

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
THE TENNESSEE
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

P. Jams
36

March
1938



BIRD BOOKS

We have in our store, or can obtain for you on short notice, these books on Bird Life.

Pocket Nature Guides

These are the accepted pocket guides for use on field trips. Size $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, profusely illustrated in colors. Each \$1.25.

Land Birds East of the Rockies. By Chester A. Reed.

Water and Game Birds. By Chester A. Reed.

Wild Flowers East of the Rockies. By Chester A. Reed

Butterfly Guide. By Dr. W. J. Holland

Tree Guide. By Julia Ellen Rogers.

- AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA. A very handsome volume containing large reproductions of all of Audubon's 500 famous plates, lithographed in full colors with descriptions of each plate \$12.50
- AUDUBON. By Constance Rourke. A new biography of the famous ornithologist, with 12 Audubon plates reproduced in colors. 342 pages. \$3.00
- A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS. By Roger Tory Peterson. Your library is not complete without this new book. Copiously illustrated in wash and color. The greatest aid for identification. \$2.75
- BIRDS OF AMERICA, Edited by T. Gilbert Pearson, 834 pages fully illustrated with 106 color plates, many photos and drawings, one volume. Original 3 vol. edition sold for \$16.00, now \$3.95
- WILD BIRDS AT HOME, By F. H. Herrick. 350 pages, 137 illustrations. Complete treatise on everyday habits of our birds. ... \$4.00
- HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA. By F. M. Chapman. Well illustrated in colors. 580 pages. The standard handbook \$5.00
- THE BOOK OF BIRD LIFE. By A. A. Allen, Ph.D., Cornell University. A wealth of information, profusely illustrated \$3.75
- TRAVELING WITH THE BIRDS. By Ruyard Boulton. A book on bird migration. Beautiful color plates by W. A. Weber \$1.00
- OUR LAND BIRDS. By Alice R. Ball. Histories of 156 species, illustrated with 47 color plates by Horsfall. 291 pages \$1.69
- BIRD NEIGHBORS. By Neltje Blanchan. All about those birds that are most worth knowing. Illustrated \$1.00
- NATURE'S SECRETS. Edited by G. Clyde Fisher. A popular American natural history including the birds, 840 pages, fully illustrated \$1.89
- BIRDS OF TENNESSEE. By A. F. Ganier. 64 pa. A distributional list showing how, when and where all species are to be found \$0.50
- All bird lovers are cordially invited to visit our store, or write to us for information on books about birds, nature, gardening and out-of-doors.

METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

810 Broadway

Nashville, Tenn.

Tel. 6-2641

THE MIGRANT

VOL. IX.

MARCH, 1938

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.

NOTES ON BIRDS OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

BY FRANK BELLROSE



It was a far cry from seeing Wood Ibises, Purple Gallinules, and Least Terns on August 28, in western Tennessee, to seeing Carolina Juncos, Winter Wrens, and Red-breasted Nuthatches on September 1, in eastern Tennessee. In 1937, the writer and George Fell, after spending two days at Reelfoot Lake, traveled east across Tennessee to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Establishing camp at camp ground No. 1, at an elevation of 1,500 feet, we visited the surrounding area from August 31 to September 7.

We found this region to be of great interest to the botanist and zoologist. Salamanders abounded in the mountain brooks and springs, and blue-tailed skinks were constantly seen about the camp ground. Mammals, too, were quite plentiful; this was evinced by seeing many fox, gray, and red squirrels and black bear signs at higher altitudes. The lower ridges and slopes of these mountains were covered with a variety of hickories, red oak, white oak, scarlet oak, basket oak, pin oak, chinquapin, and, in many places, the result of chestnut blight, thousands of gaunt, dead chestnuts. Rhododendrons grew in moist habitats from the lowest to the highest elevations, being replaced by mountain laurel on drier sites.

A zone of red spruce and Fraser fir extended from about 4,500 feet to 6,500 feet. In the higher portion of this zone, the fir formed practically a pure stand, while in the lower portion red spruce predominated. In this coniferous belt, there was a scattering of mountain ash, alder-leaved viburnum and other deciduous shrubs, while the forest floor was carpeted with tree mosses. Certain northern hardwoods, such as basswood and yellow birch, form a transition between the oak-chinquapin zone and the coniferous forest.

Because of the many varied habitats, due to elevational climatic conditions in this region, such species as Hooded Warblers and Red Crossbills may be met with in the same morning. Indeed, in traveling from 1,000 to 6,000 feet one passes from the Upper Austral life zone to the Canadian life zone. At the season of our stay, many migratory species were doubtless on the move and the local birds were augmented to some extent by individuals from a distance.

GREEN HERON—One was observed along Little Pigeon River at 1,500 feet, Sept. 7.

TURKEY VULTURE—One individual was observed soaring near Kephart Mountain at an elevation of 4,800 feet, Sept. 4.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK—Two immature birds were observed doing aerial gymnastics over Mt. Le Conte, 6,582 feet, Sept. 6.

RED-TAILED HAWK—Five adult individuals were seen at elevations of 2,500 feet to 5,500 feet.

OSPREY—This bird is regarded as a rare migrant in the park, so it was with considerable surprise that one was noticed perched along Little River, at 2,000 feet, Sept. 6.

DUCK HAWK—One was observed Sept. 1, flying near the summit of Mt. Le Conte.

RUFFED GROUSE—Two were heard calling in the coniferous forest on Mt. Le Conte at 5,800 feet, Sept. 4.

BOB-WHITE—Several were heard daily in the many small forest clearings, grown up to composites and grasses, at elevations of 1,200 to 1,500 feet. Near Greenbrier Cove several were observed feeding on fallen apples.

WILSON'S SNIFE—It is a mystery what this bird was doing on Mt. Le Conte at an elevation of 4,250 feet, but nevertheless one was positively identified there on Sept. 6.

SCREECH OWL—Heard nightly about the camp at 1,500 feet.

NIGHTHAWK—On Sept. 7, twenty were seen flying over the fields near the park.

CHIMNEY SWIFT—On Sept. 1, and again on the fourth, several individuals were observed flying over Mt. Le Conte.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD—Several were observed feeding on the blossoms of touch-me-nots, Aug. 31, at an elevation of 1,700 feet.

BELTED KINGFISHER—One was seen along Little River at 1,900 feet on Aug. 31.

FLICKER—Quite common at lower altitudes, particularly on slopes covered with basket oak, pin oak, and dead chestnut.

DOWNY WOODPECKER—Infrequently seen, at 1,700 to 5,000 feet.

HAIRY WOODPECKER—A regular but not abundant species from 2,500 feet to 5,800 feet.

KINGBIRD—Four were observed along the highway, near camp ground No. 1, on Sept. 2, at 1,550 feet.

PHOEBE—Several were heard and seen daily about the camp.

WOOD PEWEE—One was observed daily near the camp ground, several in the basket oak-chinquapin zone, and one in the spruce forest at 4,200 feet.

LEAST FLYCATCHER—An adult was observed feeding several young on Sept. 2, at an elevation of 2,500 feet.

BARN SWALLOW—A large number of these swallows were seen flying over the fields near Gatlinburg, Aug. 30.

CLIFF SWALLOW—A number of these birds were noticed in among the Barn Swallows.

BLUE JAY—Very few noted. Those heard and seen were at altitudes of 3,400 to 4,500 feet.

