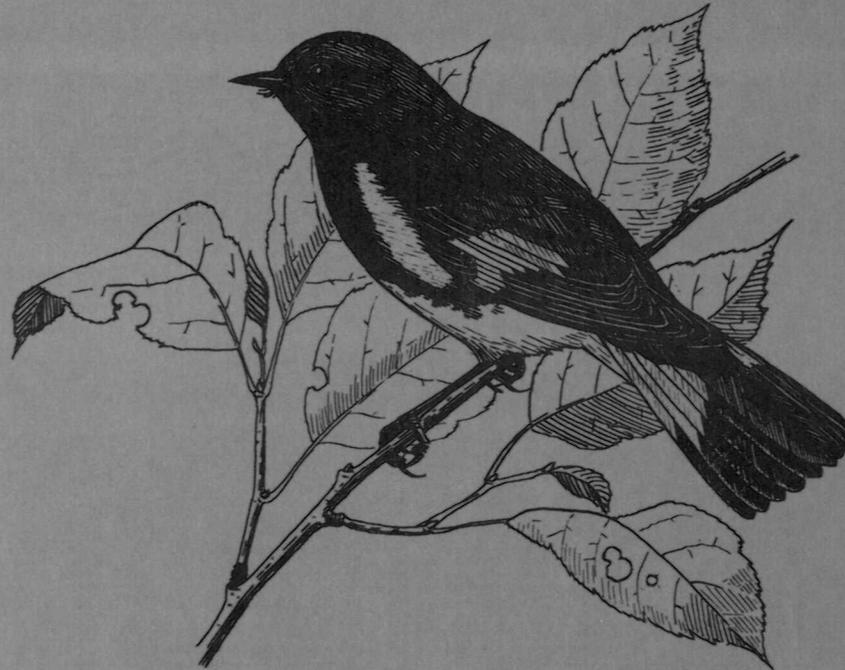


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APRIL, 1980



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Editorial Staff	Contents	Page
Editor Albert R. Buckelew, Jr. Biology Department Bethany College Bethany, W. Va. 26032	The 1979 Foray Bird Report —Seal T. Brooks	66
Field Notes Editor Glen F. Phillips R.D. 2 Triadelphia, W. Va. 26059	Decline of the Bewick's Wren —J. Lawrence Smith	77
Banding News Editor Ralph K. Bell R.D. 1 Box 229 Clarksville, Pa. 15322	Nesting Nuthatches —Clifford and Linnie Coon	82
Art Editor Anne Shreve P.O. Box 311 St. Albans, W. Va. 25177	A Black-headed Grosbeak Visits Ohio County —Chuck and Helen Conrad	83
Advisory Editorial Board Harold E. Burtt, Roland D. Cowger, George A. Hall, George F. Hurley, John Laitsch, Nevada Laitsch, Maxine Thacker	Hooded Warblers Captured in Snap Traps —Dennis L. Krusac	84
	More on the Birds of Southern West Virginia —Jim Phillips	85
	Christmas Bird Count 1978 —Leon P. Wilson	87
	A Red-tailed Hawk Visits Us —Merit B. Skaggs	93
	Shore Birds at Weirton Steel —Robert Rine	94
	Allegheny Front Migration Observatory Record for 1979 —George A. Hall	94
	Field Notes —Glen Phillips	97
	Erratum	102
	Pigmy Shrew Report Corrected	103
	Banding News —Ralph K. Bell	103
	In the Literature	106
	Book Reviews	108

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1979 Foray Bird Report

Seal T. Brooks

The Preston County Foray reports are most interesting due to the time lapses between forays; 1943, 1962, and 1979. The first two forays deserve a brief review. The 1943 foray was held at Camp Terra Alta and was attended by twenty-five persons. They recorded 91 species. All except two species were found in or adjacent to the camp area: Due to the scarcity of gasoline, only one expedition was made out of camp. That one was to Cranesville Swamp where the other two species were found. The lake and adjacent area must have been very rich in bird life in 1943. For example, from the foray diary one reads that 13 species of warblers were recorded on an early morning bird walk led by Max Thacker. Five persons who took part in the 1943 foray attended the 1979 foray. Three species were reported on the 1943 foray and not in 1979. They were: Scaup sp. Common Nighthawk, and Carolina Wren.

The next foray in Preston County was held in 1962, and was headquartered at the Preston County 4-H camp near Brandonville. Included in the working area were portions of Garrett County, Md. and Fayette County, Pa. During this foray 118 species and one hybrid were reported. Those species reported in 1962 but not in 1979 were:

American Bittern	Lawrence's Warbler (Hyb.)
Osprey	Pine Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark
Bewick's Wren	Orchard Oriole
Carolina Wren	Henslow's Sparrow
Hermit Thrush	Bachman's Sparrow

A study of this foray report reveals that most birding was done in the northern parts of the county, although Lake Terra Alta and Cranesville Swamp were often visited.

The 1979 foray area was restricted to Preston County. Coverage was good when the BBS routes are included. From the comments it appears that most of the "day trip" birding was done to the east of Cheat River. One hundred twenty-four species were recorded. Birds reported in 1979 and not in 1943 or 1962 were:

Canada Goose	Willow Flycatcher
Black Duck	Brown Creeper
American Woodcock	Winter Wren
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Rock Dove	Nashville Warbler
Great-Horned Owl	Blackpoll Warbler
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	House Finch

Again this year, I have used the terms of abundance suggested by Robbins and Hall and listed by Bell in the 1975 foray report. It is to be hoped that this method will be continued for reasons of standardization of reporting. The species nomenclature follows the A.O.U. check-list at the request of the Redstart editor.

1. GREAT BLUE HERON - Rare

One observed flying above Cranesville Swamp on 6/6, by E. Hutton and G. Koch. Probably a vagrant from a distant nesting colony.

2. GREEN HERON - Uncommon

Reported almost daily from various pond and lake habitats. A pair were evidently in residence near the head of Terra Alta Lake.

3. CANADA GOOSE - Abundance unknown

This species was on the foray list for the first week. Several were seen flying over Lake Terra Alta early one morning.

4. MALLARD - Fairly Common

Many observers reported sightings; usually in the areas east of the Cheat River. G. Koch reported a female with "12 or more" young on Terra Alta Lake. D. Nemanich saw several in flight in the southern part of the county.

5. BLACK DUCK - Uncommon

One observation reported by C. Conrad and H. Boecher on a pond near Cranesville on 6/12. This species was not reported for the 1947 and 1962 forays.

6. WOOD DUCK - Fairly common

J. Linehan thought them to be fairly common when compared with other ducks in area. On 6/2 E. Reichelderfer saw a female with 14 young crossing Rt. 7 west of Terra Alta. There were several reports of pairs at various locations.

7. TURKEY VULTURE - Uncommon

Most reports indicated that this species was not common. D. Nemanich reported "several" scattered throughout the county. N. Laitsch saw six at Cranesville Swamp. G. Phillips reported seeing only one during the second week of foray.

8. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - Rare

Two were banded on 6/5. Two were seen on the BBS route 9 (Valley Point) by Jo Wood and J. Delancey.

9. COOPER'S HAWK - Rare

Two reports. G. Koch saw one at Silver Lake on 6/5. C. and H. Conrad saw one near Alpine Lake on 6/15.

10. RED-TAILED HAWK - Uncommon

There were a few reports from various parts of the county. Two were seen at Silver Lake by N. Gluck, L. Wilson and G. Koch.

11. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - Uncommon

A pair were reported from the Cupp Run area almost every day. There were only two other reports.

12. BROAD-WINGED HAWK - Uncommon

More than a dozen reports from various parts of the county. G. Hurley reported seeing "several." P. Temple saw two over ridge above Muddy Creek Road. The reports indicate that it was the most common hawk in the area.

13. SPARROW HAWK - Rare

Several observers, including R. Bell, D. Conrad and E. D. Chandler indicated that they had not observed this species. There were three single birds reported. The 1943 and 1962 foray reports were similar.

14. RUFFED GROUSE - Uncommon

Only one report of young. D. Conrad, V. Hoover and others saw four young on Brandonville Pike on 6/15. M. Thacker and others saw two near Cranesville Swamp. There were other reports of single birds in the area adjacent to Terra Alta Lake.

15. BOBWHITE - Rare

R. Bell and party heard one calling on 6/6 near Cuzzart. Bell commented in a letter to the writer that he was "certain about the quail." There were no other reports.

16. RING-NECKED PHEASANT - Rare

C. and H. Conrad observed one on a mowed hillside near the entrance to Alpine Lake on 6/15. they were told that this species had not been introduced at Alpine Lake.

17. TURKEY - Uncommon

Three hens were seen near Riley Road on 6/14 by the Thompsons, L. Bett and G.

Phillips. A single bird was reported by A. Buckelew. Another single was seen by S. Robbins, E. Higbee and H. Boecher.

18. KILLDEER - Fairly Common

From the many reports received, this species seems to be well distributed over entire county. Some observers thought it to be common. A total of six were reported on five of eight BBS routes. E. Reichelderfer saw six at the new pond near Cranesville on 6/4.

19. AMERICAN WOODCOCK - Uncommon

The woodcock in the fields adjacent to camp were enjoyed by most of the campers during the first week of foray. It appeared that the evening flights had slackened off during the second week. One adult with three young were reported on the south side of Lake Terra Alta on 6/4 by E. Snyder. J. Laitsch reported an adult with young near Hopemont. This species was not reported in 1943 or 1962.

20. SPOTTED SANDPIPER - Uncommon

One or two reported almost daily in the area adjacent to Lake Terra Alta. There were also several reports of this species at the new pond near Cranesville.

21. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - (*see note below)

This species was not reported in 1943 or 1962. On 6/3 the Temples observed thirty-five on the new pond on the Cranesville Road just past the entrance to the P.E. Teets farm. Later that same day twelve were seen at the same place by G. Hall, R. Bell and others. In his "List of West Virginia Birds," Hall says that it is a widespread migrant.

*There is not enough information in the Preston County data to apply a meaningful abundance term.

22. ROCK DOVE - Uncommon

Not listed in 1943 or 1962. Most observers gave this species an "Uncommon" status. R. Bell reported seeing only two. D. Conrad saw one the second week, as did A. Pyle. W. Smith and G. Koch saw a "few" at a barn four miles north of Terra Alta.

23. MOURNING DOVE - Uncommon

Most observers saw this species. G. Hurley reported them as "not plentiful" and D. Nemanich found them to be "scarce." Twenty-five were reported on nine of thirteen BBS routes.

24. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - Uncommon

There were only six reports. Most comments indicated this species as not being common. Only one was reported on one of eight BBS routes.

25. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - Uncommon

Reports indicate that this species was more abundant than the Yellow-billed. G. Phillips heard five the first week. W. Thompson heard several along Riley Road. A total of three were reported on three of eight BBS routes.

26. SCREECH OWL - Rare?

Apparently not heard very often during foray period. It was reported on W. Smith's study area. Assigning an abundance term is difficult as it very often goes unreported, unless heard.

27. GREAT HORNED OWL - Rare?

Three separate reports. A. Buckelew reported one was heard near Lake Terra Alta. Another was heard near Riley Road approaching Cranesville Swamp. None were reported in 1943 and 1962.

28. BARRED OWL - Uncommon

When suitable habitat was visited after dark, this species was heard frequently. The Riley Road birds were reported several times, both weeks. On 6/11 at 10:30 P.M. one responded to a taped Great Horned call and flew into a tree along Riley Road. This was observed by R. Strosnider, K. Anderson and several others. There was a "camp" bird heard by many light sleepers. N. Laitsch heard it calling at 3:25 A.M!

29. WHIP-POOR-WILL - Uncommon

None was reported on BBS routes reported to the writer. Several observers reported them calling along Riley Road near Cranesville Swamp. Z. Stewart reported almost stepping on one. Location not given.

30. CHIMNEY SWIFT - Uncommon

W. Thompson and L. Bett reported seeing several over Lake Terra Alta on 6/11. This small colony was reported almost daily by several observers. G. Phillips said they could usually be seen over the Oglebay property. Both R. Bell and D. Conrad thought them to be uncommon. G. Hurley reported seeing this species at several places.

31. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - Uncommon

Six reports for the foray. Z. Stewart and A. Pyle saw one perched in a tree on Rt. 7. One nest with eggs reported by N. Gluck.

32. BELTED KINGFISHER - Uncommon

There were mostly single bird records from various places in area. A total of two were reported on eight BBS routes. Abundance terms given by observers ranged from "rare" to "uncommon."

33. COMMON FLICKER - Fairly Common

D. Nemanich reported seeing five to six in the first four days. It was the only woodpecker seen by E. Reichelderfer in five days. G. Phillips and G. Hurley thought it to be the most common woodpecker in the area. E. D. Chandler reported hearing it frequently. A total of ten were reported on four of eight BBS routes.

34. PILEATED WOODPECKER - Rare

Several observers reported not seeing the species. There were two separate reports of single birds in flight by D. Conrad and Jo Wood. One nesting site and possibly two were located west of Macomber on Rt. 50/6. The comment card lists one other site west of Macomber on Rt. 50/8. E. R. Chandler, N. Wilder and others.

35. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - Rare

There were two reports. On 6/3 N. Laitsch saw one on road to Cranesville about four miles from camp. G. Hall reported two on his Greer BBS route. L. Wilson and R. Bell listed them as "scarce." There were no reports the second week of foray. In 1962 there was one reported.

36. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - Rare

L. Wilson saw one on the south side of Terra Alta Lake above the Watson house. It was not reported in 1943 or 1962.

37. HAIRY WOODPECKER - Uncommon

Six reports for the period. R. Bell saw none and L. Wilson thought them to be scarce. D. Conrad heard it two different times. A pair were seen on road into camp by the Thompsons, W. Athey and L. Bett.

38. DOWNEY WOODPECKER - Uncommon

Four were reported on the Valley Point BBS route. D. Nemanich and N. Laitsch each reported seeing five during the first week. R. Bell found a nest with young in Cathedral State Park. G. Phillips thought them "surprisingly scarce."

39. EASTERN KINGBIRD - Uncommon

There were several reports of one or two birds from various parts of area. There was no indication that this species was common. In 1962 it was noted as the most common flycatcher in the foray area. A total of five were reported on four of eight BBS routes.

40. GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - Fairly Common

Almost every report indicated this species as well distributed throughout the area. E. Reichelderfer said it could be heard in any suitable habitat. J. Linehan said that he had heard several. N. Gluck thought it to be common.

41. EASTERN PHOEBE - Uncommon

This species was not found in the numbers expected for this area. E. Reichelderfer saw none but heard one in four days. R. Bell reported them as being scarce. Six nests were found containing eggs of young.

42. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER - Fairly Common

P. Temple renamed Muddy Creek Road enroute to Cuzzart as "Acadian Alley." D. Nemanich reported hearing several each day. Observers usually found them common in appropriate habitat. Twenty-five were reported on eight of thirteen BBS routes. One nest reported.

43. WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Uncommon

G. Freer and others heard the Willow at the head of Terra Alta Lake. At Cupp Run both the Willow and the Alder could be heard. Again, E. Hutton with his recording equipment taped both songs and used the taped song to bring each bird into view.

44. ALDER FLYCATCHER - Fairly Common

E. Hutton reported hearing six the first week at Cupp Run and in Cranesville Swamp. N. Laitsch heard this species in three different locations the first week. The observations recorded indicate the Alder to be more abundant in this territory than the Willow.

45. LEAST FLYCATCHER - Fairly Common

Reported from several locations. D. Nemanich heard twelve in four days. N. Laitsch heard them in four locations during the first week, as did A. Buckelew, C. Ruddle and others. E. D. Chandler and G. Phillips thought them fairly common.

46. EASTERN WOOD PEWEE - Fairly Common

P. Harrison thought there were a few in the Pine Run Study Area. G. Phillips thought they were about as common as in other places in W. Va. Four nests were reported. A total of forty-seven were heard on all eight BBS routes.

47. HORNED LARK - Uncommon

This species was only reported five times. Two reports were from the Terra Alta airport. "Several" were seen in a cornfield NW of Camp by C. Conrad, E. Smith and others.

48. TREE SWALLOW - Fairly Common

Four different nesting areas were noted. The nests in the yard of the Calvert house were reported regularly. N. Wilder and J. Linehan saw two at a box in Cranesville. Others were seen over Terra Alta Lake and Silver Lake by several observers.

49. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - Rare

G. Koch saw one on a wire over Silver Lake. This was the only report. In 1943 it was listed as "occasional," and in 1962 it was seen in three areas.

50. BARN SWALLOW - Common

Nine observers listed this species as "common." D. Nemanich said it was common throughout area over open land near water. This sums up most comments.

51. CLIFF SWALLOW - Common

Nesting colonies were reported in barns at four different locations. The writer counted twenty-six nests of Cliff Swallows and eighteen of Barn Swallows in the barn-shed at the Calvert farm. In the 1943 foray report it was noted that ninety Cliff Swallow nests were seen in a single barn about two miles from Camp Oglebay.

52. PURPLE MARTIN - Rare

Only one report. That from L. Wilson who reported two pairs at Silver Lake.

53. BLUE JAY - Uncommon

G. Phillips commented that they seemed to be more commonly seen during the second week of foray, and that this could be due to their nesting season getting finished. N.

Laitsch said they were "more often seen than heard." G. Hurley thought them "not common."

54. COMMON RAVEN - Uncommon

Six were seen by N. Wilder near Tunnelton on 6/13. One was seen in Cranesville Swamp by R. Richardson and others on 6/10. D. Conrad saw one over Riley Road.

55. COMMON CROW - Common

Over 150 reported on all eight BBS routes. Most observers said it was common in area.

56. BLACK-CAPPED CHICHADEE - Uncommon

Reported almost every day by some observers. Some thought it was fairly common, although not in the numbers expected. R. Bell thought it may be a "quiet period" for them. Two nests were reported.

57. TUFTED TITMOUSE - Uncommon

Comments were sparse on the cards. The BBS route reports were about the same as for the B-c. Chickadee. E. Reichelderfer and D. Conrad both reported them as being scarce. G. Phillips heard none the second week.

58. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Fairly Common

E. Smith reported seeing several during early morning bird walks. A nest was found on the Oglebay property. Reports indicated this was a quiet period for this usually vocal species. D. Nemanich saw several but heard only a few.

59. BROWN CREEPER - Uncommon

The bird or birds in the camp area were reported almost daily. They were enjoyed by all who heard them. Two pairs were noted on the study area behind camp by N. Laitsch. R. Bell saw two at Cathedral State Park. D. Conrad said she had never heard so much Brown Creeper song.

60. HOUSE WREN - Common

G. Phillips' comment "everywhere" seemed to cover all of the notations on the cards. The writer considered using Very Common as the abundance term, but the reports of numbers did not meet Hall's criteria. This was a bird of all habitats. Four nests, two with young, were noted.

61. WINTER WREN - Rare

On 6/13 a party including G. Hurley and the Chandlers saw and heard the Winter Wren in a cut-over area along Amboy Rd. (Rt. 53) just north of Aurora. G. Phillips reported one in Cathedral State Park. None were reported the first week. (Note: Three wrens, the Bewick's, Carolina and Short-billed Marsh were not found.)

62. MOCKINGBIRD - Rare

One was reported off Golf Course Road (Rt. 7) by Z. Stewart, O. Richardson and other. Several observers noted that they had not seen or heard this species. None were reported on the eight BBS routes sent to the writer.

63. GRAY CATBIRD - Common

Several were reported on all eight BBS routes. All observers commented that it was "common."

64. BROWN THRASHER - Fairly Common

D. Nemanich said that he had seen fifteen or twenty while driving during four days. Observers differed markedly on assigning an abundance term. One thought them to be "common" and another to be "scarce." Several persons noted that they had been seen but not heard. A total of three were reported on two of eight BBS routes.

65. ROBIN - Very Common

All observers thought them to be very common. A total of 346 were reported on BBS routes. Eight nests were found.

66. WOOD THRUSH - Common

All reports indicated this species was common in wooded areas. It was reported on every BBS route.

67. VEERY - Fairly Common

N. Laitsch reported several at Cranesville Swamp. E. Hutton thought them to be common in the proper habitat. From the reports they were certainly fairly common in the area of the camp and its environs. D. Nemanich thought them to be almost as common as the Wood Thrush.

68. EASTERN BLUEBIRD - Uncommon

Many reports were received from all parts of the area. Usually single birds were reported. However, A. Buckelew reported several at Cranesville Swamp on 6/9. N. Wilder reported eight to ten on the Tunnelton BBS route on 6/13. A pair were apparently nesting in a box at the Calvert Farm. Fifteen were reported on five of eight BBS routes.

69. BLUE GRAY GNATCATCHER - Fairly Common

No observer thought this species was common. N. Laitsch said there were normal populations in the areas she had covered. D. Nemanich said he had seen and heard many around Lake Terra Alta on 6/6. R. Bell thought them to be fairly common.

70. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - Uncommon

Reported only from Cathedral State Park by G. Hall and others on 6/4, and again on 6/10 by G. Phillips. Apparently it can only be found locally in areas where habitat is suitable. This species was not reported in 1943 or 1962.

71. CEDAR WAXWING - Common

Reported in good numbers throughout area by eleven observers. Reported on seven of eight BBS routes.

72. STARLING - Common

Reports placed this species mostly in farming areas, but not in large numbers. G. Phillips thought they were only just beginning to "flock." Most observers commented that they were common.

73. WHITE-EYED VIREO - Uncommon

Individuals were reported from all parts of area. N. Laitsch had only three records. E. Hutton heard "about five" the first week. G. Hurley said they were not common although he had heard this species each day in the proper habitat. A total of eleven were reported on eight of thirteen BBS routes.

74. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - Uncommon

G. Hall reported one near Masontown (Rt. 7) on 6/3. E. R. Chandler heard one on 6/15 along Sandy Creek near Brandonville. Four were noted by R. Bell on his five BBS routes. Species perhaps borders on being classified as rare.

75. SOLITARY VIREO - Fairly Common

Five were heard and seen at Cranesville Swamp on 6/6 by E. Reichelderfer. E. Hutton said that he had heard three the first week. D. Nemanich saw or heard five or six in four days. Two nests, one with young were reported.

76. RED-EYED VIREO - Very Common

All observers indicated this species to be very common. Three observers thought it to be the most abundant bird in the county. There was a total of 236 reported on eight BBS routes. Seven nests reported.

77. WARBLING VIREO - Rare

R. Bell reported one near Cuzzart at Stop 14 on his BBS route. P. Harrison heard one in Terra Alta at 5:30 A.M. on 6/10. Several observers reported "none."

78. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER - Uncommon

Individual reports ranged from seeing or hearing from one to ten individuals during a

one-week period. G. Eddy reported two on his study area and E. R. Chandler had one on his area.

79. WORM-EATING WARBLER - Rare

Reports were very scanty. Three were heard by N. Laitsch during first week. A. Pyle heard one or two. E. D. Chandler did not see or hear any. In 1962 this species was listed as common in the camp area and recorded regularly at other places.

80. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - Uncommon

This species was reported almost daily. Four reports were in or near camp. E. Hutton heard it in camp, at Cupp Run and at Cranesville Swamp. R. Bell listed it as occasional.

81. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Rare

A. Pyle reported hearing three the first week. Two of these were on Salt Lick Road and one on the Brandonville BBS route. R. Bell tells me, in a personal letter, that "several persons reported a Blue-winged song, but I did not hear a typical Blue-winged song all week." It seems probable that the so-called Blue-winged near camp that was singing a Golden-winged song, was in fact, a Golden-winged.

82. NASHVILLE WARBLER - Rare

One was banded the first week. On 6/7 E. Hutton and others saw one at the lower end of Cranesville Swamp. A. Buckelew searched for the Cranesville Swamp bird the next day but did not find it.

83. PARULA WARBLER - Uncommon

Most observers reported them as not common. However they were found throughout the area. D. Nemanich heard or saw six to eight in four days. P. Temple saw two along Muddy Creek on 6/8. Both G. Hurley and E.D. Chandler said they heard several on 6/15.

84. YELLOW WARBLER - Common

G. Phillips reported hearing them often in all parts of foray area. Seven observers noted that they were either common or fairly common. It was the most numerous reported warbler of the BBS routes.

85. MAGNOLIA WARBLER - Uncommon

It could be heard in proper habitat according to R. Bell and E. Hutton. One was heard at the south end of Cranesville Swamp by G. Phillips and others. E. Reichelderfer reported that she heard and saw this species daily.

86. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - Uncommon

R. Bell reported only one on five BBS routes. E. Hutton heard three the first week. The numbers given in most reports indicate it to be uncommon. However, E.D. Chandler thought it to be fairly common. One nest with young was reported.

87. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Fairly Common

In suitable habitat, this species appeared to be fairly common. E. Hutton reported hearing three or four each day. D. Nemanich thought it to be common. G. Phillips said it was widely distributed.

88. CERULEAN WARBLER - Rare

Jo Wood gave the only report other than a total of seven were seen on three of eight BBS routes. Jo heard and saw an individual on the south side of Lake Terra Alta on 6/5.

89. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Uncommon

Reported in three areas. D. Conrad and others noted one around the girls' cabin area. There were six reports from Cathedral State Park and one was heard on W. Smith's study area.

90. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - Uncommon

Most observers reported them fairly common in suitable habitat. Those observers that

gave numbers indicated that they were uncommon in abundance. Two nests reported; one with eggs.

91. BLACKPOLL WARBLER - Rare

This was on camp list for the first week. No details on comment card. There was one reported on Salt Lick BBS route. It was not listed in 1943 or 1962. Hall lists it as a widespread migrant.

92. PRAIRIE WARBLER - Uncommon

A. R. Buckelew heard six to eight during the first week at three different areas. On 6/8 P. Temple reported four on Muddy Creek Road. E. D. Chandler reported hearing this species every day in different areas.

93. OVENBIRD - Uncommon

Several observers commented on not hearing many. R. Bell reported seven on five BBS routes. G. Phillips said he had only a "scattered few." E. Hutton heard four during the first week. In 1943 and 1962 they were listed as common and fairly common respectively.

94. NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - Fairly Common

Found almost exclusively in Cranesville Swamp and Cupp Run area, and other bog areas. G. Hurley reported six to eight heard and several seen in Cupp Run area. E. D. Chandler reported that they could be heard in most boggy areas. In 1943 and 1962 they were found in the same areas.

95. LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - Uncommon

Recorded regularly, but in limited numbers. They were found on two study areas. R. Bell heard four of five during week. D. Conrad reported one near Terra Alta Lake. One nest reported.

96. KENTUCKY WARBLER - Uncommon

Most observers reported seeing less than six during period. N. Laitsch heard six. E. D. Chandler did not record any. A. Buckelew heard one.

97. YELLOWTHROAT - Common

Every observer reported this species as common or very common.

98. YELLOW BREASTED CHAT - Uncommon

Mostly reports of single birds. N. Laitsch thought the habitat wasn't proper for them. D. Nemanich heard two on 6/6 on Rt. 3, and one at Silver Lake. R. Bell called them "scarce." The records for 1943 and 1962 indicate they were common throughout area.

99. HOODED WARBLER - Fairly Common

Surprisingly, observers differed greatly on abundance terms for the hooded. One thought them to be "uncommon." Another said they were the "most common bird in the area." According to the numbers given the abundance term should be "fairly common." K. Anderson and others reported several in or near the camp area. One nest with young was reported.

100. CANADA WARBLER - Uncommon

A pair were observed by N. Wilder and others in old growth hemlock at Cathedral State Park. One was carrying food. One or two were reported from E. R. Chandler's study area.

101. AMERICAN REDSTART - Fairly Common

Reported from several areas. Most reports indicated this species to be quite common. There were sixteen reported on thirteen BBS Routes. One nest with young was reported.

102. HOUSE SPARROW - Common

In towns they were reported as common as evidenced by N. Wilder's report on Kingwood and R. Bell's report on Masontown.

103. BOBOLINK - Common

Most reports can be summed up by quoting E. Reichelderfer who said they were "delightfully common in most meadows." Several reports indicated that high meadows seemed to be preferable habitat.

104. EASTERN MEADOWLARK - Fairly Common

Although this species was reported on the camp list both weeks, there were no comments on the cards. This species was listed as common in both 1943 and 1962. A total of thirty-six were reported on six of eight BBS routes.

105. RED WINGED BLACKBIRD - Common

Every observer reported them as common in fields particularly marshy fields.

106. NORTHERN ORIOLE - Fairly Common

Apparently this species was more uncommon than expected. G. Hurley saw and heard "several," as did D. Nemanich the first week.

107. COMMON GRACKLE - Common

Although this species was recorded every day by some, no large flocks were reported. L. Wilson and R. Bell thought them to be common. Perhaps it was not reported more due to its popular classification as an undesirable. Two nests with young were reported.

108. BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - Uncommon

G. Koch thought them to be less common in this area than in most areas. E. Hutton heard three or four each day. A. Buckelew heard only a few. Reported on all eight BBS routes.

109. SCARLET TANAGER - Fairly Common

It was present in most woodlands according to G. Phillips. E. Reichelderfer thought it was common in suitable habitat. R. Bell, N. Laitsch and D. Conrad all noted that it was fairly common. A nest was reported on road around Lake Terra Alta.

110. CARDINAL - Fairly Common

As expected most reports were associated with or near buildings. E. Hutton noted that he had heard about one each day. G. Hurley and G. Phillips both reported one or two each day.

111. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - Uncommon

Only a few reports were made. W. Wylie reported a pair at the head of the Lake Terra Alta. N. Laitsch listed four during the first week. Others reported hearing one each day.

112. INDIGO BUNTING - Common

Reports all had this species as common throughout the area. E. D. Chandler gave it the same abundance as the Red-eyed Vireo. A total of 142 were reported on all eight BBS routes.

113. PURPLE FINCH - Uncommon

There were four reports. A pair were seen at Silver Lake by G. Koch. One was heard in a spruce grove at the U.B. Church at Cuzzart by E. R. Chandler. Another was seen at a feeding station at Alpine Lake by C. and H. Conrad. D. Conrad saw one feeding at a house on Rt. 7. None were reported on eight BBS routes.

114. HOUSE FINCH - Rare

Two were seen at a bird bath in Masontown by L. Wilson and others. None were reported in 1943 and 1962.

115. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - Uncommon

G. Freer reported seeing several on 6/12 near the bridge on road west of camp. Other reports stated that it was not common, and that it was heard infrequently.

116. RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE - Fairly Common

In suitable habitat this species was fairly common. D. Nemanich said that he could

hear three or four at once in some areas. E. Hutton reported four or five each day.

117. SAVANNAH SPARROW - Fairly Common

According to N. Laitsch it was the most abundant sparrow in the high fields. All observers reported essentially the same experience.

118. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Uncommon

There were several reports covering the two weeks. G. Hall said they were abundant on recovered strip mine areas near Brandonville. N. Laitsch thought them to be uncommon in the eastern end of the county.

119. VESPER SPARROW - Uncommon

Reports indicate that an observer would see about seven in a week. D. Conrad heard them on the Terra Alta airport both weeks. At Cupp Run they could usually be observed on wire over road.

120. DARK-EYED JUNCO - Rare

Reports were very scarce. D. Conrad saw one on road to G. Eddy's study area. Two were heard at Cranesville Swamp by M. Thacker, Jo Wood and R. Bell. E. Hutton heard one.

121. CHIPPING SPARROW - Common

All reports indicate that they were common throughout area. Six nests were reported. Four of these contained young birds. A total of eighty were reported on all eight BBS routes.

122. FIED SPARROW - Fairly Common

D. Nemanich said they could usually be found in appropriate habitat. G. Phillips thought they were more widely distributed than the Savannah Sparrow.

123. SWAMP SPARROW - Fairly Common

It was the most numerous singing male in Cranesville Swamp according to G. Koch. All observers commented on finding them in swamp areas.

124. SONG SPARROW - Common

They were very common according to D. Nemanich. Most others thought them to be common. E. Hutton reported three or four each day.

I wish to thank everyone who aided me in reporting the birds of the Preston County Foray. A logical assignment of abundance can only be made by collating the remarks on the comment cards, and studying the BBS route reports. Sixty-five different names appeared on the comment cards. BBS route reports were sent to me by Ed Ilgenfritz (6), and George Hall (2). R. Bell gave me comments on his routes (5). Norris Gluck again sent me a summary of the breeding records. A study of the Singing Male Population Studies (published separately) will add to the knowledge of the birds of the area.

