |    | 3     |

|                           | Date: | S3  | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 26  | 27  | Oc 10 | 11  | Total | The Redstart |
|---------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|--------------|
| Yellowthroat              |       | 7   | 3   | 1   | 4   | 5   | 2   | 4   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 44    |     |       |              |
| Hooded Warbler            |       | 1   |     | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 3     |     |       |              |
| Wilson's War.             |       | 1   |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 1   | 5     |     |       |              |
| Canada Warbler            |       |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2     |     |       |              |
| Redstart                  |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1     |     |       |              |
| Purple Finch              |       |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     | 6     |     |       |              |
| Goldfinch                 |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   |     |     |     | 2     |     |       |              |
| Towhee                    |       | 1   | 2   | 1   | 3   |     | 2   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 3   | 1   | 4   | 4   |     | 4   |     | 30    |     |       |              |
| Junco                     |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 6     |     |       |              |
| Field Sparrow             |       |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 2   |     | 2   |     | 4     | 1   |       |              |
| White-cr. Sp.             |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1     |     |       |              |
| Whitethroat Sp.           |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 6     | 10  | 17    |              |
| Fox Sparrow               |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1     | 1   | 1     |              |
| Lincoln's Sp.             |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1     | 1   | 2     |              |
| Swamp Sparrow             |       | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 2   | 1   |     |     | 3   | 1   | 3   | 2   | 2   |     |     | 1     |     | 22    |              |
| Song Sparrow              |       |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     | 1   | 3     | 8   |       |              |
| Total new birds           |       | 4   | 43  | 19  | 13  | 39  | 15  | 16  | 21  | 17  | 20  | 26  | 36  | 32  | 39  | 7   | 43  | 14    | 28  | 432   |              |
| Maximum no. net           |       | 6   | 10  | 10  | 10  | 10  | 10  | 10  | 10  | 10  | 15  | 15  | 12  | 17  | 17  | 10  | 10  | 10    | 10  | 17    |              |
| Net hours                 |       | 15  | 96  | 85  | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 135 | 170 | 180 | 112 | 162 | 147 | 35  | 110 | 23    | 103 | 2023  |              |
| Birds per 1000 net<br>hr. |       | 267 | 448 | 224 | 100 | 300 | 116 | 123 | 162 | 126 | 118 | 144 | 321 | 198 | 265 | 200 | 391 | 609   | 273 | 213   |              |
| Repeats                   |       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 6   | 2   | 3   | 0   | 3   | 7   | -   | 15  | 9   | 8   | 4   | 8   | 0     | 2   | 70    |              |
| % new birds               |       | 100 | 100 | 95  | 87  | 87  | 88  | 84  | 100 | 85  | 74  | -   | 71  | 78  | 83  | 64  | 85  | 100   | 93  | 86    |              |
| Species                   |       | 2   | 22  | 12  | 9   | 14  | 9   | 13  | 11  | 11  | 11  | 13  | 12  | 17  | 19  | 6   | 18  | 6     | 12  | 51    |              |

128 Jones Avenue  
Morgantown, W. Va.

## POPULATION STUDIES OF THE 1959 FORAY OF THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB.

by E. R. Chandler, Coordinator

This is the twelfth year the Club has carried out population studies. These studies were made in three different areas near the Mountain Lake Biological Station of the University of Virginia. The Station is located in Giles County, in the high Alleghenies of western Virginia, less than ten miles from the West Virginia border, between latitudes  $37^{\circ} 20'$  and  $37^{\circ} 25'$ . The three areas were selected to represent three types of habitat in this mountain territory at elevations between 3000 and 4000 feet in which most of the Foray work was done.

1. Moonshine Dell Trail, close by the station. A typical second growth oak forest at an elevation of 3900 feet where the dominant breeding bird species was the Ovenbird.

2. Pond drain located about a mile from the station. A ravine through which ran the stream draining Mountain Lake. The trees varied from mature Hemlock, beech and birch to oak and maple on the hillside. On this census area the Canada and Black-throated Blue warblers were dominant.

3. Little Meadows, an open field surrounded by forest, about three miles from headquarters. It is at an elevation of about 3100 feet. Here Chestnut-sided warblers, Indigo Buntings and Towhees dominated as breeding species.

Population studies are a group effort by several members of the Foray, with at least two persons responsible for each area, assisted by other members of the group. Daily trips were made through the study areas and group excursions were made to these sections to pin point the territorial range of questionable species. I wish to thank all the members of the Foray who assisted with this project, and particularly those leaders who devoted so much of their time to the project.

## CENSUS DATA

## YOUNG OAK FOREST

Location: Moonshine Dell Trail Area SE of the University of Virginia Biological Station on Salt Pond Mountain, Giles County, Virginia.

Size: 15 acres. (Rectangular, 110 by 660 yards, measured)

Plant Cover: The area is typical of thousands of acres of forest in the Mountain Lake area -- a deciduous forest comprising principally second and third growth trees. They averaged about 8 to 10 inches DBH -- almost entirely white (Quercus alba) and Black (Q. velutina) Oak. Other trees included the Black Locust (Robinia pseudo-acacia) and the Cucumber tree (Magnolia acuminata). The relatively thick understory, in addition to small individuals of the above species, was principally native Chestnut sprouts (Castanea dentata) and Azalea (Rhododendron sp.). The ground cover included large stands of New York Fern (Dryopteris noveboracensis) and Bracken (Pteridium latiusculum) as well as Blueberry (Vaccinium sp.)

Situation: The center line followed the Moonshine Dell Trail about halfway; then continued in a straight line along the side of the ridge. The study tract was surrounded on three sides by a similar forest type. The edge on the

fourth side, at the South end of the tract, was similar for about 100 feet and then changed to a glen situation comprising swamp, rhododendron and relatively little in the way of large trees. The Towhee, Solitary Vireo, Scarlet Tanager and Chestnut-sided Warbler were found in this end. The whole area was sprinkled with dead stumps making it attractive to Pileated Woodpecker and Crested Flycatcher.

Coverage: June 8-12, 1960, daily trips between 5 A.M. and 8 A.M. Two trips between 4 and 6 P.M. and two evening trips after 6 P.M. -- Total man hours - Approximately 18.

#### Census

| <u>Species</u>              | <u>Territorial Males</u> | <u>Males per 100 acres</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ovenbird                    | 14.5                     | 96                         |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | 2                        | 13.4                       |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak      | 2                        | 13.4                       |
| Blackburnian Warbler        | 2                        | 13.4                       |
| Black and White Warbler     | 1.5                      | 10                         |
| Red-eyed Vireo              | 1.5                      | 10                         |
| Rufous-sided Towhee         | 1                        | 6.7                        |
| Solitary Vireo              | 1                        | 6.7                        |
| Scarlet Tanager             | 1                        | 6.7                        |
| Indigo Bunting              | 1                        | 6.7                        |
| Wood Pewee                  | 0.5                      | 3.4                        |
| Wood Thrush                 | 0.5                      | 3.4                        |
| Pileated Woodpecker         | +                        | +                          |
| Crested Flycatcher          | +                        | +                          |
| Downy Woodpecker            | +                        | +                          |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler      | +                        | +                          |
| <br>Totals      16 species  |                          | 28.5                       |
|                             |                          | 190.1                      |

Nests of the Ovenbird (1), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1) and Towhee all containing young birds were found on the tract. The Pileated Woodpecker was either seen or heard on or near the tract every visit and presumably nested nearby.

Visitors included Raven, Crow, Hairy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Cowbird.

Census Takers: Nevada Laitsch and George Hurley, ably assisted by Glenn Phillips, Dorothy Conrad, Maxine Thacker and other members.

#### MATURE BEECH, BIRCH, AND HEMLOCK FOREST

Location: Pond Drain Ravine, at the North end of Mountain Lake, about one mile from the University of Virginia Biological Station, Giles County, Virginia.

Size: 15 acres (rectangular, 110 by 660 yards, measured)

Topography: A sloping hillside, bisected laterally by a narrow dirt road used as a center line. The road at one end of the area was at an elevation of 3850 feet and at the other end it had dropped to 3600 feet. Since the ravine dropped at the same rate as the road, the relative locations of the two remained the same, except at one end where a small stream

crossed the road.

