

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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DOCUMENTATION AND SUBMISSION OF BIRD RECORDS IN TENNESSEE

STEPHEN J. STEDMAN AND JOHN C. ROBINSON

The job of recording and submitting bird sightings for publication has fallen on many generations of TOS members. During the past 70 years fieldworkers in the state have evolved increasingly sophisticated methods of fulfilling this basic responsibility of membership in our organization. One important cause of this evolving sophistication was the establishment of "The Season" report in this journal, from a germinal report about Memphis begun by Ben B. Coffey, Jr. (1931) to the reports from various cities organized by James T. Tanner (1950) to the version we now use (Smith 1968). In part, "The Season" became necessary because of the large number of bird records which needed to be published but for which there was not enough space using the traditional "Round Table Note" method of documenting sightings. Through the years compilers and editors have sought ever more reliable means of verifying the records submitted to them for inclusion in this report. Their search has led to the promulgation of many "rules" about how to document and submit bird records, with each new set of rules being slightly more exhaustive and comprehensive than those which preceded it.

The need for ever more sophisticated documentation guidelines is self-evident to those who do their birding with any degree of seriousness whatsoever. Birding has rapidly evolved into a hobby which interfaces with science, economics, politics, and sociology in countless ways. Consequently, the demands placed on the members of the birding community to document their findings have also increased. This is especially true where sightings of very rare and/or endangered species are involved. The way that we treat our records of these birds may well determine their fate in the next decade and into the next century, for it is only from a carefully documented history of sightings that the decline of a species can be established, that management plans for its future can be made, that the dollars needed to fund those plans can be legislated, and that the implementation of those plans can occur. Without solid data on which to base decisions, the fate of many bird species in our state might well be a more gloomy one than it already is. Whether a gloomy fate awaits species such as Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) and Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) remains unclear.

What is clear is that TOS members can materially affect the future of many species of birds in the state by the way that they handle their records. The following discussion of record-keeping offers one means by which we can collectively contribute to maintaining healthy populations of all Tennessee bird species.

MAINTENANCE OF PERSONAL RECORDS

The importance of maintaining an orderly system of personal observations cannot be overly stressed. While it is imperative that each ornithologist adopt a record-keeping system which meets his own needs, it must be realized that the data within such a system will meet scientific standards only if, at a minimum, the following five essential items of information are readily accessible:

1. Species of bird observed.
2. Number of individuals observed.
3. Location of observation (including state, county, and name of specific locality where observation was made).
4. Date(s) of observation.
5. Name(s) of observer(s).

The use of a small notebook in which daily observations and other notations are recorded adequately maintains a permanent record of the 5 items listed above; moreover, there is sufficient space in such a notebook to record detailed descriptions of selected sightings. However, since most compilers of bird records prefer to receive records in American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) Check-List (1983 and subsequent supplements) order, this system becomes impractical to use when many observations are made each season.

An alternative method of record-keeping is to record the number of each species seen on a field check-list card and file these check-lists by date. While it is often wise to save these check-lists for future reference, this system also becomes cumbersome to use when it serves as the sole means of record-keeping for an active ornithologist.

Probably the best method of maintaining one's records involves the use of a notebook in which all notable observations for a given species are recorded on one page. Each page is then filed by species in proper A.O.U. Check-list order. The necessary information for each sighting can be listed on the appropriate page under the following basic column headings: "date," "number observed," "location," and "special remarks" (Figure 1). Details on observers, time of observation, plumage or age of the bird, etc., can be entered under "special remarks." The advantages of this record-keeping system are obvious:

1. Species are already listed in A.O.U. Check-list order, making it easier for the observer to prepare his seasonal report of observations.
2. There is space to record each of the five essential items of information identified above for each sighting.
3. At a glance, an observer can review all of the notable sightings he has made for each species throughout the year.

SPECIES: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

1986

Date	Number	Location		Special Remarks
		State	County	
1-11	2	Tennessee	Henry	Big Sandy Unit, Tenn. NWR; 2 imm.
1-14	13	Tennessee	Lake	Reelfoot NWR, 11 adults, 2 imm.
1-18	2	Tennessee	Stewart	Cross Creeks NWR; 2 adults
2-4	3	Illinois	Williamson	Crab Orchard Lake; 3 adults
3-23	5	Tennessee	Humphreys	Duck River Unit, Tenn. NWR; 5 imm.
3-31	5	Tennessee	Stewart	2 adults w/ 3 young at nest next to CC NWR

Figure 1. Sample species record sheet for use in personal record-keeping system (part of a page only shown).

Under this system, one notebook is kept for each calendar year. This system, which has been described only in its most basic sense, can be modified any number of ways; however, space precludes additional elaboration here. Anyone interested in receiving more detailed information on this record-keeping system should contact the junior author at the address listed at the end of this article or refer to Remsen (1977) or Herman (1980).

In addition to maintaining an orderly system of bird records, the serious observer should also consider carrying a field notebook into the field at all times. Such a notebook is often 5½" x 8½", with heavy bond lined paper; the use of a permanent ink pen is recommended. Although anything can be entered into a field notebook, it is ideal for taking notes on, or illustrating, a rare species which is encountered in the field. The proper maintenance of a field notebook is invaluable when a feature article or Round Table Note is being prepared for publication and an observer needs to recall data about an observation several weeks or months after the bird was seen.

DOCUMENTING RARE OR UNUSUAL BIRDS

Taking notes in the field of a rare or unusual bird is the first step in the process of documentation. In order to perpetuate a sight record properly, however, these field notes must be used to prepare a formal report of the sighting. In Tennessee, the TOS Certification Committee provides a Rare Bird Reporting Form (also known as a documentation form) on which a formal report of a rare sighting can be recorded. Because the status, distribution, and abundance of bird species are constantly changing, the information provided on the Rare Bird Reporting Form will enable future ornithologists to accurately trace changes in population numbers, distribution, and habitat association of rare or unusual bird species. Lists of species which require documentation are provided hereinafter. It is important to realize that there can never be too many documentation forms submitted for a rare bird sighting. For this reason, even if you were not the one to discover

the bird, you should nonetheless properly document it. On some occasions, rare bird sightings go completely undocumented because everyone thinks the other birders will document them!

The Documentation Form

Documentation data about a sighting should be typed or neatly printed in black ink on the Rare Bird Reporting Form (available on request from regional compilers for *The Migrant*) or on 8½" x 11" white paper using the format described below. The original should be submitted to the appropriate regional compiler and a copy should be retained for your files. The following list, which was developed from standards identified by Robinson (1985), describes the information that should appear on a properly prepared Rare Bird Reporting Form (Figure 2):

Species: give the common name of the species identified (seen or heard).

Date(s): give the day(s), month, and year in which the bird was observed.

Number: give the number of individuals seen or heard.

Age: when known, state the age of the bird. For most species, "immature" or "adult" will suffice; however, for gulls in typical plumage, "first-winter" or "second-summer," etc., may be an appropriate description. Oftentimes, the age cannot be safely determined. Indicate this by writing in "unknown."

Sex: when known, indicate the sex of the bird. If this cannot be safely determined, as is the case with loons and grebes, for instance, write in "unknown."

Exact location: describe the location as accurately as possible, using site names, (e.g., Radnor Lake) and the distance and direction to the location of the nearest town. The county and state should *always* be included in case the form is reviewed by ornithologists in other states. It is always desirable to state the precise location, such as "Pool 4, Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge," so that another observer may return to the location at a later date.

Habitat: describe, to the best of your ability, the habitat in which the bird was found. It may be necessary to consult a botanical guide to expand upon the notes which were taken in the field. In the absence of any technical assessment of the habitat, such general descriptions as upland or lowland forest, pasture, old field, brushland, lake, slough, marsh, swamp, etc., are adequate.

Time of sighting: give the time of day, in hours and minutes, when observations began and ended, being sure to indicate when times are approximate. Because the bird may be hidden from view for a portion of the observation period, the length of time it was actually observed should also be indicated. When the bird was seen at different times on various dates and there is not enough space to indicate this, footnote this information on the reverse side of the documentation form.

Distance to bird: state the distance from you to the bird, giving minimum and maximum distances when appropriate.

Figure 2 (facing page). Sample of a properly completed documentation form.

Species: Black-necked Stilt
 Behavior observed: the bird fed in an aimless manner; walking and sometimes running in a jerky, random fashion, stabbing or pecking at any food it encountered.

Vocalizations (song/call notes):
In flight, emitted a series of "peep" or "kek" notes.

How did you separate this species from similar species?
long reddish legs; this species also has an obviously recurved bill. Otherwise, no other North American species resembles this startlingly-plumaged bird.

What references were consulted? How did they affect the preceding identification?
This represents only the second state record outside the National Geographic Society's Birds of North America supported this identification.

Previous experience with this and similar species?
I have seen the species on several occasions in Texas (2 birds).

Of what significance is this record in county/area/region/state?
This represents only the second state record outside of the Memphis area, also temporally unusual.

Were witnesses, photographs, recordings made? No. If so, are they attached?
When were field notes made? Immediately

2 November 1985

(Date Form Prepared)

Telephone:

615-252-7412 (home)

615-252-7427 (work)

Your address:

P.O. Box 215

Dyers, Tennessee 37058

(Signature of Form Preparer)

John C. Robinson

Tennessee Ornithological Society Certification Committee

Form Reporting Form

Black-necked Stilt (Date) of sighting: Nov. 3, Nov. 1985.

Species (scientific name): _____ (Date) of sighting: Nov. 3, Nov. 1985.

Number: 1 Age: Unknown Sex: Unknown

Exact Location (include county and nearest city):
Sumnerland City Steam Plant, 1.5 miles west of Cumberland City,
 Stewart County, Tennessee

Habitat in which bird occurred:
Ash ponds with emergent vegetation (primarily cattail) at a steam plant.

Time of Sighting: 11:28 AM to 12:05 PM (2 Nov.) Length of time observed: 35 minutes
 Distance to bird (include maximum and minimum distances):
40 to 70 yards

Viewing Conditions: Overcast, with no sun glare; otherwise excellent conditions.

Optical Equipment: Rushnell 7x35 binoculars and Bushnell Spacemaster 11 scope with 20x lens

OBSERVERS: Your name: John C. Robinson
 Others with you: None
 Others before or after you: Stephen J. Stebbins and Donald Blank on 4 November

DESCRIPTION (details on size, shape, plumage, color pattern, coloration of soft parts, diagnostic features, etc.):
Bill was long, straight, thin, black and pointed. Legs were extremely long and pinkish; forehead and immediately above eye were white; also the white plumage extended up the back to a single point as in dowitchers (legs dangled behind in flight). The rest of the plumage was black: head (down to cheek area, which was white), wings and rump of neck. Front of neck and breast were white. The entire bill was brownish-black suggesting a female or immature bird. The bird was "peeped" over the fence (fence) (Tringa flavipes) it was feeding with.

Viewing conditions: describe the position of the sun in relation to the bird and yourself, and give a brief overview of the weather (was it raining or drizzling; clear, overcast, or foggy; windy or calm?).

Optical equipment: describe any optical equipment you used to observe the bird by indicating the type of instrument and its magnifying power.

Observer(s): neatly print or type your name on the first line. If other observers accompanied you, list their names on the next line; and if you know of other observers who saw the bird before or after you, list their names on the third line.

Description: this is by far the most important part of the documentation and should ideally be written *before* consulting a field guide. The objective is not to describe how the bird looks in the field guide or how it should look in the field, but to describe what was actually seen in the field, even if this means that certain field marks noted in some of the field guides have to be omitted because they were not observed when the bird was seen. The task of describing a bird without consulting a field guide can be greatly simplified by becoming familiar with the various anatomical structures (crown, flanks, eyestripe, upper tail coverts, primary feathers, etc.) which are usually illustrated in the introductory sections of most field guides. Once learned, the different parts of the wing, for example, can be examined for details which may provide the only evidence which can be used to separate various species of shorebirds and gulls.

Do not give the size of the bird in inches or centimeters unless you actually held it in your hand and measured it. Rather, describe the size in terms of its relative appearance with nearby species or your own experience of observing similarly sized birds at an equal distance. The shape of the bird can best be described by a hand-drawn illustration or by comparing it with a closely related species (e.g., when describing a Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*), it can be stated that the bird is similar in appearance to a Snow Goose (*C. caerulescens*) with certain notable exceptions such as a smaller-sized body, shorter neck, stubbier bill, etc.). Shape can also be expressed by describing the silhouette of the bird: falcons have long, narrow tails and crooked or "swept-back" wings; *Accipiters* have long, narrow tails and rounded wings; and *Buteos* have fanned tails and rounded wings.

Describe the color patterns of the bird's plumage and soft body parts, including the beak, feet, legs, and, if present, bare areas around the eye and forehead. If these field marks allow you to determine the age/sex (see Age and Sex above) or plumage (i.e., winter versus summer plumage) of the bird, make a statement to this effect. Keep in mind that the way colors contrast is just as important as the colors themselves. For example, a small plover described as having white undersides, one black neck band and a gray back could be either a Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) or Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*). If the bird is a Piping Plover, it might be described instead as having a light gray back which contrasted only slightly with the whitish breast, belly, and flanks.

In general, the size, shape, and/or color pattern should be given for all of the various anatomical structures of the bird. Although often ignored, the size, shape, and color of the beak and the tail are many times crucial to the identification of a species. Structures or plumage features which are

"obvious," "distinctive," or "conspicuous" to you will not be obvious, distinctive, or conspicuous to future ornithologists if you do not describe them in terms of size, shape, and color. Use quotation marks ("...") to indicate when you are quoting directly from your field notes.

Behavior: describe the bird's behavior as accurately as possible. Was it involved in courtship activities? If it was feeding, was it feeding actively like a phalarope or sluggishly like a plover? If it was walking, did it stop and start like a plover or did it bob up and down like a Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)? Did it isolate itself from other birds; was it aggressive towards other birds; was it tame and allow close approach by birders?

Vocalizations: describe the bird's voice if it was heard. If the voice was not heard, be sure to indicate that fact.

Similar species: in this section, list all species or species groups which you feel could possibly be mistaken for the documented species. For each species listed, state why you feel this was not the species observed; all arguments used to substantiate this should be based only on what you observed in the field. In those rare instances where the species actually observed is not similar in appearance to any other North American bird species (e.g., Black Skimmer (*Rhynchops niger*)), be sure to state this is the reason why no species are listed in this section.

References consulted: list the titles of the books or the names of the persons with whom you consulted after finding the bird. Either collectively or for each reference, state how the information thus obtained influenced the written description. Ideally, as stated before, the bulk of the documentation should be written prior to consulting a field guide. There will be times, however, when the bird remains in sight long enough for comparison to be made between it and a picture in a field guide. In all instances, one should indicate which notes were made as a result of consulting with a field guide or with another person.

Previous experience: briefly summarize your experience with the documented species and all species listed in the Similar Species section. For most birds, this can be done by simply stating approximately how many individuals of a particular species you have seen: "I have seen hundreds of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*)" or "I have seen 4 Groove-billed Anis (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)." For those species the plumages of which change notably with the age of the bird, it is desirable to be more specific: "I have seen 4 adult Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) and 2 second-winter Great Black-backed Gulls." Be sure to indicate which species you have never previously seen, even if it is the species being documented.

Significance of record: to the best of your knowledge, state the significance of the sighting. Significance may be indicated by the number of times the bird has previously been observed in a particular county or area of the state, by the time of year (e.g., a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in March would be significant even in Lake County), or by the number of individuals constituting the sighting (e.g., 450 Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) at Paris Landing State Park).

Sketches, photographs, or recordings: indicate whether any sketches, photographs, or sound recordings of the bird were made and, if so, indicate if they have been attached to the documentation upon submission.

Elapsed time before documentation: indicate how much time elapsed after you found the bird before you completed your field notes of the observation. Similarly, indicate how much time elapsed before the actual documentation form was completed.

Address: give the address and the phone numbers where you can be reached.

The completed form should be mailed along with your seasonal field records to the appropriate regional compiler for *The Migrant*.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

In addition to properly documenting the occurrence of species in the "Very Rare" category identified below, observers are also encouraged to prepare a Round Table Note for each sighting of a very rare species for publication in *The Migrant*. Used in this sense, a Round Table Note not only serves to report the species more fully, but it results in providing details on the circumstances (habitat, method of identification, etc.) surrounding the sighting to other ornithologists, many of whom will never have the opportunity to see your documentation form.

Observers should consult any recent issue of *The Migrant* for information about the manuscript, style, and documentation requirements of this journal. Once a documentation form has been completed for a rare sighting, it is relatively easy to compose a Round Table Note from the information contained in the documentation. Moreover, regional compilers or the current editor of *The Migrant* can provide information on previous occurrences of the species. Completed manuscripts should be submitted to the current editor of *The Migrant*.

