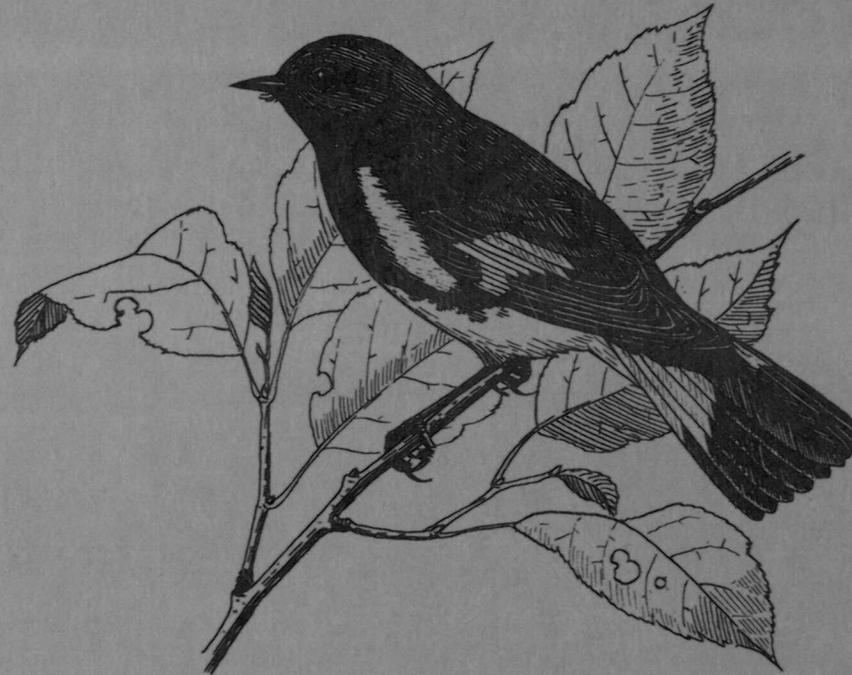


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The REDSTART

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APRIL, 1984



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The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

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Nesting Upland Sandpiper In Clarion County, Pa.

Walter L. Fye

On June 18, 1983, we found an Upland Sandpiper in a reclaimed strip mine about seven miles south of Knox. This was the first we had seen one in 1983. I had seen one in 1982, but only twice. On June 21, there were as many as six flying around at one time. They made a fuss as we walked along the road. This led us to believe they must have nests nearby. On June 25, while surveying a large grass-covered reclaimed area, we counted seven different birds. Ruth Rowe and Annabelle Fye were walking along the road, and when they stepped off the road to watch them fly, an Upland Sandpiper flew up about four feet in front of them. We soon found the nest, which was about six feet from the edge of the road.

The nest contained three eggs and one tiny young. This seemed strange since Upland Sandpipers usually hatch about the same time. I very quickly snapped several slides of the nest and the young one. I visited the nest a few days later with Dr. Gene Wilhelm and found the other three eggs had not hatched. In checking them we found that two were infertile and for some reason the other did not hatch. On July 2, the female and chick were feeding in a mowed hay field along with five other adult Sandpipers. They continued to feed in this field every day, and were very easy to show to a number of visitors. On July 11, there were nine adult Upland Sandpipers in the field, but the chick was not with them. I did not see the chick again, and after the 15th there were never more than three in the field. The last day I saw any was on July 21st and then only one. It was impossible to determine if there were any other nests, but it was apparent that there were at least two males as they had their own territories.

R.D. #2
Knox, PA 16232

Dickcissel Nest Found In Clarion County, Pa.

Ralph K. Bell

On June 23, 1983, I stopped to visit Walter and Annabelle Fye, R.D. #2, Knox, Pa. Walt is developing into a dedicated birder and bander. Soon after I arrived at their place, Walt asked if I wanted to see a rare bird that he and Carl Rowe had found singing on a vast reclaimed strip-mined area about seven miles south of Knox. The rare bird was a Dickcissel and its song is so characteristic, that once heard, it is easily recognized as a rough imitation of its name.

They had first noticed a male Dickcissel on June 4, 1983. The next day it was singing from an overhead power line. As they watched and listened, a female flew up and perched on the wire beside him.

Two days after my visit on June 23, the nest was found in an European Alder about six in. above the ground. There were four pale blue eggs in the nest. On June 28, Walt visited the nest site again and one egg had just hatched. Each day the male was always singing from his power line perch and was never seen to help with feeding the young.

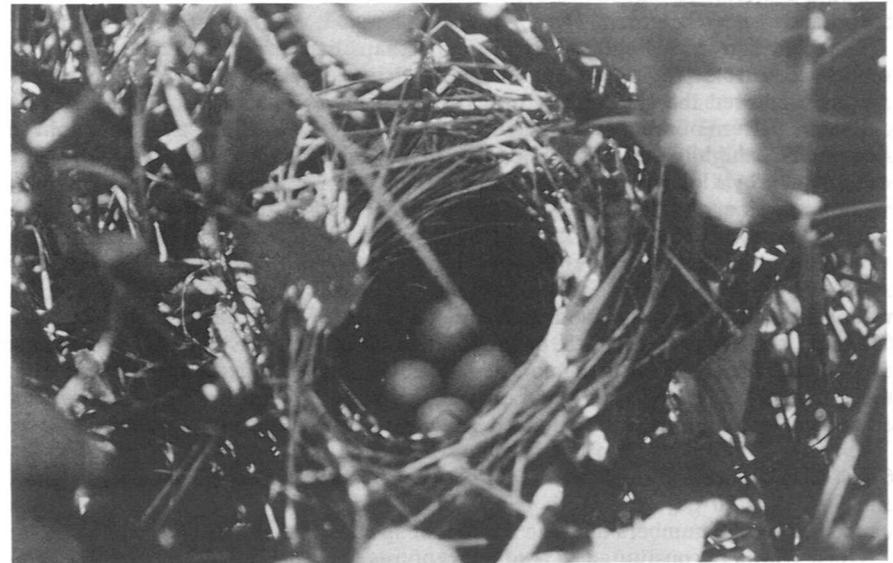
The nest site was not visited again for 13 days for fear of leading predators to the nest, but they were observed from a near-by road. On July 11, the nest was visited and found intact but empty. The female was seen near-by carrying green worms into the thick grass cover. This was the last time they were observed.

The Dickcissel is a bird of the open country and according to Todd, *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* (1940), it was once a common species on the Atlantic slope, but there are few records for Western Pa. since 1887. No doubt the clearing of the forest was the big factor in its spreading eastward from the prairies of the Mississippi Valley. The Brown-headed Cowbird may have been the primary cause for the decline of the Dickcissel in Western Pa. (my comments), but anyone interested in such things should read the article "Brown-headed Cowbird: agent of extermination?" by Harold Mayfield in the March 1977 issue of *Am. Birds*, pp 107-113.

My own records of the Dickcissel here in south-western Pa. are scant, but one was caught and banded in a water-drip trap on the edge of a field near Jefferson, Pa. Sept. 25, 1963. Then on May 3, 1967, I noted one singing along the edge of a field about three miles west of Jefferson. A bird was still singing at the same place on July 5. Ten days later (July 15, 1967) a Dickcissel was singing from a locust tree perch on the edge of a big field about three miles north of the first location. A female was observed carrying nesting material into a blackberry clump, but the nest was never completed. The birds were never seen after July 18 and none have been recorded here since that time.

Walter says that if the Dickcissels make their appearance again in 1984, he will notify the BBC and any interested members will be quite welcome to come and see them.

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



Dickcissel nest in a European Alder, June 1983. Photo by Walter Fye.

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory

Record for 1983
George A. Hall

The twenty-sixth year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant County, West Virginia, was a banner event in all respects. The station was in continuous operation from August 15 to October 9, with banding being carried out on 55 days. On one day, in October, the station was closed because of the weather, and on four other days operations were curtailed because of rain. There was a snowfall on September 23 and a cold spell at that time but generally the season was mild and dry.

A total of 9366 birds (highest ever) of 85 species (highest ever) was banded in a station effort of 5598 net-hours (highest ever) giving a capture ratio of 167.3 birds per 100 net-hours (sixth highest). It is apparent from the capture ratio that the unusually large number of birds banded was largely the result of the extra time of operation this year.

One new species, Warbling Vireo, and a hybrid form, "Brewster's Warbler" were added to the station list bringing that list to a total of 113 forms and a grand total of 92,195 birds banded. Six birds banded in earlier years were recaptured this year. Two Common Yellowthroats, two Magnolia Warblers and one Black-throated Blue Warbler banded in 1982 were caught, and a Magnolia Warbler banded in 1981 was retaken. In the time since the last report we have had reports of two birds banded at this station being recovered elsewhere. A Tennessee Warbler banded on September 21, 1981 was recovered near Newton Center, Massachusetts on May 5, 1983 and a Yellowthroat banded on September 4, 1982 was recovered at Bittinger, Maryland on July 16, 1983. We have also learned that on August 30, 1982 we netted a Cape May Warbler that had been banded near Westport, Nova Scotia on August 4, 1981.

