

THE MIGRANT



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THE MIGRANT

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BREEDING HENSLOW'S SPARROWS IN WHITE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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During a walk through a large, privately owned wetland known as the Heritage Marsh, located in north-central White County, Tennessee, we heard and



Figure 1. Henslow's Sparrow singing in Heritage Marsh, White County, 9 July 2004; photograph Carol D. Williams.

then saw three Henslow's Sparrows (*Ammodramus henslowii*) 4 July 2004. Subsequent observations by Stedman and others included the sighting of juveniles. Since no prior records of Henslow's Sparrow exist for White County, and since this species is known or suspected to breed in only a few Tennessee counties, we provide details about these observations and the site where they occurred.

Stedman returned to the marsh 9 July 2004 with the following observers: Douglas A. Downs, Judy C. Fuson, Nancy S. Layzer, Winston A. Walden, and Carol D. Williams, who was able to obtain documentary photographs of one of the two singing male Henslow's Sparrows (Figure 1) observed on that date. Stedman and Walden observed two singing male Henslow's Sparrows during a visit to the marsh 11 July 2004. Stedman and Downs returned to the site 20 July 2004, when four singing male Henslow's Sparrows were heard; in addition, on that date two juvenile Henslow's Sparrows were clearly seen, establishing the species as a breeder in White County. The juveniles exhibited buffy breasts with little or no streaking, unlike the prominently streaked breasts of adult Henslow's Sparrows.

The Heritage Marsh is quite large, probably exceeding 100 hectares. The northern half of the marsh is wet throughout years of normal rainfall, with water depth in most areas being <1 m. Some groves of willows (*Salix* spp.) are present around the edges of this section of the marsh, but most of it is covered with various palustrine species, mainly rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*). The southern half of the marsh consists of moist meadows dominated by native warm season grasses and forbs; this part of the marsh is seldom mowed though it is sometimes grazed by cattle. These moist meadows harbored all of the Henslow's Sparrows found during July 2004. In order to breed, Henslow's Sparrows require old, weedy fields that contain standing dead grasses and weeds from previous growing seasons (Zimmerman 1988), conditions well met by the moist meadows in the southern half of the Heritage Marsh during the 2004 breeding season.

Before 1994 the only Tennessee record of a singing Henslow's Sparrow was from Roane County during June 1957 (Howell 1958). Although this record was not included in the most recent synthesis of Tennessee ornithological records (Robinson 1990), it was mentioned by Nicholson (1997), who also mentioned a record involving three singing males near Cheatham Dam, Cheatham County, during June-July 1994 (Witt 1994), the first in a series of breeding season records obtained during the past decade. During the late 1990s and early 2000s, breeding season records of Henslow's Sparrow have come from five additional Tennessee counties as follows: Coffee County—June 1997 (Fekel 1997) and May 1998 (Fekel 1998a); Henry County—June 2000 (Waldron 2000), May 2002 (Peeples 2002), and May 2003 (Peeples 2003); Montgomery County—June 1998 (Fekel 1998b); Montgomery and Stewart counties at Fort Campbell Military Reservation—April-August 1999 (J. Giocomo pers. com.; Moss 2001), April-August 2000 (J. Giocomo pers. com.; Moss 2001), April-August 2001 (J. Giocomo pers. com.), April-August 2002 (J. Giocomo pers. com.; Casteel 2002a, b), April-August 2003 (J. Giocomo pers. com.; Casteel 2003), and April-August 2004 (J. Giocomo pers. com.); Stewart

County—June 1997 (M. Roedel pers. com.; Fekel 1997) and May 1998 (Fekel 1998a); and Weakley County—late May 1998 (Waldron 1998).

Based on our records in 2004, White County is the eighth Tennessee county to host breeding season Henslow's Sparrows in habitat where breeding is likely, and it is one of even fewer counties where breeding has been confirmed. However, M. Roedel (pers. com.) informs us that sightings of this sparrow have occurred in Lawrence County; if these sightings took place during the breeding season and antedate our sightings, then White County would be the ninth such county.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank D. L. Combs for assistance with the botanical nomenclature cited above, and we thank J. Giocomo, C. Welsh, and two anonymous reviewers for helpful comments on earlier drafts of this paper. We are also grateful to M. Roedel for putting us in contact with field workers familiar with sites where Henslow's Sparrows occur during the breeding season in Tennessee.

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FIRST BACHMAN'S SPARROW RECORD IN WHITE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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We observed a Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) 1 May 2004 from approximately 0700 to 0715 CDT in a large regenerating clear-cut located adjacent to Eastland Road in eastern White County, Tennessee. The sparrow's song provided the first evidence of its presence, after which visual observation confirmed the identification. We made a second observation of presumably the same singing male Bachman's Sparrow 15 May 2004 from approximately 0700 to 0800 CDT, when we revisited the same site, accompanied by Roseanna M. Denton, Arlene M. Morton, Connie S. Neeley, Wendell W. Neeley, and Virginia Curtis. At that time Denton obtained documentary digital photographs of the sparrow (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Bachman's Sparrow on Eastland Rd., White County, 15 May 2004; photograph Roseanna M. Denton.

Published accounts of Bachman's Sparrow in Tennessee reveal no previous record for White County. Nicholson (1976) reviewed the historical occurrence in Tennessee of this sparrow without noting a White County record. Robinson (1990) updated the species' status, also without citing a record from that county. Nicholson (1997) further updated the breeding status of Bachman's Sparrow in Tennessee, citing or referring to all known breeding records, again without referencing a White County record and without citing a confirmed breeding record from any Tennessee county on the northern Cumberland Plateau. A review of subsequent season reports in *The Migrant* (1997-2003) also revealed no records of Bachman's Sparrow for White County or for any other county on the Cumberland Plateau. However, 3 Bachman's Sparrows were observed 4 May 2002 in a large, burned over clear-cut that had been a pine plantation on the south side of Shut-in Gap Road just west of Newby Branch, Rhea County, Tennessee (M. Welton pers. com.), indicating that the species retained at least a marginal presence on or near the plateau into the early 2000s.

Bachman's Sparrow is currently listed as endangered by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. In view of the paucity of records of this sparrow during the past two decades, including the absence of confirmed breeding records on the northern Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, it appears worthwhile to relate some details about the site where we observed the White County sparrow, as these might aid field workers conducting future searches for this still declining species.

The Eastland Road clear-cut in which the Bachman's Sparrow was found was large, probably exceeding 400 ha. At the time of the sightings it was three years old, having been logged in 2001. This site, owned by a subsidiary of Bowater, consisted of gently rolling terrain with an overall elevational range of perhaps 20-25 m from its highest to its lowest points and with an average elevation of about 500 m. The sparrow sang from several low perches located 3-25 m from the road and bunched within an area of about 0.2 ha; the approximate center of its territory was located about 2-3 m lower than the nearest high point in the field and was about 50-100 m distant from the high point. Part of the surrounding area had been heavily "scarred" by logging and site preparation equipment used during clear-cutting and site preparation, with some of these scarred areas being not as fully vegetated as less scarred areas. One of the more noticeable scarred areas created by logging or site preparation equipment was located on a slope adjacent to the sparrow's territory at a distance of about 30-40 m to the northeast. A few snags within a narrow tree line were present about 50 m from the site, and a power line paralleled the road on the sparrow's side of the road.

Vegetation in much of the clear-cut consisted of scattered small (< 1 m) planted pines (probably loblolly pine [*Pinus taeda*]) within a matrix of taller (1-3 m), fairly dense shrub-scrub habitat. However, around the site of the Bachman's Sparrow observation no pines had been planted although the shrub-scrub habitat there appeared identical otherwise. Some components of the plant community in and near the sparrow's territory included exotics such as autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) and *Lespedeza* sp., suggesting that the area might have been replanted to provide wildlife foraging habitat. Native plants at the site were dominated by blackberries (*Rubus* spp.) but also included broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) and other

Andropogon spp., as well as stump sprouts of American holly (*Ilex opaca*) and northern red / scarlet oak (*Quercus rubra/coccinea*).

Mengel (1965, citing Hicks in Brooks 1938) reprints a description of Bachman's Sparrow territories in old fields in Ohio that appears to parallel some features of the Eastland Road site:

"The choicest locations are about 50 to 100 yards down from the ridge tops in old deserted fields. A typical territory is a circle 150 feet each way from an eroded gully which has healed and is now well covered with miscellaneous trees, shrubs, and particularly blackberry brambles. The territory is more attractive after about five percent of the open grass lands adjacent to the gullies [is] dotted with blackberry briars. Usually the center of the territory is close to the upper end of the gully, and the abundant plants are the dry soil goldenrods and asters, wild oat grass (*Danthonia spicata*), and various other grasses, composites, and miscellaneous weeds typical of dry, eroded slopes."

Furthermore, Rising (1996: 56) describes breeding habitat in Indiana similarly, indicating it consisted of "overgrown old fields (degraded pastures), with broomsedge, deciduous shrubs, and red cedar."

Tennessee field workers might be searching for Bachman's Sparrows in the classic habitat associated with this species — stands of old, well-spaced pines sheltering an understory of grasses and patches of shrub-scrub. However, if the topographical and botanical features shared by our potential Bachman's Sparrow breeding site in White County and by definite breeding sites described by Hicks and Rising in Ohio and Indiana, respectively, are generally characteristic of more northerly breeding sites of this species, field workers searching for this sparrow during the breeding season in Tennessee might do well to "recalibrate" their "search image" when attempting to locate it.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank M. Welton for comments on a draft of this paper and for sharing information about the 2002 record of Bachman's Sparrow in Rhea County; we also thank C. Welsh and two anonymous reviewers for assistance with this note. Finally, we are indebted to D. L. Combs for assistance in identifying plants at the site.

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NESTING GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS
(*AMMODRAMUS SAVANNARUM*) AT SEVEN ISLANDS
WILDLIFE REFUGE, KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Five Grasshopper Sparrow nests and at least 18 territories were found at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in 2004, and two nests and 15 territories were recorded in 2005. Nests were found in 2004 on 10 May with 5 eggs (nest unsuccessful), 1 June with 4 young (successful), 3 June with 4 young (successful), 6 June with 5 young (successful), and 12 June with 4 young (successful). Two nests, probably constructed by the same pair, were found in 2005 on 25 May with 4 young (successful) and 18 June with 4 young (unsuccessful). All nests were located on the ground with at least a partial dome over the nest (Smith 1968), which makes these nests especially difficult to find. Although the Grasshopper Sparrow is considered relatively common in eastern Tennessee (Nicholson 1997), these seven nests represent some of the very few Grasshopper Sparrow nests monitored in this region. Basic information on nesting chronology and nest success is an important consideration in the planning and timing of land management practices for the benefit of breeding birds.

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge is a 145-ha refuge acquired by the Seven Islands Foundation in 2000 and managed by Knox County Parks and Recreation Department (Schacher 2002). It is located in a bend of the French Broad River in southeastern Knox County, Tennessee. A significant portion of the refuge is currently being converted from hay production and agriculture to native warm-season grasslands including grasses like big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), mixed with other plant species like partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) and perennial wildflowers to enhance native wildlife habitat (Schacher 2002). The Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) is one of many species that benefits directly from this active management. They are usually the first to respond to grassland management because they tend to use shorter grasslands recently disturbed by fire or management activities for nesting habitat (Vickery 1996). Four of the 5 nests in 2004 and both of the nests in 2005 were found in areas of mostly native warm-season grass cover. Several bird monitoring programs, including a MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival) station in 2005, have been established at Seven Islands to continue to monitor bird population responses related to land management practices that maintain the newly established native grassland habitats.

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MINUTES OF THE 2004 FALL TOS BOARD MEETING

The fall meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) was held on 8-10 October 2004 in Cookeville, Tennessee. Field trips were offered to the following locations: Cane Creek Park, including an extension to Ensor Sink Natural Area, City Lake Natural Area, Heritage Marsh, Burgess Falls State Natural Area, and Walnut Park.

The meeting of the TOS Directors was called to order on 9 October 2004 by TOS President Virginia Reynolds. Donna Ward, Recording Secretary, reported a quorum present. Carolyn Bullock made the motion that the Minutes of the Spring 2004 meeting be approved as read with some minor corrections. The vote of the Directors was unanimous to accept the motion. Melinda Welton suggested that the Minutes be sent to the Directors prior to the state meetings so that if there are changes, the corrections can be sent to the secretary immediately. She discussed the possibility of the Minutes being sent to the Directors by e-mail. President Reynolds suggested that the Minutes be posted on the web.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE:

President-Elect – No Report

Vice-Presidents

East Tennessee – No Report

Middle Tennessee- No Report

West Tennessee – No Report

Directors-at-Large

East Tennessee – No Report

Middle Tennessee – No Report

West Tennessee – Louise Ward, the Director-at-Large from West Tennessee, was present, but had no report

Secretary's Report: Donna Ward, Recording Secretary, requested that the Directors state their names when addressing the chair.

