

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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# THE MIGRANT

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All TOS members receive *The Migrant* and the *TOS Newsletter*. *The Tennessee Warbler*. The *Newsletter* carries information about meetings, forays, and club activities. Items for the *Newsletter* should be sent to its Editor, Charles P. Nicholson, Box 402, Norris, TN 37828.

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Issued in March, June, September, and December.

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## ANNUAL AUTUMN HAWK COUNT, 1978

THOMAS W. FINUCANE

In 1978 the Tennessee Ornithological Society continued its unbroken series of autumn hawk counts begun in 1950. Every fall has had its own interesting features. In 1978 the Broad-winged Hawk total was 11,927, lowest since 1969. The other species flew by in record numbers, however. Sharp-shins totaled 208, exceeded only in 1977, when the count was 427. The Red-tailed Hawk total was 118, just under the 1975 record 125. The Marsh Hawk Count—26—was second only to the 1975 total of 33. We had 34 Ospreys; our highest count of that species was 36, in 1972. American Kestrels fell far below last years count of 84, but at 26 the 1978 count ranked third: below 34 in 1974 and equal to 26 in 1972.

Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers have been increasing steadily every year in the T.O.S. data, since 1974. Although below the 1977 count, the Sharp-shin flight can still be considered in an upward trend, because in 1978 it was so much higher than in 1976. The same apparent reversal of upward trend occurred in the northeast, where Sharp-shin migration is much heavier than in our area.

In 1975 the counts of Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks were higher than in 1978 principally because the T.O.S. conducted a record 98 watches, for a total of 442 hours of observation in 1975. In 1978 we had 57 watches and a total of 282 hours of observation.

In 1972, when the T.O.S. Osprey count peaked, it peaked also at Hawk Mt., Pa., where daily watches are kept throughout the hawk-migration season. These surges in the Osprey counts came at a time when populations of the species were being damaged severely by the indiscriminate use of insecticides. Our 1970-1974 numbers were 23-28-36-28-19 Ospreys. The trend at Hawk Mt. was similar, but their numbers were considerably higher. (To account for the peak at a time when the more conspicuous, coastal Ospreys were being destroyed, it was suggested that inland Ospreys were profiting from reduction of competition in wintering areas.)

The Broad-winged Hawk flights fell below 12,000 in 1978 after an 8-year period during which 13,452 had been the lowest count. In 1972 and again in 1976 Broad-wings at Mendota were below 6,500, but totals for the other lookouts were above 7,500. In 1971 and 1975 Mendota counts were below 3,500, but the other lookouts tallied over 10,000. These were our leanest Broad-wing years until 1978, when Mendota had 7,020 and the other stations had 4,909.

On 26 Sept., 1978 Holston Radar Dome had 1,710 Broad-winged Hawks, 12:15 to 2:30. A few hawks were already flying when the watch began; only 63 were seen before 12:30. No Broad-wings were seen between 2:30 and 4:15, when the watch ended. A strong SE wind prevailed throughout the watch. On that day

Mendota had only 28 hawks and Kyles Ford had 8 Broad-wings in 8 hours of observation, but 190 miles ENE of Holston Mt. Sandra Chandler had 5,510 Broad-wings over Turkey Mt., in Virginia, 25 Sept. Five flights totaling 2,500 birds were counted between 10:45 and 11:10. The halfway point in the Holston Mt. data was between 1:15 and 1:30. On the assumption that flight stopped at 4:30 on 25 Sept. and resumed at 9:00 next day, flight time was 11 hours and flight velocity averaged 17 mph. Observation on Holston Mt. was done by Charlotte Finucane.

On Saturday, 23 September, the weekend day closest to the day we expect to have maximum flights of the Broad-winged Hawk, 8 stations were active. On the western edge of our hawk-migration area, just west of Chattanooga, Ken Dubke and Bruce Wilkey had 47 Broad-wings and five other hawks in 10 hours on Signal Point, with a south wind and nearly complete cloud cover; Lil Dubke and Jo Wayne Stone had 192 Broad-wings and five other species in 8 hours on Dunlap Fire Tower, with weather the same as Signal Point's; on Fall Creek Falls Fire Tower David Vogt had 350 Broad-wings, 10:00 to 2:00, in small flocks; Susan Bell had 5 Broad-wings and three other species at the Bon Air lookout, which had been rained out in 1975, 76, and 77 on Nashville's Broad-winged Hawk weekend. In 1978 Mrs. Bell reported 7 hours with no rain, a strong south wind, and visibility only ½ mile; Gene West had 100 Broad-wings over the golf course at Fairfield Glade.

Three miles north of Look Rock, about 80 miles east of the lookouts mentioned above, S. J. Stedman reported 441 Broad-wings and 19 other hawks, including "an adult male Peregrine, well seen at about 100 feet when heading east." Cloud cover was below 20 percent, and the (east) wind was listed as 5 mph. On Kyles Ford, 80 miles farther east, Tom Odom had 217 Broad-wings in 8 hours, a steady flow of hawks between 10:00 and 3:30. On Bays Mt., 20 miles further east, Charlotte Finucane and Gerry Hedberg had 42 Broad-wings under heavy skies. The Mendota Fire Tower, 20 miles northeast and 1,800 feet higher, had only 31 Broad-wings, observed by members of the Kingsport and Elizabethton Chapter of the T.O.S., the Watauga Audubon Society, and the Virginia Society of Ornithology; the record was kept by E. E. Scott, Nickelsville, Va.

On Sunday, 24 Sept., only two of these 8 lookouts were active. Mrs. Bell recorded 9 species including 259 Broad-wings, 7 Marsh Hawks, 3 Ospreys, and a Peregrine Falcon, in 8 hours on Bon Air, Ken Dubke and Bruce Wilkey had 11 Broad-wings and 4 other species in 10 hours at Signal Point, under 100 percent cloud cover. The watch was part of their series of 9 weekend-days of hawk-migration observation in the fall of 1978. All watches were for 10 hours.

1434 Watauga St., Kingsport 37664.

## EVENING GROSBEAKS BANDED IN 1978

LEE R. HENDRON

During the first week of January 1978 I purchased 50 lbs. of sunflower seed and began placing them on the shelf feeder (12" x 40") placed against the kitchen window-ledge. Within a few days Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) began to visit the feeder, a few of which were banded. I decided to attempt to capture some of them and determine when, where and by whom they had been banded. I had a Double-S trap (84" long x 30" wide and 30" high) with two entrances, one each on the long sides at ground level and an opening at one end for placement of a gathering cage (20" long x 20" wide x 8" high). The trap was placed on the ground under a Pin Oak tree (*Quercus palustris*) about 25' from the shelf feeder. A hand full of sunflower seeds were placed in an 8" aluminum pan on top of the trap and more seeds on the snow or ground inside the trap. As the birds became more accustomed to the area I reduced the quantity of seeds on the shelf, thus forcing them to go to the trap to satisfy their ravenous appetites. The branches of the Pin Oak tree, directly over the trap served as a staging area for approach, and from which they could see the sunflower seeds. Some finely cracked corn was also used, which was attractive to other species of birds and helped to maintain a mixed flock in the area.

The first grosbeaks were caught 9 January 1978 and through 20 January a total of 48 grosbeaks were captured and banded. During the entire time the ground was covered with snow. No trapping was done during the period 21 January through 14 February, as I was away from home.

On 15 February trapping was resumed. At times so many birds entered the trap that it was necessary to remove a few at a time and transfer them to a 16-celled holding cage to prevent injury. The holding cage was kept in my tool room, where the banding was done and which was kept darkened except during the banding, measuring and weighing operation. Handling was done, mostly in the dark, which minimized biting and injury, to the birds as well as the bander. Not one bird was lost or seriously injured during the entire operation.

The operation was especially heavy during the cold snowy days through the first third of March but continued sporadically until long after the snow was gone and ended abruptly on 3 May, and no grosbeak was seen in the area after 5 May. A total of 384 birds was banded, 200 females and 184 males. Only 33 or 8.6% of the birds repeated, that is, they were trapped again during the season. Only six birds

TABLE 1  
EVENING GROSBEAK BANDINGS AND RECOVERIES

| Banded    | Date<br>Recap. | Location       | Banding<br>Yrs. | to<br>Mo. | Recovery<br>Da. | Dist.<br>Mi. | Dir. |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|------|
| 1-10-73   | 1-13-78        | St. Albans, WV | 5               | 6         | 12              | 125          | N    |
| 4-16-75   | 5- 7-78        | Pelliston, MI  | 2               | 10        | 19              | 700          | NNW  |
| 12-31-76  | 1-11-78        | Whiting, NJ    | 1               | 0         | 12              | 500          | ENE  |
| 3-24-77   | 3- 4-78        | Vestal, NY     | 0               | 11        | 20              | 550          | NE   |
| RECOVERED |                |                |                 |           |                 |              |      |
| 1-11-78   | 1-22-78        | Norris, TN     | 0               | 0         | 11              | 100          | W    |
| 3-30-78   | 5-14-78        | Danville, PA   | 0               | 1         | 15              | 500          | NE   |

repeated more than once; three repeated twice; two repeated three times and one repeated nine times during a span of five days, twice each on two days and three times one day during the five day period. Only six birds repeated after a lapse of 30 days, four of these repeated only once, and three of these repeated after a lapse of more than 50 days; the longest being 73 days. These data indicate that there was a tremendous influx of Evening Grosbeaks to the area during the winter of 1978; that they were nomadic in their movements and that they remained in the area for a relatively short time, although a few remained or returned after a period of absence, and that of the foreign recoveries, they had visited areas to the north, northeast and east during a period of five years.

