ISSN: 0034-2165

The REDSTART

VOLUME 56, NUMBER 4 OCTOBER, 1989

PUBLISHED BY THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB

The Brooks Bird Club, Inc.

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

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THE REDSTART is published quarterly in January, April, July and October at 707 Warwood Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003. The journal of the Brooks Bird Club, it is mailed to all members in good standing. Non-member subscription price is $14.00. Individual copies $3.00 except the Foray issue which is $5.00. Changes of address and requests for back issues should be mailed to 707 Warwood Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003. Articles for publication and books for review should be mailed to the Editor.
Printed by The Valley Press, Inc., Wellsburg, WV 26070

Black Vulture Nest In Grant County, West Virginia

Donna Mitchell

From June 10 to July 27, 1988, my husband and I were hacksite attendants for the Peregrine Falcon reintroduction project in West Virginia. Our site, one of three that were operational in 1988, was located on North Fork Mountain in Grant County. This is the first ridge east of the Alleghany Front and marks the beginning of the Ridge and Valley Province.

On May 25, while preparing the hacksite, we observed Black Vultures repeatedly entering an area near the base of a cliff less than 100 yards from the falcon hackbox, which was situated on the rim above. Our suspicion that the vultures might be tending a nest was confirmed on July 4th when we spotted two Black Vulture chicks in a small clearing directly below one of the falcon observation points. At this time they appeared to be as large as the adults. Their developing black primary feathers bore a striking contrast to the peach-colored down that otherwise covered them. The nest itself was concealed from our vantage point above. It appeared to be only a few feet from the opening where the nestlings were seen on several occasions. Surrounding vegetation was composed of rhododendron, mountain laural, and hemlock.

After the young Peregrines began flying, they would sometimes dive at the Black Vulture adults coming or going from the nest. These "mock attacks" did not seem to interfere with the rearing of the young vultures.

According to **The Birder's Handbook** (P.R. Ehrlich et al., 1988), Black Vulture chicks require 80-94 days to fledge. By July 27, when our work with the falcons was completed, the nestlings had not yet fledged. We did not return to the nest area after that.

Both Black and Turkey Vultures frequented the cliff area. On July 7, 31 vultures were seen soaring together. On a more typical day 10 or 15 might be spotted in a group, either soaring or perched on the Tuscarora sandstone pillers of Chimney Top, an impressive structure a half mile north of the hacksite. These were mostly Turkey Vultures. No more than four Black Vultures were ever sighted at once. Even from a distance the Blacks were easily recognized by their flat soaring profile and habit of dangling their feet in flight, like an aircraft with the landing gear down.

In West Virginia the Black Vulture is known primarily from the southern Greenbriar Valley and counties east of the Alleghany divide. More recently they are thought to have gained access from the south to the Kanawha Valley through the corridor of the New River. There are previous nesting records from Monroe, Morgan, and Berkeley counties. (Hall 1983).

References

1. Ehrlich, Paul R. David S. Dobkin, Darryl Wheye, 1988. The Birder's Handbook, Simon and Schuster Inc. N.Y.
2. Hall, George A. 1983. West Virginia Birds, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.

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Aerial Food Exchange by Sharp-shinned Hawks

Jonathan Minear

On a day in late July, 1988, a warm day, misting off and on, with occasional rain, Jonavieve Minear, Michael Berdine, and I decided to take a hike on the trail just below the picnic area on Dolly Sods, in Tucker County, West Virginia. This trail leads out to Roaring Plains and Mt. Porte Crayon. The hike would be about eight miles. We started before lunch so we would have plenty of time to look around and botanize. It took us a good while to get to Roaring Plains. After lunch we started our return, but we had not gone far when Mike and I thought we heard the sound of young hawks calling. We stopped and looked around to see if we could find the nest. We did not find the nest, but we did see something that none of us had ever seen before. As we stood looking for the young hawks, a small hawk came toward us. As it got closer we could see that it was a small male Sharp-Shinned Hawk. He was carrying some kind of prey in his claws. As he approached the area where we were standing, the larger female flew up out of some nearby pine trees. They flew around for a moment and then as they went towards one another again, the female began flying upside down below the male. The female was now about three or four feet below the male. With the female upside down and the male right side up, the male dropped the food and it dropped three or four feet right into the claws of the upside down female. After she caught the food, she turned right side up again and disappeared once again back into the stand of pine trees. We thought this behavior confirmed our thoughts about a possible nest of young hawks. After the air show was over, we all just looked at each other and asked, "Did you see that?" I have seen many neat and amazing things but this feat of precision and agility will always stand out in my mind as the most amazing.

Fairview Acres #1
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A Rufous Hummingbird in Monroe Co., West Virginia

Robert M. Alm

Wednesday, September 21st, 1988 was a beautiful clear day, perfect for counting hawks on Peters Mountain. Sally and I picked up Polly Ballowe and George Flouer about 9:30 a.m. and climbed to Hanging Rock about an hour later. George Hurley and Bill Smith were on the job, and by late afternoon we had counted about 300 hawks. Instead of going directly home, Sally and I decided to drop some books off at the Deavers, so we picked our way across Little Mountain, found Willow Bend Road and arrived at one of the prettiest spots in Monroe County. From the Deaver's deck one can catch the whole sweep of Peters Mountain and with binoculars, pick out the Hanging Rock cabin.

We sat on the deck and the Deavers told of their day. "There was this strange hummingbird," Mona Lou was saying, "And there he is now!" We turned to see the hummingbird perched on a small basswood tree, perhaps 25 feet away, facing directly toward us. This was no Ruby-throated Humming Bird. All of us had seen dozens of them throughout the summer, and we had no difficulty in deciding what it was not.

The immediate problem was to secure binoculars and field guides without disturbing the bird. We needn't have worried. The bird sat as unselfconsciously as a model before an art class while we slipped through the patio doors and resumed our seats. We didn't need binoculars to observe the most striking feature of the bird facing us, the gorget. In the afternoon sun it seemed made of individual little jewels, almost a metallic gold in appearance. Below, the breast was white. "We decided this morning," Bill said, "that it is a Rufous Hummingbird." Back to the guides. Peterson says it is a "rare but regular straggler in fall and winter along the Gulf coast from Louisiana to Florida," and the National Geographic Society book lists it as "casual in fall in the east." It began to fit together. Hurricane Gilbert had just swept through the Gulf Coast. Could this little bird have been carried far north from the gulf by the force of the hurricane?

