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SUMMER BIRDS OF THE UNICOI MOUNTAINS

By ALBERT F. GANIER and ALFRED CLEBSCH

The high crest of the Appalachian Mountain chain forms the border line between eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. Near the north end, massive Roan Mountain towers to 6313 feet above sea level and from it, southwardly, extend the Unakas, the Bald, the Great Smokies (including Clingman's Dome, 6642'), and finally the Unicois. The last mentioned chain, extending from the Little Tennessee River some thirty miles southward to the Hiwassee, had never been worked by ornithologists and thus held forth so strong a lure that we decided upon it as the location for our 1944 investigation trip, from June 18 to 25.



Being chiefly interested in ascertaining which of the species ranging to the high Smokies might also be found forty miles away in the Unicois, we arranged to camp on the mountain's ridge, at Stratton Meadow Gap (4350'), and to spend our entire time along the tops. Being in the Cherokee National Forest on the Tennessee side, we found that passable auto roads had been built to the Gap and for a mile or two each way along the crest. Here, between Haw Knob, which rises to 5472' and is the highest peak of the chain, and Stratton Bald (5272') we found bird life fairly plentiful for a forested mountain area and were able to list 39 species between 4300 feet and the summits. The distance along the ridge between these two points is eight miles.

The Cherokee Forest covers the major portion of Monroe and Polk Counties on the Tennessee slope and consists of a mixed forest of pines, hemlock and hardwoods, logged over many years ago and now well timbered

again with strong young growth. The land on the Carolina side is still in virgin forest, the property of a wood fiber company, and there one may see southern mountain forests as in the days of the earliest settlers. One slope (at 4400'), covered with a virgin stand of massive hemlocks, some five feet in diameter, may be the finest remaining grove of this beautiful tree left in the southern mountains. Yet, it is all marked for the woodman's axe.

No balsam spruce grow in these mountains for its southern limit is just south of Clingman's Dome. The dominating trees of the summits are beech and birch and these form open woodlands delightful to tramp thru. Stratton Bald, as the name implies, is bare of trees over five or six of its acres and larger and smaller balds are found at Stratton Gap, Whigg Cabin Bald (5000') and a couple of acres on the summit of Haw Knob. These balds are covered with thick mountain grass, wild strawberries and other low growth, which mountain cattle keep neatly cropped. The Whigg Bald was lived upon for a time by the pioneer for whom it is named, and, from the seven or eight open acres on its crest, one gets wonderful views of the "sea of mountains" all about. There is very little rocky outcrop in the Unicois and only in one place did we see a group of low cliffs such as might be chosen by Ravens and Duck Hawks for a nesting place. The localities referred to are all shown on the contoured Haw Knob quadrangle map of the U. S. Geological Survey.

On arrival, we pitched our tent in a little spot of open meadow by a clear mountain stream, cleaned out the spring in the nearby rhododendron "jungle," built a cooking grill with stone smokestack, made our pallets on a bed of dry beech leaves, and soon found ourselves comfortable enough for the purpose at hand. We were most fortunate as to rainfall, experiencing only a brief thunder shower and losing no time on account of it. The third member of our party was Edward Clebsch, 15, our frequent partner on bird trips—at once tireless, observant, and generally useful.

The annotated list of 39 species follows. Specimens were collected of those followed by an asterisk (*) chiefly for the purpose of making subspecific identifications. Those marked thus (**) have kindly been checked over by Dr. Alex Wetmore of the U. S. National Museum to whom we express our thanks. The figures shown in parentheses are the total number listed during our stay, they being compiled from card lists made each day.

EASTERN TURKEY VULTURE: *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. (1)

One individual seen at Stratton Gap.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK: *Buteo jamaicensis borealis*. (2)

Observed at the Gap on two occasions and another over the summit of Stratton Bald.

APPALACHIAN RUFFED GROUSE: *Bonasa umbellus monticola*. (3)

Recorded at three points in the forest roads. The form of Grouse inhabiting eastern Tennessee has been recently referred to the above race by Messrs. Aldrich and Friedman, (*Condor* 1943, 45: 85-103.)

EASTERN BOB WHITE: *Colinus v. virginianus*. (1)

One heard calling from the Gap. The grassy balds and open beech woods about them should offer good habitats for a few pair.

EASTERN TURKEY: *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*.

While we did not encounter any of these birds, we were assured by Game Warden Lovin that they were often seen and conditions would seem well suited to their increase. However, the presence of many wild hogs (Prussian boars) may cause undue destruction of nests and young. On Whigg Bald we found a freshly dropped turkey feather.

NORTHERN BARRED OWL: *Strix v. varia*. (2)

Two were heard nightly from our camp, calling from a hemlock forest on the mountain slope just north.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: *Chaetura pelagica*. (9)

One or two pair of these birds were to be found in each locality visited, including three birds about the summit of Stratton Bald. They probably nest primitively within the numerous big dead chestnut trees.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: *Archilochus colubris*. (5)

Observed at four different locations.

FLICKER: *Colaptes auratus* subsp. (3)

Uncommon. Three birds were seen at three locations, two of which were feeding young in nests. One lot of young was ready to fly.

SOO. PILEATED WOODPECKER: *Ceophloeus p. pileatus*. (2)

Observed once among virgin hemlocks and again on Sassafras Ridge.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: *Sphyrapicus varius* subsp.* (6)

We were pleased to be able to extend the known breeding range of this species southwestward into the Unicoi Mountains, finding them at home in the Gap, on John's Knob, at Swan Meadow (on the Carolina side at 4250'), and in the deciduous forest at 4700'. At the latter location, a pair were busily feeding noisy young in a nest hole drilled 50 feet up in a dead chestnut.

HAIRY WOODPECKER: *Dryobates villosus* subsp. (4)

Rare; seen only at the Gap, at Strawberry Knob, and on the trail to Stratton Bald.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER: *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. (3)

Rare, as were all the woodpeckers. Seen at three locations.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: *Myiochanes virens*. (9)

Observed at several locations, usually in open woods.

FLORIDA BLUE JAY: *Cyanocitta cristata cristata* (Linn.)** (4)

Found at the Gap, Strawberry Knob and on Sassafras Ridge.

NORTHERN RAVEN: *Corvus corax principalis*. (3 or 5)

One of the hoped for sights of our stay was the Raven, now extinct in Tennessee except along its eastern border-line, and in this we were not disappointed. Late in the first afternoon one flew low across the Gap near our camp and two days later a pair were heard in the hemlocks on the slope above us. We had been told that they "hung out" at Stratton Bald and on our hike there, while looking from the crest into the Citico Gorge, a Raven suddenly appeared a few hundred feet overhead. With set wings he soared straight ahead for nearly a mile until lost to view. We were constantly on the lookout for suitable nesting cliffs for this species, but saw none except a few on the south side of Brush Mountain and which we were unable to get to on this trip. They may nest in this area in the big hemlocks, as they are known to do in Pennsylvania. J. B. Lovin, Game Warden, told us that he

captured one some years ago in a steel-trap set for bobcats. We requested him to lend these rare birds his most zealous protection.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE: *Penthestes c. carolinensis*.** (7)

Found only at the Gap and on the ridge toward Stratton Bald.

