

# THE MIGRANT

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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## THE WRENS OF TENNESSEE

Much valuable field work has been done by our members, quite a few of whom have voluminous records covering many years' observations. In order to make their cumulative experiences a guide to all our members in their study and enjoyment of certain of the birds found in our state, the following cooperative paper has been compiled. A common and popular family group was selected for the subject. We ask your indulgence as we knew of no guide or similar paper and the exigencies of time and space limited various refinements and full use of the fine material so readily submitted. In some instances we had to select the text by lot or rotation. Naturally, there was some individual variation but preponderantly a duplication in notes on the same area.

The introductory paragraph or paragraphs are by the editor while authorship of subsequent descriptive notes is indicated at the end of each verbatim contribution from manuscript. These and the paragraphs on distribution are by the following:

### NASHVILLE

Albert F. Ganier  
George R. Mayfield  
Harry C. Monk  
Jesse M. Shaver  
Harry S. Vaughn

### JOHNSON CITY

Bruce P. Tyler

### GREAT SMOKY MTS. NATL. PARK

Arthur Stupka

### MEMPHIS

Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

### KNOXVILLE

Wm. M. Walker

### BANDING STUDIES

Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey, Nashville

Except where reports of several observers are given for the same region, the above names are omitted. For the Memphis area we are personally indebted to those Scout field students who actively kept records and supplied us with duplicates or made their information available to us. These are: Franklin McCamey, Jr., Eugene Wallace, Austin Burdick, Jr., and Robt. Tucker. We also thank Alfred Clebsch for his special contribution on the Short-billed Marsh Wren.

The value of this paper as a detailed reference might had been enhanced by a complete bibliography of published records of the following species in Tennessee. But here again time and space ruled out such references. Most of the uncommon records since 1931 have been published in *The Migrant*. For you we submit the following notes and the splendid drawings contributed by Robert Tucker.

TABLE I XMAS CENSUS RECORDS

TEN-YEAR PERIOD 1932-1941

	WINTER WREN										Average 1937-41
	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	
Memphis .....	3	7	2	48	17	16	9	22	12	10	14
Nashville .....	4	2	3	6	3	2	1	10	5	5	5
Knoxville .....	....	1	1	7	0	0	2	1	1	....	1
Gt. Smokies .....	....	....	....	11	....	2	11	5	3	9	6
BEWICK'S WREN											
Memphis .....	0	2	2	1	0	3	1	1	1	2	2
Nashville .....	5	11	12	7	7	6	7	7	2	9	6
Knoxville .....	....	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	....	1
Murfreesboro .....	....	5	2	4	7	13	8	4	0	7	6
CAROLINA WREN											
Memphis .....	70	62	57	146	75	95	128	87	68	110	93
Nashville .....	59	60	59	26	23	33	53	42	12	37	35
Knoxville .....	....	38	33	27	10	18	20	8	13	....	15
Gt. Smokies .....	....	....	....	18	....	26	36	26	10	20	24

## HOUSE WREN

This is a rare transient in Tennessee, more often found in the spring than in the fall. Since the species nests north of the Ohio River and winters along the Gulf and southward, most migrants must pass over the state in one night's time. One instance of its nesting near Johnson City was reported by R. B. Lyle. There is one winter record at Memphis.

Over-zealous field students in this region occasionally, relatively speaking, believe they have found this bird. In most cases, however, final identification is impossible as the elusive creature leaves the vicinity without presenting a full view. More often than not it would turn out to be a Carolina Wren under conditions of poor lighting or poor plumage so that the white stripe over the eye appears to be absent. The House Wren, while smaller, and brown (not reddish brown), and without eye-stripe, can best be distinguished by a recognition of an over-all difference between it and the much more common species, acquired by making one's self familiar with every posture, action, and note of the Carolina Wren. Then, unless the unknown stands out as absolutely different, you may rest assured you have not found a House Wren. The harsher alarm note would label one but most of those encountered at Memphis have been quiet. Length—5 inches.

It is always found at low elevations in dense brush, where its presence is revealed by the song. Once saw one move from a tangle in a vacant lot into fruit tree in a chicken yard but otherwise never noted near or about buildings. Sometimes found on two successive days in the same spot. (Monk).

Memphis Area—No records from 1928 until April 17, 1932, when two were seen at widely separated localities. Generally one to two records of single birds each spring but in 1936 this species was found in Overton Park on April 14, 20, 21, 24 (two), and 25,—a few were found singing. Austin Burdick, Jr., collected one at White Station on December 30, 1941.

Vaiden has published two winter records for Rosedale, Miss. (100 miles south): 1 on Jan. 16, 1938 and 2 on Dec. 19, 1938. We found 2 at Oneida, Ark. (65 miles south) on Nov. 12, 1933, and 1 at Camp Currier (25 miles south) on Oct. 7, 1934. Tucker reports single individuals in Overton Park on Oct. 25 and 27 and north of town on Oct. 4, 1941. Earliest spring record was Mar. 11, 1939, on the bluff's edge.

Nashville Area—Rare and irregular spring transient, present some years and absent others. Majority of records are in last two weeks of April with extremes of April 1, 1922, and May 10, 1931. Longest stay in one season, as measured by extreme dates of occurrence is 29 days. Two were seen May 10, 1922; all other records were of single birds. In 25 years experience I have seen 25 birds. (Monk). This bird is so shy and wary in Middle Tennessee that he is no doubt overlooked very often. In these 27 years on 3,000 trip or daily records I have these: April 4, 1917—1; 1922—April 13, 2, and 1 each April 24, 29 and 30. On the latter date the bird was singing his rattling song quite frequently. I also have a fall record and two other spring records. (Mayfield). Only a few records on the Peabody campus, a representative migration period being March 23-May 2, 1932. (Shaver).

Knoxville Area—One sight record by Mrs. Meyer on April 29, 1939, at the Island Home Sanctuary.

Johnson City Area—Quite rare. Observed on top of Roan Mountain, near Cox's Lake at Johnson City, and on Beaver Creek, just south of Bristol. Evidently breeding in the valley extending from Bristol, Virginia, north-eastward. One record of nesting near Johnson City,—by R. B. Lyle. One individual appeared in my garden when a pair of Bewick's Wrens were nesting. One evening I noticed war going on among the wrens. I drove away the House Wren but when I returned home the next evening I discovered the nest of the Bewick's destroyed and all contestants gone.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park—A rare migrant. I have but one record—a bird seen October 7, 1938, near park headquarters (2 miles south of Gatlinburg) at 1450 feet altitude. Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood, who served here as Wildlife Technician in 1934-1935, observed this species in Cades Cove (1800 feet altitude) on October 22 and 23, 1934, and on April 22, 1935.

Subspecies—The Eastern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) would probably be the more common race found passing through the state. The only specimen secured by the National Museum party was a somewhat grayish phase of the Ohio House Wren (*T. a. baldwini*), collected near Reelfoot Lake, October 23, 1937 (Wetmore, 1939). One of this race was collected Jan. 16, 1938 at Rosedale by Vaiden. The only winter record at Memphis (White Station), December 30, 1941, was a specimen collected by Burdick and catalogued at the Louisiana State University Museum as a Western House Wren (*T. a. parkmanii*). All three forms may occur regularly.

#### WINTER WREN

The Eastern Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*) is an uncommon but regular winter resident and transient throughout the state except in the Appalachian Mountains where it is replaced by the Southern Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pullus*), a fairly common resident there. Comments on this latter recently described race are given below by Stupka. It may also be a rare winter resident in other parts of the state as it has been taken at Memphis and south of there.

The smallest, darkest, and pertest but most mouse-like of the wrens. Length—4 inches. The call-note, a sharp "kip!" or "kip-kip" is distinctive. Many authorities state the note is similar to one of the Song Sparrow but to this writer it resembles the "cac" of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet or



the louder "gip" of the Mocker. Song is a beautiful rippling warble, occasionally heard in early spring before it leaves the Memphis area.

The Winter Wren lives in dense tangles, among the roots beneath a creek bank, in masses of fallen trees, or stumps, usually in woods. Likes to be on or close to the ground with brush or tangles over its head and dark holes to crawl into. Reveals its presence by flushing and a call note much like that of the Song Sparrow which is quite distinctive. (Monk).

Memphis Area—Uncommon but regular winter resident, present from October to mid-April (latest date April 27). No special search made for it on Christmas census trips,—approximate 4-party results average from 10 to 22 individuals with a high of 48 in 1935. Generally found in large wooded bottoms but also in Overton and Riverside Parks.

Nashville Area—Rare but regular winter resident, somewhat more numerous in migrations. Arrives in October (earliest October 7, 1922) and migration lasts at least a month. Christmas censuses reveals it as one-eighth as numerous as the Carolina Wren, but these lists are based on careful search. The experience of routine observation makes it seem even less numerous than this. Spring migration occurs in April (latest date; April 26, 1931) but probably begins in March. Sometimes appears in city parks on migration, otherwise a bird of the woods and wide open spaces. (Monk). Generally rated as uncommon, though because of its silence and elusive habits, it is perhaps more common than suspected. For the last ten Christmas censuses it varies from 1 to 10 and averages 4.1. For the same period fall arrival extends from October 7 to 11, with a mean of October 9, while latest departure dates are from April 15 to 30, May 7, and May 12, with a mean of April 24. These migration records are chiefly from the notes of G. R. Mayfield. (Ganier).

Knoxville Area—This rare winter resident arrives about October 25 to 30. Late spring records (1936 to date) are more complete and show that the last date seen varies from April 3 to April 28, but mostly approach the later date. None were recorded on 22 trips in the spring of 1941, result of a steady decrease each year from the winter of 1936 when a total of 23 records were listed on 16 trips out of 47.

Johnson City Area—Winter Wrens are casual winter visitors in the lowlands. The resident race (*pullus*) breeds in the Canadian life-zone. On Roan Mountain (6000-6313 feet), during the week of June 15 to 20 inclusive, 1936, the T. O. S. summer group found six singing males at various points alongside the summits where the fir timber was still standing. A parent bird was noted carrying food to its young on June 25 (Ganier, 1936—*The Migrant*, p. 85). Wetmore (1939) reports two taken there at 6200 feet elevation on September 13 and September 20, 1937.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park—The Southern Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pullus*) is known to breed from near Lexington, Virginia, to Brasstown Bald, in northern Georgia. Fairly common resident in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, breeding from the highest altitudes (over 6600 ft.) down to approximately 3500 ft. Winters mostly at low altitudes in the park, some few individuals remaining at the high elevations throughout December. Like the Carolina Wren, this species suffered a very severe reduction in its numbers as a result of the unusually cold winter of 1939-1940, but whereas the birds were scarce in 1940, an appreciable re-

covery was made the following year. Not until May 3, 1940, was the first song heard in the spruce-fir forests whereas singers have been observed there frequently in March. On March 19, 1937, one was singing on Mt. Collins (at 6000 ft.); on March 25, 1939, one was singing near Newfound Gap (at 4800 ft.). The excellent song of this species is at its best throughout June and early July. Some fragments of song are delivered infrequently during August and September, but these ordinarily cannot be compared with the quality of the rendition in the early summer.