Now the bird zipped across the lawn to one of the feeders the Deavers still had up. We get a look at its back and tail. Although it is not more than 25 yards away, we don't have a perfectly clear view. The back seems rather dark, and the tail seems to show rust with dark and white sections. It swings in a wide arc to the feeder at the other end of the yard. Again all eyes are trained on its back. We come away with the same observations. This seems to be a female Rufous. It all seems to fit: the striking gorget, the rust showing on its tail, the white breast, even Hurricane Gilbert to explain its appearance so far away from its normal range.

Editor's Note: This is the second report of a Rufous Hummingbird from the fall of 1988. A male Rufous stayed at the home of James Rightmire in Parsons, West Virginia through the fall and early winter feeding at a heated feeder. This bird was seen by many people and photographed (See The Redstart 56 (2):38-40).

Box 247
Union, WV 24983

Annotated Check-List of Birds for Wood County and the Ohio River North to Belmont, West Virginia

Lorraine Rollefson

Compiled from data collected from August 1, 1983 through July 31, 1988 for the Mountwood Bird Club.

The calendar year was divided into four seasons as follows:

Fall:	August through November
Winter:	December through February
Spring:	March through May
Summer:	June and July

Status codes:

P	Permanent resident
S	Summer resident
W	Winter resident or visitant
M	Migrating in spring and/or fall
a	abundant - widely distributed and requires no special effort to locate.
c	common - found when searched for in the appropriate habitat.
u	uncommon - seen/heard infrequently and in small numbers, even in its preferred habitat.
r	rare - single records or a very small number of scattered records without an established pattern of occurrence.
R	one or two records reported during period.
—	present during period
(blank)	not present during period or no record of any sighting.

A list of birding locations and the names of contributors who made this report possible can be found after the check-list.

The Check-List

SPECIES	STATUS	FALL Earliest	FALL Latest	WINTER Earliest	WINTER Latest	SPRING Earliest	SPRING Latest	SUMMER
Common Loon	uM	11-8		12-5		3-20	5-6	
Pied-billed Grebe	cWcM	9-3	11-24	12-4	2-17	3-1	5-6	
Horned Grebe	uM	10-16	10-27	12-5	2-21	3-17	4-18	
Red-necked Grebe	rM					4-1	4-7	
Double-crested Cormorant	uM	9-25	11-18	2-18	2-27	4-8	5-7	R
American Bittern	rM					4-25		
Great Blue Heron	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Egret	uM	9-17	11-8			3-24	5-4	R
Green-backed Heron	cS	—	9-21			4-12	—	—
Black-crowned Night Heron	uM	8-28	10-24	12-15	2-21	3-19	5-2	
Tundra Swan	rM	11-22		12-4	2-28	3-1	3-6	
Mute Swan	rM			2-12		3-8		
Greater White-fronted Goose	rM					3-13	3-19	
Snow Goose	rM					3-3	3-15	
Snow Goose-blue Phase	rM					3-3	3-4	
Canada Goose	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wood Duck	cS uW	—	11-18	12-10	2-26	3-1	—	—
Green-winged Teal	uM	10-29	11-30	12-5	2-28	3-7	4-11	
American Black Duck	cMuW	10-22	11-30	12-8	2-28	3-1	3-19	
Mallard	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Pintail	uM			1-24	2-27	3-1	3-18	
Blue-winged Teal	cM	8-27	11-6			3-5	5-11	
Northern Shoveler	uM			12-5	12-11	3-12	4-10	
Gadwall	uM	10-15		2-17	2-27	3-5	4-9	
American Wigeon	uM	10-15		2-20	2-27	3-3	4-25	

		FALL		WINTER		SPRING		SUMMER
Canvasback	uM			12-28	2-27	3-3	3-18	
Redhead	uM			2-26	2-28	3-3	3-18	
Ring-necked Duck	cM			12-27	2-28	3-1	4-10	
Lesser Scaup	cM	11-6		12-28	2-27	3-3	4-21	
Oldsquaw	rM			2-16	2-20			
White-winged Scoter	rM			2-16	2-27			
Common Goldeneye	uM			12-5	2-21	3-15	5-4	
Bufflehead	uM	11-5	11-11	12-27	2-27	3-3	4-12	
Hooded Merganser	uM	11-5	11-30	12-8	2-27	3-3	4-2	
Common Merganser	uM	10-16		2-14	2-28	3-1	3-24	
Red-breasted Merganser	cM			12-10		3-12	5-7	
Ruddy Duck	uM	11-6				3-16	4-30	
Turkey Vulture	cS	—	11-13	R		3-2	—	—
Osprey	uSrW	—	10-30	2-21		4-10	—	—
Bald Eagle	rW	8-27		1-1	2-15	3-4	4-18	
Northern Harrier	uW	9-16	—	—	—	—	5-24	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	uP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cooper's Hawk	uP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-sh. Hawk	uP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad-winged Hawk	cS	—	9-16			4-1	—	—
Red-tailed Hawk	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rough-legged Hawk	uW	11-19	—	—	1-18			
American Kestrel	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruffed Grouse	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wild Turkey	uP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Bobwhite	rP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia Rail	rM	9-24	9-27					
Sora	rM					4-13		
Common Moorhen	rM					5-6		
American Coot	uM	9-22	11-27	12-10		3-1	5-7	
Killdeer	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Yellowlegs	cM	10-19	10-30			3-17	5-6	
Lesser Yellow Legs	cM	9-6				3-20	5-7	
Solitary Sandpiper	uM	9-3	10-6			4-4	5-12	
Spotted Sandpiper	cS	—	10-21			4-1	—	—

