

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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310 Broadway

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THE MIGRANT

VOL. VIII.

DECEMBER, 1937

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.

NOTES ON THE SONG OF IMMATURE BIRDS

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

Several years ago, Mrs. M. N. Nice, in her peerless life history studies of banded Song Sparrows in Columbus, Ohio, mentioned the songs of immature birds of that species. She described them as sweet, lengthy, formless warblings, both varied and beautiful. She lamented the fact that after the Song Sparrow has definitely adopted the adult song, which occurs during the territory establishment procedure, he never returns to the warbling song of his youth. A few months later I recognized this warbling song in the lengthy performance of a transient Song Sparrow in our garden in March because it varied considerably from the usual short song of that species. That experience awakened a desire to learn more about these juvenal or "baby" songs. It would be interesting to find out if other birds have both immature and adult songs; whether the early songs are retained in the later performance or lost entirely; at what age singing begins; and at what stage of development the change in song occurs if there is such change in other species.

Although several times songs were heard that may have been those of immature Brown Thrashers, Mockingbirds, Towhees, Cardinals and others, there have been very few instances when it was possible to be sure of the status of the singer as to age or previous performance unless the singer was individualized by distinctive banding. The natural tendency of most nestlings here is to leave the immediate environment of their homes as soon as they become competent to forage for themselves and their begging is ignored or repulsed by their parents. Therefore one has few opportunities to follow banded nestlings longer than two or three weeks after they leave the nest. The meagerness of my data over a three-year period is therefore understandable and the bits of data that have been obtained will be more appreciated. So far, I have definite records on immature songs of only one species, the Cardinal, which apparently never sings the juvenal song after the adult song is definitely adopted.

On August 9, 1935, a Cardinal in the female type of plumage and a partially dark colored beak, proving it to be an immature bird, sang a soft toned, warbling song, entirely unlike that of adult Cardinals. As the bird was seen as it perched in the lower limb of a young hackberry at some distance from my home, it was not possible to observe it later. My second experience with a Cardinal occurred in the summer of 1936. On July 30th a tail-less juvenile, out of the nest only two or three days was rescued from a boy who had caught it before it could fly and had kept it. As it was not possible to restore it to its parents, the baby bird was raised by hand, allowing her all the freedom she desired but often placing her in a canary cage for feeding. On August 15th, when about a month old, she began soft, little

warblings similar to that heard in 1935. At that time her beak was dark except for the lighter color beginning to show at the base of the upper mandible. After a month of lengthy warbling songs, she was noted using the "tuer" portion of adult song. On October 3rd, she had added the "woit" song to her repertoire and by this time her beak was almost entirely red. During late October and November she did not sing. She had acquired the habit of entering the banding traps and on cold nights was often brought indoors. She seemed to appreciate this and when at the kitchen door would fly immediately to the next room where the canary cage was kept. She readily bathed in the "bathroom" attached to the cage as the canary did in his. Her warbling commenced once more on December 15th. The same type of song was given as in October. Other Cardinals were heard singing nearby a little later in the month. In early January, "Reddie" as we called her and "Twiddie," the male canary, became much interested in each other, following one another about the room, facing each other on a window sill with beaks open, the canary quivering his wings, both making little clucking noises, the Cardinal occasionally gently pecking the canary. When outdoors, the Cardinal sang lengthy songs just outside the window. Late in January her songs were louder and sounded much like those of an adult. In February her songs were completely adult. When she was indoors, it was possible to hear her give a coaxing note at times. She showed restlessness; she began tearing paper. On March 1st when the casement window was opened for her, she flew immediately to a nearby shrub and attempted to break off twigs. She apparently was eager to begin spring duties of nest building but was never seen with a prospective mate. The female of an older pair of resident Cardinals chased her occasionally and in early April, this pair had selected the shrubs outside the window as their nest site so Reddie was not allowed to come there to roost or sing. She disappeared after a few days.

A Bronzed Grackle, also an orphaned nestling, was raised in 1936. He never was placed in a cage even for feeding and in spite of absolute freedom outdoors became very tame, remaining from May until October. He was brought to me on May 24th when about nine days old. In mid August he sang his first songs which sounded exactly like the typical squeaking adult songs of his species although there were no others in the neighborhood at that time. By the 23rd he was singing at length from a perch on the peak of the house. About this time also, he began to notice the Cardinal, following her to her perch in a tree and going through a plumage display before her and sometimes pecking her. No songs were heard from him in September until the 12th but he used typical call notes. On September 16th, he again courted the Cardinal giving peculiar shrill calls for the first time which sounded like "eee eee" as he faced her, following her as she flew. At this time he also acquired the habit of singing and puffing out his feathers as he perched on my hand when he waited for his usual feeding. This habit replaced his former quivering of wings while waiting to be fed and continued until his disappearance on October 6th. His molt started late in July and when he left, he was in complete adult plumage. He had passed through a full molt but the Cardinal did not. She apparently retained her post-juvinal plumage but acquired some ruddy feathers on crown and body.

NASHVILLE, TENN., November 1937.

PINE SISKINS IN THE GREAT SMOKIES

BY ARTHUR STUPKA, PARK NATURALIST

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, GATLINBURG, TENN.

The Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) is of such rare occurrence in Tennessee that the following records and observations made during 1937 in the region of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park may be of some interest.

March 21: Several Siskins in the company of a large flock of Goldfinches were observed by the writer in Gatlinburg, along the Little Pigeon River. Upon checking over our lists of birds known to occur in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, it was discovered that this observation represented the first record of this species from within or near the park area.

March 22, 24, 30, 31: Siskins were again seen by the writer in Gatlinburg on these days. On March 30 well over 100 of the birds were observed in trees along the Little Pigeon River where catkins of the ironwood and the persistent seed-balls of the sycamore appeared to be their favored items of food. At times these birds proved to be very approachable. Some of them entered the shallow water along the river margin to bathe, and thereafter these individuals would alight in the nearby trees to preen their feathers. For the most part the birds were noisy and restless.

April 14: A few Siskins, along with some Goldfinches and Purple Finches were observed in the Park two miles south of the Gatlinburg-National Park boundary. The Siskins alighted on the ground in the immediate vicinity of a deserted building where some feeding was done.

July 2, 3: Messrs. W. M. Perrygo and C. Lingeback of the U. S. National Museum reported Siskins from the Cosby area in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park—in the immediate vicinity of the abandoned C. C. C. Camp.

October 15: A number of Siskins were observed by the writer near Indian Gap (elevation 5200 feet) in the Park. These birds were with a fairly large flock of Red Crossbills.

November 8: A flock of 30 to 40 Siskins were reported from the Gatlinburg area by Mr. Joseph Manly, Assistant Forester, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Later in the day the writer saw a smaller flock of these birds in the place described by Mr. Manly.

November 13: A mixed flock of 10 Pine Siskins and approximately 20 Red Crossbills were observed at Camp H. A. Morgan (C. C. C.) in the Park. This camp is located close to the cross-mountain highway about four miles from Gatlinburg (elevation approximately 1700 feet). Both species of birds were seen feeding on the ground close to one of the buildings at a place over which rock-salt is occasionally strewn.