Following are those persons whose names appeared on the comment cards. Ken Anderson, Bill Athey, Ralph Bell, Lou Ann Bett, Harold Boecher, Dorothy Broemsen, Mary Lou Brown, A. Jay Buckelew, Libby Chandler, Pete Chandler, Chuck Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Helen Conrad, Juanita DeLancey, Greg Eddy, Kathleen Finnegan, George Freer, Norris Gluck, George Hall, Lorraine Harper, Jenny Harrison, Pete Harrison, Eileen Higbee, Ernie Hilton, Virginia Hoover, George Hurley, Gene Hutton, George Koch, John Laitsch, Nevada Laitsch, Laura Lee, Jack Linehan, Ann Llewellyn, Chris McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jason McCullough, Don Nemanich, Ephe Olliver, Glen Phillips, Ann Pyle, Esther Reichelderfer, Mary Rieffenberger, Carolyn Ruddle, Dottie Sanders, Ed Smith, Bill Smith Ellen Snyder, Zettie Stewart, Ruth Strosnider, Fritz Temple, Pat Temple, Max Thacker, Ellen Thomas, Andy Thompson, Bill Thompson, Elsa Thompson, Susan Ulrich, Jim Weimer, Susan Weimer, Hester Werner, Jack Werner, Norm Wilder, Leon Wilson, Jo Wood, Bill Wylie.

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Report of the Brooks Bird Club 23rd Annual Foray, Bruceton Mills, West Virginia 6/16-24/62

Gateway Farms
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Decline of the Bewick's Wren

J. Lawrence Smith

The Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) easily attracts attention due to its preference for nesting sites around the dwellings of man and its sweet, buzzing song endears it to those who have an ear attuned to the sounds of nature. The bird is of interest due to the marked change that has occurred in its numbers during the past few decades with it having become rare or entirely absent from a large part of West Virginia where it was once numerous. In 1975 I began a field study of Bewick's Wren centered in the counties of Mercer, Monroe and Summers in an effort to determine its numbers in the southeastern part of the state.

Of historical interest is that the first record of Bewick's Wren in this area was made by the Rev. John Bachman, Audubon's friend and collaborator, at Salt Sulphur Springs, Monroe County, in July 1835. Audubon (1840) quotes Bachman:

In the month of July 1835, when on a visit to the mountains of Virginia, I heard at the Salt Sulphur Springs the note of a Wren that I did not recognize as that of any of our known species. On procuring the bird I ascertained it to be the Bewick's Wren. There were a pair accompanied by four or five young, nearly full grown. The note bore some resemblance to those of the Winter Wren, scarcely louder and more connected. It possessed all the restless habits of the other species, creeping actively between the rails of fences and among logs and stumps. One of them ascended an oak nearly to its top in the manner of a Creeper. I found the young several times during the morning entering a hole in the limb of a fallen tree a few feet from the ground, and conjectured that they had been bred in that situation. I was unable to see the nest. During the residence of a few weeks in the neighborhood of the Virginia springs I saw several of these birds every day, and ascertained that this was the only species of wren common in the mountains.

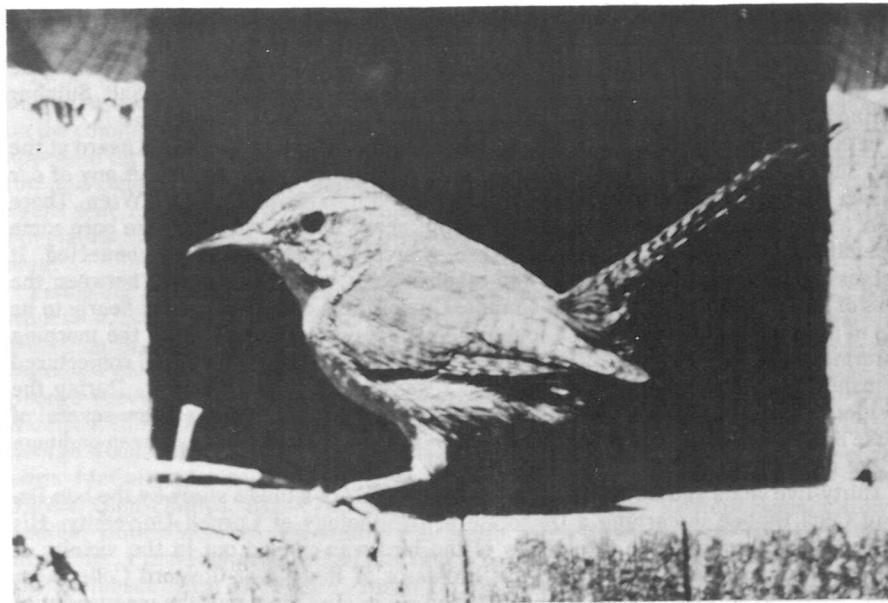
Thirty-five years ago Bewick's Wren was the subject of a thesis study by the late Dr. Paul Cecil Bibbee in earning a Doctorate in Ornithology at Cornell University. His most detailed study of the life history of the bird was carried out in the vicinity of Athens, Mercer County, where he was Professor of Biology at Concord College for many years. After Mrs. Clarice Bibbee allowed me to study in detail the manuscript of her husband's thesis, I decided to undertake a study in an effort to determine the numbers of Bewick's Wren at present in comparison to over three decades ago.

Bibbee had found Bewick's males arriving in late March and soon establishing territories that attracted females. He found nearly two dozen nests during 1946, many of which he had under observation. During field work in the area of Bibbee's study in May and June, 1975, I found the Bewick's absent while the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) was numerous in the vicinity of Athens. I counted eleven House wrens in song along eight miles of the Bent Mountain road while Bibbee had counted fourteen Bewick's in a distance of nine miles in the same general area. The most concentrated number of House Wrens was six heard along two miles of Camp Creek road at Speedway and in Athens eight House Wrens were heard in song.

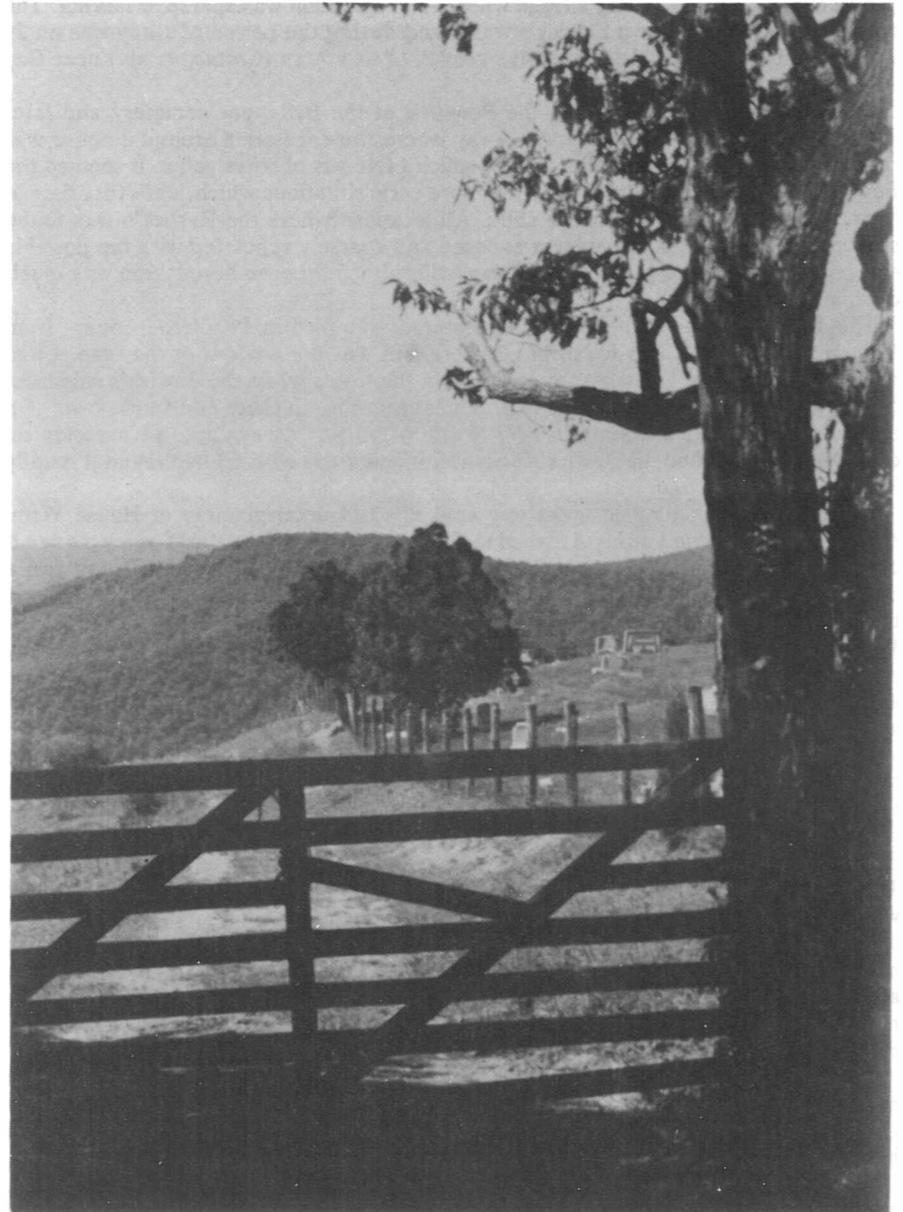
The aggressiveness of the House Wren as an important factor in the displacement of the Bewick's both in West Virginia and elsewhere has been discussed many times in ornithological literature. Bibbee noted the appearance of the House Wren in Athens in the late 1920's when it was attracted by the boxes erected by school children. Bibbee wrote of such nest boxes, "The House Wren uses these while the Bewick's selects garages, fuel sheds, poultry houses, small barns and other structures some distance back from main streets."

The removal of many possible nesting sites preferred by the Bewick's must be given some consideration as a factor in the decline of the bird. Over half of the nests studied by Bibbee were placed on a projection inside a building or in containers other than nest boxes. The tidying up of Athens and removal of numerous small structures that would provide nesting sites has been detrimental to the Bewick's.

The Bewick's was found at four locations during the 1975 nesting season. Two singing males were heard in the community of Ballengee in Summers County and another was heard near Forest Hill in the same county. The fourth one was found near Red Sulphur Springs in Monroe County. All situations were much the same with the



Male Bewick's wren photographed 16 June 1946 entering nesting box at Athens, West Virginia, by Dr. P. C. Bibbee. Photo courtesy Mrs. Clarice Bibbee.



Cemetery and adjacent pasture at Ballengee, Summers County, West Virginia, where Bewick's wrens were frequently observed with such open, exposed situations seemingly preferred by the species.

birds found near farm houses with a number of nearby sheds and in more or less exposed places such as along a ridge where the vegetation was sparse or lacking. The only other location where a Bewick's was found during the period of study was on 29 June 1976 in a field with an extensive growth of hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*) near Gap Mills, Monroe County.

In May, 1975, while observing the Bewick's at the Ballengee cemetery and later listening to two House Wrens not far away where the vegetation around a house was rather luxuriant, I had gotten an insight which I felt was of some value. It seemed the Bewick's had been forced to occupy the more xeric situations which, until that time at least, the House Wren seemed to shun. All locations where the Bewick's was found shared similarities of being open or exposed and sparsely vegetated with the possible exception of the *Crataegus* field near Gap Mills although, even here, there was much open area nearby.

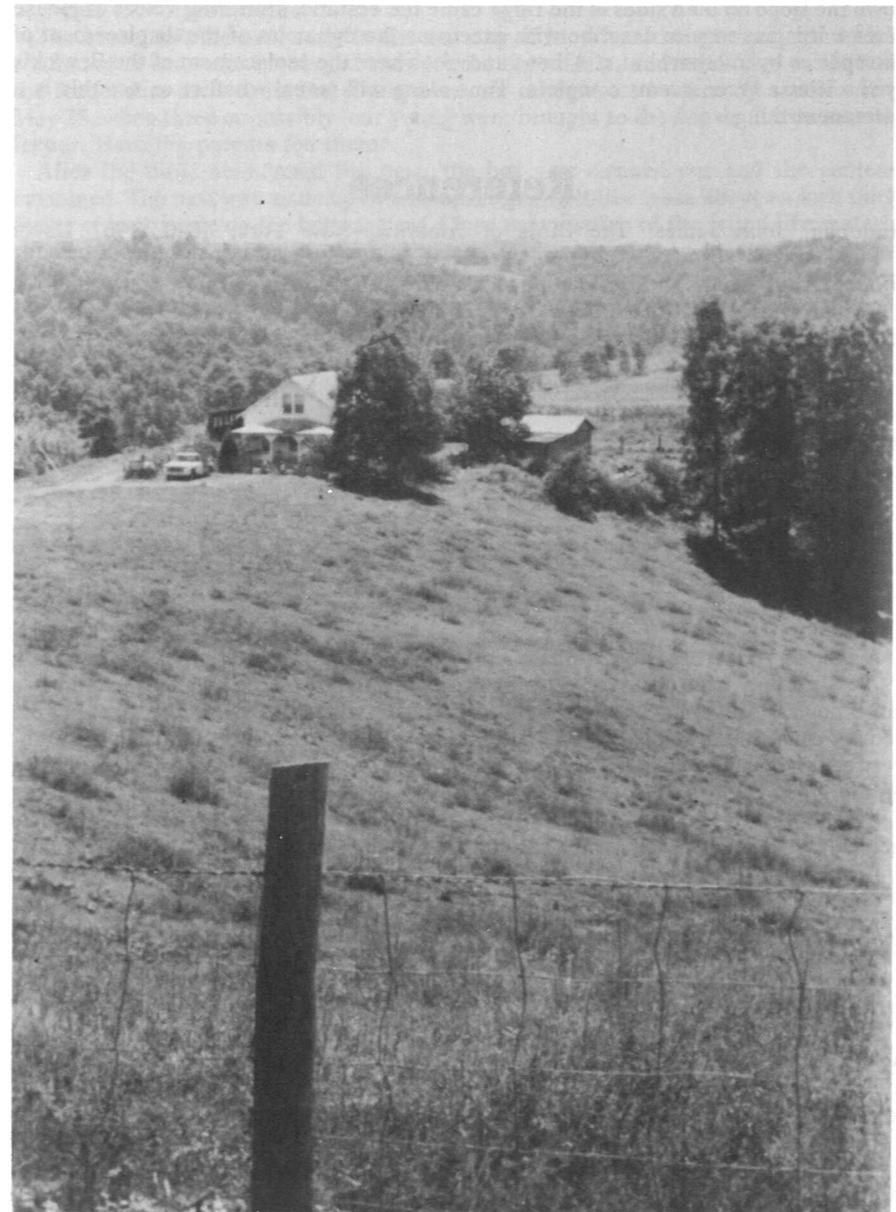
This had also seemed the case when I studied the bird in Pendleton County from 1965 to 1969 where it was found in numbers, but was not obvious at the time. I had noted that the House Wren was often found in the towns while the Bewick's was most frequently found in the countryside around the farms, thickets and fence rows. On returning to Pendleton County in 1977 to study and further evaluate such ecological considerations, I found the Bewick's absent from all areas where I had found it readily less than ten years ago.

Lacking sufficient time to make any kind of valid determination of House Wren numbers in Pendleton County, I turned to the results of Breeding Bird Surveys to see if census results in recent years reflect an apparent increase in House Wrens and a decrease in Bewick's Wrens. A census route through southern and eastern portions of the county showed the results that I had anticipated. I had first censused this route in 1966 and found five Bewick's as compared to one House Wren. Censuses taken by others since 1970 following the same route have shown a decline in Bewick's numbers and an increase in House Wrens with the peak number of House Wrens five in 1975 while no Bewick's were found in 1974, 1975 and 1976.

The Ballengee cemetery was the only location where the birds were present for more than one nesting season and were found through 1977, but visits since then have failed to find them. Although little effort was given to finding the nest, they were doubtless nesting in one of the sheds near a house a short distance downslope and four young, perhaps recently out of the nest, were seen along the cemetery fence 29 June 1975. The earliest date in spring a bird was heard in song was 24 March 1976 and on 6 April I watched one of a pair descend a tree much in the manner of a nuthatch which brought to mind Bachman's somewhat similar observation, "One of them ascended an oak nearly to its top in the manner of a Creeper." On 12 April 1977 one was seen apparently gathering material for the nest when, after singing incessantly for a few minutes, it pulled a large strand from a cocoon on the trunk of a locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) before taking flight.

