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*The* REDSTART

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JULY, 1978



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Founded September 1932  
Named in honor of A. B. Brooks, Naturalist

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# Allegheny Front Migration Observatory Record for 1977

George A. Hall

The twentieth year of bird-banding on Allegheny Front Mountain, Grant County, West Virginia, was outstanding in almost every respect. The station was manned for seven days in August, 30 days in September and six days in October. The September weather pattern for the area was slightly atypical in that there were no cold spells and little rain. On only two days during that month was it necessary to suspend operations because of inclement weather. In October the weather was less favorable with heavy rain curtailing what promised to be a heavy flight day on the first and several inches of snow shutting down the operation on the 16th. The weekend of October 8-9 was also shut out because of rains. But in September mild day after mild day produced some excellent bird flights.

A total of 7544 birds of 78 species were banded in a station effort of 3689 net-hours giving a capture ratio of 2045 birds per 1000 net-hours. The number of net-hours was the highest ever and the capture ratio was the second highest while the total number of birds banded exceeded the previous high by 373, and is more than double the average yearly capture since we moved the station from the campground to the rim location.

The general pattern of migration followed the usual one with a strong movement in early September followed by a comparative lull and then a very heavy movement from the 17th to the 25th. The difference this year was that there was a good movement of birds on almost every day and the peaks were relative. The best day was September 19 when 477 birds were banded followed by September 21 with 462 and September 5 with 412 (this last day had the highest capture ratio - 6867 birds per 1000 net-hours). It is of interest to note that none of these peak days had as many captures as the highest days on record. This too reflects the rather steady heavy flight that progressed throughout the period. Of the 43 days of operation only ten days showed a total of less than 100 bandings, 15 days had captures between 200 and 300 birds.

No new species were added to the station list which now stands at 107 and the 20-year total of birds banded is 49,929. Three birds banded in previous years were retaken this year; a Dark-eyed Junco banded in 1975, a Chestnut-sided Warbler banded in 1976 and a Black-throated Green Warbler banded in 1975. The Junco and the Chestnut-sided nest abundantly in the station area and so these birds were probably residents, but the Black-throated Green may be our first recapture of a migrant. The species does nest nearby but not at the station. During the year we have had notice of two recoveries of birds banded at this station. A Blackburnian Warbler banded in 1975 was recovered in May of 1977 at Oppenheim, New York, and a Blackpoll Warbler banded in 1976 was recovered in May 1977 near Kalispell, Montana. Both Montana and West Virginia would fall on the migration route of a Blackpoll which nested in northern Alaska.

The Tennessee Warbler was once again the number one bird with 1302 banded, followed by the Blackpoll with 1179, and the Cape May with 973. The usual number two species, the Black-throated Blue Warbler, dropped to fifth place with 568. Eight species accounted for 82% of the captures and nine species were caught in record numbers. Of special interest was the Bay-breasted Warbler which increased by over 60% from its previous high.

It is possible that the severe winter of 1976-77 is reflected in the very low catches of both kinglet species, the Winter Wren and some of the other species which had lower than expected catches.

We were again unable to operate our special public demonstrations this fall, but as usual, large numbers of visitors gathered around the main banding site to watch the proceedings. Several college classes and several nature societies were represented in this influx. The station was also featured in a story in the Sunday Charleston "Gazette-Mail."

The banders who participated this year were: Gloria Aiken, Joseph Imbrugno, John Linehan, Janice Musser, Avis Newell, Ephe Olliver, Frances Pope, Trudy Smith, Jo Stern, John Willetts, and co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. John and Genevieve Findley again served as chief net-tenders. Carol and Fred McCullough were important net-tenders. Special mention should be made of Don Shearer who brought his trailer to serve as housing for some station personnel, and to Anne and Jerry McGrew who left their tent for the same purpose.

The following people aided in tending nets, collecting cages and bags of birds, and in keeping records: Bob Butterworth, Virginia Byers, Helen and Chuck Conrad, Larry Dobson, Helen and Jim Evans, Bryce Findley, Jeff Findley, Kathleen and Mike Finnegan, Walter Fye, Janet Ganter, LeJay Graffious, Lorraine Harper, Eugene Hutton, Virginia Johnson, Douglas Jolley, Christopher McCullough, Jason McCullough, George Mayfield and son, Jack, Jolene, Jacalene, Jonavieve, and Jonathan Minear, Ivarene Mott, Frank Murphy, Marilyn Ortt, Don Pattison, Glen Phillips, Charlotte Pryor, Kathy Reeves, Esther Reichelderfer, Carol Rowe, Carolyn Ruddle, Joe Schreiber, Juanita Slusher, Ruth Wilkinson, Leon Wilson, and April Wylie.

We are most grateful to all those people and to any others whose names have been omitted due to either ignorance or inadvertence. Our thanks also go to the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest, Supervisor R.F. Mumme, District Ranger W. K. Lerer and Recreation Specialist Mary Miller, for their cooperation and support of the project.

In the list that follows the extreme dates are given for each species for which the dates are meaningful. The date and number in parentheses is the day on which the largest number was caught followed by that number.

Sharp-shinned Hawk 2  
American Woodcock 1  
Black-billed Cuckoo 1  
Whip-poor-will 1  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11 September 29-October 5 (October 5: 8)  
Downy Woodpecker 5  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 7 August 31-September 29  
Acadian Flycatcher 5 (new high) August 28-September 2  
Least Flycatcher 1  
Eastern Wood Pewee 8 August 29-September 9  
Blue Jay 66 September 20-October 15 (October 4: 30)  
Black-capped Chickadee 22 August 27-October 15  
Tufted Titmouse 1 October 1  
White-breasted Nuthatch 2  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 38 August 30-October 7 (September 18: 7)  
Brown Creeper 15 September 12-October 5 (October 5: 6)  
Winter Wren 2 September 22 2  
Carolina Wren 1 September 18

