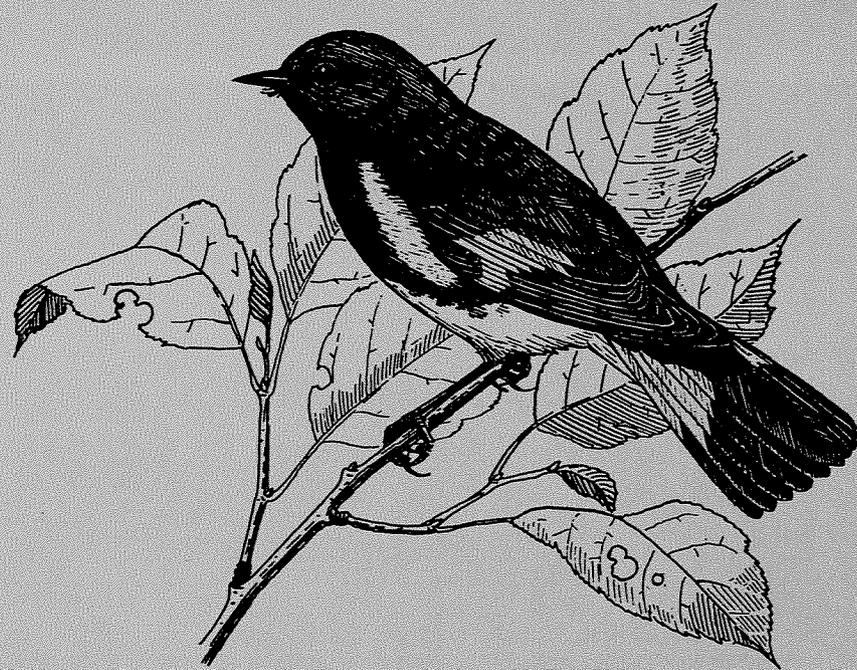


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*The* REDSTART

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER, 1980



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

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# Horned Grebes Forced Down By Ice Storm

Ralph K. Bell

The southwestern corner of Pennsylvania and western Maryland experienced an unusual phenomenon on the night of January 6, 1979, Horned Grebes came down on land in at least five counties in Pennsylvania and in the Frostburg-Cumberland area in Maryland. In Greene County (the corner county where I live) there were reports of at least 23 birds. I personally picked up five of these, banded them, and released them in the Monongahela River. Just to the north (Washington Co.) eight were reported to me. At least five were reported in Allegheny County and were shown on Pittsburgh television stations. Just to the east of here (Fayette Co.), over 40 were found and reported. In Maryland, many more were accounted for by Kendrick Hodgdon, the supervisor of high schools in Allegheny County. Mr. Hodgdon had an interesting article about the downed Horned Grebes in the **North American Bird Bander**, Vol. 4, #3, page 110. Here is a paragraph from that article:

"Thanks to our local newspapers, people soon became aware of the plight of these birds and were on the lookout for them. Altogether, I could account for 75 that were picked up and released. Forty-eight came to my house via students from schools and adults calling in or bringing them to me. At one time we had 22 in our stationary tub in the basement. These were calling to each other, rattling the walls with their cries, and apparently enjoying what water we could give them. All of these were weighed (dry) and banded, then reweighed for weight loss the next morning before their release in the Potomac River. I took some of them to schools to show students and to teach them a little about birds and ecology."

No doubt many more were killed by automobiles, dogs and predators. Some were probably killed for food. One man kept one in a corncrib for 4 days (and tried to get it to eat corn). Mr. Hodgdon rescued one from a dogpen where a man put it for his dog to play with.

When the freezing rain started is not known. There was an inch of wet snow sometime during the night of Jan. 6th and at daylight a freezing rain was falling and there was a thick coating of ice over everything. The Horned Grebes may have thought the icy ground was water in illuminated areas as our local game warden, Steve Kleiner, reported 15 on a baseball field near Waynesburg, Pa.

The Horned Grebes were first noted at daylight but I feel sure they came down before this or else those in Fayette County would have landed on the wide Monongahela River (unfrozen) instead of crossing over it and then coming down (some less than a mile away). Whether the grebes came down from exhaustion or due to icy conditions is still a big question. Mr. Reg Sharkey of Petrosky, Michigan (per. comm.) said that from his flying experiences, the grebes probably "iced-up" and the additional weight probably caused forced landings. Ducks that come down on land can walk or fly to the nearest water, but not grebes as their legs are far back on their bodies in order to assist in diving and catching fish. They are almost helpless on land.

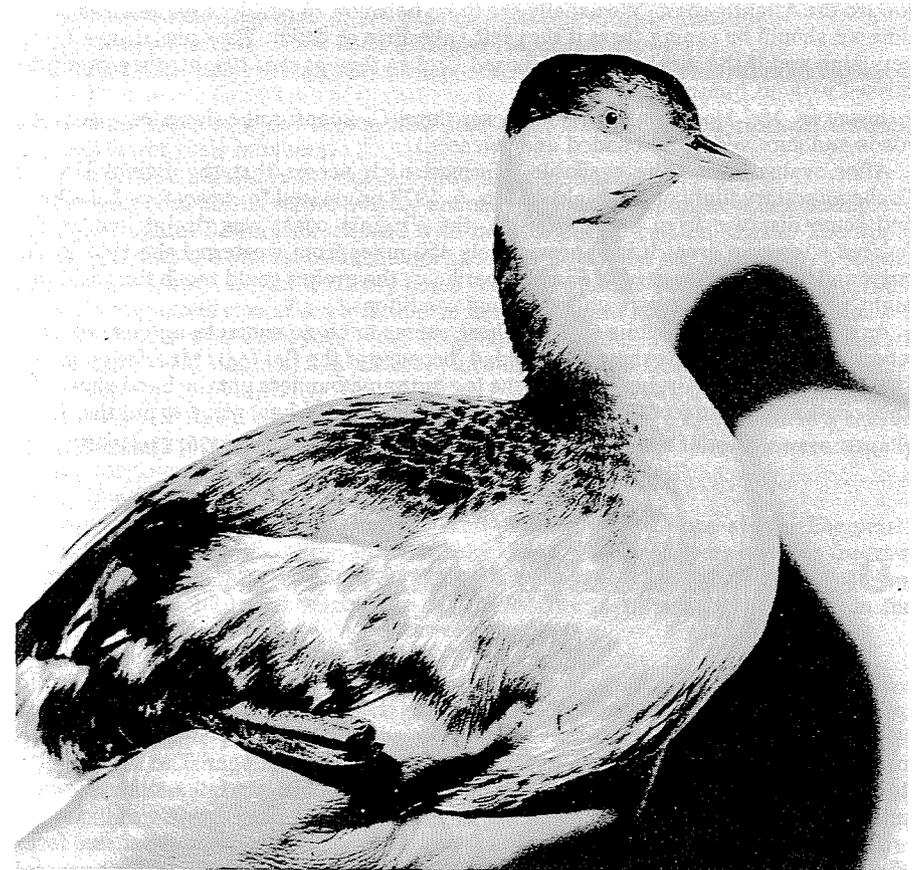
The grebes were evidently heading for the Chesapeake Bay or Virginia coast. Back Bay, Va. had a record 2683 Horned Grebes on the 1966 Christmas count. Chincoteague had 2269 on the 1975 count and 1003 on the 1977 count. The southwest corner of Penna. is in a direct line from northern Lake Michigan to the Virginia coast. Western Lake Erie is also on this direct line.

I wrote to several Christmas count compilers in northern Ohio and Michigan and asked questions about migration habits of Horned Grebes and if they knew of any unusual concentrations in their areas the last of Dec. 1978. BBC member Capt. Paul

Perkins wrote that many grebes often stay until late November or early December but that many will even leave the Cleveland area before freezing weather. All compilers agreed that grebes seemed to migrate at night on long distance flights. Capt. Perkins said that he had spent years on the lakes but did not recall ever seeing a flight of grebes..... hundreds on the water at times but never in the air. He added that often grebes were found on his ship at daybreak - especially if a night of high winds prevailed. The grebes seemed to be o.k. so were tossed over the side and into the water.

One of the questions asked Christmas count compilers was at what speed they thought Horned Grebes migrated. Tom LePage (Cleveland, Ohio compiler) commented that he had read that Horned Grebes "fly high and fast" but didn't give any figures. Kendrick Hodgdon suggested that the migrating speed is probably close to 40-45 miles per hour and I agree with him. However, the Common Loon is thought to fly at about 60 miles per hour but it is a much larger and stronger bird.

It was not possible to determine the source of the Horned Grebes by using



Horned Grebe downed by freezing rain. Photo taken by Ken Hodgdon, January 8, 1979.

Christmas count data. Only nine counts in Ohio listed Horned Grebes and the maximum number was three on the Cleveland count. Eight counts in Michigan listed Horned Grebes. Two of the counts in Northern Michigan each recorded eight Horned Grebes. Mike Jorae, of the Traverse City count wrote that most northern inland lakes in northern Michigan were frozen over by Jan. 1, 1979 and shore ice was building up in the coves. He also commented that northern Lake Michigan freezes later than southern Lake Michigan and not nearly as thick. If the grebes did come from northern Lake Michigan it would be approx. 750 miles to the Chesapeake Bay area and would take possibly 16 or more hours (or 15 hours if they were able to keep a sustained flight speed of 50 miles per hour).

While I have assumed that the Horned Grebes migrate mostly at night (especially over inland areas), the similar built, but much larger C. Loon may be more inclined to migrate by day. Their large size, small wings (and lack of breaking power) may demand this. A 15 pound Loon hitting the ground at night could be disastrous.\* While at Waggoner's Gap (near Carlisle, Pa.) counting migrating hawks the first week in November, we have more than once noted migrating Loons heading southeastward toward the Atlantic coast. We usually see them between 10 and 11 a.m. and this is the time we should be seeing them if they left Lake Erie at dawn. They are always flying very high and if the much smaller Horned Grebes flew at that height, they would be missed without binoculars.

\* (however, Mr. Hodgdon has had at least three C. Loons come down on glistening roads and survived to be banded and released).

