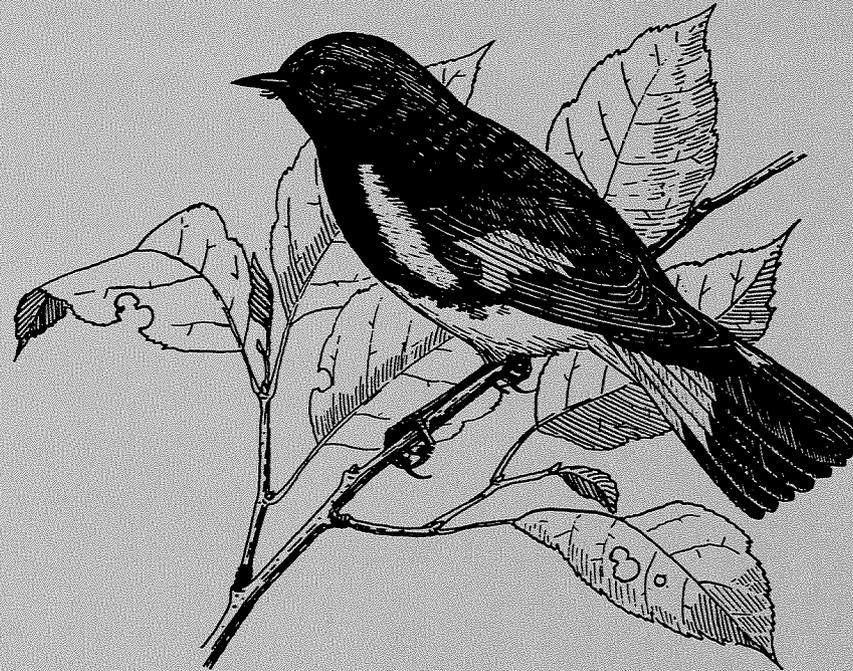


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*The* REDSTART

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 3

JULY, 1980



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# The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

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

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# The REDSTART

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# 1979 Christmas Bird Count

Leon P. Wilson

There were seventeen 1979 Christmas Bird Count reports received from B.B.C. members. We had eleven reports from West Virginia, four from Ohio and one each from Pennsylvania and Virginia. The total number of species reported this year was 126. Charlestown, West Virginia reported the greatest number of species with a total of 83, while Ashtabula, Ohio led all counts in the total number of birds with a report of 20,782. There were 14 species seen on all of the participating counts, with the Starling being reported in greatest numbers, while there were 21 species listed on one count only. The sighting of a Peregrine Falcon at Steubenville gives some hope that the program for breeding and restocking may be having some success.

## GREATEST NUMBERS

1. Starling	32422
2. Ring-billed Gull	10799
3. Crow	8102
4. House Sparrow	6652
5. Cardinal	4976
6. Rock Dove	4818
7. Mourning Dove	3233
8. Dark-eyed Junco	3076
9. Grackle	2549
10. Chickadee, sp.	2444
11. White-throated Sparrow	1955
12. Blue Jay	1597

## LEAST NUMBERS

1. Double-crested Cormorant	1
2. Peregrine Falcon	1
3. Glaucous Gull	1
4. Barn Owl	1
5. House Wren	1
6. Long-billed Marsh Wren	1
7. Northern Shrike	1
8. Nashville Warbler	1
9. Yellow-breasted Chat	1
10. Indigo Bunting	1

COUNT NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>COUNT AREA</b>	Blacksville, W. Va. 12/31/79	Charleston, W. Va. 12/29/79	Franklin, W. Va. 12/15/79	W. Va. 12/29/79	Huntington, W. Va. 12/26/79	Inwood, W. Va. 12/22/79	Lewisburg, W. Va. 12/22/79	Ona, W. Va. 12/15/79	Parkersburg, W. Va. 12/29/79	Pipesstem, W. Va. 12/29/79	Wheeling, W. Va. 1/2/80	Ashtabula, Ohio 12/23/79	Lancaster, Ohio 12/29/79	Ohio 12/30/79	Steubenville, Ohio 12/15/79	Clarksville, Pa. 12/29/79	Rockingham Co., Va. 12/15/79
<b>NUMBER OF SPECIES</b>	29	72	83	47	49	63	56	69	52	55	47	67	55	49	44	50	64
<b>NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS</b>	477	6965	7015	2772	3506	3381	10021	2275	4224	1637	4984	20782	10203	3880	3313	4013	13798
Common Loon			1									1					
Horned Grebe		12	4				2	1		4		6					
Pied-billed Grebe												1					
Double-crested Cormorant			1	2	2	1	1	4	4			1					
Great Blue Heron			4									4					
Canada Goose		15	25		38			44									5
Brant			55														
Mallard		198	129		53	8	2	190	12	84	155	331	8	9	14	11	108
Black Duck		14	62		1			25		12	5	105					2
Gadwall		2	2														11
Pintail			1														
Green-winged Teal																	9
American Widgeon			6														142
Shoveler			1														2
Wood Duck																	1
Redhead																	
Ring-necked Duck		1							12								17
Canvasback																	
Greater Scaup																	
Lesser Scaup																	
Common Goldeneye			4														
Bufflehead			2														
Ruddy Duck																	
duck, sp.																	
Hooded Merganser			8														
Common Merganser																	
Red-breasted Merganser			2														
Turkey Vulture			59			3	1										842
Black Vulture			4														28
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	4	2
Cooper's Hawk			2														

COUNT NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Red-tailed Hawk		3	5	14	2	6	7	4	9	1	2	24	9	9	15	15	33
Red-shouldered Hawk		3			3	1	1	3		1							
Rough-legged Hawk								2				1	1	1			
buteo, sp.															1		
Golden Eagle				3													
Bald Eagle			*									*					
Marsh Hawk			1			2		2	1			4	10	1	3		
Osprey								*									
Peregrine Falcon															1		
Merlin								*									
American Kestrel		20	5	10	23	6	17	28	22	1	6	18	11	36	9	24	39
hawk, sp.													1				
Ruffed Grouse		1	1	10			3			10	4	7	5		16	1	3
Bobwhite			82				14		2				17				14
Ring-necked Pheasant													6			1	
Turkey												3					
American Coot		83	7					4		32		14		4			63
Killdeer		35	10	12	16			58	1		5		28	7		15	44
Common Snipe		7	5	1			5	3								2	12
Glaucous Gull												1					
Great Black-backed Gull												14					
Herring Gull			2					1			5	1382					
Ring-billed Gull			1									10798					
Bonaparte's Gull												1380					
gull, sp.											5						
Rock Dove		289	689	66	360	103	258	12	1161	13	115	495	320	135	241	189	372
Mourning Dove		437	199	4	170	56	275	158	409		61	206	295	191	118	275	379
Barn Owl							1										
Screech Owl		3	36			1		2		1			1	1			1
Great Horned Owl		2		1		4			1			5	3		1	1	
Barred Owl		2	2					1		2							
Short-eared Owl								1					3				
Belted Kingfisher		7	17	7		5	6	4	3	3	5		5	2	6	4	16
Common (Yel.-sh.) Flicker	1	16	15		18	26	10	27	8	10	5	1	8	8	1	2	11
Pileated Woodpecker		11	18	6	3	15	1	8	7	9	3	3	8	1	3	4	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	36	42	14	37	29	15	7	15	4	12	3	27	26	31	6	11
Red-headed Woodpecker		1	1		2		4		1	1		1		2			1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	2	1	4	7	3		1	4	1	1	1	1	3	1		1
Hairy Woodpecker	5	13	5	1	9	8	5	4	7	4	9	11	11	15	6	7	1
Downy Woodpecker	17	143	88	29	52	50	31	35	81	31	49	47	91	93	34	36	39

