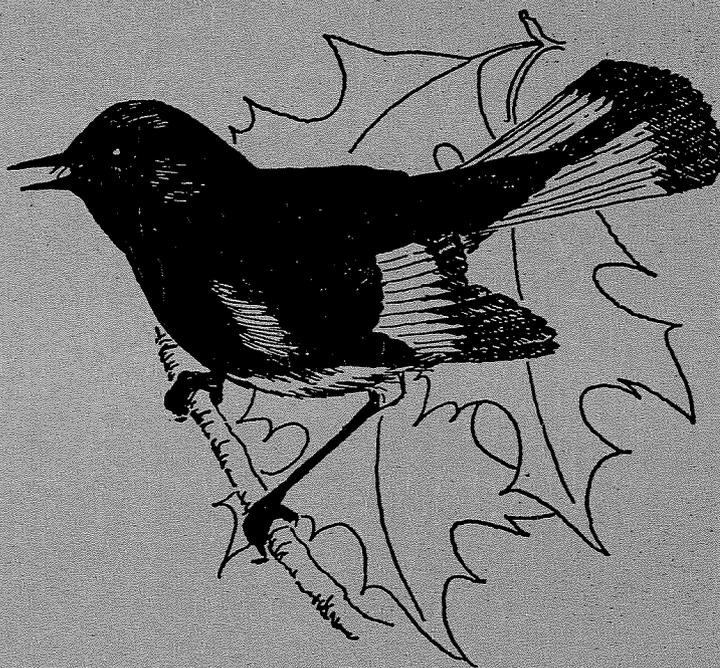


The REDSTART

Volume 37—Number 2

April, 1970



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CONTENTS

PAGE

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1969 Bird Population Studies at Oglebay Park
 —Glen Phillips 66

Book Review
 —Constance Katholi 69

Spring Record of Swainson's Hawk in
 Pennsylvania
 —David B. Freeland 71

Field Notes
 —Nevada Laitsch 72

The Gathering Cage 78

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 publications and books for review should be mailed to the Editor.

1969 Bird Population Studies at Oglebay Park

Glen Phillips

This is one of a series of studies to document winter and summer resident species of birds in Oglebay Park. This year's site is a continuation of the area studied during 1968.

LOCATION: In Oglebay Park, Ohio County, West Virginia. Part of the northern drainage of Waddel's Run. Beginning at the southern end of the 1968 Oglebay study plot (where the C. & P. Telephone Co. right of way crosses the bridle trail), and using the same pathway as center, this year's plot curves around the western and southern perimeter of Camp Russel to a point directly behind cabins 13 and 14.

SIZE: 15 acres (sickle shaped 110 yards by 660 yards, measured longitudinally and estimated laterally).

TOPOGRAPHY: The plot is situated on the south and southwest-facing slopes of a steep (30 to 45 degree) hillside at an elevation of about 1000 feet.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA: The area is approximately 74% deciduous woodland of at least second growth, 16% open, mowed grassland and 10% planted evergreens. Forty percent of the total area is a woodland dominated by young beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) in which the dominant species consists of at least half of the stem count. Also present on the area are: Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), 23 to 31 inches D.B.H.; White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), 16 to 18 inches D.B.H.; Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), to 24 inches D.B.H.; Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), and White Oak (*Quercus alba*), to 36 inches D.B.H.; and American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), 20 to 32 inches D.B.H. Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), probably planted, is scattered throughout the woodland portion. The open portion of the area is the tended grounds of a summer camp including part of the athletic field and cabins one, two, and seven through fourteen. The evergreen portion is made up of planted Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*). Significant plants in the ground cover include: Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), Trillium (*Trillium* sp.), Cutleaf Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), May-apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Hairy Sweet Cicely (*Osmorhiza claytoni*), Plumelily (*Smilacina racemosa*), White Snake-root (*Eupatorium rugosum*), Aster (*Aster* sp.) Joe-pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), Tall Bellflower (*Campanula americana*), Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arboreascens*), Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), Jewelweed (*Impatiens* sp.), Bottle-brush Grass (*Hystrix patula*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Leafcup (*Polymnia canadensis*), Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Among the understory plants are: Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), and Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*). Most of the elms on the area are dead or dying of Dutch Elm infestation.

WINTER CENSUS

WINTER WEATHER: The least amount of snowfall in several years. However, the precipitation over the period was 70% of normal, occurring mostly in the early part of the study period.

WINTER COVERAGE: December 1, 1968 through February 28, 1969. Twenty-two trips were made varying from 7:25 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Total party hours approximately 17.

WINTER CENSUS

Species	Average Count	Birds per 100 acres
Chickadee	3.73	25
Common Crow	2.77	18
Tufted Titmouse	1.82	12
Downy Woodpecker	1.73	11
Cardinal	1.32	9
White-breasted Nuthatch	1.23	8
Ruffed Grouse	1.0	7
Carolina Wren	0.91	6
Slate-colored Junco	0.91	6
Brown Creeper	0.73	5
Starling	0.53	+
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.36	+
Hairy Woodpecker	0.32	+
Pileated Woodpecker	0.32	+
White-throated Sparrow	0.23	+
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0.13	+
Song Sparrow	0.13	+
Cooper's Hawk	0.09	+

TOTALS: Eighteen species, 18.32 average count per trip (122 resident birds per 100 acres). Visitors: Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Phoebe, Blue Jay and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

REMARKS ON THE WINTER COUNT: This study was conducted within half a mile of the nature center. Part of the program of the Nature Education Department of Oglebay Institute consists of "bird feeding parties" wherein groups of young people (school children, 4-H clubs, Scouts, etc.) bring bird food and place it within a short distance of the Nature Center. Immediately following these "parties", the study plot would be almost deserted as the birds left their normal feeding areas to feast upon the plentiful supply left by the children. This activity has been carried on for some years and is expected to continue, thus the study represents normal conditions.

