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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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THE MIGRANT

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CLIFF SWALLOW STATUS IN CHATTANOOGA AREA

By ADELE WEST

In the June 1936 *MIGRANT*, Albert Ganier and S. A. Weakley remarked that the normal nesting range of the Cliff Swallow lies north of Tennessee; that the birds had been looked for over a number of years without success. It was in that year that colonies were seen by them on the Cumberland river near Dover and Savannah. The relatively new association of this bird with concrete lock walls and similar structures was also noticed.

Recent discovery of the largest known colony of breeding Cliff Swallows in the Chattanooga area, and possibly the state of Tennessee, has led the writer to ponder over several questions concerning the status of this species within 30 miles of Chattanooga.

Following is a brief report of colonies in this area. The record-breaking colony, No. 10, is described last because its story is given in more detail and is rather lengthy.

1. Ben Coffey reported in the June-September 1942 *MIGRANT* the colony at the Market St. Bridge in Chattanooga. In 1951 he reported further that there were about 110 nests. In June 1961, 612 nests were counted, though one can never see more than a dozen birds flying in the immediate area.
2. On May 2, 1955, E. L. Boyd, Fish and Game Officer, invited me to accompany him to Hales Bar Dam (13 miles downstream of Chattanooga or 33 river miles) where we counted 336 completed nests. Toward the end of May 1961, Mr. Boyd informed me that the Hales Bar colony had not built there this year because a TVA barge was parked beside the lock walls, their nesting site.
3. Nickajack Cave—In the spring of 1960 the writer was told that swallows were flying in and out of the cave. A trip to the cave showed that both Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows were present. It was not ascertained where the Rough-wings were nesting, but a dozen or so Cliff Swallow nests were fastened to the rough rock roof of the cave. Nickajack is in Tennessee on state hwy. 156, almost at the junction of three states, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. It is about 1,800 ft. north of the Alabama state line and 2,400 ft. northwest of the corner between Georgia and Alabama. Its entrance is 62 ft. high and 172 ft. wide, allowing considerable light to penetrate its large mouth. The cave is said to go back several miles, and a small stream runs through it that can be navigated by boat.
4. Gray Cliff—At the time of the above-described 1960 visit, I discussed Cliff Swallows with a fisherman who identified himself as Hoyt Pippenger, another Tennessee Fish and Game Officer. He mentioned a colony on a river cliff nearby and later wrote me a note to say there were about 140 nests on Gray Cliff, about two miles downriver from Hales Bar Dam. Since

the 1961 count is 225 nests, this colony may have been swelled by some of the birds of Hales Bar lock.

5. N. Chickamauga creek bridge—This creek enters the Tennessee river just a few feet below the dam spillway. The well established colony here was not noticed until April 14, 1957. By May 1 TVA workmen were scraping off the nests preparatory to painting the bridge. This occurs every year or two but not on a schedule. When it does, the birds move over to the dam itself, taking advantage of suitable walls between the spillway gates.

6. South Chickamauga creek bridge—This bridge on Shallowford Rd. near the airport was constructed in 1953. Ben Basham discovered the colony in 1959 but it did not come to my attention until May 1960. When investigated on 5-15-60, about 200 nests were counted. On two return visits, destroyed nests, dead birds, and shotgun shells were found on the ground under the bridge. This is the one location where nests were presumably built over the creek bed at high water conditions and later became more accessible with the dropping of the water level.

On 6-17-61 a visit was made to this colony. The number of nests remains the same—about 200. Although most of them were over the main creek bed, a few had been built near the extreme ends of the bridge where there is now no water. A few swallows were still gathering mud to repair or replace nests that had been destroyed or collapsed.

7. In May 1961 while driving between Kingston and Chattanooga on highway 27, Gene West noticed Cliff Swallows near Dayton and Soddy. He mentioned this to me and on June 10 we made a survey along this highway from Dayton south to the edge of Chattanooga, approximately 28 miles. In the immediate area of Dayton, within 1½ miles of each other, are one old bridge on hwy. 30 at the junction of 30 and 27, three double spans (one-way travel), one single span (two-way travel), and two three-barrel concrete culverts. All except the old bridge are on new construction of the Dayton by-pass. Of these seven possible nesting sites, three were in use, but a boat is needed to make a count. All were so close together that they are considered as one.

8. We continued on, making seven more stops within approximately 26 miles at every bridge and likely culvert. One bridge on the Soddy embayment was in use, but it was not possible to count nests.

9. About one mile farther on, an arched culvert contained approximately 100 nests. With further reference to items 7 through 9, I would like to make a few comments about the sites on this highway that were not in use. Some of the reasons were obvious. The bridges, although 200 to 400 feet long, had insufficient water passing under. These streams are dry a great part of the year. We seldom find nests so located that one can stand on land under them. The unused culverts on this stretch of highway had too much shrubby growth at and near the openings which would probably make them unacceptable to Cliff Swallows.

10. Nickajack Culvert (so named because of its proximity to the cave)—Because Nickajack cave is only 5¾ miles, as the swallow flies, from Hales Bar Dam, it seemed possible that the Hales Bar colony might have joined forces with those at the cave. We, therefore, went to the cave, finding the usual small number of nests. But there were many swallows in the area and no immediate answer as to where they might be nesting.

In the pursuit of other birds known to be in the area such as the Blue Grosbeak, La. Waterthrush, and Prothonotary Warbler, Miss Gladys Conner and I walked away from the cave and along the main road, hwy. 156. Almost immediately we came upon a culvert through which runs overflow from the cave. Starting down the high steep bank to check the culvert for possible nests, we were amazed to see Cliff Swallows fly out in enormous swarms. Solid rows of nests could be seen in the angles of the culvert.

Several days later we returned with Ralph Bullard, licensed bird bander, to reconnoiter and consider the possibility of assisting him in the banding of this colony. Wearing rubber boots, Mr. Bullard walked through the culvert and counted 522 completed nests, with others under construction. It was decided to return the following weekend, June 3 and 4, and set up a mist net banding operation.

The work of June 3 resulted in about 425 bandings with a small number of "repeats." I will not go into detail here about the mud and rain of June 4, the banding of 310 swallows and handling of many repeats, except to say that 12 hours in the field on a banding operation of this type is not an experience that I am anxious to repeat.

Only two casualties resulted, both becoming skins in the collection of Southern Missionary College. One inactive Phoebe's nest was in the culvert and a bird was netted on a later date. A female Orchard Oriole and a Barn Swallow completed the catch of miscellaneous birds.

Because the catch of immature birds on June 4 was so small (about 5) and most of the nests contained eggs, we decided to return and did so three weeks later, June 25, and again on July 2. Two days' work resulted in more immatures which should be helpful next year when we try to ascertain whether the colony returns to the culvert or Hales Bar lock, or possibly to both sites. Total Cliff Swallows banded over the four day period were 873 adults and 39 immatures.