Treasurer's Report: President Reynolds introduced Mac McWhirter, the new TOS treasurer. Mr. McWhirter is the Comptroller of Rhodes College of Memphis, and has an extensive background that includes working with non-profit agencies. He is the husband of Susan McWhirter, one of our past state presidents. Treasurer McWhirter handed the Directors the financial report for 6 October 2004. A copy of the report is attached as Tables 1 and 2. He stated that he has a new certificate of sales tax exemption from the state of Tennessee available for all of the chapters. He noted that the financial report includes the balance sheet on one side and the "Profit and Loss" statement on the other. He stated that the main liability outstanding is the "Pledge Payable," which was approved by the executive committee, to the "Friends of Radnor Lake" for \$2,000.00. He listed a figure of \$216,935.79 for Total Liabilities and Equity. He noted the highlights of the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures. Treasurer McWhirter announced that the organization currently includes 783 total memberships.

Table 1. Tennessee Ornithological Society statement of revenues and expenditures for the period 1 January-6 October 2004

Revenues (\$)	
Dues & Membership Fees	
Institutional memberships	90.00
Individual memberships	7,967.00
Total Dues & Membership Fees	<u>8,057.00</u>
Individual Contributions	896.00
Miscellaneous Income	
Sales of collateral materials	31.00
Investment income	
Interest on savings & temporary investments	5.34
Dividends & interest from securities	5,468.95
Total Investment Income	<u>5,474.29</u>
Realized & Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Securities	
Change in market value of investments	(3,374.52)
Realized & Unrealized Gain (Loss)	<u>(3,374.52)</u>
Total Revenues	<u>11,083.77</u>
Expenses (\$)	
Grants & Donations	
Donation - Radnor Lake	2,000.00
Organization memberships	250.00
Total Grants & Donations	<u>2,250.00</u>
General Expenses	430.36
Publication Expenses	
<i>The Migrant</i>	
Printing costs	3,369.80
Layout costs	2,072.50
Mailing expenses	1,108.87
Back issues	84.87
Total for <i>The Migrant</i>	<u>6,636.04</u>
<i>The Tennessee Warbler</i>	
Printing costs	2,183.22
Mailing expenses	400.99
Total for <i>The Tennessee Warbler</i>	<u>2,584.21</u>
TOS Web Site	239.60
Total Publication Expenses	<u>9,459.85</u>
Total Expenses	<u>12,140.21</u>
Excess Expenses over Revenues (\$)	<u>(1,056.44)</u>

Table 2. Tennessee Ornithological Society balance sheet, 6 October 2004

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash in checking	2,513.23
Investments	
Morgan Stanley Mutual Funds	214,422.56
Total Assets	216,935.79
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Pledge payable - Friends of Radnor Lake	2,000.00
Equity	
Accumulated reserves - prior years	215,992.23
Net loss year-to-date	(1,056.44)
Total Equity	214,935.79
Total Liabilities and Equity	216,935.79

He included the following matters to be discussed by the Finance Committee before the spring meeting:

1. Development of annual budget, starting in CY 2005.
2. Use of endowment spending formula method to allow conservative integration of endowment with budget.
3. Search and identification of all historical endowment gift restrictions.
4. Budgeting for conservation and research projects-knowing what funds are available.
5. Evaluate investments under following criteria:
 - Fees of stock funds vs. indexing
 - Risk assessment and capital preservation
 - Perform bond yield assessment to meet financial goals of TOS.

Treasurer McWhirter explained that the cost of sending *The Tennessee Warbler* and *The Migrant* is \$16.00 per household, and includes 90 percent of the TOS budget. Charlie Muise of the Knoxville chapter discussed the benefits of receiving publications electronically. He said that the practice saves postage and is environmentally friendly. President Reynolds suggested that members state whether or not they want to receive a hard copy or an electronic copy of "The Warbler."

President Reynolds stated the importance of the Finance Committee making some recommendations at the spring meeting regarding an increase in TOS dues. Treasurer McWhirter noted that he considers David Trently and Chris Sloan, previous treasurers, to have done a good job.

CURATOR/WEB PAGE: Chuck Nicholson was unable to attend the Directors meeting, but sent the following report: Over the last month, we have averaged 160 visitors and 270 page views per day. Although somewhere between a quarter and a half of these visits are from search engines like Google as they update their databases, the site statistics still indicate heavy and increasing site usage. We get two or three inquiries coming in through the website per week. Some of these have been of interesting bird observations, like the recent albino hummingbird near Nashville. He has the usual plea for chapters to send him updates to their information on the website. A redesign of the bird-finding web pages is underway. When this redesign is completed, users will be able to call up site descriptions by clicking on maps or picking the sites from lists. We are also exploring the possibility of being able to pick sites based on the birds they are best known for.

To fully develop these bird-finding pages, he needs help in writing detailed site descriptions. He has added a few new site descriptions in recent weeks, and is working on more. He also has had a few people promise him that they will submit descriptions of their favorite sites. There are still many important sites across the state that need to be written up, and he asks for help in doing this. If interested, he asks that members contact him.

MIGRANT EDITOR: President Reynolds stated that she received an e-mail from Chris Welsh, stating that the March 2004 issue of *The Migrant* is ready for the printer and should be in the mail by the end of October. She said that Chris will have the June 2004 issue ready for distribution by December. He also sent information that he will continue to use color photographs in subsequent publications. Chris encourages birders to consider writing up significant or interesting sightings or observations for publication.

TENNESSEE WARBLER EDITOR: Theresa Graham asked President Reynolds to announce that October is the deadline for sending articles to be placed in the *Warbler*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: President Reynolds listed the following persons on the Nominating Committee:

- Richard Connors, Chairman – Middle Tennessee
- Theresa Graham – West Tennessee
- Rick Knight – East Tennessee

President Reynolds then listed all other committees and the members included on each committee.

Distinguished Service Award Committee:

- Jim Ferguson, Chairman
- Ruth Luckado
- Chuck Nicholson

Conservation Policy Committee:

Melinda Welton, Chairman – Middle Tennessee
David Vogt – East Tennessee
Dick Preston – West Tennessee
Susan McWhirter – West Tennessee
Bob Hatcher – Middle Tennessee
Charlie Muise – East Tennessee

Bird Records Committee

Mike Todd, West Tennessee
Dean Edwards – East Tennessee
Chris Sloan – Middle Tennessee
Rob Peeples – West Tennessee
Dick Preston – West Tennessee
Nell Moore – East Tennessee

Conservation Research and Funding Committee:

Charlie Muise, Chairman – East Tennessee
Dev Joslin – East Tennessee
Linda Zempel – West Tennessee
Chuck Nicholson – East Tennessee
David Pitts – West Tennessee
Joel Keebler – East Tennessee

Finance Committee:

George Payne, Chairman – West Tennessee
Danny Gaddy – East Tennessee
Ron Hoff – East Tennessee
David Trently – East Tennessee

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: President Reynolds recalled that the Directors voted to have an audit of the organization's finances. It was determined that an audit would cost four or five thousand dollars. President Reynolds asked Carolyn Bullock to line up the organization's expenditures in a format necessary to be presented to the finance committee so they can approve an internal audit. Treasurer McWhirter said that by doing an internal audit, the organization would be in compliance with the charter.

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: No Report

CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE: Melinda Welton discussed the Bird Conservation Alliance. She talked about a description that she is considering putting on the web page that describes the Conservation Policy Committee (CPC) to make sure that everyone is in agreement about what the committee's functions

are. Melinda welcomed Charlie Muise to the committee. The Mission Statement and previous policy decision made by the committee that she sent out for CPC review on 7 October was accepted by the Board and will be posted on the TNBIRDS website. A decision was made to have all appointments on the CPC expire at the Fall TOS meeting each year with automatic re-appointment for all active members who would still like to serve. Members who find that they do not have time to serve can gracefully rotate off. The President will make new appointments.

The Board also agreed on a policy that will allow the CPC to respond more quickly to issues. Recently there have been several instances when the CPC was asked to make a recommendation to the Executive Board on a policy issue or to sign on to a Bird Conservation Alliance letter but been given a short window of time to respond. In future situations like that, the Chair of the CPC will forward the issue to the committee members with a recommended action. Unless the Chair hears from three committee members to the contrary within 24 hrs, the recommendation will be sent to the President for approval. A 24 hr turn around would be the exception but a default recommendation with a time to respond will be the most efficient way to get things approved by the committee in the future.

The Board of Directors voted to establish a new Conservation Policy Committee at the 2002 TOS Fall Meeting. This committee will study environmental issues of importance to Tennessee birdlife, and develop policy recommendations. These recommendations must be approved by the Board of Directors (or, in an emergency, by the Executive Committee) in order to become official TOS policy. The committee will have six members, including the chairperson, with renewable annual terms. TOS members are encouraged to bring conservation issues to the attention of the Committee and are invited to participate in developing policy recommendations with The Committee:

Previous TOS Conservation Policy Positions:

1. Cerulean Warbler habitat preservation through the regulation of mountaintop-type surface mining in the Cumberland Mountains.
2. Excluding non-native bird species from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
3. Maintaining TVA lake levels to promote shorebird habitat and other wildlife values.
4. Endorsed American Bird Conservancy Cats Indoors! Policy
5. Adopting a policy position for Wind Energy

CONSERVATION RESEARCH AND FUNDING COMMITTEE: Charlie Muise stated that in the last two months, we have received five applications for grant money. Six people have given the committee verbal promises. He stressed the importance of people applying for grant money. Currently, 1 November is the deadline for filling out forms for grants. He stated that all students or professors who work with conservation and research projects would need to fill out a form and send in the application to one or more of the committee members.

He announced that next year, he would like to plan the deadline to be two weeks before the fall meeting. He would like to announce the recipient at that time. He said that many of the projects are multi-year projects. Van Harris asked Charlie to list the following guidelines for grants:

1. A project that directly affects birds that have something to do with Tennessee.
2. Very demonstrably conservation or research oriented.
3. Species that are in decline are a much higher priority.
4. Non-game species are a higher priority than game species.
5. The amount of money is \$2,000 for one grant and \$500.00 for the other.

Charlie said that if the committee does not receive a really good proposal, they simply would not fund that year. Treasurer McWhirter expressed that Conservation and Research money would need to be budgeted next year for realistic amounts. It was decided that at the spring meeting, the Directors decide how much money should be the maximum amount to be spent on Conservation and Research funding.

Melinda Welton said that she would like to see a silent auction fund raiser in connection with the spring meeting. She said that silent auctions bring in several hundred dollars.

COLLATERAL MATERIALS: Carolyn Bullock stated that she has patches and decals for sale. She asked where the copies of the book called *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee* by John Robinson are. President Reynolds stated that when the copies of the books are found, they will be listed "for sale" on the website. An amount for the book, including postage and handling, will be listed.

TN-BIRDS: No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Important Bird Areas: President Reynolds announced that Mike Bierly will be taking over the Important Bird Areas Committee in order to find important bird areas in our state. She asked the Directors to look over the nomination forms for Important Bird Areas. They are also available on line. President Reynolds said the forms are simple and include two or three pages.

Falcon Cam Project: President Reynolds noted that the Falcon Cam Project that we voted on at the spring meeting has been stopped. The railroad has denied access.

Winter Meeting: Dan Mooney announced that the winter meeting will be held 28 and 29 January at the Best Western Motel in Dayton, Tennessee. The Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Bristol chapters will co-sponsor the meeting. It will include a roundtable discussion with the TWRA.

Annual Meeting: Dick Preston announced that the annual meeting will be in Memphis 29 April – 1 May at the Holiday Inn near the intersection of I-40/240. Paul Baicich will be the speaker.

NEW BUSINESS

President Reynolds presented Dev Joslin with a gift as a token of appreciation for his work with the Cumberland Alliance. The mission of the Alliance is to conserve and protect the lands and waters of the Cumberland Plateau, the areas unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and to educate the public about the need for conservation of the plateau's wildlife and natural resources. Dev stated that the main concentration of Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers nest on the Cumberland Plateau. He noted that the Alliance has recently put together an application to the federal government for the Cumberland Plateau to be a Natural Heritage Area similar to a national park. The goal is to protect the natural resources of the area. He noted that the Alliance has put together a feasibility study to apply to get support from state senators.

