

# THE MIGRANT

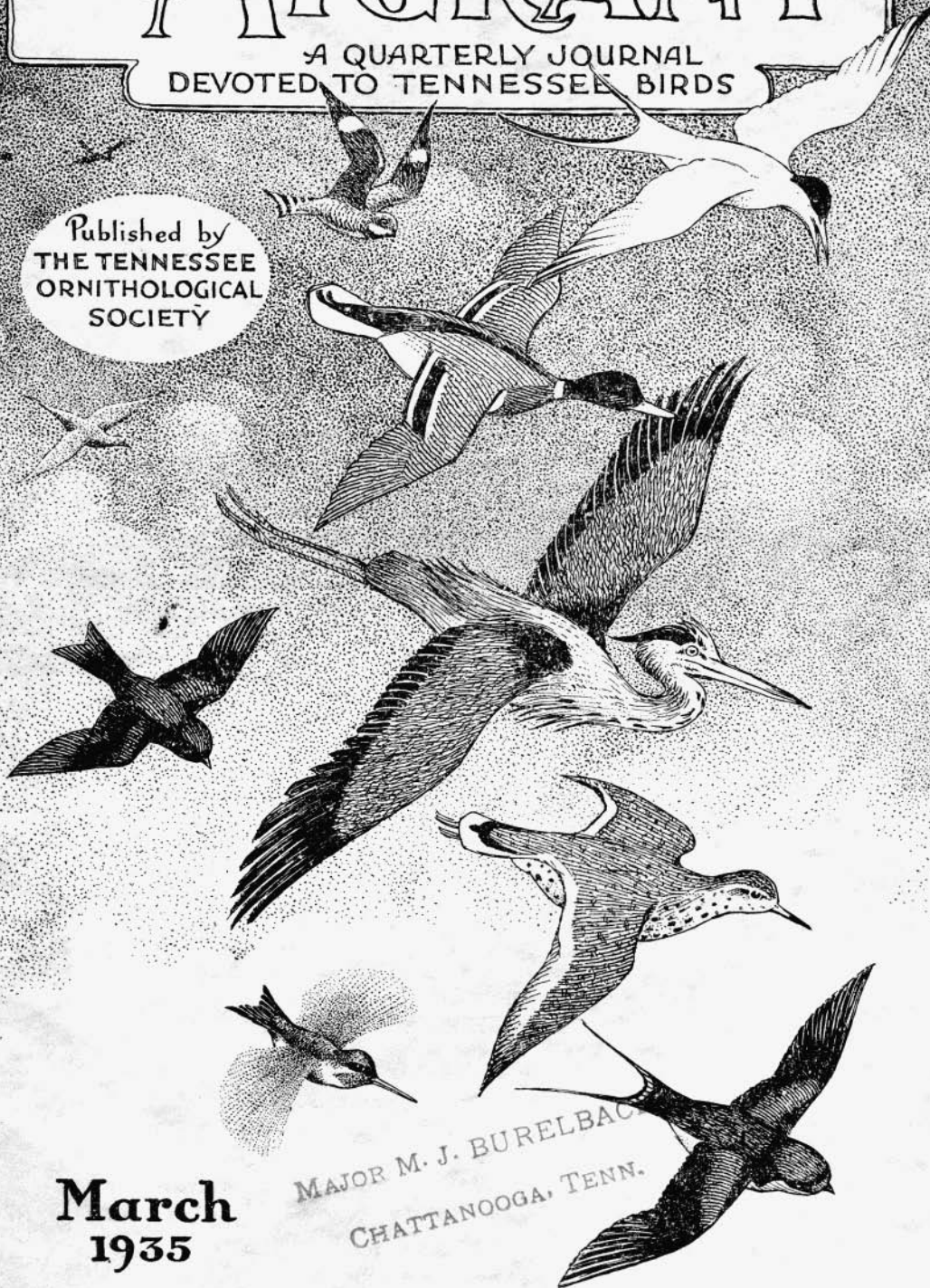
A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by  
THE TENNESSEE  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

Jams  
'35

March  
1935

MAJOR M. J. BURELBACH  
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.



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# THE MIGRANT

VOL. VI.

MARCH, 1935

NO. 1

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee. Issued in March, June, September and December.

## WHISPER SONGS AND NIGHT SINGING

BY MRS. F. C. LASKEY

Doubtless the best known singer of "whisper" songs in Tennessee is the Mockingbird because his performance occurs in late summer and autumn when the weather is propitious for noting these soft-toned songs. However, his softest, sweetest whisper songs are given on mild sunny days when the calendar and the landscape indicate winter still reigns. These January and February songs are often so subdued that the fine thread of melody is carried only a few yards from the performer as he sits quietly on his low perch. This is the first intimation of the awakening of the mating urge which is climaxed by a wild ecstatic song with acrobatic accompaniments in late March, if by that time he has not secured a mate. Again when a mate had joined him early in the season, he has been heard in a whispering vesper song after he had escorted her to her roosting place about a half hour before dark. Instead of flying immediately to his own roost, he withdrew gradually, stopping to sing two or three times from very low trees until his gray garb blended with the evening shadows and only the flashes of white in wings and tail revealed his final dash into his own shrubbery sleeping apartment.

It is probable that a large number of birds open their spring repertoire in this charming fashion, but my observations over a period of several years include only a few others. Early in February, a Robin was noted in lengthy whisper songs on several successive days, continuing about an hour on February 5th. This performance consisted of a repetition of the "cheer up" song with variations and was given with closed bill. The slightly distended throat was the only indication of the source of the music and although he perched directly above my seat in the garden, it took some time to positively identify him as the singer. However, he stopped occasionally long enough to eat a few hackberries or to regurgitate a hackberry seed and at each of the pauses, the singing ceased during the brief time necessary to swallow the berries or later to bring up and eject a denuded seed.

In "A Brief Study of the Courtship of the Eastern Cardinal," by Dr. Shaver and Mrs. Roberts (*Journal Tenn. Acad. Science*, Apr. 1933), the male Cardinal is mentioned as beginning his singing in January when the days are mild and at times giving a whisper song. On February 20th, my daybook contains a note concerning a pair of Cardinals that were investigating possible nesting sites in shrubbery outside a window and uttering an almost inaudible low-toned little song as they hopped from twig to twig. It was impossible, however, to determine which of the two was the singer. Later in the season, a female was heard in soft little songs as she brooded her clutch of three eggs in a hackberry near the house.

About the first of March, a Song Sparrow rendered a most delightful whisper song of considerable length as he perched on a fence post behind a shrub border. Also in March, but about the middle of the month, a Brown Thrasher that had arrived two days previously, was heard at noon-day, singing softly as if communing with himself. It was not until a week later that the usual springtime song of this species was recorded that year in the garden.

Once in mid-April a Catbird was noted in a beautiful whisper song, so muted that it was audible only a few feet away.

A Canary that was captured in November, 1932, as he fed with wild birds about the banding traps at the home station, often closes his day with a song



so fine and threadlike that it can be heard only at close range. This seems to be a serenade to his imaginary companion for he usually sings it to his own reflection in a shiny tin food container fastened to his cage.

Of the diurnal species, the Mockingbird leads as a singer of the night hours, particularly when the moon is bright in late May, June, and early July. On moonlight nights also, the call of the Killdeer may be heard repeatedly as he wings his way over meadows where his kind may be found feeding in the daytime. He has been heard in October and January.

