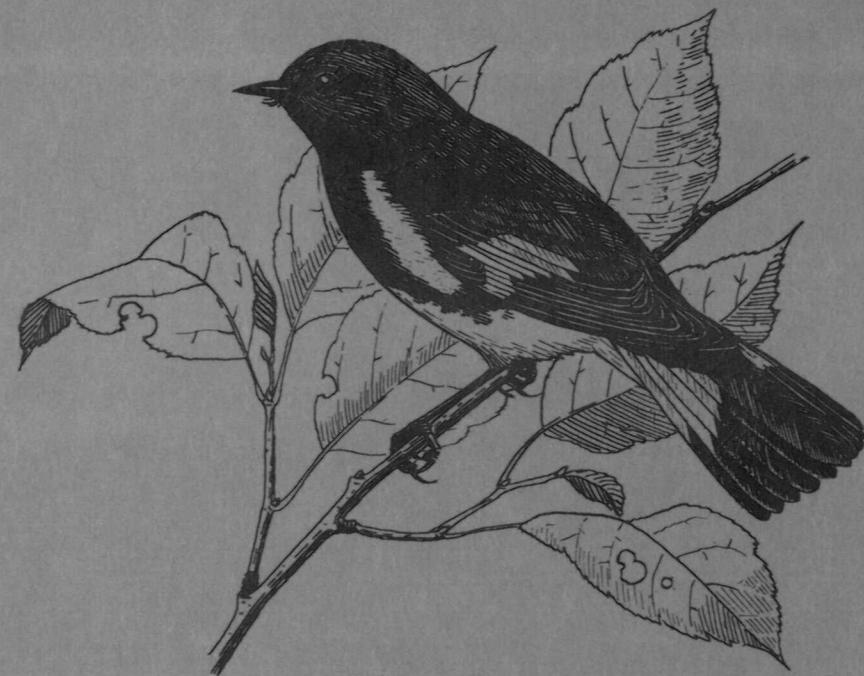


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The REDSTART

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 2

APRIL 1983



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Contents

	Page
The Sixth A.O.U. Check-List —George A. Hall	56
Allegheny Front Migration Observatory: Record for 1982 —George A. Hall	58
The Evolution of Birding —Roger Tory Peterson	64
A. B. Brooks Memorial Speech —George H. Breiding	66
Snowy Owls in Upshur County —Maxine Thacker	68
What's Going on Here: Summer Tanager Shows Interest in Parakeet —Les McDowell	68
Field Notes —James D. Phillips	70
A New Information System for Raptors	74
Banding News —Ralph K. Bell	75
Book Review: West Virginia Birds by George A. Hall	76
A.O.U. Hundreth Anniversary	77

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The Sixth A.O.U. Check-List

George A. Hall

The American Ornithologist's Union is planning to publish a new edition of "The Check-List" in 1983 to coincide with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Union. Two Supplements of the Fifth Edition appeared in 1973 and in 1976. Now a listing of the species and the sequence, or classification, for those species occurring in Canada and the United States was published as a supplement to the July 1982 issue of *The Auk*. It is the purpose of this paper to alert the readers of *The Redstart* to the forthcoming changes.

For the first time the Check-list will treat all of the birds of North America, defined as everything south to Panama, as well as Hawaii, and the islands of the Caribbean. The inclusion of the many tropical species has had two consequences. Some changes in English names must be made in order to provide a distinction between northern and southern species with similar names. In order to save space subspecies are not treated and the Committee felt that the task of evaluating the many proposed subspecies would delay publication, perhaps indefinitely. Besides these name changes certain other names were changed or modified so that American species would not be confused with those occurring in other parts of the world. Unfortunately this job was not completely carried out and some confusion will still result (e.g., an Old World species and an American species are both called Black Vulture).

There are also many changes in scientific names. These come about from the combining of genera or from the separation or combining of American species with those in the other parts of the world. The "lumping" and "splitting" are about evenly divided. Thus, our White-winged Scoter is now considered to be conspecific with an Old World form, but our Brown Creeper is now considered to be distinct from the Eurasian Tree Creeper. This paper will not treat the scientific names, but rather will restrict itself to the English names — a subject usually charged with emotion.

So let us see what "THEY" (the term most often used by birders to describe the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature) have done to "our" birds. Most of the name changes have already been announced in the two earlier Supplements but there are a number of new ones, mostly minor.

The inclusion of the Neotropical species makes it necessary to add a suitable prefix to many of the names we have used. Thus an adjective "Northern" has been added to the Gannet, Pintail, Shoveler, Harrier, Goshawk, Bobwhite, Saw-whet Owl, Flicker, Rough-winged Swallow, Mockingbird, Parula, Oriole, and Cardinal. The preliminary adjective "American" has been added to nine species to clearly distinguish them from other species elsewhere — White Pelican, Black Duck, Swallow-tailed Kite, Kestrel, Coot, Black Oystercatcher, Robin, Tree Sparrow and Goldfinch) — in addition to several others in which this adjective had long been used. We now have the Lesser Golden Plover and the Greater White-fronted Goose for this same reason. A number of English generic names have been made compounds by the addition of a hyphen (Barn-Owl, Screech-Owl, Night-Heron, Wood-Pewee).

We come now to eight names involving major changes — changes that will no doubt raise furor in the birding community, although most of these changes are not newly suggested. The A.B.A. suggested the names some years ago Marsh Wren for the Long-billed Marsh Wren, and Sedge Wren for the Short-billed Marsh Wren, and these practical changes were adopted. Tricolored Heron for what has previously been called the Louisiana Heron was suggested as long ago as 1951 by Dick Pough in his popular bird guide. On a world wide basis Snail Kite is a better name than Everglade Kite

since this bird is not restricted to southern Florida. Red-necked Phalarope (for Northern Phalarope) has long been used in England and is perhaps more suitable. The three names that will cause the most muttering are Green-backed Heron (Green), Tundra Swan (Whistling) and (horror) Common Moorhen. This last species has now undergone changes from Florida Gallinule in the Fourth Edition to Common Gallinule in the Fifth to Common Moorhen, a name widely used elsewhere. Use of the adjective Common in this case sort of goes against a trend to eliminate this often misleading term. The change for the swan comes since our Whistling Swan is now considered to be conspecific with the Bewick's Swan of the Old World.

But if there have not been many name changes, the changes in sequence (the so-called Check-list order) have been considerable. As new research had made clearer the relationships among the various species within a family and between the various families the new sequence expresses this new knowledge. All of us are going to have to struggle to learn this new order, which will be used in publications in the future. The observant reader will have noted that Roger Peterson deviated from the 1957 Check-list order in his recent revision of the Field Guide, probably in anticipation of the forthcoming 1983 Check-list, although most of his changes were made to bring similarly appearing forms together regardless of their relationships.

It will not be possible here to list all the different arrangements of the species within the families. In practically every family having more than one or two species, there is a new arrangement to better express relationships. The families of the birds of Eastern North America are essentially in the same order as the 1957 classification with two major exceptions. The new order shows the wrens followed by the Old World warblers, the thrushes, and then the mockingbirds. The Old World warblers and the thrushes have been reduced to the level of subfamilies and are combined with several other such groups in one large family, the Muscicapidae. The sequence will close with the wood warblers, tanagers, cardinal grosbeaks, New World sparrows, blackbirds, followed by the finches and the Old World sparrows. The warblers, tanagers, cardinals, sparrows and blackbirds have also been reduced to the level of subfamilies in a large family, the Emberizidae. The final sequence is then Emberizidae, Fringillidae (now including only the Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, the finches and crossbills) and the Passeridae (a new family including the House and European Tree Sparrows).*

The major contributions of the Committee have been to arrive at this new classification which replaces the outdated one we have all grown up with, and to give each species a detailed description of its range. The matter of English names, so important to the birder, is actually only a minor matter.