Future research may reveal factors in the decline of Bewick's wren which have been overlooked. For now at least, expanding numbers of the House Wren seem the most obvious factor. Simply stated, it seems a matter of the House Wren having expanded inexorably into all available territory at the expense of the Bewick's.

At Athens I had found a small barn that had weathered the passing of many years perched on a ridge by a road leading out of town. A pair of Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) were perched on the fence nearby bobbing their tails as a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) shot from the loft and circled about chattering before sailing off to snatch up insects. The phoebe and swallow seemed to have entered into a congenial arrangement of occupancy with the phoebes on the ground floor and the swallows



Farmhouse and sheds where Bewick's wrens were nesting downslope from cemetery while under observation during the breeding seasons 1975 through 1977.

upstairs. I felt certain that thirty years ago there would have been Bewick's Wrens nesting in the barn, it would have been too tempting a site for them to pass up. From down the slope on both sides of the ridge came the ecstatic, stuttering voices of House Wrens. It is not easy to describe with exactness the dynamics of the displacement of one species by another, but at Athens and elsewhere the replacement of the Bewick's by the House Wren seems complete. Time alone will reveal whether or not this is a permanent thing.

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4423 16th Street Road
Huntington, West Virginia

Nesting Nuthatches

Clifford and Linnie Coon

A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches began nest-building activities on March 9, 1979, when they were observed cleaning out a nesting box placed about six feet up on a large poplar tree some 30 yards from our kitchen window. Part of the cleaning-out activity consisted of removing old materials from the box and stashing it in the crack between the nesting box and the tree; other materials removed were merely dropped on the ground.

Both birds took part in the nest-building, the female playing the major role; the male helped carry the materials, while the female inside the box did most of the placing.

By early April incubation had begun, and during this we noted a peculiar bill-raking ceremony performed by the male. Bent mentions this behavior in his *Natural Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers, and Their Allies*. Hal Harrison in *A Field Guide To Birds' Nests* notes a pro-longed bill-sweeping action performed by both male and female, generally with a crushed insect held in the bill, which he thinks is a territorial defense mechanism.

Although this bill-raking was repeated over and over again throughout the daylight hours, it was more prolonged in the early morning, around noon, and again in late afternoon, the activity becoming quite frenzied at times. From side to side, back and forth in a wide arc he raked his bill as he ran over the bark of the tree, covering an area a foot or two to the right of the nesting box, as much as three feet above the box, on the front of the box itself, on the top of the box, and the side of the box away from the tree. All during the incubation of the eggs by the female the male kept up this frenzied bill-raking. After bringing food to the female, his performance was repeated over and over again.

The eggs hatched on April 19, noted when the parent birds were observed carrying out the empty egg shells. Although the bill-raking activity continued, most of the time

was consumed in feeding the young. Food brought to the young consisted of insects collected from nearby trees, and a cornbread-suet-peanut butter mix placed in a net bag near the kitchen window.

The young left the nest early in the morning of May 7. Although the parent birds continued to carry the cornbread-suet-peanut butter mix, and sunflower seeds from the feeder into the woods, the young were not brought to the feeding stations until May 25, when three or possibly four young were brought to the dogwood tree near the feeder. Here the parents fed them.

After the birds abandoned the nest, the box was cleaned out and the contents examined. The nest was made up of a compact gray felt-like mass about an inch thick. Strips of bark made up the bottom part. Close examination of the felted-like material showed a conglomeration of bits and pieces. Well concealed in the mass were two unhatched eggs--white with brown blotches, a few feathers, a bran-like substance, rabbit hair, a tiny piece of foil, three fragments of elytra from beetles, the cocoon of a tent caterpillar, two tiny balls of matted fur, a small section of wadded tissue, a tiny bone, and bird droppings.

After leaving the nest, as far as we could tell, none of the nuthatches ever returned to the nesting box.

Comfort, West Virginia 25049

A Black-headed Grosbeak Visits Ohio County

Chuck and Helen Conrad

It was a crisp Sunday, December 9, 1979, cloudy, but no rain and no snow on the ground. I had filled all the feeders in the morning after our return from church, so we had plenty of bird traffic all day.

As a good birder, whenever I am in the kitchen I always look out the window and check all the species that are feeding. Usually within an hour you can count 15 or 20 kinds. Well it was on one of these occasions, about 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, as I was checking the birds, I noticed a Grosbeak feeding on some of the mixed bird seed I had scattered on the ground. Helen was in the kitchen at the time, so I said, "Helen come here and check this Grosbeak." She looked and said, "It is not an Evening Grosbeak. What kind is it?" I said, "Grab the book."

It only took a few seconds when she found the Grosbeaks in Chan Robbins' Field Guide and began to check and without hesitation she said, "Here's our bird and it is a female Black-headed Grosbeak." I took one concentrated look and concurred. It was without a doubt a female Black-headed Grosbeak, (*Pheucticus Melanocephalus*). The female bird, as pictured in the field guide, was a perfect match. This bird was not new to me as I had observed it several times this past Spring of 1979, in Southeastern Arizona. We both were able to observe the bird at a range of from 8 to 15 feet clearly, with no need of binoculars. We immediately noticed the yellow-orange breast; with some of the same color on the top of the head and back, the fine streakings on the breast; and the white semi-ring around the neck; the one white-wing bar; the facial markings, and I noticed the heavier beak of a grosbeak, thus it was not to be confused with that of a oriole.

It flew from the ground beneath our sunflower feeder to our apple tree, about 20

feet, sat there for a while and flew to the north side of our home and out of our sight. During the time we observed the bird, we were able to check all marks of identification, and we both were sure it was a female Black-headed Grosbeak.

We called no one because we were in hopes the bird would return so others could come to see it. Even though we kept the feeders full and had many birds coming to feed, we have never seen the bird again.

Out of range you say, we sure agree. I checked Dr. George A. Hall's THE LIST OF WEST VIRGINIA BIRDS, January 1971, and he had no record for the Black-headed Grosbeak in our state. However, since publication of the list, the bird has been observed and reported in the Charleston area in 1971-72-74, so it is not a state record, but is the first time the bird has been reported for the northern part of West Virginia (The Redstart 38:127).

In conclusion, for Helen and Chuck Conrad it will be recorded in our book as a sight record for a female Black-headed Grosbeak in our backyard. It is your prerogative to "believe it or not;" however, Dr. Hall has also accepted it as a sight record for the Northern Panhandle.

Triadelphia, WV

Hooded Warblers Captured in Snap Traps

Dennis L. Krusac

Between 16 and 20 August 1977 while conducting a small mammal survey in the Coopers Rock State Forest, located in Monongalia and Preston counties, West Virginia, seven Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*) were trapped in Victor snap traps. The trap period consisted of 1,305 trap nights, with a Hooded Warbler capture rate of .005 captures/trap night. Traps were located in grassy openings, edge vegetation between openings and adjacent forest, and back into the forest for 60 m. Autumn olive (*Eaeagnus umbellata*) is growing around the grassy openings and is a major component of the edge vegetation. All Hooded Warblers were trapped under autumn olive.

A mixture of peanut butter and rolled oats was used to bait the traps. This mixture was attractive to invertebrates, particularly ants (Formicidae) and crickets (Gryllidae). The bait was often covered with ants or crickets. Forbush (Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States, Vol. 3, Norwood Press, Norwood, Mass., 1929: 305) and Grisom and Sprunt (The Warblers of America, Devin Adair Co., New York, 1957:234) stated that the food of the Hooded Warbler consists of insects; listing grasshoppers, caterpillars, beetles, ants, flies, and plant lice as the major insects eaten. Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 203, 1953:619) stated that Hooded Warblers feed on or near the ground. I believe the warblers that were trapped were actively feeding in the lower branches of, or under the autumn olive. While feeding, these birds might have observed the masses of ants or crickets, pecked at them setting off the traps and consequently being killed. All warblers that were trapped had the bail of the trap behind the head or across the back. If the warblers had randomly wandered into the traps, I would not expect the location of the bail to be so consistent. Trapping was conducted in June, August, and October, with Hooded Warblers being the only avian

species captured and only captured in August.

I wish to thank Robert C. Whitmore for encouraging me to report these findings and also for reviewing this manuscript.

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More on the Birds of Southern West Virginia

Jim Phillips

During a recent nine-month study (see *The Redstart* 46 (4): 137-147.) I found 148 bird species in southern West Virginia. The primary study area was Mercer County, but observations were also made in McDowell, Raleigh, and Wyoming Counties. The following is a list of birds observed before or after the original study period (January-September, 1978). In this report the area is extended to include Monroe and Summers Counties. These observations are my own. For more information on the birds of this area one should contact Oliver Johnson, Box 125, Lerona, West Virginia. He can provide the data of the Bibbee Nature Club. This club has conducted Christmas and Century Day Bird Counts for the past eight years and hawk observations since 1974.

Additions to the Southern West Virginia Bird List

1. horned grebe - uncommon migrant.
2. double-crested cormorant - rare migrant.
3. little blue heron - rare migrant.
4. American bittern - rare migrant.
5. whistling swan - rare migrant.
6. black duck - common migrant.
7. pintail - uncommon migrant.
8. green-winged teal - common migrant.
9. northern shoveler - uncommon migrant
10. redhead - uncommon migrant.
11. canvasback - rare migrant.
13. common merganser - rare migrant.
14. golden eagle - rare winter resident.
15. marsh hawk - uncommon migrant.
16. merlin - rare migrant.
17. turkey - common permanent resident.
18. American coot - common migrant.
19. least sandpiper - uncommon migrant.
20. Bonaparte's gull - uncommon migrant.
21. barn owl - rare permanent resident.
22. red-bellied woodpecker - common permanent resident.
23. red-headed woodpecker - rare permanent resident.

24. willow flycatcher - rare summer resident.
25. cliff swallow - uncommon summer resident.
26. red-breasted nuthatch - erratic winter resident.
27. Bewick's wren - rare summer resident.
28. long-billed marsh wren - uncommon migrant.
29. short-billed marsh wren - uncommon migrant.
30. Swainson's thrush - rare migrant.
31. gray-cheeked thrush - uncommon migrant.
32. veery - uncommon migrant and rare summer resident.
33. loggerhead shrike - uncommon winter resident.
34. solitary vireo - uncommon summer resident.
35. prothonotary warbler - uncommon migrant.
36. Swainson's warbler - uncommon migrant.
37. blue-winged warbler - uncommon summer resident.
38. Tennessee warbler - common migrant.
39. Nashville warbler - uncommon migrant.
40. yellow-throated warbler - rare migrant.
41. bobolink - uncommon summer resident.
42. yellow-headed blackbird - accidental.
43. rusty blackbird - uncommon migrant.
44. pine siskin - erratic winter resident.
45. snow bunting - uncommon winter resident.

With the addition of these 45 species my southern West Virginia bird list now totals 193 species. Other species may be added to this list by using data from the Bibbe Nature Club counts and notes from other southern West Virginia bird observers. Hopefully this article will encourage others to publish their finds for all to see. If there are any questions about the particulars of a certain species in this list the reader may consult the "Field Notes" section of **The Redstart** or contact me.

Added in proof: The following species have been added to the list since the above was submitted to **The Redstart**: gadwall - uncommon migrant, goshawk - rare migrant, upland sandpiper - rare migrant, greater yellowlegs - uncommon migrant. The list now totals 197.

809 Thorn St.
Princeton, W. Va. 24740

Christmas Bird Count 1978

Leon P. Wilson

TABLE I: Data for Christmas Bird Counts, 1978 with
Brooks Bird Club Members Participating

Count Name	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Parties
Wheeling, W. Va.	17 Dec. 78	45	2006	27	
Charleston, W. Va.	30 Dec. 78	67	9242	40	10
Charlestown, W. Va.	16 Dec. 78	79	10740	27	8
Franklin, W. Va.	28 Dec. 78	49	2410	12	
Huntington, W. Va.	26 Dec. 78	55	2277	14	
Inwood, W. Va.	18 Dec. 78	57	4313	11	4
Lewisburg, W. Va.	20 Dec. 78	40	2454	6	3
Ona, W. Va.	16 Dec. 78	68	8155	6	4
Pipestem, W. Va.	16 Dec. 78	61	1750	14	4
Elyria-Lorain, Ohio	16 Dec. 78	78	29242	52	
Lancaster, Ohio	30 Dec. 78	57	5535	36	18
Steubenville, Ohio	16 Dec. 78	46	2415	19	6
Clarksville, Pa.	30 Dec. 78	44	1846	15	5
Raccoon St. Park, Pa.	30 Dec. 78	34	944	13	3
Ottobine, Va.	16 Dec. 78	69	27366	27	10

TABLE II: Observed on all counts

1. Red-tailed Hawk
2. Rock Dove
3. Mourning Dove
4. Common (Yel-sh.) Flicker
5. Hairy Woodpecker
6. Downy Woodpecker
7. Blue Jay
8. Common Crow
9. Chickadee, sp.
10. Tufted Titmouse
11. White-Br. Nuthatch
12. Starling
13. House Sparrow
14. Cardinal
15. Am. Goldfinch
16. Dark-eyed (Sl.-col.) Junco
17. Wh.-th. Sparrow
18. Song Sparrow

TABLE III: Observed on one count only

1. Gadwall (2) Elyria-Lorain, Ohio
 2. North. Shoveler (3) Ottobine, Va.
 3. Greater Scaup (19) Elyria-Lor., Ohio
 4. Black (Com.) Scoter (1) Elyria-Lor., O.
 5. Red-Br. Merganser (13) Elyria-Lor., O.
 6. Golden Eagle (1) Clarksville, Pa.
 7. Osprey (1) Pipestem, W. Va.
 8. Merlin (1) Inwood, W. Va.
 9. Virginia Rail (3) Charlestown, W. Va.
 10. Great Black-Backed Gull (1) Elyria-Lorain, Ohio
 11. Franklin's Gull (2) Elyria-Lor., Ohio
 12. Bonaparte's Gull (6,008) Ely-Lor., O.
 13. Long-Eared Owl (1) Steubenville, O.
 14. Short-eared Owl (1) Lancaster, Ohio
 15. Brown Thrasher (2) Charleston, W. Va.
 16. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (1) Charlestown, W. Va.
 17. Savannah Sparrow (6) Pipestem, W. Va.
 18. Chipping Sparrow (1) Elyria-Lor. Ohio
- * Lesser Black-backed Elyria-Lor., Ohio
 * Little Gull Elyria-Lorain, Ohio
 * Snowy Owl Elyria-Lorain, Ohio

TABLE IV: Greatest number of individuals

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1. Starling | 26,477 |
| 2. Common Grackle | 16,699 |
| 3. Ring-billed Gull | 13,255 |
| 4. Bonaparte's Gull | 6,008 |
| 5. Brown-headed Cowbird | 5,591 |
| 6. House Sparrow | 4,982 |
| 7. Common Crow | 4,074 |
| 8. Dark-eyed Junco | 3,282 |
| 9. Rock Dove | 3,254 |
| 10. Mourning Dove | 2,676 |
| 11. White-throated Sparrow | 2,346 |
| 12. Cardinal | 2,314 |
| 13. Mallard | 1,430 |
| 14. American Goldfinch | 1,372 |
| 15. Song Sparrow | 1,337 |

*Seen in count period but not on count day.