In February, a Cardinal was heard giving a short song about a half hour before dawn and on April 14th, a song came at 4 a.m. when it was still dark, from the place where a female Cardinal had been roosting. She had completed her nest and two days later deposited the first egg. Late in June, the "whoit-whoit" song of a Cardinal was heard about midnight.

During June and late May, the Chat, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and the Field Sparrow have been recorded, the Chat sometimes giving his peculiar, unmelodious calls at intervals the greater part of a night. One night around ten o'clock, a Cuckoo gave his "cow-cow" call very slowly for three minutes and was heard again the same night at 10:30 and 11 p.m. On two occasions, the call of the Cuckoo seemed to have aroused a nearby Field Sparrow long enough for him to respond with a trill or two, but at other times, one gave his little song from his roost in a rose vine when all other birds were still. The Field Sparrow's most persistent night singing was recorded in April; one night three of these short song periods occurred between the hours of eleven and two-thirty.

Perhaps my next decade of bird observations will increase this little list of whisper and night time singers, and probably other observers have interesting data along this line that would augment this group that frequent our garden.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 1, 1935.



## SPRING MIGRATION AT ATHENS, TENN.

*Compiled by A. F. GANIER from the records of W. R. GETTYS*

Mr. Gettys, who gathered the following migration records, died in 1910 at the age of 32. It therefore becomes necessary for another hand to prepare these introductory sentences and to arrange and condense his notes in easily readable form.

In *The Migrant* for last March, there was presented a summary of the nesting records of this active field worker together with some biographic data pertaining to him. For the years 1903 to 1909 inclusive, he reported his migration records to the U. S. Biological Survey, sending in returns both Spring and Fall. These have been made available by The Survey to the writer, as well as a Spring return for 1902, by Prof. G. B. Stone of Athens, with whom it is probable Mr. Gettys collaborated. In one of Mr. Gettys old notebooks there was found a letter dated July 15, 1908, from Prof. Wells W. Cooke, then in charge of migration data for The Survey, reading as follows:

"Dear Mr. Gettys: Your report on the bird migration this spring is very welcome. For many years our efforts to obtain notes on the movement of the birds of Tennessee were only partially successful, but during these last few years, thanks to your efforts, we are getting a most excellent set of data for that State. Yours truly, . . ." In the extended series of papers on the migration of American birds, begun by Prof. Cooke in the early volumes of *Bird-lore*, we find these records quoted throughout. The averages which are given below do not always correspond with those published in *Bird-lore* for the reason that some extreme dates have not been used in computing the average. Where data given is too meagre, no averaging has been attempted. The reports contain other data but this is omitted due to lack of space.

It will be of interest to compare these spring records with those made at Atlanta, 125 miles south, and with Nashville, 135 miles north-west. These

will be found in E. R. Greene's *Birds of the Atlanta Area*, 1933, and H. C. Monk's paper on "Bird Migration at Nashville," 1929, in *Journal, Tenn. Acad. of Science*, Vol. 4, p.p. 65-77.

The common names given below are those in current usage and the forms shown are those assigned to this area by the *Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee*, 1933. The letter "E" prefixed to certain names stands for "Eastern." Species which he regarded as breeding near his station are designated by the term "Breeds"; non-breeders are denoted as "Transients" or "Winter visitants." Following this is the calculated average date of first arrival and the single figure in parenthesis which follows is the number of dates from which the average was computed, certain "out of line" dates not being used. The second line represents the dates of first arrivals, from 1902 to 1909, arranged in order of earliness.

- GREAT BLUE HERON. Does not breed. One spring record, 4 on March 30, 1909.
- E. GREEN HERON. Common. Breeds. Average arrival April 17 (7). (Arrival dates—March 30, April 1, 5, 19, 29, May 1 and 3).
- COMMON CANADA GOOSE. Tolerably common. Latest March 11; also 16 on March 25.
- COMMON MALLARD. Common. Does not breed, transient. Last seen May 1, 1903; May 1, 1907, and April 7, 1904.
- SORA RAIL. Rare. Transient. One record, April 24, 1902.
- AMERICAN COOT. Rare. Transient. One record, April 17, 1902.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK. Four records—March 1, 2 and 20, 1906; 3 on March 10, 1907.
- WILSON'S SNIPE. Does not breed. Five seen on March 19, 1906.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 18 (7). (Arrival dates—April 10, 10, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 28).
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, May 1 (7). (Arrival dates—April 29, 29, May 1, 1, 2, 2 and 3).
- E. WHIP-POOR-WILL. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 10 (6). (Arrival dates—March 24, April 6, 9, 15, 16, 22 and May 5).
- E. NIGHTHAWK. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 26 (8). Arrival dates—April 20, 20, 24, 25, 28, 28, 29 and May 5).
- CHIMNEY SWIFT. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 4 (8). (Arrival dates—March 29, 31, 31, April 3, 4, 4, 9, and 12).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 19 (8). (Arrival dates—April 12, 17, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 24).
- E. KINGBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 25 (8). (Arrival dates—April 13, 13, 23, 30, May 1, 1, 1 and 2nd).
- NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 17 (8). (Arrival dates—April 9, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 20 and 24).
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 26 (8). (Arrival dates—April 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 27, 29 and 30).
- E. WOOD PEWEE. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 26 (8). (Arrival dates—April 23, 24, 25, 25, 26, 28 and 28).
- PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. Common. Winter visitant. Dates last seen—March 21, March 31, April 1 and April 26.
- BANK SWALLOW (Note b). Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 18 (8). (Arrival dates—April 6, 10, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25 and 27).
- BARN SWALLOW. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 16 (8). (Arrival dates—April 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 19 and 24).
- PURPLE MARTIN. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 24 (6). (Arrival dates—March 17, 17, 20, 22, April 3, 4, 11 and 13).
- BROWN CREEPER. Tolerably common. Winter visitant. Last dates seen—April 24, 20, 5 and March 25.
- WINTER WREN. Tolerably common. Winter visitant. March 15 and 25.
- CATBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 21. (Arrival dates—April 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25).