November 16: At least 200 Siskins were observed picking grit from a sand pile at Camp H. A. Morgan. The writer at one time stood within four feet of several members of this flock.

November 30: At least 100 Siskins at Camp H. A. Morgan. Of this number a flock of 30 to 40 birds alighted in one of the driveways and picked up particles of rock salt which had but recently been strewn there over the bare ground. Other members of the flock, in the company of several English Sparrows, were observed feeding on the straw-covered ground near the camp stables. From the 4800 foot elevation on the cross-mountain highway in the

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee side) to Newfound Gap (5040 feet) on the state line, large flocks of Siskins were observed feeding on hemlock and red spruce seeds. Also from Newfound Gap and along the Clingman's Dome highway to the terminus of the road at Forney Ridge (6311 feet) many more wandering flocks were observed. An estimate of between 1000 to 2000 birds would be very conservative.

December 3: Along the Alum Cave Trail to Mt. LeConte Siskins were seen and heard many times, with a great concentration of the birds near Alum Cave. Some were heard on the very summit of LeConte (6593 feet), and again it would be conservative to estimate their numbers at well over 1000 birds. Spruce seed was apparently their main food item.

In the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as was true over much of the eastern states, most of the plants bore an unusually heavy seed crop. This was particularly noticeable in regard to our conifers—the harvest of spruce, fir, and hemlock cones being the greatest in years. It is possible that this invasion of Pine Siskins may be correlated with this fact. Reports of these birds from elsewhere in Tennessee or the nearby states would be greatly appreciated.



SWIFT BANDING AT MEMPHIS—SIXTH SEASON

BY BEN B. COFFEY

As noted in *The Migrant* for December, 1936, we have trapped and banded Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) each fall, beginning in 1932. The results of our sixth season were disappointing, falling below both 1935 and 1936 in number of Swifts banded and in recoveries of local birds and those banded elsewhere. We banded a total of 2375 compared with 3900 and 2615 for 1935 and 1936, respectively. Between Sept. 16th and 21st we banded exactly 2,000, which gave us a better start than ever before. All we needed was to have one of the large flocks of 2,000 or 3,000 present use an accessible chimney but, although more time was spent in watching chimneys than ever before, we only secured 373. Two small flocks we failed to get—one after moving all our equipment out to the Colonial Country Club, due to an all-day rain, and another on the roof of Goldsmith's department store. On the latter occasion the high wind evidently kept the Swifts down the chimney so eventually the attempt was abandoned.

We succeeded in trapping at two "old" chimneys and two "new" chimneys this season. The former locations were the Oliver Farm Equipment (Sept. 18) and Southwestern University, Palmer Hall (Sept. 19 and Oct. 4). The new ones were at Adams and N. 2nd St. (Sept. 16)—later razed—and the Woman's Building at the Fairgrounds (Sept. 21), about one mile east of Idlewild School. Results were as follows:

DATE	AREA	NEW BIRDS	1934	1935	1936	1937	FOREIGN
Sept. 16	Uptown	727	....	5	15 (5*)	....	....
Sept. 18	Uptown	214	....	2	7 (1*)	....	1
Sept. 19	East	624	1	3	4	6*	1
Sept. 21	East	435	....	4	3	4 (1*)	....
Oct. 4	East	373	2	2	4 (2*)	7 (2*)	1

Totals 2373

*Originally banded in uptown area,

The 1937 birds were repeats.

It was noted that at the uptown chimneys most of our 1936 returns were of birds banded at two eastern locations. This could be expected since 2334 of the 2615 Swifts banded last fall were tagged at those two places. But this year at one of these—Southwestern, Sept. 19 and Oct. 4, and at the Fairgrounds, Sept. 21—returns of birds banded uptown in 1934 and 1935 equalled returns from 1936, banded predominantly in the eastern section. From the 820 banded at Southwestern Oct. 1, 1936, only one return was secured out of 639 (Sept. 19) and one out of 389 (Oct. 4). This prompted an examination of the records on our local returns which total 138 to date. Eleven birds, or only 8 per cent were recaptured in the original chimney of banding. Failure to trap often at the same chimneys may be responsible for the percentage being so low but specific results such as detailed above do not indicate that any noticeable increase in this percentage would be obtained experimentally.

Among the eleven "homing" Swifts were three (of 466) banded at the U. S. Rubber chimney Oct. 5, 1935, retaken there in a flock of 245 on Aug. 31, 1936, and three (of 953) banded at the Continental Gin chimney Oct. 9, 1935, retaken in a flock of 20 there on Oct. 10, 1936. The latter small flock was worked because some banded Swifts were spotted and it is interesting further to note that of the seventeen banded there the latter date, three were retaken this year at Adams and Second Street. Only in 1935 were the same chimneys used often for trapping in the same season and no repeats were then secured at the original place of banding. A total of 49 repeats have been recorded and only 2 were retaken at the original chimney. These were both banded Sept. 19 and retaken Oct. 4 of this year at Southwestern University.

On several occasions immature birds, indicated by old primaries of the past summer, and adult birds, with new primaries as a result of the annual post-nuptial molt, were differentiated, but since much of our banding was done on week days when time was short, we made little effort to record separate band numbers for the young birds. Starting with our third flock this fall we followed the plan of using different sets of bands for immatures and for adults, emptying the opened bands, a hundred at a time, into separate boxes, prominently labeled. A tabulation of the composition of the last three flocks follows:

DATE	TOTAL	ADULT	IMMATURE	PER CENT IMMATURE
Sept. 19	633	243	390	61.6
Sept. 21	445	235	210	47.2
Oct. 4	386	108	278	72.0
Total	1464	586	878	60.0 Per Cent

Whether the average of 60 per cent would have been changed much if the composition of the two earlier flocks had been noted is problematical. We plan to record the immature Swifts separately in our future banding. A few birds are omitted from the tabulation as we overlooked checking 9 repeats from our earlier flocks and the two 1937 foreign returns.

Only 3 foreign birds were taken here. No. 11 from Quincey, Ill., was 36-149781 banded there and recovered here on Sept. 18. 35-119773, taken here Sept. 19 was banded Oct. 2, 1936, at Beloit, Wis., having thus been in

a flock with one of our 1935 birds reported there at that time. This is our first one at this end of the line but we had previously taken three of Prof. Welty's Swifts banded at Fairfield, Iowa, before he removed to Beloit College. On Oct. 4 we took No. 37-155100, banded by Mr. L. E. Hicks, Sept. 22, 1937, at Cuyahoga Falls in northeast Ohio.

