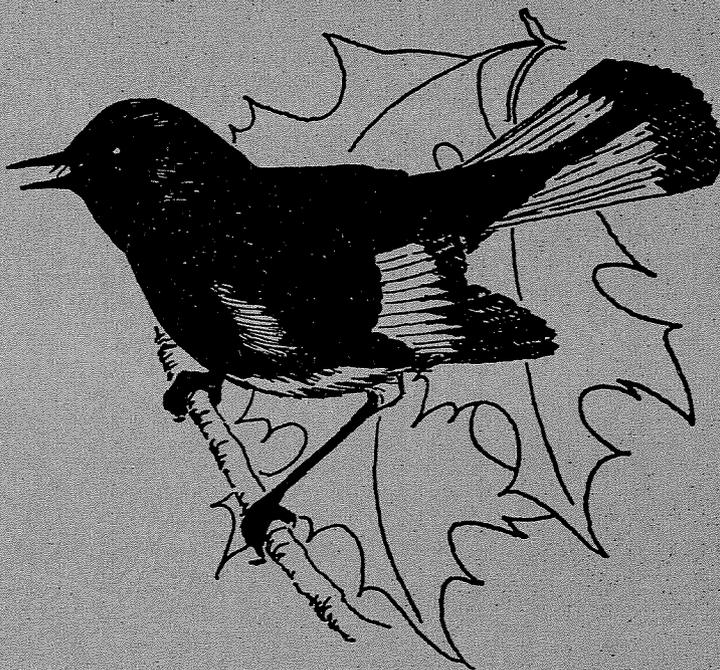


The REDSTART

Volume 35—Number 2

April, 1968



PUBLISHED BY THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

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FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1932

Named in honor of A. B. Brooks, Naturalist

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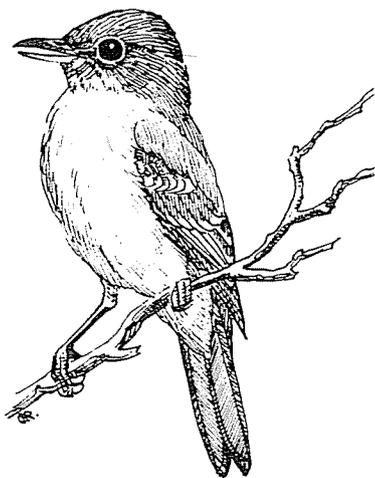
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THE REDSTART is published quarterly in January, April, July and October by Harless Printing Company, St. Albans, West Virginia. The official organ of the Brooks Bird Club, it is mailed to all members in good standing. Non-member subscription price is \$2.50. Individual copies cost \$0.50 except the Foray 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.

KANAWHA STATE FOREST SORTIE

George Hurley

Since 1940 the Brooks Bird Club has been spending one week each June in various areas of West Virginia studying the flora and fauna and their ecological relationships. It is hoped that, in time, all areas of the State will be studied. Since the emphasis has been on birds, dates have been selected during which, hopefully, nesting activity would be at its peak. For practical reasons the study has to be scheduled after schools are out which means the second or third week in June. In the lower elevations and particularly the more southern areas of the State the nesting peak is generally the last of May or early in June. In order that at least some preliminary data be obtained from these earlier nesting areas the Little Foray or "Sortie" idea was conceived. A smaller group of people would choose a small area in which to concentrate on birds for four or five days during the latter part of May. Since the idea gained active support among Charleston area birders it was natural that the initial venture be located nearby. Thus, Kanawha State Forest was chosen for the first Sortie. The field work was done on May 27, 28, 29, and 30, 1966 with the forest campgrounds as headquarters for the group.



Acadian Flycatcher

Area Survey

Kanawha State Forest is located in Kanawha County four miles south of Charleston, West Virginia on the headwaters of Davis Creek, a tributary of the Kanawha River. The forest comprises 6758 acres of land. The soil is derived mainly from the underlying sandstone and shale. Altitudinal variations range from 700 to 1400 feet above sea level. Annual average temperature is 55 degrees F. with summertime extremes reaching into the 90's and Winter lows dipping to slightly below zero. Average annual precipitation is 45 inches.

About 90 percent of the area is in timber composed mainly of cove hardwoods of a mixed Mesophytic Forest type. It is practically all second growth timber which has been better protected from fire than most of the Southern West Virginia woodlands. Other than some selective "weeding" type cutting it has not been timbered for about 30 years. General plant growth is luxuriant over most of the forest.

The Study Areas

Two areas, each measuring 15 acres, were selected as typical of the area. In these the usual BBC singing male census was conducted. One was near a ridge top at 1300 feet elevation comprising mostly oak and hickory. As shown in the detailed account which follows, 431 singing males per 100 acres were found. The Cerulean Warbler was most common. The creek bottom study area at about 1000 feet elevation was about 30 percent oak and 40 percent tulip. Here the Redstart was the most common species of the 460 singing males per 100 acres.

Upland Oak-Hickory Forest

Location. The Brier Creek Ridge is near the southern edge of Kanawha State Forest. Size. 15 acres, measured: a rectangle 110x660 yards.

Description of Area. This ridge is typical of the ridges in the forest. The forest crown was mostly closed except for the fire road transversely bisecting the area and a section about

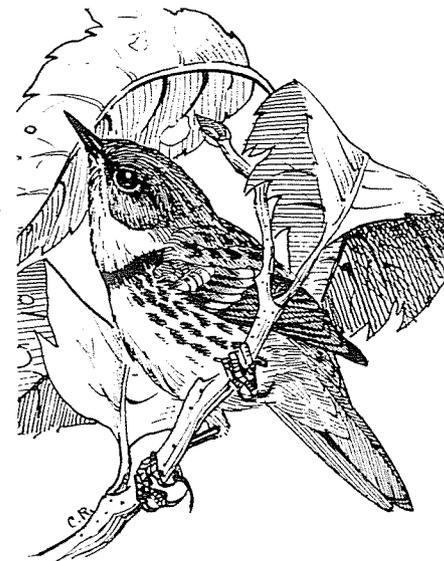
50x200 yards midway on the upper side which had been timbered about five years previously. Many of the principal trees measured to 36 inches dbh. and ranged to 80 feet in height. 25% chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*); other oaks totalled 25%, including black (*Q. velutina*), scarlet (*Q. coccinea*), and red (*Q. rubra*). 25% hickory, (*Carya glabra* and *C. ovata*). Tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and sour gum (*Nyssa silvatica*) accounted for the remaining 25%. The understory was dense and averaged about 8 feet in height. In addition to sprouts and saplings of the trees named it included sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*); redbud (*Cercis canadensis*); cucumber (*Magnolia acuminata*); basswood (*Tilia heterophylla*); chestnut (*Castanea dentata*); sassafras (*Sassafras variifolium*); locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*); and dogwood (*Cornus florida*). Ground cover ranged from sparse to dense. Included were greenbrier (*Smilax spp.*); azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*); blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*); grape (*Vitis Sp.*); *Vaccinium spp.* and christmas fern (*Polistichum acrostichoides*).