Usually the first Winter Wrens make their appearance on the wintering grounds at low altitudes in middle October (October 14, 1938; October 15, 1939 and 1940), and some early-morning singing continues from that time until cold weather sets in. Often these autumn songs are 'scratchy' and fragmentary, but occasionally an excellent performance is given.

The young hatch in late May or early June.

An unusual record of this dark subspecies of the Winter Wren is that of two birds collected on November 1, 1939, near Bethel, North Carolina, some 300 miles east of the park, by members of the United States National Museum (Wetmore, 1941). (The Eastern Winter Wren *Nannus h. hiemalis*, a migrant species, has been taken in various parts of Tennessee and in Eastern North Carolina. The record nearest the park, as far as I have been able to discover, comes from Rockwood, Tennessee—W. H. Fox, March 21, 1885, and April 3, 1884—about 40-45 miles west of our area.)

An additional note is contributed by Ganier: "On June 21, 1933, I found a nest of this wren on Mt. LeConte. It contained 5 young. Allowing 25 days for incubation and fledging, incubation probably began May 27."

### BEWICK'S WREN

Probable status as a permanent resident, based on winter records, is uncommon in Middle Tennessee, rare elsewhere. In early spring migrants are much in evidence while breeding records are fairly common in Middle Tennessee and East Tennessee, and uncommon in West Tennessee.

This wren is slightly smaller, more slim in appearance and grayer brown than the Carolina Wren. The white-tipped tail is diagnostic. Length—5 inches. Its song is more like that of a Song Sparrow than that of the Carolina Wren.

This wren is usually found in the breeding season around farms or in residential areas in towns. In winter it usually reverts to the wild, living in thickets along old rock walls, and in tangles about stumps in fields. Some live about buildings the year around but the species is at home in thickets and tangles; never found in the depths of real forests. (Monk).

Nesting sites vary greatly, chiefly about buildings, less often in natural situations. Favorite site on plate in garages and sheds or in barns. Use mailboxes freely along rural roads. Saw one in woodpecker hole in fallen tree in thicket far from houses. (Monk). It is more prone to breed about the habitations of man than the Carolina Wren. However, in two successive years, I found a nest in the hollow limb of a prostrate tree in a woodland and another in a fence post. (Ganier).

At Nashville nesting begins in March, some pairs building by the middle of that month and laying eggs in the "twenties" of March. These might be permanent resident birds. Most nests are built in April and May and most

broods leave nests in May and June. Families remain together at least three weeks after leaving nest. One rarely sees family parties after June. However, Mrs. Laskey reported 5 young leaving the nest August 1, 1937. (Monk). The nests are begun in late March and the first clutch numbers 6 or 7 eggs. Of my 28 nesting records, the ten earliest showed that incubation began on April 6, 10, 10, 15, 17, 17, 17, 18, and 18, the average being April 14. Two broods are raised regularly each year and if one of these is a failure, a third nesting is attempted. The nest is easily distinguishable from that of the Carolina Wren, chiefly in that its exterior is largely formed of twigs (Ganier). A nest containing seven eggs was found Feb. 28, 1941, when an old barn was torn down (Burdick).

The song is indescribably sweet and musical. The male tunes up about March 1 (earliest record, Feb. 12, 1920) and sings on till July 25 (latest, Oct. 6.) Sings quite regularly all day long from April 1 to June 10 (Mayfield). Song has been heard every month of the year but is rarest in November and December. There is a marked resumption in January and it is heard commonly in February and March. Songs heard in fall and mid-winter are often imperfect (Monk).

Memphis Area—Very rare in winter. Last few Christmas census lists usually recorded only those (probably resident) at Burdick's or Mason's home. Fairly common in early spring, evidently migrating. Uncommon afterwards and then only on outskirts of Memphis and other towns, but can be classed as fairly common in the spring around rural homes and small settlements along roads eastward on both sides of the Tenn.-Miss. line. Very rare in the Yazoo-Mississippi delta (Miss.) and in similar areas in Tennessee.

Nashville Area—A common summer resident becoming less common in winter. Christmas census records for the past ten years have ranged from 2 to 12, averaging 7 (Ganier). Probably a permanent resident, but sometimes difficult to find in winter (one-sixth as numerous as Carolina Wren on Xmas censuses) and much less numerous at that season than in summer. There is a marked spring migration at which time singing birds appear thruout the region in a wave; this usually occurs in last week in March, but sometimes as early as the 14th of that month. The species is more numerous at this time than during the breeding season, but the migration passes thru quickly. (Monk).

Knoxville Area—This species is uncommon, being recorded on about one field trip in four by local members, from 1936 to date. In 1940 when 25 trips were made, there was only one record, evidently due to the severe winter. The Bewick's prefers lumber piles, old buildings, fence rows close to dwellings, boulder outcrops on hillsides, and river bluffs.

Johnson City Area—Fairly common, generally arrives in February and usually disappears after the breeding season. At my house it has nested on the top of brick piers that support the porch. The second nest was begun before the fledglings had flown from the first nest. Once these wrens nested in an old fish bucket under the back porch. I removed the bucket, opened it, made a photograph, and returned the bucket and nest to the original position where the birds continued incubation and raised the young. Wetmore (1939) reports immature birds recently from the nest, June 7, 1937, at 3300 feet elevation on Cross Mountain, 3 miles south of Shady Grove post office.



Great Smoky Mountains National Park.—An uncommon to rare permanent resident. Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood has heard it singing on Hemphill Bald, at 5500 ft. altitude, in July, 1935; he has also observed it near Black Camp Gap (4500 ft.) Both these stations are on the park boundary at its extreme south-easterly point, in North Carolina. Most of our records are from stations below the 2000 ft. elevation and fairly close to human habitations—Cosby, Greenbrier, Elkmont, Sugarlands, Cade's Cove.

Banding Records.—From December, 1931, thru January, 1942, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey has trapped 119 Bewick's Wrens and banded 94 nestlings of this species at Nashville. One individual only was retaken the year after banding. The only data on the nestlings is a repeat of one at six weeks of age.

Of 119 trapped, only 11 were taken during the winter months of December thru February. One, banded in February, 1933, was retaken January, 1934. From both her data and field observations she concludes that in the Nashville area this species is usually a summer resident with some individuals remaining thru the winter or coming from the north to winter. These winter residents usually are found during the milder winters. "I am at a loss to interpret the lack of return records."

Subspecies—The Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*) is the only race in this area.

### CAROLINA WREN

This wren is a common permanent resident except at high altitudes in the mountains of East Tennessee and is the most common and widely distributed member of the family in the state. The severe and extended cold weather of January-February, 1940, seriously depleted its numbers in some sections and it has not yet quite fully recovered. Normally, numbers do not vary thru the year and there is no evidence of migratory movements other than perhaps local movements of some individuals from wooded winter quarters into proximity to human habitations at nesting time.

We find this is the largest of our wrens and more reddish brown. According to Lowery, "upper parts averaging mahogany red; under parts ochraceous buff; stripe over the eye variable but averaging nearly white; sides and flanks seldom, if ever, barred or tinged with brown." Length—5½ inches. It has the characteristic energy and seeming curiosity typical of the family. The loud ringing song is much varied but the Cardinal-like quality distinguishes all renditions.

The Carolina Wren is a bird of the Southern woods that has adapted itself to the thickets, fence rows and wooded stream sides and to a lesser extent to the farms and suburban regions of the cities as well. It is always found in forests and throust such places into their very depths. In adapting itself to more civilized surroundings it overlaps into the chosen territories of the Bewick's Wren for the latter is much more numerous about man's habitation while Carolina has the woods to itself. (Monk).

It nests in an endless variety of sites, often skillfully concealed. Nests in the woods are not often found. They may be located on the ground against a stump or in brush on shore of a pond or in tin can on same; on old nests of other species, completely arched over with entrance hole on one side, in forks or crotches of trees from 3 to 12 feet up. They are skillfully contrived of weathered materials and easily escape detection; often

including bits of moss which remain green thru the winter and thus reveal nests which were unnoticed in summer. Elsewhere nests have been found in tin cans, baskets, old hats, pockets of coats, etc. on porches and in outbuildings; on the plate in barns, sheds, and garages. (Monk). Some will build in the natural cavity of a tree or construct an arched-over domicile on top of an old Thrasher's nest in a bush. I have twice found nests on the ground, on a steep slope, and suspect that many woodland residents nest in this way. Their nests are quite bulky and externally are composed chiefly of leaves, moss, and similar soft materials (Ganier).

Five eggs are usually laid, sometimes six, often only four. Earliest record—five fresh eggs on March 21. Often builds in this month and completes sets by the 25th. Nesting continues thru April and May and it appears that many pairs do not lay until May; after this month nests are much rarer, but there are a few June and July egg dates and even one record for Aug. 1. Probably three-fourths of all eggs laid in March, April, and May. Young birds leave the nest in April and May, after this month broods are scarce. One brood followed on Centennial Hill stayed with parents 17 days and were probably gone three weeks after leaving the nest. Mrs. Laskey reports a brood of four to leave the nest on Sept. 4, a very late date (Monk). Five and sometimes six eggs are usually ready for incubation by April 12, but I have records of two nests where incubation began on March 25 (Ganier). At Fall Creek Park 7 young were found in a nest, June 20, 1940.

This little bird with the big voice attracts attention to itself and therefore a higher percentage of the numbers present in the area of a field survey will be recorded than of other species of wrens. Songs are varied and ringing and more musical than those of the House Wren, the much publicized "Jenny Wren" of the North and East. The Carolina, moreover, sings in spring, summer, autumn, and winter—even in the moulting season. In the dead of winter its voice rings out a challenge to all listeners. Only the Mockingbird and the Starling have a more varied repertory of calls, notes, and songs. I estimate it has 20 or more words in its vocabulary, each of which reveals a feeling or mood. It even has a word for "cat"—at least certain individuals I have observed, used this call only when a cat, or a dog, like a cat, appeared. (Mayfield).