After evaluating all the available information, it seems that the fateful Horned Grebe migratory flight on the night of Jan. 6, 1979 originated from western Lake Erie, and some distance from shore. Earlier, the Virginia coast was designated as the favored wintering area. It is approximately 450 miles from western Lake Erie to the coast and with a flight speed of 45 miles per hour, the grebes could reach the coast in a night's flight of 10-12 hours under normal conditions.

As a final comment, let me say that there seems to be no concrete agreement as to where the Horned Grebe should be banded (because of the flat leg). Mr. Hodgdon and I banded our Horned Grebes down on the leg but some banders put the band above the knee. Perhaps future recoveries will give us a clue as to the best place to put the band.

R.D. #1, Box 229, Clarksville, Pa.

## Orchids of Raleigh County, West Virginia

Zettle Stewart

Orchids are perennial herbs, with perfect, irregular flowers borne singly, or in spikes or racemes. Simple parallel-veined leaves. Leaves may be solitary as in Green Adders Mouth, several alternate as in the Yellow and Showy Lady's Slipper, or coming from the base in two's, as in the Twayblades and Pink Lady's Slipper. The leaf of Putty Root and Crane-fly Orchid appears after the flower withers in late fall and stays green until the stem begins to sprout in the spring and withers before the flower blooms.

Flowers are showy with a bilateral symmetry, often of very irregular and unusual form (*Flora of West Virginia* by Strausbaugh and Core) generally six-parted, three sepals, three petals all having about the same texture. The lower petal forming a more or less pronounced lip, that sometimes forms a projecting spur.

The *Flora of West Virginia* lists thirty-seven plants in this family. Nine of these are usually listed with their given name, and the family name Orchis, as in the Showy Orchis and Long Bracted Green Orchis.

Early in 1979 I decided to see how many of these orchids I could find in Raleigh County. Needless to say I did a lot of searching. I confess I had some expert help in the person of Osbra Eye, Superintendent of Kanawha State Forest, and Bill Grafton, Area Forester, for the Southern Counties. Also, Orpha Richardson Bailey kept me company on many of my jaunts, and on her farm we found thirteen of the twenty-two orchids here in mentioned.

### 1. *Orchis spectabilis* - Showy Orchis

The purple or rose head of this shy plant contrasts strikingly with the white lip and spur. This plant isn't common, but probably found in every county. Observed in Raleigh County in deep rich mountain coves, especially associated with basswood and tulip poplar forests.

The stem of this Orchis is fleshy, four angled with two oval basal leaves, which are somewhat clammy to the touch. If you wish to find this orchid, search in May and early June in some rich deep cove at the base of a Raleigh County mountain.

### 2. *Cypripedium acaule* - Pink Lady's Slipper (Moccasin Flower)

The Pink Lady's Slipper is a very common orchid in Raleigh County for it is a plant of acid soils. The western slopes of the oak, hickory ridges are usually populated with this plant. Sometimes as much as one half acre area. But dense undergrowth tends to decidedly lower their numbers.

### 3. *Cypripedium parviflorum* - Small Yellow Lady's Slipper

The erect stem of this orchid usually bears 3-4 leaves. Sometimes with a multiple of strongly fragrant flowers surrounded with madder-purple twisted sepals. The upper one longer than the others. Strausbaugh and Core do not list the Small Lady's Slipper for Raleigh County, in fact it is only listed for eleven of the fifty-five counties. But, I have photographed it in seven locations in Raleigh County, Lake Stevens, off Route 3 between Eccles and Surveyor, West Virginia. Richardson's Farm, Rockhouse Fork near Lester, West Virginia, four different locations of Town District in Raleigh County in the vicinity of Prosperity, West Virginia, and on Bat Off Mountain, Route 61. Usually you will find a lone plant, but at Lake Stevens there are five plants in a clump. One plant had three flowers. This plant blooms in May and June. Flowers usually lasting for days.

### 4. *Cypripedium pubescens* - Large Yellow Lady's Slipper

Flowers of this orchid are much larger and yellower than the one above. The petals and sepals are greenish-yellow, often streaked with purple. Flowers are less fragrant than the Small Yellow Lady's Slipper. The stem is larger and taller than *C. parviflorum* and usually has 4-7 bread veined leaves. This showy plant is quite prevalent in the county.

### 5. *Isotria verticillata* - Whorled Pagonia

Sometimes referred to as Five Leaved Orchid, because of the five leaves in a whorl topping the 2-3 dm high stem. The flower emerging from the center of the whorl. Sepals are dark purple, very narrow and spreading around the greenish-yellow petals which holds the single lipped purple striped flower.

This beautiful orchid is not listed in *The Flora of West Virginia* for Raleigh County, but we find it in most locations that have the Pink Lady's Slipper. One very extensive patch has been made nearly inaccessible by the extension of Corridor L from Rt. 19 to W. Va. Turnpike. To find this plant look while Pink Lady's Slippers are blooming in acid woods where Mountain Laurel and Tea Berries are growing.

### 6. *Calopogon pulchellus* - Grass Pink

This pretty plant is found in Raleigh County in Richmond District near Osbra Eye's Farm on the New River side of the mountain, in a marshy area where the beaver build dams. If you are willing to walk, stoop, crawl, and climb, take your camera and go. By the way Richmond District is off Route 3 between Beckley and Shady Springs, West Virginia. This area will soon be cut into by Route 64. This plant is from 3-5 dm high with a bare stem. Its one leaf coming from the base is 2-3 dm long. Petals are magenta or pink with yellow, rose colored and orange hairs. Flowers are at their peak last of June and early July. Grass Pink is not listed in **The Flora of West Virginia** for Raleigh County.

7. *Pagonia ophioglossoides* - Beard Flower

Another beautiful rare orchid also found in this same marshy area is Beard Flower. Although not listed for the county in **The Flora of West Virginia**, this orchid is scattered over a wide area of this marshy place. The stem is from 5-6 dm high with a cauline leaf 1-15 cm lon. The perianth is pink (rarely white) and the flower fragrant.

8. *Aplectrum hyemale* - Putty Root, Adam and Eve

This plant is very abundant in Raleigh County. It is called 'Putty Root' because the corm is very like putty. The bare stem is about 4 dm high. The several dull yellowish-brown flowers are marked with magenta. They are found at the base of Guyandotte Mountain and in most rich wooded areas of the county. The one basal leaf which is prevalent and green all winter disappears before the plant flowers in late May and June.

9. *Liparis lilifolia* - Large Twayblade

The plant has an angled stem arising from the center of two broad, glossy green leaves, topped with from 5-40 madder-flowers, with a broad lip guarded with thread like side petals. It blooms during June-July, throughout the county in moist rich woods.

10. *Liparis loeselii* - Loesel's Twayblade

The stem is from 2-8 inches high, with two well keeled leaves. The raceme is few flowered. The flowers are greenish-yellow, with thread-like sepals which are incurved. It is only listed in **The Flora of West Virginia** for wet meadows in four counties. I photographed one of these near the edge of a sprayed powerline under a hemlock on Richardson's Farm located on Rockhouse Fork near Lester, West Virginia. Ann Pyle found one near Terra Alta, Preston County during the 1979 BBC Foray.

11. *Habenaria lacera* - Ragged Fringed Orchis

This orchid has creamy to yellowish-green deeply fringed 3-part lipped flowers, which are many racemed on a bracted stem 3-6 dm high. It is listed as local in most parts of the state but not for Raleigh County, although we find it locally all over the county in swamps, wet meadows, moist road sides, even in dry cemeteries, as on Richardson's Farm.

12. *Habenaria clavelata* - Little Club Orchid

The spur of this small orchid resembles a little club. The stem is 9.4 dm high, usually possessing one or two oblong green leaves along the stem terminating in 3-12 greenish-white flowers. The lip is wedged-shaped with three short teeth at the top, and a slender curved spur. It blooms in July and August in wet, moist, acid soils. It is found in Richmond District in moist meadows and marshes, and at Rockhouse Fork (Richardson's Farm) and Maple Meadow Creek in roadside ditches at both places.

13. *Habenaria orbiculata* - Large Round Leaf Orchid

The scape is 6-32 dm high with one or more lanceolate bracts. Two large pad like leaves are flat to the ground. It is shiny on top and silvery underneath with 10-20 greenish-white flowers in a loose raceme. It has an oblong-linear obtuse lip and long spur. I've found this orchid in only four locations in the county. On the left side of Little

Beaver Lake among the hemlocks and moss covered rocks, left of Route 3 on White Oak Mountain, and in Richmond District close by the Grass Pinks and Beard Flower, and one lone flower on the South Sand Branch side of Prosperity, West Virginia. I'm sure there are other stands.

14. *Malaxis unifolia* - Green Adder's Mouth

A single oval pointed leaf clasps the stem of this small orchid. Tiny green flowers are about 2 mm long with thread like lateral petals. The only places I've seen it are close by the location of the round-leaved orchid at Little Beaver Park, and on the Raleigh County 4-H grounds. It is in flower when *Orbiculata* is blooming.

15. *Habenaria fimbriata* - Purple Fringed Orchis

This tall plant, sometimes more than three feet, has a densely flowered raceme up to three inches thick. The leaves are oval to lanceolate, bracts are lanceolate. Flowers are magenta to purple, rarely white. The lip is three-part and fringed all along the edges. This orchid is not widely distributed in the county, but is in a wet meadow on Rockhouse Fork and again in a small bog where I found a station of Bog Fern was one plant. Purple Fringed is listed in **The Flora of West Virginia** for all the mountain counties except Raleigh. I suppose the reason for this is because no one has collected it to send it to the University.

16. *Habenaria peramoena* - Purple-Fringeless Orchid

Flowers are rich rose purple on a cylindrical spike from 1-3 feet tall. Densely flowered 3-6 cm thick, it is a very beautiful plant. **The Flora of West Virginia** lists it for moist meadows mostly in the mountains. It is not listed for Raleigh County but we found it to be very abundant July-August in many moist waste places as well as road side ditches on both Rockhouse and Maple Meadow Creek and on Richardson's Farm and in Richmond District.

17. *Habenaria ciliaris* - Yellow Fringed Orchid

The stem is 3-7.5 dm high with a thick 5-6 cm raceme of orange-yellow flowers. The lip is bordered with a fringe of long drooping spurs. It is listed for throughout the mountain counties and occasional elsewhere. The locations I know in Raleigh County are on the road bank of Rt. 61 out of Mt. Hope, West Virginia, just before it intersects 41 on Bat Off Mountain and on the Bailey Farm Road, east of Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens off Rt. 19.