Those traditionalists who object to some of these changes should realize that actually the Committee adopted a very conservative view. Many ornithologists, including the present writer, would have voted for far more extensive changes than have been made, particularly in the matter of lumping species, as was done in the infamous case of the orioles in 1973.

*The new taxonomic order for West Virginia birds is used in my recently published book, *West Virginia Birds*. (Editor's note: see the review of *West Virginia Birds* elsewhere in this issue of *The Redstart*. The book is available from the BBC store and Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh.)

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Allegheny Front Migration Observatory

Record for 1982
George A. Hall

The twenty-fifth year of bird-banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant County, West Virginia, can be best described as an average year. The station was in continuous operation from August 17 to October 3, with banding carried out on 46 days. The station was closed for two days in September because of rain and on three other days operations were suspended early because of the weather. The migration was still in full swing on October 3 when circumstances forced us to close the station.

A total of 6708 birds (6th highest) of 84 (highest ever) species were banded in a station effort of 4702 net-hours (2nd highest) giving a capture ratio of 143 birds per 100 net-hours.

One new species, the Olive-sided Flycatcher, was added to the station list bringing that total to 111 species and a grand total of 82,799 birds banded. Five birds, two Yellow-throats, one Junco, one Catbird, and one Towhee banded in previous years were captured this year. In the last year we have had reports of three birds banded at this station being recovered elsewhere. A Wood Thrush banded on October 6, 1980 was recovered at a place near Burlington, Vermont in May 1982. A Cape May Warbler banded on September 10, 1981 was trapped at the Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario on May 14, 1982, and a Nashville Warbler banded on September 16, 1981 was recovered in Michoacan, Mexico, March 17, 1982.

The migration was unusual in that the day of greatest captures occurred in August, August 30, with 449 bandings. Another high peak took place September 3-5. Early season peaks have been common, but these were bigger than normal. Birds continued to come through in moderate numbers in early September, but the usual heavy flight in late September did not take place. There was a pronounced peak in bandings September 18-21, but usually this heavy flight lasts for a week or more. There was another large influx of migrants in early October, and had the station been open longer more captures would have been made. August 30 was the only day on which captures exceeded 400, but there were five days with captures between 300 and 400 and four days with captures between 200 and 300.

Wood Warblers constituted 80% of the captures with the Cape May leading the list with 1052. The perennial leader, Tennessee Warbler dropped to third place. The Nashville, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted were caught in numbers above a seven-year average the Magnolia was right on that average, but the Tennessee, Blackpoll, Ovenbird, Wilson's Warbler and Redstart were in below average numbers. Of these however only the Cape May and the Blackburnian were in numbers differing by more than one standard deviation of the mean. Of the non-Warblers, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was captured in significantly greater numbers than the average, and the Swainson's Thrush was slightly above normal. The almost complete absence of Red-breasted Nuthatches was notable after the heavy influx last year. All of the October species were in lower than normal numbers because of the early closing of the station. The number of Black-capped Chickadees captured indicated a modest invasion year for this species, and October observations elsewhere confirm this.

During the season a total of 1200 people who came from 14 states, District of Columbia and Denmark signed the visitors book. As usual several bird clubs, college



Leon Wilson and Trudy Smith in the banding hut at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory Sept. 1981. Photos by B.J.



The AFMO banding hut erected by LeJay Graffius. 1981.

classes and elementary school classes visited the station. Two visits were made by students from the West Virginia School for the Deaf.

The banders who participated this year were Maxine Kiff, Ephe Olliver, Julie Simpson, Trudi Smith, Jo Lane Stern, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson, and co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. John and Genevieve Findley were again in charge of the net lanes. Mike and Kathleen Finnegan, unable to be present throughout the season, nevertheless provided much assistance, as did LeJay Graffious who erected the shelter.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying collecting cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Betty Brewer, Virginia Byers, Nancy Campbell, Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Margaret Donald, Ben Dutcher, Kevin Findley, Walter Fye, Betty Gatewood, Andrew Hall, Florence Griffin, Lorraine Harper, Mel Hooker, Gene Hutton, Ben Kiff, Martha Kulp, Bill Lewis, Carol McCullough, Chris McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jason McCullough, Ann McGrew, Jerry McGrew, Jacalen Minear, Jack Minear, Jolene Minear, Jonathon Minear, Jonavieve Minear, Janice Musser, Marilyn Ortt, Glen Phillips, Ivarean Pierce, Charlotte Pryor, Esther Reichelderfer, Carl Rowe, Carolyn Ruddle, Todd Schnopp, Ed Smith, Hubert Stanley, Virginia Stanley, Mary Twig, Roy Ward, Martin Wiley, Ruth Wilkinson, Delores Wilson, Ann Woods, Jean Woods, Virginia Johnson, and John Jones. To all of these, and to any inadvertently omitted from this list, we express our thanks and appreciation.

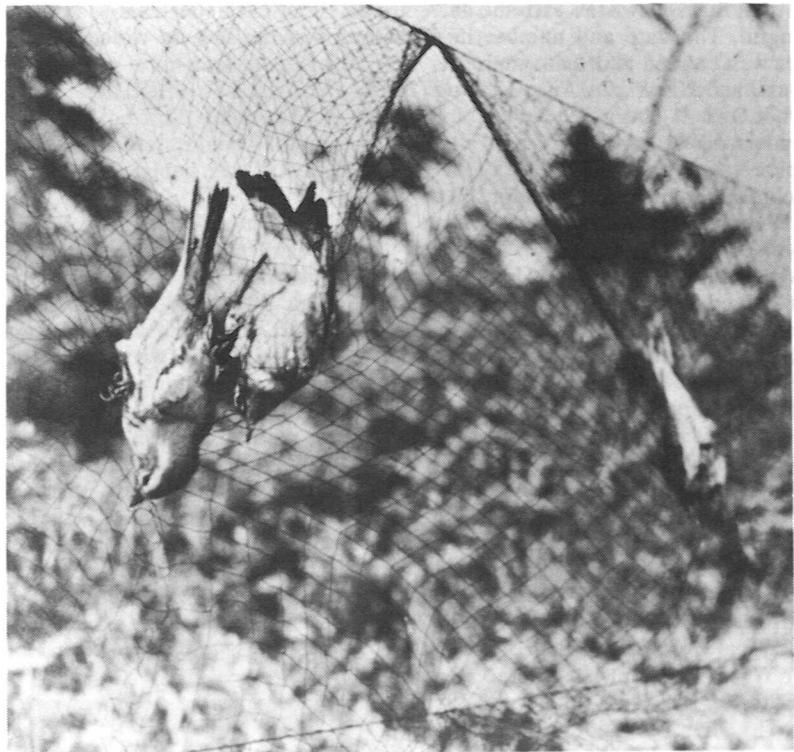
We also wish to thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest; R.F. Mumme, Supervisor, Jerry Bremer, District Ranger, David Allen, Assistant District Ranger, Mary Miller, Recreation Specialist, and others for their cooperation and support of this project.



Ouch! A bird in the hand can hurt! Can you name this one? AFMO 1981.