Edge. Surrounded by similar cover on all sides.

Topography. Generally level transversely, altitude about 1300 feet. Laterally, the altitude varied from about 1350 to 1250 feet.

Coverage. May 27, 28, 29 and 30 at daylight with one evening trip. Total manhours, about 15.

Remarks. Extremely high density of singing males, partly due to the patches of open crown mentioned earlier. The early freeze may have delayed early nesters causing an artificially large concentration of species nesting at the same time.



Cerulean Warbler

Census Data

| Species | Territorial Males | Males per 100 Acres |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Cerulean Warbler | 11.5 | 77 |
| Redstart | 7.5 | 50 |
| Hooded Warbler | 5. | 34 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 4.5 | 30 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 3.5 | 23 |
| Wood Pewee | 3 | 20 |
| Wood Thrush | 3 | 20 |
| Black and White Warbler | 3 | 20 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 2.5 | 17 |
| Kentucky Warbler | 2.5 | 17 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 2 | 13 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 2 | 13 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 2 | 13 |
| Ovenbird | 2 | 13 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 2 | 13 |
| Cardinal | 2 | 13 |
| Towhee | 1.5 | |

| Species | Territorial Males | Males per 100 Acres |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Whip-poor-will | 1. | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 1 | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 1 | |
| Carolina Chickadee | 1 | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 1 | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | + | |
| Totals 22 Species | 64.5 | 431 |

Visitors. Common Crow, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Blue Jay and Goldfinch.

Census Takers. George Hurley (Compiler), Betty Greenlee, George Koch and Osbra Eye.

Mature Hardwood Forest

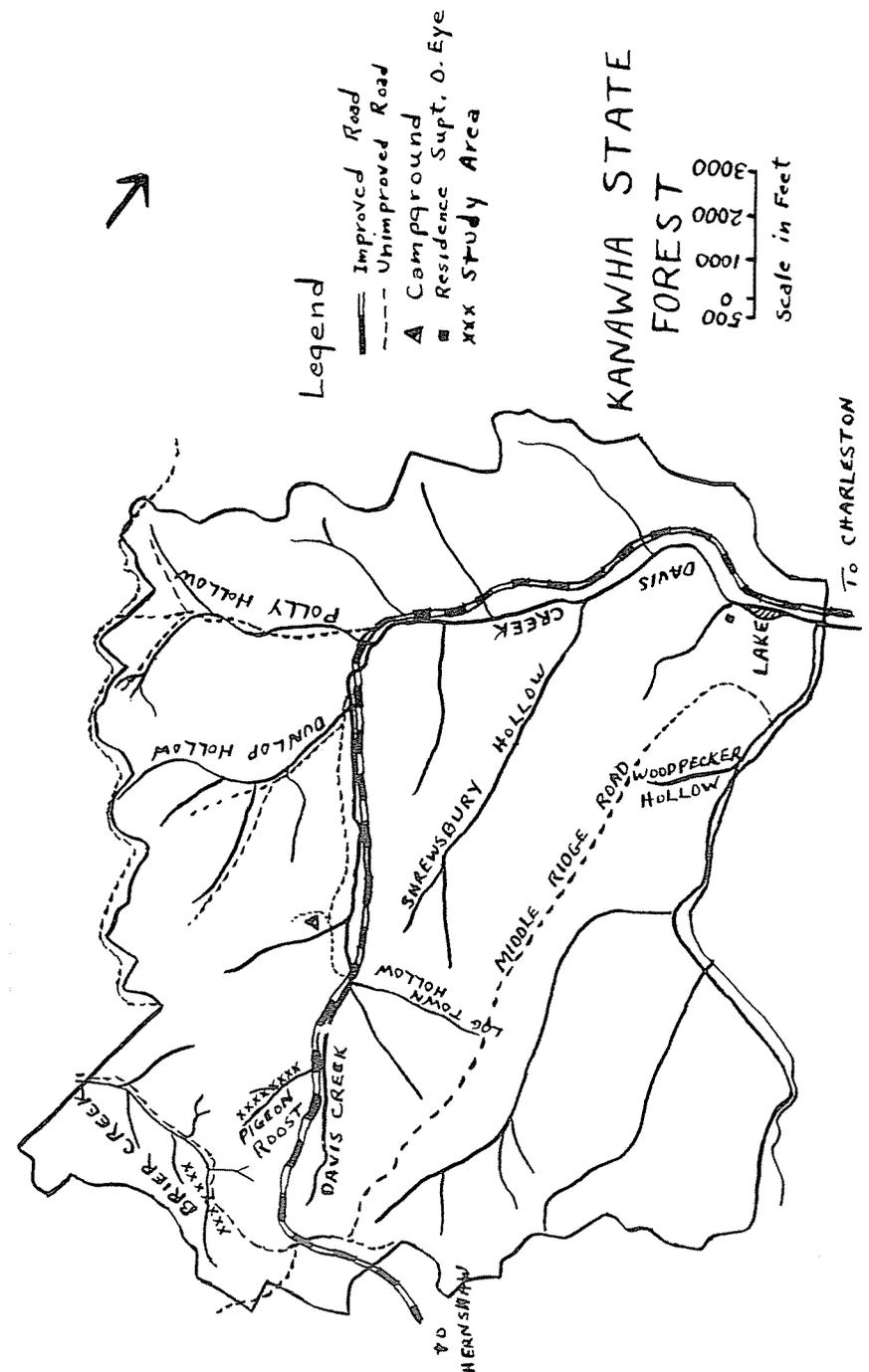
Location. The Pigeon Roost Run Study area is located along a small stream of the same name about one-half mile above the entrance to the Davis Creek Campground in Kanawha State Forest.