- WOOD THRUSH. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 10 (7). (Arrival dates—March 25, April 12, 15, 18, 18, 18, 18 and 28).
- E. HERMIT THRUSH. Common. Winter visitant. Last dates seen—April 23, 21, 5 and 5.
- VEERY (WILSON'S THRUSH). Rare. Transient. Recorded April 26 and May 6.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 24 (5). (Arrival dates—March 18, 21, 24, 27, 28 and April 6).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Common. Winter visitant. Average last April 18 (6). (Last dates seen—April 9, 15, 18, 22, 23 and 23).
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. Common. Winter visitant. Average last April 24 (5). (Last dates seen—April 18, 22, 23, 24 and May 1).
- WHITE-EYED VIREO. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 15 (7). (Arrival dates—March 24, April 7, 12, 12, 12, 13, 15 and 19).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. Tolerably common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 17 (5). (Arrival dates—April 8, 10, 20, 21 and 25).
- RED-EYED VIREO. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 6 (7). (Arrival dates—April 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 9).
- E. WARBLING VIREO. Rare. Breeds. Average arrival, April 23 (7). (Arrival dates—April 16, 21, 23, 23, 25, 26 and 27).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 29 (8). (Arrival dates—March 21, 24, 24, April 1, 1, 2, 4 and 5).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER. Rare. Transient. Average arrival, April 26 (4). (Arrival dates—April 19, 26, 26 and May 5). Last seen, May 10.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. Tolerably common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 19 (7). (Arrival dates, April 12, 12, 16, 20, 20, 24 and 27).
- NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER. Tolerably common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 10 (7). (Arrival dates—April 3, 10, 10, 10, 11, 15 and 15).
- E. YELLOW WARBLER. Common. Breeds. (Arrival dates—April 9 and 15).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER. Common some years. Transient. Average arrival, May 1 (4). (Arrival dates—April 23, 28, May 2 and 4).
- CAPE-MAY WARBLER. Rare. Transient. Average arrival, May 1 (4). (Arrival dates—April 28, 28, May 1 and 7). Last seen, May 13.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. Tolerably common. Transient. (Arrival dates—April 23, May 2 and 3). Last seen, May 11.
- MYRTLE WARBLER. Common. Winter visitant. Average last April 28 (7). (Last dates noted—April 17, 25, 26, 28, 28, 29 and May 14).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Common. Transient. Average arrival, April 1 (7). (Arrival dates—March 21, 24, April 3, 3, 3, 4 and 9). Last seen, May 31.
- CERULEAN WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 13 (6). (Arrival dates—April 10, 12, 12, 13, 13, 18 and May 5).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 27 (7). (Arrival dates—March 23, 24, 24, 24, 26, April 2 and 3).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Common. Transient. Average arrival, May 1 (5). (Arrival dates—April 10, 25, 28, May 2, 2 and 3). Last seen, May 19.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. Rare. Transient. (Arrival dates—April 13, 30 and May 4). Last seen, May 11.
- NORTHERN PINE WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 4 (6). (Arrival dates—Jan. 24, Feb. 22, 22, 23, March 3, 15, 20). (Probably some winter. G.).
- NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 15 (8). (Arrival dates—April 8, 9, 13, 13, 14, 18, 23, 24).
- OVENBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 11 (7). (Arrival dates—April 7, 7, 8, 9, 14, 14 and 18).
- LA. WATER THRUSH. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 22 (8). (Arrival dates—March 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 23, 24 and 27).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 22 (3). (Arrival dates—April 20, 23 and 23).

- MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 11 (4). (Arrival dates—April 7, 9, 10, 16, 25, 28 and 30).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 25 (6). (Arrival dates—April 21, 24, 25, 25, 28 and 28).
- HOODED WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 12 (6). (Arrival dates—April 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 21 and 26).
- CANADA WARBLER. Not common. Transient. Average arrival, April 30 (7). (Arrival dates—April 27, 27, 28, 28, May 2, 3 and 9).
- AMERICAN REDSTART. Common. Transient. Average arrival, April 24 (8). (Arrival dates—April 12, 16, 19, 19, 26, May 2, 3, 5). Last seen, May 27.
- BOB-O-LINK. Common. Transient. Average arrival, April 28 (5). (Arrival dates—April 23, 26, 26, 26, 26, May 2, 9). Latest, May 20, 23 and 25.
- E. REDWING BLACKBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 1 (7). (Arrival dates—Feb. 12, 18, 20, March 4, 4, 12, 19).
- ORCHARD ORIOLE. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 13 (7). (Arrival dates—April 6, 8, 10, 15, 19, 19, 20 and 24).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 15 (7). (Arrival dates—April 8, 11, 14, 18, 19, and 19).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Tolerably common. Winter visitant. (Spring records—10 on March 12, 1902, and 19 on April 22, 1907).
- PURPLE GRACKLE. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 2 (7). (Arrival dates—Feb. 6, 26, 27, 28, March 2, 3, 5 and 8).
- SCARLET Tanager. Rare. One record—May 6, 1903.
- SUMMER Tanager. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 16 (8). (Arrival dates—April 10, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 21 and 23).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. Common. Transient. Average arrival, April 25 (8). (Arrival dates—April 20, 22, 22, 24, 24, 25, 28 and May 2).
- INDIGO BUNTING. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 25 (5). (Arrival dates—April 15, 25, 28, and 29).
- E. PURPLE FINCH. Common. Winter visitant. Average departure, April 20 (7). (Dates last seen—April 8, 15, 15, 20, 24, 24 and May 3).
- E. VESPER SPARROW. Common. Transient. (Arrival dates—March 13 and March 31). Last date seen, April 10.
- SLATE COLORED JUNCO. Common. Winter visitant. Average departure, April 6 (6). (Dates last seen—April 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 and 12).
- E. TREE SPARROW. Winter visitant. Average departure, April 8 (5). (Dates last seen—March 25, 25, April 14, 17 and 22). (This is the most southerly wintering place for this species yet recorded.—G.).
- E. CHIPPING SPARROW. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 12 (6). (Arrival dates—March 2, 2, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 25).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. Common. Winter visitant. Average departure, May 4 (7). (Dates last seen—April 26, May 1, 2, 6, 6, 9 and 10).
- E. FOX SPARROW. Tolerably common. Winter visitant. (Dates last seen—March 12, 20, April 1 and 18).
- E. SONG SPARROW. Common. Winter visitant. Average departure, April 24 (6). (Dates last seen—April 16, 24, 24, 26, 26 and 28).

[Notes:—(a) Mr. Getty's records for the Whip-poor-will are believed to also include those on the Chuck-wills-widow, for he found the latter species nesting at Athens; (b) Since the Rough-winged Swallow is the breeding form of "Bank Swallow" at Athens, it is likely that most of these notes apply to the latter; (c) The Junco records probably include some for the Carolina Junco as well, since the latter breeds on the high mountains 25 miles to the southeast. A number of other species listed as "transients", are also known to breed on these high mountains.—A. F. G.]

NASHVILLE, TENN.



## LOGGERHEAD NOTES

BY BENJAMIN R. WARRINER

"Shrike has six young in nest at Bill Mason's, July 2, 1934. Says bird feeds young on apples"—rough note among my bird memoranda of the past summer. My friend Bill Mason lives less than two miles south of the Mississippi-Tennessee line, on the Corinth and Jackson paved highway, so this brief story only lacks a little of having its situs in McNairy County, Tennessee.

Before the report of the fledglings came to me, I had been out to see the Loggerhead's nest. It was in a small, low, thick, plum tree, some four feet from the ground, in the back-yard of my friend's home, and about fifty feet from the house. I found impaled on thorns in other small trees and shrubs about the lawn four skeletons of small birds—mute evidence that the Shrike had been playing the reprehensible role of bird-killer. The little bodies were so badly decomposed that I could not identify them. So when Bill Mason informed me that the parent bird was feeding her fledglings on bits of soft apples pecked from near by trees, I could not conceal my skepticism. Investigation, however, confirmed the report. It appeared that the birds in the nest were beginning life as vegetarians. They consumed quantities of the mushy summer apples all but crammed down their greedy mouths. The apples came from trees that bore defective fruit; and as a matter of fact nearly every apple contained one or more small grubs or worms, such as are often found on unsprayed trees. It is very likely that the Shrike was including along with the bits of apples also such grubs as they had discovered in the fruit. There can be no doubt, however, that vegetable matter formed at least a part of the food brought to the young birds. A week after my first visit to the nest, I discovered the old bird with a grasshopper in her beak, and this she fed to her youngsters. Soon she left off her visits to the apple trees. She was finding plenty of animal food for the bill of fare for her carnivorous youngsters.