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COUNT NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Eastern Phoebe		1	1	1		1	1	4	2								
Horned Lark			4			5	9	6		1			120		16	7	
Blue Jay	16	289	105	48	222	91	81	65	103	35	23	118	115	70	57	51	108
Common Raven			42			*				2							5
Common Crow	4	223	470	489	127	192	193	300	104	354	3274	132	112	133	767	830	398
Fish Crow																	7
Blackcapped Chickadee	12		17	52		40			84	59		235				21	16
Carolina Chickadee	31	476	89		149	72	23	56	52	49	161		145		125	64	140
chick. sp.									44					232			
Tufted Titmouse	33	446	52	62	105	36	36	24	90	55	63	15	102	103	85	83	76
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	161	14	45	44	28	36	19	61	27	52	43	56	85	56	43	29
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	2	1					1	1		1	1	3				
Brown Creeper		5	11		5	10	4	4	1	3	7	5	6	8	2	1	2
House Wren					1												
Winter Wren	2	3	2	1		3	1	1					1		1		2
Carolina Wren	5	67	18	6	18	9	9	10	14	14			5	6		2	15
Long-billed Marsh Wren								1									
Mockingbird		30	108	21	36	40	11	14	15			1		8	5	3	39
Gray Catbird		1	1						1		2						
Brown Thrasher		2		1	1				1					1			
American Robin		7	8		90	12	10	18	1	2	2	49	5		3	5	3
Hermit Thrush		2				3	1			2							
Eastern Bluebird		44	32	17	38	31	15	28	44	27	6	3	12	107	12	50	44
Golden-crowned Kinglet		60	1	4	1	10	6	2		7	1			4	8	1	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		5	3			5				2		1					5
Cedar Waxwing		20	2	6	70	6		4	68		4	53				1	
Northern Shrike												1					
Loggerhead Shrike			1	1			1										
Starling	63	1227	1975	761	668	1113	7939	490	541	89	304	1571	4446	873	823	1117	8422
Nashville Warbler						1											
Yel.-rump. (Myrtle) Warbler		7	3		38	10	1	10		20	1						7
Yellow-breasted Chat			1														
House Sparrow	68	156	696	352	276	300	283	21	105	117	230	2300	624	424	348	475	878
Eastern Meadowlark			9	27		16	30	136	1					1			67
Red-winged Blackbird	2	2	150	5		10	36	46			53	12	145		2	3	10
Northern (Baltimore) Oriole			*														
Rusty Blackbird			5			5		11					2			1	4
Common Grackle		86	75	2			12	5	23		1	1	2275	33	7	2	24
Brown-headed Cowbird	10	8	204	2		52	1	10	3		4	2	57		5	15	150
Cardinal	72	510	322	132	204	1123	102	73	429	44	131	111	512	597	217	265	132

COUNT NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					3									1			
Indigo Bunting		7	1	65		2						*					
Evening Grosbeak	3	19	14	9	40	32	13	*	3	1		1	6	6	4		4
Purple Finch		275	95	18	103	41	12	4	67		1	39	13	31	12	6	10
House Finch												*	4				157
Pine Siskin				27	57	215	60	28	94	108	15	116	51	127	75	26	33
American Goldfinch	1	50	4		29	1	6	14	11	1			6	5			2
Rufous-sided Towhee								1									
Savannah Sparrow																	
Vesper Sparrow			2														
Dark-eyed (Sl. col.) Junco	25	353	280	286	132	247	113	27	221	233	50	78	210	252	93	179	297
Tree Sparrow	5	5	16		2	3		1	2		40	62	60	4	3	82	
Chipping Sparrow			3											3		2	
Field Sparrow			9		3	11	5	12	18	5			3	14		10	20
White-crowned Sparrow	2	2	102		6	13	115	18	16		1		26	19		11	67
White-throated Sparrow	18	449	253	73	143	97	90	91	160	25	23	10	56	98	2	2	365
Fox Sparrow	1		96		1	3		2	1	1	1						
Swamp Sparrow		2	2					21	4	3							
Song Sparrow	12	256	69	29	94	24	103	149	93	49	54	8	1	89	51	50	44
sparrow, sp.																	
Snow Bunting												6	21				

Box 105  
Ona, WV 25545

## Canada Geese Winter at BBC Wildlife Sanctuary in Chester City Park

E.R. (Pete) and Elizabeth Chandler

The City Park in Chester, Hancock County, West Virginia, is a small area (approximately three acres located on the Ohio River where Middle Run empties into the river, forming a sandy-gravel beach. Several years ago a small flock of Canada Geese in fall migration stopped here and stayed. Due to extensive commerce, the river is open through the winter months except for a few days when the temperature stays in very low readings. The geese using the beach area have easy access to the grassy part of the park and nearby river-side garden plots. They even invaded the lawns of adjacent dwellings and feed on that grass, pulling it up by the roots.

In more recent years the flocks of geese have increased and local residents have become interested and brought corn and other food for the birds. Feeding the geese has been a project of a veterans' organization and a garden club as well as of interested individuals. The Town and Country Garden Club, a Chester group, obtained several BBC Sanctuary signs and placed them around the area. The geese are not tame and move away or take to the river when approached by people. Some have been shot by hunters in boats on the river.

This winter the flock numbered over 300. The geese also attract other ducks; about 100 mallards were here, plus occasional visitors such as Wood Duck, Golden Eye, Merganser, and Bufflehead. Also there are Herring and Ring-billed Gulls present.

Many of the geese have small aluminum bands on their legs. Others have wide red or orange plastic bands with white figures on their legs and a few have neck bands of the same colors. Some of the bands which could be read were neck bands marked: IJ6 and J89; and leg bands 77T and 3Z1.

The geese arrive in the area about the first of December, and most of them leave by the end of February. Interest in the geese is heightened when they fly over the area in flocks, honking as they move out to forage in nearby fields or whatever geese do for food, exercise, or for sheer amusement.

239 Virginia Ave.  
Chester, WV 26034

## Bigelow Cemetery Prairie

Esther C. Reichelderfer

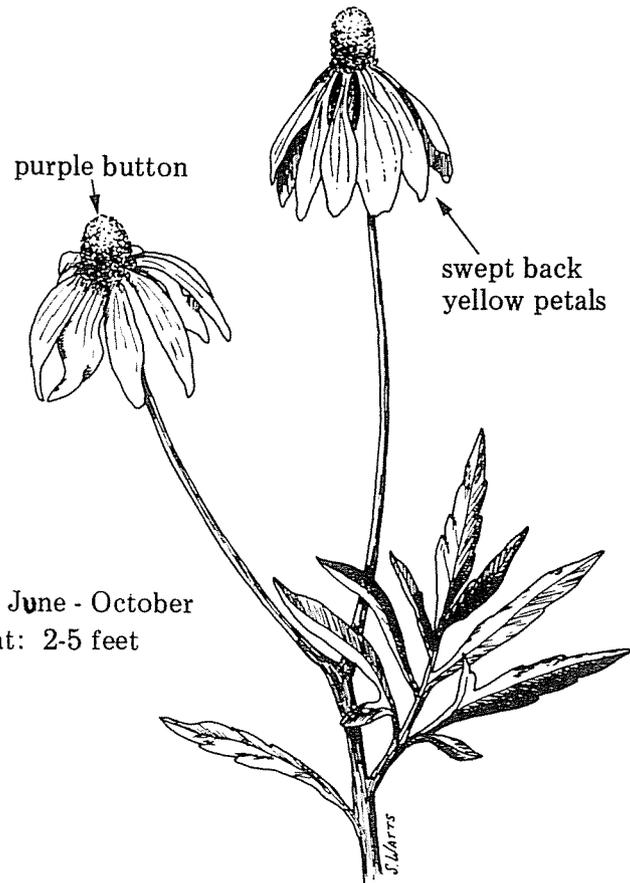
The scant half-acre of prairie sod stands inches higher than the fields of corn and soybeans which now surround it on three sides. On the fourth side of the graveyard is Rosedale Road. This county road on the east is south of but within sight of Ohio route 161 west from Plain City, a road known to travelers long ago as Post Road. In 1813 all land on either side of this highway was native prairie, treeless black soil covered by dense sod of grasses; Big and Little Bluestem, Cord and Indian. Early pioneers traced seasons with the bloom of the prairie flowers growing in its green. It was the Bigelows, Russell and Lucy who began homesteading here in 1816 and who now are buried in the cemetery with four of their children, whose name was given in 1978 to this plot. On August 12, 1979 this small splinter of the Darby Plains was dedicated as an

interpretive state nature preserve. Management of the cemetery, known to botanists since 1931 as the Chuckery Cemetery, was transferred to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Bigelow Cemetery State Nature Preserve is now marked by a wooden sign which explains its uniqueness. It has had no burials since 1892. In a recent inventory 78 gravestones, some toppled and broken but still legible, were found. Many of these stone markers are for children, and for young wives, or for whole families who were victims of epidemics. Some are for hardy individuals in their 60's, 70's and even 80's. On the tombstone of Dr. William King is this religious testimony:

### GRAY-HEADED CONEFLOWER

*Ratibida pinnata*



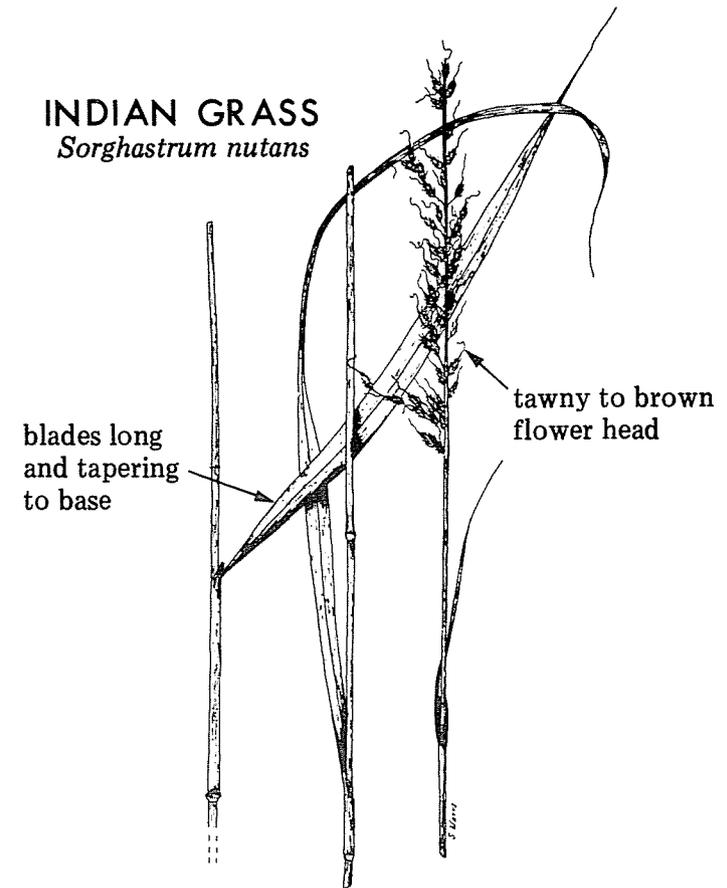
Blooms: June - October

Height: 2-5 feet

Prairie Plants of Killdeer Plains, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources. Used with permission.

### INDIAN GRASS

*Sorghastrum nutans*



Height: 2½-8½ feet

"My glass has run, my grave you see  
In time prepare to follow me.  
Go home, dear friends and dry your tears  
I must lie here till Christ appears.  
And when he does I hope to rise  
Unto a life that never dies."

This plot first set aside as a family resting place, became as the years passed a resting place and a refuge for plants from a prairie which was vanishing. Never grazed or plowed it has today healthy colonies of prairie grasses and wildflowers many of them rare, threatened or endangered in Ohio. My notes from an August 18, 1978 visit list these species: *Andropogon gerardi* (Big Bluestem), *Coreopsis tripteris* (Tall Coreopsis), *Cornus racemosa* (Gray Dogwood), *Desmodium illinoense* (Tick trefoil), *Echinacea purpurea* (Purple Coneflower), *Helianthus grosseserratus* (Saw-toothed Sunflower), *Monarda punctata* (Horsemint), *Psoralea onobrychis* (Sainfoin), *Ratibida pinnata* (Gray-headed Coneflower), *Silene regia* (Royal Cathfly), *Silphium*

*terebinthaceum* (Prairie Dock), *Silphium trifoliatum* (Whorled Rosinweed), *Solidago rigida* (Stiff Goldenrod), *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian Grass).

Since the transfer of the cemetery to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, a program for the preservation of the historic tombstones and for the perpetuation of the prairie species has been initiated. In "The Prairie Survey Project" by Allison W. Cusick and K. Roger Troutman, Ohio Biological Survey, Information Circular No. 10 lists the site as Chuckery Cemetery. The circular also lists other prairie sites in Ohio, naming them, giving their locations, and listing the plant species at each site. For those searching out prairie remnants this sixty-page booklet can be used as a guide to trip planning. The search will uncover prairie remnants along railroad rights-of-way, in neglected fence corners and farm lanes, in managed wildlife areas, and in other old cemeteries. Wherever searchers find them, at Bigelow Cemetery or elsewhere, it will be the prairie flowers not stones or markers that provide the fitting memorial to a vanished scene.

371 Fairway Blvd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43213

## A Painted Bunting in Blue Jay, West Virginia

Belva E. James

On April 27, 1979, a bad storm passed through our little valley. As we sat watching it disappear across the hills, I also noticed something that set my heart singing. I rushed to get my binoculars while my husband kept watch. When I returned I realized that what I had seen was not a false dream, but a reality — a Painted Bunting, just 30 feet away, groomed himself for about 20 minutes and then flew into the trees above our house. I did not see him again, but the following morning when I fed my chickens, I saw a small, yellowish-green bird in a tree near my chicken house, which was totally unfamiliar to me. I thought it might be the female. I never saw either of them again.

Blue Jay, WV 25816

## Birding Over The Atlantic

Leland S. Devore

Did you know that there is a type of birding which has "gone public" only within the last few years? Up until eight or ten years ago only researchers and professional ornithologists participated, and hence if you are an average week-end birder you can probably, by this method, add a half-dozen or more birds to your life-list in about 12 hours. And this awaits you within reasonable driving distance of most locations in the eastern U.S.

This birder's bonanza is pelagic birding. The dictionary defines pelagic as "of, pertaining to or living in open oceans or seas rather than waters adjacent to land or inland waters." And that's it, looking for birds on or above the trackless expanse of the open ocean.

Several locations along the eastern coast offer pelagic birding trips with one of the most popular for this new sport being Ocean City, Maryland. Charter boats which carry up to about 40 people and are usually used for deep-sea fishing but also run charter trips for birders take you out 40 to 60 miles to the continental shelf, often in the vicinity of the deep known as the Baltimore Canyon. You may depart anywhere from 5 to 7 A.M. and after a cruise of 3 to 4 hours, as the boat comes on location out at the edge of the shelf, the skipper may stream "chum" (a mixture of beef fat and stale bread) from the boat to attract birds as well as the fish on which the birds feed. If you are lucky this may bring large groups of various species within very close range as they swoop down for the unexpected meal.

What equipment will you need for the trip? Suitable warm clothing if you go in cold weather, or long sleeves, slacks and a hat if its sunny. If you have binoculars of greater power than your regular 7x35's, say about 10x40's, they will be very helpful as the movement of the boat almost precludes using a scope. A supply of Dramamine or similar "sea-sick pills" are in order unless you are an exceptionally good sailor; I can assure you from personal experience that these charter boats do *not* ride like an ocean liner!

The species of birds that may be seen of course varies with the time of year, but you stand a reasonably good chance of seeing "good ones" anytime. It is possible that you might see shearwaters, terns, skuas, gulls, thin-billed murrets, jaegers, storm petrels, phalaropes, puffins, albatross, razorbills, fulmers, kittiwakes etc., as well as in season there is also the possibility of seeing some migrant or lost land-birds such as rails, warblers and the like. Sometimes if they are exhausted they may land on the boat. Even sharks and whales (up to some 60 feet in length) may be sighted.

Since this is such a new sport for the non-professional birder, even our best bird books are found wanting in accurate "field-marks" and flight characteristics of many of the birds you may see, hence an experienced and knowledgeable pelagic trip-leader is very desirable, otherwise you will have an almost impossible task of identification.

Like any other kind of birding sometimes you are lucky, sometimes not, but given decent weather you are almost certain to pick up a few new species if its one of your first pelagic trips. For additional information on scheduling, cost etc. contact Richard A. Rowlett, P.O. Box 579, Ocean City, Md. 21842. Good Birding!