NORTHERN RAVEN—On Sept. 1, a Raven was heard giving its raucous, croaking call in the red spruce forest covering Mt. Le Conte at 4,800 feet. Later

it was observed gliding across a valley and parachuting down to a ridge. One was also seen, Sept. 4, at 5,500 feet on Mt. Kephart.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE—These birds were fairly numerous at elevations of 3,800 to 6,500 feet. On one occasion a small band congregated in the trees a few feet above our heads and scolded us vigorously.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE—Only one Chickadee was heard and seen which could be assigned to this species; it was observed on Sept. 2, at 2,200 feet.

TUFTED TITMOUSE—Fairly abundant in the white oak, basket oak, chinquapin zone at elevations of 1,600 to 2,800 feet.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH—The peculiar nasal calls of these birds were heard frequently throughout the coniferous forest at elevations of 3,500 to 6,500 feet.

BROWN CREEPER—Only two were seen—both in the coniferous forest at 4,500 feet and 5,240 feet.

WINTER WREN—Of regular occurrence in the spruce-fir zone from 4,200 to 6,500 feet. Two were observed in the deciduous forest at 2,800 feet.

BEWICK'S WREN—Two seen near Elkmont, Sept. 3, at 2,250 feet.

CAROLINA WREN—Several were observed, Aug. 31, at an elevation of 1,600 feet. They were found to be particularly abundant about abandoned human habitations.

CATBIRD—One was noticed, Sept. 2, feeding on elderberries at an elevation of 2,050 feet.

WOOD THRUSH—Several were observed in clumps of rhododendron about the base of Mt. Le Conte at 4,000 feet, Sept. 1.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET—This was one of the most abundant birds at the higher altitudes. Small flocks were met with daily between 4,000 and 6,500 feet in the spruce-fir zone.

CEDAR WAXWING—Several were observed at 1,500 feet, Sept. 2, and a small flock at 4,250 feet, Sept. 7.

WHITE-EYED VIREO—Quite abundant in the small creek valleys at elevations of 1,500 to 2,200 feet. On Aug. 31, an adult was observed feeding several nearly grown young.

MOUNTAIN VIREO—Several of these birds were heard and seen in the coniferous forest at 4,900 feet on Mt. Le Conte, Sept. 3.

RED-EYED VIREO—Not as abundant as the previous two species. One was observed Aug. 31, at 1,600 feet.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER—Found largely in the deciduous forest zone at elevations of 1,700 to 2,500 feet. Several, however, were seen on Sept. 4, at 5,250 feet.

TENNESSEE WARBLER—Observed frequently in deciduous second-growth between 2,000 and 2,900 feet; also seen at 5,250 feet.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER—Observed in small, evidently migrating, bands of warblers, at 2,600 feet and at 5,250 feet.

CAIRNS'S WARBLER—Found singly but regularly from 3,500 to 4,500 feet in the spruce forest zone. A number of males were heard singing on Sept. 7, at an elevation of 4,250 feet.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER—This warbler was observed largely at the higher elevations in the coniferous forest. Several were noted, Sept. 4, at 5,500 feet.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER—Observed from 1,500 to 4,000 feet. Most abundant in second-growth basket oak, white oak, and chinquapin.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER—Found only in cut-over land at 2,000 to 2,500 feet.

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH—One was observed along a mountain brook at 3,800 feet on Mt. Le Conte, Sept. 1.

HOODED WARBLER—Only one was observed; that on Aug. 31, at 1,600 feet, in among young hemlocks and rhododendrons.

REDSTART—Observed from 1,200 to 5,400 feet, seemingly an abundant migrant throughout the region.

SUMMER Tanager—A female was identified in the basket oak-chinquapin zone at 3,200 feet on Sept. 2, 1937.

CARDINAL—On Sept. 1, several young were observed being fed by the adults near the camp ground, 1,500 feet.

INDIGO BUNTING—One nearly fully grown young was observed being fed by adults on Sept. 3, at 1,400 feet.

GOLDFINCH—Quite numerous in abandoned fields at the lower elevations. Observed flying Sept. 1, at 4,600 feet.

RED CROSSBILL—Approximately one hundred individuals were observed in the red spruce trees along Tennessee State Highway No. 7, near New-found Gap, 5,000 feet. Several were observed drinking at little pools on the side of the rocky cliff.

TOWHEE—A few heard and seen on Sept. 3 in second-growth hardwoods between 2,000 and 2,750 feet.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW—Two seen at close range near Greenbrier Cove at 2,200 feet on Sept. 5, 1937.

CAROLINA JUNCO—Very abundant and observed daily at 4,000 to 6,500 feet. There were particularly large numbers in and about rhododendron clumps.

FIELD SPARROW—Very common in the weedy forest openings between 1,200 feet and 2,000 feet.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

BLUEBIRD 'BETTER HOUSING' PROJECT

By E. D. SCHREIBER

During the past two years Mrs. A. R. Laskey, Dr. Harry S. Vaughn and E. D. Schreiber of the Nashville Chapter, Tennessee Ornithological Society, have conducted a Bluebird nesting project at Percy Warner Park, a few miles southwest of Nashville. In the winter of 1935-36 a group of government relief workers constructed the nest boxes, using plans furnished by Dr. Vaughn. Twenty-six of these boxes were erected with the aid of Boy Scouts of the Tennessee Industrial School in March, 1936. They were placed along Park drives mainly in the southeastern section of the Park, adjacent to Natchez Trace, consisting largely of meadow land, a terrain well suited for Bluebird nesting sites. Each box was numbered and had a removable roof for inspection purposes. Throughout the succeeding nesting seasons weekly inspections were made and the data recorded by E. D. Schreiber as part of a problem in graduate work in biology with Dr. Jesse Shaver at Peabody College. After each nest was used the box was cleaned out.

Most of the nest boxes sheltered two or three families of Bluebirds each season and in one case in 1937 four sets of young were successfully raised in a single nest house. The female laying the first set of five eggs wore a band at the time of brooding but was not re-trapped. The female brooding the second set of eggs was trapped without a band. To her right tarsus a band was affixed. Similar evidence at other boxes show us that each box may be used by more than one female.

Whenever possible, brooding females were trapped on the nest momentarily for the purpose of applying on the right tarsus the Biological Survey band. This phase of the project was directed by Mrs. A. R. Laskey who is most active as a bird bander in the Nashville region. All nestlings attaining an age of about ten days were banded on the left tarsus and the sex of each determined when possible.

Results of the study to date may be briefly summarized as follows:

	1936	1937	TOTALS
Number of boxes available	26	27	53
Number of nests built	39	70	109
Number of nest containing eggs	36	67	103
Number of eggs laid	164	304	468
Number of eggs hatched	90	206	296
Number of young banded	74	183	257
Number of adult females banded	3	13	16
Number of birds re-trapped	2	7	9

A sixteen-apartment Purple Martin house in the Park was unused by martins but served as the home of a Bluebird family, four young being successfully raised in the house. These nestlings were banded. A Bluebird nest consisting largely of rope fibers, in a hole of a post supporting the wagon shed on Park headquarters property, was observed and the four young banded in the 1937 season. Data from these two nests are included in this study.

A blacksnake was seen to take two young birds from one nest box, and a report from the Wilson boys at the Park indicated that a chicken snake had devoured at least three other Bluebirds, taken as nestlings. The blacksnake gained access to the nesting box, located on a fence post, by using horizontal wires of the fence for support in climbing. This condition was remedied by removing the box from the fence post to a point close by where it has a post of its own.

Cooperation was given by several members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, Park officials and workmen, Dr. Shaver of Peabody College, and Boy Scouts of the Tennessee Industrial School. Boxes were placed in clearings not too far removed from trees or thickets. Usually they were placed on black locust posts with entrance hole about five feet above ground. Workmen and children of workmen at the Park were informed of the project and their good will was sought. Explanation of the procedure of bird banding was given to those who manifested special interest.

