

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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# **THE MIGRANT**

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devoted to  
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## SOME WINTER BIRDS OF THE RIVER BOTTOMS

BY ALFRED CLEBSCH

There are some who prefer the shelter of the hillside and the wooded ravine for bird study in winter, but if you can brave the wind, the mud and miles of tramping, try the open fields and river bottomlands. This season again such trips have filled my notebook and certain places stand out for their wealth of material.

Finding a Tree Sparrow in the fields around Marks' Slough as early as November 11 was taken for a good omen and three days later, when we were watching a flock of Horned Larks in the bend of the Cumberland River south of Clarksville, we were thrilled by the rattling call of the Lapland Longspur. How we had searched for these birds since they were here in February, 1940, at the end of the bitter winter! Now a close check showed about 35 of them mingling with about 75 Northern Horned Larks. But a week later, on November 20, only one Longspur could be positively identified, while the flock of Larks was still intact. Since then it, too, has dwindled steadily.

The same dwindling occurred in a flock of Pipits we discovered in this vicinity on October 30. At that time it consisted of 75 to 100 birds; within sixty days it was reduced to 15 according to counts made on several occasions. These Pipits showed a preference for rolling alfalfa fields next to the bottoms, while another group of 10 at the Peterson farm on West Fork Creek on November 21 was in freshly plowed upland. In both places they associated with Killdeer and Horned Larks. The wariness of the Killdeer usually forestalled a close approach.

On November 28, we had 25 or 30 Killdeer in our Pipit field near the Cumberland and noticed among them a bird of at least equal size but of slender build and graceful actions. Dr. Chas. F. Pickering and I are satisfied that this was an Upland Plover although we are aware that the late date is out of line for this species. We had ample light and sufficient opportunity to use our glasses, but could not get close as the bird followed the Killdeers whenever they flew. When the flock settled down it would again feed in their midst.

The bend of the river,—it lies between Cunningham bridge and the old Edmondson Ferry,—is the site that gave us our first Leconte's Sparrow on November 26 of last year. On exactly the same day of this year we found a group (you cannot call it a flock), consisting of about a dozen individuals in what we now look upon as the typical habitat of this species here: a field in open country covered by a mat of dead grasses, often "old witch" grass and red sprangle top, such field bordered or interspersed by stands of Johnson grass. We find the birds are flushed easily enough, make rather long, though feeble flights, and will not refuse cover in woods or bushes when pressed. They often alight on the stems of Johnson grass and look matters over briefly

before ducking under again. A few times their "thin and creaky" voice was heard. They feed under the carpet of matted grass and after they alight in it will fly up only when you are close upon them. They do not run as rapidly under cover as do Savannah Sparrows, which together with Song and Swamp Sparrows share their habitat. The buffy color of their general appearance can be recognized in flight and helps to distinguish them from the Savannah Sparrows. Another discovery at the same site was a Short-eared Owl we encountered on practically every trip made there from middle October through middle of January, the time of this writing. Twice the bird was flushed out of open patches among Johnson grass, several times he was seen hunting over cornfields and upland meadows.

In search of similar settings we travelled on subsequent trips through bottom lands up and down along the Cumberland. Possibly it was the same Short-eared Owl that was seen at a spot seven miles downstream, but due to another large bend the river makes, only two miles overland. Between Marks' Slough and Lock B we found on January 14 other places that looked right for Leconte's Sparrows and, sure enough, we spotted there about a dozen in all. A few were feeding in a five acre plot of old witch grass and cocklebur, some distance from the river, but most of them were in a field three times that size lying along the river, covered a foot deep by second growth Johnson grass mixed with old witch grass and bordered by a rank growth of Johnson grass on the river bank.

Going through this field to kick up Leconte's Sparrows we came upon a roosting spot of the Short-eared Owl, indicated by flattened grass, one or two pellets and some excreta. Following the straight line of a little ridge on which the stand of grasses was somewhat higher and denser, we found over fifteen such spots, the pellets looking fresher as we proceeded. Later in the day the owl was seen just as he alighted in a tree across the river, from where a Red-tailed Hawk promptly dislodged him to take up his own perch. The distance from the site near town is here too long to conclude that we had the same bird before us.

In the fields around Marks' Slough we found hemp grown this year for the first time. As it is raised for its fibre, there is no interference with man's interests when birds find the seed very palatable and are much attracted to the fields during the fall. Some of the cut plants were left in shocks till winter and finches and sparrows of many sorts had a picnic under them, finding both food and shelter under one roof. A small amount of collecting was done on the trips mentioned and an interesting observation was that while birds taken during October and November showed very little fat, thick layers had been put on by the end of the year. This applied particularly to the sparrows that we can safely look upon as stable winter residents. The weather has been cold at times but not of a kind to put hardships on birds.

But I am drawn back to that bend of the river above town that has held so much in store for us already. We know there are some matters we haven't solved yet. Did the Lapland Longspurs go farther south and will they show up again at the end of winter? What Hawk was it that flew up from the bare ground where arriving we found the remains of a Horned Lark, another time those of a Meadowlark, showing nothing left but tail and wing feathers bitten off clean? And what about the memorandum we made about the large bird



that came out of the Johnson grass, was surrounded by Crows and went higher and higher with them till the entire group went out of sight in the far distance? Was that our Short-eared Owl?

Other raptors are of course expected when not only bird life is abundant but also small rodents are unusually plentiful, be this due to a dry season or to corn left in the fields; (a summer drouth had stunted the corn crop in many bottoms and farmers are short of help). On November 14 I picked up by the side of the old Edmondson Ferry road where it enters the lowland, a Red-shouldered Hawk that had been shot and killed by someone else a short while before I came along. The bird was very fat and the contents of its crop proved once more that they are not an enemy of other birds. They consisted of a small snake, a large grasshopper and several salamanders, which it had doubtless captured in the shallow water of a slough.

This winter the bottoms being dry and passable, has been a help in our studies. Should they turn wet and soggy, their fascination will not cease. Soon will be the time to see Snipe and Pintail, and some day a Bald Eagle may heave into sight. They are the best place to find the unexpected.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., January, 1944.

