

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
THE TENNESSEE
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY —



JUNE
1932

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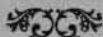
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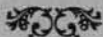
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VOL. III

JUNE, 1932

NO. 2

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee. Issued in March, June, September and December.

SPRING BIRD CENSUS FOR TENNESSEE

BY MEMBERS OF THE T. O. S.

The following series of six all-day bird lists have been prepared with a view of giving a cross-section of Tennessee's bird life during the three weeks prior to mid-May. A goodly number of our active members have thus been enabled to make a worth-while contribution to our knowledge of the birds of our State by covering five widely separated localities within it. Obviously a number of species were missed on the days of listing which were well known to be present. All records about which there was any question have been eliminated from the lists. The ever-present English Sparrow, as well as the recently liberated Mexican Bob-white and Ring-necked Pheasant, have been omitted. Where the actual number of birds seen is not shown, they are designated as: (A) abundant; (C) common; (FC) fairly common, or (P) present but number not recorded. (Fl) denotes a flock. Those followed by an * were observed the previous day, by a † indicates that further notes may be found in the Round Table Department, and by an x, that further notes are appended at the bottom of page 16.

SPECIES	Reelfoot	Memphis		Nash-	Knox-	Johnson
	Lake April 23-24	May 8	May 15	ville May 15	ville May 1	City May 1
Grebe, Pied-billed	---	9†	2†	---	---	---
Cormorant, Double-crested	3,000†	---	---	---	---	---
Heron, Great Blue	15†	---	---	1	---	---
Heron, Green	1	3	6	10	2	P.
Heron, Black-crowned Night	---	---	---	2	3	---
Egret, American	3†	---	---	---	---	---
Bittern, American	3	---	---	---	---	---
Bittern, Least	---	1*	---	---	---	---
Ibis, Glossy	---	---	1†	---	---	---
Teal, Blue-wing	2	---	---	---	---	---
Duck, Wood	6	---	---	---	---	---
Duck, Lesser Scaup	75	---	Pair	---	---	---
Merganser, Hooded	1	---	---	---	---	---
Vulture, Turkey	5	2	5	C.	4	P.
Vulture, Black	4	3	3	F. C.	---	---
Hawk, Sharp-shin	---	---	---	1	1	---
Hawk, Coopers	---	---	1	1*	---	---
Hawk, Red-tailed	---	---	---	2	---	---
Hawk, Red-shouldered	4	---	---	---	---	---
Hawk, Broad-wing	---	---	---	1	---	---
Hawk, Duck	Pair†	---	---	---	---	---
Hawk, Sparrow	---	---	1	2	1	P.
Eagle, Bald	1X	---	---	---	---	---
Osprey	1	---	---	---	---	---
Bob-white	2	5	9	7	6	---
Rail, King	1	3†	1†	---	---	---
Rail, Sora	---	5	3	---	---	---
Gallinule, Florida	3	---	---	---	---	---

Gallinule, Purple	---	1	1	---	---	---
Coot, American	A.	2	1	---	---	---
Plover, Semipalmated	---	6	1	---	---	---
Killdeer	2	10	8	F. C.	F. C.	P.
Yellowlegs, Lesser	---	4	---	---	1	1
Yellowlegs, Greater	---	8	8	---	---	---
Sandpiper, Spotted	---	2	2	3	1	P.
Sandpiper, Solitary	---	12	7	3	6	P.
Sandpiper, Least	---	25†	50†	4†	---	---
Phalarope, Wilson's	---	5†	---	---	---	---
Gull, American Herring	20	---	---	---	---	---
Tern, Black	1	---	---	---	---	---
Tern, Least	---	---	2	---	---	---
Dove, Mourning	7	14	16	C.	C.	P.
Cuckoo, Yellow-bill	---	2	1	6	2	---
Owl, Barn	---	---	---	---	2	---
Owl, Screech	1	---	---	1	---	---
Owl, Great Horned	2	---	---	1	---	---
Owl, Barred	1	---	---	---	---	---
Chuck-wills-widow	---	---	1	3*	---	---
Whip-poor-will	1	---	---	4	1	---
Nighthawk	---	3	1	2	3	---
Chimney Swift	C.	3	11	C.	C.	P.
Hummingbird, Ruby-throat	2	2	1	3	2	---
Kingfisher	1	2	3	1	2	---
Flicker	F. C.	3	14	2	C.	P.
Woodpecker, Pileated	5	---	---	1	2	---
Woodpecker, Red-bellied	F. C.	1	1	3	3	---
Woodpecker, Red-headed	C.	2	13	6	F. C.	---
Woodpecker, Hairy	2	2	---	1	1	P.
Woodpecker, Downy	F. C.	3	7	2	4	---
Kingbird	2	11	15	4	2	---
Flycatcher, Crested	F. C.	8	15	F. C.	C.	P.
Flycatcher, Least	---	---	---	---	---	P.
Flycatcher, Acadian	---	2	3	3	F. C.	---
Phoebe	2	---	---	3	C.	P.
Wood Pewee	1	8	16	7	1	P.
Horned Lark, Prairie	---	Pair	6	---	---	---
Swallow, Rough-wing	C.	2	8	8	C.	P.
Swallow, Barn	6	---	---	---	---	P.
Martin, Purple	F. C.	2	6	F. C.	C.	---
Blue Jay	F. C.	25	36	C.	C.	P.
Crow	C.	1	3	C	F. C.	P.
Chickadee, Car.	F. C.	4	2	F. C.	C.	---
Titmouse, Tufted	F. C.	4	13	F. C.	C.	P.
Nuthatch, White-br.	1	---	2	1	1	---
Wren, House	---	---	---	---	---	2†
Wren, Winter	---	---	---	---	1	---
Wren, Bewick	5	---	---	C.	1	---
Wren, Carolina	C.	8	15	C.	C.	P.
Wren, Sh.-bill Marsh	---	---	---	---	1	---
Wren, Long-bill Marsh	---	---	2	---	---	---
Mockingbird	---	10	50	C.	F. C.	P.
Catbird	3	4	5	6	C.	P.
Brown Thrasher	4	2	20	F. C.	F. C.	P.