TUFTED TITMOUSE: *Baeolophus bicolor*. (8)

Found at four locations, 4300 to 5100 feet.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: *Sitta carolinensis* subsp. (13)

Fairly well distributed. At one point, young out of the nest were being fed by parents.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: *Sitta canadensis*. (2)

Here again we were able to extend the breeding range of a species southward from its nearest outpost near Clingman's Dome in the Smokies. In the grove of virgin hemlock previously referred to, we sought for it intensively on June 23 and were rewarded by locating two of them and identified them beyond question. This probably marks the southerly limit of their breeding range.

SOUTHERN WINTER WREN: *Nannus troglodytes pullus*. (2)

Even rarer than we expected for we only located it at two points during our stay, at 4300 and 4700 ft. One visited the vicinity of our camp several times from the nearby rhododendron thickets.

CATBIRD: *Dumetella carolinensis*. (14)

At the Gap we estimated 8 were present and it was found elsewhere along the roads and balds up to 5000 ft.

EASTERN BROWN THRASHER: *Toxostoma r. rufum*. (5)

Found only at the Gap where there were two pair, one of which had a nest with young, and two others on Sassafras Ridge.

EASTERN ROBIN: *Turdus m. migratorius*.** (20)

Fairly common about the balds and also found in the more open woods.

WOOD THRUSH: *Hylocichla mustelina*. (30)

Fifth most common species listed, perhaps by reason of its loud and frequent song which incidentally seemed to us less mellow and sweet than those dwelling in the lowlands. A nest held three eggs.

VEERY: *Hylocichla f. fuscescens*.* (50)

Most common bird found on our stay and well distributed, being found from 3750 to 5472 ft. At the last elevation a nest with three eggs was found on top of Haw Knob. Many other nests were found, six of which contained 2 or 3 eggs and one contained small young. Most of the nests were built in small cattle-cropped beech sprouts about two feet above the ground although a few were in little hemlocks. A loose pile of beech leaves is brought in and the nest proper is built into this.

CEDAR WAXWING: *Bombycilla cedrorum*. (7)

Four were seen about the Stratton Gap meadow and three about the Whigg Bald meadow.

MOUNTAIN VIREO: *Vireo solitarius alticola*.* (30)

Fairly common and well distributed, announcing its presence by its frequent song. A nest nine feet up contained four addled eggs.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: *Mniotilta varia*. (4)

Rare, found at three locations, one bird being a young of the year.

CAIRNS WARBLER: *Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi*.* (47)

Second most common bird listed, its presence being evidenced chiefly by its song. Six nests were found, one contained 4 eggs, two containing 3, one containing 2, and two were just completed. Unlike those in the Smokies, where they nest chiefly in rhododendron, here they nested in small beech sprouts usually. The nests averaged two feet up and were lined chiefly with black cattle hair. Some white cattle were also ranging the ridges but these warblers used only the black hair.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: *Dendroica fusca*.** (3)

In the aforementioned grove of virgin hemlock a special search was made with a view of extending the summer range southwestwardly along the state line from the Great Smokies, and in this we were successful, finding three there and collecting a male. Mr. A. H. Howell found them about thirty miles further south, in July, 1909, on Brasstown Bald just below the Tennessee line. (*Auk*, 26:129-137.)

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: *Dendroica pensylvanica*.* (34)

Fourth most common species and well distributed. A nest with three fresh eggs were found at the Gap among briars on June 22 and a just completed empty nest was found in a maple sprout by a forest trail.

OVENBIRD: *Seiurus aurocapillus*. (21)

Fairly common. A fledged young was found at one location and an empty nest at another.

CANADA WARBLER: *Wilsonia canadensis*.* (5)

Infrequently seen, being noted at but four locations.

EASTERN COWBIRD: *Molothrus a. ater*.* (1)

Upon entering the meadow where cattle were grazing on Whigg Bald we were somewhat surprised to see a Cowbird fly across. It was collected and proved to be a young of the year, probably having been reared by a pair of early nesting Juncos or Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

SCARLET TANAGER: *Piranga erythromelas*. (3)

Noted at three locations, between 4300 and 4800 ft.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK: *Hedymeles ludovicianus*.** (10)

Regularly seen and heard, chiefly about the balds 4300-5200 ft. A deserted nest found 10 feet up on a beech limb and a fledged young one was found dead under the tree.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH: *Spinus t. tristis*. (5)

Rare, found at the Gap, on Whigg Bald and a pair or more on the summit of Stratton Bald.

ALABAMA TOWHEE: *Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster*.** (16)

Observed at numerous locations and up to 5200 ft. Two empty nests and another with 3 eggs by the side of a trail.

CAROLINA JUNCO: *Junco hyemalis carolinensis*.* (42)

Third most common species according to our daily listing cards and young of the year were already abroad. Half a dozen nests were found, usually in banks above roads and trails. Some were unfinished, three held three eggs each and one held small young. These Juncos are less common here than in the Smokies.

NASHVILLE, TENN. (A. F. G.) and CLARKSVILLE, TENN. (A. C.)

NOTES ON THE PEREGRINE FALCON*

By WALTER R. SPOFFORD

The tree-nesting Peregrines, on Reelfoot Lake in north-west Tennessee, were visited on April 30, 1944, and three young were seen near the same tree used the previous year (MIGRANT, 1943: 25-27). One young was flying around and two more were perched near the nest cavity. From their large size, it was assumed that all were females. Our attention was attracted by their quavering but loud and noisy food calls. Soon the old falcon (the female) brought them food, and there was a minor pandemonium. Two days later, another short visit was made and this time they were all in nearby trees. One perched on a high snag, preening her plumage, and down feathers drifted downwind from her labors. Often she stretched both wings above her head (a "warble" in falconer's parlance) and at other times she stretched one wing and corresponding foot, with her tail half hidden in a tangle lower down in the same tree, her presence revealed by her food calls, and a third frequently flew around overhead, showing surprising proficiency. After about an hour (at about noon) the old falcon came in with prey, closely followed by the most active young. She gave it, however, to the bird on the high snag who carried it along the limb a yard or so, spread her wings and tail over it in protective fashion and soon began to feed. Later the old falcon fed another young on a high feeding perch which was observed so used the previous year. When the old falcon saw the intrusion below she scolded loudly, and the male sooned joined the racket.

The feet of the one young seen well were pale yellow, and their wings were already quite pointed, indicating that they were approaching eight weeks of age. This would indicate that incubation began in early February, this early date being probably a result of the unusually warm weather of last winter. Food remains under the nest tree included those of Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Coot, Rail sp. and Grackle.

