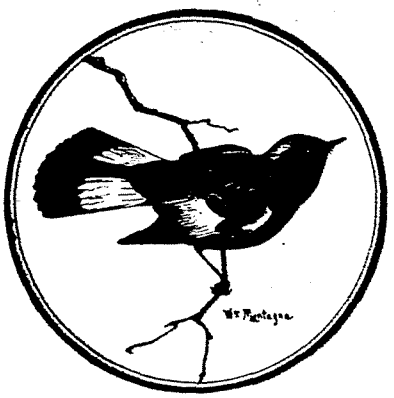

The Redstart

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NESTING OF THE BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE IN TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, AND A CONSIDERATION OF ITS CURRENT STATUS IN NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

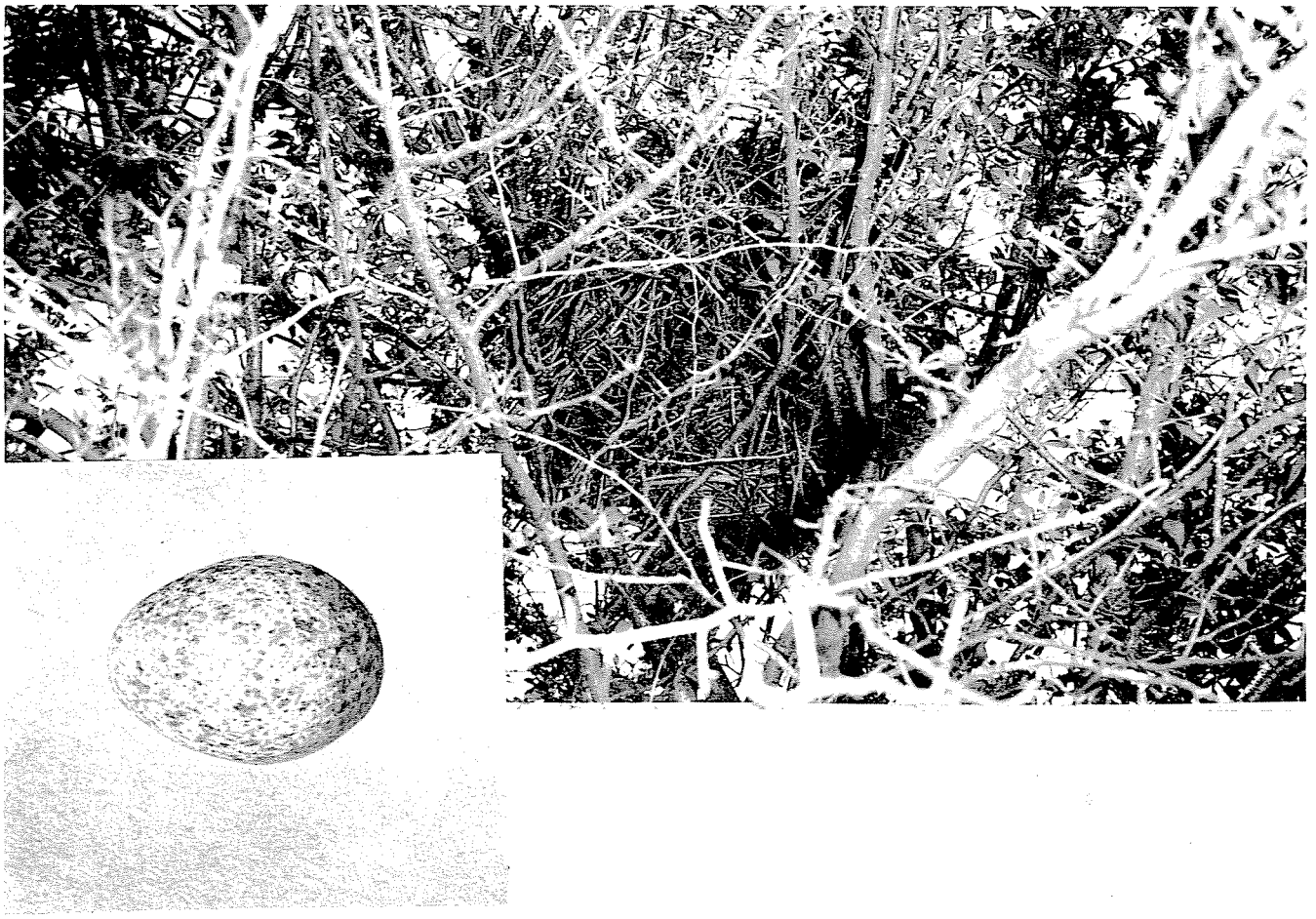
By R. K. Burns

According to the latest edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (1957) the eastern boundary of the territory in which the Black-billed Magpie is resident extends through the Great Plains region, from Saskatchewan and western Manitoba through the Dakotas, Nebraska and western Kansas to the panhandle of Oklahoma. In 1946 a nesting was recorded at Pikwitonie, in north central Manitoba, about 400 miles north of the city of Winnipeg and 200 miles south and somewhat west of Hudson's Bay. This was the easternmost known breeding at the time. To the east of this boundary the bird is said to occur casually as far as central Ontario, the James Bay region of Quebec and in the states of Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. East of the Mississippi River it has been reported as accidental in Wisconsin, Illinois, Ontario, New York, South Carolina, and Florida (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957). Linsdale (see Bent, Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows and Titmice, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, 1946) gives a similar distribution but in addition cites records for Indiana and Ohio. Quite recently a Black-billed Magpie was taken near Morgantown, West Virginia and reported as the first specimen record for that state (Dickens, Redstart, 27, p. 64, 1960). It was therefore with some surprise that in June, 1960, members of the Brooks Bird Club discovered a nest of this species in Tucker County, W. Va., with a well-established history of occupancy of this locality going back over a number of years. The history and circumstances of this occupancy should be of general interest.

The 1960 Foray of the Brooks Bird Club was held near Parsons, the county-seat of Tucker County, in the valley of the Cheat River. Some eight or ten miles airline to the east lies the high plateau area around the towns of Thomas and Davis, near which is the Blackwater Falls State Park. A few miles south of Davis is the scenic upper valley of the Blackwater River, widely known as Canaan Valley, three to four miles in width and some eight or ten miles long, lying between Canaan Mountain to the northwest and Cabin Mountain and the crest of the Allegheny Front to the southeast. This valley has an elevation of about 3200 feet, and the ridges on either side rise above 4000 feet. The floor of the valley consists of rolling farmlands, chiefly pasture, intermingled with wooded hills and extensive areas of swamp and marsh especially along the winding course of the river. In this high country areas of Red Spruce and Hemlock occur and Balsam Fir is still found locally in the swamplands along the river.

In the late afternoon of June 15, 1960, a party consisting of the Chandlers, George and Hester Harrison, and the writer was driving along the Cortland Road in Canaan Valley when a large, boldly-marked black and white bird darted across the road some distance ahead and disappeared into some bushes. Various were the opinions expressed and caustic was the comment. In a moment, however, the bird reappeared and flew at a leisurely pace across a wide pasture field, alternately flapping and gliding, with a long tail trailing flat behind. Now there could be no doubt at all that the bird was a magpie. It was followed with glasses a distance of some two hundred yards across the field where it disappeared again into dense bushes. As the hour was late, it was decided to return the next day.

A larger party came up the next morning, including Chuck Conrad and Ralph Bell. The territory was a part of the farm of Mr. Roscoe C. Beall whose house was nearby. Permission was sought to explore the farm and was readily



Top: Large bulky nest of Magpie taken from ground and looking up.
Insert: One of the eggs taken from nest, blown and photographed.
Bottom: View of habitat area with nest located in the middle tree.
Photos by George and Hal Harrison

given by Mr. Beall who showed interest but no great surprise. "Yes," he said, "there have been magpies around here for many years. There was a nest over yonder along that fence in a big thorn bush" -- he pointed toward the bushy hedgerow where the magpie had disappeared the evening before -- "and as far as I know it's still there. At one time there were a good many of the birds around here but lately I have seen only one." This was, to say the least, startling.

No magpies were in evidence at the moment, so parties set out to explore the farm. One group remained near the house and the outbuildings, where Mr. Beall said the bird sometimes harbored. A group including Ralph Bell crossed the fields to search the hedgerow area, while Conrad and Burns went across the road into the field whence the magpie had appeared the evening before. In a short time shouts from Ralph Bell's party summoned everyone to the hedgerow area.

The hedge consisted of briers and an irregular row of thorn trees, lining a wire fence. Roundabout were scattered larger trees, including some thick old apple trees. The nest which Mr. Beall mentioned had been quickly located by Ralph Bell in a thorn tree at a height of about six feet from the ground. A little later a magpie made an appearance a short distance away in an apple tree. The bird was wary, moving cautiously from tree to tree, and did not come near the nest. When approached it flew off in the direction of the farm buildings and did not return.

Because of the thickness of the thorn tree the nest could not be seen well except at close range. It was a large,almost spherical mass of sticks, coarse twigs and trash, two feet or more in diameter -- that is to say about the size of a bushel basket (Plate - above). It was roofed over and entrance was by way of a hole in the side which opened toward the southeast. It appeared to be in rather good repair, but it was impossible to say whether it had been freshly used. Access could be gained only by removing branches from the thorn tree. Ralph Bell cut his way in until he could put a hand into the nest. He announced that it contained five eggs! It was decided to remove one for identification, leaving the others to await eventualities. The branches were replaced to screen the nest.

Both in coloration and in its dimensions the egg corresponded exactly with that of the Black-billed Magpie. It is shown, slightly enlarged (x 1.15), in the inset of the Plate. The background color was greenish gray, closely marked with rusty-brown flecks somewhat larger and more concentrated toward the big end. It measured 33 mm. in length with a greatest transverse diameter of about 25 mm. However, when blown later by Hal Harrison it proved to be spoiled, with no indication of development. This -- in conjunction with Mr. Beall's statement that he had seen only one bird in the last two or three years -- suggested that the clutch was probably infertile, and that the surviving bird was without a mate. Subsequent checks indicated that no young hatched this year and Mr. Beall is quite confident of this. However, it is certain that young were reared on at least one previous occasion -- about 1954 or 1955 -- which brings us to the history of the magpie occupation in Canaan Valley.

Although it is astonishing that so large and conspicuous a bird should have gone unreported so long, it is certain that they have been in and around the valley for many years without their presence becoming known to outsiders. Mr. Beall had seen them for "at least eight or ten years," beginning soon after his occupancy of the farm. How many birds may have been present during these earlier years is now difficult to ascertain, but he believes that at one time there were as many as ten or more. In 1954 or 1955 a family of five young was

reared in the existing nest. At the time they were leaving the nest one young bird "which could not fly very well" was brought to the house where a cage was provided on a porch. It was followed to the house by the adult birds and the other young, who kept up such a continual clamor about the porch that the captive was released after a few days. The young were readily distinguishable by their appearance and behavior. They had tails much shorter than their parents, were less active on the wing, and they were fed by the parent birds. It may be noted that the magpies had habitually frequented the area around the house and outbuildings and were comparatively fearless. At the barn they often perched on the backs of the livestock, and in severe weather they came into the yard to eat scraps of food left by the dogs. At this time, then, there were certainly seven birds belonging to one family, and Mr. Beall believes there were more. This opinion is supported by other witnesses. They apparently ranged widely over the valley and were often seen at neighboring farms where they showed the same fearless behavior. In at least one instance this led to their undoing. In 1956 Mr. Charles Teter, a neighbor of the Bealls', shot one that habitually came into his hen-house and ate eggs. Mr. Beall thinks that others may have met the same fate, and it is possible that no male now survives.