Robin	F. C.	6	25	F. C.	F. C.	P.
Thrush, Wood	C.	16	30	F. C.	C.	P.
Thrush, Olive-backed		5	3	2	3	
Bluebird	3	5	10	C.	C.	P.
Gnatcatcher	C.	2	12	F. C.	F. C.	P.
Kinglet, Ruby-crown		--	--	--	--	P.
Waxwing, Cedar	F. C.	10*	24	3 fl.	2 fl.	
Shrike, Loggerhead		4	6	--	--	
Starling		--	--	6*	F. C.	P.
Vireo, White-eyed	C.	6	11	C.	C.	P.
Vireo, Yellow-throated	F. C.	4	2	F. C.	F. C.	
Vireo, Philadelphia		1	--	--	--	
Vireo, Red-eyed	F. C.	8	20	A.	C.	P.
Vireo, Warbling	2	2*	2*	1	--	
Warbler, Black and White	F. C.	3	--	2	6	P.
Warbler, Prothonotary	A.	6	6	6	3	
Warbler, Worm-eating		--	--	1	1	
Warbler, Blue-winged		--	--	4	--	
Warbler, Tennessee	F. C.	8	2	--	4	
Warbler, Nashville		--	--	--	1	
Warbler, Parula	C.	4	3	4	--	
Warbler, Yellow	2	--	--	3	4	P.
Warbler, Black-thr. Blue		--	--	--	3	
Warbler, Magnolia		2	--	--	1	P.
Warbler, Cape May		--	--	1	--	
Warbler, Myrtle	C.	--	--	--	A.	P.
Warbler, Black-thr. Green	3	--	--	2	2	
Warbler, Cerulean	6	--	--	2	2	
Warbler, Blackburnian		--	--	--	3	
Warbler, Yellow-throat		--	--	--	2	
Warbler, Sycamore	F. C.	5	4	5	--	
Warbler, Chestnut-sided	2	5	--	--	2	P.
Warbler, Bay-breasted		--	--	--	3	
Warbler, Black-poll		2	--	8	2	
Warbler, Pine		--	--	1	--	
Warbler, Prairie		--	--	8	--	
Warbler, Palm	4	--	--	--	--	
Warbler, Kentucky	C.	3	7	8	C.	P.
Warbler, Hooded	C.	8	6	7	C.	
Warbler, Mourning		--	3	--	--	
Oven-bird	1	--	--	1	2	P.
Water-thrush, Louisiana	C.	--	1	3	C.	P.
Yellow-throat, Maryland	6	8	21	C.	A.	P.
Chat, Yellow-breast	2	7	18	4	4	P.
Redstart	C.	15	15	2	6	P.
Bobolink		30	6	--	Flock	
Meadowlark	2	50	45	F. C.	C.	P.
Redwing Blackbird	A.	50	30	8	F. C.	P.
Oriole, Orchard	3	4	20	6	2	
Oriole, Baltimore	4	5	3	2	1	
Grackle, Bronzed	C.	13	18	C.	--	
Grackle, Purple		--	--	--	C.	P.
Cowbird	4	1	7	3	C.	P.
Tanager, Scarlet	1	1	--	1	3	P.
Tanager, Summer	6	2	8	F. C.	C.	P.

Cardinal	-----	C.	16	40	A.	C.	P.
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	---	3	1	--	3	3	--
Bunting, Indigo	-----	4	16	25	A.	F. C.	--
Dickcissel	-----	--	20	17	--	--	--
Goldfinch	-----	4	30	8	C.	C.	P.
Towhee	-----	4	--	--	F. C.	C.	P.
Sparrow, Savannah	-----	--	--	2	--	?	--
Sparrow, Grasshopper	-----	--	--	--	1	C.	--
Sparrow, Vesper	-----	--	--	--	--	1	--
Sparrow, Bachman's	-----	--	--	--	3	--	P.
Sparrow, Chipping	-----	3	--	3	C.	F. C.	P.
Sparrow, Field	-----	2	--	4	C	C.	P.
Sparrow, White-throated	---	10	--	--	1	A.	P.
Sparrow, Lincolns	-----	--	--	--	2*	1	--
Sparrow, Swamp	-----	--	--	--	--	2	--
Sparrow, Song	-----	--	--	--	--	C.	P.
Total number of species (154)		94	83	85	94	101	58

Johnson City list was compiled by Bruce P. Tyler and Robert B. Lyle in the vicinity of that town, and represents the northeast corner of Tennessee.