The eyrie in the canyon below Fall Creek in Van Buren County was visited on June 10. The nest cliff was undefended as we climbed to its base, and no bird was seen close by. Across the canyon food-calls were heard, and a white-breasted (but young?) small Peregrine was seen there perched on a dead limb hanging over a cliff, and later we saw a falcon stoop into a group of Turkey Vultures. The next day we spent six hours on a point of rock across from the eyrie. At 10 A.M. the old falcon flew past the nest cliff, towing prey, and a young male flew out and carried the prey to a ledge. The actual nature of the food-pass was not determined, nor was it possible to identify the prey. Soon the young, or another, flew out over the canyon and was lost to view against the distant trees. Meanwhile the old falcon flew directly toward us, and we could look down on her dark slate-gray plumage as she winged up Piney Creek canyon, turned, and then began steady wide ascending circles overhead. After twenty minutes she had become a mere point in the sky overhead and thus out of vision with my seven power binoculars. Probably she was between 8 and 10 thousand feet (?) when lost

* *Falco peregrinus anatum* (Duck Hawk) of the A.O.U. checklist.

to sight. During the next five hours nothing further was seen. Attention was directed to the types and frequency of suitable prey that appeared in the canyon, and it was remarkable for its scarcity.* A few Chickadees and Tufted Titmice were seen in the woods below, and sometimes a Black-throated Green Warbler broke the cover of the hemlocks, but a single Blue Jay was the only possible prey that appeared, and he was exposed only briefly. Lack of food may well be a factor in explaining the scarcity of the Peregrine Falcon in the otherwise ideal cliff-rimmed canyons of the Cumberland plateau.

The well-known eyrie in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was visited on Aug. 5. No falcons were seen here, but there was evidence that several perches (male?) had been used in recent months. An unused "scrape" was present on the most obvious nest ledge and it seemed probable that no young were raised here. However, Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, reported that the falcons were seen at a nearby cliff several times during the spring and that they have nested there.

An interesting experience with a wild falcon occurred near my home south of Nashville during the past autumn. While the writer was flying his trained Peregrine over an open field, a wild individual dropped out of the sky and chased or played with the trained bird. Once the wild falcon put on a beautiful three-hundred foot stoop with closed wings at a dead pigeon tossed into the air. After some fifteen minutes, the trained bird alighted in a tree and the wild one flew away.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TENN.

* Note: The results of a week's survey of the birdlife of this area (MIGRANT 1940: 53-57) verified the relative scarcity of birds in this wilderness section. Also, the ability of these Peregrines to keep their presence a secret was revealed years ago when not until after four trips there in search of them by Ganier and others, was one of the birds actually seen. Each time however there was evidence that the eyrie was in use.—EDITOR.



FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS

By AUSTIN W. BURDICK

Following my brief notes on this species in THE MIGRANT for December 1943 (p. 77), the Editor requested me to write out some suggestions which would enable other observers to distinguish the Brewers from the closely related and more often seen Rusty Blackbird.

In the first place, the preferred habitat of the Rusty is about the water's edge, in some swampy thicket or wet woods for there it finds the food it likes. On the other hand, the Brewers, although also a marsh breeder, is in the winter season more a bird of the pasture lands and open fields and may most often be found in the vicinity of barn lots. There they will be found in small groups by themselves or occasionally in company with Rustys, Grackles, Redwings or Starlings. When seen in company with Grackles, their size is definitely smaller and the bill is smaller in proportion. In turn, the Brewers in the field appears a little larger than the Rusty and is definitely so according to measurements.

In their summer plumage, the males are readily distinguishable but since we do not have them at that season, only the fall and winter plumage will be compared below. The back of the adult male Brewers is a dark greenish black and the head and neck is *purplish* black. They remind one of miniature male Grackles. In early fall however their plumage is lightly tipped with greyish-brown but this wears off before mid-winter. At this season the corresponding tipping of the Rusty's plumage is so pronounced that the underlying black may not show between. The bill of the Brewers is thicker at the base. In both species, the males have a conspicuous light yellow iris and this shows with greater contrast in the Brewers because of less rusty in the surrounding area. The Rustys never have the purplish head for after the rusty edgings have worn off in late spring, these areas take on the *bluish-black* color of the back and wings and they are then in their summer plumage. The immature males of the Brewers are more heavily tipped than the adults but the tipping is greyish-brown rather than rusty-brown.

The females of the two species are smaller than the corresponding males and are more difficult to distinguish apart. They are a buffy-grey below and around the head, with the wings and tail faintly glossed with bluish-green. They are lighter in color than the males and those of the Rusty have more brown tipping than the Brewers. The iris of the female Rusty is pale yellow (as in the male) but the iris of the female Brewers is *light brown*. Attention should be called here however to the fact that the young of both species resemble the females and that both have a light brown iris, as in the female Brewers.

The migration route and winter home of this species has, until recent years been understood to lie entirely west of the Mississippi River. However, Mr. T. D. Burleigh, writing in *The Wilson Bulletin* for 1933, page 111, recorded having found them frequently in the vicinity of Asheville, North Carolina and gave some notes on their habits. Since that time they have been recorded in most of the southeastern states. Dr. T. S. Roberts, in his "Birds of Minnesota," states that the Brewer's Blackbird arrives there much later than the more northerly ranging Rusty, appearing about April 1st. Birds which tarry with us into the last half of March are therefore more apt to be the Brewer's.

A close lookout in Tennessee, at the proper time and places, may show this species to be a more frequent visitant in the State than it is now known to be. There are no collected records as yet however and although good close-up views have been had of adult males, the only safe identification is that of a collected specimen.

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ANNUAL MIDWINTER BIRD COUNT

By OUR MEMBERS

Under the most trying circumstances in the history of our midwinter bird counts, THE MIGRANT'S 16th, presented herewith, was finally concluded. Depleted manpower-off to the wars, stringent gasoline shortage, and finally, one rainy week-end after another, threatened even mediocre success in making up the lists. We finally "came thru" with lists from all the usual localities and the eleven from Tennessee points are tabulated below. To this roster we are happy to welcome for the first time a list from our new Elizabethton chapter. The total number of species listed for the State this year drops to 89. This compares with 99 a year ago and 108, 94 and 93, prior to that. Easily the most outstanding species on the current census was the Red Phalarope, for which record additional details will be found in the Round Table.

Probably both forms of Grackle were seen; the Purple in East Tenn. and the Bronzed in West. We list only Chickadees but in addition to the Carolina, the Black-capped was to be found in the high Smokies. Two or more subspecies of Juncos, Towhees, and others could doubtless have been identified upon examination of specimens but as usual we omit such differentiation. Although *Audubon Magazine* in its census lists permits the inclusion of Rock Doves (common pigeons), we exclude these from our lists.