The satisfactory progress attending our efforts thus far has aroused in many individuals and in a few groups the desire to extend the project to other sections. At the request of Mrs. Rufus Fort, Dr. Vaughn addressed a recent meeting of the Nashville Horticultural Society, telling of the Warner Park Bluebird Project. Members of this organization urged that Bluebird houses be erected in Shelby Park also. Accordingly, Dr. Vaughn and Scouts placed ten nesting boxes in Shelby Park, Nashville, in the early spring of 1938. These, with newly placed boxes in Warner Park, bring our total in the two city parks to fifty Bluebird houses. As an educational venture this one has well repaid the efforts put forth. Citizens see that Bluebirds really inhabit properly built houses in suitable locations.

Bluebirds, thought to be getting fewer about Nashville, are here in increasing numbers. We commend this worthy project to others of our members who may be interested and shall be glad to communicate with any who care to undertake a similar experiment.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 7, 1938.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

Our ninth annual state-wide mid-winter or Christmas census of bird life is tabulated below. A list from North Mississippi is also included. The highest list of 69 species (from Nashville) is one short of the record but the composite list for all Tennessee reports is 93,—3 more than ever compiled before. The total for each of the three preceding years was 88. (This includes Ruffed Grouse recorded on the 1936 Spence Field Bald census which was published in *Bird-Lore* (1937, p. 56) but inadvertently omitted from *The Migrant*.) This year the third and most thorough Great Smokies Park census was made and can be credited for most of the increase in the total of the composite list. Included in our Tennessee tabulations for the first time are: Eastern Turkey, Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill,—all from the Park—and Black-crowned Night Heron, Old Squaw, and Broad-winged Hawk. Compared with 1936, the 1937 (-1938) censuses dropped 10 species and added 15. Some interesting comparisons will no doubt be noted not only when checked against previous years but one locality with another. To mention only one, we cite 25 Red-headed Woodpeckers at Nashville where they are often absent, and 12 at Memphis where, though sometimes uncommon, as many as 103 were listed last year. Thorough coverage of territories by our larger chapters make their lists very representative, although all may have 'A-W-O-L' species on the day of recording.

Census lists from Covington, Pulaski, and Johnson City will be found in The Round Table. The Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Greeneville, and Great Smokies lists were published in *Bird-Lore* (1938, pp. 52-54). Members of the Memphis chapter also made censuses in North Mississippi: at Tupelo—57 species, Hickory Flat—48, and Moon Lake at Lula—76. All may be found in *Bird-Lore* (1938, pp. 54-55). See also The Round Table.

	Memphis Dec. 24, 1937	White Bluff Jan. 8, 1938	Clarksville Dec. 19	Nashville Dec. 25	Mt. Pleasant Jan. 2	Murfreesboro Dec. 26	Knoxville Dec. 26	Norris Dec. 24	Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 19	Greensville Dec. 21	Rosedale, Miss. Dec. 19
Robin	388	6	38	130	2	19	7	12	200	2	2
Hermit Thrush	30	6	2	9			5		24		
Bluebird	54	24	32	80	8	35	36	14	75	5	7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	67	2		7		2	27	9	32	3	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6								1		2
American Pipit	30										35
Cedar Waxwing	332		4	15		55	35	1	15	11	
Shrikes*	15			1	1	7	1		5	1	18
Starling	370		4	76	18	10000	10091	45	6	23	2000
Myrtle Warbler	214	7	47	8		13	41	2		4	30
English Sparrow	com.	14	295	280		30	65	17	25	15	14
Meadowlark	421		11	90	50	84	97	8		9	200
Red-wing	80									11	100
Rusty Blackbird				100							
Bronzed Grackle	562			2		5000	48			1	72
Cowbird	12					5					43
Cardinal	526	46	170	225	7	40	48	3	37	13	8
Purple Finch	19	16		19	1	45	55	100	42	4	
Pine Siskin									1000		
Goldfinch	120	41	27	60		9	19	12	130	20	
Red Crossbill									37		
Towhee	12	51	53	42	1	13	23	2	4	2	
Savannah Sparrow	52			9			1				50
Juncos*	841	360	87	400	12	150	31	15	750	24	11
Tree Sparrow		5	1								
Chipping Sparrow							1*				
Field Sparrow	90	67	14	86		120	157	47	60	4	
White-crowned Sparrow	1		1	47	5	54				2	4
White-throated Sparrow	1536	68	148	218	13	15	136	8	90	10	18
Fox Sparrow	73	7	2	22		3					
Lincoln's Sparrow											23
Swamp Sparrow	29	17	2	58	1		1				40
Song Sparrow	215	60	17	60	8	28	35	3	106	3	78

NOTES ON SPECIES: Black-crowned Night Heron at Clarksville.—Reported by Mrs. Hutchison on Dec. 4, 16, and 19 (date of census); slow flapping, long pointed wings, long head, and feet sticking out were points noted.—Broad-winged Hawk at Knoxville.—Reported by Mr. S. A. Ogden and group. The characteristically banded tail was observed with binoculars.—Pigeon Hawk at Rosedale.—One collected.—Horned Larks.—Were presumed to be mostly the Prairie, tho the presence of some of the Northern race was probable.—Chickadees.—Both the Black-capped and the Carolina Chickadees were definitely observed on the Great Smoky census; elsewhere only the Carolina Chickadee.—Long billed Marsh Wren at Nashville.—Was seen by Calhoun among piles of drift in a slough near the Cumberland River.—Shrikes.—All Migrant Shrikes except possibly at Memphis where the Loggerhead and the Migrant may each be present in winter.—Bronzed Grackle.—Should be Purple Grackle for East Tenn. censuses.—Juncos.—Both the Slate-colored and the Carolina Juncos were definitely observed on the Great Smoky census; elsewhere only the former was recorded.—Chipping Sparrow at Knoxville.—Observed by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer near Island Home sanctuary.—Lincoln's Sparrow at Rosedale.—Two collected.

MEMPHIS: Dec. 24, 7 A.M. to 5 P.M.; overcast all day, windy, white-caps on river; muddy; temp. 48-54. Coverage not as complete as usual; unable to reach best water bird localities; Raleigh not well covered. Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Allison, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Miss Mary Davant, Fred Dickson, Harold Elphinstone, Bruce Ely, Jack Embury, Bill Fischer, Robt. Hovis, Joe Miller, Fordyce Mitchell, Dr. C. E. Moore, Bob Shaffer, Tom Simpson, Miss Alice Smith, Paul Snodgrass, Henry Turner, Eugene Wallace, Eldon White, Wendell Whittemore.—WHITE BLUFF: (In Montgomery Bell Park): Jan. 8, 8:30 A.M. to 4:15 P.M. clear, little wind, temp. 26-40. Same route as in 1936 and 1937 (see The Round Table for a comparative summary of results). A. F. Ganier, H. C. Monk, Jesse M. Shaver, H. S. Vaughn, G. B. Woodring, G. M. Yarbrough, E. O. Page, and