COUNT NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
NUMBER OF SPECIES	45	67	79	49	55	57	40	68	61	78	57	46	44	34	69
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	2006	9242	10740	2410	2277	4313	2454	8155	1750	29242	5535	2415	1846	944	27366
Common Loon															
Horned Grebe	3	3	2		1			1	1	1					2
Pied-billed Grebe															6
Great Blue Heron		5	9	3	1							1			
Whistling Swan			3						14						
Canada Goose		8	1		43			38					4		
Mallard	254	123	175		21	4	6	198	9	452	*		15		148
Black Duck	4	8	34		14	*		8	8	5					4
Gadwall										2					
Pintail			1				3	*							13
Green-winged Teal		1						3							
Blue-winged Teal		4						*							90
American Widgeon															3
Shoveler															*
Wood Duck									3						
Redhead								8							3
Ring-necked Duck			3												1
Canvasback															
Greater Scaup															
Lesser Scaup			7	1											
Common Goldeneye			3												
Bufflehead									7	6					
Black (Common) Scoter										8		1			
Ruddy Duck								2		1					
Hooded Merganser			12												
Common Merganser	1		25						15	30					
Red-breasted Merganser										20					
Turkey Vulture			301							13					894
Black Vulture			12												9
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1		1	*		2
Cooper's Hawk		2	1	1	1	1	1	1			3	2		1	
Red-tailed Hawk	5	3	12	9	3	4	3	5	1	27	11	13	4	1	13

COUNT NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Red-shouldered Hawk		3	1		2			6	2						
Rough-legged Hawk											3	2			
Buteo, sp.											3				
Golden Eagle													1		
Marsh Hawk	1		2			2	1	2		4	7	1			
Osprey									1						
Merlin						1									
American Kestrel	4	12	16	3	14	2	8	25	2	37	20	12	11	*	15
Ruffed Grouse	9		1	2					5		2	3	2	3	
Bobwhite		1	17		6	7		2		*	5				10
Ring-necked Pheasant			3							1	5		2		2
Turkey				5										8	
Virginia Rail			3												
American Coot		92						5	4	2					28
Killdeer	12	35	11	5	33	13	2	103	2	1		2	12		30
Common Snipe		1	31	1		13	1	1					1		25
Great Black-backed Gull										1					
Lesser Black-backed Gull										*					
Herring Gull			1					1		249					
Ring-billed Gull			1							3252	1	1			
Franklin's Gull										2					
Bonaparte's Gull										6008					
Little Gull										*					
Rock Dove	36	180	206	49	296	289	269	32	9	723	138	111	393	20	503
Mourning Dove	21	386	293	95	101	13	286	146	4	390	244	132	26	66	473
Barn Owl			*				*				1				
Screech Owl	6	1					1	4		1	4		1		
Great Horned Owl		1	2				1	1		2	4		2		2
Barred Owl		1			1			1		1					
Long-eared Owl												1			
Short-eared Owl											1				
Belted Kingfisher	3	4	13	6	1	4		2	5	2	2	3	6	2	11
Common (Yel.-sh.) Flicker	14	26	43	1	1	15	3	9	5	36	27	5	4	3	18
Pileated Woodpecker	3	10	11	2	9	6		5	8		2	4	2	*	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	13	22	44	12	1	10	5	10	1	14	25	17	6	4	15
Red-headed Woodpecker		1	1	1						1	14				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		8	5		11	2		1			2	4			2
Hairy Woodpecker	7	2	4	3	2	7	2	4	13	12	13	9	3	8	2
Downy Woodpecker	44	48	57	14	1	22	10	17	26	89	59	27	10	18	20
Eastern Phoebe				2				1	3						

THE REDSTART — APRIL, 1960

THE REDSTART — APRIL, 1980

COUNT NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Horned Lark			4			13		7		3	40	44			97
Blue Jay	15	290	139	47	31	106	43	29	15	213	191	26	21	31	50
Common Raven			3	17		*			2						37
Common Crow	433	238	422	385	76	817	81	432	239	54	102	141	266	18	369
Fish Crow			3												13
Black-capped Chickadee			3	17		21			83	103				66	11
Carolina Chickadee	103	280	76		80	29	17	62	6		120	65	29		50
Tufted Titmouse	48	202	41	68	59	47	2	18	49	64	78	71	13	27	85
White-breasted Nuthatch	32	54	12	27	17	11	10	16	41	29	25	36	14	18	13
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	3	1	2				1	2	5	7		*	1	7
Brown Creeper	16	5	16	2	2	5		2	6	8	20	2	1	2	1
Winter Wren			2	3	1			2	3						4
Carolina Wren	2	36	43	10	10	4	3	62	8	1	3		4		13
Mockingbird		26	59	11	28	31	7	7	6		7	1	5		28
Gray Catbird			2			1									
Brown Thrasher		2													
American Robin	82	39	122		30	154		17	212	323	165	77	25	23	2
Hermit Thrush		1	1			3		2							1
Eastern Bluebird		30	4	63	5	5		13	74	22	10	20	32	*	7
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			1												
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	20	8	3	1	8	6	10	8	3		2		4	16
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		3	3		1	2		1	1	1					5
Water Pipit								60							8
Cedar Waxwing		31	34		72	242	103	*	66	256	71		12		
Loggerhead Shrike				1											4
Starling	201	711	4121	338	611	1197	1132	1125	113	3917	1453	780	436	223	10119
Yel.-rump. (Myrtle) Warbler		71	11		8	11		16	2	12		11	2	8	2
Pine Warbler		5	1												
House Sparrow	211	215	616	206	142	208	109	8	71	1021	1040	291	229	46	569
Eastern Meadowlark		1	12	1	8	12	33	2							145
Red-winged Blackbird	2	35	116	2	4	70		157	3	38	92	3	1	1	717
Rusty Blackbird			109		21	2									15
Common Grackle	5	3457	117	*	1	7		5027	5	1	17	1			8061
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	6	2247	3		60	2	7		5	36				3223
Cardinal	116	496	219	87	154	93	78	52	35	232	290	178	58	110	116
Evening Grosbeak	3	6	*	19		*					6		3	3	1
Purple Finch	4	142	29	34	6	42		59	1	3	2				61
House Finch	8	75	37	1		17				8	4	15	*		105
Common Redpoll						5						2			
Pine Siskin	2	1				1		1		1	6		1		

COUNT NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
American Goldfinch	72	176	97	95	31	115	8	38	88	296	124	13	27	6	186
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	120		24	24	2	6	11	13		22	1		6	3
Savannah Sparrow									6						
Dark-eyed (Sl.-col.) Junco	99	414	171	549	29	282	19	41	190	480	364	177	94	124	249
Tree Sparrow	1		31	1	5	15		7		399	225	39	17	55	
Chipping Sparrow										1					
Field Sparrow		63	11	9	15	3		4	4	23	24		13		26
White-crowned Sparrow		1	40	14		88	60	24	1	12	46		2		62
White-throated Sparrow		726	305	118	117	74	83	66	193	25	154	22	10	8	375
Fox Sparrow	1	1			6		1			1				1	
Swamp Sparrow		1			3			10	1	1	4			3	*
Song Sparrow	34	268	73	62	49	86	45	121	46	108	156	78	25	30	156
Sparrow, sp.											8				

Box 105
Ona, WV 25545

A Red-tailed Hawk Visits Us

Merit B. Skaggs

Bird watchers never know what will happen at or near a bird feeding station. Each day can bring interesting events. Each year, in late fall, we start feeding the birds and continue until the next May. On selected days, we set traps on the ground and band the birds that we catch.

In January and February, 1979, our feeding station was visited by large numbers of blackbirds. Each day we would have a flock numbering between 300 to 400 birds. They made our sunflower seeds and cracked corn disappear in a hurry. On some days there were over 250 Brown-headed Cowbirds, 100 Com. Grackles, 20 Starlings and from 6 to 60 Redwinged Blackbirds. Of the lot, the cowbirds were most unusual for northern Ohio, as they usually winter farther south. By several counts, the male cowbirds outnumbered the females by 20 to 1.

Some times we would look out of our window to see no birds at all on the ground or at the feeders. They were perched in several large trees at the back of our lot, the reason was that a large hawk was also perched in a tree nearby. After some 10 to 15 minutes, one or two of the smaller birds such as a junco or cowbird would descend to the ground and start feeding. In seconds, other birds of all kinds, would follow and so we would have 200 or more birds feeding, while the immature Red-tailed Hawk sat motionless in the tree. This happened, not once, but many times. Evidently the small birds did not consider the hawk to be an enemy. If the hawk had been an accipiter type, I suspect their behavior would have been different.

But, on February 14, the story varied. About 10 a.m., the hawk was perched on the top of an eight feet tall stub about 30 feet from our kitchen window. No small birds were feeding at the time. Soon, the red-tail flew away. About 2 p.m., I happened to be at the kitchen window at the right moment to see the hawk alight on the aforementioned stub with a male Red-winged Blackbird! The scarlet wing patches were fully exposed in the last moment of life as the huge yellow foot of the hawk closed about him. The perch was not satisfactory for what was to follow. The hawk then flew to a large oak tree about 100 feet away and alighted on a nearly horizontal limb. Holding the Red-wing against the limb, the hawk then proceeded to pluck the feathers from the prey. The feathers floated down to the ground over a twenty foot area. In about 18 minutes, the job was done, and the hawk had consumed the Red-winged Blackbird.

Some days later, we found the rest of the story. We found some black feathers about a foot from a five-foot high fence and only about a dozen feet from our house. Evidently the hawk saw the Red-wing feeding near the fence and descended upon it from a tree or even from the fence top where it may have been perched for some time. We had seen a Red-wing that was definitely sick and after this episode, we did not see it again. This one was probably the victim of the hawk.

This summer, somewhere in a swamp or hayfield, a red-winged blackbird will be fledged to take the place of the one that is no more.

3808 Daytona Dr.
Youngstown, Ohio 44515

Shore Birds at Weirton Steel

Robert Rine

During periods of good rainfall, usually in April and May, a low place fills up at the north end of the Weirton Steel General Office on Weirton Heights. It is a flat, meadow-like area which the Killdeers seem to like, though when the pond dries up the only water is a sizable puddle in the asphalt parking lot.

On May 23-4, 1968, the pond visitors included about 40 Dunlins, Spotted, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers, a Ruddy Turnstone and a Black-bellied Plover. In May of 1971 there was a smaller group, including Yellowlegs, and also 30 Bobolinks. Newcomers in 1974 were four Blue-wing Teal. April of 1975 was another good time, with many Sandpipers, 8 Water Pipits, 6 Savannah Sparrows, a Bonaparte's Gull and a Com. Snipe. In mid-May last year, we had 40 Dunlins, a Solitary and a Ruddy Turnstone.

This year, for the first time, we're getting some Fall migrants. The rains the week of July 22 filled the pond, and from July 26 to August 7 there were 14 birds--Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary, Pectoral, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. The pond dried up but refilled a week later and on August 13 there were a Yellowlegs and 5 Sandpipers.

These shore birds, plus the 20 or more Great Blue Herons Jay Buckelew and I saw March 31 on Brown's Island in the Ohio River opposite the Weirton Steel mill, have added some pleasant variety to our birding in Weirton.

157 Beacon Dr.
Weirton, WV 26062

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory Record for 1979

George A. Hall

The twenty-second year of bird-banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was not one of the more successful years. After the very high totals of the last three years, the number of birds handled this year was disappointing. The station was manned continuously from August 26 until October 8, although on three days no banding was done because of the weather. The two hurricanes which moved up the east coast brought much rain to the station area and produced winds strong enough to blow down the banding shelter. On many days light rain or fog cut down the migratory movement.

A total of only 3052 birds of 67 species were banded in a station effort of 3702 net-hours, giving a capture ratio of 824 birds per 1000 net-hours. The number of birds and the capture ratio were not the poorest we have ever had, but they are the poorest in the years since we have had continuous coverage and increased manpower.

The migration started in the normal way in late August with a major wave in early September. The majority of the birds then moved through between September 7 and September 20. The usually productive last ten days of September saw very few birds captured. Even on the best days the number of birds handled was quite low. The best

day was September 11 when 236 birds were banded--quite a contrast to the 400 and 500 bird days of the past. On only nine other days did the number of captures exceed 100. There was a good flight on October 8, the last day of operation when 150 birds were handled. Other places in our region experienced fairly normal migrations, so it is not thought that our low numbers indicate low populations. The birds captured at this station probably represent birds which have been blown off course by strong west winds during the night. We see them as they attempt to correct for this displacement. This year there were few nights with west winds, and either the birds did not need to correct their course or else they did it elsewhere.

No new species were added to the station list, which still stands at 108 species with a total of 59,772 birds banded. Six birds, five Yellowthroats and one Junco, which had been banded in previous years were retaken. During the past year we have had word of two A.F.M.O. birds being recovered elsewhere. A Gray Catbird banded on September 4, 1978 was recovered in Princeton, N.J. on May 25, 1979 and a Bay-breasted Warbler banded on September 1, 1977 was recovered on May 9, 1978 on an oil-drilling rig about 40 miles offshore from Galveston, Texas. (See Bell, *Redstart*, 46:118-119 (1979))

The "Spruce Budworm Specialists" continue to dominate the warbler catches. This year the Cape May Warbler, with 414 bandings, leads the list, followed by the Tennessee with 384 and the Black-throated Blue with 343. However this year the species in low numbers or absent draw more attention than the abundant ones. Especially interesting is the mere 238 Blackpolls caught this year. In some years over 1000 have been banded, and the low numbers caught this year undoubtedly relate to the differences in weather pattern noted this year, since this station is located on the periphery of the Blackpoll migratory path.

Despite the low bird numbers the number of visitors to the station continues to increase. A total of over 700 persons signed the visitor book, and as before many visitors did not sign the book. Several College classes, nature clubs, and a tour group on a weekend outing sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources visited us.

The banders who participated this year were Sue Edmonds, Joe Imbrogno, Jack Linehan, George Mayfield, Clark Miller, Ephe Olliver, Trudi Smith, Jo Lane Stern, Leon Wilson, and co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. Kathleen Finnegan, Genevieve and John Findley were the chief net-tenders. Special mention should be made of the crew that cleared the net-lanes and spruced up the trail to the station: Kathleen Finnegan, Genevieve Findley, Jolene Minear, and Jack Minear.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying collecting cages of birds, keeping records and in other ways: Jo Ashworth, Ray Ashworth, Virginia Byers, Chuck Conrad, Helen Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Kathy DeVaul, Jim Evans, Bryce Findley, Kevin Findley, Mike Finnegan, Walter Fye, Andrew Hall, Lorraine Harper, Linda Hollenberg, Mel Hooker, Gene Hutton, Virginia Johnson, Bill Lewis, Betty Linehan, LeJay Graffious, Carol McCullough, Chris McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jason McCullough, Anne McGrew, Jerry McGrew, Clair Mellinger, John Merchant, Ivarean Mott, Allen Metz, Janet Musser, Glen Phillips, Fran Pope, Zoltan Porga, Charlotte Pryor, Ann Pyle, Esther Reichelderfer, Barbara Ross, Carl Rowe, Carolyn Ruddle, Joe Schreiber, Don Shearer, Martha Shearer, Juanita Slusser, Earl Smith, Margaret Stallings, John Stallings, Virginia Stanley, and April Wylie.

We are most grateful to these people and to any others whose names have been inadvertently omitted from this list. As in other years we also send our thanks to the officials of the Monongahela National Forest; Supervisor R. F. Mumme, District Ranger Jerry Bremer, and Recreation Specialist Mary Miller, for their cooperation and support of this project.