As stated above, Mr. Beall was until recently of the opinion that only a single bird was left, which would explain the failure of the eggs to develop. However, on a recent visit to the Beall farm another neighbor, Mr. Edwin Lawrence stated positively that he saw two birds near Mr. Beall's barn on October 8, 1960, and Mr. Tom Clark a graduate forester of West Virginia University, has reported that he recently saw two in the same area. These observations are supported by a statement of Mr. John Cook, of the staff of the Blackwater Lodge, Blackwater Falls State Park. Mr. Cook has more than once seen magpies in Canaan Valley, and in company with Mr. Kermit McKeever of the West Virginia Conservation Commission saw two near the Beall farm in the late fall of 1959. This date is long after the time when Mr. Beall supposed the magpie population had been reduced to one. Mr. Cook has been familiar with magpies in the West and is quite certain of the identification. Thus it would seem that at least two birds survive although probably both are females. Finally, Mr. Virgil Spitzer, Superintendent of the Blackwater Falls Park, writes that from time to time visitors to the park have reported seeing magpies, and that Mr. McKeever mentioned above, saw one there in the spring of 1960. All these reports, however, do not necessarily indicate any considerable number of birds at this time. They probably range rather widely, and the park is distant only some four or five miles over the ridge of Canaan Mountain from the Beall farm in Canaan Valley.

Something more should be said about the abortive nesting of the past year. When examined the nest contained five eggs -- a small clutch for the magpie. According to Bent the usual number is seven, with higher numbers not at all uncommon up to as many as thirteen. The small number in this case could be due to losses from the original number, as the time for hatching (had the eggs been fertile) was apparently long past. It could not be determined whether the bird was still sitting. In the west eggs are laid from before the middle of April in the more southern parts of the range to some two weeks later in Washington and Montana (Bent). The incubation period is given as sixteen to eighteen days, which would place hatching around the middle of May in the more northern area. It would appear that in this case hatching was probably at least a month overdue.

At this point it seems worthwhile to examine briefly the status of the Black-billed Magpie in eastern United States, especially during the period since the last edition of the A.O.U. Check List in 1957. Owing to unavoidable lag in the reporting of data and in publication, it is obvious that the coverage could by no means have been complete up to that date. Accordingly, the files of Audubon Field Notes (hereafter abbreviated as AFN) have been searched as closely as possible back to 1953. Since the earlier volumes lack indices, and since the "black-face" indices for recent volumes are by no means complete, the task was tedious and some records may have been missed. Other sources were also consulted where leads had been obtained, and a number of people have contributed unpublished information or have added materially to information already in hand.

It is obviously desirable to distinguish whenever possible between birds definitely known to have escaped or to have been released, and those which may reasonably be regarded as true "accidentals" or stragglers. This can seldom be done with certainty since the mere lack of evidence on this point is never conclusive. It is a matter of record that in recent years magpies have appeared at several localities in northeastern United States through escape or deliberate release, and that subsequently over considerable periods of time birds have been reported, singly or in groups, near the original locality or within a certain radius. In such circumstances the probability is strong that these individuals are members (or possibly even descendants) of the original group. On the other hand, the sporadic appearance of individual birds, far removed from these areas and widely separated in time, suggests that in many cases at least these are bona fide stragglers. The frequency of such cases in recent years, together with evidences of an eastward shift along the boundary of the normal range, suggests that magpies may be drifting eastward in increasing numbers. The matter of birds which owe their presence to escape or release will be taken up first.

Several such cases have interesting histories. In 1952 five magpies were released at Cranford, N. J., which is within the metropolitan area of New York City. They were seen repeatedly in that area and on near-by Staten Island for about a year (AFN 7, p. 8 (1953) and since then magpies have been reported almost every succeeding year over a wide surrounding territory. They have appeared at many places on Long Island as far away as Montauk (± 125 miles) at its eastern extremity, and northward to Putnam County in the lower Hudson Valley (± 60 miles); to the west and southwest single birds have been seen as far as Bushkill in northeastern Pennsylvania (45 miles) and at Wilmington, Delaware (90 miles) and at intermediate places (see Table 1). These points circumscribe a rather compact area including the Delaware and lower Hudson Valleys, and the entire extent of Long Island. It seems probable that most if not all of these cases are attributable to the Cranford birds. A less spectacular case involves some magpies (number not stated) which were released in Vermont in the summer of 1954 (AFN, 9, p. 13, (1955) after which two birds were reported in October at Pittsburg in northern New Hampshire (AFN, 9, p. 13, 1955) and single specimens at West Sterling in northern Massachusetts (AFN, 13, p. 279, (1959) and at Topsham in central Vermont (AFN, 14, p. 19, (1960). These records are more scattered, geographically and in time, and the probability that they are related is perhaps of a lower order.

Of greater interest for the present report is the following case, the information furnished by Dr. R. M. Edeburn of Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia. In February 1951 eight magpies were seen there which on investigation were definitely found to have been released. Dr. Edeburn took one, a female, as a specimen. These birds were seen again by various persons over a period of several days (February 8 to 12, 1951), in the environs of Huntington and at a

point in Ohio several miles distant, but were not reported thereafter. Huntington is situated on the Ohio River in the southwestern corner of the state, and is about one hundred and seventy-five miles southwest of the site in Tucker County. To connect the two events is pure speculation but is an interesting coincidence that according to Mr. Beall the magpies appeared in Canaan Valley at about that time or a little later.

There is also an interesting history of escaped birds in and around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The following information has been supplied chiefly by Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes, of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh. Since about 1954 there has been a small group of magpies living and nesting in Highland Park, in the immediate vicinity of the zoo from which they are presumed to have escaped (see AFN, 13, p. 370, (1959). Also, in 1955 two birds escaped or were released at Carmichaels, Greene County, about forty miles south of Pittsburgh. Since these dates magpies have been reported a number of times over a wide area of southwestern Pennsylvania, from the adjoining counties of Washington, Greene, and Fayette (for the latter see AFN, 14, p. 37, (1960), and from Bellevue, a community to the northwest of the city. It seems probable that most, if not all, of these cases stem from the escaped birds in Highland Park or the Carmichaels birds, and this view is strengthened by the fact that some of the escapees have nested and seem to be maintaining themselves in Highland Park. It is possible that the specimen taken recently near Morgantown, W. Va., (referred to earlier) and one seen at Parkersburg, W. Va., in 1956 (fide Parkes) may have the same origin. On the other hand, the Canaan Valley magpies cannot be derived from this stock since their presence there from 1952 or earlier definitely antedates the Highland Park colony. Finally, mention may be made, although little can be said, of some magpies seen for a time at Knoxville, Tennessee in December, 1959 (Tanner, Migrant, 31, p. 16, (1960) and presumed to be escapees. It was not certainly established, however, that these were of the black-billed species.

A different aspect of the question consists in evidences of an eastward shift of magpies from their western range. These evidences take two forms: (1) a marked increase recently in the magpie population along the eastern limits of the normal range, and in certain areas to the east of this where the bird has hitherto been regarded as casual; and (2) an apparent increase in the number of stragglers to points much further east. Recent volumes of Audubon Field Notes contain frequent references to the magpie population in the region of the Dakotas and the upper Missouri Valley (chiefly in bird censuses) with the comment that the numbers seen were far above normal. Moreover, in Minnesota the magpie has become much more common of late (Erickson, The Flicker, 29, pp. 95-99, (1957). The greatest increase has been in fall and winter visitants, but summer records are also on the rise and there is now a nesting record for Beltrami County near the northern border of the state. This seems now to be the easternmost nesting recorded in the literature. At the same time records have shown a marked increase in western Ontario to the northward of Lake Superior (see Rand, Canadian Field Naturalist, 62, p. 175, (1948); Cringan, Canadian Field Naturalist, 67, p. 43, (1953) and Mr. Jim Baillie, of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, states in a recent letter that the bird has appeared in summer at Kenora, Ontario near Lake of the Woods. It is possible, then, that the increase in stragglers farther east may represent the fringe of a general movement.

That there has in fact been a rise in the numbers of eastern stragglers which can hardly be attributed entirely to escaped or released birds is indicated by the geographical distribution of the records, their dating, and other circumstances. When magpies are seen regularly, either singly or in numbers, in areas where escapees are known to be at large, the assumption is justified that the birds are not true stragglers, although in any given case the point can

never be proved. But when records are scattered geographically in areas remote from the known areas of occupancy, or when they antedate these escapees or releases, it is reasonable to believe that in many cases at least true stragglere are involved alghough, again, the fact can never be established in particular cases. The following records may be cited which in whole or in part, satisfy the above condition.

In October 1952 and in April 1953 a magpie was reported on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, at North Eastman and at Chatham, respectively (AFN, 7, p. 203 (1953). These observations are close enough in space and time as to suggest that the same individual was involved; however, both records antedate the releast of the magpies in Vermont, and are far outside the dispersal area of the New Jersey birds. In 1956 a magpie was found dead near Waterford, Pennsylvania, in the extreme northwestern corner of the state (AFN, 10, p. 249, 1956). This bird may possibly have come from the Pittsburgh area, although generally the drift of escaped birds has tended to the east and south. At Christmas 1957 one was reported at the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir in the Scioto Valley north of Columbus, Ohio (AFN, 11, p. 146, (1957) and three years later a dead specimen was found at Columbus (AFN, 14, p. 392, (1960). These reports may refer to the same bird although the time interval is considerable. On different dates in December 1957, magpies appeared in the Chicago area (AFN, 12, p. 283 (1958).

In the spring of 1957 a magpie was reported at Chincoteague on the Atlantic coast of Virginia (AFN, 11, p. 254, (1957); and in September 1959 another was seen a number of times near the village of Port Republic in Rockingham County, Virginia, two hundred miles distant and near the northwestern border of the state. The identification of this bird was confirmed by Mr. Max Carpenter, of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. This site is about 70 miles airline from Canaan Valley, and the bird was possibly a wanderer from that area. It may benoted here, however, that the first Virginia record for the Black-billed Magpie is for 1940, in south central Virginia (Murray, Check-list of the Birds of Virginia, 1952). Although there was no history in this case, it was supposed that the bird might have escaped. Finally, a magpie appeared at a feeder at Chapel Hill, North Carolina in March,1960 (AFN, 14, p. 300, (1960). It is probable that a number of these records are true accidentals; and Massachusetts, Virginia, and perhaps also Ohio (see Bent) and Pennsylvania may reasonably be added to the list of eastern states in which the Black-billed Magpie is accidental.