This culvert is described by the highway department as being two-barrel, 12x12x60 feet, and was constructed in 1950. Having just discovered it, we do not know whether it has been occupied by the swallows in prior years, but the number of swallows in the area in 1960 would not indicate that it was being used to any great extent, if at all. However, it has been my experience that the number of swallows flying about the vicinity of a nesting site is a poor indication of the size of a colony.

Persons who assisted Ralph Bullard in the banding operation were Leo Acuff, Benton Basham, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bullard, Sr., Miss Gladys Conner, Mrs. Hugh Crownover, Fred Haerich, the Nat Halverson family, Miss Mabel Norman, the John Siemens family, and the Wests.

This colony is very vulnerable to passersby, so we made a special effort to inform and interest the several people who stopped to see what we were doing, hoping our explanation that the work was for the Federal government would have a favorable effect on the future safety of the colony. It was some time before we realized that the oddity of an 8-foot stepladder standing in a field of foot-high corn was really what amazed the passersby and caused them to come to a stop. The ladder had been used in the early morning to fasten the net to poles, and then placed out of the way.

Did most of the Hales Bar colony move nearly six miles to the culvert? We believe so—although some may have joined those at Gray Cliff. It is probable that the Hales Bar site will be available to them in 1962, and they may return there. The question uppermost in our thoughts at this time is whether we will have to pursue the birds to their old location in order to retrap them and find out for sure. It will also be of interest to ascertain from the banding of immatures at Nickajack whether they will return in 1962 to the culvert or follow their parents to Hales Bar. We will let you know about this next year if we are able to get some answers.

As a by-product of the 1961 visits to Nickajack cave, the nests of the Rough-winged Swallows were discovered. They were placed in niches in the cave roof only a few inches from each entrance hole, and only a few feet from the Cliff Swallow nests. The nesting material could be seen hanging out of these holes and niches. It was apparent that the Rough-wings felt no need for placing their nests several feet behind the entrance hole as they normally do where the nests are located in stream banks and highway cuts.

Nests at Sites Where 1961 Count Could Be Made

Year	Site	No. of Nests		Increase
1955	Hales Bar Dam	385		
1960	Gray Cliff	140	522	
1961	Nickajack Culvert	522		
1961	Gray Cliff	225	747	222
1960	Shallowford Rd. Bridge	200		
1961		200		None
1951	Market St. Bridge	110		
1961		612		502

Over the years, references in *THE MIGRANT* to new Cliff Swallow colonies in Tennessee have been few and far between. However, the Sept. 1960 issue is full of such reports—so many, in fact, that I will not supply details.

The following informal comments in the form of a summary are based on the writer's personal opinion because the known facts are insufficient to serve as proof.

1. It is believed that the number of colonies and number of nests in the Chattanooga area (within 30 miles) are on the increase. If true, this supposition may also apply to other parts of the state, particularly in association with highway construction.
2. Displaced colonies seem to find other suitable sites in time to breed.
3. Culverts may be acceptable primarily to displaced birds.
4. Although there is an abundance of Cliff Swallows breeding in southeast Tennessee, our neighboring state of Georgia has no state breeding record. However, it seems likely that a thorough survey of concrete bridges and culverts in that portion of Georgia adjoining Tennessee would produce one or more colonies.

5511 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga 5.

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS.—The shorebirds mentioned in our last summary, Mar. 5, were found when the Booker, Ark., reservoir was almost dry and we have had no good habitat for these birds since. A few low places in the spring yielded a small number of the common species, including Golden Plover in more nuptial plumage than usual, to Apr. 23 (58 near the Arkansas end of the Memphis bridge). We were absent, on Field Days and vacation, following that. The Blue Goose at Riverside Park remained into its second summer but the one at the Penal Farm, present thru one summer, then joined there by two immature Blues and two immature Snows last fall, apparently left with these visitors. All were seen Mar. 11, but none on the next visit, Apr. 8, or later. Transients noted near Booker were: Mar. 5, 200 Blues and 10 Snows; Mar. 11, 70 Blues, 4 Snows. My only Upland Plover record was of 7, adjacent to the Tupelo, Miss., fish hatchery, April 2. Two White-rumped Sandpipers at the Meridian, Miss. fish hatchery, June 17, constitute my only recent record of this uncommon and late transient.

Alice Smith and Katheryn Paullus saw a Mississippi Kite close overhead at Shelby Forest S. P., Apr. 9; this is 2 weeks earlier than ever. We had 4, May 7, 9 miles east of Heloise, and (T.O.S.) 3 at Reelfoot, May 6. James T. Tanner saw a Pigeon Hawk, May 6, north of Tiptonville; dark cheeks, pointed wings, falcon flight noted at about 100 feet. Jim also had an adult Laughing Gull, that date, perched and flying, 200 yards out from Cypress Point, Reelfoot. These are about our fourth West Tennessee record for either species. At the south end of the lake, May 7, were 17 Forster's Terns (JTT, BC).

Mrs. W. J. Payne at Heloise, alerted previously, reported the Bank Swallows back at the nearby river bank on Apr. 12. Over 400 were in that area, May 7 (BCs). On Apr. 9 we could find none at Ashport and Golddust. Lefty Harvey at the Norfolk Dam, Ark. power station reported Cliff Swallows arrived there about Apr. 9. Migration at Memphis about as usual (BC, Oliver Irwin, HD, et al) which is not as heavy as at Reelfoot. During our return trip from the latter, May 7, we found transient warblers common along the Mississippi at Heloise. At Memphis' Riverside Park, Mrs. Helen Dinkelspiel and Mrs. Ed Carpenter found a Mourning Warbler, May 10.

A jaunt for Whip-poor-wills into the Louisville, Meridian, and Bay Springs areas was almost nullified by poor weather. Giving up, I drove to the Zama area and slept in parked car. At 4 a. m., this June 18, I awoke and heard a Whip-poor-will at the site of the Winston County bird of June 12, 1960. It was a pleasant surprise to note the return of the species to this farthest south summer outpost, as it were. On July 1-2 I heard several Whips in and near Kamp Kia Kima, Hardy, Ark., — my first summer records at a site first visited in 1930, altho fairly common not far from there. A run from Williford to beyond Sitka, that morning, showed the species fairly common, even along a creek, where none was found in 1954 and 1958. At dusk July 1, it was more common than other seasons, from Saddle to Mammoth Spring. June 10-11, Whips were more common in the Pine Mountain, Iuka, Eastport, Miss., Allsboro, Ala., areas. The Ouachitas near Hot Springs, Ark., were a blank, June 24-25, except for one Whip, June 24, in Lonsdale, the lowest (450 ft.) and most southern point covered. Cliff

Swallows continue common but we should mention that colonies have left our first known bridge sites, the Perryville and Savannah bridges and the bridge at Linden (one season, 1960, as far as we know). Dr. W. L. Whittemore saw 4 nests, July 22, at the crane platform, Colbert Steam Plant, Ala. On this date we were surprised to see 40 (20 gathering mud) at the Roark Creek bridge, Branson, Mo., altho this may not be exceptionally late in the north. A Scarlet Tanager, June 11, in Benton County, west of Ripley, Miss., was noteworthy account the low elevation, creekside highway 4. No Blue Grosbeaks found at last year's Germantown site, July 4, but a singer was seen Aug. 5, just north, along the Penal Farm. The Dickcissel continued to be uncommon at many former sites (Penal Farm, Lakeview, for example).

BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

NASHVILLE.—When writing seasonal reports it is difficult to arrive at a decision as to when one season ends and the next begins. Trips to Bush Lake by H. E. Parmer on March 23 and 24 turned up the first Swifts and Barn and Rough-winged Swallows of the season while such winter species as Greater Scaup and Old Squaws were still present, which, in fact did not leave until April 5 and 11 respectively.

The real signs of spring were the two major waves of migration which passed through this area on April 14 and 15, and 21 to 24, resulting in the first recording for the year of 17 and 25 species respectively.

The highlights of the spring season were: A Horned Grebe at Coleman's Lake on May 22, the latest ever (Laurence O. Trabue); approximately 200 Bonaparte's Gulls on Old Hickory Lake on 4-9, was the largest number ever recorded in Middle Tennessee, (H.E.P.-J.O.); Forster's Tern on Bush Lake between 4-21 and 5-1, (H.E.P.); Swainson's Warbler at Ashland City marsh on 4-29, (J.C.O.-Albert Ganier); Brewster's Warbler on 4-27 in the Cumberland river bottoms (Alan R. Munro); Mourning Warbler on 5-9, two days earlier than ever before in Nashville, (Amelia R. Laskey); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one 4-15, also two days earlier than ever before, (Harry C. Monk); 8 Blue Grosbeaks between 4-29 and 5-1 by 5 different observers at widely scattered localities; Indigo Bunting on 4-8, much earlier than usual, (Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Young); and Henslow's Sparrow on 5-21 near 2 J's (JCO).

Consecutive trips to Buena Vista marsh to look for shore birds were disappointing due to the small number. Highlights of the shore bird migration were gotten elsewhere. Two Golden Plover and a Baird's Sandpiper at Bush Lake on 4-12, only the second Middle Tennessee record of the Baird's, (JCO), and an Upland Plover in the South Harpeth valley on 4-15 and 16, (Katherine Goodpasture).

But even if Buena Vista did fail as a good shore bird area, it did turn out to be a remarkably good one for marsh birds this year. Sora, American Bittern and Yellow-crowned Night Heron were recorded on nearly all trips from mid April to the second week in May, the night herons remaining much later and were suspected of breeding in the area (JCO). Also recorded was King Rails on 5-3 and Common Gallinule on 4-19. Least Bittern arrived on 5-3 and two pairs remained to nest, one nest had 5 eggs on 5-29 and the other 3 eggs on 6-26, (JCO). The young were banded by Alan Munro and Katherine Goodpasture. On 6-19 a female Blue-winged Teal with 5 young was seen by Dick Morland.

The highlight of the month of June and the whole summer was a Limpkin. (See Round Table Notes, Page 48).

Some other important summer records were: A Snowy Egret at Ashland City marsh on 8-5, a species rarely recorded in Middle Tenn. (JCO, KAG); one Ring-necked Duck on 7-18 and thruout the rest of the summer on Bush Lake, (HEP); 1 Herring Gull at Old Hickory Lake on 7-4, a rare summer visitor, (DM); Common Tern at Buena Vista marsh and Bush Lake on 6-23 and 26, another rare summer visitor, (HEP); and Ovenbirds breeding at Basin Springs, (KAG).

A trip to Goose Pond south of Manchester, Tenn. on 8-2 resulted in the finding of such probable breeding species as Least Bittern, American Bittern, King Rail, and one Purple Gallinule. Also found were one Sora and one Short-billed Marsh Wren; the status of these last two species needs investigating, (AFG, JCO, DM).

The discovery of a section of Ashland City marsh which had been partially drained resulted in several good shore bird records. Flocks of over 100 of these birds were found on several of the trips to this area, the first of these large flocks coming as early as 7-16 when the flock contained 127 shore birds of 8 species. Western Sandpipers were found on 7-23 and 8-17 to give Middle Tennessee its first records, (JCO). Stilt Sandpipers on 8-5 and 8-7 were Middle Tennessee's third record, (JCO, KAG). The number of herons and egrets at the marsh were also large, the peak being on 8-20 when approximately 120 were found, mostly Little Blue and Great Blue Herons.

Other signs of the approaching fall migration were: One Black-bellied Plover at Bush Lake on 9-1, (HEP); 37 Black Tern on 7-16 at Cheatham dam, (JCO, DM); 25 Common Tern at Bush Lake on 8-21, (HEP, et al); 7 Forster's Tern at Pond creek on 8-27, (JCO, DM); a flock of 200 Bank and Barn Swallows on 8-20 at Ashland City marsh, (JCO, DM); at least 5 species of non-resident warblers by 9-3 at 2J's and Stones River, (JCO, George R. Mayfield, Jr.); 3 Bobolinks at Ashland City marsh on 8-30 (JCO); and a Savannah Sparrow at the home of Mrs. Helen Hodgson on 9-5.

JOHN OGDEN, White Oak Drive, Nashville, 12.

COOKEVILLE.—Weatherwise, we have had a bit of the unusual, perhaps more so than some other sections of the state. Late spring and early summer brought many cool days and more than ample rain. (Gardening was difficult and unrewarding except for cool-weather species.) On May 26 and 27 there was frost, almost — a very late cold "snap". Even in August and September, thus far, hot and dry days have not been numerous.

Birdwise, we do have a few bits of interest. One (C.D.) has seen more-than-usual numbers of Robins and Cardinals along the east-side of town. One marked pair of Cardinals brought their brood to the same feeder many times during the summer. Another, (R.H.) found a nest of Towhee's in a clump of weeds on the ground instead of the typical site. A first for the writer was a pair of Flickers courting on the Tech campus. Evidence of a "come back" by the Bluebirds has been found. Three watchers, from 3 to 10 miles apart, have reported two or more broods of young ones apparently thriving under parental care (RH, CH, CWC).

P. L. HOLLISTER, Tennessee Tech., Cookeville.

CHATTANOOGA.—As I am sure was true all through our region, we had a cool and damp season, which from the standpoint of the gardener had an almost unbelievable effect on the growth of flowers, shrubs, and veg-

etables. For the birder, the important item in production was not weather but work. And for a collection of fine reports, we can thank some real workers in our organization.