W. P. Morrison and grandson.—CLARKSVILLE: Dec. 19, all day; cloudy in a.m., air-drift from the north; temp. 30-35. Environs of town from the northeast to the southwest, inclusive, Dunbar's Cave Lake, and party of three in canoe on and along Cumberland and Red Rivers and West Fork Creek. Lamar Armstrong Alfred Sr., Alfred Jr., Wm. A., and Edward Clebsch, Clarence Collier, Jr., Mrs. Chas. Y. Hutchison, Miss Wanda McBride, Dr. Chas. F. Pickering, and Chas. Stainbrook.—NASHVILLE: Dec. 26, 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; clear, slight wind, temp. 35-55-49. Environs south and west, including Radnor Lake, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Cumberland River bottoms, Hobbs and Otter Creek Roads, Percy Warner Park, Harding and Charlotte Pikes, and Kingston Springs. B. H. Abernathy, Floyd Brailliar, John B. Calhoun, M. S. Carter, Mrs. Sanford Duncan, W. J. Hayes, Sr. and Jr., Francis and Stephen Lawrence, Miss Mary L. Lee, Arthur McMurray H. C. Monk, C. E. Pearson, G. R. Mayfield, Leo Rippey, Edw. Shreiber, Mrs. Jamie Tippens, H. S. Vaughn, G. B. Woodring, G. M. Yarbrough.—MT. PLEASANT: Jan. 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; fair, temp. 27-51. D. R. Gray farm in a.m., H. and M. Lake in p.m. A. F. Ganier, Dan Gray, Sr. and Jr., and Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Mayfield, Dr. O. J. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, H. S. Vaughn.—MURFREESBORO: Dec. 26, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; partly cloudy, slight wind, temp. 50. Twelve miles on foot. Dr. J. B. Black, Prof. George Davis, Marion Edney, H. O. Todd, Jr.—KNOXVILLE: Dec. 26, 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; cloudy, light wind, temp. 43-45. To Island Home Sanctuary, Topside, Sharp's Ridge; Lake Andrew Jackson to Ebenezer to Bearden. C. O. Baird, Jr., Dr. Earl Henry, H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer, Miss Mary L. Ogden, S. A. Ogden, W. M. Walker.—NORRIS: Dec. 24, 7:45 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.; intermittent showers and mist, light wind, temp. 55. To Caryville Lake and return; 12 miles in car, 4 miles on foot. George Foster, Sr. and Jr., Jim Trent, Jr., W. M. Walker.—GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK: Dec. 19, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. In lowlands (1200-3000 ft. elevation) Misty rain in a.m., followed by fog and overcast sky, muddy ground, temp. 40-46. In mountains (3000-6600 ft.) clear, ground frozen, and temp. 28-40. Light wind. Seven groups of observers in cars and on foot, 160 miles. Area of 15 miles diameter, centered on Bull Head and including Mt. LeConte, Greenbriar Cove, Elkmont, and the state divide from Siler's Bald to Mt. Kephart, including Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, outside park boundaries. C. O. Baird, Jr., E. R. Burch, Mary R. Chiles, Brockway Crouch, John J. Hay, Dr. Earl Henry, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Miss Mary O. McGriff, Henry Meyer, S. A. Ogden, Miss Kathryn Picklesimer, James Trent, Jr., and W. M. Walker Jr. (Knoxville Chapter); Carlos C. Campbell, R. F. Colgrove, and Miss E. Dorothy Williams (Knoxville); Willis King, Wildlife Technician, and John B. Quinn (Gatlinburg); and Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist.—GREENEVILLE: Dec. 21, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; clear, light wind, temp. 35-40. Reed and Ross farms along Roaring Fork Creek; Bay's Mountain; 4 miles on foot, 12 miles in car. Miss Willie Ruth Reed.—ROSEDALE, MISS.: Dec. 19, 7 a.m. to 6:40 p.m.; clear, temp. 36-46-39. Rosedale to Legion Lake to Lake Bolivar (22 miles S.) and return; 4 miles on foot, 48 miles in car. Gordon Vaiden and Scouts Bobby Linnell and Sammy Ray.



BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 12

By AMELIA R. LASKEY

This past autumn season was quite successful for **Mockingbird** trapping at the home station; 54 were banded in September. As is usual here by early October, territories were being defended and transient Mockingbirds were no longer permitted to stop in the garden. Again our lot was divided between four birds. Only one was a newcomer. YAR and AYB, males that had arrived in the autumn of 1936 and remained for nesting, defended their respective territories of last year. The fourth section was occupied once more by the usual winter resident ABA who nests at a neighbor's about 75 yards northwest but has now spent three winters at the station. At the present writing he has already returned to his summer home. Stimulated by the unusually mild weather of late December, January, and February, all Mockingbirds sang throughout the winter. AYB and YAR won mates by mid-February which was about three weeks ahead of the usual date. AYB's mate had been banded last September, returning February 11. Both females doubtless wintered in the Nashville area, as their plumage was darkened from exposure to city smoke. No nesting activities have been observed. An interesting account of Mockingbird No. 34-200174 is worth recording here. This bird appeared in early spring of 1934 at the window sill feeding shelf of Mrs. K. P. Wright who lives one block from Ward Belmont College. Although she enjoyed his songs, his monopoly of the shelf seemed to frighten the smaller birds so Mrs. Wright asked that he be removed. He was caught in a banding trap, transported in a covered cage and brought by automobile to the banding station about three miles away. He was banded with both colored and numbered bands and released on the evening of March 10, 1934. On the morning of the 12th Mrs. Wright recognized him by his bands as he again fed on her window shelf. He soon acquired a mate but did not remain there for nesting. On January 26, 1938, there was a sudden drop in temperature and snow flurries. That morning Miss Ann Ganier found No. 34-200174 lying on the driveway of Ward-Belmont College. She took him home where he recovered and was released. This bird is now at least five years old. He has been fortunate to survive the dangers of cats and automobiles in that closely built section of Nashville for which he shows such marked preference. **Chipping Sparrows** appeared in rather large flocks at the station last autumn; 54 individuals were banded between Sept. 22 and Nov. 2. —On Oct. 14 and 28 respectively, **White Crowned Sparrows** C186922 and C186943 were returns—4. **Gambel's Sparrows** 34-107632 was a return—3 on Nov. 25. During the first week of November, three immature Gambel's Sparrows were banded. Two had typical yellowish bills but the other was reddish. —**White-throated Sparrow** H51352 banded Nov. 30, 1932 was a return—2 on Dec. 6, 1937 (more than five years old).—This winter all native sparrows were conspicuously absent from the station and substations. Only a few **Field Sparrows** and an occasional **Song Sparrow** came to the traps. Even the previously mentioned **White-crowned Sparrow** C186922 that had spent four consecutive winters here, left on Dec. 7. Probably the mild weather and early growth of vegetation is at least partially accountable for the scarcity of birds around the banding traps.—Two **Field Sparrows** that are about five years old were retaken this winter (L38967 and L57941).—**Slate Colored Junco** L38984 banded

Feb. 1, 1934 was a return—3 on Nov. 21, 1937 and H32742 was a return—4 on Nov. 3, 1937, at least 5 1-2 years old.—A pair of **Carolina Wrens** banded in 1934 are still together. The male H73145 known to be approaching at least his fifth year of age, has been mated with H73200 two years or longer.—Winter and spring **Robins** are very aggravating to a zealous bander. There seems to be no bait that will lure them into traps at this season in Nashville, where large flocks are migrating now.—Mr. M. L. Carter, state president of the T. O. S., is establishing a substation at his home near Glendale Park. He has already trapped six Chickadees and seven Titmice, as well as a few other species, at a window feeding shelf.

NASHVILLE, TENN., February 28, 1938.

A DAY WITH A LOON

BY BENJ. R. WARRINER

I spent the day of December 17, 1937, at Liddon's Lake, three miles from Corinth. A cold misty rain fell and a high wind swept the lake all day. Counting two lakes, separated only by a ten foot levee, there is an area of some forty acres of water at Liddon's. The spot, though close to town, is fairly wild in its setting.