SUMMER CENSUS

SUMMER COVERAGE: May 28 to June 1, 1969. Seventeen trips (12 party hours) concentrated morning and evening varying from 5:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. E.S.T.

VISITORS: Cedar Waxwing, Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Brown Thrasher, Goldfinch, Nighthawk, Common Grackle, Swainson's Thrush and Blue Jay.

REMARKS: Weather during the survey was fair and sunny with the afternoon temperature reaching an above-normal 90 degrees. A nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found on the area before the survey. Titmice, Chickadees, Nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers were traveling in groups suggesting that these species had already hatched their broods. Of the twenty-four species found on the area during the three-month winter count, thirteen (54%) were present during the four-day summer census. Scientific names of plants were taken from *Flora of West Virginia* by Strasbaugh and Core except for Scotch Pine taken from *Gray's Manual*

of Botany, Eighth Edition, by M. L. Fernald, References: *The Redstart*, 33:66, 35:109, 36:66.

Species	SUMMER CENSUS Territorial Males	Males per 100 Acres
Red-eyed Vireo	4.0	27
Acadian Flycatcher	3.5	23
Wood Pewee	3.0	20
House Wren	3.0	20
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3.0	20
Cardinal	3.0	20
Cerulean Warbler	2.0	13
Rufous-sided Towhee	2.0	13
Tufted Titmouse	2.0	13
Catbird	2.0	13
Carolina Wren	2.0	13
Wood Thrush	1.5	10
Indigo Bunting	1.0	7
Carolina Chickadee	1.0	7
Robin	1.0	7
Baltimore Oriole	1.0	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	1.0	7
Downy Woodpecker	1.0	7
Chipping Sparrow	1.0	7
Eastern Phoebe	0.5	3
Song Sparrow	0.5	3
Kentucky Warbler	0.5	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	+	+
Chimney Swift	+	+
Great Crested Flycatcher	+	+
Pileated Woodpecker	+	+
Hairy Woodpecker	+	+
Louisiana Waterthrush	+	+
Brown-headed Cowbird	+	+
Common Crow	+	+
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	+	+
Yellow-shafted Flicker	+	+
Totals: 32 species	39.5	263

CENSUS TAKERS: Dorothy Broemsen, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Devaul, Earl Vanscoy, Mark Jenkins, Duncan McKay, Mrs. Edward Vossler, Mike McCutcheon, Charles Conrad, Arthur Dunnell, George Lippert, James Butler, Dorothy Neuhard, Mrs. Wilma Bruhn, Ruth Weller and Glen Phillips.

Triadelphia, W. Va.

Book Review:

A Bird-Bander's Guide to Determination of Age and Sex

by Merrill Wood, Associate Professor of Zoology,
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

By now most banders will have had an opportunity to examine Professor Merrill Wood's manual, "A Bird-Bander's Guide to Determination of Age and Sex", which was released in September 1969. There will be as many opinions about the book as there are banders; certainly there will be criticisms. All will give thanks in some degree, and agree that this is a book which needed doing. It was a major undertaking requiring a lot of tedious and exacting work, which brings together a wealth of information previously scattered through the literature, much of which was not accessible to the average bander. A non-profit making project, printed by the Pennsylvania State University Press, the price, \$3.00 plus .18 tax, is extremely reasonable; it is requisite among a bander's standard references. A recent MTAB (No. 13, December 1969) from the Banding Office carried an endorsement of it.

The format is an 8½ x 11 spiral binder with a flexible black water-resistant cover. It opens flat on the table, a feature which those who work at a permanent banding location find satisfactory. Personally I would prefer a stiff cover, and a three-hole, loose-leaf format in order that new material might be more easily inserted, or that the guide itself could be combined with issues from the Banding Office, and/or, sundry other sources of information which become available. The large page size was chosen to afford generous space allowance for adding personal observations and entering the aforesaid new information; however, there are some who feel that a more compact size would be handier, while serving the purpose as effectively. One serious fault is the position of the index; fifteen pages in from the flyleaf, when surely the usual position is either at the beginning or the end, preferably the latter. (A pragmatic solution for the present problem is to place an index tab on the page in question.) Additionally, I personally would have preferred the page numbers to be on the outer edge, instead of in the middle of the page, for easier page selection—when holding a bird in the hand.

