

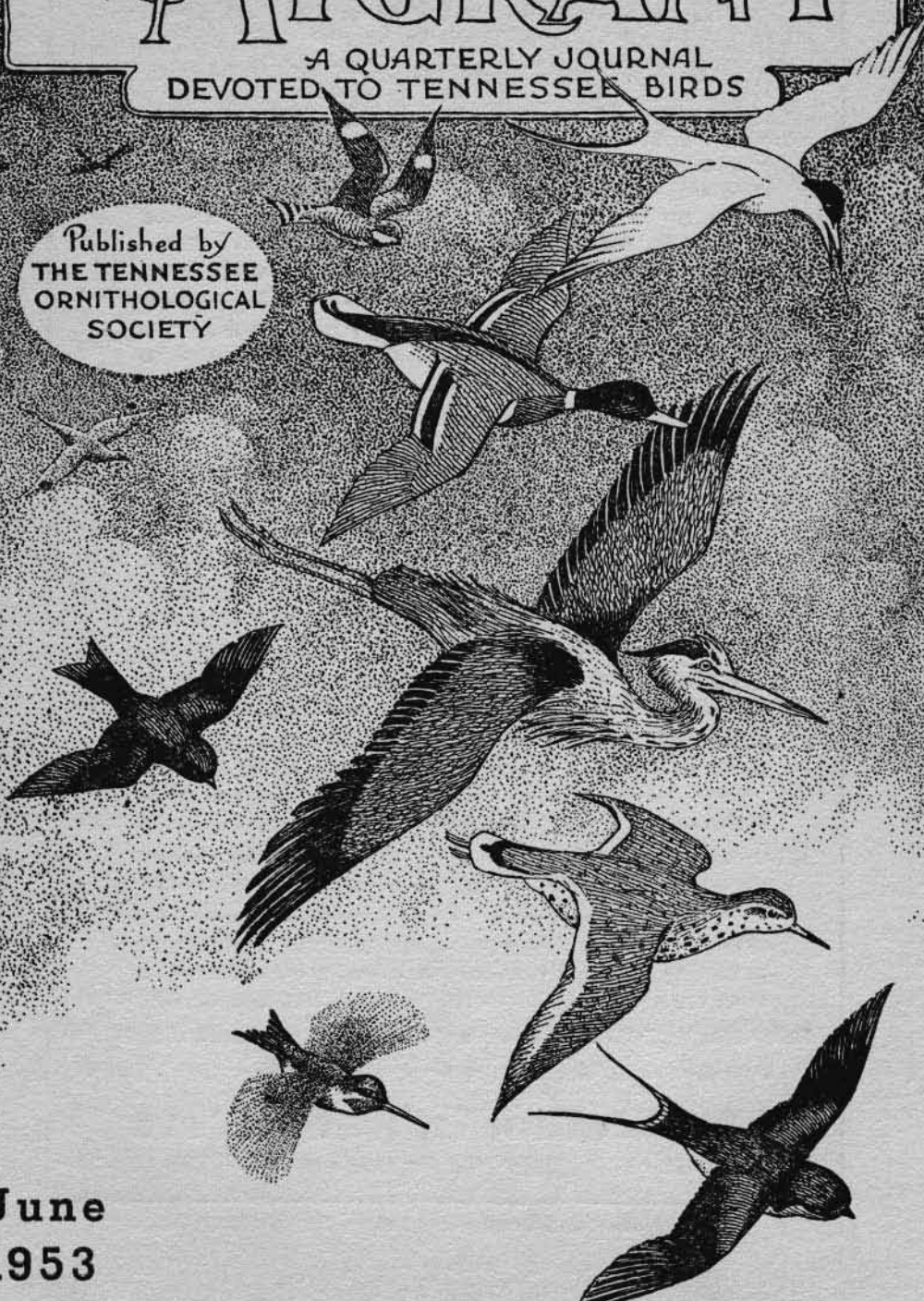
THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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NEST AND EGGS OF SYCAMORE WARBLER
(*Dendroica dominica albilora*)

Nashville, Tenn., April 30, 1953 — Photo by A. F. Ganier

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE SYCAMORE WARBLER

By ALBERT F. GANIER

As its name implies, this warbler (*Dendroica dominica albilora*) in most places within its summer range is very partial to passing its time along the sycamore trees which grow along our streams. In Middle Tennessee this is its preferred habitat. The species is quite adaptable, however, for in West Tennessee I have found that it is partial to cypress trees instead; on the Cumberland plateau eastward it is partial to the oak forests; and in East Tennessee it shows a preference for pines even though these may not be near a stream. They usually build their nests in the type of tree for which they have shown preference, as mentioned above.

Most of these birds migrate southward by the end of summer to spend the winter in Mexico and Central America. It is one of the earliest of our migrant birds to return in the spring and we look for it eagerly during the last few days in March in the Nashville area. At Athens, in southeast Tennessee, a series of records there for seven years by Richard Gettys (Ganier, 1935) showed it arriving on March 23, 24, 24, 24, 26, April 2 and 3. Westward, at Reelfoot Lake, R. Demett Smith (1950) has an extremely early record of Feb. 26, 1950.

The males arrive first and set claim to their chosen territory with vigorous song. It is my belief, as well as can be determined without banding, that last year's males return to the same territory occupied the previous year, for almost always such a territory is re-occupied. These early arrivals are easily seen among the sycamores for the leaves do not come out until later, and their gleaning of the limbs for insects or larvae doubtless renders useful service to the tree.

The song carries well and is quite characteristic. It can be heard several hundred feet away and has been likened by many to the song of the Louisiana Water-thrush. Later in the season, it becomes less vigorous and is then remindful of that of the Indigo Bunting.

While searching the branches for food, its actions are rather deliberate and for that reason it is often hard to find after the leaves have come out, even though it may stop frequently to give its song. It usually changes to another tree after five or ten minutes and for the most part feeds in the upper half of the tree. When at times it comes to the lower branches, it is quite unwary and some will permit a close approach. Such a view of this handsome warbler is an experience to be remembered.

Most of my observations on the Sycamore Warbler have been along

Little Marrowbone Creek which flows thru the Highland Rim country (700-800 ft. elevation) fifteen miles west of Nashville. This creek is intermittently lined with sycamores for twelve miles, and there are probably fifteen pairs of these birds located in that distance. Dozens of other such streams drain this country into the Cumberland River and each is believed to be as well occupied by this species.

To find occupied territories in advance, one need only look during late winter for old nests in the sycamores. At this time they have become nearly black and are readily seen if built in the upper limbs. Almost always two nests will be found, for they raise two broods if possible.

These warblers are not only early arrivals but are among the earliest nesters and usually have their nest ready for eggs the last week in April. Because of scanty leafage in the upper branches, the first nests are often built on one of the lower limbs, usually on one of the horizontal ones about two inches in diameter. When thus located, the nests are saddled on top of the limb and fastened to it with strands of spider's web.