In addition, three quite recent records for Ontario should be cited. One is at Antikokan in the western part of the province (AFN, 14, p. 33 (1960) in a region where, as noted above, magpies have lately been on the increase. Two reports, however, are from southeastern Ontario, at St. Catherines, just west of Niagara Falls (AFN, 14, p. 307, (1960) and at Long Point on the north shore of Lake Erie (AFN, 14, p. 385, (1960). These cases are closely spaced, both geographically and in time, and possibly refer to the same specimen.

Clearly, the information summarized above permits no conclusions as to the origin of the Canaan Valley magpies. As pointed out earlier, among the known histories of escaped or released birds in northeastern United States only the Huntington case antedates the arrival of the birds in Canaan Valley - this by perhaps as much as a year. Nevertheless, the possibility of unrecorded escapes or releases can never be excluded. On the other hand, if true stragglers were involved a pair must have arrived, although not necessarily at the same time; breeding is not certainly known to have occurred until 1954 or 1955. What the available evidence does suggest is that as a result of escapes or releases, coupled with an apparent increase in natural stragglers, there is beginning to

be a sparse but significant population of displaced birds over the northeast. From time to time successful breedings, as at Canaan Valley and Highland Park, may contribute to this floating population, with the possibility that the species may eventually become established. The longevity and hardiness of the birds and their well known ability to take care of themselves - should they learn to avoid hen-houses - are in their favor.

TABLE 1

Reports of magpies in New York, New Jersey, and adjacent areas following release of five magpies at Cranford, N. J., in 1952. Birds were seen repeatedly in the immediate area and on nearby Staten Island for about a year. Subsequent records are as follows, and in some cases represent more than one observation.

Montauk, L. I.	1955	AFN, 10, p. 12, (1956)
Pemberton, N. J.	1955	AFN, 10, p. 14, (1956)
Suffold Co., L. I.	1956	AFN, 11, p. 89, (1957)
Long Island	----	AFN, 11, p. 251, (1957)
Bushkill, Pa.	1957	AFN, 11, p. 251, (1957)
Wilmington, Del.	1957	AFN, 11, p. 332, (1957)
Putnam Co., N. Y.	1957	AFN, 12, p. 15 (1958)
Glen Head, L. I.	1957	AFN, 12, p. 15, (1958)
West Milford, N. J.	1959	AFN, 14, p. 19, (1960)
Rockaway, L. I.	1959	AFN, 14, p. 294, (1960)

Carnegie Institution of Washington
Baltimore, Maryland

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1961 Annual Meeting and Reunion of the Brooks Birc Club will be held over Labor Day Weekend, September 1, 2, 3, 4 at Camp Piedmont, Ohio. Details will be distributed later.

THE BANDING OPERATION ON THE ALLEGHENY FRONT:1960

By George A. Hall

The banding operation at the Red Creek Campsite on Allegheny Front Mountain, Tucker County, West Virginia was again carried out during the Fall of 1960. This was the third year of this study which is a part of the cooperative banding project on Fall Migration known as Operation Recovery. Reports of the previous years operations have been given by Bell (The Redstart, 26, 38 (1953) and Knight (The Redstart, 27, 26 (1960). Knight has described in detail the location and general appearance of the banding station. This report will limit itself to a summary of this season's operations. Despite the three years work, only a very tentative conclusions can as yet be drawn from the data at hand, and it seems best to refrain from such speculation at this time.

The 1960 operation was carried out by R. K. Bell and G. A. Hall as the licensed banders, aided by numerous other members of the Brooks Bird Club and others. The banding season extended from August 12 to October 22, appreciably longer than in the past. The total net-hours of operation was approximately 1500, somewhat more than in the past. During this time 324 birds of 53 species were banded. The Table lists these species, the numbers and the detailed data of the net operations.

It should be pointed out that the three years totals now include 810 birds of 64 species banded at this station. There have been no foreign recoveries of any of these birds as yet, and no birds banded elsewhere have been taken at this station. One bird, a Swamp Sparrow, banded in 1958 returned in 1959; two or three birds banded in the fall of 1959 were retrapped at the site in the Spring of 1960; and one bird, a Catbird, banded in 1959 returned in the Fall of 1960.

The vagaries of the weather accounted for much of the great decrease in total number of birds banded in 1960 as compared with 1959. Large numbers of nets were in operation during essentially unproductive periods and so the birds per net-hour ratio fell drastically.

The August bandings were of little importance, except as indicators of the failure of the migration to begin by that time. Both week-ends were very warm and few birds were moving. After a fairly good wave on September 3 and 4, when 50 new birds were banded, the migration ground to a halt as the early September weather remained mild and largely under the influence of high pressure systems. Mid-September operations were greatly hampered by heavy rains. The most unproductive period of all was the last weekend of September when only 7 birds were banded in two days, both sunny high pressure days. It is worth noting, however, that the second of these two days, September 25, produced the heaviest and most spectacular Broad-winged Hawk migration to be observed along this ridge in some years.

The situation in October was much different. The luck of the banders finally changed and they had the good fortune to be present when two heavy waves came through. The first of these was on the night of October 1, the first really cold night of the season. Thirty-six new birds were banded in one day on that wave. Only one operator was present and he had his hands full. More banders and hence more nets would have undoubtedly increased the total taken. The second wave (and the second intense cold front) came on October 21-22 when 49 birds were banded on the two days. Other October operations were also successful.

The October migrants involved such species as White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, and Kinglets which sometimes migrate in large numbers. Thus, on October 22 Bell had 7 Golded-crowned Kinglets in one net at one time and on October 9 Hall had nine White-throats at one time (some escaped without bands) and he also had 8 Juncos in one net at one time on October 16.

In 1959 the Magnolia Warbler, Yellowthroat, and Swamp Sparrow were the most abundant birds taken, and all were in low numbers in 1960. Excluding the Juncos and White-throats in 1959(operations had ceased before the migration of these species) the Catbird, Towhee, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Ovenbird were the most common this year. As usual some uncommon species were taken and this year these included: Gray-cheeked Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. The writer was again impressed with the apparent fact that the most common migrants through this station are those species which also breed in the Region, and such things as Bay-breasted Warblers, Myrtle Warblers, and others which do not breed near here do not apparently migrate along this mountain in great numbers.

It is planned to carry out operations in 1961 on the same scale as this past year.

August Bandings

	Date						
	12	13	14	26	27	28	Totals
R. Th. Hummingbird	1						1
Downy Woodpecker			1	1			2
Least Flycatcher		1					1
Catbird			1	1		3	5
Brown Thrasher		2				3	5
Hermit Thrush		1					1
Swainson's Thrush		1					1
Cedar Waxwing		2					2
Red-eyed Vireo						1	1
Magnolia Warbler						1	1
Bl.-th. Blue Warbler					2		2
Blackburnian Warbler						1	1
Ovenbird			1				1
Northern Waterthrush	1						1
Purple Finch		1					1
R. S. Towhee		2	2		1		5
Swamp Sparrow	1	1					2
Song Sparrow	1	2					3
Total New	4	13	5	2	3	9	36
Net Hours	6	142	48	11	70	28	298
Birds per 1000 Net hours	667	92	104	262	72	322	121
Repeats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Species	4	9	4	3	2	5	18

	September								September and October Bandings							October						
	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	17	18	24	25	1	2	8	9	15	16	21	22	Total
Am. Woodcock																				1			1
R.-th. Hummingbird		2	2																				5
Y.-b. Sapsucker																2							2
Downy Woodpecker																							2
Least Flycatcher										1													2
Tufted Titmouse																				3			3
Brown Creeper																		2					2
Winter Wren															1								1
Catbird	1	5	1					3			4	2		1		1							22
Brown Thrasher		1						1	1		1												9
Robin																		1					1
Wood Thrush																1							1
Hermit Thrush																		4		1	1	1	8
Swainson's Thrush			4	4	3	2					2						1						17
Gray-cheeked Thrush													1										1
Golden-cr. Kinglet																					2	13	15
Ruby-cr. Kinglet																1		4		5	2	5	17
Cedar Waxwing		1					1																4
Solitary Vireo																				1			1
Red-eyed Vireo		1																					2
Philadelphia Vireo			1																				1
Bl. & Wh. Warbler			1																				1
Orange-cr. Warbler																			1				1
Nashville Warbler		1														1							2
Parula Warbler								1															1
Magnolia Warbler		2	1			1						1		1		1							8
Cape May Warbler		1		2		1		1	3														8
Bl.th. Blue Warbler			8	2		1	4	1	1		1												22
Myrtle Warbler																2							2
Bl. Th. Green Warbler			2		1		1					1											5
Blackburnian Warbler																							1
Chestnut-sided Warbler			1				1																2
Bay-breasted Warbler		1														1							2
Blackpoll Warbler														1		2	2						5
Ovenbird		2	2			4	1				1	1											12

	September														October									
	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	17	18	24	25	1	2	8	9	15	16	21	22	Total*
Northern Waterthrush									1														2
Connecticut Warbler										1													1
Yellowthroat	1	2	2				1	1	1		1			1		1							11
Yellow-br. Chat																							1
Wilson's Warbler			1					1															2
Am. Redstart		2					1																3
Cardinal																					1		1
Indigo Bunting									1							1							2
Purple Finch									1														1
R. S. Towhee			2	1								5		2		4	1	1					21
S. C. Junco			1																	7	9	2	19
Field Sparrow																1			1	1	2		5
Wh.-cr. Sparrow																1			1				2
Wh.-th. Sparrow																15	2	9	9	6	9		50
Fox Sparrow																			1		1		2
Lincoln's Sparrow															2								2
Swamp Sparrow		1																1		1			5
Song Sparrow		1														1					1		6
Total New	1	22	28	12	43	10	10	8	10	2	10	10	1	6	3	36	6	22	13	26	28	21	324
Net Hours	1	96	132	35	15	78	60	46	60	25	108	62	45	60	28	56	32	44	35	72	-	-	1492
Birds per 1000 net hours																							185
Repeats		3	2	1		1	3	2	1			1				1					1		16
Species	1	14	14	6	2	7	7	7	8	2	6	5	1	5	2	16	4	6	5	9	9	4	58

* Totals include August bandings given in previous table.

West Virginia University
Morgantown, W. Va.

1960 - 1961 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

By Ernie Limes

On December 10th, a steady snow began falling in Ohio and many other eastern states. The snow remained on the ground for a total of 65 days, until February 13th.

If it had lasted two more days it would have broken the all-time record for snow cover in weather bureau history, 1917 - 1918 holding the previous record.

The temperatures remained much below normal and constant snowfalls added to the misery, the snow never melting in shaded areas. The snow ranged from 2" to 7 1/2" in the central Ohio area. The northeastern states received much more.