The Knoxville list was made chiefly in the vicinity of H. P. Ijams' "Island Home" place on the Tennessee River, above Knoxville, including the low wooded island. Also took in a canoe trip of twelve miles down the French Broad River past "Paint Rock" to "Island Home." Fourteen members participated. The list was prepared by H. P. Ijams and Brockway Crouch.

Nashville list was compiled by twenty-four members on forty-mile drive to the lower Harpeth valley. Headquarters was made near Stringfellow bridge, where high cliffs, fringed with cedar and pine, joined rich bottom lands and wooded pastures across the Harpeth River. Two others visited Radnor Lake and Cumberland River bottoms.

The Memphis list of May 8 was compiled by a group of twenty-one, with headquarters at Lake View, on Horn Lake, twelve miles south of Memphis. Through wooded bottoms, in Tennessee, toward Horn Lake Creek; in the afternoon to barrow pits back of Mississippi River levee, in Mississippi. May 15, visited same localities as above, with party of six. In the afternoon visited Raleigh, ten miles northeast of Memphis. Lists were prepared by Ben B. Coffey. See further notes in Round Table.

The Reelfoot Lake list was made by about twenty members from Nashville, ten from Memphis and one from Dyersburg. The visit to this unique body of water, in the northwest corner of the State, with its austroriparian environment, was voted as perhaps the most interesting excursion ever taken by the T. O. S. On the afternoon of the 23rd, a boat trip was made southward to Mud Basin, where a Bald Eagle nest was visited. It was built in a cypress, growing in cut-over ground, and although a white-headed parent was sitting on a limb above the nest, it was found that they had not laid as yet. Later, on the open water of the lake, the party viewed large flocks of Cormorants,



BIRD BANDING; SOUTHWEST AREA OF NASHVILLE.

By MRS. F. C. LASKEY.

The following report covers nine months of trapping birds for banding purposes, in co-operation with the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., by Mrs. Arch Cochran and the writer, assisted by Norman Tompkins. Four stations have been established: (a) Dripping Rock is at the home of Mrs. Cochran in Belmont Heights, a closely built-up suburb of Nashville; (b) Blos-

(Continued on Page 27)