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

- Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 Aug. 17, Aug. 20
Saw-whet Owl 1 Aug. 19
Whip-poor-will 1 Aug. 23
N. Flicker 4 Aug. 23 - Oct. 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker 1 Sept. 30
Hairy Woodpecker 1 Oct. 1
Downy Woodpecker 11
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2 Oct. 2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 6 Aug. 22 - Sept. 4 (Aug. 30:2)
Acadian Flycatcher 1 Sept. 14
"Traill's" Flycatcher 1 Aug. 26
E. Wood-Pewee 7 Aug. 30 - Sept. 25
Least Flycatcher 7 Sept. 16 (Sept. 4:3)
Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 Sept. 4 (new species for station)
Blue Jay 83 Sept. 20 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 1, Oct. 2:29)
Black-capped Chickadee 35 Aug. 19 - Oct. 3
Carolina Chickadee 1 Sept. 25
Tufted Titmouse 11 Sept. 17 - Oct. 2 (Sept. 25:3)
White-breasted Nuthatch 13 Sept. 11 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 1:4)
Red-breasted Nuthatch 2 Sept. 18, Oct. 3
Brown Creeper 11 Sept. 24 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:5)
House Wren 3 Sept. 4, Sept. 12
Winter Wren 7 Sept. 14 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:4)
Gray Catbird 23 Aug. 19 - Oct. 1 (Sept. 14:5)
Brown Thrasher 6 Sept. 16 - Sept. 26
American Robin 33 Aug. 20 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 1:8)
Wood Thrush 42 Aug. 30 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 21:5)
Hermit Thrush 18 Aug. 19 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:4)
Swainson's Thrush 518 Aug. 21 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 18:94)
Gray-cheeked Thrush 33 Sept. 18 - Oct. 1 (Sept. 21:14)
Veery 10 Aug. 19 - Sept. 19 (Sept. 4:2)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 8 (ties highest year) Aug. 24 - Sept. 18
Golden-crowned Kinglet 22 Sept. 16 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:14)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 53 Aug. 30 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:18)
Cedar Waxwing 13 Aug. 23 - Sept. 18
Yellow-throated Vireo 1 Sept. 12
Solitary Vireo 8 Sept. 12 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:5)
Red-eyed Vireo 61 Aug. 19 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 5:8)
Philadelphia Vireo 14 Aug. 22 - Oct. 2 (Sept. 21:3)
Black & White Warbler 35 Aug. 19 - Oct. 2 (Aug. 27:6)
Worm-eating Warbler 7 Aug. 21 - Sept. 12 (Aug. 23:3)
Golden-winged Warbler 2 Aug. 23, Sept. 7
Tennessee Warbler 761 Aug. 18 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 3:84)
Nashville Warbler 100 Aug. 21 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 6, Oct. 3:16)
Northern Parula 9 Aug. 21 - Oct. 2 (Sept. 20:4)
Magnolia Warbler 230 Aug. 17 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 5:23)
Cape May Warbler 1052 Sept. 19 - Oct. 3 (Aug. 30:221)
Black-throated Blue Warbler 762 Aug. 17 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 3:105)



Birds in the net at AFMO 1981.

Yellow-rumped Warbler 13 Aug. 26 - Oct. 3
 Black-throated Green Warbler 490 Aug. 17 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:38)
 Cerulean Warbler 1 Aug. 31
 Blackburnian Warbler 365 Aug. 18 - Oct. 3 (Aug. 30:68)
 Chestnut-sided Warbler 50 Aug. 17 - Sept. 26 (Aug. 27:6)
 Bay-breasted Warbler 434 Aug. 22 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 7:48)
 Blackpoll Warbler 632 Aug. 30 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 28:109)
 Pine Warbler 1 Sept. 20
 Prairie Warbler 3 Sept. 4 - Sept. 16
 Palm Warbler 3 Sept. 20 - Oct. 3
 Ovenbird 95 Aug. 18 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 21:12)
 Northern Waterthrush 3 Sept. 5 - Sept. 21
 Connecticut Warbler 12 Aug. 27 - Sept. 20 (Sept. 20:3)
 Mourning Warbler 1 Sept. 6
 Common Yellow-throat 128 Aug. 18 - Oct. 2 (Sept. 13:12)
 Hooded Warbler 15 Aug. 17 - Sept. 26
 Wilson's Warbler 32 Aug. 19 - Sept. 25 (Sept. 4:4)
 Canada Warbler 18 Aug. 17 - Sept. 6 (Aug. 27:5)
 American Redstart 39 Aug. 19 - Oct. 1 (Sept. 4:11)
 Northern Oriole 2 Sept. 14, Sept. 20

Scarlet Tanager 21 Aug. 20 - Sept. 30 (Sept. 12, Sept. 16:4)
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak 102 Aug. 22 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 27:20)
 Indigo Bunting 3 Aug. 21 - Sept. 4
 Purple Finch 7 Aug. 17 - Oct. 3
 American Goldfinch 33 Aug. 23 - Oct. 3 (Sept. 17:5)
 Rufous-sided Towhee 13 Aug. 19 - Oct. 3
 Savannah Sparrow 3 Sept. 2 - Sept. 17
 Vesper Sparrow 1 Sept. 8
 Dark-eyed Junco 74 Aug. 17 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:17)
 Chipping Sparrow 5 (Sept. 30 - Oct. 3)
 Field Sparrow 4 Sept. 25 - Oct. 3
 White-throated Sparrow 32 Sept. 20 - Oct. 3 (Oct. 3:16)
 Lincoln's Sparrow 6 Sept. 18 - Oct. 2
 Swamp Sparrow 17 Sept. 4 - Oct. 3
 Song Sparrow 16 Aug. 19 - Oct. 2
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1 banded on Sept. 12 A total of 159 were liberated from the nets and an additional 204 flew over and were sighted, making a total of 364 listed. Aug. 18 - Sept. 27 (Sept. 3:54)

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The Evolution of Birding

(A few thoughts by Roger Tory Peterson)
Presented at the B.B.C. 50th Anniversary, October 23, 1982

I regret that I could not attend this 50th anniversary gathering of the Brooks Bird Club, particularly inasmuch as I had promised my dear departed friend, Chuck Conrad, that I would be here. But this happens to be the wedding of my stepdaughter, Mimi, and I must act as a substitute father and walk with her down the aisle of the little church in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

I had looked forward to being here and to seeing my old friends, Maurice Brooks, Graham Netting, Sewall Pettingill, the Harrisons, Chan Robbins, and all of you: so I've asked that this short message be read in lieu of a longer presentation that I had planned.

The 50 year history of the Brooks Bird Club spans the half century of field birding as we know it today. Prior to that we were still in the "bird-in-hand" or "shotgun school" of ornithology.

Audubon's *Birds of America* was not exactly a field guide. The heaviest of the four volumes of the "Double Elephant Folio" weighs 56 pounds. This monumental work was not arranged systematically; warblers were interspersed with hawks, ducks, and wading birds, but for the first time - Alexander Wilson notwithstanding - the majority of the birds of Eastern North America, and many of those of Western North America as well, were adequately portrayed.

To describe the birds and paint these portraits, many of which are masterpieces of meticulous delineation, Audubon required freshly-killed specimens, although not as many as he often shot. He once inferred that it was not a really good day if he killed less than 100 birds. He shot like mad, but excused his excesses by stating that he was impelled "by the love of science, which offers a convenient excuse for even worse acts." The shotgun school of ornithology prevailed for three quarters of a century after Audubon, for good reason. Initially many things could not be determined with accuracy unless the specimen was in the hand.

In 1872, scarcely twenty years after the death of Audubon, Elliot Coues, an army surgeon, published his *Key To North American Birds*, a revolutionary guide to the identification of birds *in-the-hand*. He wrote to a colleague, "it is an artificial key to North American birds, enabling anyone without the slightest knowledge of ornithology to identify any specimen in a few seconds....I have made my wife test it, in the case of all the birds I have shot here, and without knowing a tarsus from a tail, hardly, she has in every instance given the scientific name of the specimen."

Two years later this brilliant scholar, whose driving passion was birds, wrote in his *Manual of Field Ornithology*: "The double barreled shotgun is your main reliance. Under some circumstances you may trap or snare birds, catch them with bird-lime, or use other devices, but such cases are the exceptions to the rule that you will shoot birds, and for this purpose, no weapon compares with the one just mentioned."

There were no really good prism binoculars prior to the turn of the century, when even that venerable nature-lover, John Burroughs, advised the serious bird student: "Don't ogle it through a glass! Shoot it!" After a shooting foray the specimens were measured and checked out in Coues' key or that of his competitor, Robert Ridgeway.

In 1903, when Frank M. Chapman published his *Color Key to North American Birds*, illustrated by Chester A. Reed, the situation was much the same. He wrote:

"From the scientific point of view there is but one satisfactory way to identify a bird. A specimen of it should be in hand."