Size. 15 acres, a measured plot, 110x660 yards.

Topography. The area starts about 100 yards from Davis Creek at elevation 980 feet and extends west, up the hollow, to elevation 1100 feet. In many sections of the country the area would be called a ravine. The centerline follows close enough to the stream that the area slopes up on both sides. The hillsides are quite steep, sloping from 25 to 40 feet per 100 feet to the hilltops where they level off at elevation 1200 to 1500 feet and then start down on the other side. The ridges are no wider than the valleys.

Plant Cover. When this mature forest was timbered years ago, the beech and some cull trees of other species were left standing. In 1960-61 during a forest improvement program, the culls and the over-mature beech were deadened. In October 1961, a heavy snow broke the tops of many of the remaining trees, causing them to branch out and start forming a new canopy at less than 50 feet. The trees will average 24 inches dbh with some as large as 48 inches. The live trees now consist of about 30% oak (*Quercus sp.*), 30% beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), 30% Tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and the rest divided among Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arborcum*), Cucumber (*Magnolia acuminata*), Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*). This year the canopy was only about 50%, as a mid-May freeze killed all of the Beech leaves and bloom, the Oak bloom, some of the Tulip Poplar leaves, and in nearby areas all of the Hickory and Walnut bloom. (By July all of the Tulip trees had recovered but there were still only a few green leaves on the Beech. It is possible that many will not recover.) The understory consists of seedlings of the trees, mostly Beech, a few Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*), Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), and an occasional native Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) sprouting from roots that are still living. The ground cover includes White Clintonia (*Clintonia umbellulata*), Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*), Meehania (*Meehania cordata*), Mottled Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila maculata*), Hairy Disporum (*Disporum lanuginosum*), American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), Greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*), and Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*). The most common ferns were Christmas, New York, Broad Beech, Lady, and Cinnamon.

Coverage. May 26-30. Ten trips were made between daylight and 8:00 a.m., and one trip in the evening. Total party hours—10.



Census Data

| Species | Territorial Males | Males per 100 Acres |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| American Redstart | 17 | 113 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 11 | 73 |
| Wood Thrush | 5 | 33 |
| Kentucky Warbler | 4 | 27 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 4 | 27 |
| Hooded Warbler | 3 | 20 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 3 | 20 |
| Cerulean Warbler | 3 | 20 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 3 | 20 |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | 2.5 | 17 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 2 | 13 |
| Worm-eating Warbler | 2 | 13 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 1.5 | 10 |
| Yellow Warbler | 1.5 | 10 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 1.5 | 10 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 1 | 7 |
| Cardinal | 1 | 7 |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | 1 | 7 |
| Ovenbird | 1 | 7 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 0.5 | 3 |
| Black and white Warbler | 0.5 | 3 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | + | + |
| Whip-poor-will | + | + |
| Hairy Woodpecker | + | + |
| Crested Flycatcher | + | + |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | + | + |
| Totals 27 Species | 69 | 460 |

VISITORS: Swainson's Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, E. Wood Pewee, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, White-eyed Vireo, The Swainson's Thrush was one of many late migrants whose northward journey was delayed by the inclement weather. All other visitors could nest on the area.

REMARKS: This study was chosen to supplement a hilltop study made on Brier Creek Ridge. Together they are typical of most of Kanawha State Forest. Three nests were found on the area. The nest of a Carolina Chickadee contained three young, White-breasted Nuthatches were carrying food through a knothole in a beech tree, and a pair of Redstarts were incubating. The highlight for the observers was a Swainson's Warbler and a Louisiana Waterthrush that sang in opposition several times while only about 30 feet apart. The high population of Redstarts listed may actually be too low. The variety of their songs forced the observers to depend on sight to verify the singing bird. Some first year males may have been discounted with the females.

CENSUS TAKERS: G. Koch assisted by T. D. Olsen, M. Kiff, B. Kiff, N. Laitch, R. Anderson, K. H. Anderson, B. Greenlee, and G. F. Hurley.

Plants

A booklet by Margaret Denison and Osbra Eye entitled, "Flowering Plants of Kanawha State Forest" (published by the West Virginia University Biology Dept., 1967) lists 705 individual plants representing about 300 genera from about 100 families. With such a comprehensive listing available there was little need to attempt a special one for the Sortie.

Mammals and Herptiles

The mammals found were those casually noted while birding in the Forest. A few rabbits were seen. One muskrat was found on Brier Creek. Skunk (odor) encountered in Shrewsbury Hollow. Raccoon and deer sign were found several places. The only snake identified was a young garter in Polly Hollow although it is known that both copperhead and rattlesnake occur.

Weather

The weather was nearly normal for the period.

| Date | Temperature, °F. | | Wind, mph | Relative Humidity | Precipitation |
|------------------|------------------|------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Low | High | | | |
| Friday, May 27 | 55 | 75 | 8,NNE | 49% | |
| Saturday, May 28 | 56 | 84 | 15,SW | 30% | Shower at night |
| Sunday, May 29 | 58 | 69 | 14,N | | |
| Monday, May 30 | 40 | 70 | 6,NW | | |

Conclusions

The Sortie results were probably affected by the unusual weather of Spring 1966. A severe freeze on May 8 and 9 completely killed foliage on trees in leaf including the oaks, beeches, tulips and hickories. By Sortie time the hickories were partially leafed out, the oaks were starting new growth but the beeches had the appearance of Fall. The contrast of dead brown leaves among the tender green leaves and shoots was bizarre. In some respects the locating of nests was made easier with the sparse foliage. Birds were nesting in situations not normal to them in order to find cover. The late leafing may have caused some late nesting.

With so little open habitat it wasn't unusual to list only 74 species of birds as the annotated list which follows shows. Thus, many of the field and orchard birds such as the Field Sparrow, House Wren, Bluebird, Starling and both orioles, which were common nearby, were not found in the Forest proper. Bird populations as determined by the singing male method on the study areas may seem high by comparison with those run at BBC Forays, but they are thought to be conservative by the census takers on the respective areas. The fact that the defoliation may have caused a "compressing" of the nesting season could be a factor in that more species could have been nesting at one time than is normal for such habitat. Another census in a more normal year might produce data to check this.