		FALL		WINTER		SPRING		SUMMER
Ruddy Turnstone	rM					5-20	5-23	
Western Sandpiper	uM					5-4	5-6	
Least Sandpiper	uM					5-4		
Pectoral Sandpiper	uM	9-22	10-21			3-19	5-6	
Common Snipe	cMuW	10-7	11-26	12-4	12-29	3-3	5-5	
American Woodcock	cS	—		2-13		3-4	—	—
Bonaparte's Gull	uM					4-10	5-4	
Ring-billed Gull	cW	11-3	—	—	—	—	5-7	
Herring Gull	uM			2-17	—	—	5-4	
Caspian Tern	uM					4-20	5-17	
Common Tern	uM					4-19	5-7	
Forster's Tern	uM					5-4	5-5	
Least Tern	rM					5-21		
Black Tern	rM					5-4		
Rock Dove	aP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mourning Dove	aP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-billed Cuckoo	uS	—	9-22			4-30	—	—
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	cS	—	9-26			4-27	—	—
Eastern Screech	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Horned Owl	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barred Owl	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Nighthawk	cS	—	10-24			3-4	—	—
Whip-poor-will	cS	—				4-13	—	—
Chuck-will's-widow	rS					5-4	—	R
Chimney Swift	aS	—	10-30			4-10	—	—
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	cS	—	11-6			4-25	—	—
Belted Kingfisher	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-headed Woodpecker	rP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-bellied Woodpecker	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	uW	9-21	—	—	—	—	5-8	
Downy Woodpecker	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hairy Woodpecker	uP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Flicker	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pileated Woodpecker	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Olive-sided Flycatcher	uM	8-29	10-1			5-13	5-31	
Eastern Pewee	cS	—	10-12			4-27	—	—

		FALL		WINTER		SPRING		SUMMER
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	uM	8-29	9-28			5-10		
Acadian Flycatcher	cS	—	9-17			4-29	—	—
Alder Flycatcher	rM	9-3						
Willow Flycatcher	uS	—	9-9			4-29	—	—
Least Flycatcher	uM	8-30	9-25			5-6	5-28	R
Eastern Phoebe	cSuW	—	11-23	—	—	3-5	—	—
Great Crested Flycatcher	cS	—	9-22			4-23	—	—
Eastern Kingbird	cS	—	9-22			4-20	—	—
Horned Lark	rM			12-24				
Purple Martin	cS	—	9-2			3-25	—	—
Tree Swallow	cS					3-26	—	—
Rough-winged Swallow	cS	—				3-31	—	—
Bank Swallow	uS	—				4-23	—	—
Cliff Swallow	rM					4-12	5-4	
Barn Swallow	cS	—	9-13			3-26	—	—
Blue Jay	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Crow	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-capped Chickadee	uW	10-31	—	—	—	—	3-22	
Carolina Chickadee	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tufted Titmouse	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-breasted Nuthatch	uW	9-14	—	—	—	—	5-5	
White-breasted Nuthatch	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown Creeper	uW	10-2	—	—	—	—	4-26	
Carolina Wren	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House Wren	cS	—	11-30	R		4-17	—	—
Winter Wren	rW	10-17	—	—	—	—		—
Marsh Wren	rM	9-24	10-8			4-3	4-5	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	cW	10-6	—	—	—	—	5-16	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	cMrW	8-16	11-24	—	—	4-11	5-14	R
Blue Gray Gnatcatcher	cS	—	9-17			4-12	—	—
Eastern Bluebird	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Veery	uM	9-7				5-4	5-18	
Gray-checked Thrush	uM	9-14	10-2			4-25	5-16	
Swainson's Thrush	uM	8-31	10-15			4-29	5-31	

		FALL		WINTER		SPRING		SUMMER
Hermit Thrush	uMuW	10-13	10-25	—	—	4-20	5-1	
Wood Thrush	cS	—	10-10			4-20	—	—
American Robin	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray Catbird	cS	—	11-12	R		4-14	—	—
Northern Mockingbird	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown Thrasher	cSuW	—	11-13	—	—	3-22	—	—
Water Pipit	uMrW	10-29		1-15	1-21	3-19	3-31	
Cedar Waxwing	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
European Starling	aP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White-eyed Vireo	cS	—	10-13			4-23	—	—
Solitary Vireo	uM	9-13	10-29			4-19	5-9	
Yellow-throated Vireo	cS	—	10-2			4-27	—	—
Warbling Vireo	cS	—	9-15			4-24	—	—
Philadelphia Vireo	uM	9-2	10-11			4-24	5-28	
Red-eyed Vireo	cS	—	10-1			4-23	—	—
Blue-winged Warbler	cS	—	10-1			4-5	—	—
Golden-winged Warbler	rS	—				5-7	—	—
Tennessee Warbler	cM	8-28	10-22			4-26	5-30	R
Orange-crowned Warbler	rM	9-14	10-8					
Nashville Warbler	uM	9-3	10-16			4-25	5-18	
Northern Parula	uS	—	10-1			4-17	—	—
Yellow Warbler	cS	—	9-7			4-20	—	—
Chestnut-sided Warbler	cM	8-30	9-24			4-28	5-29	R
Magnolia Warbler	cM	9-2	10-9			4-27	5-28	
Cape May Warbler	uMrW	9-4	10-14	—	—	4-24	5-16	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	uM	9-10	10-6			4-27	5-17	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	cMuW	9-24	11-30	—	—	3-28	5-17	R
Black-throated Green Warbler	cM	8-27	10-20			4-24	5-28	
Blackburnian Warbler	uM	8-25	10-9			5-4	5-31	
Yellow-throated Warbler	cS	—	10-5			4-4	—	—
Pine Warbler	rS	—	9-22			5-10	—	—
Kirkland's Warbler	rM					5-17		
Prairie Warbler	cS	—	9-29			4-21	—	—
Palm Warbler	uM	9-10	10-27			4-27	5-7	