The greatest enemies to their nests are Blue Jays, for the latter will eat the eggs in the nests and pull the lining out in an effort to get the last tid-bit. Several nests that I have found met this fate, and when Jays are near the warblers protest their presence. Profiting by such experience, they nearly always build their second nest near the top of the tree after the leaves have come out enough to hide them. Further camouflage is secured by the use of light grey materials and the white spider webs which are applied to the sides. Thus constructed, among the gray-green leaves of the sycamore, they are difficult to see from the ground. These late nests are fastened to very small and nearly upright limbs so that it is usually impossible to climb to and examine their contents. My latest nest record is that of July 11, 1927, when they were seen carrying material to a new nest.

The nests are very neat and compact, being a thin-walled cup composed of bark shreds and fine fibres, over which is laid strands and white patches of spider's web silk. The soft lining is composed of yellow fibre from sycamore balls over which is laid a thin layer of hair. Some nests have rabbit fur in the lining, and others a few soft feathers. The brim curves inward, leaving a circular opening one and three-quarters of an inch across. Below the brim the nest cavity inside is more than half an inch wider.

The three or four eggs have a greyish-white ground color and are well sprinkled with markings, chiefly at the larger end and often forming there an ill-defined wreath. The markings are chiefly small in size and are of various shades of brown and sepia; most specimens also have a few lilac under-shell markings as well. Few warbler eggs are prettier. The average size of the eggs in four Tennessee sets is .69 x .50 inches.

The behavior of the birds at the nests has varied greatly in the ten I have climbed to and examined. One bird sat on the eggs until nearly touched and returned to the nest while I sat on the limb a yard away.

At another nest, the incubating bird left the nest when I had climbed to within eight feet and would not return to it as I waited with my camera. The last mentioned behavior is most often followed.

All the nests I have found have been in sycamore trees except three. One of these was in a cypress which stood in shallow water at the edge of Lake Obion in West Tennessee; one in Knoxville was at the top of a large pine on a hillside; and one at Nashville was built in the top of a large willow. Mrs. Goodpasture (1949) found a nest in the top of a pine, near Linton, twenty miles south of Nashville.

During the present spring, 1953, I have had the good fortune to observe three nests near Nashville. The first of these was under construction on April 10 and the bird had begun setting on April 19, the earliest date on record here. This nest was at the top of a large willow, as mentioned above, which grew in shallow water at the edge of Radnor Lake. It was quite inaccessible. The other two were on Little Marrowbone Creek, near the crossing of the Eaton's Creek Road. The first of these was found on April 28, at which time the bird was incubating. It was fifty feet up and near the top of a sycamore, on a vertical limb and could not be more closely examined. Small branches and young leaves hid the nest fairly well.

The third of these nests, which is shown in the accompanying illustration, was found to contain four fresh eggs on April 30. It was twenty-five feet up and near the end of a horizontal limb, over the creek. This limb had to be roped to higher branches to make it strong enough to bear my weight, since the nest was twelve feet out from the trunk. The nest was saddled on top of the limb and beautifully situated for photographing. It was collected along with the eggs and will be made available for the new Hall of Birds at the Nashville Children's Museum.

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- 2112 WOODLAWN DRIVE, NASHVILLE (12) TENN. May 1953.

NESTING OF HORNED LARK IN THE MID-SOUTH

By R. DEMETT SMITH, JR.

On the afternoon of March 8, 1953, accompanied by Mr. Benjamin R. Warriner of Corinth, Miss., and Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., I found two nests of the Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) about eight miles west of Corinth. The fields, which we were working for open field species, were on the south side of U. S. Highway 72 in the Tar Breeches Creek Bottom. Upon hearing one of the male Horned Larks singing I took a few steps toward him and, luckily, flushed the female from a nest containing three eggs. It was a partially sunken cup near a tuft of the sparse cover grass. Later, about 300 yards west, Mrs. Coffey and I located a male, then spied a female slowly slinking away. A search quickly revealed another nest which was drier, thus lighter in color, than the surrounding terrain. This nest was better lined than the first and contained two eggs which were not as heavily mottled towards the large end as were the others. On the next day Mr. Warriner returned to photograph the nests and found a third egg had been deposited here.

These are the first reported nests of this species in Mississippi although it has been considered to be a nester since 1940 at Holly Springs. Since pertinent data in past issues of THE MIGRANT appear to have been overlooked by some, including A. C. Bent in his life history Bulletin No. 179, it might be well to review the status of the species as a summer resident in the Mid-South. Unless stated, all references are to THE MIGRANT.

Present recorded bird study began in Memphis in January 1928. Limited time was spent on the first two Christmas Censuses (one party) and at other times, looking for the species. On April 12, 1930, two miles south of the Municipal Airport at Memphis, Coffey found two while utilizing a few spare minutes before a Scouter's training mission. The date and the pairing could indicate nesting. Two years later (1932:28) Troop One Boy Scouts reported ten at the airport and from March 6th to May 15th, 1932, the species was found there. On the second visit observers were asked to stay off the field, so all subsequent observations at this large field (now 1200 acres) were from three sides. This is the reason no special search was ever made for the nests at Memphis. A lookout was kept for newly fledged larks and shortly afterwards (1932:36) on May 29, 1932, eight such were found and were considered to establish nesting records for the field. The species has apparently been present there since. In late June 1932 at Park and Ridgeway Roads, Coffey heard one singing. None were found on return trips the next year. North of town two were seen east of Woodstock on May 21, 1933 (1933:36), but none were seen on follow-ups or, from 1946 thru 1948, after winter at the satellite Field 21 later established nearby. The Naval Air Base, established at Millington in 1943, undoubtedly harbors nesting Horned Larks and could be considered as our No. 3 nesting area.

The second nesting location for Shelby county is the Penal Farm,

established in 1928 east of town. On June 16, 1942, one was heard singing there (1942:44) and the species has since been found there regularly in the summer. On about June 5, 1952, Charles McPherson, Jr., and Charles Seahorn, Jr., found a nest there containing young. On June 8th a T.O.S. group found the bob-tailed young out of the nest but caught and photographed them. On July 4, 1952, McPherson found three other young ones on the farm. Near Jackson, Tenn., Killian Roever (1952:40) reports finding five nests in early May, 1952, and another on June 13, 1952. Other West Tennessee records are for Gibson County east of Milan in 1941 by H. C. Monk (1941:37) and for the Halls Army Air Field in 1944 by Burt L. Monroe (1945:11). The former noted the larks from April 12th thru July 12th, giving "every evidence of breeding". The latter observed them thru the spring of 1944, three young birds in early June, and an adult feeding a young one in the open on July 17th. Calhoun (*Journal Tenn. Acad. Sci.* 16 (4) :293-309. 1941) does not list the species for the Hatchie River area of Hardeman and McNairy Counties, June 17th to Sept. 9th, 1939.

The first record of the species in Mississippi at what proved subsequently to be a nesting location (1940:78-79) was a pair on March 12, 1932, in a field near Holly Springs. On July 4, 1940, an adult and an immature were found there. Near Corinth (but in Tennessee) a pair were reported March 26th and April 23rd, 1933, (1933:20) and other individuals in 1942, 1943, and June 8, 1944, (1944:29). A lone bird at Norfolk Landing, Miss., (north of Lake Cormorant) on February 26, 1950, led to later search by Coffey but no Spring records were logged until March 31, 1951, two seen, and May 6, 1951, when one was heard singing (Coffey, Roever). On the following Spring Field Day, May 4, 1952, groups of six, four, and three were found here and five at a point one mile west of Walls (Coffey). Elsewhere in the State a singing male was found at the Tupelo Airport June 7, 1952, (RDS, BC) but none were found in late June, 1952, at the following airports: Meridian, Jackson, Vicksburg, and Natchez (Coffey). On March 15, 1953, three were seen along the levee, a mile north of Friar's Point, Miss. (Coffey and Orval Wood).