Size considered, the Loggerhead Shrike is doubtless the most courageous of birds. His nickname, "Butcher-bird," is accurately descriptive of his rapacious disposition. Yet, I hasten to defend him. The only possible serious charge to be brought against him is that he does rarely kill a defenseless small bird. This infraction is far outweighed by the good done by the Loggerhead. R. J. Longstreet, a recognized authority, in *Florida Birds*, says, "Except for this single lapse—the occasional killing of a small bird—he is a very useful citizen, for he preys upon some of man's worst enemies. In winter his food is largely mice and shrews. In summer he destroys great numbers of harmful beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, some cankerworms, and other large insects. Some of the curiosities of his menu are an occasional lizard or small snake, and one was once known to attack and kill a bat. On the whole, scientists do not hesitate to pronounce the bird as being decidedly beneficial."

Of all the misnomers in the category of birds this name, "loggerhead" must be awarded the badge of demerit for stupidity. The word means: a dunce, a silly fellow, a blockhead, a numskull. Yet this same shrike displays a rare degree of intelligence. Reed describes him as being a bird with passerine feet. He belongs to the order of Passeriformes, or so-called perching birds. Passeres is the plural of passer, the Latin word which means sparrow; the point being that all members of the order are similar to the sparrow. One negative characteristic is that they do not have feet equipped for grasping, clutching, and holding securely their prey. Hence, when Reed says that the Shrike has passerine feet he is simply pointing out that he cannot hold his victims in his feet. The Loggerhead, doubtless an eon more or less ago, was forced to find a substitute for his poor weak claws and toes. He had tasted blood and he wanted more of it, but being ill-equipped to play the role of raptore necessity became the mother of invention. He hit upon the happy and ingenious idea of carrying his prey in his heavy, hooked bill, to thorns and other sharp-pointed objects upon which he could impale it until he was ready to dine. Certainly a highly intelligent solution of the difficulty which confronted the Shrike. The fact that there are sometimes several of his victims found impaled about his hunting grounds, leads to the belief that they kill in advance of their needs



and wait for the flesh to reach the tainted stage at which time it becomes more tender. Getting back to the name, however, it is probable that it came originally from a more or less fancied resemblance of the bird's head to that of the loggerhead snapping turtle.

The Shrike is as strong as he is clever. Recently I saw the bird carrying a field rat—apparently about three times the size of an ordinary mouse—firmly held in his beak. He flew slowly, laboriously just above the ground for a distance of some two hundred yards. I thought surely he would be forced to drop his prey, but he did not. His every motion was identical with the book description of him under such conditions. Even the thicket of locust bushes was included in the picture—for that was the goal toward which the shrike was headed, and the goal he finally reached. The rat it seemed to me must have weighed as much as the Loggerhead. Skill and cunning, then, coupled with a strong muscular physique, enable the bird to overcome all that he lacks in size, and his ingenuity more than makes up for the passerine feet that nature has given him.

CORINTH, MISS.



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS BY OUR MEMBERS

For the fifth year we are reproducing the results of our annual mid-winter list for various points in Tennessee. These lists form an excellent index to the bird population of the State at a time when inclement weather is at its peak. The total recorded, for all listings, is 88 species and this may be compared with the three preceding years when 90, 80, and 77 were listed respectively. Greater numbers in recent years is probably due to the fact that we are learning to find rare sorts that were not on our earlier lists.

	Memphis, Tenn. Dec. 24th	Reelfoot Lake Dec. 25th	Covington, Tenn. Dec. 25th	Paris, Tenn. Dec. 25th	Corinth, Miss. Dec. 27th	Bowling Green, Ky. Dec. 23rd	Nashville, Tenn. Dec. 23rd	Murfreesboro, Tenn. Dec. 23rd	Knoxville, Tenn. Dec. 22nd	Johnson City, Tenn. Jan. 6 and 11
Number of species.....	59	53	30	35	45	51	67	39	57	39
Number of individuals.....	3772	1767	681	227	1225	3287	7972	1300	1750	1200
Number of observers.....	11	6	1	4	2	6	12	4	10	2
Common Loon.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Pied-billed Grebe.....	--	8	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Double-crested Cormorant.....	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Great Blue Heron.....	1	1	--	--	1	2	1	--	3	--
Common Mallard.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	19	--	1	--
Black Duck.....	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--
Gadwall.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	--
Wood Duck.....	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
Ring-necked Duck.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	110	--	--	--
Canvas-back.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Lesser Scaup.....	125	7	--	--	--	--	34	--	--	--
Amer. Goldeneye.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Bufflehead.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Ruddy Duck.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Hooded Merganser.....	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Black Vulture.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	8	--	--
Turkey Vulture.....	23	1	2	19	12	3	1	1	2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	2	--
Cooper's Hawk.....	--	1	--	1	1	1	2	--	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk.....	3	1	4	--	1	3	3	--	1	--
Red-shoulder Hawk.....	2	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	1	--
Am. Rough-leg Hawk*.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Marsh Hawk.....	1	1	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--
Sparrow Hawk.....	14	1	1	--	2	3	9	1	4	1
Hawk-identified.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--
Bob-white.....	24	--	--	--	--	10	2	--	13	26
Coot.....	--	758	--	--	--	--	41	--	--	--

Killdeer	24	1	20	3	55	2	95	14	24	--
Wilson's Snipe	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	--	4	--
Herring Gull	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ring-billed Gull	3	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mourning Dove	4	2	4	7	150	207	119	17	55	17
Screech Owl	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	4	1
Barred Owl	1	3	--	1	4	1	1	1	--	--
Long-eared Owl**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Great-horned Owl	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Kingfisher	2	4	--	1	1	--	5	--	2	1
Flicker	106	5	9	6	65	11	49	17	30	13
Pileated Woodpecker	--	3	--	--	--	6	8	2	2	--
Red-bel. Woodpecker	39	5	6	2	40	8	28	2	7	--
Red-head Woodpecker	3	--	--	3	--	1	--	--	6	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	5	1	--	1	12	3	10	6	4	1
Hairy Woodpecker	7	2	--	2	2	3	13	2	3	1
Downy Woodpecker	23	3	4	2	40	26	20	4	15	14
Phoebe	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	2
Prairie Horned Lark	11	--	4	--	--	37	215	150	--	75
Blue Jay	237	6	16	12	50	45	25	6	34	15
Crow	42	3	113	16	5	1060	108	200	55	30
Car. Chickadee	45	10	4	4	30	197	64	6	52	--
Tufted Titmouse	63	14	--	8	40	96	40	4	37	24
White-br. Nuthatch	3	--	--	2	2	--	2	--	13	2
Brown Creeper	5	--	--	2	2	7	3	1	--	--
Winter Wren	2	4	--	1	5	--	3	--	1	--
Bewick's Wren	2	--	1	--	--	5	12	2	--	--
Carolina Wren	57	8	7	4	30	32	59	14	33	23
Prairie Marsh Wren	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mockingbird	60	2	6	9	4	42	170	7	34	21
Brown Thrasher	5	--	--	1	12	--	--	--	--	--
Robin	141	--	1	3	90	179	212	34	200	288
Hermit Thrush	4	--	--	--	4	1	--	--	2	2
Bluebird	48	6	8	5	3	41	89	53	57	26
Golden-cr. Kinglet	50	8	--	3	16	2	4	1	11	3
Ruby-crown Kinglet	8	2	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--
Amer. Pipet	96	--	180	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cedar Waxwing	294	--	--	--	20	27	10	--	2	32
Migrant Shrike	19	4	3	--	--	2	5	1	2	2
Starling	131	46	24	33	2	180	5400	500	200	200
Myrtle Warbler	112	4	--	--	60	4	51	20	12	22
Pine Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--
English Sparrow	Com.	Com.	--	--	Com.	--	125	100	Com.	68
Meadow Lark	179	11	90	2	15	48	53	--	--	6
Redwing Blackbird	15	337	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	--
Rusty Blackbird	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	--
Bronzed Grackle	405	265	30	--	20	7	--	--	--	--
Cowbird	1	62	--	--	--	23	6	--	25	--
Blackbirds-unidentified	--	1,100,000	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cardinal	225	16	17	18	40	149	143	23	60	34
Purple Finch	--	--	--	--	12	--	--	--	3	--
Goldfinch	55	3	30	2	11	15	18	4	20	2
Towhee	8	1	--	18	40	52	50	4	25	1
Savannah Sparrow	12	--	10	--	4	--	7	--	52	--
Fox Sparrow	31	1	--	--	4	1	4	1	3	--
Vesper Sparrow*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
Slate-colored Junco	196	40	40	19	100	401	180	34	50	38
Field Sparrow	90	8	2	25	35	5	81	3	200	24
Tree Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	52	--	--	--	--
Chipping Sparrow	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
White-crown Sparrow	12	--	8	--	--	93	61	42	3	3
White-thr. Sparrow	553	36	25	29	150	85	77	8	150	4
Swamp Sparrow	--	6	--	--	--	5	9	--	12	4
Song Sparrow	140	10	12	3	20	98	81	6	68	46