		FALL		WINTER		SPRING		SUMMER
Bay-breasted Warbler	cM	8-28	10-9			5-9	5-18	
Blackpoll Warbler	uM	8-23	10-20			4-28	5-26	
Cerulean Warbler	cS	—	9-21			4-25	—	—
Black-and-White Warbler	cS	—	9-24			3-30	—	—
American Redstart	cS	—	10-2			4-23	—	—
Prothonotary Warbler	uS	—				4-30	—	—
Worm-eating Warbler	cS	—	8-17			4-26	—	—
Ovenbird	cS	—	10-2	R		4-23	—	—
Northern Waterthrush	uM	9-22	10-2			5-3	5-5	
Louisiana Waterthrush	cS	—				4-6	—	—
Kentucky Warbler	cS	—	9-18			4-28	—	—
Connecticut Warbler	uM	9-1	9-25			4-28	4-29	
Mourning Warbler	uM	9-17	9-28			5-15	5-24	
Common Yellowthroat	cS	—	10-4			4-25	—	—
Hooded Warbler	cS	—	9-22			4-23	—	—
Wilson's Warbler	uM	8-29	9-30			4-25	5-20	
Canada Warbler	uM	8-23	10-25			4-27	5-22	
Yellow-breasted Chat	cS	—	9-20			4-25	—	—
Summer Tanager	cS	—	10-12			4-24	—	—
Scarlet Tanager	cS	—	10-13			4-23	—	—
Northern Cardinal	aP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	uM	9-9	10-21			4-26	5-28	
Blue Grosbeak	rM					5-17	5-22	R
Indigo Bunting	cS	—	10-27			4-25	—	—
Dickcissel	rS					5-17	—	R
Rufous-sided Towhee	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Tree Sparrow	uW	11-26	—	—	—	—	3-30	
Chipping Sparrow	cSrW	—	11-23	—	—	3-1	—	—
Field Sparrow	cSuW	—	11-26	—	—	3-1	—	—
Vesper Sparrow	uM	9-30		R		3-20	5-2	
Savannah Sparrow	Um	10-4	11-26			3-20	5-11	

		FALL		WINTER		SPRING		SUMMER	
Fox Sparrow	uMuW	11-18	11-30	—	—	3-1	4-12		
Song Sparrow	aP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lincoln Sparrow	uM	9-24	10-22						
Swamp Sparrow	uW	9-24	—	—	—	—	5-5		
White-throated Sparrow	cW	9-20	—	—	—	—	5-18		
White-crowned Sparrow	cMuW	10-5	—	—	—	—	5-18		
Dark-eyed Junco	cW	10-2	—	—	—	—	5-7		
Bobolink	uM					5-2	5-21		
Red-winged Blackbird	cSuW	—	11-6	—	—	3-1	—	—	
Eastern Meadowlark	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Rusty Blackbird	uMrW	11-30		—	—	3-10	5-2		
Brewer's Blackbird	rM					4-1	4-19		
Common Grackle	cSrW	—	11-28	—	—	3-7	—	—	
Brown-headed Cowbird	cSrW	—	11-28	—	—	3-4	—	—	
Orchard Oriole	cS	—	8-9			4-27	—	—	
Northern Oriole	cS	—	9-20			4-24	—	—	
Purple Finch	cW	9-17	—	—	—	—	5-10		
House Finch	aP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Common Redpoll	rW			R		3-1	3-23		R
Pine Siskin	cW	10-14	—	—	—	—	5-31		R
American Goldfinch	cP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Evening Grosbeak	uW	10-21	—	—	—	—	5-8		
House Sparrow	aP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Contributors:

Judy Anderson, Bill Armstrong, Elizabeth Armstrong, Lynn Barnhart, Emma Beatty, Jon Benedetti, Chuck Bernstein, John Blomberg, George Breiding, Jeannie Clark, Pauline Collett, Barbara Curry, Frankie Douglas, Avis Elliott, Eula Elliott, Dick Esker, Jeannette Esker, Rexine Johnson, Judy Jones, Ray Major, Ann McGrew, Jerry McGrew, Tinia McPeek, Marian Means, Nina Ott, Reba Pfalzgraf, Roselie Pitner, Ann Pyle, Carl Radcliffe, Shirley Radcliffe, Lorraine Rollefson, Valarie Ross, Mary Shepherd, Pearl Shriver, Bill Thompson, Elsa Thompson, Daisy Umplebee, Nelson Walters.

Locations:

Wood County:

Belleville, Blennerhassett Island, Boaz, City Park, Dutch Ridge, 55th Street-Vienna, Grand Central Mall, Jackson Park, Lake Washington, Laural Creek Road, Lee Creek, Lock House, McDonough Wildlife Refuge, Mountwood Park, Ohio River, Parkersburg, Park Shopping Center, Sandy Creek Marsh, Vienna, Washington Bottom, Waverly.

Pleasants County:

French Creek-Belmont, Willow Island, Ohio River.

14 Langton Hill Rd.
Landenberg, Pa. 19350

1988 Christmas Bird Count

Leon P. Wilson

There were fourteen areas reporting this year, compared to eighteen last year. There were four fewer reports from West Virginia, two less from Ohio, an additional two from Pennsylvania, and a single count (the same as last year) from Virginia.

The temperature on the reported count days averaged about the same as in previous years. Eight of the fourteen counts were conducted on December 17, and this was the coldest day of the count period; the temperature ranged from 14 to 29 for the day. The highest reported temperature was 50 degrees on December 31.

Most reports commented on the scarcity of birds, and most do show a very small drop in both number of species and individuals. This would appear to be a conflicting statement as eight of the twelve species listed in the greatest number table had an increase over 1987.

The Common Grackle and Song Sparrow failed to make the top twelve this year, and were replaced by the Canada Goose and the Blue Jay. There were only 124 grackles reported this year compared to 29,688 last year. The Song Sparrow was down from 2,069 to 1,329. The House Finch continues to increase in numbers, and is in the third position this year.

Upon checking the 1977 count, published in the October 1978 issue of **The Redstart,** I find that there was a total of 89 House Finches sighted, and these occurred on only eight of twenty-one Christmas Counts reported. This year, the Elkins and Pipestem counts were the only reports with less than 89.

There was a drop of 107 in the number of Carolina Wrens reported (from 675 in 1987 to 568 this year), while the Eastern Bluebird numbers were up by 138 (from 566 to 704). This compares to last year's report of an increase of 154 Carolina Wrens (from 521 in 1986), and a decrease of 64 Bluebird (from 630 in 1986).