Then aware of an increasing dilemma, he added, "(But) we cannot place a gun in the hands of these thousands of bird lovers whom we are yearly developing."

Chester Reed, the artist, proceeded to remedy the situation by writing and illustrating his own little pocket guide, which was shaped like a checkbook, and when I was a boy that was the book everyone had, even though it was sometimes more misleading than helpful. But Chapman's *Handbook of Bird of Eastern North America*, first published in 1895, was the basic reference for any serious birder and it remained so well into the 1930's.

But it was exasperating to read Chapman or any other handbook or regional work in those days if one wanted a quick clue to field identification. A description of the Robin would start with the bill and end with the tail - "yellow bill, blackish head with three white spots around the eye, three or four blackish streaks on a white throat...etc." Only halfway through the description would the rufous on the underparts be mentioned. The diagnostic white band on a Kingbird's tail would be mentioned at the end of the description.

Inevitably the idea of "field marks" began to surface. Ralph Hoffman, a New England schoolmaster who later moved to California, wrote two excellent books which lacked only colorplates to put the concept across in a visual way.

When I was a teenager one of my favorite books was Ernest Thompson Seton's semi-autobiographical story, *Two Little Savages*. The part I remembered most vividly was where the young hero, Yan, sketched some mounted ducks he found in a dusty showcase.

This boy had a book which showed him how to tell the ducks when they were in the hand, but since he only saw the live ducks at a distance, he was usually at a loss for their names. He noticed that all the ducks in the showcase were different - all had blotches or streaks that were their labels or identification tags. He decided that if he could put their labels or "uniforms" down on paper, he would know these same ducks when he saw them at a distance on the water.

Later on, when I was becoming more and more obsessed with birding, I tried to locate a book - a guide - that would treat *all* birds in the manner that Yan and the ducks had suggested. Reed was not the answer, nor was Chapman. Not even Hoffman, although his field descriptions were by far the best. The one thing I wished for - a visual "boiling down" or simplification of things - so that any bird could be readily and surely told from all the others - that, except fragmentarily, I was unable to find. Enlightenment came, back in the mid-20's, when I went to New York to attend art school. There at the meetings of the Linnaean Society I met the guru of field ornithology, Ludlow Griscom, and his disciples, Joseph Hickey, Allan Cruickshank, and the other young men of the Bronx County Bird Club.

Joe Hickey was the organizer and the first meeting of the BBC was held in the parlor of Joe's parent's home near Hunt's Point. It was a gang with a mission - to find and identify birds and report these to one another and to the Linnaean Society.

Because of the grilling they sometimes got from Giscom at the Linnaean meetings, most of them gradually developed a sense of scientific accuracy - "there is no white but white, and white is its name." All of them carried this concept regardless of the profession they pursued later.

It was there in New York that my first field guide had its seminal beginnings (just before the Brooks Bird Club was born). In my first *Field Guide*, published in 1934, I based my concept on schematic drawings, emphasizing shape, pattern, and field marks, using little arrows which became known as the "Peterson System." Other bird guides conceived on somewhat different lines followed - Pough and Eckelberry's *Audubon Bird Guide* in 1946, Sewall Pettingill's *Guide to Bird Finding* in 1951, and

Robbins and Singer's *Birds of North America* in 1966. Cumulatively these and other books have had a massive effect on the sport as well as the science of field birding.

My friend, the late James Fisher, the British ornithologist, wrote: "The observation of birds may be a superstition, a tradition, an art, a science, a pleasure, a hobby or...a bore; this depends on the observer." He should have included "a sport" which is precisely what much of modern "birding" is all about - checking them off on the little white checklists. The score is the thing. Eventually many listers graduate to other facets of birdwatching. Some turn to wildlife photography, others become skilled artists, while a few make real contributions to the science of ornithology. Still others become activists in the environmental movement.

Birding as a sport or a game should be a fun thing, but as in every sport there are a few superstars who make it a grim do-or-die contest. To be a champion lister these days one ogles his birds not merely through the binocular or the bushnell telescope, but through a questar; a \$2,000 instrument with which one can even see the nasal grooves on a Polynesian Tattler.

And this brings us back full cycle to "bird-in-hand" ornithology!

As for my own future plans: I am now updating the *Western Field Guide*, bringing it up to the standard of my eastern guide and, I hope, a bit beyond. Then, apart from minor revisions, I will be free of field guides - free to paint again.

Because of the schematic handling in my field guides - a shortcut teaching device - some people have presumed that is the way I always draw birds. So I am going to get back to my academic background in proper painting.

Most of the recent things I have done as limited edition prints are a transition stage - they fall into the category of decorative portraiture in the Audubon tradition. I intend to get back into oils and canvas again - and acrylics on masonite - to play with mood and color and light - with third dimensional activity - movement in space. To paint more sensuously. I owe this to myself.

In closing, I send the Brooks Bird Club the best of wishes for the next 50 years and then, perhaps, at the 100th anniversary I can be with you.

R.T.P.

A. B. Brooks Memorial Speech

Presented by George H. Breidling on the
A. B. Brooks Memorial Walk
October 23, 1982
Oglebay Park
Wheeling, WV

Before I get into my main remarks I would like to share with you a few lines that I wrote as editor of the June/July issues of the MAIL BAG that served as a eulogy, dedicated to the memory of A. B. Brooks.

A. B. Brooks lives and will live -
'Til the last breath of air has passed through
treetops that surrender their leaves one by one,
'Til the last blade of grass has withered and
dried 'neath the sinking sun,
'Til the last bird has burst forth its final
serenade when the last day is done,
'Til then - and only then - will A. B. be gone.

I saw A. B. both as an inspiring and inspirational teacher. He was a good teacher and a good actor. You show me a good teacher and hidden underneath you are likely to find an actor.

That talent flowed over into other fields. First and foremost he was recognized as an eminent naturalist. He was also known as a writer, an eloquent speaker, an excellent photographer and an ardent conservationist. He was highly sensitive to the natural environment. He used the combination of all those gifts to create "teachable moments" or set the scene for subtle motivation.

As I look back I feel he saw in me a spark that he gently fanned into a flame of aspiration by nurturing a hungry mind starving for knowledge. We became friends and he took an interest in me. We worked together in planning a nature training session for the adult leaders of the Boy Scout council for this area.

I guess the crowning glory came when he asked me to substitute for him in leading a Sunday morning nature walk when he had to make a trip to his home at French Creek in Upshur county. I got a taste of what the field of nature education was like and a career was in the making.

My direct association with A. B. was when I was in my early 20's, and that was for several years before my induction into military service in 1941. Even then, in that year, I attended and left the nature camp in Hardy county just one week before being assigned to the Air Force. I only saw him once after that when I returned to Wheeling on furlough.

There are different monuments that stand as memorials to A. B.: his books and other writings; the Brooks Bird Club; Brooks Hall on the West Virginia University campus and the nature center which represents Oglebay Institute's Nature Education Department. To perpetuate some of these memorials and as a follow-up to this occasion, I'd like to suggest that the president of the bird club and the chairman of the Institute's nature committee get together to develop a plan to see how the nature department programs can serve as a feeder for new and young members for the bird club, and in turn see how bird club members can serve as volunteer leaders or instructors in the nature camps and for special activities at the nature center.

Also social and human values resulted in my kinship with A. B. Look how many of you here have been long-time friends and acquaintances. In many instances this came about directly or indirectly because of him.

In capping off my remarks, I'd like to take the liberty to speak for some of you in saying that A. B. touched our lives in different ways, and through a set of circumstances helped us to have each other. For me, that was the zenith in knowing him. He was an instrument that brought us - you and me - together. And that's one of the precious elements that has made and still makes my life worthwhile.

Snowy Owls in Upshur County

Maxine Thacker

On December 1, 1982, at 10:15 a.m., a snowy owl was seen on a branch of an old dead oak tree; a second owl appeared in a matter of seconds. They sat there for approximately fifteen to twenty minutes. Then one flew off, and, in a little bit, the second left too.