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

Sharp-shinned Hawk 3 September 7, and 29, October 8
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1
 Common Flicker 1
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3 September 16, and 25, October 2
 Downy Woodpecker 1
 Eastern Phoebe 1 October 3
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 1 September 3
 Least Flycatcher 3 August 30, and 31, September 3
 Eastern Wood Pewee 2 September 7, and 17
 Blue Jay 112 September 18-October 8 (October 8:26)
 Black-capped Chickadee 15
 Brown Creeper 2 September 21, and 29
 Winter Wren 6 September 12-October 1
 Gray Catbird 13 August 27-October 8
 Brown Thrasher 4 August 28-October 1
 Am. Robin 8 August 26-October 8
 Wood Thrush 41 September 8-October 8 (October 7:7)
 Hermit Thrush 12 August 28-October 7
 Swainson's Thrush 388 September 1-October 8 (September 18:41)
 Gray-cheeked Thrush 14 September 16-October 7
 Veery 5 August 28-September 8
 Golden-crowned Kinglet 8 September 13-October 6
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 33 September 9-October 8 (October 2:8)
 Cedar Waxwing 1
 White-eyed Vireo 1 September 16
 Yellow-throated Vireo 6 (new high) September 7-September 16
 Solitary Vireo 2 September 2, and 16
 Red-eyed Vireo 24 August 28-October 2 (September 20:4)
 Philadelphia Vireo 4 September 8-October 2
 Black & White Warbler 17 August 27-September 22
 Worm-eating Warbler 3 September 2-September 3
 Tennessee Warbler 384 August 27-October 8 (September 2:57)
 Nashville Warbler 30 August 29-October 8 (September 2, September 11:4)
 Magnolia Warbler 106 August 28-October 8 (September 11:14)
 Cape May Warbler 414 August 26-October 8 (September 8:55)
 Black-throated Blue Warbler 343 August 27-October 8 (September 11:32)
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 10 September 29-October 8 Oct. 8:8)
 Black-throated Green Warbler 153 August 27-October 8 (September 11:16)
 Blackburnian Warbler 72 August 28-October 6 (September 16:16)
 Chestnut-sided Warbler 22 August 27-September 20
 Bay-breasted Warbler 119 August 28-October 8 (September 11:20)
 Blackpoll Warbler 238 September 4-October 8 (October 8:36)
 Prairie Warbler 1 September 7
 Palm Warbler 6 September 15-October 8
 Ovenbird 52 August 28-October 6 (September 20:8)
 Northern Waterthrush 4 September 11-October 8 (very late)
 Connecticut Warbler 6 September 7-September 26
 Common Yellowthroat 157 August 26-October 7 (September 12:11)

Hooded Warbler 6 August 28-September 20
 Wilson's Warbler 14 August 29-September 19
 Canada Warbler 4 September 1-September 14
 American Redstart 20 August 28-September 27 (September 7:4)
 Northern Oriole 2 August 27, September 2
 Scarlet Tanager 10 August 27-September 14
 Cardinal 1 September 16
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak 32 August 29-October 8 (September 20:4)
 Indigo Bunting 1 August 29
 Purple Finch 4 September 1-October 8
 American Goldfinch 8 August 27-October 8
 Rufous-sided Towhee 17 August 26-October 7
 Vesper Sparrow 1 September 16
 Dark-eyed Junco 54 August 27-October 8 (September 30:12)
 Chipping Sparrow 1 Sept. 2
 White-crowned Sparrow 1 September 30
 White-throated Sparrow 9 September 10-October 3
 Swamp Sparrow 5 September 26-October 6
 Song Sparrow 7 September 15-October 2

Department of Wildlife
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FIELD NOTES

THE FALL SEASON
 September, October, and November, 1979



Glen Phillips, Editor
 R.D. 2
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It seemed like a wet fall, characterized by two hurricanes. There were several days when low clouds and rain hampered activities on Dolly Sods. The number of birds banded there this fall (3052) was below that of the last few years. Approximately 3000 hawks, mostly Broad-wings were seen from the Bear Rocks lookout, 229 from East River Mountain, 4315 from Peter's Mountain and more than a thousand from Charleston.

Two storms had significant impacts on the area this fall. The first was a heavy snowfall October 10 while the leaves were still on the trees, resulting in much broken timber, particularly in the area of Canaan Valley-Harman-Franklin.

The second storm, affecting a larger area and a greater number of bird species, occurred November 11-13. In fact, reports of ducks were almost confined to this time period. Many birds were forced down from Columbus, O.; Bluefield, WV; Franklin, WV to Harrisonburg, Va. Example: at Franklin November 12, on or near a small sewage pond; three species of gulls (200 Ring-billed), loons, one species of grebe, nine species of ducks. **Whistling Swans** came in the next day. The visit of the loons ended tragically, 12 were still on the pond November 17, but by November 26, seven were dead. A frozen specimen was sent to a laboratory in Charleston by a D.N.R.

representative. Although other reports were of largest-ever numbers of loons stopping because of this storm (250 just north of Columbus), no other losses were noted, nor were other species affected at Franklin.

Loons, Grebes, Herons and Cormorants - A **Red-throated Loon** was recorded at Columbus, O. October 29 (ER). Reports of **Horned Grebe** migration spanning the period from October 17 to November 23 concentrated around the storm of November 11. **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted from October 11 to the end of the period. Jim Phillips of Princeton, WV felt the numbers were down this year. A **Double-crested Cormorant**, seen among the storm-delayed birds near Princeton, WV November 13, 1979, provided what is one of the very few records for that area. **Great Blue Heron** numbers seemed to increase in our area from September 16 (RMH). Some will remain throughout the winter in the southern parts of the region. Last record for the **Green Heron** was October 27 at Princeton, WV (JP). **Cattle Egrets** were reported from Franklin, WV November 15 (CR); Columbus, O. October 30 and one stayed on the grounds of a Columbus drive-in theatre from November 14 to 28 (ER).

Geese and Swans - **Whistling Swan** flights were recorded from November 4 in Washington Co., Pa. (RMH) until November 23 at Uniontown, Fayette Co., Pa. (VJ). Resident **Canada Geese** are more frequently seen in the Ohio and Kanawha Valley drainages because of management efforts, but the major migration, mostly during November, is spectacular. Picture 225 geese on a small pond and in nearby fields in Pickaway Co., O. November 20 (ER). A **Brant** was recorded in Augusta Co., Va. on a sewage pond at Stuart's Draft November 21 (L Teuber fide KF). A **White-fronted Goose** with a damaged foot was found in Butler Co., Pa. November 6 (RMH).

Waterfowl - Several species of waterfowl were noted, some in unusual places and in significant numbers, when they were forced down by the mid-November storm. Migrating **Mallard** and **Black Duck** records spanned from October 28 to the end of the period. **Gadwall** were among the storm-stayed group of ducks near Princeton, WV November 11-13 (JP). Reports of **Green-winged Teal** were confined to the period October 19 to November 13, while Jim Phillips commented he felt **Blue-winged Teal** were lower in numbers this year. **A. Wigeon** were reported from throughout the area between November 11 and 17. **Wood Ducks** may be becoming more common each year (JB), 25 were seen on Lake Washington, Putnam Co., WV October 14 (HG). Eleven **Redheads** were among the storm-delayed group near Princeton November 11-13 (JP). Several widely-scattered sightings of **Ring-necked Ducks** were also recorded November 11-13. **Canvasbacks** were noted during the storm period at Princeton (JP) and Franklin (CR). **Lesser Scaup** were affected, being reported from Princeton, Franklin, Washington, Pa. (RMH) and So. Charleston (HG). **Com. Goldeneyes** were reported from Princeton and Franklin November 11-13. **Buffleheads** were seen at these two places and at Washington, Pa., and Charleston (HG). Although the majority of **Ruddy Duck** reports centered around the storm, Norris Gluck noted one in Coonskin Park, Charleston as early as October 27. **Hooded** and **Red-breasted Mergansers** were among the birds forced down at Princeton and Franklin. The only **Com. Mergansers** were reported from Ripley, Mason Co., WV November 11 by Hullet Good.

Vultures and Hawks - **Turkey Vultures** were in good numbers and remained longer this fall (NL). More **Black Vultures** were noticed from Dolly Sods while we watched for hawks - range expansion? A **Goshawk** was seen at Pipestem Park headquarters September 15-16 (JP). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was recorded in Washington Co., Pa. October 27, and were the only species migrating on a cold, windy check of Dolly Sods October 27, and was the only species migrating on a cold, windy check of Dolly Sods. **Hawks** remain our dominant species and can be observed on most any outing, but **Red-shouldered Hawks** seem to be decreasing. It is a personal belief that

Red-shouldered Hawks are less tolerant of habitat disruptions. A **Roughlegged Hawk** was reported from Rockingham Co., Va. November 20 and a mature **Bald Eagle** was noted in Augusta Co., Va. November 28 (KF). There were two reports of **Osprey** from the W. Va. Northern Panhandle this fall. Harry Slack witnessed a **Peregrine Falcon** make a kill east of Charleston (NG). **Kestrel** are now more plentiful, and may be up nearly to pre-disaster levels.

Gallinaceous and Shorebirds - **Ruffed Grouse** appeared to have a good nesting season (EEC). **Bobwhite** had a good season in Virginia (KF) but are practically non-existent in the northern part of our area (ER). An immature **Com. Gallinule** was in Rockingham Co., Va. November 17-26 (KF) and **Am. Coots** were present at about any pond you chose to visit from October 21 to November 3. **Killdeer** were plentiful, often in groups of 25-50 throughout the period with emphasis on mid-September to mid-October. A group of 125 **Golden Plovers** near Columbus October 2 had dwindled to three by October 28 (ER). A few **Black-bellied Plovers** were with this group at Columbus. Two reports of **Com. Snipe** - in Franklin October 25 and Columbus October 2. **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted through September 21 in Washington Co., Pa. (RMH), while **Solitary Sandpipers** were recorded from September 6 to October 2. Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present in the flood of shorebirds at Columbus during October (ER) and Virginia Johnson found the **Greater** at Uniontown, Pa. November 9. Three **Dunlin** were also among the shorebirds in Columbus October 28. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was seen in Washington Co., Pa. September 13 (RMH). **Semi-palmated Sandpipers** were reported from September 16 at Washington Co. through October in Columbus.

Gulls, Doves, Owls and Goatsuckers - **Ring-billed Gulls** were noted both at White Sulphur Springs (25-COH) and Franklin (200-CR) November 12, apparently affected by the storm. **Herring Gulls** were seen on the Kanawha River at Charleston November 13 (HG) and the Ohio River at Chester, Hancock Co. November 23 (EEC). There were a few **Bonaparte's Gulls** in the group at Franklin. **Mourning Doves** had another good year. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was sighted in Washington Co., Pa. as late as September 30 (SH). On October 31, Oliver Johnson along with other members of the Bibbee Nature Club went to the Tazewell Co., Va. home of Ed Kinser and saw a **Groove-billed Ani** that had been located a few days before. Three separate reports of **Barn Owls** this period is encouraging but **Screech Owl** populations remain low while **Great Horned** and **Barred Owls** appear stable. Oliver Johnson sends along a report of the mid-November sighting of a **Snowy Owl** near Pipestem Park by Chester Lamb of the Bibbee Nature Club. A **Whip-poor-will** was heard calling as late as early September on the farm of Jesse Oyster, Hancock Co., WV (EEC). Most **Common Nighthawk** migration was finished by mid-September, but Maxine Thacker reports one from Upshur Co. October 13. Many **Chimney Swifts** did not leave until mid-October. The last date submitted was October 22 at East Liverpool O. (NL).

Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and Larks - The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** noted was seen in Upshur Co., WV. October 1 (MT). **Kingfishers** appear to be recovering from their former low numbers. More **Common Flickers** seem to be wintering in our area this fall (NL). Oliver Johnson notes that **Pileated Woodpeckers** seem more numerous around Pipestem Park. The Acorn Woodpecker of the west is noted for storing food (acorns). Hullet Good watched a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** storing grubs in a clothes-line post and defending his cache against raiding Blue Jays at Milton, Kanawha Co., WV. Migrating **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen again daily at A.F.M.O. from September 12 to September 15 (KF). There seems to be fewer **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** this fall. The first migrant report was from Charleston (NG). **Hairy Woodpeckers** are still scarce but **Downy Woodpeckers**

seem plentiful. Last **E. Kingbird** was noted in Greene Co., Pa. August 30 (RB) and the last **Great Crested Flycatcher** in Washington Co., Pa. September 11 (SH). Hullet Good reports from Kanawha Co., WV of seeing an immature **Eastern Phoebe** as late as October 14. C. O. Handley Jr. noted the absence of **Willow Flycatchers** from the Lewisburg, Greenbrier, Co., WV area. Last **Wood Pewee** was reported from Washington Co., Pa. (RMH). Sarah Hugus had reported a fledgling being fed September 15 from the same county. **Horned Lark** flocks of 50-60 were seen in Rockingham Co., Va. the last three weeks of November (KF). Last **Tree Swallows** were reported from Bethany October 6 (JB), and last **Barn Swallows** from Greene Co., Pa. September 1 (RB). A very late flock of **Purple Martins** was reported from Princeton, Mercer Co., WV October 14 (JP).

Corvids - It seemed to me that there were fewer migrating **Blue Jays** as we watched for hawks at Dolly Sods this fall, but Jim Phillips reported several hundred at East Mountain during September. However, probably the most significant change in birds of this family is the increase in the number of **Northern Ravens**.

Chickadees through Wrens - Nevada Laitsch noted the arrival of the more northern **Black-capped Chickadees** in East Liverpool, O. September 7. By the end of the period, Black-caps outnumbered the resident **Carolinas** at her feeder. Most correspondents felt that **Tufted Titmouse** numbers are still low. **White-breasted Nuthatches** remain common but **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appear to be fewer this fall. A few, however, did appear in wintering areas in late November. **Brown Creeper** population appeared "normal or better" (NL). Reports of **Winter Wrens** all came from areas that they might occupy during summer, numbers appeared normal. A **Bewick's Wren**, possibly two, was reported from Natural Chimneys, Va. October 3 (L. Teuber fide KF). **Carolina Wrens** had a good hatch year but are still rare in the northern part of our reporting area. A **Long-billed Marsh Wren** was reported from Princeton, Mercer Co. WV October 8 (JP), and one was located 16 miles north of Huntington along Rt. 2 in late November and remained through December (LW).

Mimics and Thrushes - **Mockingbirds** are not news for those in the southern part of our area, but occurrence on one or two occasions in six years makes news. Doug Jolley found one at Coudersport, Potter Co., Pa. November 11. A **Gray Catbird** was observed at Morgantown October 18 (GB), much later than the "wave" about September 21. Last report of a **Brown Thrasher** was October 13 in Kanawha Co., WV (HG). The bulk of the **A. Robin** migration was between September 25 and October 25. Although most **Wood Thrushes** migrated during September, one was singing very softly near my home in Ohio Co., WV October 3. **Hermit Thrushes** were reported from Washington Co., Pa. September 23 to October 6 (RMH, SH). **Swainson's Thrushes** had a good migration, present in numbers from September 9 to October 6 with a late one found in Kanawha Forest October 21 (HG). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** also seemed in good numbers from September 20 to October 7. **E. Bluebirds** had a good nesting season. A lingering **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was noted November 27 at Ona, Cabell Co., WV (LW).

Kinglets through Starlings - **Golden-crowned Kinglets** appear to be gaining after an exceptionally low period while **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** peaked in migration the first part of October. **Water Pipit** migration was noticeable in Rockingham and Augusta Counties, Va. October 30 to November 20 (KF). The **Cedar Waxwing** migration period seems extended, many were seen at A.F.M.O. during mid-September and flocks were noticed in other places as late as October 30. **Loggerhead Shrikes** are becoming extremely difficult to find - only two reports this period, Augusta Co., Va. October 16 (KF) and near the Ross-Pickaway Co. Line, O. November 20 (ER).

Vireos - The last-noted **White-eyed Vireo** was in Kanawha Co. September 30 (HG)

and a later-than-usual **Yellow-throated Vireo** was heard in Greene Co., Pa. September 26 (RB). Oliver Johnson saw 100 **Solitary Vireos** near his home in Mercer Co. September 14, while the last report was from Washington Co., Pa. September 30. The last **Red-eyed Vireo** was banded at A.F.M.O. October 1. The last **Philadelphia Vireo** was noted in Kanawha Co. September 22 and the last **Warbling Vireo** there September 9 (HG).