Brown Thrasher 2  
 Gray Catbird 18 August 25-October 7  
 American Robin 6 September 21-October 15  
 Wood Thrush 39 September 15-October 7 (September 21: 12)  
 Hermit Thrush 5 September 30-October 7  
 Swainson's Thrush 508 August 26-October 7 (September 21: 85)  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush 16 September 12-October 5  
 Veery 11 (new high) August 26-September 21 (August 31: 4)  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 6 (new high) August 31-September 30  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet 3 September 24-September 27  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 30 September 22-October 7 (October 5: 10)  
 Cedar Waxwing 9 August 26-September 4  
 White-eyed Vireo 1 September 11  
 Yellow-throated Vireo 1 September 22  
 Solitary Vireo 6 September 6-October 7  
 Red-eyed Vireo 101 (new high) August 27-October 7 (September 5: 10)  
 Philadelphia Vireo 23 September 1-October 5 (October 5: 7)  
 Black and White Warbler 25 August 26-September 21 (August 27, September 1: 4)  
 Worm-eating Warbler 10 (new high) August 29-September 19  
 Golden-winged Warbler 3 August 29, August 30, September 3  
 Tennessee Warbler 1302 (new high) August 26-October 15 (September 21: 109)  
 Nashville Warbler 83 August 27-October 7 (October 5: 9)  
 Northern Parula 5 September 1-September 25  
 Magnolia Warbler 392 (new high) August 25-October 5 (September 9: 62)  
 Cape May Warbler 973 August 25-October 2 (September 4: 117)  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler 568 August 26-October 15 (September 24: 38)  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 21 September 15-October 15 (September 29: 6)  
 Black-throated Green Warbler 352 August 26-October 7 (October 5: 31)  
 Cerulean Warbler 2 September 3, September 5  
 Blackburnian Warbler 359 (new high) August 26-October 5 (August 30: 69)  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler 57 (new high) August 26-September 24 (August 27, 29, 30: 6)  
 Bay-breasted Warbler 586 (new high) August 26-October 5 (September 19: 71)  
 Black-poll Warbler 1179 August 26-October 7 (September 18: 140)  
 Pine Warbler 1 September 19  
 Prairie Warbler 2 September 7, September 11  
 Palm Warbler 8 (new high) September 15-October 15  
 Ovenbird 97 August 25-October 1 (September 9: 10)  
 Northern Waterthrush 2 September 4, September 29 (very late)  
 Connecticut Warbler 12 August 31-September 22  
 Mourning Warbler 3 August 31, September 4 2  
 Common Yellowthroat 110 August 25-October 2 (September 3: 8)  
 Hooded Warbler 6 (new high) September 2-September 27  
 Wilson's Warbler 62 (new high) August 26-September 29 (September 5: 10)  
 Canada Warbler 25 August 27-September 20 (August 27: 5)  
 American Redstart 104 (new high) August 26-September 28 (September 3: 18)  
 Scarlet Tanager 15 August 30-September 30  
 Cardinal 1  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak 61 August 29-October 5 (September 28: 13)  
 Indigo Bunting 1 October 4  
 Purple Finch 11 (ties highest) September 2-October 5  
 American Goldfinch 35 August 26-October 15

Rufous-sided Towhee 12 August 26-October 5  
 Savannah Sparrow 2 September 3, September 18  
 Dark-eyed Junco 52 August 26-October 7 (September 30: 13)  
 Chipping Sparrow 1 October 7  
 Field Sparrow 1 August 26  
 White-throated Sparrow 13 September 24-October 15 (October 1, October 7: 5)  
 Lincoln's Sparrow 6 September 12-October 7  
 Swamp Sparrow 3 September 6, September 18, September 23  
 Song Sparrow 7 August 27-September 30

**Wildlife Biology Department  
 West Virginia University  
 Morgantown, W. Va.**

## Clay-colored Sparrow: A New Accidental Species for West Virginia

Charlotte Lanham

At about noon on April 28, 1977 while I was fixing lunch at our cottage in Hampshire County, near Green Spring, West Virginia, Jim, my husband, called me to come out to our glassed in porch where he was sitting. He asked me to look at a bird sitting in a walnut tree some 15 feet from the window. He said it appeared to be a sparrow, but he didn't recognize it. It then dropped to the ground under the hickory tree at the other end of the porch and began to feed with the other birds. The porch is 36 feet wide, all glass from floor to ceiling and faces the river. The yard in front of the porch ranges from about six feet at the hickory tree to perhaps ten feet wide at the walnut tree; both trees being within the width of the porch, but the walnut tree is over the bank a few feet. We identified the bird as a Clay-colored Sparrow by consulting Peterson's and Robbin's Field Guides. The sandy color, compared with the White-throated and Chipping Sparrows was what had caught my husband's 20-20 vision in the first place. Since the front of the porch is about three to four feet above the level of the lawn, the pale stripe on the head was visible; and we were able to see the cheek patch and whisker mark as well, and of course, the eyeline. Both Thursday and Friday were clear and sunny. After a half hour of careful observation, we were convinced that we had a Clay-colored Sparrow. I told Jim that I did not think it was on the West Virginia list as an accidental. About 3 o'clock I tried contacting various people for a confirmation. Later that afternoon my sister-in-law came home from work and another couple came in who bird with us. We had by that time focused our 20 power telescope on the spot under the tree where the bird seemed to prefer to feed. We were able to compare size with other sparrows and the other three agreed with us that it had to be a Clay-colored Sparrow. They also saw it in the scope as well as with binoculars, and even with the naked eye it was identifiable.

On Friday afternoon Fran Pope came down from Mountain Park, Maryland and brought with her Dorothy Malec from Cumberland. She set up her nets and box trap, and we watched in complete frustration as the Clay-colored Sparrow walked under the nets and flew over the top. We had everything else on the place in nets, including four Downy Woodpeckers but not that critter. Mrs. Pope sat at the window nearest the hickory tree (apparently the birds don't frighten because we are above them) and Mrs.

Malec checked a bander's book of some kind (Robert's?). Although they didn't give us too much conversational confirmation, apparently they were eliminating the Brewer's Sparrow as well. I did take color slide pictures, which show the field marks.

3642 Edgewood Dr.  
Stow, Ohio 44224

## Bird Kills at a Generating Plant in Ontario

Frank Bell

Since moving to Ottawa in late 1976, I have become aware of the well documented bird migration kills at the Ontario Hydro's oil-fired electric generating station smoke-stacks near Bath, Ontario. It is called the Lennox plant, and Bath is located on the shores of Lake Ontario some 20 miles west of Kingston. Although Bath is about due north of Laurel, Maryland, and so is somewhat northeast of West Virginia, information on the kills there may be of interest to other members of the Brooks Bird Club, and to the banders at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory in particular.