Plant Cover: The portion of the area up-hill from the road had been cut-over. A few older trees remained but about 80% was second growth. Probably as a result of the large deer population in the region underbrush was scarce, and a browse line was noticeable. Trees were oak, maple, birch, and wild Cherry. Downhill from the road the forest had not been touched and the trees were mature. The floor was very clean. Trees were Hemlock, White Pine, Beech, yellow and Black Birch and Sugar Maple, reaching a height of 70-80 feet and 36 inches DBH. The understory consisted of Rhododendron, Hobble-bush; Striped Maple, Azelea, Black Cohosh, Hellebore, Greenbrier, Oxalis, and several species of ferns and mosses. The entire area had a closed crown and very little sunlight penetrated the forest canopy.

Coverage: June 8 to 12, 1959; hours varied between 4:30 A.M. to 8 A.M. and 6 to 8 P.M. Total manhours, about 25.

#### Census

| <u>Species</u>              | <u>Territorial Males</u> | <u>Males per 100 acres</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Canada Warbler              | 10                       | 67                         |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | 9                        | 60.3                       |
| Blackburnian Warbler        | 5                        | 33.5                       |
| Wood thrush                 | 4                        | 26.8                       |
| Black & White Warbler       | 4                        | 26.8                       |
| Ovenbird                    | 4                        | 26.8                       |
| Veery                       | 3                        | 20.1                       |
| Scarlet Tanager             | 2                        | 13.4                       |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak      | 2                        | 13.4                       |
| Junco                       | 2 (n)                    | 13.4                       |
| Solitary Vireo              | 1.5                      | 10                         |
| Red-eyed Vireo              | 1                        | 6.7                        |
| Broad-winged Hawk           | + (n)                    | +                          |
| Pileated Woodpecker         | + (n)                    | +                          |
| Flicker                     | +                        | +                          |
| Tufted Titmouse             | +                        | +                          |
| <br>Totals                  | 16 species               | 47.5                       |
|                             |                          | 317                        |

(n) Junco nest found under construction. Broad-winged hawk's nest found with 3 young (week old); Pileated woodpecker's nest with at least 2 young.

Visitors: Turkey vulture (about 6 vultures used a tree on the acre for a roosting site); Ruffed grouse; Barred Owl; Raven; Crow; Blue Jay.

Census Takers: H. O. and E. G. Heimerdinger, assisted by E. Chandler, E. Dressel, M. Masteller, R. Bell and others.

#### MOUNTAIN MEADOW

Location: Little Meadows three miles W.N.W. of the University of Virginia Biological Station, Giles County, Virginia.

size: 15 acres (rectangular 110 by 660 yards, measured)

topography: Almost flat mountain plateau bisected by a little used road to the fire tower, cascades, etc. Near intersection of Little Stony and Meredith Creeks at approximately 3100 feet elevation.

Plant Cover: Four-fifths of area was abandoned farm land now dominated by Shrubby St. John's-wort, Sensitive Fern and sedges, spotted with saplings 5 to 25 feet high of White Pine, Pitch Pine, Hemlock, Hawthorn, Wild Cherry, White Oak, and Red Maple. Approximately one fifth of the area had been mowed the previous year and contained a house used as a hunting lodge. Little Stony Creek flows through the area crosswise, accounting for a belt of alders approximately 75 feet wide. Other plants prominent in the area were Greenbrier, Serviceberry, Dewberry, Velvet Grass, Yellow Hawkweed, Orchard Grass, Timothy, Plantain, Red Clover, Goldenrod, Cinquefoil, Maleberry, Yarrow and Ironweed. The tract is roughly bordered on all sides by taller and more mature trees of the same species that appeared as saplings on the area.

Coverage: June 8-11, 1960 with several trips daily. Hours varied from 5 A.M. to 7:45 P.M. Total man-hours, 23.

#### Census

| <u>Species</u>        | <u>Territorial Males</u> | <u>Males per 100 acres</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chesnut-sided Warbler | 4.5                      | 30                         |
| Indigo Bunting        | 4.0                      | 26.7                       |
| Rufous-sided Towhee   | 3.0                      | 20                         |
| Golden-winged Warbler | 1.5                      | 10                         |
| Field Sparrow         | 1.0                      | 6.7                        |
| Phoebe                | 1.0                      | 6.7                        |
| Carolina Chickadee    | 1.0                      | 6.7                        |
| Blackburnian Warbler  | 1.0                      | 6.7                        |
| Yellowthroat          | 1.0                      | 6.7                        |
| Yellow-breasted Chat  | 1.0                      | 6.7                        |
| Catbird               | .5                       | 3.4                        |
| Brown Thrasher        | +                        | +                          |
| Black & White Warbler | +                        | +                          |
| Chipping Sparrow      | +                        | +                          |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo  | +                        | +                          |
| Goldfinch             | +                        | +                          |
| Cedar Waxwing         | +                        | +                          |
| Robin                 | +                        | +                          |
| <hr/>                 |                          |                            |
| Totals                | 18 species               | 19.5                       |
|                       |                          | 130                        |

visitors: Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Parula Warbler, Redstart, Turkey Vulture, Crow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Kingbird, Broadwinged Hawk and Blue Jay.

Census Takers: G. Phillips, E. Chandler, J. Olsen, G. Murray and J. J. Murray.

NESTS AND YOUNG-OUT-OF-THE-NEST REPORTED BY CAMPERS  
OF THE  
1959 FORAY AT MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA

by James H. Olsen

INTRODUCTION

The work of finding and recording information about nests and young-out-of-the-nest was done in an area delineated by a circle drawn around Mountain Lake, Virginia, the radius being approximately 15 miles. The area included parts of Giles County, Virginia and Monroe County, West Virginia; the cities of Rich Creek to the west, and Christiansburg to the east, mark the approximate boundaries.

Headquarters for the work were located at the Mountain Lake Biological Station of the University of Virginia. The observations were made between Friday, June 5th and Sunday, June 14, 1959, inclusive. Mountain Lake is located in Giles County, Virginia, at an elevation of nearly 4,000 feet above sea level. The natural lake from which the name is derived is situated on the top of Salt Pond Mountain and is a body of clear water with a surface area of approximately 100 acres and a maximum depth of 110 feet. Bald Knob, nearby, reaches an altitude of 4,363 feet. Within the fifteen mile radius observations can be made in places with a difference in elevation of 2,500 feet. A description of the area, ecologically, and details of the flora and fauna may be obtained from the report of the Twentieth Annual Foray of The Brooks Bird Club.

A summary shows a total of 202 nests being reported which represents 46 breeding species. In addition 21 reports of young out of the nest were made which added another 8 species. This established a total of 52 breeding records for the Foray.

ANNOTATED LIST

1. Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus) This nest was found in a Beech tree, about 50 feet off the ground, near the road in the pond drain study Area. Ralph Bell and L. C. Dalrymple reported three young birds in the nest.
2. Ruffed Grouse (bonasa umbellus) Two nests were reported and four additional reports of young birds were made. George Hurley reported a nest with eight young birds (two adults nearby) near the Moonshine Glen Study Area. Harold Boecker's nest was in the Little Meadow Study Area, just beyond Meredith Creek; it was a shallow depression at the base of a white pine tree, lined with leaves, and contained three eggs. The other reports are of young birds out-of-the-nest. Nevada Laitsch sighted one chick on the road at the foot of Potts Mountain, an adult with four chicks on Twin Spires Trail, and an adult with nine chicks on the road about one-half mile from camp. The writer reported (and later reported by Ruth Ballantine also), an adult with eight young birds crossing the road about one mile from camp.
3. Mourning Dove (Zenaidura macroura) Helen Boecker reported this late nesting, having found the bird on the nest, built ten feet from ground in a willow tree and containing four eggs, along Route 42 near Simmonsville.
4. Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) A hen with 12 chicks was reported by Charles Conrad, the observation being made by a lumberman working in the woods in the Simmonsville area.