FACTS ABOUT EAGLES
IN TENNESSEE

A. F. GANIER
NASHVILLE

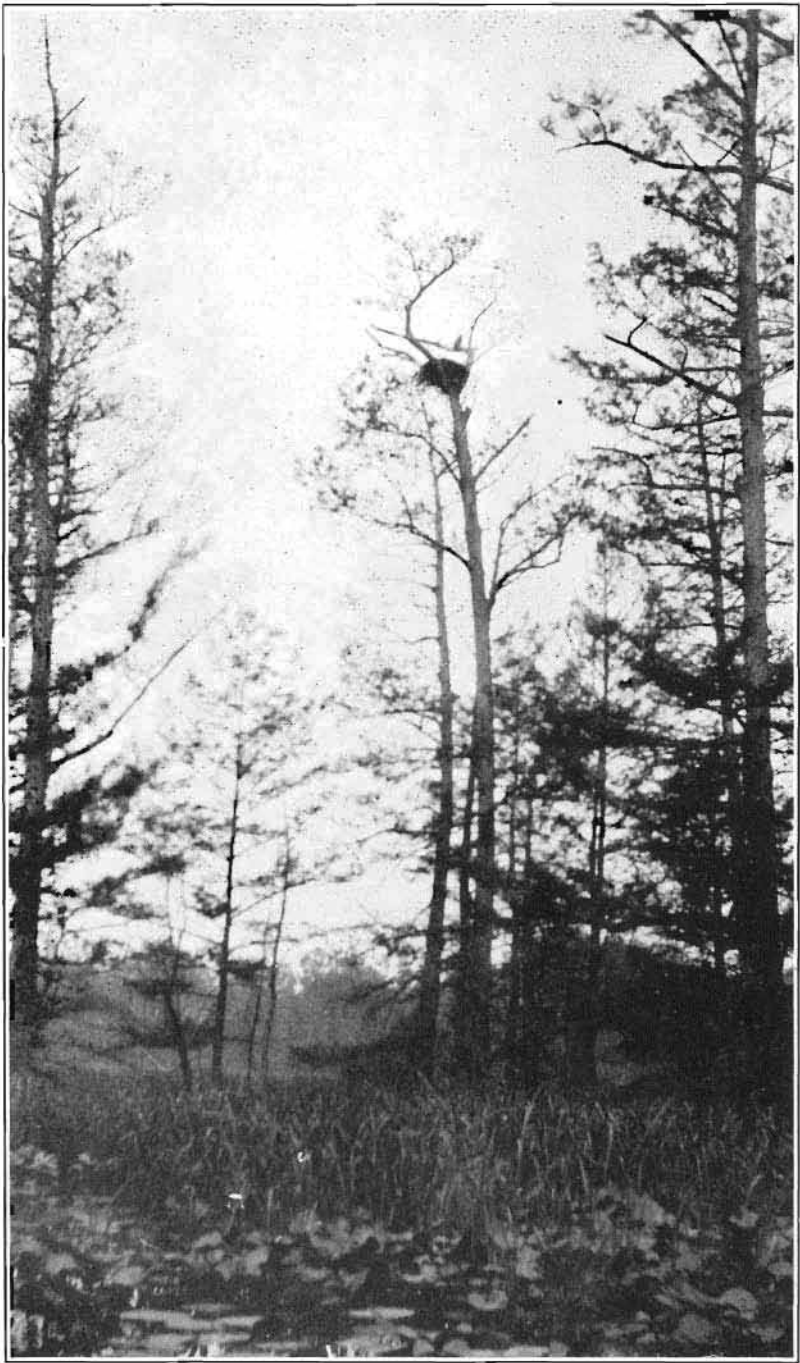


Fig. 1. Nest of the Bald Eagle in the Reelfoot Lake "Scatters."

FACTS ABOUT EAGLES IN TENNESSEE¹

A. F. GANIER

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Two species of eagles are found in the United States and both of these occur in Tennessee. Most of those to be seen in West Tennessee are Bald Eagles, while most of those occurring in East Tennessee are Golden Eagles. The so-called "Black Eagle" is merely the immature Bald Eagle, since this species does not fully attain its white head and tail feathers until it is four years old.

The Bald Eagle is very fond of dead fish and will also catch uninjured ducks and geese. For this reason it is usually found near large bodies of water, such as Reelfoot Lake, the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic coasts.

The Golden Eagle is a bird of mountain fastnesses, where there are high cliffs in which it may establish its aerie. In Tennessee, a few pairs have been observed at nesting time in the Cumberland Mountains, the Great Smoky Mountains, and in the Unaka chain. It is a very rare resident now at best; there probably being not more than a dozen nesting pairs within the state and as yet none of their nests have been found. It is probable that these few pairs, and as many more in adjacent mountainous areas, are the only ones remaining east of the Rocky Mountains. In winter and early spring, these eagles forage far from their summer homes and are sometimes killed or trapped in Middle Tennessee. Some twenty-five occurrences of this species in this area have come to the notice of the writer during the past fifteen years. It is probable that their numbers are augmented by a few birds from the Northwest and even western Canada. During February and March, they take a few lambs and are also partial to tame ducks and geese. Rabbits and woodchucks, however, are the most staple items of food the year around. In their mountain homes, they capture very young goats and also small fawns. A good percentage of their food consists of carrion, to which they are guided by Turkey Vultures whom they whip off until they have had their fill.

The Golden Eagle is our largest, strongest, and handsomest bird of prey. He is by no means so well known as the Bald Eagle. This

¹Read before the Tennessee Academy of Science at the Nashville meeting, November 29, 1930.

latter bird is fairly common along the Atlantic seaboard and for this reason is usually pictured as our National Bird.



Photograph by B. B. Coffey.

Fig. 2. Climbing to a nest of the Bald Eagle in the Mississippi River Swamp Country. The rim of this eyrie was one hundred three feet from the ground. The nest held young birds, the eggs having been laid about Christmas time, 1929.

The nest of the Golden Eagle is usually placed on an inaccessible ledge of a high cliff and consists of a large mass of sticks, warmly lined with bark, corn stalks, hair, and other soft materials. Two, very rarely three, large white, brown-spotted eggs are laid in February or early March.

The Bald Eagle, as a resident of Tennessee, is equally rare. So far as is now known, there are only three or four pairs nesting at Reelfoot Lake and perhaps one or two pairs nesting in swamps along the Mis-



Photographs by Coffey and Ganier.