## NOTES ON FLICKER LIFE HISTORY

By AMELIA R. LASKEY

On June 10, 1943, a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) just off the nest was brought to me, presumably about four weeks old. As it made no effort to fly and its parents could not be located, I decided to try to raise it. It was identified as a male as it had considerable red on its crown and later, it did not molt the "mustache" stripes from the base of the bill. Although I have not been able to find any reference to white-tipped bills on juvenile Flickers, this bird had a white tip, slightly over a millimeter in length, on his upper mandible which became dark within a few days. My bird would not open his beak for a feeding and when offered food, which included tiny ants, would swing his bill into it in such a manner as to scatter it. So he was force-fed a moist mixture of pablum, egg, brewer's yeast and bits of raw beef which he swallowed readily after his beak had been pried open and food poked inside. On the second day, he lapped some liquid food with his tongue, each swallow accompanied by a sort of hiccup. This was such a lengthy process that I did not try that way again. On the sixth day, he suddenly recognized me as his foster parent by giving the chattering begging notes and pecking the food from a little stick with which he had been fed. He ate a bountiful meal and while doing so, kept up the continuous "uh-uh," punctuated with a louder and shrill "ah" as they do when attended by a parent. From his arrival, he had given the loud "pe-ap" call which seemed to be his way of announcing hunger, for it was always given sometime after a feeding. Later, when free flying, he used it to announce his readiness for a meal.

As soon as he took food from me, he was placed in the large flying cage and I fed him through the wire mesh instead of holding him, hoping to keep him wild. He ate the pablum mixture from a dish on the ground but never took any suet from the crevice in his log. He pecked the log and used it to

wipe his beak. Flickers in the garden use much suet and apparently feed it to their young.

"Wickie," as I called him, took his first bath on the third day after his arrival. When free (August 26) he was seen taking a lengthy bath in a puddle under the water spray. Dr. Jesse M. Shaver of Nashville in "Bird Notes From a Sick Room" (1939, *MIGRANT* 10:65-67) says: "Two Flickers visited the yard to feed on ants in the driveway and to drink in the bathing fountain. However, they were never observed to take a bath. Is it possible that Flickers never take baths?" He had stated that June, July, and August were unusually cool that summer (1939) while 1943 when my observations were made, was a record breaking summer for consistently high temperatures. Miss A. R. Sherman, who was a close observer of Flickers for many years at her home in Iowa, found a different reaction to water (1910 *Wilson Bull.* 72-73:135-171). She states: "Flickers, like other members of the Woodpecker family, have little use for water. During many hours, all of which taken together would amount to weeks, I have watched from a blind, a pool of water much frequented by birds for drinking and bathing purposes. Near it stands the dead willow visited daily by Redheaded Woodpeckers and Flickers. There the former have never been seen to drink and the latter on two occasions only. The first time it was the old male who backed down on a fence post to the water and drank while clinging to the post" (p. 165).

"Wickie" was released from the flying cage, when about two months old, July 14. His first drumming had been heard four days previously. Three days after his release, I watched him take a prolonged dust bath in my vegetable garden around 7:30 P.M. (CWT). In a freshly cultivated bed, he squatted, pecked in the pulverized earth and, lowering his head sideways, pushed it along the ground from tip of beak to back of head. First he rubbed the right side of the head, then the left, raising dust in the operation. Simultaneously, the feathers of the body and wings were fluffed and wings extended to receive a thorough dusting. The performance was repeated several times before he moved to another spot and started over again. Miss Sherman mentions dust bathing as a common occurrence just before going to roost. She says: "Four or five of a family disport themselves in a bed of dust with evidently as much enjoyment as a duck finds in water" (1910, 165).

It was indeed surprising how "Wickie" continued to come for food although he foraged in the adjoining thicket and elsewhere about the place. His loud "pe-ap" announced his arrival and if no food was forthcoming immediately, he circled about me as I worked or walked in the garden. If I was indoors, he came to the windows, the porch, or anywhere he heard my voice. My answering "Wickie" to his call elicited the softer "uh-uh" of fledgling Flickers. He was unusually wary of other people and would not answer their calls or come near. There was one exception, a part-time colored maid who had fed him when it was necessary for me to be away from home.

At first, he always flew to a certain tree trunk when he saw me approach with the food dish, then backed down to the level of my hand; later, he would land on the ground, hop up the steps, or to any spot where I sat. Still later, he preferred to come to the house, landing on any window sill near me and wait for a feeding. Then he acquired the habit of coming to the peak of the porch where he could see indoors, fly to the brick wall of the house, back down

to the sill of a triple window and hop to the third window where I pushed the screen out for him to come for the food in my hand. His beak was often soiled from digging in the ground and his droppings indicated he fed on hackberries which were green at that season. Once he ejected an undigested hackberry from his mouth as he started to eat from the dish.

There were two young Flickers about his age or slightly older frequenting the garden and which were seen in late July in many of the peculiar performances of their kind that are observed often in the spring—the bobbing, swaying, and calling as they faced each other on limbs, one a little higher with bill pointed downward and the lower one pointing up. On July 23rd, seeing one of the Flickers, "Wickie" flew to a limb near it, began the "wicka" song with swaying head. But the other ignored him and flew, which caused "Wickie" to stop his performance at once.

Had he been with a parent, he probably would have been chastised at this age if still begging to be fed. In the latter half of June, I had seen the mother of the two youngsters strike her young repeatedly on the head with her bill as they begged vociferously from her at the suet. On June 19th the blows were given as they clung to the tree trunk and suet feeder; the following week, the act was observed twice; one time she descended to the ground, where they were squawking, to strike them. On June 28th, although a youngster still followed her, she ignored it; while she was busily wiping her beak on the tree after a lengthy feeding, it pecked suet in a desultory way until she left, when it flew after her.

When following me about the garden, "Wickie" often acted as if about to land on head or shoulders but veered away. If the food dish was in hand, he might land on it. During August he acquired some different tactics. At the end of a feeding, he pecked between my fingers, hopped from the ground to my hand, pecked more, then "walked" up my arm, taking off from there and chattering all the time. At that time he showed dominance over the food, displaying fearlessness in driving off pullets several months old and many times his size. A hand-raised Robin tried several times to get a feeding at the same time as "Wickie." But the latter would lunge at him and if the Robin would not leave, "Wickie" would start toward him as if to attack. The Robin was not intimidated at first but would retaliate by going through fighting motions, spreading wings, opening beak, and hopping at the Flicker. However, "Wickie" disdained to fight the smaller bird but effectually stopped his coming by grabbing the Robin's beak in his and holding it until I separated the two. After several such encounters, the Robin begged for food when the Flicker was absent.