Although Eastern Arkansas, to date, has been only sparsely worked by ornithologists, records at Armored of one of this species on July 8, 1951 (RDS), three to four pairs at Crawfordsville on March 14, 1953, (Coffey, RDS) and other records on airfields at West Memphis indicate that it is probably a breeding bird there too.

1141 MINNA PLACE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT IN THE MID-SOUTH

By BEN B. COFFEY, Jr.

The third new bird added to the Tennessee list this past winter is the Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguei*), a species we have been looking for especially in recent years. Horace Jeter has been finding them near Shreveport, La., with extreme dates of September 20 and April 26. A second record for Mississippi, of three collected January 4 and 11, 1953, and two others found partly eaten, in Bolivar County was reported by Merritt G. Vaiden (*Migrant*, 24:9. 1953). The first record was of a bird collected and another seen in January 1902 at Bay St. Louis, Miss. (Andrew A. Allison, *Auk*, 23:232. 1906). The only Arkansas record given by W. J. Baerg in "Birds of Arkansas" (1951) is of flocks reported at Ft. Smith, on the western border, in the fall of 1879 by E. Coues. Generally a bird of the short-grass regions of the western prairies, a few accidentals have appeared on the Georgia and Carolina coast and in Florida, Michigan, Arizona and Yellowstone National Park, according to A. C. Bent.

Our first local experience was at Sanders Field, a small commercial airfield a mile south of Walls, Miss. Late on January 24, 1953, I flushed an "unknown" there three times and felt I would know its abrupt notes again. On February 15 at the Penal Farm, a mile east of Memphis, I got up two several times, but unable to find them to assure complete identification I returned to Sanders Field at once. There I flushed four, separately or in twos, a dozen times before I was able to adequately check all field marks of the species. The birds gave two, more often three, abrupt notes which, to me, did not seem Bluebird-like as mentioned in one field guide. The flight was very bounding—sometimes the Pipit remained low over the field, sometimes went up at once and finally dropped down like a Horned Lark. After alighting it often moved some distance. The lower flight will have to be differentiated from that of the many Savannah Sparrows usually present in the same habitat. The white outer tail feathers may be seen and the notes can be a reliable field mark.

After this we worked several fields regularly at least every week-end. The pipit was hard to locate in the area of the original field at the Penal Farm but we found three there on Feb. 21 and two others on the same day in a field two miles west. We continued there until the cover crop became too high, then worked a large pasture adjacent on the east to find four on March 22. We found two still present April 17 but none April 25. This was the only area in Tennessee worked regularly.

On Feb. 22, Demett Smith, Jr., and I spent two hours across the river in Crittenden County, Ark., working eight selected fields. Demett walked up one for the second Arkansas record and at the following field I flushed another.

At Sanders Field on Feb. 22, nineteen T.O.S. members all secured close-up looks at four of the rare species; the count was at least twelve on the field. Luther Keeton and Lawrence Kent on Mar. 7 found twelve

on another field, four miles WNW of Walls and just south of T. P. Howard's. When checking the latter on Mar. 15, Orval Wood and I tried a third field (half-mile to its south) and found three. All three of these Mississippi fields (plus non-productive ones) were walked each week-end. The numbers at each tapered off by the end of March, then jumped up again April 5. On the last day found, April 26, the numbers flushed were four, three, and none, respectively. None were found on the next visit, May 3. On Mar. 11 we arrived at Moon Lake, Miss., late in the day and while looking for plovers I flushed a Sprague's Pipit, about a mile north of Friar's Point. It might be noted that at the "T. P. Howard" field we had five on April 5; we noted on April 12 that the field had been cut by then, but we still found ten of the birds present.

672 NORTH BELVEDERE BLVD., MEMPHIS (7) TENN.

NOTES ON WINTER ROOSTS

ANOTHER VULTURE ROOST—At a point forty miles southwest of the roost described by me in THE MIGRANT for March, 1952 (p. 7), another roost was discovered and visited during February, 1953. This location is a few miles south of Fernvale in Williamson County and is twenty-five miles southwest of Nashville. The birds were observed early in February by Miss Ruth White of Franklin, while she and friends were motoring along a new road which threaded this rough, heavily timbered country. Knowing of my interest in the big birds, she kindly offered to pilot me to the locality to make observations. The roost was better than half a mile up a narrow valley, cleared half way up. Leaving our car in the road, at 4 p.m. on Feb. 18, we could see with binoculars that some of the birds were already arriving. Twenty minutes later we had reached a vantage point on the side of the steep wooded hillside, opposite and about 1000 feet from the roost. The entire valley here was heavily wooded and the hilltops rose about 200 feet above their bases. The vultures had chosen to use large beech trees, some 80 feet high and favored a line of these near the top of the slope. Our first count at 4:30 was approximately 130 and this number increased as new flocks soared in, until our final count was 225. Until quite late (5:30), there was much changing of places, making counting inexact but as darkness came on they settled down quietly among the upper branches. Not wishing to disturb them, we did not go closer.

Unlike the roost previously described and which had about 450 Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) and only half a dozen Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), this one was nearly equally divided in numbers, there being a few more of the Blacks. There seemed to be no tendency toward segregation within the roost. Most of the Blacks came in small loose flocks while the Turkeys singled in. There seemed to be a playful inclination among the big birds, perhaps among the younger ones only, to dislodge their neighbors from a perch as they alit beside them. At the top of one beech, a long slender limb was bent in the shape of an arch by the weight

of a dozen birds upon it perched shoulder to shoulder. When still others tried to land, those already there had to yield and sometimes nearly all fell off together. At other times, overloaded limbs snapped like a pistol shot, whereupon most of the flock would arise with a roar of wings and then re-settle after some soaring about enmasse. The great size of these birds, their powerful flight, and so many of them together close at hand, give one a thrill not duplicated by a roost of small birds. We hope to make further observations on this roost during the season ahead.

There is another roost south of Murfreesboro which is about forty miles from each of the two previously mentioned. It is likely that all of the vultures within and about this triangle use one of these three roosts during the winter. — ALBERT F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Dr., Nashville, Tenn.

SHORT-EARED OWLS PREY ON BLACKBIRDS—On the Memphis Christmas Count (December 21, 1952), five Short-Eared Owls were seen in the stand of willow trees on the new closure dam, part of the Memphis Harbor Project.

Short-Eared Owls have not been seen (as far as I know) within the city itself, and this is the first time in recent years that this interesting species has been observed in the Memphis area. Their abundance is caused by a sizable blackbird roost at this spot.

While walking along the edge of the willows, I found many dead birds, among them Grackles, Starlings, Redwings, and Rusty Blackbirds. Several maimed and injured birds were seen in or near the roosting area, while feathers and other parts of dead blackbirds were also seen along the river's edge.