LIST OF HARD-TO-IDENTIFY SPECIES

Because some species are hard to identify, bird records of them require (even from veteran observers) a **brief** mention of the salient field marks which led to their identification. A list of such hard-to-identify species follows (common names of all species listed hereinafter follow the 6th edition of the A.O.U. Check-List (1983) and later supplements):

Snowy Egret	Short-billed Dowitcher
Yellow-crowned Night- Heron (immature)	Long-billed Dowitcher
Greater Scaup	Common Tern
Common Merganser	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Golden Eagle	Alder Flycatcher
Merlin	Bewick's Wren
Peregrine Falcon	Connecticut Warbler
Western Sandpiper	Mourning Warbler
Baird's Sandpiper	Brewer's Blackbird

RARE AND VERY RARE SPECIES (REQUIRING DOCUMENTATION)

All rare species should be submitted with documentation included. The list of such species in Tennessee is very long, so observers need to become familiar with what is and what is not rare in the state (and in particular regions of the state). As an aid to field workers, a list of species which require

documentation on green "Unusual Sighting" cards, available from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and a list of species requiring documentation on the Rare Bird Reporting Form are offered below. Currently request green cards from Mr. Robert M. Hatcher, Coordinator, Nongame and Endangered Species, TWRA, Ellington Agricultural Center, P.O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204. Observers should note that common species observed on unusual dates or at unusual locations should also be documented on a green card. Any species for which no previous record exists for the state should be properly documented on a Rare Bird Reporting Form. In the following lists, Western Coastal Plain region is abbreviated as WCPR, and Eastern Mountain Region is abbreviated as EMR.

Green Card Species

American White Pelican	Ruddy Turnstone
Anhinga (in WCPR)	Red Knot
White Ibis	Laughing Gull
Tundra Swan	Franklin's Gull
Mute Swan	Least Tern (except in WCPR)
Brant	Common Barn-Owl
Oldsquaw	Long-eared Owl
Surf Scoter	Short-eared Owl
White-winged Scoter	Northern Saw-whet Owl
Mississippi Kite	Red-cockaded Woodpecker
(except along Miss. R.)	Fish Crow (except along
Purple Gallinule	Miss. R.)
Common Moorhen	Common Raven (except in EMR)
Piping Plover	Black-capped Chickadee (except
Black-necked Stilt	in Great Smoky Mtns. Nat. Park)
(Shelby Co. only)	Le Conte's Sparrow
American Avocet	Snow Bunting
Willet	Western Meadowlark (in WCPR)
Upland Sandpiper	Red Crossbill (except in EMR)

Rare Bird Reporting Form Species

Red-throated Loon	Long-tailed Jaeger
Red-necked Grebe	Common Black-headed Gull
Eared Grebe	Iceland Gull
Western/Clark's Grebe	Glaucous Gull
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Great Black-backed Gull
Brown Pelican	Black-legged Kittiwake
Anhinga (except WCPR)	Sooty Tern
Tricolored Heron	Black Skimmer
Glossy Ibis	Band-tailed Pigeon
White-faced Ibis	Common Ground-Dove
Roseate Spoonbill	Groove-billed Ani
Wood Stork	Snowy Owl
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Rufous Hummingbird
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Say's Phoebe
Ross' Goose	Vermilion Flycatcher
Barnacle Goose	Variegated Flycatcher

Garganey	Western Kingbird
Cinnamon Teal	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Eurasian Wigeon	Brown-headed Nuthatch (except Chattanooga area)
King Eider	Rock Wren
Harlequin Duck	Sprague's Pipit
Black Scoter	Northern Shrike
Barrow's Goldeneye	Bell's Vireo
Masked Duck	Black-throated Gray Warbler
American Swallow-tailed Kite	Kirtland's Warbler
Northern Goshawk	Western Tanager
Swainson's Hawk	Black-headed Grosbeak
Prairie Falcon	Painted Bunting (except Shelby Co.)
Yellow Rail	Green-tailed Towhee
Black Rail	Bachman's Sparrow
Limpkin	Clay-colored Sparrow
Snowy Plover	Lark Bunting
Black-necked Stilt (except Shelby Co.)	Henslow's Sparrow
Whimbrel	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Long-billed Curlew	Harris' Sparrow
Hudsonian Godwit	Smith's Longspur
Marbled Godwit	Western Meadowlark (except WCPR)
Purple Sandpiper	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Ruff	White-winged Crossbill
Red-necked Phalarope	Common Redpoll
Red Phalarope	
Pomarine Jaeger	
Parasitic Jaeger	

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF BIRD RECORDS FOR SEASON REPORTS

Observers who submit bird data for publication in *The Migrant* and *American Birds* will want to follow the guidelines noted below in order to assure themselves that the data have been properly presented. What is commonly called a "bird record" contains the five essential items of information listed earlier in this paper. Because the compilers for "The Season" receive a voluminous set of data each reporting season, it is important that they are able to synthesize all of the submitted records as efficiently as possible into a concise and accurate season report. Efficiency in this process can only be achieved if the compilers receive the raw data in a format which they are accustomed to use.

Currently there are two recognized reporting formats which may be used to submit bird data. Preferred reporting format differs among the regional compilers; therefore, be sure to check the Reporting Regions and Deadlines section of this article to know which format to use in submitting records to a particular compiler.

Tabular Format

When using this format (Figure 3), observers should type or neatly print records on 8½" x 11" white, plain paper as follows:

Observer: John C. Robinson, P.O. Box 215, Dover, TN 37058
 STATE AND REGION: Tennessee, Western Coastal Plain Region
 OBSERVATION PERIOD: Spring 1986
 OTHER OBSERVERS: Stephen J. Stedman (SJS)

SPECIES	No.	DATE	LOCATION, COMMENT, OTHER OBSERVERS
Common Loon	21	23 March	Face Point, Henry Co.; peak #
Common Loon	3	4 May	Paris Landing State Park (PLSP), Henry Co.; departure
Horned Grebe	24	8 March	PLSP, Henry Co.; peak #
Horned Grebe	1	10 April	PLSP, Henry Co.; departure
Double-crested Cormorant	4	29 March	PLSP, Henry Co.; arrival
Double-crested Cormorant	1	4 May	PLSP, Henry Co.; departure
Snowy Egret	12	17 May	Lake County, 2-3 mi. sw of Ridgely; peak #; all birds with golden-yellow feet, thin black bills and black legs
Little Blue Heron	1	30 March	Dyer Co., Mississippi River levee; arrival; SJS additional observer
Laughing Gull	1	9 May	Island 13, Lake Co.; SEE DOCUMENTATION

Figure 3. Sample field report in tabular format (part of a page only shown).

1. At the top of the first page, write in full name and address, reporting season, year, and region in Tennessee covered by said report.
2. On successive pages, place at the top the following information: observer's last name/season and year/page number of report.
3. List, from left to right, the following four column headings on each page: *Species*, *Number*, *Date*, and *Location, Comment, Other Observers*.
4. Enter one record per line, giving information for each of the indicated column headings.
5. Species in the "Rare" and "Very Rare" categories should be reported on this list with supplementary information being recorded on properly completed green "Unusual Sighting" cards or Rare Bird Reporting Forms, respectively.

Green Card Format

When using this format, observers should place *all* bird sightings on green cards (Figure 4). Observers should ensure that these cards are completely filled out for species in the "Rare" category; for very rare species a green card *and* a Rare Bird Reporting Form should be properly completed for each sighting.

Style

The order and names of the species reported as records should follow the 6th edition of the A.O.U. Check-List, as represented in the most recent field check-lists distributed free by TWRA. All dates should appear in continental form (i.e., 25 June 1986). If the number of individuals which were seen is an approximation, it is best to round off to the nearest 10 or 100 or to use a +/- notation; otherwise, report the number you actually counted. The exact location, including name of site and county, should be given for each



TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY
Nongame and Endangered Species



UNUSUAL SIGHTING: BY SPECIES, CONCENTRATION OR BEHAVIOR

Species Le Conte's Sparrow Date 3 February 1987
 County Stewart Exact location Adjacent to Elk Creek Reservoir, Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, 3 1/2 miles east of Carlisle, Tennessee
 No. Individuals Observed 1 Sex Unknown Age Unknown
 Field marks or behavior observed Flight was weak and short; golden-yellow eyestripe, malar stripe and upper breast were visible on perched bird; white central crown streak noted. White belly. Back and nape of neck streaked. Flushed from waist-high fescue grass.
 Observer(s) John C. Robinson
 Other Documentation None
 Submitted by John C. Robinson Organization U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Address P.O. Box 215
Dover, Tennessee 37058 Date 3 February 1987

WR-0515 (Rev. 10-85)

Figure 4. Sample "Unusual Sighting" (green) card properly filled out.

sighting. Be sure to state the county in which the bird was seen for each record. If observers other than yourself were present when the bird was observed, indicate their names. Abbreviations for names and places may be used in one set of records after the first, fully spelled out, usage.

Observers can make the regional compiler's job of interpreting the data considerably easier by stating whether the observation represents an early arrival, a late departure, a peak number, an unusually high or low concentration, a vagrant, a male, a female, adult, immature, etc., a range expansion or contraction, a bird someone else found or a species which was photographed or formally documented on a green card or Rare Bird Reporting Form. Tables, field check-lists, and other non-standard or extraneous materials should only be submitted in addition to, rather than in replacement for, the standard reporting materials.

What Needs to be Reported

Not every species observed during a reporting season needs to be reported, as the primary emphases of the reports published in *The Migrant* and *American Birds* are on changes in the distribution and numbers of bird populations. Records which should be submitted include the following for each season of the year:

1. Spring
 - a. First and last sighting of transients.
 - b. First sighting of summer residents.
 - c. Last sighting of winter residents.
 - d. Maximum number for 1 day in 1 county.
 - e. Unusual or rare species.
 - f. Unusual behavior or habitat use.

2. Summer
 - a. For all species, the maximum number seen in 1 county in 1 day (or at 1 site in 1 county).
 - b. Positive breeding evidence for uncommon or rare species.
 - c. Unusual or rare species/behavior/habitat.
 - d. Breeding earlier or later than normal.
3. Fall
 - a. First and last sightings of transients.
 - b. First sighting of winter residents.
 - c. Last sighting of summer residents.
 - d. Maximum number for 1 day in 1 county.
 - e. Unusual or rare species.
 - f. Unusual behavior or habitat use.
4. Winter
 - a. Maximum number for 1 day in 1 county.
 - b. Unusual or rare species/behavior/habitat use.
5. All seasons
 - a. All records of endangered species.
 - b. Any records which an observer feels should be noted.

REPORTING REGIONS AND DEADLINES

Tennessee has been divided into four physiographic regions for the purposes of reporting bird records (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Regions of state for reporting bird records.

Reports from each region are written by the following compilers, whose format requirements for submission of records are also noted:

Region	Compiler/Address	Preferred Reporting Format
Western Coastal Plain	Martha G. Waldron 1626 Yorkshire Dr. Memphis, TN 38119	Tabular
Highland Rim and Basin	Stephen J. Stedman Dept. of English Tennessee Tech. Univ. P.O. Box 5053 Cookeville, TN 38505	Green Cards
Eastern Ridge and Valley	Richard L. Knight 804 North Hills Dr. Johnson City, TN 37601	Tabular

Eastern Mountain	Glen D. Eller Rt. 9, Box 1340 Elizabethton, TN 37643	Tabular
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In addition, bird records are reported to *American Birds* by the following subregional editors, to whom important bird records should also be submitted:

Western Coastal Plain	Ben B. Coffey, Jr. 672 North Belvedere Memphis, TN 38107
Highland Rim and Basin	Stephen J. Stedman Dept. of English Tennessee Tech. Univ. P.O. Box 5053 Cookeville, TN 38505
Eastern Ridge and Valley	Several local subregional editors
Eastern Mountain	Glen D. Eller Rt.9, Box 1340 Elizabethton, TN 37643

Those who wish to submit records for publication are asked to meet the reporting deadlines listed below:

Season	Inclusive Dates	Deadline
Spring	1 March-31 May	12 June
Summer	1 June-31 July	12 August
Fall	1 August-30 November	12 December
Winter	1 December-29 February	12 March

All reports, including any documentation forms, green cards, or photographs, should be received by the regional compilers by these due dates. All documents should indicate the observer's name, address, reporting season, and year.

SUMMARY

Methods for documenting and submitting bird records in Tennessee are described. These methods stress the importance of maintaining an orderly system of personal records and properly documenting all rare or unusual species encountered in the field. Documentation of an unusual species ranges from a brief description of the bird for 18 hard-to-identify species to a description of the sighting on a green "Unusual Sighting" card for 34 rare species to a complete account of the observation on a TOS Rare Bird Reporting Form for 83 very rare species. The elements of the Rare Bird Reporting Form are discussed item by item to highlight the manner in which the documentation data should be presented.

The 2 formats currently recognized for submitting bird records are described. The tabular format uses white, plain paper of said dimensions to report observations, in list form, under four headings. Rare and very rare species are reported in this list with supplementary information being recorded on properly completed green "Unusual Sighting" cards or Rare

Bird Reporting Forms, respectively. The green card format utilizes the green "Unusual Sighting" cards available from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to report all species, with very rare species being additionally reported on a Rare Bird Reporting Form.

The style for recording names, dates, numbers, locations, and supplementary information for all bird records submitted is discussed. While not every species observed during a reporting season needs to be reported, a general overview of the bird records which ideally should be submitted is presented. The compilers of "The Season" report, which appears in each issue of this journal, are identified along with the reporting format in which they prefer to receive submitted bird records. In addition, those individuals responsible for forwarding notable records from each of the 4 regions of the state to *American Birds* are identified. Reporting deadlines for submission of records to compilers of "The Season" are noted. All observers are encouraged to prepare a Round Table Note for very rare species they have identified; Round Table Notes should be submitted to the current editor for *The Migrant*.

LITERATURE CITED

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Dept. of English, Tenn. Tech. Univ., P.O. Box 5053, Cookeville, TN 38505 (Stedman) and P.O. Box 215, Dover, TN 37058 (Robinson). Accepted 25 July 1987.

1987 SPRING FIELD DAYS

DAMIEN J. SIMBECK

A total of 220 species were found on 13 counts in 1987. This total ties 1984 and 1986 totals as second all time highs. Most unusual were Oldsquaw, Peregrine Falcon (2 counts), Franklin's Gull, and Bachman's Sparrow (first since 1977). As in past years, many unusual species were submitted without details. In the future, compilers should require a written description of all unusual species from the observers, and include a copy with their count summary.

INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

MEMPHIS — 2 May; chiefly A.M.; cloudy, some rain; Ensley, Shelby Bottoms, and 2 parties Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. TOS Spring Meeting. Ben B. Coffey Jr. (compiler — 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 38107).

HATCHIE NWR — 3 May; 0820-1130; cloudy, windy; 3 parties; Ben B. Coffey Jr. (compiler).

MONTGOMERY CO. — 2-3 May; 48 hours; clear; 60-80° F; 8 observers; Joe Allen, Michael and Joetta Dinsmore, Annie Heilman, Nancy Hughes, Louise Podell, John Quick (compiler — Rt. 1 Box 114B, Cunningham 37052), Ellen Walker.

LAWRENCEBURG — 9 May; 0430-2030; clear, warm; 47-85° F; 25 party hours; 10 observers in 6 parties; Michael Beuerlein, David Chaffin, Fran and Robert Claudy, Helen and Lloyd M. Clayton, Daphnie Griggs, Johnny Parks, Damien (compiler — Rt. 2 Box 3A, Loretto 38469) and Don Simbeck. Good details on Mississippi Kite, Bachman's Sparrows were at the Fall River site, Giles Co. (2m, 1f).

COLUMBIA — 24-25 April; clear; wind NW 5-15 mph; 46-75° F; 11 observers. George R. Mayfield Jr. (compiler — 999 Sunnyside Dr., Columbia 38401). Good details on Sanderling submitted to and accepted by GRM.

NASHVILLE — 9-10 May; about 45 observers; Jerry Drewry (compiler). 6 *Empidonax* sp. reported.

WILSON CO. — 9-10 May; clear; 50-85° F; Kay Norris (compiler — 1609 Ponderosa Trail, Lebanon 37087). Good details submitted for most unusual species. Swainson's (1) and Mourning (1) Warblers deleted — details insufficient.

MURFREESBORO — 9-10 May; Sat.-sunny; 50-84° F; Sun.-sunny; 57-85° F; 34 (?) hours, 275 miles (5 on foot, 260 by car, 10 by boat); 15 observers; Josephine Cantrell, Bill and Low Erwin, C.E. Greever, Edith Hayes, Betty Herring, Anne (compiler — 1018 Lawndale, Murfreesboro, 37130) Anne and Bob Hettish, David McCarroll, Ruth McMillan, Gene and Ruth Odom, John Patten, Alberta Spence, Terry Witt.