Annotated List of Birds

Turkey Vulture. Fairly common.

Cooper's Hawk. One was reported on the ridge North of camp (Katholi).

Red-tailed Hawk. At least one pair was seen. They probably nested near the head of Polly Hollow since they were seen carrying food there.

Red-shouldered Hawk. Probably several pairs. One nest on the ridge North of camp was surmised from seeing the parents carrying food.

Broad-winged Hawk. One pair was seen. Since this is a fairly common hawk in the area it

was likely more plentiful than indicated by just one record.

Ruffed Grouse. One was seen on the Brier Creek study area. Fairly common.

Turkey. One bird was heard calling on top of ridge North of camp by Greenlee and K. Anderson. Superintendent Eye said they nested there in 1965. These are probably birds which had been stocked in 1964.

Mourning Dove. Heard on Brier Creek ridge beyond the study area. Several openings in the forest had been planted in wheat as game food plots, thus attracting them.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Very scarce. One was heard on the Brier Creek study area.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Only one of this species was reported.

Barred Owl. Common. Two nesting records. Two young were seen in Polly Hollow. Both adults were heard and one was seen. One young bird was seen with an adult in Woodpecker Hollow. Several called continually in or near camp on the night of May 27.

Whip-poor-will. Abundant. Heard in all areas of the forest. Several were seen in camp at dusk.

Chimney Swift. Limited distribution. They were noted over the small lake at the north entrance to the forest. Also, they were found in clearings over Middle Ridge road.

Hummingbird. Fairly common. Noted several times on the Brier Creek study area.

Belted Kingfisher. One pair was listed on the lake at north end of the forest.

Yellow-shafted Flicker. Common. Three nests were found. Koch found one containing 3 young which was 4 feet off the ground in a post near the entrance to camp. He had another on Brier Creek in a birch snag 30 feet up. Tom Olsen reported one 40 feet up in a snag.

Pileated Woodpecker. Considered common by most observers.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Common. One nest containing young was reported by Hurley in a beech snag 30 feet up.

Hairy Woodpecker. Not common. Three was greatest number noted. N. Laitsch found a nest containing young 10 feet up in a snag.

Downy Woodpecker. Common. Greenlee found the only nest which was 40 feet up in a black oak. Young were being fed.

Great Crested Flycatcher. Considered not common.

Eastern Phoebe. Rather common but localized to suitable habitat. Two nests, both under bridges, were found. Gluck found one with 3 young about ready to fledge. D. Shearer's also contained 3 young and one egg, probably sterile since the young were well developed. Katholi found 5 young lined up on a branch and being fed near the picnic grounds in Log Town Hollow on May 27.

Acadian Flycatcher. Abundant. Four nests were found. D. Shearer had 2 under construction at 8 feet, both over creeks. One was in a hemlock, the other in an ironwood tree. Laitsch found a bird incubating in a nest 20 feet up in a grape tangle. V. Olsen's nest was 20 feet up in hemlock. Bird was on the nest.

Wood Pewee. Considered common. No nests reported. Three nesting pairs were estimated on the Brier Creek Ridge study area.

Blue Jay. Not as common as one might expect although they are generally pretty quiet during the nesting period.

Common Crow. Not abundant but some were seen or heard in most areas every day.

Carolina Chickadee. Common. A nest at 15 feet with adults feeding young was seen by Laitsch. K. Anderson found a nest at three feet in a dogwood which contained three young.

Tufted Titmouse. While only one nest was found, the species was common. The nest, noted by V. Olsen, was under construction in a hole in beech tree at 35 feet.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Common. Two nests. Koch found young being fed on the Pigeon Roost study area in a nest hole 20 feet above ground in a beech tree. Young were in the nest found by Gluck in hole 25 feet above ground.

Carolina Wren. Not widely distributed but common in habitat. One family of young out of the nest was reported near O. Eye's residence.

Catbird. Sparsely distributed but found in most open brushy areas. M. Shearer found a nest with young 3 feet off ground in a brier thicket. Hurley saw a nest 8 feet up in a bush with bird incubating.

Brown Thrasher. Not common except in limited areas of brushy habitat.

Robin. Rather uncommon.

Wood Thrush. Common. Five nesting pairs were on the Pigeon Roost study area. Three were noted on the Brier Creek area. Hurley found a nest under construction at 25 feet in a sugar maple; and another containing three eggs 8 feet off the ground in a hemlock. Greenlee had one 30 feet up in a white pine on the forest superintendent's lawn. Young were in this one.

Swainson's Thrush. Rare. Several were heard; one on the Middle Ridge road; one in Polly Hollow and one on the Pigeon Roost study area. It is not too uncommon to have an occasional straggler in the area this late in the season.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Common. Koch found the only nest. It was 25 feet up in a chestnut oak at 1200 feet elevation.

White-eyed Vireo. Limited because of habitat restrictions.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Well distributed and reasonably common. One nest, under construction in the Brier Creek area, was found by Laitsch on May 29. It was about 15 feet up in a small tree.

Solitary Vireo. Several were heard, mostly in the Polly Hollow area. Probably a nesting species since the earliest arrival was heard in the forest on April 10. (Several birds of this species were found at Cabwaylingo Forest by the BBC in June 1952 and Laitsch found them both in Lincoln County and at Cabwaylingo in the Summer of 1961.)

Red-eyed Vireo. The most common vireo and one of the commonest birds in the forest. A nest, with bird incubating, was reported by Greenlee on Brier Creek Ridge at 15 feet in a dogwood. Four nesting pairs were counted on one study area and 4.5 on the other.

Black and White Warbler. This species was well distributed and rather common. K. Anderson found one young fledgling being fed on Middle Lick Fork.

Swainson's Warbler. One was seen and heard in the woods near Eye's house on May 27. It was not found on the 28 but one appeared on the Pigeon Roost Study about 4 miles upstream on May 29. On May 30 one was heard on the Brier Creek Study area which is about half a mile above the Pigeon Roost area. It is thought that all of these occurrences were of the same bird wandering in search of a mate.

Worm-eating Warbler. Common.