GREATEST NUMBER OBSERVED

1.	European Starling	18,918
2.	American Crow	5,719
3.	House Finch	4,797
4.	Rock Dove	4,716
5.	House Sparrow	4,533
6.	Mourning Dove	4,471
7.	Dark-eyed Junco	3,963
8.	Northern Cardinal	2,975
9.	Mallard	2,686
10.	Canada Goose	1,897
11.	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	1,638
12.	Blue Jay	1,612

OBSERVED ON ALL COUNTS

1. Mallard
2. American Kestrel
3. Rock Dove
4. Mourning Dove
5. Red-bellied Woodpecker
6. Downy Woodpecker
7. Hairy Woodpecker
8. Northern Flicker
9. Pileated Woodpecker
10. Blue Jay
11. American Crow
12. Eastern Tufted Titmouse
13. White-breasted Nuthatch
14. Carolina Wren
15. Eastern Bluebird
16. American Robin
17. Cedar Waxwing
18. European Starling
19. Northern Cardinal
20. Song Sparrow
21. White-throated Sparrow
22. House Finch
23. American Goldfinch

OBSERVED ON ONE COUNT ONLY

1.	Common Loon	1	11.	Golden Eagle	3
2.	Double-crested Cormorant	3	12.	Northern Bobwhite	8
3.	Mute Swan	2	13.	Herring Gull	1
4.	Tundra Swan	1	14.	Barn Owl	1
5.	Green-winged Teal	1	15.	Short-eared Owl	6
6.	Blue-winged Teal	1	16.	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1
7.	Northern Shoveler	1	17.	Brown Thrasher	1
8.	White-winged Scoter	1	18.	Water Pipit	3
9.	Bald Eagle	2	19.	Northern Shrike	1
10.	Rough-legged Hawk	1			

P.O. Box 105
Ona, WV 25545

1988 Christmas Bird Counts

AREA COUNT	1 Charleston, WV December 31, 1988	2 Elkins, WV January 2, 1989	3 Franklin, WV December 30, 1988	4 Huntington, WV January 1, 1989	5 Morgantown, WV December 17, 1988	6 Ona, WV December 17, 1988	7 Parkersburg, WV December 17, 1988	8 Pipestem, WV December 17, 1988	9 Wheeling, WV December 17, 1988	10 Beaver Creek, OH December 17, 1988	11 Clarion County, PA December 17, 1988	12 Clarksville, PA December 31, 1988	13 Washington, PA December 17, 1988	14 Rockingham County, VA December 17, 1988
Number of Species	55	38	51	63	57	76	56	57	49	62	46	56	49	73
Number of Individuals	3927	1564	2606	4439	4537	6877	8421	2188	4541	6704	3840	9516	5482	10158
Common Loon	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pied-billed Grebe	1	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
grebe sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Double-crested Cormorant	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Blue Heron	25	1	13	7	5	47	22	4	12	1	—	3	1	9
Mute Swan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tundra Swan	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada Goose	156	250	—	31	158	136	150	134	—	687	44	151	—	—
Wood Duck	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Green-winged Teal	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Black Duck	21	—	13	14	105	183	—	15	5	2	—	15	—	2
Mallard	498	25	14	165	275	355	16	160	598	74	2	201	65	238
Northern Pintail	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blue-winged Teal	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Shoveler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gadwall	1	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
American Wigeon	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48
Canvasback	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	—
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Lesser Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
White-winged Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Goldeneye	—	—	—	6	3	6	—	12	—	2	—	—	1	—
Bufflehead	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Hooded Merganser	—	—	—	—	31	2	—	35	3	—	—	2	—	1
Common Merganser	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

COUNT AREA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
duck sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black Vulture	—	—	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Turkey Vulture	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58
Bald Eagle	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Harrier	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	—	—	1	1	8	2	—	—	1	1	4	1	4
Cooper's Hawk	—	—	—	1	4	2	4	—	—	6	1	4	4	1
accipiter	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	—	—	1	—	7	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Red-tailed Hawk	5	—	16	5	4	16	11	6	7	34	11	55	26	24
Rough-legged Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
buteo sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Golden Eagle	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Kestrel	11	5	8	12	11	36	32	3	2	15	5	14	18	32
Ring-necked Pheasant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	—	—
Ruffed Grouse	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	7	5	5	5	5	5	4
Wild Turkey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	•	10	21	—	—
Northern Bobwhite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
American Coot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Killdeer	25	—	15	—	—	11	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	18
Common Snipe	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	13
Ring-billed Gull	—	—	—	4	—	17	3	—	13	3	—	—	—	—
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
gull sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
gull dp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Rock Dove	464	230	183	1049	516	31	282	51	88	211	137	303	216	955
Mourning Dove	212	104	177	190	134	499	1030	37	151	354	215	278	411	679
Barn Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Screech-Owl	—	—	10	2	6	14	10	—	158	6	—	10	12	2
Great Horned Owl	—	—	4	2	2	1	—	—	4	2	—	9	3	2
Barred Owl	1	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Northern Saw-whet Owl	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belted Kingfisher	12	—	9	6	5	5	5	5	—	9	—	11	2	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	12	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	36	4	16	16	20	29	55	5	26	50	2	29	74	21
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	—	—	1	—	4	6	12	6	3	2	—	4	5	2
Downy Woodpecker	52	11	41	55	55	72	111	44	36	100	25	55	151	41
Hairy Woodpecker	4	4	2	6	10	14	13	2	11	22	7	15	20	4
Northern Flicker	17	5	2	18	16	16	31	22	6	10	1	23	14	7
Pileated Woodpecker	20	3	10	6	8	16	21	15	3	7	2	14	6	10