The latter represented another new station for us and Dr. Hicks made it a complete "swap" by taking 36-7210, banded here, Oct. 12, 1935, at Portsmouth, Ohio, on Sept. 30 of this year. Portsmouth is on the Ohio River. Recoveries of Memphis birds elsewhere have been surprisingly low and those reported this year to date are tabulated below:

BANDED HERE	RECOVERED	AT
Sept. 30, 1935	May 23, 1937	Pepin, Wis. Caught and released.
Sept. 30, 1935	May 29, 1937	Pana, Ill. Found dead.
Oct. 5, 1935	Apr. 25, 1937	Guttenburg, Iowa. Caught.
Oct. 12, 1935	Sept. 30, 1937	Portsmouth, Ohio. Trapped and released.
Oct. 12, 1935	Oct. 15, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped and released.
Sept. 2, 1936	Oct. 15, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.
Oct. 1, 1936	June 16, 1937	L'Islet, Quebec. Captured.
Oct. 8, 1936	May 29, 1937	Ashtabula, Ohio. Captured.
Oct. 8, 1936	Oct. 15, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.
Sept. 16, 1937	Oct. 12, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.
Sept. 16, 1937	Oct. 15, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.
Oct. 4, 1937	Oct. 12, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.

L'Islet is 1300 miles northeast of Memphis.

It will be noticed that 6 of our Swifts—one 1935, two 1936, and three 1937 birds—were trapped and released at Baton Rouge, La., this fall. Perhaps more so than any other Swift banders, were we glad to learn that Mr. George Lowery, Jr., Curator of the Louisiana State University Zoological Museum, had started trapping Swifts. On October 1, 12, and 15 he banded a total of 4500 of these birds. His location is a strategic one and should yield returns from all eastern North American and, being directly south of us, he should take our birds often. As previously reported, we had, until now, only two of our Swifts reported south of Memphis. Last year there were 29,112 Swifts banded in the United States.

In connection with the distant recoveries mentioned above, it will be of interest to refer to the map accompanying my previous article in *The Migrant* for December 1936. In closing I wish to present a revision of Table 4 of last year's summary, so as to include all records received up to now.

TABLE 4
RECOVERIES, YEARS AFTER BANDING

Years	0	½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	6
Foreign, at Memphis	3	4	6	1	6	1	2	1	2	1
Memphis, elsewhere	3	.....	17	.....	11	.....	1	.....	0	.....
Memphis, at Memphis .....	.....	.....	105*	.....	15	.....	8	.....	0	.....
Totals	6	4	128*	1	32	1	11	1	2	1

* Number of 1st year returns larger proportionately due to larger number banded in recent years. The ½ years indicate Swifts banded in the spring.

MEMPHIS, TENN., December 1937.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: For the second straight year the annual Fall Field Day of the Memphis Chapter was held at the Shelby Forest Preserve, located in the northwest part of the county and embracing land in the bluff region and in the river bottoms. The day, Oct. 31, was perfect for such an outing and a creditable number attended. Only a nominal list of birds was made but two unusual species were included, namely—Blue and Snow Geese. Enroute, while at the Loosahatchie River bridge, the writer's party had the opportunity of watching a flock approach and pass almost directly overhead. It consisted of 9 Blue Geese and 7 Snow Geese. Later at another stop where most of the club were watching a Red-tailed Hawk, 17 Blue Geese passed over, almost as low as the others. Late that afternoon a flock of 8 Snows passed over Miss Wilma Keith and party at the north end of "the circle trail." (Further notes on Geese are given in the article following this.) Goldfinches were common, Cedar Waxwings were recorded for the first time this season, the usual species of Sparrows predominated, and about 100 Crows were seen moving westward late in the afternoon.—White-throated Sparrows were first reported Oct. 10 and at three locations; Elphinstone even trapped a return—1. It was Oct. 14 before they appeared in the writer's yard. Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported on the 10th at Lynhurst by Dr. Counce.—An early morning hour in Overton Park, after a heavy rain, on Oct. 17 proved profitable to Fred Fiedler and the writer. A Brown Creeper, a Winter Wren, and 2 Phoebes were "first" fall records. Several inconspicuously marked warblers proved difficult to observe when first seen, but with about eight in all under study, they were determined to be immature male Chestnut-sided Warblers. A lone female Black-throated Green Warbler came within 3 feet of us. Four American Pipits were seen Oct. 10 on the mud flats at Mud Lake along with "peeps" and Yellowlegs. On Nov. 21 it was noticed that part of the levee had been burned over and a search there resulted in flushing about 30 Pipits. On Xmas census trips the last two years at Moon Lake, Miss. (40 miles south), much larger flocks were seen in similar situations.—Lakeview records continue of interest and are for (east to west) Horn Lake in Miss., Mud Lake, Miss.-Tenn., and the open water of the large "barrowpit" midway between these two lakes but south of the levee. White Pelicans appeared on the scene at Mud Lake as the late summer period of herons and shorebirds changed over to the fall season of ducks. Three Pelicans were approached closely and flushed several times the afternoon of Sept. 19. None were seen next day but two days later Whittemore and Simpson saw 12, 1, and 36. None were seen the 26th. Wood Ibis numbered 35, 13 and 15 on the 19th, 21st and 23rd, respectively. From 3 to 5 Snowy Egrets were present those dates. Moderate flocks of herons and shorebirds were still on hand Sept. 26 but on Oct. 10 we saw only 6 immature Little Blue Herons, 1 American Egret with 2 others flying over at roosting time, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs and 40 unidentified "peeps" for our last records. Of interest previous to this date were 10 Stilt Sandpipers on Sept. 19, 2 Dowitchers on Sept. 20 and 35 Caspian Terns on Sept. 26. This was the

second record for this area of the last two species. One of the Dowitchers had a very long bill compared to that of the other bird and it is possible that one or both were of the Long-billed subspecies instead of the Eastern race. No other Terns were seen this period.—A few Pintail and Blue-winged Teal and up to 60 Wood Duck were noted each trip, then on Oct. 10 a few each of several other species were seen. Large numbers of ducks were recorded Nov. 16, 21 and 25 and included Pintail, 7,500, 2,000, and 2,000; Mallard, 2,500, 1,500, and 1,500; Black Duck, 35, 50, 2; Gadwall, 50, 50 and 75 plus; Baldpate, 2, 15, and 12; Ring-necked Duck, 15, 200, and 0; Green-winged Teal, 0, 100, and 50; Shoveller, 0, 40, and 100 plus. A small number of Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup and Wood Duck were on hand. On Nov. 21 a pair of Redheads were studied at close range on the large "barrow-pit"; this is our first positive field record for this species. Two female Hooded Mergansers were seen the same date, and on Horn Lake we made out about 16 Ruddy Ducks in with other species. A female Ruddy was recorded Nov. 25.—Hawks seen include 1 and 2 Marsh Hawks each trip, Duck Hawk on Sept. 23, 26, and Nov. 21; Osprey each trip until Oct. 10 (1) with highs of 8 on Sept. 19 and 5 on the 26th; Bald Eagle, an adult and an immature on Sept. 21 and an adult exactly two months later. A few Sparrow Hawks each trip, two records each of the Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks and 6 Red-tailed Hawks on Nov. 21 and 5 on Nov. 25, complete the record.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis, Tenn.