It has been said many times that more men than women die from shoveling snow. This is very easy to figure out since there are more men shoveling snow than women. I throw this in because it is a simple problem. Now how do we account for so many of these half-hardy birds that stayed all winter and why do so many of our usual northern visitors fail to come down?

One of the biggest surprises was that Towhees were found in almost all counts and in some very large numbers. Bluebirds were more common in Winter in some places than they were in the Summer. Noteworthy were the reports of Catbirds, Brown Thrashes, Palm Warblers, Pine Warblers and such large numbers of the sparrow tribe, Field, Lincoln, Fox, Vesper and Chipping.

The large numbers of blackbirds on the Buckeye Lake Count in Ohio were due to a large roost south of Newark, Ohio.

Because of the long cold spell many rivers and streams were frozen over that had never been frozen before, therefore, the number of ducks were low except on the Lake Erie counts. The Snipe were found in the same staked out areas where they are always found, these being spring seepage areas. The Snipe remain here the whole winter. As for the northern visitors, the Rough-legged Hawks, Snow Buntings, Longspurs and Short-eared Owl, came down in the usual numbers. Very few Siskins and no Cross-bills. Redpolls or Grosbeaks came down except in Northeastern Ohio, and they did not stay through the middle of January.

There were a few reports of Gray Shrikes and Snowy Owls. Two Snowy Owls remained in the central Ohio area all winter. Two Common Eiders were found near Circleville, Ohio and collected in January and several White-winged Scoters were seen in the Central Ohio area. One Oldsquaw was seen on the Scioto River.

To sum it all up, it has been a very hard winter and yet the snow cover kept the ground from freezing. On the other hand, it caused a large percentage of fish to be killed in small lakes and ponds due to lack of sunlight and oxygen.

It looks nice to see green grass again and to know spring is just around the corner.

OHIO COUNTS

I	Lancaster	VI	Buckeye Lake
II	East Liverpool	VII	Ashtabula
III	Mahoning County	VIII	O'Shaughnessy Res.
IV	Steubenville	IX	Indian Lake
V	Columbus	X	Hoover Res.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNTS

I	Linesville	IV	Clarksville
II	Clarksville, Greene County	V	Waterford
III	Presque Isle	VI	Pittsburgh

WEST VIRGINIA COUNTS

I	Morgantown	VI	Ona
II	Charleston	VII	Mason County
III	Inwood, Berkeley County	VIII	Wheeling
IV	Wellsburg	IX	Huntington
V	Charles Town	X	Mason County

OHIO COUNTS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
P.-b. Grebe					1					
Horned Grebe			1							
G. Bl. Heron						1			1	1
Canada Goose					40				15	
Mallard			15		1000	52	40	250	300	120
Black Duck			700		1126	82	2	105	100	800
Pintail						1				
Gr.-winged Teal						1				
Am. Widgeon						1		105	100	800
Wood Duck							1			
Redhead									20	
Canvasback					8		8			
Lesser Scaup										1
C. Goldeneye					14		268	14	4	
Bufflehead					1		11			
Wh.-winged Scoter								1		
C. Merg.							327	5	5	
Red-br. Merg.							62			
Sh.-sh. Hawk							2			1
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2	4	7	6	2	2	1	3
R.-tailed Hawk			6	8	8	22	4	8	7	5
R.-shouldered Hawk	1		3		5	6	1		1	
R.-legged Hawk	1		2			3	1		1	
Marsh Hawk	1		5	1	8	9	1	2	1	3
Sparrow Hawk			16	4	14	32	4	6	1	5
Pigeon Hawk			1							
Ruffed Grouse				1			2			
Bobwhite	8		48	30	34	70		x	8	12
R.-necked Pheasant			85	1	63	20	2	4	1	2
Coot			1							
Killdeer			1	1						2
C. Snipe						2		1		
Herring Gull			6		1		1112			
Ring-billed Gull			2		1		900			
Gr. Bl.-b. Gull							11			
Mourning Dove	18		324	3	500	1036	28	213	45	30
Barn Owl					7	1			1	
Screech Owl			2		1	1		1	3	1
Gr. Horned Owl				1	2	2			9	

OHIO COUNTS(Continued)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Barred Owl			3		4	5		1	1	
Snowy Owl							1			
Kingfisher				5	4	3		1	1	1
Y.-sh. Flicker	15		7	3	136	96		28	5	12
Pileated Woodpecker	3	1	2	11	6	5				1
R.-bel.-Woodpecker	12		2	20	31	62		6	8	5
R.-headed Woodpecker			3		37	139		14	2	4
Y.-bel. Sapsucker		1		1	3	1	1			2
Hairy Woodpecker	8	2	20	13	29	26	3	1	10	6
Downy Woodpecker	38	9	84	79	164	204	20	26	15	11
Blue Jay	70	3	286	11	305	261	54	66	24	52
Crow		1	1585	16	2321	13	7	2	2	4
Bl.-capped Chickadee			216				120			
Carolina Chickadee	60	18	2	157	207	159		34	18	23
Tufted Titmouse	44	16	163	145	163	193	5	20	14	10
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	18	9	85	21	85	137	18	16	30	14
R.-br. Nuthatch						1	1			
Brown Creeper	7	3	7	11	39	77	4	1	15	8
Carolina Wren	35	4	1	16	41	30		8	3	5
Winter Wren			2	3		1				1
Mockingbird			1	1	11	3		4		5
Br. Thrasher						1				
Robin	45		10	2	30	11	38	1		
Hermit Thrush					1					
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1	8	2	17	5	23	1	10	8	5
Bluebird				1	9	11				3
Ruby-cr. Kinglett				1						
Cedar Waxwing	18	2	63	5	542	4	32			9
L. Shrike						1				
Gray Shrike				1			1			
Starling	1946	18	1048	352	955	52279	1781	405	165	250
Myrtle Warbler	14			1	16	5		8	4	
House Sparrow	240	37	648	323	1217	2346	824	1366	870	882
Meadowlark			14	1	13	328	1	13	22	35
Redwinged Blackbird			13		4	6429				
Rusty Blackbird			78		3	2867				2
Common Grackle	7	1	45		3	11254				1
Cowbird			5		13	1745		1		
Cardinal	147	15	295	229	300	264	88	38	17	33
Evening Grosbeak							2			
Purple Finch			6	1	29	1				
Pine Siskin					1		85			
Goldfinch	3	5	128	14	86	60	22			15
Eastern Towhee	21	1	7		26	35	3	9		7
Sl.-colored Junco	155	21	345	223	416	239	325	25	10	13
Oregon Junco			3		1	1				
Tree Sparrow	75	6	362	171	270	284	505	12	60	122
Wh.-cro. sparrow					5	2	8			1
Wh.-th. Sparrow	2		5	2	4	1				
Fox Sparrow							2			
Song Sparrow	50	6	50	128	186	684	16	26	21	15
Swamp Sparrow			1	1	9				5	
Snow Bunting						2				
Lapland Longspur							2			
Total Species 93										

PENNSYLVANIA COUNTS

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Horned Grebe			1			
Pied-billed Grebe			3			
Great Blue Heron	2		20			
Whistling Swan	1		92			
Canada Goose	1026		21			1
Mallard	629	3	5	2	4	252
Black Duck	22		205			7
Baldpate			1			
Pintail	1					
Redhead			3			
Ringneck Duck			3			
Canvasback			1323			
Lesser Scaup			3015			
Common Goldeneye	1		637			191
Bufflehead			268			
Hooded Merg.			1			
Common Merg.			12			
Red-breasted Merg.			3			1
Goshawk			1			
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1				
Cooper's Hawk				1		1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	2		6		4
Red-shouldered Hawk	2					1
Bald Eagle			1			
Marsh Hawk				2		
Sparrow Hawk		4	1	5		3
Ruffed Grouse	3					6
Bob-white	1			2		
Ring-necked Pheasant	22	6	5	2	3	56
Coot			1			
Turkey						40
Killdeer		11				
Common Snipe				1		
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull			487			
Herring Gull			30,000 (est)			
Ring-billed Gull			170,000 (est)			
Bonaparte's Gull			20			
Mourning Dove		32		6		18
Screech Owl		1				3
Great Horned Owl		1	1			1
Belted Kingfisher		2	2	2		1
Flicker	5	4	8	1		
Pileated Woodpecker		4	2	2	1	
Red-b. Woodpecker		4		3		
Red-h. Woodpecker			1			
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1	2		1		
Hairy Woodpecker	5	2	1	9	2	21
Downy Woodpecker	41	17	33	32	3	96
Phoebe				1		
Horned Lark	8	16		99		97
Blue Jay	29	5	7	2	2	55
Magpie						6
Crow		299	3	1730	4	62
Black-capped Chickadee	178	90	59	39	5	136
Tufted Titmouse	10	47		20	8	226

	1	2	3	4	5	6
White-br. Nuthatch	26	7	11	8	4	75
Red-br. Nuthatch	2		2			
Brown Creeper	11	1	1	1	1	8
Carolina Wren	1	18	1	12	1	6
Winter Wren	1					7
Long-b. Marsh Wren	1					
Mockingbird		2	1	4		1
Robin	4	57	3		4	4
Bluebird		4				
Golden-cr. Kinglet	13	3	5	2		24
Cedar Waxwing	51	8	3			20
Gray Shrike		1				
Starling	57	368	62	171		820
Myrtle Warbler			62	3		
House Sparrow	166	227	42	174	13	679
E. Meadowlark		1	31			
Redwinged Blackbird	14					
Rusty Blackbird		1				
Cardinal	67	78	14	61	8	319
Evening Grosbeak	7	4	5			
Purple Finch		7			18	
Pine Siskin	28		1			
Goldfinch	21	2	5	2	2	32
Towhee				1	2	
Slate-colored Junco	37	56	23	151	21	409
Tree Sparrow	533	47	146	116	10	72
White-th. Sparrow	2	3		2	1	15
White-cr. Sparrow		1		1		
Chipping Sparrow				2		
Swamp Sparrow	7	1	1			
Song Sparrow	37	35	14	42	6	87
Field Sparrow						11
Lapland Longspur						12
Snow Bunting	2					
91 species						

WEST VIRGINIA COUNTS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Horned Grebe								1	1	1
P. b. Grebe							1		3	8
Gr. Bl. Heron								3	3	
Canada Goose							47			14
Snow Goose										2
Blue Goose									1	1
Mallard					63	8		3	4	147
Black Duck		1			2			21	15	207
Gr. Winged Teal										21
Am. Widgeon							2		1	2
Redhead										2
Ring-necked Duck									5	2
Canvasback									10	46
Lesser Scaup									13	5
Greater Scaup										7
C. Goldeneye					6			14	35	28
Bufflehead					9					8