Deer hunters had field-dressed some deer in the territory earlier, and it is possible the owls might have been feeding in the area.

The observers had a most pleasant and unusual opportunity to watch these winter visitors. They were Mr. and Mrs. Arlie J. Smith of the Bridge Run area, near Lorentz, Upshur County, West Virginia.

5 West Victoria Street
Buckhannon, W.Va. 26201

Whats Going On Here?

Summer Tanager Shows Interest in Parakeet

Les McDowell

It is generally known around Charleston that there is a Bird Club affiliated with Sunrise Museum and many people with questions about birds call Sunrise for information. I am certainly not the most knowledgeable member of Handlan Chapter B.B.C. but just the most available, or else I am the first name on the call list, but I get a goodly number of calls.

None have been more interesting than a series of calls from a lady in Nitro telling me about, and keeping me current, on a romance between a male Summer Tanager and her parakeet (which the pet shop assured her was a male). She kept the parakeet in a bamboo cage in front of a picture window in her den.

One day she noticed a male Summer Tanager on the window sill, fluttering up and down the glass, as if trying to get in. It returned daily for hours at a time, but the parakeet didn't seem to pay any particular attention to it or encourage it. When she first called me she was puzzled by the tanagers actions, as was I. The parakeet was larger than the tanager and was typically green, yellow and orange. When she would try to scare the tanager away, he would only fly to a nearby tree and then right back to the window sill.

After she assured me that the cage was sturdy and safe, I suggested that she set the caged parakeet out on the patio, just to see what would happen, which she did. The tanager alighted on the cage and climbed around all over it. She could hear no sound from either bird. She watched the cage closely the first day all the time it was on the patio, but on the second day while she was called to the phone either the tanager solved the latch on the door of the cage or a mischievous neighbor kid let the parakeet out, because when she returned to her vigil the door was open and both birds were

gone. A search of the neighborhood the rest of the afternoon failed to find a trace of either bird.

Before noon of the next day a friend of hers in the next block called and asked if her parakeet was out as she thought she recognized it in her backyard right then. The owner took the cage to her friends backyard and the parakeet seemed only too glad to get back into the cage to feed.

When she put the cage and the parakeet back in its usual place in front of the picture window the next morning, the tanager showed up again - but with something new added to the act - Mama tanager. From then on she came with him every time he came and all but fought him away from the window sill. This went on for several days with the frequency of the visits diminishing til finally the male tanager quit coming but Mama would fly by several times a day to look things over for several more days, then stopped coming.

What was it? A philandering husband on the make? A true, if misguided courtship? Or just a gay blade falling for a pretty dress? No one saw the two of them, individually or together from the time the parakeet flew the coop about 1 p.m. 'til the friend called the next morning at 11 a.m.

3712 Wash. Ave. S.E.
Charleston, W.Va. 25304

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

As part of a study of winter densities of raptors, Red-tailed Hawks have been marked with yellow patagial markers. Information is sought on migration routes and breeding grounds. If sighted, information on age class, marker number, and which wing is marked will be appreciated. Please notify the Bird Banding Office, Laurel, MD 20708 and DAVID JENNINGS, Inst. of Ecology, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

Information is wanted on avian interactions with butterflies. I am seeking detailed accounts of North American birds attacking, capturing and/or eating butterflies. Please send as much of the following information as possible: bird species, butterfly species, date, habitat, and the following interaction data — number of attacks and hits, how the butterfly was captured, wing damage observed, handling time, parts consumed, and the bird's reaction after eating. Interactions with other lepidoptera such as large diurnal moths would also be helpful. Information is useable through Nov. 1983. MARK K. WOURMS, Dept. of Biology, Boston Univ., 2 Cummington St., Boston, MA 02215.

WANTED: Black and white photographs of nests and eggs of these warblers: Olive, Cape May, Virginia's, Hermit, Blackpoll, and Tropical Parula. Write HAL. H. HARRISON, 3431 SW 20th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.

FIELD NOTES

THE FALL SEASON
September, October, and November, 1982



Jim Phillips, Editor
809 Thorn Street
Princeton, WV 24740

The fall season was for the most part dry with average temperatures. Hawk counters on Peter's Mountain, Monroe County reported two days of rain, while on East River Mountain, Mercer County we had two days of rain and fog and one day of just fog. The hawk migration was considered average with the exception of four eagle sightings. George Hall reported the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) as closed two days in September and suspended for three. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was the only species added to the station list. This brings the station list to 111 species and 82,799 birds banded. Most reporters considered the songbird migration to have been average while waterfowl and shorebirds were considered scarce.

Loons, Grebes, and Herons — A Common Loon was on Alpine Lake, Terra Alta on November 4 (GF) and two were on Kee Reservoir, Mercer County on November 29 (JP). Horned Grebe numbers were considered high on Shenandoah Lake, Virginia (KF). They were also common on Kee Reservoir from November 19 through 28. Pied-billed Grebes were present throughout the period. One Double-crested Cormorant was on Shenandoah Lake on October 13 (KF) and three were on Kee Reservoir on November 28. Great Blue Herons were reported by most observers. Seventy-two of these birds were seen by George Breiding at the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Ohio on September 2. The only report of Green-backed Herons came from Hullet Good. He saw them at Rollins Lake and Cedar Lakes on September 19. A Cattle Egret was seen in the Virginia area on Oct. 23 (KF), and two were seen frequently in Barnesville, Ohio during November (ME). The only report of Great Egrets came from Seneca Lake, Ohio in early November (ME). Breiding saw six to eight Black-crowned Night-Herons at Metzger Marsh, Ohio on Sept. 1.

Waterfowl — Three Tundra Swans spent a week on a pond near Princeton during late November and one spent a couple of days on a pond in Virginia (KF). Virginia Johnson found 42 of these birds on a pond near Uniontown, Pa. on November 14. Canada Geese seem to be a fairly common sight in the area now. Handley found 115 geese grazing in a field in Greenbrier County. Most observers report good numbers of Mallards. A few Am. Black Ducks were reported. Gadwall were in the Rowlesburg area from Nov. 4 through 13 (GF). Green-winged Teal passed through the region from late October to mid-November. Blue-winged Teal were in Rowlesburg Nov. 8 (GF) and in Canaan Valley a week later (JP). The American Widgeon was considered low in numbers in Virginia (KF) but seemed normal in West Virginia. Wood Ducks were reported in good numbers. Finnegan estimated a flock of 400 birds feeding in a corn field near McGaheysville, Va. The latest report was from Oakland, Md. on Nov. 13 (GF). Ring-necked Duck numbers seemed to be down. The earliest report was from the lake in Babcock State Park, Fayette County on Oct. 17 (HG) and the last was from Kee Reservoir on Nov. 22 (JP). Lesser Scaup were found throughout the region during November, but in low numbers. The only large concentration was a flock of 62 at Kee Reservoir on Nov. 4 (JP). Common Goldeneyes were in southern West Virginia by the end of the period. No other observer reported this species. The only Buffleheads reported were on Shenandoah Lake, Va. in early November and southern W. Va. in mid to late November. Ruddy Ducks were in the region from mid-October (GF) to late

November (JP). Hooded Mergansers appeared in Barnesville, Ohio (ME) by the first week of November. They were also on Shenandoah Lake by Nov. 8 (KF) with larger numbers being present by Nov. 25. Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers were found on Kee Reservoir on November 28. Red-breasted Mergansers were also reported on Shenandoah Lake by the end of November (KF).