5. Yellow-shafted Flicker (Colaptes auratus) Six nests were reported; Inez Kessner's at Mountain Lake Hotel, Tom Hurley's on Clover Hollow Road about thirty feet high in a Locust tree, Max Thacker's in Kire about three feet high in a dead Lombardy poplar, and the remaining three were in telephone poles (Herman Postlethwaite's near Goldbond, John Jacob's and the writer's in camp).
6. Pileated woodpecker (Hylatomus pileatus) This nest, reported by E. R. Chandler, was in the Pond Drain Study Area; hole was in a dead tree, about forty feet high, and the adults were observed feeding the young birds.
7. Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus) Three nests and one report of young out-of-the-nest were recorded. Maxine Thacker described a nest in an apple orchard near Blacksburg containing four eggs; George Hurley, one 15 feet high in an apple tree in Clover Valley, containing three young almost ready to leave the nest; Charles Conrad's report is of a nest 40 feet high in a walnut tree near Simmonsville. Don Shearer reported an adult feeding three young birds on a fence on the Porterfield farm.
8. Great Crested Flycatcher (Miarchus crinitus) George Hurley reported the one nest, located in Clover Valley. It was 30 feet high in a locust tree.
9. Eastern phoebe (Sayornis phoebe) Twelve nests were reported; Floyd Bartley's in New River Gorge, Florence Brannum's at the intersection of Route 700 and 604, Marjoretta Stahl's two were near Mountain Lake Hotel, Frances Ault's was at the same intersection as Brannum's but in a different farm building, E. R. Chandler's was on the porch of a hunter's cabin in the Little Meadows Study Area, Max Thacker's was two miles below Kire, Tom Hurley's was in the shed at the Cascades path, David Frank's was at the boathouse, Jeff Lightburn's was in the laboratory entrance, and John Laitsch's two were in a cave near Eggleston.
10. Least Flycatcher (Empidonax minimus) Ten nests were described; nine were "on campus" and the tenth was reported by Mae Gicquelais as being 12 feet high in a maple tree in the Mt. Lebanon Churchyard. David Frank reported two, Hal Garrison three, A. F. Gainer one, Claude Ross one, Jeff Lightburn one, and Donna Lynn one. Gainer climbed the tree to reach the nest 18 feet high in a yellow pine tree to get a color photograph of the four white eggs. Hal Garrison included his nests in the motion picture studies he conducted during the week.
11. Eastern wood pewee (Contopus virens) Mary Tunsberg located a nest at a height of approximately 20 feet in a tree in the picnic area at Narrows, W. Va. The female was sitting on the nest most of the time.
12. Rough-winged Swallow (Stelgidopteryx ruficollis) Three nests were described. E. R. Chandler's was in a hole in the wall at the Pembroke School yard, and contained young birds. The nest described by Ethyl Dalrymple was in a rocky hillside in the Narrows, W. Va. picnic grounds. Herman Postlethwaite reported one under a large rock near the top of the lime dump south of Goldbond, Virginia.
13. Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica) Eight nests were described. Marjoretta Stahl reported one containing one egg in the eaves of the Williams residence which is half way from Mountain Lake to Route 460. George Ballantine reported one in the eaves of a cottage at Mountain Lake hotel, containing eggs.

Donald Shearer found young birds in a nest built in a milking shed on the Porterfield Farm about five miles down Route 700. Florence Branum described young birds being fed in the nest build in a barn near the old bridge over Walker Creek on the road from Staffordsville to Eggleston. Tom Hurley reported young birds in a nest in barn rafters on a farm in Clover Hollow. Harold Boecker reported young birds in a nest in a barn on Route 42 near Simmonsville. Charles Conrad and Helen Boecker each described nests in other barns on Route 42 near Simmonsville, Virginia.

14. Common Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) Ellen Bowers reported four young birds out of the nest along with two adults, seen in flight along the road over Doe Mountain, on the way to the Cascades area.
15. House Wren (Troglodytes aedon) Don Shearer described a nest of this species found on the Porterfield Farm; under construction, 12 feet high in a dead Cherry tree.
16. Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii) One nest was reported by E. R. Chandler and George Flouer, in a small shed on a farm in Keenan, W. Va.
17. Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos) Four nests were reported. David Frank described one six feet high in a grape arbor near Union, W. Va. containing three eggs. Don Shearer reported two--one four feet high in a wild rose bush containing eggs, and one eight feet up in a Mock Orange tree containing young birds. Both were about five miles down Route 700. In the same area Eleanor Sims reported a nest four feet high in a cedar tree, containing two eggs. Young birds out of the nest were reported from two locations: one by Pearl Gregg near the airport at Blacksburg and one by Don Shearer on the Porterfield Farm on Route 700.
18. Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis) Seven nests were reported, along with reports of young out of the nest. Four of the nests contained eggs, two were under construction and one contained young birds. Nests were found in the camp area, near the Little Meadow Study Area, and near the roads going down the mountain, and in the valley area. Nests were reported by Claude Ross, (2) Alice Lightburn, Glen Phillips, Anna Dressel, and Don Shearer (2). Reports of young away from the nests were made by M. Shearer, Harold Boecker, Florence Branum, S. N. Gluck and Chuck Conrad.
19. Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum) Four nests were reported.
20. Robin (Turdus migratorius) Two reports of young birds out of the nest were given; one by John Laitsch and one by Bessie Pantelis. Thirty-five nests were reported; Eleanor Sims reported seven nests, Dorothy Conrad three, Harold Boecker two, S. N. Gluck two, David Frank two, M. Shearer two, John Jacobs two, Florence Branum two, Beth Ann Olsen two, and one each by Don Shearer, Edna Gregg, Mary Frank, L. Gicquelais, Joan Conrad. Alice Lightburn, Tom Hurley, Ruth Ballentine, Ethel Dalrymple, Bill Jacobs, Jeff Lightburn, E. Jacobs.
21. Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina) Four nests were described. Tom Hurley's report was of eggs in a nest five feet high in a bush in the cemetery near Keenan. George Hurley's was ten feet high in a Maple on Clover Valley Road, containing young birds. Two young were found in a nest built in the top of a small pine tree in the Pond Drain Study Area by Ralph Bell. Eleanor Sims reported a nest in a dead tree, five feet high, in the woods across the road from camp; it contained three young birds.

22. veery (Hylocichla fuscescens) Four nests were reported by the campers. Claude Ross reported one built in a grapevine eighteen inches off the ground, about five miles from camp on the road to Kire; it contained four young birds. Nevada Laitsch described one on Potts Mountain, in a chestnut sapling, two feet high, containing four young birds. Dorothy Conrad's was on top of a "stump" in a chestnut sapling, thirty inches off the ground, near the road to Kire. When first located, the nest contained three eggs... within seconds, one egg started to crack and the baby bird emerged... a dramatic scene for the entranced observers. George Hurley's nest contained four eggs and was built just one foot high in a Birch sapling. The location was a mile from camp on the road to the hotel.
23. Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis) Four nests were described, none of them in the camp area. Tom Hurley reported six young in a nest in a fence post near Route 700. Helen Boecker's contained young birds and was in a fence post near Route 42 at Simmonsville. Nearby another nest was found by Harold Boecker, in a fence post, also containing young birds. Mildred Daniels reported one in a fence post on the Dowdy farm near Blacksburg; the nest contained at least two young birds. Edna Gregg reported two adults and three young out of the nest about one-half mile from Route 460 on Clover Hollow Road.
24. Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum) Seventeen nests were described, all of them in the immediate camp area. Most were under construction when first reported, nearly half were completed with the adult sitting on the nest, and three were known to contain eggs. Jeff Lightburn reported three, M. Shearer reported two, Hal Harrison two, Claude Ross two, Eleanor Sims two, and one each by Don Shearer, S. N. Gluck, Jim Olsen, Tom Hurley, David Frank and L. C. Dalrymple.
25. Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) Charles Conrad, in company of Helen and Harold Boecker, reported seeing both adult shrikes and four young birds perched on a power line on Route 42 near Simmonsville. The abandoned nest was located nearby in a wild apple tree.
26. Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) Four nests were described; two on the Hoge farm by Carol Conrad and two on the Porterfield farm, by Don Shearer. Both farms are within five miles of camp, on Route 700.
27. Solitary Vireo (Vireo solitarius) Tom Hurley found the only nest of this species. It was seven feet high in a small maple tree near the junction of Salt Sulphur Turnpike and the Appalachian Trail, and contained three young birds.
28. Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus) Four nests were described. Ralph Bell reported one in the fork of a small tree near the swimming pool, containing three young birds. M. Stahl's report stated three eggs of the vireo and two Cowbird eggs were in the nest constructed five feet high in a Witch Hazel about one-half mile south of the hotel. Anna Dressel reported an adult bird sitting on the nest found near the junction of Route 700 and Route 460. Estrilla Daniels' was near the end of a limb of a tree near Michaux Cabin on the campus.
29. Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia) Three nests were found. Helen Boecker reported a nest ten feet high in a willow tree along a stream near Simmonsville, containing young birds. Edna Gregg reported a Yellow warbler feeding a young Cowbird in an apple tree in an orchard off Clover Valley Road. A

nest was reported by Claude Ross to be in a rose bush, three feet high, on the Songer Farm. It contained four young birds.