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hooded Merg.								7	1	2
Common Merg.									7	2
Red-br. Merg.										1
Turkey Vulture			70		6					
Black Vulture			2							
Sh. sh. Hawk						1				
Cooper's Hawk		2			1	2		2	3	1
R.-tailed Hawk					1	1	1	2	5	
R.-shouldered Hawk						1	3		2	2
Marsh Hawk										2
Sparrow Hawk		9	1		2	12	34	4	25	18
Ring-necked Pheasant				1						
Ruffed Grouse								8		
Coot									1	1
Killdeer		1			22		6		3	
C. Snipe		1	4		37				1	
Herring Gull						21		8	5	79
Ring-billed Gull							1	2	3	22
Mourning Dove		26	15		21	77	8	3	513	4
Barn Owl									1	
Screech Owl		2							3	2
Barred Owl									3	
G. Horned Owl					1					
Belted Kingfisher			1		5		5	3	15	1
Y. shafted Flicker		6	1		4	5	57	1	25	12
Pileated Woodpecker	2	10					1	2	7	8
R.-bellied Woodpecker	1	13	1	1	2	2	3	2	18	8
R.-headed Woodpecker		6							1	
Y.-bellied Sapsucker		5			2	1		5	7	
Hairy Woodpecker		23	1	3	2	2	5	15	14	13
Downy Woodpecker	96	3	12	7	12	28	26	40	101	34
E. Phoebe							1		1	
Horned Lark		8					16	5	34	6
Blue Jay		177	18		18	10	72	3	162	32
Common Raven		727								
Crow	8		35		1275	1087	426	2560	2352	1997
Bl.-capped Chickadee				15?						
Carolina Chickadee	6	377	13		13	46	41	203	253	29
Tufted Titmouse	8	270	25	10	26	31	26	24	318	41
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	6	118	1	4	1	1		22	33	1
Red-br. Nuthatch				4						
Brown Creeper				1	3	1		10	13	1
Winter Wren		2		1		4	1	2	3	
Carolina Wren	1	101	4	2	7	12	41	18	94	7
Mockingbird		11	27		30	4	10	3	19	17
Catbird		1								1
Br. Thrasher		2								
Robin		186	4		1	4	30	9	25	2
Hermit Thrush						1				
Bluebird		36			2	2	11		31	7
Golden-cr. Kinglet		12	8	2	3	26	2	13	26	
Cedar Waxwing		12		9	12	3	2	19	4	
L. Shrike							2			
Starling	2	3654+	311		1110	27	1637	162	1168	668
Myrtle Warbler		53	2			22	3	10	47	1
Palm Warbler									1	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pine Warbler									2	
House Sparrow	6	486	385		625	17	99	182	215	84
E. Meadowlark		9	5		3	3	81		88	39
Redwinged Blackbird						5	4		85	14
Rusty Blackbird			5		63	23			311	29
Common Grackle		492	3		7		4		12	11
Cowbird			1		2		20		10	6
Cardinal	8	357	185	12	74	255	77	99	454	128
Purple Finch		46	4				4		69	2
Goldfinch		110	3	2	12	74	36	3	133	102
E. Towhee		158				69	9	1	129	24
Vesper Sparrow										1
Sl.-colored Junco	24	315	197	22	35	475	6	136	316	42
Oregon Junco									1	
Tree Sparrow		1	90	11	24	6	56	59	6	152
Field Sparrow		122?				58	31	1	48	50
Wh.-cr. Sparrow			5		76	4	2	4	19	95
Wh.-th. Sparrow	1	484	92		19	147	25	5	206	37
Fox Sparrow		8				3	2		10	1
Swamp Sparrow		2				1	6		1	6
Song Sparrow	3	304	32	6	10	125	73	19	353	106
Chipping Sparrow					1		1			1
Lincoln Sparrow									4?	

Total 96 species

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON IN THE TYGART VALLEY

On April 14, 1961, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Nyctanassa violacea) was seen by several West Virginia University students near Daily, Randolph County, West Virginia. It was sitting in a tree along a stream bottom. The bird's identity was determined with the aid of Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds. The field marks used in identifying the heron were its black and white head, and its bluish-gray breast and wings. The sighting of this bird was unusual not only because it rarely occurs in West Virginia, but also because it was seen so early in the spring.

Robert Brittain
West Virginia University
Morgantown

OUR TANAGER

It was this past summer that we had our most gratifying experience with a Summer Tanager. In every one of the twenty Springs that we have lived on Woodland Avenue in South Charleston, I have looked forward to the return of the tanagers because I felt that they were unusually tame and that they returned to me! They were the birds who originally stimulated my interest in bird-watching. Several years ago there was a male who fed from a board which I held in my hand. Some seasons it was the female who showed an interest in us, and in others, the male, but I always considered that these birds were members of the same family, --descendants of the bird who was here when we first built our house. This is a residential area of large lots carved out of heavy woodland, and in many cases as few trees as possible were cut down when the houses were built. The surrounding area has been sparsely populated until recently.

This July I began making overtures to the current male incumbent by holding out tidbits -- doughnuts or coffeecake -- to him as he sat on our feeder. Soon he nibbled them from my fingers, maintaining his position on the shelf, but shortly after that he fed directly from my hand, sitting calmly on my outstretched palm. As time went on I persuaded others of my family to participate in this experiment, and four of us in all were successful. It did not matter to him whether we were old or young, male or female. We kept crumbs handy at all times in order not to disappoint him when he appeared and not to let him backslide in his lessons.

Sometimes I would "talk" him down out of the treetops where he was singing. Eventually he began to pursue us around the garden, sitting on the tomato stakes when we were weeding, and settling on the table on the terrace when we were relaxing outside. He even came in the early morning to the upstairs windows looking for his handout, and we played our game in that location as well as in the others.

But the test was yet to come. During the first week of August his trips became more numerous and frenzied, and I realized that he was feeding young -- so late it seemed to me. (I was out of town during the month of June so I can not complete my records for that time.) About this time it occurred to me that his mate never came to us; was she afraid? did he discourage her? At any rate, she never came to the regular feeder, nor appeared in the yard. In fact one day I saw him chase a female from our birdbath. His nest was about three hundred yards away across the road in a ravine of oaks, beeches, hickories and black gums. "Our" tanagers have all flown up to our feeder from that direction in recent years.

Eventually the day for which I had waited arrived (August 15) and he proudly presented to us his bady--a COWBIRD! For the next five days we were in seventh heaven for the baby cowbird readily accompanied his "father" to our hand where he was fed in the customary manner. At length he agreed to feed himself there. Furthermore during those days he followed us around the yard we we worked, walking at our feet around the rosebushes when we were pruning and seeming to take pleasure in our company. Occasionally his father would fly in and lure him away, but soon afterward the bady would come back, and throw himself at us as if to land on our shoulders. It was actually rather frightening to have him "jump" us from the bushes. Once he landed on my back as I was bent over pulling weeds.

At last on August 21 they did not make an appearance, and I realized regretfully that they were gone for good. I suppose that the tanager took the cowbird to meet his real parents! I did not see a male tanager again this season although I saw several females or juveniles. I can only hope that the tanagers raised an earlier brood of their own, as last summer, too, they were hoodwinked by cowbirds, and brought two to dine at our feeder. That year both the male and female tanagers came to each each accompanied by a cowbird but they were not nearly so tame as our hero of this summer of 1960.

Constance Katholi
930 Woodland Avenue
S. Charleston, W. Va.

SURPRISE LANDING

October 20, 1960, was a dark, rainy day and to a small bird, flying southward after passing over Lake Erie, the General Electric Company's black-topped parking lot at Richmond Heights, Cleveland, Ohio, looked like a pond. The landing must have been a little rough. Soon a fellow employee picked the bird up, carried it inside the building to my desk and asked, "What kind of a duck is this?" It was a horned grebe (Podiceps auritus) in winter plumage.

Similar occurrences are not unusual and are reported every year. The legs of a grebe are located so far back on the body that once a bird lands on ground, it is unable to take off again, but flops about in a helpless condition. When in water, grebes have to "skitter" across the surface for some distance before they can be air borne.

I banded the bird and released it on a small park pond where it seemingly was in good condition after the above experience. Two days later it was gone, and I assume it had migrated southward.

Strangely enough, another bird of the same species was found in a near frozen condition in a snow drift at Nela Park, East Cleveland, Ohio, on December 12, 1960. It was released in water and appeared to be able to take care of itself.

M. B. Skaggs
Willoughby, Ohio

BOOK REVIEWS

Song Birds in your Garden - A. A. Allen (Text and photos) & P. P. Kellogg(Recording). 1961. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N.Y. $5.95. -- This is a delightful little book with pertinent information about twenty-five species of North American birds; wide ranging species that nest from Florida to Canada. All of them are common to West Virginia. Thirty=one colored photographs by Arthur A. Allen, make the book beautiful as well as informative.

Accompanying the book is a high fidelity 33-1/3 rpm phonograph record by Peter Paul Kellog. It is exceptionally well done and without distortion. One side of the record names the birds in the order in which they are pictured in the book, the other side reproduces the same songs without comment. This book and record would be a delightful addition to any birder's library, and would be expecially useful in helping beginners, both adults and children to identify birds and bird songs.

Ruth Ballentine

The Bird Watchers Guide - Henry Hill Collins, Jr. Golden Press, New York, 1961. 123 pp. many illustrations. $3.95. -- The bulk of this book is a sort of primer for the beginning bird watcher. In a superficial and oversimplified manner the author discusses such weighty matters as the equipment for bird watching, first steps in bird watching, how to identify birds, where to find birds, etc. The most valuable advice given is for the tyro to join in a local bird club, since all the rest of the information imparted could be gained in a ten minute talk with an experienced birder.

For the experienced bird watcher (one who has been on at least two bird walks) there is a small amount of valuable information in the later chapters. Here the building of bird houses, and feeders, the selection of foods for feeders, and the planting of plants to attract birds is discussed. The basic material for these chapters can of course, be found in many other sources. There is a rather long, but again superficial chapter on bird photography.

The last three chapters contain some information of value to all people interested in birds. One has a fairly complete and up to date list of all the local bird clubs in the United States and Canada, as well as some of those in foreign countries. The last chapter contains a rather short list of useful bird books, and a complete listing of all the ornithological publications including regional and State ones.

George A. Hall

A Field Guide to Western Birds - Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston. 1961. 365 pages. $3.95. -- After twenty years the long awaited revision of the western "Peterson" has arrived. Mr. Peterson, has the enviable knack of being able always to top anything he has done before, and the revision is no exception -- it is perhaps the best bird guide yet. No member of the Brooks Bird Club needs to be told much about the so-called Peterson System of writing a bird Guide, so I will only comment on such things as are new. There are far more color plates than in the first edition, and the individual figures are larger and less diagramatic. In my copy the warbler plates are all rather subdued (the vivid red of the Painted Redstart for example is rather dull). Other of the plates are also on the subdued side, although this may be due to the vagaries of printing -- at least the Lazuli Bunting is shown with a light blue back (correct) rather than a

vivid green one as in my printing of the old edition. Another worthwhile new feature (although used in the Texas Guide) is the listing under each family of a brief statement of the distribution of the family, the total number of species, and the number found in the West.

