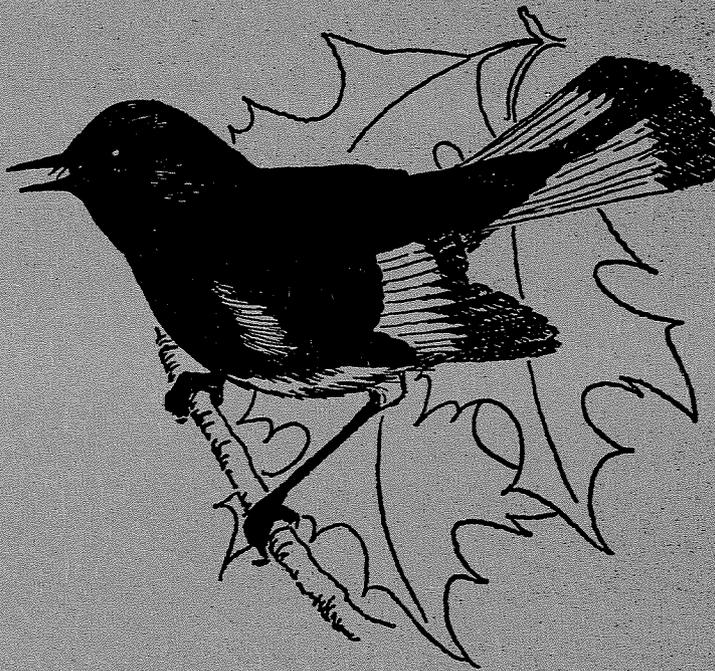


The REDSTART

Volume 33—Number 1

January, 1966



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THE REDSTART is published quarterly in January, April, July and October by Harless Printing Company, St. Albans, West Virginia. The official organ of the Brooks Bird Club, it is mailed to all members in good standing. Non-member subscription price is \$2.50. Individual copies cost \$0.50 except the April issue which is \$1.00. Changes of address and inquiries concerning back issues should be mailed to club headquarters, 707 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, West Virginia. All articles for publication and books for review should be mailed to the Editor.

POPULATION STUDIES OF THE 1965 FORAY

Glen Phillips

Population studies were completed on three plots near Mountain Lake, Virginia by BBC members of the 1965 Foray. An attempt was made to lay out the plots with the same boundaries that were used in 1959 so that a comparison of results could be made. One plot was added to include a hardwood stand that is more mature than that of Moonshine Dell. Work on the Moonshine Dell plot was not completed because of diminished singing, thought to have been caused partially by the adverse weather. Results from this area are so questionable that publication is inadvisable.

Populations were greater in 1965 than in 1959 on the two plots common to both forays. Pond Drain showed an increase of approximately 25 percent while the Little Meadows count increased almost 50 percent.

The Pond Drain area has changed very little. All of the large hemlocks appeared to be intact in the ravine and there is no evidence of timbering. This land is now owned by the Hotel and will probably be subject to little artificial change. The population in this area remained, as in 1959, the highest of three areas studied.

The habitat of Little Meadows has changed considerably. The small evergreens dotted throughout the area in 1959 have now grown into a significant factor. The overall effect has been to increase the "edge" influence and consequently the population. Construction of a new hunting lodge at the time of this year's study may alter the habitat to such an extent that further studies on this plot will be useless. This is a decision that must be made during the next foray at Mountain Lake.

The new study plot along White Dot Bridle Trail is intended to afford a comparison between the younger oak forest of Moonshine Dell and the older cover bordering the trail. The cover of this new plot also compares to that of Pond Drain but does not contain the prominent hemlocks. The Bridle Trail plot shows a balanced population of three species of warblers in contrast to the preponderance of Ovenbirds that were present at Moonshine Dell in 1959.

These studies were carried out in the higher elevations to sample different habitats that are common to thousands of acres on the mountain tops of this region. We have made substantial progress in accomplishing this purpose and, if interested manpower permits during the next foray in this region, serious consideration should be given to the feasibility of one or more studies at the foot of the mountain. Studies in the valleys, even as far away as Poverty Run, would allow for comparisons of habitats at different altitudes.

The writer wishes to thank all those people who made this report possible.

R.D. 2, Triadelphia, W. Va.

Literature Cited

- Chandler, E. R., 1960 Population Studies Of The 1959 Foray Of The Brooks Bird Club, Redstart 27:31
 Strausbaugh, P. D. and Core, Earl L., 1964 Flora Of West Virginia

Hardwood Forest, White Dot Bridle Trail Area

Location: The White Dot Area starts one half mile due northwest of the Mountain Lake Hotel and extends north-northwest along the White Dot Bridle Trail.

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

Topography: The centerline of the area is relatively level at the 4000 foot contour. At 175 yards it crosses the west fork of Pond Drain within one half mile of its source. This stream flows north-northeast, dropping 400 feet per mile. The ground slopes about 800 feet per mile.

Plant Cover: A second growth hardwood forest about 90 per cent oak. White (*Quercus alba*), Red (*Q. rubra*), and Black Oak (*Q. velutina*) predominate. There are a few Chestnut Oak (*Q. prinus*). The only conifers are three 60 feet high White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and a few small (to six inches DBH) Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). Yellow Birch (*Betula lutea*), Black Birch (*B. lenta*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) make up the remainder. The trees average about 40 feet high and 12 inches DBH. In the north half of the area the canopy is entire and the understory is an open stand of Striped Maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*), Mapleleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolia*), Hobblebush (*V. alnifolia*), and seedlings of the Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia acuminata*). The south half is not completely canopied over and the understory is a dense growth of Minnie-bush (*Menziesia pilosa*) to four feet high with some Flame Azalea and Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) to 12 feet high. Lower shrubs include Deerberry, Mountain Cranberry, and Blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.). A large per cent of the ground cover plants were ferns, mostly New York Ferns with some Lady, Cinnamon, and Bracken Ferns. Common plants included Wild Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria montana*), Galax (*Galax aphylla*), Indian Cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*), Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), Hairy Disporum (*Disporum lanugulosum*), and Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*). Less common were Partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), Rock Skullcap (*Scutellaria saxatilis*), Squawroot (*Conopholus americana*), and White Clintonia (*Clintonia umbellulata*). Fly Poison Lily (*Amianthium muscaetoxicum*) was common in the south half and White Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*) along the stream.

Coverage: June 14-18, 1965. Twelve trips were made through the area at daylight, afternoon, and evening. Continual rain June 15-17 hampered the operation and may have affected the results. Total party-hours, 10.

Species	Census	
	Territorial Males	Males per 100 Acres
Canada Warbler	7	46.7
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6	40.0
Ovenbird	5	33.3
Veery	3	20.0
Black and White Warbler	2.5	16.7
Rufous-sided Towhee	2.5	16.7
Red-eyed Vireo	2	13.3
Blackburnian Warbler	1	6.7
Tufted Titmouse	1	6.7
Scarlet Tanager	1	6.7
Crested Flycatcher	1	6.7
Solitary Vireo	1	6.7
Carolina Junco	0.8	5.3
Wood Pewee	0.8	5.3
TOTALS: 14 species	34.6	231

Visitors: Wood Thrush, Brown-headed Cowbird, Raven, Turkey Vulture, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Pileated Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch feeding young, Crow, and Ruffed Grouse.

Remarks: All of the Canada Warblers and Veerys were in the area covered by *Menziesia pilosa*. Black-throated Blue Warblers dominated the north half while the Ovenbird was uniform over the whole area.

Census Takers: George Koch assisted by Betty Greenlee, Katharine Sigel, Sylvia Reebel, Seal Brooks, Jack Linehan, Mary Ford, Glen Phillips, and George Hurley.

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 x 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.

Census

Species	Males Territorial	Males Per 100 Acres
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6.5	43.3
Rufous-sided Towhee	3.5	23.3
Golden-winged Warbler	3.0	19.9
Eastern Phoebe	2.0	13.4
Blackburnian Warbler	2.0	13.4
Yellowthroat	2.0	13.4
Indigo Bunting	2.0	13.4
Ovenbird	1.5	10.0
Field Sparrow	1.5	10.0
American Woodcock	1.0	6.7
Whip-poor-will	1.0	6.7
Chipping Sparrow	1.0	6.7
Solitary Vireo5	3.4
Red-eyed Vireo5	3.4
Black and White Warbler5	3.4
Black-throated Blue Warbler5	3.4
Common Crow	+	—
Chickadee (sp.)	+	—
Cedar Waxwing	+	—
TOTALS: 19 Species	29.0	193.8

+Either less than 0.5 or territory is larger than plot.

Plant Cover: (Due to changes in plant cover since 1959, the area is redescribed). One half of the area is an abandoned poorly drained meadow with ground cover of Hair-capped Moss (*Polytrichum*), Groundberry (*Rubus hispidus*), Common Cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*), and scattered Sedges (*Carex* sps.). The shrubby layer of plants is primarily Glade St. John's-Wort (*Hypericum densiflorum*) with larger shrubs of Maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*), Red Chokecherry (*Pyrus arbutifolia*), and Hawthorn (*Crataegus* sps.). There are larger trees 10 to 40 feet high spotting the

area, such as White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), and Wild Cherry (*Prunus serotina*). The remaining half of the territory is well drained with a slow-flowing creek bisecting the area with Alders (*Alnus rugosa*), White Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*) and Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) forming its borders. On one side of this stream is Poverty Grass (*Danthonia spicata*), Velvet Grass (*Holcus lanatus*) and Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) with Glade St. John's-wort forming the shrub level. Trees on this area, in close contact, are White Pine and Pitch Pine. On the opposite side of the stream there is a woods of more mature White Pine, White Oak and Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). Under these trees the ground is covered with dry leaves and needles, with some Teaberry (*Gaultheria procumbens*), Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*) and Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*). Adjacent to this mature tree area is a grass meadow of approximately two acres which is apparently kept mowed. Two hunting lodges are on the mowed area.

Coverage: June 14-17, 1965. Trips were made to the area at daylight, late morning, midafternoon and after dark. Total manhours, 25.

Visitors: Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Blue Jay, Robin, Parula Warbler, American Redstart, Cardinal, and American Goldfinch.

Census Takers: S. T. Brooks (Compiler), E. E. Hutton, G. F. Phillips, assisted by M. Ford, G. Koch, J. T. Linehan and J. Slater.

Pond Drain

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

Size: 15 acres (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 is at an elevation of 3850 feet and at the other end it has dropped to 3600 feet. Since the ravine drops at the same rate as the road, the relative location of the two remains the same, except at one end where a small stream crosses the road.

Plant Cover: (The following is a copy of Chandler's 1959 plant cover description with scientific names of plants added). The portion of the area uphill from the road has 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 (*Quercus*), Maple (*Acer*), Birch (*Betula*), and Wild Cherry (*Prunus serotina*). Downhill from the road the forest had not been touched and the trees were mature. The floor was very clean. Trees were Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Yellow Birch (*Betula lutea*), Black Birch (*Betula lenta*), and Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) reaching a height of 70-80 feet and 36 inches DBH. The understory consisted of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*), Hobblebush (*Viburnum alnifolium*), Striped Maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), Azalea (*Rhododendron* sps.), Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), Greenbrier (*Smilax* sp.), Oxalis (*Oxalis* sp.) and several species of ferns and mosses. The entire area had a closed crown and very little sunlight penetrated the forest canopy. Very little change has occurred since 1959.

Coverage: June 14-18, 1965. Hours varied between 4:00 to 8:00 A.M. and 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. Total man-hours about 35.

Species	Census	
	Territorial Males	Males per 100 Acres
Canada Warbler	8	53.3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	8	53.3
Ovenbird	7	46.6
Junco	6	40
Black-and-white Warbler	5.5	36.7
Red-eyed Vireo	5.5	36.7
Eastern Wood Pewee	3.5	23.3
Wood Thrush	2.5	16.7
Rufous-sided Towhee	2.5	16.7
Veery	2.5	16.7
Scarlet Tanager	2	13.4
Robin	1.5	10.
Parula Warbler	1.	6.7
White-breasted Nuthatch	1.	6.7
Crested Flycatcher	1.	6.7
Tufted Titmouse	1.	6.7
Blackburnian Warbler	1.	6.7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0.5	3.4
Black-throated Green Warbler	+	—
TOTALS: 19 Species	60	400

+Either less than 0.5 or territory is larger than Plot.

Visitors: Chickadee; Blue Jay; Common Raven; Brown-headed Cowbird; Downy Woodpecker; Barred Owl; Common Crow; Ruffed Grouse and Flicker.

Remarks: Two junco nests were found; one with young and one with three eggs. Ovenbird nest with three young; Black-and-white Warbler's nest with three eggs; and Robin's nest with eggs. A very severe wind and rain storm struck the area on the night of June 15th causing damage to mature trees on downhill side of the road. Some openings were made in what had been a closed crown. After the storm there was a noticeable difference in Canada Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler song frequency.

Census Takers: Virginia B. Olsen (compiler), C. Slater, G. Phillips, F. Scott, C. Ross, D. Caperton, G. Hurley, K. Anderson, E. Hutton, and others.