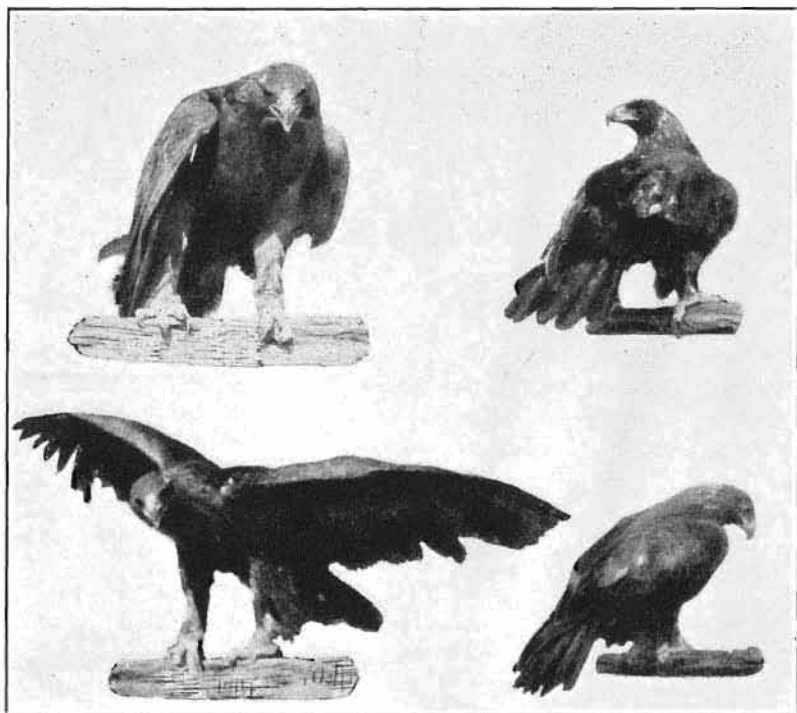
Fig. 3. Two nests of the Bald Eagle near Memphis. They were built in giant oak trees and had been in use for years. Each nest held two large young birds.

sissippi River. Three pairs nest a few miles south of Memphis, in Arkansas, where they are protected on the "island" in Horseshoe Lake, which is the preserve of a hunting and fishing club. As a nesting bird in Tennessee, they are nearing extinction. Rigid protection should be given especially to those on Reelfoot Lake.

During the fall and winter, many Bald Eagles come from frozen northern lakes and rivers and join the eagles which nest on Reelfoot Lake. For this reason, hunters believe that the Bald Eagle is com-

mon on the lake, whereas this is only true during the fall and winter season. At that time they render themselves useful in picking up dead and injured ducks in the wake of the hunter. They also keep the lake free of dead fish, snakes, turtles, *et cetera*.

In Alaskan waters where Bald Eagles are still numerous, they have not infrequently been observed to catch uninjured ducks. However, in this state they much prefer the ever present Coot, which they can readily catch and easily skin. But surely our few remaining eagles are entitled to a duck occasionally, when our sportsmen have been in



Photographs by Dr. H. A. Vaughn.

Fig. 4. The Golden Eagle, after it had fully recovered from nearly fatal gunshot wounds. Dr. H. S. Sanborn took care of this eagle during the five months of its convalescence. It escaped in November, 1930, and has not been heard from since.

the habit of killing twenty-five per day and often too, in addition, the twenty-five which the law allows their guide. Hunters who accuse the eagles of being seriously destructive to duck and fish are either misinformed or are trying to justify themselves for the despicable act of shooting eagles. Due to relentless persecution and the supposed glory which comes from having killed an eagle, this species, formerly found generally distributed all through the interior of the United States, is now practically exterminated within that area. Aside from

a score of breeding pairs in the Mississippi Valley and scattered pairs along the five Great Lakes, the Bald Eagles has been wiped out within this portion of our country.

Realizing that steps were necessary to prevent the total extinction of the bird, chosen for our National Emblem, a bill has recently been presented in Congress making it illegal to slaughter these splendid birds.

The Bald Eagle builds its nest in the top of some large tree; usually the largest oak, cypress, or elm that can be found. Such trees are almost impossible to climb. The eggs, two and sometimes three in number, are laid, in this state, during January and February. They are perfectly white and lie in a nest warmly lined with soft materials. These nests are used year after year and, being added to each season, frequently assume large proportions. One, I climbed to on March 9th, 1930, was more than four feet in depth and over five feet wide. At that time it held two young eagles nearly as large as their parents.

Some general remarks applying to both species of eagles may be of interest. Mature Bald Eagles, i. e., those four or more years old, are readily distinguished by the feathers of their head and tail, these being entirely white. Bald Eagles younger than this are blackish brown all over, but they have considerable whitish markings about their body. With the Golden Eagle, the head and neck are tawny (golden) brown while the balance of their plumage is a rich chestnut brown. The inner third of the tail is ashy white and, in immature birds, there is a large whitish spot under each wing. The surest way to tell the species apart is by their legs. Those of the Bald Eagle are bare from the knee down while the legs of the Golden Eagle are covered by feathers entirely down to the toes like those of an owl.

Stories about eagles attacking human beings are almost invariably without foundation. The Golden Eagle, on sighting a person, will soar upward until he becomes but a speck in the sky. Even when his nest is visited, he flies silently away and remains at a great distance while the intruder is present. The Bald Eagle is less shy but has never been known to attack a man climbing to its nest. They soar at a safe distance overhead and do nothing more violent than utter an annoyed note of protest. Tales about eagles having carried off children are equally without foundation. Ornithologists for more than a century have tried to secure positive evidence to substantiate these old-time tales, but without success. Many such stories have been traced back to their source and none have been found to be true. The eagle has great difficulty in lifting its ten to twelve pounds of weight into the air from level ground. In picking up a rabbit, a dead fish, or an injured duck, it does not alight. After a lamb or goose is killed, the eagle alights and eats what it requires on the spot.