\* The Amer. Rough-leg Hawk was seen at 12/22. See note in Round Table.

\*\* The Long-eared Owl at Knoxville was shot on 12/22. Note in Round Table.

\* The Vesper Sparrows at Knoxville were recorded by S. A. Ogden.

The Marsh Wren was examined with binoculars, at 12 feet, by B. B. Coffey.

MEMPHIS: Dec. 24th. 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Generally overcast with occasional drizzle, temp. 52 to 60 degrees. Uptown wharf, Woodstock, occasional stop on way to Raleigh, Wolf River bottoms west then back southeast to L. & N. R. R. to National Cemetery, miscellaneous points in city and Wolf River bottoms at I. C. R. R. and Payne and Jones Ave. (first party). Municipal Airport, Brooks Ave. and Nonconnah Creek bottoms at Prospect,



Piney Woods, and Riverside Park (second party). Normal section and old Saunders golf course (Hovis); Overton Park (Jackson and Calhoun separately). Two main parties out most of the day, Hovis in morning, and Park covered in an hour. Autos driven about 62 miles (within prescribed area). On foot 12 miles. Observers: Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Eagle Scouts—Frederick Carney, Franklin McCamey, Henry Turner, John McGoldrick, Robert Hovis, Jack Embury, Wendell Whittemore, John Jackson; and Jack Calhoun (Nashville) and Bert Powell. Memphis Chapter, Tenn. Ornith. Society.

REELFOOT LAKE, TENN.: Dec. 25th. 12 to 5 P.M. Overcast with drizzle part time and a heavy shower, practically stopping field work after 2:30 P.M. Ground muddy, slight wind, visibility poor, mist over lake. Short stops at Edgewater Beach, near Blue Bank, Samburg, north of Samburg, and last stop at Walnut Log with short trip out into lake by boat and four miles on foot west on Island opposite McGill Laboratory. Observers: Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Fred Carney, Franklin McCamey (all of Memphis), Compton Cook (Boone, N. C.), and Jack Calhoun (Nashville).

COVINGTON: Dec. 25, 8:30 A.M. to 12:36 P.M. Overcast with occasional sprinkle. Four miles hiked, traveling section from Smith's Farm to Liberty School. By car 10 miles on highway 51 S.-West of Covington, thence to airport 2 miles north of city.—Alice Smith.

PARIS, TENN.: Dec. 25. Temp. 40°-48°. Rain in afternoon. By motor from Paris to Eagle Creek, 11 miles hiked following course of creek to mouth on Big Sandy River, back by Highland Trail. Observers: Buster Thompson, Scouts.—Ben Whipple, Perry Bigham and R. T. Snyder.

CORINTH, MISS.: Dec. 27, 10 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Temp. 45°-50°. Visibility poor 7-8 miles west of Corinth, at Smith's bridge (Tuscumbia River Bottom) and 1 mile farther west at Gift Schoolhouse, covering both open fields and wooded areas.—Elgin Wright and Ben R. Warriner.

BOWLING GREEN, KY.: Dec. 24 Temp. 30°-40°. 7 A.M. to 4 P. M. Chaney, McElroy, and Lazarus farms, Lost River, and Drakes Creek. Observers: Ray, Lancaster, Mason, Brown, and Taylor.

NASHVILLE: Dec. 23. Temp. 30°-40°. West of Nashville; Glendale park; Granny White Pike; Percy Warner pond; Davidson Rd.; White Bridge Rd.; Radnor Lake; Mt. Olivet Cemetery; Cumberland River Bottoms; Knapp Farm Observers: Jack Calhoun, Spiller Campbell, A. F. Ganier, W. J. Hayes, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, G. R. Mayfield, V. S. Sharp, J. M. Shaver, E. C. Tompkins, H. S. Vaughn and G. B. Woodring.

MURFREESBORO: Dec. 23. Temp. 46°. 10 miles on foot. Observers: Geo. Davis, J. M. Edney, R. J. Murphy, and H. O. Todd, Jr.

KNOXVILLE: Dec. 22. Temp. 30°-60°. 7 A.M. to 4 P.M. Island Home bird reserve and other points about Knoxville. Observers: John Bamberg, Miss Mary Beard, Miss Mary Ruth Chiles, Louis Hofferbert, H. P. Ijams, W. M. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonard, S. A. Ogden, Dr. E. B. Powers, and James A. Trent, Jr.

JOHNSON CITY: Jan. 6 and 11, 1935. 12 man hours. Cox's Lake, Indian Ridge, Boone's Creek, and Sugar Hollow. Bruce P. Tyler, and R. B. Lyle.

DUCKS: On account of the unprecedented drouth of last spring causing a poor breeding season for most of the ducks the daily bag limit was restricted to twelve and the hunting season curtailed. Thirty days hunting in all were allowed and Tennessee chose to use these at the rate of three a week, from Nov. 8th to Jan. 12. The species hardest hit by the drouth, were the Canvas-back, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ringneck, Gadwall, Shoveller, and Blue-winged Teal. Reports from Reelfoot Lake, the State's best duck hunting grounds, are to the effect that ducks have been scarce there the past season.