"Wickie" was wary of overhead noises. Many times, as he was hopping to me for a feeding, he paused at the sound of the motors of a passing bomber, turned his head sideways to look into the sky before proceeding with his meal.

Although he dropped two retrices in the flying cage, the molt became noticeable by August 20 about the head, neck, breast, and at the rump. In a few days, the buffy plumage of his back was being replaced by the olive brown feathers of his first winter plumage.

In September his visits were further apart and occasionally he would not appear for a day or two. In mid-September, he liked to drum from the peak of the house and sometimes he seemed to be doing it for my benefit. After a



feeding he would fly there, roll out a lengthy tattoo and look at me each time before giving the next roll. He also used the loud "cuh-cuh" call from the roof at this period.

In late September he had lost the last red feather from his crown. His breast, throat and a line from the base of the bill over the eye were of a lovely pinkish buff color and only a few spots of buffy juvenal feathers remained on his sleek back.

His last visit to me for food occurred on the evening of October 3rd when he showed much wariness and hesitancy in approaching me along the window sill. On October 6th he entered a water drip trap and upon removal, was weighed. His weight at 10 A.M. was 139.4 grams; his wing measured 155 mm. This was the first time I had handled him in many weeks except for September 17th when I removed the head of a larval insect from the rim of his eye. He struggled continually and when released, would not answer from the tree trunk. He came to trees near the house on the evening of October 10th, called "pe-ap," answered my call with "uh-uh" but did not come for the food I offered. He was identified by his left-banded tarsus in late October near the house, but he did not answer or come to me. He was now a grown up Flicker who had no desire for baby food.

#### SUMMARY

A Flicker was hand-raised from June 10 when just off nest. He was forced until June 16, when he started taking food from my hand, giving typical begging calls. He was released July 14. His first bath was taken June 13 and a lengthy one under the spray August 26; a dust bath on the evening of July 17. The adult "pe-ap" call was used from the first day as a food call. First drumming occurred July 10; "wicka" call given July 23 with swaying head, facing another Flicker in a tree. In August, he displayed dominance at the food. In mid-September he drummed from roof of house, also sang "cuh-cuh" song rapidly. By late September, his fall plumage was apparently complete except a few feathers on his back. October 6, when trapped, he weighed 139.4 grams; his wing measured 155 mm. Until October 10, he came to the house for food, using the baby food chatter, although he had been eating hackberries and digging in the ground since July. He was identified later but showed no interest in me or the food offered.

GRAYBAR LANE, NASHVILLE 4, TENN.

### PHOEBE TUNNEL

BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

All students of bird life can usually enjoy the most routine trips afield. But what trips are really routine? Perhaps around the corner is the chance of seeing a new bird or if the life list is a comprehensive one, there is the possibility of adding another record of a rare species. The more remote the chance the greater the thrill on the occasion. And always there is the return of old favorites with the renewal of the seasons. In the South we have an always changing panorama and are even spared bleakness and paucity of bird life in the winter. We get quite a thrill out of seeing a rare avian visitor in our own haunts or an unfamiliar, and, to us, exotic species, in distant parts. These memories are carried with us long.

One of the writer's biggest thrills came on the unexpected finding of the nest of a Phoebe, generally a common and familiar species, with its place in story and legend. In the Mid-South it is a rare winter resident, uncommon

transient, and is not present in summer from about Memphis southward. The only Mississippi nesting record until recently was that of Andrew A. Allison in the spring of 1904, in Tishomingo County. Most of that state does not offer such possibilities of typical nesting situations as his northeast corner, bordering Tennessee on the north and Alabama on the east. The low hills are in a large part underlaid by limestones and a few overhanging ledges of this material offered about the only natural nesting sites in the State. We made several trips in the spring, down Bear Creek, Yellow Creek, and others, but saw no Phoebes. Since about 1938, Pickwick Lake has backed its waters up these narrow valleys and the ledges are inundated. Over a wider area, new concrete highway bridges now offer the Phoebe perhaps better sites.

Andrew A. Allison was a diligent and outstanding field ornithologist and, alone or in collaboration with others, published in *The Auk* (1906-07) many notes from South Mississippi and Louisiana. Inasmuch as the writer, in these more recent years, was attracted to Northeast Mississippi to note what differences existed, so also perhaps was Allison moved to visit Tishomingo County for the contrast it might offer to the South Mississippi areas he regularly studied. So in the spring of 1904 he journeyed thence and made his headquarters at a farmhouse about six miles northeast of Iuka. The list of birds observed from April 17 to May 17, 1904, was published in *The Auk* for January, 1907. His account of his stay also includes an interesting account of the topography, a detailed description of the flora, and incidental observation of mammals and reptiles.

We would expect to hear much more from this enthusiastic and painstaking naturalist, but do not. The explanation is found in "Plants of Mississippi" by E. N. Lowe (Bulletin No. 17, Mississippi State Geological Survey, February, 1921). In the preface we find ". . . the gift [to the Geological Survey] of about 450 species from Mr. Andrew Allison, an excellent field botanist who collected mainly in two counties—Tishomingo and Hancock. Unfortunately for botanical science, Mr. Allison left the state several years ago to take up missionary work in China. On his return, on vacation, in 1918, Mr. Allison very kindly presented to the Geological Survey Herbarium his beautiful collection."

Of the Phoebe during his stay, Mr. Allison writes: "I thought I heard one of these birds on April 18, and later on I discovered it to be a rare breeder. In the tunnel I have before referred to, cut in the rotten limestone of a steep hillside, I found a nest perched on a narrow ledge about six feet up. It was composed externally of green moss, and contained four young a few days old; they were silent, unemotional little creatures, and made no demonstration when I took the nest down to see them more closely, or when I replaced it. The mother waited outside the tunnel, calling frequently. It struck me as singularly appropriate that the first rocky cave I had entered in Mississippi should hold a Phoebe's nest; for in less typical situations we have never noted the bird except as a winter resident. This was on April 27; the next day I found an old nest probably of the same pair, since I saw no others—in an abandoned cabin near the cave."

The tunnel referred to is mentioned previously in his description of the topography. "In a hillside rising immediately beyond a most precipitous descent, is the main opening to a 'silica' mine (so-called by the natives) which was abandoned because of the fatality among laborers working up the material—though the miners themselves were not affected. The walls of the cave

are of an amorphous, softish chalky material, now damp and covered in many places with slime and moss. The whole hill appears to be of this material, and so do many others near by. The main tunnel is a hundred yards long."