Best of all comes an addition to the end of the book which treats with the birds of the fiftieth State, Hawaii. Here we find not only the many exotic species (such as the Canary) that have been introduced on the Islands but also those beautiful, and rare native Hawaian birds with the vivid colors and the unpronounceable names (the Iiwi, Ooaa, the Nukupuu and others). This section also has a discussion of those native forms that are now extinct or near vanishing.

Appendices list the accidental species, and a noteworthy change is the abandonment (in a Field Guide) of any reference to subspecies.

Need I add that this book is heartily recommended to all. You cannot be without it on your next trip West (and who knows, with two "western" species turning up in West Virginia in the last two years, you may even need it at home.

George A. Hall

FIELD NOTES

1961 The Spring Season March 1 to May 31

Very cold with considerable precipitation at least on week-ends. Rain every Sunday until May 14 in some areas. March was somewhat warmer than normal with above average precipitation. April was cool and wet with snow as late as the 29th. The temperature deficiency at Pittsburgh of 5 degrees pretty much represents the area. May was very cold with near normal precipitation. Snow flurries occurred as late as the 27th in some mountainous areas with the cold prolonged enough to freeze water. In fact it was characterized as the coldest May since 1925 at Morgantown.

While the March migrants were about on time, April's arrivals were greatly delayed. A classic alternation of warm and cold fronts produced four waves of migration. These were listed at Pittsburgh about April 24, April 28, May 7-9 and May 13-51. Most observers in other areas were in agreement particularly for the latter two periods.

The waterfowl migration was satisfactory but only a few species were abundant in any given area. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Randolph County was very unusual.

Hawks, generally, were scarce, particularly Sparrow Hawks. More Ospreys were reported than usual. The shorebird migration was excrptionally poor. Swallows, especially Rough-wings, were down this year. The Thrush migration also was disappointing to many. The warbler migration was very good. In fact Brooks saw his best "wave" in years on May 19. Van Cleve called the entire migration the heaviest he has found in Pittsburgh since 1953 when he started keeping records. Charleston had its biggest century day.

A number of notable records were made including possibly a state record for the Western Meadowlark which was also recorded in Ohio and a high concentration of Cape May Warblers at Charleston.

COMMON LOON: Listed at Mont Cove Lake in Monroe County on March 26 (PH). Plentiful at Seneca Lake by April 15 (C&C). Grom found 27 at Oneida Dam, Butler Co., Penna. on April 27. Present at Morgantown as late as May 14 (GAH).

RED-NECKED GREBE: One each at Seneca Lake April 2 (C&C) and Conneaut Harbor, Ohio April 16 (Bill Shields).

HORNED GREBE: Less common at Morgantown (GAH). Gluck saw 2 at Charleston on March 27. Miller saw 4 on the Potomac on April 2. Ohio reports include one in Licking Co. March 4; Senecaville Lake on March 12 (VTS); a big flock of 43 at Moscuito Lake on April 9 (DFF). Pymatuning records were April 1 (CC) and April 15 (DFF). Van Cleve had one at Highland Park in late April.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: Low at Morgantown. Scattered reports of small numbers in other areas. The nine found at Hebron on April 9 by the Shields' is largest group reported.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Hall saw one on Cheat Lake April 29 where it is an unusual Spring visitor.

GREAT BLUE HERON: Plentiful at Seneca Lake by April 2 (C&C). First arrivals (4) at rookery at Green, Ohio on March 14 (DFF). Five at Cherry Run Reservoir, Indiana Co. Penna. on May 9 (C. Williams).

COMMON EGRET: Kletzly found one in St. Albans April 9. At Seneca, numbers were 1 on April 8; 4 on the 10th; 2 on the 15th; and one on May 30th (C&C). On May 28, Shields saw one at Wills Creek Dam, Ohio.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: L. Argabrite reported seeing 2 at Ona, Cabell Co. on May 2.

GREEN HERON: The earliest date is April 15th at Barnesville, Ohio (C&C).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Six birds at Seneca Lake on March 28 (C&C). A single at McClintic Wildlife Station (Mason Co.) on May 6 (GFH) and one on the 13th at Zanesville, Ohio (VTS).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: West Virginia University forestry students saw one on April 14 at Dailey, Randolph Co. Very uncommon in our area with only 3 Redstart records in past 8 years all of which were in Ohio.

AMERICAN BITTERN: May 4 near Ellis, Ohio (VTS) and May 7 at Wyatt (LM).

LEAST BITTERN: Smith listed one at Nitro on May 6. An Ohio County record May 15 (CC); Jefferson County on May 21 (NL); Trinway Marsh, Muskingum County, Ohio on June 3 (NL).

WHISTLING SWAN: Auerswalds counted 49 on North Fork Reservoir in Somerset Co. Penna. on March 12. Ferris saw 12 on the 13th at Kinsman, Ohio. Listed at Lake Louise, Jefferson Co. March 30 (CM) and 6 at Pymatuning on April 1 (CC)

MUTE SWAN: Sior found it at North Park, Allegheny Co. Penna. April 15 while Grom saw one there on May 13.

CANADA GOOSE: First flights were listed March 3. Peak flights about mid-March. Thus 300 were at Waite Hill, Ohio on the 18th (LB). 50 to 80 at Quemahoning and North Fork Reservoirs, Somerset Co. Penna on the 12th.

BLUE GOOSE: Nichols (fide GHB) saw 7 on Peter's Run, Oglebay Park March 1. Herb Moore saw one at Bear Rock Lakes on April 20. An immature stayed at McClintic during April and most of May (GFH).

MALLARD: The largest reported flock was 40 birds at Mosquito Lake on April 9, (DFF). Thought to have nested at Lake Terra Alta and Mountain Lake, Maryland (GAH).

BLACK DUCK: Only 15 birds in the biggest reported flock - this on Latrobe Reservoir, Westmoreland Co., Penna. (Auerswalds).

GADWALL: Earliest date was March 18 at McClintic (BBC group). Also listed at Pymatuning April 1 (CC) and Seneca Lake on April 15 (C&C).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON: V. Sior (fide Van Cleve) saw one in Butler Co. Penna. on March 11 (Glade Run Reservoir).

AMERICAN WIDGEON: March 5 and 6 at Seneca Lake, Ohio and Ona, W. Va. are earliest records. An estimated 50 at McClintic on March 26 (TDI).

PINTAIL: A flock of 20 at Deep Creek Lake, Maryland on April 9 was a little late (GAH). Listed also in Westmoreland and Somerset Counties, Penna. on March 12 (fide BVC) and at Pymatuning on April 1 (CC).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Dates ranged from mid-March to about April 10. Only small numbers reported from any locality.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: Igou saw 16 in Cabell Co. on March 2. March 5 at Trinway, Ohio (VTS). An estimated 20 at McClintic on April 8.

SHOVELER: Earliest record was Hebron March 19 (VTS). Two at McClintic on the 26th (TDI). April 15 records at Seneca (C&C) and Mosquito Lakes (DFF). Two at Wills Creek Dam on April 16 (VTS).

WOOD DUCK: Numbers down at McClintic which may be due to some of the lakes going "stale" and becoming less attractive for them. Earliest migrants at Ona were seen on March 6 when Argabrite counted 7. They were found at newly created Mont Cove Lake, Monroe County on March 26 (PH). First nesting birds arrived at Orwell on April 30 (DFF)..

REDHEAD: Plentiful at Seneca Lake on February 26 which is quite early. Poor migration at McClintic. A count of 6 in one instance at Morgantown is unusual where few have been seen in recent years (GAH). Listed in Westmoreland County, Penna. on March 12 (Auerswalds) and at Mosquito Lake on April 9 (DFF).

RING-NECKED DUCK: Widely reported in small numbers. A good flight at Morgantown. At Hebron in numbers by March 19 (VTS). A few at McClintic as late as May 6 (GFH).

CANVASBACK: Still scarce but an encouraging number of reports. The 20 at Hebron on March 3 is largest flock and also earliest date (VTS). Some still present there on April 9. Six at McClintic on March 26 (GFH). Also recorded at Seneca Lake on March 5 (C&C) and scarce; Mosquito Lake on April 9 (DFF); and Scotts Lake near Elkins on March 24 (COH).

SCAUP: Usually 20 to 30 to be seen at McClintic from mid-March to mid-April (GFH). Gluck saw 74 at Charleston on March 27 and 70 on April 6. In numbers at Hebron by March 19 (VTS). As late as May 6 at McClintic (GFH).

COMMON GOLDENEYE: Good year at Morgantown where they remained in numbers as late as April 16. Miller found 30 on the Potomac April 2. Senecaville Lake, Ohio produced 13 on March 12 (VTS). The wintering population at Highland Park dropped from 15 on March 5 to a single on April 11 (BVC).

BUFFLEHEAD: Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Cain "never saw so many" at Seneca Lake where they were abundant by April 2. On April 9 the Shields saw 10 at Hebron. Also reported at Penn Hills, Allegheny Co. (Byron); Bear Rock Lakes (April 14 (GP) and Mosquito Lake on April 9 and 15 (DFF).

OLD SQUAW: All records are April dates. On the 19th and considered very late, a female at Terra Alta and a male at Mountain Lake Park, Md. (GAH). On the 20th Van Cleve listed a pair at Highland Park, Penna. Also listed at Pymatuning on April 1 (CC) and April 8 (MBS).

SCOTERS: A WHITE WINGED at McClintic on May 18 is very unusual (RK). An immature at Barnesville on May 21 is also uncommon (C&C).

RUDDY DUCK: The largest reported flock. 20, was at Wills Creek Dam, Ohio on April 16 (VTS). Six at Hebron on April 9 (VTS). Listed at Mont Cove Lake March 26 (GF). McClintic March 26 Highland Park April 24 (BVC), and 6 at Pymatuning April 15 (DFF).

HOODED MERGANSER: Good flight at Morgantown. Eight on the Potomac April 2 (CM). A brood of 8 at McClintic on May 6 (GFH). Found at Mont Cove Lake March 26 (PH). Barnesville April 2 (C&C), and Westmoreland County (Dugan's Pond), Penna. March 12 (Auerswald).

COMMON MERGANSER: Miller saw 30 on the Potomac April 2. Same number at Senecaville Lake, Ohio on March 12 (VTS). Common at Morgantown. Bill Shields found 12 at Conneaut Harbor April 16 and 20 at Mosquito Lake on the 22nd.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Abundant at Seneca by March 5 with a single remaining as late as May 30 (C&C). Bill Shields records include 15 at Cleveland April 15, 15 at Conneaut on the 16th and 50 at Mosquito Lake on April 22. Also found in small numbers on the Potomac (CM), Somerset County, Penna. and Pymatuning.

TURKEY VULTURE: March 11 in Muskingum County, Ohio, is earliest record. A record in East Charleston on May 8 where it is not usually found (PH).

BLACK VULTURE: One reported in Muskingum County, Ohio May 21 is somewhat unusual (VTS).