NOCTURNAL MIGRATION AT MEMPHIS: Supplementing notes on this subject in the Sept. *Migrant* (pp. 57 and 62) and relative to the influence of a city's lights in possibly causing transients to become confused and more voluble or to come down more within hearing distance, I might mention that it was not until we reached home about 10:30 P. M., Sept. 5, that we heard birds passing over. Previously we had been at Mud Lake, remaining after dark to investigate the roosting of Kingbirds and the presence of shorebirds, until about 9:30 P. M. Not a passing migrant was heard there but after driving home, we began to hear birds calling as they passed overhead. The number of Green Herons seemed unusual and were estimated at about one a minute for some time. The night of Oct. 13, 1937, was cold and slightly cloudy. At 9:00 and 9:10 moderate-sized flocks of geese were heard passing over home. We are located somewhat north of the center of Memphis, a half mile from the Sears-Roebuck building with a high tower section carrying large neon signs, and 4 miles from the downtown section which sits on the river bluff on the western edge of the city. We drove to town and listened from the 14th story of an office building from 9:35 to 10:00 without hearing any transients. We then drove along Riverside Drive, at the base of the bluff, making frequent stops to listen, but without results. At 10:30 we parked on the bluff at Vance Street for a half hour and heard 5 flocks of geese pass over. Smaller migrants—sparrows, thrushes, and warblers—could be heard frequently and one Green Heron was heard calling as it moved southward. Returning home we heard 2 more flocks of geese before midnight. Two nights later, Oct. 15, between 11:30 P. M. and 1:00 A. M., 2 flocks passed over home. Most of the geese heard while on the river bluff were Canada Geese ("honkers") but I believe that some of the other flocks were composed of Blue and Snow Geese, whose calls resemble the high-pitched

barks of fox terriers. As noted in "The Season" small numbers of these two species were seen in daytime, Oct. 31, which is about the usual time for their migration.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis, Tenn.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK NEAR MEMPHIS: As usual, the region south of Memphis, consisting of Mud Lake, Horn Lake Barrow Pits, and the surrounding territory, has yielded another rare record. On November 16, 1937, an American Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis*) was observed by a party consisting of John Pond and the writers. Our attention was first attracted by a large bird hovering over the south end of the barrow pits just west of the railroad and in Mississippi. Due to its size, its actions, and our distance from it we thought at first that it might be an Osprey, which species has been seen with regularity this fall in this vicinity. After hovering for at least a minute over the same spot, the hawk flew and perched on a telephone pole near the road. We were able to approach within twenty yards by automobile and, by remaining in the car, were able to study the bird for several minutes with 8-power binoculars. We at once recognized the bird as a large *Buteo*. Its size, light streaked throat, and very dark underparts were apparent. Positive identification of the bird as an American Rough-legged Hawk was made as it flew from its perch, displaying the white at the base of the tail. Its flight was low and sailing, somewhat after the manner of a Marsh Hawk. Later that day another hawk, presumably the same, was seen flying over Mud Lake, crossing the state line from Tennessee into Mississippi. The black patch at the bend of each wing could be seen easily. There is no question about this record. All these characteristics, together with the general contour and flight pattern of the hawk make this a positive sight identification. It was in the light phase of the species.

According to A. C. Bent (1937), the winter range of this species extends as far south as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, in the states north of Tennessee. There are only a few casual winter records south of this normal range. Two of these are from Louisiana, one in the spring of 1897 and another on April 6 and 7, 1903. In addition to these, there are several records from Texas and one from South Carolina. The only previous record of the Rough-legged Hawk in Tennessee is given by A. F. Ganier, for Dec. 22, 1934, near Nashville (*Migrant*, 1935, p. 13)—WENDELL WHITTEMORE and TOM SIMPSON, Dept. of Biology, Southwestern College, Memphis, Tenn.

BIRDS DESTROYING BAGWORMS: On July 26th last I had the pleasure of watching a group of Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice clear an arbor vitae shrub of bagworms. The cocoons were so well wrapped about with the arbor vitae leaves that they were not noticeable until the caterpillars began to cut their way through the outer ends and in their struggle to pull themselves out, caused the twigs to which they were attached to move about. These movements must have attracted the birds for they flocked to the bush and hastened the exit of the caterpillars. The little upside-down Chickadees showed wonderful strength in their dangling position and they also gave evidence of how useful birds can be in destroying destructive insect pests.—ADINE MARSHALL, Clarksville, Tenn.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER: During the last three months, some new birds have brought our Montgomery County list up to 182 species and the following observations of more than passing interest have come to hand. An early Piedbilled Grebe was seen on Red River on Sept. 26. A small number of this species and the Coot has been watched on the lake at Dunbar's Cave. Some Green Herons remained till Oct. 10. One spent the last four weeks of his stay in these parts with a Kingfisher at a shallow spring branch; probably a common liking for some choice food brought them together. A Black-crowned Night-heron was seen Nov. 25 and one on Dec. 5. We have another record of Snow Geese this year; they were seen over town and near White Oak Creek during the afternoon of Oct. 31, and as observers at both points counted between fifty and sixty of them, they may have seen the same flock. A Red-tailed Hawk, Sept. 13, made the mistake of flying close to a horde of Grackles and Starlings that were feeding in a cornfield. Thirty of the latter soon were after him, following each dodging turn of his with quick precision. After several hundred yards nine Crows took over the chase. Ospreys were seen Sept. 15-16. Two Wilson Snipe gave us a treat on the chilly afternoon of Dec. 5 by letting us come within ten feet as they stood in a pile of leaves surrounded by water. They seemed to trust in their coloring to escape detection. On Oct. 25, a remarkably late date for this species, the writer flushed a Yellow-billed Cuckoo out of the grass, where he had evidently been feeding on grasshoppers. A Short-eared Owl was brought to us recently by a hunter who related that, as he was passing through a sedge field, three Bob-White and this Owl, with a Bob-White in his talons, flew up together. His shot brought down Owl and victim. A Chimney Swift roost in a factory chimney on the outskirts of town continued late this year. Oct. 19 was the last day we saw the birds going in, but during a light rain in the afternoon of the 21st, the writer watched the usual number, about 150, circling high above it for ten minutes. Two days later a single bird was seen coming out of the chimney late in the evening and the last Swift was recorded near this site on Oct. 26. The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds found new feeding in the blooms of Burley tobacco, which is a new crop in this immediate section. On Sept. 10 two belated Barn-Swallows were seen, and on Sept. 18 we spotted a single Rough-winged Swallow among the evening flight of the Chimney Swifts over Cumberland River. We could make out this bird from quite a distance each time the group swarmed past, and had several good views of the markings. The Swallow stayed on with the last, as, darkness falling, the Swifts thinned out. A nice find on Oct. 9 was a Caroline Wren and a House Wren in the same cedar tree, with the bird student only six feet away. The House Wren obligingly gave samples of his song. Two prized Warbler records are Golden-winged Warbler, one immature male on Sept. 21, and Orange-crowned Warbler, several individuals staying in a weedpatch Oct. 16 to 21. The Orange-crowned were seen hanging in the heads of tall weeds in Chickadee fashion and appeared amazingly active. A pair of Maryland Yellowthroats, one of them a young male, was discovered in a dense blackberry clump on Oct. 12. The Wilson Warbler showed up in good numbers during the third week of Sept., but we have not a single Canada Warbler to report. Also missing on our lists this fall is the Scarlet Tanager. The last Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen on Oct. 16. Tree Sparrows were here already on Nov. 21; we met them at the same site

where they were first observed last January. As we associate this species with severe weather, their early arrival seems to have been a good indication of early winter. Fox Sparrows were noticed at their old stands from Oct. 22 on. Late in November they delighted us with their energetically whistled song, which is as crisp as frosty air.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville; Tenn.