Golden-winged Warbler. Fairly common in habitat. The new Middle Ridge road created openings in the forest and the bird was common in these clearings. Brushy areas along Polly Hollow contained numbers of the birds. Also found on Brier Creek.

Tennessee Warbler. Two were reported. Shreve heard one in Log Town Hollow. Olsen and Laitsch saw and heard one on May 27 near the head of Polly Hollow. These birds were migrants still lingering in the area.

Parula Warbler. Considered common in Polly Hollow. V. Olsen found a nest there on May 28 about 25 feet up in a hemlock. Hemlocks around Eye's house were also good areas for finding the bird. Scarce elsewhere.

Yellow Warbler. Not common. Found in most situations with suitable habitat.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. One was heard near the Brier Creek Ridge study on May 27. Another lingering migrant.

Black-throated Green Warbler. A surprising number were reported, many in Polly Hollow.

Laitsch listed 12 singing birds. (This species was common at Cabwaylingo in June 1952. Laitsch found them there and in Lincoln County in June 1961).

Cerulean Warbler. Abundant in all areas. It was the most abundant bird found on the Brier Creek Study area. V. Olsen found 2 nests, both on May 30 along Middle Ridge road. These were under construction; one 10 feet up in a hickory; the other 40 feet up.

Blackburnian Warbler. Another interesting find. This species was fairly common in the hemlock in Polly Hollow. Laitsch listed a dozen birds.

Yellow-throated Warbler. Several were found in scrub pine along Middle Ridge road. These birds are known to nest in the county but no nests were found in the forest.

Black-poll Warbler. Kiffs saw one along Middle Ridge road. Since this warbler migrates so late it would not be unusual to have some still present at that time.

Pine Warbler. Uncommon. Laitsch noted two on Middle Ridge road.

Prairie Warbler. Uncommon. One was seen and two more were heard in a cleared power line right of way in Shrewsbury Hollow on May 30.

Ovenbird. Common but not nearly to the extent of the Cerulean or the Redstart.

Louisiana Waterthrush. Common along most of the streams. Four nesting records, all with young either fledged or nearly ready. On May 27 Gluck and Hurley had one nest each, both of which contained five young. Both were at elevations of about 900 feet. D. Shearer found three young out of nest on May 29. Hurley also had one record of fledged young on May 29.

Kentucky Warbler. Fairly common, particularly in the valleys. Four pairs were listed on the Pigeon Roost area. D. Shearer saw a nest under construction in shoots sprouting from a red maple stump. T. Olsen reported two nests above camp on May 29.

Yellowthroat. Sparsely distributed and not common due to habitat restrictions.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Not common but found in suitable habitat. Common along power right of way in Shrewsbury Hollow.

Hooded Warbler. Common. Five pairs on the Brier Creek Ridge area and three pairs on the Pigeon Roost area.

Wilson's Warbler. Laitsch saw one on Middle Ridge road on May 29. Another lingerer?

American Redstart. By far the commonest warbler found and perhaps the commonest bird in the forest. Approximately 25 percent, 12 by count, of the nests found were of this species. With many trees still partially bare nests were easier to find. While they seem to prefer oak, they were nesting in any situation that provided leafy cover. Hurley found five nests. Three were under construction; one on the Brier Creek Ridge study area in a hickory 30 feet up; a second 15 feet up in a sugar maple; and the third in ironwood 15 feet off the ground. Birds were incubating in the other two nests, 15 feet up in ironwood, and 20 feet in chestnut oak. Koch had two nests, one at 20 feet in a beech and the other at 30 feet in hickory. Both of V. Olsen's nests contained eggs. One was 12 feet up, the other 15 feet. Gluck saw a pair building 18 feet above ground in a maple. Greenlee reported young in a larch in Superintendent Eye's yard. This was 30 feet up. That found by D. Shearer was being built at 15 feet in a dogwood. Seventeen territorial males were reported on the Pigeon Roost area making it the most abundant species. It was second on the Brier Creek Ridge with 7.5 males counted.

House Sparrow. Not common but locally distributed in areas such as the vicinity of the stables and O. Eye's house.

Brown-headed Cowbird. Common.

Scarlet Tanager. While this species was common and males were singing, there seemed to be little inclination to nest. Hurley found the only nest 20 feet in a chestnut oak on Brier Creek. Bird was incubating.

Summer Tanager. Not so common as the Scarlet.

Cardinal. Common in all areas. Gluck found one nest containing three eggs in a brier.

This was about three feet off the ground. Another one he found 7 feet up in a brier had 4 eggs. The other nest, found by Koch, was 15 feet up in an apple tree.

Indigo Bunting. Well distributed in habitat but not common.

American Goldfinch. Fairly common.

Rufous-sided Towhee. Common.

Chipping Sparrow. Common. Two nests were found. Koch saw one 15 feet up in an elm.

Gluck had one 8 feet up in a white pine in O. Eye's yard. It contained one egg and one young bird.

Song Sparrow. Reasonably common.

Acknowledgments

Mr. Osbra Eye, Forest Superintendent, was most helpful. The field work was done by BBC members including Kenneth and Dick Anderson, Osbra Eye, Norris Gluck, Betty Greenlee, George Hurley, Constance Katholi, Ben and Maxine Kiff, George Koch, Nevada Laitsch, Virginia and Tom Olsen, Don and Martha Shearer, Anne Shreve and Leon Wilson. Sketches of the Cerulean Warbler and the Acadian Flycatcher were drawn by Carol Rudy.

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

CONTINUATION OF WINTER AND BREEDING BIRD POPULATION STUDIES AT BEAR ROCK LAKES Glen Phillips

This is the third of a series of winter and breeding bird counts conducted on a portion of a public fishing and recreation area in an attempt to document the change in bird life as the area passes through the stages of plant succession to climax forest.

Periodic studies also afford the opportunity for demonstrating and teaching the techniques of population studies.

LOCATION: Part of Bear Rocks Lakes Public Fishing Area, about twelve miles from Wheeling, on Todd Run, Ohio County, W. Va.

ELEVATION: Approximately 1200 feet.

SIZE: Ten acres, roughly rectangular.

DESCRIPTION: The area has been described in 1957 and 1962—The Redstart 24:52 and 29:47. Now some of the saplings are 5 inches in diameter, the row of spruce has a few trees 15-20 feet in height, and some of the briars are beginning to die out.