The first stack - 650 feet tall - was completed in the late fall of 1972, although illumination commenced in August. The first count of dead birds was made on September 12, when 1145 were tabulated. On September 19, 1531 were killed. On September 20 the Department of Natural Resources ordered the lights turned off. A second chimney was completed in November 1974, and the no-lighting policy in the spring and fall was continued until 1977, when a policy was established to turn off the lights only on those nights when low cloud ceiling or fog or rain was to be present. However, the to-be-expected slip-ups occurred, and on the overcast and rainy night of August 23, 1977, 908 birds were killed until the nightshift noticed the disaster and turned the lights off at 0117 EDT. A similar night occurred on September 19 when 1172 birds perished. Even on the clear night of Sept. 12, 259 were killed before the lights were turned off at 0100 EDT. The previous policy was reverted to after September 19.

Every year since 1972, R. D. Weir has reported on these kills in the December issue of the "Blue Bill", the quarterly bulletin of the Kingston Field Naturalists. In the December 1977 issue Ron Weir has given the following summary of kills:

	Spring	Fall	Total	Notes
1972	-	5329	5329	Lights on, one chimney
1973	244	697	941	Lights off, one chimney
1974	92	1188	1280	Lights off, one chimney
1975	297	324	621	Lights off, two chimneys
1976	36	327	363	Lights off, two chimneys
1977	124	2575	2699	Lights on, two chimneys
Total	793	10440	11233	

The articles reporting on the first four years stated that the percentage of warblers and vireos of the total spring and fall kills varied from 86% in 1975 to 97.6% in 1974.

From the figures given in each yearly table I have made the following table of species rankings of the numbers killed in the fall season only:

	Magnolia Warbler	Bay-breasted Warbler	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-throat Oven-bird	Blackburnian W.	Black-l.	Blue W.
1972 (Sept. 19) (only)	2	3	4	1	6	14	12
1973	1	3	6	9	8	2	4
1974	1	5	2	9	6	8	4
1975	1	2	3	5	6	4	8
1976	2	11	1	4	7	11	3
1977	1	2	7	6	5	3	11

This is of course only the species with the highest numbers killed. In 1977 62 different species were identified.

Dr. Weir points out a couple odd things about the smoke-stack kills. One is that Yellow-rumps are by far the most common warbler seen in Kingston during spring and fall migration, and their flight is well under way when the kills occur. Since relatively few are killed, how or why do they avoid crashing into chimneys? On the other hand, it is a surprise that in two years the Philadelphia Vireo was in the first ten - once 6th and once 8th, since it is considered a rather rare bird locally.

There is not much correlation between the species most frequently killed at Lennox and the ones most frequently netted at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, but hopefully the well documented "disasters" at Lennox will be interesting to BBC members.

Finally, anyone interested in the subject of bird kills should obtain Dr. Weir's very thorough "Annotated bibliography of bird kills at man-made obstacles: A review of the state of the art and solutions." It is an 85 page, 471 reference bulletin published by the Department of Fisheries and the Environment, Environment Management Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, Ottawa.

Ottawa, Canada

## FIELD NOTES

THE WINTER SEASON  
1977-78



Glen Phillips, Editor  
R.D. 2  
Triadelphia, W. Va. 26059

It was an exceptional winter - one of the coldest on record with excessive snow and a year of northern finch invasion. December was relatively open but heavy snows began January 8 in most of our region and continued through the period, reaching 27" accumulation at one time in Wheeling. Temperatures did not plunge as low as some days of last year but the winter lasted longer and average temperatures showed January and February to be the coldest period since 1895. Lakes froze over rather early but moving streams remained partially open, so the effect on wading birds was not as severe as last winter. Some snow melted along roadways and on southerly exposed steep surfaces allowing birds access to gravel etc., but many birds were relying upon

feeders. This brought many northern finches where they could be seen by winter-bound people. The hawks followed the bird flocks since the snow cover protected the rodents. This also seemed to be the winter for unusual species such as the Varied Thrush in Virginia, and the Lesser White-fronted Goose and Brambling in Pittsburgh.

**Loons, Grebes, Herons and Cormorants** - There were a few reports of **Common Loon** sightings, mostly during the early part of December. The Grebe migration seemed to be normal with most sightings during December, some on Christmas bird counts (CBC). **One Horned Grebe**, picked up on a nearby farm and placed on an open lake, near Harrisonburg, Va., stayed there all winter (KF). **Pied-billed Grebes** were present on Shenandoah and Potomac rivers throughout the period (CM). A few **Great Blue Herons** wintered within our area. One was seen on the Ohio River just north of Wheeling February 11 (FPT), but more were in the localities less severely affected by the cold - Harrisonburg, Va. and the Eastern Panhandle of W. Va.

**Geese and Swans** - A **Mute Swan** was reported from Hampshire Co., W. Va., on the South Branch of the Potomac River near Green Springs. Charlotte Lanham confirms it has been present since last summer. A few **Whistling Swans** were reported during Christmas bird counts but there were no reports of wintering birds. Most **Canada Geese** passed through the area by the first of January, but a flock of approximately 100 wintered as usual in Hancock Co., W. Va. (E&EE) These birds are fed by local people and some are marked with red dye on their throats and many have bands. No attempt was made to capture them and read the bands. At this writing attempts are being made to ascertain the significance of these markings and of red plastic markers seen on Geese just above Wheeling by the Temples. A **Lesser White-fronted Goose** (*Anser erythropus*), a visitor from Eurasia, apparently arrived with Canada Geese November 11-12 at North Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. and stayed with 100+ Geese and numerous ducks through the period. There was open water in the center of their pond and the birds were fed by many visitors and by Park personnel. Five **Snow Geese** arrived at Hoover Reservoir Columbus, O. January (ER).

**Waterfowl** - The bulk of the waterfowl migration was completed by the first of December but there were some still present for the Christmas bird counts and a few of some species, particularly **Mallards**, remained all winter where they could find a little open water and were fed. **Black Ducks**, in considerably smaller numbers, could be found in such flocks. An exception was about 40 Black Ducks feeding in a cornfield near Southside, Mason Co., W. Va. February 4 (GH). A female **Gadwall** was blown into the windshield of an auto and killed at 2 A.M. January 28 in Brooke Co., W. Va. during a blizzard (JB). One **Pintail** remained with the flock of ducks and geese at North Park in Pittsburgh (R&MH). The only **Wigeon** reported wintering were about 200 on a pond near Harrisonburg, Va. through the period (KF). There were a few reports of **Redheads** on Christmas counts but none of the species remained in our area over the winter. Norris Gluck noted **Ring-necked Ducks** on the Kanawha River at Charleston February 12 to 23. They could have been early spring migrants. One **Canvasback** was noted at North Park, Pittsburgh January 7 and on the Monongahela River nearby February 11 (R&MH). A female **Lesser Scaup** was seen in Pendleton Co., W. Va. February 7 (CR), and three **Greater Scaup** were seen in Washington Co., Pa. (R&MH). **Common Goldeneyes** often winter in our area. This year the reports that might indicate this were of six in Hampshire Co., W. Va. February 11 (CL), three in Washington Co., Pa. also February 11 (R&MH) and 14 at Wheeling (F&PT). A **Bufflehead** was seen on the Ohio River January 7 at Chester, Hancock Co., W. Va. (E&EC). An instance of a **White-winged Scoter's** using an inland lake is recorded from Bath Co., Va. February 11-23 (KF). Four pairs of **Hooded Mergansers** were noted near Wheeling in early December to Mid-January and 23 were counted on the Bibbee Nature Club Christmas