Another popular fallacy is the supposition that young eagles, at the time of leaving the nest, are much smaller than the adults and that they eventually grow to a much greater size. As a matter of fact, when eagles take their first flight they have a wing spread of about

six feet six inches while the largest old birds that have been measured exceed this by little more than a foot. These measurements may be compared with those of the Red-tailed Hawk, our largest Hawk, which presents a wing spread of from three feet and ten inches to four feet and two inches. This is approximately two feet less than that of the smallest eagles. Like other birds of prey, the female eagle is about ten per cent larger than the male.

The nesting period of eagles is longer than that of any other native bird. One or two days elapse between the deposition of each egg.



Photograph by Frances H. Herrick.

Fig. 6. The Male Bald Eagle at the Nest. Published through the courtesy of Dr. Frances H. Herrick.

These must be incubated for thirty-five days before they hatch. The young are covered with thick, white down for some weeks before they begin to acquire their regular feathers. It requires nearly three months for young eagles to develop to the point where they can fly from the nest site. They flap and otherwise try out their wings for nearly a month before they trust themselves to flight.

I wish to close with the plea that no more eagles be killed within the State of Tennessee and that our best citizens use their influence to protect such few of these splendid birds as may still be captured or threatened.

somdell, the home of Mrs. Laskey, is two miles due south in a rather open, sparsely built suburban section; (c) Bellemeade station is four miles farther to the southwest, in a fairly well built up section near the Country Club, and where old oaks and other forest trees abound, and (d) Radnor Lake station, which is seven miles southeast of Dripping Rock, on the shores of an eighty-five-acre artificial lake, surrounded by wooded hills.

In addition to the birds reported in the list, there have been several recaptures of migrants, including Robins, Brown Thrashers and Catbirds, returning to their nesting places of last year in the gardens of Mrs. Cochran and Mrs. Laskey. Of the 869 birds listed as "repeats," which means they have been retrapped within three months of the banding date, each has repeated at the same location where banded, none apparently having visited any of the three other stations in operation.

The following is a list of the 42 species of birds banded at stations a, b, c, and d, the number banded at each station being given in that order. "R" indicates the number of repeats. Woodcock, 1, 0, 0, 0; Screech Owl, 0, 0, 1, 0; Flicker, 2, 6, 0, 0, R5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 0, 1, 2, 0; Red-headed Woodpecker, 0, 0, 1, 0; Hairy Woodpecker, 0, 1, 3, 0; Downy Woodpecker, 0, 7, 1, 0, R7; Hummingbird, 1, 0, 0, 0; Blue Jay, 8, 0, 2, 0; Carolina Chickadee, 12, 6, 1, 2, R41; Tufted Titmouse, 5, 2, 3, 1, R14; White-breasted Nuthatch, 0, 0, 3, 0, R4; Winter Wren, 2, 0, 0, 0; House Wren, 0, 1, 0, 0; Bewick Wren, 0, 5, 1, 0, R10; Carolina Wren, 2, 1, 0, 2, R12; Indigo Bunting, 0, 1, 0, 0; Summer Tanager, 0, 1, 0, 0; Mockingbird, 4, 4, 1, 0; Catbird, 13, 4, 0, 0; Brown Thrasher, 5, 11, 2, 0; Robin, 65, 67, 2, 10, R2; Hermit Thrush, 8, 0, 0, 0; Veery, 0, 1, 0, 0; Wood Thrush, 25, 0, 0, 0; Bluebird, 0, 11, 0, 0; Cedar Waxwing, 1, 0, 0, 12; Red-winged Blackbird, 0, 0, 0, 3; Baltimore Oriole, 1, 0, 0, 0; Bronzed Grackle, 40, 3, 17, 0, R2; Cardinal, 16, 6, 2, 17, R6; Towhee, 1, 2, 0, 7, R2; Junco, 0, 4, 0, 0, R2; Savannah Sparrow, 0, 7, 0, 0, R1; White-crowned Sparrow, 0, 19, 0, 0, R28; White-throated Sparrow, 0, 3, 0, 3, R2; Chipping Sparrow, 0, 9, 0, 0, R85; Field Sparrow, 0, 133, 2, 0, R603; Swamp Sparrow, 0, 2, 0, 10, R2; Lincoln's Sparrow, 0, 2, 0, 0, R3; Song Sparrow, 0, 8, 1, 30, R14; Vesper Sparrow, 0, 1, 0, 0; total birds banded, 683, repeats, 869, species 42.

Nashville, Tenn., May 1, 1932.