FORAY BIRD LIST

Ralph K. Bell

The twenty-sixth annual Foray of the Brooks Bird Club was held from Saturday June 12 to Saturday June 19, 1965 at beautiful Mt. Lake in Giles County, Virginia—just about 7½ air miles southeast of the West Virginia border. This is the second Foray held in this area. The first was held June 6-14, 1959 and was approx. a week earlier and lasted one more day. In 1959 the center of activities was at the Biological Station of the University of Virginia—about two miles north of this year's Foray site. The usual 15-mile radius area applied to all birds recorded in this report and is the same area as covered at the 1959 Foray.

In the 1959 Foray report, Dr. R. K. Burns gave a very good description of the area and I will not repeat all of it here, except to say that the area is very diversified. It varies from major Mountain ranges down to the bottomlands of the valleys. Elevations in the study area ranged from about 4363 feet at the summit of Bald Knob (just back of our headquarters at Mt. Lake Hotel) down to approx. 1550 feet at Pembroke on New River. Other elevations in the area are as follows: the lake area (near the hotel)—3900 feet; the Biological Station—3800 feet; Little Meadows and Cascade area—3100 feet; the beginning of Poverty Creek Hollow—2450; the lower end of Poverty Creek—2000 feet (approx.)

Naturally, our time was limited and the area covered was mostly along the roads. As a result, many of the mountain areas were not checked (also many valley areas), but everyone worked hard and we came up with an excellent list of 117 species—9 more than in 1959. However, 8 species recorded in 1959 were not observed this year. The Poverty Creek Hollow section (apparently overlooked in 1959) was a new area visited this year—thanks to Dr. John W. Murray of Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Blacksburg) and Fred Scott. This area contained an abundance of birds of many species and many campers paid at least one visit there. All the Worm-eating Warblers and most of the Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Pine Warblers were found in the Poverty Creek section.

Recorded in 1959 but not in 1964:

Peregrine Falcon
Ring-necked Pheasant
Common Nighthawk
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Magnolia Warbler
Savannah Sparrow
Bachman's Sparrow

Recorded in 1965 but not in 1959:

Pied-billed Grebe
Mallard
Black Duck
Wood Duck
Lesser Scaup
Common Golden-eye
Am. Woodcock
Screech Owl
Traill's Flycatcher
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Purple Martin
Black-capped Chickadee
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
White-eyed Vireo
Northern Water-thrush
Kentucky Warbler

The following lists are those birds that showed a probable increase (or decrease) since the 1959 Foray. Those marked with an asterisk were the only ones where there appeared to be a definite change.

Probable increase:

Wood Duck
 *Wild Turkey
 American Woodcock
 Horned Lark
 Rough-winged Swallow
 Purple Martin
 Bewick's Wren
 Mockingbird
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Loggerhead Shrike
 White-eyed Vireo
 Summer Tanager

Probable Decrease:

Red-shouldered Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon
 Ruffed Grouse
 *Killdeer
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Least Flycatcher
 Magnolia Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Louisiana Water-thrush
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak

1. **Pied-billed Grebe**—Rare. One reported by M. Thacker. In Dr. J. J. Murray's BIRDS OF VIRGINIA one had been recorded as spending the summer of 1950 at Blacksburg.
2. **Green Heron**—Not rare. At least 4 were seen by several observers at the VPI campus at Blacksburg. Two were seen near Maybrook by C. Katholi, P. Murphy, A. Shreve, N. Gluck and J. Linehan. C. Conrad reported one at Eggleston.
3. **Mallard**—F. Scott reported seeing 20 on the VPI ponds at Blacksburg on 17 June and noted that these flew strongly. Several obviously domestic birds and hybrids were not counted.
4. **Black Duck**—Two adults and 6 young were seen at Blacksburg on 17 June by F. Scott.
5. **Wood Duck**—A $\frac{3}{4}$ -grown brood of 8 were seen on New River near Eggleston on 16 June by F. Scott, N. Gluck, C. Conrad and R. Bell. Also, an adult male was seen near Eggleston on 18 June by S. Brooks, E. Hutton and F. Scott.
6. **Lesser Scaup Duck**—A male was seen on New River (upstream from the Eggleston Bridge) on 15 and 16 June by P. Murphy, K. Anderson, G. Hurley and R. Ludwig. Dr. J. J. Murray in BIRDS OF VIRGINIA reports "birds of this species, probably cripples, are sometimes seen through June."
7. **Common Golden-eye**—A female was observed with the above mentioned Lesser Scaup on the same days by the same observers. Probably a cripple also.
8. **Turkey Vulture**—Common at all elevations.
9. **Black Vulture**—Several reports. C. Conrad saw 3 along New River. This species was also noted along New River by M. Talbott, P. Murphy and G. Newcomer. One noted in Clover Hollow on two occasions by C. Katholi, A. Shreve, K. Anderson and R. Bell. J. and T. Thompson reported a total of 5 over routes 112 and 602 on 16 June.
10. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**—Occasional. A single near Rt. 602 by A. Shreve and one on Stoney Creek road by P. Murphy and P. Gregg.
11. **Cooper's Hawk**—Three reported. H. and H. Boecher saw one being chased by two Grackles near Rt. 700. One noted near New River by A. Shreve and one seen by D. Baker along Rt. 601.

12. **Red-tailed Hawk**—Occasional. An immature was seen soaring near Rt. 700 by the Ludwigs', V. Olsen, K. Anderson, G. Hurley and C. Ross. One seen over Rt. 602 by M. Thacker, the Boechers' and J. Lightburn. C. Conrad saw one over Wind Rock.
13. **Red-shouldered Hawk**—J. Linehan reported seeing one of this species on 17 June. P. Murphy, K. Siegel, R. Burns and C. Conrad noted an immature at Wind Rock on 19 June.
14. **Broad-winged Hawk**—Eight reports. Seen or heard at practically all altitudes (Poverty Creek Hollow to the banding area above the hotel). This hawk is probably more common than reports indicate.
15. **Sparrow Hawk**—Several reports. J. and T. Thompson reported a female at cliff near New River just beyond Pembroke. R. Ludwig saw one hovering over field near Rt. 42. P. Murphy saw one along Rt. 708 and M. Shearer found a nest with young in church on Rt. 700 near the Gulf gas station. She reported Grackles tried to keep adults from feeding young.
16. **Ruffed Grouse**—Occasional. E. Worthley reported a hen with 7 young along road to golf course. C. Conrad saw a hen and 4 young on Bald Knob trail. V. Olsen saw another with young behind the Biological Station.
17. **Bob-white**—Common in open country at lower elevations.
18. **Wild Turkey**—Probably fairly common. Carolyn Conrad and P. Murphy heard one on Cascade Road. Tracks noted on Poverty Creek road by C. Katholi and R. Bell. P. Murphy saw a gobbler with 2 hens and several young at Hoge's Orchard on Rt. 613. Mr. Hoge told P. Murphy that Wild Turkeys had been stocked 7-8 years ago and were so abundant that there was now a spring and fall hunting season of this species.
19. **Killdeer**—Only 3 reports. One at Blacksburg airport by C. Katholi and A. Shreve. P. Murphy flushed one from Rt. 602. C. Conrad saw 2 near road along New River.
20. **American Woodcock**—Occasional above 3000 feet. V. Olsen and R. Ludwig flushed one on trail behind hotel near water tanks. Tracks and borings noted by A. Shreve and C. Katholi on banding area. E. Worthley flushed one near end of pavement on golf course road. One was noted on 3 occasions at Little Meadows study area by S. Brooks, G. Phillips and E. Hutton. This species was unknown to at least 3 members of the Little Meadows Hunting Club.
21. **Spotted Sandpiper**—Rare. One reported on New River near Eggleston by F. Scott on 16 June.
22. **Mourning Dove**—Fairly common in lower valleys.
23. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Rather rare. J. and T. Thompson heard one near golf course and another near Cascades. C. Conrad reported hearing one in two different locations.
24. **Black-billed Cuckoo**—Rare. R. Ludwig saw one along Rt. 700 (2½ miles from summit on 17 June).
25. **Screech Owl**—Two heard on 17 June by S. Brooks and J. Linehan.
26. **Barred Owl**—Evidently not very common. One heard on Pond Drain study area by V. Olsen, K. Anderson and C. Slater.
27. **Whip-poor-will**—Not rare. G. Phillips and C. Conrad heard one on road to Cascades. F. Scott heard one at the head of Poverty Creek Hollow on 17 June. S. Brooks, E. Hutton, J. Linehan and G. Phillips heard at least 3 calling at the same time near the Little Meadows study area, where one was a resident.

28. **Chimney Swift**—Fairly common throughout.
29. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**—Not rare. In fact, V. Olsen considered them common in the valleys. M. Talbott reported one on 602 (3 miles from camp). C. Katholi and A. Shreve reported seeing three. F. Scott noted a few at all elevations.
30. **Belted Kingfisher**—Fairly common in the lowlands (Blacksburg, Spruce Run, New River, Clover Hollow). R. Ludwig and P. Murphy saw a family at Eggleston Cliffs. F. Scott saw one at Little Meadows on 18 June (3100 ft.)
31. **Yellow-shafted Flicker**—Common throughout.
32. **Pileated Woodpecker**—Not rare. C. Katholi and P. Murphy reported several seen (or heard); one on golf course road. M. Shearer saw a female in nest hole in a large tree along Poverty Creek. F. Scott had noted two individuals in the same area. J. and T. Thompson heard 3 in different locations.
33. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**—Occasional. K. Siegel, P. Murphy, C. Katholi and A. Shreve all reported one near William's Grocery on road below lodge (Mt. Lake Hotel). K. Anderson heard and then saw one flying over cliff at Eggleston. M. Talbott reported one 3 miles from hotel at 2100 feet altitude.
34. **Red-headed Woodpecker**—Two reports. C. Conrad and C. Miller saw one on fence post about one mile from Newport on Rt. 460 detour. J. and T. Thompson saw one along Rt. 601.
35. **Hairy Woodpecker**—Not Rare. R. Ludwig and F. Scott both saw one along Poverty Creek road. V. Olsen, K. Anderson and G. Hurley saw one on the Appalachian Trail. C. Katholi and A. Shreve saw one on banding area, one in Clover Hollow and another while walking on path around lake.
36. **Downy Woodpecker**—Fairly common throughout.
37. **Eastern Kingbird**—Fairly common in farm areas.
38. **Great Crested Flycatcher**—Fairly common at all elevations.
39. **Eastern Phoebe**—Most observers considered them fairly common in suitable habitat.
40. **Acadian Flycatcher**—Fairly common in suitable habitat at lower elevations. Several were heard on Poverty Creek by P. Murphy, K. Siegel, and F. Scott. V. Olsen and G. Phillips reported one on the Pond Drain study area (3600 feet alt.) where one was also found in 1959. F. Scott found 3 singing birds at Little Meadows on 18 June (3100 feet alt.).
41. **Traill's Flycatcher**—Rare. The only one heard was by D. Caperton and V. Olsen at the old barn on Poverty Creek road.
42. **Least Flycatcher**—Fairly common on the ridges, in fact, most observers considered it common at the Biological Station.
43. **Eastern Wood Pewee**—Most observers considered them fairly common at all elevations.
44. **Horned Lark**—Occasional. R. Ludwig reported several along Rt. 601. C. Katholi and A. Shreve saw a pair at the Blacksburg airport and an immature on road at the Experimental Farm at Blacksburg.
45. **Bank Swallow**—Rare. K. Anderson turned in the only report.
46. **Rough-winged Swallow**—F. Scott considered them common along New River (20 counted at Eggleston on 16 June). C. Katholi and A. Shreve reported this species at covered bridges on Rt. 46 and over ponds on the Blacksburg Campus.
47. **Barn Swallow**—Common at all elevations in suitable open areas (including Mt. Lake).