For the second year, the fruitful Spring Creek mudflat site produced nesting Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Beginning on April 21 and continuing into mid-May, Mrs. Maxine Crowover recorded her observations of these nesting birds. Then, on June 1 she reported four immatures successfully out of the nest. This study produced another interesting fact. The herons used last year's old nest to raise this year's brood.

A banding quest for Redwinged Blackbirds led Benton Basham and Nat Halverson into a marshy area near Apison, Tenn. What they found was far more; 3 active nests of the rare Least Bittern. Inside these homes, they found a total of 7 young and 4 eggs. In subsequent visits, they added two more nests to the total. So we have a new summer resident.

A recent news release in the *Chattanooga Times* gave the area its first positive nesting record of the Osprey. In working on a channel light tower just above Watts Bar Dam, the U. S. Coast Guard discovered the nest. Fortunately for us, the nest was turned over to Mr. Kurt Krause, curator of the Elise Chapin Audubon Sanctuary and TOS member. Mr. Krause turned in the detailed story on the findings to the paper.

One of the outstanding finds of this six-month period was the April 30 (Spring Census) Virginia Rail reported by a party from Southern Missionary College. This is the first record of the occurrence of this species in the Chattanooga area. Those responsible included E. O. Grundset, Billy Griffith, and Benton Basham.

On April 22, the Common Gallinule was identified by Mrs. Crowover, the third record of this species for the area. Perhaps even more unusual was her report of the Wilson's Plover on June 26. Club records show no other Spring or Summer dates on this bird.

Through the invaluable assist of his mist nets, Ralph Bullard has produced quite a set of records to add to our knowledge of local bird activities. His contribution on rare Spring migrants included five Northern Waterthrushes (previous to this a rare bird), one Philadelphia Vireo (4-30), and one Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (5-21). Just as exciting for those members who took advantage of the educational experience was the "massive" June 3-5 Cliff Swallow banding operation. (See page 37).

The Wests supplied two more rare bird records for our report: the Mourning Warbler on May 21, the second sight record for the vicinity of this species, and the House Wren on April 30. On two consecutive days, April 29 and 30, first Benton Basham then Ralph Bullard saw the rare Warbling Vireo.

ROCK COMSTOCK, 1000 South Crest Road, Chattanooga 4.

GREENEVILLE.—During March two Great Horned Owls were heard along Lick Creek and Roaring Fork Creek in the western half of Greene County. Later (April 22 last date recorded) the hooting stopped and was not heard again until early Sept. At the same time in Sept. another Horned Owl was found dead in the street in the south end of Greeneville.

On March 28 three Brewer's Blackbirds (2 female, 1 male) were observed for two hours while they followed a disc over freshly worked garden. At times they were no more than three feet away.

About April 2 Cedar Waxwings stripped the berries from a holly tree in Tusculum. During the spring and summer a male Baltimore Oriole was

seen numerous times in north Greeneville; no nest was found. On April 22 a Whip-poor-will was heard to call in the western part of Greene County. Whip-poor-wills nest in the eastern part of the county but are heard only in migration in the western part.

Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens were heard on April 23, and as late as May 8 Sora and Virginia Rails were seen in the bottoms along Roaring Fork. Due to prolonged dry weather from May through Sept., most marshy places in the western half of the county were dry.

May 2 nine Tree Swallows were seen on a wire near Mosheim. May 3 and 14 one Least Sandpiper was seen on a small mud hole in the bottoms along Roaring Fork. In contrast to 1960 the only time a Blue Grosbeak was heard was June 22 and 23.

This year Bluebirds were more common than they have been for several years.

On July 2, on a walking trip to Mt. Guyot from Cosby Campground, after reaching the top of the ridge there was no time in which Winter Wrens could not be heard on the Tennessee side and Veerys on the North Carolina side. Both were on top of Mt. Guyot. During July, on the 25th, a Greater Yellowlegs was observed and heard flying overhead and going southeast. Indications of early fall migration, on Sept. 8, were a White-eyed Vireo singing a warbling song early in the morning in a place where none had been earlier, and in late afternoon large flocks of Nighthawks moving down the creek valley.

When a barn burned at Glenwood after dark it was noticed that ten or twelve birds fluttered above the blaze. Their flight was random and without direction. Their sizes and shapes suggested two Killdeer, two pigeons, one hawk or owl and others smaller. They could have been on migration, confused by the light or, nearby roosting birds attracted by the burning.

KINGSPORT.—The only unusual observation of the past season came the week after our winter report to THE MIGRANT. On March 21 a wild Turkey was observed about 7:30 a. m. along Industry Drive between Holston River and Bays Mountain by three astonished Eastman laboratory workers who have hunted Turkey in the Smokies. It was plainly visible standing along the road and flew toward Bays Mountain.

For us spring was unusually long, cool and lovely. The average date here of the latest killing freeze is April 1, as azalea fanciers know; this year the mercury dropped lower than freezing only once after the middle of February although we had a little light but not killing snow. Birds began singing early in the year and sang throughout the day well into the summer. Some first dates for spring migrants were: March 23, Purple Martins; March 28, Rough-winged Swallows; April 6, Tree Swallows; April 16, Osprey; and April 22, Whip-poor-will, all rather late. April was marked by rain and high winds. But we enjoyed three wonderful weeks of bird migration, the last two weeks in April and the first week in May. Perhaps never before here in Kingsport have there been such large numbers of so many species visible in that length of time. The warblers were especially notable. And all were singing. During a cool June the summer residents also were very vocal and active throughout the day.

In July the temperatures were stable ranging from a steady low of 68 to a high of between 83 and 88. All birds, except Robins, continued to sing. Kingbirds appeared regularly for the first time in our records. Several

members believe the Blue Jay population is still increasing more rapidly than other species in residential areas. Bewick's Wrens and Bluebirds are still declining in numbers. Reports were received of Little Blue Herons on the lakes where they have not been reported since 1952. But Green Herons were scarce.

August was very humid with frequent showers that kept the lawns green. On August 6 I saw Purple Martins feeding young on our telephone wires, but by August 12 all the Martins had left. Records of in-coming migrants include Baltimore Orioles on August 25. About 5 a. m. August 24 I heard a Whip-poor-will in Reedy Creek valley below the beech woods on our property where they've never before been heard. Baltimore Orioles were again seen August 31, a late date, and a Blue Grosbeak. This is the fourth year we've seen Blue Grosbeaks at this season. A few shore birds also were recorded the last of August.

During September we've experienced our hottest weather of the year with 90 recorded as late as Sept. 23. Our chief efforts in September go to observations of the hawk migration.