President Reynolds introduced Clarence Coffey from the TWRA. Mr. Coffey asked our organization to endorse the practice of establishing a savanna in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. They have 1500 acres presently and they plan to expand it. They are calling it the Oak-Savanna Restoration Project and presently are supported by several organizations, such as the Tennessee Conservation League and the Nature Conservancy. He said that he would like to receive support from the TOS.

Carolyn Bullock made the motion that the organization support the Oak-Savanna Restoration Project. Dick Preston seconded the motion. The vote of the Directors was unanimous to support the Oak-Savanna Restoration Project at Catoosa Wildlife Management Area.

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was accepted.

Donna Ward
Recording Secretary

FALL 2004 MEETING: SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

BANDING NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS IN EASTERN TENNESSEE

JAMES GIOCOMO

Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) populations are difficult to monitor during the non-breeding season not only because they are nocturnal, but also because they are secretive and generally quiet relative to other owl species. Recent banding efforts across the eastern US have shown that this shy owl is easily captured during fall migration. In 2002 and 2003, we established a banding station near Maryville, Tennessee to determine the feasibility of monitoring Saw-whet Owls during migration and winter in eastern Tennessee. During our first year, we ran the station intermittently in the evening from dusk to between 0100 - 0300 EST for a total of 45 hours from 27 October through 15 December 2002 and 40 hours from 16 March through 30 March 2003. We caught two females, the first 22 Nov 2002 and the second 16 March 2003. In our second season, we banded 27 Northern Saw-whet Owls between 15 November 2003 and 20 January 2004 during a total of 200 hours of effort. Northern Saw-whet Owls are generally considered uncommon to rare in the Southeast, but our present study indicates these small owls may be more common than previously thought. Extrapolating both our current work and historical records from the Southeast, we believe there is tremendous potential to increase our understanding of the ecology of these tiny owls. Following set protocols, like those of Project OwlNet, provides excellent opportunities for both the collection of scientific data and education.

TIMBER HARVEST TO IMPROVE HARDWOOD FOREST HABITAT FOR SONGBIRDS ON TENNESSEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: EFFECTS ON AVIAN POPULATION DENSITIES AND NEST SURVIVAL RATES

BENJAMIN S. THATCHER and DAVID A. BUEHLER
Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 37996

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge has managed its hardwood forests with experimental selection cutting in an attempt to increase nesting and foraging

substrate for mature forest songbirds. We present the results from an ongoing study designed to experimentally test the effects of this management on the avian community. We measured habitat characteristics and collected daily nest survival, Brown-headed Cowbird brood parasitism, and population density data within twelve 20-ha research units, both prior to and following forest management. Kentucky Warbler and Indigo Bunting densities increased significantly ($>10\times$) in harvest vs. reference units 2 years post-treatment. Wood Thrush densities and nest survival rates decreased in the harvest units following treatment. In the short-term, proactive forest management appears to increase avian community diversity but may have mixed effects on breeding mature forest songbirds. Results from this study will be used to make recommendations for adaptive management.

FORAGE TREE SELECTION AND ENERGY DEMANDS OF WINTERING YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS

H. DAWN WILKINS

Department of Biological Sciences

University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238

A number of organisms, including Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*), use plant sap, gum, and nectar as a source of nourishment. The factors used to choose individual plants and avoid others are relatively unknown. I compared the sugar concentration, water content, bark thickness, phloem thickness, and orientation of sap wells on forage trees to trees of the same species and diameter and found no differences in these characteristics between trees used by sapsuckers and those that were not. I manipulated the sugar concentration of experimental trees through girdling to see if selection was affected. Girdled trees had higher sugar concentrations and more sap wells excavated above the girdle than below. Sapsuckers may be choosing forage trees at random or based on other characteristics such as bark complexity and tree health. In addition, I examined the possibility of sapsuckers using the phloem tissue to fulfill their energetic demands during the winter when there is little sugar movement in the trees. Based on my calculations, it is unlikely that sapsuckers are meeting their daily energetic needs from consuming sap. My evidence suggests sapsuckers consume phloem tissue and that it is broken down as it passes through the birds' digestive system. I hypothesize that symbionts allow sapsuckers to digest the cellulose in the phloem tissue. Their total energy intake is probably a mixture of sap, phloem tissue, fruits, and insects.

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE HERITAGE TRUST

FRED J. ALSOP III

Department of Biological Sciences
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN 37614

and

CLARENCE COFFEY

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Crossville, TN 38555

The Tennessee Wildlife Heritage Trust, formed in 2003 by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation, is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the conservation, protection and restoration of Tennessee's non-game wildlife species and their habitats. The organization is assisting and providing funding to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Many new opportunities to secure funding for Tennessee's non-game species, representing 97% of Tennessee's fauna, exist today that were not available in the past. Fund-raising events, auctions, wildlife diversity field day celebrations, corporate and individual contributors, volunteers and sales of the new "Watchable Wildlife" collectible stamp, which will feature a different species each year, are providing new sources of funding for Tennessee's non-game species.

DO EPHEMERAL PONDS PROVIDE HABITAT FOR BIRDS?

BRETT R. SCHEFFERS, J. BERT C. HARRIS, and DAVID G. HASKELL

Department of Environmental Studies
The University of the South, Sewanee, TN 37383

Seasonally flooded pools known as ephemeral or vernal ponds provide important habitat for amphibians and plants, but their role in avian ecology has been little studied. We tested the hypotheses that ephemeral ponds have greater avian richness and abundance than the surrounding upland forest on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. Using a paired sample design, population surveys of the avian community were conducted in the winter and spring of 2004 at vernal pools and adjacent upland forest locations. The number of individuals within the avian community at the ephemeral ponds was significantly greater than that of adjacent upland control sites. In addition, the richness of the avian community at ephemeral ponds was significantly greater than the adjacent forest. These data suggest that in addition to the well-documented benefits they provide for other plant and animal communities, ephemeral ponds provide habitat for birds. The findings of this study also have implications for the conservation and management of these ecologically diverse wetlands.

**WHAT IS TWRA DOING FOR BIRDS? AND TENNESSEE'S
STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS - COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION STRATEGY PLANNING EFFORT**

MICHAEL ROEDEL

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Nashville, TN 37204

In March of this year I moved into the position of State Ornithologist with TWRA. In the months since, I've been catching up on existing projects as well as working on new issues. My primary focus for the past decade has been on the monitoring and inventory of birds. I hope to continue that monitoring focus with a goal of providing better information to land managers towards habitat management that benefits birds. Long-term planning for conservation of habitats, increasing public awareness about birds, and promoting and participating in cooperative efforts that protect non-game birds are all part of my long-range plans in this position.

THE 2004 TENNESSEE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

RON HOFF, State Compiler
282 Hackworth Lane
Clinton, TN 37716

The 2004 Tennessee Christmas Bird Count season produced 153 species plus two more during the count week (Table 1). This was about the average number of species for the past 10 years. This season 436 observers logged 1411 party hours and found 983,441 individuals. This translates to 697 birds/party hour. Thirteen species were represented by a lone individual. The weather throughout the state was generally conducive for the counts. The temperatures ranged from a low of 11° F at Buffalo River to a warm 70° F at Savannah. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park count experienced a heavy snowstorm that lasted much of the day, significantly impacting the count results, and the Roan Mountain count had very strong winds. There were 29 counts this year, including the first count ever for White County. A Cackling Goose made its first appearance this year on the Bristol count after being recently split by the American Ornithologists' Union. A few other unusual species for the count season were Golden Eagle, Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, Snow Bunting, and Evening Grosbeak. Also notable were the following totals: 315 Wild Turkeys in Clarksville, 118 American Kestrels in White County, 4610 Sandhill Cranes in Hiwassee, and 467 Carolina Wrens in Knoxville.

COUNT SUMMARIES

BRISTOL (36° 35' N, 82° 06' W) — 26 Dec. 2004; 0700-1730. Weather: cloudy all day, with wind at 0-5 mph; 21-37° F. The 91 species found this year set a new count record. The previous high was 89. This compares to an average of 81.5 species for the previous 10 years. This count was first held in 1931. A Cackling Goose was a new species for this count, bringing the all-time species total to 145. Record high totals were tallied for Eared Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser (10 year avg. = 166), Ring-billed Gull (more than 1,000 above either 10 or 20 yr. avg.), Rock Pigeon, Belted Kingfisher, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal, and Chipping Sparrow. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow all tied record high totals. Mallard, American Wigeon, and American Robin were well below their respective 10 year averages. House Finch continued a 10-year decline, since peaking at 645 in 1994. House Sparrow also continued a steady downward trend which began in 1960, following a record year of 627 in 1959. Observers: Rob Biller, Janet Brown, Ron Carrico, Wallace Coffey; Carol Rack, and Sam Cross; Diane Draper, Bill Grigsby, Bert and Loraine Hale, Ron Harrington, Don Holt, Andrew Jones, Richard Knight, Phillip Lewis, Richard Lewis (compiler: 407 V.I. Ranch Rd., Bristol, TN 37620; mountainbirds@email.com), Larry McDaniel, John and Robert Moyle, Charlie and Ellen Parker, Bob Quillen, Randy Smith, and Dave Worley.

<i>Species</i>	Bris.	B.Riv	Cade	Chatt	Clark	Clay	Cook	Colum	CrsCrk	DeKalb	Eliz	Fay
Bald Eagle	1	-	-	2	-	6	-	1	10	3	2	-
Northern Harrier	-	15	1	-	4	2	2	7	4	12	-	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	4	-	5	2	3	5	1	3	3	3	1
Cooper's Hawk	7	3	-	11	6	5	10	3	-	5	7	-
<i>Accipiter</i> sp.	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	8	6	22	16	10	13	2	12	3	-	13
Red-tailed Hawk	27	47	3	32	58	40	42	41	37	65	20	37
<i>Buteo</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	27	42	1	7	18	61	63	19	5	53	7	11
Merlin	cw	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
American Coot	56	-	2	187	2	145	9	-	37	-	1	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	28	-	349	14	6	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	35	191	11	116	122	99	68	66	150	47	19	265
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	6	21	2	52	5	4	-	19	-	18	-	63
American Woodcock	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	-	1	-
Bonaparte's Gull	5	-	-	534	-	232	cw	-	15	56	7	-
Ring-billed Gull	1341	1	1	1772	cw	187	cw	4	240	580	66	-
Herring Gull	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Gull sp.	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	634	64	3	1773	179	143	149	135	-	67	274	15
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	5	-	11	-	-	-	8	-	3	-	23
Mourning Dove	631	254	102	351	216	203	273	52	82	130	226	149
Barn Owl	-	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4
Eastern Screech Owl	25	2	3	4	2	9	3	7	2	3	5	1
Great Horned Owl	16	3	-	2	1	4	6	3	-	1	cw	1
Barred Owl	1	1	-	-	1	4	2	4	3	5	-	3
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Hummingbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	14	9	6	17	6	8	12	21	12	13	18	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	35
Red-bellied Woodpecker	35	79	14	28	45	19	29	47	36	32	25	118
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	19	9	26	12	8	9	12	3	29	10	21
Downy Woodpecker	34	45	23	42	47	39	26	35	34	34	21	61
Hairy Woodpecker	10	6	11	6	7	6	10	12	14	6	3	3
Northern Flicker	17	51	7	38	25	29	31	13	47	33	24	89

GSMNP	Grne	Hk-Pr	Hiwa	Jack	Knox	Leb	Mem	Nash	Nick	Norr	Reel	Roan	Savh	ShVl	Warr	White	TOTALS	
-	-	-	20	-	1	2	-	2	9	3	75	-	14	-	-	1	152	
-	5	-	2	1	1	1	7	-	-	1	16	-	17	-	1	9	119	
-	2	7	4	1	8	-	3	3	-	2	6	1	2	-	-	4	76	
-	6	5	8	cw	15	4	5	14	3	1	7	1	2	4	3	6	141	
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	
-	3	9	15	10	14	-	3	5	10	9	15	-	5	3	2	12	220	
2	20	20	43	23	51	17	45	84	20	26	48	-	50	14	23	65	1000	
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
-	14	10	19	23	10	14	21	30	13	16	23	-	13	6	53	118	697	
-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	8	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
-	-	192	59	7	108	7	13	-	5660	11	66	-	40	-	10	4	6616	
-	-	-	14610	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	260	15272
-	30	34	261	31	141	12	756	184	86	19	823	-	299	4	46	30	3945	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
-	-	-	7	1	-	-	500	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	511	
-	-	-	19	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	
-	3	6	28	1	8	-	23	-	-	2	67	-	9	4	6	34	381	
-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	40	
-	-	1	328	-	156	9	30	2	60	111	1142	-	340	-	-	17	3045	
-	-	9942	3139	1	2321	36	308	70	733	3672	10106	-	387	-	-	150	35057	
-	-	45	6	-	3	1	-	-	20	-	51	-	17	-	-	-	156	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
-	213	193	30	-	747	67	463	306	105	71	22	1	61	6	191	301	6213	
-	3	-	-	5	-	-	109	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	3	-	175	
22	360	104	169	106	986	41	534	183	155	96	277	3	84	228	206	396	6619	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	
-	4	1	2	-	12	-	-	1	7	1	3	1	2	9	1	3	113	
-	6	-	8	1	6	1	cw	3	4	-	5	1	2	1	1	2	78	
-	-	2	-	3	1	3	cw	4	-	-	9	-	6	-	1	2	55	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
-	11	18	31	5	41	2	8	14	23	15	3	3	6	9	5	7	346	
-	1	-	3	cw	cw	2	2	1	1	1	46	-	55	-	-	3	166	
5	36	19	51	24	130	16	55	75	33	46	29	-	63	14	16	40	1159	
4	12	15	14	2	38	3	9	39	15	41	9	-	5	3	4	18	396	
11	21	23	55	13	131	10	31	78	34	63	34	6	27	18	11	35	1042	
-	5	5	20	1	15	-	4	15	9	4	4	1	4	8	1	5	195	
-	15	43	65	23	93	11	72	62	23	11	72	1	70	5	24	51	1045	