	Memphis Dec. 31	Dyersburg Jan. 8	Henderson Dec. 21	Clarksville Jan. 11	White Bluff Jan. 14	Nashville Dec. 24	Murfreesboro Dec. 24	Great Smokies Dec. 17	Careyville Jan. 4	Greeneville Dec. 27-28	Elizabethton Dec. 24
Number of Species.....	64	47	55	42	43	63	32	46	35	34	39
Number of Individuals....	4,727	3,212	1,288	907	871	3,744	945	1,235	785	676	3,658
Number of Observers.....	17	1	2	2	6	13	3	17	2	1	9
Great Blue Heron.....	1	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---
Pied-billed Grebe.....	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Canada Goose.....	50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Common Mallard.....	350	12	135	---	6	45	36	---	76	---	6
Black Duck.....	---	---	4	---	---	15	---	---	219	---	---
Gadwall.....	---	---	---	---	---	5	---	---	---	---	---
Baldpate.....	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	3	---	---
Green-winged Teal.....	10	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Shoveller.....	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ring-necked Duck.....	---	---	14	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---
Lesser Scaup.....	3	---	2	---	---	5	---	---	2	---	---
Hooded Merganser.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4	---	3
American Merganser.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	15	---	---
Red-breasted Merganser.....	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ducks—unidentified.....	---	---	---	26	2	18	---	---	---	---	---
Turkey Vulture.....	---	2	25	5	6	1	---	---	---	22	---
Black Vulture.....	---	---	12	4	4	35	6	---	---	11	---
Coopers Hawk.....	1	---	1	1	---	1	---	2	1	---	1
Red-tailed Hawk.....	5	5	3	2	1	5	2	---	---	1	---
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	1	---	---	2	---	1	---	---	1	---	---
Marsh Hawk.....	3	3	1	---	1	---	1	---	2	1	---
Sparrow Hawk.....	11	2	---	---	---	14	4	3	1	2	1
Ruffed Grouse.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---
Bob-white.....	38	10	---	2	22	27	---	---	---	1	36
Coot.....	---	---	2	---	---	2	---	---	18	---	---
Killdeer.....	37	2	6	---	---	23	4	---	1	---	---
Wilson's Snipe.....	1	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---

	Memphis Dec. 31	Dyersburg Jan. 8	Henderson Dec. 21	Clarksville Jan. 11	White Bluff Jan. 14	Nashville Dec. 24	Murfreesboro Dec. 24	Great Smokies Dec. 17	Careyville Jan. 4	Greeneville Dec. 27-28	Elizabethton Dec. 24
Red Phalarope	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---
Herring Gull	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---
Ring-billed Gull	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mourning Dove	10	---	2	5	11	16	14	18	1	179	32
Screech Owl	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---
Great Horned Owl	---	1	---	---	1	2	---	---	---	---	---
Barred Owl	1	2	---	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---
Belted Kingfisher	---	---	---	2	4	2	---	1	1	---	1
Flicker	48	7	23	9	24	19	3	3	2	7	23
Pileated Woodpecker	1	4	1	8	5	10	2	4	---	---	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	8	11	6	17	25	---	1	---	4	---
Red-headed Woodpecker	21	---	2	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	---	2	1	2	10	3	1	---	---	---
Hairy Woodpecker	4	3	2	1	4	7	2	---	---	---	2
Downy Woodpecker	2	7	3	8	21	46	1	14	2	1	16
Phoebe	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	1
Horned Lark	---	5	---	16	2	180	175	5	---	35	---
Blue Jay	252	16	20	19	32	22	19	7	5	11	31
Northern Raven	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6	---	---	---
Crow	25	57	17	132	77	53	300	261	9	116	122
Chickadee	29	11	21	16	47	110	5	97	15	10	60
Tufted Titmouse	7	9	3	3	18	73	2	4	3	9	35
White-breasted Nuthatch	---	2	---	---	3	3	---	1	---	1	---
Red-breasted Nuthatch	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---
Brown Creeper	3	1	---	---	---	5	---	---	---	---	1
Winter Wren	2	---	2	5	1	---	---	6	---	---	---
Bewicks Wren	---	3	2	2	---	4	4	---	---	2	---
Carolina Wren	11	14	6	11	11	49	4	16	3	12	42
Mockingbird	48	9	3	7	2	47	8	5	5	4	5
Brown Thrasher	9	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Robin	116	5	315	41	2	5	78	25	3	21	14
Hermit Thrush	3	2	2	---	2	4	---	4	2	---	---
Bluebird	18	17	17	16	65	95	5	32	18	4	33
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21	2	11	2	2	10	---	13	---	---	10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	---	---	1	---	1	---	2	---	1	4
Cedar Waxwing	8	---	8	55	---	4	---	---	---	39	65
Migrant Shrike	18	4	1	---	---	3	---	1	---	---	1
Starling	787	2,500	13	229	4	1,690	450	79	15	87	2,550
Myrtle Warbler	35	3	4	7	21	29	5	15	8	3	78
English Sparrow	79	56	67	57	4	130	20	119	25	23	98
Meadowlark	187	31	5	43	---	23	39	34	---	6	2
Red-winged Blackbird	35	7	95	1	---	1	---	---	---	---	---
Rusty Blackbird	210	---	117	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---
Cowbird	50	---	---	---	---	23	18	---	---	---	---
Grackle	884	---	5	---	---	---	100	5	---	---	24
Blackbirds—unidentified—Note	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cardinal	129	49	30	29	33	212	12	73	12	6	83
Purple Finch	---	7	9	---	4	---	2	4	---	---	---
Pine Siskin	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	96	---	---	---
Goldfinch	6	12	14	27	29	40	---	103	90	22	73
Red-eyed Towhee	11	---	3	8	18	65	---	---	---	---	3
Savannah Sparrow	15	3	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---
Leconte's Sparrow	---	2	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Vesper Sparrow	9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Junco	422	150	65	70	154	190	---	53	100	6	78
Tree Sparrow	2	---	---	---	---	6	---	---	---	---	---
Field Sparrow	79	21	29	14	43	92	---	24	19	17	38
White-crown Sparrow	11	96	9	1	---	29	10	---	---	4	8
White-throated Sparrow	393	19	85	50	62	54	---	15	36	2	27
Fox Sparrow	16	4	7	---	6	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Swamp Sparrow	49	2	26	18	9	6	---	1	---	---	1
Song Sparrow	94	17	21	8	45	108	6	74	67	3	44