count (OJ). 126 Common Mergansers were found near Wheeling February 11 (F&PT) and four in Hampshire Co., W. Va. on the same date (CL). Apparently this represented the start of migration as the Wheeling Flock had grown to 200 by February 25-26 and the species was seen on the Kanawha River at Charleston February 12-23 (NG).

**Vultures and Hawks** - An occasional Vulture remained in the region at Christmas count time. Clark Miller reports a roost on the Potomac River in the Eastern Panhandle of W. Va. containing 300 **Turkey Vultures** and 15-18 **Black Vultures**. A **Goshawk** was seen at Ralph Bell's Farm in Greene Co., Pa. from December 8 to February 6. The two species of hawks most frequently reported capturing birds at feeders this winter were **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's**. Reports of these raids were numerous. There seemed to be normal numbers of **Red-tailed Hawks** in the area. One frequented the Bethany College campus, perching in yards, on roofs, porches etc. As usual, there were more reports of **Red-shouldered Hawks** in the southern portion of our region. Pairs were courting by the end of February. There was a decided shift in the wintering territories of **Rough-legged Hawks**. Anne Shreve reports one near her home throughout January and seven more in Mason and Putnam Counties. Other reports came from Greene Co. Pa. to Harrisonburg, Va. Esther Reichelderfer noted lesser numbers in Ross Co. Ohio where they are usually found in winter. A **Golden Eagle** was seen at Bluestone State Park, Summers Co., W. Va. by Jim Phillips and Ben Markell during their Christmas count and two were seen in Pendleton Co. December 29 (CR). A mature **Bald Eagle** was also seen in Pendleton Co. January 4, one and one half miles north of Cow Knob (KF). Clark Miller reports a **Bald Eagle** casualty from the Eastern Panhandle - possibly electrocuted. Most reports of **Marsh Hawks** were from Christmas counts but one was sighted in Hancock County, W. Va. February 3 (E&EC). The lone **Osprey** reported was in Coonskin Park Charleston, December 21 (NG). The Finnegans spotted a **Peregrine Falcon** 7 miles east of Harrisonburg, Va. December 4. A **Merlin** was found during the Steubenville, O. Christmas count (CB). **Am. Kestrel** numbers seemed normal and none of the many reports indicated the mortality of last winter.

**Gallinaceous and Shorebirds** - Leon Wilson reports that **Bobwhite Quail**, attracted to his feeder, have increased from five at Christmas to 20 at the end of February.



Varied Thrush, Present Monterey, Virginia, from December 14, 1977 through February 28, 1978. Photo by Richard H. Smith, Jr. Harrisonburg, Virginia

**Ring-necked Pheasants** came more to feeders and farm lots because of the snow. Most reports were of good numbers but seven were counted dead after the blizzard in Ross Co., O. (HB). The ability of Turkeys to survive for long periods without food is well known but this winter's snows drove flocks to barnyards and feeders in numbers. Such reports came from Pittsburgh (R&MH), Hancock Co. W. Va. (E&ECO), Hocking Co. O. (ER), and Franklin, W. Va. (CR). **Ruffed Grouse** survive a winter as we had by eating buds of trees. Ralph Bell saw six thus engaged near Jefferson, Greene Co. Pa. February 27. Most reporters felt numbers of Grouse were down. Kathleen Finnegan thought the number of **Coot** near Harrisonburg, Va., were way down. One **Coot** remained on the Monongahela River during the Greene, Co. Christmas count January 1 (RKB). One **Semipalmated Plover** was noted on the Pendleton Co., W. Va. Christmas count (CR). Most migrating **Killdeer** were late returning, not present at the end of February, but birds were noted the middle of February in Tyler Co. W. Va. (EG), So. Charleston (HG) December 28, and Washington Co. Pa. February 11 (R&MH). Two **Am. Woodcock** were found on the Beckley, W. Va. Christmas count (OJ). A **Common Snipe** was seen in Washington Co., Pa. February 11 and 13 (R&MH).

**Gulls, Doves and Owls.** - There were a few **Herring** and **Ring-billed Gulls** on the larger rivers, probably a few more than usual. Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were noted near Princeton December 6 (JP). **Mourning Doves** were plentiful at most feeders. Only in the eastern panhandle was heavy mortality mentioned among them and they began nesting before the snow was completely melted. The lone **Barn Owl** report was from Bethany College, Brooke Co. W. Va. (JB). **Screech Owls** did not suffer the catastrophe of last winter. An odd coincidence, Virginia Johnson reported one roosting on the window frame of her home in Uniontown, Pa., in December and Carolyn Ruddle reported two on porches in Pendleton Co. W. Va. January 18. Two **Snowy Owls** were seen on the Salem, Mahoning Co. O. Christmas Count. Numbers of **Barred Owls** appear normal. **Long-eared Owls** were reported from Steubenville (CB) and from Columbus, O. January 18 and 22 (ER). **Short-eared Owls** appeared in normal numbers at the beginning of the period (eight on Kingston, O. count (HB), but were hard to find in the late winter.

**Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and Larks** - **Belted Kingfishers** seemed in good numbers near Harrisonburg, Va. (KF) but on the Greene Co. Christmas count, Ralph Bell recorded only two as compared to eight last year. A few **Common Flickers** winter in our area. One was at Oglebay Park (WB) and one in Kanawha Co., W. Va. (HG). **Pileated** and **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** appeared in normal numbers. Only two reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were received, one from Braxton Co., W. Va. December 10 (DJ) and four near Ravenswood, Jackson Co. W. Va. (VS).