## BIRD BANDING BREVITIES

BY MRS. F. C. LASKY

Field Sparrows have been scarce at Blossomdell this past season. Only a few banded individuals have wintered here and just 3 have been banded in January and February, 1935, a remarkably small number compared with 41 during the same period of 1934, and 73 in 1933. The first spring migrants of this species were banded March 8th, a flock arriving in the afternoon of March 7th. A Brown Thrasher appeared at the station February 27th, was banded and remained 3 days. By means of distinctive colored bands, two very interesting records of faithfulness between mates have been established. A pair of resident Cardinals, the male banded in February, 1932, the female February, 1933, are mated for their third season. A pair of resident Mockingbirds also are mated for their third season. This male was banded August, 1931, his mate April, 1933. The Cardinal mates associate with each other during winter, but the pair of Mockingbirds assume an attitude of aloofness toward one another and occupy separate territories between mating seasons. Two unmated male Mockingbirds are occupying territories in the neighborhood of the banding station for the second year, but their former mates have not been seen since migrating last fall.—Details of a very valuable recovery have just been received which were sent by Mr. Benjamin R. Warriner of Corinth, Miss. He says; "On May 22, 1933, I captured a Mockingbird a mile south of Corinth, which was banded with band No. A297380 and released it on the spot. The U. S. Biological Survey has advised that this band was placed on June 6, 1932 by Mrs. Arch Cochran at Nashville, Tenn. According to Mrs. Cochran this was one of four young, banded just before it left the nest. Corinth is 125 miles S.-W. of Nashville." This is probably the only recapture record of a bird banded from the nest in Tennessee. Perhaps in time enough records may be obtained to solve the riddle of the dispersal of the young, as banding here and elsewhere has already shown they do not remain in the vicinity of their natal place after they are full grown except in very rare instances.—A Starling was shot January 31, 1935, in West Nashville which had been banded by Dr. L. E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio, on March 26, 1934. Two other Starlings wearing his bands had been recovered previously; one banded March 3, 1933, was recovered (dead) December 25, 1933 near Gallatin; the other was banded on March 3, 1933 and found dead at Mt. Olivet cemetery, Nashville by Miss Georgia Reed on March 9, 1934. A Bronzed Grackle banded July 3, 1933 at Owasso, Mich., by A. S. Montgomery was recovered at Nashville in March, 1934, by C. C. Culp.—It will be noted that except for the Mockingbird captured by Mr. Warriner, the recovery records published thus far in "Bird Banding Brevities," have included only dead birds. How much more valuable to those interested would be records of living birds recaptured away from the place of banding and released with the possibility of other recaptures of the same individual later. Not one of the 4,700 birds wearing my bands has been captured alive except in the vicinity of the stations and this is partly attributable to the scarcity of banders in the South. According to the report of the Biological Survey, along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Washington, D. C., there are 84 stations that banded at least 100 birds apiece in the last fiscal year; west of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio, there are 101 more, bringing the total to 185. In the larger area south of the Ohio, between the Mississippi and the eastern seaboard only 13 stations are listed as banding 100 birds or more. It is very obvious why our birds are not retaken at other stations as they are in the north.

There are doubtless many who have been attracting birds to their homes who could easily become very successful bird banders. Wouldn't it be great to know: Whether the same birds come to your feeding shelves each year? If the same birds nest in your garden year after year? If the same birds remate? If the young come back or where they go? How long birds live? How fast and how far they travel? Banding your birds is the only



possible way to find out. If Mr. Ganier had not banded a certain Cardinal in 1924, it would not have been learned that the same beautiful bird is still coming to his feeding shelf and that last year he and his mate reared three broods of young about his premises, though this Cardinal is now at least 11½ year old.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March, 1935.



REVIEWS. "How to Know Our East Tennessee Birds," is the title of a 24-page, pocket-size booklet, written by John Bamberg and illustrated by H. P. Ijams, two of our well known Knoxville members. This well prepared little brochure is addressed to beginners in bird study including girl and boy scouts and guides the reader by easy stages through the fundamentals of bird study. There is included a list of the 75 best known summer birds, with pointers on the identification of each. Copies may be secured by addressing the J. F. G. Coffee Co., Knoxville, and enclosing 6 cents in stamps.—A. F. G.



BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1934: Papers and notes on Tennessee birds, which have appeared in other journals during the past year, are briefly cited below. We expect to make this record an annual feature.

In *The Auk* for April, 1934 (V. 51, p. 245), Mrs. A. R. Laskey has a note on "Gambel's and Harris's Sparrows in Tenn.," recording 2 of the former and one of the latter, trapped near Nashville (see also *Migrant*, 1934, p. 15). In the July number (V. 51, p. 371), A. F. Ganier has "The Status of the Duck Hawk in the Southeast and gives locations of 10 pair known to be nesting in Tennessee. In this same number, page 384, Compton Crook has "Cowbird Notes From Tenn.," recording an egg of this species in a nest of the Carolina wren.

In *The Wilson Bulletin* for Dec. (V. 46, p. 236-237), A. F. Ganier has "Further Notes on a very old Cardinal," giving notes on the home life of a male, banded Feb., 1924, and which is now (March, 1935) about 12 years old, or more.

In *Bird-banding* for July (V. 5, pp. 132-135), Mrs. Laskey has three notes as follows: "Two pairs of Mockingbirds re-mate for the second year," "Brown Thrasher banding records from Nashville," and "White-crowned and Gambel's Sparrow Returns"; each note giving interesting data on the species in question. In the October number (pp. 172-175), she has an article, "Eastern Field Sparrow Migration at Nashville," which gives data and tentative conclusions, on the results of 1115 of these birds banded between October, 1931, and June, 1934.

In *The Journal of The Tennessee Academy of Science* for April (Vol. 9, pp. 111-119), Mrs. Laskey has an article on "Bird Banding Experiences," in which she gives many details of methods and of the results obtained at her station at Nashville. In the October issue (pp. 278-287), J. M. Shaver and Compton Crook present the first installment of "Birds of the Campus of George Peabody College at Nashville." This covers seasonal distribution of the fifteen species classified as permanent residents.

Sixty-six papers and short notes which appeared in *The Migrant* during 1934, will be found listed on the last page of the December issue.—A. F. G.



WANTED:—Copies of *The Migrant*, Volume 2. In return for each four numbers sent to the editor, we will send this magazine for 1935 to one of your friends. Our supply of these numbers is getting low. Those who would complete their files should order their missing numbers now.

## THE ROUND TABLE

**THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS:** Very few field trips have been made in the last three months and they were uneventful despite the fact that Mud Lake has again become a lake. The "bar-pit" south of the levee there, which last year was frequented by Shovelers, Lesser Scaup, Blue-winged Teals and number of Coots, has been devoid of waterfowl. A Coot was seen on one trip and a Scaup on another. On Mud Lake, on Jan. 1, we saw about 600 Mallards, 20 Black Ducks, 10-12 Pintails, 150 Ring-necked Ducks and a few Lesser Scaups; on Horn Lake there were 4 Ruddy Ducks. Fox, Song, and White-throated Sparrows were common in the weeds along the levee. On Feb. 17, 120 Pintails, 68 Mallards, 75 Ring-necked Ducks, and 50 Lesser Scaups were noted, also an adult Bald Eagle. On March 2 very few ducks were noted, however 90 Pintails graced the "bar-pit" just south of Lakeview, Miss., while auto after auto sped by on the main concrete highway which borders it on one side. This is the small body of water which has yielded several unusual waterbird records and on which the Pied-billed Grebes nested in 1932 and 1933. Indications are that there will be plenty of water for the Grebes this season.