The migration started about on time and, perhaps because of the mild weather the southward warbler flight, was prolonged well into October. The daily number of captures followed the classical pattern that was so common in earlier years, quite unlike the pattern of the last few years. There was a pronounced peak in the flight on August 21-22, highlighted by a tremendous movement of Blackburnian Warblers. This was followed by a lull with no large flights for about two weeks. Then from September 8-12 there was a very heavy flight, peaking on September 12 with 664 birds banded. Another brief lull followed and from September 18-27 the migration was heavy, although the daily numbers were not as high as in the earlier peak. In late September and early October Tropical Storm Dean brought us an interval of bad weather, but when this broke, there was another heavy movement of birds from October 2-5, with 666 birds, the largest daily catch, banded on October 4. Towards the end of the season the migration seemed a little behind schedule, with many warblers still present when the station closed on October 9, and rather few Juncos, White-throated Sparrows and other October migrants having arrived.

There were two days on which bandings exceeded 600, one day between 500 and 600, 4 days between 400 and 500, 5 days between 300 and 400, and 8 days between 200 and 300, thus 20 days on which bandings exceeded 200. Seventeen species were banded in record numbers and one additional species tied the record count.

Wood Warblers constituted 82% of the captures with the Tennessee Warbler being the most abundant. The Blackpoll, after being low for several years, was the second most abundant species. Of 19 warbler species 14 were banded in numbers well above

the 5-year average, four were in average numbers and only one (Cape May) was in below average numbers. These numbers have not been corrected for the extra length of operation time and so some of these species were not quite as abundant as it first appears, but the flight of Blackburnian and Magnolia Warblers was most impressive, and was well above the average. The Swainson's Thrush was handled in average numbers, Wood Thrush bandings were below average, but the other thrushes were in above average numbers. The flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was better than last year's, but was still below average. A rather large number of bandings of Black-capped Chickadees gave a preview of the massive flight of this species throughout the East in late October and early November. Of special interest was the large number of Red-headed Woodpeckers seen flying by the station.

During the season about 1530 people signed the visitor's book. These people came from 16 states, the District of Columbia, one Canadian Province and one from the Isle of Man. Among the visitors were several elementary school classes and classes from at least three colleges.

The banders who participated this year were Sue Edmonds, Walter Fye, Ephe Olliver, Frances Pope, Julie Simpson, Harry Slack, Jo Lane Stern, Sallie Thayer, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson, and Charles Ziegenfus together with co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. Special thanks go this year: to LeJay Graffious and Todd Schnopp for the erection and removal of the shelter; to Charles Ziegenfus for clearing the net lanes; to Kathleen and Mike Finnegan for improvements in the shelter; to Jim Evans for supplying the gathering bags; and to Harriet and Mel Hooker, Carol and Fred McCullough, and the Minear family, Jolene, Jack, Jonavieve, Jacaleen, and Jonathon, for extra miscellaneous help. As in every year extra special appreciation goes to Genevieve and John Findley, without whose devoted work this project would not be possible on the present scale.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying collecting cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Lewis Banker, Rodney Bartgis, Mike Berdine, Virginia Byers, Gladys Cole, Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Helen Conrad, Bob Dean, Ben Dutcher, Hal Findley, Kevin Findley, JoAnn Graham, Phil Graham, Andrew Hall, Lorraine Harper, Ann Harris, Ken Heselton, Sue Heselton, Susie Hinzman, Linda Hollenberg, Diane Holsinger, Murray Honick, Renee Honick, Patrick Hurley, Tom Hurley, Gene Hutton, Jim Huy, Karen Huy, Mike Huy, Steven Huy, John Jones, Virginia Johnson, Andy Kraynik, Holly Kraynik, Martha Kulp, Bill Lewis, Maxine Kiff, Melinda Lukei, Reese Lukei, Chris McCullough, Jason McCullough, Ben Myers, Evelyn Meyers, Jerry McGrew, Janice Musser, Marilyn Ortt, Jenny Ortt, Jodi Ortt, Kathy Ortt, Glen Phillips, Charles Pierce, Ivareen Pierce, Charlotte Pryor, Stan Roach, Carl Rowe, Ruth Rowe, Joe Schreiber, Juanita Slusher, Connie Skipper, Bill Smith, Edgar Smith, Edwin Smith, Virginia Stanley, Roy Ward, Martin Wiley, Dolores Wilson, and James Wilson. To all of these and any others missed go our thanks.

We also wish to thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest: Supervisor Ralph F. Mumme, District Ranger Jerry Bremer, Assistant District Ranger David Allen, and others of the Petersburg Ranger Station, for their cooperation and support of this project.

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

Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Sept. 23
Merlin	1	October 7
American Woodcock	1	Sept. 13
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	October 7
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	Oct. 4, Oct. 6 (35 were counted flying by during the season)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Oct. 7, Oct. 8
Downy Woodpecker	10	Aug. 17 - Oct. 8
Northern Flicker	2	Aug. 19, Sept. 28
Eastern Wood-Pewee	13	Aug. 19-Sept. 20 (Sept. 8:4) (ties highest)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3	Aug. 23 - Sept. 24
"Traill's" Flycatcher	1	Aug. 19
Least Flycatcher	8	Aug. 17 - Sept. 28
Eastern Phoebe	3	Aug. 22, Sept. 20, Oct. 5
Blue Jay	160	(new high) Sept. 9 - Oct. 8 (Oct. 6:68)
Black-capped Chickadee	37	Aug. 21 - Oct. 8 (Oct. 8:8)
Tufted Titmouse	7	Sept. 24 - Oct. 8
Red-breasted Nuthatch	21	Aug. 21 - Oct. 7 (Sept. 8:4)
White-breasted Nuthatch	10	Sept. 11 - Oct. 8
Brown Creeper	24	Sept. 9 - Oct. 8 (Oct. 8:7)
House Wren	3	Sept. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 3
Winter Wren	18	Aug. 18 - Oct. 9 (Oct. 7:4)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	88	(new high) Sept. 19 - Oct. 9 (Oct. 8:38)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	44	Sept. 18 - Oct. 8 (Oct. 7:12)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	Aug. 29, Sept. 8
Veery	17	Aug. 21 - Sept. 27 (new high)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	25	Sept. 2 - Oct. 9 (Oct. 7:4)
Swainson's Thrush	554	Aug. 17 - Oct. 9 (Sept. 19:68)
Hermit Thrush	23	(new high) Aug. 15 - Oct. 9 (Oct. 8:3)
Wood Thrush	34	Sept. 4 - Oct. 7 (Sept. 24:5)
American Robin	9	Aug. 21 - Oct. 8
Gray Catbird	26	Aug. 22 - Sept. 27 (Sept. 25:5)
Cedar Waxwing	17	(new high) Aug. 15 - Sept. 18
Solitary Vireo	15	(new high) Aug. 16 - Oct. 8
Warbling Vireo	1	(new species for station) Sept. 20
Philadelphia Vireo	25	Sept. 9 - Oct. 7 (Sept. 24:8)
Red-eyed Vireo	92	Aug. 18 - Oct. 4 (Sept. 24:9)
Golden-winged Warbler	8	(new high) Aug. 21 - Sept. 9 (Aug. 22:4)
"Brewster's" Warbler hybrid (new form for station)	1	Sept. 9
Tennessee Warbler	1494	Aug. 17 - Oct. 9 (Oct. 4:266)
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	Oct. 3, Oct. 4
Nashville Warbler	153	Aug. 22 - Oct. 8 (Sept. 24:33)
Northern Parula	11	Aug. 22 - Oct. 5 (Sept. 12:3)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	73	(new high) Aug. 16 - Sept. 27 (Aug. 21:8)
Magnolia Warbler	484	(new high) Aug. 17 - Oct. 8 (Sept. 23 & 24:56)
Cape May Warbler	824	Aug. 18 - Oct. 8 (Sept. 12:93)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	937	Aug. 17 - Oct. 9 (Sept. 18:105)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	16	Sept. 25 - Oct. 8 (Oct. 6:6)

Black-throated Green Warbler	582	Aug. 15 - Oct. 9 (Sept. 26:48)
Blackburnian Warbler	643	(new high) Aug. 17 - Oct. 6 (Aug. 22:173)
Pine Warbler	2	Sept. 26, Oct. 7
Prairie Warbler	2	Sept. 8, Sept. 11
Palm Warbler	1	Oct. 6
Bay-breasted Warbler	525	Aug. 29 - Oct. 8 (Oct. 4:73)
Blackpoll Warbler	1173	Aug. 30 - Oct. 9 (Sept. 18:152)
Cerulean Warbler	3	Aug. 21, Aug. 22
Black & White Warbler	97	(new high) Aug. 15 - Oct. 4 (Aug. 22:10)
American Redstart	101	Aug. 16 - Oct. 6 (Sept. 10 & 12:8)
Worm-eating Warbler	13	(new high) Aug. 17 - Sept. 24
Ovenbird	196	Aug. 17 - Oct. 8 (Sept. 26:29)
Northern Waterthrush	14	(new high) Aug. 21 - Sept. 20
Connecticut Warbler	24	Sept. 9 - Oct. 8 (Sept. 12:6)
Mourning Warbler	3	Aug. 22, Aug. 25, Sept. 10
Common Yellowthroat	211	(new high) Aug. 15 - Oct. 7 (Sept. 12:15)
Hooded Warbler	28	(new high) Aug. 20 - Oct. 7 (Aug. 22:5)
Wilson's Warbler	43	Aug. 21 - Oct. 4 (Sept. 24:4)
Canada Warbler	46	(new high) Aug. 17 - Oct. 3 (Aug. 22:19)
Scarlet Tanager	11	Aug. 20 - Oct. 4
Northern Cardinal	1	Oct. 9
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	65	Aug. 16 - Oct. 6 (Sept. 26:18)
Indigo Bunting	12	Aug. 18 - Sept. 24
Rufous-sided Towhee	20	Aug. 17 - Oct. 8 (Oct. 5:4)
Chipping Sparrow	3	Aug. 31, Oct. 7, Oct. 8
Field Sparrow	13	Aug. 22 - Oct. 9
Vesper Sparrow	1	Oct. 7
Savannah Sparrow	7	Aug. 16 - Sept. 20
Song Sparrow	14	Aug. 21 - Oct. 8
Lincoln's Sparrow	7	Sept. 15 - Sept. 22
Swamp Sparrow	16	Aug. 16 - Oct. 8
White-throated Sparrow	20	Sept. 19 - Oct. 9 (Oct. 8:7)
White-crowned Sparrow	2	Oct. 7, Oct. 9
Dark-eyed Junco	97	Aug. 15 - Oct. 9 (Oct. 5, Oct. 8:12)
Northern Oriole	1	Sept. 10
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	Aug. 15, Aug. 21, Oct. 4
Purple Finch	24	(new high) Sept. 5 - Oct. 8 (Oct. 7:4)
American Goldfinch	39	Aug. 22 - Oct. 8
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	This species is not banded but 126 were liberated from the nets, and an additional 152 were seen flying by making a total of 278 hummingbirds.	
Note: The above list of species is arranged according to the order given in the 6th edition of the A.O.U. Check-List, 1983.		