On December 22, George Peyton saw all five owls, and on Christmas day Mr. Howard Barbig and I saw two; all five may have been present on this date since we did not penetrate the complete area in search of the owls.

Peterson's "Guide" says that when flushed, these owls fly moth-like or erratically like the Nighthawk. But ours looked almost like hawks in flight, flapping several times, and then sailing. The big round neckless head, together with the buffy wing patches and the black spot on the underside of the wing-tips, proved the identification of these birds beyond a doubt.

The whole area is somewhat marshy and is fairly inaccessible because there are numerous holes full of water hidden by thick grass.

The blackbirds start to come in at about 4:30 p.m., and steady streams from all directions which look like clouds or smoke in the distance continue to arrive until about 5:25 p.m. By this time the willows are literally dark with blackbirds, and from the road on top of the dam it looks like a burnt-over piece of land.

Short-Eared Owls have been known to congregate where there is an abundance of mice, and with the large number of blackbirds roosting here, a concentration of these owls in this spot seems only natural.—RICHMOND GILL, 1552 Vance St., Memphis (4) Tenn.

A WINTER ROOST IN THE BRUSH CREEK AREA OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENN.—Large winter bird-roosts are spectacular and of intriguing interest to students of ornithology. An unusually large roost of the current winter located in the Brush Creek area of Williamson County about twenty-one miles southwest of Nashville has commanded the attention of TOS members and others interested in natural history.

Late in November my attention was directed toward the general location of such a roost when each afternoon large flocks of Robins flew northward out of the South Harpeth Valley after having fed all day in the woods there. At various times flocks of blackbirds flew in the same direction. In mid-January Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Laskey, and I spent several afternoons following the birds. We almost circled the roost at a radius of two miles before locating a logging road that led to the remotely located roost-site. During these circuitous ramblings we observed birds flying roostward from all directions of the compass with the exception of a northwest section which we did not survey. We were deep in the woods near the site when we met Mr. Buford Howell on a logging truck who kindly guided us the last half mile into the actual roosting area.

The roost-site is on a ridge of the Highland Rim, drained by Brush Creek northward toward the Harpeth River. The woods is a cutover and burned-over oak-hickory stand thick with stump-sprouts and saplings twelve to fifteen feet high. In addition to oaks of several species and fewer hickories there are sassafras, sourwood, dogwood, highbush huckleberry, wild plum, smilax, and grapevine, all characteristic of the Highland Rim. The areas most densely occupied by the birds are low thickets formed by low-growing shrubs and saplings with small brushy twigs. This area faces slightly towards the northwest tho the whole area is essentially on a plateau and does not seem to dip into a "hollow". From a look-out tree twenty feet or so above the saplings, Mr. Eugene Ruhr of the Tennessee Game and Fish Division watched from 5 o'clock until sundown as the birds settled and he thoughtfully estimated the roost as extending over close to fifty acres.

Upon going into the roost before the birds arrived, one was met by an acrid odor arising from accumulated droppings. Twigs and small limbs of the thicket were coated with whitewash and the ground underneath was thickly spread with hackberry-like seeds. Whole grains of yellow corn were observed in the droppings. On January 30 sixteen dead Robins were counted in a relatively small area. None showed evidence of having been shot. Dead Cowbirds and Starlings were found later. On one trip a Screech Owl called shortly before the birds came in.

Birds could be heard calling from some distance as they approached the roost. The constant calls of thousands of birds going to roost has been likened to the sound of a flowing stream and the "swish" of twice as many thousands of wings compressing air as the birds rise, turn, and settle again is inimitable. Redwings and Cowbirds were among the first to fly in. Grackles seemed to come during the height of the flight and Robins straggled in late. The constant calling continued as darkness fell so that eventually one could no longer see but only hear the roosting colony.

On the evening of February 7, within a week of its probable height, the

composition of the roost seemed essentially "blackbird". Significant numbers of Robins and Starlings were present along with a few Cedar Waxwings but members of the blackbird family predominated. Redwings seemed especially prominent and probably outnumbered Cowbirds and Grackles. Rusty Blackbirds were conspicuous both by sight and sound in smaller numbers. This species composition as a whole was not remarkable, but the number of Red-wings was quite unusual for Middle Tennessee roosts. It seems trite to speak of the impossibility of estimating the size of such a roost in terms of numbers of individuals; guesses stand neither proved nor disproved. Thoughtful gauges, however, of the size of this Brush Creek roost stand in the magnitude of a million birds. I did not visit the Martha roost in 1945-1946, but I understand that it is recalled as the largest local roost in recent years. People who have visited both this roost and the one at Martha judge that during mid-February the Brush Creek roost equalled and maybe exceeded the earlier one. The Martha roost was judged to extend over about 55 acres of young, thickly grown red cedars and to be populated by a million birds of which only a small number were Redwings (Ganier and Schreiber, *MIGRANT*, 16:63, 1945). It is interesting to note for comparison that a recent article in "Bird-Banding" gives estimates of from five million to twenty million birds roosting on fourteen acres in Arkansas (*BIRD-BANDING*, 23:155, 1952).

On February 1 a group of twelve T. O. S. members went to a cleared point on a high ridge facing the Brush Creek roost and about a mile and a half away to watch the in-flight. The first small flocks flew over about 4:30 p. m. We could observe birds approach the roost from an angle of about 120 degrees. From about 4:50 to 5:15 there were many separate streams of birds in almost continuous lines converging on the roost from both sides as far as the eye could see. These hundreds of thousands of birds flying across the setting sun and its afterglow moved as an integrated whole, drawn by some inexplicable force to a fifty acre focus from distances up to twenty miles or more. The flight was almost over at 5:20, but Robins still called as they flew overhead half an hour after sundown.

The roost was still being occupied on March third, KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE, 408 Fairfax Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

THE ROBIN ROOSTS OF LEBANON—By an adaptation of the method of the honey hunters described by James Fenimore Cooper in one of the Leatherstocking tales, Mrs. Henry Waters and I, operating from our respective dooryards ten miles apart by road, located a large bird roost last winter. The flight angles converged along the line of the Tater Peeler Pike at a point about four miles south of Lebanon. On the spot observation revealed the birds going to roost in the great cedar thicket on the Monroe Graves hill, exactly at the four-mile point on the Tater Peeler.

Extension of the flight line observations revealed that the birds flew to this roost as far away as the DeKalb and Smith County lines east and northeast and the Rutherford and Davidson County lines south and

southwest, a sweep of well over thirty miles. North-northwest observations did not extend beyond seven or eight miles from the roost, but it seems to us safe to say that the feeding ground of the birds of this roost covered a circle at least thirty miles in diameter. It may in fact, have extended beyond that limit.

Though the roost was watched by trained observers from the Lebanon club, the Nashville club, and the Mt. Clemens (Michigan) Sanctuary Association, no estimate of numbers was obtained that I would be disposed to regard as better than a guess. As much as I feel safe in saying is that it would have to be written in seven figures.