A moderate number of Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Mud Lake on the 10th of March. During a short visit on March 16 I failed to find any early migrants but the next day a party headed by Mrs. Coffey, McCamey, and Carney, found these early arrivals: 4 Great Yellowlegs, 7 Rough-winged Swallows, 1 Sora, and 10 Pectoral Sandpipers. On Mud Lake were noted 35 Mallards, 1 Black Duck, 12 Blue-winged Teal, 100 Ring-necked ducks, 10 Lesser Scaups, 115 Pintails, and 7 Coots. The first migrant reported for the season was the Purple Martin, on March 14 at a martin house at Miss Hutchinson's School.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

**A STILT SANDPIPER (*Micropalama himantopus*) NEAR MEMPHIS:** On Sept. 9, 1934, at North Lake, Tenn., 7 miles south-west of Memphis, I saw a bird which I believe to be of this species, in company with about 40 other shorebirds. Fred Carney and I managed to approach to within 20 feet of the bird, which was feeding with two Lesser Yellowlegs, the species which this sandpiper most closely resembles, and set down the following description in my notebook. "The body was shorter than that of the Yellowlegs but the long legs made it appear as tall; the bird however was distinctly different. The markings on the back and wings were of the "fish-scale" type whereas those of the Yellowlegs appeared as spots. The legs of the sandpiper were greenish while those of the Yellowlegs were yellow. There was a dark spot back of the eye and a white line through the eye; tail and rump were white; upper part of back dark grayish (a continuation of the neck color) and the underparts were faintly streaked. It fed with bill continually immersed in the water, swinging it from side to side. It was observed in sunlight." By comparing our notes and recollections on our return home with various color plates and descriptions, I hardly see how the bird could have been other than the Stilt Sandpiper and I therefore submit it as a sight record of this species.—FRANKLIN MCCAMEY, Memphis.

[There is a previous record from the Memphis area, three miles south of the Tennessee line, Mr. Coffee having reported five near Lakeview, Miss., on May 14, 1933, in our June issue of that year. This bird is to be expected as a rare transient in West Tennessee.—Ed.]

Two BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were brought to me in 1934 to be mounted. One was taken near Franklin early in September and the other was shot near here last spring. Both were adult and were doubtless transient birds. A Barn Owl was sent to me during the summer along with numerous hawks.—W. H. SEDBERRY, Thompson Station.



**AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK NEAR NASHVILLE:** On Dec. 22, near the Airport 20 miles south of Nashville, the writer was so fortunate as to get a close view of one of these birds (*Buteo lagopus s. johannis*) and to identify it satisfactorily. It was sitting in the top of a tree in a small grove around which were many acres of flat sedge fields and in which Marsh Hawks have often been recorded. It was at first taken to be a large Red-tail but as I approached to within 75 feet, it leisurely left its perch and began to soar about nearby. To John Calhoun, who was with me, I pointed out the white inner half of the tail, the dark belly, and conspicuous blackish patches under the wings at the "wrist." This bird, which most nearly resembles the Red-tail, was a bit larger than that species and had longer wings and more supple flight. It disappeared over the fields and could not be found on a return trip a week later.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

**WINTER NOTES, 1934-35:** Starlings, which were so numerous last winter, were not much in evidence during the winter just past; only after the heavy snow of Jan. 20 did they become common.—Robins returned in considerable numbers a few days before Christmas and were more numerous through Jan. and Feb. than for several years.—Bronzed Grackles were quite absent during the past winter and only returned the middle of March.—Rusty Blackbirds are among our rarest winter visitants; four were seen by G. R. Mayfield and the writer on March 3 at the spring-marsh near Donelson.—Four eagles were reported taken since the first of the year, near Nashville. One of these, a young Golden Eagle, was captured uninjured on the ground, 30 miles south-east of Nashville on Jan. 2; it was shipped to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and released there. On Feb. 12, another immature of this species was trapped on Pilot Knob, 13 miles south of Murfreesboro. The Murfreesboro paper of Feb. 17, gave a news item from Shelbyville, that two eagles had been shot near there during the first half of February. Farmers near, who were interviewed by the writer, claim these eagles habitually take their lambs and kids.—The Cardinals at my home began their nest on March 17, using the same shrub as for the past eight years.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

**AMERICAN PIPET RECORDS FOR THE NASHVILLE AREA:** A flock of about fifty of these birds were seen Feb. 22, 1935, eleven miles from Murfreesboro near the Manchester Pike. They were first noted while bathing in a shallow rock-bottomed creek and were mistaken for Prairie Horned Larks. After having followed them to a field which was being plowed, I was able to observe the birds at about 30 feet. It was then noted that they wagged their tails from side to side and had black streaks on the sides. These two characteristics, observed also by Mr. Ganier and Mr. Todd who were with me, plainly marked them as Pipets. When approached, most of them would take flight but a few always remained behind and it was almost impossible to see them on the rough ground. Like the Prairie Horned Larks, however, the Pipets walked instead of hopped. No call was given while on the ground, but when flushed they gave a high twittering call as they flashed their white outer tail feathers. This call and flock formation is quite similar to that of the Prairie Horned Lark. This leads me to believe that if more of the birds recorded in Middle Tennessee during migrations as the latter were closely observed, we would have more Pipet records.

There are only a few records for the Nashville area; they are as follows: Dec. 4, 1921—1 near the corner of Tynes Lane and Hillsboro Road; Nov. 25, 1922—1 near the shore of Radnor Lake; Feb. 10, 1924—15 in a valley on Bell's Bend; Dec. 26, 1925—2 near shore of Radnor Lake; May 9, 1926—25 between Percy Warner Park and the Harpeth River; Nov. 13, 1927—2, and Oct. 12, 1930—4, both near the shore of Radnor Lake, and March 25, 1933—1, on the Peabody campus in Nashville. These records have been furnished me by Messrs. Compton Crook, A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk and Vernon Sharp, Jr.—JOHN CALHOUN, Nashville.

**A TENNESSEE WARBLER WINTERS IN NASHVILLE:** Although this bird on its migrations through Tennessee sometimes remains into early November, the following instance of an individual which appeared in my yard from time to time during the past winter is of interest. My attention was first attracted to the bird by his characteristic "chip" and his staying down among the weeds near my home. I first observed it on November 17, then on December 8 and again on December 19. The bird remained until the second day of January and was not seen again after that time. It did not appear to be injured nor did it appear to be weakened from scarcity of food. Whether he decided to go southward and join others of his tribe or whether he perished during one of the cold days in January, no one will ever know.—G. R. MAYFIELD, Nashville.

**RADNOR LAKE NOTES:** The waterfowl on Radnor Lake for the winter of 1934-35 have been slightly different from those of the previous winter. The number of Coots has fallen off considerable this winter, however, the Black Ducks have increased greatly. Ring-necked and Lesser Scaup still constitute the bulk of the duck population. The Golden-eye and Bufflehead have remained all winter on the lake. The Loon appeared December 13th and remained at least to March 24th. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes have appeared intermittently throughout Jan., Feb., and March. Six male Shovelers were recorded March 24th, which constitutes the only record on the Lake for two years. The American Merganser has been another unusual duck for this area; a single bird remained throughout the winter months.—GEORGE B. WOODRING, Nashville.

**A BARN OWL CASUALTY:** During the severe ice storm of March 18-19, 1934, a large old oak tree, which stood upon the campus of the Tennessee College at Murfreesboro, fell from the weight of the ice on its branches and was split open. In the hollow trunk, a Barn Owl was found, it having been killed in the crash. No one had suspected that there was a "Monkey-faced" owl living on the campus but, according to the books, these quiet and harmless owls are often present in a community without giving a clue to their presence. Prof. George Davis, of this city, tells me that he knows of at least three of these owls having been brought in by people from the country during the last four years.—H. O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

**NOVEMBER WOODCOCKS:** On November 19, 1934, a boy brought me a woodcock, having shot it north of Knoxville in Union County. This bird I have mounted. Another woodcock was brought to me on November 28, 1933, it having also come from Union County. It was found dead and apparently had been dead several days.—S. A. OGDEN, Knoxville.