COUNT AREA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Eastern Phoebe	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Horned Lark	—	—	—	2	—	11	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	207
Blue Jay	111	49	115	52	16	77	244	86	45	215	205	137	105	155
American Crow	72	81	326	134	255	995	264	120	1663	247	240	785	138	399
Fish Crow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	101
Common Raven	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	5
Black-capped Chickadee	—	93	75	—	66	—	4	40	—	55	240	79	143	8
Carolina Chickadee	223	—	—	180	35	318	219	47	—	41	—	158	214	68
chickadee, sp.	—	—	—	—	63	—	213	68	152	182	—	—	118	—
Tufted Titmouse	116	60	55	50	95	154	263	70	76	138	44	137	317	63
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	2	1	1	41	—
White-breasted Nuthatch	80	37	28	49	49	64	105	42	35	78	41	60	124	17
Brown Creeper	5	3	—	5	1	13	5	3	1	12	8	3	8	6
Carolina Wren	58	5	23	85	45	90	120	23	29	13	2	33	25	17
Winter Wren	2	—	2	2	—	6	—	6	5	4	—	—	—	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	2	9	99	—	36	21	8	2	26	2	1	4	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Bluebird	18	41	54	64	31	64	113	47	14	64	14	86	38	56
Hermit Thrush	—	—	—	14	—	3	3	18	—	—	—	—	—	1
American Robin	9	1	1	47	7	66	26	36	134	92	119	75	267	99
Northern Mockingbird	21	3	25	39	10	28	52	3	—	2	—	15	9	76
Brown Thrasher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cedar Waxwing	32	8	12	4	6	54	3	112	3	9	314	20	32	115
Northern Shrike	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Loggerhead Shrike	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
European Starling	920	162	321	1004	1300	1146	1411	162	558	1501	423	5035	879	4066
Yellow-rumped (M) Warbler	8	—	3	11	—	12	3	17	3	—	—	10	1	10
Northern Cardinal	115	39	58	158	269	348	682	140	102	266	68	267	321	142
Rufous-sided Towhee	25	6	1	17	1	30	14	15	4	5	—	2	—	1
American Tree Sparrow	—	1	—	—	1	65	16	—	23	249	41	71	7	—
Chipping Sparrow	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
Field Sparrow	1	—	4	25	2	21	6	4	—	1	—	4	1	17
Vesper Sparrow	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Savannah Sparrow	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fox Sparrow	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	3
Song Sparrow	116	7	29	123	75	362	232	52	67	79	1	62	95	108
Swamp Sparrow	1	—	2	2	—	29	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	1
White-throated Sparrow	26	2	19	105	46	306	126	79	33	21	11	37	26	57
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	48	180	—	—	3	—	5	—	102
Dark-eyed (S.c) Junco	88	40	370	61	203	314	714	212	70	556	506	149	332	348
Red-winged Blackbird	10	—	—	—	1	230	1	3	—	10	26	—	1	—
Eastern Meadowlark	—	—	7	—	—	16	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rusty Blackbird	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	51
Common Grackle	1	—	2	3	2	84	9	2	4	1	—	5	—	11
Brown-headed Cowbird	—	—	—	—	2	21	14	—	3	—	4	126	29	2
Purple Finch	3	—	—	11	6	—	8	21	—	56	24	—	—	5
House Finch	177	12	219	299	258	191	673	44	102	654	668	379	544	577
Pine Siskin	—	3	—	—	1	—	6	12	3	—	4	—	—	—
American Goldfinch	15	5	45	107	16	110	195	90	35	103	128	25	148	16
Evening Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
House Sparrow	85	245	171	283	288	23	652	—	203	390	217	509	474	993

*Seen during count period but not on count day.

P.O. Box 105
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FIELD NOTES

SPRING SEASON

March through May, 1989

James D. Phillips, Editor
900 Reynolds Ave.
Princeton, WV 24740

March was very mild with warm temperatures. April and May were cooler and wetter than the early part of the season. The cool, wet weather of the first half of May seemed to play havoc with some species-most notably the **Purple Martins** and **Scarlet Tanagers.** Unusual finds included a **Chuck-will's Widow** in Wood County (MBC), **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** in Kanawha County (HG), terns in several areas in late April and early May and numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** across the state in early May.

Loons through hawks — **Common Loons** were in the region from April 2 (HG) to the second week of May (JP). **Pied-billed Grebes** were present during the entire period. **Horned Grebes** were present in the western portion of the region during most of the period. **Double-crested Cormorants** were present in high numbers during the first week of May. Argabrite saw 50 birds at the Gallipolis Locks, Mason Co. on May 6. On the same day at Bluestone Lake, Summers Co., seven individuals were on the water during a storm. While these cormorants were in view, a flock of at least a couple dozen passed overhead (JP). **American Bitterns** were seen from April 4 to May 17 (RBC). A **Least Bittern** was at Glenwood Swamp, Cabell Co. (WA) for a couple of days in early May. **Great Blue Herons** continue to be widespread. Ralph Bell located a rookery with 21 nests near Waynesburg, Pa. on May 19.

Great Egrets continue to be seen with regularity. A **Cattle Egret** was seen by about a dozen members of the Tri-State Audubon Society at Apple Grove, Mason Co. on May 5 & 6 (WA, TI). **Green-backed Herons** returned by April 23 (MBC). **Black-crowned Night Herons** were reported in West Virginia from April 23 to May 2 (MBC). A rookery of 24 nests was observed near Elkton, Va. (RBC). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was photographed by Wendell Argabrite at the McClintic Wildlife Station, Mason Co. on April 1.

A few **White-fronted Geese** were seen in Mason and Cabell Counties in early March (TI). **Wood Ducks** had returned to most areas by the first week of March. **Blue-winged Teal** were present in the region from the middle of March to the middle of May. Ponds in Gallia Co, Ohio hosted 225 **Redheads** and 525 **Ring-necked Ducks** on March 12 (WA).

Ring-necked Ducks and **Lesser Scaup** moved through the region in numbers during March. Scaup were still present in some areas by mid-April (MBC). **Common Mergansers** passed through by the second week of March while a few **Red-breasted** and **Hooded Mergansers** were still going through during the first week of May.

Ospreys were seen in the region from April 6 (MBC) to mid-May (JP). A **Bald Eagle** was seen at the junction of I-79 and WV 4 (HG), and one was seen at Blennerhasett Island in the Ohio River on May 6 (MBC). There were few reports of **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks.** A few **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Black Vultures** were apparently migrating northward over the Brush Creek Preserve,

Mercer Co. (JP) on March 16. **Broad-winged Hawks** were back in some areas by April 15 (MBC). Several pairs of **American Kestrels** were located in Summers and Monroe Counties (JP). A **Merlin** was seen in Huntington, Cabell Co. on April 20 (WA).

Gamebirds through hummingbirds — A few **N. Bobwhites** were found in Monroe Co. (JP) but the western part of the state continues to be the only area where the species is reported regularly (TI). A **Common Moorhen** made a spring appearance at Glenwood (TI). **Sora** and **Virginia Rails** were the only rails in the region. Most observers considered it a good season for shorebirds. **Semi-palmated Plovers** were found in Wood Co. May 25 (MBC). Both yellowlegs moved through during the last half of April. **Solitary Sandpipers** appeared as early as March 3 (TI) and were present as late as May 9 (MBC). **Spotted Sandpipers** were noticeable from mid-April to mid-May. Bell found **Upland Sandpipers** in his area for the first time in several years.