HAWKS-BUTEOS: Most observers reported singles or several RED-TAILED, RED-SHOULDERED and BROADWINGS. Two Broadwing nests in Highland Park, Pittsburgh - one with 3 eggs on May 14, other not checked (BVC). A ROUGH LEGGED was seen at Barnesville on March 18 and April 2 (C&C).

BALD EAGLE: At Harper's Ferry. Frank Anderson saw one on May 28. Conrad saw an adult male in Canaan Valley on April 23.

OSPREY: "Plentiful" at Seneca Lake where date was April 23 (C&C). First arrival at McClintic was April 9 (Donnelly) where two were seen on April 29 (TDI). Singles found at Echo Dell State Park (Ohio) April 1 (NL). Herrington Manor State Park Md. on April 16 (GAH) and Bear Rock Lakes on same date (CC).

DUCK HAWK: Miller saw one on April 18 and on May 4 about 10 miles east of Leesburg, Va.

SPARROW HAWK: Observers found them scarce again this year.

RUFFED GROUSE: A farmer in Pleasants Co. (St. Marys) flushed one from a nest with 3 eggs on March 1 (fide COH). Numerous birds with young in May (NL).

BOBWHITE: Wintered well in most areas. Exceptions include Morgantown where bird is way down. Also off at East Liverpool (NL) and Ohio Co. (CC).

TURKEY: Wayne Bailey reported high populations in the Hills Creek area, Allegheny Mountain in Rimel area, and in Forks of Cranberry area in early May.

VIRGINIA RAIL: The Shields reported as many as 3 at Trimway Swamp, Ohio in May.

SORA: Reported at McClintic and Trimway Marsh (Muskingum Co.) Ohio.

GALLINULE: COMMONs at Seneca Lake on May 14 and more uncommon than usual; Lake Louise in Eastern Panhandle (CM); and McClintic on May 12. Kletzly also reported a PURPLE at McClintic on May 12 which is very unusual.

COOT: Plentiful at Seneca Lake by April 2.. Early record at McClintic is March 18 and the 4 seen on April 15 indicates fewer birds. Also found at Mont Cove Lake and Hebron.

KILLDEER: Numbers way down in most areas. Arrived in Orwell on March 6 (DFF). Most areas reported only a few.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Ferris saw 6 at Walnut Beach on May 27.

AM. WOODCOCK: A great number heard in courtship flight at McClintic on the night of March 18 by the BBC group. Numbers were greatly decreased by March 26 (GFH). The March 7 date at Oglebay is first reported (GHB). Adult was seen feeding 3 young at Barnesville on March 12 (C&C).

UPLAND PLOVER: Skaggs found one near Carrolton, Ohio April 23. Bell saw one at Clarkesville on the 25th. The early date at Orwell was the 30th (DFF) while Barnesville date was May 7 (C&C).

SANDPIPERS: "The worst Spring yet" at East Liverpool (NL). characterized pretty well the shorebird migration. SPOTTED and SOLITARY both first recorded about April 23.

YELLOWLEGS: Ten LESSER at Seneca Lake on April 15 was earliest date (C&C). First GREATER reported was April 20 at McClintic (RK).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Reported at Seneca Lake on April 2 (C&C) and Ona, W. Va., on the 29th (TGI).

DUNLIN: The 3 recorded at Walnut Beach on May 27 was the only record (DFF).

GULLS: A good RING BILLED flight in early May (GAH). Many at Senecaville Lake March 12 (VTS). Many other reports. A BONAPARTEs was found at Seneca Lake on April 2 and later (C&C).

TERN: Two COMMON at North Park Lake, Allegheny Co., Penna. on April 21 (JG). Also one at Highland Park, Pittsburgh on May 14 (BVC). A BLACK was at Seneca Lake on May 19 and later (C&C).

CUCKOO: Both species recorded by most observers. Of interest is the relative abundance ratio given. In Charleston (AMS) and Eastern Panhandle (GAH) the YELLOW-BILLED is more abundant. In Ohio County (CC) and Barnesville, Ohio (C&C) they appear equally common, while the Shields rate the BLACK-BILLED more common by about 2 to 1 in Muskingum Co., Ohio.

BARRED OWL: Banks reported a nesting record for Jefferson Co., Ohio which he believes is the first record there.

SAWWHET OWL: Listed regularly by the Shields in Muskingum County. Bell listed one at Clarksville on May 21.

LONG-EARED OWL: Byron's record (fide BVC) on April 15 at North Washington, Westmoreland Co., Pa. is the only report.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: Earliest date submitted was April 24 at East Liverpool (NL). Listed at Charleston on April 30 (GFH). Evidence of Hawk (?) predation in the form of fairways littered with feathers was found again by Shreve on May 14 and 16 at a Charleston golf course. This is the third recurrence of this in the same area in two years.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: A very early April 4 in Cabell County (TDI). April 16 at Charleston (Thacker) and Muskingum County (VTS). April 21 at Middlebourne (Gregg). More northern areas by April 23.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: First at Ona (Kiff) on April 24. General by May 7.

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: Very early March 1st arrival at Willoughby (LB). An early March 7 record at Orwell (DFF). Six migrants at Wyatt on April 1 (LM).

EASTERN KINGBIRD: Huntington April 24 (TDI) and Barnesville the 30th are earliest reported along with Hall's 29th at Morgantown. May 7 in more northern areas. Van Cleve attests to watching one feed on "measuring worms" in an oak woodland in Highland Park on May 30. It caught them while they were suspended by threads.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: General arrival April 29 and 30. A week earlier in Monroe County. (PH)

EASTERN PHOEBE: Previously recorded arrival in Lincoln County in February (Redstart March 1961). Other records, still early by at least a week, include March 4 at Ona (TDI) and March 5 at Clarksville (RHB).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: April 29 at Ona (TDI) and the 30th at Charleston (PH) are early dates. Generally distributed by May 6.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Population up at Morgantown. General by May 7, but found in Allegheny County April 27 (JG). A record at McClintic on May 6 is first noted there. (GFH).

E. WOOD PEWEE: First migrant listed on April 20 at Charleston (PH). Abundant at East Liverpool by May 3 (NL) and found in most areas by the 6th of May.

TREE SWALLOW: Early date was March 26 at McClintic (TDI). April 8 at Barnesville and 9th at Hebron (10 birds). The migration peak seemed to be about April 20-23.

BANK SWALLOW: Argabrite found them at Milton on April 3. Reached Hebron by the 9th (VTS).

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Exceptionally scarce at Morgantown, March 28 at Barnesville is earliest date (C&C). April 2 along the Potomac (CM).

BARN SWALLOW: Listed April 5 at Milton (Argabrite). Following day at Clarksville (RKB). Found generally by April 23.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Bill Shields saw 3 at Conneaut Harbor on April 16. Scattered reports indicate April 23 general arrival.

PURPLE MARTIN: Bell's March 22 date was earliest record. Other dates were the 26th at McClintic (TDI); 29th at Barnesville; and April 2 along the Potomac. General by April 15.

FISH CROW: Hall found 2 in Jefferson County, W. Va., May 20 where he had found them previously.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Few records. Two in Cabell County in mid-April (TDI). Single at Barnesville on March 3 (C&C). Listed on Middle Mountain April 23 (NL).

HOUSE WREN: Surprisingly, the earliest records are northern locations - Westmoreland (Byron) and Allegheny (Sior) Counties, Penna. The general arrival was about April 24 which is about normal.

BEWICK'S WREN: Monroe County produced the early date - March 26 (PH). Clarksville record March 30 where Bell banded his "first" on April 15. April 4 at Barnesville and disputing territories in Muskingum County on April 15.

CAROLINA WREN: Still way down at Morgantown and Wyatt. Uncommon at Highland Park until May (BVC).

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN: Trinway Swamp, Muskingum County records for May 28 and 30 (VTS), and June 3 (NL).

CATBIRD: Arrival dates April 23 to April 26 with very few dissident observers.

BROWN THRASHER: March 28 and 29 at Barnesville (C&C) and Charleston (COH) is quite early. Many listed by April 15 and generally common by the 23rd.

ROBIN: Observers disagree on relative abundance so no trend can be reported. Nest with young in Charleston by April 13 (Katholi).

WOOD THRUSH: First record at Ona on April 17 (TDI). In South Charleston Ann Shreve banded one on the 20th where birds didn't sing until the 22nd. This indicates that listing of arrival by song may be several days late if other species don't sing on arrival. Coincidentally, the early "singing" dates in nearby Charleston and St. Albans are also April 22. General by April 26.

HERMIT THRUSH: Reported at Maxada Woodlands, Allegheny County, Penna. on May 17 (JG). A few singing on territory on Canaan and Allegheny Front Mountains in Tucker County on May 28 but not heard on Gaudineer Knob on May 30-31 (GAH).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Grom's April 23 date at Maxada Woodlands was first. Heard at Morgantown as late as May 28 (GAH) and at Charleston on May 30 (NG). Only a few at Gaudineer Knob on a cold, windy May 30-31 (GAH).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: April 27 at Huntington (TDI) and May 13 at Orwell (DFF). On May 6 the Ballentines netted one which was identified by measuring as the Bicknell's subspecies.

VEERY: Very few reported. April 29 at Ashton, W. Va. was earliest (TDI). In Allegheny County, Penna. the next day and at Orwell by May 7.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: About normal at St. Albans but scarce to non-existent in many other locations. Willoughby - "exceedingly scarce" -- Skaggs; Morgantown - "essentially disappeared" - Hall; Ohio County-"uncommon"- Conrad.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: McBee at Wyatt reoorded first on April 12. General by April 23 which is somewhat late.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: The main migration extended from about April 18 to 25. Few were seen on breeding grounds in Randolph County May 30-31 (GAH).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Dates are somewhat later, running from about April 20 to May 5.

CEDAR WAXWING: Van Cleve's observation on numbers and feeding habits at Highland Park is interesting. Starting April 30 with 2, the flock increased to about 150 by the end of May. Birds were feeding on "measuring worms".

WHITE-EYED VIREO: April 22 at Charleston (NG) and McClintic by the next day (RK). Not until May 6 in Muskingum Co., Ohio (VTS).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Same dates as White-eyed. Numbers up in many areas particularly at Orwell where an increase of about fivefold was found starting April 30 (DFF).

SOLITARY VIREO: April 21 in Allegheny County, Penna. (JG). Middle Mountain April 22 (NL). Low numbers at Morgantown.

RED-EYED VIREO: Numbers down considerably in most areas except Wyatt where it was more common. First date was April 23 at St. Albans (GFH). Northern areas first was May 8 reported by several observers.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Laitsch's found 2 on Negro Mountain, Penna. May 19. Two also near Trinway, Ohio April 15.

