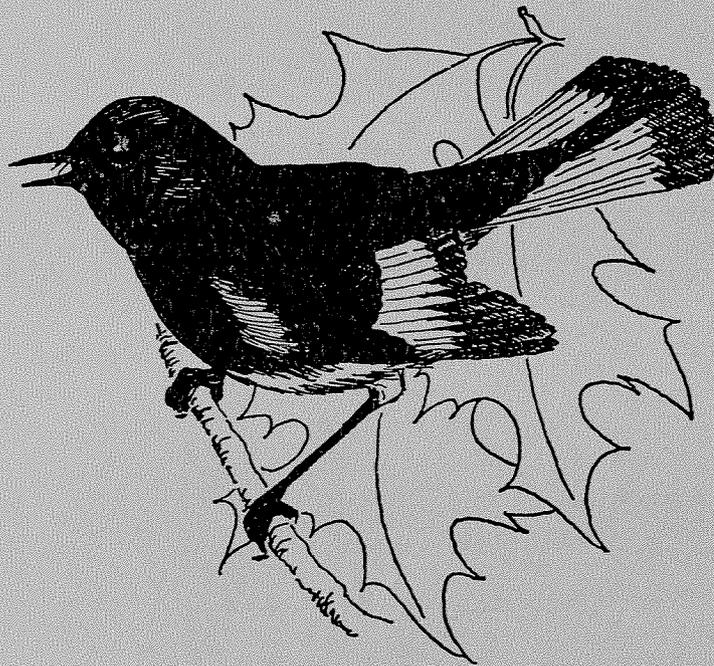


*The* REDSTART

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 2

APRIL, 1973



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# The REDSTART

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# Birds of Upper Kanawha Valley, 1872 and 1972

Norris Gluck and C.O. Handley, Sr.

One hundred years ago (1872), a young student at Harvard, Mr. W.E.D. Scott, spent two months (middle of June until middle of August) studying the bird fauna of a portion of Kanawha County, while staying with a friend, Mr. William H. Edwards at Coalburg, West Virginia. In a book, "The Story of a Bird Lover", Mr. Scott described his stay at Coalburg and how he traveled to West Virginia—by rail to Baltimore, thence via Harper's Ferry to Parkersburg, and by steamboat down the Ohio River to Gallipolis and on another boat up the Kanawha River to Coalburg. Coalburg is located on the south bank of the Kanawha River, approximately 14 airline miles southeast of Charleston.

Our principal interest in this book, however, is a bird list, which is a part of a paper prepared by Mr. Scott and read at the Boston Society of Natural History in October 1872. During his stay at Coalburg, Mr. Scott collected some 500 birds which represented eighty-six species, many of which he had never seen before. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, the Carolina Chickadee, the Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Worm-eating Warbler, the Yellow-throated Warbler, the Large-billed Waterthrush (Louisiana), the Kentucky Warbler, the Hooded Warbler, the Summer Tanager, the Rough-winged Swallow, the Cardinal, the Acadian Flycatcher, the Pileated Woodpecker, the Red-headed Woodpecker, the Least Bittern, and the Little Blue Heron were some of the birds he mentioned, as birds he had known before his visit, only by reputation.

We have listed below the eighty-six species noted by Mr. Scott, along with a brief description of his appraisal of each species. Since the study was confined to the limited period, June 15 to August 15, most of the species were breeding birds of the area. We thought it would be interesting to appraise these birds again in 1972 and add any new ones which have been observed in this area since 1872 during this two month period and which were not included by Mr. Scott.

Mr. C.O. Handley, Sr., who has a great knowledge and experience with the birds of this area, has made a list and complete appraisal of all the species we might see today in the Coalburg area for the June-August period.

Mr. Scott used only the scientific names in his 1872 list. Many of the scientific names have changed during the past 100 years and considerable research was necessary to translate the respective scientific names into their related common names.

Man and time have brought about significant changes in the habitat around Coalburg. Mr. Scott described the high hills and narrow valleys as being heavily timbered at that time, with a growth of poplar, beech, oak, and some chestnut. All or most of that timber has been removed long ago. Also, since that time, locks have been constructed along the river, thus changing the water level of the river and affecting the banks. Industry and people have contributed greatly to the change.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The late Miss Anne Edwards Willis, a former member of the Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club, was a great-granddaughter of Mr. Edwards who was a coalman, scientist, naturalist and writer.)

The following is a comparison of the birds of 1872 and 1972 as reported by Mr. Scott and Mr. Handley:

## SUMMER LIST OF BIRDS OF KANAWHA COUNTY—1872 AND 1972 JUNE 15—AUGUST 15

	AS REPORTED BY	
	Mr. W.E.D. Scott (1872)	Mr. Chas. O. Handley, Sr. (1972)
1. Robin	Rather rare (B)*	Abundant (B)*
2. Wood Thrush	Rather common (B)	Abundant (B)
3. Catbird	Common (B)	Common (B)
4. Bluebird	Quite common (B)	Common in localities (B)
5. Blue Gray Gnatcatcher	Rare (B)	Abundant (B)
6. Carolina Chickadee	Common (B)	Common (B)
7. Tufted Titmouse	Common (B)	Common (B)
8. White-breasted Nuthatch	Rather rare (PB)**	Fairly Common (B)
9. Carolina Wren	Abundant (B)	Abundant (B)
10. Black & White Warbler	Very common (B)	Common (B)
11. Parula Warbler	Quite common (B)	Common (B)
12. Worm-eating Warbler	Not rare	Fairly common (B)
13. Golden-winged Warbler	Rare	Fairly common (B)
14. Chestnut-sided Warbler	Rare Migrant	A common migrant
15. Cerulean Warbler	Rare (B)	Our most abundant War. (B)
16. Yellow-throated Warbler	2 col. 1st record	Com. in some localities (B)
17. Yellow Warbler	Not common (B)	Fairly common (B)
18. Ovenbird	Rather rare	Common (B)
19. Northern Waterthrush	Only one col. (8/8)	Only known as a migrant
20. Louisiana Water-thrush	Abundant (B)	Com. in proper habitat (B)
21. Maryland Yellow-throat	Rather rare (B)	Common (B)
22. Kentucky Warbler	Common (B)	Common (B)
23. Yellow-breasted Chat	Rather rare (B)	Fairly common to common dep. on habitat (B)
24. Hooded Warbler	Common (B)	Fairly common (B)
25. American Redstart	Abundant (B)	Abundant (B)
26. Scarlet Tanager	Common (B)	Common (B)
27. Summer Tanager	App. rare. Only 2 col.	Common (B)
28. Barn Swallow	Common (B)	Common (B)
29. Cliff Swallow	Com. in localities (B)	Fair. com. migrant. No recent breed. records
30. Bank Swallow	Com. in localities (B)	Not common. No recent breeding records
31. Rough-winged Swallow	Rare. Only 1 col.	Fairly com. May nest
32. Purple Martin	Abundant (B)	Com. to abundant (B)
33. Red-eyed Vireo	Very common (B)	Very common (B)
34. Warbling Vireo	App. rare (PB)	Fairly common (B)
35. White-eyed Vireo	Rather rare (B)	Common (B)
36. Yellow-throated Vireo	Common (B)	Fairly common (B)
37. Cedar Waxwing	App. rare. Only 1 seen and collected	Rare to common (B)
38. American Goldfinch	Common (B)	Common (B)
39. Chipping Sparrow	Common (B)	Common (B)
40. Field Sparrow	App. rare. 3 seen	Common in proper hab. (B)
41. Song Sparrow	Rather rare (B)	Common (B)
42. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Apparently rare	Migrant, sometimes common

NOTE: \*(B) Breeds      \*\*(PB) Probably Breeds

AS REPORTED BY

	Mr. W.E.D. Scott (1872)		Mr. Chas. O. Handley, Sr. (1972)	
43. Indigo Bunting	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
44. Cardinal	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
45. Rufous-sided Towhee	Common		Common	(B)
46. Cowbird	Rather rare		A few breed. Com. in migration	(B)
47. Red-winged Blackbird	Not common	(B)	Common	(B)
48. E. Meadowlark	App. rather rare	(B)	Fairly common in proper habitat	(B)
49. Baltimore Oriole	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
50. Orchard Oriole	Rather rare	(B)	Fairly common	(B)
51. Common Grackle	Rather rare	(B)	Abundant	(B)
52. Common Crow	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
53. E. Kingbird	Common	(B)	Com. in proper hab.	(B)
54. Crested Flycatcher	Common	(B)	Fairly common	(B)
55. E. Phoebe	Very common	(B)	Common	(B)
56. E. Wood Pewee	Not very com.	(B)	Common	(B)
57. Acadian Flycatcher	Rather common		Very common in proper habitat	(B)
58. Belted Kingfisher	Rather rare		Fairly common	(B)
59. Whip-poor-will	One heard, one col.		Common	(B)
60. Nighthawk	Noted once in valley		A few nests. Common to abundant in migration	(B)
61. Chimney Swift	Apparently rather rare		Common	(B)
62. Ruby-throated Humming.	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
63. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	App. rare, 2 col.	(B)	Common	(B)
64. Black-billed Cuckoo	Only 1 col. or heard		Not as com. as No. 63	(B)
65. Hairy Woodpecker	Rather common	(B)	Fairly common	(B)
66. Downy Woodpecker	Very common	(B)	Common	(B)
67. Pileated Woodpecker	Not common	(B)	Fairly common	(B)
68. Red-bellied Woodpecker	App. rare, 3 col.		Common	(B)
69. Red-headed Woodpecker	Common	(B)	Common. Restricted to certain areas	(B)
70. Common Flicker	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
71. Great Horned Owl	App. rare. One Noted		Fairly common	(B)
72. Screech Owl	Often heard		Common	(B)
73. Barred Owl	One noted		Fairly common	(B)
74. Broadwinged Hawk	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
75. Turkey Vulture	Quite common	(PB)	Fairly common	(B)
76. Mourning Dove	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
77. Ruffed Grouse	Rather common	(B)	Common	(B)
78. Bobwhite	Common	(B)	Fairly common in proper habitat	(B)
79. Am. Woodcock	Common	(B)	Com. in proper habitat	(B)
80. Spotted Sandpiper	Rather common	(B)	Habitat restricted	(PB)
81. Gt. Blue Heron	Rather rare, one taken		Occasionally seen—no breeding records	
82. Least Bittern	1 col. at Charleston		Rare—Habitat restricted	(B)
83. Little Blue Heron	Several reported		Summer visitor, occasional	
84. Little Green Heron	Common	(B)	Common	(B)
85. Wood Duck	Common	(B)	Common to abundant	(B)
86. Hooded Merganser	1 col. on Aug 9		Fairly common, Fall, Winter, Spring	

NOTE: \*(B) Breeds    \*\*(PB) Probably Breeds

Mr. Chas. O. Handley, Sr. also has current records of observations for the following species for the period June 15 through August 15, which should also be added to 1972 Bird List.