ANN HARNEY SWITZER, 1620 Fairidge Place, Kingsport.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, The Tennessee Ornithological Society, assembled in its annual meeting, May 5, 6, 7, 1961, at Reelfoot Lake does consider this one of its most successful meetings, and

Whereas, the planning and leadership of those responsible for this meeting has contributed significantly to the pleasure and success of this conclave, now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Society express its deep gratitude to the Memphis Chapter of T. O. S. and the steering committee composed of Mrs. Norene Smith, Miss Mary Davant, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Miss Ella Ragland, Miss Alice Smith and Mr. L. D. Thompson for all arrangements and the warmth of their hospitality; to Dr. Gordon Wilson for the fine evening program he gave us; to the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission, and in particular to Mr. Jack Richardson and Mr. Eugene Ruhr for making available their facilities here at Reelfoot including boats and leaders for trips about the Lake; to Mr. Preston Lane of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Dr. C. L. Baker of the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station for the availability of their facilities; to our President, Paul Pardue, and Secretary, Mrs. Garlinghouse, for the foresight and diligence with which they have worked for the success of this meeting; to Dr. Lee R. Herndon, Editor of the **Migrant**, for his constant attention to making the **Migrant** an objective reflector of the ornithological pursuits of our membership; to Mr. Thomas Finucane our gratitude for careful, accurate execution of the demanding responsibilities of Treasurer during the past four years; and, finally, we would dispatch our warmest felicitations to Dr. George R. Mayfield, Sr., a Founder of T. O. S., who could not be present at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted this the 7th day of May, 1961

Resolutions Committee

Katherine Goodpasture, Chairman

Ralph Dunckel

J. T. Mengel

Adopted by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, May 7, 1961

Paul Pardue, President

Mrs. H. C. Garlinghouse, Secretary

BRADFORD TORREY

Until recently, if asked who Bradford Torrey was, I would have replied with some hesitation: "A nature writer, now nearly forgotten, of the New England school, whose descriptions of the songs of warblers were quoted in Chapman's *Warblers* and other standard works." Then, chancing to pick up and read Torrey's *Spring Notes from Tennessee* (Houghton Mifflin, 1896), I found it excellent summer literary fare for a naturalist.

The gentle Torrey, umbrella in one hand (he was intolerant of the sun), opera glass in the other, spent three weeks in the spring of 1894 wandering about the great battle fields of Tennessee observing the birds, wild flowers, scenery and people. It is surprising that I should happen to read his accounts of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge in the very year when the centenary of the Civil War is being celebrated. A generation before Ludlow Griscom, two generations before Roger Peterson — we immediately realize that Torrey was in their class as a bird watcher. As an author his prose is unfailingly pleasing and at times distinguished.

A few quotations will be the book's best recommendation:

Of the Kentucky Warbler—"In movement and attitude they made me think often of the Connecticut Warbler, although when startled they took a higher perch."

"A cuckoo, further away, broke into a shuffling introductory measure that marked him at once as a black-bill."

Of the Black and White Warbler—"He goes round a bole just as he sings, in corkscrew fashion."

Of a Field Sparrow on Lookout Mountain—"The dead could want no sweeter requiem than he was singing."

"Whoever loves the music of English Sparrows should live in Chattanooga; there is no place on the planet, it is to be hoped, where they are more numerous and pervasive."

And, in a more general vein:

"When a man goes in search of a mood he must go neither too fast nor too far."

"In morals, as in archery, the target should be set at a fair distance."

Of a windowless cabin—"A house to fill a social economist with admiration at the low terms to which civilized life can be reduced."

"He turned out to be a man who had kept his eyes open, and, better still, knew how to say 'no, suh', as well as, 'yes, suh'."

"I had learned nothing, perhaps: but unless a man is far gone in philosophy he need not feel bound to increase in wisdom every time a neighbor speaks to him."

"So easy it is to generalize; that is, to tell more than we know."

DEAN AMADON, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York, N. Y.

Did you notice how sharp and bright the cover to the June MIGRANT was? Our thanks to our Curator, Mr. Albert F. Ganier, for the new plate he so generously provided our printer.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

A LIMPKIN AT NASHVILLE.—At 9:30 a. m., June 10, the writer was returning to his car after a rather uneventful four hours of bird-watching at Radnor Lake. With him were his parents, brothers and sisters, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Morlan who are active in the Audubon Society in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. Morlan was standing near the car which was parked next to the pond across Otter Creek Road from the big lake. As the writer neared the car he was cautioned to approach quietly. He was astounded to see a large brown bird perched on a tree limb directly over the road. Through his binoculars the writer could see a rather heavy and slightly decurved bill, yellow in color but with a dark tip, and a surprisingly long neck which was streaked with white. These streaks gave way to white spots which continued over the nape of the neck and down onto the upper region of the back. The legs and feet were dark. As it perched there on the limb, only twenty feet away, it could be heard giving low grunts which seemed to come from deep in its throat.

By now the rest of the group had approached, but the bird did not seem to mind serving as the subject for nine pairs of binoculars. A brief discussion ensued, and we all were sure that the bird was a Limpkin. Unfortunately, a car approached and the alarmed bird took off with neck outstretched and legs dangling behind. It flew straight down the road in the direction of Granny White Pike. The writer pursued it for about one hundred yards before losing sight of it. Hurrying to the nearest telephone, calls were made to Alan Munro and Henry Parmer who both arrived at the lake by 10:15 a. m.

We found the bird along the shore of the pond in deep shade, and we watched it for about ten minutes. Its identity was now verified by three members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, and we began to spread the news to others. John Ogden went to the lake that afternoon and found the bird still on the same pond at 3:00 p. m. He watched it preen and feed, and then flushed it to see it fly. As he walked toward the bird it paused nervously and began to give little croaking sounds which increased in speed and volume as John moved closer. It then rose in flight with the outstretched neck and dangling legs and gave this croaking alarm note very loudly.

On the following morning, June 11, Will Hon, of the State Game and Fish Commission, located the Limpkin behind the big lake, again in deep shade. It was feeding along the shore, so he concealed himself in a tangle of honeysuckle and waited. The bird came within fifteen feet of his hiding place, and he watched it preen for almost an hour.

At 2:30 p. m. that afternoon, John Ogden and the writer returned to the lake and found the Limpkin again along the pond, and moving along the water's edge. Its movements were surprisingly similar to those of a rail, as each foot was raised and lowered with careful deliberation. We were able to venture within thirty feet of the bird without causing apparent alarm, except that it began to flick its tail and jerk its head. We left after about fifteen minutes to avoid disturbing it.

Recalling that Limpkins are nocturnal to an extent and that they often call at night, Fairman Cumming and the writer sat on the road from 9:30 to 11:00 p. m., but the only sounds of the night were the frogs and two

Barred Owls. On the morning of June 12 the bird was nowhere to be seen, and subsequent trips were unsuccessful. We can only deduce, then, that the Limpkin left during the evening or night of June 11. Recalling that the night of June 10 was very stormy, we can perhaps explain why the bird had not left sooner.