Four foreign recoveries (that is, birds that were banded somewhere other than at this banding station) were made during this operation. The data ree, although a few remained or returned after a period of absence, and that of the foreign recoveries, they had visited areas to the north, northeast and east during a period of five years.

Four foreign recoveries (that is, birds that were banded somewhere other than at this banding station) were made during this operation. The data relative to the banding of these birds is given in Table 1. Also the data relative to two birds banded at this station are given as the last two entries to the table. It is noteworthy that all six of these recoveries were females. The foreign recoveries were banded in an arc from almost directly north to northeast, or from Michigan to New Jersey while the two birds recovered from those I banded were almost due west to north northeast and the longest interval between banding and recovery was 46 days.

673 Golf Course Drive, Elizabethton 37643. Accepted 30 Oct., 1978.

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## THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In April, 1979, Volume 1, No. 1 of the new TOS newsletter, *The Tennessee Warbler* was published. The *Warbler* is a semi-annual publication appearing in April and September. The newsletter is designed to be a means of communicating between chapters and individual members of the TOS. This will include chapter news, announcements of state meetings and forays, and other timely items. All chapters are requested to submit news of chapter events, and personal items are welcome, space permitting.

In addition to state organization and chapter news, the newsletter will publish descriptions of ornithological research being carried out in the state. This includes work being carried out at universities, state and federal agencies, and by individuals. Birding information, of less scientific value than that appearing in *The Migrant*, will also be considered for publication in the newsletter.

The deadline for the April issue is 10 March, and deadline for the September issue is 15 August. Please contribute.

CHARLES P. NICHOLSON, Editor, P. O. Box 402, Norris, TN 37828.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, 1978

MAY 5, 1979

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Ornithological Society was held at the Methodist Assembly, Beersheba Springs, Tennessee at 3:30 p.m. The President, Kenneth Dubke, presided.

The Minutes of the 1978 Fall Symposium were read by the Secretary and approved.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

There were no reports from the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Curator, and the Directors-at-Large.

Treasurer, O. Ray Jordan, reported that the Society had a cash balance on hand of \$2,738.20. Savings assets were totalled at \$16,121.13.

The President expressed thanks to Mr. Jordan for his contribution to the Society.

In the absence of Editor, Gary O. Wallace, the President reported that the December issue of *The Migrant* was ready to go and that the material for the March issue had been compiled. There was no report from "The Season" editor, Fred Alsop and the State Count Compiler, Richard Lura.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee Chairman, Jo Stone, reported that the records of the Treasurer were in order. He recommended that the Certification of Deposit, due to mature in June, be placed in a special savings account in a place convenient to the incoming treasurer in order to provide access to available interest monies. After some discussion, Ken Dubke suggested that the Treasurer-elect and the President-elect work up a proposal by the Fall Meeting for the appropriate reinvestment of the money.

The President asked for a motion on the issue, Mike Bierly moved and Lil Dubke seconded the motion that the principal from the Certificates of Deposit be reinvested and the interest be placed in a savings account by the incoming President, Treasurer, and Finance Committee Chairperson, at their discretion. The question was called and the motion was carried.

In the absence of Conservation Committee Chairman, George Mayfield, Ken Dubke announced that comments by T.O.S. and other concerned organizations and individuals had resulted in a requirement that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers file a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement on channelization activities in the Obion and Forked Deer Rivers in West Tennessee.

Foray Director, Charles P. Nicholson announced the 1979 Foray would be held June 1st-3rd in Fentress and Pickett Counties and that he would provide any necessary information on the event to interested persons.

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairperson, Lula Coffey, reported the following nominations for officers:

President—Nelle Moore

Vice-President (East Tennessee)—Rick Knight

Vice-President (Middle Tennessee)—Dot Crawford  
Vice-President (West Tennessee)—Richard L. Whittington  
Directors-at-Large—Jon A. Koella (East Tennessee)  
Michael Dinsmore (Middle Tennessee)  
Mrs. C. K. G. Sumara (West Tennessee)  
Secretary—Mrs. Henry S. Dinkelspiel  
Treasurer—Martha Waldron  
Editor—Gary O. Wallace  
Curator—Dr. James T. Tanner

Paul Pardue moved that those nominated be elected by acclamation, Lois Herndon seconded, the motion was carried.

#### REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mike Bierly reported that on 4 May, 1979 the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency had acquired management responsibility for the Bordeaux Black-Crowned Night Heron Rookery in Nashville. He reported that T.O.S. had successfully raised its share of \$4,000.00. He further reported that the birds had returned to everyone's relief. Bob Hatcher, Non-Game and Endangered Species Coordinator for TWRA, announced that the area would be fenced some time after August so the birds would not be disturbed. John Sellars reminded the Directors that he suggested that each individual member of T.O.S. should contribute so the organization could meet its pledge of \$500.00 to the Nashville Chapter.

In the absence of Dr. Fred Alsop, Charles P. Nicholson reported that a pocket-sized list of Tennessee Birds with some seasonal notes had been proposed for Avifauna IV. The President suggested that the matter be deferred for consideration at the Fall Meeting.

The President reminded the Directors that the question of Morris Williams' Gazateer and Geographical Index had been deferred at the 1978 Fall meeting. Charles P. Nicholson gave a brief synopsis of the intent of the publication. Ben Coffey expressed reservations about investing funds in publications other than *The Migrant* and moved that the question be deferred again to subsequent meetings. The motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mike Bierly expressed some concern about the status of the membership list. The President suggested that reports from each Chapter could resolve the problem. Lil Dubke announced that the Society had now realized a \$32.50 profit on decals. Glen King moved that the Directors recognize the Tennessee Warbler as the official newsletter of the Society.

Paul Pardue read three resolutions for consideration by the Directors. A resolution supporting the establishment of a Tennessee NonGame Wildlife Federation was passed with no dissenting votes. A resolution supporting the establishment of National Hawk Watching Week was passed with no dissenting votes. A resolution supporting the establishment of a Cumberland Plateau National Forest to protect Carter Mountain Lands was passed with no dissenting votes.

Mack Prichard expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the T.O.S. with the Cumberland-Harpeth Chapter of Audubon and the Nature Conservancy in saving the Bordeaux Heronry. He suggested that the Society should make its concerns known concerning the apparent overdevelopment of the Savage Gulf



State Natural Area. Paul Pardue and Ben Coffey jointly moved to express the Society's concerns to the appropriate persons. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 5:55 p.m.

BRUCE WILKEY, *Secretary*

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## EDITORIAL

*The Migrant* is one of the more visual activities of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Much of Tennessee's past history of birds and birding are recorded on its pages. Hopefully this will continue far into the future.

Much effort goes into getting *The Migrant* to the subscribers. But, regardless of effort, we seem to slowly slip further and further behind. The frustration of always being late, sometimes very late, has prompted us to develop some deadlines to serve as guides to contributors of *The Migrant*. These deadline dates are as follows: March (15 Jan.), June (1 June), September (1 Aug.), December (15 Oct.). Any material to be included should reach the editor on or before the deadline date for that issue.

A schedule for reporting records to "The Season" section of *The Migrant* is as follows:

| <i>Issue</i> | <i>Reporting Period</i>            | <i>Data to the Season Editor</i> | <i>Data to Editor by</i> |
|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| March        | Fall Migration<br>1 Aug.-31 Oct.   | 15 Dec.                          | 15 Jan.                  |
| June         | Winter Season<br>1 Nov.-15 Mar.    | 1 May                            | 1 June                   |
| September    | Spring Migration<br>16 Mar.-15 May | 1 July                           | 1 Aug.                   |
| December     | Nesting Season<br>16 May-31 July   | 15 Sept.                         | 15 Oct.                  |

Beginning with the March issue, 1980, *The Migrant* will go on the above schedule.

It is not our desire to place a rigid set of rules on contributors but it is hoped that these few suggestions will give the contributors a better idea of when material should be sent in to *The Migrant*.

GARY O. WALLACE

## THE H. O. TODD EGG COLLECTION AT SEWANEE

HARRY C. YEATMAN

The late Henry Oliver Todd wished his superb egg collection to be properly used and protectively housed in Tennessee, when he passed on. Consequently, when T.O.S. member Jon DeVore suggested the University of the South, with its interested ornithologists and new science building, he donated his entire collection in his will to this institution. Several large universities and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in California requested the collection both before and after Todd's death, but it was felt that the eggs would receive more intimate care and better use in a small, easily available institution. The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology already has one of the largest bird egg collection in America, and it would be unwise to "put all your eggs in one basket." This collection should be kept in Tennessee for most of the specimens are from Tennessee birds. Thousands of eggs, including hundreds of Black Vulture eggs and some eggs from Florida and western America, are represented.

Only temporarily exposed exhibits are proposed because light, dust, and heat fade the pigments. To avoid breakage and loss, no transportation outside Sewanee is permitted.