87. Pied-billed Grebe	Rare in summer—common to abundant migrant
88. Common Egret	Occasional summer resident
89. Snowy Egret	Occasional wanderer in summer
90. Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Occasional summer visitant
91. Mallard	Rare in summer
92. Red-shouldered Hawk	Fairly common permanent resident (B)
93. Osprey	Rare summer visitant
94. Sparrow Hawk	Common permanent resident (B)
95. Turkey	Rare—may breed
96. Killdeer	Permanent resident, more common in Spring & Fall (B)
97. Horned Lark	Fairly common in proper habitat (B)
98. Blue Jay	Common to abundant migrant—common nester (B)
99. House Wren	Common summer resident (B)
100. Mockingbird	Common permanent resident (B)
101. Brown Thrasher	Common summer resident (B)
102. Starling	Abundant permanent resident (B)
103. Solitary Vireo	Fairly common migrant
104. Prothonotary Warbler	Rare summer resident—may nest
105. Blue-winged Warbler	Fairly common summer resident (B)
106. Swainson's Warbler	Common summer resident in limited habitat (B)
107. Brewster's Warbler	Summer resident—scarce
108. Blackburnian Warbler	A few summer residents in hills—May breed
109. Pine Warbler	Fairly common in pines near Charleston (B)
110. Prairie Warbler	Fairly common in proper habitat (B)
111. House Sparrow	Common to abundant permanent resident (B)
112. Blue Grosbeak	Uncommon, may breed

NOTE: \*(B) Breeds

BOOK REVIEW

KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL by S.R. Wylie and S.S. Furlong. Published by Livingston Publishing Co., Wynneswood, Pa. 1972: 5½x8½ in., 32 pages, 47 watercolor paintings by J.R. Schroeder. \$3.95

This booklet contains a considerable amount of information in condensed form. Both sexes of the 46 species of waterfowl found in the contiguous United States are shown in winter plumage, two species per page. Flight patterns are shown in black and white with prominent identification features noted. Divers and dabblers are depicted by their mode of flushing from the water. A color coded key to relative abundance in the four major flyways appears with each species. Food and habitat preferences are also given.

The unique feature of the booklet is not the fact that so much information is contained in such a little space but that this information is printed on plastic pages. This makes the booklet waterproof, greaseproof, washable and tear resistant.

This booklet would be of value to people who need to identify waterfowl in the field under all sorts of weather conditions. Being flexible, and thus foldable, it could easily be carried in ones pocket.—George Hurley

# Cove Hardwoods Census in Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia

Glen Phillips

This is another in the series of studies to document the bird life of Oglebay Park. This plot is about one quarter mile from the feeding station at the Nature Education center. The effect of the feeding station on the winter count became apparent as the season progressed and feed became harder to find in the study area. Chickadees (it is assumed both Blackcapped and Carolina species were present), Titmice, Carolina Wrens, the Woodpeckers and Cardinals showed little change in numbers throughout the period. However, the Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and surprisingly, the Brown Creepers showed a tendency to smaller numbers toward the end of the study. There were two Winter Wrens on the plot which could be flushed only part of the time. They were found more regularly at the beginning of the count but were in their original places at the end of the count.

LOCATION: Part of the nature trails system of Oglebay Park, Ohio County, W. Va. The section studied begins about 75 yards above the Falls Drive bridge and extends three-eighths of a mile upstream almost to the golf course. 80° 39' 27" W and 40° 5' 40" N. A.B. Brooks had designated this section as the Thoreau Trail.

SIZE: Fifteen acres (rectangular 110 x 660 yards measured longitudinally and estimated laterally).

TOPOGRAPHY: A narrow ravine with a generally north-south direction. The centerline follows the stream and the ravine narrows perceptibly in the length of the study plot. Elevation between 1000 and 1100 feet.

PLANT COVER: The area has been dominated by stately American Elms (*Ulmus americana*) for many years. The majority of these trees are now dead or dying of Dutch Elm Disease so that a change is in progress. The elms occupied about 30-35% of the land area and some reached 36 inches D.B.H. The canopy still averages about 65 feet in height. Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) occupies about 20% of the area with one or two trees reaching 18-20 inches D.B.H., but most are young trees up to 12 inches which may soon replace the dying elms. Oak, both White and Red (*Quercus alba* and *Q. rubra*) to 32 inches D.B.H. occupies about 13% of the area as does Wild Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) to 28 inches D.B.H. The remainder of the canopy contains Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) to 30 inches, Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) to 20 inches, Linden (*Tilia americana*) to 24 inches, Willow (*Salix nigra*) to 18 inches, Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) to 28 inches, White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) to 16 inches, Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) to 14 inches, Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) to 21 inches and Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), planted, to 6 inches D.B.H. Among the understory are young of the above species, Privet (*Ligustrum sp.*) and Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*). The ground cover includes: Lady's Thumb (*Polygonum persicaria*), Clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Bedstraw (*Galium sp.*), Leafcup (*Polymnia canadensis*), Sweet Cicely (*Osmorhiza claytoni*), Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and Two-leaved Toothwort (*Dentaria diphylla*).