Vultures and Hawks — On the morning of Sept. 6 Carl Patsche observed 50 Turkey Vultures flying in a southeasterly direction over Raccoon State Park. A good flight was also recorded for the Seneca Lake area of Ohio (ME). Handley found 50 Turkey Vultures and two Black Vultures feeding on offal on a turkey farm in Greenbrier County on Nov. 26. Both vultures were also found in Monroe County in late November (JP). The following chart will best describe the hawk migration along the ridges of Virginia and West Virginia:

	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	GE	BE	NH	OS	PF	AK	UN
Hanging Rocks W.Va. (GHu)	93	16	20	2	3545		2		18		38	14
East River Mt. W.Va. (JP)	24	7		2	1127	1	1	1	4		9	11
Kennedy Peak Va. (KF)	35	5	53	2	1513				9	15	1	
Hawksbill Va. (KF)							25		2	1		
Reddish Knob Va. (KF)	14	1	1		862		1	1	11			1

Key to symbols: SS-Sharp-shinned, CH-Cooper's, RT-Red-tailed, BW-Broad-winged, GE-Golden Eagle, BE-Bald Eagle, NH-Northern Harrier, OS-Osprey, PF-Peregrine Falcon, AK-American Kestrel, and UN-Unidentified.

A dark phase Rough-legged Hawk was in the Broadway, Va. area from Nov. 2 throughout the period (KF). The only Merlin reported was the one in Fayetteville, Fayette County on Oct. 6 (GW).

Quail and Shorebirds — Ruffed Grouse appear to be doing well in Virginia and in southern West Virginia with only scattered reports for the rest of the region. The N. Bobwhite population seems to be improving in Virginia (KF). The only comments from Ohio and West Virginia deal with the scarcity of this species in recent years. There was one report of a Ring-necked Pheasant in Ohio (ME) and four reports from Virginia (KF). Wild Turkey continue to do well in the southern part of the state and also in Virginia. George Breiding reported the only rails-two Virginia Rails in Pickerton, Ohio on September 3 and one Sora at the Metzger Marsh, Ohio on September 1. Also at Metzger Marsh on that day he found a Common Gallinule. The only other report for this species was one seen on Plum Orchard Lake, Fayette County on Oct. 31 (GW). American Coots were present in fair numbers from Oct. 4 through the end of the period. Several observers commented on the abundance of Killdeer. Common Snipe were present in the region from Sept. 10 (GF) to Nov. 13 (JP). A Spotted Sandpiper was seen along the Coal River near St. Albans (HG) on Oct. 3. Felton found Greater Yellowlegs in the Rowlesburg area in late September while they were present in the Virginia area throughout the period (KF). Pectoral Sandpiper numbers were considered low in Ohio (ME). In Virginia they were present until Oct. 28. Dunlin were found in all three states from Nov. 4 to 13. A Red-necked Phalarope was seen at Seneca Lake on Oct. 10 (ME).

Gulls through Cuckoos — Herring Gulls were at Seneca Lake in early November (ME). Six Ring-billed Gulls were on a pond near Princeton on Nov. 4 (JP) and a flock of 44 were in Uniontown, Pa. on Nov. 14 (VJ). Handley was the only person to comment on doves. He counted 50 Rock Doves and 10 Mourning Doves in Lewisburg,

Greenbrier County. Here in Princeton both of these doves seem to be doing extremely well. Finnegan reported **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** moving through the Harrisonburg, Va. area during the first week of October.

Owls through Kingfisher — A **Barn-Owl** was in a barn loft on the Hartland Farm, Greenbrier County on Nov. 26 (CH). **E. Screech-Owls** were reported from Uniontown, Pa. (VJ), Bethany, W.Va. (JB), and Princeton, W.Va. (JP). **Great Horned Owls** were heard or seen in Bethany (JB) and Princeton (JP). Ralph Bell reports this bird as increasing in the Clarksville, Pa. area. **Barred Owls** remain fairly common in southern W.Va. (JP). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at the Weyers Cave Airport, Virginia on Nov. 7 (KF). Most people reported on the migration of the **Common Nighthawk**. As usual most of the flight happened during the first ten days of September with the biggest group being the 150 seen in Uniontown, Pa. on Sept. 6 (VJ). There were several reports of single birds or small groups as late as Sept. 27. In Uniontown, Pa. the last one was seen Oct. 3 (VJ) and in Princeton there were nine birds seen on that day (JP). Hawkwatchers on East River Mountain (JP) and Kennedy Peak (KF) report good flights of **Chimney Swifts** during September. The latest date for this species was Oct. 11 in Uniontown (VJ). The only report of the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** came from George Hall. At the AFMO 159 were released from the nets and an additional 204 were observed flying over the station. **Belted Kingfishers** were seen regularly along the Brush Creek, the Bluestone River (both in Mercer County), and the New River, Summers County during the fall (JP). Apparently their population is in better condition in the southern part of the state.

Woodpeckers through Horned Lark — A dozen reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** came from Virginia (KF). The only other report was of one in Greenbrier County on Nov. 26 (CH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** appeared in the Rowlesburg area by Oct. 3 (GF). Most other reporters found them a week later, and by the end of the period, they could be found throughout the region. The last date for an **Eastern Kingbird** was at Sutton Lake on Sept. 5 (HG). The last date for a **Crested Flycatcher** was Sept. 6 in Elkview (HG). Ralph Bell reports banding more **Eastern Phoebe**s and **Eastern Wood-Pewees** than usual in his yard in Clarksville, Pa. Hullet Good still had an **Eastern Phoebe** in his yard in Elkview on Nov. 21. Empidonax flycatchers were present in the Rowlesburg area during the first two weeks of September (GF). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was banded at Dolly Sods (AFMO) on Sept. 4. One was seen in Rowlesburg on Sept. 13 (GF) and one at Grand Caverns, Va. on Sept. 14 (KF). The only report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were those banded on Dolly Sods in early September (GH). Eight **Horned Larks** were found around the stables at Pipestem State Park, Summers County during October (JP). Handley reports a flock of 15, including one albino, near Lewisburg on Nov. 26. The next day the flock had grown to 100 birds.

Swallows — The last report for **N. Rough-winged Swallows** in West Virginia was at Rollins Lake, Ripley on Sept. 19 (HG). Large groups were seen flying over Kennedy Peak, Virginia as late as Sept. 25. Two-hundred birds were seen on two different days - Sept. 5 and 19 (KF). Bell noted the last **Barn Swallow** of the season on Sept. 5. Twenty **Cliff Swallows** were seen flying over Hawksbill Peak, Virginia on Sept. 11 and ten were observed over Kennedy Peak, Virginia on Oct. 14 (KF).

Jays through Brown Creeper — **Blue Jays** were considered abundant in Morgantown (GB) and Charleston (NG) and increasing in Barnesville, Ohio (ME). In mid to late September flocks of 100 to 300 jays were seen flying along East River Mountain near Bluefield, W. Va. (JP). **Common Ravens** are found regularly at Pipestem State Park, along the Bluestone River, and on East River Mountain. On Sept. 18 a flock of 23 was seen on east River Mountain (JP). Based on the banding at Dolly Sods, George Hall reports that, "The number of **Black-capped Chickadees** captured

indicated a modest invasion year for this species, and October observations elsewhere confirm this." **Tufted Titmouse** numbers were considered up in Ohio (ME) and normal or low in West Virginia. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce this season. Two were banded at Dolly Sods (GH) and four were reported from the Harrisonburg, Va. area (KF). **Brown Creepers** were seen in the Rowlesburg area Oct. 18 (GF) and eleven were banded at Dolly Sods (GH).

Wrens, Mimics, and Thrushes — Three **Winter Wrens** were seen at Coopers Rock on Sept. 30 (GB), but most observers did not find this species until about a week later. **Carolina Wrens** appear to have recovered better in the southern part of the region. **Marsh Wrens** were seen Oct. 4 and Nov. 11 near Harrisonburg, Va. (KF), Oct. 12 in Rowlesburg (GF), and Nov. 13 near Athens, W.Va. (JP). **Mockingbirds** remained throughout the period in Greenbrier County (CH) and Mercer County W.Va. Felton noted a **Gray Catbird** on Nov. 18 in the Rowlesburg area. **Brown Thrashers** were gone from the region by the third week of September. Bell reports seeing 3000+ **American Robins** flying into a blackbird roost near Jefferson, Pa. on Nov. 1. The migration of the thrushes was considered normal with the **Swainson's Thrush** being the only one indicating a possible increase. **Eastern Bluebirds** appear to be doing well.