NOTES ON THE CENSUS

MEMPHIS: Not included in the foregoing tabulation was the report of Lt. (j. g.) Schwartz that several hundred thousand unidentified "blackbirds" were seen flying across the Mississippi river at roosting time.—**DYERSBURG:** This census was taken about 10 miles south, in the vicinity of Halls. For notes on the Leconte's Sparrow, see Round Table section. The Phoebe was probably the same one listed on Dec. 1 and again on Jan. 14; on each occasion it was near or at a small pond.—**HENDERSON:** The Leconte Sparrow had a broken wing and was captured to make identity certain. A Sparrow Hawk was noted the day after the census.—**CLARKSVILLE:** The Ruby-crowned Kinglet had been for a week previous a guest of Dr. Pickering's feeding shelf. On Jan. 6, during 2½ hours over the same route, these additional species were listed; Mallard, 6; Wilsons Snipe, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Meadowlark, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 6, and Tree Sparrow, 3.—**NASHVILLE:** Gulls were seen on the Cumberland River on Dec. 26; almost certainly Herring Gulls. The Black Vultures were at their roost in Percy Warner park. The ducks were on Radnor lake. Bob-whites were flushed at 6 places. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet, rarely found in winter, was identified by Forbes. Of the Starlings, 1500 were in one flock. Expected birds not found were Grebe, Grackle, Phoebe, Winter Wren, Fox and Savannah Sparrows.—**MURFREESBORO:** A Palm Warbler was seen at Kittrell on Dec. 3.—**GREAT SMOKIES PARK:** The Red Phalarope is covered by a special note in the Round Table section. The Horned Larks were recorded for the first time on a midwinter census. Additional birds seen on Dec. 15, near Gatlinburg, were Bob-white and Fox Sparrow.—**CAREYVILLE:** The Herring Gull was in brown and white plumage. One Amer. Merganser had dark green head and predominantly white sides while the others were in subdued winter plumage. A large owl, probably Great Horned, was also seen.—**GREENVILLE:** Two Purple Finches were seen in the area on Dec. 24.



LOCALITIES, WEATHER AND PERSONNEL

MEMPHIS: Dec. 31, 1944. Same area as covered in previous years; city suburbs 10%, open pastureland 15%, deciduous woodlots 40%, edges of bottomlands, 40%, and river 10%. Hours, dawn to dusk. Heavy, low-hanging clouds; light, steady rain, poor visibility; temp. range 40-52; northwest wind in p.m., 8-12 m.p.h. River-bottoms and lowlands flooded; water standing in open fields. 17 observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 38. Miles, 18 on foot, 55 by car and 6 by boat. Mrs. Floy Barefield, Mrs. Irene R. Daniel, Lincoln Emery, Sgt. and Mrs. J. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Pauline James, Luther O. Keeton, Lawrence Kent, Dr. Clarence E. Moore, Patricia Moore, Kenneth Moore, Joe Mount, Lt. (j. g.) Schwartz, Herbert Shapiro, Alice Smith, Mrs. M. L. Torti and Maurice Torti Jr.—**DYERSBURG:** Jan. 8, 1945. Vicinity of Halls (10 m. south of Dyersburg) in Lauderdale County. Farm lands, open fields and heavy woodlands. Temp. range 45-50; wind 5-10 m.p.h.; southeast; foggy in a.m.; cloudy most of day. Hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. About 9 miles on foot. One observer; Capt. Burt L. Monroe.—**HENDERSON:** Dec. 21. Henderson to Forked Deer river bottom near Talley's store, Lakes Placid and LaJoie in Chickasaw State Park. Overcast, with moderately high n-e wind; ground partly frozen; temp. range 37-40; 40 miles by car and 4

on foot. Robert L. Witt, Freed-Hardeman College, accompanied by Paul Talley, a student.—CLARKSVILLE: Jan. 11. Eastward from town thru Cumberland river bottoms and along T.C. RR, to Mark's Slough, returning same way; 20 miles on foot. 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Weather fair; temp. moderate; ground bare. Alfred and Edward Clebsch.—WHITE BLUFF (Montgomery Bell State Park exclusively, 35 miles west of Nashville): Jan. 14. Coverage on foot of the same routes of previous 7 censuses. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fair at start, drizzling at end; ground bare; temp. range 33-45. A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, Geo. Mayfield, Jr., Philipp and Mrs. Porter, Robert Sollmann and H. S. Vaughn.—NASHVILLE: Dec. 24. Environs, including Overton Hills forest, Radnor 75 acre lake, Glendale, Lealand, Hobbs to Tyne roads, Percy Warner Parks, Bellemeade, Hillwood, Bosley Spring, Nine-mile Hill, and Cumberland river bottom at tip of Bell's Bend. Open farm lands 28%, town suburbs 5%, wooded pastures 25%, wooded hills 25%, river bank 5%, lake and shore 12%, of time consumed. Foggy in a.m., drizzling rain in p.m.; visibility poor; little or no wind; temp. range 38-47; ground bare and very wet. Birds fairly active following previous snow. 13 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 37½; man-hours 87½. B. H. Abernathy, Sgt. John R. Forbes, Albert F. Ganier (compiler), Robt. M. Hawkins, Robt. Hickerson, Amelia R. Laskey, G. R. Mayfield, Donald Maynard, J. A. Robins, Wm. Simpson, W. R. Spofford, Luttrell Thomas, and H. S. Vaughn.—MURFREESBORO: Dec. 24. Areas east of town. Day cloudy and foggy. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. George Davis, Henry O. Todd and Dr. J. B. Black.—GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NAT. PARK: Dec. 17. Same area as in past 7 years; circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte, including a section of the Tenn.-N. Carolina divide from Indian Gap to Sweet-heifer trail; towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge; spruce-fir forests 30%, stream courses 25%, deciduous forests 5%, abandoned fields 15%, open farm land 15%, town and suburbs 5%, and pine forests 5%. Fair; temp. range 22-58; wind variable, 1-7 m.p.h. Ground mostly bare in lowlands; 12" of snow in the high mountains; streams open in lowlands, frozen over in mountains. Altitude range 1200 to 6300 feet. Seventeen observers in 6 parties; total hours afield 29; total miles (on foot) 23. West Barber, Harvey Broome, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Dunbar, Mrs. Muriel Hill, W. M. Johnson, Bob Johnson, Jim Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer, Elise Morrell, Mrs. W. M. Walker, W. M. Walker (compiler), Mary Williams, Dr. Dorothy E. Williams, (members and guests of Knoxville Chapter, T.O.S.) and Mary Ruth Chiles (Nat. Park Service, Gatlinburg).—CAREYVILLE: Jan. 4. Cove Lake State Park and vicinity. 8:30 to 1 p.m. Cloudy, no wind, ground bare; temp. range 30-40. 3 miles on foot. Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker.—GREENEVILLE: Dec. 27 (rainy, 4 hours) and Dec. 28 (fair, 2 hours). Temp. 37-54. Reed farm and area along Lick Creek; farm woodland 50%; farm pasture 50%. One observer, Ruth Reed Nevius.—ELIZABETHTON: Dec. 24. Watauga and Doe Rivers, foot of Holston Mountain, Lynn Mountain, golf course, fields and woodlands in vicinity. 8:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Cloudy; no wind; temp. range 40-55. Total hours afield 29 (on foot); total party-miles 25 (on foot). 9 observers in 6 parties. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Behrend, J. C. Browning, Dr. and Mrs. Hugo Doob, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Lee Roy Herndon, Lee Roy Herndon, Jr., and W. F. Pearson.