The introductory material is most informative, but might have been further expanded; however, since this does not, and should not, aspire to be a complete text, a condensed treatment is reasonable. The diagrams are quite helpful, but I would like the remiges to be drawn completely in, instead of being merely numbered and left to the imagination. One desirable feature might be to include an illustration showing a fully ossified, versus an incompletely ossified, skull (there are a number of good drawings extant) as a plus for new, and future banders. Along the same lines the arrow pointing to "crissum" might be better placed. At the beginning of the section on warblers I would like a reproduction of Chandler Robbins' Wing Chord Chart, and as a further consideration for a future edition, a summary chart for quick reference for all species of the "Can-do—Can't do" type such as is found in Mr. Robbins' "Guide to the Ageing and Sexing of Wood Warblers in Fall."

The text is remarkable free from typographical error, considering the nature of the material, although one on page 119 comes to mind, "Blanks" for "Flanks"

under Bay-breasted Warbler, Item 2B, and another on page 120, "Bray" for "Gray" in Black-throated Gray warbler. Still another on the same page under Blackpoll Warbler, Item 1, "Otherwise, Age: Jan-May AHY, Jan-Dec. U". Surely Jun is intended for JAN, as underlined. There are doubtless more of this nature, but truly a careful job of proof-reading was done.

But the comments thus far have been only piddling "nit-picking". The main complaints will be with the cryptic phraseology, the vocabulary, of the Key, and the stepwise approach to each solution. Keys of necessity are a **forced** vocabulary, more intelligible to some of us than to others, and inevitably fully intelligent only to the author; for example, offhand,—what does "Age by Skulling Unlikely" mean? Like the Bed of Proustes of Greek legend information is stuffed into a formula not always suitable to it. For some species the path takes the long way around, being devious and verbose, varying in its approach, and not cutting straight to the heart of the problem. In truth much of this is a matter of semantics only. Each bander has species with which he is especially familiar, and he is bound to be most critical in these instances. So much of identification of birds is subjective: each bander has certain field marks meaningful chiefly to himself,—and we should bear in mind how different the bird-in-the-hand looks from the bird-in-the-bush, and again from the one-on-the-printed-page! What tunes in one person will be static to another, hence the Key for the bander's favorite species will seem to him the most illogical and annoying. As Mr. Wood says in the Preface, "Birds are variable biological material, they do not come like pills in a bottle all alike",—and this goes double for people! Before casting stones let us reread the whole of the preface, appreciating the stated aims of the manual, as was suggested in the editorial comment in *EBBA News*, 33, 1. p.24.

The major achievement of this book in the long run may be the realization of how much more there is to be discovered, set down in black and white for the first time, and therein lie opportunities for the future. From this may come inspiration and incentive leading to special studies and projects for "small banders". By the same token this discussion here is only a beginning. To make an accurate sampling of the text comments must come from a cross-section of banders handling a variety of species. There will be a need for a clearing house, and I would like to see the "Gathering Cage" used as a sounding board for suggestions now and corrections later. Let us get the ideas in print, for it is already obvious that there will be another edition of Merrill Wood's guide,—and yet another. It is too early for a true appraisal, although I have found it most useful already, making it a practice to check each species which comes to hand against the text; but in conclusion, one thing **IS** "for certain": the book speaks the language of the computer! It will be a boon first of all to the Banding Office clerks who must feed the correct information to the machines, and in the second place to the banders, since the result will be less indigestible data to be run down through correspondence.

—Constance Katholi

Addendum:

Even before the above review reached the presses "Corrections by the Author", the first revisions of Professor Wood's manual, were issued on March 27, 1970. The most obvious typographical errors were corrected, including two men-

tioned in the review; other changes were essentially minor ones consisting chiefly in a refinement of the vocabulary, a better choice of words, aimed at improving the understanding and sharpening the focus. Two, however, were of major proportions: the first, a complete rephrasing of the Key for the Brown-headed Cowbird; and the second, a different method of speciation for the Black-capped and the Carolina chickadee, viz, "To omit wing chord and tail length measurements. To separate the species by wing chord—tail length ratio". Since all who purchased the manual will have received the revisions sheets, there is no need to list the changes in detail here, only to urge that the corrections be made promptly. I should like to suggest to the author that future revisions be issued on one side of the paper only; it is easier to make the longer alterations by simply cutting out the proper section and pasting it in place. (Color me lazy!) To all banders let these first revisions be a guide and set a pattern for your own suggestions. C.K.

Spring Record of Swainson's Hawk in Pennsylvania

On 18 April 1969 I observed a brilliantly plumaged adult Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsonii*) perched in a dead tree alongside a shallow ravine in Springdale Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The chestnut-brown breast band was clearly evident through 7x50 binoculars at 100 feet. When the bird was startled, it dropped from the tree and veered away, showing the distinctive underwing pattern of dusky and white. It set its wings in a broad, flat "V" as it sailed over a low hill to the east. The hawk was subsequently reported on 20 April by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crispens of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, in the same location.

The only Pennsylvania specimen of Swainson's Hawk is one collected on 5 September 1901 in a dry field at Jacobs Creek, Westmoreland County (Todd, *Birds of Western Pennsylvania*, Univ. Pitt. Press, 1940: 148). There is a sight record for Brockway, Pennsylvania, on 17 October 1966 (*Aud. Field Notes*, 21-1: 34), and a review of available literature reveals no other record for the state. It appears furthermore that this bird was the first spring record for Pennsylvania and one of the very few for Northeastern U.S.