HIGHLAND RIM — 25 April.

CHATTANOOGA — 25-26 April; Nickajack Dam to Hiwassee R.; Sat. — Partly cloudy, wind N-NE 9-21 mph, temp. 50-73° F; Sun. — Mostly sunny, wind light and var., temp. 46-80° F; 7 observers — Del Blum, Ken and Lil Dubke, Albert Jenkins, Jonnie Sue Lyons, Johnny Parks (compiler — 1610 E. 17th St., Chattanooga 37404), Robin Rudd.

1987 SPRING FIELD DAYS

	Memp	Harc	Mont	Lavr	Colu	Nash	Wils	Murf	High	Chat	Knox	Gre	Eliz
Common Loon	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1	3	29	--	--	22
Pied-billed Grebe	1	--	1	--	4	8	1	--	--	6	1	--	3
Double-cr. Cormorant	5	--	--	--	--	2	34	--	--	14	36	--	--
American Bittern	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Great Blue Heron	2	12	2	--	6	3	2	3	10	54	6	4	5
Great Egret	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Snowy Egret	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Little Blue Heron	5	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Cattle Egret	8	--	--	1	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	1
Green-backed Heron	5	6	2	6	9	16	11	5	2	4	18	3	8
Black-cr. Night-Heron	--	--	--	--	--	32	6	3	--	1	--	--	--
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron	3	1	1	--	--	4	1	--	--	4	--	2	1
Canada Goose	--	22	--	32	72	575	166	30	171	112	11	56	37
Wood Duck	6	17	19	3	21	62	8	12	8	24	57	27	55
Green-winged Teal	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
American Black Duck	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
Mallard	7	--	--	--	12	44	34	12	8	12	--	16	47
Blue-winged Teal	24	1	8	--	32	6	--	--	6	26	2	11	55
Northern Shoveler	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	--	--	--
Gadwall	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--
American Wigeon	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Redhead	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ring-necked Duck	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1
Greater Scaup	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Lesser Scaup	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	6
Oldsquaw	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Bufflehead	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Hooded Merganser	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	4
Red-breasted Merganser	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Ruddy Duck	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--
Black Vulture	--	2	3	--	35	49	50	45	20	14	4	2	3
Turkey Vulture	--	2	10	37	33	87	19	12	39	17	18	27	69
Osprey	--	--	--	--	2	4	1	1	1	8	15	2	15
Mississippi Kite	3	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bald Eagle	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Northern Harrier	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
Sharp-shinned Hawk	--	1	--	--	2	2	--	--	2	2	2	--	--
Cooper's Hawk	--	--	2	1	1	4	--	2	--	2	--	1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	--	4	4	1	2	14	3	--	2	7	2	--	--
Broad-winged Hawk	--	1	--	1	3	3	--	--	2	2	15	--	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	1	3	10	15	9	11	13	9	14	9	4
American Kestrel	2	--	--	1	12	22	7	32	6	1	8	9	13
Peregrine Falcon	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Ruffed Grouse	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	2
Wild Turkey	1	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Northern Bobwhite	6	7	19	27	34	123	26	38	21	29	28	10	5
Virginia Rail	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sora	5	1	--	1	7	2	--	--	--	1	4	--	4
American Coot	--	--	2	1	18	1	1	--	--	111	2	--	4
Lesser Golden-Plover	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Semipalmated Plover	6	1	--	3	1	21	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Killdeer	75	5	1	12	33	107	38	50	21	18	44	8	32
Black-necked Stilt	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Greater Yellowlegs	3	4	--	1	1	2	--	--	--	25	--	--	13
Lesser Yellowlegs	21	1	--	3	7	2	3	6	24	19	1	--	31
Solitary Sandpiper	16	12	--	2	18	4	4	3	20	19	21	12	60
Spotted Sandpiper	5	7	1	2	1	17	6	4	3	22	11	3	11
Upland Sandpiper	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--
Sanderling	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5	--	--	--	4	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	Memp	Hatc	Mont	Lawr	Colu	Nash	Wils	Murf	High	Chat	Knox	Gree	Eliz
Least Sandpiper	25	1	5	3	--	103	9	11	5	--	--	--	--
White-rumped Sandpiper	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pectoral Sandpiper	281	3	--	2	1	--	--	--	--	16	--	--	3
Dunlin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--
Common Snipe	1	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	2	3	4	2	17
American Woodcock	--	--	--	--	2	7	--	--	2	--	1	2	--
Franklin's Gull	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bonaparte's Gull	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	--
Ring-billed Gull	18	--	--	--	--	80	29	--	8	30	43	--	55
Herring Gull	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caspian Tern	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Common Tern	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Forster's Tern	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	2	--	--	1
Least Tern	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rock Dove	1	1	14	17	31	116	25	30	28	38	62	87	103
Mourning Dove	13	5	57	82	65	318	132	600	53	103	228	130	202
Black-billed Cuckoo	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	1	1	2	--	41	18	18	--	2	1	--	--
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	--	--	1	6	6	4	2	--	16	6	1	6
Great Horned Owl	--	--	1	1	7	5	2	3	3	3	15	1	1
Barred Owl	--	2	3	1	9	11	6	--	--	3	13	--	--
Common Nighthawk	1	--	3	1	--	21	4	16	--	5	3	--	--
Chuck-will's-widow	--	--	1	15	--	2	6	6	1	--	32	--	--
Whip-poor-will	--	--	2	32	6	22	9	7	1	--	2	1	--
Chimney Swift	21	12	56	26	53	330	85	199	109	124	269	52	456
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	11	23	6	4	8	38	7	6	8	6	6	--	2
Belted Kingfisher	3	1	2	3	12	22	15	5	--	13	28	3	28
Red-headed Woodpecker	8	14	--	3	11	21	--	3	6	8	44	19	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	18	23	35	13	60	98	35	27	10	27	71	16	20
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	2	--	--	2	--	--
Downy Woodpecker	9	9	10	5	43	58	18	16	14	15	38	20	32
Hairy Woodpecker	--	2	1	3	10	16	6	7	2	3	10	6	--
Northern Flicker	7	4	5	3	13	23	6	43	12	8	44	19	34
Pileated Woodpecker	4	5	7	6	10	32	6	4	4	17	25	7	24
Olive-sided Flycatcher	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	10	13	16	8	83	16	6	--	6	1	--	--
Acadian Flycatcher	14	22	6	3	1	2	--	--	--	2	--	--	--
Willow Flycatcher	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Least Flycatcher	--	--	2	1	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Eastern Phoebe	--	--	16	7	12	35	25	4	13	20	29	6	20
Great Cr. Flycatcher	5	20	12	19	14	60	20	19	6	5	13	2	1
Eastern Kingbird	9	8	18	13	16	93	65	79	7	9	24	10	10
Horned Lark	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	1	--	--
Purple Martin	5	--	50	23	29	104	91	148	21	94	60	9	97
Tree Swallow	--	3	--	1	29	7	2	--	--	40	12	18	61
N. Rough-winged Swallow	9	--	30	7	115	236	10	6	13	45	50	59	1050
Bank Swallow	--	--	--	--	12	20	--	6	--	55	1	--	6
Cliff Swallow	--	--	250	6	--	1847	--	--	24	142	--	--	2
Barn Swallow	16	35	36	85	57	411	117	99	94	113	153	96	1080
Blue Jay	41	14	53	21	113	112	137	68	69	152	314	107	202
American Crow	8	24	36	28	92	172	79	91	44	254	241	114	182
Fish Crow	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Common Raven	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Carolina Chickadee	16	28	17	6	69	129	44	54	20	69	157	69	66
Tufted Titmouse	21	33	55	14	73	124	46	45	36	41	117	71	63
Red-breasted Nuthatch	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	--	--
White-breasted Nuthatch	--	5	3	19	5	33	2	--	15	6	12	2	14
Brown-headed Nuthatch	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--
Brown Creeper	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Carolina Wren	19	34	35	12	65	109	20	26	13	53	167	40	85
Bewick's Wren	--	--	--	--	2	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	--
House Wren	--	--	7	1	3	15	15	13	--	--	18	2	7
Winter Wren	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	3	--	--
Sedge Wren	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Marsh Wren	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--

	Memp	Hate	Mont	Lawr	Colu	Nash	Wils	Murf	High	Chat	Knox	Gree	Eliz
Golden-crowned Kinglet	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1	--	--	3	1	--	--	5	2	68	8	20
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	33	43	20	14	61	137	7	7	12	132	119	13	33
Eastern Bluebird	6	2	29	34	73	158	325	101	49	167	45	43	30
Veery	--	1	1	2	--	7	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Gray-checked Thrush	1	1	--	--	--	4	2	--	--	--	1	1	--
Swainson's Thrush	15	16	8	7	1	86	4	10	--	--	5	--	1
Hermit Thrush	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	3	--	2	1
Wood Thrush	17	27	13	7	10	41	4	3	3	12	63	--	22
American Robin	73	5	105	28	125	456	189	145	201	137	360	102	380
Gray Catbird	3	9	4	12	2	37	10	19	2	8	2	--	2
Northern Mockingbird	9	4	49	26	47	150	81	119	46	98	77	29	55
Brown Thrasher	7	3	18	20	38	61	59	21	37	33	44	11	17
Water Pipit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	65
Cedar Waxwing	30	--	--	--	--	71	32	25	--	--	80	--	14
Loggerhead Shrike	3	--	5	18	3	30	2	11	2	1	--	--	1
Northern Starling	10	10	65	150	426	535	262	900	22	521	411	388	898
White-eyed Vireo	14	16	26	14	85	99	8	13	5	45	32	3	5
Solitary Vireo	--	--	1	--	--	1	3	--	--	15	17	--	13
Yellow-throated Vireo	--	8	5	1	6	25	1	--	--	--	22	2	1
Warbling Vireo	1	--	1	--	4	30	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Philadelphia Vireo	1	1	--	1	--	2	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Red-eyed Vireo	16	23	32	23	38	77	11	25	10	139	160	--	10
Blue-winged Warbler	--	--	4	7	8	15	--	--	--	4	5	--	3
Golden-winged Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	3	1	--	--	1	9	--	--
Tennessee Warbler	14	18	37	2	11	81	1	10	2	26	12	--	3
Nashville Warbler	2	1	--	--	4	4	1	--	--	1	9	--	--
Northern Parula	20	38	--	3	8	27	--	--	--	4	5	--	3
Yellow Warbler	--	1	4	1	44	40	10	8	2	24	18	1	12
Chestnut-sided Warbler	--	2	1	1	--	13	2	--	--	2	3	--	4
Magnolia Warbler	1	--	--	1	2	19	--	1	--	--	2	--	--
Cape May Warbler	--	--	--	--	1	6	1	--	--	5	3	--	--
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	--	--	--	3	--	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	--	3	1	2	133	25	8	4	22	73	258	39	261
Black-thr. Green Warbler	--	--	1	--	5	12	1	--	3	4	35	--	17
Blackburnian Warbler	--	1	--	--	1	8	4	--	--	--	18	--	2
Yellow-throated Warbler	--	6	--	3	17	26	1	2	2	12	17	5	4
Pine Warbler	--	--	--	6	3	10	1	1	--	33	14	--	3
Prairie Warbler	--	1	26	22	35	17	17	2	5	11	14	--	2
Palm Warbler	3	2	1	--	76	7	2	7	6	26	19	8	4
Bay-breasted Warbler	--	--	2	--	1	34	1	--	--	5	--	--	--
Blackpoll Warbler	2	3	4	2	2	43	7	5	--	11	9	--	--
Gerulean Warbler	11	7	--	--	6	15	5	--	1	7	37	--	1
Black & White Warbler	2	2	3	3	6	11	1	5	4	15	42	2	20
American Redstart	4	42	--	1	4	20	--	1	--	--	5	1	1
Prothonotary Warbler	13	54	8	1	9	29	13	2	--	2	3	--	--
Worm-eating Warbler	4	1	1	--	4	13	--	--	1	13	31	--	4
Swainson's Warbler	4	11	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Ovenbird	2	2	--	--	5	23	1	--	2	4	30	--	16
Northern Waterthrush	1	3	--	--	--	10	12	5	--	--	1	--	--
Louisiana Waterthrush	4	2	2	5	9	15	4	3	3	2	--	--	7
Kentucky Warbler	25	16	12	5	17	43	4	1	--	4	10	--	1
Connecticut Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mourning Warbler	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Common Yellowthroat	7	51	19	18	37	202	28	18	9	42	65	8	6
Hooded Warbler	6	1	1	2	10	12	1	2	1	7	49	--	8
Canada Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
Yellow-breasted Chat	4	8	12	30	10	46	9	15	2	15	6	--	1
Summer Tanager	14	14	13	15	16	60	15	11	4	3	5	1	--
Scarlet Tanager	6	2	6	10	10	25	1	1	5	9	35	1	8
Northern Cardinal	47	45	165	69	161	408	157	76	70	194	368	119	188
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	12	11	6	3	--	22	3	1	5	6	17	--	2
Blue Grosbeak	8	2	--	4	2	14	7	4	1	23	8	--	--
Indigo Bunting	34	115	37	39	27	352	105	59	6	80	45	1	3
Painted Bunting	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	Memp	Hatc	Mont	Lavr	Colu	Nash	Wils	Murf	High	Chat	Knox	Gree	Eliz
Dickcissel	6	1	12	12	--	11	--	15	--	--	--	--	--
Rufous-sided Towhee	10	7	56	19	83	124	24	52	17	34	94	31	67
Bachman's Sparrow	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chipping Sparrow	3	1	17	7	30	72	12	9	14	22	57	21	63
Field Sparrow	--	--	16	29	45	97	39	28	13	96	116	25	31
Lark Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Savannah Sparrow	4	2	--	--	9	12	--	--	--	10	41	--	15
Grasshopper Sparrow	--	--	--	1	--	5	1	--	--	17	8	--	2
Fox Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1	--
Song Sparrow	--	--	--	1	5	48	--	22	6	88	229	48	200
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	2	--	--	--	4	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Swamp Sparrow	2	4	--	--	24	8	2	--	6	11	14	--	4
White-throated Sparrow	7	1	20	1	83	17	1	9	49	35	235	102	85
White-crowned Sparrow	1	--	1	--	50	--	1	--	2	8	14	11	22
Dark-eyed Junco	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	1	8
Bobolink	7	--	--	20	--	16	--	220	--	2	4	--	--
Red-winged Blackbird	85	27	110	85	355	898	99	1500	100	168	375	117	259
Eastern Meadowlark	40	7	62	75	117	336	121	1000	94	317	133	114	194
Rusty Blackbird	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	2
Common Grackle	45	81	123	110	260	343	200	160	147	127	381	379	1011
Brown-headed Cowbird	40	29	63	35	1133	306	126	36	30	35	125	60	62
Orchard Oriole	5	7	7	12	12	101	22	21	8	13	9	1	--
Northern Oriole	3	3	3	--	--	17	2	1	--	--	1	--	--
Purple Finch	--	--	4	--	--	1	9	--	2	--	15	14	28
House Finch	6	--	1	--	--	10	6	16	4	14	7	30	41
Red Crossbill	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Pine Siskin	--	--	21	--	80	33	24	--	4	33	104	71	78
American Goldfinch	11	101	191	44	134	261	81	66	93	87	335	129	908
Evening Grosbeak	--	--	--	--	20	1	--	--	33	4	113	110	284
House Sparrow	6	6	77	125	37	151	93	550	44	86	65	36	80
Total Species	123	112	106	114	136	163	133	110	105	149	141	87	139

KNOXVILLE — 26 April; clear to partly cloudy; wind 3-12 mph; temp. 45-72° F; 124 party hours; 33 observers in 19 parties; Mark and Laurie Armstrong, Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Jim and Betty Reid Campbell, Howard Chitwood, Bob Collier, Jim Davis, Marcia Davis, Barry Fleming, Lou Fuller, Brice Gilmer, Paul Hartigan, Ron and Audrey Hoff (compilers-4523 McCloud Rd., Knoxville 37938), Joe Howell, Susan Hoyle, Tony Koella, Beth Lacy, Chuck Nicholson, Truett Patterson, Don Powers, Mark Reeves, Kenneth and Mable Sanders, Boyd Sharp, James Tanner, Michael Tenbos, Alice and Dave Torbett, Stuart Van Meter, Ralph Zaenglein. Good details submitted for Upland Sandpiper, Marsh and Sedge Wrens.