Study of the eggs by ornithologists is encouraged. These eggs have been photographed and measured, used for DDE (metabolic product of DDT) determinations, used in identifying egg fragments and egg color photographs, and studied for variations and relationships between species and subspecies. Guides to bird egg identification are quite useful and are transportable, but usually show only one example or, at most, a few variations. Eggs within a species vary in size, shape, and in colors and markings, if any. Are Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles really one species or are their eggs sufficiently different to separate them? Eggs of both these orioles are present in the Todd collection, awaiting study. Eggs can often be more distinctive than the adults. Male Cooper's Hawks are often difficult to distinguish from female Sharp-shinned Hawks and are about the same size, but the eggs of these species are quite different. Todd's Cooper's Hawk eggs are unmarked white whereas his Sharp-shinned Hawk eggs are beautifully blotched and spotted with brown.

Todd's eggs are marked with AOU numbers, clutch numbers, and dates, and are catalogued. Variations within clutches and numbers within clutches are shown. The number of eggs laid in each clutch indicates the vulnerability of the species or even of the geographic population. Very vulnerable birds lay more eggs than those with good defenses, good concealment, inaccessible habitats, and fast flight, or they become exterminated. Likewise, birds living within isolated or restricted habitats, such as islands, mountain tops, etc., lay few eggs or overpopulate and starve.

Exhibits and programs on Todd's collection have been presented to several TOS chapters and to many school science classes.

Persons interested in seeing and studying the collection or finding out if the collection contains the eggs of a particular species, should write me—Biology Department, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee 37375. Accepted 6 June, 1979.

## ROUND TABLE NOTES

A HERON ROOST AT DYERSBURG—A woods north of the North Fork, Forked Deer River, between the R.R. and US 51, was used as a roost this summer and fall (1977) by several species of herons and a few immature White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*). The birds arrived in late evening, generally from the east. I first noted them on 15 June and counts were made frequently after that—almost daily for long periods. Surprisingly, Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) in adult plumage were predominant until mid-August when Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) increased. On 18 June, 483 Little Blues, including 20 in pied or blue and white plumage, were counted. Only 6 Cattle Egrets were seen. On 28 June, the first immature Little Blues (11) were noted; there were 33 in pied plumage, and 592 adults. The highest total was on 14 July: 978, of which about 32 were in pied plumage, and 76, immature. On 29 July, the immatures numbered 205. In August, total Little Blue Herons dropped from 800 to 650 on 17 Aug., then about 200 except 30 Aug. (322) and 1 Sept. (315). By 16 Sept. the immatures were 98 and adults 37. The last adult, was 8 Oct., with 6 immatures; the last immature was a single on 21 Oct. Usually, post-breeding season flocks have more immatures than adults, according to Ben B. Coffey, Jr. and we wonder if some heronry was adversely affected and no nesting took place there last May-June. We know of no heronry in the immediate area.

The Cattle Egrets numbered under 60 during July except for 105 on 26 July. On 3 Aug. I counted 141; by 11 Aug., 571, and the rest of the month, slightly over 800. The highest number was 1,144 on 16 Sept., increasing from 642 on 14 Sept.; then dropping to 732 on 22 Sept. October counts decreased from 440 on 7 Oct. to 69 on 18 Oct. None were seen on 20 Oct., the last seen, were 2 on 21 Oct.

Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) were infrequently seen—from 1 to 3. Green Herons (*Butorides striatus*) were seen on 9 dates, from 1 to 8. Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) from 1 to 4, were seen on most dates. No Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) were seen here but four were recorded 1 Aug. at the Mississippi River (Island 21, Dyer County). The only Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*) were 2 on 17 June and 1 the next evening. A Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) was seen at the roost, 3 and 4 Aug.

Immature White Ibises used the roost from 26 July to 13 Oct., the small numbers fluctuating up and down, at times; appearing as one flock and again, straggling. During July, 1 to 3, early August, 4 to 8; but only one, from 18 Aug. thru 13 Sept. Then: 13 Sept. (1), 14 Sept. (16), 15 Sept. (0), 16 Sept. (1), 17 Sept. (14), 18 Sept. (6). From 20 to 26 Sept., 5 each night; from 28 Sept. to 13 Oct., only one appeared each evening.

WM. GLEN CRISWELL, 422 Wilson Drive, Dyersburg 38024. Accepted 26 Nov. 1977.

LEAST TERN AT AUSTIN SPRINGS—On 7 August 1977, while birding the Austin Springs Sand Pits, in the eastern end of Washington Co., along the Watauga River, an immature Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) was seen among a flock of 12 to 15 Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*). The tern was white above except for the primary and secondary wing coverts which were dark gray interspersed with black. Its bill was dark and the cap was that of a winter plumage bird. The bird was considerably smaller than the black terns in body bulk, body length, and wing

thickness. The Least Tern was much more agile than the Black Terns and exhibited considerable hovering behavior. It was wary of the Black Terns and was easily scared from a resting perch by incoming Black Terns. The bird was observed both in flight and perched with 7x binoculars and a 20x spotting scope.

Several other birders from the area observed the bird that day and the next day two Least Terns were observed at the same location. The birds were not seen after 8 August. This sighting constitutes the eastern most appearance of the Least Tern in Tennessee.

RICHARD LURA, 1903 Eastwood Drive, Johnson City 37601. Accepted Oct. 1977.

MONK PARAKEET IN KNOX COUNTY—On 17 October 1977, 10:30 a.m., several Knoxville TOS members (Linda Turner, Bill and Allison McNutt, Holly Overton, Paul Pardue, Boyd Sharp, Joe Watson) observed a peculiar parrot-like bird perched on a telephone wire at the Knoxville Plant and Soil Science farm. The bird was viewed through a spotting scope (20x) from a distance of about 50 meters. The following characteristics were noted: bright green back, nape, and crown, grey throat and forehead, yellow lower belly, light orange beak. The bird appeared to be about the size of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), approximately 28 cm in length. As the bird finally flew, it squawked noisily; a long thin tail and blue remiges were evident. Several members identified the bird as a Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*).

Our description of this bird agrees with the pictures and the description of the Monk Parakeet in *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds Eastern Region* by Bull and Farrand (1977). At least two other TOS members (Fred J. Alsop and J. B. Owen) were able to view the bird the following day to confirm the observation.

The area where the bird was found contains large tracts of uncut corn and soybeans. The bird was observed feeding in one of these corn fields. There has been only one other report of a Monk Parakeet in the wild in Tennessee. Helen Dinkelspiel (*Migrant* 44(3): 82) reported a Monk Parakeet in Shelby County 3 February 1973 that was collecting nesting material.

Our sighting is the first report of a Monk Parakeet in Knox County and in the Eastern Ridge and Valley Region.

LINDA TURNER, Department of Forestry, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37916. Accepted 26 Oct. 1977.

NESTING ALDER FLYCATCHERS IN TENNESSEE—The Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) was first identified on 12 June 1978, by Edmund LeGrand of Raleigh, North Carolina, while hiking along the Appalachian Trail between Grassy Ridge Bald and Round Bald. (The Appalachian Trail, in this area, runs essentially along the state lines of Tennessee and North Carolina involving Carter County, Tennessee and Mitchell County, North Carolina.) The record was verified for the T.O.S. by Edward Schell, Johnson City, Tennessee, who was escorted to the site by Mr. LeGrand. Two Alder Flycatchers were heard singing by LeGrand, with Schell hearing one in Tennessee. The birds were giving the typical fee-bee-o song of the Alder Flycatcher. LeGrand sighted the bird heard on the North Carolina side.

Numerous T.O.S. members heard and saw Alder Flycatchers along the same

region of the Appalachian Trail over the ensuing weeks. Vocal activity sharply decreased during the last week of June.

On 24 June, a party of six T.O.S. members, Dot Crawford, Paul Crawford, Daniel Jacobson, Bill Jones, Richard Lura, and Gary Wallace, conducted a survey of the area along the Appalachian Trail between Round Bald and Grassy Ridge Bald. Seven singing males were counted over a distance of 1.5 miles, six in Tennessee and one in North Carolina. This area has an elevation range of between 5,500 and 5,800 feet.

The only sign of nesting occurred on the east face, Tennessee side, of Round Bald at the interface of the bald and the alder thickets. A singing male was seen to repetitively visit a small alder thicket, flying back and forth across an opening in the thicket. The male was occasionally joined by a female. Both birds were in an agitated condition, nervously hopping from branch to branch and sporadically preening. The male was quite vocal during this time giving both the normal fee-bee-o song and the fee-beer note, as noted by W. Earl Godfrey in "Birds of Canada" as an alternate vocalization for the Alder Flycatcher. The female would give "pip" call notes repeatedly. The female was observed to fly into a small, low

clump of shrubs at the edge of the alder thicket from which was emanating a constant hoarse note, typical of that given by a young bird.



photo by Daniel Jacobson

Investigating the source of the hoarse note, a fledgling Alder Flycatcher was found. The bird attempted to elude capture by fluttering from blackberry briar to blackberry briar (*Rubus allegheniensis*) and running on the ground. The captured young bird was photographed by Daniel Jacobson. The bird exhibited distinct wing bars and general characteristics of a small flycatcher. During our photography of the young bird, the adults were very agitated. The young bird was released into the same briar tangle and the adult

birds were later observed to repeatedly visit the area from which the young bird continued to call. The elevation of the area of the fledgling was 5,720 feet.

The fledgling appeared unable to fly. This lack of flight ability coupled with the fact that the location of the nest was at least 100 yards into Tennessee and in the territory of a singing male Alder Flycatcher leads us to the conclusion, in the absence of an actual nest, that the young bird constitutes a Tennessee breeding record and not a North Carolina breeding record.