I wish to thank George A. Hall, Merrill Wood, Kenneth C. Parkes and G. Bernard Van Cleve for their assistance in researching the history of Swainson's Hawk in Pennsylvania.—DAVID B. FREELAND (Chairman of Research, Aud. Soc. of Western Pa.), 336 Earlwood Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235.



FIELD NOTES

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

Autumn Season
September 1 to December 1, 1969

Mild weather prevailed over the region during September and October. There was some rainfall and a few dense fogs in that period but no real cold front moved in until mid-November when the first snowfall of consequence occurred.

This was the twelfth year of Operation Recovery on Allegheny Front Mountain, Grant County, West Virginia. Project leaders classed this season as only moderately successful. Rain and heavy fog forced suspension of the operation for five days in September at the height of the fall migration.

A flight of northern species was indicated. Reports of northern finches came from several areas with some sightings in October. Of particular interest was the Boreal Chickadee movement which came as far south as Morgantown, W. Va. This was the first occurrence of this species in West Virginia.

Natural foods were in abundance and populations of some species appeared high. Some rather late dates for migrants were submitted and a number of the half hardy species were still in the region at the close of the period.

This looks like an interesting Winter Season for both the northern visitors and wintering residents. Your Editor solicits accounts of events in your area concerning both. Also I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your reports during the past year.

Loons, Grebes and Herons—**Common Loons** were on Seneca Lake, near Barnesville, Ohio on Nov. 8 with good numbers recorded thereafter (C&E). Several were seen at Lake White, south of Columbus, Ohio Nov. 16 (MT). **Horned Grebes** were seen between Richwood, W. Va. and Cranberry Glades Oct. 8 (Osbra Eye fide NG). Numbers at Seneca Lake, Ohio were considered fair (C&E) and they were recorded at Washington, Pa. Nov. 12 (SH). The numerous records of **Pied-billed Grebes** indicated a normal flight.

Swans and Geese—**Whistling Swans** were found at Seneca Lake, Ohio Nov. 8 (C&E); at Morgantown, W. Va. on Cheat Lake Nov. 16 (GAH) and on Moncove Lake, Monroe County, W. Va. last week in November fide NG. There appeared to have been a good flight of **Canada Geese** as records of several large flocks were reported. Harold Burt reported that an unusual number of **Blue Geese** and 8 **Snow Geese** were on Hoover reservoir near Columbus, Ohio in October. Skaggs reported a high wintering population of Canadas in the Willoughby, Ohio area.

Waterfowl—Ducks made a poor showing again this fall. The Seneca Lake, Ohio observers found all waterfowl very scarce there. Only two flights were noted in the Morgantown, W. Va. area. A fair flight was reported by Miller in the Eastern part of West Virginia in October. Despite the scarcity, a few unusual records were submitted. **Oldsquaw** was seen at Seneca Lake, Ohio Nov. 9. Three **White-winged Scoters** were there on Nov. 8 and a **Common Scoter** was found there on Nov. 16 for the first record of this species at Seneca Lake (C&E). Two **Surf Scoters** were recorded at Cheat Lake, Morgantown, W. Va. on Nov. 23. Hall commented that this is only the fourth record of this species for W. Va. and all have been seen in this area.

Vultures and Hawks—While more effort was expended in September to organize hawk counts at various points along the Appalachian chain, the entire project was nearly a washout or a fogout. The groups at Bear Rocks in Tucker County, W. Va. saw nary a hawk. The group manning the Peters Mountain, Monroe County station saw about 500 for the week. Two week-ends on Third Mountain, Eastern W. Va. produced not a single hawk. Ironically, the best flight of the season was observed by Anne Shreve et. al at her home on Middle Ridge about two miles south of Charleston. **Turkey Vultures** were more common than usual in the East Liverpool, Ohio area and remained longer. **Black Vultures** were recorded at Peters Mountain during the hawk watch (GP) and a flock of 15 **Turkey Vultures** and 10 **Blacks** were seen near Lewisburg, W. Va. on Nov. 18 (COH). Two **Sharp-shinned** hawks were seen at Hartland Farms near Lewisburg, W. Va. Oct. 30 (COH). One of this species, which had been banded in Ontario, Canada in 1968 was captured at Red Creek banding station on Sept. 26. Handley noted three separate groups of **Broad-winged Hawks** over Muddy Creek Mountain west of Lewisburg, W. Va. on Sept. 19. A total of 3313 hawks were counted over the Shreve farm on Sept. 21. The bulk of the flight was **Broadwings** but a few **Sparrow Hawks**, **Cooper's**, **Sharp-shinned**, **Red-shouldered**, **Red-tailed** and one **Osprey** were listed. **Marsh Hawks** were listed at Peter's Mountain and near Lewisburg. Several reporters commented that **Sparrow Hawks** were more plentiful than usual.

Ruffed Grouse through Coots—Populations of **Ruffed Grouse** continue high in Columbiana County, Ohio and Hancock County, W. Va. **Ring-necked Pheasants** are also plentiful in this area. Small coveys of **Bobwhites** were in Coonskin Park, Charleston, W. Va. and near Lewisburg, W. Va. during the fall. At least two coveys were at Cedar Lakes, Jackson County, W. Va. Oct. 19 Coots were mentioned in more reports than usual.