GREENEVILLE — 25 April; cloudy and rainy, temp. 48-63° F; 44 party hours, 245.5 party miles; 22 observers; Tio and Violet Carlos, Cynthia and Herb Cragin, King and Margaret Gaut, Juanita and Lenard Heckert, Jim Holt, Tommy Jeffers, Jim Luedke, Jr., Daniel and Terry Nieves, Richard and Willie Ruth Nevius, Doug Ratledge, Helen Reed, Jo Anne Routledge (compiler — 1218 Woodhaven Lane, Greenville 37732), Helen and Royal Spees, George and Jean Weaver. Common Merganser (1) deleted-no details. Monk Parakeet (1) deleted-no details and unknown origin.

ELIZABETHTON — 25 April; 0430-2130; temp. 44-52° F; 19 observers in 7 parties; Glen Eller (compiler — Rt. 9 Box 1340, Elizabethton 37643). Oldsquaw was in summer plumage. Peregrine Falcon seen by 2 parties.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

1985 TOWER CASUALTIES AT WSMV, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — Collections of casualty birds at the WSMV television tower, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, continued in 1985 as during past years. The area about the tower was monitored early in the morning of 20 and 28 August, each day during September and October, and 3 and 10 November. Dead birds and parts of birds were picked up, identified, counted and used for various studies. Following is a list of dead birds salvaged from the area and assumed to be casualties of impact with the tower or its guy wires:

1 SORA, 15 September; 1 AMERICAN COOT, 26 October; 1 MOURNING DOVE, 16 October; 27 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS, 20 August through 16 October; 1 COMMON Nighthawk, 1 September; 2 RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, 15 September, 16 October; 2 SEDGE WRENS, 3 and 20 October; 2 GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS, 20 October and 5 November; 1 RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, 5 November; 1 WOOD THRUSH, 13 October; 1 AMERICAN ROBIN, 1 September; 1 GRAY CATBIRD, 25 October; 2 RED-EYED VIREOS, 11 September; 3 TENNESSEE WARBLERS, 25 September, 13 and 16 October; 1 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, 13 October; 1 MAGNOLIA WARBLER, 2 October; 1 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, 16 October; 3 BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS, 2 on 13 October and 1 on 23 October; 3 BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS, 12 September, 3 and 13 October; 2 BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS, 25 and 28 September; 1 AMERICAN REDSTART, 11 September; 3 OVENBIRDS, 11 and 21 September, 16 October; 1 YELLOW-BELLIED CHAT, 8 September; 2 ROSE-BREASTED GROSBILLS, 23 and 28 October; 1 INDIGO BUNTING, 23 October; 1 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, 20 October; 1 unidentified, 3 November.

Except for Yellow-billed Cuckoos, notably few migrants were recovered as casualties, suggesting that thrushes, vireos, warblers and other nocturnal migrants flew high and wide of the tower. The total of 67 birds collected at WSMV in 1985 is a low count but comparable with totals from some recent years. For example, there are 56 casualties in 1973, 67 in 1974, and 93 in 1977. Further comparisons showed 435 birds collected in 1975 and 292 in 1976. By contrast, in the late 1960s, several disastrous totals ran to more than 1,000 per year (see *Migrant*, 55:3, 55, 1984).

Only 7 coots have been collected in years prior to 1985, when 1 was collected. The nighthawk found on 1 September was the first record ever for this species at WSMV. Four previous records from the ceilometer and WSIX (now WKRN) bring the overall total for the general area to 5. Approximately 300 flying ants were found in the crop of the nighthawk collected in 1985. Twenty-seven Yellow-billed Cuckoos were collected, the highest number in the history of the project. Hamel (1987) discusses this unusually large number of cuckoo casualties. The 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches lend evidence of a notable incursion. Vireos and warblers were all but absent from the list. Only 2 Red-eyed Vireos were collected, compared to an average of 10 per year for the previous 10 years. Other comparisons of 1985 results with the average for the previous 10 years (in parentheses) are as follows: Tennessee Warbler, 3 (44); Magnolia Warbler, 1 (12); Ovenbird, 3 (23).

Over and above most factors that influence a bird kill during seasonal migrations is the force of weather. During September and October, 1985, moving weather fronts through Middle Tennessee were few and mild. Although I do not know how many dead birds were lost to nocturnal predation, the highest recovery count for a single day was 6 on 13 October. In response to my inquiry about unusual wind aloft the night before, U.S. Weather Bureau personnel responded "Lady, we didn't have any weather on the 13th."

Acknowledgements: This study is a continuing one dependent upon daily monitoring and dedicated attention to the collecting schedule. The following Tennessee Ornithological Society members rightly deserve to share in the authorship of this report: Sandra Bivens, Paul and Patrick Hamel, Ann Houk, Portia MacMillan, David Vogt and Miriam Weinstein. I thank Paul Hamel for both helping to rank the cuckoo feathers and for reviewing the report. I also thank Douglas James, Paul Parmalee and Kimberly Smith for reviewing the paper. I am grateful to Louise Jackson for typing and we are all indebted to Cliff Wade, Susan Rogers and other members of the maintenance staff at WSMV tower for granting us the privilege of monitoring the grounds around the tower.

KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE, 3407 Hopkins Lane, Nashville, TN 37215. Accepted 14 December 1986.

AN IMPROBABLE NUMBER OF YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO CASUALTIES AT A TENNESSEE TV TOWER — A total of 27 Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*) was recovered from the WSMV-TV tower in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, during August — November 1985. This is the largest number on record from the 25-year study of tower kills at the site, and constitutes 40% of the birds recovered from the site in 1985 (Goodpasture 1987). Previous high numbers of cuckoos were six in 1963 (Laskey 1964), five in 1965 (Laskey 1965), and four each in 1974 (Goodpasture 1975) and 1979 (Katherine A. Goodpasture, pers. comm.). The cumulative total of cuckoos recovered from the tower, 1960-1984, is 40 birds. During that period, cuckoos constituted at most 6% of the birds recovered in any one year. The enormous 1985 total suggests that conditions at the tower or among the population of migrants aloft were different from those in previous years.

The purpose of this brief note is to explore possible explanations for the unusual cuckoo mortality in 1985. I consider the following possibilities: (1) more cuckoos were in the population of migrants aloft, (2) cuckoos were more likely to strike the tower in 1985 than in previous years, (3) predation on cuckoos in the vicinity of the tower was unusually heavy in 1985, and (4) a combination of the above factors.

First, more cuckoos than normal may have been in the local population and possibly in the population of migrants aloft in 1985, because of the emergence of periodical cicadas (*Magicalada* sp.) both in middle Tennessee and to the north. Brood XIX of the 13-year periodical cicada (*Magicalada* sp.) appeared in middle Tennessee in 1985 (Michael E. Cooper, Tenn. Dept. Agriculture, pers. comm.) and Brood VIII of the 17-year periodical cicada (*Magicalada* sp.) was due to emerge in the upper Ohio River drainage as well

(USDA 1960, Simon 1979). Emergence of hordes of these insects during June likely provided food to support good reproduction among cuckoos (Nolan and Thompson 1975). Numbers of breeding Yellow-billed Cuckoos increased on the cicada plots in an Arkansas study area in 1985, during a periodical cicada emergence (Douglas A. James and Kimberly G. Smith, University of Arkansas, pers. comm.). In past cicada years, however, large falls of cuckoos were not recorded at WSMV: none following the last emergence in 1972 of Brood XIX of the 13-year periodical cicada, and 1 following the last emergence in 1970 of the very large Brood X of the 17-year periodical cicada.

I compared numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos recorded in Fall Bird Counts made in the Nashville area 1972-1985 (Nashville Chapter, Tennessee Ornithological Society, records) with the numbers of casualties recorded from the WSMV-TV tower. No relationship existed ($r = -0.3$, $p = 0.3$, $n = 13$). Similarly, no relationship existed between casualty numbers and Fall Bird Count numbers after the latter were standardized as a proportion of Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) numbers ($r = -0.51$, $p = 0.08$, $n = 13$). This brief analysis suggested that number of casualties is unrelated to number of birds recorded on the Fall Bird Count. Furthermore, both the number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and the ratio of Yellow-billed Cuckoo to Northern Cardinal numbers on Fall Bird Counts, were lower in the Nashville area in 1972 and 1985, the high-cicada-years, than they were in several non-cicada years in the interim. Two tentative inferences from this analysis are that Fall Bird Count numbers are not a satisfactory measure of Yellow-billed Cuckoo populations in the Nashville area at that season (cf. Turner and Davis 1980) and that tower casualties are not related closely to observed Yellow-billed Cuckoo populations. That more Yellow-billed Cuckoos may have been in the Nashville area in 1985 is thus not sufficient to account for the numbers of birds recorded as casualties at the WSMV-TV tower.

Second, cuckoos were probably not more likely than normal to strike the tower in 1985. The vast majority of the recoveries were detected from rectrices found beneath the tower. These remains were such that we could identify the cause of death in but a few cases. Only 5 individuals had obviously died in collision with the tower (Goodpasture pers. comm.). We were unable to determine the age of any of the cuckoos collected. Rectrices have been deposited in the collections of the Cumberland Museum, Nashville, Tennessee.

Third, predation cannot be dismissed as a cause of some of the large number of cuckoos recovered. As in years past, cats, Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) were observed in the vicinity of the tower during the data-collection period. Numerous mammal runs were apparent under the fence surrounding the tower compound. A pellet, cast probably by a Great Horned Owl, was discovered beneath the tower on 22 September 1985. Remains in the pellet consisted of parts of 4 skulls and 3 wings of 4 adult Yellow-billed Cuckoos (Paul W. Parmalee, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, pers. comm.). Based on this evidence, I believe that selective predation by owls may be a sufficient explanation for the large number of cuckoos represented in the remains recovered at the WSMV tower in 1985. The facts that the remains consisted primarily of rectrices, the pellet was cast beneath the tower, and many of the partial carcasses were found directly beneath the tower rather

than at a small distance, suggest that the owl used the tower as a perch during September and October 1985. Whether the owl(s?) brought birds to the tower site for consumption or picked up dead and injured individuals beneath the tower could not be determined. Consequently, possibilities (1) and (3) above cannot be eliminated or separated using the available data.

This situation differs from that usually encountered in studies of bird falls at TV towers. Typically, predation by owls and other animals causes a reduction in the volume of migrants found as casualties at TV towers (Stoddard and Norris 1967). At the WSMV tower in 1985, predation by an owl or owls may well have increased the apparent number of casualties. Yellow-billed Cuckoos may have been more numerous than normal in Middle Tennessee in 1985, permitting the extensive predation by owls.

In summary, I suggest that the large number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos recovered from the WSMV-TV tower in 1985 was not simply a result of collisions with the tower. Two of the possibilities considered in this study appear to be true in part. First, Yellow-billed Cuckoos might have been more numerous in the Nashville area in 1985; and second, an owl or owls did prey upon them more heavily than has been observed in the past. The number of proven tower casualties (5) was not unusually high. Thus, at the WSMV tower in 1985, predation might have increased the apparent number of Yellow-billed Cuckoo casualties.

Acknowledgements: I am indebted to those who collected tower casualties at WSMV in 1985, to Michael Cooper for providing material on periodical cicadas, to Portia Macmillan for access to the Cumberland Museum collections, to Paul Parmalee for examining the owl pellet, to Stephen Stedman for the Fall Bird Count data, and to Katherine Goodpasture, Doug James, Paul Parmalee, and Kim Smith for reviewing the manuscript.

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— PAUL B. HAMEL, Tennessee Department of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37219-5237. Accepted 18 May 1987.

FIRST RECORD OF PARASITIC JAEGER IN TENNESSEE: ADDENDA — Since the publication of our note (Stedman and Robinson 1986) on the sighting of a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) in Henry County from 6-22 October 1985, additional information about the identification of this species and about the previous history of jaegers in Tennessee has come to our attention.

Although some doubt about our identification of this bird has been expressed by Kenn Kaufman (Purrington 1986: 126), we remain confident about its identification, especially in the light of additional information now available to us. Ronald Goetz (pers. comm.) drew our attention to a key means of distinguishing Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers (*S. pomarinus*), i.e., the light edging visible on the primaries of a sitting bird of the former, but not the latter, species, as shown in Cramp (1983: 673 and plate 64) and as noted by Jonsson (1984:444-445). An enlargement of the photograph included with our note shows light edging on the primaries of the bird.

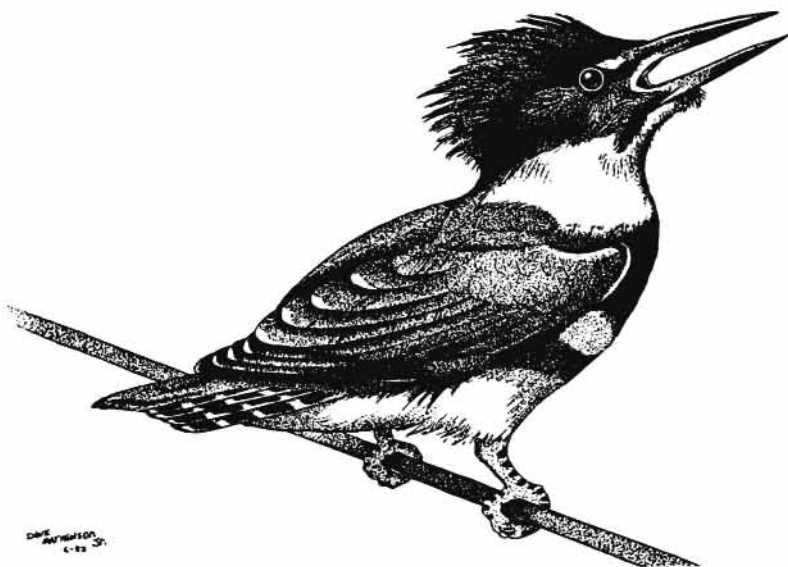
Two correspondents provided information to us about the history of jaegers in the state. Harry C. Yeatman (pers. comm.) and Richard L. Knight (pers. comm.) offered hitherto unavailable information about the immature jaeger present at Woods Reservoir, Franklin County, in the fall of 1978. Due to conflicting identifications of that bird by experts, the sighting has been previously published as a jaeger species (Bierly 1979:21; Bierly 1980:219), though Purrington (1979:187) published it as *S. parasiticus*. Yeatman provided written documentation of his and John Kirby-Smith's 27 October 1978 sighting; calling on his considerable previous experience with the species, he identified the bird as *S. parasiticus*. Additionally, Knight provided documentation about the size of the bird, a hitherto unknown factor regarding its identity. On 23 September 1978, Knight had direct comparisons of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and the jaeger, which was "noticeably smaller" than the gulls. Finally, close inspection of the photograph of the bird taken by Daniel R. Jacobson and published (Purrington 1979) reveals that the primaries have the light edging characteristic of *S. parasiticus*. In the light of these new data, the TOS Certification Committee voted on 7 February 1987 to accept the 16 September-27 October 1978 sighting of Parasitic Jaeger at Woods Reservoir as the first state record. Thus, the Parasitic Jaeger seen in Henry County during October 1985 constitutes the second state record.

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STEPHEN J. STEDMAN, Dept. of English, Tennessee Tech. Univ., P.O. Box 5053, Cookeville, TN 3505 and JOHN C. ROBINSON, P.O. Box 215, Dover TN 37058. Accepted 5 June 1987.



EDITORIAL NOTICE

Following the publication of the March, 1988 *Migrant*, I will be resigning from my fourth term as editor. I will be succeeded by Dr. Fred J. Alsop, III, Biological Sciences Department, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37814. Effective now, all new manuscripts should be sent to Fred.

The lead article in this issue, on reporting bird records, is different from the material normally published in *The Migrant*. I accepted this article with some reluctance — not because of the quality of the article, which is high, but because I am afraid it will intimidate some readers. Although the procedures outlined in the article may appear complex, they are workable, and should result in a higher quantity and quality of material submitted for “The Season” and “Round Table Notes.” While the “preferred reporting formats” may seem inflexible, please remember that the information reported is more important than the format. Few of the season compilers will reject records because of their format. They may, however, reject inadequately documented records. — CPN.

THE SEASON



SPRING: 1 MARCH — 30 MAY 1986

For the third spring in a row, rainfall across the state was below average. March rainfall was generally below normal and temperatures were above normal. At the end of the month, northern Middle Tennessee received a snowstorm which probably affected bird populations. April precipitation varied regionally, from below normal in the west to near or above average in the east. The weather event of the season in the eastern part of the state was the snowstorm on 3-4 April. Accumulations ranged from 3 inches at Chattanooga to 15 inches or more in upper East Tennessee. In the northern half of the region, the snow took several days to melt, adversely affecting several early-nesting species. See the reports below from the 2 eastern regions for detailed effects of the snowstorm. April temperatures were below average in East Tennessee. During May, precipitation was generally near normal, and temperatures were above normal.