This constitutes the first breeding record for the state of Tennessee and also constitutes the southernmost breeding record of this species. The large population

of these birds leads us to the conclusion that this colony of Alder Flycatcher has been in existence for 4-5 years. In 1977, the Elizabethton T.O.S. received a report of an Alder Flycatcher on Roan Mountain; this report was never verified. It seems inconsistent that such a high population density could be established in a shorter timespan. Fred Behrend was extremely active in this area up to about 4-5 years ago and never reported the birds. This seems to preclude the appearance of the colony more than 4-5 years ago.

During subsequent breeding seasons, this species should be searched for throughout the southern Appalachian Region with particular emphasis on breeding records.

RICHARD LURA—1903 Eastwood Drive, Johnson City 37601. ED SCHELL—2514 Brown's Mill Road, Johnson City 37601. GARY WALLACE—Rt. 7, Elizabethton 37643. Accepted 16 Oct. 1978.

FIRST TENNESSEE BREEDING RECORD OF RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH OUTSIDE OF MOUNTAINS—A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) nested in a wooded area at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Smith, 3809 Riverview Road, Knoxville, in the spring of 1977. A pair had been seen throughout the winter, feeding in pine trees and at a suet feeder. Apparently the same birds continued past the normal 2 May departure date for migrants of the species. In time the frequency of trips to the suet indicated young were being fed. A dense growth of poison ivy discouraged a search for the nest but the birds often were seen to fly from the feeder to a dead wild cherry tree. Later, immatures of the species began appearing at the suet feeder themselves. I visited the Smiths in early June and found the young and adults together in one of the pine trees. Then they came one at a time to the suet, within 12 feet of where I was standing. The red was not present on the breasts of the immatures but the white lines over their eyes left no doubt of their identity. The last date the nuthatches were seen by the Smiths was 15 June. On 17 June an adult and an immature appeared in pine trees at the home of Dr. James T. Tanner, Little Switzerland Road, where they were seen and heard for four days.

The *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1957) outlines southern limits of the breeding range for the species as south to northern Michigan, southern Ontario, through the Appalachians to eastern Tennessee (Roan, Great Smoky, and Unicoi mountains) and western North Carolina, southern New York, western Connecticut and Massachusetts. A search through a complete file of *The Migrant* fails to find any Tennessee nesting record other than in the above mentioned mountains. The Smith home is on a ridge and is surrounded by pine trees. The Tanner home also is on a ridge, and several large pines are nearby.

J. B. OWEN, 2930 North Hills Blvd., Knoxville 37917. Accepted 25 Oct. 1977.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTING AT COLUMBIA—This report covers the observations by the authors of the nesting activities of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialis sialis*) in artificial structures near Columbia in Maury County in 1976.

The 45 nesting boxes on which records were kept were placed in open pasture areas on six farms throughout the county in the spring. All the boxes were constructed of wood, and about half were painted while the rest were left natural. The effect of box color as well as other factors will continue to be studied. The initial results indicated that these factors had no significant effect on the choice of

nest sites or nesting success. Of the 45 boxes, 29 had bluebird activity and one was used exclusively by House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). One box was taken over by flying squirrels and 14 were unused.

An interesting pattern developed in the distribution of the unused boxes. Eight of them were on one farm where a total of nine boxes were placed. This occupancy rate of 11 percent was drastically lower than the other five farms where 78 percent of the boxes were used by bluebirds. No reason for the low use on this farm could be found. Bluebirds were observed there on several occasions and two active nests were found in natural sites. The only obvious difference between the farm with the low usage and the others was that it was a dairy farm and the others were used for raising beef cattle.

Nesting began in late March with the first nests completed on March 29th. A total of 44 nests were started and 31 of these successfully fledged young. Three boxes had three nestings, nine had two nestings and 17 of the boxes had one nesting. Six nests were deserted for unknown reasons, and two successive broods of young in the same box died soon after hatching. In three cases unknown predators disturbed nests with eggs causing desertion. In one of these attacks an adult bird was killed, and in all three cases the eggs were not removed or broken. It was felt that raccoons could have reached the eggs and that the predator was probably a mink. A snake ate the young in one box and House Sparrows destroyed the eggs in another.

Of the total of 161 eggs laid (all were blue), 142 hatched and 130 fledged. The average size of a clutch decreased as the season progressed. One brood stayed on the nest 21 days and another stayed 19 days. This was considerably longer than had been expected from the general information available concerning bluebird nesting projects.

The occupancy rate and the average number of young fledged per nesting box for this project was about one-half as great as reported for Ashland City in 1974 and 1975 by Herbert and Stevens (*The Migrant* 46:4-5, 47:61). One possibility for the lower usage could be that most of the boxes were erected in February and March and seven were not erected until May. All boxes were left up during the next winter and it will be interesting to see if the nesting activity increases in subsequent years.

OLIN HOTCHKISS, 8 Overlook Dr., Bridgeport, WV 26330. ALLEN PRESSNELL, Rt. 3, Columbia, TN 38401. Accepted 31 May 1977.

FIRST TENNESSEE BANDING OF A SWAINSON'S WARBLER—On 15 May 1977, the authors were banding in a field on the South Harpeth River near Nashville, Tennessee, when they netted a warbler which appeared to be of a species they had never previously captured. This warbler had a solid rusty-brown crown with a brown back and upper tail coverts. The crown appeared to be rustier than the back. The wings and tail were also a light brown color. The underparts of this warbler were unstreaked with a very slight wash of yellowish olive-green. This bird had a dusky line from the base of its bill, through and behind the eye, and it had a white line with a slight yellowish wash above the eye. This warbler had no wing bars and an examination revealed no tail spots. The authors were convinced that they had netted their first Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*).

This warbler's wing measurement was 70 millimeters (mm) and the tail measured 47 mm. The bill was chocolate brown and long for a warbler (15 mm).

This warbler measured 133 mm from the tip of its tail to the tip of its bill. The under tail coverts of this warbler were about one-half the length of the tail and the inner edges of the primary feathers were edged with white. The legs were a pinkish-flesh color and the iris was a very dark brown.

This bird displayed all of the classic field guide characteristics (Robbins and Peterson) and its solid rusty-brown crown eliminated the possibility of it being a Worm-eating Warbler. The authors placed band #1460-13318 on this adult Swainson's Warbler and released it. A later review of Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers* confirmed this identification.

The authors immediately contacted the Bird Banding Laboratory (U. S. Department of the Interior) and in a letter of 27 May 1977, were informed that no other Swainson's Warbler had ever been banded in Tennessee.

JOHN AND HEATHER RIGGINS, 746 Harpeth Parkway West, Nashville 37221. Accepted 25 Oct. 1977.

**NORTHERN (BALTIMORE) ORIOLE NESTS IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**—The first observation of Northern Orioles (*Icterus Galbula*) nesting in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was recorded on 30 April 1977. The nest was located in Cades Cove at the junction of Hyatt Lane and Abrams Creek. It was constructed approximately 52 feet (17.3 meters) high in a sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*) that was standing in an opening within a small deciduous grove. The female oriole was seen next to the nest. The 35 observers of the nest were attending the 27th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage and were participating in a birding motorcade led by Fred Alsop III.

After verification with the National Park Service, this nest has been recorded as a record for the Park. Until now, the bird has been considered to be a scarce and rather local summer resident in North Georgia and southeastern Tennessee and is listed only as an uncommon migrant in the park.

GEORGANN SCHMALZ, Biology Instructor, Fernbank Science Center, 156 Heaton Park Drive, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30032. 5 August 1977.

**GAMBEL'S WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW BANDED IN NASHVILLE**—On 24 October 1976, the authors captured a White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) at the banding station at their home.



photo by John and Heather Riggins

In the process of banding this bird they noted that unlike most White-crowned Sparrows that they had banded, the white line over the eye began at the base of the bill instead of at the eye. The authors consulted the usual field guides (Robbins and Peterson) as well as Robert's *Birds of Minnesota*, Bent's *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, To-*



*whees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*, and Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Birds*. All of these references indicate that the White-crowned Sparrow commonly found in the eastern United States has black lores and that the white strip starts from the eye. They all also mentioned that a western subspecies (*Zonotrichia leycophrys gambelii*) is distinguished from other subspecies by the white strip starting from the bill.

The Gambel's subspecies of the White-crowned Sparrow breeds in western Canada and migrates through the great plains and western United States regions, wintering from California and Utah, south. It is reported as casual east of the Mississippi River. Arthur Cleveland Bent refers to casual records in Nashville, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia.

In addition to banding it, the authors photographed this apparent western visitor and released it.

JOHN AND HEATHER RIGGINS, 746 Harpeth Parkway West, Nashville 37221.  
Accepted 25 October 1977.

## THE SEASON

FRED J. ALSOP, III, *Editor*



WINTER SEASON: 1 NOVEMBER - 15 MARCH, 1978-79

The winter was milder than the two preceding ones and there were few northern finches other than Purple Finches which were reported in large numbers in the two eastern regions. However, whatever may have been lacking by the infrequent visit of Evening Grosbeaks to feeding stations was more than balanced by the spectacular appearance of Whistling Swans, lots of them by Tennessee standards, in every region of the State. Sandhill Cranes produced the largest recorded fall flight in Tennessee with 800 recorded over Byrdstown (765 the first two days of December). Good flights were also recorded in the spring in Pickett County and the birds were observed during both migrations in the Eastern Ridge and Valley as well.