GSMNP	Grne	Hk-Pr	Hiwa	Jack	Knox	Leb	Mem	Nash	Nick	Norr	Reel	Roan	Savh	ShVI	Warr	White	TOTALS
2	12	10	17	3	20	3	4	24	22	15	22	2	10	11	3	10	373
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	6	-	25	3	19	2	8	8	19	16	4	1	8	12	8	14	318
-	1	-	-	2	1	-	2	1	2	-	18	-	1	-	-	3	50
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	144	35	262	36	485	44	131	177	145	139	104	4	438	94	60	120	4205
53	299	92	329	524	1064	77	38	229	264	235	183	58	779	1097	259	425	11620
-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	7
-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	1	-	-	36
-	1	4	-	75	1	-	44	-	-	-	633	-	86	-	-	1	1003
28	63	35	175	28	602	39	79	386	129	230	87	32	95	131	31	128	3828
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
30	61	46	145	23	370	39	42	215	138	150	37	10	185	75	41	151	2895
-	1	2	-	-	3	-	2	3	cw	3	3	3	7	37	-	5	102
8	21	5	56	-	61	10	6	76	73	57	14	6	17	49	9	58	977
-	-	-	24	-	16	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	73
2	4	4	13	2	6	2	8	13	3	1	6	2	9	6	2	3	125
18	99	68	154	23	467	14	87	181	76	160	45	14	92	89	54	145	2965
-	1	-	4	-	1	-	cw	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	17
2	9	5	26	14	20	-	9	2	7	29	15	1	2	3	4	5	230
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	5
13	17	29	47	23	56	2	15	35	40	25	14	11	26	32	13	36	840
1	10	24	44	5	39	2	28	16	17	27	43	-	15	1	1	17	454
17	195	52	292	119	316	46	18	216	156	206	82	-	222	178	141	299	4444
3	5	7	41	1	22	-	9	10	12	9	15	-	4	5	5	22	311
9	108	130	288	103	1392	62	460	641	153	105	804	1	180	67	221	143	7473
-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw
2	102	88	111	29	388	34	90	160	36	100	35	1	74	25	113	152	2578
-	1	6	10	3	15	-	11	4	15	4	7	-	14	-	2	1	151
39	67272	1607	807	25314	3234	2000	1894	4332	507	416	8574	139	1874	338	1916	2853	159185
-	127	2	47	4	27	-	7	55	16	-	64	-	130	-	52	37	690
-	cw	11	31	6	26	10	1	5	-	13	14	-	25	6	-	-	215
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
1	39	9	32	14	124	1	61	36	8	21	37	-	30	4	4	11	697
-	-	1	5	2	4	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	17	-	-	-	84
-	6	-	-	-	11	1	3	-	4	2	-	-	6	-	-	2	40
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	24	22	58	7	199	4	22	101	42	50	10	2	47	14	23	33	1195
-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	65	1	120	30	118	8	7	12	32	28	-	-	16	6	9	143	970
-	75	14	244	23	481	5	32	92	101	58	51	5	59	14	73	180	2813
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	11

<i>Species</i>	Bris.	B.Riv	Cade	Chatt	Clark	Clay	Cook	Colum	CrsCrk	DeKalb	Eliz	Fay
Savannah Sparrow	2	82	-	13	2	7	2	7	3	3	-	49
LeConte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	3	82	5	11	6	6	5	4	1	10	1	12
Song Sparrow	265	349	74	220	90	260	280	71	43	87	150	197
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	6	45	14	16	12	24	61	21	3	1	4	130
White-throated Sparrow	275	414	7	255	322	284	169	199	94	336	182	481
White-crowned Sparrow	89	71	-	3	69	11	11	17	2	3	32	35
Sparrow sp.	-	107	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	186	353	206	81	192	181	78	61	253	157	77	170
Lapland Longspur	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	282	361	24	296	377	342	197	132	191	256	171	329
Red-winged Blackbird	23	2425	1	91	260	115	216	2759	998	1150	-	1159
Eastern Meadowlark	29	464	15	81	89	37	80	46	23	135	41	158
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	10	1	-	5	-	2	6	50	5	1	-	46
Brewer's Blackbird	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	cw	209	-	72	1	-	42	562	9824	2020	-	4580
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	522	-	20	-	3	6	157	65	33	-	410
Blackbird sp.	-	200	-	-	942	-	10	-	-	-	-	75
Purple Finch	7	16	1	-	2	4	cw	6	-	11	1	-
House Finch	79	10	-	46	55	17	61	78	7	34	113	11
Red Crossbill	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	5	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	4
American Goldfinch	162	173	38	146	159	103	96	69	17	77	97	93
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
House Sparrow	22	66	1	87	148	72	55	43	10	65	47	124
<i>Total individuals</i>	11836	16685	1456	12556	9380	6841	8886	18335	41904	12389	5210	12275
<i>Total Species</i>	91	88	68	100	70	80	83	86	82	79	71	77
Effort data:												
Observers	25	12	8	24	18	9	15	9	10	16	22	11
Parties	6	6	6	11	6	6	6 to 7	6	5	7	5	5
Party Hours	57	68	39.5	84	49.75	55.5	51	42	40.5	65.25	43	34
Hours by car	28	36	8.5	36.5	32.5	40.5	37.25	30	37.5	47.5	22	19
Miles by car	347	412	99	409.5	314	359.4	373	384	352	389.5	252	224
Hours by foot	29	32	31	47.5	17.25	12	13.75	12	3	15.75	21	15
Miles on foot	14	15.6	31	33.5	11.5	9	8	9	1.5	15.75	11	10.5
Hours by boat or other	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-
Miles by boat or other	-	-	-	-	-	10.5	-	-	-	10	-	-
Hours Owling	6	1.5	2	3.5	-	5	2.5	4	-	3.25	2.5	0.5
Miles Owling	50	0	8.5	37	-	52	30	27.5	-	34	10	5
Feeder Watchers	-	1	-	-	5	-	4	2	-	5	-	-
Feeder Hours	-	4	-	-	13.5	-	7.5	15.5	-	16	-	-
Count date	26-Dec	20-Dec	26-Dec	18-Dec	18-Dec	16-Dec	18-Dec	18-Dec	16-Dec	28-Dec	18-Dec	2-Jan

Bris. = Bristol, B.Riv = Buffalo River, Cade = Cades Cove, Chatt = Chattanooga, Clark = Clarksville, Cook = Cookeville, Colum = Columbia, CrsCrk = Cross Creek, Eliz = Elizabethton, Fay = Fayette Co., GSMNP = Great Smoky Mtn Natl. Park, Grne = Greeneville, HK-Pr = Hickory-Priest, Hiwa = Hiwassee, Jack = Jackson, Knox = Knoxville, Leb = Lebanon, Mem = Memphis, Nash = Nashville, Nick = Nickajack L., Norr = Norris, Reel = Reelfoot, Roan = Roan Mtn., Savh = Savannah, ShVI = Shady Valley, Warr = Warren Co., White = White Co.

GSMNP	Grne	Hk-Pr	Hiwa	Jack	Knox	Leb	Mem	Nash	Nick	Norr	Reel	Roan	Savh	ShVl	Warr	White	TOTALS
-	12	38	42	15	60	2	27	-	-	35	86	-	37	1	19	72	616
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
1	1	6	1	1	4	-	5	8	5	3	29	-	5	-	-	5	220
15	230	109	529	24	586	8	85	149	158	428	177	35	79	190	57	376	5321
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
3	46	44	157	14	85	-	10	20	25	40	135	1	31	20	5	85	1058
3	215	169	303	29	823	28	382	520	175	297	333	8	171	73	43	400	6990
-	28	45	6	17	12	11	128	8	-	15	12	-	12	98	-	36	771
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	154
111	30	40	79	117	120	11	248	87	108	163	161	56	382	138	30	298	4174
-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	79	-	14	-	-	-	93
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
23	178	150	375	87	1008	67	216	444	176	302	212	20	283	109	99	413	7120
-	61	100	5749	50108	31	12	2465	1011	194	61	15911	-	327	218	22	84	85551
-	143	12	173	63	75	15	108	41	97	64	272	-	134	27	51	314	2787
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	47	5	-	2	-	-	84	24	47	1	43	-	47	5	1	31	463
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	256	-	-	-	-	-	258
-	2	73	67	2421	1	10	2328	244	13	4	420603	-	2825	-	15050	-	460951
-	-	15	1	1002	14	2	94	16	3	-	734	-	22	-	-	4	3123
-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2000	-	-	-	3232
-	7	-	6	1	6	4	5	-	-	8	13	-	-	-	1	1	100
-	26	44	20	3	290	29	28	53	22	86	60	-	33	52	20	26	1303
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	11
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	1	-	1	-	59	-	3	79
21	299	41	132	19	377	75	125	157	74	145	64	3	75	112	15	88	3052
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
2	10	41	23	4	125	8	62	27	54	11	145	-	12	52	14	23	1353
554	71370	15102	37208	84509	20246	3344	14254	11872	11569	8475	499370	473	13212	4149	19729	10252	983441
37	81	89	95	82	96	71	93	82	88	75	114	37	93	63	71	89	153
11	14	16	17	5	43	8	22	32	16	13	13	6	12	12	7	10	436
8	7	5	8	2.22-23	5	5-8	9	6	-	5-6	2	5	4	2-3	5	5	182
25.75	38	36	71	14	141.27	11.5	48.5	69.75	44.5	39	52.5	16.5	52.5	46	27.5	47.25	1411.02
10	20	29.5	30.5	9.5	54.55	9.5	19	36.5	14.25	-	30	7	26.75	30	26	43	771.3
59.9	178	390.3	328	206	535.2	84	163	291	248.5	-	374	72	273.6	198	307	406.7	8030.6
15.75	18	21.5	36.5	4.5	86.72	2	29.5	33.25	30.5	-	20	9.5	25.75	16	1.5	4.25	604.47
17	9.5	14	20	2.5	68.4	6	30	31	19	-	11.5	7	11.8	5.5	1.5	6.5	431.55
-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	11.5
-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	56.5
-	6.25	1.5	4.5	0.5	4.67	0.25	1.25	3.25	3.5	-	1.5	1	3.25	3	1.75	3.75	70.67
-	6.25	5	35	12	12.5	0	5	15	38	-	8	4	60.3	10.5	10	38	513.55
-	1	-	-	-	1	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	31
-	7	-	-	-	6.7	10.5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	-	85.2
19-Dec	27-Dec	1-Jan	1-Jan	1-Jan	2-Jan	28-Dec	19-Dec	18-Dec	27-Dec	18-Dec	18-Dec	29-Dec	3-Jan	1-Jan	30-Dec	21-Dec	

BUFFALO RIVER (35° 18' N, 87° 28' W) — 20 Dec. 2004; 0520-1740. Weather: partly cloudy all day with winds SSW 0-20 mph; 11-36° F. Unusual species for this count were Ross's Goose, Common Merganser, Harlan's form of Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, and American Tree Sparrow. Species found in unusually high numbers were Wild Turkey, Barn Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, and American Crow. Lapland Longspur was a count week bird. Observers: Michael Buerline, Danna Dodd, Francis and Gary Markine, Chester and Dorothy McConnell, Royce Neidert, Jane Newell, Donette Sellers, Damien Simbeck, Don Simbeck (compiler: 424 Riddle Ln., Loretto, TN 38469; dnks@lorettotel.net), Morris Williams, and Buford Worn.