Memphis Area:—Fairly common to common permanent resident. In 1938 was rated 16th in list of 25 most common summer residents of Shelby County which has a large amount of open country as well as wooded areas. The severe 1940 winter caused a probable decrease of 10% to 20% in the numbers of this species which were back to normal the second season subsequently.

Nashville Area:—Common permanent resident. Rated 10th on 1938 list of 25 most common summer residents and 13th in a comparison of relative abundance from Christmas census lists (1914-1937). Latter censuses for the last ten years show an average of 40 and ranging from 23 to 60 except in 1940 when only 12 were recorded, due to severe cold weather of January, 1940. (Ganier). Statistical studies since January, 1940, show that 80% of these wrens in Middle Tennessee were wiped out by the prolonged zero temperature of that month. Only recently have they come back in numbers. (Mayfield).—Apparently not yet fully recovered. (Monk).—I found only one dead on top of the snow but it would be obviously difficult to check

on mortality in this way. Few were seen or heard during the subsequent nesting season but 1941 showed them increasing in numbers. (Laskey).

Knoxville Area:—Fairly common permanent resident except at higher elevations. However records of field trips, 1936 to 1941, inclusive, show an average of slightly less than four individuals per field trip. Reduced in numbers since 1940.

Johnson City Area:—Fairly common permanent resident. Not included in list of ten most common summer birds (1938) but widely distributed at low altitudes.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park:—Common permanent resident, especially at low altitudes near human habitations and along water-courses. Occasionally found at the higher elevations, but not known to nest above 4000 ft. One immature bird was observed on Mt. LeConte, at an altitude of 6400 ft., from August 31 to the end of October, 1939, but was not to be seen there in 1940 or 1941. The severe winter of 1939-1940 was undoubtedly responsible for a severe reduction in numbers of this species, these birds being unusually scarce during 1940. The parties making an annual December bird count in a section of the park area listed an average of 29 individuals (ranging from 26 to 36) during the years 1937-1939, inclusive, whereas in 1940 only 10 individuals were observed. In December, 1941, the 20 birds seen indicated an appreciable recovery here for this species.

Banding Records—From September, 1931, thru January, 1942, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey of Nashville has trapped 123 Carolina Wrens and banded 77 nestlings. From repeat records, at least seven individuals are known to have remained at the station or in the immediate neighborhood thruout the year: C109418, C109420, H73027, H73136, H73145, H73200, 36-72681. Two age records are:

H73145, male, banded June 25, 1934, disappeared the summer of 1938. As he was hatched in 1933 or earlier, his age was 5 or more years.

H73200, female, banded Nov. 19, 1934, not seen after the summer of 1938. Her age, unknown at time of banding, would have been at least 4 years when last seen.

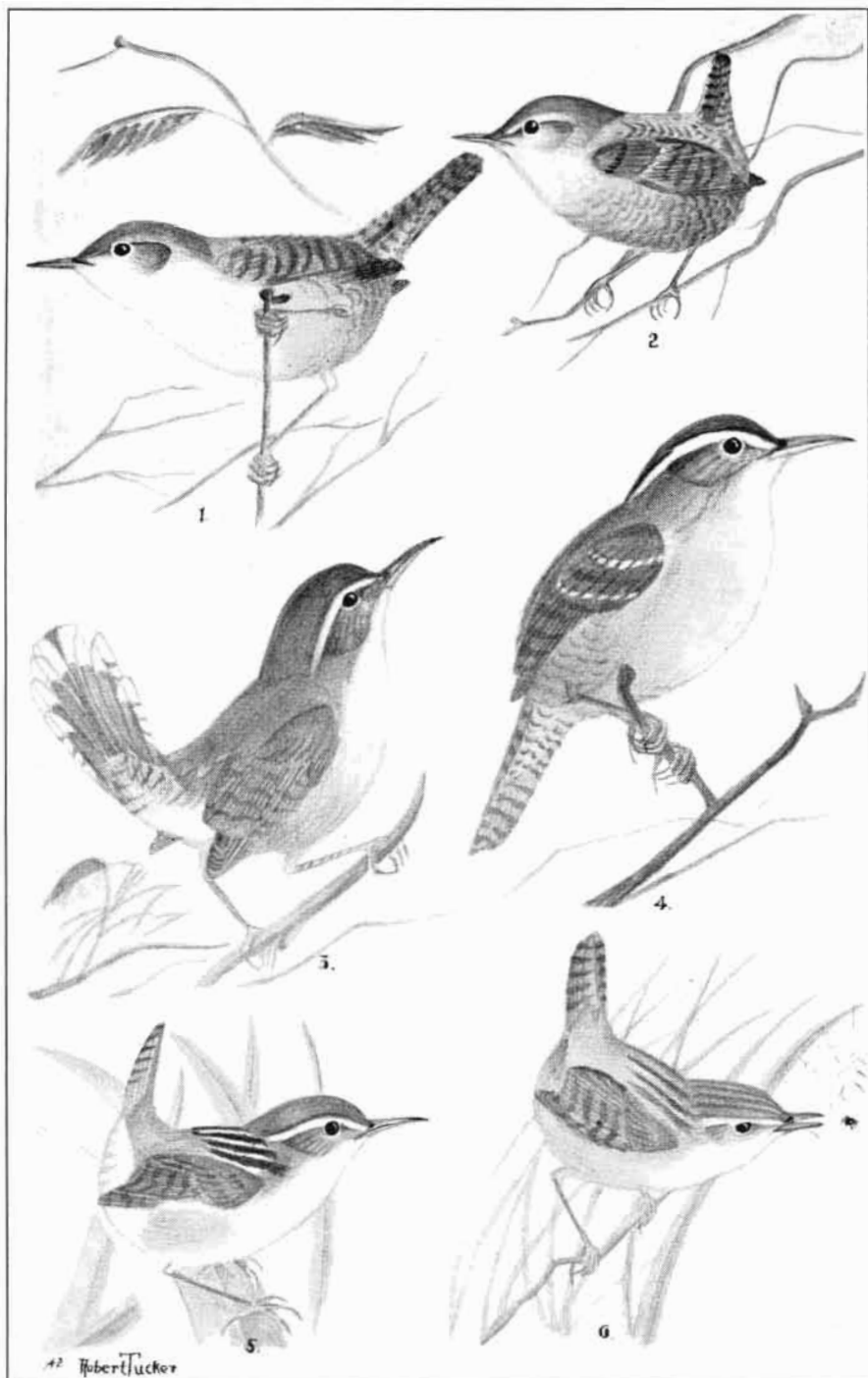
Data on nestlings is meagre but better than for the Bewick's Wren. However, more of the Carolina nestlings have been banded on the home grounds than Bewick's; therefore, there was more opportunity to trap them subsequently. Twelve Carolina Wrens were retrapped at the age of 5 to 8 weeks and none after that. One individual, 38-120554, hatched April 9, 1938, trapped May 20 at the station, was shot on November 4, 1938, two miles north. Conclusions offered:

1. From field observation and banding data the Carolina Wren is a permanent resident in the Nashville Area.

2. Nestlings wander off after six to eight weeks but how far they may travel is still unknown.

3. Individuals may attain the age of five years at least.

Subspecies—in the current A.O.U. Check-list (1931) our bird is listed as the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*). George H. Lowery, Jr. in his proposed revision of the Carolina Wrens (*Auk*, 1940, 57 (1): 95-104) includes all of Tennessee in the provisional range of his Southern Carolina Wren (*T. l. ludovicianus*). He specifically mentions East Tennessee specimens at the University of Michigan as part of the collections reviewed.



WRENS OF TENNESSEE

**LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN**

A rare transient, possibly a rare summer resident in Cade's Cove (Great Smokies) and a rare winter resident at Reelfoot Lake. Both Marsh Wrens have a stripe over the eye and are striped in the middle of the back but the markings are more conspicuous on this species which is described as "handsome" by both Ganier and Monk. Length—about 5 inches. Peterson describes the song as reedy, gurgling series of notes which fits those heard at Lakeview. One call-note is rail-like but, naturally, not so loud. Described as a bird of the cat-tails, the majority of our transients were found in grassy weed grown edges of marshes. Generally they stay under cover but can usually be "squeaked-up." You often have to wade to find them.

Memphis Area—This is an uncommon spring transient in a restricted area, rare elsewhere; possible fall transient here and probably uncommon winter resident at Reelfoot Lake, 120 miles north. My personal records are all in the spring and at Lakeview; most were from 100 yards to a mile south of the Tennessee line, in weed bordered "borrow-pits" along the levee. From 1932 to 1938, inclusive, the records range from April 22 to May 29, generally 1 to 3 birds at a time, rarely 5 or 6. On the only two Christmas census counts made at Reelfoot we found this species both times. Dec. 25, 1934, I found one near Walnut Log. Had it been a fair day I believe we would have found others. On Dec. 25, 1940, I found 4 near the end of the Biological Station dock and one each in the saw grass at two other places nearby.

Nashville Area:—Rare transient, very rare winter visitant.

I have but one fall record, that of a specimen collected Sept. 13, 1922. In spring I have found it at several of the few bits of river bottom marsh that we have in this area. These records are of 3 on May 5, 1929, at three locations in Trimble Bottom and 4 on May 18 and again on May 23, 1940, at the Jordonia pond. A specimen was collected on each of the last two dates and on examination gave no evidence of having begun to mate. They were in tall grass and weeds near the pond's edge. (Ganier). Of my three personal records two were seen in cat-tails on the shore of Radnor Lake, Sept. 28, 1929, and Oct. 6, 1932, respectively. The third bird was in a large canna bed in Centennial Park, Oct. 18, 1935. All permitted close observation, exhibiting considerable curiosity, and uttering a call-note like the "chack" of a Red-wing. Calhoun collected one in North Nashville marsh Aug. 5, 1936, which shows an early fall migration, and saw one near Cumberland River Dec. 26, 1937, raising question of its wintering here. (Monk). Single birds of this species were recorded: May 4, 1916, Jan. 28, 1917, April 25, 1923, Aug. 12, 1931, May 22, 1932, Oct. 9, 1932, and April 21, 1933. The bird of Aug. 12, 1931, was heard several days in mid-August (Mayfield). These 16 records cover a period of April 21 to May 23 and Aug. 5 to Oct. 18 with one recorded in December and January.

Knoxville Area:—One was found March 21, 1938, by Dr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer at Lake Andrew Jackson. The particular site was low and wet, and had a heavy cover of rank grass and a few cat-tails.