Several shorebirds on the state's hypothetical or accidental visitant list turned up this season. Included among the rarities were 18**Willets** and **Ruddy Turnstone** in Cabell Co. (WA) and a single **Sanderling** and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** in Kanawha Co. (HG). **Dunlin** and **Short-billed Dowitchers** were also reported from the western part of the state (WA).

A few **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** were found along the larger streams. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were present in Wood Co. from mid-April to the first week of May (MBC). Unusual was a **Laughing Gull** in S. Charleston, Kanawha Co. on April 19 (AV). Reports of more than the usual number of terns and tern species were received. **Caspian Terns** were reported from Wood (MBC), Kanawha (AV) and Mercer (JP) Counties in mid-April. **Common Terns** were found in Wood (MBC), Nicholas (BR), Cabell (WA) and Mercer (JP) Counties a couple weeks later. **Black Terns** were found in the Virginia section of the region (RBC) and **Forster's Terns** were seen in Cabell (WA) and Raliegh (LL) Counties.

Black-billed Cuckoos were back by the end of April while **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** did not appear until a week to ten days later. The **Barn Owls** in Broadway, Va. continue to be the only regular site for this species (RBC). They have been noted for ten years. **E. Screech, Great Horned** and **Barred Owls,** though reported by only a few observers, were widespread in distribution. A **Short-eared Owl** at the Parkersburg Country Club, Wood Co. on March 17 was noteworthy (MBC). **Common Nighthawks** returned to Princeton, Mercer Co. by April 22 (JP). **Whip-poor-wills** had returned to West Virginia by the end of April. A **Chuck-will's-widow** was found along Laurel Creek, Wood Co. on May 4 (MBC). **Chimney Swifts** had returned by mid-April and **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** a week later.

Woodpeckers through wood warblers — The only sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** came from Mason (WA), Cabell (TI) and Wood (MBC) Counties. The last date for **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was April 24 (MBC). **Eastern Wood-pewees, Acadian Flycatchers** and **Eastern Kingbirds** seemed to return on time. The cold weather did not help the **Eastern Phoebes. Great Crested Flycatchers** returned a bit early. Several observers noted **Purple Martin** deaths due to the weather. Large flocks of all of the swallows were seen at Bluestone Dam, Summers Co. on April 15 (AV) and again on May 8 (JP). The bulk of the flock seemed to be **Tree Swallows.** Twenty-five **Cliff Swallow** nests were observed at Shenandoah Lake, Va. (RBC).

Flocks of **Blue Jays** were observed heading north as late as May 19 (RB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present as late as May 5 (RB). **House Wrens** had returned by April 21 (MBC). **Brown Creepers** were still around April 31 (TI). Bell reported a 20-30% loss in **Eastern Bluebirds** due to the weather. **Wood Thrushes** had returned by the third week of April. The other thrushes could be found moving through as late as mid-May. Most of the vireos had returned by the third week of April. Wood Warblers moved through as early as April 16 **(Louisiana Waterthrush)** to as late as May 20 **(Blackpoll)**. There seemed to be a rather heavy movement of these birds from May 8 to 15 so that some species came in a little later than usual.

Tanagers through finches — Both tanagers had returned to their normal locations by the third week of April. **Scarlet Tanagers** did not seem to cope well with the cold temperatures of early May as there were many reports of sluggish or dead birds along many roadsides. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** numbers seemed up in the western portion of the state (TI). **Blue Grosbeak** sightings came only from the Ohio Valley. Both orioles seemed on time. Ralph Bell reported a **Henslow's Sparrow** in his area on May 29. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were still in some areas during the second week of May while **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** remained until the third week of May. There were a few reports of **Bobolinks** in late April early May. **Indigo Buntings** were back in some areas by the end of April. **Dickcissels** were found at Lock House, Wood County (MBC) on May 5. Twenty-five to thirty **Red Crossbills** were present along Rt. 33 at the Virginia/West Virginia line on May 28 (RBC).

Contributors — Allegheny Vistas (AV), Wendell Argabrite (WA), Ralph Bell (RB), George Breiding (GB), Jay Buckelew (JB), Hullet Good (HG), Tom Igou (TI), Lin Lilly (LL), Mountwood Bird Club (MBC), Bob Richardson (BR) and Rockingham Bird Club (RBC).

Note from "Field Notes" editor — anytime you observe rare or unusual birds be sure to make notes of the sighting and try to arrange for others to also see the bird. This is especially true for species listed as hypothetical or accidental in **West Virginia Birds** by George Hall. A follow-up article for **The Redstart** would be helpful as well.

Banding News

Ralph Bell, Editor
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Clarksville, Pa. — In the April 1989 issue of **The Redstart** (Vol. 56 (2):50), I gave a glowing account about how our Purple Martins were again coming back in increasing numbers here in the southwest corner of Pennsylvania. But this elation was short-lived due to a continuous cold and rainy period in May 1989. The Pittsburgh, Pa. weather bureau reported at least some rain every day during the May 1-16 period - an all-time record.

I put up our 30-room Purple Martin box on March 17, 1989 and the first martin arrived at our box on 29 March, and the next one arrived on 5 April. Arrivals were

late this year because of a cold spring and only 10 had arrived by 18 April. At least 12 more were here by 24 April with more arrivals coming in daily.

Nest building is usually underway by the first of May, but not this year (in 1968 nest building was noted on 21 April).

The rains started on the first day of May and usually the martins just stayed around their box. They seemed to know it as useless to waste energy by trying to forage for insects as it was just too cold and wet for most insects to hatch and fly around. A few would just perch on their box or on the nearby electric lines patiently waiting for better weather. It was so sad to see them looking so ruffled and dejected and slowly starving to death. Whenever the rain did stop and it looked like the sun might come out, many would leave the box for a try at finding some insects, but they soon returned. Later, many of the martins would crowd into a few compartments to try to keep warm and consever energy. Sometimes they were so crowded into these favored compartments that their tails were sticking out the entrance hole.

The first dead martins were found on 10 May. It was impossible to know for sure how many died, but probably all that had arrived before the first of May died. A total of 27 dead martins were found, most of them in our yard. In the past we had tried to force-feed starving martins but usually by the time they can be captured, they are mere skeletons and past the point of recovery. Of the 27 found, 13 were ASY (after second year) males, 10 females and four SY (2nd year) males. Second year males are mottled and not as dark as the older males.