Shorebirds—Shorebirds were absent from most reports. High water levels in the localities where most of our records are made eliminated stop overs. A few were found at a disposal field near Inwood, W. Va. This included half dozen **Western Sandpipers**, a few **Yellowlegs**, two **Pectoral Sandpipers** and a number of **Killdeer**. A flock of 30 **Killdeer** was seen at Tomlinson Run State Park, Hancock Co. W. Va. On Nov. 8 (ERC-NL). **Dunlin** was the only shorebird that appeared in good numbers at Seneca Lake, Ohio. Many were seen there Oct. 19 and several days thereafter (C&E).

Owls—One or more **Barn Owl** has been seen occasionally during the fall at Hartland Farm near Lewisburg, W. Va. **Screech Owls** were heard regularly at home in East Liverpool, Ohio during September and October (NL). **Great Horned Owls**

were reported near Lewisburg, W. Va., Charleston, W. Va. and East Liverpool, O. Handley saw a **Short-eared Owl** near Lewisburg on Sept. 1 and another on Oct. 19. These were the first he had seen in that locality. One was seen near Valley Chapel, Lewis County, W. Va. Oct. 24 (NG).

Nighthawks and Swifts—The only report of a good flight of **Nighthawks** was over Kanawha Valley September 3 (NG). The last date for a straggler was Oct. 5. Last date for **Chimney Swift** was Oct. 10 at East Liverpool, Ohio.

Woodpeckers—Several persons commented on unusually large numbers of **Flickers** during the early part of the period. More than usual are attempting to winter in the East Liverpool, Ohio area. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** are showing an increase in the region. First date for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at East Liverpool, Ohio on Sept. 22 followed by Morgantown, W. Va. on the 23 and Charleston on 29.

Flycatchers—**Phoebes** were still in the region Oct. 18 and one was listed in Gilmer County, W. Va. Nov. 20 (GHB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was banded at Morgantown, W. Va. Aug. 23 (GAH). This was the first local banding of this species and seemed a bit early. One was banded at the Red Creek station Sept. 15. Two **Wood Pewees** were listed at Cedar Lakes, Jackson County, W. Va. Oct. 19 (NL).

Swallows—Handley commented that the customary large flocks of **Cliff** and **Barn Swallows** seen during the latter half of September in previous years failed to materialize. Only a few Cliff Swallows were seen. Last date for Barn Swallow was Oct. 20 (COH).

Jays and Crows—**Blue Jays** continue to increase and spread. A large flight was noted at Charleston, W. Va. Sept. 18 (NG). Heavy flights occurred at Red Creek Sept. 27-28 and Oct. 4-5. They are much more common at Morgantown, W. Va. than in the past (GAH). A flock of 75 or more migrating **Crows** was seen near Lewisburg, W. Va. Oct. 8 (COH). A mid day movement of several hundred passed over East Liverpool, Ohio Oct. 23. Groups moved directly south for more than an hour (NL).

Chickadees through Creepers—**Black-capped Chickadees** appear to be repeating their southward movement again this year—perhaps not as heavy as last year. A small flock appeared at East Liverpool, Ohio as early as Sept. 13 (NL). The first one was banded at Morgantown, W. Va. on Oct. 13 where 74 were banded by the end of the period. Bell's first banding date at Clarksville, Pa. was Oct. 24. A **BOREAL CHICKADEE** was banded by the Halls at Morgantown, W. Va. Nov. 10 and two more on Nov. 11. These represent the first records of this species for the state. 32 **Tufted Titmouse** were banded at the Red Creek station. This was about four times the number taken in previous years. Hall banded 10 on Oct. 4 commenting that this was most unusual. Was this a flight or merely a reflection of increased population? Most reporters agreed that the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** flight was very heavy. They were common at East Liverpool, Ohio beginning Sept. 12 and for about two weeks their numbers eclipsed the **White-breasted Nuthatch**. **Brown Creepers** appeared fewer at Red Creek, Grant County, W. Va., Morgantown and Charleston. However they were not at all uncommon in Columbiana County, Ohio and Hancock County, W. Va. This is an interesting situation since this species is now listed throughout the year in these localities.

Wrens—A **House Wren** banded at Hartland Farm near Lewisburg, W. Va. Sept. 22 was the first one seen this year (COH). The latest date submitted was Oct. 6 at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB). **Winter Wrens** were considered plentiful in Kanawha State Forest and Coonskin park in the Charleston, W. Va. area. First seen near East Liverpool, Ohio Nov. 6 and occasionally thereafter. **Carolina Wrens** appear plentiful in all areas as we go into the winter. A **Bewick's Wren** was seen at Peter's Mountain, Monroe County, W. Va. Sept. 13 (NG). A **Long-billed Marsh Wren** was found at Coonskin Park, Charleston Sept. 30 (NG).

Mimics—**Mockingbirds** appear to be increasing rapidly as well as expanding their range. One was seen some ten miles north of East Liverpool, Ohio in September (ERC). Handley banded 20 of this species this fall compared to 12 last fall under similar circumstances. **Catbirds** appeared fewer than usual. The only mention of **Brown Thrasher** was an increase from 5 to 12 bandings at Lewisburg, W. Va. (COH).