48. **Cliff Swallow**—Rare. Dr. Burns and C. Conrad reported one on wire along Rt. 460 (with other swallows).
49. **Purple Martin**—Occasional. P. Murphy, R. Ludwig and H. Postlethwaite saw one at a box in Ripplemead (but not nesting) and at least 2 at New River near Eggleston. F. Scott counted 6 birds at a colony just east of Blacksburg on Rt. 46. This species was not recorded in 1959.
50. **Blue Jay**—Fairly common at all elevations.
51. **Common Raven**—A number seen on ridge at the hotel, Pond Drain area, Biological Station and Little Meadows. P. Murphy, K. Siegel and P. Gregg mentioned about the Raven "chorus" one day in the Pond Drain area when they thought perhaps 8 birds were present.
52. **Common Crow**—Fairly common throughout the area.
53. **Black-capped Chickadee**—F. Scott considered them fairly common on ridge only, with a maximum count of 6 in the Little Meadows area on June 18.
54. **Carolina Chickadee**—Fairly common in lowlands. F. Scott felt that both chickadees were on the ridge at least as far north as the Biological Station and reported definite identification at Mt. Lake and Little Meadows (4 in the latter place on 18 June).
55. **Tufted Titmouse**—Fairly common over entire area.
56. **White-breasted Nuthatch**—Probably fairly common throughout entire area. Few reports but this was probably due to nesting activities. P. Murphy reported finding many more the week following Foray.
57. **House Wren**—Few reports but this could also be due to the time of year. P. Murphy felt they were common in towns. J. and T. Thompson heard one at 2500 feet elevation.
58. **Bewick's Wren**—Not rare. C. Katholi heard this species at 4 or more locations. F. Scott observed an adult feeding a young bird in Clover Hollow on 19 June. Most campers heard and saw the persistent singer at the mountain farm about ½ way down from the hotel.
59. **Carolina Wren**—J. and T. Thompson considered this species common in valley. K. Anderson reported one at Eggleston Cliffs. S. Brooks, F. Scott and E. Hutton heard one in Poverty Creek area. V. Olsen saw several on New River road.
60. **Mockingbird**—Common on slopes and in valley.
61. **Catbird**—Fairly common throughout.
62. **Brown Thrasher**—Fairly common. J. and T. Thompson considered this species less common than the Catbird.
63. **Robin**—Most observers considered them very common.
64. **Wood Thrush**—Common throughout.
65. **Veery**—Common on ridge (very common near banding area). Not recorded in lowlands.
66. **Bluebird**—Generally fairly common at lower levels in proper habitat. Several campers observed the male calling from perch on an electric wire near the hotel on at least 3 different mornings.
67. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—Not rare, in fact F. Scott considered this species common in lowlands and reported a peak count of 12 in Poverty Creek Hollow on 17 June. P. Murphy and H. Postlethwaite reported one along Rt. 613 in the valley and A. Shreve, J. and T. Thompson et al, saw a pair along Rt. 601.
68. **Cedar Waxwing**—Fairly common to common at higher elevations. M. Talbott reported several at the Biological Station. S. Brooks, E. Hutton and G. Phillips

saw several each trip to the Little Meadows study area, where the largest flock noted was 8 birds.

69. **Loggerhead Shrike**—Not rare. Many campers saw this species (2) on the electric wire along Rt. 602, near intersection with 601. R. Ludwig saw one on wire along Rt. 603 and another along Rt. 42. V. Olsen saw one on wire over field along Rt. 626.
70. **Starling**—Fairly common to common in proper habitat (open country). It was found nesting at the hotel and on the Biological Station grounds where it was not reported in 1959.
71. **White-eyed Vireo**—Occasional. V. Olsen heard one on two different days on Rt. 623 near "Assembly of God" Church. J. and T. Thompson reported one individual in valley across New River. P. Murphy, D. Bell, D. Frank and C. Conrad heard 2 singing in valley on opposite sides of road.
72. **Yellow-throated Vireo**—Occasional. Several reports from the lowlands. J. and T. Thompson heard one near Pembroke. C. Katholi reported one about ½ way down road on west side of Salt Pond Mt. C. Conrad reported hearing 2 and P. Murphy 4 or 5 singing birds.
73. **Solitary Vireo**—Fairly common on the ridge.
74. **Red-eyed Vireo**—Apparently very common at all elevations.
75. **Warbling Vireo**—Several reports from bottomlands near water.
76. **Black-and-white Warbler**—Reports indicate fairly common at lower elevations and common above 2500 feet altitude.
77. **Worm-eating Warbler**—R. Ludwig and F. Scott considered this species fairly common in Poverty Creek Hollow where F. Scott heard 5 singing males on 17 June. Not recorded elsewhere.
78. **Golden-winged Warbler**—Probably fairly common in proper habitat (old fields and bushy clearings). Two pairs reported on Little Meadows study area by S. Brooks, E. Hutton and G. Phillips, J. and T. Thompson saw a male in valley on other side of New River. C. Katholi and A. Shreve reported one on hotel road at about 3,400 feet elevation. C. Conrad recorded 2 as did P. Murphy and H. Postlethwaite along Rt. 613 in valley.
79. **Parula Warbler**—Common where there were hemlock trees. F. Scott had peak counts of 12 singing birds in Poverty Creek Hollow on 17 June and 11 at Little Meadows on 18 June.
80. **Yellow Warbler**—Most observers considered them fairly common in valley areas. K. Anderson and P. Murphy both reported one near the hotel.
81. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**—Quite common at high elevations, especially near Rhododendron thickets. F. Scott reported 37 (mostly singing) at Little Meadows on 18 June.
82. **Black-throated Green Warbler**—Only one record. F. Scott reported a persistently singing bird at Pond Drain on 16 June.
83. **Cerulean Warbler**—Occasional. Several campers reported hearing the singing bird on Gap Mountain (at the top of Poverty Creek road) at 2450 feet elevation. Both C. Conrad and G. Phillips reported hearing this species in the lowlands.
84. **Blackburnian Warbler**—Locally common. Many observers commented on this species. F. Scott had a count of 10 on 17 June in Poverty Creek Hollow (2000 ft. elevation) and 31 at Little Meadows on 18 June (3100 ft.)
85. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**—Common to very common at the higher elevations. F. Scott recorded 32 at the Little Meadows study area on 18 June.

86. **Pine Warbler**—Most observers considered it fairly common in Poverty Creek Hollow where F. Scott found 14 on 17 June. The only other location where this species was noted was a single individual in pines along Rt. 601 and reported by J. and T. Thompson.
87. **Prairie Warbler**—Widespread in the lowlands but only a few noted. V. Olsen reported this species from Poverty Creek road and on Rt. 640 above Eggleston. First song period apparently over.
88. **Ovenbird**—Common in woodlands at all elevations. F. Scott reported 26 at Little Meadows on 18 June and 21 along Poverty Creek on 17 June.
89. **Northern Water-thrush**—Rare. J. and T. Thompson observed one near Cascades.
90. **Louisiana Water-thrush**—Not common. G. Phillips reported one at about 2100 feet elevation in the hollow north of Wind Rock. S. Brooks, E. Hutton and F. Scott saw a pair along New River (on 18 June) carrying food. Several observers commented on the pair (and young) along Poverty Creek. Two others were noted by F. Scott on Spruce Run.
91. **Kentucky Warbler**—Occasional. J. and T. Thompson observed one singing in valley near New River. F. Scott reported a singing bird near Pembroke on 16 June. C. Katholi, A. Shreve and F. Scott found another one in Poverty Creek Hollow on 17 June.
92. **Yellow-throat**—Most observers considered them common in suitable habitat.
93. **Yellow-breasted Chat**—Common in lowlands in suitable habitat. Not reported on ridge.
94. **Hooded Warbler**—Common in lowlands. F. Scott counted 12 singing birds in Poverty Creek Hollow on 17 June. A. Shreve reported an occasional song at 3000 feet elevation.
95. **Canada Warbler**—Common at the higher elevations. In fact, A. Shreve and G. Phillips considered them abundant on the ridge. F. Scott counted 15 at Little Meadows on 18 June.
96. **American Redstart**—Fairly common in woodlands at lower elevations, but several observed on the ridge also. J. and T. Thompson recorded 10 individuals in the valley on 16 June.
97. **House Sparrow**—Common in valley near houses.
98. **Eastern Meadowlark**—Considered fairly common in valley by M. Talbott, T. Thompson and F. Scott. Rest of reporters considered them common.
99. **Red-winged Blackbird**—Fairly common in the valley in proper habitat.
100. **Orchard Oriole**—Not rare in valley in the farming areas. Many observers reported seeing at least 2 males and several young in the Clover Hollow area. P. Murphy and M. Talbott saw this species along Rt. 700 (below hotel) at about 2100 feet elevation.
101. **Baltimore Oriole**—Fairly common. K. Anderson reported several in Clover Hollow. P. Murphy reported 4 in different locations. J. and T. Thompson saw 4 separate broods of young out of nest.
102. **Common Grackle**—Most observers considered them much more common than the Red-winged Blackbird.
103. **Brown-headed Cowbird**—Fairly common throughout. F. Scott observed one young being fed by an adult Black-and-white Warbler in Poverty Creek Hollow on 18 June.
104. **Scarlet Tanager**—Common in all woodlands. In fact, V. Olsen considered

them very common and F. Scott reported a peak count of 15 singing males at Little Meadows on 18 June.

105. **Summer Tanager**—Occasional. Most observers reported a singing male in the Poverty Creek area. J. and T. Thompson reported seeing one at the Boat-house on 13 June and another one "tucking" in a wooded valley on other side of New River.
106. **Cardinal**—Fairly common in valley. Not recorded on ridge.
107. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—Not common. C. Katholi and N. Gluck reported several around lake and a pair with young on top of Salt Pond Mt. P. Murphy and M. Talbott reported them on Bald Knob Trail, the Golf Course road and Stony Creek road.
108. **Blue Grosbeak**—Rare. A. Shreve found a nest with 2 young along Rt. 601, at an elevation of about 1860 feet. Each Foray seems to produce a life bird for many campers and this species provided the excitement for this year. While a group located the general area of the nest, A. Shreve was given the credit because of her insistence on trying to find the nest. T. Thompson observed that the male's territory covered an area along the road of at least a mile.
109. **Indigo Bunting**—Very common at all elevations
110. **American Goldfinch**—Common at all elevations.
111. **Rufous-sided Towhee**—Common throughout.
112. **Grasshopper Sparrow**—Not common. S. Brooks, E. Hutton and F. Scott heard 2 at different locations along Rt. 605. Two or three singing individuals noted in fields in Clover Hollow by C. Katholi, A. Shreve and K. Anderson.
113. **Vesper Sparrow**—Several reports. F. Scott saw 2 in Clover Hollow on 19 June. R. Ludwig and P. Murphy saw one each in the same general area. C. Katholi saw 2 young at the Blacksburg Airport. J. and T. Thompson reported seeing several in the valleys.
114. **Carolina Junco**—Fairly common at the higher altitudes. J. and T. Thompson reported finding several nests. Paul Murphy found an unusual nest (containing 3 young) of this species about 12" above ground in some Chestnut sprouts.
115. **Chipping Sparrow**—Common in lowlands, less so on ridge.
116. **Field Sparrow**—Common in lowlands, perhaps less so on ridge which is often lacking in suitable habitat.
117. **Song Sparrow**—Common in valley. F. Scott noted 2 at the Little Meadows on 18 June.

R.D. 1 Clarksville, Penna.

BIRD BANDING PROJECT, 1965 FORAY

Clark Miller

For the Banding Project for the 1965 Foray the Banding Committee chose to evaluate the difference of nets set in the usual manner and high nets suspended from trees just under the leaf canopy.

A netting site was picked along the bridle paths on both sides of the Golf Course Road about a half mile from the Hotel. Two lanes of nets were put up and the nets furled for the night on Sunday evening, June 13th. Early Monday morning the nets were un-furled and two additional lanes of nets were put up. Also two high nets were suspended from trees with the top of the nets about 20 feet from the ground. The one high net was along a path with a low net lane starting about 100 feet away. The other high net was along a path in a slight depression in a damp hollow with two low nets put up practically under the high net.

By 9:30 A.M. all the nets were in operation and were patrolled till dark. There were 63 individual birds of 20 species caught and banded on Monday. The nets were furled for the night and plans made for operating the nets from daylight till noon on Tuesday. Sometime during Monday night it started to rain, making the netting operation impractical. The rain continued through Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday morning the weather started to clear and after breakfast the nets were un-furled to dry and were patrolled till noon and then taken down. There were five birds caught and Banded on Thursday morning.

This one day of netting did not show any marked difference in the effectiveness of the high net over the low nets, except maybe at the station in the damp hollow. The high net at this station captured ten birds, while the two low nets under this high net captured only thirteen. This particular station was in a very good location. There was no noticeable difference in the species caught in the high nets. This short experiment did show definitely that birds can be caught just under the leaf canopy and the small amount of extra work to put up the high nets is well worth while.

The most common species caught was the Veery with 14 males and 7 females. Following is the list of species banded.

A.O.U. #	Species	Male	Female	Low Net	High Net
452	Great Crested Flycatcher	1	3	3	1
461	Eastern Wood Pewee	1		1	
467	Least Flycatcher	1		1	
495	Brown-headed Cowbird		1		1
567	Carolina Junco		2	2	
587	Rufus-sided Towhee	1	2	3	
595	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2		2	
608	Scarlet Tanager	2	1	1	2
629	Solitary Vireo	1	1	1	1
636	Black and White Warbler	1		1	
654	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	2	3	
662	Blackburnian Warbler	1	1	2	
674	Ovenbird	6	4	10	
686	Canada Warbler	1	2	3	
704	Catbird	2		1	1

705	Brown Thrasher	1	1	
731	Tufted Titmouse	1		1
755	Wood Thrush	1	1	1
756	Veery or Wilson's Thrush	14	7	21
761	Robin	1	1	2
	Totals	37	31	56
				12

Special thanks are extended to Mr. & Mrs. Ballentine, Ralph Bell, Seal Brooks, Norris Gluck, Mrs. Katholi, Mrs. Kiff, John Linehan, Mr. & Mrs. Ludwig, Fred Scott, Mrs. Shreve and many others who so ably assisted to make this combined Banding Operation a success.
Inwood, W. Va.