CADE'S COVE (35° 36' N, 83° 50' W) — 26 Dec. 2004; 0650-1920. Weather: clear and cold in the morning, warming up and turning partly cloudy in the afternoon; 15-42° F. Ruddy Duck and Ring-billed Gull were new species for this count. Uncommon species found included Wilson's Snipe, American Pipit, Red-headed Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, and Palm Warbler. Notable misses included Pied-billed Grebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, House Finch, Pine Siskin, and Savannah Sparrow. Observers: Mark Armstrong, Lyn Bales, Deedee Blane, Patty Ford, Madeleine Hassil, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle (compiler: P. O. Box 11752, Knoxville, TN 37939; hoyle@cs.utk.edu), Kristine Johnson, Charlie Muise, and David Trently.

CHATTANOOGA (35° 06' N, 85° 14' W) — 18 Dec. 2004; 0500-1800. Weather: clear all day; 28-54° F. One-hundred species is about the average for this count. Highlights included Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Bobwhite, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, American Woodcock, Herring Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, House, Marsh, and Sedge Wrens, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Orange-crowned Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, and Pine Siskin. Species notably absent were American Wigeon, Greater Scaup, Northern Harrier, Barred Owl, American Pipit, and Purple Finch. Observers: David Aborn, Tim Baker, Nelson Bennett, Kevin Calhoun (compiler: 934 Craven's Terrace, Lookout Mtn., TN 37409; kac@tennis.org), Bob Edens, Danny Gaddy, Bill Haley, Dennis Harris, John Henderson, Tad Hudson, Daniel and Bonnie Johnson, Jonnie Sue Lyons, Mike McMahan, David Patterson, Roger Patterson, Tom Patton, David Spicer, Nathan Trew, David Vogt, Jimmy Wilkerson, Dan Williams, and Libby Wolfe.

CLARKSVILLE (36° 30' N, 87° 22' W) — 18 Dec. 2004; 0700-1630. Weather: clear in a.m., turning partly cloudy in p.m.; 24-55° F. Species highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose (new species for this count), 315 Wild Turkeys, Loggerhead Shrike, House Wren, and Pine Siskin. Observers: Karen Barrineau, Suva Bastin, Caron and Mark Baugher, Alan Bottomlee, Kathy DeWein, Elizabeth Fitch, Kevin Fitch, Elaine Foust, Deborah Hamilton (compiler: 290 Ardmooor Dr., Clarksville, TN 37043; ammonite@charter.net), Steve Hamilton, Harlet and Nita Heilman, Gloria and William Milliken, Jr., Daniel Moss, Dianne Nance, Ellen Nixon, Duane Rice, Polly Rooker, Joe and Sally Schiller, and Barbara Wilbur.

CLAY COUNTY (36° 30' N, 85° 22' W) — 16 Dec. 2004; 0415-0700. Weather: clear all day; 23-45° F. Double-crested Cormorant, 6 Bald Eagles, Horned Lark,

and Rusty Blackbird were notable finds for this count. Observers: Terry Campbell (compiler: 1886 New Hope Rd., Celina, TN 38551; Terry_Campbell@fws.gov), Gary Casey, Roseanna Denton, Arlene Morten, Michael O'Rourke, Barbara and Stephen J. Stedman, Jason Troyer, and Winston Walden.

COLUMBIA {Mayfield-Gray chapter} (35° 59' N, 87° 16' W) — 18 Dec. 2004; 0700-2000. Weather: partly cloudy all day; 42-63° F. Notable species for this count included Sandhill Crane, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Sora, Barn Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Jan Brown; Autumn, Jennifer, Olivia, and Robert Cardenas; Phyllis Coble, Tommy Edwards (compiler: 896 Iron Bridge Rd., Columbia, TN 38401; Tommy.Edwards@state.tn.us), William Jernigan, Allyn Lay, Anne and Bedford Lochridge, Mary Lyles, and Cleo Mayfield.

COOKEVILLE (36° 09' N, 85° 28' W) — 18 Dec. 2004; 0420-1950. Weather: clear all day with variable winds at 0-10 mph; 26-53° F. Totals for Wild Turkey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, and Chipping Sparrow were record high numbers for this count. Totals for Black Vulture and Cooper's Hawk represented record high counts for this count *and* Putnam County. Horned Grebes provided the 5th Cookeville CBC record for this species. The Barn Owls were found at their traditional site for the 5th consecutive Cookeville CBC. The Rufous Hummingbird was originally banded on 22 November. It was the second Cookeville CBC record for this species. Brown-headed Nuthatches were found for the 4th consecutive CBC at the Cookeville Golf Course. Common Yellowthroat represented the 3rd Cookeville CBC record. Observers: Kris Bolin, Wally Brines, Terry M. Campbell, Daniel L. Combs, Douglas A. Downs, Ginger K. Ensor, Janie C. Finch, Michael J. Hawkins, Margo Hinkle, Stan Hood, Nancy S. Layzer, Kenneth L. Morgan, Michael P. O'Rourke, John C. Owens, Timothy R. Riddle, Richard W. Simmers, Jr., Barbara H. and Stephen J. Stedman (compiler: 2675 Lakeland Dr., Cookeville, TN 38506; sstedman@tntech.edu), and Winston A. Walden.

CROSS CREEKS N.W.R. (36° 28' N, 87° 45' W) — 16 Dec. 2004; 0600-1445. Weather: clear all day; 21-47° F. Highlights for the count were 10 Bald Eagles, American Tree Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow. Observers: Margarette Blanton, Joe and Shirley Casey, Marian and Richard Graves, George Jackey, Madge Lawrence, Joyce and William North, and Sarah Welker (compiler: USFWS, Cross Creeks NWR, 643 Wildlife Road, Dover, TN 37058; sarah_welker@fws.gov).

DeKALB COUNTY (36° 00' N, 85° 49' W) — 28 Dec. 2004; 0445-1830. Weather: clear all day with wind W 0-3 mph; 20-50° F. Highlights included Bald Eagle, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Rufous Hummingbird, and House Wren. Observers: Mary Anne and Mike Carpenter, Richard Connors, Tommy and Virginia Curtis, Frank Davis, Doug Downs, Judy Fuson, Gregg Garrison, Mike Hawkins, Mary Hayes, Gail Miller, Mike O'Rourke, Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Rigsby, Sarah Scott, Stephen J. Stedman, Mike Tatum, Helga Thompson, Winston Walden, and Carole D. Williams (compiler: 3909 Cookeville Highway, Smithville, TN 37166; cdenson@dtccom.net).

ELIZABETHTON (36° 20' N, 82° 08' W) — 18 Dec. 2004; 0530-1730. Weather: clear, with winds SW at 0-12 mph and up to 2" snow on the higher mountain tops; 20-47° F. Notable finds for the count included Bald Eagle, American Woodcock, Rufous Hummingbird, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin. Observers: Rob Biller, Adam Campbell, Wallace Coffey, Rack Cross, Gilbert Derouen, Dianne Draper, Jackie Hinshaw, Don Holt, Reece Jamerson, Rick Knight (compiler: 804 N. Hills Dr., Johnson City, TN 37604; RKnight@preferred.com), Joe McGuinness, Tom McNeil, Jerry Nagel, Brookie and Jean Potter, Bryan Stevens, Kim Stroud, David Thometz, Allen Trently, Gary Wallace, Frank Ward, and Melinda Wilson.

FAYETTE (35° 06' N, 90° 35' W) — 2 Jan. 2005; 0600-1600. Weather: cloudy with light rain in the morning, turning partly clear in the afternoon; 55-65° F. Highlights included Great Egret, 4 Barn Owls, Sedge and Marsh Wrens, and Pine Siskins. Observers: Charles Askew, Carolyn Bullock, Kay Lait, Susan McWhirter, Richard Preston, Agnes Stark, Steve Veltman, Martha Waldron, Richard Whittington (compiler: richwhit@rwassociates.com), and John and Linda Zempel.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS N. P. (35° 43' N, 83° 29' W) — 12 Dec. 2004; 0800-1530. Weather: light rain and heavy snow in the morning, with continuing heavy snow in the p.m.; 20-38° F. Heavy snow started in the morning, and all roads inside the park were closed. This prevented some people from getting to their trails. Notable species found included Ruffed Grouse, Black-capped Chickadee, and Fox Sparrow. The total for Wild Turkey was a record high count. Observers: Mark Armstrong, Ginger Goolsby, Jerry Hadder, Tony Headrick, Harold Howell, Ed Manous, Dan and Laurie Mooney, Charlie Muise, David Trently (compiler: 1029 Morrow Dr., Knoxville, TN 37923; dtrently@utk.edu), and Keith Watson.

GREENEVILLE (36° 10' N, 82° 51' W) — 27 Dec. 2004; 0700-1830. Weather: sunny all day with light N gusts to 5 mph and all still water frozen; 20-40° F. Several notable species found included Snow Goose, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Horned Lark, House Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, LeConte's Sparrow, Snow Bunting, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Ben, Ethan, Orland, and Phine Britton, King and Margaret Gaut, Bill Grigsby, Bruce Grimes, Don Holt, Jim Holt (compiler: 311 Colonial Circle, Greeneville, TN 37745; jimboh@adelphia.net), Clyde Kessler, Richard Knight, Alice Loftin, Don Miller, Eleanor Mosca, Richard and Willie Ruth Nevius, Linda Northrop, Ruth Rinker, JoAnne and Larry Routledge, Lou Simmons, and Virginia Williams.

HICKORY-PRIEST (36° 12' N, 86° 40' W) — 1 Jan. 2005; 0500-1730. Weather: partly cloudy all day; 52-63° F. Notable finds for the count were Merlin, American Woodcock, Rufous Hummingbird, Sedge Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, American Tree Sparrow (at 3 different locations), and Rusty Blackbird. Notable misses were Great Horned Owl, and Eastern Phoebe. Observers: Gary Casey, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Jerry Drewry, Richard and Tarcila Fox, Mark Hackney, Pat and Susan Hollyday, Jason Mann, Sarah Scott, Jan Shaw, Wanda Shotwell, Chris Sloan (compiler: 512 Old Hickory Blvd., Apt. 1203, Nashville, TN 37209; chris.sloan@comcast.net), Joe Stone, and Sabin Thompson.

HIWASSEE (35° 22' N, 84° 54' W) — 1 Jan. 2005; 0500-1800. Weather: clear all day; 39-64° F. The species total for this year was well below last year's 105 species. Highlights included Redhead, Merlin, over 14,600 Sandhill Cranes, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, House Wren and Purple Finch. Notable misses were Snow, White-fronted and Ross's Geese, Northern Bobwhite, Barred Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Palm Warbler (first miss in several years), and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Nelson Bennett, Harold Birch, Clyde Blum, Kevin Calhoun (compiler: 1185 Mountain Creek Rd., Apt. 715, Chattanooga, TN 37045; kac@tennis.org), Doug Geren, William Haley, John Henderson, Bonnie and Troy Hudson, Nathan Klaus, Judy Newsome, Johnny Parks, David Trently, Nathan Trew, Cynthia and Jimmy Wilkerson, and Libby Wolfe.

JACKSON (35° 37' N, 88° 49' W) — 1 Jan. 2005; 0630-1730. Weather: clear in the a.m., turning partly cloudy with wind 10-20 mph; 39-53° F. Eighty-two species was about average for this count but a bit below the totals for the last couple of years. Highlights included 13 species of waterfowl (Common Goldeneye was recorded for only the third time), Least Sandpiper (new for the count, but overdue), Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Fish Crow (now almost annual in a large crow roost). Turkey Vultures were seen in unusually high numbers. Notable misses were Cooper's Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Brewer's Blackbird. Observers: Elizabeth Barnett, Mark Greene (compiler: 194 Mount Orange Road, Trenton, TN 38382; magreene@usit.net), Peggy Hardman, Don Manning, and Michael Todd.