There are several things about which we naturally wonder. Where did the Limpkin come from? What caused it to come here? What did it eat while it was here? Where did it go? As far as we can ascertain there were no great storms in the Southeast which might have forced it to this area. We can only call it a stray. This is the first record of a Limpkin in the state of Tennessee, and any record of this species outside its breeding range in Florida and southernmost Georgia is extremely rare. This fact is largely explained in that the species is non-migratory.

Forbush describes its favorite food as large fresh-water snails. Bent, in *Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds*, 1926, page 257, states, "The Limpkin seems to feed mainly on animal food, which it finds in the swamps where it lives, such as various mollusks, crustaceans, frogs, lizards, worms, and aquatic insects." In examining this diet we realize that Radnor Lake could easily supply several of its items—frogs, lizards, worms, and aquatic insects. There is also a fair abundance of peri-winkle snails in the lake. Dr. Henry Bryant (1861) describes its manner of feeding on snails. "Its manner of feeding is to hold the shell in one of its feet, and then with a few blows of its powerful bill to detach the animal, which it immediately swallows." Perhaps the Limpkin found it possible to apply this method to a snail as small as the peri-winkle.

We surely wish that the bird had remained so that more people could have observed this very interesting species.

RICHARD E. MORLAN, 1603 18th Ave., So., Nashville 12, Tennessee

SNOW BUNTING AT MEMPHIS. — Pough's "Audubon Bird Guide of Small Land Birds of Eastern and Central North America" states that "snowflakes" are especially attracted to the trash which the wind blows up on lake and stream shores, and the first arrivals are found there. On the sea coast they frequent the dunes, salt marshes, and windswept grasslands, and the open beach, where they sometimes follow the waves like sandpipers. The Gumbo-sand shoreline of the Mississippi River on President's Island at Memphis, where I have been observing Black and Caspian Terns, Bonaparte's Gull, Golden Plovers and various species of shorebirds and waterfowl, has one-half mile of shoreline habitat facing north, bordered by an extensive willow thicket. Small switch willows, with thinly scattered patches of loose grass, heavily laden with seeds, growing beneath, border these and scattered driftwood is deposited at the top of the small shelf left by the receding river. The beach is nearly forty feet wide and has small rain-washed gullies in the muck and sand to the river's edge at zero stage on the river gauge. This is the setting for the adventure of discovering the first Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) in the Memphis area. I haven't visited this site often in the fall of 1960. November 2, 1960 presented the only thorough observations made. This individual was flushed as I walked between the water's edge and willows. I immediately saw

that the bird was unusually white with "black-bordered" wings. After a bounding flight of only a few feet, it again came to rest on the gray sand beach in a small gully, pressed close to the ground. I speculated whether it was a Horned Lark, in albino plumage, an injured woodpecker or an escaped cage bird but as I brought binoculars into play I noted the orange smudge on the breast, on the crown, cheek patch and lower back. Above, the bird appeared light gray on the nape and back with a few fine dark streaks on the upper back. The wings were predominantly white with jet black tips, showing a long white mark when at rest. The underparts were brilliant white. The tail showed the black and white pattern flashing brightly in flight. The feet were blackish and the bill a very light pink. The head was rounded, darker on the forehead. After returning on 11-3-60 to study this bird at close range for quite a while feeding and sunning itself on a driftwood log on the open beach, I went in search of more "Snowflakes."

OLIVER F. IRWIN, 1789 Glenview Ave., Memphis 14.

BREEDING OF CEDAR WAXWINGS NEAR CHATTANOOGA.—On Saturday, July 1, while visiting friends in a residential area bordering Chickamauga Lake, I heard the voice of a Cedar Waxwing. It was only a matter of minutes before it was located, sitting in the top of a tree on the adjoining private property. In about 10 minutes a second bird appeared and perched in the top of another tree nearby. Soon the second bird flew to a pine tree where it disappeared within and was not seen to leave. Search for a nest was fruitless.

Owners of the property were alerted to the interesting possibilities, and the following Saturday we were told that a young waxwing had been rescued from the ground. When asked what should be done with it, we recommended that it be placed on a branch and left for the parents to feed it. The next morning, 7-9, we visited the site and found the fledgling just where it had been placed the night before. The parents were reluctant to come in to feed it while people were in sight, but one finally did. In the meantime, one wild cherry was hand fed and accepted readily. Color movies were made from a "blind" of the fledgling being fed by hand and by the parent. No other fledglings were located.

A search of THE MIGRANTS issued since 1938 and the checking of hundreds of references to the species revealed actual breeding records only in the Knoxville area in 1951 and 1954, though it may be that other records were overlooked. In several issues there were references to assumed breeding in mountain areas of the state.

Possibly observers have not reported their findings because they were unaware of their importance, particularly at lower elevations. This is true of myself in two cases. In my early days of birdwatching I saw fledglings on one occasion in the Elizabethton area, about 10 years ago. Within a year of this observation, I also saw waxwings at their nest in a pine tree near Greeneville, although J. B. White's annotated list in THE MIGRANT of March 1956 refers to the Cedar Waxwing as a fairly common winter resident. It is certainly very easy for this bird to be present in midsummer without our being aware of it, and I hope that all Tennessee observers of nesting Cedar Waxwings will so inform the editor who may wish to prepare a summary for publication.

MRS. E. M. WEST, 5511 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga 5, Tenn.

LAUGHING GULLS AT NASHVILLE.—On Thursday, 9-14, 1961, three Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) were found at Bush Lake sitting on the point of an island in the lake with Common and Black Terns. They were in the immature plumage, a uniform grey-brown on the head, neck, breast, wings, and back with a much lighter belly. The bill was rather heavy looking and black. In size they looked not much smaller than Ring-billed Gulls. The gulls occasionally took flight to feed at which time the conspicuous white rump and light grey color of the proximal half of the tail shading into a wide dark sub-terminal band and the narrow white terminal band could be easily seen. The main points which separated this species from the similar immature Franklin's Gull were the dark breast, shading on the tail, and the larger size.

The gulls were identified by John Ogden and later confirmed by H. E. Parmer. While they were still at Bush Lake a fourth one was seen on Old Hickory Lake by Laurence Trabue.

The probable explanation of the appearance of these Laughing Gulls at Nashville so far from their coastal habitat is Hurricane Carla. It is possible that these gulls were caught in Carla on the Gulf Coast and carried inland by the strong winds. On the 12th and 13th Nashville experienced gusty winds from the south reaching 20-25 MPH on the 13th. These winds were a direct result of Carla as it moved northward to the west of Nashville, the counterclockwise air movements producing southerly winds for the areas east of the center of the low pressure area which was the heart of Carla.

The owner of the lake stated that the gulls had arrived on the afternoon of the 13th and Mr. Parmer reported that they were not at the lake after the 14th. It is believed that birds that are displaced from their normal range will try to return as soon as possible.

This is at least the 8th record of this species for the state but only the 2nd for Middle Tennessee.