30. Black-throated Blue Warbler (Dendroica caerulescens) Three nests were found. George Hurley described a nest two feet high in a bush, five miles from camp along Salt Sulphur Turnpike; it contained two eggs on June 10th and three eggs on June 11th. E. R. Chandler reported a nest under construction on the hillside near the Cascades. Nevada Laitsch reported a nest two feet high in a Laurel shrub, containing three eggs on the west side of Peters Mountain.
31. Chestnut-sided warbler (Dendroica pensylvanica) Nine nests were found and two reports of young-out-of-the-nest. Nevada Laitsch reported an adult feeding young near the foot of Potts Mountain; Claude Ross reported young out-of-the-nest near the parking area at the Cascades. M. Shearer reported a nest containing young birds near a cottage on campus; the nest was three feet high in a Laurel bush. H. Postlethwaite reported a nest fifteen inches high in an Azalea bush alongside the old turnpike road near the laboratory. Hal Harrison reported four young birds in a nest two feet high in Laurel in back of Reed cabin. Tom Hurley reported four eggs in a nest two feet high in a small maple tree about six miles from camp on Salt Sulphur Turnpike. Claude Ross found two nests with one of them in bushes near the parking lot at the Cascades area, containing three young birds probably one day old. His other nest contained one egg and three young birds with the nest built in young chestnut growth around an old stump, thirty inches from the ground, about one mile down the road from camp. Nevada Laitsch reported a nest eight feet from the ground in a young oak tree near the foot of the west side of Peters Mountain; the nest contained three eggs. Eleanor Sims reported one egg and three young birds in a nest built two feet high in a huckleberry bush, at the back of the laboratory building. Edna Gregg reported a nest under construction about two feet off the ground in the Little Meadows Study Area.
32. Ovenbird (Seirus aurocapillus) Two nests were found; one, by Nevada Laitsch, containing four eggs at the foot of Peters Mountain, and the second by George Hurley containing four eggs, near the Moonshine Dell Study Area. Both nests, of course, were on the ground. Four records of young out-of-the-nest were turned in. E. R. Chandler and Jim Olsen reported an adult with young birds at the edge of the Little Meadow Study Area. O. W. Crowder and H. Postlethwaite reported two adults and one young bird at the same location later in the week. Claude Ross saw young out-of-the-nest alongside the path to the Cascades, and again reported young birds in a thicket along the road to Kire about six miles from camp.
33. Louisiana Waterthrush (Seirus motacilla) Nevada Laitsch found two adult birds feeding two young birds alongside Stoney River, two miles north of Goldbond.
34. Yellow-throat (Geothlypis trichas) Although no nests were found, two reports of young out-of-the-nest were given; Nevada Laitsch found an adult feeding one young bird in a swamp near Kire and Harold Boecker observed three young birds in bushes along Route 42 near Simmonsville.
35. Canada Warbler (Wilsonia canadensis) Three nests were found and two reports of young out-of-the-nest. Helen Ryman reported four young birds in a nest near the Salt Mountain Trail. Ralph Bell reported a nest containing four young birds under a rock in a cluster of ferns near the road in the center of

Pond Drain Study Area. Nevada Laitsch's report was of three eggs in a nest on the ground beneath a Rhododendron bush in Mann's Bog. Claude Ross reported young birds in a thicket about six miles from camp along the road to Kire. E. R. Chandler reported adults feeding young near Station Six in the Pond Drain Study Area.

36. American Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla) No nests were found, but two reports of young were made. Harold Boecker found young birds above the quarry on New River near Peairsburg. Nevada Laitsch reported one young bird on a small island in Stony River two miles north of Goldbond.
37. House Sparrow (Passer domesticus) Five nests were reported on the Porterfield farm which is five miles from camp on Route 700; four of the nests by Don Shearer and one by Tom Hurley. Helen Boecker reported one nest in an apple tree near Simmonsville. E. R. Chandler flushed a female from a nest 15 feet high in a Spruce tree at the Pembroke School.
38. Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus) No nests were reported but Chuck Conrad reported four young birds out-of-the-nest near Route 42 near Simmonsville, and Harold Boecker reported young out-of-the-nest at a spot nearby.
39. Baltimore Oriole (Icterus galbula) Four nests were found and one record of young out-of-the-nest. Florence Barnum reported a nest in the top of a Sycamore tree on a farm at the intersection of Route 700 and Route 604. Frances Ault reported a nest in the top of a Sycamore tree by the covered bridge on Route 604. George Hurley found his nest in Clover Valley. Evan Dressel reported young birds in a nest built twenty feet above the ground over a picnic table in a roadside park on Route 219 between Salt Sulphur Springs and Union, W. Va. Harold Boecker found young out-of-the-nest near Simmonsville on Route 42.
40. Orchard Oriole (Icterus spurius) The one nest reported was described by Glen Phillips as being thirty feet high in an Oak tree, containing young birds, near the Christian Church in Clover Hollow Valley. M. Shearer found young birds out-of-the-nest on the Hoge farm.
41. Common Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula) Glen Phillips found young out-of-the-nest in an orchard near the airport in Blacksburg.
42. Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater) M. Shearer reported seeing an adult Summer Tanager feeding a Cowbird in the sideway of the Christian Church on the road to camp. M. Stahl reportee finding two eggs in a Red-eyed Vireo nest. Edna Gregg reported observing a Yellow Warbler feeding a young Cowbird in an apple orchard. Bill Athey reported a Junco nest with one Cowbird egg.
43. Cardinal (Richmondena cardinalis) One nest containing eggs was found by Jim Olsen in a hedge fence at Keenan, W. Va.
44. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Pheucticus ludovicianus) Eight nests were reported with two records of young out-of-the-nest. Nevada Laitsch and Claude Ross reported a young bird out of the nest about five miles from camp on the road to Kire; they located the bird from the alarm note of the adult and later watched a chipmunk kill the fledgling and attempt to carry it away. Ethel Dalrymple found two young birds out-of-the-nest along the road in camp. Eleanor Sims reported three nests; one fifteen feet high in a thorn tree near the fire tower, the second one was ten feet off the ground in a dogwood tree

in the immediate camp area, and the third in a thorn tree, ten feet off the ground, near the golf course. Bessie Pantelis reported a bird sitting on a nest built twenty-five feet above the ground in a birch tree over-hanging the road in the Pond Drain Study Area. George Hurley reported young birds in a nest in a fork of a Maple tree, eight feet off the ground, about five miles from camp along Salt Sulphur Turnpike. Tom Hurley reported four young birds in a nest six feet high in a Box Elder bush alongside Salt Sulphur Turnpike. Hal Harrison reported four young birds in a nest in a Rhododendron bush near the main gate to camp. H. Postlethwaite reported an adult bird sitting on a nest in a maple tree, fifteen feet off the ground, near the laboratory.

45. Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea) Five nests and two reports of young out-of-the-nest were observed. Claude Ross reported three of the nests. One contained three young birds and was built two feet off the ground in a rose bush on the Songer Farm, another was in a young oak tree, about two feet off the ground, containing four eggs, and was in the immediate camp area; the third contained four eggs and was about one foot off the ground on the road to Pembroke. Eleanor Sims reported two nests; the first one containing four young birds, the second contained four eggs, and both were in small maple trees, near the road from camp to the hotel. Don Shearer reported one young bird out-of-the-nest alongside the road to the hotel. Anna Dressel reported one young bird being fed by a female near the bridge over Walker Creek south of Parkersburg.
46. Rufous-sided Towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus) Three nests reported. Jeff Lightburn reported a nest containing one egg and one young bird, built on the ground near one of the cabins. Nevada Laitsch reported a nest on the ground containing three eggs, in the Moonshine Dell Study Area. Claude Ross reported a nest seven feet off the ground containing three eggs, near camp on the road to Kire.
47. Vesper Sparrow (Pooecetes gramineus) Helen Boecher found two young birds on a fence near the airport near Blacksburg, Va.
48. Slate-colored Junco (Junco hyemalis) Five nests were described. Nevada Laitsch reported a nest under construction beside the path from the road to the golf course. Max Thacker reported a nest under construction by a path in the Pond Drain Study Area. Cindy Conrad found a nest containing eggs, about five feet off the ground in a pine tree near the dining hall. Cindy also found a nest nearby containing four eggs, built six feet off the ground in a hemlock tree. Bill Athey reported three Junco eggs and one Cowbird egg in a nest on the ground on the trail to Bald Knob. Mary Tunsburg reported young birds out-of-the-nest at the gate to the Pond Drain Study Area. Libby Jacobs reported two adult birds feeding three young back of the kitchen.
49. Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina) Nine nests were found and two records made of young out-of-the-nest. Don Shearer found two nests, both on the Songer Farm. Max Thacker found two nests, both near Day's Grocery. Tom Hurley reported a nest in the cemetery near Keenan, W. Va. Cindy Conrad reported a nest near the dining hall. Carol Conrad reported a nest on the Hoge Farm. Eleanor Sims reported a nest near Williams Grocery. E. R. Chandler reported a nest on the Little Meadow Study Area. Don Shearer reported one young bird out-of-the-nest, half-way down the mountain on Rt. 700, and three young birds on the Porterfield farm.

50. Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla) Don Shearer reported the only nest containing four young birds and built ten inches off the ground in a poison ivy vine, half-way down the mountain on Rt. 700. E. R. Chandler reported an adult feeding young birds in the Little Meadows Study Area.
51. Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia) Five nests were reported. Florence Barnum reported four eggs in a nest two feet off the ground in a cedar tree on the Songer farm. J. Hummel reported a nest containing two young birds near a garage in Maple-brooke. Don Shearer found five young birds in a nest on the ground along the short-cut road to Pembroke. Tom Hurley reported four eggs in a nest on the bank on the Clover Hollow Road.

2111 Tremont Road  
Columbus 21, Ohio

#### RAVEN'S REPORTED AT WHEELING

In our section of West Virginia Crows are common, Turkey Vultures are rare and Ravens just never. However, on Monday, June 22, 1959, I did see three Ravens (Corvus corax).

It was a warm sunny evening and I had just finished supper and had gone to the front porch to take it easy and read the evening paper. Having just settled in my chair I glanced to the skyline above the hill, which rises some 600 feet above the river level, and spotted the three birds.

Usually, as I stated, you can always see Crows flying about, but the three birds that I saw this time were not Crows. They were much, much too large and their flight was different from that of Crows. Even the boy next door, who just then appeared on the scene and is interested in hunting and fishing, ask me "What are those three big black birds?"

I called for Joanie to bring my 7X50 binoculars and once brought into focus there was no doubt about the identification--they were Ravens. The flat horizontal wings was easily noted along with the alternate flapping as they slowly soared along. All three followed along the ridge for probably a quarter of a mile before two and then the third bird disappeared from view.

Indeed it was a thrill to see Ravens in my own backyard, so to speak. I called George Breiding, naturalist at Oglebay Park, as the Ravens were heading in his direction when they disappeared over the hill, but he failed to see any trace of the birds. As far as I know this is the first record for Ohio County.

Chuck Conrad  
137 N. 11th St.,  
Wheeling, W. Va.

## WEST VIRGINIA RECORDS FOR THE THREE SPECIES OF SCOTER

by George A. Hall

The three species of scoter known for Eastern North America, the White-winged Scoter (Melanitta deglandi), the Surf Scoter (M. perspicillata), and the Common Scoter (Oidemia nigra) are normally considered to be "Sea" ducks and as such their occurrence inland, except on the Great Lakes, is only accidental and is always noteworthy. The principal wintering grounds of all three species is along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida, although both the White-winged and the Surf winter in small numbers on the Great Lakes. West Virginia would normally be considered to be off the flight lines of migration and these species would be expected to occur here only rarely. However, the lakes at the western foot of the main Allegheny Mountain system in northeastern West Virginia apparently lie on a well used flight route from possibly the upper Great Lakes to the Carolina and Virginia Capes. The waterfowl stop here only when weather conditions prevent them from crossing the mountains and at these times there can be some rather spectacular occurrences. This account attempts to summarize our present knowledge of the status of these species in the state and every attempt has been made to account for all records of the two rarer species.

Of the three, the Surf Scoter is the rarest in West Virginia, although it exists in larger numbers than does the Common Scoter. There are apparently only three sight records for the species in the state and no specimen has been taken. Accordingly the bird should be placed on the Hypothetical List. The species was first observed in West Virginia on November 5, 1936 when M. Brooks and I. B. Boggs saw a flock of nine on Lake Lynn of the Cheat River in Monongalia County (M. Brooks & Boggs, 1938). The second record was on November 9, 1952 when the writer saw three immature birds on Lake Lynn (Hall, 1954b). On October 17, 1959 Gordon A. Knight and the writer found a flock of six immatures on Lake of the Woods, Preston County. These birds were still present on October 24 but were gone on October 31, the earliest date that an attempt to collect one could be made. Lake of the Woods is a small artificial lake at an elevation of approximately 2000 feet and is perhaps five miles from the nearest point on Lake Lynn. Thus all three records have been made at essentially the same place.

There are apparently a total of six records for the Common Scoter. The earliest is of one at Huntington, Cabell County in 1904 attributed to Dr. Roy B. Cook (M. Brooks, 1944). Boggs found two on Lake Lynn on November 5, 1936 and Brooks reported two from the same place on October 18, 1938 (M. Brooks & Boggs, 1938). C. O. Handley, Sr., saw five at Charleston, Kanawha County on November 2, 1951 (M. Brooks, 1952); six were seen on the Ohio River near Willow Island, Pleasants County by J. Casto on October 28, 1955 (Hall, 1955); and one was seen on the Tygart Reservoir, Taylor County on November 7, 1959 by W. M. Booth (Hurley, 1959). Apparently there is no specimen of this species for the state.

As would be expected from its overall relative abundance the White-winged Scoter is the most common species in the state. On Lake Lynn, Monongalia County the number of records is now so large that it is not worthwhile to list them individually. The bird probably occurs there during every fall migration, although never in very large numbers. Most of the records are for females and immature males but mature males occur occasionally. The dates of occurrence range from September 29 (DeGarmo, 1945) to late December. I have found no Spring records. Away from Lake Lynn the bird is much rarer with perhaps only six records. One was taken at French Creek, Upshur County on October 25, 1913 (M. Brooks, 1944), and a number were seen on the Great Kanawha River in Putnam County by A. S. Morgan in

November 1932 (E. Brooks, 1934). K. W. Haller had a report of a flock of 300 on the Ohio River in Mason County on March 1, 1940 and he saw a few there some days later (Haller, 1940). H. K. Land found it in Mason County on February 13, 1954 (M. Brooks, 1954). One was reported from Charleston on December 2, 1954 by Handley (Hall, 1954a) and several were seen on the Ohio River at Warwood, Ohio County by Charles Conrad in February of 1958 (Hurley, 1958). W. N. Booth saw five on Tygart Reservoir, Taylor County on November 7, 1959 (Personal communication).

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west virginia university  
morgantown, w. va.

Editors Note: This is the second paper in a projected series which will attempt to describe the current status of certain of the more unusual species in the state. Paper number one in the series was on the saw-whet owl (REDSTART, 27:12 (1959)). Persons interested in contributing to the series are invited to communicate with the Editor, GAH.

## REDPOLL IN GREENE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

On January 22, 1960 I noticed a bird feeding on the seeds of a white birch tree in the yard of my home near Clarksville, Pa. I presumed it to be a Goldfinch but decided on a closer look and was able to walk to within perhaps eight feet of it. I decided it must be a Common Redpoll and went to the house to get my book and glasses (and also Mrs. Bell). It proved to be a male with red forehead, pink breast, black chin and stripes down the side. It remained here for three days, but I have not noted it since.

The only previous record of this species for western Pennsylvania south of Pittsburgh where it has occurred sparingly is from Springs, Somerset County in the winter of 1908-09 (Todd, Birds of Western Pennsylvania p 612.)

Ralph K. Bell  
Clarksville, Pa.

## BRANT IN DODDRIDGE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

On November 9, 1959 a Brant (Branta bernicla) was sighted on Crystal Lake, a 25 acre impoundment, approximately three miles north of the town of West Union, Doddridge County.