KNOXVILLE (35° 55' N, 84° 05' W) — 2 Jan. 2005; 0555-1815. Weather: cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, becoming mostly cloudy in the afternoon; 45-58° F. Notable species included Merlin (3rd record), Sandhill Crane, Horned Lark, House Wren, Northern Waterthrush, and Lapland Longspur (2nd record). Northern Waterthrush was a new species for this count, bringing the all-time count total to 156. Record high numbers were tallied for Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Wild Turkey, Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches, Northern Mockingbird, Field Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal. Gray Catbird was an unusual species for count week (5th record). Notable misses included Lesser Scaup, Great Egret (2nd miss since 1990), Northern Bobwhite (only found on 2 counts in last 13 years), Rufous Hummingbird (first miss in 6 years), Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. Observers: Jean Alexander, Marcus Armstrong, Lyn Bales, Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Mark Campen, Jessica and Raven Chandler, Edward and Meredith Clebsch, Gail and Steve Clendenen, Marcia Davis, K. Dean Edwards (compiler: 1615 Meadow Chase Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931; kde@angst.engr.utk.edu), Chris Foelli, Patty Ford, Carole Gobert, Paul Hartigan, Kim Henry, Ron Hoff, Tom Howe, David Howell, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Wesley James, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Ed Manous, Janet McKnight, Dan and Laurie Mooney, Charlie Muise, Dollyann Myers, Charles P. Nicholson, Joseph Pyle, Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Michael Ryon, Boyd Sharp, David Trently, June Welch, Chris Welsh, and Corwin Witt.

LEBANON (36° 25' N, 86° 36' W) — 28 Dec. 2004; 0600-1500. Weather: calm and sunny, with steady p.m. breeze; 21-53° F. Highlights included Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Palm Warbler, and Purple Finch. Notable misses were Sharp-shinned Hawk and Hermit Thrush. Observers: Kay Brinkhurst, Ralph Brinkhurst (compiler: 3570 Cainsville Rd., Lebanon, TN 37090; oligo1@aol.com), Mary Calhoun, Frank S. Crawford, Jane Farris, Mildred Gaston, Mary Beth Hovies, Grace Speck, Melissa and Roy Turrentine, Dean and Jerry Walker, and Paul Wells.

MEMPHIS (35° 09' N, 89° 56' W) — 19 Dec. 2004; 0630-1630. Weather: partly clear in a.m., turning clear in p.m.; winds NW 5-15 mph; 22-44° F. Numbers for open country species were hampered by high wind gusts. Surf Scoter was a new species for this count. Green-winged Teal total was one less than record high. The Killdeer total was a record high count. Wood Duck and Cedar Waxwing totals were very low for this count. Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Spotted Sandpiper, Dunlin, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Blue-headed Vireo and Palm Warbler are species observed in 2004 that have been observed on fewer than 10 of 76 Memphis CBC's. Other notable species included Mute Swan and Orange-crowned Warbler. Observers: David Blaylock, Carolyn Bullock, Frederick Carney, Gregg Elliott, Jim and Sue Ferguson, Harry Gayden, Anne Hooper, Robert Ilardi, Margaret Jefferson (compiler: 349 Hawthorne Ave., Memphis, TN 38112; mjjefferson@utmem.edu), Keith Kunkel, Gerald Papachristou, George and Jeanne Payne, Rob Peeples, Andrew Phifer, Dick Preston, Ernest Restivo, Virginia Reynolds, Edwin Thomas, Martha Waldron, and Barbara Wilson.

NASHVILLE (36° 03' N, 86° 56' W) — 18 Dec. 2004; 0530-1715. Weather: clear all day; 29-57° F. Merlin and Bonaparte's Gull were recorded for the first time ever in this count circle. Record high totals were tallied for Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Chipping Sparrow. Observers: Sandy Bivens, Susan and Trae Bradfield, Jean Buchanan, Ed Byrne, Gary Casey, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Francis Fekel, Tarcila Fox, John Froeschauer, Heather Gallager, Ed Gleaves, Pat and Susan Hollyday, Becky and Colton Ivey, Linda Kelly, Robert Lane, Judy Luna, Jon Mann, Paul Miliotis, Elizabeth O'Conner, Ken Oeser, Michael Roedel, Jan Shaw (compiler: 5019 Timberhill Dr., Nashville, TN 37211; JanKShaw@aol.com), Kathy Shaw, Rich Stevick, Dee Thompson, Rita Venable, Vera Vollbrecht, and Mary Zimmerman.

NICKAJACK LAKE (35° 04' N, 85° 31' W) — 27 Dec. 2004; 0400-1700. Weather: clear to partly cloudy with wind NE 2-8 mph; 27-58° F. Notable species included Common Merganser, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, House Wren, and Pine Warbler. Species noted in unusually high numbers were Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Observers: Beth and Zach Barrow, Gary Brunvoll, Kevin Calhoun (compiler: 934 Craven's Terrace, Lookout Mtn., TN 37409; kac@tennis.org), Danny Gaddy, William Haley, John Henderson, David Hollie, Daniel Jacobson, Cathy Lockwitz, Charlie Muise, Rebecca and Robin Rudd, Susan Schott, David Spicer, Carl Swafford, and Jimmy Wilkerson.

NORRIS (36° 13' N, 84° 05' W) — 18 Dec. 2004; 0645-1630. Weather: local fog in the morning, but clear the rest of the day; 27-45° F. Count highlights included Lesser Scaup, Bald Eagle, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. New high totals for this count were recorded for Ring-billed Gull, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, and Song Sparrow. Observers: K. Dean Edwards, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Tony King, Sam Lewis, Ed Manous, Dan and Laurie Mooney, Charlie Muise, Charles Nicholson (compiler: P. O. Box 402, Norris, TN 37828; cpnichol@bellsouth.net), Martha Rudolph, David Trently, and John Upchurch.

REELFOOT LAKE (36° 25' N, 89° 23' W) — 18 Dec. 2004; 0600-1730. Weather: clear all day, wind NW 5-15 mph; 34-50° F. Unusual species for this count were Blue-winged Teal, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Marsh Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark. Record high totals were tallied for Greater White-fronted Goose (previous high was 2109), Snow Goose (previous high was 947), and Ross's Goose (previous high was 3). Unusually high numbers were also recorded for Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Bonaparte's Gull, and Brewer's Blackbird. Observers: Jerry Drewry, Bob Foehring, Mark Greene (compiler: 194 Mt. Orange Rd., Trenton, TN 38382; magreene@usit.net), Joe Guinn, Ken Leggett, Don Manning, Nancy Moore, Chris Sloan, Joe Stone, Sabin Thompson, Michael Todd, Nathan Warden, and Jeff Wilson.

ROAN MOUNTAIN (36° 06' N, 82° 07' W) — 29 Dec. 2004; 0630-1700. Weather: clear to partly cloudy; winds W at 5-25 mph, with stronger gusts at higher elevations; up to 2 inches snow on top of the mountain; 17-38° F. The compiler stated that the strong winds and lack of cones in the spruce-fir forests probably restricted the species totals and numbers of individuals for this count. Participants still managed to find Common Raven, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskin. Observers: Don Holt, Rick Knight (compiler: 804 N. Hills Dr., Johnson City, TN 37604; rknight@preferred.com), Richard Lewis, Phillip Lewis, Mandy Lewis, and Tom McNeil.

SAVANNAH (35° 08' N, 88° 09' W) — 3 Jan. 2005; 0415-1720. Weather: cloudy in the morning, and cloudy with light rain in the afternoon; winds SSW 0-15 mph; 59-70° F. Unusual species noted were Greater Scaup and Fish Crow. Unusually high totals were noted for Northern Shoveler, Bald Eagle, American Woodcock, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Brown Thrasher. Observers: Kay and Ralph Brinkhurst, Dwight Cooley, Jeff Garner, Ken Hansgen, Skip Kizzire, Francis and Gary Markine, Jack Paul, John Ross, Floyd Sherrod, and Damien Simbeck (compiler: 4905 County Rd. 33, Killen, AL 35645; tnbarredowl@aol.com).

SHADY VALLEY-MOUNTAIN CITY (36° 30' N, 81° 51' W) — 1 Jan. 2005; 0530-1730. Weather: clear in the morning, turning partly cloudy in the afternoon; 35-60° F. Abnormally warm temperatures and this being a relatively new count attributed to many species being found in record high numbers, including

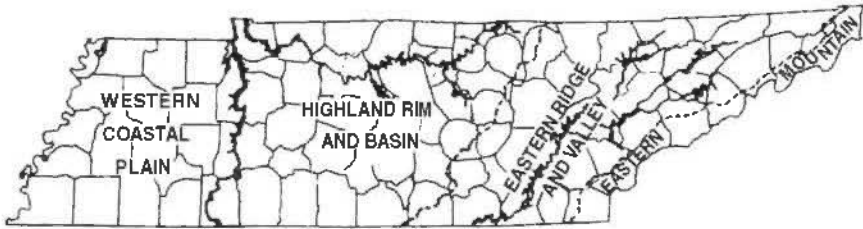
American Black Duck, Mallard, Wild Turkey, Red-tailed Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. Chipping Sparrow was a new species for this count. Vesper Sparrow was recorded for only the second time in count history. Observers: Rob Biller (compiler: 1500 Bell Ridge Rd., Apt. 5, Johnson City, TN 37601; Z02@aol.com), Ron Carrico, J. Wallace Coffey, Rack Cross, Diane Draper, John Hay, Don Holt, Andrew W. Jones, Rick Knight, Tom McNeil, John Moyle, and Christopher O'Bryan.

WARREN COUNTY (35° 40' N, 85° 46' W) — 30 Dec. 2004; 0500-1645. Weather: cloudy all day; 45-58° F. Unusual species for this count included Common Merganser and House Wren. Observers: Nancy Layzer, Crystal and Doug Malone, Michael O'Rourke, Stephen J. Stedman (compiler: 2675 Lakeland Dr., Cookeville, TN 38506; sstedman@tntech.edu), Winston Walden, and Carole Williams.

WHITE COUNTY (35° 32' N, 85° 20' W) — 21 Dec. 2004; 0415-1715. Weather: partly cloudy all day; 36-56° F. This is the first year for this count. Notable species included Bald Eagle, 118 American Kestrels, Loggerhead Shrike, Horned Lark, Sedge and Marsh Wrens, and Pine Siskin. Observers: Douglas Downs (compiler: 403 Gillen Dr., Sparta, TN 38583; douglas_downs@hotmail.com), Judy Fuson, Gregg Garrison, Nancy S. Layzer, Charlie Muise, Michael P. O'Rourke, Barbara H. and Stephen J. Stedman, Winston A. Walden, and Carol D. Williams.

THE WINTER SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



1 DECEMBER 2004 - 28 FEBRUARY 2005

The dominant weather theme across the state this winter was mild temperatures. Precipitation varied only slightly from normal. Very little snowfall occurred outside the eastern mountains.

With the recent split recognizing Cackling Goose as a full species, birders are now forced to look closer at all winter flocks of Canada Geese. This season observers turned up Cackling Geese at three sites in West Tennessee and, more surprisingly, in Sullivan and Washington counties of upper East Tennessee. To my knowledge, all of the Cackling Geese reported this season were of the Richardson's subspecies (*hutchinsii*), the most expected form in Tennessee since it breeds as far east as the central Canadian Arctic, although the Alaskan-breeding form *minima* has been reported previously in the state (e.g., *Migrant* 74:52, 2003).

Duck numbers were generally low, but several scoters were found. Boreal irruptives were represented by a few Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins. Lingering species included Osprey, Sanderling, Common Nighthawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (two regions), Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Summer Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A notable late winter concentration of gulls in Lake County held California, Thayer's, and Iceland gulls. Other noteworthy rarities included Northern Goshawk (two regions), Allen's Hummingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Snow Bunting. A few early returning swallows in three regions signaled the approach of spring.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult	L - Lake
CBC - Christmas Bird Count	m.ob. - many observers
Co - County	max - maximum count
Cr - Creek	Mtn - Mountain
ers - earliest reported sighting	NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
et al. - and others	R - River
fide - reported by	SP - State Park
im - immature	WMA - Wildlife Management Area

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — This winter was generally quite mild in the region. Frozen precipitation fell only once, on 22 December; nearly two inches of ice and snow covered the ground for the next four to six days. Rainfall amounts overall were somewhat below normal.

Among the most unusual finds were a Vermilion Flycatcher at Hatchie NWR and a Northern Goshawk in Lake County. Unrivaled and unprecedented, however, was the gathering in late winter of seven species of gulls in fields north of Tiptonville, Lake County. Observed in addition to the three regular species were a California, two Lesser Black-backed, three Thayer's, and as many as FIVE Iceland gulls; the latter is a new high count for the state.