SPRING BIRD CENSUS FOR TENNESSEE

(Continued from Page 16)

some flying and others sitting on the dead trees, most of them being migrating birds. A flock of lesser Scaup, many Coots, a number of Herring Gulls and Great Blue Herons, American Bitterns, an Osprey and two American Egrets were among the most interesting birds of the open water. The next morning early twelve boats carried the group up Bayou du Chien for about three miles, where a portage was made into Otter Basin and the inundated cypress swamp just south of the Kentucky line. Here a heronry was visited and a pair of Duck Hawks observed, particulars of which will be found in the Round table on page 27. The trees in the swamp resounded with a medley of avian voices and the Prothonotary Warblers, which fed near the water's edge among the "elbow bushes," were a constant source of interest. At Samburg the Memphis party tarried a few hours, adding birds to the list from the south end of the lake. Final list was prepared by G. R. Mayfield.

(We regret that lack of space does not permit our giving the names of all of our members who assisted with these lists.—Eds.)

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON, AT MEMPHIS: On March 6 scouts saw at least ten Prairie Horned Larks at the municipal airport, six miles southeast of town. I revisited this field with the following results: March 20, four to five pairs; March 27, four pairs; April 9, two (watched one sing, high in the sky, then drop to earth) April 20, one male; May 7, two; May 15, three or four. On March 20 we were asked to stay off the field, so no other search was made for nests, and all birds were seen from the road. Perhaps we may be able to recognize young along the roadside soon. While no nests have been found, the above late dates would seem to prove that it is a breeding species. Cedar Waxwings have been common since the first of February, and although often seen in flocks of twenty to two hundred, there has so far been no great May wave of them, as is usually the case when they are uncommon in winter. Wilson's Snipe, White-throated Sparrows, and Myrtle Warblers were last seen on May 1st and were the last of the winter residents. Migrants generally arrived a few days later than the earliest recorded dates, although the Wood Thrush and Kentucky Warbler were as much as nine days late. The Black-throated Green Warbler, generally heard on all early spring trips, was not recorded until April 15th. The Blackburnian escaped detection until May 13 (due April 5), and the Ovenbird was not recorded this spring. The first time I have seen House Wrens here was on April 17; two at widely separate locations. The Philadelphia Vireo (one on May 8) and Mourning Warbler (three on May 15) were new to me, but may be more common in the wooded bottoms during migration than supposed.

A series of shallow barrow pits, just south of the Mississippi River levee and a mile below the Tennessee line, has yielded some interesting records. Least Bittern, May 7; Wilson's Phalarope, a single and two pair, May 8; Purple Gallinule, May 8, 10 and 15. Long-billed Marsh Wrens have been seen here as well as straggling Coots and Ducks. The most interesting species observed here was an Eastern Glossy Ibis, which was seen first on May 15 and was still present on May 21. The bird appeared dark green and brown, and we afterward approached to a nearer position by crawling to the top of the levee at a point opposite and studied it at our leisure. The wings and back were glossy green and the remainder a rich, reddish brown, which showed up gloriously in a good light. No white was present on the face. It took flight leisurely, flapping slowly like a Great Blue Heron, then coasting. It flew with neck outstretched unlike the herons which fly with heads drawn in and neck slightly S-shaped. On May 1, I was agreeably surprised to find in two adjacent pits about ten nests of the Pied-billed Grebe floating in the shallow water among last year's growth of dead weeds. The adults, if they were all present, kept well out of sight, for on none of my several trips were more than four seen. One of the nests, containing seven eggs, hatched on May 1, and other young about may have been several days old. During the three weeks following it has been very dry and the water level has dropped appreciably, leaving it very shallow for the young ones. A King Rail's nest was found here on May 7, at which time it held three eggs; on a later date it was found to contain nine eggs, but the parent was absent. Sora Rails are often flushed, but it is unlikely they will breed this far south. Earl Henry has recently collected both the Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers here. Since they are hard to distinguish afield, it is probable that my reports include some of the latter along with the Least.—Ben B. Coffey, Memphis, Tenn.

DUCKHAWKS AT A REELFOOT HERONRY: Perhaps the high light of our trip to Reelfoot Lake, on April 23-24, was the finding of a pair of Duck

Hawks (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). They were first sighted a few hundred feet south of where a few Great Blue Herons and one or two American Egrets were nesting amid the tops of an extensive growth of virgin Bald Cypress trees in the big swamp at the north end of the lake. Their presence was not suspected at such a locality, but when their vigorous characteristic flight and their loud "quacking" call revealed their identity our party spent a thrilled half hour watching them. One of the birds lit, with prey in its talons, on top of a cypress snag a few hundred feet from the boats, whereupon Messrs. Coffey, Henry and myself waded through the knee-deep water to get a better view. At 100 feet she left her perch, much disturbed at our presence, and flew about overhead, making great protest. A large cypress, in the top of which was a big cavity, seemed to be the center of her interest, and it is probable that it was this she had chosen for her eyrie and that at the present time it held young.

The heronry, when I last visited it, on April 26, 1919, held about 125 nests of the Great Blue and 75 nests of the Cormorant. A careful count showed, on the present trip, no Cormorants, and only thirteen Heron nests. There is a possibility that the Duck Hawks have been responsible for this decrease. The heronry at the lower end of the Lake was visited by myself on May 29 and an increase was noted in the large number of herons and cormorants nesting at this place. No Duck Hawks were seen here.—A. F. Ganier, Nashville.