Dept. of Wildlife Biology
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Favorite Natural Area: Arden

Eleanor Bush

The three-mile area called Arden is located along the Tygart Valley River in the northern sector of Barbour County, West Virginia. The river flows north, having its rise near Bald Knob, Pocohontas County and flows through Randolph, to Barbour, Taylor and Marion counties.

The area from the community of Arden to the Moatsville bridge over the Tygart Valley River is incorporated in this report (See Map A. B. C.). At this point the river runs in a west-east fashion. A gravel road parallels the river. This road once was the railroad bed for the Grafton-Belington Branch of the B. and O. Railroad. In 1937, when the construction of the Grafton-Dam-Tygart Reservoir was made, the railroad was removed. The road makes a fine trail for observations on both sides. One side borders the riverbank and the other side gives a good view of the hilly wooded area.

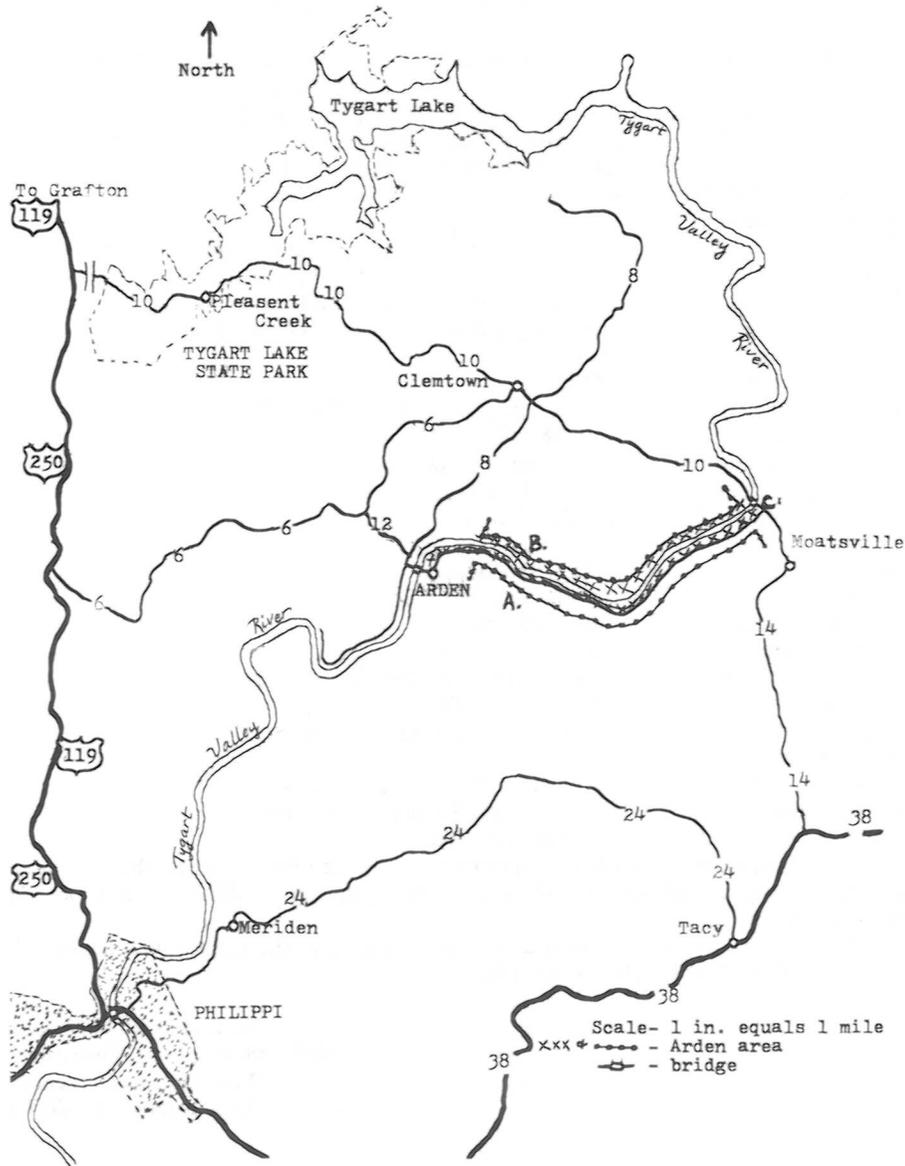
Because of the diversity of soil conditions, slopes and exposures, floristic differences are extreme between the riverbank plants in a moist to dry, prairie-like situation, the deciduous wood species and the wetter riverbank plants.

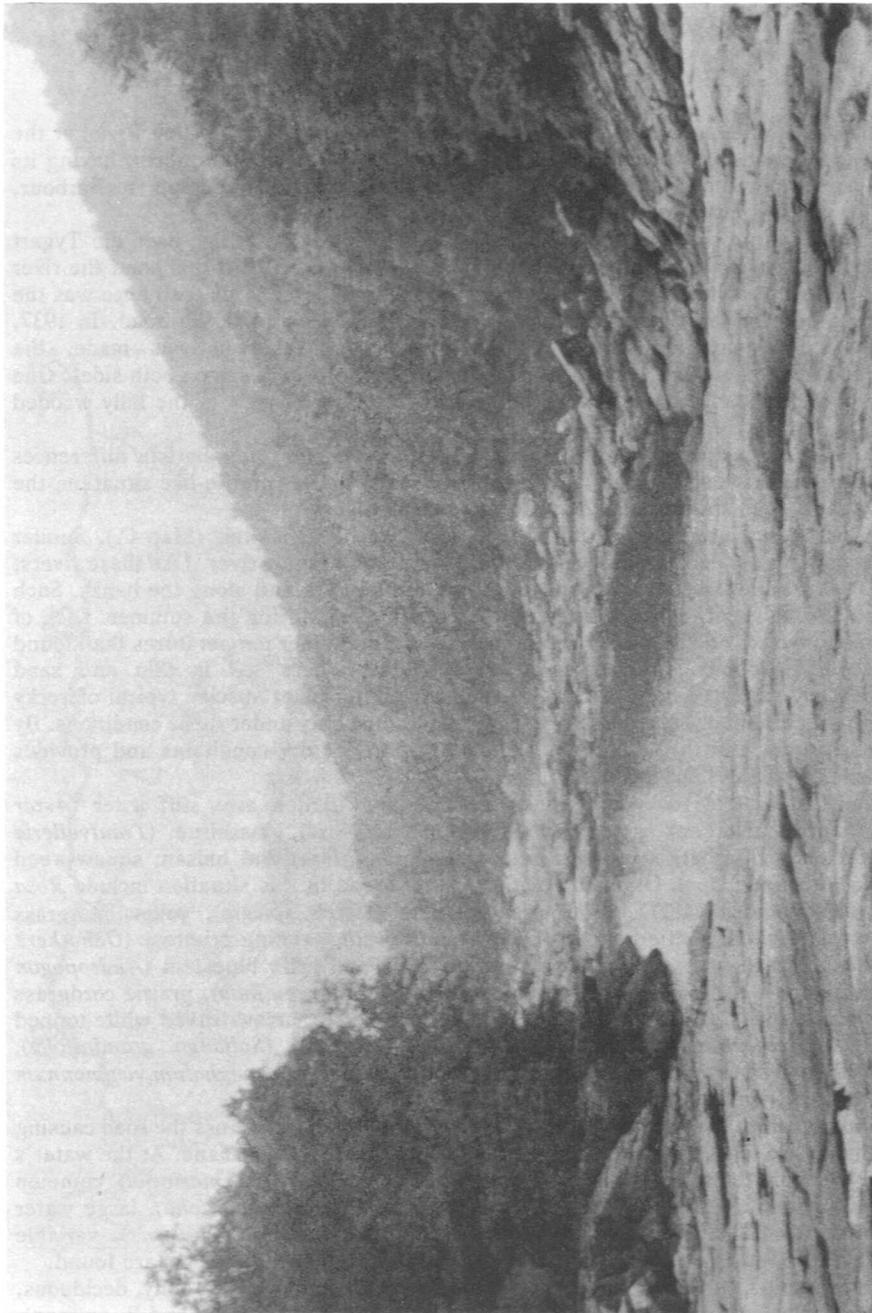
Of particular interest at Arden is the rocky riverbank habitat. (Map C.). Similar habitats are also seen along Cheat river, New river and Gauley river. Like these rivers, the Tygart Valley river has large boulders within the river and along the banks. Such areas alternate between flooding and extreme dryness during the summer. Lack of shade from trees and shrubs gives the rocks and sand higher temperatures than found in shaded sections. In crevices of the boulders where soil is thin and sand predominates, in constant sun and frequent flooding, plant species typical of rocky riverbanks are found, and found only in West Virginia only under these conditions. By necessity root growth is deeper to obtain water under dry conditions and provides anchorage during flood periods.