Waterfowl: **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 22 Jan (3500) Reelfoot L (MTOS), max. **Snow Goose:** 22 Jan (100,000) Reelfoot L (MTOS), max. **Ross's Goose:** 5 Feb (112) Lake Co (JRW), max; also reported from Dyer, Henry, Lauderdale, & Shelby Cos. **CACKLING GOOSE:** 15 Jan (1) Britton Ford, Henry Co (MCT); 22 Jan/5 Feb (2/4) Lauderdale WMA, Lauderdale Co (JRW); 19/23 Feb (2) Dyer Co (MCT, JRW, Terry Witt). **Mute Swan:** 30-31 Dec (8) Weakley Co (David Pitts, MCT); 30 Dec/5 Jan (1) Eagle Lake WMA, Shelby Co (Van Harris, VBR); 12 Feb (1) Dyer Co (Ken & Betty Leggett). **Greater Scaup:** reported from Hardin, Lake, & Shelby Cos. **Surf Scoter:** 9 Dec - 16 Jan (1-2) TVA Lake, Shelby Co (JRW et al.). **White-winged Scoter:** 13 Feb (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Black Scoter:** 9-12 Dec (1) TVA Lake, Shelby Co (JRW); 26 Feb (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Common Goldeneye:** 26 Dec (1,000) Henry Co (MCT, JRW), max. **Common Merganser:** 26 Dec/9 Jan (2/4) Pace Point, Henry Co (MCT, JRW).

Loon - Crane: **Red-throated Loon:** 13/26 Feb (1/2) Henry Co (MCT). **Pacific Loon:** 13 Feb (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Common Loon:** 5 Dec (350) Henry Co (DMA, MCT), max. **Horned Grebe:** 5 Dec (500) Henry Co (DMA, MCT), max. **American White Pelican:** 23 Feb (50) Dyer Co (Glen Criswell, Terry Witt), max. **Great Egret:** 2 Jan (1) Fayette Co (SNM, MGW). **Snowy Egret:** 1/12 Dec (1, injured) Ensley (JRW/Linda Zempel). **Bald Eagle:** 28 Dec (1 ad) Fayette Co (Miles Hilliard fide CHB). **Northern Goshawk:** 20 Feb (1 im) Lake Co (JRW). **Rough-legged Hawk:** 6 Feb (1) Dyer Co (JRW); 14/28 Feb (1) Gibson Co (MAG). **Golden Eagle:** 18 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC; 20 Feb (1) Lake Co (JRW, Nancy Moore). **Merlin:** 3/16 Jan (1) Hardin Co (MCT et al.); 19 Feb (1) Dyer Co (MAG). **Peregrine Falcon:** 5 Dec (1) Henry Co (DMA, MCT); 8 Jan (1) Memphis (VBR, MGW). **Sandhill Crane:** 12 Jan (26) Memphis (VBR); 15/19 Feb (17/9) Dyer Co (Glen Criswell).

Sandpiper - Owl: **Spotted Sandpiper:** 19 Dec (1) Shelby Farms (CHB). **Sanderling:** 1 Dec - 3 Jan (15-3) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT et al.). **Western Sandpiper:** 1-31 Dec (1-3) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT et al.). **Dunlin:** 1-19 Dec (1-4) EARTH Complex (JRW et al.). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** 19 Feb (1) Lauderdale WMA, Lauderdale Co & (1) Mud L., Lake Co (MCT, JRW). **American Woodcock:** 3 Jan (22) Savannah CBC, max. **Bonaparte's Gull:** 9 Jan (5,000) Benton & Henry Cos (MCT), max. **CALIFORNIA GULL:** 23 Jan/19-20 Feb (1) Lake Co (JRW, MCT). **THAYER'S GULL:** 23 Jan - 27 Feb (1-3) Lake Co (JRW, MCT, MAG et al.). **ICELAND GULL:** 13-27 Feb (1-3, with 5 on 20 Feb) Lake Co (JRW, MCT, MAG, Nancy Moore

et al.). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 26 Dec (1) Henry Co (MCT, JRW); 23 Jan - 26 Feb (1-2) Lake Co (JRW, MCT, MAG et al.). **Great Black-backed Gull**: 26 Dec (1) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (MCT, JRW). **Forster's Tern**: 5 Dec (1) Ensley (JRW); 31 Dec - 9 Jan (1) Robco L., Shelby Co (JRW); 9 Jan (5) Lick Cr. WMA, Benton Co (MCT). **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: 2 Jan (23) Fayette CBC, 1st report for Co. **Short-eared Owl**: 18 Dec (3) Reelfoot CBC; 24 Dec (1) Gibson Co (MAG).

Flycatcher - Wren: **VERMILION FLYCATCHER**: 1-14 Dec (1 male) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (JRW, MCT, Mike Resch et al.). **Blue-headed Vireo**: 19 Dec (1) Memphis (DDP); 26 Jan (1) Tigrett WMA, Dyer Co (CHB, VBR, Barbara Wilson). **Fish Crow**: 30 Dec (6) Shelby Forest (MTOS); 1 Jan (3) Jackson CBC; 3 Jan (4) Savannah CBC; 26 Jan (1) Tigrett WMA, Dyer Co (CHB, VBR, Barbara Wilson). **Tree Swallow**: 19 Feb (1) Dyer Co (MCT, JRW), new early date for West Tenn. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: moderate invasion, reports from 6 Cos. **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: 3 Jan (12) Savannah CBC. **House Wren**: 18 Dec (1) Memphis (VBR); 30 Dec (1) Eagle Lake WMA, Shelby Co (Van Harris); 3 Jan (1) Shelby Farms (VBR). **Sedge Wren**: 2 Jan (2) Fayette Co (SNM, MGW). **Marsh Wren**: 18 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC; 2 Jan (2) Fayette Co (SNM, MGW).

Warbler - Siskin: **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 14 Dec (1) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (Mike Resch); 18 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC; 19 Dec (3) Memphis CBC; 20 Jan - March (1) Germantown, Shelby Co (Rob Peeples); 5 Feb (1) northeast Shelby Co (Bob Ilardi); 13 Feb (1) Munford (DDP). **Palm Warbler**: 19 Dec (3) Shelby Farms (MTOS); 3/16 Jan (6/1) Hardin Co (MCT et al.). **Common Yellowthroat**: 2 Jan (1) Fayette Co (DDP). **Summer Tanager**: 8 Dec - March (1 female) Munford (DDP). **American Tree Sparrow**: 15 Jan (4) Britton Ford, Henry Co (MCT); 5 Feb (3) Lake Co (JRW). **Chipping Sparrow**: 2 Jan (97) Fayette Co CBC, max. **LeConte's Sparrow**: 12 Dec (2) Ensley (JRW); 18 Dec (3) Reelfoot CBC; 12 Feb (5) Dyer Co (JRW et al.). **Lapland Longspur**: reported from Crockett, Gibson, Hardin, Lake, Lauderdale, & Shelby Cos (MAG, MCT, JRW et al.). **Western Meadowlark**: 14 Feb (1) Crockett Co (MAG). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 18 Dec (256) Reelfoot CBC; 24 Dec (4) Henry Co (MCT). **Purple Finch**: 11 Dec - March (up to 25) Munford (DDP); 18 Dec (13) Reelfoot CBC; also reported from Carroll & Madison Cos, plus 6 locations in Shelby Co (m.ob.). **Pine Siskin**: Jan - Feb (100) Collierville, Shelby Co (Kathie Holder), max; also reported from Fayette, Lake & Tipton Cos, plus 3 additional sites in Shelby Co (m.ob.).

Locations: EARTH Complex - in Shelby Co; Ensley - in Shelby Co; Munford - in Tipton Co; Reelfoot L. - in Lake & Obion Cos; Shelby Farms/Forest - in Shelby Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — The three month winter season in the Nashville area produced very warm and slightly wetter than normal conditions. Although December was near normal in temperature, January proved

to be exceptionally warm, more than 6.5 degrees above average. The higher than usual temperatures continued in February, which was 3.6 degrees warmer than expected. Given the warm weather, it is perhaps not surprising that Nashville received only trace amounts of snow in each of the three months. Precipitation totals in both December and January were one inch more than usual, while rainfall in February was normal.

Goose - Grebe: **Ross's Goose:** 13-14 Jan (1) DeKalb Co (Janie Finch, CDW), 2nd Co record; 18 Jan (1) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (Jerry Ingles, Ruth Luckado). **Blue-winged Teal:** 16 Feb (1) Cane Cr Park (SJS et al.). **Greater Scaup:** 15 Jan (2) Cane Cr Park (SJS, WAW, Daniel Combs), 2nd Co record. **Surf Scoter:** 12 Dec (1) Cane Cr Park (SJS). **Common Goldeneye:** 18 Dec (1) Radnor L, Davidson Co (SSH, Mary Zimmerman). **Common Merganser:** 30 Dec (3) Harvest Farms L, Warren Co (CDW, SJS, NSL). **Wild Turkey:** 18 Dec (66) west Nashville (PDC, Gary Casey); 18 Jan (82) Putnam Co (SJS). **Horned Grebe:** 16 Jan (283) Center Hill L, DeKalb Co (SJS), max.

Eagle - Hummingbird: **Bald Eagle:** 6 Dec (1) Lieper's Fork, Williamson Co (Sherlene Spicer); 18 Dec (2) west Nashville (Dee Thompson, Tarcila Fox); 28 Dec (1) Shelby Park (PDC). **Golden Eagle:** 4 Feb (1 im) Jackson Co (NSL). **Merlin:** 18 Dec (1) Bellevue, Davidson Co (FCF, John Froeschauer); 1 Jan (1) east Nashville (Jerry Drewry, Mark Hackney). **Short-eared Owl:** 8 Dec (1) Ft. Campbell, Montgomery Co (DMo). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 11 Dec (7) Montgomery Co (DMo); 29 Dec (1) Belvidere, Franklin Co (Roy & Melissa Turrentine); 31 Dec (2) Tullahoma, Coffee Co (Roy Turrentine); 18 Jan (1) Winchester, Franklin Co (Jerry Ingles). **Common Nighthawk:** 7 Dec (4) downtown Nashville (Ken Oeser). **Allen's Hummingbird:** 5 Dec (1 ad female banded) Williamson Co (Chris Sloan), about 5th state record.

Shrike - Pipit: **Loggerhead Shrike:** 18 Dec (1) Williamson Co (Jon Mann, Rob Lane, Judy Luna). **Purple Martin:** 24 Feb (1) DeKalb Co (Thurman Seber fide CDW), ers. **Tree Swallow:** 15 Dec (2) Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (Jim Hiatt fide Jan Shaw), quite late; 26 Feb (5) White Co (SJS, DAD, WAW), ers. **House Wren:** 8 Dec (1 each) Montgomery Co/Stones R. National Battlefield (DMo/BHS); 18 Dec (1) Cookeville (GKE, Michael Hawkins); 25 Dec (1) Jackson Co (BHS, SJS); 28 Dec (1) DeKalb Co (WAW, Michael O'Rourke); 30 Dec (1) Warren Co (CDW, NSL, SJS). **Sedge Wren:** 8 Dec (3) Montgomery Co (DMo); 21 Dec (1) Heritage Marsh (SJS, DAD, CMM); 1 Jan (1) Shelby Bottoms (Jerry Drewry, PDC, SSH, Mark Hackney, Jason Mann). **Marsh Wren:** 8 Dec (1) Walnut Grove Rd., White Co (Wally Brines); 21 Dec (1) Heritage Marsh (DAD, SJS, CMM). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 18 Dec (1) Shelby Bottoms (Barbara Harris). **Gray Catbird:** 8 Dec (1) Stones R. National Battlefield (BHS). **American Pipit:** 18 Dec (55) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (PDC, Gary Casey); 20 Dec (34) Warren Co (SNM).

Warbler - Siskin: **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 17 Dec (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC); 1 Jan (2) Shelby Park (PDC, SSH, Jason Mann). **Common Yellowthroat:** 18 Dec (1) Cookeville (GKE, Michael Hawkins). **American Tree Sparrow:** 8 Dec (2) Montgomery Co (DMo); 1 Jan (singles at 3 sites) Davidson & Sumner Cos (Chris

Sloan, Tarcila Fox); 12 Jan (1) Nashville (Linda Kelly); 23 Jan (1) Bellevue, Davidson Co (FCF). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 1 Jan (1) Marshall Co (DMo). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 25 Dec (1) Jackson Co (BHS, SJS); 28 Jan (1) Stones R. National Battlefield (BHS). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 5 Dec (10) White Co (SJS, WAW); 18 Dec (1) Cheatham Co (FCF, John Froeschauer). **Pine Siskin**: 19 Dec (2) Nashville (Linda Kelly).

Locations: Cane Cr Park - in Putnam Co; Heritage Marsh - in White Co; Shelby Park/Bottoms - in Davidson Co; Stones R. National Battlefield - in Rutherford Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE & VALLEY REGION — The thermometer jumped around quite a bit this season. Although December had near normal temperatures, the first half of January was considerably warmer than average, while the latter half of the month was colder than average. February experienced slightly above average temperatures. Precipitation was near normal for the period; however, little snow fell, even in the northern counties.