KINGLETS DISPLAY THEIR CROWNS: In the chapter on these birds, on pages 221-222 of "Birds of America" (Garden City Pub. Co., Garden City, N. Y.) there appears the following story by John Burroughs:

"How does the Ruby-crowned Kinglet know that he has a bit of color on his crown which he can uncover at will, and that this has great charm for the female? During the rivalries of the males in the mating season, and in autumn also, they flash this brilliant ruby at each other. I witnessed what seemed to be a competitive display of this kind one afternoon in November. I was walking along the road, when my ear was attracted by the fine, shrill lisping and piping of a small band of these birds in an apple tree. I paused to see what was the occasion of so much noise and bluster among these tiny bodies. There were four or five of them, all more or less excited, and two of them especially so. I think the excitement of the others was only a reflection of that of these two. These were hopping around each other, apparently peering down upon something beneath them. I suspected a cat concealed beneath the wall, and so looked over, but there was nothing there. Observing them more closely, I saw that the two birds were entirely occupied with each other. They behaved exactly as if they were comparing crowns, and each extolling his own. Their heads were bent forward, the red crown patch uncovered and showing as a large brilliant cap, their tails were spread, and the side feathers below the wings were fluffed out. They did not come to blows, but followed each other among the branches, uttering their thin, shrill notes and displaying their ruby crowns to the utmost. Evidently it was some sort of strife or dispute or rivalry that centered about this brilliant patch."

On the afternoon of Nov. 29, in the Tuscumbia bottoms near Corinth, in a thicket of cane, brambles and tall weed stalks, I saw Mr. Burrough's Kinglet performance repeated down to the last minute detail. The antics of the little actors, their heads aflame with brilliant feathers that covered them, were truly startling. Like Burroughs, I was lead to them by their peculiar low lisplings and pipings. Now, what was the cause of this stirring little pantomime? Shall we say it was an exhibition of the age-old antipathy that one male of a species has for another and always evinced during the breeding season? Such jealousy would hardly be seasonable on a cold day in November. More likely it was in reality a playful exhibition of mock-combat, such as we often see among Crows and even among the young of domestic fowls, or else an inherent urge of young males to stage a premature plumage display. In the case that I witnessed, all told the most interesting bit of bird life that has come under my observation, peace was restored only after one of the belligerents departed the scene for a distant part of the woods. The other one rejoined his companions.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

NOTE: An instance of plumage display in autumn is that of a young Grackle, described by Mrs. Laskey on page 68 of this issue.—EDITOR.

MARSH HAWK AND CROWS PLAY GAME OF TAG: On the afternoon of October 11th, while driving my car along a road in Robertson County, I noticed a flock of about 15 Crows in a field near the road. As I came opposite, I stopped the car to watch a Marsh Hawk which was flying about leisurely in their midst. I was then treated for the next ten minutes to a very interesting demonstration of mock-combat between the two species. While the hawk would be soaring about, low over the field seeking quarry, a half dozen crows would rise above him and then sweep downward at him. No actual blow was struck, either because the crows were not angry or because the hawk artfully "side-stepped" his mischievous adversaries. After two or three of these demonstrations the hawk would reverse the play, at times chasing a Crow through the air for some 50 to 75 feet and then passing by him in swifter flight. The hawk alit in a tree among some of the Crows while others fed on the ground. After a few minutes, some of the latter flew aimlessly about and then came to the tree and "rushed" the hawk into the air. He circled about and finally moved several hundred yards from where the Crows were feeding, then leisurely came back and drove a half dozen of them from the tree top. The play began again and continued until a pedestrian crossing the field caused all of the birds to move on. The Crows were "cawing" and "talking" good naturedly all thru the melee. There was no viciousness in their attack and no anger in their calls, as would have been the case with an owl, so the whole affair was evidently a demonstration of play. Playfulness among animals is largely confined to the young and it is probable that the hawk and at least some of the Crows were young of the year.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

BIRDS AT PLAY: Late this afternoon I observed a Sparrow Hawk, half a dozen Pigeon, and some eight or ten Starlings fly over and around the roof of a four-story brick building in the heart of Corinth's business district. Under the roof of this building, near the upper windows, ledges project. At these points all of the birds would light, and on the roof too, then dip down low over the streets. The hawk darted swiftly as though chasing the others, but as a matter of fact he made no real effort to attack any of them. All seemed to be playing together. The pigeons tried to drive the hawk away, but he paid no attention to them. At last he did leave, and the last I saw of him he was half a mile southward.—Around this same structure the Starlings have been roosting and nesting for some two or three years. There is a small colony there the year round. Three miles from town, at a farm place, Starlings have taken over a large Martin box; they have been there two years.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

MY SECOND YEAR OF BIRD BANDING: The results of my first year's banding were given in the March issue. In the fall of 1936 my traps were so badly damaged by the neighborhood dogs that I found it necessary to confine my bird feeding and trapping to a second story balcony at the apartment. Here the Grackles came, as in the preceding winter but not the Starlings that had flocked around my traps during that cold January of 1936. On Feb. 21, 1937, I trapped a Bronzed Grackle, banded May 4, 1935, at Cincinnati, Ohio, by C. J. Goetz; this is my first foreign recovery. In April, I captured two Blue Jays which I had banded the previous July and in May, two Catbirds also banded the previous summer.—On July 24, 1935,

I banded one of a pair of Chimney Swifts that were nesting in the chimney of the log cabin out in the country. On May 12, 1936, this Swift came down the same chimney, nesting there again that year. Swifts were again nesting in this chimney in June, 1937, but they were unbanded.—The Biological Survey has notified me of 12 recoveries, 6 of which were of Starlings and Grackles killed in or near Pulaski, within a month after their banding in 1936. Others, were a Robin banded in April, 1936, and found injured near here in June, 1937; a Bronzed Grackle banded here Jan. 16, 1936, and caught April 20, 1936, near Gladeville, Tenn., and four Starlings captured at distant points as follows: one banded Jan. 10, 1936, was killed at Coshocton, Ohio, May 8, 1936; one banded here Jan. 7, 1936, was found dead Nov. 13, 1936, at Vienna, Ohio; one banded here Jan. 30, 1936, was shot April 26, 1937, at Wilbur, W. Va., and the fourth, banded here Dec. 28, 1935, was shot on May 5, 1937, at Canton, Ohio.—I have been impressed with the fact that, although I have seen one or more Cardinals within a few yards of my traps every day since I began banding, it was not until my 18th month that I was successful in banding one. Then, a male entered a tray trap through a funnel entrance when an English Sparrow was imprisoned in it. Later, a female entered a two-cell warbler trap which had entrapped an English Sparrow in the other cell. Neither one has repeated and I have banded only one other Cardinal.—SARAH OGLEVIE ROGERS, Pulaski, Tenn.