Warblers - The A.F.M.O. was manned continuously from August 26 until October 8. Though many days of light rain and fog cut into the banding activity, 3052 birds of 67 species were banded. The majority of the birds were captured from September 7 to 20 with the best day September 11 (236), within one day of the best hawk flight (September 12). A good capture was recorded October 8 ahead of the snow storm that struck the area. Six birds previously banded here were retaken and two others banded here were recovered elsewhere. "Spruce budworm specialists" led the list for bandings - **Cape May** 414, **Tennessee** 384, **Black-throated Blue** 343 and a mere 238 **Blackpolls** compared to some years of 1000. Interest increases with over 700 persons signing the visitor's register. Warbler "waves" were noticed in other places as occurring August 27, September 3, September 10, 13, 14, 24 and October 8. The last **Blue-winged Warbler** reported was from Washington Co., Pa. September 18 (SH). George Breiding recorded a **Tennessee Warbler** at the Arboretum at WVU October 14. A **Nashville Warbler** was recorded on the last day of banding October 18 at A.F.M.O. The last **Parula Warbler** noted was in Washington Co., Pa. September 30 (RMH). Ralph Bell banded a **Yellow Warbler** in Greene Co., Pa. November 17 (very late). The last **Magnolia Warbler** was noted in Kanawha Co. October 14 (HG). **Cape May Warblers** were noted as possibly the most common warbler in other places beside A.F.M.O. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were still being caught October 8 the last day at Dolly Sods. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were plentiful beginning as early as September 16 (HG). Eight **Black-throated Green Warblers** were banded October 8 at A.F.M.O. and though most **Blackburnian Warblers** were migrating through our area in late August and early September, one was banded here October 6. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were more common from September 8 to September 25 (HG). The last **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were noted in Washington Co., Pa. September 25 (SH, RMH). The **Bay-breasted Warbler** migration peaked about mid-September. Thirty six **Blackpolls** were banded October 8 that last day a A.F.M.O. showing the migration was not over. Bell banded a **Pine Warbler** in Greene Co., Pa. November 15. This species is rare in that area. Norris Gluck listed movements of the **Palm Warbler** in Kanawha Co. September 23, October 4 and 13. An **Ovenbird** was recorded at East Liverpool, O. October 21 (NL). The Higbees sighted a **Connecticut Warbler** and six were banded at A.F.M.O. mid-to late-September. A late **Com. Yellow-throat** was noted in Morgantown October 14 (GB). **Wilson's Warblers** were noted both in Kanawha Co. (HG) and in Washington Co., Pa. September 9. A **Canada Warbler** was recorded at E.L.O. October 21 (NL). An **A. Redstart** in female plumage was seen at W.V.U. Arboretum November 12, 17, 20 (GB).

Blackbirds and Finches - **E. Meadowlarks** stayed later than usual in Greene Co., Pa. one was still there November 5 (RB). Less attention is paid to **Red-winged Blackbird** departure than to their arrival but concentrations were seen from mid-August to mid-September. A late **N. Oriole** was recorded in Greene Co., Pa. October 17 (RB). **Com. Grackles** were seen in Buckhannon, Upshur Co. November 22 (MT) and approx. 400 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were in Pendleton Co. October 25 (CR). **Scarlet Tanagers** were reported from various places as late as September 30. The last reported **Summer Tanager** was in Kanawha Co. October 7 (HG). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were noticed from September 3 to October 16 and the last **Indigo Bunting** was reported from Mason

Co. September 30 (HG). Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen as early as November 5, but numbers were in moderation. **Purple Finches** were few but well scattered, arriving early to mid-October. **House Finches** continue to increase and to dominate feeders. **Goldfinches** were noted by "hundreds" in Mercer Co. the last two weeks of September (OJ). Two immature **Red Crossbills** were seen September 4 at the before-mentioned Va.-W. Va. line on Rt. 33 (KF) and a small flock was seen at Blackwater Falls State Park October 29-31 (NL). **Rufous-sided Towhees** seemed in smaller numbers this fall (GB).

Sparrows - The last - reported **Savannah Sparrows** (six) were in Augusta Co., Va. October 18 (KF). **Slate-colored Juncoes** arrived on time and in normal numbers (NL). The first **Tree Sparrow** was reported from Hancock Co. mid-to late-November (EEC). Last **Chipping Sparrows** were recorded simultaneously from Oglebay Park (JB) and Washington Co., Pa. (MH). The last **Field Sparrow** reported was seen in Hancock Co. November 24 but others should show up on Christmas counts. The **White-crowned Sparrows** were still singing at McClintic Refuge, Mason Co. November 18 (HG). The **White-throated Sparrow** populations appear to be down from the last two or three years - one note: the Hullet Goods have observed a very secretive White-throat which for some years has arrived at their Cabell Co., home about a month in advance of the other White-throats. This year's arrival date was September 10. A **Fox Sparrow** was observed at Ona, Cabell Co. November 13 (LW). **Swamp sparrows** migrated through Princeton, Mercer Co. in numbers in early October (JP). **Song Sparrow** populations remain good.

Contributors: Ralph Bell (RB), Harold Boecher (HB), George Breiding (GB), Dr. A. R. Buckelew (JB), Everett & Elizabeth Chandler (EEC), G.A. Hall (GH), Charles O. Handley Jr. (CH), Roger & Margaret Higbee (RMH), Oliver Johnson (OJ), Virginia Johnson (VJ), Doug Jolley (DJ), Nevada Laitsch (NL), Gladys Murrey (GM), Jim Phillips (JP), Esther Reichelderfer (ER), Carolyn Ruddle (CR), Maxine Thacker (MT) and Leon Wilson (LW).

Errata

The following was left out of the Field Notes of the July 1979 **Redstart** 46 (3). It should be inserted between lines 16 and 17 on page 116:

There is evidence of more public interest in helping the bird to adjust to today's environment by installing nest boxes. Sixteen **Great-horned Owls** were logged on the Columbus Christmas count (HB). Look for one other facet, does the increase in **Great Horned Owls** mean a consequent decrease in **Barn Owls**? Only two reports of **Snowy Owls** this winter: one west of Petersburg, Grant Co., W.V. January 17, 1979 (Jerry and Alma Cowherd fide KF) and one in Washington Co., Pa. in early December (RMH). **Short-eared Owls** were reported four times from Rockingham Co., Va., where one was seen chasing a Marsh Hawk. Eight **S. E. Owls** were reported from Killdeer Plains, Marion Co., O. January 27, 1979 (ER). A **Saw-whet Owl** was seen in Washington Co., Pa. January 17, 1979 by Lorinda Richardson (fide RMH).

Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and Larks - Although varied, reports suggest an increase in the number of **Belted Kingfishers** with sightings during January and February. **Common Flickers** were more plentiful on Christmas counts and it seemed more wintered over. Virginia Hoover saw one at French Creek February 10. **Pileated** and **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** appear normal. There were no reports this

quarter of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** continued to frequent home feeders all winter. **Hairy Woodpeckers** continue to be scarce. **E. Phoebes** were found during Christmas counts. George Flouer found one in Monroe Co., W. V. February 4, 1979. **Blue Jays** are becoming more noticeable each winter. Reports of **Horned Larks** spanned the entire period.

Chickadees through Wrens - **Chickadees** were mentioned by most reporters as being fewer than last year. Ralph Bell mentioned that there was no influx of **Black-capped Chickadees** this fall. Nevada Laitsch noted **Black-caps** early in the fall; then they moved on. The net result was fewer **Chickadees** at feeders. **Tufted Titmice** were less numerous this year, but were paired and seeking nest sites by the end of the period. **White-breasted Nuthatches** appeared at about normal numbers, while the **Red-breasted Nuthatches** came through in good numbers in mid to late December, then few stayed. An explorer-minded **Brown-headed Nuthatch** spent the winter in Waynesboro, Va. feeding on sunflower seed, often from the feeder owner's hand.

The individual pictured on page 34 **The Redstart** Vol. 47 (1) 1980 is Jack Linehan not Leon Wilson.

Pigmy Shrew Report Corrected

Charles O. Handley, Jr. of the National Museum of Natural History, has identified the shrew found at the Preston County Foray and named the Pigmy Shrew (*Microsorex hoyi*) to be in fact a specimen of the more common Masked Shrew (*Sorex cinereus*). I apologize for any confusion this report may have caused. See **The Redstart** 47 (1):28-29.

A. R. Buckelew, Jr., Editor

Banding News

Edited by
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The Water-Drip Trap

Before the wide-spread use of mist-nets as a device to catch birds for banding, banders would use wire traps baited with food or water. Now, at many banding stations, nets are the most popular, with grain traps second and the water traps a distant third choice. Since some of the newer banders may not be familiar with water traps, perhaps a discussion of the pros and cons of nets versus traps is in order.

The use of stationary nets for catching birds were used by the Japanese and Italians over 100 years ago. They wanted the birds for food. Nets here in the U.S. (mainly purchased from Japan) became quite popular in the late 1950s, and their use was strictly controlled to be sure they would be used only to catch birds for banding purposes.

However, nets are not a replacement for conventional traps, but an additional device for specific purposes. Nets should not be used on a cold, hot or windy day unless checked every few minutes. They should not be used close to feeders unless to catch a specific bird that cannot be caught otherwise. Continued use of nets near feeders not

only causes some birds to avoid the area entirely, but the continued harassment is unnecessary. A variety of wire traps will eventually catch most of the birds at any feeder.

Grain and water traps have a big advantage over nets if the bander's time to watch the nets is limited. Nets need to be watched constantly - not only for the birds' safety but public relations too. Cats, dogs, hawks, snakes, chipmunks, squirrels, etc. can all be a problem at times, but birds are much more vulnerable in nets. Any new bander that wants to use nets should first read an excellent paper on the subject written by BBC's own Anne Shreve entitled "Preventing Net Casualties" (EBBA Workshop Manual, Vol. 4, 1965). A reprint was published in EBBA NEWS (1976) Vol. 39, No. 1, p. 27-30.

There are several types of traps that use a water pan in the trap to attract birds. These include the Seth Low "all-purpose" trap, the Brenckle water-drip trap, the Middleton Thrush trap, the Chardonneret trap, the Garland sparrow and warbler trap, the Fabian and the Modesto traps. The first four traps mentioned usually have a bucket (or other type of water container) above the trap to supply dripping water. A pet-cock connected to plastic tubing with the lower end thrust through the wire mesh is adjusted to let water drip slowly into a water pan which is sunken in the ground. Black water pans seem to give the best results.

BBC member Merrill Wood has had great success with water traps (mostly one "all-purpose" trap and many Chardonneret traps) in his yard in State College, Pa. Merrill does not use nets at all, and a visit to his home to see his traps is both enlightening and rewarding. Also, Merrill has one of the best record keeping systems ever devised.

Most any bander that has ever used water traps will agree that water is a big attractant to birds, but there is some disagreement as to whether dripping water or just a filled water pan is best. Personally, I like dripping water, but I must admit that birds are often captured when the drip is not activated. There was a good article on "Water Drip versus Still Water" by John Dennis in EBBA NEWS (1966) Vol. 29, No. 4, p. 170-173. It makes very interesting reading and I'll quote part of it here in the next 9 paragraphs.

Water Drip versus Still Water

By John V. Dennis

In my own experience some species are attracted to a water-drip, others are repelled, and still others appear to show no preference between a drip and a non-drip. This is something I had long noted in a general sort of way at the two bird baths outside the window of my home near Leesburg, Virginia. Frequently when I had a drip at one bath and not the other, I found that there were noticeable differences in numbers of birds coming and species composition between the two baths. It was my general impression that the non-drip attracted a somewhat greater volume of visitors but not as many species.

This is something that I have tested during a nine-month period beginning in September, 1965. Now, after recording the number of visits of each species to each bath during observation periods over several days each month, I have compiled enough data, I feel, to permit a few conclusions.

Efforts were made to eliminate possible sources of bias. The drip was alternated daily between the two baths which were four feet apart, without pedestals, and having

approximately the same advantages in regard to perches and cover. However, not every visit of a bird could be construed as a choice between a drip and non-drip. When one bath was occupied, for example, a bird might go to the other simply because of the fact that it was unoccupied. Or again a bird might have gotten in the habit of always going to the same bath and continue to do so regardless of the drip situation.

In spite of considerations such as these, I felt that there was enough of the element of choice between the drip and non-drip to produce meaningful results. Observations were conducted on 66 days between September 5, 1965 and May 23, 1966 and during every month except April. No set interval of time or schedule was established in making observations. Timing was dictated by factors of convenience.

Forty-three species came to the bird baths during observation periods. Twenty-four species came to both drip and non-drip baths, fifteen to drip only and four to non-drip only. Thus with 39 species coming to the drip and 28 to the non-drip, there is a definite advantage in using a drip if one is seeking variety. In terms of number of individual visits the totals slightly favor the non-drip ... 1177 using the non-drip versus 1001 using the drip. However, this edge is lost if the House Sparrow is deleted from the list. Without the House Sparrow the non-drip accounted for 843 visits while the drip accounted for 885 visits.

With a total of 334 visits to the drip and only 116 to the non-drip, the House Sparrow furnishes the most striking example of a species that tends to shy away from dripping water. On many occasions House Sparrows were seen to alight at the edge of the drip, but apparently becoming disturbed by the splash of dripping water (several drops per second), they invariably moved to the non-drip (I prefer a drip of slightly less than once per second - Ed.)

Seventy-four percent of the House Sparrows, 70% of the Red-breasted Nuthatches, 69% of the Cardinals, 63% of the White-breasted Nuthatches and 62% of the Juncos used the non-drip. These percentages are probably large enough to indicate that the five species were frequently enough disturbed by the drip to go to the non-drip instead. The White-throated Sparrow and the Blue Jay seemed to show a slight tendency to favor the non-drip over the drip.

Only warblers, all of them transients, and the Catbird, seemed to show any strong preference for the drip. Of 19 Catbird visits, 68% were to the drip bath. 57% of the Chipping Sparrows, 54% of the Chickadees, and 54% of the Tufted Titmice used the drip.

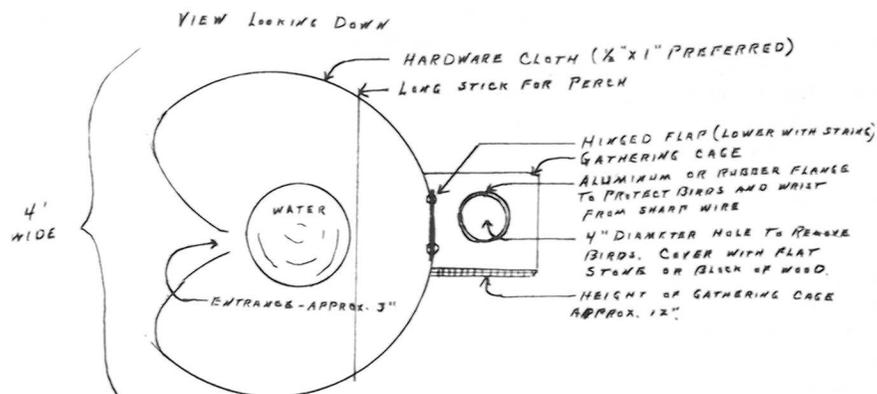
In any event, my observations lead me to believe that a water-drip, if anything, makes the bath less attractive to the majority of common visitors. If there is a time to use a drip, I would advise the periods in spring and fall when large numbers of migrants are passing through. Then it is an advertisement, so to speak, to let birds know that water is present.

Not all water traps work well for everyone. No doubt the habitat near a trap is a big factor in determining if a certain type of trap is successful in catching birds. A near-by stream, no doubt, would limit the need of birds to enter a trap for water. Therefore banders should not be discouraged if a highly recommended trap does not catch lots of birds. Perhaps another location would produce better results.

Here at Clarksville, Pa. almost 100 different species have been captured (over the years) in water-drip traps. Because of limited time, only one water-drip trap is now used here, but it is always set in operation if time and weather permit. It is placed along a privet hedge here in the yard. Twenty-five different species have been caught and banded in each of the past two years. Song Sparrows led the list each year, followed by Cowbird, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Junco, White-crowned

Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Cardinal. Some years Am. Robins lead the list and warblers of many species are captured each year. Last fall (1979) a very late Yellow Warbler and a rare Pine Warbler were both captured and banded in mid-November.

Since the Seth Low "all-purpose" trap is now a costly trap (due to the high cost of hardware cloth), I include here a drawing of a smaller water-drip trap that is almost identical to one that I used for many years and captured the only Dickcissel that I have ever banded. If anyone wants to know the dimensions of the Seth Low water-drip trap, there is an excellent drawing by BBC member Carol Rudy in the May 1972 issue of EBBA NEWS, Vol. 35, No. 2, pages 136 and 137.



In The Literature

"The Blue List for 1980" by Robert Arbib, *American Birds* 33:830-835, includes the following species that might be expected to breed in our area:

Great Blue Heron
Least Bittern
American Bittern
Black Duck
Turkey Vulture
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Osprey
Am. Kestrel
Bobwhite
Upland Sandpiper
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl
Whip-poor-will
Com. Nighthawk
Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Red-headed Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
E. Phoebe
Willow Flycatcher
Purple Martin
E. Bluebird
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Loggerhead Shrike
Warbling Vireo
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Grasshopper Sparrow
Henslow's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Winter Wren
Carolina Wren
Eastern Meadowlark

Some of the above are in trouble only in part of their range. It would be interesting if

our readers would pay special attention to these species during this breeding season, and make a special effort to get their notes to our Field Notes editor, Glen Phillips.