The caretaker of this lake had called me, reporting a strange goose-like bird. I immediately went to the lake and found the bird to be a juvenile (white bars on the wings) Brant. The bird was feeding on the grass at the head of the lake and was not very alarmed when I photographed it. I have about ten feet of 8 mm. movie film and some black and white snapshots of the bird. The black and whites have not been processed yet.

According to Maurice Brooks, there is no record of a Brant being taken in West Virginia.

Walt Lesser  
Conservation Commission  
Middlebourne, W. Va.

(Editors Note: Mr. Lesser's pictures constitute the first validated record for the species in the state, although several sight records have been made, including five at Tygart Reservoir on November 7, 1959 seen by W. M. Booth (THE RED-START 27, 15 (1959).)

## THE 1960 FORAY, ANNOUNCEMENT

The 21st Annual Foray of The Brooks Bird Club will be held from June 11 to 19 at Camp Kidd on the Cheat River in Tucker County, West Virginia. In part the area covered will duplicate that of the highly successful 1951 Foray at Davis. Full details and application blanks can be obtained from Foray Director, C. L. Conrad at Club Headquarters.

## FIELD NOTES

1959-1960

The Winter Season

December 1 to February 29

Very mild weather prevailed in December. There was some snow in northern areas by mid-January, but most ponds and lakes remained open until early February. Then heavy snows and colder weather closed all lakes and forced many birds to feeders. As a result most observers reported an unusual abundance of most species.

This winter will, in all probability, be remembered for one of the biggest invasions of northern species the present generation has ever seen. Huge concentrations of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Tree Sparrows and Snow Buntings were recorded. Robins concentrated in big roosts in various sections. Wintering hawks were seen in greater numbers, particularly the Goshawk and Rough-legged Hawk. High wintering populations of Kingfishers and Field Sparrows were found. Other noteworthy species included a possible wintering Sanderling, Water Pipit, Pine Grosbeak, Oregon Junco and Lapland Long-spur.

**LOON:** A few COMMONS remained in the Morgantown area until the general freeze in mid-January (GAH). One RED-THROATED was seen on December 5 at Conneaut Lake, Pa. (Leberman fide SEF).

**HORNED GREBE:** Records of singles at Pymatuning Lake (SEF) and Morgantown (GAH) both on January 17.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE:** Single on January 12 at Barnesville, Ohio (C&C). Hall had 2 at Morgantown on the 31st. Scattered birds seen on the Shenandoah during the period. Two at Leetown on February 27 (CM).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** An unusual record listed by Herb Moore of the Conservation Commission (CC) when he saw 2 on the Ohio on December 10. Listed in the same area by Moore in 1953.

**GREAT BLUE HERON:** Reported near Wheeling Island during the entire period where as many as 4 were seen at one time (CC). Also one at Moundsville on February 1 (GP). Smith listed one on the Charleston Christmas count. One bird wintered at the Hebron, Ohio fish hatcheries (TS). Miller found them on the Shenandoah all during the winter season. An attempted wintering at Pymatuning by a single bird was reported by Flaugh during the December-January period.

**CANADA GOOSE:** A flock of 35 noted at Bluestone Reservoir on January 12 (TRS). Last seen at Scott Lake, Beverly on December 23 when the lake froze (TRS). Other records include 30 at Mosquito Lake on December 27 (DFF); single on the Pittsburgh census (BVC); and 2 at Bear Rocks during January (CC).

**SNOW GOOSE:** Polly Handlan saw one on a farm pond near Pickaway, Monroe County on December 27.

**MALLARD:** The Pittsburgh area censuses produced 306, most of which were at North Park (BVC). About the usual wintering population at Morgantown (GAH). Observed at Wheeling Island until February 14 with the largest count being 39 on December 26 (CC). Scarce on the Shenandoah (CM).

Flock of 7 at New Lexington, Ohio on December 26 (TS). Listed also at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB) and Barnesvills, Ohio (C&C). Flocks of 15 to 25 at Beverly in late December (Dean fide TRS).

BLACK DUCK: Abundant at Morgantown until the lakes froze. Also reported at Wheeling, Pittsburgh and Barnesville, O., until about February 1.

GADWALL: Leberman's (fide SEF) report of 2 at Pymatuning on January 10 is the only one.

AMERICAN WIDGEON: Several flocks on the Potomac and Shenandoah since mid-February (CM). Two at Hebron, Ohio on February 13 (TS).

WOOD DUCK: Miller's list of 3 in late December at Leetown is the only report.

CANVASBACK: Two birds were found at Seneca Lake, Ohio on January 30 (C&C).

SCAUP: Several small flocks at Beverly on December 20 (Dean fide TRS). Conrad saw a single flock of 16 on the Ohio at Wheeling on December 26 and January 30. Ferris and Shields listed small numbers at Ashtabula, Ohio January 17 and Buckeye Lake, Ohio February 13 respectively.

COMMON GOLDENEYE: Were reasonably common at least until the freeze up. Highland Park's (Pittsburgh) census produced 61 (BVC). Only a few remained in Morgantown area after the lakes froze. Ohio records include 34 at Ashtabula on January 17 (DEF) and 2 at Barnesville, Ohio on January 1 (C&C).

BUFFLEHEAD: The few reported include 3 at Pymatuning January 10 (DEF); one at Buckeye Lake, Ohio on February 13 (TS); and a few on the Shenandoah until about mid-February (CM).

SURF SCOTER: The Lebermans (fide SEF) found one at Pymatuning, Pa. on December 5 which is late.

HOODED MEGANSER: All reports are January dates. Ferris, at Ashtabula, Ohio saw 3 on the 10th, Conrad reported 5 at Wheeling the same date. Chapman reported 2 males at Barnesville, Ohio on the 24th and Shearer saw one on the Charleston census on the 2nd.

COMMON MEGANSER: Observed in Morgantown area (GAH) all during January, single at Ashtabula, Ohio on January 17 (DEF). At Seneca Lake, near Barnesville, Ohio an estimated 60 were observed on January 24 (C&C).

TURKEY VULTURE: The big roost near Inwood has dwindled in recent years from several hundred to only a few this year (CM). Shields' two in Muskingum County, Ohio on February 13 is the only other record.

GOSHAWK: Two very good observations of this uncommon hawk in the region were contributed by Flauth and Leberman. They saw a single at Hartstown, Penna. on January 30. On February 21 at Sugar Lake, Pa., they saw 2 in the same tree.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Shields' observations include records in Hocking and Muskingum Counties, Ohio on December 15 and 26th and also February 3rd.

COOPER'S HAWK: Reports of birds in Muskingum County, Orwell and Barnesville, Ohio and at Wheeling, Sistersville and St. Albans, W. Va.

RED-TAILED HAWK: Fairly common at Clarksville, Pa., where Bell banded 2 and at Meadville, Pa. (SEF). Also in Hocking, Muskingum, Perry and Licking Counties, Ohio (TS). Two on the Wheeling census December 26 (CC), and several on the Inwood and Charleston counts.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: Two were found during the Inwood winter census (CM). The only other report was at Dawes Arboretum, Ohio where one was seen on December 13 (TS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Wintering birds reported at Erie, Pa., in January and Mercer County, Pa., in December (SEF); Muskingum County, Ohio on February 28 (TS); Inwood in late December (CM).

BALD EAGLE: Chapman and Cain saw two mature birds on the ice on Seneca Lake near Barnesville, Ohio on February 28.

MARSH HAWK: Two were reported at Inwood in late December (CM); one on December 29 at Wellsburg (WDJ); and one each in Muskingum and Hocking Counties, Ohio (TS).

SPARROW HAWK: Numerous records of higher wintering populations this year. This was indicated at Zanesville, Barnesville and Willoughby, Ohio; also Charleston and Inwood, W. Va. More scarce at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB) and about normal at Orwell, O. (DFF).

BOBWHITE: Regularly reported in Perry and Muskingum Counties, Ohio (TS) and a good sized covey (30) at Barnesville, Ohio on January 1. At Inwood coveys of from 8 to 24 were being fed by the farmers during the snowy weather. Miller mentions knowing of 16 coveys within a 3 mile radius of Inwood.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT: Mastellers reported 4 males in their backyard the last week of February, (Philadelphia). Pittsburgh listed 34 which is about normal there.

COOT: One seen at Buckeye Lake on February 13, which seems to be rather unusual (TS).

KILLDEER: Bell listed 11 on January 2 at Clarksville, Penna. Counts of 50 noted in Eastern Panhandle on mild days in late January (CM). Charleston January 2 census shows 46.