On one or two spring trips when one of our special objectives was a Phoebe nesting record, the writer inquired at Iuka concerning this "silica mine" but no one knew of it. On July 4, 1938, just after examining a used Phoebe nest of the season at Tishomingo State Park (THE MIGRANT, 1939, pp. 52-53), I drove back to Iuka and decided the best chance was to drive out the Eastport road where the mine should have been and inquire in the vicinity. At our first stop, an elderly lady stated that her husband had died from working in the mine, and directed us down the road to the farm of Mr. Walter Lee Goodman. We found the latter at home and he cordially volunteered to guide us to the old mine. When we explained our interest in seeing the place, Mr. Goodman informed us that Andrew Allison had spent his month at that residence while he carried on his field work in that general vicinity.

Mr. Goodman, Rover Scouts Bob Shaffer and Bobby Hunt, and myself, hiked east into the hills about a mile, leaving trails behind. Going down one particular ravine our guide brought us to an opening in the side of a hill. This hole was just large enough to allow entrance with only a slight stoop. We had hoped to see Phoebes remaining in the vicinity—the date, July 4, was thought late for nesting. Not seeing any we ducked into the tunnel to look for possible old nests. After our eyes became accustomed to the partial darkness we turned the flashlight beam on the walls. At one spot, about ten feet inside the mine, we found the remains and other indications of several nests of past seasons. Just as we were turning away, the beam picked up a complete nest, with four young about a week old! After everyone had a good look we continued our examination of the surroundings and made a quick exploration of the several short tunnels comprising the mine.

On emerging into the daylight we heard, then saw one of the parents in a nearby tree. Later the second adult appeared and to ease the anxiety of the pair, we moved away from the entrance. But they had a special significance to me and this late nest inside a hillside tunnel was a real thrill. To visit this spot, 34 years after another bird lover had visited it, and to find the same species still nesting there was more than a coincidence. Perhaps it was indicative of the universality of bird study and bird students over time and space.

Coincidentally, although of interest only to the writer, Allison found his nestful of Phoebes on April 27, 1904, one day before the birth of the writer at Nashville. Until 1902, Iuka was the home of the writer's mother, but most visits there have been since 1933 and with an ornithological objective.

We returned to the tunnel May 19, 1940, but found only indications of past nests. Needless to say we look forward to re-visiting this spot when peaceful interests are again in order.

EPILOGUE: In the *Memphis Press-Scimitar* of October 14, 1943, a news item listed for the first time the names of a large group of American citizens being repatriated from Japanese dominated areas. These included businessmen, missionaries, and diplomats. In the list we noted:

Andrew A. Allison.....Ellisville, Miss.  
Ella W. Allison.....Ellisville, Miss.

FT. SILL, OKLA., December 31, 1943.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

THE MIGRANT presents below, its 15th annual census of the mid-winter birds of Tennessee. An additional list is given for an area in Mississippi, at Oxford, which is 45 miles south of the Tennessee line. Taken at the time of the winter solstice—when our days are shortest—it represents the time of greatest scarcity in birdlife, yet the usual varied and abundant food supply enabled our members to record 99 species within the State. (The Mississippi list increases the total to 101.) The Tennessee total compares with 108 last year, and 94, 93 and 96, prior to that. The number of observers making the 10 lists dropped from 107 in 1942 to 73 in 1943, and the coverage was less also, due to wartime absences and drastic gas rationing. The Short-billed Marsh Wren appears on the Tennessee list for the first time. Only species are listed although several races (sub-species) of a number of these are known to be present. Thus, in the high Smokies, Black-capped as well as Carolina Chickadees and also Carolina Juncos were identified with certainty; both Bronzed and Purple Grackles were doubtless listed, etc., etc. A moderate, "open" winter through December, caused Robins and Grackles to remain in greater than usual numbers.

	Gt. Smokies Dec. 19	Greeneville Dec. 20	Nashville Dec. 26	Clarksville Dec. 19	Clarksville Dec. 26	Clarksville Jan. 1	Henderson Jan. 3 and 4	Memphis Dec. 19	Memphis Dec. 25	Oxford, Miss. Dec. 31
Number of Species.....	47	39	70	45	51	46	52	63	63	65
Number of Individuals.....	1,736	743	20,815	686	848	485	1,387	19,220	839	1,871
Number of Observers.....	24	1	16	3	3	3	1	20	1	1
Pied-billed Grebe.....	---	---	1	---	---	---	3	---	---	---
Double-crested Cormorant.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	300	2	---
Great Blue Heron.....	---	---	1	---	1	---	1	---	---	6
Canada Goose.....	---	---	---	14	---	---	---	35	---	---
Lesser Snow Goose.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6	---	---
Blue Goose.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	19	---	---
Common Mallard.....	---	---	80	2	3	10	6	75	---	100
Black Duck.....	---	---	9	---	---	---	---	---	---	20
Gadwall.....	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Pintail.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	10	---	200
Green-winged Teal.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---
Wood Duck.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1
Redhead.....	---	---	---	---	---	5	---	---	---	---
King-necked Duck.....	---	---	63	---	30	50	21	---	---	30
Canvasback.....	---	---	6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lesser Scaup.....	---	---	30	---	---	---	---	20	8	5
Bufflehead.....	---	---	5	---	---	---	---	1	---	---
Old Squaw.....	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---
Buddy Duck.....	---	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hooded Merganser.....	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Amer. Merganser.....	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Turkey Vulture.....	2	11	---	4	---	---	18	4	2	15
Black Vulture.....	---	14	---	2	---	---	11	13	---	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---
Cooper's Hawk.....	---	---	3	1	---	---	1	1	2	---
Red-tailed Hawk.....	---	---	7	1	3	1	---	10	5	---
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	---	---	2	1	---	---	6	8	1	2
Marsh Hawk.....	1	1	2	1	3	---	2	6	3	1
Sparrow Hawk.....	2	2	20	1	2	1	2	17	3	---
Ruffed Grouse.....	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Bob-white.....	29	15	20	---	16	1	2	11	15	1