**Hairy Woodpeckers** continue to be scarce. A pair visited Anne Eddy's feeder regularly in Greene Co., Pa. - the only pair she noticed in the county. Reports saying even **Downy Woodpecker** numbers were down were 5/1 against normal conditions. Three **Eastern Phoebe**s were seen December 26 in Pendleton Co., W. Va. (CR), but more were found on the Charlestown, Jefferson Co., W. Va. Christmas count where they are to be expected (CM). The excessive snow cover seemed to concentrate the **Horned Larks** into larger flocks than normal. Most reporters remarked upon the abundance of the northern race among the normal (for our area) prairie race. A **Monk Parakeet** was reported from the Steubenville, O. area December 20 (CB).

**Chickadees through Wrens** - Several reports were received of **Chickadee** numbers being lower this winter. Anne Eddy heard first four-note songs February 25. Nevada Laitsch felt that the proportion of **Black-capped** to **Carolina Chickadees** at her feeder was greater in the earlier part of the winter. **Tufted Titmouse** numbers also appear to be down. Numbers of **White-breasted Nuthatches** appears to be normal or only slightly low, but **Red-breasted Nuthatches** seemed to be plentiful and many remarked on how

tame they were. **Brown Creeper** numbers appeared lower throughout the winter. The 15 found on the Washington, Pa. Christmas count may still have been in migration. **Winter Wren** populations are markedly lower and **Carolina Wrens** seem to be starting the slow process of recovery from last winter's disaster.

**Mimics and Thrushes** - **Mockingbirds** that spend the winter in the northern portions of our report area are usually found in Multiflora Rose hedges. Mary Ford cites a scarcity of rose hips as a possible reason for the lower numbers of **Mockingbirds**. A **Gray Catbird** was found on the Pendleton Co. Christmas count (CR). Two **Brown Thrashers** wintered in Charleston (GH) and one in Harrisonburg, Va. (KF). Reports of wintering **Am. Robins** were scarce, but Clark Miller reported a few in the Eastern Panhandle apple orchards. One of the unusual events of the year occurred in the thrush family. A **Varied Thrush** was noted December 14 at the home of Albert, Virginia and Lucinda Beverage of Monterey, Va. Many persons visited their home to see this wanderer from the northwest, but the Beverage's hospitality never seemed to fail. The bird was last seen about March 3. A **Hermit Thrush** was seen in Athens Co., W. Va. February 23 (JP). Most observers feel that **Eastern Bluebirds** were scarce this winter.

**Kinglets through Shrikes** - Most correspondents felt that both species of **Kinglets** were in lesser numbers. The exception being Clark Miller's comment that kinglets were plentiful in the pine woods of the Eastern Panhandle of W. Va. One flock of 21



A Red-tailed Hawk seen often on the Bethany College campus during the winter of 1977-78. Photo by Greg Allen

**Water Pipits** was reported December 8 in a high meadow four miles north of Monterey Va. (KF). **Cedar Waxwings** seemed normal until mid-December. There were no reports after that. Six **Logger-head Shrikes** were recorded on the Pendleton Co. Christmas count. There were two reports of **Northern Shrikes** - February 18 at New Market, Va. (Paul Dumont fide KF) and one during the Christmas count at Steubenville, O. (CB).

**Warblers - Yellow-rumped Warblers** were the only ones reported for the period. The most unusual story comes from Kathy Reeves of Waynesburg, Pa. who found one feeding on the grease of a barbecue grill under a porch roof after a snowfall.

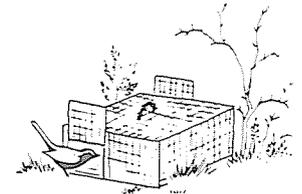
**Blackbirds and Finches** - Wintering **Eastern Meadowlarks** were listed as scarce at Cadiz, O. (MF). and Pendleton Co., W. Va. (CR). Mabel Edgerton of Barnesville, O. writes that **Redwings**, including females, were present at her feeder all winter, but the general migration of **Blackbirds** was a couple of weeks late. Eighty-one **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted on the Huntington, W. Va. Christmas count (JM). Observers in the Charleston area noted **Common Grackles**, in fact all four species of Blackbirds, as being present at their feeders all winter. Two reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**: one at a feeder in Pendleton Co., W. Va. during Christmas count (CR) and one at Broadway, Rockingham Co., Va. (KF). A **Dicksissel** was recorded in Rockingham Co., Va. February 19 (KF). This was a banner year for **Evening Grosbeaks**. Many observers noted 20-30 at feeders at one time. They were more numerous at the earlier part of the season. The **Brambling** is an occasional visitor from Europe. One was first noticed February 2 near Pittsburgh, Pa. at the feeders of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Schoff and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Shank in Allison Park. It was present throughout the month of February. **Purple Finches** frequented feeders regularly but not in great numbers. **House Finch** numbers have increased since last year and spread west, primarily in cities and towns. They paired up in late February and early March. **Pine Grosbeaks** were noted at two places: at the Va. - W. Va. line on Route 250 (Bob Ake fide (KF) and at East Liverpool, O. (NL). **Common Redpolls** arrived in our area in late December (JB) but came to feeders after the severe weather of late January, staying through most of February. **Pine Siskins** also arrived mostly in December and, like **Am. Goldfinches**, frequented the feeders in record numbers particularly where thistle seed was being offered. Three **Red Crossbills** were seen on Route 250 at the Va./W. Va. line February 21 (KF) and a few were seen near Charleston earlier in the period (AS). The elusive **White-winged Crossbill** was reported three places: Six at Greenlawn Cemetery Columbus, O. February 17 (ER), three at Harrisonburg, Va. February 14 and four at Barnesville, O. February 17-28 (MEO). **Rufous-sided Towhees** wintered in normal numbers in the accustomed places, although Marian Means had three at her feeder in Parkersburg, W. Va. for the first time. A **Lark Sparrow** was reported on the Salem, O. Christmas count (WCB). Reports of **Dark-eyed Juncoes** were about normal except for two occurrences of the "Oregon" race - one at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harwood, Ashland, O. and one near Cadiz, O. (MF). The record numbers of **Tree Sparrows** reported from feeders this winter may be the result of the heavy snows and other conditions contributing to their difficulty in feeding in the fields. There were reports of as many as 60 at a feeder at one time. A **Chipping Sparrow** was sighted at Broadway, Rockingham Co., Va. January 23 (KF). The Charleston Christmas count listed 86 **Field Sparrows**, highest in ten years (NG). Anne Eddy reports, "there were ten or twelve at the feeder until the blizzard, then none." A **Harris' Sparrow** was reported from Rockbridge Co., Va. January 21 (KF). Clark Miller reports good numbers of **White-crowned Sparrows** from the Eastern Panhandle, other sightings were meager. **White-throated Sparrows** flocked to feeders in the early part of the winter but numbers declined as the winter progressed. A **Fox Sparrow** wintered at

George Hurley's feeder in Charleston. Janice Musser reported two **Swamp Sparrows** on the Huntington Christmas count and one was at the Higbee's feeder in Washington Co., Pa. February 13 to 28. Reports of **Song Sparrows** varied from 50% declined to normal numbers with good survival (NL). **Lapland Longspurs** came into our region in late January and February, penetrating as far south as Rockingham Co., Va. and feeding mostly along road edges and in fields where manure was spread or cattle were fed. **Snow Buntings** also arrived about the same time in unprecedented numbers (400 near Youngstown O. BB) and could be found under about the same conditions as the Longspurs.