WINTER COVERAGE: The winter count was conducted from December 5, 1965 until February 27, 1966. Six observers made a total of sixteen trips to the area using a system of reporting developed by The Ohio Valley Naturalists during work on the multiflora rose

planting at Oglebay Park. The weather was "open" during most of the study period. December was exceptionally warm with only 0.55 inches of precipitation. Heavy snows did not arrive until Jan. 24 when 17 inches covered the plot followed by 4 more inches and drifting on January 31. A total of 7.21 inches of precipitation occurred during the period.

WINTER CENSUS: Chickadee, 4.7(46.9); Tufted Titmouse, 3.1 (30.6); Common Crow 2.8 (27.5); Cardinal, 2.4 (23.7); Tree Sparrow, 1.6 ; Downy Woodpecker, 1.4; Ruffed Grouse, 1.3; Whitebreasted Nuthatch, 1.2; Junco, 1.2; Song Sparrow, 1.0; American Goldfinch, .9; House Sparrow, .9; Hairy Woodpecker, .4; White-crowned Sparrow, .4; Eastern Bluebird, .3; Robin, .3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, .2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, .2; Pileated Woodpecker, .1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet .1; Carolina Wren, .1; Belted Kingfisher, .1; Flicker, .1

TOTALS: 24.8 individuals of twenty four species, (248 per 100 acres).

COMMENTS: Long before the count was completed, it was evident that the winter residents were fewer than in other years. This author feels that the same trend was prevalent throughout our entire section of the country. Christmas bird counts and other data should be studied to clarify this observation.

OBSERVERS: Mrs. Edward Vossler, Harold Vossler, A. R. Dunnell, Dorothy Broemsen, Mrs. Dolores Devaul and Glen Phillips, compiler.

Breeding Bird Census

COVERAGE: This year's breeding bird count was made with the assistance of Mrs. Edward Vossler during the weekend of May 27 to May 30th. Ten trips were made in early morning and late evening—4:50 A.M. to 7:55 P.M. E.S.T. No trips were made on the evening of Saturday May 28 because of a violent thunderstorm. Total time about 12 party hours.

CENSUS: Yellow Warbler, 7.5 (75); Catbird, 6 (60); Rufous-sided Towhee, 3.5 (35); Yellow-breasted Chat, 2.5 (25); Baltimore Oriole, 2.5 (25); House Wren, 2; Traill's Flycatcher, 2; Cardinal, 1.5; Indigo Bunting, 1.5; Robin, 1.0; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1.0; Field Sparrow, 1.0; Wood Thrush, 1.0; Wood Pewee, 1.0; Acadian Flycatcher, 1.0; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1.0; Brown Thrasher, 1.0; Red-eyed Vireo, 1.0; Eastern Kingbird, 1.0; Scarlet Tanager, 0.5; Chipping Sparrow, 0.5; Carolina Chickadee, +; Yellow-shafted Flicker, +; Mourning Dove, +; Yellowthroat, +; Tufted Titmouse, +; Warbling Vireo, +; Blue-winged Warbler, +; Ruffed Grouse, +;

TOTALS: 40 pairs of 20 species (400 pairs per 100 acres).

VISITORS: American Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Starling, Common Grackle, Barn Swallow, Belted Kingfisher, Green Heron, Ring-necked Pheasant and Chimney Swift.

Note: only three nests were found: one each of Baltimore Oriole, Kingbird and Catbird.

COMMENTS: The situation of five or six pairs of red-wings nesting near the western boundary is unchanged. This results in the birds' flying over the plot and perching occasionally. Also, between the boundary and the open field where the redwings nest is a rather dense area. At least two pairs of grackles could be found here. They would go across the plot to the lake, sometimes stopping enroute and at one time they were feeding young out of nest on the study plot.

Two species of birds indicate to the writer that some changes are taking place. In the southern end of the plot, which is slightly further developed, a Wood Pewee had staked out a territory away from the larger trees of the ravine. This species had previously used only the larger trees. The ravine itself, has now shed some of its underbrush and, for the first time, an Acadian Flycatcher was making this his home. Triadelphja, W. Va.

Brooks Bird Club Library Books

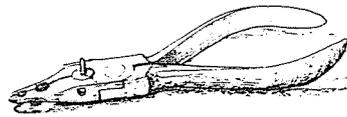
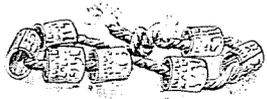
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The Gathering Cage



Constance Katholi, Editor
 930 Woodland Ave.,
 South Charleston, W. Va.

Charley Handley's letter sets the stage for the Winter Season:

LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA "January 22, 1968. . . I have banded only three birds, Mourning Doves, since the first of the year. I have had no nets or traps set. The three doves found their way into a cage which I had stored in my barn near a bait spot. I know I missed a golden opportunity to catch doves and meadowlarks during this snow period. Both species damage their foreheads and wings in the small traps which I had available, so I haven't had the heart to molest them in this weather. I am working on a net trap which I hope will lessen the unjuries. I hope to get it in operation tomorrow. I have been feeding at least 100 doves and 50 meadowlarks right along. Very likely there are twice that many. The ground is still covered with snow and has been since Dec. 28. We have had in all about forty inches! . . ." Charley Handley

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W. VA. The snowfall of Dec. 28 brought immediate benefits here in the form of increased patronage at the feeder, and after the long dull fall it was worthwhile again to open some traps. Cardinals and Towhees materialized out of nowhere in good number. Some other fringillidae seemed not to experience food-finding problems, and no build-up of either Juncos or White-throats occurred. Five Tree Sparrows and two Field Sparrows, both rare in my woods, showed up one at a time. With the shrinking snow cover the Cardinals and Towhees vanished as quickly and completely as they had come. (Through the grapevine I learned only yesterday of the death of one, a female cardinal, two miles away.) Days of swirling snow showers brought in small flocks of