Efforts to estimate the relative numbers of the various species occupying the roost were hardly more successful. I think it was predominantly a Robin roost though blackbirds—including Starlings, Redwings, Cowbirds, Grackles—seemed to outnumber the redbreasts. This, I think, was more apparent than real because the blackbirds came in great sweeping, swinging, roaring flights, while the Robins filtered in singly and in groups, gradually, quietly and, in large measure, after darkness had begun to fall. A relatively small proportion of Cedar Waxwings also regularly occupied the roost.

The diversity of predators subsisting on the weak and wounded of the great flocks was notable. Two Red-tailed Hawks were in and about the roosting area throughout the day. At least two Cooper's Hawks were rather regularly there. The Sharp-shinned—I never saw more than one at a time, though I believe there were more—was in and out.

The damage that these flocks received from the few hawks was, however, as nothing to the devastation that their predecessors used to suffer from men. When I was a boy, in the 1890's, the birds roosted for several winters together in the Nolen cedars, on the Murfreesboro Pike, in what is now the southern suburbs of Lebanon. Numbers of men and boys, equipped with lanterns, torches, clubs, and specially constructed flail poles, raided the roosts every night and toted home gunny sacks full of dead birds. Despite this terrific slaughter, the birds persisted in roosting at approximately the same place through a number of winters.

Later, the roosting area was shifted to points along the Coles Ferry Pike, northwest of Lebanon. That area, too, was occupied for a number of winters hand running. Dr. Sam B. McFarland's noted Guernsey breeding farm took its name of Robin Roost from this circumstance.

During the half of a working lifetime that I was away from Wilson County, I heard of but did not see the "Robin roosts". For the past twenty years, I have had fair opportunity for observation. There have been roosts (most of them west of Lebanon), sometimes no more than a few hundred yards from Highway 70-N. Now, for the past two winters, the roosting area has shifted back to the region south of Lebanon.

I am ready to assert, though I cannot quite prove, that every winter for the past three-quarters of a century has seen its concentration of Robins and other gregarious birds in roosts within a few miles of Lebanon.—DIXON MERRITT, Lebanon, Tennessee.

THE 1953 SPRING FIELD DAYS

By T. O. S. MEMBERS

In the eight Spring Field Days reported here, a total of 185 species of birds is recorded. This is apparently the largest list ever totalled in Tennessee. A few possible reasons for the large list are suggested: Field Days were held in such diverse habitats as Reelfoot Lake and Roan Mountain, and in six places in between; the weather was good at all localities; the number of good bird observers in the State is growing as is the knowledge of good habitats to search; and there were several unusual species or late stragglers like the Dowitcher, Rusty Blackbirds, and Pine Siskins to swell the list.

The birds reported from each locality are listed in the "Tabular Record" below. The general information from each locality is in the paragraphs following, and these paragraphs also contain additional information on the birds marked with an asterisk (*) in the table. The following abbreviations are used: "a"—abundant, "c"—common, "fc"—fairly common.

REELFOOT—Reelfoot Lake; May 2, 1953. Seven observers; Howard Barbig, compiler. The Purple Finches were reported by Dr. Charles Pickering.

MEMPHIS—Mostly at Lakeview, Tenn.-Miss., with some records from Riverside Park, Memphis, and enroute between the two locations; May 3, 1953. Fair with slight wind. 64 observers; Ben B. Coffey, Jr., compiler. The Dowitcher was identified by R. D. Smith and Ben Coffey; the Phoebes by R. D. Smith and Alice Smith; the Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Marsh Wren, and Swainson's Warbler by R. D. Smith; and the Northern Water-thrush by George Peyton.

KNOXVILLE—Same area in the vicinity of Knoxville as previous "Harry Ijams Day"; 18 observers; J. T. Tanner, compiler. The Woodcock was seen by Brockway Crouch. A Shrike's nest contained 5 young. The Orange-crowned Warblers and Swamp Sparrows were reported by Paul Adams. Pine Siskins were present all winter in unusual numbers; the latest date any were seen in Knox County was May 9.

GREENEVILLE—Same area as covered on Christmas Count; May 3, 1953, 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Slightly overcast, slight wind, temperature 50 to 80 to 78 degrees. 10 observers; Ruth Reed Nevius, compiler. A Shrike nest with four nestlings was found and photographed by Alfred Irvine and C. M. Shanks. The single Pine Siskin accompanied a Goldfinch flock. Also seen or heard within the area on near dates were: 1 Lesser Scaup a week earlier (Alfred Irvine); 3 Dickcissels on May 4, a Little Blue Heron in "pied" plumage on May 4 and 5, and a Horned Owl during the week (Richard Nevius).

KINGSPORT—Area within a 7-mile radius of Kingsport including Bay's Mountain and a private fish hatchery; May 3, 1953, 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Weather clear, temperature 60 to 80 degrees, very little wind. 15 observers in 6 parties; Ann Harney Switzer, compiler. The Little Blue Heron was seen by Mrs. Switzer. The Red-shouldered Hawk was reported by H. S. Meeks, Jr. The Pipits were seen by T. W. Finucane, who has seen them

at the same place, the fish hatchery, on three other occasions and at close range.

Thru late winter and early spring there have been unusual numbers of Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Pine Siskins, Phoebes, White-crowned Sparrows, and Brown Thrashers. Unusual spring records are: Common Loon on April 19 (Finucane and others), 8 Baldpates on April 23 and a Ring-necked Duck on April 22 (Adams and Switzer),—all are first records for the Kingsport area. Rare migrants were a Cliff Swallow on April 23 (Ann Switzer), a Blue-winged Warbler on April 19 (Finucane and others), and a Semi-palmated Plover on April 22 (Ann Switzer).

ELIZABETHTON—May 3, 1953. 12 observers; Dr. L. R. Herndon, compiler. The White-rumped Sandpiper was seen at close enough range to see clearly the white rump. The Rusty Blackbirds were unusually late.

NASHVILLE—Mostly at Marrowbone Lake, but observations also made in the vicinity of Nashville; May 10, 1953, all day. Warm and clear, slight wind. About 40 observers. The Black-crowned Night Herons were in a colony. Three nests of Phoebes and at least one of Louisiana Water-thrush were found at Marrowbone Lake.

ROAN MOUNTAIN—Roan Mountain Town to Roan High Bluff and Grassy Bald, also Lake Phillip Nelson; May 10, 1953, 3:25 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clear and sunny to partly cloudy, wind 1 to 18 m.p.h., temperature range 42 to 64. Fred W. Behrend, Elizabethton, Tenn. The birds marked with an asterisk were all seen above an elevation of 5500 feet, except for a few of the Juncos seen lower.