The February meeting of the BBC Headquarters Chapter featured a bird report by Chuck Conrad. Chuck discussed two papers from the December 1979 *Wilson Bulletin* 91 (4), both having to do with Florida bird species. Paul Sykes, Jr.'s article, "Status of the Everglades Kite in Florida - 1968 - 1978," shows that the numbers of kites has increased from 98 in 1969 to 267 in 1978 with a low of 65 in 1972 after a drought. The loss of wetland habitat is the major problem facing this species. Some of the most productive habitat is threatened by future development. High water level is essential for both feeding and nesting.

In contrast to the increase in kite numbers, the Wood Stork has declined according to J.C. Ogden and Stephen A. Nesbitt, "Recent Wood Stork population trends in the United States," writing in the same issue of *Wilson Bulletin*, pp. 512-523. The number of adults has declined 41% between 1960 and 1975 to 5982 pairs. The decline has been most serious in south Florida with smaller colonies in central Florida and southeastern Georgia remaining stable. The authors conclude that loss of suitable feeding habitat seems to be the most important cause of the decline, although loss of colony sites and lack of colony protection are responsible for some loss too. A decline in fish productivity in the storks' feeding habitat, due to shortened hydroperiods, appears to be the primary factor. An examination of the range maps provided in these two papers shows that the habitat ranges of kites and storks, for the most part, do not overlap. These two species would seem to make ideal indicator species for the overall health of Florida's interior wetlands.

Robert C. Whitmore of West Virginia University, who has been studying bird life on reclaimed surface mines, is the author of "Temperal variation in the selected habitats of a guild of grassland sparrows" in *The Wilson Bulletin* 91:592-598. Examining the changes in habitat over the breeding season of Grasshopper, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, Whitmore finds that the Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrow habitats are different at the beginning of the season, but show a 86% overlap in July when the young fledge. Vesper Sparrow habitats remain distinct. Savannah Sparrow territories have sparser vegetation than Grasshopper Sparrow territories at the start of the season, but both are similar in density later on. Whitmore asks some interesting questions. What cues are learned by the fledglings that allows them to select adequate habitats for the following spring? Imprinting is thought to play an important role in habitat selection in birds. Is this an exception? If not what feature of the habitat is involved in imprinting?

People frequently ask about our state's Turkey stocking program. Let me call your attention to an article, "West Virginia's Wild Turkey - The past and present" by Steve Wilson in the February 1980 *Wonderful West Virginia*. This article gives an excellent account of the history of the restocking of Benjamin Franklin's favorite bird in our state.

A. R. Buckelew, Jr., Editor

Book Reviews

Birds of the Great Plains: Breeding Species and Their Distribution by Paul A. Johnsgard. 1979, University of Nebraska Press, 901 North 17th St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588. size 6" x 9", 539 pp. illus., Price \$25.00.

Most regional bird books are written for a given political unit such as a state or group of states. Here we have a book designed to describe the breeding birds of a biological province, a biome. The grassland biome of central North America extends from the Rocky Mountains to Ohio, north to the Aspen Grove grasslands of Canada and south to the Gulf states. This approach makes a lot of sense and provides us with information which should stimulate analysis of the ecology of prairie birds. The distribution maps and notes on behavior and ecology of each species will be of special interest to students of bird distribution and ecology. The book could also serve as a field guide to prairie birds. A thorough reading will certainly prepare a visitor for what birds to expect in any given area of the Great Plains states. An appendix provides information on the birds of selected parks and refuges. There are only a few illustrations, so a stranger to prairie birds would need an illustrated field guide as well. Information supplied for each species include breeding status, breeding habitat, clutch size, incubation period, time of breeding, breeding biology and behavior and suggested readings. There is an excellent introduction to the geography, avian zoogeography and ecology of the Great Plains. Also included is a state-by-state list of regional and state references and a complete bibliography.

Research is a Passion with Me: The Autobiography of Margaret Morse Nice. Foreword by Konrad Lorenz. 1979, Consolidated Amethyst Communications Inc., 12 Crescent Town Rd., Unit 310, Toronto, Ontario M4C5L3. size 6" x 9", 324 pp. illus., Price \$9.95 soft cover, \$12.95 hard cover.

The posthumous autobiography of Margaret Morse Nice, perhaps the most celebrated "amateur" ornithologist of all time, will serve as inspiration for amateur and professional biologists alike. Nice's painstaking studies of the life history of the Song Sparrow are well-known to all ornithologists and stand for what a dedicated amateur can accomplish. Throughout her long life she sought with single-minded purpose to add to our knowledge of bird behavior. Her list of accomplishments is long and distinguished.

Nice's autobiography should be of special interest to members of our club, essentially a group of amateur naturalists. How did she find the time to raise her children and make her contributions to science? She had the encouragement of an understanding husband and children who took over the housework at an early age. She also worked very hard. For example in spring of 1931 she kept track of 38 color-banded nesting female Song Sparrows, 30 males, found 40 nests and banded 65 nestlings that fledged.

One can draw inspiration from this autobiography, but one can also glean a great many interesting facts about bird behavior and the methods for studying bird behavior. **Research is a Passion for Me** is also a comprehensive review of Margaret Morse Nice's work. Most of us can benefit from a careful study of her technique, especially her careful attention to the world literature.

The Warblers of America by Ludlow Griscom, Alexander Sprunt and others. Revised by Edgar M. Reilly, Jr. 1979, Doubleday and Co., Inc. Garden City, NY size 8½" x 11", 302 pp. illus. Price \$19.95.

This revision of the out-of-print 1957 edition of **The Warblers of America** is much the same as the original. The species accounts are the same except for some changes in nomenclature, a new order which follows Peters' **Birds of the World**, the addition of information on incubation period and time to fledging, and a few new observations added to the old text in parentheses. A new species, the Elfyn Woods Warbler and the Wren Thrush, now considered by many as a member of Parulidae, are discussed, but without color plates. The chapters on Central America by Alexander Skutch and the West Indies by James Bond have been completely rewritten. Jon Henry Dick's color plates of each species are as sharp as the original edition, although the colors seem lighter or less bright in some cases. It might be said that Edgar Reilly has missed an opportunity to add information on the status of each species. For example much has been learned about Kirtland's Warbler and its conservation since 1957. However, this edition will no doubt prove as popular as the 1957 version as much useful information is provided in an inexpensive yet very attractive book.

Population Ecology of Raptors by Ian Newton. 1979, Buteo Books, PO Box 481, Vermillion, SD 57069. size 6½" x 9½", 399 pp. illus., Price \$35.00.

Ian Newton's exhaustive review of raptor population ecology will long stand as a bench mark in our progress towards understanding this important group of birds. The amount of information presented is impressive, but Newton also points to the many areas where our knowledge of raptors is incomplete or totally lacking. Little is known, for example, concerning the ecology of tropical American raptors. Chapters deal with relationships between the sexes, dispersion, breeding and winter density, nest-site problems, breeding seasons, breeding strategies, breeding rates, behavior, fidelity to breeding areas, movements, mortality, human persecution, effects of DDT and other chemicals, management, and captive breeding. There are 32 plates, 50 figures and 68 tables.

The author's language is clear, yet not over-simplified. The many tables and figures are packed with information drawn from many sources. Newton's treatment of captive breeding programs and conservation management should be of special interest due to the recent proposals by the National Audubon Society and others to begin captive breeding of the endangered California Condor. Newton seems to be in favor of such programs.

A. R. Buckelew, Jr., Editor

The Kindly Fruits of the Earth—Recollections of an Embryo Ecologist by G. Evelyn Hutchinson. 1979, Yale University Press. 92 A Yale Station, New Haven, Ct. 06520. size 5¼" x 8½", xiii + 264 pp, illustrations, Price \$18.50.

G. Evelyn Hutchinson is the founder of the science of limnology (study of freshwater systems) and has been instrumental in changing ecology from a study of natural history to a theoretical and quantitative science. In **The Kindly Fruits of the Earth - Recollections of an Embryo Ecologist**, Hutchinson reminisces about fragments of his life.

Hutchinson was born (1903) and educated in England. His childhood was remarkable in its richness of experience, personalities and ideas. He had many opportunities to learn natural history: flower-picking expeditions with his grandmother, Sunday afternoon walks in the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, and many trips to the zoo and museums. He also explored on his own: Hutchinson kept

aquaria as early as age five and had an insect collection by age eight. His father taught mineralogy at Cambridge University and introduced many interesting, knowledgeable people to his family.

Hutchinson's scientific interests were furthered in the boarding school he attended beginning at age 14; Gresham's School "was intended to break away from the exclusively classical tradition of the twentieth century. Greek was not taught and great emphasis was placed on modern languages, mathematics, science and history." Hutchinson studied Latin, French, German and English. The physical sciences were emphasized and biology was not taught until Hutchinson's last year at the school. His interests in biology were continued at the school, however, independently. He continued to collect and observe insects and joined the natural history society at the school. At this time he published his first note, on the swimming ability of a grasshopper.

Learning at Cambridge University was much less a succession of courses than at an American College; apparently students worked independently much of the time and could design their own programs of study. One major route to Hutchinson's education was through the various natural history societies of which he was a member.

After finishing at Cambridge, Hutchinson went to the Stazione Zoologica in Naples; there he intended to discover if invertebrates had an endocrine system, an open question at the time (they do). Unfortunately, he could not get a regular supply of octopus on which to experiment. Instead, he explored Naples and the religious customs of the people.

From Naples, Hutchinson went to South Africa to teach at the University of Witwaterstrand. Teaching was a disaster because he, like the previous holder of the job (who was apparently "physically ejected from the laboratory"), could not please the head of the department. However, this experience was a tremendous success in that he began to study lakes in South Africa as physical and biological systems and thus began the major focus of this scientific career.

Hutchinson then landed a teaching job at Yale University in 1928. He has been there ever since. His major contributions to ecology and limnology have been developed while at Yale.

Several aspects of Hutchinson's character are revealed in this book. His interests have been extremely diverse: medieval brass-rubbing, music, theatre, literature, art, mythology and parapsychology as well as the survival of Pagan ritual in modern religious ritual. Perhaps because of his wide interests Hutchinson can see relationships between very different subjects:

"The role of social structure in providing a really rich mental and artistic environment might well be a most significant subject of study for an intellectual historian. I suspect that quite unexpected parts of society may be involved."

"The role of the selfish country gentleman and his gamekeepers in providing, at an acceptable risk, the environment in which field biology has developed in Britain deserves some attention from the historians of science."

In spots, Hutchinson's sense of humor pokes through. For example, he realizes the uncertainty of memory: "I have a distinct recollection of the magnificent Morehouse Comet of 1908, seen from a west window on the stairs of 3 Belvoir Terrace. Unfortunately, the comet is upside down." He also writes with obvious enjoyment of a discussion and subsequent experiment by the Biological Tea Club at Cambridge regarding whether cream buns can be eaten without silverware. Hutchinson did eat a

cream bun without silverware — in 100 seconds, whereas the now-well-know anthropologist Gregory Bateson ate his in 85 seconds!

Although much of the book was interesting several aspects were disappointing. Two minor points contribute to difficulty in understanding Hutchinson's train of thought. First, Hutchinson several times quotes in Italian without a translation or full explanation. In addition, Hutchinson's meaning is often vague, crying out for one more sentence to nail down his meaning. For example, he writes of Ross Granville Harrison, professor of biology at Yale, "He probably represented as well or better than any of his immediate predecessors or contemporaries, the spirit of American biology in the first third of this century." What precisely was the spirit of American biology? Or, describing a house built by Creswell Shearer, an embryologist at Cambridge, he writes, "when he ... was building a house ... puzzled neighbors inspecting the layout of the cellar on Sunday afternoons supposed that he had included an oubillette in the design." What was the peculiarity of the basement? A more substantive example lies in his comments on human love and intelligence. "Love, in its deepest sense, and intelligence seem to me to be the twin heights of our evolutionary progress, but they must be linked together to be effective. I know from my own life how difficult this can be." This topic begs for fuller development.

A more serious disappointment with Hutchinson's book is that he describes the development of his own thought only in the sketchiest terms. He does indicate that early in his career he was a "hunter and gatherer (of ideas rather than) someone settled in the industrial pursuit of intellectual agriculture ... When I started on more serious research after leaving Cambridge, I felt somewhat as though I were drifting and that my educational experience was rather inadequate. Later, as I saw more and more clearly what I wanted to do, it proved to have been an ideal preparation." He does note that a turning point in his career was the study of the South African lakes but does not detail how his thought processes were affected. Although he briefly describes the development of the concept of the niche he does not discuss how his own idea of the niche (the modern formulation of the concept) developed. To an ecologist these gaps were disappointing.

Perhaps two pieces of philosophy which Hutchinson quotes are the most important messages of the book. First, "the tenacity with which an idea should be entertained depends both on its probability and on its importance should it be adequately confirmed." And finally, words from his father, "If you run into anything that looks very important, drop everything to go after it."

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PATRONIZE YOUR CLUB STORE

Ornithological Books for Sale

- The list of West Virginia Birds by George A. Hall \$.50
32 page booklet, cover illus. by Carol Rudy. Reprint of a Redstart article gives facts on status and breeding records for every bird species in the state of W. Va.
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Original papers in the field of natural history are published in the Redstart. Papers are judged on the basis of their contributions to original data, ideas, or interpretations. Scientific accuracy is most important and to this end an Advisory Board, selected by the Editorial Staff, will review submitted papers. Papers should be typewritten, double spaced and on one side of the paper only. Clarity and conciseness of presentation are very important.

BROOKS BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The Brooks Bird Club is a non-profit organization whose objective is to encourage the study and conservation of birds and other phases of natural history. Membership includes subscriptions to the REDSTART and MAILBAG and entitles one to all the privileges offered by the Club. Classes of membership are: Student, \$3.00; Active, \$10.00; Family \$12.00; Sustaining, \$15.00; Life, \$200.00. Checks should be written payable to the Brooks Bird Club and mailed to 707 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, West Virginia.

1980 Program The Brooks Bird Club

Date	Activity	Place
January 1-31	BBC Membership Month	Mail to HQ, Wheeling
February 1-29	Write an Article for the Redstart or letter for the Mailbag	Mail to Editor
March 28-30	BBC Early Spring Meeting	Jackson's Mill
April 13	Waterfowl Field Trip	Seneca Lake, Ohio
May 4	Century Day	All Local Groups
May 16-18	Field Trip-Sutton Seekers	Harper's Ferry, WV
July 17-20	Terra Alta Weekend	Terra Alta, WV
August 28-31	Greenbrier Youth Camp Weekend	Anthony, WV
September 1-30	Operation Bird Banding	Red Creek, WV
September 19-21	Weekend Hawk Counts	WV Mountains
October 17-19	BBC Annual Meeting	Cedar Lakes, WV
December 14-31	Christmas Bird Counts	All Local Groups

BBC FORAYS

- 1980 — May 31 - June 7 (one week) Jackson's Mill, Weston, WV
1981 — May 30 - June 13, Greenbrier Youth Camp, Anthony, WV
1982 — May 29 - June 12, Camp Peterkin, Romney, WV
1983 — June 4 - June 18, Camp Pocahontas, Bartow, WV

Activities of Special Interest

April 25-27	DNR Spring Nature Tour	Hawks Nest State Park, Ansted, WV
May 2-4	Webster County Nature Tour	Camp Caesar, Webster Springs, WV
May 8-11	19th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage	Blackwater Falls, Davis, WV
July 12	DNR Cranberry Glades Tour	Richwood, WV
September 5-7	West Virginia Fall Nature Tour	Watoga State Park, Marlinton, WV
October 11	14th Annual Cranberry Mountain Autumn Nature Tour	Richwood, WV

Seasonal Field and Banding Notes Due (Season ends last day of previous Month)

March 15	June 15	September 15	December 15
MAIL: Field Notes to: Glen F. Phillips, R.D. 2, Triadelphia, W. Va. 26059			
Banding Notes to Ralph K. Bell, R.D. 1, Box 229, Clarksville, Pa. 15322			

The dates for the 1980 BBC program were selected as most appropriate for our scheduled activity and place. Some dates and places have not been confirmed at this early date so some changes beyond our control might be necessary. When such is the case, notification will be made as soon as possible in the MAIL BAG.