Kinglets through Vireos — **Golden-crowned Kinglets** appeared in good numbers in the Harrisonburg, Va. area (KF) and in southern W.Va. from Oct. 11 throughout the period. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also considered common this season. Several people commented on large flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** but the largest was in Oak Hill, Fayette County on Oct. 17 when 350 birds were seen in one flock (GW). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen near Linside, Monroe County on Nov. 21 (JP). This species is frequently seen in the Harrisonburg, Va. area (KF). The last **Red-eyed Vireo** noted was the one banded at Dolly Sods on Oct. 3. The latest date for a **Solitary Vireo** was Oct. 19. It was in the Rowlesburg, W.Va. area (GF). **Philadelphia Vireos** were considered common in a swamp in the Rowlesburg area from Sept. 10 to 23 (GF).

Warblers — At Dolly Sods warblers made up 80% of the birds banded. **Nashville, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted Warblers** were caught in numbers above a seven-year average. **Tennessee, Blackpoll, Ovenbird, Wilson's Warbler, and American Redstarts** were in below average numbers (GH). Most observers considered the **Yellow-rumped Warbler** to be the only abundant species. The latest **Black-throated Green Warbler** record was Oct. 18 near Rowlesburg, W.Va. (GF). Handley found a **Palm Warbler**, western race, near Lewisburg, W.Va. on Nov. 26 and 27. A **Common Yellow-throat** was seen in Morgantown, W.Va. on Oct. 19 (GB). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was encountered in a briar patch at Athens Lake, Mercer County on Nov. 13 (JP).

Blackbird — The only **Bobolink** was the one in Greenbrier County on Nov. 27 (CH). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were still in the region at the end of the period. **Red-winged Blackbirds** remained in Mercer (JP) and Greenbrier (CH) Counties at the end of the period. **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in the Stuart's Draft area Va. on Oct. 27 (KF). Ralph Bell was able to closely observe a **Brewer's Blackbird** at his Clarksville, Pa. home on Nov. 5. Carl and Sherry Chapman saw a **Brewer's Blackbird** at their feeder in Athens, Mercer County on Nov. 24. Roosts of thousands of blackbirds (mostly grackles) were reported from Jefferson, Pa. (RB) and Harrisonburg, Va. (KF). **Summer Tanagers** left the Elkview, W.Va. area about two weeks early (HG).

Grosbeaks and Finches — **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were plentiful in the region from Sept. 11 through Oct. 16. For several days in late October a female **Black-headed Grosbeak** was in Monterey, Highland County, Va. (KF). **Dickcissels** were seen Oct. 11 in Rowlesburg, W.Va. (GF) and Oct. 25 in Monterey, Va. (KF). The only **Evening Grosbeaks** in the entire region were two females in McGaheysville, Va. on Nov. 29

(KF). A couple of observers have commented that female **Purple Finches** seem to arrive about two weeks ahead of the males. Has anyone else observed this to be the case? The **House Finch** population has "exploded" in Barnesville, Ohio (ME) and Handley reports that they have been common in Lewisburg, W.Va., and they have now moved out to his farm. **Pine Siskins** were seen at Elkview on Nov. 2 (HG) and Scarbro, Fayette Count on Oct. 31 (GW). **Red-Crossbills** continue to be along Shenandoah Mountain between Rt. 250 and Rt. 33 with a high count of 21 on Oct. 20 and Nov. 7 (KF).

Sparrows — **Savannah Sparrows** were in the Princeton area during the first week of October. (JP) A **Henslow's Sparrow** was on Shenandoah Mountain on Oct. 21 (KF). This is the third year that a **Lark Sparrow** has been at the Waynesboro, Va. airport (KF). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were in the northern part of the region by the first of October and a month later in the south. A **Am. Tree Sparrow** was banded by Bell on Nov. 9. **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen as early as Oct. 7 and **White-throated Sparrows** as early as Sept. 11 (HG). Several areas in Virginia reported **Lincoln's Sparrows** and one was in Rowlesburg, W.Va. from Sept. 18 to Oct. 18 (GF). **Swamp Sparrows** seemed common. A **Snow Bunting** was seen Oct. 28 on Shenandoah Mountain, Va. (KF).

Contributors: Ralph Bell (RB), George Breiding (GB), Jay Buckelew (JB), Dolores Devaul (DD), Mabel Edgerton (ME), Gary Felton (GF), Kathleen Finnegan (KF), Norris Gluck (NG), Hullet Good (HG), George Hall (GH), C. O. Handley, Jr. (CH), George Hurley (GH), Virginia Johnson (VJ), Carl Patsche (CP), Maxine Thacker (MT), Gary Worthington (GW).

A New Information System For Raptors

The Raptor Management Information System (RMIS) is a collection of published and unpublished papers, reports, and other works on raptor management and human impacts on raptors and their habitats. It currently consists of nearly 2,500 **original papers**, 160 keyworded **notecard decks** comprised of 15,000 key paragraphs from the original papers, and a **computer program** to retrieve partially annotated bibliographies by species, by keyword, or by any combination of keywords and/or species. A geographical index is under development, and new papers are added as they are received.

Originally designed to facilitate land-use planning and decisionmaking by government agencies and industry, the RMIS has since grown into a powerful research and environmental assessment tool for scholars, students, consultants, as well as land managers and their staff biologists. For more information write Dr. Richard R. Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California U.S.A. 95825, or phone commercial (916) 484-4701 or through the Federal Telephone System 468-4701.

Banding News

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



Conneaut, Ohio — Only through the records of bird banders can the actual travels of birds be chronicled. Yes there are other methods of marking birds but they depend on sight records for verification and are done on the larger species.

A bander feels a personal relationship with each and every bird on whose leg an aluminum band of the Fish and Wildlife Service is placed. Once we place such a band on a bird that makes it officially our bird. Other banders honor this and the band will only be replaced by another when numbers are obliterated or worn.

Although I have many returns (birds coming to my station that were banded by me), it is most rewarding when the mailman hands me a letter from the Banding Lab which contains a notice of a recovery. That is, some one else has caught my bird or has found it dead. This is the ultimate reason for banding, or so I think. Yes it is nice when a bird such as Hairy or Downy Woodpecker, Chickadee, Titmouse, Nuthatch or a Cardinal comes back one, two or even sometimes six years before they fail to show up. The life expectancy of a passerine bird is rather short so such records are wonderful. Frank Yocom, a bander in near by Ashtabula, has records of a Chickadee returning for seven years and a Cardinal for twelve years.

Welcome, North Carolina; East Lansing, Michigan; Haegertown, Pennsylvania; Blue Island, Illinois; Candor, New York; Oak Harbor, Ohio; and Jacmel, Haiti. These are just a jumble of names and places until I tell that they are areas from which people have made recoveries of my birds. The above are just a few. A Cape May Warbler that I banded in my yard was recovered two months and seven days later in Haiti. That item was written up for **The Redstart** a year or so ago. One of my Pine Siskins turned up the year after I banded it in Milford, Sask. Canada. This bears out the nomadic tendencies of this species. The only recovery ever of the hundreds of Tree Sparrows I banded was made in Candor, New York. Another interesting recovery was from Oak Harbor, Ohio. This was a House Finch banded here a couple months earlier in 1981. Then in 1982, friend Frank L. Yocom banded a House Finch, and the bird was recovered in Oak Harbor by the very same bander that reported mine. This I think would indicate the westward movement of the House Finch. As for hundreds of fledgling Bluebirds banded on my route, the most distant recovery was in Welcome, North Carolina. Another was caught five years after being banded by my friend Dr. Baxter in Lake City, PA just 17 miles northeast of Conneaut. Recoveries of Tree Swallows from my Bluebird nest-box route are more frequent. One was reported from only 14 miles south, while another turned up in Blue Island, Illinois. Of the hundreds and hundreds of Juncos and White-throated Sparrows banded in my yard, I have yet to receive a recovery.