18. *Tipularia discolor* - Crane Fly Orchid

The leaf is green on the topside and purple underneath. The leaf disappears before the flowering stem emerges. The stem is hairy 25-45 cm high. Flowers are greenish tinged with purple in a loose raceme. Sepals and petals are 6-8 mm long, the lip three-lobed and spur about 2 cm long. It is found in woods very locally July-August. It is not listed for Raleigh County in **The Flora of West Virginia**. The slides I have were photographed in the same woods as Whorled Pagonia at Prosperity. There are three stations on Richardson's Farm on Rockhouse Fork.

19. *Goodyeara pubescens* - Downy Rattlesnake Plantain

Hairy stout stems are 1.5-5 dm high. Leaves are five or more in a whorl on the ground with the stem in the center. The leaves have 6-7 white nerves and many white veins. The racemes are cylindrical and many flowered. The plants are usually in Mountain Laurel and Teaberry locations also in oak-hickory woods.

20. *Spiranthes cernua* - Nodding Ladies'-Tresses

Ladies'-Tresses are erect stem flowers, usually with one or more slender leaves at the base. Flowers are small and spurless more or less in a twisted swirl on the spike.

The most abundant of the Tresses in Raleigh County is *Spiranthes Cernua*. *Cernua*'s flowers arch downward in two or more spirals of white fragrant flowers. This orchid, blooming August-October, lined the roadside at Lake Stevens. It was also seen in

many wet places on both Rockhouse and Maple Meadow Creek.

21. *Spiranthes gracilis* - Slender Ladies Tresses

The very slender stem is 2-8 dm high with 2-3 spirals of white tubular flowers with a central green stripe. The only location I know in the county is at the edge of the wood near the overlook at Lake Stevens off Route 3.

22. *Corallorhiza adontorhiza* - Small Coralroot

Slender purplish stems are 1.5-4.5 dm high, racemes 5-10 cm long with 6-20 brown, purple or white flowers. It is not listed for Raleigh County in **The Flora of West Virginia**, but is listed for all the bordering counties. It is found in dry woodlands August-October. I photographed it at Prosperity and Rockhouse Fork.

P.O. Box 322  
Prosperity, W.V. 25909

## A Thousand Bird Nests

Norris Gluck

May 29, 1973 — In reviewing my notes, I find that on May 29 the Weather Bureau reported a low of 50° and a high of 76° for the day, and that the rainfall measured .01 inches. I recall that it was another lovely May day in Coonskin Park, the birds were active, singing and busy with their housekeeping activities, as I walked through the fields enjoying the thrills of a spring morning. My notes show a flock of Cedar Waxwings flew overhead, probably on their way to feed on the tulip blossoms. As I walked along the railroad track, a female Red-winged Blackbird flushed excitedly from the ground within a few feet of me. I checked the area closely as I stood on the track, and my notes show "located in a clump of weeds, between two tall weeds, about 6 inches from ground, was the nest." Without getting too close to the nest I observed three eggs, pale bluish green, spotted or blotched, mostly at the larger end, with browns, purples and black. It seemed to be a typical Red-winged Black-bird nest, it might later contain four eggs or even five.

I crossed the railroad track and walked out past the site of the old stable to check the dark, deep cavity in an old fence post, where I had watched a Carolina Chickadee, on April 14, as she was excavating a hole for her nest - every minute or so, she would fly out of the cavity with her mouth full of chips, to a nearby limb, where she spit out her mouth-ful and immediately flew back to the cavity and repeated the operation. Today, using my little flashlight, I peeped down into the darkness and could see four young Chickadees almost ready to leave the nest. I made a note in my book.

I hiked back, along the golf course, to the parking area and saw a Wood Pewee fly from the lowest limb of a sweet gum tree. I investigated and found a pair starting a nest, about six feet from the ground - that was the lowest Wood Pewee nest I had ever seen.

I got into my car and drove back near the park office and parked by the road. A Song Sparrow was briskly walking up the pavement as I got out of my car. I knew by her intensive concentration, her haste and the little note she was clucking, that she was heading for her nest. Sure enough she left the road, walked into the grass and quietly slipped on the nest. I wrote in my note book the location of the nest "by road, near a tall fleabane, between two pines" and decided I would not disturb her.

All this bird activity is typical of a morning in the outdoors, in the month of May. But finding the Red-winged Blackbird nest was the most significant event of the day, for me. It was my 55th nest for 1973 and it was the 1000th nest I had recorded during the

past ten years and included nests for 84 species. At end of 1973, my nest records showed 1050 nests.

Observing nesting birds is one of the most fascinating aspects of bird study. What a thrill it is, long before the first spring wild-flower blooms, to find the Red-shouldered Hawk rebuilding its nest in January and to find the Great Horned Owl on its nest in early February, or in March, the White-breasted Nuthatch. I know spring cannot be very far away! I cannot recall a greater thrill than that experienced on May 23, 1966, when as I walked around the Coonskin Nature Trail, I observed two Ruby-throated Hummingbird nests under construction and another with the female on the nest - that was more hummingbird nests than I had previously seen in my whole life! Three in one day.

I would like to emphasize, however, I am not an expert nest finder. When I am outdoors I try not to concentrate my attention on finding nests - there are too many other interesting things in nature to observe. I try, however, to be alert to everything taking place around me, the sounds, the movements, etc., and I try to interpret, from my experience, what it is all about - often I can tell from a bird's behavior that it has a nest somewhere. I used to be a trout fisherman and I have a book entitled "To Hell with Fishing" which states that to be an expert fisherman one must have a brain like a fish and think like a fish. I have never learned to think like a bird, for example, I cannot look into a pine tree and say, with authority, that it has a Yellow-throated Warbler nest. But if I see a Yellow-throated Warbler fly into the pine tree with an insect in its mouth, I start looking for a nest. Also, even though I have observed many bird nests, I still cannot identify an old nest, without the bird.

I do often spend more time than I wish on bird nests. Cornell University started a nest-record card program about ten years ago and now has over 200,000 nest record cards in file. The information is computerized and can be used for study or research purposes. The Brooks Bird Club participates in this program and I prepare a nest card on each nest and try to make follow-up observations to determine its status. Sometimes I have at least twenty-five active nests at one time and it takes considerable time. I have to be careful not to disturb the nest or do anything that will attract predators to the nests.

I have found most of my nests in Coonskin Park and Kanawha Forest. But I have records on nests I have found all the way from the top of the West Virginia highlands on Spruce Knob, the highest mountain in West Virginia, and Gaudineer knob, one of the most interesting and unique areas in West Virginia, and Canaan Valley, to the lowlands at McClintic Wildlife Station, not far from the mouth of the Kanawha. I have found a number of nests as I have walked from my apartment in the East End to down-town Charleston: Robins, Blue Jays, Mourning Doves, Mockingbirds, Starlings. Nighthawks nest on the roofs of buildings, Chimney Swifts nest in the chimneys and the Kestrel, our only breeding falcon, nests in downtown Charleston. Purple Martins nest near Morris Harvey College, on the West Side, and along Kanawha Boulevard. Sometimes in the spring, when I start for the Post Office, downtown, I get so involved with bird families along the way, it takes most of the morning to make the five or six block journey.

Some habitats seem to be more attractive than others to the birds and provide ideal nest sites. This is true of the tulips, maples, gums, elms, sycamores in the area around the ponds and along the Elk River at Coonskin. Each year, in this area I find Warbling Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Robins, Yellow Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, Tanagers, Flickers, Northern Orioles and Kingbirds. I have found many nests along the Nature Trail in Coonskin, including the nests of the Red-shouldered Hawk and the wildest, fiercest most wonderful bird of the woods, the Great Horned Owl. I, also, had the thrill

of watching a pair of Red Foxes raise a family of five beautiful youngsters near the trail one spring; a pair of Grey Squirrels raised a family in one of the Coonskin shelters and a mother Fox Squirrel displayed her lovely babies in the morning sun in a hollow tulip tree by the pond. Another time I watched a mother Opossum, the only marsupial in North America, nursing her babies, as she lay asleep in a garbage can in the park. Pardon, I do not know how I wandered away from my story of the bird nests.

It is difficult for me to single out my most interesting experiences but I would like to relate a few unique cases:

On May 3, 1968, I found a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers building the strangest, most unusual shaped nest I had ever seen, in a pine, about 30 feet from the ground. All of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests I had previously seen were small cup-shaped nests saddled on a horizontal limb, but this one was oblong-shaped like a football, attached horizontally to a vertical limb, with the opening on the side at the nose or tip of the football. Les McDowell later photographed it. On May 8, the Blue-grays were busily dismantling and moving it to a new location in a tulip tree about 100 feet away. Had they realized that it was poorly designed? I would answer in the affirmative, if I had not previously observed another pair of Blue-grays dismantle and move a typical nest. At that time I was not sure if they were pirates, stealing the nest materials, or the rightful owners.

I am sure birds do, sometimes, take nesting materials from another without permission. I once watched from my apartment window, a robin in an adjacent back-yard, slip over and steal material from an active nest being built in a tree near my window. Later, this naughty Robin, was watching the nest from a limb in the background, awaiting an opportunity to continue surreptitiously its mission, when the occupants of the nest returned, the villain squatted down on the limb and tried to hide, but was discovered and aggressively chased away.

Another year, a Robin was starting a nest in this same tree on a limb near the porch roof of the house next door, where a pair of Starlings were also building. The Robin was collecting strings from a flower-bed and as fast as she would bring the material to the nest site, the Starling would remove it and carry to its nest under the roof. String seems to attract birds and later that day, as a Cardinal passed by, she also tried to remove the remaining string from the nest site. The end of the Robin's nest-building, at this site, took place the next morning, when a Blue Jay, which was building a nest around the corner, took the remaining strings from the nest. The nest was abandoned, after a strong but unsuccessful defense by a fighting and angry Robin.

On June 7, 1966 when I returned to Coonskin to check again a Wood Thrush nest, located about eight feet up in a maple sapling, I could not find the nest. When I looked around, I found it on the ground, right side up, a little askew, but the mother was still on the nest with her three young birds. A night storm had blown the nest to the ground. The parents moved down and finished their job at the new location.