Thrush—**Robins** were present in great numbers at East Liverpool, Ohio and Hancock County, W. Va. all fall and fair numbers were still around first of December. Large flocks were also found in the Charleston, W. Va. area. Contradictory was the report from Morgantown, W. Va. where Hall saw a poor flight both there and at Red Creek banding station. **Wood Thrush** made a very poor showing. Reports indicated that **Hermit Thrush**, **Swainson's** and **Grey-cheeked Thrush** numbers were exceedingly low. The bright spot in the thrush picture was reports from most every area concerning the abundance of **Bluebirds**.

Gnatcatchers, Waxwings, Kinglets, Pipits and Shrikes—A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was observed daily from Nov. 11 to 15 at East Liverpool, Ohio (NL). Both **Gold-en-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** appeared in above normal numbers and came in a little early. **Water Pipits** were seen at the Shreve farm south of Charleston, W. Va. on Oct. 21 50 were there for several days after Oct. 30 and 150 were there Nov. 2-3. (AS). A large flock was seen at Seneca Lake, Ohio Nov. 9 (C&E). Large flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** moved through the region Sept. 19-21 but were uncommon thereafter. Five **Loggerhead Shrikes** were banded at the Hartland Farm near Lewisburg, W. Va. during the period (COH); one was seen near Valley Chapel, Lewis County, W. Va. Oct. 24 (NG) and one near Barnesville, Ohio Nov. 23 (C&E).

Vireos—Latest date for **Yellow-throated Vireo** was Sept. 15 at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB). Only one reporter mentioned **Solitary Vireo**. Hall's comment was "more than usual and one was banded at Morgantown as late as Oct. 24." Populations of **Red-eyed Vireos** appeared low. Last date was Morgantown, W. Va. Oct. 5. **Philadelphia Vireos** did not make the usual good showing of the past 3 to 4 years at the Red Creek banding station. One was banded at Morgantown Sept. 28 for the first capture there (GAH). The latest date for **Warbling Vireo** was Sept. 18 near Lewisburg, W. Va.

Warblers—A **Blue-winged warbler** banded at the Red Creek banding station Sept. 12 was a new species for the station. The capture of **Tennessee Warblers** was lower than usual at the Red Creek station. One was heard at East Liverpool, Ohio in full song Oct. 5 (NL). A very late one was banded at Morgantown, W. Va. Nov. 24 (GAH). **Orange-crowned Warblers**, which are not often recorded in our region, were banded at Morgantown Oct. 18-23-24 (GAH) and one was studied closely for several minutes on shrubbery just outside a window at East Liverpool, Ohio on Nov. 6 (NL). A **Yellow Warbler** banded near Lewisburg, W. Va. Sept. 20 (COH) seems

late. **Magnolias** were in poor numbers both at the Red Creek station and Morgantown (GAH). 126 **Cape May Warblers** were banded at the Red Creek station for the highest number of this species since establishment of the station. A very late one was banded at Morgantown Nov. 16 (GAH). **Black-throated-blue Warblers** made a remarkable showing at the Red Creek station with 231 banded. The peak was Sept. 27. One was captured at Morgantown as late as Oct. 7 (GAH). The numbers of **Myrtle Warblers** seemed very good and they were still present in several areas until the first snow. They were very common at Cedar Lakes, Jackson County, W. Va. Oct. 18-19. **Black-throated Green Warblers** also appeared to have had a good year. A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, in good plumage, was observed along Beaver Creek, near East Liverpool, Ohio Sept. 14. They are found here during spring migration. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** appear reduced. Four **Palm Warblers** were banded near Lewisburg, W. Va. Sept. 20 and 3 later with last one Oct. 16 (COH). Palms were also seen at Willoughby, Ohio (MS) and one was seen at East Liverpool Nov. 6. **Ovenbirds** remain very low. A late one was banded at Morgantown, W. Va. Oct. 27 (GAH). **Northern Waterthrush** apparently moved through later than usual. Hall banded one at Morgantown Sept. 22 and Handley banded one each day Sept. 20, 22, 24 at his station near Lewisburg. A very late one was seen near Washington, Pa. Oct. 18 (SH). Only one **Connecticut Warbler** was captured at Red Creek station and one was banded at Morgantown, W. Va. which indicates reduced numbers. Oct. 26 was quite late for a **Wilson's Warbler** which was banded at Morgantown. Hall considered 6 **Redstarts** banded at Morgantown on Sept. 20 most unusual and indicative of a good flight.

Blackbirds and Tanagers—Bell reported an unusually good migration of **Bobolinks** at Clarksville, Pa. this fall with 70 noted on farm Sept. 8. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were plentiful and show signs of wintering in the region. Results of Burt's trapping operation at Columbus, Ohio showed considerable increases in **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Cowbirds**. Handley commented that huge flocks of **Red-wings** and **Grackles** stayed much longer than usual in the Lewisburg, W. Va. area. A flock of 50 or more **Cowbirds** were seen occasionally during second week of October. Unusually large flocks of blackbirds were present in the East Liverpool, Ohio area well into October. It would appear that populations were much higher generally and they lingered as long as food was plentiful. **Rusty Blackbirds** moved through Inwood, W. Va. area in late October. Miller banded 39 during the month. One came to feeder in Morgantown Nov. 15. 30 or so were at feeder at the Shreve farm near Charleston Nov. 19 to 25.