While fishing from the bank, I discovered a large dark gray water bird at a point about midway of the lake. The fog and mist were so heavy I could not identify the bird even with the aid of my glasses. I could tell, however, that it was not a specimen with which I was familiar. Soon I procured a boat and moved close enough to verify my hopes.—it was a Loon, the second one on my list of birds. The first was on a winter's day at Waukomis Lake near Corinth some five years ago. In their winter dress Loons are not glossy black on the upperparts but are gray.

The Loon at Liddon's soon became accustomed to my presence, and allowed me to approach within one hundred yards of him a number of times during the day. I have never seen another bird in such high feather; for hours he played in the rain and cold. Despite the fact that there was only dim light, nothing but gray skies and gray water, the Loon's snow-white breast flashed and glistened like a great gem. The bird dived almost continuously, and remained under for interminable minutes. Always he reappeared short distances from the points where he went down.

The Waukomis Loon had regaled me with one shrill, ghost-like call. I remained at Liddon's until nearly dark, wishing I might hear the weird sound again. Then, at last my patience was rewarded. As I gathered up my fishing tackle, ready to depart the scene, the friendly Loon laughed once, not as loud as a Loon is supposed to laugh, but yet loud enough to express all the wild and weird spirit so symbolic of this visitor from the Far North.

CORINTH, MISS., February, 1938.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The Memphis Xmas Census, made Dec. 24, listed only a few species of water birds as we were unable to cover Mound City Chute and Mud Island. The number of Swamp Sparrows, 29, was back to normal, compared with the record high of 502, made last year. Only 30 Pipits and 12 Towhees were seen. Black Vultures were not recorded (seen the next day).—Warriner in his 'Notes' reports the absence of Brown-headed Nuthatches at their regular haunts near Corinth. Mrs. Coffey did not locate the usual resident pair near Hickory Flat, Miss., December 25, nor did we find any of this species in the pines of Tombigbee State Park near Tupelo that same day. Though far from common, one or two pairs have usually been observed at various localities in past years. Only one Pine Warbler was recorded,—in Tombigbee Park. Mrs. Coffey's list of 48 species included a pair of L. Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks on Springdale Lakes. At Tupelo, Miss., we listed 57 species. Not being familiar with the area, our party of five were together most of the time. Two artificial lakes near a country club and in a state park, yielded no records but Gum Pond, lapping right at the edge of the poorer section of town, had attracted a Hooded Merganser, a Canvas-back, a Gadwall, a Ring-necked Duck, and 2 Coots. We returned at dusk and watched 15 Lesser Scaups come in. Usually, more ducks are present, according to residents. A heavy fine for shooting on the lake, protects the ducks.—Wilson's Snipe liked the drained ponds at the fish hatchery and amused me by apparently trying to hide behind the small piles of moss in the pond. 30 were recorded at this place, compared with only 1 for the complete Memphis list, and none elsewhere, including Moon Lake. 24 Pipits flew over the grounds—At Moon Lake, near Lula, Miss., the weather was threatening but better than last year. A fair land bird list was secured in the bottomlands near the levee to give a total of 76 species. No Bob-whites were recorded. Only 2 Savannah Sparrows and 2 American Pipits, plus 27 Pipits hurrying over, were recorded on the burnt-over levee (usually frequented by large flocks of Pipits) and near-by fields. On the lake,—Loon 1; Horned Grebe, 27; Pied-billed Grebe, 8; Baldpate, 2; Pintail, 6; Canvas-back, 75; Golden-eye, 2; Bufflehead, 3; Ruddy Duck, 1150; Hooded Merganser, 8; American Merganser, 500; Red-breasted Merganser, 2000; 5 common species of ducks, 417; unidentified ducks, 600; Herring Gull, 350; Ring-billed Gull, 2;—Buster Thompson did not make his Paris, Tenn. census this year. Located at Greenwood, Miss., now, Buster and two Scouts made an interesting list in a canoe trip there, Dec. 25.—Nothing of consequence was recorded Jan. 30, on a trip to Piney Woods and to Mud Lake (Ganier, Wallace, Coffey). Recorded at the latter—2 Mallards, 1 Pintail, 20 Ring-necked Ducks, 6 L. Scaups, 2 Pipits, and a pair of Marsh Hawks.—At Horseshoe Lake, Ark., Feb. 6, Simpson observed 2,000 Cormorants, 325 L. Scaups, 2 male Golden-eyes, 30 Coots and an adult Bald Eagle,—On Feb. 26, Simpson and Whittemore saw nothing unusual in 2 hours at Mud Lake; the only ducks were 20 L. Scaups and 50 Ring-neckeds.—A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen

Dec. 30, west of Germantown.—Feb. 20, During a cold spell, I visited likely spots for Tree Sparrows, without success; we have no records of this species.—Jan. 9 about 6 Herring Gulls were observed walking along the shore by J. C. Lamon and the writer. Ring-billed Gulls have been unusually common on the river front all fall and winter; from 20 to 75 were often noted in one section. At their favored locality, off the lower sewer, from 10 to 75 L. Scaups were also seen until about Dec. 31. They could be studied at 20 yards from a car on Riverside drive. A Canvas-back was seen at the water's edge in early December and another with Scaups in mid-stream, Dec. 24. A flock of about 80 L. Scaups have been present most of the winter in Wolf River at the N. 2nd. St. bridge site and on Feb. 20, about 25 Ring-necked Ducks were also there.—The first migrants recorded were 2 Purple Martins on Mar. 4 (Fiedler) and 1 on Mar. 7 at Whitehaven (Guth).—**BEN B. COFFEY, JR.** Memphis.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER: A Vesper Sparrow was seen, Dec. 16 on our local golf course. Recognizing it as an unusual bird for our area, I followed and flushed it a number of times and carefully checked my identification.—On Jan. 16 an adult Bald Eagle was seen on the Cumberland River. He was recognized instantly as he flew by within 100 yards of me. Going downstream, he lit for several minutes on a large dead branch of a tree. Since that time we have heard from several sources, reports of an Eagle's nest farther down the river. We will investigate these reports as soon as possible.—During the last two weeks in February there have been very large flocks of Robins in different parts of the city. On the 25th a friend telephoned me about an albino Robin present among an immense flock in his back-yard. As soon as I could get my bird glasses, I went over to investigate. Hundreds of Robins were there and many Cedar Waxings were also present. After about 30 minutes I discovered the 'curiosity.' The bird was of an ivory color throughout, with the single exception of his breast which had the typical Robin-color.—**CHAS. F. PICKERING, M. D.**

In the last issue I mentioned a late fall occurrence of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the date being Oct. 25. Additional information may be of interest. This bird rose out of a patch of grass near an old lespedeza field, but flew only with difficulty to a wild cherry tree near-by. It could be seen that several of his tail feathers were missing. In order to learn more about his queer behaviour and anything that might possibly cause his late presence, I collected the bird and examined him carefully. His stomach stuck out so much that a sharp fold appeared between it and the breast. This made the bird look thin otherwise, but his weight was full, (about two ounces) and much hard fat lined his body. This was due, I later found, to the fact he had just packed into his stomach, a grasshopper that measured two and a half inches, body and wings. In addition there were two other grasshoppers of like size, crushed for digestion, and four small ones, three quarter-inches long, besides a quantity of parts of still others. It was thus easy to see why the stomach was bulging. The season was already too late for caterpillars, but nevertheless, the Cuckoo had found ample food, even if he had to go to the ground to get it. The absence of some of the tail-feathers was due to moulting.