The next experience is somewhat unique because I spent a morning, hunting nests with one of the greatest nature photographers in the world and did not realize who he was.

On June 1, 1971, when I went to Kanawha Forest, Osbra Eye, the Superintendent, introduced me to Eliot Porter and told me Mr. Porter had come to Charleston, to photograph a nest of the Swainson's Warbler and asked if I would help him. I had in my automobile a copy I had made of the article on Swainson's Warbler by Russ DeGarmo and Eleanor Sims in the December, 1948 **Redstart**, describing the habitat, behavior, etc. When we reviewed the article I could see Mr. Porter was very knowledgeable about Swainson's. We first went nest hunting in Kanawha Forest, near the office, but did not find the Swainson's nest. Then I took him in my car to the

Kanawha City Hills which is a favorite habitat for Swainson's Warblers. So I spent the morning with Mr. Porter and did not realize who he was until I returned home. He was very modest, unassuming and had a tremendous knowledge of birds, especially nests. I believe he told me he had photographed the nests of over 40 species of Warblers alone. It was not unusual for visitors to come to Charleston to see their first Swainson's Warbler and I am not very good at remembering names, so I did not realize that this was the Mr. Porter who was one of the outstanding nature photographers in the United States and was the author of the book "In Wilderness Is the Preservation of the World" which I kept displayed on my table at home and which I prized so much. I was embarrassed. If you have read his book "Birds of North America," you will recall his beautiful photograph of the Worm-eating Warbler he took in Kanawha Forest and his description of his unusual experience in photographing a Hooded Warbler in the Forest.

The following is an alphabetical list, by species, of the bird nests I have observed during the past ten years, showing the number of nests in parentheses:

#### BIRD NESTS, 1964-1973

Red-winged Blackbird (10), Eastern Bluebird (82), Bobwhite (1), Indigo Bunting (3), Cardinal (36), Gray Catbird (13), Carolina Chickadee (34), Black-billed Cuckoo (1), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1), Mourning Dove (7), Rock Dove (1), Common Flicker (37), Acadian Flycatcher (12), Crested Flycatcher (4), Least Flycatcher (1), American Goldfinch (5), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (35), Common Grackle (1), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3), Ruffed Grouse (1), Broad-winged Hawk (1), Red-shouldered Hawk (19), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (4), Blue Jay (10), Dark-eyed Junco (4), Killdeer (2), Eastern Kingbird (19), Belted Kingfisher (2), Horned Lark (1), Purple Martin, Eastern Meadowlark (1), Mockingbird (11), White-breasted Nuthatch (17), Northern Oriole (19), Orchard Oriole (4), Ovenbird (3), Great Horned Owl (4), Screech Owl (2), Wood Pewee (21), Eastern Phoebe (94), American Redstart (11), Robin (127), Loggerhead Shrike (1), Chipping Sparrow (57), Field Sparrow (8), House Sparrow (8), Song Sparrow (16), Starling (31), Barn Swallow (30), Rough-winged Swallow (2), Tree Swallow (2), Scarlet Tanager (3), Summer Tanager (17), Brown Thrasher (27), Wood Thrush (31), Tufted Titmouse (12), Rufus-sided Towhee (10), Veery (2), Red-eyed Vireo (6), Solitary Vireo (1), Yellow-throated Vireo (1), Warbling Vireo (9), White-eyed Vireo (1), Black-throated Green Warbler (1), Black and White Warbler, Hooded Warbler (1), Kentucky Warbler (5), Pine Warbler (1), Prairie Warbler (6), Northern Parula Warbler (3), Yellow Warbler (17), Yellow-throated Warbler (4), Worm-eating Warbler (2), Louisiana Waterthrush (8), Cedar Waxwing (2), American Woodcock (2), Yellow-throat (2), Woodpeckers: Downy (8), Hairy (1), Pileated (5), Red-bellied (7), Red-headed (5); Carolina Wren (22), House Wren (6). I have not kept records on two of the species listed above: Purple Martin and Black and White Warbler.

1424 Kanawha Blvd. E.  
Charleston, WV 25301

## American Avocets And Black Terns Visit Southern West Virginia

Jim Phillips

On the afternoon of July 28, 1980 I took my nephew Jason Mitcham on a birding tour of local water treatment ponds in the Bluefield-Princeton area of southern West Virginia. Typical summer resident birds were expected but late summer wandering shorebirds were hoped for. The first pond produced a Pied-billed Grebe and the second a Green Heron. While we were at the second pond the wind began to blow, the sky darkened, and a torrential rain began. On the trip home I decided to pass by two other ponds despite the weather. In passing the Glenwood-Green Valley Water Treatment Pond AB, I noticed two large birds with a considerable amount of white on their bodies. Visibility conditions and 7x50 binoculars did not permit positive identification. However, it was obvious that the birds were unusual for this area.

I returned to the pond within an hour with a 20-40x spotting scope. Through the scope I could see that the birds had white bodies, black wings with a conspicuous white stripe, tannish coloring on the head and neck, bluish legs, long upturned bills, and a white patch on the face at the base of the bill. The rain had become a drizzle and light conditions had improved considerably. The birds were obviously American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*). I had seen this species at Craney Island, Virginia during December of 1979. I did not find the species listed in the List of West Virginia Birds (Hall, G.A., *Redstart*, 38:2 (1971)). I returned home to call other birders to alert them of my sighting. Jim Meyer of Princeton was the only person able to return to the pond with me. He had not had previous experience with the species but after consulting a field guide agreed with me that the birds had to be American Avocets. We observed the birds standing beside of and in a puddle of water. Also nearby were Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers. Activities of the avocets included preening, stretching of the wings, and the characteristic sweeping of the bill from side to side in search of food. Finally the birds took flight, circled the pond once, gained altitude rapidly, and headed off in a southerly direction. Although conditions were not the best I did get some photographs of the birds. These will be forwarded to George Hall at West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

On the same afternoon we discovered eight Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) on a nearby pond. These birds were observed at close range. Some of them were still in breeding plumage while others had the appearance of immature or fall birds. This is my second record of these terns in this area. The other record of them was in May of 1978 when a flock of six showed up at Glenwood Park following a storm. They were accompanied with 14 Common Terns. Hall lists the Black Tern as a widespread migrant in West Virginia.

In checking recent literature I found two other reports of American Avocets in West Virginia. One was an injured bird found in a Marshall County corn field in 1977 (Buckelew, A.R. Jr., *Redstart*, 45:86 (1978)). The other was seen on a pond in Greenbrier County in 1979 (Handley, C.O. Jr., *Redstart*, 46:148 (1979)). Both of these sightings were made in July. Since my sighting was also in July perhaps we should be alert during late summer storms for the appearance of unusual migrants that are forced to wait for a change in the weather.

809 Thorn St.  
Princeton, W. Va. 24740

## Black-throated Blue Warbler Sings Hooded Warbler Song

William L. Wylle

While on a field trip to the general area of Lake Terra Alta and Snowy Creek, Preston County, West Virginia, on Saturday, May 17, 1980, an interesting and unusual bird observation was made. The purpose of this trip was to "check out" the bird species present at this time for a planned Field Ornithology course field trip to this area the following Monday. I was accompanied on the exploratory trip by Mrs. Frances Garbart of Kingwood, a member of the Brooks Bird Club, and a student in the Field Ornithology course.

While walking down the road paralleling Snowy Creek, we heard a Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) song which we both recognized immediately. Since Frances had not seen the hooded yet this year, we decided to try and find the bird. We walked onto the patio just to the left of the first cabin along the creek. Almost immediately I noticed a full plumage Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica trigrina*) about 20 feet distant in plain view in a hemlock tree. I naturally called this to Frances's attention. We put our glasses on the bird just in time to observe it sing the perfect Hooded Warbler song that we had been hearing. We stared at each other in total disbelief. We saw and heard the bird sing the hooded song several more times. I returned to the car for the tape player/recorder. We then proceeded to record 6 or 8 songs before the bird finally drifted off. We then continued up the road on our survey.

On the return trip about a half hour later, we again heard a Hooded Warbler song. I managed to "squeak" the bird in and it was indeed a Black-throated Blue Warbler singing the Hooded Warbler song. Consequently, more recordings were made. During both of these periods of visual observations, I tried desperately to discover some indication of hybridization between the two birds in question. Any trace of yellow in the plumage, white outer tail feathers, anything - there was nothing. This was simply a full-plumaged, male, Black-throated Blue Warbler singing (in our opinion) a perfect Hooded Warbler song. In fact, this song was so typically Hooded Warbler that I would have in no way checked the bird out except that Frances had not seen one yet this season.

I played this tape at the Brook Bird Club, Inc. Foray at Jackson's Mill on Monday evening, June 2, 1980. All bird "experts," and there are many in this group, agreed that it was a typical Hooded Warbler song. I have since played the tape to some of my colleagues here at the University who are also bird "experts," with the same results, Hooded Warbler. All were amazed, if not stunned, to learn of the true identity of the bird. This tape will remain in my possession and will be available to anyone who would like to judge for themselves.

Division of Forestry  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, WV 26506

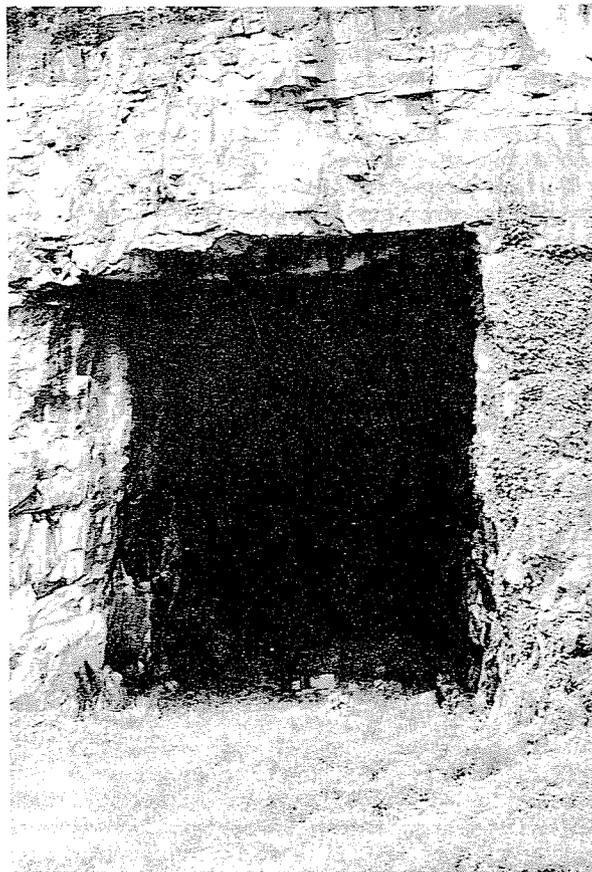
# Barn Swallows Nesting In Man-Made Cave

J. Lawrence Smith

It has been known for many years that Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) nested in the ancestral way at the Sinks of Gandy in Randolph County (Murray, 1962). On June 15, 1980 I noted with interest the nesting of Barn Swallows in a large, cavernous opening some 7 or 8 miles east of Elkins beside the four lanes of U.S. highway 33.