Other water-associated species were also among the most notable records for the period. From late January through late March a white-winged gull in Chattanooga was thought to be either an Iceland or a Glaucous. The jury is still out as to which species. However, in late February an *ICELAND GULL* was identified near Nashville becoming the first or second state record for the species. Radnor Lake also produced the second report of a Barrow's Goldeneye (female) in Tennessee. White-fronted Geese were observed in unexpectedly high numbers in the two central regions of the State. Three Red-throated Loons were found in the Eastern Mountain Region.

An Osprey was found in the Hiwassee River Area in Mid-winter and a Merlin was seen in Hawkins County. Rough-legged Hawks and Bald Eagles were seen in all but the Eastern Mountain Region. The latter's numbers were encouragingly high with 125 counted at Reelfoot Lake; a healthy 66 being immatures. Golden Eagles were observed in all but the Eastern Ridge and Valley. Four Long-eared Owls were located at Nickajack Lake and Short-eared Owls were found in all four regions.

Passerines provided their share of excitement too. Cedar Waxwings were noted in higher than normal numbers in all but the Western Coastal Plain and House Finches were seen in all but the westernmost region as well. At least two Western Meadowlarks were found on the Penal Farm outside Memphis and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded in two locations in the Central Plateau and Basin. During December three Snow Buntings were located on Roan Mountain. Vesper Sparrows wintered in the two central regions.

Additional unexpected wintering species included Barn Swallows, a House Wren, a Wood Thrush, and a Harris Sparrow in the Western Coastal Plain; a

Common Nighthawk, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Ovenbird, Northern Oriole, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the Central Plateau and Basin; and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Knoxville.

On Campbell County's Pine Mountain the first hard evidence of the nesting of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers was discovered after almost a decade of sight records by J.C. Howell and Jim Campbell. The details of these and many more records are in the following reports.

**WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION—Swan-Owl:** *WHISTLING SWAN:* 22 Nov (25) SW Obion Co, Akers Hunting Club (RF), 24 Dec (10) R (WC), 14 Jan (12) Hopefield Chute, (JGH); Redhead: 18 Nov (10) EB (RJ), 21 Feb (3) PF (GP); Ruddy Duck: 11 Mar (3,000) R (DJ, JS); Red-breasted Merganser: 11 Mar (26) R (DJ, JS); Sharp-shinned Hawk: 11 Mar (1) T (DJ, JS); *ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:* 14 Jan (2) PF (MW); 28 Jan (1), PI (TOS); *GOLDEN EAGLE:* 18 Jan (7) Decatur/Henry County, (FWS); *BALD EAGLE:* 18 Jan (3 ad, 7 imm) KY Lake, (FWS), 22 Jan (1 ad, 1 imm) Pickwick Lake (TWRA), 22 Jan (55 ad, 58 imm) R. *Note:* There was a total of 163 Bald Eagles on the count days, with 50 eagles in KY (North Reelfoot Lake), (FWS). Killdeer: 28 Nov (88) PF (CB, HBD, SF); American Golden Plover: 28 Nov (2) PF (CB, LCC, HBD), 11 Mar (16) T (DJ, JS); American Woodcock: 17 Feb (2) Rg (SF, JF), courtship observed several nights after sunset; 21 Feb (1) R (CB, SF); Ring-billed Gull: 10 Mar (1,000) R (DJ, JS); *SHORT-EARED OWL:* 2 Feb (1) N (WGC).

*Swallow-Sparrow:* Tree Swallow: 18 Nov (6) EB (RJ), 20 Mar (2) R (RM); Barn Swallow: 22 Dec (3) S (WC), 23 Dec (2) S (WC); Fish Crow: 11 Feb (1) M (MW); 11 Mar (2) R (DJ, JS); House Wren: 27 Dec (1) TWA (WGC); Wood Thrush: 17 Dec through 1 Jan (1) M (BC, LCC, VH, RP, AS); Tennessee Warbler: 11 Nov (1) M (MW); Black-throated Green Warbler: 3 Nov (2) M (JF); *WESTERN MEADOWLARK:* 21 Feb (1) PF (MB), 24 Feb (2) PF (DC, PC, MM, PS), 10 Mar (2) PF (DJ, JS); Brewer's Blackbird: 28 Nov (3) PF (LCC, CB, HBD), 21 Feb (7) HNWR (MB), 24 Feb (1) PF, (1) HNWR (DC, PC, MM, PS), 21 Mar (5) PF (CB, LCC, HBD, SF, AS, NS); Rusty Blackbird: 28 Nov (2) PF (CB, LCC, HBD), 24 Feb (100) PF (DC, PC, MM, PS); Indigo Bunting: 5 Dec (1) M (WB); Vesper Sparrow: 29 Dec (1) BU (CPN, MDW); *HARRIS SPARROW:* 26 Jan-8 Mar (1) B (GM, DM); Tree Sparrow: 24 Jan, (16) PF (CB, MW), 2 Feb, 17 Feb, 21 Feb (6-8) Rg (CB, JF, SF), 27 Feb (3) PF (BP, RP); Chipping Sparrow: 1 Nov (1) M (SF, JF); Lapland Longspur: 14 Jan (20) PF (MW), 24 Jan (26) PF (DD, MW), 25 Jan (150) PF (CB, MW).

*Observers:* WB—William Bean; MLB—Michael L. Bierly; CB—Carolyn Bullock; BC—Ben Coffey; LCC—Lula C. Coffey; DC—Dot Crawford; PC—Paul Crawford; WC—Wendell Crews; WGC—William G. Criswell; DD—Dolly A. Daily; HBD—Helen B. Dinkenspiel; JF—Jim Ferguson; SF—Sue Ferguson; FWS—Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior; RF—Ron Fox; VH—Van Harris; JGH—James G. Holt; DJ—Daniel Jacobson; RJ—Rusty Jones; MM—Margaret Mason; DM—Dorothy Meeks; GM—Greg Meeks; BM—Bob McGowan; CPN—Charles P. Nicholson; GP—George Payne; AS—Alice Smith; NS—Noreen Smith; PS—Pat Stallings; JS—Joe Stone; TOS—Memphis Chapter; TWRA—TN Wildlife Resources Agency; MW—Martha Waldron; MDW—Morris D. Williams.

*Locations:* B—Bartlet, N.E. Shelby Co; BU—Busselltown Unit—TN Na-

tional Wildlife Refuge; EB—Ensley Bottoms, S.W. Shelby Co; HNWR—Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge; Hopefield Chute, West of Mississippi River, but in TN—west of downtown Memphis; N—Newbern TN; PF—Penal Farm, Shelby Co; PI—President's Island, Shelby Co; R—Reelfoot; Rg—Raleigh, N.E. Shelby Co; S—Samburg, TN; T—Tiptonville, TN; TWR—Tigrett Wildlife Area.

MARTHA WALDRON, 1626 Yorkshire Drive, Memphis 38117.

CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION—The general comment during the winter of 1978-79 was, where are the birds? It was a thin season not only for the lack of winter invaders but also for numbers of individuals of regular winter species. November and December were the wettest on record. December was warm (two degrees above normal) which probably induced some species to linger. January and February averaged eight degrees below normal. The seventeen inches of snow in Nashville in February was the most for that month since 1886.

*Loon-Hawk*: Common Loon: 27 Nov Woods Reservoir (100) KLD, JWS. Green Heron: 22 Nov-31 Dec Ashland City Marsh area, Cheatham Co (1) CE, RJM; 10 Dec Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC. These are 5th and 6th winter records Nashville area. Little Blue Heron: 4 Nov Gallatin (1 white) HLK, 2nd November record Nash area. *CATTLE EGRET*: 11 Nov Byrdstown (1) DRH, 1st known record Pickett Co. American Bittern: 9 Dec home, Nash (1 photos) LJ, 2nd winter record Nash. *WHISTLING SWAN*: A major movement occurred beginning in late November. All confirmed reports—27 Nov Woods Reservoir (27) KLD, JWS; 15 Dec-24 Feb Hillsboro (3) ER; 1 Jan-15 Feb Monsanto Ponds, Columbia (5) KA; 20 Jan Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge (1) SG, *et al.* *WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE*: 7 Nov Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge (1) TMM; then an influx beginning in late December—25 Dec-10 Jan Columbia (6) AP; 25 Dec Lebanon (1) FD; 19-21 Jan Hillsboro (6) ER. Blue-winged Teal: 11 Nov Monsanto Ponds (1) CTOS, NTOS. Redhead: 8 Nov Woods Reservoir (500) CSB. Canvasback: 27 Nov Woods Reservoir (65) KLD, JWS. *BARROW'S GOLDENEYE*: (*female*) 18 Nov-30 Dec Radnor L, Nash (1 photos) MLB, TMM, then others, 2nd state record. White-winged Scoter: 24-28 Feb, Old Hickory L (1 male) TMM. Broad-winged Hawk: 22 Oct Crossville (1) GRM. *ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK*: 24 Nov-16 Mar *minimum* 16 (9 light phase, 7 dark phase) in 9 counties Middle Tenn. (Cheatham 2, Coffee 1, Davidson 2, Maury 1, Robertson 1, Rutherford 3, Stewart 2, Sumner 1, Wilson 4), a significant movement though not as extensive as 1977-78. *GOLDEN EAGLE*: 3 Jan I-40 exit 245, Wilson Co (1 immature) DV; at least 2 wintered Woodbury area, TOS. *BALD EAGLE*: 5-9 Dec Byrdstown, (1-2) DRH, MZ; 14-18 Jan Woods Reservoir (2-1 immature) CSB, LD, JWS, *et al.*; 24 Feb Bakeville Bottoms, Humphreys Co (1 immature found shot) JWB, banded June 1977, Bena, Minnesota, as nestling; one adult and one immature wintered Cheatham L, NTLs.