Contributors - Ray & Jo Ashworth (R&JA), William C. Baker (WB), Clinton Banks (CB), Bill Bartolo (BB), William Beatty (WB), Ralph Bell (RKB), Helen & Harold Boecher (HB), George Breiding (GB), Dr. A. R. Buckelew (JB), Elizabeth & Everett Chandler (EEC), Robert Deal (RD), Anne Eddy (AE), Mabel Edgerton (ME), Kathleen Finnegan (KF), Mary Ford (MF), Norris Gluck (NG), Hullet Good (HG), Edna Gregg (EG), Dr. Paul D. Harwood (PH), Roger and Margaret Higbee (R&MH), George Hurley (GH), Oliver Johnson (OJ), Virginia Johnson (VJ), Douglass Jolley (DJ), Nevada Laitsch (NL), Charlotte Lanham (CL), Marian Means (MM), Clark Miller (CM), Stauffer Miller (SM), Stauffer Miller (SM), Janice Musser (JM), James Phillips (JP), Ann Pyle (AP), Kathy Reeves (KR), Esther Reichelderfer (ER), Carolyn Ruddle (CR), Anne Shreve (AS), Virginia Stanley (VS), Fred and Patricia Temple (F&PT), Betty Vossler (BV) and Leon Wilson (LW).

## BANDING NEWS

Ralph K. Bell, Editor  
R. D. 1 Box 229  
Clarksville, Pa. 15322



For many years I have been using a small, very light one-cell trap to catch birds for banding. It is usually kept on an open feeding platform that is approximately five feet above the ground. Since the trap occupies less than half the platform, it is an excellent place to catch any new arrivals that feed with the banded local birds (that know from experience to stay out of the trap).

Last November the trap disappeared. I feel sure it was carried off by a large hawk which took a trapped bird with it. I have often looked for that trap here on the farm (and the adjoining farm also) without success. Experience is the best teacher so the one-celled trap now in use is wired to the platform.

As most birders know, hawks are not unusual around feeding and banding stations. Jo Lane Stern and Leon Wilson have been kind enough to send me some notes on this very subject.

**Elkins, W. Va.** - Today, March 14, 1978, what looked like a male Pigeon Hawk was on the ground beside the trap from which a Song Sparrow was trying to escape. The hawk had his back to the house, and kept looking back toward me so that I had a very good look at him. After a few moments, he jumped up on top of the trap, then down beside the closed door. In the meantime the Song Sparrow was frantic. Then a car drove by on the road and the hawk flew away, so I went out and rescued the bird. Naturally I banded it.

Early in the winter Ginny Oliver called to tell me that a Cooper's Hawk was sitting on their bird feeder. I went down but it was gone. Ginny said when the hawk left the



the "orientation morning flight" that we see so much on Dolly Sods each fall. The other was a Blackpoll banded by Dr. L. H. Walkinshaw in western Michigan on September 19, 1974 and recaptured at Stanford, Connecticut on September 25, 1974.

If the Blackpoll Warbler originated in northeastern North America and extended its range to Alaska (as suggested in Bent), then Murray's zig-zag course has merit. The leading line concept such as coastlines and mountain ranges could apply very well to what we see on Dolly Sods. The western Blackpoll Warbler population could use the Allegheny Mts. for a leading line just as the Labrador population uses the Atlantic coast line before turning south-east toward South America.

Since Warblers migrate mainly at night, the morning flight could be an orientation flight (to check where they are and where they should be going). This short flight (after a night's flight) may be a common occurrence with many species. A Cornell University newsletter states that some species use both the sun and stars as a compass, sense changes in barometric pressure, can detect magnetic fields and perceive polarized light. My dictionary says "that polarization is a peculiar condition of the rays of light resulting in their exhibiting different properties in different directions."

George Hall has asked Avis Newell to tabulate our 1977 AFMO banding data and Avis has found that 53% of over 1000 Blackpolls banded were adults. This is quite different than the large majority of "hatch year" Blackpolls captured along the Atlantic coast. This suggests (to me) that perhaps after a morning orientation flight, most of the Blackpolls we see may not go to the coast but fatten up somewhere in the mountains and fly directly for South America via the West Indies. It would seem that the majority would have to stop for refueling in the West Indies rather than fly non-stop to South America.

We now have another exciting Blackpoll recovery. Joe ImBrognio banded an adult on Dolly Sods September 21, 1977 that ended up in a bird cage in eastern Dominican Republic (approximately 400 miles east of Cuba and 600 miles north of South America) on October 14, 1977. Since the report indicated a bander had reported the recovery, I wrote to Mr. Donald Dod, compiler of the Santo Domingo Christmas Bird Count and received the following very interesting letter:

March 8, 1978

Dear Mr. Bell:

Thank you for your informative letter of February 28, 1978 directed to Mr. Donald Dod. Both he and his wife are very active biologists here in the Dominican Republic. Don is curator of orchids at the Botanical Garden and his wife Annabelle (Tudy) is in charge of the department of ornithology at the Natural History museum. They directed your letter of inquiry to me as I am the bander who retrieved the band in question (USEWS #1460-03909).

The banded Blackpoll Warbler was encountered in a cage in Santo Domingo at Calle Presidente Vasquez #225 on the eastern side of the capital. As stated in the band recovery form, the bird was (probably) wounded with a sling-shot and taken to the above address by a young boy (Roberto Rodriguez). I cannot offer more information other than that the mother mentioned that each year in the fall she sees small flocks (5-15) of these same birds and others. She described very well *D. tigrina* and *Setophaga ruticilla*, both of which are very frequent visitors here. The recovery data you have are correct: October 14, 1977.