BREEDING BIRD RECORDS FOR THE 1965 FORAY

Norris Gluck

The Nesting Contest has always been one of the most popular of the many Foray activities and the 1965 Foray was no exception. Its popularity probably results from the facts that every member may participate; it does not require any particular knowledge or special skill; its success depends on a team effort; it stimulates a spirit of competition and, last but not least; it is fun. Much interesting and unusual information is developed as a by-product of the contest, and who knows, perhaps, someday it will lead to an extraordinary scientific discovery. In the 1965 contest over 100 persons participated and 70 individuals reported observations. The net result was 311 breeding records, representing 59 species.

The responsibility of organizing and directing the 1965 Nesting Contest was delegated to the following persons:

Commander-in-Chief	Evan Dressel
Coordinator	Norris Gluck
Coordinators for Juniors	Betty Greenlee, Dorothy Caperton
Team Captains	Carl Slater, Virginia Olsen and Grace Talbott

The rules and regulations previously established for the 1964 Foray were used, with minor changes, for the 1965 contest. A weighted points system was used for evaluating observations and awards were made on the basis of highest points. All camp personnel, except the juniors, were distributed to three senior teams. Past performance was considered in making the distribution. All juniors were members of a fourth team.

The Red Team, captained by Virginia Olsen was the first place winner. The Yellow Team, led by Carl Slater, was second and the White Team, whose captain was Grace Talbott, was third. The Junior Team did an outstanding job and was a close fourth.

Virginia Olsen was the Grand Champion and, of course, was high scorer for the Red Team. Bill Hurley was high scorer for the Yellow Team and George Hurley for the White Team. Donna Rae Shearer was high for the Juniors followed by Robert Lightburn. Awards were made to each member of the Red Team and to the outstanding performers named above. Three families contributed over 20 breeding observations, each, viz., the three Shearers, the three Murphys and the two Olsens. Young Bill Worthley, next to Virginia Olsen, had the greatest number

of breeding observations and deserves special recognition for his excellent work.

A quantitative tabulation of the number of nests and young birds out of nest, by species, is shown below for the 1959 and 1965 Forays. If you will read Dr. Burt's excellent report for the 1962 Foray in the April, 1963 Redstart, you will understand why no attempt is being made to draw any conclusions by comparing the results of the two contests. It might be interesting, however, to mention a few of the "uncontrolled contaminating" variables and speculate briefly on how they might have affected the results. For example, could the mere fact, that in 1959 the campers lived on the grounds of the Biological Station and spent most of their spare time on these grounds, under the canopy of the pine trees, surrounded by bushes, with the forest hardly 20 paces away, have had an effect on the number of breeding records for the Cedar Waxwing (17 vs 5), the Least Flycatcher (10 vs 2), the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (10 vs 5), and the Chestnut-sided Warbler (11 vs 2)? Also could the fact, that every cottage occupied by a BBC'er in 1965 possessed a Barn Swallow nest or two, have had an effect on the breeding observations of this species (8 vs 19)? Could the fog on the mountain top for 3 or 4 days in 1965, have forced the field workers to spend more time in the land of the House Sparrow (5 vs 11) and the Starling (4 vs 12)?

In conclusion, it should be noted that the total number of breeding observations in 1965 exceeded those reported in 1959. What it means statistically, ornithologically, or ecologically, is not explained in this report. But it can be reported, without fear of contradiction, that everyone had a lot of fun!

BREEDING BIRD RECORDS FOR 1959 AND 1965 FORAYS

	1959		1965	
	Nests	Young Out of Nest	Nests	Young Out of Nest
*Green Heron	—	—	—	1
*Black Duck	—	—	—	1
*Wood Duck	—	—	—	2
*Sparrow Hawk	—	—	1	—
Ruffed Grouse	2	4	—	3
*Ruby-throated Hummingbird	—	—	2	—
Yellow-shafted Flicker	6	—	12	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1	—	1	—
*Downy Woodpecker	—	—	2	1
Eastern Kingbird	3	1	11	1
Crested Flycatcher	1	—	1	—
Eastern Phoebe	12	—	13	—
Least Flycatcher	10	—	2	—
Eastern Wood Pewee	1	—	2	—
Barn Swallow	8	—	16	3
*Purple Martin	—	—	1	—

	1959		1965	
	Nests	Young Out of Nest	Nests	Young Out of Nest
*Carolina Chickadee	—	—	—	4
*White-breasted Nuthatch	—	—	1	—
House Wren	1	—	2	1
Bewick's Wren	1	—	—	1
Mockingbird	4	—	8	2
Catbird	7	5	10	2
Brown Thrasher	4	—	8	—
Robin	35	2	49	—
Wood Thrush	4	—	1	1
Veery	4	—	2	—
Bluebird	4	—	7	—
Cedar Waxwing	17	—	5	—
Loggerhead Shrike	—	1	—	2
Starling	4	—	12	—
Solitary Vireo	1	—	1	—
Red-eyed Vireo	4	—	5	—
*Black and White Warbler	—	—	1	4
*Golden-winged Warbler	—	—	2	—
Yellow Warbler	3	—	4	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3	—	3	1
*Blackburnian Warbler	—	—	1	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9	2	2	—
Ovenbird	2	4	3	3
Louisiana Waterthrush	—	1	—	1
*Hooded Warbler	—	—	—	2
Canada Warbler	3	2	1	1
House Sparrow	5	—	11	—
*Eastern Meadowlark	—	—	—	1
Orchard Oriole	1	1	5	2
Baltimore Oriole	4	1	5	2
Common Grackle	—	1	2	—
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	2	3	1
*Scarlet Tanager	—	—	2	1
Cardinal	1	—	3	—
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8	2	3	2
*Blue Grosbeak	—	—	1	—
Indigo Bunting	5	2	5	1

	1959		1965	
	Nests	Young Out of Nest	Nests	Young Out of Nest
Rufous-sided Towhee	3	—	2	5
*Grasshopper Sparrow	—	—	1	—
Carolina Junco	5	2	7	—
Chipping Sparrow	9	2	6	3
Field Sparrow	1	1	2	1

1959 BREEDING SPECIES, NOT REPORTED IN 1965

Song Sparrow	5	—	2	—
Broad-winged Hawk	1	—	—	—
Mourning Dove	1	—	—	—
Turkey	—	1	—	—
Rough-winged Swallow	3	—	—	—
Common Crow	—	1	—	—
Yellow-throat	—	2	—	—
American Redstart	—	2	—	—
Red-winged Blackbird	—	1	—	—
Vesper Sparrow	—	1	—	—
Total †	208	44	252	59
Total Breeding Species		51		59
* New Breeding Record for Mt. Lake List				
† Includes Brown-headed Cowbird in Host Nests				

Annotated List of Breeding Birds for the 1965 Foray

- *Green Heron:** Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—1
 Ken Anderson reported seeing young in trees, on Sarver farm, Newport, Va. These birds had been observed in the nest by Mr. Sarver on June 7.
- *Black Duck:** Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—One Brood
 Anne Shreve saw 9 young on a pond stream at V.P.I., Blacksburg, Va.
- *Wood Duck:** Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—Two Broods (18 young)
 Fred Scott reported a brood of 8 on New River near Eggleston. George Hurley, Koch and Anderson also saw a brood of 10 on New River several miles upstream from Eggleston.
- *Sparrow Hawk:** Nests—1
 Martha Shearer, on June 16 and 17, watched parents feed young several times in a nest located in a hole, about 15 feet up, in church. Sparrow hawks seem to prefer church buildings for nest sites. Last year two nests were found in churches.
- Ruffed-Grouse:** Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—3 broods (18 young)
 One brood of 10 was seen on trail above the Lake. The other two broods consisted of 7 and 1, respectively.
- *Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Nests—2
 Female was sitting on each nest. One was found by Max Thacker 12 feet from the ground in a Chestnut Oak in Clover Valley on Rt. 602. The other was reported by Meeker Metzger III, about 20 feet up in a maple tree, by a gasoline station. It is quite an accomplishment to observe two hummingbird nests during a one week period.
- Yellow-shafted Flicker** Nests—12 Out-of-Nest—1
 Ten individuals found nests and except for two posts, all were in trees. One nest had 6 eggs, the remainder had young in the nests. Six nests were reported in 1959.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Nests—1
 Martha Shearer found the only nest on June 18, approximately 25 feet above ground in an oak tree on Poverty Hollow Road. The female was on the nest with her head stuck out of the hole.
- *Downy Woodpecker:** Nests—2 Out-of-Nest—1
 Chuck Conrad and Norris Gluck found the only nests, both with young birds; one along the road near Clover Hollow Church, the other on Rt. 201. Helen Boecher observed a male feeding a young bird on a fence post on Rt. 601.
- Eastern Kingbird:** Nests—11 Out-of-Nest—1
 Ten individuals found nests and more than one-half of the nests had young. Altitudes varied from 1690 to 2700 feet. Only three nests were reported for this species in 1959.
- Crested Flycatcher** Nests—1
 Bill Worthley found the only nest in a tree cavity, about 20 feet high. One nest was reported in 1959.

- Eastern Phoebe** Nests—13
 Thirteen individuals found nests; ten nests were located in sheds, cabins, buildings, etc., two under bridges and one on a rock ledge. The average distance from the ground was approximately 8½ feet. Seven nests had young; three had 5 eggs each.
- Least Flycatcher:** Nests—2
 Josephine Wood and Claude Ross found birds on the two nests reported; one was at the Biological Station. In 1959, when we stayed in the cabins at the Biological Station, 10 nests were reported and all but one were "on campus".
- Eastern Wood Pewee:** Nests—2
 The nest of this species is difficult to find, especially when the bird is incubating. Martha Shearer found one bird on a nest, 20 feet up in a locust tree on Route 601 near Route 460. Bill Hurley found the other in an oak, approximately 18 feet above ground at the forks of the Cascade-Mt. Lake roads. In 1959 only one nest was found.
- Barn Swallow:** Nests—16 Out-of-Nest—3
 Apparently the location of our living quarters had a favorable effect on the number of nests reported for this species. Eleven sites were at the cottages where we lived; four were located in barns. There were 11 reports of young in nest. The Pewee Team found 11 nests and Robert Lightburn found 4 of them. Only 8 nests were reported in 1959.
- *Purple Martin:** Nests—1
 Pat Murphy and P. W. Postlethwaite found the only nest at Ripplemead. The birds had just arrived at the martin house.
- *Carolina Chickadee:** Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—4
 Ken Anderson, Fred Scott and Shirley Ludwig found adults feeding young out of nests at Eggleston, on New River at Norris Run and in Jefferson National Forest, respectively. Donald Shearer also reported young out of nest.
- *White-breasted Nuthatch** Nests—1
 Ralph Bell found the only nest, near the banding area, approximately 30 feet up in a knot hole in an oak. Parents were feeding the young.
- House Wren:** Nests—2 Out-of-Nest—1
 Pat Murphy found a nest under construction at Pembroke and Grace Talbott found one at Pearisburg with young in nest; both were in boxes. Donald Shearer found young out of nest.
- Bewick's Wren:** Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—1
 Tom Thomson and Dave Baker observed parents feeding 4 fledglings on Route 602 for the only breeding record.
- Mockingbird:** Nests—8 Out-of-Nest—2
 Most of these nests (6) were in shrubs or evergreen trees, the average distance above ground was 10 feet. Four had young, two had eggs and two were indeterminate. One out-of-nest observation reported parents feeding three young in separate

cedar trees; in the other case parents were feeding two young birds out of nest.

Catbird: Nests—10 Out-of-Nest—2

Seven nests contained eggs, and three contained fledglings. Nests were found 3½ feet to 9 feet high. One was located in a building, the remainder in shrubs and trees.

Brown Thrasher: Nests—8

Six nests had eggs and two had 4 young in each. Only three records showed the number of eggs: 3, 4, and 4. Four nests were in shrubs, the others in a grape vine, low yew tree, an apple tree, and fence post. The average distance above the ground was 4 feet.

Robin: Nests—49

One nest out of every five reported this year was a robin. The only information reported for 19 nests was "adult on nest" and seven others specified unknown number of eggs in nests; three eggs were counted in each of 5 nests, four eggs in one and one egg in another. The remaining 15 showed young in nest.

One young bird was counted in one nest, two in three nests, three in three nests and four in three nests. The number of young could not be determined in five nests.

Nests were found in at least 12 different species of trees with no particular favorites. Ten nests were associated with buildings. Since information was incomplete on at least one-fourth of the cards, it is very difficult to draw accurate conclusions. Three nests were built below 5 feet and three at 30 feet. Nineteen between 11-20 feet and seven between 6-10 feet. Twelve reports did not indicate this information.