*Crane-Gull*: Sandhill Crane: *Fall migration*—1 Nov Byrdstown (10) DRH; 22 Nov Byrdstown (25) MZ; 1 Dec Byrdstown (316 in 2 flocks), 2 Dec (449 in 6 flocks) DRH, by far the largest movement recorded in Tennessee. *Spring migration*—2 Mar Byrdstown (90) JB; 4 Mar Byrdstown (282 in 6 flocks) DRH; 7 Mar 11 miles west of Crossville, Cumberland Co (6) DH. Sora: 31 Dec dam, Cheatham L, Cheatham Co (1) TMM, 1st winter record Nash area. Black-bellied Plover: 18 Nov beach, Old Hickory L (1) MLB, *et al.*, latest fall Nash area 5 days. *ICELAND GULL*: 27 Feb, dam, Old Hickory L (1st-year) MPS then others, 1st or 2nd Tennessee record. Herring Gull: winter 1978-79 Nash (up to 200) NTOS,

about double normal winter population. Bonaparte's Gull: winter 1978-79 Nash (few) NTOS, after the 1st of Jan. virtually none till spring movement.

*Owl-Sparrow*: Great Horned Owl: 23 Feb Reviol Community, Lawrence Co (2 young in nest showing flight feathers) EP, tree cut, nesting unsuccessful. *SHORT-EARED OWL*: Winter 1978-79 Smyrna Airport (up to 4) MLM, *et al* and Murfreesboro (2) RH. Common Nighthawk: 17 Nov Radnor L, (1) MLB, fifteen latest Nash; 12 Dec Clarksville (1) DHS, few winter dates Middle Tennessee. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 28 Nov-3 Dec Murfreesboro (1) EH, late individual. Purple Martin: 24 Feb Manchester (1 male) DRJ, early. Red-breasted Nuthatch: few reported scattered around Middle Tennessee during the winter. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 11 Nov Monsanto Ponds (1) CTOS, NTOS, getting late. Short-billed Marsh Wren: 31 Dec Pardue's Pond, Cheatham L, Dickson Co (1) CDC, 1st winter record Nash area. Cedar Waxwing: Beginning in mid-February through the first part of March a massive movement occurred in at least the northern half of Middle Tennessee. Many flocks of 100-500 plus were reported and several flocks of 1000 were seen. Tennessee Warbler: 10 Nov Columbia (1) AL. Orange-crowned Warbler: 25 Nov Shelby Bottoms, Nash (1) MPS, latest Nash by one day. Ovenbird: 14 Dec-8 Jan Nash (1) JCM, 1st winter record Nash. Common Yellowthroat: 31 Dec Pardue's Pond (1) CDC, 3rd winter record Nash area. *YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD*: 3-24 Jan Nash (1 first-year male, photos) JLN, LB, MOP, CMK; 14 Jan Franklin (2 males, photos) CRP *fide* SMB. 2nd and 3rd records Nash area. Northern (Baltimore) Oriole: 13 Dec-17 Jan Nash (1) HFE, 4th winter record Nash. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 29 Dec-7 Feb Nash (1 female, photos) JCM, 6th winter record Nash. Indigo Bunting: 13 Nov Columbia (1 banded) GRM, late. Dickcissel: 13-25 Nov (1) Columbia (ML); 6 Jan Gallatin (1) PL *fide* PC; 6 Jan Nash (1) JCA. Evening Grosbeak: a few individuals were scattered around parts of Middle Tennessee and did not linger long at any one location. Purple Finch: Only small numbers reported until around 20 Jan when flocks of 100 became commonplace at feeders through mid-March. *HOUSE FINCH*: 2 Nov Columbia (1) ML, early. Pine Siskin: Only a few reported in Middle Tennessee during the winter months. Vesper Sparrow: Apparently the mild fall and early winter encouraged a few individuals to linger and attempt to winter: 31 Oct-10 Nov Coffee Co (1) ER; 27 Nov Woods Reservoir (5) KLD, JWS; 16 Dec-22 Jan Metro Center, Nash (6-1) NTOS; 31 Dec Pardue's Pond (3) NTOS; 10 Feb Hillsboro (2) ER. Tree Sparrow: Between 21 Jan-12 Mar a small invasion was recorded in at least the northern part of Middle Tennessee and singles as far south as Woods Reservoir and Hillsboro. A few birds were seen at feeders but most stayed in the fields. The largest flock reported was 30 birds.

*Observers*: (alphabetically beginning first initial): AL—Ann Lockridge; AP—Allen Pressnell; CDC—C Dwight Cooley; CE—Craig Empson; CMK—Carol M Knauth; CRP—Carrolyn R Pickering; CSB—Carroll and Stanley Barr; CTOS—Columbia Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society; DH—Dave Hassler; DHS—David H Snyder; DPC—Dot and Paul Crawford; DRH—Dave and Robbie Hassler; DRJ—Daniel R Jacobson; DV—David Vogt; EH—Edith Haynes; EP—Ed Penrod; ER—Erma Rogers; FD—Fred Detlefsen; GRM—George R Mayfield; HFE—H F Evans; HLK—Helen and Lee Kramer; JB—Jessie Baker; JCA—Jan C Alexander; JCM—Jane C Maynard; JLN—John and Linda Nix; JWB—Jim W Barnes; JWS—Jo W Stone; KA—Kenneth Anderson; KLD—Ken and Lil Dubke; LB—Linda Bennett; LD—Lil Dubke; LJ—Louise Jackson; ML—Mitizi Lemmons; MLB—Michael L Bierly; MLM—Margaret L Mann; MPS—M Pat Stallings; MOP—Marge and Oscar Patrick; MZ—Margaret

Zimmerman; NTOS—Nashville Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society; PC—Paul Crawford; PL—Peggy Lipton; RJM—Rocky J Milburn; RH—Richard Hunter; SG—Scott Gunn; SMB—Sue M Bell; TMM—Tim M Mann; TOS—Tennessee Ornithological Society.

MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 2415 Crestmoor Road, Nashville 37215.

**EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION**—The consensus of the active field workers appeared to be there were no large concentrations of the regular waterfowl. However, there were some exciting exceptions. Never before have such large and consistent numbers of Whistling Swans and White-fronted Geese been recorded in the region. The two counts of Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers are also impressive.

Sandhill Crane movements are now recorded on a regular basis and the sightings of Rough-legged Hawks were noteworthy. The identification of Long-eared Owls in the Nickajack Lake area should alert observers to closer searching of suitable wintering habitat for the species. Persistence in following up the earlier observation of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Campbell County is paying dividends.

This was certainly not a northern finch winter. It is of interest that a few Red-breasted Nuthatches, Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were observed.

*Loon-Merganser*: Common Loon: usually 1-19 ChL (KLD); "plentiful" BL (DL, RK). Horned Grebe: 1-15 occasional ChL (KLD) with a few sightings BL (ETOS). Double-crested Cormorant: up to regular HRA (KLD) and up to 3 KCo (PP,PH). Great Blue Heron: max 4 Dec (117) HRA, SB (KLD) and 2-8 BL (ETOS). *CATTLE EGRET*: 6 Nov (6) SB (KLD). Black-crowned Night Heron: at least 2 wintering FLL (Burline Pullin). *WHISTLING SWAN*: numbers reported this season seem to be the largest number ever confirmed and documented for the region. 22 Nov (2 with one being shot by a hunter) HRA (*vide* F. M. Bailey); 28 Nov (10) HRA (KLD); two flocks of 9 and 11 birds in the Knoxville area. The 9 bird flock present during Dec and the 11 bird flock from mid-Dec through the end of Feb (JBO, ABS, LT *et al*). Canada Goose: max late Jan (350) CL (CPN). White-fronted Goose: largest number ever reported for the region, 24 Dec (15 ad) Concord (BF, CPN, PP, ABS); 13-14 remained in the area till late Feb; CBC 1 Jan (2 ad) HRA (LD). Snow Goose: 26 Feb (6) HRA (KLD, RCS). Mallard: max 5 Feb (4000) HRA (KLD). Pintail: max 5 Jan (60) HRA (KLD). Green-winged Teal: 4 Dec (30) SB (KLD, JWS). American Wigeon: max 11 Nov (55) ChL (KLD *et al*). No. Shoveler: two all period JC (ETOS). Ring-necked Duck: max 13 Mar (375) ChL (KLD). Canvasback: 11 Jan (1) BL (RK). Greater Scaup: max 5 Mar (200) ChL (KLD, RCS). Common Goldeneye: 24 Feb (100) FLL (SBS). Bufflehead: 4 Dec (45) HRA (KLD, JWS). White-winged Scoter: 29 Jan-26 Feb (1-2) ChL (KLD, RCS); 24 Feb (1-4) FLL (Dave Etnier, SBS). Surf Scoter: 26 Feb (1) ChL (KLD, RCS). Ruddy Duck: 3 records BL (MD, SG, DL). Common Merganser: 24 Feb (125) NoL (JCH).