WARBLING VIREO: Numbers up markedly in most areas. Dates about April 28 to 30.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: About normal at Morgantown with an April 29 date (GAH). Down some in many other areas. Arrival dates range from April 20 at Huntington (TDI) to May 8 in northern areas.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Kletzly found them at McClintic on April 23. Heintzelmans (fide BVC) saw one in eastern Westmoreland County, Penna. on May 7. Wills Creek Dam, Ohio on May 13 and 21 (VTS). Shenandoah River on May 21 (NL).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Population thin in original areas in Charleston. Thacker heard one upriver at DuPont City on May 9 which is a new station. Another new locality is the entrance to Berry Hills Golf Course south of Charleston (AMS). On a Swainson's hunt May 30, 3 singing birds were heard at Chattaroy, Mingo County. One was heard at Holden in Logan County. Another was singing on Turkey Creek in Kentucky about 2 miles from Williamson (Observers Ballentines, PH and GFH). Shields found one near Girl Scout Camp in Northern Muskingum County on May 13.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: First was April 23 at St. Albans (GFH). Normally scarce at Morgantown - May 6(GAH).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: In numbers at McClintic by April 15 (GFH). April 30 at Morgantown (GAH).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: Many at McClintic on April 15 and more common than Golden Winged (GFH). Ross found a nest in Ohio County which is probably the first nesting record there. Generally distributed by May 7.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One of the most common in Ohio County (CC), along with the Nashville. Very good flight at Morgantown May 7 (GAH). Also up in the Eastern Panhandle where it is somewhat rare (GAH). Peaked at Charleston on May 3-4 (AMS). Best flight May 13-14 at Highland Park (BVC) where the migration was heavy. Ditto for Maxada Woodlands (JG).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Van Cleve saw one April 30 and May 12 at Highland Park, setting a new species record there. Listed May 14 at Willoughby, Ohio (LB).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Early date was April 23 at Ona (TDI). Influx at Wyatt on the 25th (LM). Peak at Highland Park May 9 and about normal (BVC).

PARULA WARBLER: Numbers down at Charleston (AMS). First date reported was April 29 in Somerset County, Penna. (fide BVC) and at Smoke Hole where Hall heard them singing during a snowstorm.

YELLOW WARBLER: Huntington on April 9 which seems early (TDI). April 14 at Charleston (PH). Ohio County by April 21 (GP). Well distributed by the 24th.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Charleston peak about May 6 (AMS). Peak at Highland Park May 13 (BVC). Same date at Orwell (DFF). Near normal in the Spruce on Gaudineer (GAH).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Huge concentration in South Charleston May 7 when Shreve saw an estimated 200 feeding in Sugar Maples. About 50 lingered until May 9. Flight at Oglebay on May 10 (GHB). Plentiful at East Liverpool (NL) May 8. Many on May 19 at Morgantown. (M. Brooks)

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Normal in mountain breeding grounds May 7 (GAH). Other scattered reports listed May 8 to 14.

MYRTLE WARBLER: Very good flight April 29 at Morgantown (GAH). Good season at Pittsburgh peaking on May 7 (BVC).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: Listed in extreme south - Mingo County (RK) and Pittsburgh (BVC) on April 24. Best count at Pittsburgh on May 13. First wave at Morgantown on May 6 followed by a second on the 19th (GAH).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: This Western species recorded by Shields in northern Muskingum County on May 8 and later with 8 found on the 13th. An extended account will appear elsewhere in the REDSTART.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Best flight in years at Morgantown but way down in the Gaudineer breeding grounds. (GAH) Good numbers at East Liverpool (NL) from May 8 - 14. A very early April 24 at Pittsburgh (BVC).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Normal high numbers at local golf course where 2 nests were found this year (AMS). Recorded in Coonskin Park area of Charleston April 15 (NG). Listed at Huntington April 23 and later (TDI). Several places in Muskingum County in May (VTS) and one at East Liverpool on May 8 (NL).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Normal counts at Pittsburgh by May 13 with a very early April 24 arrival (BVC). Also early at Huntington on April 22 (TDI). Under par at Morgantown (GAH).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Only a fair flight at Pittsburgh where one lingered until May 31 (BVC). Fairly good at East Liverpool (NL). Most records May 7 - 15.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: Peak at Charleston May 14 which was early (AMS). Very good migration at Pittsburgh with birds staying into June (BVC). Early at Morgantown (May 14) with a good flight.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: April 15 at Charleston (AMS); the 23rd in Monroe County (PH); and in most areas by May 1.

PALM WARBLER: Early record in Monroe County April 23 (PH). Common at McClintic by April 29 (AMS). April 30 at Barnesville (C&C) and in Lake County, Ohio (Bill Shields). An early April 24 at Pittsburgh (BVC).

OVENBIRD: "Way, way down" at Morgantown (GAH). Early date April 22 at Charleston (NG). Normal at Pittsburgh. May 1st at East Liverpool.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Conrad listed one at Viola, Ohio County April 16. April 29 at Barnesville (C&C) and Pittsburgh by May 4.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: Very early March 26 at Guyan Creek (Cabell County) (TDI). April 15 at Triadelphia which is about normal date (GP). Northern areas by April 23.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: April 29 in Southern and May 6 in Northern areas.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Chapman and Cain at Barnesville reported one on May 10. Laitsch listed one at East Liverpool May 9.

MOURNING WARBLER: Only a few individuals reported. April 24 at Huntington (TDI): May 6 at Hurricane (Shearer); late May at Barnesville, Philo, (Ohio), on Gaudineer and Wheeling.

HOODED WARBLER: Gluck's April 22 at Charleston led the early dates. In all areas by May 6.

WILSON'S WARBLER: More reports on this scarce migrant. Ona April 25 (TDI) is early. The 23rd at Altona Marsh also quite early (NL). May 6 Charleston (NG); May 14 in Ohio County (CC); Barnesville (C&C), and Highland Park, Pittsburgh (BVC). Late May in Muskingum County, Ohio (VTS).

CANADA WARBLER: Many at Charleston May 6 (AMS). May 8 to 10 in northern areas. Way down at Gaudineer (GAH).

AMERICAN REDSTART: April 24 first at Charleston and numbers way down (AMS). The 25th at Pittsburgh and May 7 in most other northern areas.

BOBOLINK: May 2 to May 6 for early dates going North. Very good flight at Morgantown (GAH).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: On May 21 the BBC group saw and heard one singing not far from Harpers Ferry near Pipertown, Jefferson County, W. Va. This is the first State record of the bird. Not to be outdone, Ohio members at Barnesville recorded one on May 5 and 8 near Barnesville. The locations are 1 1/2 miles apart and may have been the same bird (Chapman).

ORCHARD ORIOLE: First date was April 25 at Middlebourne (Gregg). General by May 1.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Extremely abundant at Wheeling (GHB). High in St. Albans (GFH). Middlebourne led off the early parade with an April 20th date (Gregg). Many areas by the 25th.

COMMON GRACKLE: "Taking over everywhere" (GAH). Still increasing at Inwood (CM), Willoughby (LB) and Clarksville. March 4 at Clarksville.

SCARLET TANAGER: Reported April 23 at Huntington (TDI). The 28th at Charleston (PH). May 4 at Middlebourne (Gregg) and general by May 7.

SUMMER TANAGER: Early record April 24 at Huntington (TDI). A very unusual northern penetration at Indiana, Penna. where Cora Williams (fide BVC) found one May 7. Records for this species are rare in Western Pennsylvania.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Bell saw one April 26 at Clarksville, while the first at Charleston was not found until April 29 (PH). A heavy migration occurred in Kanawha County May 6 to 10. May 6 arrival at Orwell (DFF).

BLUE GROSBEAK: Only report of one at Wills Creek Dam, Ohio May 21 (VTS).

INDIGO BUNTING: Numbers way up this year. "A population explosion" at Pittsburgh where Vam Cleve reported at least 5 pairs in Highland Park, where they haven't been seen during the last ten years. Other observers report numbers much increased.

PURPLE FINCH: Good sized migration at Charleston and Huntington April 20 - 23. Last Charleston record May 6 (AMS). Last at Clarksville was May 21 (RKB).

PINE SISKIN: Listed April 9 in Lawrence County, Penna. (fide BVC). Common at Middle Mountain April 22-23 (NL).

RED CROSSBILL: At Presque Isle on May 14 Dressel saw about 100 birds. Hall found a flock of 30 in the spruce on Gaudineer Knob on May 30.

SAVANAH SPARROW: Most areas by April 30.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Igou's April 24 at Ona was first. Ohio County, on the 30th (GP).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Recorded May 6, 9, and 19 in Muskingum County (VTS). Listed by Skaggs May 8 at Willoughby Ohio.

VESPER SPARROW: An early migrant listed March 4 in Licking County (VTS). Triadelphia March 9 (Masteller). Most areas by April 10.

JUNCO: Last seen at Charleston May 6. An OREGON was found at Barnesville March 7 by Mrs. Cain.

CHIPPING SPARROW: March 26 at Clarksville (RKB). Fairly widespread by April 1.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Contrasting reports here. Very heavy flight in Charleston May 6-9 (AMS). Very poor at Clarksville (RKB) and Willoughby (MBS). Dismal in Western Pennsylvania where Van Cleve asked "What happened?" Latest date May 15 at Wheeling (CC).

WHITE THROATED SPARROW: Very poor at Clarksville and not very big at Morgantown. Migration started about April 11 at Pittsburgh and peaked about the 20th. Last recorded there May 17 (BVC).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Shreve banded 2 at McClintic April 29.

Contributors for the period included:

COH	Charles Handley, Sr.	Charleston, W. Va.
PH	Polly Handlan	Charleston, W. Va.
NG	Norris Gluck	Charleston, W. Va.
GF	George Flouer	Union W. Va.
	R. Houston	Charleston, W. Va.
	Ken Anderson	Charleston, W. Va.
TDI	Tom Igou (Ona Ornithological Society)	Ona, W. Va.
RK	Robert Kletzly	Pt. Pleasant, W. Va.
GAH	George Hall	Morgantown, W. Va.
LM	Lena McBee	Wyatt, W. Va.
GP	Glen Phillips	Triadelphia, W. Va.
CC	Charles Conrad	Wheeling, W. Va.
GHB	George Breiding	Wheeling, W. Va.
	Mabel Gorman	Glendale, W. Va.
	Marie Masteller	Triadelphia, W. Va.
CM	Clark Miller	Inwood, W. Va.
	Patti and Frank Anderson	Harpers Ferry, W. Va.
	Pearl Gregg	Middlebourne, W. Va.

	Gladys Murrey	Sistersville, W. Va.
BVC	Bernard Van Cleve	Pittsburgh, Penna.
JG	Joe Grom	Gibsonia, Pa.
RKB	Ralph Bell	Clarksville, Pa.
LB	Lew Barbour	Willoughby, Pa.
MBS	Merit Skaggs	Willoughby, Pa.
VTS	Violet and Tom Shields	Zanesville, O.
C&C	Mrs. D. Cain & Mrs. H. Chapman	Barnesville, O.
DFF	Duane Ferris	Orwell, O.
NL	Nevada Laitsch	East Liverpool O.
	Clinton Banks	Steubenville, O.

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

Contributions for the Summer Season June 1 to August 31 will be due on September 15. Contributions for the Autumn Season, September 1 to November 31 will be due on December 15.