Plants typical of rocky riverbanks and found at Arden are: stiff aster (*Aster linifolius*), riverbank goldenrod (*Solidago racemosa*), tasselerue (*Trautvetteria caroliniensis*), Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia grandiflora*) and balsam squaw-weed (*Senecio pauperculus*). Other interesting plants found in this situation include *Rosa blanda* (*Castanea* 41:377. 1976), gay feathers (*Liatris spicata*), yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*), bottle gentian (*Gentian andrewsii*), evening-primrose (*Oenothera species*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), big and little bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi* and *A. scorporius*), slender gerardia (*Gerardia tenuifolia*), prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), tall coreopsis (*Coreopsis tripteris*), narrow-leaved white-topped aster (*Sericocarpus linifolius*), grass-leaved goldenrod (*Solidago graminifolia*), rush-like aster (*A. junciformis*), and small dragonhead (*Dracocephalum virginianum* var. *granulosum*).

Drainage from the hillside results in water flowing under or across the road causing small pools to form between rocks and sand along the level riverbank. At the water's edge or within the water, such species as water willow (*Justicia americana*), common water plantain (*Alisma subcordatum*), duck-potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*), large water starwort (*Callitriche heterophylla*), marsh purslane (*Ludwigia palustris*), variable pondweed (*Potamogeton diversifolius*) and bulrushes (*Scirpus species*) are found.

Progressing east along the river and road there is an extension of a hilly, deciduous, diversified woods of mostly third and fourth growth timber. (See A. and B. on map). With a northern exposure, (A.) the flora has been observed more than on the opposite side of the river (B.), but what has been checked out is very similar. A variety of





A view of the Tygart Valley River near Arden, W. Va. Photo by the author.

species of the canopy layer such as red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sugar maple (*A. saccharum*), pignut (*Carya glabra*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Q. rubra*), chestnut oak (*Q. prinus*), basswood (*Tilia heterophylla*) and black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) and other species comprise this mixed mesophytic woods. Smaller trees and shrubs along the riverbank in some places and in the woods of the hilly section are: mountain holly (*Ilex montana*), black alder (*Ilex verticillata*), striped maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), wild raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*), smooth arrowwood (*V. recognitum*), maple-leaf arrowwood (*V. acerifolium*), silky cornel (*Cornus amomum*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), buffalnut (*Pyrularia pubera*), pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) and large patches of great laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*).

Associated with the mixed mesophytic woods is a host of plants that bloom abundantly throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. Among the many are harbinger-of-spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), white clintonia (*Clintonia umbellulata*), violets (17 *Viola* species), green violet (*Hybanthus concolor*), dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), blue monks hood (*Aconitum uncinatum*), American spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), mountain anemone (*Anemone lancifolia*), fawn lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*), dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*), Turk's cap lily (*Lilium superbum*), goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*), Eupatorium species, sunflowers (*Helianthes species*), Aster and Solidago species. Ferns grow in the shaded damp areas such as species of Botrichium, Osmunda, Asplenium, Athrium, Dryopteris, *Polypodium virginianum* and *Woodsia obtusa*.

Several plants listed in the **Rare and Endangered Vascular Plant Species in West Virginia** (Clarkson et al 1981) are found at Arden. Included are: rush-like aster (*Aster junciformis*), *Rosa blanda*, lowland loosestrife (*Lysimachia hybrida*), narrow-leaved white-topped aster (*Sericocarpus linifolius* and balsam squaw-weed (*Senecio pauperculus*). A small dragonhead (*Dracocephalum virginianum* var. *granulosum*) was first reported for the state here in 1972. At the present time several hundred plants may be seen blooming each May-June. There is some question as to its state as a variety but it is still classed as such. (*Castanea* 37: 301. 1972). Although another interesting variety of robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus* var. *Brauniae* Fernald) was first found at Arden, and being new for the State in 1970, it has since been collected by me along other sections of the Tygart Valley, along the sandy rocky terrain of Cheat, Greenbrier, Elk, Buckhannon, Holly, Jackson and Gauley rivers. It has been collected along the New river by Rossbach, Kleinstuber and Grafton. I know of no other reports in the literature for this plant except Fernald (1950) and Gleason (1968) who report it as being local in Kentucky.

Since access to the Tygart Valley river at Arden is easy, observations of a great variety of plants are available for anyone who is interested in the flora of West Virginia. I have catalogued 462 species. From the earliest spring plants such as harbinger-of-spring through the summertime of gay feathers and Barbara's buttons to the last riverbank goldenrods and rush-like asters, Arden is a significant natural area for plants in West Virginia.

The Nature Conservancy has indicated an interest in preserving the area. It is hoped that some form of protection can be established.

October 23 (GW). The only **Common Goldeneyes** were the dozen on Teter Lake Oct. 25 (AB). **Buffleheads** were reported after Oct. 26. **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were reported but no **Red-breasted**.

Diurnal Raptors — Most contributors considered the **Turkey Vulture** to be common but the only **Black Vultures** were seen in Summers, Mercer (JP) and Monroe (GHu) Counties. **Osprey** reports away from the ridges came from Coonskin, Kanawha Co. (NG) and along the Elk River, Kanawha Co. (HG). Good sent in a clipping from the **Charleston Gazette** which described how to deliver injured raptors to the Rehabilitation Center in Morgantown. The example used was an **Osprey** that had been shot in the Fork Creek Public Hunting Area, Boone County. Four **Northern Harriers** were tallied at Hanging Rocks, Monroe Co. (GHu) and only one at East River Mt., Mercer Co. (JP). Other reports came from Southside, Mason Co. (GHu) and Yellow-Creek State Park, Pa. (MH). **Red-shouldered** and **Red-tailed Hawks** were considered fairly common. The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight seemed to peak on Sept. 15. There were two Virginia sightings of **Northern Goshawks** during November (KF). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** appeared early (Sept. 25) on a Virginia farm while another arrived in Highland Co., Va. on Nov. 14 (KF). Hurley found one of each color phase near Point Pleasant, Mason Co. November 19. Several eagles were sighted during the season. Both species were seen at Bear Rocks (GF). Single **Bald Eagles** were seen at East River Mt. (JP) and Middle Ridge (NG) and two (one adult, one immature) were found feeding on dead fish near Fort Seybert, Pendleton Co. (KF). Two **Golden Eagles** were seen on Hanging Rocks (GHu) and two were reported in Highland Co., Va. (KF). **Amer. Kestrels** appeared in normal numbers. One **Merlin** was observed on East River Mt., one at Teter Lake (AB) and one near Harrisonburg, Va. (KF). The only **Peregrine Falcon** was one in Beech Fork State Park, Wayne Co. (TI).

Gamebirds, Rails and Shorebirds — A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen in Buckhannon, Upshur Co. (MT). Other sightings came from Cedar Creek State Park (JW) and Armstrong (MH), Pa. **Ruffed Grouse** remain common in most of the region. Good reported five **Wild Turkeys** in eastern Doddridge Co. Higbee had one feeding at her feeder during November. The only area reporting **Northern Bobwhites** as even fairly common was Fort Gay, Wayne Co. (TI). **Virginia Rails** were seen near Bethany, Brooke Co. (JB) and Glenwood Swamp, Cabell Co. (TI). A **Sora** was seen along the Bluestone River, Summers Co. in September (JP).

Good numbers of **American Coots** were reported from mid-October to the end of the period. A flock of over 200 spent most of November in Yellow Creek State Park, Pa. (MH). During the first week of October 18 to 20 **Lesser Golden Plovers** could be found feeding in a plowed field near Montezuma, Va. (KF). Several **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen in Pennsylvania (MH). **Killdeer** seemed in good numbers except in Monongalia Co. (GB). Both yellowlegs were reported. A **Ruddy Turnstone** was near Cheshire, Ohio (TI) Oct. 15 and one near Oakland, Md. Sept. 12 (GF). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at the Glenwood Swamp Sept. 17 (TI).

Gulls through Terns — Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were in East Huntington Sept. 17, one in Charleston Nov. 26 and one on Keystone Lake, Pa. Nov. 5. **Ring-billed Gulls** were considered uncommon in the Cabell Co. area of the Ohio River (TI) but quite common in the Marietta, Ohio section of the river (GB). Gluck reported **Herring Gulls** as quite numerous along the Kanawha River. The only tern reported was a group of three **Caspian Terns** in Charleston on Sept. 13 (ES).

Owls to Kingfisher — There were only two reports of **Eastern Screech-Owls**. One from the Fort Gay area (TI) and the other from Armstrong, Pa. (MH). The only **Barred Owls** were found in the Fort Gay area (TI) and the Elkview, Kanawha Co. area (HG). Breiding saw a **Snowy Owl** that had apparently been injured in the Maumee Bay area

of Ohio on Nov. 10. The **Great Horned Owl** was the most reported. Two were seen in Armstrong, one near Brush Valley (MH) and three in Ruffsdale, Pa. (JW). One was found in Rowlesburg, Preston Co. (GF) in September.