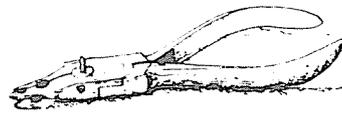
Grosbeaks and Finches—**Cardinals** were considered abundant by several reporters. **Indigo Buntings** were scarce at Morgantown but one was seen there as late as Oct. 4 (GAH). Handley told of a spectacular movement of this species west of Lewisburg and on Muddy Creek Mountain between August 12 and Sept. 24. He banded 267 during this period. **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from nearly all areas beginning the last week in October. Most reports involved small flocks with numbers far below last year's flight. Several persons commented on the complete absence of **Purple Finch**. **Common Redpolls** may prove to be one of the most interesting invaders this year. Bell had a flock of 10 at Clarksville, Pa. Nov. 23 and they were seen in flight for several days thereafter. A flock of 70 or more appeared at Barnesville, Ohio Nov. 27 (C&E). Reports of great numbers both east and west of our region lends hope that they will invade more localities during the winter.

Pine Siskins staged a very heavy flight beginning second week of October. **American Goldfinch** were very plentiful over the region. **Red Crossbills** appeared at Clarksville, Pa. Nov. 4 and were seen on several occasions thereafter (RKB). A small flock was found at Berry Hills, Charleston, W. Va. Nov. 27. (AS). **White-winged Crossbills** were showing up in several locations by the first of November. They were seen in Charleston Oct. 29 (AS); a small flock was present for several days at East Liverpool, Ohio beginning Nov. 6 and Hall banded one at Morgantown, W. Va. Nov. 17.

Sparrows—There was a good flight of **Towhees** and more than usual were noted still in the region at the close of the period. A male **Lark Bunting** in winter plumage was trapped and banded in Greenbrier County, W. Va. on Oct. 31 (COH). This is possibly only the fourth record of this species for West Virginia. Shreve thought that **Savannah Sparrows** were not nearly as common this fall as in the past. Handley banded only 25 at his station near Lewisburg from Sept. 24 to Nov. 23. However, Miller netted 26 Oct. 10 near Inwood, W. Va. in the eastern panhandle. He had not found them there before in the fall. A well marked **Lark Sparrow** was seen on the Shreve farm near Charleston, W. Va. Oct. 29 (AS). Slate-colored **Juncos** appear very plentiful. Most reporters did not consider **Tree Sparrows** very plentiful. Both **Field** and **Chipping Sparrows** migrated in large flocks in many areas. **White-crowned Sparrows** arrived in most places first week in October. **White-throated Sparrows** seemed to have had a good season. Increased numbers were reported by several persons. Few records of **Fox Sparrows** were submitted. A total of 16 **Lincoln Sparrows** were banded at Hartland farm near Lewisburg, W. Va. between Sept. 12 and Nov. 4 (COH); one at Morgantown, W. Va. Sept. 30 (GAH); one at Willoughby, Ohio Oct. 6 (MS) and three were seen at Cedar Lakes, Jackson County, W. Va. Oct. 19 (NL). Reporters agreed that **Song Sparrows** were abundant.

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The Gathering Cage



Constance Katholi, Editor
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Columbus, Ohio. The weather this season has not been conducive to effective operation of my decoy trap. Cracked corn covered by snow is not very attractive bait. Small amounts can be brushed away but presently it becomes difficult to display the corn against a dark background where it is visible to birds overhead. A heavy snowfall has finality. I worry about the poor starving birds in the trap and worry about getting the car stuck on the way in. Then there is the matter of temperature which has been unusually low at times. True, there is an oil stove in the shack where I band but the door must be left open for the venting of carbon monoxide. The net result of these contingencies has been an inactive trap from late December to mid-February.

In earlier years it might have been different. I used to haul a gathering cage full of birds on a sled a quarter mile to the car, take them home and band them in the garage with the door open and an electric heating pad under my parka. That was when it was important to sample the population every day of the year. Now I have ample data on population trends so heroism is no longer necessary.

Along that line, one's philosophy of banding changes with the accumulation of experience (and years). There is an increasing tendency to adjust the banding program to some specific problem or problems. This seems to be in line with the policy of the Wildlife Service. When renewing your permit they ask you essentially why you are banding anyway. At the outset I banded just for the fun of it or for status but now it is more a matter of solving some specific research problem, such as species differences in tendency to repeat, or the measurement of complacency of the birds to which I get access through the banding operation.

Another philosophical consideration is the number of birds banded. A large number used to seem like a mark of distinction. Actually there is no virtue in handling large numbers except insofar as it reduces sampling error in the data . . . But it all depends on the problem. Sometimes one really needs to band a lot of birds for this reason . . . For instance we are interested in analyzing recoveries of our banded birds as to whether a species has any particular directional trend in its movements. (Cf. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 1969, 41, 13-16.) Unfortunately a large number of banded birds yields only a few recoveries and if those few are to be broken down into sub-samples the error can get serious. Since 1963 we have banded some 69,000 "blackbirds" at Columbus but they have yielded only 786 starling recoveries. We shall write these up shortly but we cannot do a thing with

the redwing recoveries which are substantially less than 100. If we took a sub-sample of redwings "banded in summer and recovered before the next February" we might have a dozen or so which would tell us exactly nothing. So I suppose we'll go on banding them in quantity in the hopes of eventually getting enough recoveries. Here is one case where quantity production seems justified.