Few spring migrants arrived early this year, and many species were later than normal. Some of this was probably due to cool weather and snow in early April. Some later arriving species, such as cuckoos, were also late, suggesting inclement early April weather was not the only cause.

A Common Black-headed Gull was reported from the state for the first time. An "Audubon's" Warbler was also reported from Middle Tennessee, for the second reported occurrence of this form in the state. I have been expecting an "Audubon's" Warbler in the state for some time, as it has been reported numerous times in the eastern U.S. Tennessee birders should learn the field marks of this form and closely scrutinize Yellow-rumped Warblers. Other unusual species included Mississippi Kites in Middle and East Tennessee, a Willet high in the Smokies at Newfound Gap, a Franklin's Gull at Chattanooga, and a Common Ground-Dove in Hardin Co. Sandhill Cranes were reported in record high numbers, around 7000 including some flocks probably reported more than once. The cranes apparently entered the state in the Chattanooga area and then many lingered in the Chickamauga Lake-Hiwassee River area. They moved to the northwest, as there were several reports between Putnam and Davidson Counties, but no reports from Pickett County, often the best location in the state for observing cranes.

The following reports also include several interesting breeding records. And, in what may be a precursor of eventual nesting, a Peregrine Falcon was seen in the Smokies on 2 days in early May. As a result of hacking efforts, Peregrines occupied territories in western North Carolina last summer. It is now just a matter of time until they are nesting in Tennessee.

— CHARLES P. NICHOLSON

Abbreviations used in the following reports include: EOP — end of period; ers — earliest report of season; lrs — latest report of season; max — maximum number reported during season; m.ob. — many observers; WMA — Wildlife Management Area.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — Spring migration for warblers was a little late while some early dates were set for water birds. Swainson's Thrush and Tennessee Warbler were two common transients this season. Spring temperatures were normal but rainfall below normal. The Ensley Sewage Lagoons near Memphis were checked twice a week from mid-March through the end of the season. Only the higher numbers are reported here.

Loon — Merlin: Common Loon: 5 Mar (5) PAP (JCR); 28 Mar (14), 14 May (7), 24 May (1) PLS (JCR). Pied-billed Grebe: 13 Apr (30) TAT (WGC). Horned Grebe: 7 Mar (80) PLS (JCR), peak number; 8 Mar (1) Herb Parson's Lake, FYC (SNM, NPM). Double-crested Cormorant: 22 Mar (5), 12 Apr (17) I13 (JCR); 29 Apr (62) SW SBC (SNM, NPM). ANHINGA: 25 May (2) pair on nest, REL (JCR). American Bittern: 12 Apr (1) near Ridgely, LKC (JCR, DWB); 7 May (1) ESL (JEW, MGW). Snowy Egret: 12 Apr (13) NYC, LKC (JCR, DWB), peak number and ers. Cattle Egret: 4-17 Apr (7) near Newbern, NYC (WGC); 5 May (85+) roosting in willows over water, TAT (WGC); 12 Apr (12) NYC, LKC (DWB, JCR). Green-backed Heron: 21 Mar (1) LNC (MGW), early. Black-crowned Night-Heron: 29 Apr (1) TAT (WGC). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 22-23 Mar (4-5) Whitehaven Heronry, SBC (Charles Flowers, BBC). Blue-winged Teal: 12 Apr (215) NYC, LKC (JCR, DWB), max. OLDSQUAW: 4-11 Mar (1) PLS (JCR). Bufflehead: 28 Mar (178) PLS (JCR), max. Osprey: 2 May (1 on nesting platform) REL (WGC); 4 May (2) TAT (WGC); 16 May (1) E of Camden, BNC (CHB). Mississippi Kite: 13 May (15) I13 (WGC). Northern Harrier: 22 Apr (2) FPP (HBD, SCF, NMS). Merlin: 13 Mar (1) Pittsburg Landing Road, HDC (JCR, DJS).

Rail — Gull: King Rail: 27 Apr (1) Hooper Marsh, TAT (WGC). Virginia Rail: 27 Apr (1) Hooper Marsh, TAT (WGC). Sora: 13 Mar (1) HDC (DJS, JCR), ers; 27 Apr (8) Hooper Marsh, TAT (WGC). Purple Gallinule: 23-26 May (1) ESL (JRW, CHB, CGD, DAD, VBR, MGW). Black-bellied Plover: 10, 12 May (4, 1) ESL (CHB, DAD, GRP, VBR, MGW); 10 May (1) I13 (WGC). Lesser Golden-Plover: 26 Mar (240) PEF (HDB, MGW); 12 Apr (217) NYC, LKC (JCR, DWB). Semipalmated Plover: 8 May (30) PHI (WGC). Black-necked Stilt: 2 May (6) ESL (TOS); 26 May (4) ESL (CHB, VBR, MGW). Greater Yellowlegs: 22 Mar (97) NYC, LKC (JCR), max. Lesser Yellowlegs: 22 Mar (43) NYC, LKC (JCR); 22, 28 Apr (44, 82) ESL (CHB, DAD, MGW). Solitary Sandpiper: 22, 28 Apr (55, 33) ESL (CHB, DAD, MGW). Willet: 28 Apr (1) ESL (CHB, MGW); 10 May (2) I13 (WGC). Upland Sandpiper: 27 Mar (7) PEF (VBR). Sanderling: 25 May (4) I13 (JCR); 28 May (1) I13 (WGC). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 17, 24 May (330, 130) ESL (LCC, BBC, CGD, DAD, VBR, MGW). Least Sandpiper: 22 Mar (2) LKC (JCR); 12 May (250) ESL (CHB, DAD, MGW). White-rumped Sandpiper: 10 May (1), 24 May (5), 26 May (3) ESL (CHB, CGD, DAD, GRP, VBR, MGW); 24 May (9) I13 (WGC); 25 May (2) LKC (JCR). Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 Apr (1100), 22 Apr (171), 28 Apr (160), 1 May (319) ESL (CHB, DAD, JCR, JEW, MGW). Dunlin: 8 May (3) PHI (WGC); 12 May (1) ESL (CHB, DAD, MGW). Dowitcher sp.: 22 Apr (1)

ESL (DAD, MGW). American Woodcock: 5 Mar (4) BRF (JCR). Franklin's Gull: 11 Apr (1 ad) PLS (JCR); 2 May (3) Miss. River, SW (JCR, RLK).

Ground-Dove — *Waxwing*: Common Ground-Dove: 13 Mar (2) 2 mi W of Bethel at jct. of Pittsburg Landing and Bill Welch Rds., HDC (JCR, DJS). SHORT-EARED OWL: 7 Mar (1) BRF (JCR). Chuck-will's-widow: 23 May (15) east of Puryear, HYC (JCR). WILLOW FLYCATCHER: 23 May (10 singing males) BRF (RDH, BHS). Least Flycatcher: 1 May (1) MEM (JCR); 7-8 May (2) MEM (CHB, MGW). Horned Lark: May (nest with 3 eggs, photographed) LKC (WGC). Tree Swallow: 23 May (2+ occupied trees) West Sandy Dike, HYC (RDH, BHS); 23 May (2) Tenn. River, ¼ mi N of bridge at PLS (JWW). Cliff Swallow: 23 May (100+ nests) West Sandy Dike, HYC (RDH, BHS). Fish Crow: 22 Mar (11) Overton Park, MEM (BBC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 13 Mar (5) HDC (JCR, DJS). Brown Creeper: 13 Mar (10) HDC (JCR, DJS); 30 Apr (1) N of Wolf River and E of Hwy 194, FYC (RPF); 21 May (1) Forked Deer, N of I-40, Madison Co. (RPF); the same locations last year had (2, 1) while none were found at 1986 sites in Shelby Forest and Obion Co. House Wren: 10 Apr (1) MEM (HBD); 1 May (1) PRI (JCR); 6 May (1) Walnut Log, REL, Obion Co. (HBD, CHB, SCF, NMS); 25 May (1) PHI (JCR). Water Pipit: 1 May (3) ESL (JCR); 7 May (1) TN 79 and Great River Rd., LKC (WGC). Cedar Waxwing: 2 Mar (1300) MEM (MGW).

Vireo — *Meadowlark*: Philadelphia Vireo: 22 Apr (1) FPP (HDB); 3 May (1) HWR (Ann Tarbell, Holly Overton). Tennessee Warbler: 24 May (1) West Sandy WMA, HYC (JCR). Orange-crowned Warbler: 2 Mar (1) PEF (MGW). Cape May Warbler: 8-9 May (1) MEM (GRP *et al.*). Pine Warbler: 13 Mar (63 in 7¼ hrs) HDC (JCR, DJS). Palm Warbler: 8 Mar (1) PEF (VBR, MGW). Swainson's Warbler: 19 Apr (1) Hardeman Co. (BBC, LCC); 11, 23 May (1) Beaverdam Creek, HYC (JCR); 24 May (1) West Sandy WMA, HYC (BHS). Northern Waterthrush: 26 Apr (1) PEF (MTOS). Dickcissel: 23 May (32) east of Puryear, HYC (SJS, JCR); 25 May (168) LKC (JCR). Vesper Sparrow: 22 Mar (12) PEF (MGW). Savannah Sparrow: 23 May (1) BRF (RDH, BHS), lrs. Grasshopper Sparrow: 3, 11 May (6, 10) Elkhorn-Nobles Rd., HYC (JCR); 23 May (7) east of Puryear, HYC (SJS, JCR), (2) BRF (RDH, BHS); 30 May (1) PRI (MTOS). LeConte's Sparrow: 28 Mar (1) BRF (JCR). Lincoln's Sparrow: 28 Apr (1) ESL (CHB, MGW); 1 May (4) MEM (JCR); 3 May (2) HWR (TOS); 5 May (2) ESL (JEW, MGW); 16 May (1) MEM (Van Harris). Bobolink: 29 Apr (80+) SBC (SNM, NPM); 2 May (3) levee W of Wynnburg, LKC, (50) 1 mi N of 79, LKC (WGC); 6 May (500) levee to I13 (WGC). Western Meadowlark: 22 Mar (1) 1 mi W of Cates, LKC (JCR).

Locations: BNC — Benton Co.; BRF — Britton Ford, Tenn. Nat. Wildl. Refuge, Henry Co.; DYC — Dyer Co.; ESL — Ensley Sewage Lagoons, Shelby Co.; FPP — Fort Pillow State Park, Lauderdale Co.; FYC — Fayette Co.; HDC — Hardin Co.; HWR — Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge, Haywood Co.; HYC — Henry Co.; I13 — Island 13, Lake Co.; LKC — Lake Co.; MEM — Memphis; PEF — Shelby Co. Penal Farm; PAP — Pace Point, Tenn. Nat. Wildl. Refuge, Benton Co.; PHI — Phillippi, Lake Co.; PLS — Paris Landing State Park, Henry Co.; PRI — President's Island, Shelby Co.; REL — Reelfoot Lake, Obion/Lake Co.; SBC — Shelby Co.; TAT — Tatumville, Dyer Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — Spring migration was late and generally poor except in May when a "normal" migration took place with about the usual number of unusual sightings reported. Rainfall during the season followed the pattern of the past two dry years. Indeed, the 6.62 inches falling from March-May was the third lowest spring total ever recorded in the Nashville Area and was well below the 14 inches typically falling during those months. Among the monthly totals for Nashville, only the rainfall total in May was near normal (4.41 inches), perhaps accounting for the normal migration which occurred during that month. Temperatures were above the monthly average in March, though a late snowstorm blanketed the northern half of the region 30-31 March and probably affected bird populations adversely. May's average daily temperature of 73.4° F was also warmer than normal, by 5.3° F.

Clearly the bird of the season was Tennessee's first Common Black-headed Gull, found in mid-March at Percy Priest Lake. Recognizable photographs of the gull were taken by a number of observers, many of whom shared their work with the compiler (Figure 1). A Western Meadowlark, somewhat less rare in the region than this European gull, was reported in considerable detail from Lawrence County; however, since the bird never sang, it must go down as another in a long list of might-have-beens. Surely a bonafide regional record of this species will occur soon? More certainly identified in Lawrence County was a Mississippi Kite, a species which ought to be found breeding in some of the regional river bottoms in the near future. In Cheatham County a Swainson's Warbler sang territorially for a few days in early May, adding to a few previous records from that locale. Finally, new to the state was a well-described "Audubon's" Warbler in Stewart County.



Figure 1. Common Black-headed Gull with Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, Hamilton Creek, Percy Priest Lake, Davidson County, 17 March 1987. Photograph by Paul Crawford.

Observers in the region occasionally ask about the kind of material which is most useful to submit for this report, and a few of them ask particularly why there is a need to publish dates of arrival and departure for migrant species each spring and fall, as I have done once again in this report. Let me say that I am certainly not convinced that such dates are lacking in value, as Joseph Hickey claims them to be in his influential work, *A Guide to Bird Watching* (1943: 26); rather, like Paul DeBenedictus, who has recently commented on them (*American Birds* 41:50, 1987), I strongly sense that such dates should be published even though I cannot yet quantify the value which they have. Also like DeBenedictus, I would like to see these dates published in a more uniform manner than is currently the case. They are now published for any species for which they are submitted, providing that the dates are fairly near the extremes of the species' occurrence in the region, but surely a better methodology exists than that. For instance, observers might send in data for a particular set of species annually, rather than randomly for all species which migrate. Recently, for instance, the regional coordinators (Steven Cardiff and Donna Dittmann) of the Central Southern Region for American Birds began distributing a list of species for which they request spring arrival dates from observers in a six-state area; presumably, submission of enough such lists would generate useful information about these species. Comments about the need to publish arrival and departure dates from those who contribute to this report — and from those who don't — are welcome.

Thanks are due to all those noted below for submitting data and to John C. Robinson, J. Paul Crawford, and Dot T. Crawford for carefully reviewing a draft of this report.

Loon — Night-Heron: Common Loon: 18 Apr (27) WDR (JCR, SJS, *et al.*), max (24 still present 6 May); 26 Apr (18) Dale Hollow L., PIC (RCH); 28 May (4) PPL — county not specified (MLM), lrs. Pied-billed Grebe: 24 May (1) BEC (JCR), lrs. Horned Grebe: 15 Mar (8) WDR (MDH), max; 13 Apr (1) FRR (SJS), lrs. Double-crested Cormorant: 18 Apr (387) DRU (MHI, CKC), max (only 20 at same site on 25 Apr). American Bittern: 18, 25 Apr (2) DRU (CKC, MHI); 26 Apr-17 May (1-2) BEC (DWB); only reports. Least Bittern: 16-17 May (1-2) BEC (MHI, DWB, JCR, RRD); 29 May (1) CCNWR (JCR); only reports. Great Egret: 17-27 Apr (2) CCNWR (DWB, JCR); 1-3 May (1) ROB (DJS); 4-30 May (1) CCNWR (JCR); only reports. SNOWY EGRET: 5 Apr (1) LIB (DJS), first LWC record; 3 May (1) N of Ethridge, LWC (DJS); only reports (good details). Little Blue Heron: 26 Apr-17 May (2) BEC and CCNWR (DWB, JCR); 15 May (1) Misery Swamp, MTC (AHH), only reports. Cattle Egret: 17 Apr (2) BEC (DWB), ers; 9 May (1) Deerfield, LWC (DJS); 23 May (1) N of Sunrise, Hickman Co. (William Smithson, *vide* BHS); only reports. Green-backed Heron: 26 Mar (1) WSB (DWB), ers. Black-crowned Night-Heron: 29 Mar-10 Apr (up to 5) FRR (SJS); 3 May (1) LWC (DJS); also reported from SUC and SWC. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 28 Mar (1 ad) WSB (DWB), ers; 21 Apr (1 ad) Cheatham WMA, CHC (AHH, EJW); 26 Apr (1) CCNWR (JCR); 3 May (1) Little Barton Creek, MTC (John J. Quick); only reports.

Swan — Duck: Tundra Swan: 1 Mar (3) DRU (JCR), completes a Winter 86-87 record. Snow Goose: 20 Apr (2) RDL (Robert P. Ford), lrs. American Black Duck: 11 Apr (2) FCMR (JCR), lrs. Blue-winged Teal: 17 Mar (4)

Barkley WMA, SWC (JCR), ers; until EOP (pair) MOP (BHS *et al.*), lrs. Northern Shoveler: 9 May (1) GSP (DRJ *et al.*), lrs. Gadwall: 6 May (pair) MOP (SJS, DJS), lrs. American Wigeon: 22-30 May (1) CCNWR (JCR), lrs. Redhead: 20 Apr (1) Dunbar Cave S.P., MTC (AHH), lrs. Ring-necked Duck: 5 Jun (1 male capable of flight) MOP (BHS), lrs. Bufflehead: 21 Apr (pair) CCNWR (JCR), lrs. Red-breasted Merganser: 3 May (1) Red Hill, LWC (DJS), lrs. Ruddy Duck: 19 Apr (1) FRR (SJS), lrs.