COMMON SNIPE: One listed by Flaugh and Leberman at Sugar Lake near Meadville, Pa. on February 21. This is probably a wintering bird. Charleston's January 2 census listed 6. The annual Eastern Panhandle Snipe hunt on January 30 and 31 showed 49 and 43 respectively which indicated normal population of wintering birds (CM)

SANDERLING: Extremely late record made by Ahlquist at Walnut Beach, Lake Erie on January 2. Normally gone by early November with a November 18 being the previous late record.

MOURNING DOVE: Ferris found flocks of up to 2 dozen birds and concluded that numbers were above normal at Orwell, Ohio. Bell's 32 at Clarksville, Pa. on January 2 sounds like a good wintering population. Twenty birds listed in Butler County, Pa. on January 16 (fide BVC). Migrants started moving into the general area about February 20. Down at Inwood (CM).

OWLS: GREAT-HORNED on the Christmas counts for Clarksville and Pittsburgh, Pa., and Charleston, W. Va. One BARN at Clarksville (RKB). Very few SCREECH OWL reports. A SAWHET stunned itself flying into a windowpane in Glenshaw, Penna. on December 23. After a rapid recovery it was released (fide BVC). The heavy snows caused concentration of owls in Richwood where numbers of them were found dead.

BELTED KINGFISHER: The many reports indicate an above normal wintering population. Ten on December 26 at Wheeling is the "most ever for this time of the year" (CC). More abundant in Meadville, Pa. area (SEF). A count of 5 on the Charleston census January 2 where 1 or 2 is normal (S. Spencer)

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: Population of wintering birds somewhat high. For the third winter the Charleston census was up with 9 reported, compared to a normal 3 or 4. Other areas reporting include Barnesville, Ohio (4), Hocking, Perry and Muskingum Counties, Ohio; Clarksville (4) and Pittsburgh, Penna.; and Inwood and Wyatt, W. Va.

PILEATED WOODPECKER: Miller thinks they are increasing in the Eastern Panhandle. About normal in Charleston (AS). Scattered reports list them at Barnesville, O. (C&C) and Hocking, Perry and Muskingum Counties (TS) in Ohio. Bell counted 4 on his January 2 census at Clarksville, Pa. Charleston had 7 on its list the same day.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Reported generally over the region. Bell saw 4 at Clarksville, Pa. on January 2. Three at Wheeling on December 26 (CC). Ten on the Charleston count is higher than normal.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: The 2 at Charleston on January 2 is the only report during the period covered.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: Three on the Charleston census January 2. Also 2 at Clarksville, Pa. the same day (RKB). Areas listing singles include Wheeling, Wyatt, W. Va. and Muskingum County, Ohio (TS).

PHOEBE: Masteller had one around for a week in December. One was heard calling at Wheeling on February 16 (fide GHB).

HORNED LARK: "Great numbers" at Barnesville, Ohio (C&C). Also more abundant at Meadville, Pa. areas (SEF). Increasing in numbers toward the end of February at Orwell, Ohio (DFF). Several small flocks of NORTHERNS and several of PRAIRIES at Inwood during the latter part of February (CM). Reports from Clarksville, Pittsburgh, Pa. and Zanesville, Ohio.

BLUE JAY: The high populations of the last several years continued at Charleston where 123 were counted on January 2. Shields found them common at Zanesville, Ohio. Pittsburgh listed 17 on January 2 (fide BVC).

COMMON CROW: Bell's records indicate numbers about 25% of normal at Clarksville, Pa. where migrants appeared in early January. They started to appear at Orwell and Muskingum County, Ohio about mid-February.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: The 'invasion' of this species was, apparently, more like a sortie since few birds were reported. Fair numbers in Vinton and Hocking Counties, Ohio (TS). Uncommon at Wheeling where only 6 were found on December 26 (CC). Joe Grom banded 3 at Gibsonia, Pa.

BROWN CREEPER: The many reports indicate above normal numbers. Flauth at Meadville, Pa. and Miller at Inwood agreed they were more abundant. The 7 at Pittsburgh and 7 at Wheeling on the mid-winter census were high. St. Albans numbers were above normal (GFH). Other reports include Sistersville and Wellsburg, W. Va. and Hocking County, Ohio.

WINTER WREN: More plentiful at Inwood (CM). Scattered reports from other areas.

CAROLINA WREN: Numbers still down at Charleston where only 66 were listed on January 2 - about half of normal. About normal at Inwood (CM). 16 on the Pittsburgh census (BVC).

MOCKINGBIRD: Normal in Southern areas. One at Mentor, Ohio on February 21 is unusual (MBS). Also same day at Orwell, Ohio (Ferris fide PHS).

CATBIRD: Generally a few are listed as wintering birds in the area. Miller, at Inwood, had reports of several. At Sistersville, Murrey had one at suet in early March. One bird found dead there on March 5. McBee also had one at Wyatt, last seen on December 19.

BROWN THRASHER: Miller saw one bird on January 31 at Inwood.

ROBIN: In March 1958 I wrote that everybody had robins wintering. This describes the situation prevailing during the past winter. Roosts numbering in the thousands were reported at Wellsburg (WDJ) and Wyatt (LM). The one at Wyatt (Harrison County) was estimated to contain at least 10,000 birds. Both roosts were in pine plantations. Other numbers include thousands at Buckhannon in early February (Booth fide GAH); 550 at Charleston January 2; 423 at Clarksville, Pa.; 1000 at Moundsville (CC); 500 plus at Oglebay (CC); an estimated 25,000 near Martinsburg (fide CM). Bell characterized it as the most since the 1955-56 winter.

HERMIT THRUSH: Some BBC members saw one on the midwinter morning walk in Oglebay Park on February 7. Shields found 2 at Joe's Run, Muskingum County, Ohio. Ann Shreve banded one of 2 birds at her feeder.

BLUEBIRD: It was pleasant to hear of a rather high wintering population. Typical comments: Shields at Zanesville, Ohio, "recorded everywhere and often in numbers"; Chapman at Barnesville, Ohio "Many wintered"; Shreve at Charleston, "as many as 8 at feeder at any given time"; Conrad at Wheeling, "many reports". Charleston listed 51 on the January 2 census. This writer had up to 6 at feeder at a time.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: Ten on Charleston's January 2 census. Other areas reporting include Pittsburgh, Pa. (5). Wellsburg (2), Clarksville, Pa. (3), Wheeling (16) all on Christmas counts.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Few reported. Three at Oglebay Park, Wheeling on January 16 (GHB). Singles on Pittsburgh, Barnesville and Charleston census counts.

WATER PIPIT: Hall saw one at Cheat Lake on January 24 stating that it was the first winter record for that area.

CEDAR WAXWING: More reports than usual. Flocks of 150 birds in Eastern Panhandle during December and January. Above average at Orwell, Ohio (DFF). Common at Morgantown, Charleston, Wheeling. Good numbers at Barnesville and Zanesville, Ohio.

NORTHERN SHRIKE: Leberman banded one December 8 at Meadville. Bell saw one at 30 yards with 10 power glasses at Clarksville, Pa. At Zanesville, Shields had one in his back yard on Feb. 11 & 12.

MYRTLE WARBLER: Common in selected areas. Charleston's 25 is higher than normal but less than the 50 of the 1959 census. Ann Shreve banded 26, A few at Wheeling (CC), Clarksville, Pa. (RKB); and Zanesville, Ohio (TS). Flock of 15 at Gauley Bridge on January 16 (GFH).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: Wintering population down. Less at Morgantown (GAH) and Charleston where only 4 were listed on January 2. Plentiful in Eastern Panhandle. About half dozen wintering at Orwell, Ohio (DFF).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD: A few wintering birds and some very early migrants. Cain (Barnesville, Ohio) had one at a feeder on December 8. Eight at Clarksville, Pa. on the 24th (RKB). Seven at Zanesville, on February 14 may have been migrants (TS). Miller recorded migrants at Inwood on February 20.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Bell observed one at various times at Clarksville, Pa. One at Barnesville, Ohio on December 8 (C&C).

COMMON GRACKLE: Flaugh listed one at her feeder in Meadville, Pa. on December 20 to 27 where it is an unusual wintering bird. A few wintered in the Eastern Panhandle (CM).

COWBIRD: In mid-February 2 areas reported birds which could have been very early migrants. McBee, at Wyatt, saw 2 on the 14th and 15th while Flaugh reported several at a feeder in Saegertown, Pa.