Wood Thrush: Nests—1 Out-of-Nest—1

Virginia Olsen found the only nest, about 6 feet high, in a maple tree near the bank of a stream on Route 623. Mary Frank found young out of nest at edge of woods along a pasture field

Veery: Nests—2

Ralph Bell found a nest with three eggs, in a shrub about 8 inches above ground, near the banding area. Bill Worthley found another nest with four eggs, on the ground in a shrub on June 12. The next day he visited the nest and all the eggs were gone. Both nests were in the woods.

Bluebird: Nests—7

All nests were in fence posts, 3-5 feet above the ground, in fields. Two nests contained young, the other five had eggs. Four eggs were counted in one nest, 5 in another, and 4 young in another nest. Counts could not be obtained at the other nests.

Cedar Waxwing: Nests—5

In 1959, 17 nests were found in the camp area at the Biological Station. This year, two nests were found at the Biological Station, two within 100 yards of the cabin and hotel area and one on Pembroke Rd. 601. One nest was under construction, adults were sitting on three nests and one contained young. The nest sites described were oak(2), pine and maple.

Loggerhead Shrike: Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—2

Tom Thomson made both observations of young out-of-nest, one was along Rt. 680.

Starling: Nests—12

Eleven nests contained unknown number of young and one was under construction. Buildings(5), cavities in trees(5), a cliff and a martin box provided sites for nests. The height of nests varied from 5-30 feet. Only 4 nests were reported in 1959.

Solitary Vireo: Nests—1

The only nest reported was by Dr. Burns, June 15, at Biological Station. It was located about 7 feet above ground in a viburnum and had 3 young birds.

Red-eyed Vireo: Nests—5

Three persons reported nests: George Hurley(2), Maxine Kiff(2), and Anne Shreve(1). Three nests were in sugar maples and two in oak trees. Two were within 5-7 feet of ground and three were 12-15 feet. Both of lower nests had young cowbirds. Maxine Kiff found a young cowbird and a cowbird egg in one nest but no sign of vireo eggs. George Hurley found one young cowbird and 3 vireo eggs in another nest. George also reported another nest with one vireo egg and two young vireos. All nests contained young birds.

***Black and White Warbler** Nests—1 Out-of-Nest—4

Tom Thompson reported the only nest. It contained 4 eggs and was located on the ground along a bank in the woods. Donald Shearer and Fred Scott each reported adults feeding young Cowbirds at Poverty Hollow and Clark Miller observed a female feeding young out of nest in Poverty Hollow. Bill Worthley found a fledgling out of nest at Mt. Lake and Shirley Ludwig observed adults feeding two in Jefferson National Forest in Montgomery County. No nest was reported in 1959.

***Golden-winged Warbler:** Nests—2

Glen Phillips found a nest, 6 inches above the ground in a St. John's Wort plant with 3 eggs, on June 16. He visited the nest again the next day and a predator had taken the eggs. Marie Mastellar, along with R. Wooten, found a nest, with 3 young, by a shrub at Ripplemead.

Yellow Warbler: Nests—4 Out-of-Nest—1

Three nests contained young and one had eggs. Two were found on Rt. 601 and one at Eggleston. The nests ranged from 5-25 feet above ground, all were located in trees which included an apple and a sugar maple.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Nests—3 Out-of-Nest—1

Two nests contained young birds, one had 3 fledglings, the other had a young Black-throated Blue Warbler and a young Cowbird. The other nest had 5 eggs including one Cowbird egg. All nests were within 10-12 inches of the ground, one in a cohosh plant and one in a briar among ferns. Two were at the Biological Station, the other on the back road to Pembroke, at altitudes of approximately 3800 feet. Fred Scott found adults feeding one fledgling near White Pine Lodge.

***Blackburnian Warbler:** Nests—1 Out-of-Nest—1

Bill Hurley reported the only nest, about 40 feet up in a hickory tree on Cascades Rd., with young in nest. Fred Scott reported an adult feeding a young bird out of nest near White Pine Lodge. These nests were at altitudes of 3100-3500 feet.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Nests—2

George Hurley found a nest, 1½ feet in an azalea, at the Moonshine Dell Study

Area with one egg. Mae Gicquelais found the other, about 2 feet from the ground, fastened to a briar bush in a cinnamon fern. Nest contained one warbler egg and one Cowbird egg. While female was on nest, the male flew in and fed her. Both nests were at an altitude of approximately 4000 feet. In 1959, nine nests and two out of nest observations were reported.

Ovenbird: Nests—3 Out-of-Nest—3

One nest had two eggs, another 4 eggs and the third nest contained 4 young birds. One was located at Biological Station, one at Pond Drain Study Area and one was about one mile from Mt. Lake on back road to Hoge's Store. The "broken wing" act drew Ken Anderson's attention to one of the nests. Five young birds were found out of nest.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—1

Fred Scott found adults feeding two young out of nest in woods on Poverty Creek for the only breeding record for this species.

***Hooded Warbler:** Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—2

David Frank saw a young bird, 2½ miles below camp on road to Pembroke at altitude of approximately 3500 feet and Virginia Olsen observed young out of nest on Poverty Creek.

Canada Warbler Nests—1 Out-of-Nest—1

Lois Garret reported the only nest of this "camp bird". It was on the ground along the road from Camp area to Biological Station and contained 3 young birds and one Cowbird egg. Bill Worthley found one fledgling out of nest near the camp area.

House Sparrow: Nests—11

Apparently the majority of the House Sparrows in this area do not depend on the buildings of man for nest sites, as six were in trees and fence posts, the remaining five in barns, sheds, and houses. All nests were reported at altitudes of 2500 feet or less. Only 5 nests were reported in 1959.

***Eastern Meadowlark:** Nests—0 Out-of-Nest—1

Anne Shreve observed adults feeding 4 young out of nest for the only breeding record of this species. These were seen along road to camp (hotel).

Orchard Oriole: Nests—5 Out-of-Nest—2

Three of the nests contained young and in two of these cases, the adults were also feeding a young bird out of nest. Nests were 18-25 feet above ground in elm, black walnut, and hickory trees. Tree species was not reported for two nests. Laura Koch reported adults feeding three fledglings out of nest at intersection of Rts. 700 and 765. Brooks and Hutton observed the male parent urging a young bird to fly along Rt. 601. Only one nest was reported in 1959.

Baltimore Oriole: Nests—5 Out-of-Nest—2

All 5 nests contained young birds and in one instance one young was also being fed out of the nest. Most of these nests were found on Rt. 602. One nest was in a sycamore tree and another in a poplar.

Common Grackle: Nests—2

Virginia Olsen and Dave Baker reported seeing parents on two nests, in trees approximately 20 and 35 feet above ground. In 1959 only breeding observation was one young out of nest.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Nests—3 (in host nests) Out-of-Nest—1

A young cowbird and a cowbird egg were found in one Red-Eyed Vireo nest while another Cowbird egg was found, along with 3 Vireo eggs, in another Red-eyed Vireo nest. Both nests were within 5-7 feet of ground. A Cowbird egg was found in a Canada Warbler nest which was located on ground along road from Camp to Biological Station. Fred Scott and Don Shearer each observed a Black and White Warbler feeding a young Cowbird out of nest at Poverty Hollow.

***Scarlet Tanager:** Nests—2 Out-of-Nest—1

Paul Murphy found an adult feeding young in a nest 25 feet up in a pine tree at the Biological Station. Virginia Olsen observed a female on a nest, 30 feet up in a tree, on Rt. 623. Dorothy Caperton reported young birds out of nest at Poverty Creek.

Cardinal: Nests—3

One nest, with 3 eggs was found about 3 feet above ground, in a blackberry bush, another with one egg and a young bird, about 5 feet up in a young cedar tree on Rt. 613. An adult was on a nest, 10 feet up in a dogwood tree, at intersection of Rts. 700 and 765.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Nests—3 Out-of-Nest—2

Adults were sitting on each of the three nests, one being a male. Two of the nests were on the Biological Station grounds, the other was in a beech tree along road at Biological Station, .65 miles from hotel. The height above ground for these nests were, 12, 12, and 20 feet respectively. Young out of nest were seen near the Biological Station and at the Stoney Creek Lookout. All breeding sites were approximately 3800-4000 feet above sea level. In 1959, ten breeding observations were reported, including 8 nests.

***Blue Grosbeak:** Nests—1

The observation which caused the most excitement in camp was the Blue Grosbeak nest found by Anne Shreve along the Clover Hollow Road about 1 mile southwest of the Clover Hollow Church. The nest was in a hickory sprout, 6 inches above ground, among high weeds, against a bank within 10-12 feet of road and near a locust tree. This site was located about 3½ miles southeast of Mt. Lake and about 3 miles north of Newport at an elevation of approximately 1950 feet. This is an unusually high elevation for this species. The parents were bringing food to two young birds, probably a day or two old.

Indigo Bunting: Nests—5 Out-of-Nest—1

The nests were in shrubs and weeds, 1-1½ feet above the ground. One nest contained 3 eggs, another had four. Two nests had 4 young each and one contained 3 young birds. One nest was on Cascades road and another on a dirt road, 3 miles below camp. Parent was feeding two young out of nest along Poverty Creek road.

Rufous-sided Towhee: Nests—2 Out-of-Nest—5

One nest, with 3 eggs was located in a locust tree at Newport, the other had 3 young and was on the ground under a shrub. Bill Worthley reported three of the five observations of young birds out of nests.

*Grasshopper Sparrow: Nests—1

Helen Boecher found the only nest of this species. It was located on the ground in a pasture field along Rt. 602 and contained 4 eggs, each marked with a heavy brown speckled ring at the large end.

Carolina Junco Nests—7

Each of five of these nests contained 3 young birds; another had 4 eggs. Mary Ford found a nest on June 14 on a bank by the road to Biological Station which contained 5 eggs. On June 17, the nest had young birds, a day or two old. All of the nests were found on banks along roads, except one which was found by Pat Murphy, in a very unusual location—in a chestnut sprout approximately 12 inches above the ground along Stoney Creek road. The species was chosen as a second Foray Bird and will be included in a special report.

Chipping Sparrow: Nests—6 Out-of-Nest—3

Three nests contained eggs, two with 3 eggs, 1 with 4 and adults were sitting on two nests. The other nest contained 3 young. Three nests were in shrubs, 4 feet or less above the ground, one in an apple tree at 8 feet, one in a white oak at 15-20 feet and one at the unusual height of 40 feet in a buckeye tree.

Field Sparrow: Nests—2 Out-of-Nest—1

One nest, with 3 eggs, was found in a locust bush on Rt. 602, the other was located in a fence and contained 2 young birds. Two young birds out of nest were observed on Rt. 613.

Song Sparrow: Nests—2

Both nests contained eggs, one with 6 eggs, and both were located in shrubs. One nest was in Clover Hollow.

(*) Indicates new breeding record for Mountain Lake list.

1424 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, W. Va.

FORAY BIRD PROJECT

George Hurley

The Canada Warbler was chosen to be the Foray bird in 1965 with the Carolina Junco as an alternate. Since the only Canada Warbler nest reported was unsuited for study due to its location along the main road through the area, the Junco was studied. A comparison of the findings with those revealed in D. Ralph Hostetter's Dissertation on the Life History of the Carolina Junco shows that we added essentially no new information to the subject. The major part of the field work in preparation for Hostetter's thesis was carried out in the Mountain Lake area and involved, in part, the exhaustive study of 80 nests of the bird. By comparison, a combination of cold, rainy weather and limited available assistance reduced the present study to a two days observation of one nest.

The nest was located on the Hotel grounds on a grassy bank in the bend of the road to the east of the Hotel. It was about 75 feet from one of the guest buildings which was being remodeled and subject to noise such as carpenters would make. The nest was within 12 feet of a heavily traveled road used by foot and auto traffic as well as riders on horseback. The burlap blind was placed across the road and about 25 feet from the nest. Behind the blind (NE) was a small woodland which, other than some scattered shrubs and single trees, was the only cover for several hundred feet. A parking lot immediately west of the blind was much used and contributed another element of distraction. Several holes in the burlap were used by the two observers. One recorded observations made by the other using a 20x Bausch and Lomb Balscope. Observers worked in 2 to 4 hour shifts. The nest was under observation from 2 to 6:30 P.M. on June 17 and from 6 to 11:30 A.M. on June 18, 1965. It contained three young estimated to be about 7 to 10 days old.

Feeding Habits

Since the major activity at this stage of the nesting cycle involved feeding the young, most of the observations made concerned feeding habits. The male contributed most by averaging one trip with food every 13 minutes while the female's average interval was 19 minutes. This frequency varied with the time of day. From 6 to 7 A.M., a total of 12 trips were made with food, while from 10 to 11 A.M. only 5 were counted. The male obtained most of his food in the wooded area behind the blind. It consisted mainly of green, smooth-skinned larvae about an inch long with two rows of white dots and one row of black dots along the sides. The male generally flew directly to the nest, fed and left at once. As he approached, the female usually flew off. She proceeded to gather food from roadside ditches and grassy banks generally within 10 to 30 feet of the nest. Her contribution seemed to be whatever she could obtain in a hurry so as not to be gone long from the nest. This took the form of insects of the appearance of lacewings or mosquitoes—generally nondescript and certainly less voluminous than that offered by the male.