The "cave" was created when a rather rounded room, the roof of which is supported by a huge column, was cut into strata of Mississippian age during a quarry operation some years ago. Two large openings, quite wide and an estimated 40 feet in height, give access to the room where the back wall is about 150 feet beyond the entrance that most directly faces the highway.

I made no effort to enter and count the number of nests in use, but one could clearly be seen with the use of binoculars close to the ceiling some distance from the opening



Quarry opening near Elkins, Randolph County, and site of nesting of Barn Swallows in the ancestral manner.

where the light was not too dim for observation. Other birds seemed to come to rest, no doubt at their nests, where they were almost lost in darkness. the largest number of birds counted outside was 10 as they continued to move to and from the "cave."

Swallows may have nested here for many years, but it has only been recently with the completion of the highway by the site that their presence has become readily observed.

## REFERENCES

- Murray, J. J., 1962 "Barn Swallows Nesting In the Mouth of a Cave," Auk 79:117.  
 4423 16th Street Road  
 Huntington, West Virginia 25701

# Bluebird Trail Report

Betty Weitlauf

If I might choose my favorite bird to write a few lines about it will be the Eastern Bluebird. Having a bluebird trail for eleven years I hope I've contributed to the slowly increasing numbers among the bluebirds. As a charter member of the North American Bluebird Society I feel I'm further benefiting the bluebirds. Below is a record of my bluebird trail:

Year	Boxes	Fledgings
1969	9	35
1970	16	46
1971	18	50
1972	20	51
1973	22	56
1974	19	79
1975	13	51
1976	15	41
1977	18	15*
1978	18	33
1979	20	45

\*After a severe winter

9484 U.S. Rt. 62  
 Georgetown, Ohio 45121

## Lark Sparrows In Hardy County, West Virginia

Dick and Marge Heise

We want to report the sighting of Lark Sparrows on our property in Hardy County opposite Baker rocks. According to Chan Robins et al. **Field Guide to The Birds of North America**, the Lark Sparrow is fairly common in the West, but only local east of the Mississippi. We identified an adult and a juvenile. These were sighted in May, 1980 on two consecutive days. The first sighting was at the edge of our woods; the second sighting was at close range on a dry dirt road, making identification simple.

We have 7.2 acres on a ridge at Durgon, West Virginia, 7.5 miles south-west of Moorefield, and 5 miles east of Petersburg. Our lodge is at an elevation of approximately 1400 feet, about 500 feet above the South Branch Valley. The underlying rock is flaking shale. The soil which was once overgrazed is now thick with all kinds of underbrush, wildflowers, scrub pine, oak, mountain laurel, blackberries, etc.

111 Simms Dr.  
Annapolls, MD 21401

## Birding The Ruins

Esther C. Reichelderfer

Exotic birds I'd never seen before except in the pages of Mexican Bird field guides were there and so, too, were birds seen every year in Ohio in spring migration. The place was Mexico.

From January 14 to January 24, 1980 four of us birded from daylight til dark in the area around the Mayan ruins at Palenque, Chiapas, along the roads in the nearby Savannah, and in the marshes of Rio Usumacinta. In these different habitats we saw 240 different species of birds, 57 of them ones seen in Ohio each spring.

Between 700 and 900 AD Mayan Indians built temples whose engineering and architecture is mind-boggling. These still stand in a clearing in the jungle on a plateau high above the grassy plains. In the forest around these stone ruins, along the trails into the jungle from this clearing we found warblers: Hoodeds, Kentuckys, Magnolias, Black-throated Greens, Wilson's, Redstarts, Yellows and Black and Whites. Listing only those species we saw in numbers, add to the warblers the flycatchers; Great Crested, Willow, Least and Yellow-bellied. Every day we saw vireos: White-eyed and Yellow-throated and many Gray Catbirds. In one binocular field twice I had three "thrushes:" Wood, Swainson's and the Louisiana Waterthrush and nearby--a Northern Waterthrush. In the grounds around a motel complex we found orioles: Orchard and Northern, many, many Summer Tanagers, and a host of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Always we heard the identifying chip or call note of the well-known species but never a song.

While it was gratifying to see birds we knew well, never-before-seen-tropical ones were a thrilling and memorable sight. Six Aplomado Falcons, fifteen Fork-tailed Flycatchers and hundreds of White-collard Seedeaters were a part of one day's excitement. We saw flocks of parrots--six different kinds--and four different trogons in one day as we birded from our motel up the forest-edged road to the ruins, and on

another day in the same area two colorful and striking species: the Collared Aracari and the Keel-billed Toucan.

A setting of haunting beauty, exciting birds, and soft 70° + weather are reasons for remembering Palenque and for returning.

371 Fairway Boulevard  
Columbus, Ohio 43213

## Birding In Scandinavia

Bob Burrell

From January through June of 1980, I was working in southern Sweden and such an extended stay allowed me to get a good glimpse of bird life in and near the city of Gothenburg where I lived and worked. Gothenburg was a large, coastal harbor city located 58° above the Equator. Its otherwise cool weather was considerably moderated by ocean currents so that mean average temperatures range from 25°F. in January to 63° F. in June. The soil is very thin and overlays granite. This shield outcrops often in the city and is devoid of any soil or vegetation at all right on much of the western coast. Mean annual rainfall is 40 inches and in January and February, most falls as snow. There are only about 5-6 hours of daylight in early January and almost 24 by mid-June.

Most of my observations were made within the city although occasionally trips to the shore or rural countryside afforded other opportunities for birding. Except for the cuckoo and nightingale, all identifications were made by direct sighting and not through audible means. Although I saw many raptors and waders and heard many warblers, I was able to identify positively very few species in these categories.

Some birds familiar to Americans were either native to the area or else had been introduced. The house sparrow was as common in Swedish cities as it is in ours. Starlings are not only not a nuisance as they are here, they are even fondly admired and regarded as heralds of spring. Canadian geese and pheasants have been introduced and established for the sportsmen and are often seen. The raven was seen there, but it is not as common in the cities as the jackdaws and hooded crows which fill the niche of the American crow. The latter bird is particularly striking in that the coal black is broken up by a slate grey neck and breast.

Perhaps the most noticeable city bird is the magpie, the same species as in the western U.S. Perhaps no bird has such a distinctive appearance in flight, resembling a black and white buzz saw with an extremely long tail. They were active at all times of day and in all weather conditions. They were even the most prominent bird in the most urban, congested locations. Their enormous nests made of course sticks were very obvious in winter time.

Small ponds in urban parks were likely to contain mallards, goldeneye, and mute swans, the latter having become naturalized in the eastern U.S. Whooper swans were rarer and seen only in wilder settings as were the European cranes. I was privileged to see migrations of this latter bird including their feeding behavior and their elaborate mating dances.

Barn and bank swallows were common in appropriate locations and were the same as those species in America, but the house martin and European swift were different.

Tits are the European counterparts to our chickadees and exist in several species. The largest, the great tit, was very commonly seen in winter feeders as was the smaller, but more colorful blue tit. The coal tit was less common, but often seen at

garden edges. One had to go to conifer woods to see the crested tit and to other appropriate locations to see the marsh tit.

Occupying the niche of our own robin was another thrush, the fieldfare. Although distinctly different in markings, its behavior was exactly the same as our robin. Also similar in behavior was the very common European blackbird which is decidedly a much better singer than ours. The European robin is not a thrush, but a redstart and its name doesn't do justice to such a pretty little bird. It is a much smaller and a more attractive bird. Although shy, it is a wonderful singer. What's more, it doesn't awaken people at 4:30 A.M. (gulls do).

The chaffinch was another common bird that may be seen in a variety of habitats. The larger green finch may be found in groups at winter feeders like our evening grosbeaks, but soon disperse when natural food becomes available. Bramblings and winchats, both more northern species, did pass through our area during migration and were seen at winter feeders. The stately bull finch with its bright cloak of scarlet and black may be seen in yards and feeders when winter weather is very bad, but normally it is shy and you have to go into a conifer forest to see it.

Also, common in the cities are wood pigeons with distinctive white rings on their necks and which occur in addition to the feral, stock doves. In city parks one might also see the collared dove, about the size of our mourning dove. Almost as common in the city as the house sparrow is the tree sparrow or pilfink. This friendly little fellow with a chestnut cap has been introduced into the St. Louis area of our country.

One is likely to be awakened by gulls—they are everywhere, the most common being the mew or short-billed gull. To see this species in our country, one must travel to the northwest Alaskan coast or be lucky to see an occasional stray off our northeast coast. Herring gulls were also present, but not in great numbers. The black-headed gull and both the greater and lesser black-backed gulls could be seen nearer the harbors and shores. We took a side trip on a boat through a Norwegian fjord and kittiwakes would bum goodies from the passengers. Again, this is an extreme northern (sub-Arctic waters, well off shore) species in our continent.

Directly on shores or just off shore could be seen the distinctive oyster-catcher (very similar to ours), common terns, and redshanks, a plover-like species. The most common seaduck was the common eider, the male of which is unmistakably colored. We saw many large, new flocks of eider ducklings in early May. As the spring wore on, the families grew smaller as the little ones were picked off by predators, chief of which was the greater black-backed gull. Later in May the males raft up several hundred yards off shore and finally move further out to sea to spend the rest of the year.