TABULAR RECORD OF SPRING FIELD DAYS

SPECIES	Reelfoot	Memphis	Knoxville	Greenville	Kingsport	Elizabethton	Nashville	Roan Mountain
	May 2	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 10	May 10
Pied-billed Grebe	8	1				2		
Double-crested Cormorant	100							
Great Blue Heron	12	2	1		1	1		
American Egret	24	6						
Snowy Egret		15						
Little Blue Heron	18	1			*1			
Green Heron	1	6	8	4	6	1	7	
Black-crowned Night Heron					1		*50	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron		3					2	
American Bittern	3	1		1		1		
Mallard					2			
Blue-winged Teal	41	30	28	3	8	10		
Baldpate				2				
Shoveller	3	2						
Wood Duck	1					2	1	
Lesser Scaup Duck	12	22				7		

SPECIES	Peelfoot	Memphis	Knoxville	Greeneville	Kingsport	Elizabethton	Nashville	Roan Mountain
	May 2	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 10	May 10
Huddy Duck	8							
Red-breasted Merganser						2		
Turkey Vulture	2	4	3	7	25	7	6	*2
Black Vulture	3	2		1	11		6	
Mississippi Kite		2						
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1			1		*1
Cooper's Hawk			1	1		1	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1			1		3	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1			*1		3	
Broad-winged Hawk			1		1			
Bald Eagle	4							
Osprey	4		5			3		
Duck Hawk	1							
Sparrow Hawk	1	1	8	4	5	4	1	
Ruffed Grouse				1	1			3
Bob-white	5	10	70	8	13	10	fc	
King Rail			2					
Sora Rail	1	4	1					
Purple Gallinule	1							
Coot	50	15						
Semipalmated Plover		7						
Killdeer	8	8	27	8	23	22	14	
Woodcock			*1					
Wilson's Snipe		*1	5	2		3		
Spotted Sandpiper	10	1	21		8	9	7	
Solitary Sandpiper	2	4	6	10	10	6	4	
Greater Yellow-legs		5	1		15			
Lesser Yellow-legs	3	2	2	40	18			
White-rumped Sandpiper						*1		
Least Sandpiper		3			6			
Dowitcher		*1						
Herring Gull			1			2		
Ring-billed Gull		6						
Bonaparte's Gull			1					
Mourning Dove	8		110	43	49	12	fc	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	3	17	4	8	1	8	
Black-billed Cuckoo			2	1	4	1		
Screech Owl				2				1
Barred Owl	3						1	1
Chuck'-will's-widow		1	12	2	2		2	
Whip-poor-will			2	3	1	9	1	2
Nighthawk		1	6	2	6	3	3	

Chimney Swift	16	3	125	104	80	47	c	*2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	8	15	9	6	6	6	3	—
Belted Kingfisher	8	4	8	4	2	8	3	—
Flicker	3	1	33	16	52	24	12	6
Pileated Woodpecker	1	2	12	3	1	—	4	—
Red-bellied Woodpecker	8	10	21	6	6	—	7	—
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	5	10	2	6	—	—	—
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	2	1	2	—	1	3
Downy Woodpecker	4	2	16	11	6	8	8	1
Eastern Kingbird	9	16	33	12	12	2	6	—
Crested Flycatcher	14	18	50	4	15	—	6	—
Phoebe	3	*2	35	29	28	31	*fc	6
Acadian Flycatcher	5	4	16	—	7	2	c	3
Least Flycatcher	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	14
Wood Pewee	25	17	35	7	27	16	fc	8
Horned Lark	—	4	5	2	3	3	—	*1
Tree Swallow	1000	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Bank Swallow	3	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Rough-winged Swallow	39	4	30	16	27	38	10	4
Barn Swallow	1	7	18	12	19	10	16	*2
Cliff Swallow	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Purple Martin	26	4	65	25	29	3	1	—
Blue Jay	10	16	63	39	94	43	fc	10
Raven	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*3
Crow	15	3	120	100	39	104	fc	8
Fish Crow	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina Chickadee	24	19	90	28	20	37	4	8
Tufted Titmouse	15	11	97	22	30	40	fc	18
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	1	3	—	3	—	2	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*13
Brown Creeper	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
House Wren	1	—	2	9	28	5	—	—
Winter Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Bewick's Wren	1	—	10	1	13	1	fc	—
Carolina Wren	9	10	150	39	66	34	fc	5
Long-billed Marsh Wren	5	*1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mockingbird	2	10	165	105	92	45	c	—
Catbird	7	8	51	32	59	58	11	27
Brown Thrasher	8	7	55	88	6	41	fc	4
Robin	12	11	170	101	129	131	fc	57
Wood Thrush	8	12	80	29	74	33	fc	39
Hermit Thrush	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Olive-backed Thrush	5	4	58	1	4	1	fc	—
Grey-cheeked Thrush	2	5	—	—	—	—	3	—
Veery	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	14
Eastern Bluebird	9	5	120	40	39	25	fc	—
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	12	18	35	31	13	7	fc	—

SPECIES	Reelfoot	Memphis	Knoxville	Greenville	Kingsport	Elizabethton	Nashville	Roan Mountain
	May 2	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 3	May 10	May 10
Golden-crowned Kinglet								*14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		1				1	1
American Pipit					*20			
Cedar Waxwing	49	1	210	18	38	80	3	
Loggerhead Shrike	1	7	*6	*6			1	
Starling	100	15	300	400	339	198	a	5
White-eyed Vireo	6	19	53	6	23	19	fc	
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	2	17	1	5	3	6	
Blue-headed Vireo		1					1	5
Red-eyed Vireo	20	19	60	5	33	34	c	17
Philadelphia Vireo						1	2	
Warbling Vireo	4	2	3		2	9	3	
Black-and-white Warbler	3	3	32	7	10	9	6	8
Prothonotary Warbler	41	24	10			1	3	
Swainson's Warbler		*1						
Worm-eating Warbler			1			3	3	
Golden-winged Warbler			1					6
Blue-winged Warbler		1		4	1		1	
Tennessee Warbler	35	25	15		1		fc	
Orange-crowned Warbler			*2					
Nashville Warbler	4	1					2	
Parula Warbler	11	8	2		3	2	1	2
Yellow Warbler	18	8	63	27	50	80	fc	5
Magnolia Warbler	1	9	9	2	3	2	2	
Cape May Warbler			8		2	2	1	
Black-throated Blue Warbler					2	2		28
Myrtle Warbler	26	32	29	2	16	6	12	
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	6	12	27	5	14	2	7
Cerulean Warbler	3	3	9		3		fc	
Blackburnian Warbler		3	15	1			2	
Yellow-throated Warbler	5	7	23		1		fc	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	1	14		2	1	1	46
Bay-breasted Warbler		1	9		1		5	
Black-poll Warbler	54	5	9	1	4	2	5	
Pine Warbler			12					
Prairie Warbler			11		12	4	fc	
Palm Warbler	87	4	3		1		3	
Ovenbird		5	30	3	4	3	1	21
Northern Water-thrush	2	*1				2		
Louisiana Water-thrush	1	9	14	2	4		*fc	6
Kentucky Warbler	2	8	32	2	24	6	fc	
Yellow-throat	29	39	108	28	52	44	c	9