The **Common Nighthawk** flight did not seem to occur in the usual large numbers. The only big flight was a flock of 165 over Uniontown, Pa. (VJ). The last date for this species was Sept. 17 in Preston (GF) and Monongalia (GB) Counties. **Chimney Swifts** were last seen in the region on Oct. 14 (HG). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen Oct. 8 at Fort Gay (TI). The banders at AFMO released 126 of these birds and saw another 152 flying over (GH). The only mention of **Belted Kingfishers** was that they were seen regularly in the Elkview area during September and October (HG).

Woodpeckers and Flycatchers — A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was seen in Clarksville (RB) and one in Armstrong (MH), Pa. About a dozen were reported from Virginia (KF) and only one in Md. (GF). Three colonies were found along a two-mile section of Arbuckle Creek, Fayette Co. (GW) and 35 were seen flying by AFMO during the season (GH). Other sightings included two in Greenbrier Co. (CH) and one each from Mercer and Summers Counties (JP). The other woodpeckers appeared to be in normal numbers.

The last date for **Eastern Wood-Pewees** was Oct. 15 in Elkview (HG). The only **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** reported were three banded at AFMO. A **Willow Flycatcher** was at the Glenwood Swamp on Sept. 17 (TI). Hoover reported flycatchers lingering far into October in the French Creek area of Upshur Co.

Swallows through Brown Creeper — **Tree Swallows** were last seen in Glenwood, W. Va. on Sept. 17 (TI). The last date for this species in Va. and Pa. was Nov. 12 and 13 respectively (MH & KF). **Cliff Swallows** were last seen in the Lewisburg, Greenbrier Co. on Sept. 18 (CH). **Barn Swallows** were at Shenandoah Lake, Va. on Oct. 4 (KF). Good saw a late **N. Rough-winged Swallow** in Elkview, Kanawha Co. on Oct. 23.

Good numbers of **Blue Jays** were observed during September along East River Mt., Mercer Co. (JP) and in the Morgantown, Monongalia Co. area (GB). Hall reported the number banded at AFMO as a new high. A **Common Raven** in Beech Fork State Park on Oct. 1 was a local record according to Tom Igou. Most reporters commented on large numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** throughout the period. **Brown Creepers** had moved into the Elkview area by Oct. 8 (HG).

Wrens and Thrushes — The **Carolina Wren** seems to be fluctuating since the wipe-out of five years ago according to Breiding. A **Bewick's Wren** was present in Culloden, Cabell Co. (TI) from Nov. 17 to the end of the period. Last times for **House Wrens** seemed confined to the third week of October in Va. (KF) and Pa. (MH). **Winter Wrens** appeared in good number in most areas. Three **Marsh Wrens** were seen in Yellow Creek State Park, Pa. (MH) and one near Spring Creek, Va. (KF). Both kinglets appeared in very good numbers. A record number of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were banded at AFMO (GH) and Johnson reported seeing more **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at one time than he ever saw before in Lerona, Mercer Co.

The number of **Veeries** banded at AFMO was a new high (GH). Normal to high numbers of **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's** were reported from most areas. A record number of **Hermit Thrushes** were banded at AFMO. Unusually large flocks of **Amer. Robins** were reported from W. Va., Va. and Pa. Flocks numbering in the hundreds were seen in Monongalia Co. W. Va. (GB), Clarksville, Pa. (RB) and Natural Chimneys, Va. (KF), while a roost in Armstrong, Pa. ranged from about 300 birds on Sept. 9 to an estimated 26,000 on Nov. 5 (MH).

Mimics through Starlings — The last date for **Gray Catbirds** was Oct. 19 in the Parkersburg area (GB) and about the same time in the Va. part of our region (KF). **Northern Mockingbirds** and **Brown Thrashers** are remaining in sections of our area

throughout the fall season. Record size flocks of **Water Pipits** were reported in the Broadway, Va. area (KF) and a flock of about 50 was seen by Hurley south east of Pt. Pleasant on Nov. 19. This was a banner year for **Cedar Waxwings** with flocks of 50-100 being seen in most of the region. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen at Prichard during the first week of October (TI). All other reports for this species came from the usual places in Va. (KF). A roost of 5000 **European Starlings** was present in the Clarksville, Pa. area by the end of the period while a flock half that size was in Armstrong, Pa. by mid-November.

Vireos and Warblers — **White-eyed Vireos** were considered common to abundant during the migration. The last **Solitary Vireo** was seen Oct. 24 in Rowlesburg, Preston Co. (GF). Oct. 10 was the last date for **Red-eyed Vireos** (GF). **Philadelphia Vireos** were seen in Monongalia (GB), Kanawha (HG), Mercer (JP), and Preston (GF) Counties.

Some of the warblers were still on the move at the end of October. Eighty-two per cent of the birds banded at AFMO were wood warblers. Fourteen species were well above the 5-year average, while four were in average numbers and only one species (**Cape May**) was in below average numbers. **Tennessee Warblers** were reported from several areas as the most abundant species. Late dates included the following: **Prairie** Oct. 26, Monongalia Co. (GB), **Common Yellowthroat** - Oct. 24, Preston Co. (GF), **Pine** - Oct. 23, Kanawha Co. (HG), **Tennessee, Cape May**, and **Blackpoll** - Oct. 23, Fayette Co. (GW).

Tanagers through Sparrows — **Summer and Scarlet Tanagers** had left most areas by the first week of October with the last **Scarlet Tanager** along Rt. 33 on the Va. - W.Va. line on Oct. 14 (KF). The last **Summer Tanager** was in Elkview, Kanawha Co. on Oct. 15 (HG). A pair of **Northern Cardinals** were still feeding young in mid-September in Elkview (HG). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were very common along East River Mt., Mercer Co. (JP) and in Preston Co. (GF) but were considered uncommon in Kanawha Co. (HG) during September. A **Blue Grosbeak** was seen at Scarbro, Fayette Co. on Oct. 23 and a total of 31 were seen during the season in Va. (KF). The only **Dickcissel** report came from Augusta Co. Va. (KF).

About 25 **Amer. Tree Sparrows** were seen in Washington, Pa. on Nov. 11 (MH). Two **Henslow's Sparrows** were seen in Oakland, Md. on Sept. 12 (GF). Seven **Lincoln's Sparrows** were banded at AFMO (GH). Others were reported in Preston Co. (GF), Monongalia Co. (GB) and Clarksville, Pa. (RB). **White-throated Sparrows** were first seen at AFMO during September while they appeared elsewhere during October. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen in Virginia on Oct. 9 (KF). **Savannah Sparrows** were considered abundant in Greenbrier Co. (CH).

Blackbirds and Finches — The only flocks of **Bobolinks** were reported from Virginia during the last of September (KF). Roosts of several hundred blackbirds were reported from Pa. (MH). One roost composed of **Red-wings, Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** was estimated to contain 1900 individuals. A roost of about 50 **Rusty Blackbirds** was found in Armstrong, Pa. in late October.

A male **Pine Grosbeak** was seen Nov. 12 in Pine Flat, Pa. (MH). **Purple Finches** were reported from the northern part of the region by mid-September, most of the remaining area by the first week of October and the southern part of the state early in November. Some reporters consider the **House Finch** uncommon while others are beginning to regard it a pest. **Red Crossbills** continue to be seen along Rt. 33 on the Va. - W.Va. line (KF). There were widespread reports of **Pine Siskins** but not in great numbers. **American Goldfinches** varied from uncommon to abundant. Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from the third week of October through the end of the period. Most seemed to pass through, staying only a day or so.

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BANDING NEWS

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Clarksville, Pa. — Of all the favorite birds over much of the United States and southern Canada, the E. Bluebird must be near the top of the list. There is even a quarterly journal, **Salia**, devoted mainly to the Bluebird. The scientific name of the E. Bluebird is *Sialia sialis* (pronounced see-owl-lee-ah see-owl-iss). The first issue of **Salia** was published in Jan. 1979 by the North American Bluebird Society. The idea of forming a continent-wide organization devoted to Bluebirds came about after Dr. Lawrence Zeleny's "Song of Hope for the Bluebird" appeared in the June 1977 issue of **National Geographic** magazine. The volume of mail from people who wanted additional information about the Bluebird was overwhelming.

Dr. Zeleny was an inspiration to me also, first through his writings and especially after paying us a visit in early June 1968 to talk Bluebirds and look over our Bluebird nest-box route.

My first Bluebird records go back to 1927, and it was probably around that time that I proudly put up my first Bluebird box on top of a post. I remember that it was a crude affair - being about two feet high and made from an old wooden well casing. The entrance hole for the Bluebirds was through a slot near the bottom that had originally been cut out for the pump handle. The Bluebirds must have liked it as it was used by them for years.

No record of the Bluebirds that nested here was kept until I received my banding permit in 1954, and no serious attempt was made to put up a lot of boxes (and then band the young) until 1965. Practically all were banded here on our farm until that time.