Other distinctive ducks that were seen were the red-beaked shelduck and the rusty-feathered, ruddy shelduck. On fresh water lakes, goosanders (common mergansers) were common, but not nearly as abundant as European coots. We were also privileged to see great crested grebes on one of the lakes.

On farmland near shore two unmistakable birds were always seen: the curlew with its huge, arched beak and the lapwings. The crested heads and the distinctive wings in flight of the latter made them a most interesting sighting.

Takings honors of the American red-eyed vireo as perhaps our most commonly heard woodland bird was the Scandinavian champion, the willow warbler. Not distinctive in appearance, its easily recognizable song could be heard everywhere. Even more distinctive was the extremely loud and abrasive call of the green woodpecker. This unusually colored bird has a call much louder than our pileated and once one called out directly over my head one dark morning as I walked to work through the woods. I have yet to recover from that!

Other birds that were associated with more rural environments and not previously

mentioned were hedge sparrows and the beautifully colored yellow-hammer, truly a golden bird. It was fun learning the names of these birds in Swedish and it was not always hard. A common bird of large trees even in town was the svart-vit flygsnappare (the black and white flycatcher). On the other hand their cuckoo is called gök, pronounced much the same way a teenager says "yuck." Incidentally, for those wondering how cuckoos got their name, that is exactly what the European species says in its call, a well heard, two-noted "cuckoo."

Of most interest to me were the distinctly northern species I saw. There was no prettier bird than the blue-throat. Although not strictly northern, the only ones I saw were on the Norwegian tundra. I consider myself quite lucky in that I saw a great grey (northern) shrike, also on the tundra. A very common and even tame bird right in town was the white wagtail, a rare bird of the extreme north in North America. Its distinctive tail bobbing was always interesting. Wheatears and skylarks were also seen in appropriate habitats, but are not on the lists of many North American birders. The former breeds in Greenland and may be an accidental in the northeast states while the skylark is an introduced species in Vancouver, B.C.

Scandinavia was a wonderful place for birding that provided a meeting place for both northern and southern species. It afforded me the opportunity to add 49 new species to my life list, many of them species of extreme northern habitats.

1412 Western Ave.  
Morgantown, WV 26505

## No Dirty Blackbirds Here

Merit B. Skaggs

In recent years, the term "dirty blackbirds" has been applied to flocks of blackbirds of several species. When flocks of the birds roost in trees above parked cars, there is good reason to call the birds "dirty" even though it is your auto that is dirty.

Early in January, 1979, we had an influx of birds at our back yard feeding station. The aggregation consisted of about 250 Cowbirds, 200 Common Grackles, 50 Starlings and 6 Red-winged Blackbirds. The cowbirds, grackles and redwings are not usually found here in winter in such numbers. The cowbirds were in a ratio of 20 males to 1 female. The number of redwings gradually increased through January so that by February 7, sixty were present. Our bird feed bill went up as the birds came down many times a day. A single rusty blackbird visited us several times.

Just beyond our backyard boundary line, a streamlet carries surface water away. Within sight of our dining room windows, a storm sewer about three feet in diameter pours water into a channel about 25 feet in length, which makes a junction with the little stream. On many different days, we have seen as many as 20 Com. Grackles wading about and *bathing* in the water where it was only an inch or two in depth. And, this was taking place with the air temperature between 21° and 30° F! The grackles enjoyed the baths and appeared to drink some of the water. At times, a few redwings also bathed and both species pecked at the channel bank to get gravel. When the temperature went down to about 20°, we noticed that the small stream froze; but the channel from the storm sewer did not. We determined the reason for this was that the water in the storm sewer came from more than a mile of heavily salted residential area street surfaces. When near zero weather came, the storm sewer flow stopped. This was the answer. Evidently the grackles, and a few redwings, did not object to the salty

water; they just enjoyed bathing so as not to be "dirty blackbirds!" Could this be considered a "Health Spa" for birds?

I would like to know if other bird banders or observers have observed blackbirds bathing in saline waters at below freezing temperatures.

3808 Daytona Drive  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515

## NEW FIELD NOTES EDITOR

Glen Phillips suffered a stroke recently. He is making a fine recovery, but, after almost five years of service, has retired as "Field Notes" editor. Glen was successful in enlisting many of you as contributors to "Field Notes." We thank him for his dedicated work.

Our new editor, Dr. Greg Eddy, is a geology professor at Waynesburg College. He is an enthusiastic bird watcher and bander. Greg asks that you send him everything you can, and pay attention to those common birds, as well as to the more uncommon ones.

Send Field Notes to Dr. Eddy at Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pa. 15370.

A. R. Buckelew, Jr.  
Editor

## FIELD NOTES

THE SPRING SEASON  
March, April, May, 1980



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

Most observers agreed that this was a cold, wet, late spring. Rainfall averaged about 12 inches during the period mostly during March and April. The waterfowl migration appeared erratic. Most of the earlier spring migrants were a week to ten days late in arriving, then a large wave of Warblers went through our area from May 8 to 25. There were some unusual events: the Franklin sewage pond proved a death trap for loons again, Bill Beatty located another Brewster's Warbler near Oglebay Park and George Breiding reported a Lawrence's Warbler occupying the same territory, a few miles from Morgantown, occupied by one of the same hybrids last year.

**Loons, Grebes and Herons** - Common Loons were noted in our area from March 23 (WA) until May 16 (EEC). Two were found on the Franklin pond April 27 but were unable to depart. Specimens are being studied to determine what the loons can be eating that is killing them. **Horned Grebe** records extended from March 23 in Noble Co., O. (WA) to April 20 in Greenbrier Co. (CH). Charles Handley could find no previous records of this species occurrence in Greenbrier Co. **Pied-billed Grebes** were first noticed at three places March 23. Sarah Hugus noted a **Double-crested Cormorant** at a Washington, Pa. Dam during April. Most dates for **Great Blue Herons** are from the first of April. The Seneca Lake rookery, Noble Co., O., was active April 13 when a B.B.C. group visited. First **Green Heron** was reported in Pendleton Co. April 14 (CR). **Common Egrets** were seen in Augusta, Co., Va. April 1 (KF), and April 17 in the northern part of our area. A **Cattle Egret** in Greenbrier Co. April 20 is a first for the

county (CH). Mary Rieffenberger found an immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** at Elkins, Randolph Co., March 12 sitting in a spruce tree surrounded by a foot of snow and a -14° temperature. **American Bitterns** were reported from Columbus, O. May 7 and Canann Valley, Tucker Co., May 9. Two flocks of **Whistling Swans** moved over East Liverpool, O. March 26 (NL).

**Waterfowl - Canada Geese** have been reestablished in so many parts of W. Va. that migration is becoming harder to pinpoint, but the 100 or more geese wintering at Chester, Hancock Co., left the first week of March. Movement of ducks was erratic. The wintering **Black Ducks** left the Ohio River at Wheeling about the first week of March (PT). Migration concentrated until mid-April. Clark Miller reported **Wood Ducks** fledged by May 15 and more numerous than usual. One **Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*), a European species, was sighted at Lorain Harbor, Lake Erie, March 10 (ER).

**Vultures and Hawks - Turkey Vultures** were characterized as "early and plentiful." Most records were from March 23 but they were seen in Hampshire Co. by the beginning of the period (CL). **Black Vultures** were noted in Pendleton Co. after March 8 (CR). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were described as "scarce" while **Red-tailed** remained our most common hawk and **Red-shouldered Hawks** showed signs of recovery from their downward slide. First **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported from Charleston by Anne Shreve April 2 (NG). A **Rough-legged** was seen March 11 in Highland Co., Va. (KF). Eagle reports were encouraging-two **Golden Eagles** seen in Pendleton Co., two (immatures) in Highland Co., Va. in mid-March and four **Bald Eagles** through March 27 in Rockingham Co., Va. (KF-CR). The number of **Osprey** reports is also increasing and **Kestrels** are pretty well up to pre-disaster levels of five years ago. Worthy of note is the sighting of a **Merlin** April 1 in Augusta Co, Va. (KF).

**Gallinaceous and Shorebirds** - Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** varied in different sections of our report area but **Turkey** are definitely increasing and **Bobwhite** are still way down. The 60 or more **Coot** wintering at Union Carbide pond in Charleston were still present March 23 and there were reports of migrants from March 24 to April 20. Only one **Plover** was reported - a **Semipalmated** May 12 & 13 in Augusta Co. Va. **Killdeer** returned from early to mid-March in good numbers. **Am. Woodcock** appeared about the same time while **Com. Snipe** moved through from mid-to late April, although two were seen in Pendleton Co. as early as March 23 (CR), and some stayed in the eastern panhandle until May 10 (CM). **Upland Sandpiper** reports were more numerous this period and, although Ralph Bell reports their absence from his area, they were nesting in Columbus (ER). Although there were more reports of the **Spotted Sandpiper** this year, there is no indication of their recovering in numbers. Four **White-rumped Sandpipers** were noted in Augusta Co., Va. May 13 and a "wave" of **Dunlin** was in northern Ohio May 18-20 (ER).

**Gulls, Terns, Cuckoos and Owls** - Away from the Great Lakes, gulls in numbers make only occasional appearances, usually during a storm or such disturbance, so the appearance of 100 or more mixed **Herring** and **Ring-billed Gulls** near Wheeling March 9 (PT) and 70 in Princeton April 28-30 (JP) is of note. An adult **Heermann's** (a western species) was seen from February 12 until March 10 at Lorain Harbor, Lorain Co., O. **Black Terns** were noted in Rockingham Co., Va. May 13 (KF) and Columbus, O. May 7-11 (ER). **Mourning Doves** continue to increase. Both **Cuckoos** appeared rather scarce in our area. Dan Kearns watched the nest of a **Barn Owl** at Elkton, Columbiana Co., O. in April and May. Seven eggs were laid, one egg disappeared leaving six. On checking the nest in late may, he found three dead young, no eggs, so he did not know if any young fledged. The parents were still in the area but no young were seen (NL). **Screech Owls** are still down in numbers with some correspondents remarking that they have

heard more in this quarter. Three reports of **Great Horned Owls** leaving the nest spanned only five days April 9 to 14 (CL, JP, RB). **Barred Owls** appear plentiful and a **Saw-whet Owl** was singing at least two nights just outside Blackwater Lodge during the Wildflower Pilgrimage May 8 - 11.