Purple Finches; although they were generally local and spotty this year. Consequently it was with great pleasure that I read the number on a banded adult male, and discovered that I had banded him myself in April 1966,—as a male in rosy plumage then! My husband double-checked the number. How many banders have "recovered" their own finch on the wintering grounds? It is especially interesting because none of this species was sighted here last winter. Fine weather caused the Purple Finches to disappear early in March, only to re-appear with snow flurries—but the Goldfinches remained constant. Their numbers were twice those of the Purple Finches during the whole period, and three of this species gratifyingly returned from former years: 1 from 1965, and 2 from 1966. By the middle of March the black flecks on the head and the specks of bright yellow on the body were beginning to liven their practical green-and-rusty winter garb. . . On February 12 a Sparrow Hawk attacked a trap containing two goldfinches and a junco. It was an exciting moment for me—watching him strike and strike again,—one which I'd have enjoyed prolonging,—but I dared not delay going to the rescue, for fear one of the trapped birds would suffer a ruptured blood vessel or heart attack. The hawk withdrew to a nearby tree at my approach, and remained there for fifteen minutes. This is the second time that this had happened here. The first time was in spring two or three years ago. Connie Katholi
 My Purple Finch "recovery" (above) makes the remarks in the next paragraph of particular interest.—

SUMMIT LAKE, WISCONSIN Purple Finches seem to show a different dispersal pattern for adult and immature birds. They are a common breeding species here, but as soon as the nesting season is over, the adult birds quite suddenly and mysteriously disappear. I have only caught one after July, and it was a late September record. Perhaps it was an adult which winters with us. Immatures continue to be abundant until late September when they too disappear. From then until April only a few stray individuals are seen. I do not believe that the winter ones are the same ones which spend the summer with us. If they are, where have they been between July and October? Unfortunately, I have no recoveries to support my theories, and I have captured only one foreign bird,—a second year male which was banded in the winter in Kentucky. It arrived in May to spend the summer in the north woods. Perhaps some of my birds also winter in West Virginia? Carol Rudy

COLUMBUS, OHIO The moratorium at the decoy trap continues. By mid-December patronage was practically nil and I closed the store. Other years we have had some business right through the season. In fact in 1965-66 a dozen cowbirds "wintered" in the trap (cf. IBBA News, 1967, vol. 39, p. 23-25). In early February the ground was bare and I baited the trap for a few days but the only catch was two English Sparrows. Even the resident Starlings which I see in appreciable numbers here and there do not seem interested. So I am waiting for the migrants but am not very sanguine. As mentioned earlier the construction of the General College nearby changes the ecology.

Meanwhile I have time to work over some accumulated data. At the moment I am analyzing 945 recoveries resulting from our four years of banding. This number is large enough so that some trends may be statistically significant. I am puzzled by one trend already. Only 6 percent of our Grackle recoveries are outside Ohio while the corresponding percents for other species are: Starling 32, Redwing 48, Cowbird 60. In fact 80 percent of the Grackle recoveries are right in Columbus. It cannot be that the Grackles are permanent residents. On the recent Columbus Audubon Christmas count 63 observers found only 8 Grackles. A year ago 63 observers found 15 Grackles. I am hoping to find some other variable to account for this trend but none of the local ornithologists have any plausible hypotheses. Harold E. Burt

INWOOD, W. VA On March 2, 1968 at Snodgrass Spring near Martinsburg, W. Va. I put up some nets for Common Snipe. It was so windy that I folded the nets over the water about 5 p.m. and was on my way to fold four others along a lane nearby, when I caught my foot on a log and fell down into the water, which luckily was only two feet deep. Well, I got wet on only one side, and I got only one boot full of water; but to top it off I found eight birds in the nets, one of them a chickadee, tangled up as only a chickadee can be. Seven were removed easily, but the chickadee took fifteen minutes. I finally got the nets folded, drove six and a half miles home, took my muddy clothes off on the porch, had a long hot bath, and did not suffer any ill effects. Sunday was cold and windy again; I caught 9 White-throats in the morning, and after a lunch, a Sharp-shinned Hawk,—the first one I have ever caught in a net. It was a little difficult to take out, at first, and after getting clawed once, I used a small canvas bag which I found in my pocket literally to wrap-the-hawk-in-canvas. Then by removing one wing, and rewrapping the hawk for the other wing, it went much easier.

Clark Miller



FIELD NOTES

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

WINTER SEASON:

December 1, 1967 to February 29, 1968

Reports for the Winter Season were characterized by such comments as "dull, uneventful, uninteresting, birdlife scarce, and sorry I have so little to report!" There was no invasion of northern species so perhaps the incentive for intensive observation was absent.

The ample crop of berries, small fruits and seeds, along with unharvested grains made birds less dependent on feeders except during heavy snow. This was probably responsible for the great numbers of wintering Robins, Cedar Waxwings and sparrows.

Most of December was mild with temperatures above normal. However the last few days were very cold and snow was experienced throughout most of the region. January and February were very wintery. There were long hard cold spells with very few weather breaks before the end of the period.

This is the kind of season that makes one hesitate to dwell at much length on Christmas censuses. With mild weather until the week of the counts then a sudden cold blitz which lasted for more than two months—an April Fools Day count would seem more practical to determine actual bird populations. Most of the records for this period were made during the first six weeks and despite the severity of the weather during the rest of the period, only two reporters offered any opinion on population survival.

Loons, Grebes and Herons—A Common Loon was seen at a swamp north of Huntington,

W. Va. Jan. 21 (TI). Very few sightings of Horned or Pied-billed Grebes were submitted. Great Blue Herons were found at Wheeling, W. Va. in December (CC). One wintered on Kanawha river at Charleston, W. Va. (NG). One seen on the South Branch near Upper Tract, W. Va. January 27 constituted Smith's first winter record for that locality.

Waterfowl—A Whistling Swan near Ona, W. Va. December 31 was a noteworthy record (MK). More than 100 Canada Geese were on Sherwin Pond near Willoughby, Ohio through December and January. They were absent for about ten days in February when the pond froze over but returned. Two large flocks of geese were seen flying high near East Liverpool, Ohio January 21 by Chandler and Laitsch. Were they searching for open water? A Blue Goose was recorded on the Ohio river near Chesapeake January 18 (TI). The overall picture of ducks was poor excepting the Eastern panhandle of W. Va. where Miller considered them normal with Goldeneyes perhaps increased. The Huntingdon fellows, S. Argabrite, L. Kiff, L. Wilson and T. Igo found a number of species on the Ohio river nearby and at the Kyger Creek ponds near Gallipolis, Ohio on January 6 and 18. Blacks and Mallards were the only ones showing good numbers. The sighting of 4 Oldsquaws on Guyan Creek near Huntington January 5 and 8 at Chesapeake, O. Jan. 18 was noteworthy (TI). 5 White-winged Scoters were seen on the Ohio river at Wheeling, W. Va. January 31 (CC).