Yellow-breasted Chat	6	28	57	5	37	34	11	3
Hooded Warbler	1	6	20		11	10	4	5
Wilson's Warbler	1						1	
Canada Warbler			4					36
Redstart	15	16	15	4	7	7	2	
English Sparrow	100	c	85	50	96	143	fc	
Bobolink		52	36	7	8	2	25	
Eastern Meadowlark	27	70	130	49	81	66	fc	3
Red-winged Blackbird	200	70	170	48	33	19	36	1
Orchard Oriole	15	24	45	10	21	4	c	
Baltimore Oriole	8	16	7	1	8	9	2	
Rusty Blackbird							*5	
Purple Grackle	200	65	170	200	135	88	fc	
Cowbird	67	42	185	9	33	6	15	2
Scarlet Tanager	1	3	7	2	12	2	3	9
Summer Tanager	15	20	42	27	51	1	fc	
Cardinal	41	50	210	91	114	95	c	10
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	18	25	37	1	8	2	1	15
Blue Grosbeak							2	
Indigo Bunting	49	120	125	39	42	30	c	6
Painted Bunting		1						
Dickcissel	20	200	3					9
Purple Finch	*30		1		1			
Pine Siskin			*21	*1	2	38		4
Goldfinch	31	8	230	300	92	64	fc	8
Red-eyed Towhee	3	2	80	25	87	32	fc	41
Savannah Sparrow		70	18		10		20	
Grasshopper Sparrow		7	24	4	21	9	3	
Vesper Sparrow			3	2	1			
Bachman's Sparrow		7	4	1	1			
Slate-colored Junco					4			*100
Chipping Sparrow	3		64	15	16	17	c	4
Field Sparrow	7	1	100	37	78	50	c	9
White-crowned Sparrow	18		6	19	22	15		
White-throated Sparrow	2	36	30	9	19	18	1	3
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	3					2	
Swamp Sparrow	3	1	*2				1	
Song Sparrow	1		140	75	86	115		27
Total Species	123	127	127	100	120	106	114	65

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER DATE CORRECTION—In typing up the recent record of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Mud Lake, Miss.-Tenn. (Migrant, 23:47, 1953) during Mrs. Coffey's absence, I inadvertently gave the date as Sept. 16, 1952, when it should have been Aug 16, 1952.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR, Memphis, Tenn.

THE ROUND TABLE

RECORD FLOCK OF GULLS AT MEMPHIS—On December 26, 1952, I visited McKellar Lake (formerly Tennessee Chute) with Miss Alice Smith of Memphis and saw a flock of approximately 1,500 gulls, most of which were counted while they were on the water.

The following afternoon we returned with Dr. Wendell Whittemore and drove across the causeway to President's Island and walked along the shore line of the lake where we observed thousands upon thousands of dead shad. Many of the fish had been left on shore by a fall in the river level, but most of them were lying under water on the steep bank in a band about three feet wide and several hundred yards long. It is not known how the fish were killed, but they were probably deposited in the manner described by an eddy.

It seems likely that the gulls were attracted by the dead fish although there was little odor because of the prevailing cold weather. We noted that the gulls had feasted on the eyes of a large percentage of the fish on shore, but they had not turned over any of the fish I examined in order to eat the eye next to the ground. Although a number of fish had a small hole picked in their side, only three or four were seen which had been devoured to a greater extent.

On the second trip we closely observed the flock, which appeared to be the same size as on the preceding day, and counted 80 Herring Gulls of which 60 were in first year, 15 in second year and 5 in adult plumage. It is estimated that sixty to seventy percent of the 1,400-odd Ring-billed Gulls were in immature plumage. Although a careful search was made for other species of gulls, none was seen.

The flock apparently remained for some length of time as estimates of 1,000 on January 1, 1953, and 475 on February 22, 1953, were made by R. Demett Smith and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., respectively.

In THE MIGRANT for March 1938 (Vol. 9, p. 13), Ben Coffey, Jr., reported that Ring-billed Gulls were "unusually common all fall and winter (1937-1938), from 20 to 75 were noted in one section." The largest single flock previously reported at Memphis was 212 Ring-billed Gulls seen on the Christmas census in December, 1950. (Migrant 21:75, Dec., 1950).

Since McKellar Lake has been cut off from the Mississippi River only little more than a year it will be interesting to see whether it will become a popular wintering place for gulls as have some of the T. V. A. lakes since they were impounded (See note by A. F. Ganier in Migrant 16:13-14, March, 1945). — FREDERICK T. CARNEY, 419 Frank Nelson Bldg., Birmingham (3) Alabama.

SANDERLING RECORDED NEAR MEMPHIS — In the cooperative study of bird distribution and migration in the Memphis Area our field work takes us within a 125-mile or more radius of home. In covering the various habitats and areas within this larger area an attempt is made to coordinate our efforts with Ben Coffey, Curator of the Memphis Chapter,

so that duplication may be avoided and varied habitats worked. During the fall of 1952 the writer took as his responsibility the Sardis Dam site, about 55 miles south of Memphis. On one of the trips there a new species for the area was found. On October 12 two Sanderlings in the first year fall plumage were observed feeding along the sandy beach of the then much-lowered reservoir. They were approached to within twenty feet and flushed repeatedly while I noted all pertinent field marks. We have watched for this species but this is our first record. Perhaps it will never appear on the mud flats and borders which we customarily work for shorebirds (other than meadow species). If the limited expanse of sand, placed artificially at one point of a large man-made lake, is the only type of terrain favored by this species between the Great Lakes and the Gulf Coast, we have to make quite a number of trips to the few places of this type to secure such "long-shot" records. W. H. Deaderick (*Wilson Bulletin*, Dec. 1938, 50 (4):265) gives two records for Hot Springs, Ark.: Sept. 16 and Oct. 29, 1936. These were probably at the power dam lakes near there. There are a few inland records for Alabama (See Imhof, *Migrant*, Mar. 1950:6).—R. DEMETT SMITH, JR., Memphis, Tenn.

SPRING RECORD OF BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER AND OTHER OBSERVATIONS OF INTEREST IN ELIZABETHTON AREA—A lone Black-bellied Plover in change of plumage from winter to summer not fully completed, breast and belly not being solidly black but somewhat speckled, was spotted by the writer in a plowed field on the County Farm a few miles east of Elizabethton in the morning of May 17, 1953. It was some 400 to 500 feet away when first seen, moving about on the ground apparently feeding, and permitted approach to within less than 150 feet before increasing the distance between itself and the observer by running. When looked for in the afternoon by Mrs. Behrend and myself, the bird was located in a gravelly area adjacent to the plowed field. After watching it for some time, the bird was deliberately caused to fly so as to observe additional markings as described in literature, as well as to hear its voice. The Black-bellied Plover is termed a very rare transient in Ganier's "Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee". A check of the MIGRANT'S indices of recent years reveals one published record in the State since 1944, that of R. Demett Smith and Ben B. Coffey near Lakeview on May 18, 1952 (June 1952 MIGRANT, Vol. 23, page 32), I saw a second Plover in the same place on May 20.

Another observation of interest on May 17, at an earlier hour, was of a Common Loon near the Dam of Lake Phillip Nelson in Carter County at 3500 feet altitude. On the identical date a year ago, a Common Loon was seen by the writer on Watauga River at Rasar Farm east of Elizabethton. These records indicate late migratory movement of the species through this area.