R.D. 1  
Port Deposit, MD 21904

## Varied Thrush Winters

Esther C. Reichelderfer

It was December 21, 1979 when the Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) was found in Findley State Park, Lorain County, Ohio. Lee Champney of Oberlin, Ohio saw it feeding on the ground under a post feeder along one of the park roadways. It continued to feed on the spilled-out grain there during the remainder of December, for all of January and February, and was still following the same schedule except for lengthening the intervals from 15 minutes to an hour when I last saw it there on March 9. It ate with an assortment of sparrows, nuthatches, cardinals, juncos, woodpeckers and Dickcissels (Two Dickcissels have been there since mid-January). The feeder is a scant 40 feet from the roadway and hundreds of people have, from the comfort of their cars, watched this beautiful accidental.

Similar to the American Robin, this bigger thrush has a black chestband across its orange-colored breast and has two orange wingbars and a prominent orange eye stripe. It is at home in the thick wet forests and woodlands of the Pacific Northwest and winters in the Pacific states of USA and in northern Baja California. It has a reputation for wandering in migration with sightings and wintering records in Quebec, in Ontario, in Ohio, Virginia and other areas.

The Findley Park is adjacent to Ohio Route 58 on the east and is about 20 miles south of Lake Erie and the harbor in Lorain. This harbor area is often visited by birders for its accidentals and in the winter of 1979-80 hosted Black-headed, Little, Glaucous, Iceland, Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and a Heermann's Gull — the last one a first-ever-east-of-the-Mississippi-River sighting. On March 7 a Tufted Duck was discovered in the harbor waters! Birders following up on reports like these from Lorain made many a stop at Findley Park to see the Varied Thrush, a welcomed bonus for the trip — I saw it three times.

371 Fairway Blvd.  
Columbus, OH 43213

## “Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Sycamore Tree”

Norris Gluck

The following are my field notes describing the bird activity in a large sycamore tree in Coonskin Park:

May 3, 1977 — Near the only pond at Coonskin Park, in an open area near the railroad tracks, stands a large old sycamore tree. It is a beautiful tree but age is beginning to take its toll and each year I notice more dead limbs and open areas where the foliage is diseased. As I walked out a service road past the tree, a spring concert with many voices echoed across the valley - a Yellowthroat was singing on my left, a Chat, a Yellow-throated Warbler and a “long-winded” Field Sparrow sang on my right. A Kentucky Warbler and a Cardinal, near the Chat, joined the chorus, also, a Swainson's Thrush and a Hooded Warbler. Then another Chat sang near the top of the hill, along with a Prairie Warbler, a Towhee, a Field Sparrow, a Chipping Sparrow, and a Yellow-throated Vireo - “Almost Heaven,” I said to myself. In the sycamore, a pair of Eastern Kingbirds and a pair of Northern Orioles were searching for suitable nest sites (I am not sure how important the males are in this decision-making process).

May 8-15 — I was out of town - Troy, Philippi, Blackwater Falls.

May 16 — When I checked the sycamore, I found the Kingbird and the Northern Oriole had established nest sites and their nests were almost complete. For several years I have found Kingbird and Orchard Oriole nests in this sycamore.

May 17 — Today I added two more active nests in the sycamore - an Orchard Oriole nest which was almost complete and a Yellow Warbler nest was being built at least 60 feet high. It was the first Yellow Warbler nest I had ever found in a sycamore tree and it was the highest. Most Yellow Warbler nests are located 6 to 15 feet above the ground. The number of nests in the sycamore now totalled four.

I checked the nests again on May 19 and 20 and there was much bird activity in the tree. Hal Harrison, in his nest book, states that Kingbirds and Orchard Orioles often nest in the same tree at the same time. Both are very aggressive and it seems strange that they would be compatible. I, also, saw a pair of Hummingbirds in the tree this morning.

May 23 — The Northern and Orchard Orioles and the Kingbird seem to be incubating. Today there are two male Chipping Sparrows fighting aggressively and continuously for territories in the sycamore. The combat begins in the air near the lower limbs, 10 to 15 feet from the ground, and continues in flight to the ground and often on the ground. This struggle has been going on for several days. I left the tree and when I returned an hour or so later, one of the Chipping Sparrows was carrying nest material to a site on one of the lower limbs. I assumed one pair had won nesting rights in the sycamore. A Red-eyed Vireo has been singing continuously, each morning I have been observing the tree.

May 24 — The Northern and Orchard Orioles and the Kingbird seem to be incubating but there is much agitation, bantering and attacking by the male birds - the Yellow Warbler is still working on its nest and is on the receiving end of many attacks by the other nesting species. It has a very difficult time ascending to the nest high in the tree. There are other species around today - Robin spent considerable time in the sycamore this morning and seemed to be interested in a nest site. The Red-eyed Vireo seems to occupy a specific area in the sycamore where he sings continuously and without much interference from the other species. A male Blue bird brought one of its young into the sycamore and fed it a few times. It was attacked by the Kingbird and Oriole.

One of the Chipping Sparrows is busy working on a nest at a second location. The other chippie is carrying material to another location. The Chipping Sparrow nests are so close, I am sure one will be forced to move out. The two chipping nests make a total of six nests in the sycamore, finished or unfinished. It is very interesting to observe the interaction among the nesting species, which is taking place in the sycamore.

From time to time a Grackle will fly into the sycamore and is immediately attacked by the Kingbird and driven from the tree. Today the male and female Northern Oriole flew to a limb within a foot of the Orchard Oriole nest, where the female was on the nest, but she did not move nor did the male attack the intruders. There seems to be very little hostility between these two species. Goldfinches stop off at the sycamore occasionally without much interference.

May 25 — Four species, the two orioles, Kingbird and Yellow Warbler, are incubating - one of the Chipping Sparrows is still very busy constructing a nest. The other chippie has abandoned the nest-building operation. A Scarlet and Summer Tanager spent a few minutes in the sycamore this morning. Both were singing males.

May 26 — Three Purple Martins were perched on the wires near the sycamore - several Cedar Waxwings visited the sycamore and were attacked by the Kingbird. The Red-eyed Vireo was back and singing continuously but was driven away by the Northern Oriole. A female Hummingbird spent considerable time in the sycamore this morning - it seemed to be checking several limbs for a nest site but never selected a location.

The two Oriole and the Kingbird nests produced young birds. I was never able to determine if the Yellow Warbler was successful, it was too high in the sycamore to follow. The Kingbird nest was blown from the tree by a storm. On June 14, the Kingbirds built a second nest and raised young which left the nest on July 19. On July 2, I found a Summer Tanager nest in the sycamore - young left the nest on July 16. SUMMARY: I had observed five active nests (two Orioles, Kingbird, Yellow Warbler and Chipping Sparrow) at one time in the sycamore; a chipping nest had been abandoned. Later found two more nests in the sycamore (Kingbird and Summer Tanager). The old sycamore had a busy summer!

1424 Kanawha Blvd. E.  
Charleston, WV 25301

# Birds of Stonecoal Lake

Joey Herron

## Introduction

The main impact of this study is to deal with waterfowl and waterbirds of Stonecoal Lake, which is located in Lewis and Upshur Counties, West Virginia. Also, an attempt has been made to construct a preliminary list of migratory and local birds of the area. Hopefully, this study will shed a little light on the number and kinds of waterfowl that pass through the area during the migratory seasons. Also, this will help in knowing the local birds which surround Stonecoal Lake throughout the year.

## Methods and Materials

The author used a spotting scope and 7 x 35 binoculars to help in identification of the birds. The species data was recorded for each trip made. Bird activity was observed over a 12-month period from April 1977 to March 1978. The author was unable to make frequent trips, but enough to get a basic overview of the birds residing at the lake. Peterson's field guide and Robbin's Golden Field Guide were used to confirm identification of the birds.

The main emphasis was on the waterfowl and waterbirds, so, for these the number of each was recorded along with the species, while for the other birds, just their identification was sufficient. Later a list was made of the waterfowl and waterbirds and the number of each species was recorded for each month. This is shown on the following pages.