**Goatsuckers and Woodpeckers** - **Whip-poor-will** arrivals noted ranged from April 14 to April 20, while **Com. Nighthawks** were first seen from April 23 in northern W. Va. to May 18 in S. E. Pa. **Chimney Swifts** were first seen April 10 to April 30 while **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were first noted from April 26 to May 10. **Belted Kingfishers** wintered well and populations appear back to normal. A bright spot in the darkening picture for the **Red-headed Woodpecker** is the finding of one at Brooke Hills Park and another 4 miles from there along Rt. 88 in Brooke Co. W.V. (JB).

**Flycatchers** - **Eastern Kingbird** arrival dates were from April 19 to May 10, while **Great Crested Flycatchers** started arriving April 2 in Hampshire Co. (CL). The first **E. Phoebe** was also reported from Hampshire Co. March 15. An early **Acadian Flycatcher** was noted May 4 (NL) the same day the first **Least Flycatcher** was noted. Jim Phillips reported the first **E. Wood Pewee** in Mercer Co. April 23 and one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** stayed in Columbus two days May 10 & 11. **Horned Larks** were singing on territory in Greenbrier Co. by March 23 (CH).

**Swallows and Corvids** - Most **Tree Swallows** arrived about April 5 but early ones were noted at McClintic Refuge, Mason Co., March 22 (NG). Ralph Bell noted the arrival of female tree swallows about 2 weeks after the males. The earliest **Rough-winged Swallows** noted were at Charleston April 4 but the main thrust was about mid-April. **Barn Swallows** appeared earlier than usual, many between April 4 (NG) and April 15. **Cliff Swallows** are temperamental about where they nest and may not nest in the same place in succeeding years. There were three references to this behavior in this quarter's notes. **Purple Martin** scouts were noted March 16 to 20 and numbers from the last of March to mid-April. **Ravens** continue to increase in our area and there are more reports of **Blue Jays**.

**Chickadees through Wrens** - Although there were few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in our area last winter, they were noted at Bethany April 24 (JB) and the last date listed for **Brown Creepers** was April 16, Mercer Co. (JP). **House Wren** arrivals spanned the period from April 12, Rockingham Co., Va. (KF) to May 2 in Wood Co. Most observers agree that the **Carolina Wren**, though still few in numbers, has started the climb back to normal.

**Mimics through Waxwings** - **Mockingbirds** had young out of nest by May 25 in Greenbrier Co. (CH). **Gray Catbirds** appeared more numerous this season and **Brown Thrashers**, thought to be fewer last season, appeared in normal numbers arriving from March 24 to April 20. The **Thrushes** arrived pretty much on schedule, some observers thought that numbers were down except for **Am. Robins**. **E. Bluebirds** seemed more plentiful. The first record of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** was April 11 in Greene Co. Pa. (RB). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** had one of the best migrations in years and even **Golden-crowned Kinglets** seemed improved in numbers. **Cedar Waxwings** seemed in large numbers, some flocks numbering 50 or more. A **Water Pipit** was reported in Mercer Co. April 28 (JP) and 30 to 50 were in Rockingham Co., Va. from March 14 to May 2 where last year they had no reports of this species.

**Vireos** - First **White-eyed Vireo** of the season was reported from Charleston April 2 as was the first **Yellow-throated Vireo** April 21 (NG). The first record of nesting **Solitary Vireo** was established May 29 in Kanawha Forest by Osbra Eye (NG). "First seen" reports for **Red-eyed Vireos** were from April 26 (JP) to May 4 (WA) and there were two reports of **Philadelphia Vireos** - May 10 & 18. C. H. Handley Jr. lists a May

25 record of **Warbling Vireo** "a late migrant;" most arrival dates were between April 23 and May 12.

**Warblers** - Some birders judge the success of a year by the enjoyment derived from a "wave" of warblers. For those people, this should have been a banner year. The earlier warblers came in "dribbles" but from May 8 to 28 the migration was a flood. A party from the Wildflower Pilgrimage found 19 species of warblers in the limited confines of Tucker Co. May 10, and Nevada Laitsch listed 28 species of warblers in four hours near her home in East Liverpool, O. May 11. The **Brewster's Warbler** near Oglebay Park was still present June 25. The **Yellow-throated Warbler** is still increasing its range and numbers, but of course it is not in the same category as the "Spruce Budworm Specialists."

**Blackbirds and Tanagers** - **E. Meadowlarks** were on territory by March 11 (JB). Although some of the advance guard of the Blackbird species had arrived by the beginning of the period, the large numbers were late. **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, **Com. Grackles**, and **Red-winged Blackbirds** were delayed until the first of April.

**Grosbeaks and Finches** - Most correspondents agreed that **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were plentiful both in migration and in residence. The only **Blue Grosbeak** reported was from the Princeton area May 12 (JP). The last **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from Kanawha Co. May 6 (HG). **Indigo Buntings** arrived the first week of May in good numbers and **Purple Finches** showed a good flight April 27-29 (NL). **House Finches** continue to increase throughout our area. A nest and young of the **Red Crossbill** were found and photographed at about 2500 feet elevation on Reddish Knob, Rockingham Co., Va. The nest was found May 8 and young were hatched by June 2.

**Sparrows** - **Savannah Sparrows** were listed as "numerous" in migration (CH). In the places where I have been this year, they seem to out-number the **Grasshopper Sparrows**. The first report of the **Henslow's Sparrow** was May 5 while first report of **Vesper Sparrow** was April 2 (RB). **Lark Sparrows** remained in Augusta Co., Va. until March 26 (KF). Ralph Bell reported a **Slate-colored Junco** as late as May 4 but the bird was crippled and possibly unable to migrate. **Chipping Sparrows** were just about on time - April 2-4 and the first **Field Sparrow** was reported from Greene Co., Pa. March 17 (RB). There was a fair flight of **White-crowned Sparrows** April 21-27 and **White-throated Sparrows** were still heard May 5 in Hampshire Co. (CK). Wm. Armstrong reported a **Lincoln's Sparrow** from Wood Co. May 18 and **Fox Sparrows** were seen in Columbus, O. beginning March 16 (ER). **Swamp Sparrows** were singing in Jefferson Co., O. by April 19 (NL) and **Song Sparrows** continue in good numbers.

Contributors: Dr. Wm. H. Armstrong (WA), George Breiding (GB), Dr. A. R. Buckelew Jr. (JB), Everett and Elizabeth Chandler (EEC), Kathleen Finnegan (KF), S. Norris Gluck (NG), Hullet Good (HG), Charles O. Handley Jr. (CH), Sarah Hugus (SH), Charlotte Lanham (CH), Clark Miller (CM), Esther Reichelderfer (ER), Mary Moore Rieffenberger (MR), Carolyn Ruddle (CR), Virginia Stanley (VS) and Patricia Temple (PT).

## Report From Ottawa

Frank Bell

Members of the Brooks Bird Club are generally aware of the effect of altitude on animal and plant life. They know that they have to go "to the mountains" to see many of the warblers and thrushes in the summer. Naturally this phenomenon occurs in the mountains farther north, but perhaps many birders do not realize that many of the "really northern" species nest in the Adirondacks, White Mountains, and even the Catskills.

For example last June 22nd a friend and I drove up the Whiteface Mountain Highway in the Adirondacks Mts., a toll road which goes nearly to the top of the 4872 foot peak. Along the road the boreal forest, typified by Red Spruce and Balsam Fir, begins replacing the northern hardwoods at elevations of 2,500 feet. The trees slowly become shorter and shorter as all of the higher peaks in the Adirondacks are above the treeline. Not too far below this treeline and even in mid-afternoon (fortunately it was a very calm day) we heard singing Grey-cheeked Thrushes and Blackpoll Warblers. These two species are perhaps the best examples of the climatic effect of altitude, as in central Canada the thrush does not even nest as far south as the James Bay area of Hudsons Bay, and the Blackpoll Warbler not much below James Bay. Interestingly enough, both of these species nest farther south in the east coast area, the Blackpoll Warbler even to the upper Maine coast. Could this be due to the cooler summers there?

The above two species are both rather common in the right places, that is, altitudes over about 3000 feet. Another really northern nester, although more rare and local, is the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker. Other northern species which do not nest south along the Appalachians are Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rusty Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, and Lincoln's Sparrow. To these species could be added northern nesting waterbirds such as Green-winged Teal, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, and Ring-necked Duck. All of these are rare and local in summer in the Adirondacks, except for the Common Merganser, which is the commonest nesting duck in the region. And finally, to all these species could be added a few that are at least quite rare in the southern Appalachians: Goshawk, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers (both fairly common), and Pine Siskin.

While my own experience has been nearly all in the Adirondacks, many of the above species occur in summer also in the higher mountains of New England. In fact both the Gray-cheeked Thrush and the Blackpoll Warbler reach their southern most breeding range in the Catskills, where Slide Mountain reaches an altitude of 4200 feet. Although all the above listed birds are interesting for Southerners, Tudor Richards, in his pamphlet on bird life in New Hampshire, states that in some respects it is disappointing. Even though there are considerable areas above treeline in the White Mountains which represent more or less arctic conditions, there are no true Arctic zone birds; birds such as the ptarmigan, rosy finches, or pipits. But pipits do occur in summer on Mt. Katahdin in Maine, which is 1000 lower than Mt. Washington. It is also strange that neither the Fox nor the White-crowned Sparrows are found in summer in the mountains of the northeastern U.S., since their range in eastern North America is rather similar to that of the Gray-cheeked Thrush, and any easterner who has gone to San Francisco is surprised to find the White-crowned Sparrow singing all over the city in July.