WEATHER: This must be considered a mild winter in the area. Only during

February was the ground covered by snow for any length of time. During December and January the precipitation, in normal amounts, was mostly rain with little snow accumulation. Precipitation totaled 8.74 inches for the entire study period. Lowest temperature was -12 degrees on January 16, 1972. The high for the period was 68 degrees on February 29, 1972.

COVERAGE: December 1, 1971 to February 29, 1972. Seventeen trips were made to the area concentrated about 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. with the earliest beginning at 7:20 and the latest ending at 3:30 p.m. About 15 party hours.

## WINTER COUNT

Species	Average Count	Birds per 100 A.
Chickadee	8.7	58
Tufted Titmouse	4.1	27
Downy Woodpecker	3.5	23
Carolina Wren	2.9	19
White-throated Sparrow	2.0	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	1.9	13
Slate-colored Junco	1.8	12
Brown Creeper	1.5	10
Cardinal	1.4	9
Starling	1.2	8
Hairy Woodpecker	0.9	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0.7	5
Winter Wren	0.6	4
Common Crow	0.5	3
Eastern Bluebird	+	+
Song Sparrow	+	+
Pileated Woodpecker	+	+
Yellow-shafted Flicker	+	+
Golden-crowned Kinglet	+	+
Ruffed Grouse	+	+
Myrtle Warbler	+	+
Rufous-sided Towhee	+	+
Cooper's Hawk	+	+
Red-tailed Hawk	+	+
Totals: 24 species	33.8 average count	(225 birds per 100 acres)

VISITORS: Evening Grosbeaks.

CENSUS PARTICIPANTS: Greg and Ann Eddy, Gerald and Dolores Devaul, Dorothy Broemsen, Ruth Weller, Earl Vanscoy, William Beatty and Glen Phillips.

## SUMMER COUNT

COVERAGE: Ten trips were made to the plot from May 26 to June 2, 1972 approximately 7 party hours.

SUMMER CENSUS

Species	Territorial Males	Males per 100 A.
Acadian Flycatcher	6	40
House Wren	3.5	23
Eastern Wood Pewee	3	20
Catbird	3	20
Cardinal	3	20
Wood Thrush	2.5	17
Rufous-sided Towhee	2.5	17
Tufted Titmouse	2	13
Carolina Wren	2	13
Song Sparrow	2	13
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1.5	10
Red-eyed Vireo	1.5	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1.0	7
Downy Woodpecker	1.0	7
Great Crested Flycatcher	1.0	7
Carolina Chickadee	1.0	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	1.0	7
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1.0	7
Cerulean Warbler	1.0	7
Louisiana Waterthrush	1.0	7
Hooded Warbler	1.0	7
Baltimore Oriole	1.0	7
Indigo Bunting	1.0	7
Scarlet Tanager	0.5	3
Chimney Swift	+	+
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	+	+
Pileated Woodpecker	+	+
Hairy Woodpecker	+	+
Blue Jay	+	+
Common Crow	+	+
Brown-headed Cowbird	+	+
American Goldfinch	+	+

Totals: 32 species 44 territorial males (283) per 100 acres.

VISITORS: Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Common Grackle, Chipping Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

REMARKS: Chickadees, Titmice and Nuthatches behaved as though their young were already out of the nest. The Cedar Waxwings were assumed to be migrants as they were seen in two flocks, one of 5 birds and another of 35 birds. It is interesting to note that of the 24 wintering species, more than half were present during the summer count. The total of species common to both counts would have been higher had not the rainy weather during the summer count reduced the chances of seeing hawks. Starlings, also were nesting nearby but were not seen on the study plot.

CENSUS PARTICIPANTS: Delores Devaul, Dorothy Broemsen and Glen Phillips—compiler.

ANOTHER SLEEPING YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Norris Gluck

In the July, 1966 REDSTART, (33, 81-82) I tried to describe the behavior of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker which slept against the trunk of a locust tree, outside my second-floor apartment in Charleston, November 13-22, 1965. I was very surprised, on November 18, 1968 at 4:52 p.m., when I noticed, from my apartment window, another Yellow-bellied Sapsucker pecking away at the same place as my 1965 bird and at 4:54 p.m. it snuggled up into the exact roosting spot of the previous bird and was soon asleep. The evening was dark and cold, the temperature 50 degrees. I was thrilled, thinking it was the return of the 1965 bird but closer inspection showed the plumage of a young bird and not the bird of previous year.

The next morning the temperature was 39 degrees, with snow flurries at 5:00 a.m. At 6:48 a.m. I focused my flashlight beam on the sleeping bird—it awoke, stretched its wings, moved its head and at 6:50 a.m. it began preening and at 6:54 a.m. it flew away to the northwest.

Each evening and morning, when I was at the apartment, I observed it. It was usually asleep in the protected roosting spot between 4:12 and 5:00 p.m. and awake 6:44—7:23 a.m. It's behavior was about the same as described for the 1965 bird—It usually flew in from the northwest, landing against the tree trunk 12 to 18 inches from the roosting spot. It would peck away at the bark for a few minutes, sometime vigorously, as it inched itself toward the roost spot. When it was within four or five inches of its bed, it would stop pecking, hesitate, then walk in to the slight depression where it slept, snuggle up against the trunk, with its head and bill pointed upward and immediately become motionless—asleep. In the morning after awakening, it extended its wings, fluffed its feathers and preened before leaving the roosting spot. Once it moved from the spot, it usually flew away within a minute or two, to the northwest.