TABLE 1
RESULTS OF 30 YEARS OF BANDING BLUEBIRDS

Year	Adults Banded	Immatures Banded	Nestlings Banded	Age Unknown	Total Banded	Nestlings Banded On Farm	Total Nests With Young (Of Boxes Checked)	Nests With Young Per Nest						Ave. Young Per Nest		
								7 (Young)	6	5	4	3	2		1	
1954	0	2	24	0	26	24	6			2	2	2				4.00
1955	2	1	16	6	25	16	4		1	0	1	2				4.00
1956	3	3	11	13	30	11	3			2				1		3.66
1957	5	1	35	3	44	35	8			3	5					4.37
1958	2		8		10	8	2				2					4.00
1959	3		13	3	19	13	4			1	1			2		3.25
1960	3		9	4	16	9	2			1	1					4.50
1961	2	2		5	9											
1962			18	3	21	18	4			3		1				4.50
1963	2		3	5	10	3	1					1				3.00
1964	8		22	4	34	19	6			2	1	2	1			3.66
1965	7		271	4	282	29	66		4	27	18	6	7	4		4.10
1966	5		321	3	329	18	76		5	26	33	8	1	3	4	4.22
1967	7		508	5	520	13	125		6	36	56	19	6	2	2	4.06
1968	13		803		816	22	194	1	6	72	73	27	12	3	3	4.13
1969	9	1	774	1	785	14	195		4	64	76	37	7	7	7	3.96
1970	8		577	2	587	29	140	1	9	44	47	27	10	2	2	4.12
1971	14	3	354	1	372	27	89		2	30	33	14	9	1	1	3.97
1972	8		480	4	492	27	115		8	46	34	19	6	2	2	4.17
1973	4		140	2	146	16	39			7	18	6	6	2	2	3.58
1974	5		123		128	16	33		2	7	10	8	3	3	3	3.72
1975	2		79		81	19	19		1	7	6	4	1			4.38
1976	3	2	134	1	140	18	31		1	13	12	5				4.32
1977	1		81		82	17	19			11	3	4	1			4.26
1978	7	2	166	1	176	19	41		1	16	12	8	4			4.04
1979	1	6	96	8	111	19	25			9	8	4	3	1		3.84
1980	3		95	6	104	26	25			8	7	8	1	1		3.80
1981	7	14	161	11	193	33	38		3	14	12	7	2			4.23
1982	1	33	268	8	310	63	59		8	29	13	5	4			4.54
1983	3	7	147	5	162	57	38		2	12	10	8	5	1		3.87
Totals	138	77	5737	108	6060	630	1407		63	492	494	230	91	33	4	4.00

By listing the number of banded young per nest, a more reliable criterion of nesting success can be evaluated than when the number of eggs alone are given. A lot can happen between the time the eggs are laid until the young reach banding age.

The first nesting attempt for most bird species is usually the most successful and this applies to Bluebirds as well. There are usually only 3 or 4 young Bluebirds per box in July and August. Six young were never banded in one nest after July 1st. Also, second nestings of Bluebirds are more likely to be victims of Racoons, Snakes, House Wrens and Tree Swallows.

The sharp drop in nestlings banded here on the farm in 1958 was no doubt caused (in part) by the severe late winter weather, especially in the prime wintering areas of the southeastern United States. There was a succession of cold winters from 1957-1961 and the Bluebirds found on the Christmas counts in southeastern United States were only a fraction of normal. Also, during the summer of 1957, an extensive program was started (using heptachlor) to kill the fire ant in the Gulf states. Anyone interested in the drastic decline in Bluebird abundance during the 1958-1961 period should read Douglas James excellent discussion in the June issue of *Audubon Field Notes* (Vol. 16, No. 3, pp 308-311).

Past information indicates that the Bluebird has a history of many ups and downs, with the sharpest declines being after extreme bad weather conditions in the main wintering areas. One of these times worthy of mention can be found in W. E. Clyde Todd's *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* (1940), "The Bluebird is not nearly as common now as it was in the early 1890s. The winter of 1894-95 is memorable for the havoc wrought upon the Bluebird population by the long-continued cold. That spring scarcely one Bluebird returned out of every hundred that had gone south the fall before. The survivors, of course, were the hardiest of their race, and the species recovered its lost ground with surprising quickness. Five or six seasons brought it almost up to its former numbers. Seemingly the increase was unchecked until it reached a certain point, beyond which it was unable to go. In recent years there has been another notable falling off in numbers, attributable, I believe, to the inroads of the European Starlings, which actively compete with the Bluebird for nesting sites and which bid fair, if unchecked, to reduce the numbers of this species to a tithe of which they once were."

But it is not the cold itself that seems (to me) to be the killer of our Bluebirds, but deep snow or ice covering food supplies. I have seen Bluebirds roosting under the north eaves of buildings on below zero nights with no apparent bad effects. Often Bluebirds are known to roost crowded together in a tree cavity or nest box, especially late in the season when food supplies are getting scarcer and body reserves are low. A good example would be on March 9, 1971. There had been heavy snow squalls and gusty winds most of the day before and late in the afternoon; Bluebirds were noted going into a nesting log hung on a fence not far from the yard. At first light the next day it was checked and there were 12 Bluebirds (8 males and 4 females) crowded into the nesting cavity. It was so crowded that the last one in had its whole tail protruding out through the entrance hole. Three of the twelve carried bands, and all were males. One had been netted and banded in the yard four years earlier; another had been banded as nestling in a box a mile away in June 1969 and the third had been banded as a nestling in a box several miles away in May 1970. Generally, I prefer not to disturb these nest-box roosting Bluebirds because it can add extra stress when it may be a struggle just to stay alive. I sometimes feel that the Bluebirds that stay here the whole year may have a better chance to live through a bad winter than those that migrate because of available food supplies. In this area we now have the Multiflora Rose that the Bluebirds can and do eat as a survival food. However, I'm not recommending that the Multiflora Rose be planted, because it may become one of the worst plant pests ever, and many wildflowers may eventually disappear. The Multiflora Rose covers vast areas and even grows in the woods, with a single stem growing up through the tree branches to a height of 25 feet or more.

Preferred winter food of the Bluebird as listed in *Salia* are Am. Hackberry, Flowering Dogwood, Am. Holly, Red Cedar, Northern Bayberry, Sour Gum, Virginia Creeper, Pyracantha, Am. Mountain Ash, Am. Elderberry, Wild Grape, Alternate-leaf Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, Grey Dogwood, Red-osier Dogwood, Highbush Blueberry, Pin Cherry, C. Chokecherry, Black Cherry, Red Mulberry, White Mulberry, Autumn Olive, and I have seen them eating Sumac seeds.

After starting to put up nest boxes along roads in this area in 1965, a serious attempt was made for several years to gather as much data as possible. The following table gives some pertinent data for the years 1967 through 1969, but it should be remembered that the total fledging figures are only a conjecture as it was impossible to be there as each brood left the box. However, the condition of the nesting material (when the box is empty) is an excellent criterion upon which to base an opinion.

TABLE 2 SHOWING DETAILED NESTING SUCCESS FOR YEARS 1967 THROUGH 1969

	1967	1968	1969
Total boxes checked	201	229	238
Boxes in which Bluebirds attempted to nest	158	182	206
Boxes used for a 2nd nesting attempt	100	102	100
Boxes used for 3rd nesting attempt	8	10	9
Total Bluebird eggs laid	1015	1259	1309
Total Bluebird eggs hatched	789	951	1082
Percentage of Bluebird eggs that hatched	77.7%	75.5%	82.2%
Young that probably left boxes safely	578	816	939
Percentage of eggs laid that left boxes o.k.	56.9%	64.8%	71.7%
Bands used on nest-box route	495	799	774
Banded young that left boxes o.k.	467	734	692
Unbanded young that left boxes o.k.	111	82	247
Boxes that produced 10 or more young per box	8	10	9

When a Bluebird nest is torn up and the eggs broken or down underneath the nesting material, one can almost be sure of House Sparrow trouble. Racoons tear up the nest, but always leave scratches on the box. When eggs or young completely disappear and the nest is not disturbed, a snake is usually suspect, but a Chipmunk or Flying Squirrel are possible culprits. Since House Wrens are seldom much of a problem here before May 1st, and if the Bluebird young are several days old by that date, the Bluebirds were often successful with their first brood. Then, if House Wrens keyed in on a box, Bluebird success was almost nil because the eggs (or tiny young) were usually dumped out and the box immediately filled with sticks. Sometimes though, the House Wrens would leave some or all of the Bluebird eggs in the box and punch holes in them so they wouldn't hatch.

Bluebird nesting survival rate is influenced by many factors and two of the most detrimental in this area are the above mentioned House Wren and House Sparrow. Both are very persistent, and all boxes should be checked at least every two weeks during the nesting season to remove any possible starts by these userper species. The following table illustrates how they greatly lower the Bluebird fledgling rate by fighting over possession of many boxes and completely taking over others before nest-hunting Bluebirds can find them.

TABLE 3 EFFECTS OF COMPETITORS ON BLUEBIRD FLEDGING SUCCESS

	1968	1969
Bluebirds had no competition in:	108 boxes	107 boxes
No. of young Bluebirds these fledged:	571 (5.3/box)	654 (6.1/box)
Bluebirds had competition with		
H. Wrens in:	46 boxes	53 boxes
No. of Bluebirds fledged in these boxes:	158 (3.4/box)	130 (2.4/box)
Bluebirds competed with		
H. Sparrows in:	21 boxes	42 boxes
No. of Bluebirds fledged in these boxes:	48 (2.2/box)	135 (3.2/box)
No. of boxes H. Wrens had to themselves	7	11

No. of boxes H. Sparrows had to themselves	14	9
Boxes H. Wrens & H. Sparrows fought over	6	3

The years 1968 and 1969 were used in the above table because those were the years when the most effort was made to continually check most of the boxes. The success rate in 1969 might have been even better but for loss of nestlings from both extreme heat and cold. The temperature reached 97 degrees on June 30, 1969 and 19 nestlings died in the boxes. At least 59 nestlings died as a result of a cold, wet spell in early May.