CARDINAL: Common in much above normal numbers in all regions. Joe Grom banded 97 at Gibsonia, Pa. The Pittsburgh workers counted 258 on January 2. Bell, at Clarksville, saw 78 the same day. Charleston's count totalled 202. This writer had as many as 28 at feeders at one time and Laitsch's accommodated up to 33 at any given time at East Liverpool, Ohio.

INDIGO BUNTING: Mrs. Cain reported one at her feeder at Barnesville, Ohio on December 15 which is obviously very late and rather unusual.

EVENING GROSBEAK: From the many reports of birds fed I would surmise that many people will be mulching with sunflower seed hulls this summer. Miller said there were more at Inwood than there have ever been. Flock of about 300 near Meadville, Pa. (SEF). People feeding from 10-50 daily. Leberman, same area, banded 234. Bordner, at State College, Pa. banded 4630 to the end of March (fide GAH). Records in Ashtabula County, Ohio start about

December 24 (PHS). Highest concentration, of 64, on February 19 (Perkins). Numerous in small flocks along the Lake Erie front. Flocks of up to 30 at Willoughby, Ohio (NBS). Common in Morgantown area. Many were seen in Richwood after mid-January where they had been common also in the 1955 invasion. More reports from the southern valley sections. Thus, Huntington and Charleston censuses list them in early January. Several flocks of up to 25 birds have been present in Charleston much of the period. The Ohio Valley had small flocks also: - Wheeling, Moundsville, Parkersburg, Middlebourne.

**PURPLE FINCH:** Very plentiful in some areas. The situation appears to be reversed here, in that they concentrated in the southern sections. Charleston's census revealed only 31 on January 2, but later reports showed them moving to feeders in great numbers. Ann Shreve banded 125 to March 1. At St. Albans we have fed at least 50 birds regularly. Others in the area have reached the saturation level where they are comparing them with starlings as pests while they shovel up the sunflower seed hulls. Plentiful at Inwood (CM), and in Monroe County (Polly Handlan). In the Northern sections, Bell, at Clarksville, Pa. is the only reporter to call them common with a high of 19 on January 9. Leberman banded 4 at Meadville, Pa. Savage had no reports in Ashtabula, Ohio.

**PINE GROSBEAK:** Two reports of another and more unusual, wintering bird. Reported at Morgantown (*fide* GAH). Most unusual is a record at Charleston during the Christmas season where the bird appeared at a feeder for about a week. To the writer's knowledge, this is the first Kanawha County record of recent years.

**COMMON REDPOLL:** Another bonus in unusual birds was available this season for many to see, particularly the Pennsylvania and northern Ohio watchers. Gordon (*fide* SEF) saw 200 on February 14 eating salt on a road near Meadville, Pa. Twelve at Pymatuning, Pa. January 31 and some at Presque Isle, Pa. Flock of 5 to 50 at Ligonier, Pa. (*fide* Grom). Savage described it as a very heavy invasion. The Ashtabula, O. count showed 69 on January. Some of his collaborators listed 150 at Conneaut on February 14; 85 in Ahlquist's back yard (Ashtabula); 400 in Lake County, Ohio; 500 in several flocks near Conneaut Creek. Also many sightings of smaller flocks. Bell had his "first bird ever" on January 22 at Clarksville, Pa.

**PINE SISKIN:** Wintering in "great numbers"- Meadville, Pa. (SEF). A few at Kingsville Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio (PHS). A Morgantown report from Maurice Brooks.

**RED CROSSBILL:** Grom had about 15 at North Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. from January 30 to February 13. They were feeding on white pine cones.

**SLATE-COLORED JUNCO:** Common and perhaps above normal numbers in most areas, particularly the more southern locations. Grom banded 122 at Gibsonia, Pa. but scarce at Meadville, Pa. (SEF). Ferris considered them below normal at Orwell, Ohio. Numerous at Wheeling, Wyatt and Wellsburg. Murray, at Sistersville, had 50 to 100 at feeder daily.

**OREGON JUNCO:** Perkins had one during February and March at his feeder near Conneaut Creek, Ohio. Several have been reported in recent years, this one being the third in that area in 10 years. The first West Virginia record was made in March, 1956 at Charleston where singles were observed several times in the succeeding years.

TREE SPARROW: Heavily concentrated in some of the northern sections. "Far above" normal at Orwell, Ohio (DFF). "Everywhere in large numbers" (PHS) by early January in Ashtabula County, Ohio. Normal at Willoughby (MBS) and somewhat irregular in Zanesville. Grom banded 115 at Gibsonia, Pa. and Bell said they were common at Clarkesville. Few observed in the Eastern Panhandle (CM).

CHIPPING SPARROW: Phillips still had one at a feeder on December 6 at Triadelphia.

FIELD SPARROW: While this bird normally winters in fair numbers in the Southern regions, a surprisingly large number attempted to winter in the more Northern sections. For example, Pittsburgh had 31 on their January 2 census (fide BVC). Grom banded 4 at Gibsonia, Pa. Charleston's 36 is somewhat low.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Not many reports. Plentiful at Inwood (CM) and McClintic Refuge at Pt. Pleasant (GFH). A few at Bellaire, Ohio (GHB). Eleven at Charleston. Three at Triadelphia (Masteller).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Heavy influx in Kanawha Valley (Charleston) where 248 were counted January 2. About 8 at Oglebay compared to an expected 1 or 2 (GHB). Plentiful at Inwood (CM). Pittsburgh's January 2 count included 11. One at Conneaut (JPP fide PHS) is considered unusual for the area. None reported at Morgantown (GAH).

FOX SPARROW: Apparently scarce this winter. Two at Wheeling December 26 (CC). One at Pittsburgh on January 2 and 3 at Charleston the same day.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: One report of a very unusual and casual visitor. Hall and Knight saw one with HORNED LARKS at Morgantown on February 17. This is, apparently, the first report in the state since 1952.

SNOW BUNTING: More reports than usual of this infrequent winterer. Flaugh found them "unusually abundant" in all areas in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Widely reported in large flocks in Northeastern Ohio. Perkins saw 200 on December 19 at his feeders! Ahlquist and Savage counted 141 on the Christmas census. Heaviest concentrations seemed to be along the Lake front. Walding saw 400 the end of February. Ferris had 100 at Orwell, Ohio on January 25. Also reported about 20 miles north of East Liverpool (Laitzsch).

Contributors for the period include:

|     |                               |                           |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| RKB | Ralph Bell                    | Clarksville, Penna.       |
| BVC | Bernard Van Cleve             | Pittsburgh, "             |
| SEF | Sarah Flaugh                  | Meadville, "              |
| JAG | Joseph Grom                   | Gibsonia, "               |
| C&C | Mrs. Chapman and Mrs.<br>Cain | Barnesville, Ohio         |
| PHS | Paul Savage                   | Ashtabula, "              |
| DFF | Duane Ferris                  | Orwell, "                 |
| TS  | Tom Shields                   | Zanrvsville, "            |
|     | Nevada Laitzsch               | East Liverpool, "         |
| MBS | Merit Skaggs                  | Willoughby, "             |
| GAH | George Hall                   | Morgantown, West Virginia |
| CM  | Clark Miller                  | Inwood,                   |

|     |                          |                         |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| CC  | Charles Conrad           | Wheeling, West Virginia |
| GHB | George Breiding          | Wheeling, " "           |
| WDJ | Wilda and Dick Jennings  | Wellsburg, "            |
|     | Orlo and Marie Masteller | Triadelphia, "          |
| GP  | Glenn Phillips           | Triadelphia, "          |
|     | Marian Means             | Parkersburg, "          |
| GM  | Gladys Murrey            | Sistersville, "         |
| LM  | Lena McBee               | Wyatt,                  |
| AS  | Anne Shreve              | Charleston, "           |
| TRS | Pete Samsell             | Charleston, "           |
| COH | C. O. Handley, Sr.       | Charleston, "           |

Other reporters, in addition to those named in the report, include Maxine Thacker (Buckhannon), Marian Collins (Lewisburg). Jeff Lightburn (Delaware, Ohio).

George Hurley,  
920 Hughes Drive  
St. Albans, W. Va.

Contributions for the Spring Season, March 1 to May 31 are due on June 15. Contributions for the Season June 1 to August 31 will be due on September 15.