I observed it from November 18, 1968 until the morning of January 20, 1969 when it did not return again. It had returned to roost for a period of 62 days, with some interruptions. During the first 16 days (through December 3) it did not miss a night; it did not return December 4; it missed four nights during the next 14 days; it then returned 14 consecutive nights through January 1. It then missed the next 6 nights, when the weather was very cold and clear; returned two nights, missed five nights, returned five nights (1/15 to 1/19.) I did not see it again after the morning of January 20.

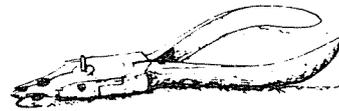
It's roosting site was near the winter home of starlings and one morning (11/24), as the sapsucker stretched and preened, it attracted the attention of one starling which immediately attacked and drove the sapsucker from its roost. On the evening of the same day, when the sapsucker returned to the roost site, it was attacked again by a starling and forced to leave the roost for the night.

On December 29, it arrived at 4:20 p.m. and spent several minutes pecking for food and suddenly at 4:32 p.m. it quit pecking and went to sleep against the tree trunk at an unprotected spot, on the opposite side of the tree from its usual roost site. It remained there all night.

I would never have believed that a second sapsucker would return to the same tree, after three years, choose the same roosting site and remain for a period of 62 days.

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

# The Gathering Cage



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

**Columbus, Ohio**—Have you noticed, in much detail, what the birds do when you release them after banding,—how far they fly, in which direction, etc.? I did just that, systematically, with 1400 of them last summer. I used a special "release cage" so as not to give them directional cues by hand and then reconstructed their course of flight on a map. A few results may be noted here. Details will appear eventually in some Journal.

Cowbirds do not fly as great an average distance before alighting as do Starlings. I found in an earlier study that Cowbirds are much more complacent (actual measurement) than are Starlings. Female Red-wings when released do not fly as far as males; and, again female Red-wings are more complacent (when measured) than males. It all adds up.

Blackbirds that repeat at the decoy trap do not fly as far when released as do the non-repeaters. Probably topophilia keeps them nearer the trap so that they get caught repeatedly and topophilia keeps them from going too far away immediately after release.

The direction of flight when released depends on habitat preference. Starlings and Grackles fly toward the woods and Red-wings toward the open fields. Starlings often land in the treetops and Red-wings on the ground.

The more projects I carry out in connection with the banding program, the more I am impressed with the importance of personality as an explanatory principle in bird behavior.—Harold E. Burt

## Purple Martin Report Part II

**Clarksville, Pa.**—The fact that Purple Martins nest predominately in boxes (at least in the eastern United States), where they are safe from certain types of common predation, does not assure them greater changes for survival over other species. All species which feed upon flying insects are very vulnerable to weather conditions as was strikingly evident this past summer during Hurricane Agnes, with its effect upon the martin population especially noticeable. And there are casualties from other causes as well which even up the odds; I would like to mention one which I'm sure would never occur to any of us.

A friend of mine, Everette Cleaver, was fishing at a farm pond in June 1968. He caught a 12-inch large-mouthed Bass and noticed that it had a **large lump** in its stomach. Upon cutting the fish open, he found that the "lump" was a freshly swallowed adult Purple Martin. Everette had four martin boxes of his own so there was no likelihood of mistaken identity. Fish often jump out of the water for large insects, and—one can only surmise—that just as the martin skimmed the water to

get a drink, the fish made the right jump at the right time . . . and what a mouthful it must have been!

## TABLE OF RECOVERIES

No.	Age	Date of Banding	How Obtained	Date of Recovery	Location
1	N	6/25/56	Found dead due to rain	5/15/60	Monessen, Pa.
2	AM	4/20/57	Found dead due to rain	4/30/59	Jefferson, Pa.
3	HY	7/14/57	Found dead	6/30/59*	Bell Farm, Ky.
4	AM	4/20/58	Found dead due to rain	5/15/60	Saxonburg, Pa.
5	SM	5/27/58	Found dead due to rain	5/14/60	Jefferson, Pa.
6	N	6/24/58	Found dead	4/17/65	Washington, Pa.
7	N	6/26/58	Caught by hand; released	7/24/62	Marinette, Wisc.
8	SM	5/7/59	Found dead due to rain	5/14/60	Sycamore, Pa.
9	HY	7/26/59	Found dead due to rain	5/14/60	Star City, W. Va.
10	SM	5/5/60	Found dead due to rain	5/-/60	Near Clarksville, Pa.
11	HY	8/11/61	Electrocuted	7/3/65	New Salem, Pa.
12	N	6/24/62	Hit by car	5/19/65	Near Clarksville, Pa.
13	L	6/29/63	Shot	6/-/65	Amity, Pa.
14	HY	7/17/65**	Netted	8/12/65	Charleston, W. Va.
15	HY	7/17/65**	Netted	7/14/72	Charleston, W. Va.
16	AF	7/20/66	Broken wing (shot?)	7/26/67	Jefferson, Pa.
17	N	7/7/67	Netted	8/27/67	Charleston, W. Va.
18	AM	7/14/68	Found dead due to rain	6/24/72	Jefferson, Pa.
19	N	7/2/69	Found injured	5/6/72	Mather, Pa.
20	N	7/2/69	Found dead due to rain	6/24/72	Mt. Morris, Pa.
21	N	7/2/69	Netted	8/5/70	Charleston, W. Va.
22	No. 21		Retrapped	4/28/71	Clarksville, Pa.
23	N	6/26/70	Found dead	8/2/70	Near Washington, Pa.
24	N	7/16/71	Found dead due to rain	6/30/72	Stumptown, W. Va.
25	AF	7/17/71	Netted	8/23/71	Charleston, W. Va.