You asked for information concerning Blackpolls in the West Indies. James Bond (*Birds of the West Indies*) states that Blackpolls are observed in the W.I.s from September 16th to December 9th during the Fall, and from March 22nd to June 7th during the Spring. The Dods inform me that each fall small flocks of Blackpolls

(winter-plumaged birds) are seen frequently near the capital. They have lived in the Dom. Rep. for 13 years and have noted the arrival of Blackpolls in late August and early September. On July 27, 1977 a breeding plumaged male Blackpoll was mist netted and released on Beata Island, a small island off the Southwest coast of the Dominican Republic.

I have lived in the D. R. for a year and a half. Last fall on October 13, 1977 I observed a mixed flock of Warblers feeding on an unidentified species of grub near my home in Santo Domingo. The flock was comprised of mostly Blackpolls. All eight of the Blackpolls were in winter plumage. The remainder of the flock was composed of 1 Magnolia Warbler, 1 Prothonotary Warbler, 3 Cape Mays, 1 Black-and-white, 3 Prairie Warblers, 1 Parula, 1 Yellow-throated Warbler, and 2 American Redstarts (1 bird in summer plumage and 1 bird in winter plumage).

As for Spring migration, the Dods observed large numbers of Blackpolls in April on the Northwest coast of the Dom. Rep. near Punta Rucia (west of Luperon).

Concerning your belief that some species of migrating parulids use the Caribbean Islands as "stepping-stones" to reach South America, the thousands of individuals that pass through here each year is testimony enough! Also, radar tracking of small passerine flocks heading "out to sea" from the northern New England seaboard substantiates the possibility that not all migrants use the Atlantic Flyway and move down the coast before "taking off" for the Caribbean and South America. There is an interesting article concerning this topic in one of the 1977 *Bird Banding* issues.

It is difficult to say if there is an eastward movement of migrants through the Caribbean. It is possible that the flyway is very wide and individual flocks vary widely in longitude.

I also have a keen interest in migrating Warblers and the enigmas concerning their migration and would very much enjoy receiving not only 1977's banding report but pertinent material concerning the past 20 years of banding! It may behoove us to maintain a correspondence. There's always the possibility of capturing more banded Warblers...

Hope to hear from you soon and until then, HAPPY BANDING!

Sincerely yours,  
Wayne J. Arendt  
Depto. de Ornitologia  
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural  
Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicand

#### Literature Cited

- Murray, B. G., Jr. 1966. Black-poll Warbler migration in Michigan. *Jack-pine Warbler* 44: 23-29.  
Nisbet, I.C.T. et al. 1963. Weight loss during migration: Disposition and consumption of fat by the Black-poll Warbler. *Bird Banding* 34: 107-138.

Ralph Bell

## Mushroom List: Labor Day Weekend 1977

A new Brooks Bird Club nature activity has been developing, largely in conjunction with the annual Labor Day weekend. Thanks to abundant rainfall immediately preceding the 1977 weekend, the woods around Camp Anthony were literally alive with an extremely varied population of mushrooms of all sizes and colors.

For those who are in the habit of walking with their heads down rather than up, mushroom hunting is a natural activity. From Friday night through Sunday, a total of 50 different mushrooms were identified to species including 11 *Amanitas* alone. Also in abundance were *Lactarius* (5 species), *Russula* (4 species), and several genera of pore fungi or boletes (9 species). In addition, at least two more *Amanitas*, several *Lactarius* (milk mushrooms), and many, many *Boletus* could not be taken beyond genus level because of technical considerations (such as no microscope was available).

Many in attendance were fascinated by the displays, both that of nature's, and that of the identified samples prepared by the "pickers". Chet Shaffer and Tom Ford also contributed interesting samples. Among the most interesting species found were the lovely Indigo Milk Mushroom which "bleeds" blue when its gills are cut and the bright red Stalked Cinnabar Puffball. If there is sufficient interest perhaps an instructive slide talk or mushroom walk could be planned for future forays to aid others in learning more about these fascinating plants.

The record of the 50 identified species was sent to the North American Mycological Association which is making a national survey (a list of 10 is considered good hunting) and will be saved to make future annual comparisons for Camp Anthony Labor Day Weekends.

SPECIES	ABUNDANCE	COMMON NAME
<i>Scutellinia scutellata</i>	occasional	
<i>Tremellodendron pallidum</i>	twice	
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	once	
<i>Clavariadelphus truncata</i>	once	
<i>Clavaria cristata</i>	common	Coral fungus
<i>Craterellus cornucopoides</i>	once	Death Trumpet
<i>Cantharellus cinnabarinus</i>	once	Red Chanterelle
<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	occasional	Chanterelle
<i>Gomphus floccosus</i>	several	Wooly Chanterelle
<i>Polyporus versicolor</i>	common	Grouse Tails
<i>Suillus hirtellus</i>	common	
<i>Suillus pictus</i>	occasional	
<i>Tylopilus gracilis</i>	common	
<i>Strobilomyces floccopus</i>	common	Old Man of the Woods
<i>Boletus russelli</i>	occasional	
<i>Boletus miniato-olivaceus</i>	often	
<i>Boletus pallidus</i>	occasional	
<i>Boletus speciosa</i>	occasional	
<i>Boletus projectellus</i>	occasional	
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	common	
<i>Scleroderma aurantium</i>	occasional	
<i>Calostoma cinnabarina</i>	once	Red stalked puffball
<i>Amanita brunnescens</i>	occasional	
<i>Amanita chlorinosma</i>	once	
<i>Amanita caesari</i>	occasional	Caesar's Mushroom

<i>Amanita cokeri</i>	occasional	
<i>Amanita citrina</i>	twice	
<i>Amanita frostii</i>	once	
<i>Amanita gemmata</i>	occasional	
<i>Amanita flavoconia</i>	once	
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	often	The Blusher
<i>Amanita virosa-bisporiger</i>	often	Destroying Angel
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	occasional	Fly Amanita
<i>Agrocybe praecox</i>	once	
<i>Coprinus niveus</i>	once	
<i>Hygrophorus nitidus</i>	occasional	
<i>Ompholatus olearius</i>	twice	False Chanterelle
<i>Russula emetica</i>	common	
<i>Russula xerampelina</i>	occasional	
<i>Russula aeruginea</i>	occasional	
<i>Russula albidula</i>	a few/1 site	
<i>Marasmius rotula</i>	common	The Little Wheel Mushroom
<i>Marasmius siccus</i>	occasional	
<i>Marasmius candidus</i>	once	
<i>Lactarius indigo</i>	occasional	Blue Milk Mushroom
<i>Lactarius piperatus</i>	common	Pepper Milk Mushroom
<i>Lactarius camphoratus</i>	occasional	
<i>Lactarius chrysorheus</i>	occasional	
<i>Lactarius volemus</i>	occasional	
<i>Laccaria ochropurpurea</i>	twice	