Extraneous Noises

People walking along the road near the nest usually did not disturb the bird on the nest. Generally, their talking also did not alert it. However, an occasional voice seemed to cause it momentary alarm. One could surmise that some characteristic of that particular voice was different enough from the normal human sound to

cause alarm. Also, if the sound came from a new direction from which people were not expected, the brooding bird was alerted. Generally, cars were treated similarly. Most were watched by the bird but only an occasional one seemed to startle it.

On one occasion, a passing horse shied at sight of the blind and caused the female to fly to an overhead wire chirping as if to reassure the young in the nest. The bird returned to the nest immediately as the horse was led away. Intentional paper rustling, sneezing or squeaking in the blind momentarily startled the bird. The sound of a rusty nail being pulled 75 feet away on the building being repaired caused her to jerk up in alarm. However, sawing with a handsaw and intermittent hammering produced no response. A power mower being started 50 feet away was almost ignored. Thus, it seemed as if the bird was alerted to new noises and generally grew to ignore them after hearing them often.

Song

The male usually sang from some spot to the rear of the blind. Sometimes he used the tree whose branches extended partially over the blind. His station here was directly over the blind. An electric wire over the nest was a favorite station. Each time he sang, the female's attention was drawn and she seemed to be looking in his direction. The song lasted about one and three-quarters seconds. Notes could be separately counted if done rapidly as, one- one- one, etc.

Miscellaneous

In the colder early morning hours one would expect the young to be covered or brooded a greater portion of the time. We noted that the female was on the nest 57 percent of the time between 6:15 and 8:15 A.M. but spent only 27.5 percent of the time brooding during the 9:10 to 11:10 interval when it was warmer. She did all of the brooding and always sat with her left profile facing the blind. (The bank on which the nest was located ran east-west).

Numerous insects, including ants, crawled about on the edge of the nest. Many were eaten by the female. She also picked things off the young occasionally and ate them. These may have been ants or lice. Both parents were diligent in nest sanitation with the male seemingly doing the greater part.

In Closing

While, as noted above, we didn't contribute much to the knowledge of the Carolina Junco, the people who gave of their time to assist felt it worthwhile. Much could be learned if the study were to be expanded at future Forays. The assistance of Mrs. Katherine Sigel, Mrs. Sylvia Reebel, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Eichleay, George Ballentine, Don McBeth and Ken Anderson is acknowledged and appreciated.

Literature Cited

Hostetter, D. Ralph, Life History of the Carolina Junco, *The Raven*, XXXII, 97-167 (1961)
920 Hughes Drive, St. Albans, W. Va.



FIELD NOTES

Mrs. Nevada Laitisch, Editor
MC 21, East Liverpool, Ohio

Contributions Due

Fall Season (Sept. 1-Nov. 30) . . . Dec. 15
Winter Season (Dec. 1-Feb. 28) . . Mar. 15
Spring Season (Mar. 1-May. 31) . . June 15
Summer Season (June 1-Aug. 31) . Sept. 15

The September weather was fairly typical with warm sunny days and cool nights. Rainfall was about average. October had considerable rainfall during first part of the month, followed by ten days of Indian Summer which ended abruptly October 24 when the first snowfall covered the mountain regions. November was generally warmer than usual and snowfall was confined to a few flurries.

There was an abundance of natural food of all kinds. This, and the unusually mild weather throughout the period, gave little reason for feeder concentrations. Hints of a northern finch invasion came in mid-October, but except for Pine Siskins, no inundation has occurred. The waterfowl flight was poor; however a few unusual Fall records were submitted. Conclusions on the passerine migration were drawn mainly from banding results at the Red Creek Campground banding station on Allegheny Front Mountain, Tucker County, West Virginia. The station, now in its eighth consecutive year, was in continuous operation from August 30 through September 28, and on week-ends through October 17. Although mist netting is the most important facet of the station, observers at the station learn many more things about migration. Heavy flights of some species pass over the station when none are caught. Results here point to a good migration contrasting the comments "poor to fair" by binocular birders afield only occasionally.

The Editor welcomes field notes from the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania ably compiled by G. Bernard Van Cleve. Since there were 24 contributors in this group, in most cases reference has been made only to the organization and contributors listed as ASWP. Another welcome addition was the report from Barnesville, Ohio by Mabel Edgerton and Mary Chapman.

Loons, Grebes and Herons—**Common Loons** were reported by most observers beginning Oct. 23-24 which was concurrent with the first extreme weather. A **Red-throated Loon** was on Seneca Lake, near Barnesville, Ohio, Nov. 21 (E&C) and 2 were on the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir near Columbus, Ohio Dec. 4 (HEB). **Horned Grebes** were observed at Seneca Lake, near Barnesville, Ohio from Oct. 10 through November (E&C); a raft of 200 were on the Kanawha River Oct. 24 (GFH); listed at Pymatuning, Pa. Oct. 30 (ASWP) and on Kanawha River at Charleston, W. Va. Nov. 11 and 15 (CK&NG). The flight of **Pied-billed Grebes** was a little early but appeared about normal in numbers. They appeared at Seneca Lake, Ohio before the end of August (E&C); were at Cadiz, Ohio Sept. 15 (TMF) and 46 were noted

on a small lake near Beverly, W. Va. Sept. 25 (WLW). **Great Blue Herons** were still found on the Ohio River, Seneca Lake, Ohio and Pymatuning, Pa. at the end of November. 3 **Common Egrets** arrived at Seneca Lake, Ohio Aug. 5 and remained until Oct. 2 (E&C); listed at Pymatuning, Pa. Sept. 26 (ASWP) and 8 were seen in trees at Lake Piedmont, Harrison County, Ohio in mid November (PT). 4 adult and 5 immature **Black-crowned Night Herons** were at the Pymatuning Reservoir, Pa. on Sept. 26 (ASWP). A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** appeared on Magic Island, Kanawha River, Charleston, W. Va. on Sept. 13 and remained for several days (NG).

Waterfowl—A **Whistling Swan** was on Cheat Lake near Morgantown, W. Va. Oct. 24 (GAH) and 39 were at Hoover Reservoir NE of Columbus, Ohio Oct. 29 (HEB). They are seldom recorded at either location in the Fall. Although there were no spectacular flights of **Canada Geese**, populations were considered normal at the Pymatuning Refuge at Linesville, Pa., the McClintic Wildlife Refuge, Mason County W. Va. and at Willoughby, Ohio. 4 **Snow Geese** and 35 **Blue Geese** were at the Hoover Reservoir near Columbus, Ohio Oct. 29 (HEB) and **Snow Geese** and **Blue Geese** were reported at Bear Rock Lakes, near Triadelphia, W. Va. Nov. 27 fide (PT). The duck flight appeared poor. Reporters covering the Refuges were in agreement that **Mallards**, **Black Ducks** and **Wood Ducks** were plentiful but most others were listed sparingly. A fair number of **Gadwalls** appeared on Seneca Lake near Barnesville, Ohio Oct. 10 (E&C). **Pintails** were considered scarce by all mentioning them. **Shovelers** were in good numbers at Seneca Lake, Ohio Oct. 2 (E&C) and the number of **Ring-necked Ducks** were considered fair at the same location. No **Widgeons** or **Redheads** were seen in this area and other reporters listed them sparingly. A **White winged Scoter** was listed at Seneca Lake, Ohio Oct. 16 (PT); an adult male was on Cheat Lake, Morgantown, W. Va. Oct. 24 (GAH) and on same date 4 females of this species were seen near Cadiz, Ohio (TMF).

Vultures and Hawks—A flock of 54 **Black Vultures** was observed soaring near Peter's Mountain, Monroe County, W. Va. Sept. 18 (NG). A **Goshawk** was observed for several minutes at East Liverpool, Ohio on Nov. 24 (NL) and was seen the following day at Chester, W. Va. (ERC). An early record for **Rough-legged Hawk** was made at the Red Creek Banding Station on Sept. 26 when an individual of dark phase was observed by 3 banders (GAH); another was seen at the same location Oct. 17 (GAH). A **Golden Eagle** was seen at Bear Rocks, Tucker County, W. Va. Sept. 5 (GAH) and an immature was seen at the same location Oct. 20 (WLW). An immature **Bald Eagle** was seen at the same time. An adult **Bald Eagle** was listed at Geneva Swamp, Crawford County, Pa. Sept. 26 (ASWP). A **Pigeon Hawk** was seen at Bear Rocks, Tucker County, W. Va. Oct. 16 (GAH). The **Sparrow Hawk** population appeared normal.

Grouse, Bobwhite and Pheasants—**Ruffed Grouse** were considered plentiful in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia (CM) and in the Northern Panhandle (ERC). Also plentiful in the hilly sections of Columbiana and Harrison Counties, Ohio (NL; TMF) and Beaver and Allegheny Counties, Pa. (ASWP). **Bobwhites** appeared plentiful in West Virginia. More than three times as many were harvested in Mason County, W. Va. during November this year than were taken during the entire season last year (COH). **Ring-necked Pheasants** were noted quite frequently by ASWP. Numbers were good in the farmland section surrounding East Liverpool, Ohio (NL).

Rails and Coots—**American Coots** were by no means scarce this fall. They were present at North Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. through Nov. 6 usually in excess of 10

with 21 counted Nov. 2 (ASWP); at Seneca Lake, Ohio from early October through mid November in "tremendous numbers" (E&C); McClintic Wildlife Refuge, Mason County, W. Va. Oct. 23 (BBC) and a flock of 50 were there Nov. 17 (DS).

Shorebirds—The Shorebird migration was extremely poor. From Seneca Lake, Ohio which is considered a shorebird mecca in some years, comes the comment "very low shorebird numbers—high lake levels and no mud flats!" A **Semipalmated Plover** was found there Sept. 11 (E&C) and many **Killdeer** were there through November. **Common Snipe** arrived at Inwood, W. Va. Sept. 26 (CM) and were listed in the Pymatuning, Pa. area the same day. (ASWP). Very low numbers at Seneca Lake, Ohio (E&C). A **Dunlin** was seen at Seneca Lake, Ohio Oct. 16 (E&C; PT) and 11 were seen in the Pymatuning, Pa. area on Nov. 10 (MS). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was recorded at Seneca Lake, Ohio Oct. 2 (E&C).

Gulls and Terns—Many **Ring-billed Gulls** were on the Ohio River between Marietta and East Liverpool, Ohio Oct. 24 (NL); noted at Seneca Lake, Ohio Oct. 17 with good numbers present by the end of November (E&C). 135 were counted at Pymatuning, Pa. Oct. 30 (ASWP). Several thousand were observed at Tappan Lake, Harrison County, Ohio first of November (PT). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Seneca Lake, Ohio in fairly good numbers Oct. 10 (E&C) and 25 were sighted at Pymatuning, Pa. Reservoir on Oct. 30 (ASWP). **Common Terns** appeared at Seneca Lake, Ohio on Sept. 25 but numbers were low and this was the only species of tern listed there (E&C).

Owls—**Screech Owls** were common in Inwood, W. Va. area (CM); several reports came from the Pittsburgh, Pa. area (ASWP) and one is wintering at home in East Liverpool, Ohio (NL) for third straight year. A **Great Horned Owl** was seen on Nov. 28 near Chester, W. Va. (ERC). A **Snowy Owl** was photographed at Willoughby, Ohio Nov. 10 (MS). A **Long-eared Owl** was reported at Franklin Park, Allegheny County, Pa. Sept. 18 (ASWP). 6 **Saw-whet Owls** were banded at the Red Creek station Aug 31-Oct. 17. One was seen at Clarksville, Pa. Nov. 6 (RKB).

Nighthawks and Swifts—The **Common Nighthawk** migration was spectacular in many areas. The earliest migration reported from Charleston, W. Va. on Aug. 18 when "hundreds were in the valley from South Charleston eastward (CK). Another large flight over the same general area was reported by several persons on Sept. 3. The Pittsburgh, Pa. region saw heavy flights beginning Aug. 24 (ASWP); upward of 2000 passed over the Red Creek banding station in Tucker County, W. Va. on the evening of Sept. 2 and hundreds were in the air on Sept. 3 near Florence, Pa. and at East Liverpool, Ohio (NL). Bell noted a good flight at Clarksville, Pa. peaking Sept. 5. A late straggler was found at North Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. Oct. 18 (ASWP). **Chimney Swifts** were plentiful and appeared reluctant to depart. On Oct. 7 a flock of 50 or more were observed going into a chimney at Kanawha City near Charleston, W. Va. (COH) and 9 were seen at North Park on Oct. 11 (ASWP).

Woodpeckers—**Flickers** were abundant throughout the region. Large numbers flew over the Allegheny Front Mountain at Bear Rocks Sept. 25-26 (NL). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived in good numbers and were early. One was recorded at Carnegie, Pa. on Aug. 28 D.F. Vollant fide (ASWP); several were seen in Hocking County, Ohio Sept. 15 (NL); 8 were banded at the Red Creek station with many flying over (GAH) and Hurley reported a good migration in Kanawha County, W. Va. **Downy Woodpeckers** seem to be in better than normal number in many area.