For simplicity's sake band numbers have been omitted.

All birds banded at Clarksville, Pa.; the list is set up chronologically by date of banding.

For explanation of age categories, see Part I, Redstart, Vol. 40, No. 1, p. 54.

(SM: sub-adult male)

\*Letter postmark

\*\*Birds "14" and "15" were discussed in The Redstart, Vol. 39, No. 3, p. 119.

All birds recovered in Charleston were netted in the migratory roost.—Ralph K. Bell

## Editor's Note:

In the Table of Recoveries above one will note the variety of casualties that befall martins and appreciate additionally the overwhelming percentage, 10 in all, which were due to unseasonable weather. Three of Bell's birds were victims of Agnes, but even more fascinating were the six which succumbed in May 1960. These obviously reflect another unusually cold wet spring. Since the nesting season was not then as far along as in June 1972 one surmises that the losses that year were confined chiefly to adults. The tenth bird (April 30, 1959) undoubtedly encountered unfavorable weather soon after his arrival. Interesting also in terms of their proportion to the total body of recoveries are the five birds which were netted in the roost at Charleston. A discussion by Bell of the geographical locations was contained in Part I. —C. Katholi



## FIELD NOTES

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

FALL SEASON  
September 1 through November 30, 1972

The Fall season may well be described as a continuation of the wet dreary unseasonable Summer season. September was somewhat warm. While October and November were fairly mild the usual sunny autumnal days were replaced by overcast and cloudy skies. There were no pronounced cold fronts, frost was late and there was only minor snowfall in late November.

As usual, reporters disagreed on the success of the Fall migration. Most pessimistic opinions concerned observations at the lower elevations. The Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (A.F.M.O.) was in operation three days in August, thirty days in September, and eight days in October. This continuous coverage of the fall migration produced the third highest total in the fifteen years of operation.

Although migration began earlier than usual, some late dates were recorded for some species and some species remained until the end of the period. The highlight of the season was the northern finch movement. We look forward to an interesting winter season.

Loons, Grebes and Herons—Six **Common Loons** were on Seneca Lake, O. October 28 and as many were there at the end of the period (C&E). The flight was considered poor at Morgantown, W. Va. where only 2 were seen (GAH). Fewer than usual **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Seneca Lake, O. and Charleston, W. Va. The earliest date was September 6 at McClintic Wildlife Station, Mason Co. W. Va. (NG). Most reporters mentioned individual **Great Blue Herons** and a half dozen or more were at Seneca Lake, O. until the end of the period (C&E). Six **Green Herons** at McClintic Wildlife Station on September 6 was the latest date (NG).

Waterfowl—The only report of numbers of **Whistling Swans** came from Morgantown, W. Va. where at least 250 were seen on Cheat Lake on November 19 (GAH). Individuals were seen at Clarksville, Pa. and Seneca Lake, O. Fewer than usual **Canada Geese** were at the McClintic Wildlife Station when BBC visited there October 28. Flocks in flight were reported over Morgantown, W. Va. and Clarksville, Pa. November 15 and at East Liverpool, O. November 20. Two were seen at Lewisburg, W. Va. November 17 (COH). A **Snow Goose**, blue phase, was among Canada Geese at McClintic Wildlife Station October 28. The duck flight did not seem especially good. However it may have been influenced by the mild weather and lack of frontal systems. The numbers of **Mallard Ducks** were considered normal by most

reporters. A flock of Mallards and **Black Ducks**, but mostly Blacks, numbering about 200 spent several weeks in November on Lake of the Woods, Preston Co. W. Va. The number of Blacks was a reversal of the past years when Mallards have greatly outnumbered Blacks (BAH). The Ohio ladies commented that there were fewer **Blue-winged Teal** and **American Widgeon** at Seneca Lake and **Scaup Ducks** were notably scarce. The normal rafts of **Scaups** were also absent at Morgantown, W. Va. November 5 was a little early for **Common Goldeneyes** at Morgantown (GAH). They were not seen at Seneca Lake, O. before November 24. A single **Oldsquaw** was on Lake of the Woods, Preston Co., W. Va. on November 5 and two **White-winged Scoters** were on Cheat Lake November 12 (GAH). Good numbers of **Hooded Mergansers** were on Seneca Lake, O. beginning November 24 (C&E).