## Waterfowl

	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Horned Grebe	X							2				76
Pied-Billed Grebe								2	3			4
Mallard	X	X			X			1				41
Wood Duck	X	X										8
Red-Breasted Merganser	X											10
Hooded Merganser												2
Common Loon	X							4				
Ring-Necked Duck								6				13
Lesser Scaup	X											89
Baldpate	X							2				2
Buffle-Head	X							75	2			12
American Coot	X								2			18
Common Golden-Eye												17
Blue-Winged Teal					X							9
Ruddy Duck												12
Old-Squaw												2
Whistling Swan								14				

# Other Waterbirds

	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Great Blue Heron	X				X				X			2
Green Heron		X		X	X							
Ring-Billed Gull												3
Bonaparte's Gull												20
Herring Gull	X											
Greater Yellowlegs					X							
Semipalmated Plover				X								
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X			X							
Solitary Sandpiper				X	X							
Pectoral Sandpiper					X							
Semipalmated Sandpiper					X							
Least Sandpiper				X	X							
Killdeer	X	X		X	X							1

The 500 acre lake is surrounded by 4,000 acres of uplands. The whole area is very good for bird watching and hiking. The west end of the lake can be approached by the Georgetown road which cuts off Rt. 33 at Horner, WV. The east end of the lake is accessible via the Brushy Fork Road which is just west of Buckhannon, WV. The birds were simply observed from the car, and on foot.

## Results

In all there were 111 species of birds recorded during the 12-month period. There were 17 species of waterfowl, with the most numbers recorded during March and April. Thirteen other species of waterbirds were recorded with the most being recorded during July and August. Following is a list of the birds recorded at Stonecoal Lake:

Horned Grebe	Ruddy Duck	Killdeer
Pied-Billed Grebe	Old-Squaw	Ruffed Grouse
Mallard	Whistling Swan	Turkey Vulture
Wood Duck	Great Blue Heron	Rough-Winged Swallow
Red-Breasted Merganser	Green Heron	Barn Swallow
Hooded Merganser	Ring-Billed Gull	Chimney Swift
Common Loon	Bonaparte's Gull	Purple Martin
Ring-Necked Duck	Herring Gull	Purple Finch
Lesser Scaup	Greater Yellowlegs	American Goldfinch
Baldpate	Semipalmated Plover	Osprey
Buffle-Head	Spotted Sandpiper	Sparrow Hawk
American Coot	Solitary Sandpiper	Red-Tailed Hawk
Common Golden-Eye	Pectoral Sandpiper	Cooper's Hawk
Blue-Winged Teal	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Broad-Winged Hawk
	Least Sandpiper	Flicker

Red-Bellied Wood-  
pecker  
Yellow-Bellied  
Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Red-Headed Wood-  
pecker  
Crow  
Black-Capped  
Chickadee  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-Breasted Nut-  
Hatch  
Robin  
Wood Thrush  
Eastern Bluebird  
Catbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Towhee  
Yellow-Throated  
Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-Eyed Vireo

White-Eyed Vireo  
Black and White  
Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
Myrtle Warbler  
Cerulean Warbler  
Yellow-Throated  
Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Starling  
Meadowlark  
Red-Winged Blackbird  
Grackle  
Browed-Headed Cowbird  
Dark-Eyed Junco  
Yellowthroat  
Hooded Warbler  
Kentucky Warbler  
Parula Warbler  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush  
Yellow-Breasted Chat  
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher

Ruby-Throated  
Hummingbird  
Scarlet Tanager  
Summer Tanager  
Orchard Oriole  
Northern Oriole  
Indigo Bunting  
Cardinal  
Blue Jay  
Cedar Waxwing  
Wood Pewee  
Pheobe  
Eastern Kingbird  
Great-Crested  
Flycatcher  
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo  
Evening Grosbeak  
Pine Siskin  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
House Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
White-Throated  
Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow

## Report From Ottawa

Frank Bell

Not since my first "Report" (BBC Mail Bag of April-June 1978) have I written about winter "finches." That year there were hundreds of Redpolls at the feeders, and quite a few Pine Grosbeaks along the streets feeding on flowering crab and the fruit of ash trees. This year, and last winter as well, are newsworthy due to the complete absence of these two species, and to the near absence of Purple Finches, which were abundant in 1976-77. So that leaves us with only the Evening Grosbeaks. They are around the city by the hundreds. There is no doubt that they are spectacular and interesting birds, but poor pocketbook! Of course this extreme variation in winter "finch" populations is well known, and common everywhere, but it does not seem to be fully explained, and perhaps some of our readers will be surprised that even this far north there could be a winter with not a single Redpoll being reported in or near the city.

One might surmise that the snowfree winter could be an explanation, as this winter there was no permanent snow on the ground until about mid-February - a situation almost unknown here. But last winter had more snow than normal, and still none of these species. Also completely absent this year are the Bohemian Waxwings, a species which could be found every winter since I moved here in 1976.

But the mild, relatively snowfree winter is not without its compensations. Some of the 15 or so Short-eared Owls which were in an area in November have stayed all winter, and now another colony of half a dozen has been found. And both Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks have stayed in the same areas as the owls. The little Saw-whet Owl has stayed north in record numbers. Recently one observer heard 9 calling in a space of a couple hours. But the real "goodies" which brought flocks of birders to Amherst Island in Lake Ontario are not back. No great Gray's, practically no Hawk Owls, and here only one Boreal Owl one day behind the airport. Finally, the first Tufted Titmouse ever reported in Ottawa has stayed all winter (there is also one in Montreal), and the first House Finch to remain any length of time is still around.

1801 Botsford St.  
Ottawa, Ont. Canada  
Kig in 4

### Summary and Conclusions

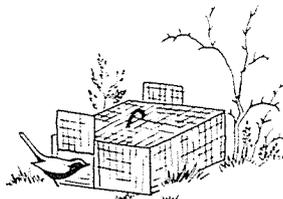
Stonocoal Lake seems to be very important for its bird population. Hopefully this area will be noticed for its migratory waterfowl and the abundance of other species also. Maybe in the future more waterfowl nesting sites can be established, especially more Wood Duck boxes. Stonocoal Lake is an excellent "hot spot" for birding any time of the year.

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# Banding News

Edited by  
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**Conneaut, Ohio** — A truly dedicated bird bander thoroughly enjoys his work despite the fact that there is no monetary pay involved. All the money spent for equipment and the many many hours tending nets and traps and then processing all the birds according to the banding manual, plus the reports on each individual bird, is evidently reward enough. Only the bands and forms are furnished.

The Banding Lab is becoming more demanding in what data it wants from the banders. I have read the banding manual until I am blue in the face, and yet I still receive notations from the Lab to read the banding manual. Lord knows I try.

What is the reward that these people receive? Hours in the outdoors for one. Handling the many and colorful birds and accepting the challenge of identification, aging and sexing the birds is another. Recapturing a bird that you have previously banded and especially is this true if you get a bird or birds year after year. There is the pleasure of observing other things such as arrival of spring and the blooming of wild flowers, then in the autumn we watch the bright colors creep over the trees and shrubs. Best of all however, is the arrival of a notice from the banding lab that someone has recovered one of the birds that you have banded.

I do some of my banding in our own back yard, but most of this is by use of wire traps. When I use the mist nets I then go to the grounds of the Conneaut Fish and Game Club where I have excellent places to erect the nets with a great deal of privacy. There is also an excellent facility in which to process birds captured and a place to store my equipment.

Imagine my excitement when a letter came from the banding lab, with the customary computer card data enclosed, which revealed that a Cape May Warbler banded by me in our own back yard had been recovered on the Island of Haiti in the West Indies. #1490 05925 a hatching year Cape May had arrived in Haiti just two months and seven days after I had banded it here in Conneaut. On September 12, 1978 the Warbler had passed through our yard and on November 19, 1978 J. Dominic Thomas, Rue Stenio Vincent, Cayes Jacmel, Haiti recovered it. A code 05 seemed to indicate that the method of obtaining the bird is unknown. This was my greatest thrill since starting to band many years ago. Warbler recoveries are few and far between and this was the very first one of the thousands of Warblers that I have banded.

I nearly always drop a card to the person making a recovery of one of my birds to thank him for reporting the band. Such a card was sent to Dominic but to date there is no reply. That is understandable because it took nearly a year before I received the notice of recovery.