THE ROUND TABLE

A RED PHALAROPE IN TENNESSEE: This member of the Sandpiper family (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) is predominantly a coastal transient and a maritime species during the winter, therefore an inland occurrence should be noted, especially when it is a first record of this Phalarope for the State of Tennessee. On Dec. 17, 1944, while the annual Christmas census of the Great Smoky Mountains Park area was being taken, one party of observers found a dead bird of this species on the road near the rear of the Park headquarters building. Mrs. Frank Leonhard of Knoxville first noticed the bird, gray and white of plumage but much soiled and somewhat damaged by passing autos. Upon later examination and dissection, with the aid of Dr. Henry Meyer, the gizzard was found to be empty except for three small pieces of grit and disintegration prevented a determination of sex. We found, after washing and drying the specimen, that it would be possible to preserve it in the form of a study skin and this was done. Before doing so, it was measured with the following results expressed in inches. Wing, 5.00; tail, 2:15; bill 0.84. No detailed description of the specimen will be given here but we would mention a few distinctive features. The feet were scallop webbed, with a small elevated hind toe; the tarsus was somewhat flattened; the head and neck were snipe-like with bill stout and flattened as compared with other Phalaropes; eye-stripe was distinct; forehead and top of head white, as were foreneck, breast and belly; back and wings gray to dark "mouse" gray. The specimen has been presented to Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville, Tenn.

NOTE: The above specimen was borrowed for examination and after comparing it with a winter plumaged specimen in my collection and with detailed descriptions in the literature, there appeared to be no doubt as to its identity. There are a few scattered occurrences inland but it must be regarded as a very rare transient.—EDITOR.

HAWK MIGRATION OVER HUMP MOUNTAIN: To observe hawks, three members of the Elizabethton Chapter, Lee Roy Herndon, J. C. Browning and the writer, went to Hump Mountain for that purpose on October 15. Located just across the North Carolina State line, and approximately 8 miles northeast of Roan Mountain, the "Hump" is a typical "bald," with no more growth to cover its summit than a few scattered hawthorn bushes, sneezeweed and grass. The map shows its maximum altitude to be 5587 ft. The fairly steep northwest, north and northeast slopes are overgrown with deciduous trees. In the southwest, the "Hump" extends along the State line to the higher Grassy Bald Mountain which connects with Roan Mountain. To the south it slopes off gently to Horse Creek Valley. The ascent was made from Elk Park in North Carolina after a ride through scenic Doe River Gorge on "Tweetsie," a narrow gauge railroad. Crisp air and an almost cloudless sky produced ideal weather conditions. The beauty of the day was enhanced by the autumn colors of the trees' foliage in which the surrounding mountains were clad.

Observations were as satisfactory as could have been expected. Altogether 15 Hawks were seen, among them 4 Red-tailed, 2 Cooper's, 2 Marsh, and one, what appeared to be, Sharp-shinned which swished by behind the observers while they were watching another Hawk. Identification of the rest was prevented by the distance at which they were seen. The list also included a Turkey Vulture. Early in the morning, from the train, an Osprey was observed flying upstream above Doe River Gorge. As it kept pace with the train, a good view was had of it.

Other observations of interest on the trip included 2 American Pipits at an altitude of approximately 5400 ft. An element of surprise was the presence of a considerable number of Meadow Larks at altitudes of more than 5,000 feet. At a small grove of beech and maple trees at an altitude of about 5,000 feet Bluebirds and Cape May Warblers, a Myrtle Warbler and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were observed. In the valley, at Elk Park, Goldfinch, Field Sparrow and Palm Warbler were numerous. Here, in the morning, it was interesting to also find a Wood Pewee. The day's total count was about 30 species.—FRED W. BEHREND, Elizabethton, Tenn.

MIGRATION OF YOUNG BARN OWLS: From 1939 to 1943, William Simpson has made periodic searches in the Nashville area for Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*). See MIGRANT 1939, 10:76 and 1942, 13:57. His first nesting record was obtained in the Belle Meade section when 2 young birds and 3 eggs were found in a hollow tree on April 15, 1939. He banded the incubating female that day and, on May 17, banded her 3 nestlings of varying sizes. The following winter, Feb. 12, 1940, the youngest of the brood was reported by Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., as "found" in Foley, Alabama, 400 miles south of its birthplace.

In this same cavity, Wm. Simpson and Conrad Jamison banded another brood of 3 of varying sizes on June 19, 1943. A report from Washington has recently come to me with information that one of this brood was shot on Feb. 27, 1944 at Columbia, Alabama, 350 miles south of Nashville. Thus, from the 16 nestlings banded here, 2 (12.5 per cent) have furnished data on their movements. Both places of recovery are in the extreme southern part of the Alabama. Foley is in the southwestern section, about 10 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and 12 from Mobile Bay: Columbia is in the southeastern corner and 20 miles from the Florida boundary line. It is significant that the recoveries, 3 years apart, should both occur in February in the same area.

H. P. Ijams, Knoxville, Tennessee (1924, *Wilson Bull.* 36(1):27) published the following note: "On July 28, 1923, I freed two young Barn Owls which had been raised by hand, and on Dec. 27, 1923, one of them was reported to have been shot at Opp, in southern Alabama. This point is 75 miles from the coast and 350 miles south of Knoxville."

To date, no recoveries have been reported of the 6 adults, banded in three separate localities in the Nashville area, but two of them have been retrapped in subsequent breeding seasons in their respective nest cavities. One with a brood had been banded in winter and retaken with eggs the following spring; the other was taken in two spring nesting seasons.

These data augment those given by A. B. Bent in *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, Part 2* (1938, Smithsonian Inst., Washington, D. C.) He says (p. 152): "Records of the recoveries of banded Barn Owls show that

certain individuals make lengthy flights that appear to be more or less seasonal. The data are more numerous from the eastern part of the range and thus far the evidence pertains only to travels from breeding grounds to more southern points. In practically every case the record concerns a bird banded as a fledging in the nest." He cites several instances of birds banded in New Jersey in early summer taken in winter in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. He also mentions records of banded birds moving from Wisconsin to Arkansas, from Illinois to Mississippi, and from Pennsylvania to Georgia.

The Knoxville record and our two in Nashville, moving from Tennessee to Alabama, add to the evidence that young Barn Owls migrate to the south in winter and older birds remain on their breeding grounds as permanent residents.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Graybar Lane, Nashville 4, Tenn.

AN ALBINO GREAT HORNED OWL: During November, 1944, I learned of a specimen of the above mentioned owl (*Bubo v. virginianus*) that was being held in confinement at Springfield, Tenn., and went there at the first opportunity to secure it. The bird was found to be in good physical condition and the owner stated that it had been caught in a steel trap the previous spring. I succeeded in purchasing the bird and some weeks later turned it over to Mrs. Amelia Laskey of Nashville, who has made studies of several species of owls kept in captivity. Dr. W. R. Spofford saw it there and states that the smaller than average size indicates a male.

This individual is not a complete albino for its plumage is not snowwhite. It is of a creamy buff shade all over and the normal feather patterns are faintly discernable in a slightly darker shade of buff. The eyelids are pinkish as well as the beak and talons. The eyes appear to be quite normal however, they being of a canary yellow in the iris with a black pupil. The pale buffy shade indicates that some pigment still exists in the plumage and this degree of albinism is as prevalent as any other. Among owls however, albinism has but rarely been recorded.—CHAS. F. PICKERING, Clarksville, Tenn.