Flycatchers and Swallows—6 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were banded at the Red Creek Banding Station between Sept. 1 and 11 representing a good year (GAH).

One was recorded at East Liverpool, Ohio on Sept. 14 (NL). An **Acadian Flycatcher** banded at the Red Creek station was a new species for that location. A flock of 80 **Tree Swallows** and 6 **Cliff Swallows** were seen in the Pymatuning, Pa. area Sept. 26 (ASWP).

Jays—Although 133 **Blue Jays** were banded at the Red Creek station in Tucker County, W. Va. between Sept. 19 and Oct. 17, the flight across the mountain was considered lighter than in the past years (GAH). Other reporters regarded their population as normal.

Chickadees, Nuthatches and Wrens—A good **Black-capped Chickadee** flight was apparent throughout the region with the peak occurring about Oct. 28-30. 23 were banded at Clarksville, Pa. before 10:00 AM on Oct. 28 with many flying over (RKB). **Carolina Chickadee** numbers were considered very good by all commenting on them. The **White-breasted Nuthatch** population appeared to be better than usual. There was a heavy flight of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** which began to arrive early—Sept. 5 at Fairmont, W. Va. (NL) and were well distributed over the region by the end of September. The August 18 date for a **Brown Creeper** at Emsworth, (Allegheny County) Pa. was noteworthy, K. Sigel fide (ASWP). There was a good flight across the Allegheny Front Mountain in Tucker County, W. Va. throughout September and 13 were banded at the Red Creek station (GAH). More than usual were seen in the Charleston, W. Va. area (CK; NG). The last date for **House Wren** was Oct. 16 at Carnegie, Pa. (ASWP). Gluck comments that he has seen a number of **Winter Wrens** this fall in the Charleston, W. Va. area and they were listed on most every field trip in the East Liverpool, Ohio area (ERC) and Allegheny and Beaver Counties, Pa. (ASWP). **Carolina Wrens** appear to have regained their normal populations.

Mimics—Nov. 16 was the date for **Mockingbirds** to appear in two new localities—one at Pleasant Hills (Allegheny County) Pa. (ASWP) and one at East Liverpool, Ohio (NL). **Catbirds** appeared about normal and remained in several areas well into October.

Thrushes—**Robins** appeared to have had a very good year with heavy flights reported throughout the region. Most reporters thought the **Wood Thrush** migration was poor. However, 44 were banded at the Red Creek station, one as late as Oct. 10. The flight was considered good for that location (GAH). The 12 **Hermit Thrush** banded at Red Creek was about normal. More than usual were reported seen in the Charleston, W. Va. area and several were seen as late as Nov. 24 (NG). The Aug. 29 record for **Swainson's Thrush** at Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. (GBVC) was early. A good flight of this species occurred at East Liverpool, Ohio and 352 banded at Red Creek between Aug. 31 and Oct. 10. The peak was Sept. 25-26 and the 30 which were banded in October was unusual for that locality (GAH). This appeared to be an unusual year for **Gray-cheeked Thrush** with several October records for this species. 29 were banded at the Red Creek station; one was seen at East Liverpool, Ohio Oct. 6 (NL); one banded at Clarksville, Pa. Oct. 13 (RKB) and a very late one at Morgantown on Oct. 23 (GAH). **Bluebirds** were considered more common than usual by those making comments.

Gnatcatchers and Kinglets—A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was recorded at South Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sept. 11 by W. Hammond (ASWP). Both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** staged a good flight throughout most of the region. 2 **Ruby-crowned** caught at the Red Creek station on Sept. 16 was early (GAH). A very heavy

concentration of this species was found at Cedar Lakes, near Ripley, W. Va. Oct. 24 (BBC).

Pipits and Shrikes—15 **Water Pipits** were seen in the Pymatuning, Pa. area Oct. 30 (ASWP). 4 **Loggerhead Shrikes** were seen near Pickaway, Monroe County, W. Va. Sept. 16 (NG) and one was seen near Point Pleasant, W. Va. on Nov. 10 (CK).

Vireos—A **White-eyed Vireo** banded at the Red Creek station Sept. 4 was a new bird for the station. One was listed near East Liverpool, Ohio Sept. 19 (ERC). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found in the Pymatuning, Pa. area on Sept. 26 (ASWP). **Solitary Vireos** appeared scarce with few making mention and only 3 were banded at the Red Creek station. The **Red-eyed Vireo** migration appeared good. The supposedly rare **Philadelphia Vireo** was the real feature at the Red Creek station with 24 banded, one as late as Oct. 10 (GAH). Was this a good year or is this species indistinguishable with binocular birders? A **Warbling Vireo** was found in the Pymatuning, Pa. area Sept. 26 (ASWP).

Warblers—The Warbler migration was termed "poor" in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia (CM), Willoughby, Ohio (MS), and Charleston, W. Va. (CK; NG) to "fair" at Huntington, W. Va. (TI) and East Liverpool, Ohio (NL). Banding results at the Red Creek Banding Station atop Allegheny Front Mountain in Tucker County, W. Va. indicated a good flight. As is to be expected, the peak days were coincident with weather changes and the greatest peak occurred on Sept. 14-15 at both high and low elevations. The flight of **Black and White Warbler** was good at Red Creek station with 35 banded. A late date for **Worm-eating Warbler** was submitted by K. Sigel on Sept. 14 at Emsworth, Allegheny County, Pa. (ASWP). 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** were taken at the Red Creek station. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported at North Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sept. 11 by J. Grom (ASWP). While 239 **Tennessee Warblers** banded at the Red Creek station seems impressive and Igou considered it the most common Fall warbler at Huntington, W. Va., this species was scarce in the East Liverpool, Ohio area (NL) and Van Cleave comments, "The lack of reports of this usually common fall warbler is astounding!" The 40 **Nashville Warblers** banded at Red Creek station represented a real increase over former years and they were present at Morgantown, W. Va. until Oct. 10 (GAH). The Red Creek catch of **Magnolia Warblers** did not compare favorably with past years. The banding of 106 **Cape May Warblers** at the Red Creek station indicated a real good year and it was described as the most numerous Fall warbler in the Pleasant Hills section of Pittsburgh, Pa. (ASWP). 264 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** banded at Red Creek station represents a good year. The first date for **Myrtle Warbler** was Sept. 18 at Pittsburgh, Pa. (ASWP) but the big fight came in first week in October. "Many, many" were noted at East Liverpool, Ohio Oct. 4 (NL); were in good numbers at Charleston, W. Va. (NG) and an "inundation" at Morgantown, W. Va. where the Halls banded 110 between Oct. 4 and Nov. 10. Perhaps the greatest surprise to those aware of population trends was the heavy migration of **Black-throated Green Warblers** seen at the Red Creek station. 217 were banded at the station representing the largest number ever captured there and this was only a small percentage of the number that went through without being caught. Summer reports indicated low breeding populations in our region. 247 **Blackburnian Warblers** netted at the Red Creek station was outstanding and 42 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** was considered fair (GAH). There were fewer **Bay-breasted Warblers** captured there than last year. **Blackpoll Warblers** started to arrive at the Red Creek station very early—Aug. 31 and on until Oct. 10. A fantastic total of 436 were banded with the big day being Oct. 9 when 81 were banded. **Pine**

Warblers were found in fair numbers at Charleston, W. Va. (CK) and many were seen in Hocking County, Ohio Sept. 16 (NL). The latest date for **Palm Warbler** was Oct. 24 at Morgantown, W. Va. (GAH). 5 **Connecticut Warblers** were banded at the Red Creek station between Aug. 31 and Sept. 21 and one at Morgantown, W. Va. Oct. 4 (GAH). Last date for **Yellow-breasted Chat** was Oct. 2 near East Liverpool, Ohio. 2 **Hooded Warblers** were seen at Raccoon State Park, Beaver County, Pa. Oct. 3 (ASWP). Although 58 **Wilson's Warblers** were banded at the Red Creek station, this was considered a poor year compared to previous years (GAH). One was banded at Clarksville, Pa. Oct. 13 (RKB). More **Canada Warblers** were caught at the Red Creek station than before with a high of 20 on Sept. 20. There was a good movement of **Redstarts** through the Berry Hills section of Charleston, W. Va. Sept. 14-17 (CK) and at East Liverpool, Ohio on Sept. 14-15 (NL).

Blackbirds—Bell banded a **Bobolink** at Clarksville, Pa. Sept. 3 and on Sept. 16 2 were picked up under a TV tower near St. Albans, W. Va. (AS&CK). **Eastern Meadowlarks** appeared to be plentiful. A flock of more than 200 was observed in a field in Jackson County, W. Va. Oct. 24 (NL). A **Western Meadowlark** was seen and heard near Inwood, W. Va. on Oct. 24 and heard singing several times on Oct. 28 (CM). Some 200 **Rusty Blackbirds** were in Pymatuning, Pa. area Sept. 26 (ASWP) and 300 were observed at Carnegie, Pa. Oct. 23; seen at McClintic Wildlife Station Oct. 23 (BBC); at East Liverpool, Ohio Oct. 2 (NL) and several large flocks were seen flying over the Red Creek banding station Oct. 17. **Common Grackles** were far too numerous in the region. Several **Brewer's Blackbirds** were seen in flocks of Grackles at Fairmont, W. Va. in late September—Paul Davisson fide (NL) and a few were seen with Grackles at East Liverpool, Ohio in early October. Small flocks of **Cowbirds** were at East Liverpool Oct. 20 and at South Hills, Pittsburgh, Pa. Oct. 29 (ASWP).

Grosbeaks and Finches—Several reporters commented on the abundance of **Cardinals**. One was banded and another seen at the Red Creek station. There was a good flight of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** across the Allegheny Front Mountain in Tucker County, W. Va. Sept. 25 and were still flying there Oct. 3 (GAH). One was at Frick Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. Oct. 17 (ASWP). A **Dickcissel** appeared at a feeder in Charleston, W. Va. in early October and is still present at the end of November (Harless fide (GFH)). Most every reporter mentioned **Evening Grosbeaks** by sight or sound, yet no inundation has occurred, no banding records submitted and no reports of these birds at feeders. Hall reported large flocks of **Purple Finch** flying high over the Red Creek station Oct. 17. Hurley found small flocks well distributed in Kanawha County, W. Va. **Pine Siskins** invaded the region in tremendous numbers. Bell and Hall noted big flights over the Red Creek station on Oct. 9 and great numbers were seen in flight there on Oct. 17. About 50 were at Davis, W. Va. Oct. 13 (NG); small flocks were seen in Randolph and Webster Counties, W. Va. Oct. 15 (GHB) and a small flock was at East Liverpool, Ohio Oct. 17 (NL). **Red Crossbills** were found in Cal Price Forest, Randolph County Oct. 9 (WLW), near East Liverpool, Ohio Oct. 17 (NL) and near Charleston, W. Va. Nov. 16 (AS). A flock of about 50 **White-winged Crossbills** were near Barnesville, Ohio Nov. 6 (E&C).

Sparrows—2 **Savannah Sparrows** were banded at the Red Creek station during September. A **Lark Sparrow** was seen near Bear Rocks in Tucker County, W. Va. Sept. 25 and another heard singing nearby (ERC&NL). **Slate-colored Juncos** arrived first week of October and were plentiful by the middle of the month. **Tree Sparrows** were in most localities during first week of November. Great numbers

of **White-crowned Sparrows** were at McClintic Wildlife Station, Mason County, W. Va. Oct. 23 (BBC). An early **White-throated Sparrow** was banded at Morgantown, W. Va. Sept. 15 (GAH) and 2 were seen in Hocking County, Ohio Sept. 16 (NL). A fairly good migration peaked about mid October. A **Fox Sparrow** was recorded in the Penn Hills section of Pittsburgh on Aug. 16 by Ronald E. Byrom fide (ASWP). This report is considered quite authentic since Mr. Byrom is studying at the University of Alaska where he has become very familiar with this sparrow. 2 were seen by the writer and Floyd Bartley in Fairfield County, Ohio on Sept. 16. Sept. 1 was an early date for **Lincoln's Sparrow** at the Red Creek station, where 6 were banded between Sept. 1 and 28 (GAH). A lone **Snow Bunting** was seen at Cedar Lakes, Jackson County, W. Va. on Oct. 23 by John Laitsch fide (NL) and a small flock was seen on the Ohio Pa. causeway of Pymatuning Lake on Nov. 10 (MS).

Contributors—Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP); Ralph K. Bell (RKB); George H. Breiding (GHB); Brooks Bird Club (BBC); Harold E. Burt (HEB); Everett R. Chandler (ERC); Mabel Edgerton and Mary Chapman (E&C); Tom and Mary Ford (TMF); Norris Gluck (NG); George A. Hall (GAH); Charles O. Handley, Sr. (COH); Tom Igou (TI); Constance Katholi (CK); Nevada Laitsch (NL); Lena McBee (LM); Clark Miller (CM); Merrit Skaggs (MS); Larry Schwab (LS); Don Shearer (DS); Ann Shreve (AS); Pat Temple (PT); Marie Trowbridge (MT); Althea Wise (AW) and William L. Wylie (WLW).