Raptors: Osprey: 10 Apr (1) DRU (MDH), ers; 12 other reports. MISSISSIPPI KITE: 9 May (1 2nd year) LHL (DJS, Michael A. Beuerlein), first LWC record (good details); rare anywhere in the region. Northern Harrier: 27 Apr (1) CCNWR (JCR), lrs. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 14 reports (4 Mar-10 May). Cooper's Hawk: 12 reports (3 Mar-31 May). *Accipiter* reports were about average for a spring season. Broad-winged Hawk: 28 Mar (4 lifted out of trees between 0935-1015 and thermalled up out of sight in 2 minutes) Lady Finger Bluff on Tennessee R. near Linden, PYC (BHS), ers; 18 Apr (8 with 7 in migrating flock) FKC (JCR, SJS, BHS, SJW), max. Red-tailed Hawk: 4 Mar (1 dark phase) CCNWR (JCR), bird not seen thereafter; 10 Apr (21) SWC (DWB), max; 18 Apr (1 dark phase) GOP (JCR). Rough-legged Hawk: 4 Apr (1 light phase) WMC (BHS), lrs; followed closely the snowfall which covered the region in late March. Golden Eagle: 1 Mar (3) DRU (JCR), lrs; only report. Peregrine Falcon: 9 May (1 imm) WMC (BHS, CAS), lrs; only report. Merlin: 26 Apr (1) CCNWR (DWB), lrs; only report.

Turkey — Crane: Wild Turkey: reported from HPC, PIC, SWC only. Ruffed Grouse: 19-25 Mar (1 drummer) near Cuba Landing, HPC (RLK), considered to have been a disappointing result of the restoration effort mounted during the winter of 1985-86 (Migrant 57:57, 1986). KING RAIL: 18 Apr (2)/6 May (1) GOP (WCF, LBF, JCR, SJS, BHS, SJW, DFV, Lida C. Rodriguez/DJS, SJS), only reports. Virginia Rail: 3 May (1) CCNWR (DWB); 6 May (1) MOP (SJS, DJS); 9-10 May (1) BEC (DWB, JCR); only reports. Sora: 5 Apr (1) LWC (DJS), ers; 3 May (16) SWC (DWB); 10 May (17) SWC (JCR), max; 17 May (1) BEC (JCR), lrs. COMMON MOORHEN: 17 May (1) BEC (JCR, DWB), only report. Sandhill Crane: 2 Mar (40) 8 km S of Hillsboro, CFC (F. Nicky Medley, Lee W. Medley); 2 Mar (270+) BAH (RWS); 2 Mar (50) 10 km ESE Cookeville, PUC (JWW); 3 Mar (250) in and E of Cookeville, PUC (JWW); 3 Mar (50) BAH (RWS); 5 Mar (590+, seen mainly between 1322-1352) BAH (RWS); 7 Mar (60) Rutherford Co. (Richard E. Hunter, Wilma J. Hunter); 7 Mar (50+) Nashville (AHN, Robert A. Nixon), this and the previous sighting possibly of the same flock (time and flight direction are helpful data to note in conjunction with crane sightings); 17 Mar (45) BAH (RWS), lrs; cranes apparently migrated somewhat to the west of their usual migration corridor on the Cumberland Plateau; they went unrecorded in PIC by RCH, who usually reports the largest regional numbers, were more conspicuous than usual near Cookeville, and were even reported in the Nashville Basin.

Shorebirds: Lesser Golden-Plover: 15 Mar (3) CCNWR (JCR), ers; 22 Mar-14 Apr (up to 74) LWC (DJS), max (5 Apr); 28 Mar (3) Lady Finger Bluff, PYC (BHS); 5-8 Apr (1-3) Tims Ford L. mudflats, FKC (RWL, MDH); 12 Apr (9) CAB (JPC, DTC), lrs. Semipalmated Plover: 21 Apr (3) CCSP (JCR), ers; 6 May (160) GSP (SJS, DJS), new NA maximum number. Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 May (64) ROB (DJS), max. Upland Sandpiper: 13 Apr (1) N of Tullahoma, CFC (MDH), ers; 18 Apr (1) GOP (JCR, WCF, LBF *et al.*); 21 Apr (2) c. 1 km E

of Carlisle, SWC (JCR), max; 5 May (1) PWP (DFV), lrs; only reports, but more than usual for this species in recent years. RUDDY TURNSTONE: 18 Apr (1) Old Hickory Beach, DVC (Ramona A. See), new NA early spring date and only April date (good details). Sanderling: 25 Apr (1) near Spring Hill, on MUC spring count (Brad Hammond, *vide* George R. Mayfield, Jr.), only report (no details). Western Sandpiper: 10 May (1) CCNWR (DWB), only report. Least Sandpiper: 10 May (78) CCNWR (JCR), max. White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 May (1) Todd's Lake, RUC (TJW, DMM), few or no RUC records; 4, 10, 14 May (1/2/3) CCNWR (JCR, DWB); 6, 9, 24 May (1/1/5) GSP (SJS, DJS/DRJ/DTC, JPC), only reports. Baird's Sandpiper: **28 Feb** (11) LOR (DJS), ers; incredibly early, perhaps earliest ever in state (excellent details including sketch). Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Mar (3) LOR (DJS), ers; 11 Apr (70) CCNWR (JCR), max. Dunlin: 11-12 Apr (1) CAB (Richard Newton, DTC, JPC), new NA early spring date (excellent details and photos). Stilt Sandpiper: 14 Apr (5) CCNWR (DWB), only report. Short-billed Dowitcher: 26 Apr (2) CCNWR (DWB, JCR), ers (good details); 2 other reports lacked substantiating details and remain dowitcher sp.: 3 May (1) CCNWR and 19 May (2) CCSP. Common Snipe: 8 Mar (84) LWC (DJS, JCR), max. American Woodcock: 8 Mar (nest with 3 eggs) near McAllister's Crossroads, MTC (John J. Quick). No reports of any phalarope species were received.

Gull — Tern: LAUGHING GULL: 3 May (1 ad) LHL (DJS), first LWC record (good details). COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL: 13-22 Mar (1 winter ad changing to alternate plumage) Hamilton Creek, PPL, DVC (CGD, m.ob.), first state record (excellent details and good photos); details should be published. Bonaparte's Gull: 4 May (3) CCNWR (JCR), lrs. Ring-billed Gull: 1 Mar (3 ad) ROB (DJS), rare in LWC. Caspian Tern: 26 Apr (4) CCNWR (JCR), ers; 24 May (1) GSP (DTC, JPC), lrs; only reports. Forster's Tern: 20 Apr (1) CCNWR (JCR), ers. LEAST TERN: 27 May (1 ad) CCNWR (JCR), only report (excellent details); the regularity of this species' appearance in Stewart Co. in recent years suggests it may breed somewhere along the Cumberland River or on Kentucky Lake; a survey of the area in June 1988 would seem desirable.

Cuckoo — Woodpecker: Black-billed Cuckoo: 3 May (1) LBL (DWB), ers; 10 May (1) CCNWR (JCR); 15 May (1) LBL (DWB); 23 May (1) CHD (MHI, RRD), lrs; only reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 22 Apr (1) PEB (MLM), ers. COMMON BARN-OWL: 8 Apr (1 found sick or disoriented) near Tullahoma airport, CFC (Chuck Richardson, Ben Layton, L.B. Windley); 14 Apr (1) Mt. Juliet, WLC (John L. Stokes); only reports. Chuck-will's-widow: 20 Apr (2 calling) FCMR (JCR), ers; 17 May (12 calling) HOC (JCR), max. Whip-poor-will: 28 Mar (2 calling) LEF (BHS), ers; 17 May (12 calling) HOC (JCR), max. Chimney Swift: 18 Mar (2) RDL (AHN, Lillian Wurzel, Jane C. Maynard), ers. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 5 Apr (1 window casualty) CFC (Frank Hernandez, MDH), ers; considered to be late arriving by m.ob. Red-headed Woodpecker: considered by JCR to be "alarmingly" low in numbers in most areas of the region; LWC and WMC populations appear to be in good shape, with the former increasing according to DJS; as has become customary, no data about the CHC population were submitted.

Flycatchers: Olive-sided Flycatcher: 3 May (1) LBL (DWB), ers; 8 May (1) LBL (DWB); 9 May (1) RDL on NA spring count (C. Rowan Debold, Christina Debold, John D. Fort); 17 May (1) CCNWR (JCR); 22 May (1) SW of

Dover, SWC (JCR), lrs; only reports. Eastern Wood-Pewee: 17 Apr (1) PEB (MLM), ers. Acadian Flycatcher: 21 Apr (1 singing) PWP (SDB), ers. Willow Flycatcher: 9 May (3/2) MC/Ashland City, CHC both NA spring count (CGD *et al.*), ers. ALDER FLYCATCHER: 31 May (1 singing) W of LOR (DJS), a seldom reported *Empidonax* in the region (excellent details). Least Flycatcher: only 6 reports (6-16 May), all of 1 bird each. Eastern Phoebe: 15 Mar (29) SWC (JCR), max. Great Crested Flycatcher: 19 Apr (1) WSB (DWB), ers. Eastern Kingbird: 20 Mar (1) PWP (DFV), ers; 29 Mar (1) Long Creek, SWC (JCR), also notably early.

Lark — Creeper: Horned Lark: reported from CFC, LWC, and SWC only. Purple Martin: 6 Mar (1 male) Lawrenceburg, LWC (Wylie Willis, *vide* DJS). Tree Swallow: 20 Feb (1) CCNWR (JCR), ers. Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 22 Mar (2) RDL (MWA, LNA, ARH, BHS, SJS), ers; 18-20 May (2 with a partial nest in a parked semi-trailer on 1st day; trailer moved 2nd day; birds not seen after 3rd day) LOR (DJS); see *Migrant* 57: 108, 1986 for a related nesting record. Cliff Swallow: 28 Mar (4) E side of Kentucky L. in SWC (JCR), ers; 9-10 May (1800+) CHC (MHI, ECC, MJW), max. Barn Swallow: 20 Mar (1) CCNWR (JCR), ers. Blue Jay: 19 Apr (33 migrating) CHD (MHI); 21 Apr (38, many migrating) CCNWR (JCR); only reports of migrant jays. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 27 Apr (1) CCNWR (JCR), lrs. Brown Creeper: 11 Apr (1) LBL (JCR), lrs.

Wrens: BEWICK'S WREN: 3-18 Mar (1) LOR (Donna N. Simbeck, Don K. Simbeck, DJS); 9 Mar (1 singing) Gallatin, SUC (SJS, BHS, DTC); 28-29 Mar (1) CLA (Joe D. Allen, *vide* AHH), CLA received 6 inches of snow shortly thereafter, possibly causing the wren to depart (or freeze); 25 Apr (2) entrance road to CLSP (JCR); several May (i.e., breeding) records; see Summer 87 report. House Wren: 22 Mar (1) LIB (DJS), ers. Winter Wren: 26 Apr (1) EWP (Paul B. Hamel, William and Connie Cowart), lrs. Sedge Wren: 3 May (9) SWC (DWB), max; 9 May (3) BEC (DWB); only reports. Marsh Wren: 14 Mar (1) MC (DFV), ers; 9 May (8) BEC (DWB), max.

Kinglet — Vireo: Golden-crowned Kinglet: 17 Apr (6) LBL (DWB), lrs. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 23 Mar (1) PWP (DFV), ers; 26 Apr (36) MBSP (JCR), max. Swainson's Thrush: 23 May (1) CLA (AHH), lrs. Hermit Thrush: 23 Apr (1) PEB (MLM), lrs. Wood Thrush: 15 Apr (1) CCNWR (JCR), ers. Water Pipit: 28 Apr (1) CCNWR (JCR), lrs. Warbling Vireo: 8 Apr (1) CLA (EJW), ers. Philadelphia Vireo: 26 Apr (1) BEC (DWB), ers; only 3 other reports.

Warblers: Blue-winged Warbler: 15 Apr (1) CFC (MDH), ers. Golden-winged Warbler: only 5 reports (26 Apr-4 May). "Brewster's" Warbler: 23 Apr (1) Lovelady, PIC (RCH). Tennessee Warbler: 17 Apr (1) LBL (DWB), ers. Orange-crowned Warbler: 26 Apr (1) BEC (DWB); 7 May (1) RDL (CAS); only reports. Nashville Warbler: 20 Apr (1) LBL (JCR), ers. Northern Parula: 11 Apr (1) LEF (BHS), ers. Yellow Warbler: 17 Apr (1) CCNWR (DWB), ers. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 22 Apr (1/1) CLA/PEB (AHH/MLM), ers; 24 May (1) RDL (CAS), lrs. Magnolia Warbler: 15 Apr (1) PWP (SDB), ers. Yellow-rumped ("AUDUBON'S") Warbler: 15 Mar (1 male) LBL (JCR), first state record of this subspecies (excellent details); details should be published. Black-throated Green Warbler: 4 Apr (1) PWP (DFV), ers. Yellow-throated Warbler: 29 Mar (1, seen eating cornbread during the snowfall which followed this date) LEF (SJS, BHS), ers. Pine Warbler: pairs reported

from the following fire towers by DWB: Model in LBL, Dover in SWC, Erin in HOC, Tennessee City and Burns in DIC. Prairie Warbler: 12 Apr (1) MOP (William N. Jernigan), ers. Blackpoll Warbler: 18 Apr (1) DRU (MHI, CKC), ers. Cerulean Warbler: 15 Apr (1) PWP (SDB), ers. Black-and-white Warbler: 26 Mar (1) BAH (RWS), ers. Prothonotary Warbler: 7 Apr (1) PEB (MLM), ers; 18 Apr (17) DRU (MHI, CKC), max. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER**: 9-11 May+ (1 singing territorially) Ashland City Marsh, CHC (CGD *et al.*), at site where records of this species also occurred in 1942 and 1961 (Parmer *et al.*, Birds of the Nashville Area, 4th ed., p. 38). Worm-eating Warbler: 8 Apr (1) CLA (EJW), ers. Ovenbird: 17 Apr (1) LBL (JCR), ers. Northern Waterthrush: 19 Apr (1) CHD (MHI), ers; 16 May (1) Terrapin Run Cr., SWC (JCR), lrs. Louisiana Waterthrush: 17 Mar (1) Basin Spring, WMC (Katherine A. Goodpasture), ers. Kentucky Warbler: 14 Apr (1) EWP (DFV), ers. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: 4 reports, none with acceptable details. **MOURNING WARBLER**: 4 reports, none with acceptable details. Common Yellowthroat: 10 Apr (1) LBL (DWB), ers. Hooded Warbler: 15 Apr (1) CFC (RWL), ers. Wilson's Warbler: 9 May (3) BEC (DWB), max; only report. Canada Warbler: 1 May (1) LBL (DWB), ers; 19 May (1) CFC (MDH), lrs. Yellow-breasted Chat: 20 Apr (1) LBL (JCR), ers.

Tanager — *Dickcissel*: Summer Tanager: 15 Apr (1) Dover Fire Tower, SWC (DWB), ers. Scarlet Tanager: 16 Apr (1) LBL (JCR), ers; 26 Apr (17) MBSP (JCR), max. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 24-28 Mar (1 male at bird feeder and birdbath) Buffalo Rd. SW DVC (Debbie W. Hill), probably a bird which overwintered in the U.S.; 22 Apr (1) CCNWR (JCR), next earliest report. Blue Grosbeak: 26 Apr (2) BEC (DWB), ers. Indigo Bunting: 13 Apr (1) CLA (AHH), ers. Dickcissel: 2 May (11) MTC (EJW, AHH), ers and max.

Sparrows: **BACHMAN'S SPARROW**: 28 Mar (1+) Giles Co. site (DJS), ers; also found at 1 other site in county and at 1 LWC site; see Summer 87 report. Chipping Sparrow: 9 Mar (1) CLA (AHH), ers. Vesper Sparrow: 8 Mar (1) LWC (JCR, DJS), ers; 29 Apr (1) CCNWR (JCR), lrs. Lark Sparrow: 3 May (1) CCNWR (DWB), ers; 10 May (2) Pardue's Pond, DIC (MHI, ECC, MJW); only reports with details. Savannah Sparrow: 17 May (1) CCNWR (JCR), lrs. Grasshopper Sparrow: 25 Apr (1) 2 km S of entrance to CLSP (JCR), ers. Lincoln's Sparrow: 22 Mar (1) LIB (DJS), ers. Swamp Sparrow: 16 May (1) CCNWR (DWB), lrs. White-throated Sparrow: until EOP (1) SUC (Bessie Hagan, *vide* JPC), lrs; see Summer 87 report. White-crowned Sparrow: 15 May (1) N WMC (CAS), lrs. Dark-eyed Junco: 4 May (1) LBL (DWB), lrs.