The bulk of recoveries are from rather short distances, many in our city. The exciting ones are more distant. I must live on a lone flyway, as I catch very few of other people's banded birds. Yocom and Howard K. Meahl 15 miles west are constantly catching each other's birds, and on rare occasions, one or two of mine. Howard and Marcella Meahl band upwards of seven to ten thousand birds a year, so they recover more birds than Yocom or me.

In closing let me tell you of Song Sparrow #321 11863. One fall morning, Oct. 24,

1970 to be exact, John Karna, oiler aboard the Steamer Hoarace Johnson enroute from Conneaut to Detroit River, stepped from his cabin door onto the deck and encountered several dead birds lying around. Now dead birds at times are common, but John noticed that one sparrow type bird had a small aluminum band attached to its leg. Karna and I had previously been shipmates, and remembering my interest in birds, he immediately shipped me the wing, tail and leg with band attached. I identified the bird as a song sparrow and forwarded the material to Frank Yocom at Ashtabula, Ohio, as I was banding under a sub-permit issued to him. Information that Frank received from the banding lab was forwarded to me.

Song Sparrow #321 11863 was banded on Long Point on lake Erie by members of the Long Point Bird Observatory on April 20, 1965. The bird was banded as AHY (after hatching year), which made it at least one year old at the time. This then would make our bird six years old at the time of death aboard the ship that October morning. Recovery was made 40 to 50 miles or so WSW from the banding location on Lake Erie. Although distance from banding station to point of recovery is comparatively short, who knows the miles traveled by this little bundle of flesh and feathers in the interim years. The fact remains however that Song Sparrow #321 11863 to date is the only record of a banded bird aboard one of the lake freighters and thousands die each year on these ships.

Capt. J. P. Perkins

Book Review

West Virginia Birds: Distribution and Ecology by George A. Hall. 1983. Special publication no. 7 of Carnegie Museum of Natural History in cooperation with the West Virginia Dept. of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program. Order from Publications Secretary, Carnegie Museum of Natural History 4400 Forbes Ave. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213, illus., 190 pages, Price \$20.00 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. (also available from the BBC store.)

The long-awaited **West Virginia Birds** is available and well worth waiting for. The manuscript was ready in 1976, but the delay in publication has allowed Dr. Hall to add much recent information and arrange the birds in the new **American Ornithologists' Union Checklist** order. Dr. Hall's book will be the only one available for a while that uses the new A.O.U. names for birds.

The book is beautifully bound in hardcover, 8½ in. by 11 in. The dustcover and frontispiece is George Sutton's painting of Sutton's Warbler. There are 12 line drawings by Sutton and 21 photographs, many by Hal Harrison. I hear that some consider this book to be so well made that it may be entered in a publisher's exhibition later this year.

Dr. Hall has a great deal of experience with West Virginia ornithology. He is co-director of the Appalachian Front Migration Observatory, former editor of **The Redstart**, and editor of **American Birds'** "Appalachian Region" field notes. He is the author of numerous articles on our birds. Dr. Hall is a past president of the Wilson Ornithological Society and former editor of **The Wilson Bulletin**. He serves in dual positions as professor in the departments of chemistry and wildlife at West Virginia University.

Dr. Hall combines the meticulous approach of a university chemist with an amateur's fascination with the esthetics and excitement of birdwatching. His careful inspection of the large West Virginia literature, and many specimens scattered over the country in 15 collections, results in a virtually flawless description of our state's birdlife.

The book includes sections describing the physiography of the state, history of West Virginia ornithology, and an analysis of West Virginia avifauna. There is a very useful gazetteer and a complete list of the West Virginia literature - cited and uncited.

The heart of the book is the species accounts. Each account gives the status of the species, specific records in the case of rare birds, abundances, migration dates, definite nesting records by county, quantitative data from singing male censuses, breeding bird surveys, banding data and Christmas counts, specimens, and comments on subspecies. The occurrence in each season is detailed, and first and last-seen dates are given for migrants. There are special notes and remarks in many of the accounts which add interest and depth. Interesting accounts on extinct birds, such as the Carolina Parakeet and Ivory-billed Woodpecker, are included. Range maps are included for some uncommon birds.

Throughout **West Virginia Birds** much is said about the contributions of the Brooks Bird Club and its members to the progress of ornithology in our state. Most of the references are from **The Redstart**. We should be proud that our efforts have helped Dr. Hall produce this fine book. Every birdwatcher in the state, and others interested in our birds, should own a copy. Make sure your local libraries and schools know about this book. Only a limited number were printed, so don't delay your purchase.

A.R. Buckelew, Jr.
Editor

A.O.U. Hundredth Anniversary

The American Ornithologists' Union, oldest and largest of the ornithological societies in North America, is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its founding in 1983. Its quarterly journal, **The Auk**, now includes about 1000 pages a year of papers on a wide variety of ornithological topics. The long-awaited sixth edition of the **AOU Checklist of North American Birds** will be published in time for the centennial meeting. If interested in knowing more about the AOU please write to Membership Chairman Dr. Gustav A. Swanson, Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523. The checklist can be ordered at pre-publication prices: \$28.00 (\$22.50 to AOU members). Post-publication price, \$35.00 (\$28.00 to AOU members). Scheduled publication in summer of 1983. Order from Allen Press, Inc., P.O. Box 368, Lawrence, KS 66044. Include \$0.50 handling charge for each book ordered.

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 \$5.70 Hardback \$7.00	
West Virginia Birds by George Hall	\$20.00
The High Alleghenies by J. Lawrence Smith	\$15.00
Dozen Birding Hotspots by George Harrison. Autographed	\$10.95
The Backyard Birdwatcher by George Harrison. Autographed	\$14.75
Add \$1.00 for postage per order.	
Bumper Tag - Beware of sudden stops bird watchers car	\$1.00
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REDSHIRT 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, \$5.00; Active, \$12.00; Family \$15.00; Sustaining, \$25.00; Life, \$200.00. Checks should be written payable to the Brooks Bird Club and mailed to 707 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003.

1983 Program The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
February 1-28	Write article or observation	Mail to: for The Redstart
March 4-6	Mid-Winter Meeting-Jackson's Mill	Dr. A. R. Bucklew Weston, WV
March 20	Waterfowl Field Trip	Seneca Lake, Ohio
May 5-8	Butternut Lodge Field Trip-Ottawa Refuge	Port Clinton, Ohio
May 1 or 8	Century Day Count	All local groups
May 26-31	Sortie-Tomlinson Run St. Park	Hancock Co., WV
June 1-30	25-Mile Breeding Bird Surveys	All local groups
June 4-18	BBC Foray-4-H Camp-Thornwood	Pocahontas Co., WV
July 20-24	Field Trip-Terra Alta	Preston Co., WV
August 21-31	Bird Banding	Red Creek, WV
September 1-30	Bird Banding continues	Red Creek, WV
September 1-6	BBC Reunion-Greenbrier Youth Camp	Anthony, WV
September 16-18	Hawk Counts	W.Va. Mountains
October 14-16	Annual Meeting-Cedar Lakes	Ripley, WV
November 5	Board of Directors Meeting, Headquarters	Wheeling, WV
December 17-30	Christmas Bird Counts	All local groups
April 9-10	ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST	
May 12-15	Audubon Weekend at Bethany College ... Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage ...	Bethany, WV Blackwater Falls, WV

BBC FORAYS

1983 — June 4 - June 18, Camp Pocahontas, Bartow, WV
1984 — June 7 - June 16, Wyoming Youth Camp, Wyoming Co., WV

SEASONAL FIELD AND BANDING NOTES DUE

March 15	June 15	September 15	December 15
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MAIL: Field Notes to: James D. Phillips, 809 Thorn St., Princeton, WV 24740
Banding Notes to: Ralph K. Bell, R.D. 1, Box 229, Clarksville, Pa. 15322

The dates for the 1982 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.