JOHN OGDEN, Box 296, South Stadium Hall, Knoxville 16, Tenn.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.—On May 22, 1960, while walking in Chickamauga Park in Georgia, I saw two adult and one young Blue-winged Warbler. The site is in the northwest part of the park on a slight rise in a comparatively open patch of bushes, small deciduous trees, and a few pines. The ground is covered with weeds, sweet clover, blackberry briars, and the wild grass that country people call cheat. It is bordered by taller trees. I saw the first adult in a small walnut tree and soon saw the other adult, one being paler than the other and both showing white spots in the spread tail. After watching the pair for several minutes, I found a fledgling on the ground, too small to fly. The parents came within three feet while I held the fledgling.

The next day an adult pair and two youngsters were seen at the same spot by Rock Comstock, Jr., member of the chapter and park historian. A few days later, two singing males were seen in the vicinity by Adele West. Summer records for 1959 indicate this species probably nested in the park that season, also, but no investigation was made at that time.

LEO F. ACUFF, 210 High St., Chattanooga 3.

NASHVILLE PURPLE FINCH TRAPPED IN MAINE IN 1960 AND 1961.—On March 31, 1960, I banded a Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) with band No. 64-12593 which was re-trapped on Apr. 1, 3, 5, and 8, 1960. Reports have been received from the Bird Banding office that this bird was trapped and released at Somesville, Mount Desert, Hancock Co., Maine on June 17, 1960 by Mrs. R. W. Patterson, and in the following year on May 13, 1961 at the same station.

When trapped in Nashville, it was in the brown plumage of female and first year birds, but it had a reddish wash on parts of the plumage. The flattened wing measured 84 mm. which was one of the longest that I had handled. My notes state that it was probably a male. In 1961, Mrs. Patterson reported it as a male.

Previous to 1960, I had banded only two Purple Finches in 28 years of banding. During the snowy season of 1963, I banded 337 from Mar. 8 through Apr. 18. No. 64-12593 is the only recovery reported. In 1961, considerable snow fell in late winter but no Purple Finches returned to use my feeders and I had only two sight records at my station: a male and a female on Nov. 27, 1960 and a singing male on Feb. 22, 1961.

Although I do not have a complete list of recoveries of the species involving Tennessee, the following are in my file:

No. 54-60189, banded at West Hartford, Conn. Feb. 27, 1954, was shot at Cookeville about Dec. 18, 1957 (F. & W. S. report).

One banded at Somesville, Maine on Mar. 17, 1959 was recovered in Cookeville, Feb. 1960.

One banded at Signal Mountain, Tenn. Apr. 6, 1960 was caught at Somesville, Maine May 24, 1960. (Latter two reported in Maine Field Observer, 1960. 5 (11):125).

AMELIA R. LASKEY, 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 12, Tenn.

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHERS.—The first Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) of the season was reported on 5-21. The location was the same as that where the colony had nested the previous three seasons. It is also the same area as that where Operation Recovery has been conducted during the falls of 1959 and 1960. In fact mist netting and banding has been carried on almost continuously in this area for a full year on almost all week-ends when weather would permit, except during the spring migration when the writer was away for several week-ends. Prior to the summer of 1961 only one adult and no nestlings had been banded. No netting had been carried on in the area during the breeding season.

From June 1 through Sept. 30, 1961, 17 adults and 4 nestlings were banded. All of the nestlings were from the same nest. At least 7 males were singing "on territory" in the area during the breeding season, however, only three completed nests were found. The first evidence of nest building was a partially constructed nest in an elder bush on June 11. On June 18 the partially constructed nest had been completely removed. On this date Mr. A. F. Ganier found a completed nest about 60' from the original site, in a small clump of willows, about 2' above ground. On 6-24 it still contained no egg. On 7-1, 3 eggs; 7-8, 2 eggs; 7-15, 2 young two or three days old. On 7-22 it was empty when I had expected to band the nestlings. The finding of this nest added a new species to Mr. Ganier's life list of bird nests.

On the same afternoon, June 18, two other nests of this species were found by the writer. Nest No. 2 was 8' above ground in a small elm tree. It contained 2 eggs; 6-24, 3 eggs; 7-1, 2 young and 1 egg; 7-15 the nest had been completely removed.

Nest No. 3 was in a dogwood tree, near the extremity of a horizontal branch, completely shaded by leaves and about 6' above ground. The rather small dogwood and a cedar had grown only a few feet apart and were located in a rather dry open field about 50' from the nearest water, a marshy area containing willows and elms bordered by blackberry briars. This nest was the farthest from water of any nest of this species found to date, in this area. Usually they have been directly over flowing water or in a marshy area. The nest contained 4 eggs when found. On 6-24, 4 newly hatched young; 7-1, the four well developed young were banded; 7-8 the nest was empty.

During the Shady Valley Foray, June 17 and 18, at least 6 singing male Traill's Flycatchers were found along Beaverdam Creek just north of the intersection of highways 91 and 421. While standing on the bridge over Beaverdam Creek these birds could be heard singing on either side of the road. The elevation at this location is about 2,775'. A thorough search of the area revealed no nest. It is likely that at this elevation, nest-building had not started, since the season was late and some birds at the lower elevation had only started nesting activities. A single singing male was found near this area in 1960 (THE MIGRANT, 31, 55, 1960), but no nest could be found. The Laurel Blooming area, reference above, was not visited during the breeding season of 1961.

LEE R. HERNDON, 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton.

LATE NESTINGS OF THE YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—One of the most erratic and peculiar of our native birds is this species (*Coccyzus a. americanus*) and this is particularly true of its nesting habits. They procrastinate about this rather necessary chore until most other birds have raised their broods and then, after a late summer round of noisy calling, proceed with their nesting.

In THE MIGRANT (26, 64, 1955) I described a nest near Nashville which on September 6, 1954, held one young about 5 days old and a smaller one dead. Two years later and a few hundred feet from the 1954 site, I found a nest which on August 20, held 2 young about 5 days old. This year, on September 1, 1961, I found a nest on the grounds of Belle Meade Mansion at Nashville, that held 2 young about 5 days old. It is well known that they develop rapidly and leave the nest before they can fly well so I was not surprised to find them gone on Sept. 4. The ground under the nest was whitened with their excreta so it was evident they had fledged successfully. This nest was 9 feet up on a heavily-leaved hackberry limb.

Of nine nests which I have found near Nashville, the approximate dates of laying the first egg are as follows: May 25, 26, 29, June 24, July 16, 21, August 2, 14 and 18. The number of eggs or young in these nests were: one nest with 1, six with 2, two with 3 and one with 4.

Looking thru recent volumes of THE MIGRANT, I find that Mrs. Nevius at Greeneville reported having found a young bird with feathers as yet unsheathed on August 21, 1950. At Memphis, Ben B. Coffey reported an immature, "just able to fly some", on Sept. 16, 1951.

ALBERT F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Dr., Nashville 12, Tenn.