In connection with recent articles in *The Migrant* on the playfulness of birds, we offer an incident of a playful Marsh Hawk. On February 27, when

steady winds were blowing, we saw a Red-tailed Hawk come over, flying low, then started to circle over a sun-bathed slope. A lone Crow made a few passes at him, but withdrew when a Marsh Hawk came on the scene. The latter promptly took over the teasing of the Red-tailed, the while circling and rising together with him. The game seemed to be taken lightly by the clumsier Buteo who continued his circles and budged but little, even when the Harrier fell bodily on him. We watched their maneuvers until the birds reached such heights that our glasses showed only two fading dots.—Persons living on the river front reported what was to them an unusually large gathering of Herring Gulls, Nov. 14. Just below the L. & N. R. R. bridge, where the Cumberland is about 400 feet wide, about 200 Gulls were assembled. The greater part were sitting on the water while others flew about, going upstream as far as the bridge. Birds in white plumage outnumbered those in dark plumage. Later, they moved downstream in two loosely-composed groups, some spreading out over the cornfield to find a short cut to the river below.—On Dec. 13, 1937 a single Lesser Snow Goose was seen swimming on the river and was flushed twice by an approaching barge. The plumage indicated that it was an immature bird.—Great Blue Herons have been seen repeatedly this winter along the Cumberland. During a rise of the river one was noticed riding a piece of drift wood in the middle of the stream. Crows and Grackles are quite fond of this mode of transportation and use it to hunt food in the form of snails, water-insects and the like. At the time, some of these smaller birds shared the log with the Great Blue—Since mid-winter records of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet in this section are rare, we report positive identification of single individuals at different localities on Jan. 8 and 23.—An early and unexpected messenger of Spring was a Tree Swallow which we saw on Feb. 20, as he was industriously flying over the lake at Dunbar's Cave. He was without companions and was not found again on later visits. On the date mentioned we also found the first Wood Ducks back on Red River.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

NOTES FROM NASHVILLE: The month of February was unusually warm; in fact, its average temperature of 50 degrees has only been exceeded 3 times in 70 years. As a result, vegetation by March 1st had advanced at least three weeks beyond normal. The male Cardinal at my feeding shelf began feeding his mate on Jan. 29, a sure sign of an early spring and weeks ahead of schedule. On Feb. 27, a Killdeer was found incubating four fresh eggs, this being unusually early though in several other years it has been found nesting as early as this date. A day or two before, Dr. H. S. Vaughan reported a Red-tailed Hawk's nest containing two eggs and that a Bluebird's nest held eggs on March 5. Additional Bluebird boxes are being erected in Warner Park this spring and the numbers of these attractive birds are being steadily increased. Chipping Sparrows were reported on March 5 by B. H. Abernathy, this being 4 days ahead of their average first date. Robins have been very abundant during late January and February, an immense roost being in daily use west of Nashville. Starlings, too, have been more abundant during these months than since February, 1934—the year that they darkened the suburban lawns and stripped all the hackberry trees of their berries. Red-wings were reported on Feb. 10, by Miss Mary Lee, as having returned to their summer homes on Radnor Lake. Dr. G. R. Mayfield reports that

Starlings are so perfectly mimicking the expected spring migrants that he can no longer be sure of what he hears until he has identified it by sight.

A. F. GANIER, NASHVILLE.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE: Personal observations plus reliable information from other observers show a change in the status of water birds on Norris Lake when compared with the 1936-1937 season. The species represented were probably about the same but the number of individuals that remained on the lake was not as large, and the flocks were smaller.—Lake Andrew Jackson froze over the middle of December and except for some Mallards the ducks didn't return until about Feb. 13. A flock of Mallards began wintering there in mid-October but the birds disappeared one or two at a time until on Jan. 23 one wary drake remained. It hasn't been recorded since Feb. 6, which leads me to believe that some hunter finally killed it too.—The Hermit Thrush was more common around Knoxville this winter and the Cedar Waxwing, altho erratic in its movements, has been a rather consistent visitor thruout the areas visited.—A small group of Savannah Sparrows was located in the early fall and has remained in the one restricted area practically all winter. This is the first time in three years the writer has been able to find definite evidence of a wintering flock. While on the subject of winter residents we have three Shrikes located this winter as compared to one last year. Also, a Brown Thrasher has been a consistent visitor at Mr. Crouch's place since January 10.—Early spring arrivals worthy of mention are two Rusty Blackbirds on Feb. 13. Quoting from my notes,—“Today Charles Baird, Mrs. Walker, and I found two Rusty Blackbirds feeding in the shallow water at Lake Andrew Jackson. The light eye-ring, the greenish cast of the black feathers, the tinge of yellow on the throat and the faint yellow line over the eye were all plainly seen with binoculars at 15 to 30 feet. We observed the birds for about 20 minutes and twice during this interval we heard their creaky yet musical notes which made up a short song.”—The Red-wing was seen at Lake Andrew Jackson on Feb. 12 (Meyer) when 3 were observed in a cat-tail bordered pond. The next day about 300 were found in a small elongated marsh near Karns High School in Knox county. In this flock the females outnumbered the males by 4 or 5 to 1.—A Pine Warbler, hungry from the long flight north, had Sunday morning breakfast (Feb. 27) at the Ijam's feeding station. After 15 or 20 minutes of intermittent eating the warbler flew off into the wood.—Often we hear the phrase, “Help the birds.” It was Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson who stepped in and helped a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. About Feb. 8 Mrs. Johnson noticed these birds excavating a cavity in a dead limb of a black gum tree. After working for about 10 days the birds had their home large enough to suit their needs, only to lose it to a pair of Starlings. Then the Woodpeckers moved up the limb and began another hole on the opposite side of the limb from the first cavity. However, before this excavation was half completed, other Starlings were sitting around waiting for a chance to take it. It was here that Mr. Johnson came to the rescue and, temporarily, at least, the Red-bellied Woodpeckers are quietly enjoying their new home.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

WINTER NOTES FROM CORINTH: Pied-billed Grebes feeding on the bottom at Liddon's Lake. Each bird came up with a bill full of moss. On the surface, each bird had to run from the others to keep them from robbing

him of his find. Cooper's Hawk chased a Brown Thrasher into a pile of brush in new ground. The Thrasher gained sanctuary only inches ahead of his enemy. The brush pile proved a life-saver. A Hermit Thrush fed on berries of a dogwood tree; Mockingbird ate holly berries; Purple Finches lunched on the blue berries of a privet hedge; Robins feasted on holly berries, starting at the top of the tree and working downward; Flickers and Downies ate hackberries, with many Myrtle Warblers in the same tree. A Red-tailed Hawk battled with the high swift wind; he could make no progress at all at the level where I first saw him, so he soared up and up until I lost him in space. A fine bird, emblematic of wild, free life, whose domain is limited only by the sweep of untiring wings. Sapsuckers, usually common in winter in Tusculumbia bottoms, are rare this year. Bluebirds seem to increase in numbers. Brown-headed Nuthatches not found this winter in their usual haunts here. Likely they will return early in March. Looked all winter for Horned Larks, but without success. Vesper Sparrows flew up by roadside on two occasions in late January; saw them well enough to know them from Juncos, which, of course, are common everywhere. On Feb. 20 many Pine Warblers were found 8 miles west of town. An unusual sight, Feb. 27,—a flock of at least 500 Mourning Doves, evidently migrating—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