	Gt. Smokies Dec. 19	Greenville Dec. 20	Nashville Dec. 26	Clarksville Dec. 19	Clarksville Dec. 26	Clarksville Jan. 1	Henderson Jan. 3 and 4	Memphis Dec. 19	Memphis Dec. 25	Oxford, Miss. Dec. 31
Wild Turkey	1									
Coot			40					6		
Killdeer		1	80	8	2			22	4	7
Wilson's Snipe			12		1	2				3
Herring Gull									3	
Ring-billed Gull								125	4	
Mourning Dove	5	137	39	38	32		18	27	8	80
Barn Owl		1	2							
Screech Owl			1							
Great Horned Owl			2				1			1
Barred Owl			1	1				3	2	1
Short-eared Owl						1				
Belted Kingfisher	6		5	1	1	1	1	3	1	
Flicker		3	66	13	12	6	19	78	10	20
Pileated Woodpecker	6	1	15	3	4	1	3		3	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker		6	41	2	6	2	16	28	8	16
Red-headed Woodpecker			1		2	1		5	2	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		30		4	1	3	14	5	4
Hairy Woodpecker	6		10	1		1	2	3	1	4
Downy Woodpecker	26	7	35	12	5	4	5	26	3	7
Northern Raven	5									
Phoebe	1					1	1			2
Blue Jay	5	15	53	5	10	10	41	266	14	32
Horned Lark		16	225	2	60	25				7
Crow	157	186	138	15	37	48	63	183	6	21
Chickadee	144	12	124	13	10	3	18	111	8	14
Tufted Titmouse	23	16	71	10	18	8	30	126	12	21
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	4	1		7	1	2		3	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3									2
Brown Creeper	5		14					5	5	1
Winter Wren	13		2	1		3		4	3	7
Bewick's Wren	1	1	3		2				2	3
Carolina Wren	18	22	52	13	12	8	12	92	6	8
Short-billed Marsh Wren					2	1				1
Mockingbird	6	10	85	5	14	5	10	113	7	11
Brown Thrasher							5	8	4	2
Robin	9		407	74	7	8	38	2,167	30	4
Hermit Thrush	6		8		2		7	20	5	3
Bluebird	22		140	15	8	6	18	20	8	21
Golden-crown Kinglet	26	5	7		2			76	6	15
Ruby-crown Kinglet	1	1						6	2	2
American Pipit					15	15				
Cedar Waxwing			13	25	6			34	25	12
Migrant Shrike	3	1	1	1			2	24	4	7
Starling	37	44	17,500	107	150	100	12	960	100	50
Myrtle Warbler		6	8	3	2	2	5	231	8	20
Pine Warbler										3
Palm Warbler			1							
English Sparrow	121	35	135	8	26	20	104	170	20	40
Meadowlark	12	36	52	47	47	30	11	330	50	82
Redwing Blackbird		1		13	13		40	4	25	500
Rusty Blackbird							217		3	35
Bronzed Grackle			100				200	1,346	75	10
Cowbird		9	2				1		6	
Blackbirds (unidentified)								10,000		
Cardinal	123	19	214	45	58	12	49	327	17	33
Purple Finch	3	1	5					11	11	14
Pine Siskin	90		2							
Goldfinch	74	17	49	10	9	6	23	51	8	44
Red-eyed Towhee	5	2	82	24	6	3	26	26	9	16
Savannah Sparrow					2	1		8	18	19
Leconte's Sparrow					5	5			6	
Vesper Sparrow									5	
Junco, Slate-col.	314	45	433	54	90	40	93	610	65	67
Tree Sparrow					10	3				
Field Sparrow	163	14	68	28	4	1	44	154	75	82
White-crown Sparrow		6	33	4	17	2		16	14	
White-throat Sparrow	72	8	150	24	31	8	75	666	50	70
Fox Sparrow			1	9	3		4	77	4	11
Swamp Sparrow	4		3	14	20	13	28	13	8	15
Song Sparrow	130	12	171	13	14	23	63	88	20	40



## NOTES ON THE CENSUS

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS PARK: Seen on other dates than census, were Chipping Sparrow on Dec. 16, and Great Horned Owl on Dec. 20, both near Gatlinburg.—GREENEVILLE: The Purple Finch was with a flock of Goldfinches. Seen on other dates than the census, were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, on Dec. 21, and Screech Owl 1, on Dec. 22.—NASHVILLE: Nearly all of the water birds were found on the 75-acre Radnor Lake which is situated in the hills. The Barn Owls were in the hollow nesting tree on Woodmont Blvd., but were not breeding. The 2 Pine Siskins were in a Goldfinch flock. Of Grackles, about 4,000 were seen in river bottoms a week before, i.e., Dec. 19. Seen on other dates than on census were Black Vulture 2 and Amer. Herring Gull 1, both on Dec. 19. Most conspicuous omissions from the list were Black and Turkey Vultures, Phoebe, Savannah Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird.—CLARKSVILLE: Bottomlands and sloughs being unusually dry explains the absence of Rusty Blackbirds and the small number of ducks along the Cumberland. The Migrant Shrike on the way to Marks' Slough was quite unexpected as none had ever been seen there before; it was perched atop a snag close to Coke's Creek, a place always teeming with small birds. The Canada Geese were seen also by other observers here, close to our date. The female Old Squaw Duck, seen with Scaups, etc., on Dunbar Cave Lake Jan. 1, was our first Montgomery County record. Herring Gulls were seen on the river just before and just after Dec. 19, while on Dec. 7, 17 of them were counted there. The Leconte's Sparrow, Amer. Pipits and Short-billed Marsh Wrens are discussed elsewhere in this issue.—MEMPHIS: On Dec. 19, a large hawk believed to be an Amer. Rough-legged, was observed and reported by Brother I. Vincent; however, visibility was not sufficient to warrant including it with the others. On the list of Dec. 25, see notes in Round Table section, by Burdick, on Vesper and Leconte's Sparrows.—OXFORD, MISS.: The Marsh Wren had been present since November; heard singing on day of the census. Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebe and Ring-billed Gulls, were known to be present on the extensive Sardis Reservoir but could not be certainly identified with glasses available. See Round Table for other notes.