Johnson City Area:—This is an accidental visitor, occasionally seen in the cat-tail swamps at Cox's Lake during the fall.



Great Smoky Mountains National Park:—The only park records come from the Cades Cove area, where I first observed it on May 20, 1938. In 1939 the species was observed in the same place on May 17, while in 1940 it was again in the same swampy meadow on May 6 and 26 (altitude 1800 ft.) Only one individual was to be found on each of these occasions, but I suspect that the species nests here, at least during certain years.

Subspecies—two races are possible transients in Tennessee.—the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris palustris*) which breeds from southern Ontario and southern Quebec south to the coast of Virginia and the Prairie Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris iliacus*) which breeds in the prairies of the Mid-west and western Canada. Collections in adjacent areas include both subspecies.

### SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN

Very rare spring transient and rare fall transient, records for the latter season being much more common than for the Long-billed. Clarksville reports possible dummy nests. A very unusual Memphis area record of 40 individuals scattered in the grassy fields along the Horn Lake levee, straddling the Mississippi line, on Aug. 9, 1936. They were easily recorded then because of their singing; at other times they would have been passed unnoticed if they had not been 'kicked-up.' The song resembles that of the Dickcissel,—once we even had to flush one in typical Dickcissel habitat to prove to a car-load of good field students that it wasn't an 'off' song of the more common species. The bird itself is inconspicuously colored, even the black and gray bands on the middle of the back lack contrast. Ganier states it has a weak and fluttering flight. When flushed it quickly drops into concealment again.

Memphis Area—a very erratic transient, rare in spring, uncommon in late summer (Aug. 2 to Sept. 23). Records for spring are May 5, 1935—1; May 9, 1937—12; May 1, 1938—1; all at Lakeview, Miss., with the 1935 record on the Tennessee side of the line. On Aug. 13, 1933, two were seen in the Ensley bottoms (Tenn.); Sept. 23, 1934, 8 found at Mound City chute (Ark.), just across the river. In 1936, the banner season, none were seen July 11 at Ensley but 5 were at Lakeview on Aug. 2. On the 9th we recorded 40 singing in a 3½ mile stretch along the Lakeview levee, most of the territory being in Mississippi. On Aug. 16, 6 were heard in the same stretch, without intensive search, plus 10 more to the west. On Aug. 23, 5 were recorded. No records in 1937. In 1938 one was found Aug. 19: no other records altho searched for thruout July and September. No subsequent records at hand altho this levee area is visited often in September. In the Forked Deer overflow south of Dyersburg we found 8 on Sept. 2, 1934. We have listed a record of 1 at Reelfoot, Apr. 30, 1937, but have misplaced credit for same.

Nashville Area:—Uncommon to rare transient but because of its secretive habits it may be more numerous than realized. Also, there is a possibility that it may eventually be found to be a rare, local breeder in the state. An examination of two specimens indicated possible breeding. In company with G. R. Mayfield I collected these in a soybean field on Aug. 29, 1931, and Aug. 12, 1933. I have two fall records: Oct. 13, 1935, and Oct. 22, 1939. One was seen May 22, 1934, at Mingo Swamp near Winchester

(Ganier). This wren is chiefly a fall transient as indicated by the following records (one each except as noted): May 12, 1927; May 1, 1932; Dec. 28, 1929; Sept. 22, 1930; Aug. 12 (three) and Oct. 1, 1933; Oct. 11, 1934. From Aug. 25 to Sept. 4, 1931 at least two were recorded; one or more being heard singing every day. (Mayfield). Have one personal record, that of one found in weed-covered Cumberland River bottoms near Gravelotte, Aug. 28, 1921. (Monk). One seen May 17 and 18, 1932, on Peabody campus. (Shaver).

Clarksville Area:—These wrens were discovered in the swampy meadow near Dunbar's Cave on July 25, 1936. A dummy nest was found Aug. 2, and another on Aug. 7 when 24 birds were flushed. The two nests were unlined and rather shallow. Mr. Jas. Robins also found these birds at two nearby sites. The last date was Nov. 4 at the first location when 4 were seen. In 1937 this species arrived there between Aug. 2 and 4, and in much smaller numbers. In 1938 we had a wet summer but turned up only a single Short-billed—on Oct. 22 (Alfred Clebsch).

Middle Tennessee:—Based on records for above two areas, inclusive dates would seem to be May 1 to May 12 (two records); July 25 to Nov. 4; and accidental, Dec. 28, 1929 (one recorded).

Knoxville Area:—One was seen here on a field day, May 1, 1932 (H. P. Ijams and Brockway Crouch).

Johnson City Area:—No records.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park:—No records.

Subspecies—The present A.O.U. Check-list (1931) recognizes no races of the Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*).

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Wetmore, Alexander. 1939. Notes on the Birds of Tennessee. Proceedings U. S. National Museum, LXXXVI: 175-243.
- Wetmore, Alexander. 1941. Notes on the Birds of North Carolina. Proceedings U. S. National Museum, XC:483-530.
- Other references are in the text. Many of the above records have appeared, scattered thruout the pages of *The Migrant*.

#### WITH OUR MEMBERS

From Nashville we learn that the George Woodrings have a son, George, Jr., born Jan. 12, 1942. From Boston we learn of the birth of Eleanor Perry McCamey on March 1, 1942. The McCameys hope to visit Memphis this fall after a summer directing-nature study at camps near Boston. And at Greenville it's now Mrs. Ruth Reed Nevius, according to our census data.

Miss Jane Covington became the bride of Dr. Earl O'Dell Henry at Mayfield, Ky. After a trip to New Orleans the Henrys were at home in Knoxville for a short period. They are now at the Marine base, Parris Island, S.C.

## BOB-WHITE ROOSTING AT MID-DAY

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

Only a small remnant is left of the large numbers of Bob-white that once frequented the area around our home. However on each of the cold, snowy days of this winter, the little covey of seven birds never fails to visit our grounds, walking or running in single file up and down the hedge rows and shrub borders hunting the millet seeds that had been scattered there for them.

February 25 of 1942 was a cold, gray day with snow covering all the ground except a very few spots beneath dense evergreens which had held the wet snow in their branches. As I feed often and heavily during inclement weather, a large quantity of millet was put under the Norway spruce at the front of our lot, hoping the quail would arrive before the other birds had garnered it all.

Their arrival was not seen but at 11 A.M. the seven Bob-white were scratching like domestic hens among the brown leaves that had recently been blown there as winter winds had denuded the nearby pin oak of its heavy cloak of rustling, dry foliage. Busily they scratched, each foot alternating, then a bobbing of the head to pick up the uncovered grain. From a window about a hundred feet away, I watched them feed for about thirty minutes.

Suddenly three birds squatted side by side, facing outward. Then others joined them on the bed of leaves under the low-hanging spruce branches in a loose formation with all heads outward. When the entire seven had squatted, all began a backward movement until they had formed a small, tight circle, the typical night-roosting formation. Thus they remained motionless, blending so well with the background that, to my eyes, they appeared as a brown hummock of leaves beyond the snow line. Focusing 8x binoculars upon them, I noted that after ten minutes of resting, two or three began preening breast feathers. Then followed another motionless period, broken occasionally by a snuggling movement as they slightly shifted positions or formed a more compact circle. Later two birds rose from the group, walked about as if to resume feeding; the remaining five cuddled closer together. After about two minutes, the two decided to rejoin the group. They walked around it, one finding space enough to get in. The second bird continued to walk around the others, pressing its side against their breasts in a vain effort to find an opening. Then it jumped on one of them, walked across its back, then eased down between the two birds on the opposite side of the circle. Thus it was able to press an opening for itself in proper outward-facing position to resume the mid-day siesta within the circle's warmth. They continued to rest, occasionally preening breast and back feathers until noon (C.W.T.) They broke the formation gradually; four rose in single file to resume scratching and were soon joined by the others.

NASHVILLE, March 5, 1942.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BIRDS

BY HARRY C. YEATMAN

The strip of land between Ashwood and Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, which was surveyed for this list of birds includes Hamilton Place (my home) and adjacent fields, much of the property of Hoover and Mason Phosphate Company (including two lakes), and the property between these known as the Granberry Place—about 500 to 1000 acres in all, but not more than 100 to 300 were examined any day. Surveys were made usually between December 20 and January 3, from 1935 through 1941. Data from scattered notes taken before 1935 are also included.

The area contains various types of habitats:—fence rows of hackberry, elm, and maple trees, blackberry bushes, and high weeds; open fields, plowed or with sparse vegetation; fields with high weeds, old standing cornstalks or both; broomsedge meadows; thickets of oak, osage orange, walnut, maple, locust, hackberry with and without buckberry and blackberry underbrush; several canebrakes; several tree-lined branches and temporary springs; oak, linden, and elm groves; human habitations with evergreen, boxwood, and privet shrubbery and magnolia trees; and two moderate sized lakes. These habitats change from year to year and so the bird communities also change. The plowing of a certain fine field of high weeds that furnished the Short-eared Owl with small mammals and protection, has driven this interesting and useful bird from the area in recent years. The Towhee has not been recorded since 1938 because livestock have cleaned out much of its favorite underbrush. Good places for shelter from enemies and the weather are almost as important as good food conditions. Most owls will not frequent an area devoid of hollow trees and thickly populated with Crows. Canebrakes, shrubbery, and thorny tangles are ideal roosting places for the native Sparrows, and old Woodpecker holes are fine for Bluebirds and Chickadees as well as Woodpeckers.

Food conditions are more likely to affect the distribution of winter birds than any other factors. All the berry and seed-producing plants mentioned above have usually furnished sufficient food every year for the seed-eating birds or for the small mammals and birds upon which the meat-eating birds feed. Carrion is usually available for the Vultures, and wood-borers and hibernating insects are present in sufficient numbers to lure insectivorous birds to the area.

The difference in weather conditions from year to year has affected the bird lists. In especially warm winters such birds as the Red-headed Woodpecker are likely to be seen, while during very cold, snowy winters rare northern birds may be expected.

The amount of wandering differs noticeably among the species of birds in the area. Although food availability usually controls the wandering of birds, some actually seem to have the wanderlust. Some species are extensive wanderers, especially those that travel in flocks such as Grackles and Cedar Waxwings. Goldfinches are also quite wanderers. One day this past winter dozens were feeding in weedy fields and others were constantly

flying overhead, but the following day absolutely none were found although food was still present in abundance. Some species are moderate wanderers. Red-tailed Hawks, Sparrow Hawks, Bob-whites, and the like wander over several miles, but usually spend most of their time and roost in certain favorite spots. Other species such as Cardinals are rather stationary, feeding over an area of a few acres and usually returning to the same spot to roost every night.