THE GATHERING CAGE

Constance Katholi, Editor

CHARLEY HANDLEY furnishes the report from McCLINTIC WILDLIFE STATION for the fall 1965 season. He, Nelle, and Maxine Kiff banded 175 birds on Oct. 29-31. (The Ballentines, too, banded there on the first weekend of October, but they were unable to schedule enough banders to run a regular "Operation Recovery" this year.) The Handleys had seven returns from previous expeditions: 3 **Cardinals**, 1 **Carolina Chickadee**, 1 **Field Sparrow**, (see Bob Yunick note below) 1 **White-crowned Sparrow**, and 1 **Song Sparrow**. The latter, recovered 10/30/65 was banded by the Ballentine, on 10/27/62. In all a nice collection of sparrows was netted: 4 **Field**, 15 **White-crowned**, 34 **White-Throated**, 7 **Fox**, 8 **Swamp**, and 33 **Song**. McClintic is a good place to test the mettle of a bander on sparrow identification, and almost the only place for Charleston banders to handle **White-Crowns**.

And speaking of sparrows, a postcard received from MERIT SKAGGS in WILLOUGHBY, OHIO, reads: "On October 20 I banded a **Swamp Sparrow**—the olive flanks were a good identifying mark in the hand. There is no swamp nearby but this one showed up in my garden. I am also banding my favorite sparrows, **White-Crowns**."

To continue about sparrows, the **Field Sparrow** (return above) was banded as an immature by BOB YUNICK on 8/2/63. Bob, who now resides in Schnectady, N. Y., started his bird-banding with members of the BBC at McClintic. In a recent letter to Charley Handley he reported that he had banded 3400 birds of 108 species in 1965, including a Hawk Owl, 300 Purple Finches, 2 Saw-whet Owls, and 901 Bank Swallows. Charley supplied a tabulation of some of the recoveries of birds banded by Bob at 912 Chittum Lane, his former location in the Kanawha Valley. The most

interesting were:

1. Robin, banded 5/9/63 returned as a casualty 5/65 Mt. Gay, W. Va. (forty miles SW of Charleston near Logan)
2. Robin, banded 9/8/63 recovered

4/64 Walhalla, Oconee Co., S.C. (the extreme northwestern tip of the state)

Others, more local, were an immature **Starling** found dead half a mile away after one year and 8 months; a **Blue Jay**, immature, found a mile away one year and 9 months later; an adult **Blue Jay** within a half mile, after two years; and two **House Sparrows**, both immatures, the first, was found within a few blocks after two years and 4 months, and the second, banded 8/10/63 was killed by a car on 4/9/65—in each case an elapse of two nesting seasons!

GEORGE HALL writes: "Here at home, we banded around 600 birds this fall; over 200 of them between Oct. 24 and 28. Most of these were **Myrtles** and **Goldfinches**. 38 new **Carolina Chickadees** were checked in. Two unusual species turned up, a **Connecticut Warbler** and a **Mourning Dove**—we never saw one near the place before! We had a number of returns as well, of birds still coming back since the beginning of our operations here in the fall of 1963: a **White-breasted Nuthatch**, a **Cardinal**, two **Song Sparrows**, 3 **Chickadees** and 20 **Juncos**. Six of the latter were banded in 1963, and the others in 64-65. Of the six, two have been caught each winter for three years. At RED CREEK this fall we recaptured a **Junco** (resident there) first banded in 1963."

Birders and banders alike will agree with RALPH BELL, who says: "The big event this fall has been the mass migration of **Black-capped Chickadees**. Since only the **Carolina Chickadee** nests in this area, it is easy to tell when the Black-caps arrive, by their song and the tail measurements (when banded). (Up to 57 mm are practically all Carolinas, while those 59mm or over are Black-caps). The first one was heard on October 18 and the next day they arrived in large numbers. Seventeen were caught in 2 nets located in front of a row of pines about 100 yards west of our house. All were flying west when caught. The catch might have been greater but the nets were furlled before noon. Other big migration days for the Chickadees were Oct. 28 (23 banded) and Nov. 3 (26 banded). Probably the biggest day of all was Oct. 28, when I again had to furl the nets early to deliver eggs (our main money crop) to the local stores. Chickadees were everywhere. I noticed them in a maple tree on the courthouse lawn in the center of Waynesburg. These, too, flew west as they left the tree, just as those at home had done. Chickadees are apparently day migrants only, being caught between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. with a peak usually around noon. They seem to fly in groups of 4 to 8, or even more. It would be interesting to know if family groups stayed together during migration. Maybe banding will prove this someday."

This Chickadee Invasion has been for me the most exciting fall event, in conjunction with that of the **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. (Has anyone had any banding success with them—except RED CREEK, of course). Extremely swollen numbers of both **Carolina** and **Black-capped Chickadees** range the woods together and visit feeders here. I have banded 5 Carolinas and 6 Black-caps. Nothing beats a bird-in-the-hand in a case like this. When I released the first "Black-cap", I waited in vain for a "voice" confirmation of my decision, but it bounded off quietly in contrast to the Carolinas, which depart with many scolding high-pitched "dee-dee-dee's". On some Black-caps the grayish-white edges on the tertiaries and greater coverts are very broad. The bird actually looks larger in the net, and feels

sturdier in the hand. Field guides call them "big-headed". I am wondering if this is not an illusion caused by the (to me) startling whiteness of the cheek—a clean color not tinged with gray as in the Carolina. I believe too, that the actual area of white is larger. It nearly meets at the nape, where the black of the head is very narrow. Perhaps this is something to check out. Black-caps are less timid than Carolinas allowing a closer approach. Very likely they are the source of the many "tame" Chickadee stories and pictures.

The unusual fall with prolonged, mild weather has given rise to conflicting reports of bird populations. Most feeding stations are unfrequented, leading to puzzled complaints and dire predictions about the shortage of **Cardinals**, **White-throats**, and the like. However, in low-lying brushy sites with plenty of provender observers can find dozens of these birds in mixed groups. Dependent on the feeder to bring birds into the nets, I have banded a minimum of birds since fall migration ended. Possibly the situation is only local, as others seem to have had their share of birds—of certain species at least.

As in the following note from COLUMBUS, OHIO, in which HAROLD BURTT, writes again of his "blackbirds": "I note that Ralph Bell sent one of his **Starlings** to my son Benjamin in Syracuse. Well, I did the same thing. #652-57025 (banded here 12/17/63 was in Ben's trap 1/22/65. What the bird did meanwhile is problematical, although many of our **Starling** recoveries are in a northeast direction. What it did subsequently is inhale a good whiff of hydrogen sulphide. Syracuse Starlings are liquidated as a municipal project in order to maintain architectural integrity; reduce car washing and dry cleaning; and improve citizen morale.

"Our decoy tray is still well patronized but there has been some falling off since Thanksgiving. Redwings predominate as of Dec. 1. Since Jan. 1, 1965 I've done 13,900 birds. Sex ratio is interesting: 75% of my **Cowbirds** and 88% of the **Redwings** are male. These figures compare favorably with data reported by other ornithologists. There is no good agreement as to an explanation. Some think it reflects differences in the population of the area and sex differences in survival. Others think it is difference in tendency to get trapped which throws it into the field of "personality". If you get that one figured, then please tell me why I trap proportionately more female **Redwings** during the breeding season."

Myrtle Warblers often seem spotty in distribution, being entirely absent from one area, while plentiful in another. MAXINE KIFF makes a very interesting report from ONA, W. VA. where this species has been abundant for two seasons. "Last winter we felt fortunate to have a **Myrtle Warbler** roost located in a clump of spruces on our lawn. Fifty-two individuals were banded from Oct. 3, 1964 to April 19, 1965. During most of the winter the warblers ignored our feeding station, leaving the area early in the morning and returning at dusk, their loud chip notes filling the air. Only six had been netted up to Feb. 17, when in desperation I jammed a mist net between two of the taller spruce trees and was able to band 12 in half an hour late in the evening. After their natural food sources became exhausted in March, the Myrtles began to appear at our feeder to eat suet and peanut butter. Presumed migrants joined the winter resident group at this time. To increase the feeding area, I spread peanut butter over the bark of a pine tree nearby. The warblers found it at once, and as many as 5 or 6 would attempt to feed there simultaneously. The birds tended to fly in near the middle of the tree well above the food and work down the trunk, alternately fluttering and clinging to the bark. Upon leaving, they would fly straight out into a strategically-placed net.

"The first male to appear in complete nuptial plumage was banded on April 5.

Most individuals appearing that month were a motley lot, representing a great variety of plumage stages. Twenty-one Myrtles have been banded this fall, and I have had three returns. Only three of the new birds were caught in the vicinity of the feeder, the rest were taken in nets placed against their roosting trees. The majority have been caught just at dusk between ground level and four feet. Two of these warblers, both banded on Nov. 21, 1964, were recaptured on Nov. 3, 1965 and Dec. 8, 1965, respectively. (The latter was also retaken on April 7, 1965.) Another, banded on April 7, 1965, returned in the following November. These returns indicate that at least some **Myrtle Warblers** winter in the same locality in succeeding years and that they may be quite sedentary during the winter months."

The Winter Banding Notes are due on March 15. C. K.

930 Woodland Avenue, South Charleston, W. Va.

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Original papers in the field of natural history are published in the Redstart. Papers are judged on the basis of their contributions to original data, ideas, or interpretations. Scientific accuracy is most important and to this end an Advisory Board, selected by the Editorial Staff, will review submitted papers. Papers should be typewritten, double spaced and on one side of the paper only. Clarity and conciseness of presentation are very important.

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TITLE. The title should be descriptive and concise, preferably containing not more than ten words. Avoid scientific names if possible.

REFERENCES. References should be listed alphabetically by author and referred to in the text by author and year.

TABLES. Keep tables simple and easy to follow so they may be understood without reference to the text.

ILLUSTRATIONS. Illustrations should be suitable for reproduction without retouching. Sharp, glossy prints with good contrast reproduce best. Attach to each a brief legend. Do not write on the back of photographs. Line drawings and diagrams reproduce best if in black ink.

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Authors should strive for continuity of thought and clarity of expression. Some papers may fit the following outline for presentation:

INTRODUCTION. Reasons for conducting the research as well as background material relating what others have done.

DATA. The actual results of the investigation along with the methods used for collecting the data.

CONCLUSIONS. Interpretation of the data.

FUTURE WORK. As a result of the investigation, what work remains to be done.

SUMMARY. For longer articles it is desirable to present a brief summary of the work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Many papers will not fit this type of presentation. Sometimes a simple sequence-of-events arrangement will serve.

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The Brooks Bird Club is a non-profit organization whose objective is to encourage the study and conservation of birds and other phases of natural history. Membership includes subscriptions to the REDSTART and MAILBAG and entitles one to all the privileges offered by the Club. Classes of membership are: Student, \$2.00; Active, \$5.00; Family, \$7.00; Sustaining, \$10.00; Life, \$100. Checks should be written payable to the Brooks Bird Club and mailed to 707 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, West Virginia.

1966 Calendar of Events

January

Write a Letter to the Club Send to: The Mail Bag

February

Write a Field note for Redstart Send to: George Hurley

March

5-6 Annual Mid-Winter Meeting Wheeling, W. Va.

18-20 Field Trip—Spring Hollow Columbus, Ohio

April

22-24 Field Trip—Middle Mountain Middle Mt. Cabins, W. Va.

May

8 Century Day All Local Groups

20-22 Field Trip—Sutton Seekers Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

June

New Breeding Bird Survey All Local Groups

11-19 Annual BBC Foray

Greenbrier Youth Camp Anthony, W. Va.

July

15-17 Field Trip—Lake Terra Alta Terra Alta, W. Va.

August

Field Trip—Powder Mill Rector, Pa.

September

Operation Recovery Red Creek, W. Va.

2-5 Annual BBC Meeting Farmington, W. Va.

16-18 Hawking and Banding Junket Black Water Falls, W. Va.

October

21-23 Fall Meeting—Cedar Lakes Ripley, W. Va.

November

19-20 Annual Meeting BBC Exec. Comm. Wheeling, W. Va.

December

20-31 Christmas Bird Counts All Local Groups

ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

April

15-17 Eastern Bird Banding Meeting

27-30 Wilson Ornithological Soc. Meeting University Park, Pa.

May

12-15 W. Va. Wild Flower Pilgrimage Blackwater Falls, W. Va.

SEASONAL FIELD AND BANDING NOTES DUE

March 15 • June 15 • September 15 • December 15

Mail Field Notes to: Mrs. Nevada Laitsch, MC21, East Liverpool, Ohio

Mail Banding Notes to: Mrs. Constance Katholi,

930 Woodland Ave., So. Charleston, W. Va.