**J. Paul Perkins**

**Youngstown, Ohio** — Both the Northern and Loggerhead Shrikes are of infrequent occurrence in the Cleveland-Willoughby, Ohio area although the latter has been known to breed and does appear in spring migrations. The Northern Shrike is, of course, usually seen in the winter time. Some years ago, I saw several Northern Shrikes in Trumbull and Ashtabula Counties.

The following account is of interest from both a bird-watching and a bird-banding viewpoint.

January 25, 1971, was a sunny, winter day with the temperature in the mid 30's so that some of the snow cover of some 2 to 4 inches melted. Shortly after noon, I received a telephone call from a friend and while talking, I glanced out the kitchen window and noticed that an American Goldfinch was fluttering about in a cell of a two-cell Potter type trap. A few minutes later, I was horrified to see a large bird clinging to the far side of the trap and trying to get at the Goldfinch! My first thought was -- "Blue Jay" -- but not so, this bird was a light gray with black marks on the head and wings. It was a Shrike!

Telling my caller I had an emergency, I dashed outside but too late to save the Goldfinch even though the trap was on a garden stool only 20 feet from our back door. The little bird bore no bloody wounds that I could see, but was dead. While I was examining the Goldfinch, the Shrike flew to a perch about 2 feet above the ground and only 30 feet away, and watched me.

Deciding to see if the predator would return, I placed the Goldfinch back inside and reset the trap. In less than two minutes, the door was down and I had in one trap cell a dead Goldfinch and a very live Northern Shrike, the first one I had ever handled!

In my gloved hand, the hawk-like upper mandible looked formidable. Then, I was amazed to see that the bird was banded with band Number 702-27606. After photographing the Shrike, placed back in the trap, I grasped it in my left hand and noted the fine barring on the breast which distinguishes this species. When I held the dead Goldfinch close to the Shrike, it was quickly seized, whereupon I released the Shrike, which flew to a large spruce tree nearby.

Remembering that Mrs. Richard Flanigan, a new bander who lived about 2/3 of a mile away, had banded a Northern Shrike recently, I called her and she stated that she had caught and banded that N. Shrike almost 2 months earlier. She also said that she had not seen the bird since that time.

One thing is hard for me to understand and that is how the Shrike was able to kill the Goldfinch by working from the outside of the trap and the trap was made of 1/2 inch by 1 inch mesh hardware cloth!

In the 22 years that we have lived at that place along the Chagrin River, this was the first record of our seeing the Northern Shrike on the property.

**Merit B. Skaggs**

**Huntington, W. Va.** — Reverse migration in passerines has often been observed during fall. Banding offers a means of documenting the species and distance involved. A White-throated Sparrow (U-U) banded at Huntington, on October 17, 1976, was trapped and released at Willow Grove, Pa., on November 21, 1976, by Robert A. J. Walker. Willow Grove is approximately 410 miles northeast of Huntington. I would be interested in hearing from other banders who have knowledge of long distance reverse migration in this species.

The following encounter shows a contrast in distance to the previous recovery. While at McClintic Wildlife Station, near Point Pleasant, W. Va., with participants in the Mason County Christmas Bird Count, on January 2, 1977, we found a banded Mourning Dove (AHY-M). The bird died within a few minutes of unknown cause. The dove was banded by O. E. Seeyle, at McClintic, on July 21, 1971, as an AHY-M. Correspondence with Mr. Seeyle indicates the dove was found less than a mile from the original banding location.

**Harry E. Slack III**

# FIELD NOTES

WINTER SEASON  
December 1, 1979 to February 29, 1980



Edited by Glen Phillips  
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After three dismal winters, this mild season was a welcome respite. In some places there was only one quarter the amount of snow that occurred a year ago. There was some fluctuation of temperatures in February and some sections had more snow in late February and early March than had fallen all season. The mild weather of early winter caused late migration of some species, particularly ducks, and the lack of severity may have caused some individuals to remain farther north. Feeders were not well patronized early in the winter. There was no "invasion" of northern species, because of the mild weather or their good food situation further north. A few flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were seen, but there were no reports of Pine Siskins or Redpolls.

**Loons, Grebes and Herons** - **Common Loons** appeared on two Christmas Counts (hereafter CBC), one was on the Ohio River at Wheeling January 20 (PT) and the other on the Shenandoah River, Jefferson Co. February 23 (CM). Record numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were found on CBC's and then there seemed to be a northern movement about mid-February. Sighting dates for **Great Blue Herons** were scattered throughout the winter, but some of the ones electing to stay this far north failed to survive.

**Swans and Geese** - There were only two reports of **Whistling Swans** during the period. One was seen on Washington Reservoir December 27 (RMH) and two were on the Augusta Co., Va. CBC. Of these, one was found dead and the other disappeared about mid-February (KF). Experiments with establishing Canada Geese colonies in W. Va. account for some of the reports of wintering geese, but not all. The flock wintering at Chester, Hancock Co., has now grown to 300. They left about mid-February. (See the article by Pete and Libby Chandler elsewhere in this issue of **The Redstart**)

**Waterfowl** - Fall duck migration was evidently delayed because of open water north of us. Spring migration was well under way in February this year, probably due to the mild winter. Many observers commented upon the high number of ducks, particularly **Mallards**, that were present for the CBCs - including 1000 + at Columbus, O. (Er). George Hurley reported 1,000 + of both **Mallards** and **Black Ducks** at Kyger Creek flyash ponds, Gallia Co., O. February 9, which probably signalled northward migration. A few **Gadwall** were seen but no numbers were reported. Six **Green-winged Teal** were noted on the Charleston CBC (NG) and six **Blue-winged Teal** were seen over Kanawha Co. December 29 (HG). Ten **Wood Ducks** were counted on Columbus, O. CBC where the previous high had been one. **Redheads** were noted in Ross Co., O. February 23 (ER) and **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen there and in Hampshire Co., W. Va. February 22 (CL) apparently in migration. **Canvasbacks** were noted in Columbus in early February, but **Lesser Scaup** were later in arriving and not yet at Columbus at the end of February (ER). Some **Common Goldeneyes** over-wintered in our area, William Armstrong reported them from Seneca Lake, Noble Co., O. in January. **Buffleheads** were fewer in the Princeton, Mercer Co. area this winter (JP). **Ruddy Ducks** were present for CBCs in Mercer and Fayette Counties. A few **Hooded Mergansers** were

reported all winter as were **Com. Mergansers**. One **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen on Bluestone Lake, Summers Co., February 13 (JP).

**Vultures and Hawks** - The pattern of wintering vultures seemed difficult to understand. Rockingham Co. Va. listed 842 **Turkey Vultures** on their CBC, E. L. O. listed two and Greenbrier Co. one. Then **Black Vultures** appeared in Hocking Co., O. - 17 on Jan. 14. **Turkey Vultures** appeared in Hocking Co., O., Cabell, Hampshire, Pendleton and Monroe Counties in WV February 9 to 25. One **Goshawk** was reported, raiding the Laitsch feeder in East Liverpool, O. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted throughout the territory, but there were fewer reports this year of feeder raids. There were more reports of **Cooper's Hawks** than the previous species. Ralph Bell tells of an immature walking on the ground in his yard trying to flush birds from a privet hedge. In another incident, a Cooper's Hawk catching a Rock Dove at Bethany slammed into a building and was killed (JB). **Red-tailed Hawks** were our most common winter hawk and were in good numbers this year. **Red-shouldered Hawks** still seem to be declining. Their courting ritual was observed as early as January 26 in Kanawha Co. (HG), but most activity was observed after mid-February. **Hullet Good** also reported a **Broad-winged Hawk** in Kanawha Co. January 13. **Rough-legged Hawks** seem more frequent east of the Ohio River now than a few years ago. Among other reports, George Hurley records seven in Putnam-Mason Co. from February 9 through the period, yet the count was way low in Pickaway Co., O. (ER). There were two reports of **Golden Eagles**, one noted by Leonard Tuber in Highland Co., Va. and on January 12, one scattered 40-50 turkeys in Hampshire Co. (CL). There were five reports of **Bald Eagles**: one in Augusta Co., Va. January 8 and one in Rockingham Co., Va. February 20 (KF), a mature Bald Eagle was seen during a two-week period before January 24 in Pendleton Co. east of Upper Tract feeding on a deer carcass (CR). Two Seneca Co., O. residents were being held on charges of killing a banded **Bald Eagle** hatched in Ontario in the spring of 1978 (Whg. News-Register 2/3/80). Another eagle was seen in Harper's Ferry several times from December 13 to February 23 (CM). Reports of **Marsh Hawks** appear about normal. An **Osprey** was seen in Hancock Co. January 20 (EEC). **Kestrels** appear to have fully recovered from the Winter-kill of 1976-77.