LECONTE'S SPARROW IN LAUDERDALE COUNTY, TENN.: On April 17, 1944, the writer was exploring some weeded areas on the Halls Army Air Field and succeeded in flushing a small, yellowish-colored sparrow. It was immediately followed up and was again flushed rather easily. This performance was repeated several times and permitted close observation of the bird with 8X binoculars from a distance of about 10 feet. The bird was identified as a LeConte's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*) but knowing the difficulty of making positive sight records of this type of bird, the writer hesitated to report it. Instead, he sent home for additional information on this particular species and in the meantime, he had occasion to read, in THE MIGRANT, the articles on the LeConte's Sparrow at Clarksville, by Mr. Alfred Clebsch, and later talked to him about them.

On November 24, 1944, I decided to again explore this particular area to search for these birds and met with singular success. Two individuals were flushed simultaneously and they persisted in staying together in the immediate vicinity. They would perch on the weed stems about grass-top level and I, by making no readily perceptible movements, was able to observe them at my leisure for about a half an hour. Although somewhat nervous appearing, the

birds seemed comparatively tame and were approached to within 4 or 5 feet, often too close for me to use my binoculars.

I have had ample opportunity to study the fine collection of sparrow skins of James B. Young, of Louisville, Ky., and I am quite familiar with the sparrows of this region, having done much collecting myself. Observing this species here was practically the same as having a study skin in hand. The distinct grayish white median stripe, the wide pinkish-brown collar or nape, the broad stripe over the eye, and the grayish lores and ear coverts were all easily checked. One of the individuals was more highly colored than the other. And to make things more pleasant and to help in the identification, a Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) moved to within 6 inches of one of the LeConte's Sparrows so that I could compare the colorations and the notched tail of the former against the sharp tail of the latter.

The habitat in which these sparrows were found was a grassy plot of ground approximately 50 feet from a creek. It was covered with long, dried grasses, interspersed with tall weeds and clusters of tangled vines. Although not actually in a marsh area, the ground there was low and damp due to recent rains and the natural lie of the land. On Jan. 8, 1945, during the course of taking the midwinter bird census here, I revisited the site and succeeded in finding 2 of them again. Presumably they were the same pair and it would seem they were spending the winter here. They will be visited from time to time to ascertain their presence and to see how long into spring they will remain.—CAPT. BURT L. MONROE, Army Air Base, Dyersburg, Tenn.

FIELD NOTES FROM WEST TENN.: The following records from this area of West Tennessee may be worthy of mention for the record:

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*): On Sept. 19, 1943, at a small wet-weather pond on the Air Base at Halls, two of these birds were observed as they fed around the edge of the pond and in the clods and hillocks some distance away. Having studied and collected them previously on the Falls of the Ohio, at Louisville, Ky., I am reasonably certain of their identity. They were in company with a few "Peeps."

Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*): On November 13, 1943, a flock of about fifteen of these birds was seen on the Municipal Airport at Memphis. They were observed both in flight and on the ground. Their wing-raising and lowering trait was much in evidence. The lateness of their presence here coincides with a November record made at Clarksville by Mr. Alfred Clebsch.

Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*): One bird was seen in flight over the Halls Air Base on May 17, 1944. It appeared to be headed for a cypress swamp which lies about one mile north of the field. The bird was not extremely high and distinguishing marks could be plainly seen. The black wing tips were very noticeable and the dark head and outstretched neck precluded any confusion with any of the Herons or Egrets in the area. It is not known to nest north of Louisiana.—CAPT. BURT L. MONROE, Army Air Field, Dyersburg, Tenn.

BOB-WHITE PROTECTS HER OFFSPRING: I had stopped my car along the side of a narrow gravel road, to listen to the song of a Field Sparrow. The road was bordered on both sides by open fields, and between the road and the fields there were narrow spaces where thick weeds and

grasses grew. The voice of the Sparrow blended perfectly with the cool shadows and quietude that marked the shallow valley. Fifty feet in front of me a small creature came cautiously into the road from the weeds on the west side. At first I thought it was a baby rabbit; then I knew it was a Bob-white and it was easy to see that it was a full-grown hen. The bird took a position in the middle of the road, and remained there; then a young one—almost grown in size but of this year's crop—came hurriedly from the cover to the point where the mother stood, paused a second then rapidly half ran, half flew, to the weeds on the east. Another one came and followed the same procedure exactly; I watched them until sixteen crossed the road. The last one over, the mother disappeared with the young ones. I waited a few minutes, then drove to a point opposite the place where the birds had left the road. The entire covey were feeding on small grasshoppers in the field at a place where there were shallow rows of cotton, and pretty well covered with a growth of short grasses. The old bird remained behind the flock, seeing to it that all of them kept fairly close together; somewhat in the manner of a shepherd herding his flock.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

NOTES ON THE TENNESSEE WARBLER: Of more than passing interest during the fall warbler migration was the occurrence of relatively large numbers of Tennessee Warblers over an extended period in this area. The first individual was observed on Sept. 3, and by Sept. 10 they were particularly abundant. By this time they were observed in small flocks, usually consisting of 6 to 10 individuals. In most cases they were found feeding in ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) and horseweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) patches along roadsides and streams, but occasionally taking refuge or feeding in small isolated trees or shrubbery. By stalking, they could be approached to within 3 or 4 feet before taking flight. They remained in appreciable numbers until after the first heavy frost, about the middle of October. Not a single bird of this species was observed in this locality during the 1943 migration.—LEE R. HERNDON, Elizabethton, Tenn.

THE MEMPHIS FALL BIRD CENSUS was taken on October 22, 1944, by the local T. O. S. chapter, there being 32 participants. The localities covered were Riverside Park, thence eastward thru bottoms and along the Mississippi levee to and including Kings Woods southeast of Memphis. Time, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Temperature range 55-80. Results totaled 59 species and 1126 individuals, as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe 1, Double-crested Cormorant 45, Turkey Vulture 3, Cooper's Hawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Red-shouldered Hawk 3, Broad-winged Hawk 1, Marsh Hawk 3, Sparrow Hawk 4, Killdeer 25, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Mourning Dove 15, Belted Kingfisher 3, Flicker 15, Red-bellied Woodpecker 8, Red-headed Woodpecker 1, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, Hairy Woodpecker 5, Downy Woodpecker 9, Phoebe 1, Horned Lark 20, Tree Swallow 50, Blue Jay 25, American Crow 15, Fish Crow 1, Carolina Chickadee 12, Tufted Titmouse 6, Brown Creeper 2, Winter Wren 1, Carolina Wren 6, Mockingbird 10, Catbird 1, Robin 30, Bluebird 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 30, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5, American Pipit 100, Cedar Waxwing 20, Migrant Shrike 4, Starling 25, White-eyed Vireo 1, Magnolia Warbler 1, Myrtle Warbler 30, Bay-breasted Warbler 2, Meadowlark 60, Red-wing Blackbird 200, Rusty Blackbird 20,

Bronzed Grackle 30, Cowbird 190, Cardinal 10, Goldfinch 10, Towhee 3, Savannah Sparrow 5, Vesper Sparrow 2, Slate-colored Junco 15, White-throated Sparrow 25, Swamp Sparrow 3, Song Sparrow 10.