Vultures and Hawks—Vultures were abundant in the Pipestem State Park area, Summers Co. West Virginia and both **Turkey** and **Black Vultures** were observed up to Thanksgiving (OJ). Some 300 **Turkey Vultures** were seen near the Cranberry Glades Information Center, Pocahontas Co. West Virginia on October 7 (fide NG) and 25 were seen at Lewisburg, West Virginia October 9 (COH). **Black Vultures** were seen occasionally at Lewisburg throughout the period and a flock of about 20 were there on November 25 (COH). Unusual was the one seen near Burgettstown, Pa. on October 20 (NL). Four to six **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen daily in the Pipestem Park area up to September 16 (OJ). The Hanging Rocks Hawk Counting Station, Peters Mt. Monroe Co. West Virginia tallied 20 of this species on September 18 (GFH) and Handley listed individuals at Lewisburg September 29 and November 27. 3551 **Broad-winged Hawks** were counted at the Hanging Rocks station between September 16-24 with the highest number 867 on September 19 (GFH et al). Heimerdinger recorded 441 Broad-wings at the Bear Rocks station on Allegheny Front Mt. from September 14 to 19. 899 hawks (840 being Broad-winged) were seen at this station September 23 (fide RKB). A fair flight of hawks, mostly Broad-winged was seen at Spruce Knob, Randolph Co. West Virginia on September 22 (JS). A **Golden Eagle** was seen over Pipestem Lake, Summers Co. West Virginia by Jack Ballard on September 17 (fide OJ). Both immature and adult **Golden Eagles** have been seen during the summer in this area in recent years so this locality should be investigated for a possible breeding site. A mature **Bald Eagle** was seen at Hanging Rocks station September 16 (GFH-NG). Five **Marsh Hawks** were tallied at the Bear Rocks station and a like number at Hanging Rocks station. An immature was seen several times during the period at Lewisburg, West Virginia and an adult was there November 18 (COH). **Ospreys** figured in most reports which may indicate some improvement in their numbers. 23 of this species passed the Hanging Rocks station between September 15-24. Noteworthy was the two **Peregrine Falcons** seen at the Bear Rocks station on September 19 (HOH).

Shorebirds—There was little mention of shorebirds. Water levels remained high and mud flats were non-existent. The only favorable comment concerned **Killdeer** which appeared in good numbers.

Doves, Cuckoos and Owls—Placing **Mourning Doves** on the game bird list appears to have had little adverse effect as populations continue to increase. Miller thought **Cuckoos** were scarce in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen at Pipestem State Park on October 21 by Johnson who commented that most of the cuckoos there in 1972 were **Black-billed**. Noteworthy was a

**Short-eared Owl** seen near Lewisburg, W. Va. on November 18 (COH).

Nighthawks and Woodpeckers—**Common Nighthawks** staged a good migration in the upper Ohio Valley and at Charleston, West Virginia. Miller failed to see them on the eastern panhandle of West Virginia and Bell thought that they were fewer than usual at Clarksville, Pa. The earliest date for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was September 21 at Charleston, West Virginia. Most reporters considered their numbers a little better than usual. The only report of **Red-headed Woodpecker** came from Lewisburg, West Virginia where Handley saw more than he has for several years.

Flycatchers and Swallows—Few reporters had anything to say about either of these species so we may not know the real extent of the damage done by Hurricane Agnes and the cold Spring before they return in Spring 1973. A late date for **Wood Pewee** was October 9 at Morgantown, West Virginia. Last date for **Barn Swallow** was September 1 at Clarksville, Pennsylvania and Lewisburg, West Virginia. Handley stated that the number of migrating **Cliff Swallows** was less than one third of the normal amount at Lewisburg. A flock of about 600 was seen there daily from September 1 to 24 and 2 were seen there October 1.

Corvids—A **Common Raven**, obviously out of range, was seen about six miles north of East Liverpool, O. November 8 (NL). The first sizable flock of migrating Common Crows was seen at Lewisburg, West Virginia October 9 and flocks of 50 to 100 were seen daily throughout November. Unusual numbers remained in the East Liverpool, Ohio area throughout the period.

Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers—**Black-capped Chickadees** were nearly unreported outside their normal range and numbers of **Carolina Chickadees** were considered low by several reporters. Comments by Hall indicated an unusual scarcity of both these species at Morgantown, West Virginia. Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a very good flight and were well distributed over the region. The first date was September 11 at Clarksville, Pa. (RKB). **Brown Creepers** were rare at Morgantown and Pipestem State Park, West Virginia.

Wrens—A late date for **House Wren** was October 7 when one was banded at Morgantown, West Virginia. **Winter Wrens** were scarce at Pipestem this Fall compared to last year (OJ). There was a good flight at Morgantown, West Virginia the last week of October (GAH). **Carolina Wrens** seem to be doing well throughout their range. One was netted at A.F.M.O. on September 2 but escaped before being banded. This was a new species for the station. A **Bewick's Wren** was banded there on September 23 for only the third record for that station.

Thrushes—A **Wood Thrush** banded at Morgantown on October 19 was the last date submitted. The migration of **Hermit Thrush** appeared good and some were still in the region at the end of November. **Swainson's Thrush** were scarce at East Liverpool, O. and Morgantown, West Virginia and numbers were well below normal at A.F.M.O. A **Veery**, in full song, was heard at McClintic Wildlife Station October 29 (NL). Bluebirds are still showing increases in populations.

Kinglets—Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes—There was a good flight of both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**. Early dates for Ruby-crowned were August 26 at A.F.M.O. and September 16 at Barnesville, O. A flock of 24 **Water Pipits** was at Coonskin Park, Charleston, West Virginia October 24 (NG) and many were at Seneca Lake, Ohio October 28 (C&E). **Cedar Waxwings** were more common

than usual especially during September and early October. Large flocks were still present at Barnesville, Ohio and East Liverpool until the end of the period. Records of **Loggerhead Shrikes** came from Franklin, West Virginia September 22 (JS) and Seneca Lake, Ohio November 4 (C&E).