Fortunately, most of last years young had not yet arrived before the rains started and these began coming in as the rains slackened off. By 20 May there were 22 martins here and nest building had started by 3 June. A total of 16 pairs started nests but only 10 pairs fledged young. It is not unusual for some second year birds to start nests but give up before laying any eggs.

Other martin box owners lost martins also. One man in neighboring Fayette County called and said he had lost 90 birds. All these martin loses will slow down the recovery from the June 1972 disaster (caused by Hurricane Agnes) when partically all the Purple Martins died in this area. that disaster was much worse because it happened in late June and there were no second year migrants that would be coming in that late to partially fill the void.

There were probably over 100 Purple Martin colonies in our county before 1972 and now there are probably less than a dozen (I personally know of only six colonies). But that is a start and we can only hope for the best. However, one of the big problems is that many vacant martin box owners become discouraged after a few years and their boxes deterorate through neglect.

A total of 31 nestling Purple Martins were banded in our box this past summer (1989). Nestlings on the top floor of our box were not banded because they were not accessible. No nests had more than five young. Older adults occasionally have six young, and I remember banding seven young in one compartment once.

The 16-day rainy period did not effect all bird species the same way. It depended upon the species and their life-sustaining food requirements. It was interesting to note that there was practically no mortality among Barn Swallows here as they can feed close to the ground and there were enough smaller insects to sustain them. However their nesting cycle was delayed and as a result many pairs did not have

enough time for a second brood (Purple Martins never have more than one brood in this area.

Ralph K. Bell

Book Reviews

The Facts on File Field Guide to North Atlantic Shorebirds by Richard J. Chandler, 1989. Facts on File, New York. 208 pp., illus, Price $19.95 hard cover.

This small book has photographs and descriptions of 72 species of shorebirds that occur in the North Atlantic, of which 67 occur on both sides at least as accidental visitors. The descriptions include consideration of identification, detailed discussion of plumages, racial variations, similar species, and photographs of birds in various plumages from both sides of the Atlantic when appropriate. Introductory chapters consider shore bird groups, plumages, moults, and photography of shorebirds. There is also a section of black-and-white photographs of shorebirds in flight. Most of the color photographs are clear and show important identification marks. The photographs of birds in flight show field marks that are most important when viewing these birds at a distance. As is inevitable when photographs are used, some field marks are obscured by shadow, lighting or the position of the bird; however, most of the photographs are more than adequate for the purpose of field identification. Chandler has gone to a lot of trouble to get photographs that show the birds from the sides so that both breast and back are visible in virtually every photograph. Where it is desirable to show some other feature such as the barred underwing characteristic of Common Snipe, he has a photograph showing a bird in the right posture, with raised wings in this example. Chandler presents photographs of adult and juvenile birds for most species and separate photographs for North American birds and European birds in cases where there are racial differences that can be determined in the field.

The plan of this book, to include shorebirds from both sides of the North Atlantic, seems justified when one considers the frequency of vagrant shorebirds on both coasts. Witness the Spotted Redshank found by BBC members on the Delaware shore last year. (See **The Redstart** 56 (2):46-47). This field guide is small and compact enough to actually use in the field. Shorebird enthusiasts will want to bring it along especially when visiting the shore where European visitors are more likely.

Audubon Wildlife Report 1988/1989 edited by William J. Chandler and assisted by Lillian Labate and Chris Wille, 1988. Academic Press, Inc., San Diego, CA. 817 pp. Price $24.95 paperback.

This is the fourth volume of the annual **Audubon Wildlife Report.** Each features a government agency important to conservation interests. The Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were featured in previous volumes. The present volume features the National Marine

Fisheries Service. The 98 page discussion considers marine resources, organization and administration of the agency, legislative authority, leadership, funding history, budget, and conservation issues. One of the conservation issues is the agency mandated use of TEDs (turtle excluder devices) by the shrimp fishing industry to protect sea turtles from being swept into their nets. There is enough information on the issue to thoroughly air both sides of the debate over the use of TEDs.

Part two consists of chapters devoted to wildlife issues in National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management, and National Parks, recent court decisions affecting wildlife conservation, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Chapters on conservation challenges make up a third section. Issues discussed are the Platte River problems, international trade in wildlife, and orchids, the effects of plastic debris on marine life, the implications for wildlife of the 1985 Farm Act, and restoration of the Everglades. Part Four consists of chapters on each of 14 endangered or threatened species. There is an appendix that lists the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all federal agency directors, assistant directors, and program coordinators, and Congressional contacts and their phone numbers and addresses. Another appendix is an updated list of additions to the endangered species list.

This is a big book, full of detailed, useful information. I found many interesting topics, especially the discussions on the effects of plastic debris and the international orchid trade. I also enjoyed the species accounts of the Barn Owl, Eskimo Curlew, Indianna bat, and Sanderling. No conservation activist should be without these volumes but there is much of interest here for anyone interested in wildlife.

A World of Watchers by Joseph Kastner, 1986. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York. 241 pp., illus., Price $25.00 hard cover.

Some time ago a neighbor gave me this book, and it has taken awhile for me to read it. This is the story of the development of the hobby of bird watching in North America. We learn all about Roger Tory Peterson's life and his famous field guide, the Wilson Ornithological Society, The Bronx Bird Club, The Linnanean Society, John Burroughs and his links to Whitman, Theodore Roosevelt, and Henry Ford, Margaret Nice and her Song Sparrows and many others. I enjoyed learning about others as well - Elliott Coues, Edward Forbush, Arthur C. Bent, and Frank Chapman. The emphasis is on the late ninteenth and early twentieth centuries, and most of the actors are northeastern. So don't look for a mention of the BBC, and our famous native son, George M. Sutton, merits only a line or two.

A World of Watchers is illustrated with some of Louis Agassiz Fuertes' finest paintings. The hobby of bird watching has grown to a pastime for millions. This book helps us appreciate how it all started and how the hobby of a few young people and their teachers grew to be the number two outdoor hobby in America (second only to fishing.) If you don't know the significance of some of the people mentioned above, and you want to find out more about the origins of bird watching, **A World of Watchers** is good place to start.

A. R. Buckelew Jr., Editor