An interesting mix of rare northern species and lingering half-hardy species occurred this winter. Irregular visitors from the north included Common Merganser, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Snow Bunting. Notable lingerers included Great Egret, Osprey (5 reports!), Spotted Sandpiper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Duck numbers were low, but a few interesting geese appeared. Raven sightings in the northeastern corner of the region continue to increase. Three swallow species returned in February, including an incredibly early Barn Swallow. Following a modest fall flight, numbers of boreal irruptives fizzled. A Lark Sparrow in Sullivan County was a shocking surprise in mid-winter.

Goose - Heron: **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 20 Jan (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (Nell Moore). **Snow Goose**: 1-5 Dec (1 blue) Knox Co (Dean Edwards); 12 Jan (2) Hamilton Co (Jimmy Wilkerson); 21 Jan (1 white) Morgan Co (Michael Hodge). **Ross's Goose**: 28 Dec (1) Knox Co (Chris Welsh); 10 Jan/4 Feb (2) Brainerd Levee (KAC/Libby Wolfe, Janice Chadwell); 12 Jan (7) Hamilton Co (Jimmy Wilkerson); 31 Jan/26 Feb (1/2) Greene Co (DHM et al.). **CACKLING GOOSE**: 8-23 Jan (2-4) Boone's Cr, Washington Co (LCM, RLK, TSM, DAH); 3-4 Feb (1) Steele Cr. Park, Sullivan Co (Kevin Elam). **Canvasback**: 27 Dec (111) Nickajack CBC, max. **Greater Scaup**: 27 Dec (3) Nickajack CBC, only report. **Common Merganser**: 27 Dec (2 females) Nickajack CBC, only report. **Wild Turkey**: 27 Feb (216 in one flock) Gray, Washington Co (RLK), max. **Common Loon**: 18 Dec (62) Chattanooga CBC, max. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 1 Jan (258) Hiwassee CBC, max. **Great Egret**: 4 Dec (1) Dutch Bottoms, Cocke Co (Michael Sledjeski et al.); 19 Dec (1) Johnson City (Jerry Nagel); 8 Jan (1) Blount Co (CMM); 29 Jan (1) Hiwassee (m.ob.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: thru season (6-7) Kingsport (DAH, RLK).

Osprey - Crane: **Osprey**: 4 Dec (1) Rankin Bottoms, Cocke Co (Michael Sledjeski et al.); thru season (1) John Sevier L., Hawkins Co (Susan Hubley); 12 Jan (1) Hiwassee (Ken Dubke); 6 Feb (1) Melton Hill L., Knox Co (Wes James); 27 Feb (2) Tennessee R., Hamilton Co (DRJ); unusual number of winter records. **Bald Eagle**: 11/24 Jan (1 im) Kingsport (JPM); 20 Jan (2 ad) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (Nell Moore). **Northern Harrier**: 22 Jan thru Feb (up to 12 at roost) Washington Co (Barney Keffler, RLK, DAH). **Northern Goshawk**: 26 Feb (1 im) Brainerd Levee (DRJ). **Red-tailed Hawk**: Jan & Feb (1 albino) Limestone (DAH, m.ob.). **Rough-legged Hawk**: 19 Feb (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Merlin**: 4 Dec (1) Marion Co (David Vogt); 27 Dec (1) Nickajack CBC; 1 Jan (1) Hiwassee CBC; 2 Jan (1) Knoxville CBC; 29 Jan - 12 Feb (1) Hiwassee (KAC et al.); 27 Feb (1) Kyker Bottoms (KTOS); 28 Feb (1) Washington Co (DAH). **Peregrine Falcon**: thru season (2) Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton Co (m.ob.); 15 Dec - 4 Feb (1 ad) Limestone (DAH, RLK et al.), 3rd winter at site; 22 Dec (1) Sevierville (Kevin Pierce). **Virginia Rail**: thru season (8) Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton Co (David Patterson et al.). **Whooping Crane**: thru season (1-4) Hiwassee (m.ob.), from previous classes of Operation Migration.

Yellowlegs - Owl: **Greater Yellowlegs**: 11 Dec (1) Knox Co (KTOS). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 8/22 Jan (2/1) Nickajack L (John Henderson, DRJ, Janice Chadwell/Harold Birch et al.). **Least Sandpiper**: 2 Dec (1) Limestone (RLK). **Dunlin**: 5 Dec/26 Feb (5/1) Brainerd Levee (KAC/DRJ); 11 Dec (2) Knox Co (KTOS); 1 Jan (19) Hiwassee CBC. **American Woodcock**: 9 Jan (1) Loudon Co (Meredith Clebsch). **Short-eared Owl**: 13 Feb (1) Kingsport (JPM). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 24 Jan (1 banded) Blount Co (Jim Giocomo).

Shrike - Waxwing: **Loggerhead Shrike**: thru season (7) Washington Co (RLK). **Common Raven**: 2 Jan (1) Bristol (RLK); 3/31 Jan (2) Conklin, Washington Co (RLK/DAH); 6 Jan (1) Kingsport (JPM); 14 Jan (1) Boone Dam, Sullivan Co (RLK); 15 Jan (1) Greeneville (DHM); mid Jan (1) Johnson City (DAH). **Purple Martin**: 22 Feb (1) Hamilton Co (David Stone), ers. **Tree Swallow**: 11 Feb (4) Kyker Bottoms (Warren Bielenberg), ers; 13 Feb (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ); 22 Feb (1) Washington Co (RLK), new early arrival date by 4 days in NE Tenn. **Barn Swallow**: 13 Feb (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ), remarkably early. **House Wren**: 3 Jan/4 Feb (1) Washington Co (RLK); 19 Feb (1) Johnson City (Bryan Stevens et al.). **Sedge Wren**: 18 Dec/24 Feb (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton Co (David Patterson). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: few reports after decent fall flight. **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: 2 Jan (16) Knoxville CBC, record number there. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 15 Dec/9 Jan (1) Knox Co (Susan Hoyle). **Gray Catbird**: 1 during count week on Knoxville CBC. **Cedar Waxwing**: scarce thru season in Tri-cities area (fide RLK); 21 Feb (500+) Maryville, Blount Co (Warren Bielenberg), max.

Warbler - Siskin: **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 18 Dec (1) Chattanooga CBC; 7 Feb (1) Hamilton Co (KAC); 27 Feb (1) Kyker Bottoms (KTOS). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 1 Jan (1) Marion Co (David Spicer). **Palm Warbler**: 2 Dec (3) Limestone (RLK); 16 Jan (1) Kingsport (RLK); 2 Jan (11) Knoxville CBC; 30 Jan - 12 Feb (singles at 3-4 sites) Blount Co (CMM); 31 Jan (1) Hawkins Co (JPM); 5-22 Feb (1) Greeneville (Jo Anne Routledge); 10 Feb (7) Washington Co (Fred Alsop). **Northern**

Waterthrush: 2 Jan (1) Knoxville CBC. **Common Yellowthroat:** 31 Jan/26 Feb (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Chipping Sparrow:** 2 Jan (118) Knoxville CBC, max; 17 Feb (40) Washington Co (DAH). **LARK SPARROW:** 22 Jan (1) near Tri-cities Airport, Sullivan Co (TSM, m.ob.), 1st unequivocal record in NE Tenn. & rare in the state in winter. **Savannah Sparrow:** 4 Feb (50) Washington Co (RLK), max in NE Tenn. **LeConte's Sparrow:** 27 Dec (1) Greeneville CBC (DAH). **Fox Sparrow:** 28 Feb (9 at feeder) Hamilton Co (Linda Cobble), max. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 9 Jan/27 Feb (1) Kyker Bottoms (CMM/KTOS). **Lapland Longspur:** 2 Dec (2) Limestone (RLK), 3rd consecutive winter at site. **SNOW BUNTING:** 27 Dec (1) Greeneville CBC (RLK). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 3-7 Jan (1 female) Signal Mtn., Hamilton Co (Jonnie Sue Lyons), attracted to water source. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 9 Jan (1 male) Kyker Bottoms (CMM). **Purple Finch:** variable numbers, but generally scarce. **Pine Siskin:** few reports.

Locations: Brainerd Levee - in Hamilton Co; Hiwassee - primarily in Meigs Co; Kyker Bottoms - in Blount Co; Limestone - in Washington Co; Nickajack L - in Marion Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — Temperatures were above average for the period, while precipitation was slightly below normal.

Waterfowl: **CACKLING GOOSE:** 26-27 Dec (1) South Holston R (RLK, Bill Grigsby/TSM, JWC). **Northern Shoveler:** 27 Feb (2) South Holston R (JWC), only report. **Northern Pintail:** 23 Jan (3) South Holston R (DAH), max. **Green-winged Teal:** 17 Jan (18) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (JWC, FRC), max. **Canvasback:** 26 Dec - 10 Jan (1-2) South Holston R. weir (FRC, LCM, DAH, TSM, m.ob.). **Redhead:** 11 Feb (9) Cades Cove (Troy Evans). **hybrid duck:** 2-23 Jan (1 male) South Holston R. weir (RLK, m.ob.), apparent Redhead x Ring-necked Duck; direct comparison was made with males of these two species; it consorted with a female Redhead. **Greater Scaup:** 2-23 Jan (1) South Holston R. weir (RLK, m.ob.); 7-22 Jan (1) Wilbur Lake, Carter Co (RLK, TSM). **Surf Scoter:** 12 Dec (8) South Holston L (RLK, JWC, FRC, TSM et al.). **White-winged Scoter:** 22 Jan (1) South Holston R. weir (TSM). **Bufflehead:** 8 Jan (227) South Holston R. weir (RLK), max there; 19 Jan (256) Wilbur L, Carter Co (RLK), max; 25 Feb (43) Cades Cove (CMM), notable number there. **Common Goldeneye:** 20 Dec (1) Middlebrook L (RLK); 26 Dec (2) South Holston R. weir (JWC et al.); only reports. **Hooded Merganser:** 26 Dec (250+) Middlebrook L (JWC et al.), max. **Common Merganser:** 9 Jan (1 female) Tellico L, Monroe Co (Jean Alexander, David Johnson), only report.

Grebe - Gull: **Horned Grebe:** 7 Jan (16) Watauga L (RLK). **Eared Grebe:** thru season (up to 8) South Holston L (JWC, RLK, m.ob.). **Great Egret:** 20 Dec (1) Hampton, Carter Co (fide Bryan Stevens). **Osprey:** 22 Dec (1) Watauga L, Johnson Co portion (TSM); 26 Dec (1) South Holston R (RLK, Bill Grigsby). **Bald Eagle:** thru season (1-2 each) South Holston L & Watauga L (m.ob.); 16 Jan (3) Calderwood

Dam, Blount Co (CMM, David Trently). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 26 Dec (6) Cades Cove CBC. **Golden Eagle**: 30 Jan (1) hwy 421 near top of Iron Mtn, Johnson Co (John & Lorrie Shumate), feeding on deer carcass near road in 4" snow. **Merlin**: 8 Jan (1) Wears Valley, Sevier Co (CMM); 22 Feb (1) South Holston L (JPM). **Virginia Rail**: 19 Feb (1) Orchard Bog, Shady Valley (LCM, DAH et al.). **American Woodcock**: 19 Feb (2) Orchard Bog, Shady Valley (DAH, LCM et al.). **Ring-billed Gull**: 22 Jan (350) Watauga L (TSM), max there; 26 Feb (1500) Middlebrook L (JWC), max. **Herring Gull**: 22 Jan (3) Middlebrook L (TSM), max.

Woodpecker - Siskin: **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 26 Dec (4) Bristol CBC; 5 Feb (1) Watauga L (Rob Biller). **House Wren**: 4 Jan (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (RLK). **Cedar Waxwing**: quite scarce for most of period. **Pine Warbler**: 22 Feb (1) South Holston R. weir (RLK), ers. **Palm Warbler**: 4 Dec (1) Foothills Parkway, Blount Co (CMM, Tracey Muise); 4 Jan (7) Elizabethton (TSM). **Chipping Sparrow**: 1 Jan (6) Doe Valley, Johnson Co (RLK et al.). **Rusty Blackbird**: 19 Feb (35) Quarry Bog, Shady Valley (RLK, DAH), max. **Red Crossbill**: 27 Dec (30) Roan Mtn, Carter Co (TSM); 1 Jan (8) Iron Mtn, Johnson Co (TSM, DAH); 16 Jan (5+) Cades Cove (CMM, David Trently). **Pine Siskin**: small numbers present.

Locations: Cades Cove - in Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Middlebrook L - in Sullivan Co; Shady Valley - in Johnson Co; South Holston L - in Sullivan Co; South Holston R (including weir) - in Sullivan Co; Watauga L - mostly in Carter Co.

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