Mary Moore Rieffenberger  
 Bill Smith  
 Bob Burrell  
 1412 Western Ave.  
 Morgantown, W. Va. 26505

## Book Reviews

**A Guide to Eastern Hawk Watching** by Donald S. Heintzelman, Keystone Books. 1976, 99 pp. \$5.95.

This is a beautifully written and illustrated book on eastern hawks that every serious bird student should have. The text is brief and concise and the illustrations are, for the most part, excellent quality photographs of hawks in flight, plus additional pictures of various hawk observation points along the major paths of migration. The first chapter of the book is on hawk identification in which the author deals with wing span, field recognition, flight style and spring and fall migration, if migratory. This chapter is then followed by the excellent photographs of hawks in flight. The author then goes into a discussion of Equipment, the Migration Season, and the Mechanics of Hawk Flights in which he discusses and illustrates deflective currents, thermals, and diversion-lines. The remainder of the book is devoted to a state by state breakdown of the "hot spots" for hawk migration during both the fall and spring flights. This last

section does for hawk watching what Pettingill does for Bird Finding. If you are interested in hawks and hawk migration this book is a must.

William L. Wylie  
Division of Forestry  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, WV 26506

**Wild Geese by M.A. Ogilvie. Buteo Books, Vermillion, South Dakota, 1978, 350 pp. 16 color plates. Price \$25.00. (\$22.50 until Dec. 31, 1978).**

Who can help but thrill at the sight and sound of wild geese overhead? Whether in bed at night, with a group of bird watchers or hidden in a hunter's blind, "goose music" reminds one of wild country. M.A. Ogilvie brings us some good news. According to his carefully researched book on all the goose species of the world most populations of wild geese are in good shape. Even in crowded Western Europe, members of most populations appear to be increasing or stable. Only in the Soviet Union and China is there a question concerning the status of goose species.

The Swan Goose, Bar-headed Goose and the colorful Red-breasted Goose may be endangered. There is very little recent information on the status of any of these species, but the author speculates that all three are probably less common than formerly.

*Wild Geese* includes chapters on classification, identification, ecology, breeding, banding and population dynamics, distribution and status, migration and conservation. The book is nicely illustrated by Carol Ogilvie with numerous drawings and 16 color plates. There are 41 tables and a useful bibliography. Some chapters treat geese species-by-species, while others are more general with reference made to individual species for illustration and comparison. This approach avoids needless repetition and, along with a lack of references in the text, makes for easy reading. Readers looking for references should be able to find them in the tables and bibliography.

Some specialists might argue with Ogilvie's treatment of major goose populations rather than making a detailed account of the some 22 subspecies recognized by some authorities.

Most of his decisions in this regard seem to make sense, but there is bound to be some argument concerning his dismissal of the Tule subspecies of the White-fronted Goose as invalid. (See Krogman, G. 1978, the Tule Goose Mystery: A problem in Taxonomy. *Amer. Birds* 32 (2):164-166.)

This excellent book is recommended to all bird watchers, and school and college libraries. It will be an important reference for many years.

**Autumn Hawk Flights: The Migrations in Eastern Northern America by Donald S. Heintzelman. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1975, 398 pp. 88 photographs. Price \$30.00.**

Many members of the BBC spend at least a few days each fall at Bear Rocks or some other high mountain ridge watching hawks. They are sure to find something of interest in Heintzelman's exhaustive treatment of the subject, autumn hawk migration. He leaves no stone unturned including chapters on every aspect of hawk watching: field study methods, hawk identification, location and value of all hawk lookouts in Eastern North America, morphology and anatomy of hawks related to flight, weather and hawk migration and migration routes. Also included are numerous photographs, tables,

figures and an extensive bibliography. Readers will find of special interest, Heintzelman's suggestions as to the best sites for hawk watching, depending on weather, time of year and the species to be seen.

It would seem that Bear Rocks is not the best hawk watching station available in West Virginia under most conditions. The author also states that very little hawk count information has been published for Bear Rocks. Why not? **The Redstart** is available for the publication of organized hawk count data from Bear Rocks and other hawk count stations in our region. Heintzelman's appendix includes data from many stations including 16 years of George Hurley's data from Hanging Rocks Fire Tower on Peter's Mountain in West Virginia.

In spite of our concern for the need for more West Virginia hawk count data, there would appear to be some question about the value of the data. The author discusses numerous factors which make it difficult to interpret hawk count numbers in terms of population trends. The ratio of mature to immature eagles may be more significant. Hawk watching is probably most important as a form of recreation which acquaints many people with the beauty of raptors in flight.

**The Birds of the Ligonier Valley by Robert C. Leberman, with color plates by Jon Janosik and line drawings by Carol H. Rudy. Carnegie Museum of Natural History Special Publication No. 3 Pittsburgh, 1976. 67 pp. paperback. Price \$4.00.**

Carnegie Museum's Powdermill Nature Reserve has provided Western Pennsylvania students of bird life a center for study since 1956. Robert C. Leberman, who established the museum's bird-banding program at Powdermill in 1961, has assembled a regional bird list for the Ligonier Valley. He draws on his own observations and those of many other prominent ornithologists who have worked in the area including Graham Netting, Bayard Christy, Mary Clench, Reinhold Fricke, Kenneth Parks, George M. Sutton and Clyde Todd. The species accounts include consideration of seasonal occurrence, normal arrival and departure dates, breeding and winter status, abundance, habitat and banding records. The attractive illustrations by H. Jon Janosik and B.B.C. member Carol Rudy, whose drawings also grace **The Redstart**, make this regional list as attractive as it is informative.

A. R. Buckelew, Jr., Editor

## Our New Cover

The new Redstart cover by Carol Rudy was commissioned by Anne Shreve in memory of her longtime friend, Constance Katholi. Connie, one of **The Redstart's** most popular writers from 1963 to 1976, and an artist herself, was an enthusiastic admirer of Carol Rudy's work. The exquisite drawing is a permanent and appropriate tribute to her memory.

—Editor