*Hawks-Cranes*: Red-tailed Hawk: CBC numbers higher than usual; high number in late Dec-Jan. Example: 30 Dec along I-75, mile 4 (Chattanooga) to 84 (Jet I-75 and I-40) 16 Redtails; 6 Am. Kestrels and 1 *Buteo* spp. (CPN). Red-shouldered Hawk: good wintering numbers in Anderson and Campbell Cos. (CPN); 24 Feb (11) CCo (JCH, Gary Muffley); 27-28 Feb (1 banded) SCo (J. Wallace Coffey, Ken Hale); 29 Jan (1) HRA (KLD); 31 Jan (1) Winfield (CPN); 8

Feb (1) CCo (JCH, Gary Muffley); 27 Feb (1) 8 miles NW Pikeville (Craig Watson). *BALD EAGLE*: 10-11 Nov Cherokee L, Morristown (FJA); a total of 23 were counted by Ed Beddow, TVA, 23 Jan, on an aerial survey that covered the following lakes: Douglas, Cherokee, NoL, FLL and Watts Bar. ChL was not covered. On 26 Jan Fred J. Alsop III flew South Holston, Patrick Henry and BL reporting no eagles. Marsh Hawk: one occasional CH (KLD, RCS); 23, 28 Feb (1) SCo (Gary Wallace, Glen Eller, DL). All season (5) Surgoinsville (FJA). *OS-PREY*: 22 Dec (1) HRA (*vide* F.M. Bailey). *MERLIN*: 27 Feb (1) Holston River, Hawkins Co. (WKJ). *SANDHILL CRANE*: Crane movement very conspicuous both spring and fall. *Example*: on 19 Nov, Blythe Ferry, HRA, between 17:50 and 19:40 EST, at least 5 distinct groups were heard and seen as they flew in a north to south direction. The next morning, observers found 6 on the ground. In the spring, F.M. Bailey, working daily at Blythe Ferry, heard or observed migrating cranes from 26 Feb to 5 Mar. There were no reports of cranes on the ground (KLD). Other reports include: 6 Dec (57) KCo (George Woods); 12 Mar (6) 8 miles NW Pikeville (Craig Watson); 13 Mar (20) KCo (SBS).

*Killdeer-Woodpeckers*: Killdeer: max 11 Dec (360) HRA, SB (KLD). Am. Golden Plover: 4 Nov (1) HRA (LD, RBW). American Woodcock: no reports late Dec-late Feb KCo (CPN). Common Snipe: max 4 Dec (125) SB (KLD, JWS). Greater Yellowlegs: 4 Nov (1) HRA (LD, RBW); 13 Mar (2) HRA (KLD). Lesser Yellowlegs: 6 Nov (2) HRA (KLD). Least Sandpiper: regular; max 4 Nov (45) HRA (LD, RBW). Dunlin: regular; max 4 Nov (150) HRA (LD, RBW). *Gull spp*: a second year gull that could possibly have been an *ICELAND GULL* was on ChL from 26 Jan to 26 Mar. It was studied by many observers with photographs being taken. Details and photos will be submitted to the State Rare Bird Committee for final determination. Bonaparte's Gull: 4 records BL (ETOS). Barn Owl: 3 Feb (1) JC (SG); 10 Mar (1) Amnicola Marsh (KLD). G. Horned Owl: thru March (2 young in cliff nest) Kingsport (FSA). *LONG-EARED OWL*: Nickajack Lake area; details to be published later. *SHORT-EARED OWL*: 9 Jan (1) Strawberry Plains, Jefferson Co. (PP). Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports KCo; absence possibly due to oak-hickory mast failure there last fall (CPN); 1 Mar (1) JC (Kat Bierly). *RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER*: search of area near J.C. Howell's October, 1978, sighting revealed 2 cavity trees on 12 Dec, 3 more in Jan, Pine Mtn, CCo (CPN, JCH, *et al*). One cavity with fresh oozing sap. Details to be published.

*Horned Lark-Warblers*: Horned Lark: 29 Dec (30) TCA (RK); 13 Feb (125) HRA (KLD). Purple Martin: 1st 27 Feb (1) Friendsville (R. Boring *vide* JBO). Blue Jay: CBC numbers down about 60 percent, probably due to low mast crop (CPN). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one regular at a bird feeder in Chattanooga from mid-Jan to end of the period (RBW); 1 Mar (1) SB (LD). Winter Wren: increased from last two winters; CBC numbers still lower than average (CPN). Brown Thrasher: 1-2 thru end of Nov JC (ETOS). Eastern Bluebird: no dead birds reported from nest boxes as in previous winter. (*vide* JBO). *BLUE-GRAY GNAT-CATCHER*: 30 Dec (1) K (ABS). Water Pipit: 13 Jan (30) BL (RK). Cedar Waxwing: heavy influx during the winter (ETOS). Loggerhead Shrike: 5 sightings during period which is up from the last two years (ETOS). Pine Warbler: from late Nov up to 5 all period coming to a feeder in Chattanooga (Janet Phillips).

*Blackbird-Sparrow*: Rusty Blackbird: all observations WCo: 27 Dec (4) Ed Schell; 29 Jan (50) RK and 5 Mar (5) DL. Evening Grosbeak: very few sightings reported with one on 17 Jan (MD) and then two other reports of 4 and 5 birds in the same area (ETOS). Scattered reports at Knoxville of low numbers in mid-Dec to

mid-Jan (*fide* JBO, SBS). No confirmed reports from Chattanooga (KLD). Purple Finch: first reported 4 Nov JC (SG) with a very heavy influx during the remainder of the period. (ETOS, FJA). Knoxville observers commented CBC numbers about one-half normal. Great increase in mid-Jan with many flocks of 75-100 birds (CPN). *HOUSE FINCH*: first report 9 Nov (1) JC (Helenhill Dove) and as many as 28 on 20 Feb in Jonesboro (RK). Pine Siskin: only reports: 11 Feb (1 banded) K (SBS); 18 Feb (1) K (Louis and Johneta Smith). American Goldfinch: reported in much larger numbers than usual, especially in Feb (KTOS). Savannah Sparrow: 10-15 all period SB (KLD) and first migrant 1 Mar (1) Jonesboro (RK). Vesper Sparrow: 1 Nov (1) As (RK). Tree Sparrow: 17-26 Feb (1) As (RK); 11 Nov (2) Kingston (Marcia Davis, DLT); 30 Jan (7) Royal Blue, CCo (CPN); 25 Jan (1) Newport (PP); 12, 13 Feb (2) (George McKinney). Chipping Sparrow: 26 Nov and 4 Jan (1) TCA 22 Jan (3) WCo (Joy Kyle). White-crowned Sparrow: both ETOS and KTOS reported lower than usual numbers. Fox Sparrow: 23 Jan-21 Feb (3 different individuals at feeders) JC (ETOS).

*Locations*: AS—Austin Springs; BL—Boone Lake; CCo—Campbell County; CH—Chattanooga area; ChL—Chickamauga Lake; CL—Cove Lake; FLL—Fort Loudoun Lake; HRA—Hiwassee River Area; JB—Jonesboro; JC—Johnson City; K—Knoxville; NoL—Norris Lake; SB—Savannah Bay; SCo—Sullivan County; TCA—Tri-cities Airport; WCo—Washington County.

*Observers*: Alsop, Fred—FJA; Dillenbeck, Martha—MD; Dubke, Ken and Lil—KLD; Dubke, Lil—LD; Floyd, Bob—BF; Goodlin, Sally—SG; Hartigan, Paul—PH; Howell, J.C.—JCH; James, Wesley K—WKJ; Knight, Rick—RK; Knoxville Chapter—TOS-KTOS; Lura, Dick—DL; Nicholson, Charles P—CPN; Pardue, Paul—PP; Steadman, Steve—SS; Steadman, Steve and Barbara—SBS; Stone, Jowayne—JWS; Stringer, Randy C—CRS; Turner, Dave and Linda—DLT; Turner, Linda—LT.

KENNETH H. AND LILLIAN H. DUBKE, 8139 Roy Lane, Ooltewah, 37373.

**EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION**—November temperatures were a little above normal and the last two weeks were very wet. December was cold and wet but with no snowfall. January and February were very cold, wet, and snowy. A total of 35 inches of snow fell during the two months. These cold, wet months produced very little bird activity. The Whistling Swan movement and the Short-eared Owl that spent part of the winter in the area were the only major attractions. Evening Grosbeaks were absent from local feeders. Screech Owls, Eastern Phoebes and Carolina Wrens seem to be the hardest hit species suffering from the cold winters and they should bear close observation over the next few periods.