Icterids — *Fringillids*: Bobolink: 21 Apr (1/8) BAR/CCNWR (DWB/JCR), ers. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: until 5 Apr (up to 19) LWC (DJS, JCR); 13 Apr (1 female) c. 1 km E of Carlisle, SWC (JCR), lrs. Orchard Oriole: 17 Apr (2) WSB (DWB), ers. Northern Oriole: 22 Apr (1) WSB (DWB), ers. Purple Finch: 9 May (1) LEF (SJS, BHS), lrs. **RED CROSSBILL**: 31 Mar (3) LBL (DWB), only report. Pine Siskin: until EOP (1) WLC (Earline C. Berry, Vernon Berry), lrs. Evening Grosbeak: 9 May (2) Dover, SWC (JCR), lrs.

Addenda: An unidentified *Empidonax* collected as a road kill on Del Rio Pike, WMC, on 21 May 86 (SJS) was identified by Roger Clapp (U.S. Museum of Natural History) as a "Traill's Flycatcher (pers. comm. from Richard C. Banks, USMNH, to DFV); the specimen now resides at the Warner Parks Nature Center (#168), DVC; only one previous WMC record of Willow or Alder Flycatcher is known, and, interestingly, that record is of a

Willow Flycatcher singing territorially from 17 May-2 June 86 on Del Rio Pike, about 1 km from the site where the road killed bird was collected (Migrant 57: 108, 1986). On 8 Apr 84 a banded Common Grackle was trapped by DFV at 3507 Belmont Blvd. in Nashville; the Bird Banding Laboratory subsequently reported that the band (1113-94834) had originally been placed on the bird (at the time an AHY female) by Amelia R. Laskey on 2 Apr 73 "near Nashville" (i.e., probably Graybar Lane).

Corrigenda: Migrant 57:77, 1986: in Table 1 add an asterisk after "Blackpoll Warbler"; Migrant 57: 79, 1986: in entry for Least Flycatcher under 4 May change "Percy Priest L. area (Audrey D. Perry, Ray Fleischer)" to RDL (*vide* KKC)."

Locations: BAH — Barnes Hollow, Putnam Co.; BEC — Bear Creek Waterfowl Management Unit, Stewart Co.; CAB — Cage's Bend, Sumner Co.; CCNWR — Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart Co.; CCSP — Cumberland City Steam Plant, Stewart Co.; CFC — Coffey Co.; CHC — Cheatham Co.; CHD — Cheatham Dam, Cheatham Co.; CLA — Clarksville, Montgomery Co.; CLSP — Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Wilson Co. DRU — Duck River Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Humphreys Co.; DVC — Davidson Co.; EWP — Edwin Warner Park, Davidson Co.; FCMR — Fort Campbell Military Reservation, Montgomery and Stewart Cos.; FKC — Franklin Co.; FRR — Franklin Reservoir, Williamson Co.; GOP — Goose Pond, Grundy Co.; GSP — Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner Co.; HOC — Houston Co.; HPC — Humphreys Co.; LEF — Leiper's Fork, Williamson Co.; LHL — Laurel Hill Lake, Lawrence Co.; LIB — Liberty Grove, Lawrence Co.; LOR — Loretto, Lawrence Co.; LWC — Lawrence Co.; MBSP — Montgomery Bell State Park, Dickson Co.; MC — Metro Center, Davidson Co.; MOP — Monsanto Ponds, Maury Co.; MTC — Montgomery Co.; MUC — Maury Co.; NA — Nashville Area (all of Cheatham, Davidson, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson Cos., and parts of Dickson and Trousdale Cos.); PEB — Pennington Bend, Davidson Co.; PIC — Pickett Co.; PPL — Percy Priest Lake (in Davidson, Rutherford, and Wilson Cos.); PWP — Percy Warner Park, Davidson Co.; PYC — Perry Co.; RDL — Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Davidson Co.; ROB — Robertson Pond, Lawrence Co.; RUC — Rutherford Co.; SUC — Sumner Co.; SWC — Stewart Co.; WDR — Woods Reservoir (in Coffey and Franklin Cos.); WLC — Wilson Co.; WMC — Williamson Co.; WSB — Wiley's Spring Bay, Stewart Co.

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EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION — After a mild winter, March temperatures were near to slightly above normal, April was several degrees below normal, and May was considerably warmer than normal. Rainfall was 2-3 inches low at Chattanooga and Knoxville, but near normal at Johnson City.

The weather event of the season was a freak snowstorm on 3-4 April. Chattanooga received 3 inches on the fourth, but it had melted by mid-afternoon. About 10 inches accumulated in Knoxville, mostly on the third,

and did not fully melt off until 6 April. During the 2-day storm, the Johnson City area was blanketed with 14-17 inches, with Tri-Cities Airport reporting 14.8 inches — more than twice the previous April record and the third deepest snowfall since record keeping began in 1943. Very cold temperatures allowed the snow cover to remain until 8 April in that area. Insectivorous birds, in particular, were forced to “tough it out”. Purple Martins and Eastern Bluebirds suffered the most. Although dead martins and bluebirds were reported from Knoxville, the worst news came from upper East Tennessee. Purple Martin mortality rates there ranged from about 10-20% per colony; but only a small fraction of the local breeding population had arrived by that time and nesting success later on appeared to be excellent. The bluebird population was devastated, with many reports of dead birds inside or near nest boxes (details concerning both species will be published). From the Knoxville and Johnson City areas, nesting failures were reported for Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, and American Robin; however, 2 young Mourning Doves survived the blizzard and fledged on 8 April in this writer's yard in Johnson City.

Most late-March migrants arrived on time, but many subsequent migrants were delayed, even some which do not normally arrive until late April or early May, such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Other factors must have been involved.

Not all of the news was bad. A few unexpected species and above average movements of several other species were reported, as well as other migration data and some significant breeding records. Read on!

Loon — Heron: Red-throated Loon: 5-10 Apr (1) CHL (KHD, RJH, AMJ, JTP *et al.*). Common Loon: 5 Apr (37) CHL (KHD, LHD) and 17 Apr (37) BOL (RLK), max; 25 Apr (8) BOL (MD, RH), lrs. Pied-billed Grebe: 13 May (2) AUS (RLK), lrs. Horned Grebe: 14 Mar (30) CHL (KHD, LHD), max; 11 Apr (2) AUS (RLK), only JNC area report and lrs in region. Double-crested Cormorant: 21 Mar/5 Apr (1/35) CHL (KHD, LHD); 10-11 Apr (2, 1) FLL (MLD, ARH, RDH *et al.*); 16 Apr (1) BOL (RLK, GDE, BC); 26 Apr (36) “record high count on the KNC Spring Count included 12 flying over downtown KNX and 24 on FLL” (MLD *et al.*). American Bittern: 18 Apr (1) MVM (RAP); 22 Apr (2) AMM (CDB, JCW, SLW). Great Egret: 29 Mar (1) HRA (KHD, LHD); 11-12 Apr (1) FLL (MLD, PSP *et al.*); 16-19 Apr (1) AUS (RLK, GDE, BC); 16-17 Apr (1-3) SAB (LHD); 17-19 Apr (1-9) CHA (Jay W. Knott); 6 May (2) AUS (RLK); 16 May (1) EBF (CPN, MLD *et al.*). Snowy Egret: 22 Apr (1) CHA (JTP, LHD); 8 May (1) AUS (SG, GWS, CFW, BC). Little Blue Heron: 6 May (1 ad) AUS (RLK). Cattle Egret: 25-26 Apr (1) AUS (RLK, BC); 2 May (1) north POC (JCW, Russ Meek). Black-crowned Night-Heron: 31 Mar (2) BYC (DCC); 11 Apr (2) CHA (JSL); 16-17 Apr (1-3) SAB (LHD); 25 Apr (1) AUS (RLK, BC). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 5 Apr (6) returned to 1986 CHA nest site (*vide* L.E. Atkins).

Waterfowl: Canada Goose: high water flooded several nests in the JNC area, but others were successful (RLK). Green-winged Teal: 5 Apr (4) HRA (KHD, LHD), lrs. American Black Duck: 14 Mar (45) HRA (KHD, LHD), lrs. Mallard: 25 Apr (female with 16 young) AUS (RLK, BC). Blue-winged Teal: 13 Mar (2) JNB (RLK), ers; 12 Apr (145) HRA (KHD, LHD), max; 6 May (2) AUS (RLK), lrs. Northern Shoveler: 15 Mar — 13 Apr (3-22) HRA, CHL (KHD, LHD, RJH, JSL); 19 Apr (8) Rankin Bottoms, Cocke Co. (JAK), lrs.

Gadwall: 13 Apr (2) AUS (RLK), lrs. American Wigeon: 15 Apr (1) AUS (RLK), lrs. Canvasback: 21 Mar — 5 Apr (2) CHL (KHD, LHD), only report. Redhead: 14 Mar (7) CHL (KHD, LHD), lrs. Ring-necked Duck: 7/15 Mar (200/250) HRA/CHL (KHD, LHD, JDR, RJH), max; 11 Apr (25/14) FLL/AUS (MLD, PSP/RLK), good numbers for date; 5 May (1) JNB (RLK), lrs. Greater Scaup: 1 Mar (225) CHL (KHD, LHD), max. Lesser Scaup: 14 Mar (500) CHL (KHD, LHD), max; 11 Apr (250/90) FLL/AUS (MLD, PSP/RLK), good numbers for date; 25 Apr (5) AUS (RLK, BC), last migrants; one all period and into summer on pond in JNC (RLK, MD). OLDSQUAW: 25 Apr (1 breeding plumage male) AUS (RLK, BC); next to latest spring record in state, latest 4 May 1967 in Nashville (Migrant 38:48, 1967). Surf Scoter: 20 Apr (2) SAB (KHD, LHD, CDB, DCC, JSL, JCW, SLW, Barbara McMahan). White-winged Scoter: 7-20 Mar (1-2) CHL (KHD, LHD, CDB, JTP). Common Goldeneye: 16 Mar (1) CHA (RJH), lrs. Bufflehead: 11 Apr (30/1) FLL/AUS (MLD, PSP/RLK); 12 Apr (2) CHL (KHD, LHD), lrs. Hooded Merganser: 25 May (1) AMM (KHD), lrs. Red-breasted Merganser: 11/17 Apr (11/1) AUS (RLK), max/lrs. Ruddy Duck: 20 Mar (150) CHL (AMJ), max; 17 Apr (3) BOL (RLK), lrs.

Vulture — Rail: Black Vulture: small numbers throughout period (along with several regular Turkey Vultures) at Raccoon Valley landfill, Anderson Co. (CPN). Osprey: numerous reports of 1-2 birds during Apr and early May on regional waterways. MISSISSIPPI KITE: 2 May (1) Reflection Riding, CHA (CDB, D. Kenton Dickerson *et al.*), second spring and fifth overall CHA area record (see Migrant 53:64-65, 1982). Bald Eagle: 15 May (1 ad) Tennessee River Gorge (James K. Pettyjohn). Northern Harrier: 26 Apr (1) POC (JCW), lrs. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 19 May (1 nest) BAM (FJA, RAP), pair present, female incubating. Peregrine Falcon: 7/23 Mar (1 ad) CHL (KHD/AMJ). Ruffed Grouse: 21 Apr (1) JNC (RLK). King Rail: 12/21 Apr (1) AMM (RAR, LHD/JTP); 12 Apr (1) Alcoa Marsh, BLC (MWA, LNA). VIRGINIA RAIL: 13 Mar/20 Apr (4/nest with 7 eggs, later destroyed) MVM (RAP), previous nest found 20 Apr 1976 at MVM (RAP). Sora: 23 Mar — 22 Apr (1-2) AMM (Paul C. Harris, RJH, RAR, SLW *et al.*); 18 Apr (14) MVM (RAP); 25 Apr (1/2) AUS/LST (RLK, BC); 26 Apr (4) KNC (KNX Chapter); 1 May (1 road kill) Speedwell, CIC (GWM); 2 May (1) CHA (RJH); 5 May (1) SAB (KHD); 6 May (1) GNC (RN, WRN); good number of reports.

Sandhill Crane: After reporting the largest number of cranes documented wintering in Tennessee (see last report), observers in the Chattanooga area saw the largest, or at least best documented, migration ever. Forty-four reports by 24 observers totaling 5628 cranes (with some duplication) between 21 Feb and 15 Mar were received by KHD (12 reports of 100-199 cranes, 11 of 200+). These reports came from HLC (27 reports), Meigs Co. (11 reports), BYC and Marion Co. (1 report each), as well as Walker Co., Georgia (4 reports). The peak of the flight occurred during 2-5 Mar with 700 or more cranes seen each day, including 800-1000 observed migrating over SIM on 5 Mar by Robert C. Hornsby *et al.* ("the largest sustained movement to date" *vide* KHD). Elsewhere along the crane migration corridor — 3/4 Mar (50/40) SEW and 6 Mar (50) Grundy Co. (Jerry L. Ingles); 3 Mar (8) Putnam Co. (JWW); 3 Mar (17/9) Crossville/I-40 at Genesis Rd., CUC (Clarence D. Coffey/Allen York). No reports from KNX area.

Shorebirds: Lesser Golden-Plover: 5 Apr (2) SAB (KHD, LHD); 8/13 Apr (4/1) AUS (RLK), third spring and fifth overall record in JNC/Elizabethton

area; 10, 11 Apr (7, 9) KNC (MLD, ARH, RDH *et al.*); 12 Apr (1) KSP (KHD, LHD); good showing. Semipalmated Plover: 30 Apr (2) EBF (CPN, RLK); 24-31 May (1) KSP (KHD, LHD). Greater Yellowlegs: 5-12 Apr (2-4) HRA (KHD, LHD); 11 Apr — 6 May (1-8) AUS (RLK). Lesser Yellowlegs: 29 Mar — 13 Apr (1-17) HRA (KHD, LHD); 28 Mar — 6 May (1-21) AUS (RLK). Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Apr (1) CHA (RJH), ers; 25 Apr (29) several scattered ponds, WGC (RLK, BC), max; 6 May (2) AUS (RLK), lrs. Spotted Sandpiper: 23 Apr — 13 May (1-4) AUS (RLK). Upland Sandpiper: 26 Apr (1) KNC (ARH). Ruddy Turnstone: 24 Apr (1) JNB (MD, GWS, BC, CFW); first spring and fourth overall record for upper East Tennessee, others from Roan Creek (Johnson Co.) in Eastern Mountain Region (Migrant 56:103-105, 1985). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 26 Apr — 31 May (1-5) KSP (KHD, LHD); 5 May (2) JNB (RLK). Least Sandpiper: 13-29 Mar (2-3) SAB (KHD, LHD); 26 Apr (1) AUS (RLK); 10 May (15) KSP (KHD, LHD). White-rumped Sandpiper: 13 May (5) KSP (MLA, LNA). Pectoral Sandpiper: 13 Mar — 5 Apr (2-53/20) SAB/HRA (KHD, LHD); 8-25 Apr (1-11) AUS (RLK *et al.*). Dunlin: 5 Apr (53) HRA (KHD, LHD), lrs at this wintering site. Stilt Sandpiper: 8 May (1) AUS (SG, CFW). Common Snipe: 4 Mar — 6 May (1-25) AUS (RLK *et al.*), after just 1 winter record in JNC area. American Woodcock: 5 Mar (1) AMM (KHD, Ross Kinderman); 13 Mar (2) MVM (RAP); 14 Mar (6+) KNC (ARH, RDH *et al.*); 3 Apr (1 ad, 2 downy young) seen in 3 inches snow, Big South Fork, Fentress Co. (RCH, Dave Hassler, Dee & John Eiklor); 25 Apr (2 ad with nest) SEW (Harry C. Yeatman, J. A. Yeatman); 13 May (1) AUS (RLK).