Probably the greatest mortality of nestling Bluebirds (since starting my nest-box route in 1965 occurred during early May 1967 when it was very cold with rain almost every day. This high mortality rate is reflected in the low percentage rate of fledged young in Table 2 when 77.7% of the eggs hatched but only 56.9% fledged. Data on this disastrous period was worked up at the time and published in the March-April 1968 issue of *EBBA News*, Vol. 31, No. 2, p 64, but it is pertinent to this article so I will include it here. A base period from May 1-15 is used and to qualify for the check, each Bluebird box had to contain young during that period.

Total boxes containing young during period	73
Number of boxes in which young died	36
Total of nestlings found dead	151
Additional young that probably died	11
No. of boxes that probably fledged young	37
No. of nestlings that apparently left boxes safely	158

Considering the adverse weather conditions it is surprising that about 50% did live to leave the boxes. The parents tried to feed all the young, or else abandoned them completely. The most critical period naturally was after they were half-grown, when the food demand was greatest. Many died after they were completely feathered. Some were even able to get out of the boxes and were found dead on the ground.

We can see that Bluebirds have many problems, but with man's help it is hoped that they can be around for future generations to enjoy. But there is another formidable problem for them that could be developing in this area, and that is the Tree Swallow - another species that loves to nest in Bluebird boxes. No doubt Bluebirds have always had to compete with them for nesting sites in the northern part of their range, but not here.

The Tree Swallow is expanding its range and a pair nested in one of my Bluebird boxes in 1968. That was the first nesting record in this county since 1893. I really enjoy having the Tree Swallow around - they are a friendly, beautiful bird, and a pair has nested here in our yard for the past four summers. At least eight pairs nested in boxes on the nest-box route in 1982. One of those pairs took over a box already occupied by Bluebirds. When checked, the nest contained two Bluebird eggs and two Tree Swallow eggs and a Tree Swallow was sitting on the eggs. The Tree Swallow is a very aggressive bird, and there is little doubt that Bluebirds could have this additional problem here in future years.

It would seem that most Bluebirds do not get to enjoy old age. The oldest known record I could find in the literature was a 6½ year old bird recorded in the state of Georgia. It was listed among Dr. John Kennard's list of longevity records of North American birds published in the Winter 1975 issue of *Bird-Banding*, Vol. 46, No. 1, pp.

55-73. My oldest Bluebird record was an adult male caught here in the yard net on March 11, 1967 and captured each succeeding year for 4 years, with the last capture being on Feb. 9, 1971. This would make him at least 4 years, 7 months old.

Apparently nestlings stay together in family groups (after fledging) through the summer and into the fall months. Some individuals have been known to help feed young in a second brood. Occasionally a Bluebird will return (in later years) to the same immediate area where it fledged. There have been at least two nestlings that returned to nest here on our farm and both were males. The earliest nestling Bluebird ever banded here was on April 14, 1974, and the latest ever was on Sept. 1, 1970. These are exceptions as most are banded between May 1st and August 1st.

Recoveries of banded Bluebirds have been scarce, considering the number banded here. BBC member Arthur Dunnell has done much better, percentage-wise. Art banded a hatchyear Bluebird at Bear Rock Lakes, Ohio Co., W.Va. on June 5, 1965 that was found killed by a "predator" on April 9, 1966 near Hendersonville, N. Car. (approx. 285 air miles SSE of place of banding). Art's other Bluebird recovery was one banded June 4, 1973 at Bethlehem, Wheeling, Ohio Co., W.Va. and killed by a car on Dec. 15, 1973 near Lilburn, Georgia. Art has had a C. Grackle recovery at the same place in Georgia.

Of the 6060 Bluebirds banded here, there have also been two recoveries (away from the local area). One was a nestling banded July 31, 1969 that was recaptured alive (and then released) near Irwin, Pa. on May 19, 1972 by Albert T. Goga (approx. 33 miles NE of here). The other recovery was a nestling banded on June 9, 1968 and found dead (it had been shot) near Douglas, Ga. on Feb. 21, 1970. Douglas is only about 60 miles north of the Florida state line. This Bluebird and Art Dunnell's two recoveries had to cross the Allegheny Mountain chain from the west side to the eastern side. If the bulk of the Bluebirds in the eastern United States travel in the same direction to their wintering grounds, this would explain why we don't see many Bluebirds migrating at the AFMO banding station on Dolly Sods each fall (where migrants are mainly flying over in a south-westerly direction).

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Book Reviews

The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding edited by John Farrand, Jr. 1983, Alfred A. Knof, 201 E. Fiftieth St., New York, NY 10022, illus., three volumes each about 400 pp., Price \$13.95 per volume.

The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding is an expanded field guide in three volumes. All 835 species ever seen in North America north of Mexico, including 116 accidental species, are covered. Most are illustrated by two or three sharp, informative color photographs. Where good color photographs were lacking the editor chose to use good color drawings instead. There are 1438 illustrations of which 193 are drawings by various artists. The result is, for the most part, the best combination of photographs and drawings I've seen.

The illustrations of each species are on the page opposite the species introduction, description, voice, similar species, and range discussions as in most bird field guides. In this one the text is written by 61 authorities who provide insight gained from long experience with each species. The treatment is uniform, although some descriptions are very brief. As might be expected some descriptions and illustrations are better than others, but all seem useful.

Every photograph is accompanied by a smaller grey-tone copy upon which are superimposed small numbered arrows. The arrows refer to distinguishing characteristics. The numbers refer to a key that describes in a few words each characteristic. There are range maps for those species with a North American range. The maps are found in the inner margin with the species range descriptions. The species are arranged in American Ornithologists' Union check list order.

The books are nicely bound with flexible, hard, plastic-coated cardboard and a flexible, cloth spine. One can open each volume at any page and lay it flat, even when new, without damaging the binding.

Volume one, "Loons to Sandpipers" has a section, "Classification and Nomenclature." Volume two, "Gulls to Dippers" has a section, "Birding Equipment." The first 27 pages, including "How to Identify Birds" and "How to Find Birds," are repeated in all three volumes, as is the glossary. Thus about 25 pages in each of the second two volumes is repeated material. This space might have been used more profitably in illustrating accidental species, many of which are not illustrated, and have only a few sentences of description applied to each. Of 34 accidentals treated only briefly, without illustration, in volume one of **The Master Guide**, for example, 23 are illustrated in the **National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America**, 11 are illustrated in Robbins et al. **Birds of North America** (See reviews in **The Redstart** 51 (1) Jan. 1984, and five are illustrated in Peterson's **A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies**. (See review in **The Redstart** 48 (1):49-51, Jan. 1981).

The Master Guide has been advertised "...for the 'graduate' of the standard bird guides," so why waste any space on how to identify and locate birds? Certainly an advanced guide should illustrate most rare accidental species. This one does not. Perhaps synonyms of common names might have been included too; and plates comparing gulls, shorebirds, warblers, hawks, and waterfowl, in flight and in various plumages in the same plates, as in other guides, might have been valuable additions.

Although disappointed by these omissions, I believe most advanced birders will want to own these books. They are well-written, well bound and beautifully illustrated. The descriptions by experts provide many identification clues not found in all other guides. Advanced birders like to see different points of view, and enjoy arguing over points of identification. The **Master Guide** lets us know what the specialists think.

Kirtland's Warbler: The Natural History of an Endangered Species by Lawrence H. Walkinshaw. 1983, Cranbrook Institute of Science, P.O. Box 801, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48013, 207 pp., Price \$11.95.

The publication of Lawrence Walkinshaw's **Kirtland's Warbler** marks the 80th anniversary of the discovery of Kirtland's Warbler breeding grounds in Michigan. A number of prominent ornithologists have contributed to the large body of knowledge about this endangered species. Among them are Andrew J. Berger, the Hammerstroms, Harold Mayfield, Robert Storer, George M. Sutton, Milton Trautman, Dale Zimmerman and the author. Walkinshaw presents much of this data in his information packed book. Data is summarized in 55 tables and 45 figures. There is also an excellent bibliography. The author stresses nesting biology and a complete treatment of Cowbird parasitism and control.

Since the start of Cowbird control on Kirtland's Warbler breeding grounds in 1972, 40,000 Cowbirds have been trapped. This effort has resulted in a dramatic reduction in parasitism and a gradual increase in Kirtland's Warbler population. The history of this effort, use of fire to keep Jack Pine tracts in the right stage of succession for warbler reproduction, and the development of Kirtland's Warbler reserves are documented in this book.

Anyone interested in Kirtland's Warbler will find this book a valuable source of data. This book is not a summary, rather it is a detailed compilation of all significant data collected over the years on the species. It will serve as a starting point for all students of Kirtland's Warbler in the future.

The Nature of Things: Animals and Habitats by John Tomikel. 1983, Allegheny Press, Elgin, PA 16413, illus., 178 pp., Price \$4.95.

Dr. Tomikel's book is a collection of essays, many of which first appeared in the Greensburg **Tribune Review**. The book is illustrated by a number of rather undistinguished line drawings. Topics covered include "Robins in Winter," "The Red Fox," "Adder's Tongue," and "Great Blue Heron." Each essay is about two pages long. A lot of interesting information is included, presented in a popular style. All of the author's topics are drawn from his local area, showing how a dedicated naturalist does not have to roam far from home to find subjects of interest.