MORE REELFOOT NOTES: On May 1st, I re-visited the heronry at the head of the Lake, with some friends. The trip up Bayou du Chien was lovelier than the week before, for the wild wisteria was blooming and the amber waters of Otter Basin were more brilliant with yellow flowered water plants. The same Duck Hawk was screaming from his perch on a dead limb near his eyrie. We did not push through the dense undergrowth to the big cypress trees that held the Great Blue Heron nests, but skirted the edge into a neck of open water where we had a magnificent view of three nests in one tree and two in another. The herons were flying about some and, as we sat very still to watch them, I realized the hawk's cry was getting nearer. He circled the tree once where the nests were and, quicker than a flash, he swooped down near a nest. Instantly a dozen herons rushed to the rescue and one old heron screamed so loudly that the hawk flew away faster than he had come. The herons seemed to spring up from space when the falcon swooped and appeared all ready to lend a helping hand in defense of their colony. Then one heron stationed himself on the topmost limb—perhaps a self-appointed sentinel—and discharged his duty faithfully during the thirty minutes I watched, while his fellows flew about casually as though depending on his vigilance.—Mrs. J. S. Scott, Dyersburg, Tenn.

NOTES FROM KNOXVILLE: The Duck Hawk near Alum Cave, in the Great Smokies National Park, made a successful hatch this year, according to Brockway Crouch, who visited the eyrie in early April. The park wardens are taking a commendable interest in these splendid falcons. The pair which have nested for some years in Paint Rock cliffs, on the French Broad River, were not present when the place was visited on May 1st. Our Field Day of that date found birds somewhat scarcer than usual, our total falling about 8 short of our record of 109 species for the day. Messrs. Mayfield and Ganier came over from Nashville to help with the listing. The Barn Owls were nesting as usual in the hollow sycamore on the island and Crouch aroused them from their mid-day doze to add their names to the list. Careful observations about my place here shows 27 species of birds breeding about the grounds. One of the most interesting finds was my first nest of the Yellow-throated Warbler. It was located in a big pine several hundred feet from the river and held young on May 21st. On May 5th, one of our scouts

found a Killdeer's nest with 7 eggs, at the point of hatching; since 4 is the usual maximum number, it is likely that two females layed in this nest. On the night of May 25th, frog hunters shot a Least Bittern, at which late date it might not be just a migrant. A Black-crowned Night Heron was recently shot here, too; since we see them throughout the summer, they are believed to breed. On June 7, a Kentucky Warbler was observed feeding a young Cowbird in its nest.—H. P. Ijams, Knoxville, Tenn.

HOUSE WRENS AT JOHNSON CITY: On May 1st I had the unusual experience of observing a pair of House Wrens here. This recalls to my mind an experience with these birds which occurred here one spring a few years ago, when a lone male stayed in my yard for about three weeks. Hoping to have a new breeding bird about the premises I at once put up a special nest box in order that "Mrs. Jennie" would be pleased should she put in her appearance. The male sung continuously and seemed entirely pleased with the surroundings. At that time a pair of Bewicks Wrens were about to bring forth a brood of young from a nest under the sleeping porch and in another they were completing a set of eggs. One day it became evident that relations between the two kinds of wrens had become strained to the breaking point and war to the death ensued. Both the Bewicks Wren nests were destroyed and the young killed and after several days fighting all of the birds disappeared, never to return. I mourn for my Bewicks still, since they had come regularly every year and we were much attached to them.—Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City. **NOTE:** While the House Wren has never been reported as nesting in Tennessee, we have read many unfavorable reports about its nest and egg-destroying habits in the North. Our two breeding species, the Bewicks and the Carolina, are entirely peaceable toward each other and toward other birds, and we think it would be best to discourage the House Wren from extending its breeding range in this direction.—Eds.

THE ANNUAL SPRING FIELD DAY of the T. O. S. was held on the lower Harpeth River, near Stringfellow Bridge, on Sunday, May 15. Here massive cliffs tower above the calm little river, rising in places more than 250 feet above the water and offering fine nesting sites for vultures, owls and Peregrines, although none of the last named species were seen. High up on one of the cliffs is the prehistoric painting of the sun, placed there by the aborigines, just how being quite a mystery. The morning and early afternoon were spent in listing the birds of the area, the detailed list being printed in the first pages of this issue. One of the most interesting finds of the day was that of a Hummingbird sitting on her nest with two eggs, in a sycamore, only six feet above the bridge rail. An excellent lunch had been prepared by the committee, under a spreading beech commanding an excellent view of the cliffs, following which a short business meeting was held and officers elected for the coming year.

EAGLE NOTES: Since Mr. Ganier's article on page 17 went to press, he has succeeded in finding and photographing an occupied nest of the Golden Eagle in Van Buren County, something about which will be published later. The census of eagles in Tennessee, mentioned in our last number, is actively under way and the committee reports much data has already been gathered.

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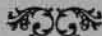
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