ANNUAL MID-WINTER BIRD CENSUSES OF THE MONTGOMERY BELL PROJECT: The third census of this area near White Bluff, Tennessee, was made on Sunday, January 8, 1938, by the same groups that made the first and second censuses,—namely, Messrs. Ganier, Monk, Shaver, Vaughn, and Woodring—accompanied by Mr. W. P. Morrison and grandson of Dickson, Mr. G. M. Yarbrough, and Mr. E. O. Page. As nearly as possible, the same route was taken by each group as in 1936 and 1937 (*Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.* 1936, pp. 95-97). Since the beginning of this study in 1936, the greatest change has been in the old fields. Young trees and shrubs have invaded these from the forest and from streams and gullies so that most of the fields are well dotted with blackberry briars, tall weeds, shrubs of many kinds, and young trees. The houses that were occupied a year ago are now empty but the C.C.C. Camp is still occupied and work has gone forward on the dirt dam. Just above the dam where the lake will be, much shrubbery has been cleared away. A brief summary of the birds for the past three censuses might be of interest and is given below. (The complete 1938 list is included in the tabulated lists in this issue.) Birds seen on all three of the trips were: Black Vulture, Mourning Dove, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Myrtle Warbler, English Sparrow, Cardinal, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow; total, 27. Birds seen on two of three trips: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Bob-white, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Prairie Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Meadowlark, Fox Sparrow; total 14. Species recorded only one year were: Cooper's Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Screech Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Rusty Blackbird, Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow; total 10. The total number of species seen in the area during the studies was 51.—JESSE M. SHAVER, NASHVILLE.

BIRD CENSUS AT COVINGTON:—Dec. 25, 1937; 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. except 2 to 3 P. M. Cloudy, with fog to noon, part sunny in P. M., temp. 48-54. In car on Highway 51 to five miles north of town; five miles on foot near Liberty, southwest of town. Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 28; Mourning Dove, 2; Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 30; Crow, 80; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Carolina Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 3; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 6; Migrant Shrike, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 4; English Sparrow, 10; Meadowlark, 9; Cardinal, 25; Goldfinch, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 400; Field Sparrow, 35; White-throated Sparrow, 175; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 30. Total, 29 species, 904 individuals—ALICE SMITH, Memphis.

BIRD CENSUS AT PULASKI:—Jan. 6, 1938; 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. Steady rain all day, temp 40-50. About 300 acres covered. Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 10; Mourning Dove, 4; Flicker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Paired Horned Lark, 100; Blue Jay, 15; Crow, 100; Carolina Chickadee, 35; Tufted Titmouse, 12; Carolina Wren, 5; Mockingbird, 14; Robin, 15; Bluebird, 9; Starling, 500; Myrtle Warbler, 35; Meadowlark, 30; Bronzed Grackle, 405; Cowbird, 20; Cardinal, 60; Goldfinch, 1; Towhee, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 100 plus; Field Sparrow, 100; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 60; Fox Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 9. Total, 33 species; 1672 individuals.—MRS. F. C. LASKEY AND MRS. SAM H. ROGERS.

BIRD CENSUS AT JOHNSON CITY:—Dec. 28, 1937. Temp. 40. Boone's Creek. Turkey Vulture, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Mourning Dove, 9; Screech Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 100; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 19; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 16; Carolina Wren, 5; Mockingbird, 5; Bluebird, 8; Starling, 50 plus; English Sparrow, 50 plus; Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 17; Goldfinch, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 10; Field Sparrow, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 15. Total, 25 species; 333 individuals.—ROBT. B. LYLE AND BRUCE P. TYLER.

A FEMALE CARDINAL FIGHTS HER REFLECTION:—An uncommonly pugnacious Cardinal has been fighting her reflection in a window. This appears the more unusual because it occurred in January rather than during the nesting season. On Jan. 20, 1938, when my neighbor told me of it, the duel had been in progress for ten days. During this time Mr. Reed has observed the Cardinal's actions carefully. He says she was at the window almost every hour of every day during this time; one morning he found her at the window before sunrise. She attacked her reflection by leaping forward and upward at the window, hitting it smartly with her beak and out-stretched wings. The sound thus made audible at the farther end of the room.—The Cardinal appeared puzzled one afternoon when the window was raised and left open. She came several times and looked about—never, however, entering the building.—Two or three times the female was accompanied by a male Cardinal which behaved as a bystander and never became sufficiently interested to join the attack on the persistent intruder.—The effort of the ten days combat was beginning to tell on the Cardinal when I first saw her. Mr. Reed said that the time between attacks was noticeably increasing. She remained at the window but perched quietly for longer periods between bursts of fight-

ing.—On the following day a shade was hung close to the window. By shutting off the light between the windows and a cabinet the shade seemed to eliminate the reflection. For two days the bird returned half a dozen times to her post, leaving soon when she found the situation changed. During the days following she did not return. Is it usual for a female Cardinal to defend thus persistently a territory, even if merely against her own reflection?—WILLIE RUTH REED, GREENEVILLE.

BLUE GOOSE IN HAWKINS COUNTY:—On Nov. 8, 1937, a local hunter observed two strange birds on the Holston River below Church Hill and shot at them because they were of a kind unknown to him. He killed one but being unable to recognize it, he brought the specimen to Johnson City where Mr. R. B. Lyle identified it as a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). This is the first record I have of this species in this locality.—BRUCE P. TYLER, Johnson City.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—This is apparently our third published record of the Blue Goose in East Tennessee. In past issues, W. M. Walker reports the first record from a specimen taken in Cocke County in the fall, about 1927 or 1929 (1935, p. 49) and later mentions one killed, Nov. 21, 1936 on the Tennessee River near Knoxville (1936, p. 103).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER CATCHING WASPS: On January 15, 1938, I was sitting in a chair on the south side of our large three story building. The day was warm and wasps were attracted to the warm bricks above me. I was busily writing when I heard such a "swish" at my head that I instinctively ducked. The cause of my alarm was a Red-headed Woodpecker. He perched in a nearby white oak and then swooped at me again. I then saw he was catching wasps on the fly, alongside the wall, and apparently eating them. I can only conjecture what he did about the stings.—CAMERON McR. PLUMMER, St. Catherine's, Bolivar.

THE STARLING AS A MIMIC: For the past several years I have been observing the songs of certain Starlings on the Vanderbilt campus, particularly during the fall and winter. My attention has been directed, especially during three recent months, to one Starling which frequently sits in a sugar maple near a nesting hole. He has perhaps the best repertory of any Starling to which I have ever listened and his imitations are quite deceiving; in fact, he imitates some campus birds so well that I now have to check with my eyes to be sure what bird it really is. There may be two or three other Starlings among the dozen on the campus, which also imitate other birds, but I am inclined to the opinion that this bird leads the field in his power of varied song. His best imitations are those of the Meadowlark, the Bronzed Grackle, female Bob-white, and Wood Pewee. He also imitates the songs of the Bluebird, the Cardinal, the Flicker, the Blue Jay, the Robin, the White-throated Sparrow, the English Sparrow, the Red-eyed Vireo, the Summer Tanager, the Red-headed and the Hairy Woodpeckers.—G. R. MAYFIELD, Nashville.

BIRDS UNAFFECTED BY NOISE: What small attention that some of our land birds at times pay to man-made noises was noticed by Dr. Pickering one day last July when he visited the skeet-field near Clarksville. From the hours of 1 to 6:30 P.M. between 600 and 700 shots were fired, and during that time he counted 15 species of birds within 100 yards of the shooting stand. Only a few steps away he found a Bewick's Wren sitting quietly on the nest.

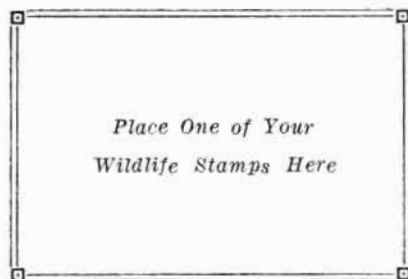
Other species listed were: Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Nighthawk, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, Robin, Prairie Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Meadowlark and Field Sparrow.