A. R. Buckelew Jr., Editor

Constitution and By-laws of the Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

As Revised, 1984

Article I

- Sec. 1. The name of the organization is the Brooks Bird Club, a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of West Virginia, with headquarters in Wheeling or other city in West Virginia designated by the Board of Directors.
- Sec. 2. The object of the organization shall be to promote the study of ornithology and other natural sciences with special reference to West Virginia and contiguous areas in neighboring states; to publicize scientific results of such studies; to further the conservation of natural resources on a local and a national basis.

Article II Membership

- Sec. 1. The membership of this club shall consist of six classes: Active Members, Family Members, Sustaining Members, Life Members, Student Members and Honorary Members.
- Sec. 2. Applications for membership shall be made through the Membership Secretary. Applicants must fill out an application form giving appropriate information. This application form must be endorsed in writing by a Brooks Bird Club member. Members shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority of members present. Applications presented in the interim between annual meetings shall be received and confirmed by the Membership Secretary, subject to ratification at the next annual meeting.
- Sec. 3. Annual dues of membership categories shall be set by the Board of Directors subject to approval by the members at the Annual Meeting. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Directors, Honorary Membership may be conferred by the Club by a three-fourths vote at any annual meeting.
- Sec. 4. All members in good standing except Student Members shall be entitled to vote and to hold office.
- Sec. 5. All Club activities and annual dues will begin with the calendar year. Any member in arrears for dues for three months shall be dropped from the roll, provided he is notified of his oversight and the penalty by the end of the second month by the Membership Secretary.

Article III Officers

- Sec. 1. (a) The officers of the Club shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Administrator, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and an appointed **Redstart** Editor. The duties of the officers shall be defined by the Board of Directors which shall be the governing body of the Club.

(b) Duties of the Administrator shall be to supervise all activities of the Brooks Bird Club as specified by the Board or by the Club, and all routine business that does not require specific authorization. Said person should receive compensation for labor and expenses involved.

- Sec. 2. (a) All officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by ballot of the members.
(b) The Treasurer and the Administrator shall be bonded, and the bonding fees shall be paid from the Club treasury.
- Sec. 3. All officers shall be elected for a term of one year. The President, President-Elect and Vice-President may be reelected so as to serve for two consecutive years, and after a lapse of one year officers may be eligible for re-election to these offices. The Administrator, the Recording Secretary, the Membership Secretary, the Treasurer and the **Redstart** Editor may be re-elected for as long as they properly fulfill the duty of their respective offices. All terms of office shall begin and end on January 1 to coincide with the Club year.
- Sec. 4. The Board of Directors shall consist of all officers of the Club, the immediate Past President, Presidents of Chapters, one Trustee who shall be named by the President and nine (9) additional elected members. Three of the elected members shall be elected each year to serve a three-year term. There shall also be an Advisory Committee of three who have been active members of the Club for at least 20 years, to serve indefinitely at the discretion of the Board. Any member who does not perform the duties of his office may be removed by action of the Board. The President, or, in his absence, the President-Elect shall be Chairman of the Board of Directors. He shall call meetings of the Board by written notice to all Board members one month in advance of the meeting date, giving an outline of business to be handled, or he shall designate the Administrator to do so. Seven members shall constitute a quorum.
- Sec. 5. The Board of Directors shall have power to make appointments to fill any vacancies in the staff of officers due to death, resignation, or otherwise. It is understood, however, that in the event of a vacancy in the office of President the President-Elect will assume the duties of President.
- Sec. 6. The Board of Directors shall hold at least three meetings a year.

Article IV Meetings

- Sec. 1. Date and place of meetings shall be set by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
- Sec. 2. Twenty-five voting members of the Club shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- Sec. 3. A Program and Arrangements Committee shall be appointed by the President at least ninety days in advance of the meetings.

Article V Accounts

- Sec. 1. A committee of two shall be appointed annually by the President to audit the accounts of the Treasurer some time prior to the Annual Meeting.

- Sec. 2. A Board of Trustees composed of three active club members shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. One member shall be appointed each year to serve a term of three years. Vacancies shall be filled by the President for the unexpired term. The Trustees shall have the responsibility of overseeing all property, securities, endowment funds or other assets of the club. At least one member of the Trustees should be prepared to present a report at the Annual Meeting on any changes in the status of the holdings for which they are responsible. The Trustees should hold at least one meeting a year or at the call of the President, and one member shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- Sec. 3. In the event that the Club is dissolved, its funds and property shall go to an educational non-profit organization that is tax exempt and with objectives similar to those of the Brooks Bird Club.

Article VI Affiliated Groups

- Sec. 1. The Brooks Bird Club recognizes two kinds of affiliated groups - Chapters and Affiliates.
- Sec. 2. Chapters (a.) A Group is eligible for the status of Chapter if it is active in the field of Ornithology; is a constitutionally organized club; has an established name, mailing address, officers and committees; holds regular meetings; and all its regular members are also members of the Brooks Bird Club. The Group may have associate members who are not members of the Brooks Bird Club without jeopardizing its status as a Chapter.
(b.) The Group may become a Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club by a two-thirds vote of the Brooks Bird Club Board of Directors. Prior to consideration by the Board of Directors, an application must be submitted together with a resume of the Organization's history, activities and purpose. Also a statement of total membership - regular and associate, if any - and copies of recent publications or reports.
(c.) The President of the Chapter shall be a member of the Board of Directors of the Brooks Bird Club provided he is a member of the Brooks Bird Club.
(d.) The Chapter shall receive one copy of all current publications of the Brooks Bird Club.
- Sec. 3. Affiliates (a.) The Brooks Bird Club may recognize as an affiliate any group that is organized for the pursuit of ornithology and/or other phases of Natural History. The group may become an affiliate by a vote of two-thirds of members of the Board of Directors on the basis of information furnished by the group.
(b.) The Affiliate shall pay to the Brooks Bird Club annually the equivalent of two active memberships. In return the Affiliate will receive two copies of all current Brooks Bird Club publications.
(c.) The Affiliate shall be entitled in its publicity and correspondence to follow its own name with "Affiliated with the Brooks Bird Club."
(d.) If the Affiliate develops its program to the point where it considers itself eligible for the status of Chapter, it may make appropriate application.

**Article VII
Amendments**

- Sec. 1. This Constitution may be amended at any meeting by two-thirds of the votes cast, provided that the membership has been notified of the purpose of the amendment at least one month prior to date of action, and that the amendment shall be an order of business.

**Article VIII
By-Laws**

- Sec. 1. By-Laws may be adopted or repealed at any General Meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

By-Laws

1. Notice of all meetings of the Club shall be sent to all members at least one month in advance of the date of the meeting.
2. The time and place of the business session shall be published prior to the opening session of the Annual Meeting.
3. An Executive Committee composed of the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Past President and Administrator shall act as a Steering Committee, under the guidance of the Administrator, for the purpose of planning the activities of the Club, to be presented to the Board of Directors for suggestions and approval. Meetings of this group shall be held on call by either the Administrator or the President.
4. Election of officers shall be by written ballot; but by the unanimous consent of the members, the Secretary may cast one ballot representing the unanimous vote of the members present. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the President at the beginning or in advance of the Annual Meeting. This committee shall offer nominations of officers to serve the Club during the ensuing year. Nominations may also be made by any member in good standing, from the floor.
5. The Board of Directors shall have power to suspend until the next Annual Meeting any person or affiliated club found unworthy of membership in the Club. Final expulsion must be made by secret ballot requiring a two-thirds majority of the voting members present at a regular meeting of the Club.
6. The official organs of the Club shall be the **Redstart** and the **BBC Mailbag**. They shall be sent to all members not more than three months in arrears for dues.
7. Any member three months in arrears for dues shall be ineligible to vote or to hold elective office in the Club.

**Article IX
Rules of Order**

- Sec. 1. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Club.

1984 Program The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

Date	Activity	Place
January	Membership Month	Return dues to membership secretary
February	Write an article or observation	Mail to:
March 2-4	for The Redstart	A. R. Buckelew Jr.
March 18	Winter Meeting-Jackson's Mill	Weston, WV
April 11 - May 1	Waterfowl Field Trip	Seneca Lake, OH
May 18-20	Spain Foray	
June 1-30	Sutton's Warbler Search	Harper's Ferry, WV
June 7-16	25-Mile Breeding Bird Surveys	All local groups
June 20-27	BBC Foray-4-H Camp	Wyoming Co., WV
July 19-22	Sortie	Dolly Sods
August 18 - Sept. 30	Field Trip-Terra Alta	Preston Co., WV
August 30 - Sept. 3	Bird Banding	Red Creek, WV
September 15-16	BBC Reunion-Greenbrier Youth Camp	Anthony, WV
October 19-21	Hawk Counts	WV mountains
November 5	Annual Meeting-Cedar Lakes	Ripley, WV
December 22 - Jan. 5	Board of Directors Meeting, Headquarters	Wheeling, WV
	Christmas Bird Counts	All local groups

ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

May 11-13	Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage	Blackwater Falls, WV
June 1-3	Nongame Wildlife Fair-DNR	Blackwater Falls, WV
June 17 - July 1	Oglebay Institute Mountain Nature Camp	Terra Alta, WV

BBC FORAYS

1984 — June 7 - June 16, Wyoming Youth Camp, Wyoming Co., WV
 1985 — June 6-15, Lost River State Park, Hardy 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 1984 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.