Hawks—Accipiter hawks appeared scarce. Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks were not uncommon in the Charleston and Huntington, W. Va. areas. Rough-legged hawks wintered in the Scioto river bottoms near Portsmouth, Ohio (MT). One was found at Clarksville, Pa. Jan. 31 (RKB). Sparrow hawks appeared near normal.

Grouse, Bobwhites and Pheasants—Several Ruffed Grouse were seen at Brockway, Pa. (TVS); considered plentiful in Hancock County, W. Va. (ERC) in Beaver County, Pa. and in Columbiana County, Ohio (NL) and apparently increased in the Wheeling, W. Va. area. Several small coveys of Bobwhites seen throughout the winter in the East Liverpool, Ohio surroundings denotes a good survival. There were many plots of unharvested corn and Pheasants were not uncommon around these fields.

Killdeer, Snipe and Gulls—Wintering Killdeer and Common Snipe increased in the Eastern panhandle of W. Va. (CM). A Common Snipe wintered at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB). Gulls were not present in any numbers.

Owls—A Barn Owl was observed in the Scioto river bottoms near Portsmouth, Ohio February 4 (MT). Screech Owls were thought scarce by several reporters. A pair of Great Horned Owls was found nesting in Coonskin park, Charleston, W. Va. January 31 (NG). This species was heard at three locations in Pendleton County, W. Va. during December (JS).

Kingfisher and Woodpeckers—In spite of the long periods of cold and frozen waters, Belted Kingfishers remained in several localities throughout the winter. Flickers wintered in good numbers in the southern part of the region. Red-bellied Woodpeckers appeared substantially increased. The others appeared normal.

Larks, Jays and Crows—Horned Larks were found fairly common in eastern Ohio and the Northern panhandle of West Virginia. Numbers were low at Charleston, W. Va. Blue Jays are showing a notable increase in the region and a rapid extension of their range. Common Crows appeared to increase in most sections but were thought reduced at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB).

Nuthatches, Creepers and Wrens—Red-breasted Nuthatches were listed at Blackwater Falls, W. Va. January 28 (NL). They were conspicuous by their absence in the reports. Brown Creepers were unusually common in most localities. The number wintering in Pendleton County, W. Va. was noteworthy since they are not usually found there in the

winter (JS). A Carolina Wren, which is uncommon at Willoughby, Ohio, patronized a feeder for the first two weeks of the year (MS). Their populations were high within their range at the beginning of the period. Their survival was good at East Liverpool, Ohio. Winter Wrens were in a little better than usual numbers.

Mimics and Thrushes—Mockingbirds increased at Charleston, W. Va. (GFH) and are still extending their wintering range. One was listed at Weirton, W. Va. on the Christmas count (OJ). Robins wintered in numbers throughout most of the region. Huge roosts were reported in Gilmer County, W. Va. (NG) and in Wetzel County, W. Va. (CC). A few Hermit Thrush were seen at Charleston, W. Va. during the winter (NG). Bluebirds were plentiful at Charleston, W. Va. (NG); found a few places in Pendleton County, W. Va. and appeared to survive the winter (JS); considered common in the Portsmouth, Ohio area (MT) and were listed throughout the winter near East Liverpool, Ohio.

Kinglets, Waxwings and Shrikes—Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared unusually plentiful throughout the region and a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets remained. There appeared to be a reduction in the number of Loggerhead Shrikes in the upper Potomac region following the severe weather (JS). One was seen near Wayne, W. Va. Jan. 12 which was considered unusual (TI). After almost complete absence during the past two winters Cedar Waxwings appeared in very good numbers. Miss Trowbridge reported an invasion near Portsmouth, Ohio on January 27 when she traveled a country road for about 10 miles where Cedar Waxwings were on every tree and bush and even on the ground in such numbers that she could not reach an estimate. The following day she and 3 friends found them still there.

Vireos and Warblers—Most unusual was the report by Mrs. Albert Criss of Fairmont, W. Va. of a Solitary Vireo in her yard on February 7. This was a second winter record as she had recorded this species on February 5, 1964 which was also a very cold winter.

Blackbirds and Grosbeaks—Some blackbirds remained in the region but the main migration movements had not begun before the end of the period. A flock of 60 Cowbirds was seen at Brockway, Pa. December 9 (TVS) and some 30 to 40 were seen at Phillipi, W. Va. during January (KB). Cardinals were considered very plentiful by most reporters.

Finches and Sparrows—Purple Finch were plentiful in the Charleston and Huntington, W. Va. areas and coming to feeders in numbers. An occasional Pine Siskin was listed in the East Liverpool, Ohio area with 5 on one occasion. American Goldfinch appeared abundant all over the region. Towhees wintered in numbers in the southern part of the region. The Christmas count at Charleston produced 211 compared to 45 last year. They were non-existent in the northern part of the region. The number of wintering Slate-colored Juncos appeared normal or a little better. White-crowned Sparrows were plentiful at Inwood, W. Va. all winter but White-throated Sparrows were scarce there (CM). White-throated Sparrow numbers were better than doubled on the Charleston Christmas count compared to last year's count (GFH). Listed on the Weirton, W. Va. count (OJ) and two wintered at the Criss home in Fairmont, W. Va. (PC). Tree Sparrows wintered in better than average numbers with a marked preference for the northern part of the region. According to the Christmas count, Field Sparrows were down by half at Charleston, W. Va. (GFH) but at Ona, W. Va. the Kiffs banded more Field Sparrows than in any previous season. Song Sparrows were in fair numbers in most places. Snow Buntings were observed at Brockway, Pa. during January and a flock of 600 was seen January 21 (TVS).

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REDSTART EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

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.

REPRINTS. Authors may request reprints at the time papers are submitted. Cost of reprints will be paid by the author. The author is responsible for putting his paper in final form for production. This will include corrections suggested by the Advisory Editorial Board.

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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