NIGHT FLIGHTS OF WILD GEESE: On October 13th of this year, Nashville experienced one of those cloudy misty nights with a very low ceiling when city lights cast a bright reflection over a large sky area. I heard the honking of Wild Geese at 7:30, 10:15, and 11 P. M. The following day many reports came to me from people who are not especially interested in migration data but who had heard the geese at various hours until midnight. Last year Mr. Abernathy saw geese flying over on Oct. 14th but the type of weather and the apparent confusion of the flocks by the city lights this year as they circled over it at a very low altitude made their flight known to a great number of people. At 8 A. M. on Oct. 31st I saw a flock of approximately 125 geese flying in five wedge shaped formations very high and in a south by west direction. At noon of the same day Mr. Abernathy saw a flock. A lady in Murfreesboro also reported seeing a flock on the 31st and on Nov. 1st and 2nd. On Nov. 9th the weather was again misty and cloudy as on October 13th. My neighbor heard geese flying over that night and Leo Rippe reported hearing them. Both records occurred between nine and ten o'clock. In Murfreesboro they were heard at various hours the same night as if they were circling around in confusion, and at dawn on the 10th a flock was seen flying over.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

NOTE: The night operator of the filling station near the Union Depot at Nashville, reported to me that on Oct. 13, between 8 and 11 p.m., the geese flew low over his place several times and he was able to identify most if not all of them as Snow Geese. At Lewisburg on Oct. 31, 3 flocks were reported by T. O. S. members while on a field trip there. Mr. Sam Williams of Eagleville reported 4 flocks there the same day. More geese have been reported this fall than in many years. Most of them will spend the winter on the extensive marshland refuges along the Louisiana coast.—EDITOR.

A RECORD FLIGHT OF WILD GEESE AT NASHVILLE: A record flight of geese passed over Nashville on the night of Oct. 13, 1937. The clamor of migrating flocks was heard over many sections of the city for several hours, and next morning's paper gave the occurrence prominent mention. The following records will serve to picture the flight as observed at home in the western suburbs of the city. At least a dozen flocks passed over this one point before midnight. The first group arrived at 8:35 p.m., with a second following ten minutes later, and a third passing over at 9:55 p.m. All of these flocks were very noisy and seemed to be quite large. At 10:35 p.m. a group passed by somewhat to the westward of the house. In ten minutes a small flock flew over. Thereafter others passed with great regularity, at about five minute intervals, until about 11:15 p.m. They gave the effect of a parade of geese, with groups following one another closely. Soon after one flock had passed out of hearing over the hills to the south, another would be heard approaching from the north. Some of these groups were noisier than others, and several gave the impression of flying at a greater height than their companions. The last flock passed just before midnight. Reference to notes shows that this was the largest flight of geese recorded in twenty years personal experience in this vicinity. At least four times as many flocks were heard on this night as on any previous night of record. The migration was also unusually early, equalling the previous record of Oct. 13, 1925. It was at least ten days earlier than normal, as the bulk of the fall records occur in the last week of October and the first two weeks of November.

Naturally, one seeks an explanation of such an exceptional occurrence, and a note in a current publication seems to give a clue. C. F. Walker (*Bird-Lore*, 1937, p. 473), reports, "A large and unusually early flight of geese . . ." at several points in western Ohio on Oct. 12-13, and states, ". . . the evidence indicates that Blue Geese made up by far the greater part of the flocks." This species is known to spend the winter along the coast of Louisiana, and if a line be drawn from the Ohio area to that region it will lie across Middle Tennessee. This fact and the close sequence of dates suggests that the flight which passed over western Ohio was the same one which attracted so much attention at Nashville. A few Blue Geese are known to migrate through Middle Tennessee, but the majority are believed to travel closer to the Mississippi River. If their normal route were shifted over Nashville they would probably appear in large numbers, and we should have a record breaking flight of geese. Such an occurrence might happen once in a score of years, and it seems probable that this is just what took place this fall. Several times efforts were made to see the birds, which sounded so close overhead, but suburban skies were too dark to permit this, and their identity could not be made out. The flight call notes of Blue Geese are unknown to the writer, but it can truthfully be said that the calls heard during this flight were not suggestive of the familiar Canada Goose.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville, Tenn.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: On the next four pages we present readers with four fine bird pictures sent in by members. Page (79), An American Egret that has just fed its nestlings, is shown in this beautiful photo taken in the top of a tall cypress in the Reelfoot Lake "Cranetown", by Karl Maslowski of Cincinnati; (80) A Brown Pelican fishing in Norris Lake, Tenn., on June 6 and 500 miles away from its Gulf Coast home, requires the evidence of this picture and George Foster's affirmation as given in the Round Table of this issue. The small sketch is drawn from Audubon's painting; (81) A parent Flicker, preparing to feed its hungry youngster, in a rustic nesting box, has here been cleverly photographed by Miss Mabel Slack of Louisville, Ky., and finally, (82), Dr. H. S. Vaughn of Nashville shows how a nest and eggs of the Prairie Horned Lark looked on a cold day in March in a bare cornfield. This nest was described in *The Migrant*, 1931, p. 31.



American Egret and young
By Karl Maslowski



*A Brown Pelican
at Morris Lake*



Flickers



A RECORD OF THE GOSHAWK: I wish to place on record the taking of one of these birds (*Astur a. atricapillus*) near Sycamore, 16 miles northwest of Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 19, 1918. The bird was shot by Mr. A. P. Jackson and was prepared in the form of a skin by the writer who found it to be in lean condition. This large grey cousin of the Cooper's Hawk is a bird of the far north and is but rarely found south of the Ohio river in winter. The present record is the only one for the State and through some error, was left out of my 1933 list of the birds of Tennessee.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville,

A GRINNELLS WATER-THRUSH NEAR CLARKSVILLE: On Sept. 26, 1937, while on a canoe trip down Red River and 5 miles east of Clarksville, Tenn., I collected the only Water-thrush seen on the two-day journey. Its identity has been confirmed by Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the U. S. Biological Survey as *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis* and is the first Tennessee record of this western subspecies. This form closely resembles the Northern Water-thrush (*S. n. noveboracensis*) but typical specimens average larger. However the present specimen was smaller but the unspotted throat was present. Taking this same trip on Oct. 3-4 last year, our group (Dr. Pickering, Mr. Clebsch and his sons) recorded no Water-thrushes. A specimen of the Northern Water-thrush was taken by me near Nashville on Aug. 21, this year; a very early date and of interest also in that the bird was not near water.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

LATE NESTS FOR 1937: Fourteen August and September nests are recorded in and near banding and sub-banding stations in Nashville. This data has been obtained with the help of Mr. M. S. Carter, Mr. E. D. Schreiber, J. B. Calhoun, F. Lawrence, A. McMurray, and Wm. Simpson. Bluebird: Aug. 26—three nestlings (10 days old); Sept. 2—four nestlings (8 days old). Cardinal: Aug. 4—one nestling; Aug. 7—three nestlings (8 days old). Catbird: Aug. 10—three nestlings. Dove: Aug. 20—Parent brooding (nest not examined); Sept. 7—Two large squabs. Robins: Aug. 6—three young left nest; Aug. 21—parent feeding two fledglings; Aug. 22—two young left nest. Mockingbird: Aug. 4—Three nestlings; Aug. 15—One just out of nest. Bewick's Wren: Aug. 1—Five young leaving nest. Carolina Wren: Sept. 4—four young left nest.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