## LOCALITIES, WEATHER, AND PERSONNEL

GREAT SMOKY MTNS. NAT. PARK, TENN.: Dec. 19, 1943. Same area as in past 6 years; circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. Leconte; including a section of the Tenn.-N. Carolina divide from Clingman's Dome to The Sawteeth; towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. Spruce-fir forests 25%, stream courses 20%, deciduous forests 15%, abandoned fields 15%, open farm land 10%, towns and suburbs 10% and pine forests 5%. Weather fair, temp. 15 to 55 F.; wind variable, 1 to 12 m.p.h.; ground bare; streams frozen over in mountains, open in lowlands. Altitude range 1,200 to 6,300 feet. Hours afield, 50; total miles (on foot) 65. Seven parties included the following 24 observers: Claire Barrett, James Baumgartner, Jr., Mary Ruth Chiles, Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Goodhue, Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Hyder, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Isenberg, Elizabeth Johnson, James Johnson, Robert Johnson, W. M. Johnson, Emerson Kemsies, Dr. Henry Meyer, Robert Monroe, Elise Morrell, Capt. and Mrs. P. E. O'Meara, W. F. Pearson, Chester M. Shaffer, Arthur Stupka, Dr. Dorothy E. Williams, Paul Yambert.—GREENEVILLE: Dec. 20. Area along Roaring Fork and Lick Creek, Bays Mountain. Wooded 65%, pasture land 35%. Weather fair; temp. 32-40;

wind W., 8-12 m.p.h. Snow patches on ground; creeks frozen in places. Hours 8. Miles 6. One observer, Ruth Reed Nevius.—NASHVILLE: Dec. 26. Environs of city, including Overton Hills Forest, Radnor Lake, Glendale, Hobbs to Tyne Roads, both Warner Parks, Bellemeade, Westmeade, Hillwood, and Cumberland River bottoms to 3 miles above Shelby Park. Open farm lands 25%, town suburbs 6%, wooded pastures 24%, wooded hills 20%, river bank 12%, lake and its shore 12% of the 49 party hours. Overcast and threatening; visibility fair; temp. 41 to 44; no wind; ground bare and very wet. Birds active following cold wave. Total party hours 49. Miles, 36 on foot and 15 in cars. Seven parties consisting of these 16 observers: B. H. Abernathy, Katherine Anderson, Paul Bryant, Cadet Harold Ferris, Spencer Ferris, A. F. Ganier, Robert Hawkins, Conrad Jamison, Mrs. Amelia Laskey, D. Lehrman, G. R. Mayfield, Peter Mattli, Lieut. H. C. Monk, William Simpson, Cadet Palmer Skaar, and W. R. Spofford.—CLARKSVILLE: Dec. 19; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. City limits to Marks' Slough in Cumberland River bottoms; returning via golf links, Hiatt's gardens, Robin's swamp, McAdoo Creek, etc. Wind slight. Clear in a.m., cloudy in p.m. Three observers together, Dr. R. E. Shanks, Edward and Alfred Clebsch, Sr.—CLARKSVILLE: Dec. 27; 8:30 to 12 and 1:30 to 4:30. Dunbar's Cave and Lake and adjacent marsh, also Bell farm near St. Bethlehem, in a.m. In p.m. worked Cumberland River bottoms to Edmondson ferry. Foggy and overcast; temp. around 37. Three observers, C. F. Pickering, Edward and Alfred Clebsch, Sr.—CLARKSVILLE: Jan. 1, 1944; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Same route as on Dec. 27, omitting Bell farm. Clear in a.m., cloudy in p.m. Temp. 32-42. Three observers together, A. F. Ganier, Edward and Alfred Clebsch, Sr.—HENDERSON: Jan. 3 (1:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and Jan. 4 (8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.). Henderson to Chickasaw Park, Lakes Placid and LaJoie, Forked Deer river bottoms to Talley's store and adjoining fields. Weather mostly cloudy; temp. 38-46. Thirty-nine miles by car and 6 on foot. One observer, Robert L. Witt (Freed-Hardeman College).—MEMPHIS: Dec. 19. Same area as covered in 1942 and consisting of city suburbs 10%, open pasture and farm lands 15%, deciduous woodlots mostly in bottom lands 65% and rivers 10%. Clear to slightly overcast; temp. 25 to 56; little or no wind. Ground and small streams frozen in a.m. Hours, 36 on foot, 7 in car, 12 in boat. Miles, 53 on foot, 45 in cars, and 12 in boat. Seven parties consisting of these 20 observers: Pat Bohan, Mrs. Irene Daniels, Mary Davant, Newton Hanson, Pauline James, Luther Keaton, Lawrence Kent, Dr. Louis Leroy, Mary Mason, Jennie May, Caroline May, Dr. C. E. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Schwartz, Merrill Schwartz, Jr., Alice Smith, Charles Stellmaker, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Maurice Torti and Brother I. Vincent.—MEMPHIS: Dec. 25; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. City waterfront (Mississippi River) eastward to Terry's Crest on Park Avenue. 20 miles by car and 5 on foot. Light rain all day; strong wind; temp. 31-35 degrees. One observer, Austin W. Burdick (La. State Univ.).—OXFORD, MISS.: Dec. 31; 6:40 to 11:30 a.m.; 12:10 to 6:15 p.m. Territory just east of town in a.m.; in p.m. at Sardis reservoir west of town. Total hours 11; miles afoot 13; miles by bicycle 12. Weather clear, temp. 30-50 degrees. One observer, Henry Stevenson (Univ. of Mississippi).

## THE ROUND TABLE

NOTES FROM THE MEMPHIS REGION: The writer was again fortunate enough to spend a few days leave in the Memphis area. I was afield there for a week beginning December 4, and also on Dec. 24 and 25. Though very little territory was actually covered, several interesting birds were recorded. —On Dec. 4, a large flock of Vesper Sparrows was found in a burned-over field and they were seen daily thereafter until I left on Dec. 11. They were found to be still present on Dec. 24 and 25.—Leconte's Sparrows were unusually common with as high as 14 being flushed from one small plot of broom-sedge, on Dec. 7. On Dec. 25, I was able to find 6 for my census list. —Several Brewer's Blackbirds were seen on Dec. 11 amongst a large flock of Grackles and Redwings. Since I understand no specimen of this western species has as yet been taken in Tennessee, I endeavored to collect one but was unsuccessful.—A small flock of Horned Larks was found on Dec. 4.—A Western Meadowlark, taken on Dec. 11, and which I have mentioned in another note, constitutes the first Tennessee record.—AUSTIN W. BURDICK, Box 7126, La. State Univ., Baton Rouge, La.