Also on May 17, in the afternoon, a check was made by the writer of the presence of Bachmans Sparrows near the Southside community west of Elizabethton where the species had been located in the spring and

summer of 1951 and 1952 (September 1952 *MIGRANT*, Vol. 23, page 49). This check resulted in hearing one bird singing. Earlier this spring, in the mornings of April 18 and 24, one Bachman's Sparrow in each instance was heard singing on a hillside south of the highway leading from the Siam community to Wilbur Lake, approximately five miles east of Elizabethton. In the same locality two were heard singing in the morning of May 16.—FRED W. BEHREND, 607 Range Street, Elizabethton, Tenn.

NOTES ON THE 1952 FALL MIGRATION OF TENNESSEE AND BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS—In the October, 1952, issue of "The Tennessee Warbler", in regards to the fall warbler migration in the Memphis area, I wrote the following: "More than the usual number of warblers was observed during the fall migration. Flocks were seen daily for one and one-half months previous to the end of September. Some are still passing through. The Tennessee, usually the most common fall warbler was noticeably lower in numbers." As for the Bay-breasted Warbler in the Memphis area. "For the past few seasons this warbler has been exceeded only by the Tennessee in numbers, but this year could hardly be called common."

It was with some surprise that several months later in the February, 1953, "Audubon Field Notes" I noted reports from the eastern states which referred to the above normal numbers of these two species. From the Middle Atlantic Coast region the report was, "All points reported heavy warbler flights of Blackburnian, Cape May, Bay-breasted and Tennessee Warblers which passed through in huge numbers." From the South Atlantic Coast Region, "An amazing abundance of Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers." From Florida, "Interesting Tennessee Warbler Records." From the Hudson-St. Lawrence region, "Tennessee Warblers were generally reported." However, the Middlewestern Prairie Region and Central Southern Region, which include the Mississippi Valley and Memphis area, make no special reference to either of these two species.

I, therefore, conclude that the extraordinary numbers of Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers noted in the East coincided with a noticeable decrease of these two species in the Memphis area, and probably in all of the Mississippi flyway. Indications this spring are that the spring migration of these species is again normal in the Memphis area, as the Tennessee has again regained its status as our most common warbler migrant, and Bay-breasted, never as common here in spring as in fall, is normal.—HOWARD T. BARBIG, Route 10, Box 424, Memphis, Tenn.

SPOTTED TOWHEE AT GERMANTOWN, TENNESSEE—On Dec. 20, 1952, I banded a beautifully marked male Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*). The bird remained in or near our place on Riverside Road, Germantown, just east of Memphis, and was closely observed on Jan. 25, 1953, by the Ben Coffeys and other T. O. S. members on the monthly field trip. It continued to visit the feeding table almost daily until April 3, then reappeared with a cool spell from April 10 to April 28, inclusive. Many Red-eyed Towhees were present, and during the last mentioned period

a pair of these were nesting nearby. The Spotted Towhee is a first record for Tennessee and appears to be one of several recently reported east of their normal range. The first record for Louisiana, where many westerners appear long before they are found here, was not until Dec. 22, 1950, at Hackberry (Aud. Field Notes 5 (3):210). Two appeared in north-west Louisiana last fall (Aud. Field Notes 7 (1):20) and one was reported later at New Brunswick, N. J.—CHARLES SEAHORN, JR., Route 2, Germantown, Tenn.

BIRDS AND SEVENTEEN-YEAR LOCUSTS—In late spring of 1953 a tremendous brood of seventeen-year locusts or cicadas emerged in the Knoxville area. These insects were eaten by a variety of birds. I watched thru binoculars quite a flock of Cedar Waxwings flying here and there thru the trees and capturing the cicadas amid hissing and squawks above the high-pitched squeaks of the Waxwings.

Normally I fill my quart sunflower seed holder once a day and the peanut butter feeder at least twice. The seeds are eaten by Cardinals, Towhees, Titmice, Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Blue Jays. At this season peanut butter is taken by Tanagers, Thrashers, Catbirds, Wood Thrushes, Robins, Mockingbirds, Wren, and Woodpeckers as well as by the seed eaters. When I went to Nashville on May 8, I filled both feeders. Five days later the peanut butter had not been touched and the sunflower seeds were only half gone. Only the Nuthatches were observed on the feeder. I was puzzled to find my feeders almost as I had left them, but now know that the cicadas were the explanation. Since the cicadas have decreased by the end of May, birds have been returning to the feeder.—MRS. ROBERT A. MONROE, 1424 Tugaloo Drive, S.W., Knoxville (16) Tenn.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE T. O. S., 1953

The Annual meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society was held at Nashville on May 9-10, 1953. Besides the regular business meetings, a program of field trips and other activities was prepared by the host, the Nashville Chapter.

On Saturday morning there were field trips in the Nashville vicinity and visits to the homes of Nashville members, followed by luncheon at the Peabody College Cafeteria. During the early part of Saturday afternoon the business meeting of the directors was held at the Nashville Children's museum while other members inspected the exhibits of the Museum or attended a moving picture there. A fine exhibition of bird paintings by Earl Henry inspired much favorable comment.

At the Business Meeting, reports from the Society's officers were heard and approved. The Society, including its finances, appears to be in fine condition. An invitation was read from the Kentucky Ornithological Society to join them in their annual meeting at Cumberland State Park, Kentucky, in October 1953. More details on this will be printed in a later issue of THE MIGRANT. There was a brief and spirited discussion of the best place for the 1954 annual meeting of the T.O.S., and it was voted

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that we should go to Standing Stone State Park, May 8 and 9, 1954.

A brief program of papers was presented in the auditorium of the Museum, composed of the following: "Birding Around Chattanooga", by Mrs. E. M. West; "Some Interesting Birds of Florida", by Don Hurley; "Building a Big List", by Dan Schreiber; "Notes on the Nesting of the Sycamore Warbler", by Albert F. Ganier; "Invasion of Western Birds Into the Memphis Area", by Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

Dinner was held that evening at the B. and W. Cafeteria with 62 people present. President Ganier presided over the introduction of the people present and introduced the speaker, Mrs. R. A. Monroe of Knoxville, who described some of her experiences in "Birding in South Florida."

Sunday was a day primarily for field trips. Some groups started early in the Nashville area and everyone later assembled and then scattered around the head of Marrowbone Lake for field work. The observations made are summarized in the reports of Spring Field Days appearing in this issue. Seventy-two people met for lunch at the Rawlings Resort and for the business meeting that followed. Members were present from every corner of the State, the largest out-of-town delegation being from Memphis.

The following officers were elected for 1953-1954: President, Mrs. Robert A. Monroe of Knoxville; Vice-President for West Tennessee, Miss Nelle Moore of Memphis; Vice-President for Middle Tennessee, Miss Jennie Riggs of Nashville; Vice-President for East Tennessee, Mr. E. M. West of Chattanooga; Secretary, Mrs. Robert Dunbar of Oak Ridge; Treasurer, Lawrence C. Kent of Memphis (re-elected); Editor, James T. Tanner of Knoxville (re-elected); Curator, Albert F. Ganier of Nashville; Director-at-Large for West Tennessee, Eugene Cypert of Paris; for Middle Tennessee, Mrs. Henry Waters of Lebanon; for East Tennessee, Ed Gift of Kingsport.

Adjournment of the business meeting ended the formal part of the meeting, and most people rapidly departed for their homes. It was an enjoyable session for all who came.

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