The common, widely distributed species (Juncos, Chickadees, et al), the relatively stationary species, and even the moderate wanderers can be found practically any day; but the species with the wanderlust, though they may be present in large numbers when found, are often as difficult to locate on certain days as are the rarer species. Thus, changes in habitats, food conditions, weather conditions, and wanderlust have varied the bird lists.

The following list contains more or less common birds, but it may be useful for comparison with lists of other localities in Tennessee. The scarcity of waterbirds in the list is attributable to the small number of trips to the lakes and to duck hunters (more to their presence than to their shooting ability).

#### THE LIST

- GREAT BLUE HERON.**—Only two records; one found Dec. 31, 1938, and one Dec. 29, 1939, in fields near the Hoover and Mason upper lake.
- COMMON MALLARD.**—One male in 1938 and several males and females in 1940 are our only records; however, this and the other ducks in this list are said to be fairly common every winter on the Hoover and Mason lakes.
- RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.**—12 recorded in 1938, 12 in 1940, and 3 in 1941. I assume the above subspecies to be correct, no specimens being collected.
- RING-NECKED DUCK.**—Several seen in 1940.
- LESSER SCAUP DUCK.**—5 recorded in 1938 and 6 in 1940.
- TURKEY VULTURE.**—Several recorded in 1935, 1936, 1938, 1941; not nearly as numerous as the Black Vulture.
- BLACK VULTURE.**—Common every winter except 1939 when only 1 was observed; roost of about 50 usually in the area.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.**—Rare; 1 in the area in 1937 and 1 just outside in 1939.
- COOPER'S HAWK.**—One observed in the field in 1934, 1936, 1937; 2 freshly killed specimens examined in 1940 and 1941.
- EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK.**—Common on certain days; in 1941 four could be seen soaring together almost any day.
- MARSH HAWK.**—One recorded 1935, 1938, 1940; several in 1936, 1937, 1939; none seen 1941.
- EASTERN PIGEON HAWK.**—Not recorded during my regular winter census dates, but included in this list because of its rarity. One collected for a scientific specimen Nov. 26, 1932, and 1 observed pursuing a Red-headed Woodpecker in Nov. 1933 are my only records. The stomach of the collected bird contained the remains of a Myrtle Warbler.
- EASTERN SPARROW HAWK.**—Fairly common every year: snow and food scarcity on Dec. 30, 1935, forced one of these small falcons to take a female Cardinal—unusual prey.
- EASTERN BOB-WHITE.**—One small covey recorded every year except 1941 when 2 rather large coveys were observed.



- RING-NECKED PHEASANT.**—A cock and 3 hens released in the fall of 1935 and observed throughout 1935 and the spring, summer, and fall of 1936, but disappeared in the winter of 1936 when I released my remaining cock and two hens. Evidently the caged birds kept the liberated ones in the area. These birds seemed well able to escape from their natural enemies, but automobiles killed a hen and some of her nearly grown offspring; the remaining birds probably moved to a wilder region if they escaped the hunters' guns.
- AMERICAN COOT.**—One recorded in 1941, but at least several must come to the lakes every winter.
- KILLDEER.**—Common on certain days, but none were recorded the winter of 1937.
- WILSON'S SNIBE.**—3 in muddy corn field Dec. 31, 1936; 1 at lower lake Dec. 29, 1941; 2 at lower lake Jan. 2, 1942.
- EASTERN MOURNING DOVE.**—Fairly common 1934, 1935, 1939, 1940; rather scarce 1936, 1937; common 1938, 1941.
- EASTERN SCREECH OWL.**—One in 1935, 2 in 1939, and 2 in 1941; however, since owls usually hide in the daytime and do little calling in the winter nights, it is probable that this owl, the Barred Owl, and possibly the Great Horned Owl are fairly common.
- GREAT HORNED OWL.**—Two trapped by farmers in 1934; several are trapped or shot in Maury County every year.
- NORTHERN BARRED OWL.**—One, rabbit hunting in a field of high weeds in 1933; 2 trapped by farmers in 1932.
- SHORT-EARED OWL.**—One collected for a scientific specimen in Dec. 1933, several observed in 1934, 1 in 1936, and 1 a few miles outside the area in 1937. The stomach of the collected bird contained Long-tailed Shrews.
- EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER.**—From 1 to 3 seen every year on the lakes and occasionally on the branches.
- NORTHERN FLICKER.**—Common. (Possibly a few records were of the Southern Flicker).
- SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.**—One in 1935, 1937, 1939, 1941; 2 in 1938, 1940; fairly common in the fall when the magnolia seed are ripe.
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.**—Several recorded in 1934, 1939, 1940, 1941; common in 1936; fairly common in 1938.
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.**—One in 1934 and 1936.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.**—One in 1937 and 1941; judging from the numbers of trees attacked by this species, it must be fairly common at least sometime during the year.
- EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER.**—Rather scarce in most winters; not recorded 1938, 1939. (Possibly a few records were of the Southern Hairy Woodpecker.)
- NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER and the SOUTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.**—Fairly common.
- PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.**—Common; abundant on some days.
- NORTHERN BLUE JAY.**—Scarce, not recorded in 1935 and 1939.
- EASTERN CROW and the SOUTHERN CROW.**—Abundant, several enormous roosts in the area. Fly in by the thousands at dusk. Most feed on waste corn, carrion, and hackberries.
- CAROLINA CHICKADEE.**—Common.

- TUFTED TITMOUSE.**—Fairly common.
- BROWN CREEPER.**—Although I have seen many along the Duck River near Columbia, Tenn., this elusive bird was not recorded in the area until Jan. 2, 1942 when one was found.
- EASTERN WINTER WREN.**—One in 1936 and 1938; easily overlooked, so may be more numerous than the records indicate.
- BEWICK'S WREN.**—Several recorded each year.
- CAROLINA WREN.**—Fairly common.
- EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD.**—Fairly common.
- EASTERN ROBIN.**—Several recorded each year except 1940 when none were found.
- EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH.**—Several found in 1941; evidently the area is not to their liking.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD.**—Fairly common.
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.**—Fairly common in 1941; although sought, they were not recorded the other census years.
- AMERICAN PIPIT.**—Fairly common one warm day in Dec. 1934; not seen since.
- CEDAR WAXWING.**—Several recorded in 1936 and a flock of 8 in 1938.
- MIGRANT SHRIKE.**—One seen every year except 1938 and 1940 when none were found.
- STARLING.**—Fairly common.
- MYRTLE WARBLER.**—Rather scarce in 1934 and 1936; not recorded since.
- ENGLISH SPARROW.**—Common.
- EASTERN MEADOWLARK and the SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK.**—Common; the Eastern subspecies is most likely the more numerous in winter.
- EASTERN RED-WING.**—Two large flocks in 1936; many large flocks in 1938 and 1941.
- BRONZED GRACKLE.**—Several large flocks each year.
- EASTERN COWBIRD.**—Several flocks each year.
- EASTERN CARDINAL.**—Common; 1 partly white female found in 1940.
- EASTERN PURPLE FINCH.**—Common in 1936 and 2 found in 1938. In 1938 some were observed eating carrion.
- EASTERN GOLDFINCH.**—Fairly common on certain days.
- RED-EYED TOWHEE.**—Several seen every year until 1939 when livestock cleaned out much underbrush.
- EASTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW.**—Fairly common in 1936 and 1938; several recorded in 1937 and 1941.
- SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.**—Common, often abundant.
- EASTERN FIELD SPARROW.**—Common.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.**—Fairly common.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.**—Common.
- EASTERN FOX SPARROW.**—Fairly common.
- SWAMP SPARROW.**—Several recorded each year, should be more common.
- EASTERN SONG SPARROW.**—Common.

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.  
CHAPEL HILL, N. C., January 8, 1942.

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

By Our Members

The state record of 74 species was bettered by a Memphis list of 78. The Nashville list of 72 and the Great Smoky list of 52 are also the highest to date at these respective localities.

	Memphis Dec. 21, 1941	Hickory Flat, Miss. Jan. 1, 1942	Chickasaw Forest Dec. 25	White Bluff Jan. 18	Clarksville Dec. 21	Nashville Dec. 21	Murfreesboro Dec. 22	Caryville Dec. 27	Greeneville Dec. 26	Gr. Smoky Park Dec. 21	Johnson City Dec. 28
Number of Species.....	78	38	45	39	55	72	41	31	33	52	42
Number of Individuals.....	14,658	1333	1045	779	1166	4599	780	562	1137	1966	4341
Number of Observers.....	22	2	2	6	4	28	4	3	2	30	7
Pied-billed Grebe.....	1	.....	5	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Double-crested Cormorant.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Great Blue Heron.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canada Goose.....	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....
Common Mallard.....	3	.....	.....	2	6	24	.....	34	.....	.....	26
Black Duck.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	26	1	283	.....	.....	.....
Gadwall.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
American Pintail.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....
Blue-winged Teal.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Redhead.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ring-necked Duck.....	.....	.....	76	.....	175	31	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Canvas-back.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lesser Scaup.....	65	.....	.....	.....	.....	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Buffle-head.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hooded Merganser.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unidentified Ducks.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Turkey Vulture.....	4	7	19	11	5	4	.....	.....	24	12	4
Black Vulture.....	1	6	1	12	2	53	4	.....	.....	2	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Cooper's Hawk.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	4	1	1	.....	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk.....	16	1	2	2	2	11	.....	.....	1	1	2
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Marsh Hawk.....	7	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Duck Hawk.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....
Sparrow Hawk.....	22	1	2	1	1	25	1	3	1	1	6
Ruffed Grouse.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bob-white.....	109	.....	.....	1	.....	24	.....	19	.....	12	.....
Chukar Partridge.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	*1	.....
American Coot.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Killdeer.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	44	1	.....	2	.....	2
Woodcock.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Red-backed?) Sandpiper.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	*1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wilson's Snipe.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ring-billed Gull.....	159	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mourning Dove.....	265	.....	1	4	14	151	.....	.....	175	2	9
Screech Owl.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Great Horned Owl.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Barred Owl.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	3	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Belted Kingfisher.....	1	.....	3	3	3	16	1	1	.....	2	.....
Flicker.....	192	3	11	10	12	64	8	3	9	1	18
Pileated Woodpecker.....	3	.....	3	1	7	21	1	.....	.....	6	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker.....	41	4	4	8	10	37	2	1	7	.....	2
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	16	.....	2	.....	1	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	9	1	1	5	10	6	3	.....	2	5	1
Hairy Woodpecker.....	10	1	3	5	2	11	7	.....	.....	19	1
Downy Woodpecker.....	29	1	3	7	16	57	1	.....	.....	18	20
Phoebe.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	.....
†Prairie Horned Lark.....	3	.....	.....	.....	121	92	36	.....	10	.....	.....
Blue Jay.....	313	20	28	4	20	43	5	.....	11	8	53
Raven.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....
Crow.....	58	5	36	31	52	358	290	3	570	500	59
‡Chickadees.....	134	15	37	17	35	151	8	3	16	300	48
Tufted Titmouse.....	110	2	24	20	18	73	9	.....	18	49	39
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	5	.....	1	4	5	2	1	.....	2	8	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	.....
Brown Creeper.....	10	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	10	1
Winter Wren.....	10	1	3	2	6	5	.....	.....	1	9	1
Bewick's Wren.....	2	.....	.....	.....	3	9	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carolina Wren.....	110	4	3	5	18	37	4	.....	12	20	26