A WESTERN MEADOWLARK IN TENNESSEE: My first acquaintance with the Western Meadowlark out of its normal range, occurred 30 miles south of Memphis near Lula, Miss., on Dec. 29, 1940 (THE MIGRANT, 1941, p. 16). This considerably encouraged my faint hopes that maybe I would be able to add this species to the Tennessee list if more careful attention were given to the large wintering flocks of Meadowlarks about Memphis. Since that time, I have had many opportunities to study the western bird in its normal range and to learn the characters which so readily distinguish it from the eastern species. A specimen which I took at Baton Rouge, La., still further whetted my desire to find one of the birds in Tennessee.

On Dec. 8, 1943, near Germantown, Tenn. (15 miles east of Memphis), I heard a distinctive clucking note which I was sure could be made only by a Western Meadowlark. As there were about fifty Meadowlarks in the immediate vicinity, I could not tell which of them had given the note. Finally, one flew to a small tree and again I heard the note. By no means certain that this was the one I had heard, I decided to collect it nevertheless. My luck failed me, for what I secured proved to be an Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). Following the flock further, I did not hear the western bird again. Three days later, however, on Dec. 11, I again heard the characteristic "clucking" in the same field. After some stalking, I located the pale-plumaged bird for which I had been looking and succeeded in collecting it. It proved to be a Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) as I had expected; a male and in excellent plumage. The specimen has been deposited in the L. S. U. Museum of Zoology.—AUSTIN W. BURDICK, Box 7126, La. State Univ., Baton Rouge, La.

THICK-BILLED REDWING AT REELFOOT LAKE: Among a lot of bird skins sent to Dr. Alex Wetmore for subspecific determination, was one which he has identified as the Thick-billed Redwing (*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*). This race was not included in my checklist of the birds of Tennessee (1933) for the reason that its far northwestern breeding range would apparently make it an unlikely winter visitant. The specimen, a male, was collected

by me on November 15, 1915, from a flock enroute to their roost at dusk. Among the Tennessee specimens collected in 1937 by the U. S. National Museum, are two which were identified by Dr. Wetmore as the Giant Redwing (*A. p. arctolegus*), the breeding race of the Dakota region. One was taken near Memphis on April 17 and the other near Reelfoot Lake on Oct. 20; both were females. The breeding form throughout the State is the Eastern Redwing (*A. p. phoeniceus*).—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

**WINTER MOVEMENTS OF STARLINGS:** The June, 1943, issue of *Inland Bird-banding News* gives two recoveries of Starlings of more than local interest. These birds were banded at Columbus, Ohio, by Wm. E. Schantz on Dec. 31, 1939. Ten days later, one of them was shot at Franklin, Tenn., and 20 days later (Jan. 20) another was taken at Mt. Juliet, Tenn., which is 30 miles east. These recoveries prove that Starling migration is not confined to the regular migration season. Another interesting return was that of a Grackle banded by Mr. Schantz on March 1, 1937, and which was recovered at Lobelville on August 14, the same year.—BEN B. COFFEY, Fort Sill, Okla.

**A CATBIRD IN MID-WINTER:** Late in the afternoon of January 16, 1943, Vincent P. McLaughlin, Jr., who had come in from Camp Campbell, accompanied me on a short stroll under Porter's Bluff on Red River. The weather was balmy and brilliant cloud formations graced the sky; one of those summer days in winter. Tree Sparrows' merry tinkling was heard as they clung to the stalks of sedge grass and Winter Wrens acted like busy little gnomes among moss, roots and rocks. At twilight we were about to leave when the energetic scolding of a Catbird stopped us. It came from a clump of elder,—no berries there now, Catbird!—about a hundred yards off and we went there carefully so we could support by a sight record what our ears had already told us for certain. Enough light was left and we saw the bird plainly as he hopped through the branches still scolding. Then he slipped down under the thick cover of fall asters, now brown and sere. From his size, vigor and sleek plumage—the under tail coverts reached well back and the tail was not a bit frazzled,—we judged this to be a normal and healthy individual. During the next ten days I looked for him a number of times, but although we had more mild days, I did not see him again. In the fall Catbirds like this place and stay on there till the very last, gorging themselves on pokeberries, but they are very shy and quiet. October 31 is the latest I have seen them. Through the Atlantic states, up north as far as Massachusetts, winter records of the Catbird are not rare, but as far as I can learn, this is the first one published for this section.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

**SHORT-BILLED MARSH WRENS WINTERING:** During our winter census on December 27 I covered the marsh that lies below Dunbar Cave Lake and in front of Idaho Springs Hotel. A mouse-like flitting in a thin stand of cattail at the edge of the marsh brought me to a halt and soon I was being inspected by a Short-billed Marsh Wren, an attention I returned with interest. The bird was familiar to me from an invasion we had at this very site in the late summer of 1936 (see *THE MIGRANT*, Sept. 1936, p. 70). They were recorded then as late as November 4 and I had an uncertain December record for that year. My bird came within ten feet of me and could be observed in every detail for fully two minutes. A second individual was found a little

further on and I could call Dr. Pickering and my son, Eddy, to share the view. This bird, too, came towards us traveling through the tops of the matted dead grasses and was once within five feet of Eddy. The tell-tale "pebbly" chink was heard only once. When the bird had seen enough of us, he moved on leisurely, mostly hopping or fitting, only occasionally trusting himself to his weak wings. He seemed to like the lower part of willow bushes where he stopped to do some feeding.

The news of our find brought Mr. Ganier to Clarksville on January 1. The swamp gave frozen footing and we worked it thoroughly. While frost was on the dead vegetation, nothing stirred, but later we heard the call of our bird in the place he favored and the maneuver of approach, inspection and retreat was gone through as scheduled. We concluded that at the best but very few individuals were present. Unfortunately there is no other swamp like this one in easy reach for us. On January 12, we visited a strip of cattail bordering a small over-cup oak swamp across the Cumberland from New Providence, where we had seen a Short-billed Marsh Wren on October 21, but he had evidently left there before winter. Other marshes in Middle Tennessee should be searched for this species (*cistothorus stellaris*) for possible additional winter records.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

**HARLAN'S VS. RED-TAILED HAWKS:** On November 28 last, a "black" Red-tailed Hawk passed over my house at such a low altitude that all ventral markings were carefully observed. Following the descriptions given by Wood (*Wilson Bulletin*, 1942, 44:78), it was found that this bird possessed the characters of melanistic Western Red-tail and not those of the Harlan's Red-tail. This statement does not commit the writer, however, to any particular belief about the status of these two birds. It might be of interest to state that the only Tennessee specimen I have examined (from Columbia), is of this melanistic race and not the Harlan's, if one uses the criteria given by Mr. Wood. Several recent references to the Harlan's being observed about Memphis might, had closer inspection been possible, have been referred to the often nearly black phase of the Western Red-tail instead.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