Vireos—Few reporters commented on vireos. A **White-eyed Vireo** was banded at Morgantown, West Virginia on the late date of October 18 (GAH). The flight of **Solitary Vireos** was very good at A.F.M.O. and Morgantown, West Virginia. The last one was banded at Morgantown on November 13. **Red-eyed Vireos** appear on the decreasing list. Only 16 were banded at A.F.M.O. this fall for a very low total. Eleven **Philadelphia Vireos** were banded at A.F.M.O. between September 12 and October 2. One was banded at Morgantown on October 2 for only the second banding record for that station (GAH).

Warblers—There were the usual disagreements concerning the warbler flight. It was considered normal in Summers County, West Virginia (OJ); poor at Barnesville, Ohio (C&E); not good in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia (CM) and fair at East Liverpool, Ohio (NL). However, judging from the A.F.M.O. banding data, the fall migration was a very good one. In fact, three species of warblers—**Tennessee, Cape May** and **Bay-breasted**—were caught in record numbers. The flight was earlier than usual and a number of both early and late dates were recorded. BBC people found a good number of migrating warblers in Greenbrier Co. West Virginia over Labor Day week-end (GP). Gluck mentioned a big migration at Anthony, West Virginia on September 9-10. Peaks occurred at A.F.M.O. September 14-17 and September 25-27. Good numbers were seen in Lincoln County West Virginia September 15-17 and a big movement was noted at East Liverpool, Ohio September 22-25 (NL). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was banded at Morgantown October 20 and a **Nashville Warbler** was banded there October 24 (GAH). November 7 was a remarkably late date for the **Magnolia Warbler** banded at Morgantown. **Cape May Warblers** were seen at East Liverpool, Ohio on August 26. Bell banded one at Clarksville, Pa. November 5 and it was still around at the end of the period. This was a good year at A.F.M.O. for **Black-throated Blue Warblers**. 243 were banded there between August 26 and October 4. A **Pine Warbler** banded there on August 27 constituted a new record for that station. Very unusual was a flock of approximately 200 **Palm Warblers** on a ridge above Guyan river, Lincoln Co., West Virginia on September 26 (NL). Ovenbirds continue to be on the down side. Two **Connecticut Warblers** were banded at Morgantown on September 14-15 (GAH).

Blackbirds and Tanagers—Small flocks of **Bobolinks** were observed at Lewisburg, West Virginia from September 9 to October 7 (COH). The only report of **Rusty Blackbirds** was a flock of 15-20 at McClintic Wildlife Station (NG). A **Baltimore Oriole** was at the Conrad's feeder in November and was still there at the end of the period (GP). A very late **Summer Tanager** was banded at Morgantown, West Virginia October 15 (GAH).

Grosbeaks and Finches—**Cardinal** populations were unusually high at Morgantown, West Virginia and East Liverpool, O. A good flight of **Rosebreasted Grosbeaks** was noted at Peters Mt. Monroe Co. West Virginia starting September 23 (GFH). **Indigo Buntings** were plentiful. Latest dates were October 7 at Lewisburg and October 8 at Morgantown, West Virginia. Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks**, mostly in flight, were reported in the region before the end of October but few were

patronizing feeders before the end of the period. **Purple Finches** staged at least a fair flight, being mentioned by most reporters. **Pine Siskins** were in the region in variable numbers from small flocks to flocks of more than 100 birds by mid October. This appears to be the year for **Red Crossbills**. Several reports of flocks in August pre-empted increasing reports for the period. There was a large flock at Blackwater Falls, Tucker County West Virginia in September and October (GAH); BBC people found them on Droop Mountain over Labor Day (GP); seen near Hills Creek Falls September 22 (JS); McClintic Wildlife Station on October 19-20 (NL) and at Clarksville, Pa. November 18 (RKB).

Sparrows—Miller found a good number of **Savannah Sparrows** in Jefferson County West Virginia the week of October 16. **Vesper Sparrows** were seen at Lewisburg, West Virginia October 22 and 28 (COH). **Slate-colored Juncos** had arrived in good numbers and were well distributed over the region by the second week of October. **Tree Sparrows** were scarce and unreported before November 13. Large flock of migrating **Chipping** and **Field Sparrows** were mentioned by several reporters. **White-crowned** were first seen at Lewisburg October 8. Most contributors considered their numbers to be good and some were still in the region at the end of the period. The flight of **White-throated Sparrows** came early and was outstanding. One was netted at A.F.M.O. on September 22 for earliest date. They were in most areas by October 10 and good numbers remained until the end of the period. More than usual **Fox Sparrows** were reported. Hall banded one at Morgantown on October 3 for the earliest date. Four **Lincoln Sparrows** were captured at A.F.M.O. between September 22 and October 1. A like number was banded at Morgantown with the latest one on October 8. One was seen at Lewisburg on the same date. Two **Snow Buntings** were seen at Seneca Lake, Ohio on November 12-18 (C&E). Contributors—**RKB**, Ralph K. Bell; **C&E**, Mary Chapman and Mabel Edgerton; **NG**, Norris Gluck; **GAH**, George A. Hall; **COH**, Charles O. Handley, Sr.; **HOH**, Howard O. Heimerdinger; **GFH**, George F. Hurley; **OJ**, Oliver Johnson; **CM**, Clark Miller; **GP**, Glen Phillips; **JS**, John Smith—Mrs. Nevada Laitsch, MC 21, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920.

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