Concerning good localities to find these northern birds in the Adirondacks, I must admit a limited knowledge of only a few of the supposedly best places. One I do not recommend is the Chubb River Swamp near Lake Placid, recommended as a prime area in his article on "Bird Finding the Adirondacks" by Pettingill in the Audubon Magazine of May-June 1963, and repeated in his "A Guide to Bird Finding-East," second edition, apparently without recent research. I have no doubt of the birds there, but I tried it in 1978 with high galoshes after being warned by a camper that the "wood road" was impassable. The myriads of felled trees and the deeper and deeper lagoons soon killed my enthusiasm. Recently a top local birder told me that even with hip boots one may be in trouble. A place highly recommended is Ferd's Bog, discovered by Ferdinand LaFrance and written up by him a couple years ago in The "Kingbird," Journal of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The bog is only a few hundred yards walk from a dirt road that runs between Eagle Bay and Raquette Lake in the southwest Adirondacks. It is understood that the bog itself is owned by the state, but the parking is difficult due the narrow road, and two cabins at the entrance path. I went there one Sunday morning at 7 A.M. and parked along the road in front of one of the cabins. The occupant came out and said "This is getting ridiculous - at this hour on Sunday morning." It turned out he was having some firewood delivered that morning, and recommended I park near his neighbor. He really wasn't belligerent, and explained how he had known about the good birds in there for years, before it was "discovered" by Ferdinand and the outside world. It has nesting both Three-toed Woodpeckers, Gray Jay, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

One of the prime spots mentioned in Bull's "Birds of New York State" is Madawaska Bog and Pond. However, it is difficult to find, is not on most maps, and entails a roundtrip walk of several miles on property leased by a hunting club which has posted a sign requesting that birders advise 2 weeks ahead of time and pay a \$5 entrance fee. It is on the Keese Mill road, which goes west from Paul Smiths. Paul Smiths is essentially only a college at a crossroads northwest of Saranac Lake. Madawaska is several miles out this road - after the pavement ends - in the "sand-hills" region, a very sandy outwash plain which is a remnant of the last glacial recession. Where Black Spruce shades the road is the best place in the Adirondacks to see the Spruce Grouse, which may come out in mid-day to take a sandbath along the road. Also along the way one passes through a sandy park-like area with low shrubs and scattered trees. Here one is certain to hear singing Lincoln's Sparrows, and last June it was a surprise to us to see this species away from the normal swamp of bog habitat. And another species which nests in bogs according to the guides is the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. While it is found there, it is fairly common in second growth woods in the higher elevations, such as the road up Whiteface Mountain.

Finally, for those interested in learning more about the Adirondacks and its birds and ecology, a highly recommended book is "Birdlife of the Adirondack Park," by Bruce McP. Beehler. It is a small format 210 page softcover put out in 1978 by the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., 172 Ridge Street, Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801.

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## In The Literature

Sometimes bird watchers get the idea that the only way to make an interesting contribution to the science of ornithology is to travel to some far-away place with a lot of expensive equipment, and study an exotic species. This is not the case. There is still much to be learned about common birds. A few examples are discussed below.

A good example is the report of Leonard Eiserer of Franklin and Marshall College on his studies of American Robin behavior (Effects of grass length and mowing on foraging behavior of the American Robin, *The Auk* 97:576-580, July 1980). the only equipment used was a lawn mower. Eiserer observed that robins forage most frequently on newly mowed lawns, showing a preference for short grass over long. The preference is most evident right after mowing and is probably due to the robins taking advantage of exposed and injured prey.

Another backyard project (but not inexpensive) resulted in Russell Hansen's interesting article on "Photographing birds in flight at close range" (*American Birds* 34:227-230, May 1980). Hansen shows how it can be done and five closeup photographs of birds in flight are convincing proof of the effectiveness of his technique.

Many people are discovering *Bird Watcher's Digest*. This magazine, published by BBC members Bill and Elsa Thompson, reprints articles on birds from hundreds of periodicals and newspapers. There are also occasional original articles and a column called "Quick Takes" in which BBC member Pat Murphy keeps us up-to-date with recent sightings of rare birds and interesting notes from the scientific literature. The May/June 1980 issue contains an article, "Birding on the Great Lakes," by BBC member Benjamin P. Burt about BBC member J.P. "Perk" Perkins. Many of our members are familiar with Perkin's exploits as captain on steel company freighters on the Great Lakes. He found that many migrating birds stopped to rest on his ship. By placing small potted evergreen trees on one part of the deck of his freighter he attracted birds to one place and was able to sit in a deck chair and photograph them easily. This patch of three to fourteen trees became known as Perk's National Forest. (see accompanying photographs; supplied courtesy of *Bird Watcher's Digest* and J. P. Perkins).



J. P. Perkins' "National Forest."

The Ohio Biological Survey publishes occasional monographs on the natural history of Ohio. Milton Trautman's "Autumn migrations of selected species of ducks at Buckeye Lake, Ohio" and Forest Buchanan's "The breeding birds of Carroll and northern Jefferson Counties, Ohio, numbers 11 and 12 in the *Biological Notes* series, are both of special interest to BBC members. Milton Trautman began his observations of waterfowl on Buckeye Lake in 1922. His monograph traces the general decline in numbers of ducks seen in migration on Buckeye Lake over the years since then. In recent years the number of bay ducks has declined from 15,800 to 30,800 tallied in 1970 to 487 in 1976. Trautman blames the decline on a combination of a general national decline in waterfowl numbers, due in large part to a shrinkage in wetland habitat, and a reduction in suitable waterfowl conditions on Buckeye Lake itself. The monograph also presents many interesting facts concerning the history of Buckeye Lake.

Forest Buchanan's study of two eastern Ohio counties includes substantial discussion of the area's geology, physiography, animal life and vegetation along with a detailed consideration of the breeding birds. The work stems from the author's master's thesis, submitted to Cornell University in 1947. The field work for the thesis began in 1937. Buchanan's studies of the two counties have continued through the years, and his monograph includes many of his observations, and those of others, printed in bold face in order to distinguish the thesis work from more recent observations. Still Fork Swamp (formerly Specht Marsh) and Hemlock Gorge, a wild tributary of Yellow Creek, receive special attention due to their state of preservation and unique flora and fauna. Buchanan's work was instrumental in the preservation of Still Fork Swamp by the Nature Conservancy. Both Forest Buchanan and Milton Trautman have spent their lives making valuable observations on the natural history found close to home.

A. R. Buckelew, Jr. Editor



J. P. Perkins and pair of immature Red Shouldered Hawks.

## Book Reviews

### DR. SUTTON'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Dr. George Miksch Sutton has published an autobiography that covers his early years and development as a professional ornithologist, ending with his graduate school experiences at Cornell University. **Bird Student. An Autobiography** is published by the University of Texas Press, Austin. The price is \$15.95.

Dr. Sutton's life has been a rich one. He has traveled in some of the more primitive parts of the eastern hemisphere, while they were still truly wilderness. All the time his primary aim has been to learn about birds and portray them in print and drawing so the rest of us could share his impressions. His autobiography gives us insight into how he became the great ornithologist he is. The people who helped shape his career and the places he lived are all described with Sutton's famous story-telling skill. A good part of the book is devoted to his years spent in West Virginia, especially Bethany. Those who have been lucky enough to get to know him, and there are many, will be particularly interested in his stories and impressions. People who have never had that privilege will also find his tales of bird finding expeditions to Laborador and other places facinating. Readers who have seen the wonderful bird displays at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, will enjoy his stories concerning the creation of some of those displays, many of whose backgrounds were painted by Dr. Sutton and many of whose specimens he collected. One also begins to see why this warm, considerate man is so fondly remembered by his many old friends here in West Virginia.

(The above is reprinted from the September 1980 **Sutton Screech**, newsletter of the George M. Sutton Audubon Society; used with permission).

**The Complete Birds of the World** by Michael Walters. 1980, David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont 05053. size 7 in. x 10 in., 340 pp. Price \$35.50.

Michael Walters attempts to list all bird species known to exist since the ice age. A note is inserted in the text where there is disagreement over the species status or classification of a bird. Extinct forms are so noted. Abbreviations are used to indicate geographical distribution, nest location, clutch size, incubation period, fledging period, sex of brooding parents and other data. Where information is incomplete or unknown it is indicated. The author admits that some of his entries could be made more complete by a more exhaustive search of the literature, but that such a search could take a lifetime. It would appear that Walters has made a good compromise. Certainly he offers more information than does Edward Gruson's **Checklist of the Worlds Birds** (see review **Redstart** 44 (2):78, April 1977). This book will be a valuable reference work for some time. It is often difficult to find reference to a foreign bird, when one finds one mentioned in a journal article or after one reads about exotic birds being seized by customs without a clue as to where the birds came from. This book at least gives one a place to start looking.

A. R. Buckelew, Jr., Editor

## Request For Information Shorebird Colour-Marking 1980 - Canadian Wildlife Service

In 1980, the Canadian Wildlife Service will be continuing a large-scale program of banding and colour-marking shorebirds in James Bay, with the objective of defining migration routes used by shorebirds on their journeys between the Arctic breeding grounds and wintering areas. Since 1974, over 45,700 shorebirds have been captured in southern James Bay, and have resulted in more than 2,000 'bird days' of sightings of dyed birds, in areas ranging from eastern Canada to South America. Much new information is being obtained on migration routes and strategies, and your assistance in looking out for and reporting colour-marked birds would be very much appreciated and would contribute very substantially to the success of the program.

Feather dyes (yellow/orange) and coloured leg bands (yellow or light blue) will be used to mark the birds according to age and date and place of capture. If you see a marked shorebird, please record details of: species, place, date, colour-marks and, if possible, numbers of that species present. For colour-dyed birds, please record the colour and area of the bird that was dyed (e.g. entire breast, upper breast only, belly from legs to tail only, etc.). For colour bands and standard metal bands please record which leg the bands were on, the colours involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. lower right leg, blue over metal, etc.). A note should also be made whether the bands were below or above the "knee" of the bird.

Thank you very much for your assistance. All reports will be fully acknowledged and should be sent to:

Dr. R. I. G. Morrison  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
1725 Woodward Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1G 3Z7

# 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.  
Softback \$4.75  
Hardback \$6.50
- Potomac Naturalist by J. Lawrence Smith, 165 pps. .... \$4.00  
Natural History of Headwaters of Potomac R.
- Family Nature Guide by Jean Worthley ..... \$7.25
- Dozen Birding Hotspots by George Harrison. Autographed ..... \$8.95
- The Backyard Birdwatcher by George Harrison, Autographed ..... \$10.50
- Add fifty cents for postage per order.
- Bumper Tag - Beware of sudden stops bird watchers car ..... \$ .75

### 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.