**A BARRED OWL VISITS TOWN:** The owl that visits the block in Corinth where I live, in a thickly settled area three blocks from the business district, has made several appearances in the past few weeks. Judging from its call notes, and the reputation Barred Owls have of prowling about towns, it could hardly be other than this species. Our visitor has three distinct numbers in his repertoire of vocal antics. First, it has a distinct growl, somewhat similar to that of a small wild animal; second, it screams like a frightened child; and finally, what for lack of a better name might be called its hoot. Sometimes one of these sounds will follow the others; again, only one of them will be given. It is heard in other parts of town, too, so evidently it ranges over a considerable area and manages to find day-time safety and sleeping quarters in some unsuspected hollow tree.

In mid-December, I broke off several branches of hedge privet heavily loaded with the small dark blue berries, from a hedge at my daughter's place some distance from my own, and fastened them among shrubbery in my own yard to see what they would attract. Next morning, bright and early, a White-throated Sparrow was found feasting on them and as best I could see was swallowing seed and all. Purple Finches, which are also fond of these



privet berries, are able to split out the seed and they swallow only the meaty parts.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

**WHISTLING SWAN NEAR KNOXVILLE:** During the third week in November, 1943, a bird of this species was shot and wounded on Norris Lake reservoir, north of Knoxville. It was brought to this city and after being identified by Mr. H. P. Ijams, it was released on a small lake in a cemetery. Its broken wing has nearly healed and it has begun to take short flights. The bird is an immature one and very gentle. Its principal measurements are: wingspread 82 inches, folded wing 21 inches, length 46 inches, tail 6.5 inches, bill  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches, and from nostril to tip of bill 2.25 inches. The bird will be permitted to go on its way as soon as it recovers.—W. M. WALKER, 201 E. Peachtree St., Knoxville, Tenn.

**ANOTHER FALL NESTING BARN OWL:** On Nov. 20, 1943, a young Barn Owl, recently from the nest, was captured by a hunter on the bluffs of the French Broad River near the east edge of Knox County. Mr. Ijams came into possession of the bird and described it as being covered with down with only a few of its regular feathers beginning to show. Attempts were made to raise the owl to maturity but it died about a month after its capture.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville, Tenn.

**NOTES FROM OXFORD, MISS.:** The latest winter residents to arrive did not appear until November; Purple Finches were first noted on the 10th, Fox Sparrows and a Pipit on the 13th, and Horned Larks on the 20th. Cowbirds and Rusty Blackbirds were not seen until Dec. 4, but probably arrived sooner. The Pipit is the only one seen to date. The most unusual species recorded during the period were a Short-billed Marsh Wren (Nov. 13 and Dec. 31) and about 5 Brewer's Blackbirds on Dec. 11. The latter were associating with a flock of about 300 Starlings and their tameness enabled the writer to study them with binoculars at less than ten yards. Red-breasted Nuthatches were rediscovered on Nov. 10 and others have been found since. A search of the short-leaved pine tracts should reveal a number.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Miss.

**BIND YOUR MIGRANTS:** Our readers are urged to get together their copies of THE MIGRANT for 1941, 1942 and 1943, and have them bound into one volume. Missing numbers can be supplied. It will make a nice sized book about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick. 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. The Editor has made arrangements with a local binder to bind in buckram for \$1.50 per set and will be glad to handle this for any member.

**OUR CHAPTERS** at Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Johnson City, report they are holding regular meetings, semi-monthly or monthly. A schedule of meeting dates and lists of local officers will appear in our March issue.

Personal and news items are also being held over for lack of space.

**DUES FOR 1944** are due Jan. 1st. Your prompt remittance to Treasurer Clebsch will save his time and save the Society the cost of billing you.

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# THE MIGRANT

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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

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## EDITOR'S CHAT

With this issue, we complete another block of three volumes of THE MIGRANT and conclude with an index for easy reference. It is with considerable satisfaction to your Editor that this has been accomplished, for the uncertainties of a strenuous period of war and increased demands upon the time of all of us, have made its production more difficult. Without shirking our duties in the war effort, we have carried forward our ornithological work in keeping with the times and within the restrictions which we cheerfully accept. To our contributors, our officers and particularly to our Secretary-Treasurer, your Editor extends his sincere thanks for their help and cooperation.

And now, what of the future? We shall enter 1944 as we entered the year just passed—resolved to carry on and to keep the cultural-recreational work of the T. O. S. intact. By so doing, we will be ready when this cruel war is ended, to do our bit to maintain our nation in the front rank as a land where life and liberty may be enjoyed to the fullest. Our young men in the armed forces are giving the best years of their lives to bring about this result, and some of them, even their lives. When they return, they will want to forget the brutalities of war, they will hunger for the finer things of life, and we must keep our cultural institutions intact in order that they may join in again and go on to better things and resume the ways of life that our country has evolved. The years that will follow peace will witness many changes but they can be made even better years than we have known before. Wonderful progress in mass production and greatly expanded industrial facilities, should be able to supply all of our worldly needs with far less labor. This should mean more time for recreation and culture. These, together with education, will become "big business" and in themselves give employment to many people. Within a comparatively few years, our national parks have been expanded, our national forests have been opened up to vacationists, and every state has developed its own chain of wildwood parks. With good roads and fast transportation plus more leisure time, the out-of-doors should become the feature development of the coming generation and along with it, will come a wider appreciation of all nature, of which as we well know, the birds form a most attractive part.

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The English names used above are those given in the A.O.U. check-list, 1931 edition, and therein may be found the corresponding scientific name.

In general, subspecies are ignored unless authors specifically state that the names used are based on collected specimens determined by a competent authority. Certain exceptions have been made, e.g., Juncos, Grackles, Water-Thrushes, etc.

Where a bird's name appears more than once on a page, it is shown only once in the index unless in a separate article.

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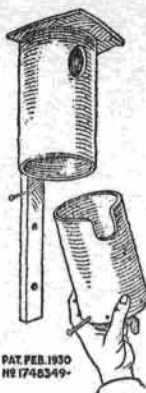
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