**Gallinaceous and Shorebirds** - **Ruffed Grouse** appeared to be doing well, but **Bobwhite** are still at a low ebb. While Ralph Bell reports **Ring-necked Pheasants** scarce in Greene Co., Pa., one frequented the Higbee's feeder in Washington Co., Pa. from mid-January through February (EH). **Turkeys** appear to be doing well in W. Va. Approximately 90 **Coot** spent the winter at the Carbide flyash lake in So. Charleston (HG). **Killdeer** were noted on several CBCs and northward migration was apparently by mid-February. Five **Common Snipe** on the Greenbrier CBC were more than usual (CH). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was noted in Augusta Co., Va. from January 2 to end of period feeding with **Snipe** and **Dunlin** (KF).

**Gulls, Doves and Owls** - There were a few **Herring** and **Ring-billed Gulls** on the upper Ohio River as usual this winter and two **Bonaparte's Gulls** near Princeton, Mercer Co. January 29 (JP). A **Franklin's Gull** was reported near the Pa. - WV border in Washington Co., Pa. February 25 by Wm. Kinney (CC). Although there were one or two reports of less **Mourning Doves**, most reports were of record numbers wintering, calling began about mid-February. Although Clark Miller reported 36 **Screech Owls** during a trip December 15 in Jefferson Co., they are scarce and recovering very slowly in the Northern Panhandle and S. W. Pa. Two nests of **Great Horned Owls** were reported: February 9 in Hampshire Co. (CL) and February 12 in Mercer Co. (JP). A **Snowy Owl** near Wheeling was noted for three weeks during February by Wilma Bruhn. **Barred Owls** appear to be in normal numbers while numbers of **Short-eared Owls** appear way down in central Ohio (ER).

**Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and Larks** - Some **Belted Kingfishers** stayed all winter, Virginia Johnson saw one near Uniontown, Pa. January 1. **Common Flickers** stayed farther north this winter, 27 were counted during the Ona, Cabell Co., CBC (LW). **Pileated Woodpeckers** seem to be increasing, Virginia Stanley reported one coming to her feeder in Jackson Co. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** seemed fairly common while Esther Reichelderfer reports five **Red-headed Woodpeckers** coming to a feeder in Pickaway Co., O. Although most reporters felt **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were low in numbers, Nevada Laitsch felt there were normal numbers around East Liverpool, O. All news of **Hairy Woodpeckers** this period was encouraging, while **Downys** appear still plentiful. Charles Handley Jr. offers: "Woodpeckers up recovering from recent very, very low years." Handley also feels **Horned Larks** are back to normal, he recorded 1000 + January 27 in Greenbrier Co.

**Chickadees through Wrens** - Several correspondents remarked upon the number of **Black-capped Chickadees** this season, but I liked Mrs. Laitsch's comment "Black caps were here early in the season but moved out and were replaced by a normal population of Carolinas." I heard Black-caps singing their breeding song by February 3. Most reports of **Tufted Titmice** were favorable, but a CBC near Columbus O. was down 40% from 1978 (ER). **White-breasted Nuthatch** reports appear favorable, but there were very few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in our area this winter. **Brown Creepers** were present in normal numbers. A **House Wren** was found and verified during the Huntington CBC (JM), but **Winter Wrens** were uncommonly scarce. **Carolina Wrens** are starting back, but look at this contrast 67 reported for Charleston CBC to none for Wheeling. Two came later to Conrad's feeder in Triadelphia near Wheeling and stayed around. A **Long-billed Marsh Wren** was present all winter in a marshy place along the Ohio River-Rt. 2 area in Cabell Co.

**Mimics and Thrushes** - **Mockingbirds** seem to occupy the same range, being reported north to Uniontown Pa. (VJ) and East Liverpool O. but numbers appear down. Two **Gray Catbirds** were recorded during the Wheeling CBC. A **Brown Thrasher** was overwintering in Upshur Co. (VH) and one in Monroe Co. February 4 to 29 (GMF). A few **American Robins** wintered over most of the area, but the Huntington vicinity sheltered about a thousand (LW). Most migrants returned about mid-to late February. There were four reports of **Hermit Thrushes** on CBCs and a male **Variied Thrush** was at Findley State Park in Lorain Co., O. from December 21 to the end of the period. **Eastern Bluebird** populations appear good, their numbers picked up about February 5 (CH), were pairing last week of February (KF) and were checking boxes by March 1 (RB).

**Kinglets through Shrikes** - Both **Kinglets** seem scarce through the general area with Charleston having the highest counts of both **Golden-crowned** (60) and **Ruby-crowned** (5) during their CBC. **Cedar Waxwings** were plentiful at the beginning of winter, probably in migration, then seemed to be in northward migration from mid to late February. A **Northern Shrike** was noted near Pittsfield, Lorain Co., O. from late December to mid-February. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was reported during Greenbrier Co. CBC (CH), and Kathleen Finnegan reported that they were about average for the last few years. It is the author's opinion that I have never seen them in lower numbers.

**Warblers** - Comments on **Yellow-rumped Warbler** numbers varied from one on Wheeling CBC (JB) to 25, third highest ever, at Columbus (ER). The surprises, however, were on other counts. Clark Miller reported a verified **Nashville Warbler** on the Inwood count and a verified **Yellow-breasted Chat** on the Jefferson Co. CBC. Then a **Com. Yellow-throat** was found on the Kingston (Pickaway-Ross Co. O.) CBC December 23 (HB).

**Blackbirds and Finches** - An **Eastern Meadowlark**, overwintering in Wood Co., was

a regular visitor to a feeder (WA). All species of blackbirds wintering in our area appeared down this year. No observers mentioned the huge roosts formerly noted. **Red-wings** were late in returning, but one female was seen in Monroe Co. February 6 (GMF). A **Northern Oriole** was seen occasionally from December 26 to February 3 feeding on citrus fruit and apples in Pendleton Co. (CR) and one was noticed feeding on suet all day January 9 in Rockingham Co., Va. (KF). A female **Brewer's Blackbird** was noted January 12 in Augusta Co., Va. in a mixed flock (KF). A few **Com. Grackles** spent the winter in our area and the migrants appeared mostly between February 25 and the end of the period. A few **Brown-headed Cowbirds** stayed over the winter, but no significant number had returned by the end of the period. **Cardinals** had a good year, Chuck Conrad counted 54 at his feeder at one time. There were three reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**: three were on Huntington's CBC (JM), a pair stayed on the south side of the city until January 19 (LW) and one was in Jackson Co. for two weeks in January (VS). Chuck and Helen Conrad saw a **Black-headed Grosbeak** at their feeder in Ohio Co. December 9 (CC). An **Indigo Bunting** was found on the Marietta, Washington Co., O., CBC (GM). There were three reports this period of **Dickcissel**: one was noted in Monroe Co. from January 31 to the end of the period (GMF), one was at Findley State Park in Medina Co., O. from January 21 for the rest of the winter (ER) and one at a feeder at Columbus, O. in January (HB). The influx of **Evening Grosbeaks** this winter was way down. Only occasional **Purple Finches** were recorded, a maximum of 12 in Pendleton Co. (CR) was the most reported. There is so much for us here in the east to learn about **House Finches**. Some reports this quarter listed maximums at feeders of 84, 40, 61, 50, etc. Nevada Laitsch tells of one at her feeder in East Liverpool O. in which the red coloration was replaced by yellow and Lorraine Harper of Pendleton Co. reported one on which this coloration was orange. **Pine Siskins** were conspicuous by their absence. The effectiveness of Thistle seed feeders in attracting **Goldfinches** was demonstrated again this winter. Are more of these finches staying north since the advent of this feed? There were four reports of **Red Crossbills** on Shenandoah Mountain where routes 33 and 250 cross the W. Va. - Va. line (KF) and Ann Shreve saw a few **White-winged Crossbills** near Charleston 12/26 (NG). The Chandlers recorded one or two **Rufous-sided Towhees** on each field trip in the northern panhandle.