	Memphis Dec. 21, 1941	Hickory Flat, Jan. 1, 1942	Chickasaw Forest Dec. 25	White Bluff Jan. 18	Clarksville Dec. 21	Nashville Dec. 21	Murfreesboro Dec. 22	Caryville Dec. 27	Greeneville Dec. 26	Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 21	Johnson City Dec. 28
Mockingbird	110	1	2	4	10	131	8	1	9	6	23
Brown Thrasher	13										
Robin	1081	32	92	76	42	356	125			66	13
Hermit Thrush	30		14	2		5		4		19	6
Bluebird	111	16	50	21	26	260	25		18	17	53
Golden-crowned Kinglet	80	22	42		2	6			1	101	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	16		1	1						34	
American Pipit	6					75					
Cedar Waxwing	147	28	66		39	88				15	19
†Shrike	53	4	1			7	4				2
Starling	74			2	30	247	8	14	22	21	2000
Black & White Warbler*	1										
Myrtle Warbler	250	2	36	3	22	30	25		3		27
Palm Warbler					3				5		
English Sparrow	Com.	22	30	27	149	240		6	58	25	300
Meadowlark	598	30	25		19	144	24	3	11	11	2
Red-wing	119	30				3					
Rusty Blackbird	2					106					
†Bronzed Grackle	5635					2					
Cowbird	61								75		
Cardinal	443	13	26	26	48	326	20	11	14	36	37
Purple Finch	24	4	38	17	23		12	6		6	
Pine Siskin										14	
Goldfinch	339	74	66	31		87	8	20	16	116	71
Towhee	70	5		32	12	112	19	7		4	4
Savannah Sparrow	51	5	5			4		1		41	
Leconte's Sparrow	1										
†Junco	1053	425	127	163	58	242	92	14	32	250	320
Tree Sparrow	12				2						
Field Sparrow	512	314	47	85	24	66	45	41	3	44	14
White-crowned Sparrow	63				2	15	19		5		57
White-throated Sparrow	1300	127	63	43	60	237	24	15	7	69	23
Fox Sparrow	122	7		3	2	8	5			2	1
Swamp Sparrow	72	50	2	20	9	11		2			
Song Sparrow	398	48	20	68	32	225	11	55	9	104	46
Lapland Longspur	200										

#### † SPECIAL NOTES

Prairie Horned Lark—Might include some of the Northern race.  
Chickadees—Carolina Chickadee only at every locality except the Great Smoky Mts. Nat'l. Park where both the Black-capped and Carolina were observed but not listed separately.

Shrike—Should be Migrant Shrike except possibly some Loggerheads at Memphis.

Bronzed Grackle—Should be Purple Grackle for all East Tenn. censuses.

Juncos—Should be Slate-colored Juncos at all localities except in the Great Smoky Mts. Park, the count for which includes both this species and the Carolina Junco.

#### \* SPECIAL NOTES

Chukar Partridge (Gt. Smoky Mts.)—One observed on Sugarland Mt. at 15 feet by Dougherty who, having studied this exotic species on game farms in East Tennessee, is well acquainted with it. Sixty individuals were released in East Tennessee, at points within 60 miles of the park boundary, in the spring of 1941; two or three of the birds appeared here in the mountains early in the summer, but then seemed to have disappeared (Arthur Stupka, compiler.)

(Red-backed?) Sandpiper—first Xmas sandpiper record at Nashville. The bird was seen by Woodring and Sharp on Radnor Lake. It was not there the following day but was believed to be a Red-backed Sandpiper.

Black and White Warbler (Memphis)—first winter record for this area. Reported by Vincent on Dec. 20, verified at same place by Coffey, Tucker, and Vincent on the census, next day, and seen again by Tucker on the 23rd. See 'The Round Table' for other winter records of this species.

Savannah Sparrow (Gt. Smoky Mts.)—by Walker.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Memphis—Additional species listed subsequently: by Tucker—1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (weak condition) and 2 Orange-crowned Warblers on the 23rd, and 1 Blue-headed Vireo on the 26th; by Mason—1 Am. Merganser on the 23rd and later.

Chickasaw Forest—English Sparrow was only listed species not recorded inside forest.

Gt. Smoky Mts. Park—Barred Owl was seen by Green while it was being mobbed by Crows. A poor seed crop of spruce and fir this year may be a factor in scarcity of Pine Siskins and in absence of Red Crossbills. Three Turkeys observed in this area Dec. 20, and occasional evidences of their presence seen on day when count was made.

See also 'The Season'.

MEMPHIS—Dec. 21, 6:45 to 5; overcast all day; slight wind; temp. 45° to 64°. Same areas as 1940, omitting lower end of Benjestown Rd., adding area south of Airport. Separate auto parties north, to Raleigh, southeast, and south, all day; equals 7 groups when on foot, 3 to 6 miles for each. Three separately on foot east, 2 to 5 hours; 2 in Overton Park 2 hours; and 1 in cruiser on river 2 hours in late afternoon. Total 67 party-hours. Austin Burdick, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Mary and Anna Davant, Pauline James, Luther Keeton, Lawrence Kent, Dr. Louis Leroy, Joe Mason, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Moore, Alice Smith, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Maurice Torti, Jr., Robt. Tucker, Brother I. Vincent, Billy Walker, Ben Welch Jr., Antoinette Anderson, Parker Wright, and Neil Wyatt.—HICKORY FLAT, MISS., Jan. 1, 1942, 10:30 to 12 (1 mile southwest; stormy, with rain; flooded fields; gusty; observers separate); 2 to 4:30 (fair, one observer close in, one by car 7 miles on Hwy. No. 78, spending 1½ hours in woods at Spring Lakes, Myrtle); temp. 64° to 42°. Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr.—CHICKASAW FOREST:—Dec. 25, 7 to 1; overcast; ground frozen, then muddy; stiff wind, cold and damp at start; temp. 34° to 45°. Rain started at 1 p.m., stopped census. Lake La Joie area, Highway 100 to Bethel Church to Silerton (outside forest) and return on ridge to the east; Lake Placid. Observers together, 20 miles by auto, 2 on foot.—Ben B. Coffey, Jr. and Joe Mason, Jr.—WHITE BLUFF:—Jan. 18, 1942, 8:30 to 3:30; part cloudy to overcast, rain at 3:30; light wind, 41°-62°. Montgomery Bell Park only, three parties, same routes covered past five censuses.—Conrad Jamison, Geo. Mayfield, Sr. and Jr., H. C. Monk, James Robins, H. S. Vaughn.—CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 21, 7:15 to 4:15; fair, overcast in P.M.; calm, A.M., south wind in P.M.; temp. 32° to 65°. By car to Dunbar's Cave, Spring Creek, P. A. Meriwether farm, and Trahern's Branch. Second party on foot 8 miles along T. C. R. to Lock B with side trips to Hiett's Garden, Coke's Creek, Robbins' swamp, McAdoo Creek, Mark's Slough, and Gholson's. Total 14 party-hours—Alfred Clebsch, Sr., Edward Clebsch, Clarence Collier, Jr., and Dr. Chas. F. Pickering.—NASHVILLE:—Dec. 21, 6 to 5; clear in A.M. overcast in P.M.; ground bare; wind, very light; temp. 50° to 65°. Waterworks Bottom, Knapp Farm, Franklin Road, Overton Hills, Radnor Lake, Hillsboro and Hobbs Roads, Bellemeade, Warner Park, Hill-wood, Davidson and River Roads, Shelby Park, Trimble bottom, and two parties on Cumberland River. 25 observers in 12 parties; totals: 74 party-hours; 33 miles on foot.—Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, Catherine Anderson, Mildred Berry, Paul K. Bryant, John Caldwell, John B. Calhoun, Jas. Church, Sam Clark, Jr., A. F. Ganier (compiler), Conrad Jamison, Jr., Mrs. F. C. Laskey, G. R. Mayfield, George Mayfield, Jr., Albert Marsh, Arthur McMurray, Ed McNish, Jas. Merritt, C. E. Pearson, J. A. Robins, J. M. Shaver, Vernon Sharp, Jr., and son, Edw. Schreiber, W. R. Spofford, Harry Tracy, H. S. Vaughn, and G. B. Woodring.—MURFREESBORO:—Dec. 22, part cloudy; light wind; temp. 50°.—Dr. J. B. Black, Prof. George Davis, Robert Duckworth, H. O. Todd, Jr.—CARYVILLE:—Formerly listed as Norris; ready access to Norris Dam area prohibited this year; Dec. 27, 9 to 3; cloudy; light N. wind; temp. 33°-50°. Cove Creek Lake State Park (Caryville Lake).—W. M. Walker, Roy Wedekind, and Bill Yambert.—GREENEVILLE:—Dec. 26, 7:30 to 12. 1 to 4; clear; windy; temp. 52° to 55°. Reed farm along Roaring Fork Creek, Lick Creek, Bay's Mt. Observers together, 3 miles on foot, 20 by auto. Mrs. Ruth Reed



Nevius, Helen Reed.—GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, TENN.:—Dec. 21, 6:15 to 4:30; clear in early morning, partly cloudy thereafter; ground bare, frozen at high altitudes, thawing in lowlands; wind mostly light, variable; temp. 33° to 63°. Same area as in past 4 years, circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte, and including a section of the Tenn.-N.C. Divide from Siler's Bald to the Sawteeth; also the towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Altitude range, 1200 to 6600 feet. 30 observers in 10 parties. Total hours afield, 76 (64 by foot, 12 by car); total party miles, 249 (67 by foot, 182 by car).—Chas. O. Baird, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broome, Mary Ruth Chiles, Edw. J. Dougherty, Frelan Goddard, John J. Hay, Dr. and Mrs. Earl O. Henry, Albert E. Hyder, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Ijams, Lawrence Isenberg, Kermit Jennings, Ann King, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Dr. Henry Meyer, Mrs. Robt. Monroe, Elsie Morrell, S. A. Ogden, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Rohbock, Nat Smith, Dr. Gordon H. Tucker, Wm. M. Walker, Jr., Dorothy E. Williams, Wm. Yambert (Knoxville Chapter), Edwin L. Green, Jr., Joe F. Manley, and Arthur Stupka (National Park Service).—JOHNSON CITY: Dec. 28, 7:45 to 5:15; cloudy; ground bare; light E. wind; temp. 30° to 40°. Environs of town within 7½ miles radius, incl. Llewellyn Wood, Cox's Lake, Boone's Creek area, Horse Cove section of Cherokee National Forest, Sinking Creek area, Laurels Recreation area, Dry Creek to Milligan, Austin Springs and along Watauga River to South Watauga, South Watauga to town via Smalling Game Farm. Two parties; total 16 party-hours, 90 miles by car and afoot.—Ruby Doak, Walter Hendrix, Albert E. Hyder, Ann King, Robt. B. Lyle, Maxine McClain and Bruce P. Tyler.

## THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—The winter as a whole in this section of the state has been rather mild. Precipitation has been about normal but Memphis has not had the usual number of snows or cold weather. The mild conditions that prevailed, particularly until the first part of January, may have been responsible for the unusual records of species that normally winter farther south of here. The first of these reported was a female or immature Black and White Warbler in Overton Park on Dec. 20, by Brother I. Vincent. On the Christmas census on Dec. 21 this warbler was again seen by Coffey, Vincent, and the writer. It was seen again on Dec. 23 by the writer. By far the most unusual winter record was the presence of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Overton Park on Dec. 23. While walking along the bayou the familiar form of the Cuckoo flew off the ground near my feet, to the other side of the bayou and back into a small clump of bushes. The bird appeared in a very weakened condition for the only time it would fly was to escape actual capture at my hands. I nearly caught it twice but on the third attempt it flew behind a clump of bushes and was lost. I could not find it afterwards although a very thorough search was made for it. This Cuckoo normally winters as far north as Columbia and Venezuela. However, one was listed at Pilot Town, La., on Christmas Census, Dec. 26, 1941. On Dec. 23, also in Over-

ton Park, I found two Orange-crowned Warblers, and on Dec. 30, Demett Smith and I found them again. On Dec. 26 Smith and I found a Blue-headed Vireo in the Wolf River bottoms at Payne Avenue. One was seen there again on Feb. 20. Both these species were observed at close range.—A Henslow's Sparrow was seen at Germantown by Burdick on Dec. 26 (1st winter record) and he saw 50 Lapland Longspurs near there on Jan. 3. At the same place on Jan. 25, Burdick recorded a Vesper Sparrow. A House Wren was recorded by Burdick and Mason at Mason's Dairy on Dec. 30, and Smith and I recorded one at Wolf River and Payne Avenue on Mar. 6. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen at Wolf River on Dec. 31 by Burdick, Mason, and the writer.—On Mar. 9 in Overton Park, new visitors appeared in the forms of three Pine Siskins. They were studied as close as 9 feet by Smith and myself and all identification marks were carefully noted. They were continually chattering among themselves. (Editor—2nd record). The first Purple Martins were reported Feb. 25, by both Mrs. Guth at Whitehaven, and Mrs. Hooper in Normal, south and east of town, respectively. The earliest previous record was Mar. 1.—A Chipping Sparrow was present in Overton Park on Mar. 17 and 18.—ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis.

NASHVILLE AREA:—Dec. 1, 1941 to Mar. 1, 1942. The season to date has progressed very slowly. Weather conditions have been relatively mild. February averaged slightly colder than normal. On Jan. 9 and Feb. 20, it snowed and remained on the ground in both cases about a week. Up to the present time there are few migration notes. On Dec. 7, Francis Lawrence had a Brown Thrasher at his home; this is very late. Dr. W. R. Spofford reported a Thrasher on Feb. 27. Mrs. F. C. Laskey reported a large flock of Bronzed Grackles in Percy Warner Park on Jan. 20. The group that observed them, all agreed that the sound made by the birds was not unlike that of a train passing in the distance. It was reported by Mr. H. C. Monk that the Grackles have not yet moved back onto their breeding grounds; in view of observations made in previous years they should be back on the breeding grounds by Mar. 1st. Robins are very common; various observers agree that they are far more numerous this year, than in other recent years. Mr. Monk says that for the first time in ten years the Robin outnumbers the Starling. The writer first noticed Robins in numbers on Jan. 9, on the Peabody College campus. Since that time they have occurred in ever increasing numbers. Mrs. Laskey reports that a flock of 40 Robins appeared for the first time in her yard on Jan. 12 and by Jan. 20 the flocks had increased to a size that the neighbors began to make telephone calls concerning the birds. Mr. A. F. Ganier on March 1st, reported a very large Robin-Blackbird roost and a week later succeeded in locating this roost 21 miles west of Nashville; his notes on this will be found in the Round Table.—The Mourning Dove has not come back in any numbers yet; Mr. Monk reported one, cooing, on Centennial Hill, Feb. 14, and has continued almost daily since. On Jan. 15, Mr. Ganier observed a pure white albino Dove in the yard across from his home on Woodlawn Drive. Radnor Lake still remains at a very low level. This possibly accounts for the scarcity of waterbird records this winter. Mr. Monk noted several Wilson's Snipe on Dec. 26 and Jan. 25.—Among the interesting Raptore notes are: an adult Bald Eagle observed near Ashland City, on the Cumberland River, by Bill Chambers, a Vanderbilt University student; Dr. Spofford reported seeing

an Osprey near his home on Jan. 7. A Red-tailed Hawk nest has been found and several members of the Chapter hope to build a blind and make observations on hawk family life. An extremely dark (melanistic) Red-tail was observed at the steeplechase grounds in November and again on Jan. 24. Mr. Richard Watkins is studying the food habits of a pair of Great Horned Owls by making frequent visits to a nest and noting the remains of quarry brought in to the young. The nest is on a cliff above the river. A pair of these large owls has been observed by Dr. G. R. Mayfield near his camp on the Stone's River. The writer saw a Red-shouldered Hawk on Richland Creek, Feb. 26. According to Mr. Monk the dates the following birds began to sing were: Towhee, Jan. 14; Mockingbird, Jan. 15; Chickadee, Jan. 16; Cardinal, Jan. 12; and Bewick's Wren, Feb. 22. Myrtle Warblers and Cedar Waxwings have been more numerous than usual this winter, while there is a scarcity of White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, and Winter Wrens. Mrs. Laskey reports that by the middle of February one pair of Bluebirds had begun nest building, and that by the last of February in the Warner Park boxes, there were 4 or 5 complete nests; Dr. Vaughn had one complete nest, and Fred Weber had a complete nest. Mr. Monk on Jan. 20 observed Starlings carrying nesting material and on Jan. 23 he observed English Sparrows carrying nest material. On Feb. 18 he listed a Red-headed Woodpecker near Nashville; on Feb. 25 the writer observed one in Percy Warner Park and Mrs. Laskey reported one also. On this same date, during the course of a 27-mile bicycle ride with Geo. Mayfield, Jr., the writer listed 13 Sparrow Hawks. As of March 7, vegetation is very backward for the season.—CONRAD JAMISON, Nashville.

## THE ROUND TABLE

**A LOON VISITS A CITY PARK:**—A Loon was observed on Centennial Park Lake, Nashville on Nov. 27 and 30, 1941. Many waterfowl visitors have been recorded on this lake but this one was the prize of my twenty-five years watching. It was in full winter plumage and not at all conspicuous among the scores of captive fowl of many kinds. In comparison with the captive Canada Geese it seemed quite small and accordingly was carefully studied but I could not identify it as other than the common species. All other local records of Loons have been made at Radnor Lake with the exception of one killed on Hardscuffle pond Dec. 26, 1938, and recovered from hunters by Mrs. Tippens for the census on that date. The appearance of this large bird on any of our small ponds would be interesting enough, but its visit to a city park is a complete surprise.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

**NIGHTHAWK FEEDING BLITZ:**—On the evening of Sept. 10, 1941, at about 9:30 P.M., I stood on the street corner in Johnson City, Tennessee, just across from the railroad station and witnessed one of the most interesting displays of maneuvering by a group of birds that I had ever seen. As I approached the intersection, my attention was attracted skyward by a number of "peeping" sounds. Much to my surprise, there before my eyes, only a few feet above the buildings, at least sixty immature and adult Night-

hawks and approximately ten bats were really cutting up as they feasted upon the insects in this area. The Nighthawks would at times skim the tops of the street lamps in their pursuit and dives for moths, which seemed to fill the air. These moths, no doubt, were attracted by the many bright street lights and the heat radiating from them, since there was a very noticeably quick drop in temperature on this evening. At times the bats appeared to follow very closely the Nighthawks in their circles and semicircles.—As I stood and enjoyed this grand performance I was very much surprised at the pedestrians, who paid not one bit of attention, nor showed any appreciation of the good work our feathered allies were doing in their nightly war upon insects,—one of man's greatest enemies!—ALBERT J. MARSH, Tennessee Game and Fish Division, Nashville.

A VERY LATE ROBIN BROOD:—On Oct. 5, 1941 a fledgling Robin with speckled breast and short tail was found in company with its parent. The tail was about half grown out, indicating the bird had left the nest about ten days earlier, say Sept. 25. My previous latest dates for broods leaving the nest were Aug. 15, 1937, and Aug. 16, 1938, so the present case is over a month later. Robins are common breeding birds in the parks and residential sections of Nashville and have been for at least twenty-five years. I have followed the nesting of the large Centennial Park colony for many seasons and consider this record most exceptional. In fact, any brood leaving a nest after August first is noteworthy.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

NOTES ON A ROBIN ROOST:—There are few more thrilling experiences within the realm of bird study than a visit to a great bird roost. I might add that it is an experience which our friends in the North and East may share only in a minor degree for when our gregarious wintering birds move northward, the flocks become depleted as the birds drop out enroute at their last year's summer homes. A gathering of several hundred thousand Grackles and other blackbirds, Starlings and Robins at a communal roost, has often been recorded in the Nashville area and one that is now existent is described further on.