LATE CHIMNEY SWIFT RECORDS AT NASHVILLE: Watching a Chimney Swift roost in Centennial Park during October yielded an unusually late date of departure this year. On the 24th at least 1000 birds entered this roost, but two days later this number had dwindled to about 125. On the 28th just one bird returned and entered the chimney alone, after flying silently about the vicinity for twelve minutes. On succeeding nights one Swift returned and went to roost, until Oct. 31, when the bird flew away in the dusk, and was not again seen. This last straggler was always silent and might have escaped notice but for the special watch kept for it. There are at least two later dates for the Nashville region. One was observed about 11 a. m., Nov. 6, 1925, flying over Knapp Farm, by Dr. J. M. Shaver, who kindly gave permission for use of the record here. About 2 p. m. of the next day, Nov. 7, 1925, the writer saw two Swifts flying over Tyne Road in a general southwesterly direction. These

birds kept close together, and flew at a steady pace, in a very direct manner. They were several hundred feet above the road, easily clearing the neighboring hills, and flew into the face of a brisk wind and shower of rain. At about the same time Miss Eloise McCorkle, then a student of Peabody College, saw two Swifts flying southward past the campus at Dixie Place. The two localities mentioned are about five miles apart in a general north and south line, and this fact, together with the very late date, suggests that the same birds were involved in the two observations.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville, Tenn.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A cold mid-October caused most of our Swifts to leave Nashville before that time this year though Oct. 22 is about our average "last date." A few continued to roost sporadically at the above place and at a residence at 929 Third Ave., S. The latter, visited on the evenings of Oct. 18, 21, 26, 27, 29, and 30, showed 700, 34, 100, 0, 0 and 0 respectively. On Oct. 23 the temperature ranged between 32 and 45 degrees and the morning of the 24th it was 29 degrees; temperatures normally too cold for Swifts.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE: First record of the season for Little Blue Herons was on July 6, on Lake Andrew Jackson, but the 6 birds left within a week; probably Norris Lake proved a better attraction. Two Great Blue Herons that have lived around Lake Andrew Jackson for the past three years (that covers my time of observations) were present on Oct. 24. Following one of these birds, in its slow flight across the country, was a smaller heron, possibly a locally raised young. The Green Heron population of this lake averaged 8 or 9 during the summer though at times more were seen. On Aug. 21 we recorded 9, but on the next trip, Sept. 19, none were found. However on Sept. 26 we found one there, but paid no particular attention to it because we had just located two Least Bitterns—our first record for the lake. It was getting late for Green Herons on Oct. 2, so when we found one that day, in the brush along the lake's edge, we followed and found that it was crippled. It made two short flights however and went into the woods for refuge. It was not found on Oct. 10, 24, 31, or Nov. 7, but on the Club's regular field trip to the lake on Nov. 21, one party (Dr. Earl Henry, Miss Mary Beard, Miss McGriff and Chas. Baird) flushed a Green Heron twice that showed no signs of injury. Shorebirds were very scarce this season both locally and at Careyville lake; only the Solitary and Semipalmated Sandpipers being reported during the entire late-summer and fall period. A Lesser Scaup was found on July 25 on Careyville lake in ragged condition but though loathe to fly, was able to do so. On this trip we also saw the Little Blue Heron and 7 Amer. Egrets. Marsh Hawks, seen on Aug. 22 and 29 by Mr. Ogden, were early dates for this species. A Sora Rail, recorded on Oct. 3 at Island Home Bird Sanctuary on the occasion of the Fall Census, was a new bird for the Sanctuary list. A Barn Owl was also observed in the Sanctuary, on Nov. 12 by Mr. Ijams. It was at the feeding shelf and was discolored with soot. The Grasshopper Sparrow is far more common here in summer than one would at first suspect; in the grassy valleys throughout the county (Knox) it can be located with ease when one knows the song. The Bachmans Sparrow likewise is most often betrayed by its song but these birds are almost rare. The Norris area yields the most records for this species. There, in the town of Norris on July 25, Foster and I watched the pair that has nested nearby for the past two years but were unable to find the 1937 nest. Another was heard between Norris townsite and the dam and

4 more were heard on this date near Doak's Creek landing east of LaFollette. On July 31, a Bachmans was heard late in the afternoon on the Grainger State Game Preserve. Tree Swallows on Oct. 24, over Careyville lake, was a very late date. A Catbird on Oct. 22 and Swifts on Oct. 21, were last dates for these. Starlings, Grackles and Crows have been present in larger flocks than usual.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville, Tenn.

LEAST BITTERN NEAR KNOXVILLE: The Least Bittern, which is a very rare summer resident in East Tennessee, generally migrates southward about the middle of September. This year, September 26, the bird was seen at Lake Andrew Jackson by the writer and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker. Having just started around the edge of the lake, we were passing a small inlet bordered by a line of thin willows when suddenly Mr. Walker exclaimed "Least Bittern." We stopped and looked intently. In a moment we saw the small Bittern snaking its way through the willows about two feet off the ground. It seemed to have a miraculous power of slipping swiftly through the willows. The bird moved so quickly that suddenly we lost it from view. We then proceeded quickly to the other side and to our great surprise another one was flushed. Both were feeding in the willows and we were able to study these two birds at a distance of less than ten feet. They seemed unconcerned as to our presence and we watched them as they perched on the willow twigs below the general leaf line of the tree. The buff wing-patches and the black back were very conspicuous on this smallest of the Bittern family. The lake was later visited on October 2nd and 10th and one bird was observed at the same inlet each time. No trip was made on October 16th or 17th but when the lake was visited the following week no Bittern was to be found.—CHARLES BAIRD, Knoxville Tenn.

A BROWN PELICAN IN EAST TENNESSEE: On June 6, 1937, one of these birds (*Pelecanus o. occidentalis*) was observed on Norris Lake, about twenty miles north of Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. I. G. Tupfer, of the T. V. A. Forestry Division, observed the bird sitting in a chestnut oak tree on Round-top Island and bringing his boat near the tree, he succeeded in taking two photographs of it. One of the pictures is reproduced in this issue and leaves no doubt of the bird's identity. There is a previous record of the Brown Pelican for Tennessee, that of one observed on May 17, 1936, south of Memphis, by Frank McCamey and recorded in *The Migrant* for June, 1936, p. 38. As stated by him, both birds were probably post-breeding season wanderers from the Gulf coast where these Pelicans nest in December.—GEORGE FOSTER, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Our readers are urged to get together their copies of *The Migrant* for 1935, 1936 and 1937 and have them bound together in one volume. It will make a nice sized book about 1½ inches thick and the binding need cost no more than a dollar. Missing numbers can be supplied. A vast fund of information is included on the birds of Tennessee and with the aid of the species index in this issue, all that has been written of any species during the last three years can readily be found.