**Sparrows** - A **Savannah Sparrow** was found during the Pipestem CBC and Charles Handley Jr. found them in Greenbrier Co. in Wheat stubble December 22 and January 27, noting that the birds may have been there other years and he had not really looked. **Slate-colored Juncos** were not as numerous as other years and **Tree Sparrows** were very low. Modern farming methods, weed killers, fall plowing, etc. may influence the number of sparrows by reducing weed seeds. A **Chipping Sparrow** was found December 16 in Washington Co., Pa. (Culp and Breiding RMH), and three were at a feeder in Wood Co. for most of February (WA). Very few **Field Sparrows** wintered in the northern part of our area, yet Doug Jolley found three in Potter Co., Pa. February 10. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** stayed in Augusta Co., Va. with Field Sparrows from December 21 to January 2 and a **Lark Sparrow** was nearby from December 18 through January 19, staying with **White-crowned Sparrows**. Correspondents felt that **White-crowned Sparrows** were fewer than in most years and, although some areas showed increases, the numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** were less than those of the last three or four years. There were four reports of **Fox Sparrows** from Wheeling (JB&CC), Mercer Co. (JP), and Harrisonburg Va. (KF). George Hurley reported 22 **Swamp Sparrows** February 9 in Mason Co. and eight were found on the Columbus, O. CBC, the third highest ever (ER). There was a good wintering population of **Song Sparrows**, singing was noticed by February 4 (VH). Esther Reichelderfer found

Lapland Longspurs in Franklin Co. O. February 16. Snow Buntings were also found there, one on the Columbus O. CBC December 16 and near Princeton, Mercer Co. January 13 (JP).

**Contributors** - Dr. Wm. H. Armstrong (WA), Mary Catherine Becker (MB), Ralph Bell (RB), Harold Boecher (HB), Dr. A. R. Buckelew (JB), Everett & Elizabeth Chandler (EEC), Charles Conrad (CC), Dolores DeVaul (DD), Kathleen Finnegan (KF), George & Marguerite Flouer (GMF), Hullet Good (HG), Norris Gluck (NG), Charles Handley Jr. (CH), Eileen Higbee (EH), Roger & Margaret Higbee (RMH), Virginia Bly Hoover (VH), George Hurley (GH), Oliver Johnson (OJ), Virginia Johnson (VJ), Doug Jolley (DJ), Nevada Laitsch (NL), Charlotte Lanham (CL), Clark Miller (CM), Gladys Murrey (GM), Janice Musser (JM), Esther Reichelderfer (ER), Carolyn Ruddle (CR), Virginia Stanley (VS), Patricia Temple (PT), and Leon Wilson (LW).

## Book Reviews

**Bumblebee Economics** by Bernd Heinrich. 1979. Harvard University Press, 79 Garden St., Cambridge, Mass., 02138. Size 6.5" x 9.5," ix + 245 pp., illus., color plates, price \$17.50.

Bernd Heinrich has undertaken to describe the behavior, physiology, ecology and evolutionary adaptations of bumblebees. This he has done from an economic viewpoint. Instead of dollars the currency is calories — the energy the bees gather as nectar and pollen and the energy they spend in foraging, colony maintenance and reproduction.

Heinrich begins by giving an overview of the life cycle of bumblebees. He then describes the pattern of energy flow into and out of a whole colony. Next, there are three chapters on how the bees maximize energy brought back to the colony. In this section Heinrich describes the balance between the energy spent in foraging and the energy gained while foraging. The last three chapters emphasize interactions between species on an evolutionary time scale: between different species of bees, between different species of plants and between bees and plants. Heinrich has prepared two interesting appendices, one an attractive color plate of the bumblebee species of North America (46) and the other a short discussion of how to raise bumblebees.

Heinrich writes clearly and presents sophisticated biological concepts simply. The clarity and sophistication will make this book appreciated by the professional biologist as well as the interested amateur. In spots he presents experimental data; the presentation of data in both text and graphs is also clear.

As Heinrich himself writes, this book is "not merely about bumblebees." The book is about how science is done and about the ecology and evolution of pollinators and their plants. Nonetheless, I'm glad Heinrich studied bumblebees in such detail because the story he has to tell is so elegant.

Janet Lanza  
Bethany College  
Bethany, West Virginia

**How to Control House Sparrows** by Don Grussing. 1980, Roseville Pub. House, P.O. Box 8083, Roseville, Minn. 55113. size 5½" x 8½," paperback, 52 pp. Price \$ .

Here is everything you need to know to control House Sparrows in your yard or farm. Grussing starts by telling us about the life history of the House Sparrow. "Know your enemy," he says. He goes on to say how to keep these pests out of your bird houses and how to avoid providing sanctuary for them in the winter. Also discussed is how to trap House Sparrows. House Sparrow control is not as simple as you might think. For example, did you know it is next to useless to remove House Sparrow nests from a bird house? The female may leave, but the male is very nest-site tenacious and will stay on, even if he can't attract another mate, all the time keeping other birds away. The trick is to get rid of the male. There are many more good tips in this excellent book. If you are ready to go to war with House Sparrows, buy **How to Control House Sparrows** first.

**Outdoors at The Top of The Bay** by Leland S. Devore. 1980 published by the author of Port Deposit MD 21904. size 5½" x 8½," paperback, 44 pp., illus.

BBC member Leland Devore has compiled a number of his columns from the Havre de Grace, Maryland newspaper "The Record" into a delightful booklet. **Outdoors at The Top of The Bay** tells of Devore's birding or kayaking adventures in parks and other

outdoor areas near the Lower Susquehanna River and Upper Chesapeake Bay. Pen-and-ink illustrations are by his wife Helen. As one might expect there are plenty of remarks and short tales about birds in his book, but there is a lot of interesting information about the area's parks as well, not to mention a lot of good humor and a fine sense of how to tell a story. Even though each column stands alone, it all hangs together, perhaps because the book is arranged by seasons, and makes the reader wish Leland had room for one more in his kayak.

**Birds: Readings from Scientific American with introductions by Barry W. Wilson. 1980, W. H. Freeman and Co. San Francisco, size 8½" x 11," paperbacks, 276 pp. illus., Price \$**

**Scientific American** is a science magazine designed for the "intelligent layman." The articles are concise and written in crisp, clear English. **Birds** is a collection of articles that have appeared in **Scientific American** over the past two decades. This is the cream of the crop and Wilson's introductions help smooth over the gaps and place the articles in perspective. Chapters are on diversity of birds, flight, migration and navigation, evolution, behavior, physiology, song and birds and people. Here is a chance for bird watchers to get some insight into ornithological research without having to wade through a lot of sophisticated jargon. The articles are written by leaders in the field.

There are some short-comings, due mostly to the choice of articles available. For example, one might want to see more articles on conservation. One probably wouldn't want to use **Birds** as a sole textbook for an ornithology course, but it would make a very good supplementary text.

A. R. Buckelew, Jr., Editor

# 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.
- Birds of Pennsylvania by Merrill Wood ..... \$2.00
- A Field Guide to Bird's Nests by Hal H. Harrison ..... \$8.00  
 Peterson Field Guide Series, 257 pps., 222 color photos of nests and eggs, 222 bird sketches. Info. on range, habitat, etc. for species East of Miss. R. H.H.H. is past president of the BBC and honorary member. Autographed.
- Field Guide to Western Bird's Nests by Hal H. Harrison ..... \$10.95
- Birds of North America by Robbins, Bruun and Zimm. illus. by Arthur Singer.  
 Popular field guide, excellent color illus., range maps, field marks. Autographed.  
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 Natural History of Headwaters of Potomac R.
- Family Nature Guide by Jean Worthley ..... \$7.25
- Dozen Birding Hotspots by George Harrison. Autographed ..... \$8.95
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### REDSTART EDITORIAL POLICY

Original papers in the field of natural history are published in the Redstart. Papers are judged on the basis of their contributions to original data, ideas, or interpretations. Scientific accuracy is most important and to this end an Advisory Board, selected by the Editorial Staff, will review submitted papers. Papers should be typewritten, double spaced 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.