Gull — Sapsucker: LAUGHING GULL: 20 Mar (1) CHL (AMJ). FRANKLIN'S GULL: 5-16 Apr (1-3) CHL (KHD, LHD, RAR, AMJ, JTP, RJH *et al.*), first local spring record. Bonaparte's Gull: 29 Mar — 10 Apr (12-20) CHL (KHD, LHD, JTP); 31 Mar — 25 Apr (2-20) BOL (RLK, GDE, BC); 6 Apr (60) HRA (AMJ); 10-11/14 Apr (15-5/40) FLL (MLD, ARH, RDH *et al.*/JAK); 11/25 Apr (10/5) Norris Lake, Union Co. (JCH). Ring-billed Gull: 10 May (15) KSP (KHD, LHD), lrs. Herring Gull: 29 Mar (1) CHL (KHD, LHD), lrs; none this period nor last on BOL (*fide* RLK). Caspian Tern: 10/31 May (3/1) KSP (KHD, LHD). Common Tern: 13 Apr (1) SAB (LHD). Forster's Tern: 13 Apr (2) SAB (KHD, LHD); 16 Apr (1) BOL (RLK, GDE, BC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: late in arriving in KNX and JNC areas (*fide* CPN and GDE). Common Barn-Owl: 2 Mar (1 road kill) LaFollette, Campbell Co. (GWM); 2 Mar (1) CHA (RJH); 27 Mar (1) AMM (JDR). Chuck-will's widow: 20 Apr (1) SAB (SLW, JCW, LHD), ers. Chimney Swift: 30 Mar (1) JNC (RLK), 1 day short of tying earliest area record. Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 May (1 at probable next site) I-40 at Crab Orchard eastbound rest area, CUC (CPN, RLK); 3 active nest sites in HLC (Randall L. Doyle, Robert B. Clark III, Evelyn White McKinney). YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: 10 May (1) Frozen Head Mountain, Morgan Co., elev. 3000 ft., exhibited territorial behavior but not found on 31 May (CPN).

Flycatcher — Vireo: ALDER FLYCATCHER: 25 May (1) CHA (KHD, Robert L. Pierce), a rarely encountered migrant. Willow Flycatcher: 6 May (1) AUS (RLK), ers at known breeding site; 24 May (1) Sharp's Ridge, KNX (JCH), a migrant not in breeding habitat. Eastern Kingbird: 14 Apr (1) JNB (RLK), ers. Horned Lark: 23/26 Apr (1 singing) JNB (RLK); "present all season, singing on 7 Mar at Koella farm, JEC" (JAK). Purple Martin: 1 Mar (1) HLC (KHD), ers; 3 Mar (1) KNC (*fide* J.B. Owen), first there; see intro. Tree Swallow: 18 Apr (250) MVM (RAP), max. Bank Swallow: returned to

1986 KSP nest site (KHD, LHD). Cliff Swallow: 10 Mar (1) CHA (RJH), ers. Common Raven: 13 May (1) St. John's Pond, WGC (RLK). Red-breasted Nuthatch: present in low numbers in KNX area until 4 May (2) (JCH, RLK); not reported elsewhere. **BROWN CREEPER**: 19 May (nest with 6 young) BAM (FJA, RAP), first regional breeding record. Winter Wren: 26 Apr (3) KNC (ARH), lrs. Sedge Wren: 26 Apr (1) KNC (PDH). Marsh Wren: 25 Apr (1) LST (RLK, BC); 26 Apr (1) KNC (PDH); 6 May (1) AUS (RLK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 5 May (1) JNC (RLK), lrs. Swainson's Thrush: very scarce in JNC area, only one report all period (*fide* GDE). Hermit Thrush: 25 Apr (1) JNC (RLK), lrs. Water Pipit: 5 Apr (25) SAB (KHD, LHD); 17 Apr (30) TCA (RLK); 23-26 Apr (65) JNB (RLK, BC); last reports. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 pair and 2 single birds seen in JNC area (RLK, GDE, BC). Solitary Vireo: 15 Mar (1) KNX (JCH), ers. Warbling Vireo: 16 May (1) CIC (GWM), only report.

Warbler — Grosbeak: Orange-crowned Warbler: over-wintering bird at KNX last seen on 22 Mar (Louise F. Fuller); 19 Apr (1) Norris (CPN); 4 May (1) KNX (JCH, RLK). Blackburnian Warbler: 24 May (1) KNX (JCH), lrs. Yellow-throated Warbler: 29 Mar (1) BLC (JAK), ers. Palm Warbler: first reports, both very early — 28 Feb (2) Tellico Dam, Loudon Co. (FB, Sharon Bostick); 7 Mar (3) Louisville, BLC (MLD). Prothonotary Warbler: 12 May (1) AUS (GDE), first sighting (late) at only known breeding site in JNC area. Connecticut Warbler: 13 May (1) KNC (FB), only report. Wilson's Warbler: 2 May (1) KNX (JCH *et al.*); 7 May (1) CHA (JTP). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 18 Apr (1) CHA (RJH), ers; 20 May (1) KNC (MLD *et al.*), lrs. Dickcissel: 9/13 May (1/4) POC (SLW *et al.*). Chipping Sparrow: 27 May (1 albino) Ocoee, POC (SLW, JCW). Vesper Sparrow: 28 Mar — 15 Apr (1-8) AUS (RLK); 28 Mar — 4 Apr (6) GNC (RN, WRN); 5 Apr (6) JEC (JAK); 10-11 Apr (1) KNC (MLD, ARH, RDH *et al.*); 18 Apr (2) CHA (RJH). Savannah Sparrow: 13 May (1) AUS (RLK), lrs. Grasshopper Sparrow: 17 Apr (1) TCA (RLK), ers; 9 May (6) POC (SLW *et al.*). White-crowned Sparrow: 5 May (1) JNC (RLK), lrs. Bobolink: 27 Apr — 9 May (4 reports of 1-20 birds) HLC, POC (m.ob.); fewer than average number of reports in KNC, max 3 May (50) (MLA, LNA); no reports from JNC area. Rusty Blackbird: 25 Apr (2) Blountville, Sullivan Co. (MD, RH), lrs. Pine Siskin: widespread and fairly numerous throughout region; last report in JNC area 9 May (SG); present until early May in KNC (*fide* CPN); max 4-6 May (150+) SIM, then diminishing numbers to 31 May (JSL). Evening Grosbeak: up to 15 regular at SIM through 30 Apr (JSL); 9 Apr (5) POC (JCW); influx into northern half of region — mid Apr to early May (numerous reports, max 50) KNX area (*fide* CPN); 14-30 Apr (many reports, max 50) JNC area (*fide* GDE); 25 Apr (5) Catoosa WMA, CUC (JCR).

Locations: AMM — Amnicola Marsh, Hamilton Co.; AUS — Austin Springs, Washington Co.; BAM — Bays Mountain, Sullivan Co.; BOL — Boone Lake, Sullivan and Washington Cos.; BLC — Blount Co.; BYC — Bradley Co.; CHA — Chattanooga; CHL — Chickamauga Lake, Hamilton Co.; CIC — Claiborne Co.; CUC — Cumberland Co.; EBF — Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Anderson Co.; FLL — Fort Loudoun Lake, Knox Co.; GNC — Greene Co.; HLC — Hamilton Co.; HRA — Hiwassee River Area, primarily Meigs Co., but also Bradley, McMinn and Rhea Cos.; JEC — Jefferson Co.; JNB — Jonesborough, Washington Co.; JNC — Johnson City; KNC — Knox Co.; KNX — Knoxville; KSP — Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co.; LST — Limestone, Washington Co.; MVM — Meadowview Marsh, Sullivan

Co.; POC — Polk Co.; SAB — Savannah Bay, Hamilton Co.; SEW — Sewanee, Franklin Co.; SIM — Signal Mountain, Hamilton Co.; TCA — Tri-cities Airport, Sullivan Co.; WGC — Washington Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — The weather was a major topic of discussion for the period. March saw above average temperatures with below average precipitation and almost no snowfall. However, April saw the largest snowfall depths ever recorded for the month in the region. At Elizabethton, snow fell from the evening of 2 April until the afternoon of 5 April. Snowfall depths ranged from 16 to 18 inches at lower elevations to over 2 feet in the high mountains, and covered the ground until 7 April. Purple Martin mortality was estimated at 17%, while the Eastern Bluebird population was decimated by an estimated 40-45%. These estimates were supported by Elizabethton spring count data. The rest of April saw above average precipitation, resulting in over twice the normal precipitation at Elizabethton. May temperatures were above average, and rainfall below average.

Several unusual observations during the period were reported. However, some parts of the region are still poorly reported on and each observer needs to make every effort to turn in their sightings. This will result in a more complete and interesting report.

Loon — Falcon: Common Loon: 24 Apr (1 flying over) CAC (FJA); 25 Apr (13) WTL (LHTOS), lrs. Green-backed Heron: 15 Apr (1) SMV (HHF), ers. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 11 Apr (2) Hunter Swamp, ELI (GDE), ers; 2 active nests at same site on 25 Apr (GDE). Canada Goose: 29 Apr (nest fledged 3 young) WTR (GDE). Blue-winged Teal: present in ELI area 5 Apr — 6 May (GDE). Northern Shoveler: 10 Mar (1), 9 Apr (1) RZF (CFW *et al.*). Bufflehead: 25 Apr (last seen, early departure) WIL (CFW, GDE). RUDDY DUCK: 24-26 Apr (1) CAC (Jim & Betty Reid Campbell, MLD), first GSMNP record. Black Vulture: 5 Apr (4), 28 Apr (2) WIL (GDE *et al.*); 8 May (1) GSMNP (RLK, RC). Osprey: 26 Apr (1) CAC (FJA); 17 May (2) Tellico Lake, Monroe Co. (ARH, RDH). Sharp-shinned & Cooper's Hawks: both species reported in above average numbers in ELI area (*vide* GDE). NORTHERN GOSHAWK: 26 Mar (1) Bristol (GDE). Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 May (1) RNM (LHTOS). Broad-winged Hawk: 9 Apr (first report) RZF (CFW). PEREGRINE FALCON: 25 Apr (1) WTL (GDE, HHF, CFW, GOW); 8-9 May (1) GSMNP (RLK, RC).

Turkey — Woodpecker: Wild Turkey: 26 Apr (9) CAC (FJA). Sora: 25 Apr (1) Erwin (GWS, SG, RPL). WILLET: 26 Apr (1) Newfound Gap, GSMNP (FJA). Common Snipe: 26 Apr (1) CAC (FJA). Bonaparte's Gull: 15 Apr (8) WTL (GDE). Ring-billed Gull: 16 Mar (8) Ocoee Lake, Polk Co. (CPN, JCW), uncommon in area; 25 Apr (43) WTL (GDE, HHF). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 20 May (1) ELI (HHF), ers, late. Common Barn-Owl: 15 May (1 nest) ELI (GDE). Great Horned Owl: 22 Apr (nest with 2 y) WIL (RLK). Barred Owl: 2 May (2 calling) RNM (GDE, GWS). Northern Saw-whet Owl: 11 May (1 calling) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (RLK). Whip-poor-will: no reports in ELI area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 31 Mar (1) ELI (HHF), lrs. **RED-**

COCKADED WOODPECKER: 16-17 Mar (1 clan, 3 active cavities) Polk Co., near S side of Ocoee Lake (JCW, SLW, CPN, Bruce Anderson).

Flycatcher — *Pipit*: Least Flycatcher: 2 May (1) RNM (LHTOS), ers. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: 9 May (1) GSMNP (RLK, RC). Purple Martin: 4 Mar (1) ELI (*fide* GDE), ers; approximately 17% mortality following early April snowstorm. Bank Swallow: 24 Apr (3) WTR (GDE); 9 May (1) GSMNP (RLK, RC). Barn Swallow: 17 Mar (1) Ocoee Lake, Polk Co. (CPN, JCW), ers, early. Common Raven: scattered reports from RNM and GSMNP. Carolina Wren: population did not seem to be affected by April snowstorm (*fide* GDE). Eastern Bluebird: several birds reported dead on nests following April snowstorm, with estimated mortality of 40-45% in ELI area (GDE): over 50% drop in numbers on ELI spring count. Veery: 2 May (1) RNM (LHTOS), ers. Swainson's & Gray-cheeked Thrushes: very few reports in ELI area (*fide* GDE). American Robin: unusually high numbers in ELI area through winter and spring (*fide* GDE). Water Pipit: 5 Apr (2) SMV (GDE, HFF).

Vireo — *Grosbeak*: Solitary Vireo: 17 Mar (1) Ocoee Lake, Polk Co. (CPN). Warbling Vireo: 8 May (1) ELI (SG), ers. Blue-winged Warbler: 25 Apr (1) Erwin (GWS, SG, RPL). Golden-winged Warbler: 2 May (1) RNM (LHTOS), ers. Magnolia Warbler: 5 May (1) Unicoi (FJA), ers. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 7 May (1) ELI (HFF), last report after high numbers all winter. Black-throated Green Warbler: 10 Apr (1) Ripshin Lake, Carter Co. (GDE, RLK), ers. Yellow-throated Warbler: 15 Apr (1) WIL (GDE), ers. Pine Warbler: 15 Mar (1) WTL (GDE), ers. Blackpoll Warbler: 12 May (1) Unicoi (FJA). Swainson's Warbler: 7 May (1) Unaka Mtn. (FJA). Canada Warbler: 7 May (1) Unaka Mtn. (FJA), ers. Blue Grosbeak: 22 May (1) ELI (John Martin), ers. DICKCISSEL: 7 Mar (1 imm male at feeder) ELI (HFF). Vesper Sparrow: 5 Apr (4) SMV (GDE); 9, 12 Apr (1) ELI (FJA). Fox Sparrow: 9 Mar (1) ELI (HFF), lrs. Rusty Blackbird: 13 Apr (1) RZF (FJA); 24 Apr (1) ELI (GDE). Purple Finch: 28 Apr (last seen) ELI (HFF). House Finch: winter flocks started disbanding in late Mar at ELI, first nest located on 13 Apr; first fledglings noted 24 Apr at ELI (*fide* GDE). Red Crossbill: 25 Apr (9) WTL (CFW, GOW); 8 May (2-3) GSMNP (RLK). Pine Siskin: heavy influx at feeders in ELI area during Mar & Apr, last report 11 May (*fide* GDE). Evening Grosbeak: several flocks of 6-15 birds each at feeders in ELI area, last report 3 May (*fide* GDE).

Locations: ELI — Elizabethton; CAC — Cades Cove, GSMNP, Blount Co.; GSMNP — Great Smoky Mountains National Park; RNM — Roan Mountain; RZF — Razor Farm, Carter Co.; SMV — Siam Valley, Carter Co.; WTL — Watauga Lake; WTR — Watauga river, Carter Co.; WIL — Wilbur Lake, Carter Co.

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BOOK REVIEW

BACHMAN'S WARBLER: A SPECIES IN PERIL, by Paul B. Hamel. 1986. 110 pp., 6 figures. \$11.95, softbound. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC.

This slim volume contains 2 parts — a summary of the natural history of Bachman's Warbler, and an extensive bibliography of the species. The bibliography comprises most of the book, and the life history section was apparently added as an afterthought. The bibliography contains 501 entries covering primary and secondary sources through late 1985. References are listed in both alphabetical order and by subject, using the sequence of subject headings in *Zoological Record*. Numerous unpublished reports are included in the bibliography.

The life history section thoroughly summarizes current knowledge of the species, and Hamel occasionally speculates to fill some of the many gaps in our knowledge. The virtual disappearance of the species appears to be related to factors operating on the breeding grounds, during migration, and on the Cuban wintering grounds. Hamel argues that the species bred in disturbed hardwood swamps (an idea not universally accepted), and the availability of suitable habitat varied in space and time. Within this habitat, it was often associated with cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), and, as recently suggested by J.V. Remsen, may have been a "cane specialist." Extensive canebreaks have been virtually eliminated by clearing for agriculture. The species' relatively early fall migration exposed it to hurricanes. Meanwhile, on the wintering grounds, already greatly reduced in area following post-Pleistocene glaciation sea level rises, agricultural clearing and hurricanes apparently destroyed winter habitat. Prior to intervention by European man, Bachman's Warbler populations probably fluctuated due to many of the above factors. Following intervention by European man, these population cycles may have increased in amplitude. Hamel suggests the relative abundance of the species in the Mississippi Valley as described by Widmann and Howell near the turn of the century may have been related to an abundance of breeding habitat following extensive high-grade logging in the Mississippi Valley. As these areas grew back, or were later completely cleared for agriculture, the warbler's local population probably crashed.

Does the Bachman's Warbler still survive? Hamel does not have a definitive answer. Sight records of single birds have been reported from the United States and Cuba through the early 1980's, although not all of these are universally accepted. Surviving birds may be dispersed in such low numbers as to have trouble finding mates, and could be easily overlooked by ornithologists. Hamel suggests we keep looking, and thoroughly document our observations.

This book is necessary reading for anyone seriously pursuing Bachman's Warbler, and is a valuable reference to those studying endangered birds in general. The text appears to have been typeset with an ordinary typewriter, an economy measure which should have resulted in a price lower than the rather steep \$12. The book could have benefited from maps showing the temporal distribution of the species, but this is a minor complaint. — CHARLES P. NICHOLSON.

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.

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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 1981).

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.

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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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