An instance of similar nature is reported by Mrs. Pickering. On the rocks that form the background to the dance floor at Dunbar's Cave a pair of Phoebes was found nesting during June. In the weeks following the old birds were repeatedly seen late at night gathering insects around the strong electric lights and feeding their young, unmindful of the large and noisy crowd a short distance below them.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESTORATION WEEK—MARCH 20-26

"For uniting the efforts of all friends of Outdoor America to the end that future generations shall have their rightful heritage of Wildlife."

T. O. S. President M. S. Carter urges the fullest co-operation with the Tennessee Wildlife Federation. It is hoped to focus attention on conserving our wildlife and to stimulate organization of conserva-



tionists. An appropriate and beautiful series of stamps can be bought in your county or from the Federation. Proceeds will be used nationally and locally. In addition many active projects can be developed.

MEETING DATES

Notifications of the following meeting dates have been received. CLARKSVILLE: Meetings are held every two weeks at the homes of members and are scheduled for the following Tuesdays: April 5, 19; May 2, 16, 30; June 13, 27. Dr. C. F. Pickering is pres. and Alfred Clebsch is secy. KNOXVILLE: April 6, May 4, and June 1 at 'Flowercraft', 415 W. Church Ave. Field trips planned for the third Sunday in each month. Mr. S. A. Ogden is pres. and Miss Mary Ruth Chiles, 1817 Highland Ave., is secy. MEMPHIS: At the 'Pink Palace' Museum the following Monday nights: April 4, 18; May 2, 16, 30. Tom Simpson is pres. and Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Raleigh, Tenn., is secy. NASHVILLE: Monday evenings, March 28; April 11, 25; May 8; June 13. The BLUEGRASS CHAPTER plans a spring outing in April. Dan R. Gray, Mt. Pleasant, is pres. and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, Pulaski, is secy.

The spring field days held by our various chapters, usually the first part of May, are among our most enjoyable activities. There is a standing invitation from each chapter for other fellow bird students to join them on these outings. For full information write the respective secretary. The annual election and field day will be held, May 15, with the Nashville chapter as hosts. President Carter hopes to see as many as possible present. This will be an important meeting and, as usual, most enjoyable from a standpoint of outing and fellowship.

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.

PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Editor, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis.

Secretary-Treasurer, Alfred Clebsch, 838 Gracey Ave., Clarksville.

Regional Editors: Albert F. Ganier, Nashville; Harry P. Ijams, Knoxville;
Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City; Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville.

Business Manager, Vernon Sharp, Jr., 225 Capitol Blvd., Nashville.

Dues for Active and Corresponding Members, \$1 per year, should be sent to the Sec.-Treas. Subscription price, 75 cents per year, free to members. Sustaining members, at \$5 per year, receive four extra copies mailed to addresses designated.

Items for publication should be sent to the Editor.

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

A glance through the eight volumes of *The Migrant* issued to date by our Society, forcibly illustrates, as we pass from one volume to the next, the growth of the Tennessee Ornithological Society in numbers and in interest. Most of this splendid progress can be credited to *The Migrant* under the able hands of Messrs. Albert F. Ganier and George Woodring, and with the co-operation of all members. An example of the part played by *The Migrant* in the growth of our accomplishments is seen in the annually published Christmas censuses. For 1937, eleven lists crowd the tabulation to the limit and other lists had to be published separately. The 1937-38 composite total for the state is 93 species or 3 more than ever before.

In the June issue we plan to publish a list of T. O. S. members, with addresses and dates of admission. It will be the first since 1931 and will not be repeated for at least three years. Each June a list of officers and of new members will be given. Please check your name and address as it has been appearing on mail from the Society. Chapters should contact prospective members and delinquent members who desire to continue their memberships. The list will be closed for publication May 15.

The unaccustomed task of preparing our journal for publication was considerably lightened by the fact that it had already been developed to its present standard by Mr. Ganier and a 'work-routine' evolved. His trip to Memphis to explain the complete steps and additional suggestions are gratefully acknowledged. The ready response of our members to my letter of February 17 was appreciated. While we are holding several good articles for future publication, we need more of them, as well as shorter items. For the June issue, seasonal and current notes should reach us by June 20 or before. If possible we would like to receive other 'copy' by early May. This is because of our heron banding expeditions, set tentatively for May 22 and June 6. The heronries are 200 miles south of Memphis and we hope to exceed last year's 3800 in number banded. This, of course, necessitates much preparation before and much work on records afterwards.

**Tennessee
Conservation**
In Every Form is Covered by

**TENNESSEE
WILDLIFE**
Official Organ of the
**Tennessee Wildlife
Federation**

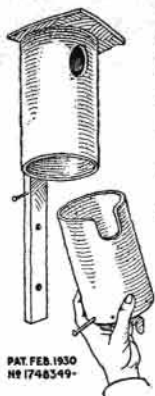
and the
**State Dept. of
Conservation**

Published Monthly at
One Dollar per Year
Address

**Tennessee Wildlife
Federation**

Noel Hotel
NASHVILLE, TENN.

*The Perfect Box for
Birds and Banders*



REMOVABLE NEST
SECTION FOR BANDING,
OBSERVATION & CLEANING.
ONE QUARTERTURN
TRAPS PARENT BIRD (OR
ENGLISH SPARROWS, ETC.)
CORRECT DIMENSIONS
BY THOROUGH TESTS.
SELF VENTILATING,
DURABLE, ATTRACTIVE,
WEATHER AND RAIN
PROOF CONSTRUCTION.

FASTENS AND OPERATES
FROM THE BOTTOM ~
CAN BE WORKED FROM THE
GROUND, ARMS LENGTH
ABOVE THE HEAD ~

PAT. FEB. 1930
NO 1748349-

\$1.00 EACH 2 FOR \$1.75 6 FOR \$5.00
POSTAGE PREPAID

H. P. IJAMS
R. D. 9. KNOXVILLE, TENN.

GLENHAVEN

**Bird Banding Traps
Sparrow Traps
Cat Traps
Martin Houses**

**Bird Banders
Equipment of All
Kinds**

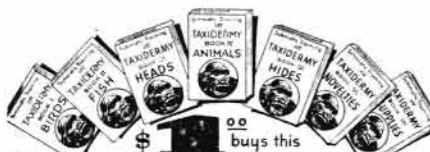
Write for Folder

**GLENHAVEN BIRD
SANCTUARY**

RUSSELL S. DAVIS
Clayton, Ill.

*Complete Modern
Taxidermy Service*

If you want to learn Taxidermy



COMPLETE TAXIDERMY COURSE

7 Great Books Covering Every
Branch

If you want supplies we carry
GLASS EYES—ALL SUPPLIES
Complete catalogue FREE

If you want Professional
ARTISTIC LIFELIKE
Bird, Animal, Fish
MOUNTINGS
Send in your specimen

Alfred C. Schmidt's
Taxidermy Studio
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

DURY'S

Are Headquarters for

FIELD GLASSES

STEREO PRISM BINOCULARS

GRAFLEX CAMERAS

KODAKS

CINE KODAKS

Bell & Howell

MOTION PICTURE EQUIPMENT

ARTISTS' SUPPLIES

DRAWING MATERIALS

LANTERN SLIDES MADE TO ORDER

EXPERT DEVELOPING, PRINTING,

ENLARGING

GEO. C. DURY CO.

420 Union Street

Nashville, Tenn.