*Loon-Woodcock*: **RED-THROATED LOON**: 16 Nov (3) WatL (HF). Common Loon: many thru 5 Feb (WatL) ETOS. Horned Grebe: only 1 sighting all period on 4 Jan (2) RC (RK). Great Blue Heron: 11 Nov (1) HS (GW). **WHISTLING SWAN**: 26 Nov (6) WibL (*fide* LRH). Wood Duck: last seen 25 Nov (2) Wagls (HF). Redhead: 16 Dec (1) WibL (MD, JK) 9 thru 15 Mar (1) WatR (ETOS). Common Merganser: 16 Dec (5) WatL (GE, HF); 15 Jan (70) RC (GW, DL, RK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6 separate sightings during period. Cooper's Hawk: 7 separate sightings during period with one female being killed by a car while hunting under street lights at 11:00 at night on 12 Feb (KT *fide* GE). Red-shouldered Hawk: 16 Dec (1) E (GW, DL). **GOLDEN EAGLE**: 5 Mar (1) E (HF). Wild Turkey: 3 Mar (2) Unicoi (GW, DL). American Woodcock: 1st observed 26 Jan (1) Erwin (GS).



*Owl-Shrike*: Barn Owl: 10 Feb (1) HS (GW); 18 Feb (1) E (GE). Screech Owl: total numbers are drastically reduced from past seasons. Great Horned Owl: 3, 10 Nov (1) WibL (MD, SG); thru March (2 young in cliff nest) WibL (FJA). *SHORT-EARED OWL*: upper East Tenn. 1st sighting—13 Feb thru 2 Mar (1) E (GE *et al*). Eastern Phoebe: last sighting on 16 Dec; not seen again until 27 Feb. Horned Lark: 12-30 birds seen throughout period in Siam Valley (ETOS). Purple Martin: 1st returned 11 Mar (2) E (*vide* GE). Common Raven: 1-3 seen regularly on RM, IM (ETOS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: many above 5000 ft. on RM all during period. Brown Thrasher: 1 spent winter near MC (GW, DL). Hermit Thrush: 11 Nov (3) RC (LRH, JM); 16 Dec (2) E (ETOS); 4 Jan (1) Erwin (GS). Water Pipit: 19 Feb (3) WagIs (HF). Cedar Waxwing: very many throughout period.

*Grosbeak-Bunting*: Evening Grosbeak: 1st winter arrival 10 Jan (35) RM (DL, RK) with scattered reports of only 1-3 birds at lower elevations and feeders throughout remainder of period. Purple Finch: 1st returned 5 Nov (2) E (LRH) everywhere during rest of period. *HOUSE FINCH*: 11 Feb thru 15 Mar (2-6) E (KT *vide* GE). Pine Siskin: 1st returned 19 Nov (2) RM (HF). Tree Sparrow: 3 Mar (3) E (HF). White-crowned Sparrow: very low numbers throughout period. Fox Sparrow: another mild invasion this winter with numerous reports throughout period. *SNOW BUNTING*: 28-29 Dec (3) RM (ES, Bob Herndon); 2 Mar (3) (RM) RK.

*Locations*: E—Elizabethton area; HS—Hunter Swamp; IM—Iron Mtn; MC—Milligan College; RC—Roans Creek; RM—Roan Mtn; WagIs—Wagners Island; WatL—Watauga Lake; WatR—Watauga River; WibL—Wilbur Lake.

*Observers*: FJA—Fred Alsop; MD—Martha Dillenbeck; ETOS—Eliz. chapter TOS; GE—Glen Eller; HF—Harry Farthing; SG—Sally Goodin; LRH—Lee Herndon; JK—Joy Kyle; RD—Rick Knight; DL—Dick Lura; JM—John Martin; ES—Ed Schell; GS—Glenn Swofford; KT—Katherine Thomas, GW—Gary Wallace.

GLEN D. ELLER, Route 3, Grandview Terrace, Elizabethton 37643.

## BOOK REVIEWS

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF GEORGIA BIRDS. J. F. Denton, W. W. Baker, M. H. Hopkins, Jr., L. B. Davenport, Jr., and C. S. Robbins. 1977. Occas. Publ. No. 6, Georgia Ornith. Soc. 60 pp. (avail. from GOS, 755 Ellsworth Dr., NW, Atlanta, GA 30318, \$2 ppd.)

VIRGINIA'S BIRDLIFE: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY. Checklist Committee, VSO. 1979. Virginia Soc. of Ornithology, Virginia Avifauna No. 2. 117 pp. (avail from VSO Treasurer, 520 Rainbow Forest Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502, \$4.50 ppd.)

CHECKLIST OF NORTH CAROLINA BIRDS. Parnell, J. F., J. H. Carter III, D. S. Lee, E. F. Potter, and R. P. Teulings. 1978. Carolina Bird Club and North Carolina State Mus., Raleigh. 37 pp. (avail. from CBC, P. O. Box 1220, Tryon, NC 28782, \$1 ppd.)

In recent years, many states have published pocket-sized annotated checklists. These three are of interest to Tennessee birders, especially those in east Tennessee. The Virginia list is essentially an updated version of Murray's 1952 *Checklist*, the

Georgia list a revision of Denton and Hopkin's 1969 *Pocket Checklist*, and the North Carolina list is a new undertaking. As none of these states have a recent, low-priced, readily available bird book, these are the best single works easily available to birders. Each work lists accepted and hypothetical species recorded in the states, notes regularly nesting species, and indicates whether voucher specimens or photographs exist for less common species. The Virginia and Georgia lists give dates of occurrence and relative abundance in major physiographic regions. The Virginia list also gives peak daily counts for winter (often Christmas counts) and summer (often Breeding Bird Surveys). The North Carolina list differs in lacking annotations, but a more detailed list is planned.

Each list is easy to use and contains plenty of margin space for notes and updating. A typographic error in the North Carolina list is that the number of nesting species on page 4 should be 190, not 290. A complaint of mine is that neither the Virginia nor Georgia list gives literature citations or observer's names for rare species. Perhaps this is beyond the function of an annotated list, and is state bird book material. Regardless, I recommend all three of these checklists to Tennessee birders.

CHARLES P. NICHOLSON

THE COOT AND THE MOORHEN. By Jon Fjeldsa. Photographs by Naturfoto and translated by Ian Cocker. Av-Media, Copenhagen; 56 pp. 1977. This book is one of a series of biological monographs. It gives detailed information about the behavior of the coot and the moorhen. There are many pictures and drawings included in the text. Concentrating primarily on the coot, the book attempts to provide insight on how they are dependent on their environment and how they are affected by weather and feeding conditions, competition with other species, enemies, etc. There is a series of slides and accompanying tape to go with the book.

GARY O. WALLACE

SONGBIRDS OF THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL STATES. By Trudy L. Rising, illustrated by Kathryn DeVos-Miller. A Scribner-Tundra Book, New York. 96 pp., 43 color plates. 1977. Paperback \$3.95. A small book, mostly for children and beginning birders. The paintings are good and the text provides the basic information to introduce some of the more common land birds.

GARY O. WALLACE

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### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am compiling nesting records of the Screech Owl in Tennessee and am seeking any unpublished nesting records. Any information concerning breeding biology of the Screech Owl such as clutch size, nesting dates, brood size, etc. can be used. I am also interested in any Screech Owls that are found dead on Tennessee roads. Any specimens found should be kept frozen. Send information to: Linda J. Turner, Division of Land and Forest Resources, Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, Tennessee 37828, (615) 632-4411, ext 465.

## PREPARATION OF COPY FOR PUBLICATION

The purpose of THE MIGRANT is the recording of observations and original information derived from the study of birds, primarily in the state of Tennessee or the area immediately adjacent to its borders. Articles for publication originate almost exclusively from T.O.S. members.

Contributors should prepare manuscripts and submit them in a form acceptable to the printer, after editorial approval. Both articles and short notes are solicited but their format should be somewhat different.

Some suggestions to authors for the preparation of papers for publication are given herewith.

**MATERIAL:** The subject matter should relate to some phase of Tennessee Ornithology. It should be original, factual, concise, scientifically accurate, and not submitted for publication elsewhere.

**TITLE:** The title should be concise, specific, and descriptive.

**STYLE:** Recent issues of THE MIGRANT should be used as a guide in the preparation of manuscripts. Where more detail is needed reference should be made to the *Style Manual for Biological Journals* available from the American Institute of Biological Sciences, 1401 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

**COPY:** Manuscripts should be typed double spaced on 8½ x 11" paper with adequate margins, for editorial notations, and should contain only entries intended for setting in type, except the serial page number. Tabular data should be entered on separate sheets with appropriate title and column headings. Photographs intended for reproduction should be sharp with good contrast on glossy white paper in black and white (not in color). Instructions to the editors should be given on a separate sheet. Weights and measurements should be in metric units. Dating should be in "continental" form (e.g., 7 March 1978).

**NOMENCLATURE:** Common names should be capitalized followed by binomial scientific names in italics only after the first occurrence in the text for both regular articles and ROUND TABLE NOTES, and should conform to the A.O.U. Check-list 5th edition, 1957 and its Thirty-second Supplement. Trinomial should be used only after the specimen has been measured or compared with typical specimens.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** When there are more than five references in an article, they should be placed at the end of the article, otherwise they should be appropriately included in the text.

**SUMMARY:** Articles of five or more pages in length should be summarized briefly, drawing attention to the main conclusions resulting from the work performed.

**IDENTIFICATION:** Rare or unusual species identification to be acceptable must be accompanied by verifying evidence. This should include: date, time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying observation and reference works consulted.

**REPRINTS:** Reprints are available on request. Reprint requests should accompany article at the time of submission. Billing to authors will be through the state T.O.S. Treasurer.

Books for review and articles for publication should be submitted to the editor. Seasonal reports and items should be forwarded to the appropriate departmental editor whose name and address will be found on the inside front cover.

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