SUMMER TANAGER CONSUMES WASP LARVAE.—A male Summer Tanager was observed, on August 22, inside a porch eating wasp larvae. From a perch, the bird would fly up and hover under a wasp nest until he had extracted a pale yellow larvae, then return to the perch to eat it. This continued for probably thirty or forty minutes until either the bird was satisfied or until the larvae supply was exhausted. Several nests approximately 2" in diameter had been emptied.

ANONYMOUS. Greenville.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—A Night Soloist — For two years now a pair of Chats have nested near our home—so near last year they were only a few feet beyond the end of the back yard walk. Mr. Chat came daily to the bird bath for a cooling dip, and went gaily back to his duty of guarding and singing. This year the nest was not so close, but he was always singing. I often wondered when he took time to snatch even the needed '40 winks' of sleep. Most any time day or night he could be heard chattering his notes—even on the darkest of nights. He didn't seem to need the beautiful moonlit nights to inspire his serenade, on rainy nights he just chattered his funny little song notes as if he enjoyed the rain. His mate seemed to be a very demure, stick-to-her business type. She was seldom seen, even when they were feeding young—she slipped through the underbrush, noiselessly, scolding if I was too close, or if she caught me looking in on her babies. They never seem to stay around long after the young are out of the nest.—MRS ELVA DARNELL, Route 4, Greenville.

YOUR DUES are due January 1st, 1962, which will be before the December issue reaches you. Chapter members should pay dues to their local treasurers as promptly as possible. Those who are not Chapter members, or who are out-of-state members, or subscribers, will please remit direct to your State treasurer. The job of billing is costly and time-consuming so your cooperation will be appreciated. Since the amount involved is small, you may wish to consider letting your remittance cover both 1962 and 1963, or even longer.

HENRY E. PARMER, State Treasurer, 3800 Richland Ave., Nashville 5.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE BIRD WATCHER'S GUIDE. By Henry Hill Collins, Jr. Golden Press, New York. 123 p. \$3.95.

For a beginner in "bird watching", this book gives many handy tips on identification, binoculars and scopes, censuses, attracting birds and many other important topics, as well as an informative summary of the many facets of bird observing. Surely the most experienced and well-read observer could find new facts of interest and value and could use this guide as a review of forgotten skills.

The many colored photographs and illustrations make this book most attractive. The quality of photography is excellent as the work of well-known photographers, Cy La Tour, Helen Cruickshank, and others, was used. These well-chosen photographs cleverly supplement some point brought out in the text.

As this guide covers many topics, one cannot expect it to develop any one topic extensively; however the author has done well. A list of a few of the twenty-two chapters follow so that the reader might get an idea of the scope of this book: "Equipment for Bird Watching," "How to Identify Birds," "The Voices of Birds," "Attracting Birds About Your Home," "Photographing Birds," and "Bird Banding."

H. P. LANGRIDGE.

BIRD SONGS IN YOUR GARDEN — Complete with high-fidelity 33 1/3 rpm phonograph record. Full Color * Full Song. A Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Book album. Text and photographs by ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Phonograph record by PETER PAUL KELLOGG, Cornell University Records. Cornell University Press, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, N. Y. Price \$5.95.

The songs of twenty-five birds which are frequently found in and around the garden have been faithfully recorded and reproduced. On one side the vocalist is announced while on the reverse side only the songs are given. Color photographs of each kind of bird are presented in the booklet in the same order as the song which will assist the novice in identifying the bird by appearance as well as by song. A brief sketch accompanies each photograph, giving some characteristic features of the bird, such as, characteristic field marks, habitats, nest and locations, eggs and young.

Suggestions are given for attracting birds by providing food, water and nesting sites. Specifications are given for the construction of a few bird houses for some of the more common hole-nesting species. A list of selected reading references for gardeners is given. LRH.

BINOCULARS AND SCOPES AND THEIR USE IN PHOTOGRAPHY. By Robert J. and Elsa Reichert. 128 pages. Chilton Company — Book Division. Paper covers. \$1.95.

Robert and Elsa Reichert have assembled a wealth of material, expressed in understandable language, relative to optical equipment. Various types of binoculars, telescopes and cameras are described, pointing out features which distinguish quality products from poorly constructed substitutes.

For those unfamiliar with optical equipment, attention is called to features which assist in the selection of suitable equipment for the desired purpose. Also helpful suggestions are given with regard to selection, care and use of binoculars and telescopes. The three main divisions of the book are: binoculars, scopes and binocular and scope photography. Some of the topics discussed are types of binoculars; magnification and resolving power; relative brightness; relative light efficiency; field of view; focusing; alignment; mechanical design; optical performance; helpful hints and the country of origin. Similar information is given for telescopes and accessories in conjunction with various types of photographic equipment.

The booklet is illustrated with sketches, diagrams and photographs of various types of equipment and comparative results obtained with these optical instruments.

LEE R. HERNDON.

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All items for Publication should be sent to
LEE R. HERNDON, Editor, 1533 Burgie Place ELIZABETHTON, TENN.

Dear T.O.S. Members —

Having at the same time written an epistle in the News Letter, I feel that I must keep this message to brevity. There are many things that could be said, but neither time nor space permit.

One thing that I think appropo at this time is that of membership, both as it applies to the broader State organization and to the individual Chapters. Certainly, none of us is working to keep members out of our Chapters, but how much are we doing to bring them in? I feel that we can increase our numbers at any time in direct proportion to our efforts in that direction. There are so many reasons we need more members, not the least of which is the direct benefit these persons would get from the work they would get into. I feel that we should go after more young people, for in this way we would be building for tomorrow.

Secondly, and I mention this in direct response to a suggestion by our worthy Editor of THE MIGRANT, Dr. Lee Herndon, of Elizabethton, there is the broader aspect of new Chapters being created. I have been in West Tennessee for a great many years, have travelled it from one end to the other, think there are some fine small cities and towns located West of the Tennessee River. And we have a Chapter in Memphis only! This is probably more the fault of Memphis than any other, for I'm sure there is the nucleus of T.O.S. membership in a dozen West Tennessee towns. I'm certain this applies to all parts of the State.

One reason, and a prime one, for needing new Chapter members and more individual members is that of finances. As many of you know, with the increasing costs of producing THE MIGRANT from year to year, it is getting to be a close race with red ink. There are only two methods of obtaining new revenue, that of raising dues or having more people pay the same dues. Of the two, I think most of us would rather think of more people rather than more money per person. This is something to think about.

I have already expressed my desire of having any members of T.O.S. write me concerning any matter of interest. I reiterate that here. Since we cannot drive around the corner on our respective meeting nights and pay each other a visit, let's write often and long. Certainly, our interests are common and little that we could say would become boring. I shall be looking for a letter from each of you. In the meantime, happy birding until we meet in Nashville in May, 1962.

Sincerely,
EDWARD M. KING, President

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