Robins almost invariably each year come into the state from the south during January, by the last of February are quite abundant, and all except breeding birds are usually gone by mid-March. While here, they feed largely upon hackberries, this being the most abundant tree in this section. January and February of 1941, however, were made remarkable by the fact that no Robin migration whatever transpired and the only birds of this species recorded were summer resident pairs which came early in March and remained to breed. There was a shortage of hackberries, it is true, but this did not fully explain matters and it was thought that some catastrophe might have befallen them. This year we are happy to note that they are with us again in more than normal numbers.

Recently, observing flocks going west each afternoon and returning at sunrise each morning, I determined to locate their roost. On March 1 I drove to a point 8 miles west of the city and at an hour before sundown the flocks began to pass westward at an altitude of about 1,000 feet. I followed for some miles but their goal was evidently much further on so I returned home. Six days later I had opportunity to resume the search and with Dr. W. R. Spofford drove west along the River Road for 14 miles

and awaited the flight. Presently they came, still flying high toward the setting sun, leaving the river bottoms at times and cutting across the timbered hills. For more than an hour fast moving flocks were continually in sight. Most of the flocks were of Robins but there were also hundreds of flocks of Starlings and Grackles, with a lesser number of Red-wings and perhaps Rusty Blackbirds as well. At 18 miles we found that some of the tiring birds had alighted in the woods but we noted that after they had rested they moved on. We passed on to the Ashland City Bridge across the Cumberland, then took the Charlotte road southward  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to where it crossed Big Bluff Creek. We found that we had now passed beyond the roost for the last and low-flying flocks were headed eastward up the wooded valley. The roost was finally located on the ridge at the head of this valley in cut-over hardwood timber land wherein there was a jungle of second growth. It might have seemed a coincidence that the roost was located within the 9-foot wire fence that enclosed the State's 3000-acre deer farm, along which fence there hung signs which read "No Hunting, Keep Out." The initial roost may not have been within this enclosure but perhaps a few early raids by native nimrods drove them to where they had finally found this haven. And to this haven there repair each night, for 25 miles and more, practically all of the above named birds within this range. (Maps show that this roost is 20 miles from the Nashville courthouse.) It will be interesting to observe whether or not this site will be chosen in succeeding years. Very few people live in this area and there are thousands of acres of rough, hilly, timbered lands surrounding the place. On March 10th, a group of T.O.S. members visited the roost and noted that the last birds came in at 7:05 p.m. Deputy game wardens were patrolling two other roosts during the first week in March; one in a cedar wood near Smyrna, 18 miles southeast of Nashville, and one near Watertown, 40 miles due east. Doubtless there are others too.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

ROBIN ROOST NEAR CHATTANOOGA:—(The following interesting account is contained in a letter of February 12, 1942, to Dr. W. F. Spofford.—Editor). Late yesterday afternoon I visited one of the most interesting Robin roost that has been mine to see since these birds used to go to the bamboo thickets on the Chickamauga when I was a boy. This roost is located about 30 miles from Chattanooga on the part of the Cumberlands known as Walden's Ridge, 6 miles east of Dunlap, and a mile from Lewis' Chapel, Tenn. I judge the roost covers ten or more acres of second growth mountain pines, standing some 10 or 15 feet tall, as thick as the hairs on a dog's back, so dense that it was with great difficulty that I could press my way through as a wedge. The birds began coming about 45 minutes or an hour before dark, and as the native mountaineers declare, there seems to be fully a "blue million of them." As I crawled into their haunts after the most of them got settled down the roar of wings sounded like a waterfall. I learned from the natives that this is the birds' third winter to roost here. The fact is, I did not know of a Robin roost of this dimension in Tennessee.—ROBERT SPARKS WALKER, 808 Greenwood, Ave., Chattanooga.

FEATHERY ODDS AND ENDS:—The Tennessee River, below the dam at Pickwick, is a favored spot for Gulls, mostly the Herring variety. There are always a few there, and on a number of occasions I have seen hundreds of them feeding as close up as they could get to the falls. The rougher the

water the better the Gulls seem to like it.—A farmer near Corinth recently noticed two birds fighting in his barn-yard. They were first in the air, then fell to the ground. When the farmer approached close to the place, one bird flew away; the other remained, dead. It was a female Cardinal. The farmer picked up the dead bird and placed it on top of a fence post close by. Soon the other one returned and began pecking and tearing the dead body. The farmer shot the killer; it turned out to be a Migrant Shrike. The Shrike had pecked out the brains of the Cardinal. Two years ago this January, I found my first Red-breasted Nuthatch; in a small pine lot five miles from town. This January I found another one, my second, in the same place. The bird is very rare here.—For the past two years my winter bird hikes have been noticeably dull, due to the scarcity of birds. It has been difficult to get any sort of satisfactory list. But my luck changed Saturday, Jan. 24. In Tuscumbia bottom, in mid-morning, I found birds in larger numbers than I had found before in a long, long time. Over a space of half a mile, up and down the creek, I flushed a thousand Robins. They fed in a corn field near by and in the woods, too. Hackberries, small red haws, evergreen holly, and deciduous holly, grass and weed seed were abundant. Flickers, a variety of sparrows, Chewinks, Myrtle Warblers, Bluebirds, Brown Thrashers, Kinglets, Titmice, and blackbirds were abundant. Overhead half a dozen hawks, as best I could tell Marsh and Red-shouldered, called shrilly and almost continuously.—Fox Sparrows scratched in the leaves, chicken-like, except that they used both feet at the same time; a bird that bears all the marks of a truly wild Sparrow. Several of them sang a few short weak notes; and the Robins too were singing their spring songs.—No doubt every bird lover harbors the wish that some day he might find a bird never before discovered and catalogued—the remotest of possibilities. Two or three times in fifteen years my own hopes have risen a degree or two, only to fall back to normal within a brief moment. On the hike of which I now write, I did have another experience that has puzzled me. Myrtle Warblers were feeding in a small deciduous holly on the side of a slough; many other birds were near; all active. I was on the opposite side of the slough, some fifty feet away. I noticed a small grayish bird in the tree, what I first thought to be a Myrtle. Then there appeared too many white markings for that; with the aid of my glasses I saw distinctly a narrow white ring running all the way round the neck? And it was not a common Myrtle, nor any other probable species that I could think of at the moment. The next afternoon I went back to the exact spot and remained an hour, but the birds had gone almost to the last one. I can only hope that it was nothing more serious than an optical illusion. I do not "collect birds"; hence, if by some remote chance some day I should actually find something new, I would have no proof. But to say the least of it my bird would still live to increase his kind.—A Goshawk, the first I have ever identified positively, sat atop a small tree, a hundred yards from the road. His blue-black body and white underparts made a most conspicuous mark.—No more beautiful combination of colors than those that mark the female Chewink. Not as bright as some others, but woody, and wild and typical of birdhood at its best.—The male Cardinal remains the perfect bird—song, beauty, fine manners; everything. Generally plentiful, but never common.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.



## THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS  
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*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,  
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

Generally, the March issue is a light number altho the census tables make the actual work heavier. One reason for a small issue is that we cannot estimate the amount of money available for printing and mailing costs each year until after the March issue has reminded most of us to remember *The Migrant*. Hence, we hope that the extra expense of this larger number will not be expended unsuccessfully on too many to whom we extend the courtesy of sending this issue. Naturally, this size will have to be balanced with others to follow, so that the total number of pages each year is about the same, or by additional contributions, such as the \$10 recently sent by the Knoxville Chapter (Thank you!). It might become necessary to combine the June and September issues, again giving us a large number. This has another advantage of lightening your editor's work. At the spring meeting the report of Secretary-Treasurer Clebsch will help us decide. The present editor will not be able to handle a June issue. Perhaps, someone will volunteer to do so. Please continue to send articles to the present address to facilitate the task of anyone that does. Contributors to "The Season" will hear from us at the proper time but you who make our magazine possible please consider this as a personal solicitation. We again want to sincerely thank those who so industriously contributed to the wren article herewith, and the authors of the other interesting articles and notes. Also, particularly, Mrs. Coffey, as the typing burden was unusually heavy.

### IN THE SERVICE

It's now Cadet Harold Elphingstone with the address of: A.C.R.P., Squadron A, Brooks Field, Texas. Another former Memphis Scout leader adding new birds to his life-list, but in a different zone, is Ensign Fred T. Carney, U. S. Coast Guard Cutter "North Star," care Postmaster, New York, N. Y. While in Boston, Fred visited Franklin McCamey,—the two worked together in Memphis bird work for many years. Dr. Earl O. Henry, past officer in the T.O.S. and past president of the Knoxville Dental Society is now in the Marine Corps at Parris Island, S. C.

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WINTER RECORDS OF THE BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER:—This species winters from the southeastern tip of Texas to northern South America, and in Florida, the Bahamas, and West Indies. Christmas census lists from southern Georgia regularly record 1 to 4 individuals. The recording of one at Memphis on Dec. 20, 21, and 23, 1941, was thought to be exceptional. However, we find that Harry C. Monk has recorded the species at Nashville. *Wilson Bulletin* (1924, 36 (3): 138-139). On Dec. 3, near the Centennial Park boathouse at Nashville, he approached to within six feet of one. On Jan. 1, 1924, what was thought to be the same individual was seen near West End and 25th Avenues. Mr. Monk's latest date of normal departure for the species was Oct. 7, the return occurring in late March.—For adjacent areas he supplies the following: Georgia—one in the Athens region, Jan 14, 1923, by Burleigh (1938); one on Jan. 31, 1925, Richmond County (Augusta) by Dr. Irvine Phinizy (Murphy, 1937); by Norman Giles in Piedmont Park, Atlanta, Dec. 31, 1930, and Dec. 22, 1932, one each (Greene, 1933). South Carolina—one in Charleston, Dec. 1, 1906 (Wayne, 1910). Massachusetts—Dec. 5—no data (Forbush, 1929.) New York City Region—2 November records (Griscom, 1923).—A perusal of Christmas census lists recorded since 1925 show no records for the South except for Florida, southern Georgia, and southeastern Texas, included above in the regular winter range. The two exceptions are our current record and one recorded Dec. 28, 1941, at Texarkana, Ark. The remainder of that bird count appears to be in line except for the record of 19 Boat-tailed Grackles. No details are given for the two unusual records.—  
BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

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