**A LONG EARED OWL AT KNOXVILLE:** On December 22 last, an owl of this species was taken about five miles south of Knoxville, Tenn. It was turned over to Mr. S. A. Ogden who has mounted the specimen. We regard this as a very rare bird here.—H. P. JAMS, Knoxville.

**AN ADDITION TO THE LIST OF WINTER BIRDS OF NORTH-EAST TENN.:** To our list, published in the September, 1933, *MIGRANT*, and supplemented in the issue of March last, the following may be added. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). May now be listed as a very rare winter resident. During the winter just past, one of these birds remained continuously in a small grove of heavy timber near Johnson City. It was observed on seven different dates during Dec., 1934, and Jan and Feb., 1935.—BRUCE P. TYLER AND ROBERT B. LYLE, *Johnson City*.

Make it a rule to add something each year to your equipment for bird study. Field glasses, a camera and accessories, bird houses for your grounds, books for reference and study, etc., etc. Procure these items from our advertisers for by patronizing us as they do, they help to make this magazine a possibility.



**LIFE LISTS:** The 1935 migration season is at hand and with it comes the possibility of that thrill that comes from adding a new bird to ones "Life List." The season also suggests that it is time to take inventory and bring your list up to date. The following form is suggested as a foundation to build upon. List the names of the birds you have already identified and those you hope to add, on the left side of your sheet and leave room for four columns to the right. In these may be checked the following:

1—Birds observed in your own immediate local area. This sort of list will be valuable in developing the study of Tennessee birds and we owe that much to the T. O. S.

2—Birds observed in your division of the State (West, Middle or East Tenn.). This is advisable because of the diverse geography of Tennessee and because of the concentration of your study.

3—Birds observed in all portions of Tennessee.

4—A composite list of the birds you have certainly identified throughout the entire United States (or the world, if you have had opportunities abroad). This list will need to carry the place and date of observation.

Another list of value would be one of birds whose nests you had found, giving notations as to date, place and eggs or young in each.

The preparation of such an inventory might do much to systematize and stimulate your bird study. If you do not already have a written "Life List," start building one from Mr. Ganier's **A Distributional List of Tennessee Birds** in which you will find those which are to be expected in the State. If you have traveled beyond the State, refer to Chapman's **Handbook** or to the **A.O.U. Check List** to recall observations. When your list is complete, compare with that of other members; it will either give you a feeling of satisfaction or spur you on to better field study.—**JOHN BAMBERG**, Knoxville.

**MEETINGS:** The Nashville division of the T. O. S. has the following Monday meeting dates on its program, together with a tentative list of speakers. March 4 Vernon Sharp, Jr., "Old time bird books"; March 18, J. M. Shaver, "Ferns of Middle Tenn."; April 1, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, on some results from bird-banding; April 15, Round Table notes by members; April 29, Warren F. Eaton (N. Y.) on Hawks and Owls; May 12 (Sunday), Annual Spring Field Day; May 20, general round table discussion on nesting; June 3, summary of the year's work and plans for summer activities.

The Knoxville division (E. T. O. S.) has scheduled Wednesday meetings and week end field trips for the following dates: March 17, Field trip.—John Sevier territory, Louis Hofferbert in charge; April 3 evening program, H. P. Ijams in charge; April 21, Field trip,—Elrado and Cades Cove, Bob Burch in charge; May 1, evening program—Brockway Crouch in charge; May 5, Annual Spring Field Day and census; May 19, Field trip—Big Ridge Park, John Bamberg in charge; June 3, Field trip—"The Jump Off" in Great Smokies Nat. Park, Brockway Crouch; June 5, evening program, Dr. E. B. Powers; June 16, Field trip—Greenbrier Cove, Dr. E. B. Powers in charge.

The Memphis division announces Monday meetings for the evenings of March 18, April 1, 15, 29, May 6, 20, June 3 and 17. Their annual Spring Field Day will take place May 5 at a place to be chosen later.

We urge all our members who can, to attend these local meetings. A list of local officers was printed in our last issue.

**OUR NEW COVER** is the work of Regional Editor and Past-president, Harry P. Ijams of Knoxville. Although our trusty owl was none the worse for wear after five years service, we felt that a more inclusive design, and one which would better hint at the contents within, would be in order. Mr. Ijams has nicely caught the idea and his fine technique has enabled him to portray it. Many thanks, H. P.



## THE MIGRANT

A quarterly journal, devoted to the study of Tennessee birds.

Published at Nashville, Tenn., by The Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Editor-Treasurer, Albert F. Ganier, 2507 Ashwood Ave., Nashville.

Regional Editors: Ben B. Coffey, Memphis; George R. Mayfield, Nashville; Harry P. Ijams, Knoxville; and Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City.

Business Manager, Vernon Sharp, Jr., 220 Capitol Blvd., Nashville.

A complete list of officers is published annually in the June issue.

Subscription price, sixty cents per year, free to members.

Dues for Active and Corresponding Members, \$1 per year; for Juniors, 60c.

Items for publication and remittances should be sent to the Editor-Treasurer.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,  
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

### EDITORIALS

The President of the Tennessee Ornithological Society regrets to announce the resignation of Mr. George B. Woodring as Editor-Treasurer of the State organization. He has held this office since the founding of this journal and has devoted a great deal of time to the work. The Society is much indebted to him and wishes him success in his new undertakings. From a mimeographed publication of six pages, our official organ has grown to a sixteen-page printed journal and is now recognized as one of the best publications of its kind in the field.

The executive committee decided to ask Mr. Albert F. Ganier to take over the editorship for the present and he has agreed. Mr. Ganier has been acting as Associate Editor during these years and is fully acquainted with this journal as well as with the other ornithological magazines. By reason of his long experience as well as his wide acquaintance with bird students throughout the State he is eminently qualified to assume the task. He has re-appointed the present staff of associates to help in getting out the 1935 volume. May I bespeak for him the active co-operation of all readers of this magazine.—G. R. MAYFIELD.

With this issue *The Migrant* enters its sixth year and is thus able to look back upon its first block of five volumes with considerable satisfaction. A great deal of information has been presented on the birds of our State and our members have come to know, or at least know of, many others in Tennessee who are interested in the study of ornithology. No such progress could have been made without an adequate official organ. Toward the future we look with confidence. Most of our contributors are unaccustomed to writing for publication but as they "get the hang" of our style and learn to be on the lookout for items that will make good "copy," our contents will improve accordingly. The field of bird study is inexhaustible and the unfolding of the life histories of our birds is ever an absorbing topic. Your Editor wishes these pages to reflect the exhilaration and pleasure that is yours as you learn new fact and the chief mission of this journal shall be to enable you to share your findings with others. We need more detailed notes on the home life of birds, their manner of courtship, how they build their nests, what they eat, how they roost, etc., etc.

These notes should come from all portions of the State and we hope to number fifty members as contributors during 1935. Your Editor's "copy basket" should be kept well supplied at all times in order that he may be able to pick seasonable and appropriate articles for each number. With the active co-operation of our members, *The Migrant* will come to be more and more welcome if not indispensable.—A. F. G.



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