There is a large blackbird roost about two miles from the trap so I can presently anticipate business as usual.—Harold E. Burt

Newark, Delaware. Some days the mailman bears exciting news, and never was the mail more exciting than on last Wednesday. That's right: I received not one, not two, but 19 of those white band-recovery cards. Some cards inform you that the White-throat you banded on Sunday was picked up Tuesday by a youngster on the next block. Not so with the 19 cards that came last Wednesday: the birds listed on these cards were recovered an average of over five years after they were banded here, and they were found from New Brunswick to Arkansas.

Since everyone is fascinated by Cowbirds, let's first consider the 12 cowbird reports. Five of the recoveries were well to the north, and two were well to the south (northland recoveries have consistently dominated the cowbird records). Two of the northerners were taken in Canada, one at Comte Gloucester, New Brunswick, and one near Montreal. There was one recovered in Maine, one in Massachusetts, and one in New York (the latter by Ben Burt near Syracuse).

While visiting in Florida 13 years ago, I was given that dubious look after reporting having seen a cowbird; the situation has changed so now that one of my banded cowbirds being recovered at Gainesville will not cause any great stir. But the cowbird banded here in Delaware in 1964 that wandered over into the Mississippi flyway to get captured (code 97, or miscellaneous causes) by Reverend Darrow in North Little Rock in July 1969 must go down as a real oddity. Up to now the closest record to that was one recovered in Alabama a few years ago.

I was unable to tell if male cowbird No. 60-141144, banded November 23, 1961, was an adult or a bird-of-the-year,—and that is too bad, as Bill Pepper who lives in New Jersey would have liked to have known more about the age of "Old 144" when he recaptured it on February 2, 1969. But like most cowbirds, 144 had certainly lived a full life unencumbered by family problems.

There were two cards on Common Grackles, each recovered five years after banding; one was a stay-at-home that was killed by a car in Newark, DE, and the other was shot by Pierre Bombardier at Lawrenceville, Quebec. The one Redwing recovered also turned up in Quebec Province after five years absence. A Starling found in a building in Appleton, Maine, had been banded here as an adult male six years before.

These are all birds that were especially successful, they were perfectly adapted to meet life, and they must have experienced thrills, hardships, and also pleasures which we can only dream of as they constantly moved to new areas and encountered completely new and strange conditions in their travels. Think of these tiny fragile birds reacting correctly with split-second decisions to outwit predators, and avoid man's ill-temper and insidious threats; constantly securing nutrients—both when readily available and when scarce or snow covered,—and

think also of their resting, playing, fighting and love-making all in proper proportion. Then you'll, see why the mail man is so welcome.—Jack Linehan

Ona, West Virginia. The birds at Ona this winter were the kind that you dream of having, but never do. Our kitchen window sill was covered with Evening Grosbeaks, beautiful Purple finches, and those Pine Siskins which-stand-up-to-anything. Most of the banding was done at this window because of the very bad weather during most of the season. (However, I used nets at Easter and you should see the results.) Most of birds from Purple-finch-size and up were caught in the dove traps which I obtained from the government last summer. (Somehow I got very few doves in them.) Grosbeaks love these traps because of the "togetherness"; the White-throated sparrows slip through the sides. Some day I'll make a trap of that type out of ½ inch wire for goldfinches and siskins. These species fill the dove trap now, moving in and out of the sides at will. The Easter snow brought a great flock of Robins, 70 plus, and another flock of 30 Cedar Waxwings. The robins were so desperate that they sat eating berries above my head while I took others out of the net below them. With Ben and Leon to help me I banded 63 birds in an hour, most of them cowbirds and robins. We picked robins out of the net in bunches of five, and put them in large grocery bags. The bag was good for one trip only. I was unable to get many of the birds present at the feeder; Blue Jays, for example, which wouldn't cooperate. The Pine Warbler which was banded in 1967, and which returned in January 1969, was back again this spring. There were three Pine Warblers this winter, but not a single Myrtle or Black-capped Chickadee. A Mockingbird defended one of the holly trees from all comers including the flicker and pileated.—Maxine Kiff

Willoughby, Ohio. During the past few years I have not used many Size Zero bands, but this year will be the exception. As the Chinese say, this winter was "the year of the goldfinch", a year in which this species stayed north in greater numbers than usual. Most of the people in our area who feed birds had a lot of them; a neighbor half a mile away had an average of 80 in her yard each day. I thought I had about 20 coming to my feeder, but I banded 42 and still they came unbanded. It was interesting to watch the males change from the spotty plumage of early spring to the bright yellow of the breeding season. On March 14 through my picture window I observed ten or eleven Redpolls among the goldfinches. They were quite tame; two of them were the rosy-throated (or breasted) males. They would not go near the trap, of course, but I did catch ONE of three or four which came again on March 27,—a new species for my banding records. I banded three Pine Siskins which are not very common here, but are regular visitors. Tree Sparrows wintered in near normal numbers, but juncos seemed less common than usual. I catch all the birds I band the "hard" way,—in traps, mostly 2 and 3-cell Potter traps made by EBBA's Walter Bigger. They do a fine job.—Merit Skaggs

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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.

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

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

CONCLUSION. 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.

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