During 1937, *The Migrant* published 19 main articles, 68 short articles in the Round Table, 19 illustrations and 28 miscellaneous news-items. These were contributed by 37 members, not counting those reporting Xmas census.

BIRD BANDING: In looking over *Bird Banding Notes* (issued by the U. S. Biological Survey) for Dec. 1937, we find in the long list of bird banders given, the name of Mr. Ben B. Coffey of Memphis, fourth from the top of the list. Mr. Coffey's commendable total for the year ending June 30, 1937, was 8693 birds. The bulk of his bands were placed on Chimney Swifts and on young Herons in the northeast Mississippi heronries. Well up in the list is the name of Mrs. Laskey of Nashville, who during the year was responsible for 2039 bands placed on 76 species of birds. (Due to some error in the above publication she was credited with a lesser number.) Other Tennessee banders in the list, who have banded between 100 and 300 birds each, were G. N. Bondurant of Bristol, J. B. Calhoun of Nashville, Mrs. Sam H. Rogers of Pulaski and Mrs. Lillian H. Govert of Memphis.

An interesting note of local interest from the above publication is that of a Chimney Swift, banded Sept. 28, 1930, near Chattanooga by Prof. Wyman R. Green and captured alive and released, in a nest with two young birds at Chatham, Mich., about July 7, 1936. Another remarkable record is that of a Cedar Waxwing, banded April 14, 1935, near San Francisco, Calif., and killed March 29, 1937, just south of the Tennessee line near Huntsville, Ala.

CHAPTER MEETING DATES AND NEWS

The NASHVILLE Chapter of the T. O. S. will make its Christmas census on Sunday, Dec. 26 and on Jan. 9, the annual census of Montgomery Bell State Park. Evening meetings will be held as usual after the first of the year, at 7:30 p.m. Monday evenings in the S-R Building of Peabody College, on these dates: Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 14, 28, March 14, 28, April 11, 25, etc. G. B. Woodring is president and Mrs. John Caldwell is secty.—MEMPHIS; meetings are held every other Monday evening at "The Pink Palace" Museum in Chickasaw Gardens, the schedule of dates being Jan. 3, 17, 31, Feb. 14, 28, April 11, 25, etc. Tom Simpson is president and Mrs. T. I. Klyce, 681 Shrine Bldg, is Secty.—KNOXVILLE; A Christmas census is planned for The Smokies on Dec. 19 and another at Knoxville on Dec. 26. Evening meetings will be held at "Flowercraft" (415 W. Church Ave.) at 7:30 p.m., on Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1. Field trips are scheduled for the third Sunday in each month to points yet to be decided on. Dr. Earl Henry is pres. and Mrs. Frank Leonhard is secty.—CLARKSVILLE; Meetings are held every two weeks at the homes of members, the dates being on Tuesdays, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 8, 22, March 8, 22, April 5, 19, etc. Dr. C. F. Pickering is pres. and Alfred Clebsch is secty.—The BLUEGRASS CHAPTER plans a Christmas census at Columbia on Sunday, Jan. 2, and a spring outing in April. Dan R. Gray, Mt. Pleasant, is pres. and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers of Pulaski is secretary.

The annual meeting of the (national) Wilson Ornithological Club will be held at Indianapolis, Ind., on Dec. 27 and 28th. A splendid program is assured and it is hoped that a number of our members can attend. The A. O. U. Charleston meeting, attended by Mrs. Laskey and Messrs. Calhoun, Ganier, Monk and Shaver, was reported a most enjoyable meeting.

NOTICE: Articles for publication in *The Migrant* should be addressed to Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Editor, 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis. Dues, subscriptions and correspondence relating to membership, should be sent to Mr. Alfred Clebsch, Secty-Treas., 838 Gracey Ave., Clarksville, Tenn. 1938 dues become due and payable on Jan. first; your prompt remittance will help.

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.
PUBLISHED AT NASHVILLE, TENN., BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Editor-Treasurer, Albert F. Ganier, 2507 Ashwood Ave., Nashville.

Regional Editors: Ben B. Coffey, Memphis; Harry P. Ijams, Knoxville
Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville, and Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City.

Business Manager, Vernon Sharp, Jr., 220 Capitol Blvd., Nashville.

A complete list of officers is published annually in the June issue.

Subscription price, seventy-five cents per year, free to members.

Dues for Active and Corresponding Members, \$1 per year; for Juniors, 60c

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

THE MIGRANT CHANGES EDITORS

ANNOUNCEMENT: In accordance with a request made by Mr. Albert F. Ganier, I am accepting his resignation as Editor with the completion of this issue, i.e. of volume 8. Our retiring Editor gave us notice of his intentions last spring and meanwhile has made arrangements for the continuance of our little magazine. During his connection with *The Migrant*, Mr. Ganier has built it up to a point where we believe it to be the best of the state or local bird journals. In doing so he has devoted a great deal of time to the work and through it, has been the chief means of welding together an enthusiastic State-wide organization. He is due our sincere thanks for all of his efforts. To the post of Editor, I am appointing Mr. Ben B. Coffey of Memphis, well known to all of our readers. The duties of Treasurer will be added to the Secretaryship now held by Mr. Alfred Clebsch of Clarksville. I have appointed Mr. Ganier to the office of Curator, a post he has held from 1915, except for the years when he was President and Editor. These appointments will hold until the May elections.—MERRILL S. CARTER, President.

FELLOW MEMBERS: In the appointment of Mr. Coffey as Editor, the T.O.S. is indeed fortunate and since your retiring Editor knows him better than most of you, he wants to tell of some of his many qualifications that fit him for his new post. First, and most important, he has had a broad field experience with the birds of this State; he is a man who keeps full written notes of his observations afield; he has an excellent ornithological library and knows his books; he is in touch with the other bird journals and will doubtless follow the trend; he is a stickler for accuracy, yet as a writer is capable of imparting a human, personal touch in tune with the birds themselves; he knows something of good printing and also knows how to make both ends meet, and finally, he is "a bear" for work, having a relentless ability to put over his undertakings. The writer places himself at our new Editor's service. He feels sure that all of our members will rally to assist both he and Mr. Clebsch, our worthy secretary, who has had added to his duties those of Treasurer. As retiring Editor, I take this occasion to thank the Staff and our members, one and all, for their past loyal cooperation. My retirement is to enable me to concentrate on the preparation of a comprehensive treatise of the birds of Tennessee. In this task I solicit the assistance of all T.O.S. members and will write more of these plans at a later date.—ALBERT F. GANIER.

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THE MIGRANT

A Quarterly Journal
Devoted to
BIRDS OF TENNESSEE



Volumes 6, 7, and 8
1935-1936-1937



Edited by
ALBERT F. GANIER

Published by
Tennessee Ornithological Society
Nashville, Tennessee

W. H. SEDBERRY

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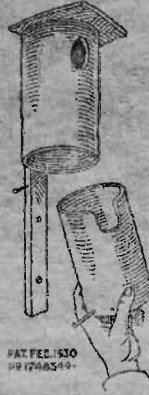
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