Attention may be called to the following as being unusually late records from this area: Catbird, Spotted Sandpiper, Broad-winged Hawk and White-eyed Vireo. The Pied-billed Grebe offered more than unusual excitement for it was not until the next day after various authorities had been consulted that the possibility of an Eared Grebe was ruled out. The individual was in very odd plumage and did not conform to the field identification marks of the Pied-billed Grebe. South of the Mississippi Levee in a cotton field a few of the party flushed a Cooper's Hawk from within the plants. As the bird arose it dropped three small fragments of what later turned out to be a Meadowlark. The ground for several feet around from where it arose was sprinkled with fresh blood and bright yellow feathers from the breast of the victim.—J. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT, Kennedy General Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.



NOTES, HERE AND THERE

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is quite rare with us in winter but Dr. Chas. F. Pickering of Clarksville was favored with visits from one of them at his home for some weeks after mid-December. The Kinglet comes to a feeding stick—one with bored holes filled with tallow—which hangs a few feet outside a window and incidentally, became a welcomed addition to the Clarksville Xmas census. Other visitors to the "stick" and shelf were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird and various native sparrows.

Some of our Chattanooga bird enthusiasts, headed by Robert Sparks Walker and the new Audubon Society there, arranged an interesting publicity stunt recently, to draw attention to birds and their habits. A Catbird, whose injured wing had prevented its normal migration southward and which had been fed until mid-December at the Walker feeding shelf, was trapped and transported to Florida by plane, thus achieving its past due migration in up-to-date and luxurious style. Newspaper publicity was given at each end of the line by cleverly written stories of the "migration" and the facts leading up to it.

The keenness of eye of falcons for others of their kind was nicely demonstrated by several tamed individuals as they were perched on their blocks on Dr. Spofford's lawn. During the migration month of October, their upward gaze revealed, at different times, thirteen species of raptors, including, Black and Turkey Vultures, Sharp-shinned and Coopers Hawks, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks, one Golden Eagle, the Marsh Hawk, the Osprey, one Peregrine Falcon, several Pigeon Hawks and numerous Sparrow Hawks.

Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey, of Nashville, was honored by being elevated from Associate to the class of Member in the American Ornithologists Union, at its meeting during October, 1944. Mrs. Laskey has contributed some outstanding papers on Tennessee birds for publication in *The Auk*, *The Wilson Bulletin*, *Bird Banding*, *THE MIGRANT*, and in other journals.

Dues for 1945 are due Jan. 1st. Your prompt remittance to our Treasurer will save his time and save the Society the cost of billing you.

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

EDITORIAL CHAT

Shortly after submitting the article on Brewer's Blackbirds, published in this issue, Austin W. Burdick who was training in an infantry division of the army, was sent to England and from there to the seething war-front in Belgium. Following the heavy fighting in mid-December, he was reported "missing" as of Dec. 16. No word of his fate has come up to time of going to press. Such news as may come will be given in the next issue following. We sincerely hope that his fate is no worse than that of a prisoner of war. . . . Many of our young members are abroad by now in the armed services of their nation and from time to time we have news about them. Our information is so sporadic and fragmentary that it has been decided best to await termination of the war for comprehensive announcements. We will then dedicate an issue in which to honor these young men, to chronicle their services and to express our appreciation to them. . . . The September MIGRANT—the Chimney Swift issue—aroused more interest than any we have as yet gotten out and on behalf of those who contributed the contents, ye Editor wishes to express his appreciation for the numerous letters of commendation that came in. . . . Our efforts to obtain further information about the Swifts found wintering in Peru has so far not met with success. The American Embassy at Lima has handled our requests in a most disinterested manner, apparently not appreciating the opportunity that was being given them to assist in developing a matter of much scientific interest. . . . Though our contents are limited, we take you in this issue to the four corners of Tennessee. From the Mississippi bottoms about Memphis, 500 miles northeasterly to the mile-high Roan Mountain chain, and from the cypress lined shores of Reelfoot Lake to the tops of the Unicoi Mountains in our southeast corner. . . . We have a number of notes on hand covering nesting experiences and these are being carried over to the March issue, apropos to the opening of Spring. More notes along this line are solicited meanwhile as well as any late winter happenings of interest. . . . In closing this volume, the Editor wishes to express thanks to those who have contributed articles and census lists for its pages, to Mrs. Laskey for assisting with reading the proof, to Miss Suzanne Webb for typing some of the manuscripts, and last but not least, to Treasurer Clebsch for addressing the envelopes, for footing the bills and by otherwise "making the wheels go 'round."

INDEX TO THE MIGRANT FOR 1944—Vol. 15

MARCH, No. 1	PAGE
Birds and the West Tennessee River Lake, by Clarence Cottam.....	1
Probable Migration Routes of Chimney Swifts, a review by B. B. Coffey.....	3
The Swamp near Cedar Hill, by Alfred Clebsch.....	7
How Birds Spend their Winter Nights—II, a symposium, by Members.....	9
Maps of the Tennessee River lake formed by the Kentucky Dam.....	10
 THE ROUND TABLE. —European Widgeons in West Tenn., 14; A concentration of Pipits, 14; Long-eared Owl near Dyersburg, 15; A remarkable hailstorm at Memphis, 15; Birds killed at night by storms, 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch notes, 16; The season at Oxford, Miss., 16; Notes from Clarksville, 16; Cowbird data from a banding station, 17; Great horned Owl kills ducks, 18; Notes from Murfreesboro, 18; Fox captures Pileated Woodpecker, 18; Chapter-meetings; Notes, Here and There; Editorials; etc., 19-20.	
 JUNE, No. 2	
Some Nesting Records from Murfreesboro, Tenn., by Henry O. Todd.....	21
Starlings Feeding on the Backs of Cattle, by Clarence Cottam.....	24
Notes on the Breeding Birds of Natchez Trace State Park, by B. B. Coffey.....	25
Vernacular Names of Tennessee Birds, by Albert F. Ganier.....	27
 THE ROUND TABLE. —Notes from Corinth, Miss., 29; Eastern Lark Sparrow and Upland Plover in West Tenn., 29; The season at Oxford, Miss., 30; Bald Eagles in Humphries Co., Tenn., 30; Hawk ensnared by a wire fence, 31; Connecticut Warbler returns, 31; Dickcissels in East Tenn., 32; Spring migration at Nashville, 32; Notes on Ruffed Grouse, 32; Notes and news; Spring field days; State officers; new Elizabethton chapter; etc., 33-36.	
 SEPTEMBER, No. 3	
Winter Home of Chimney Swifts Discovered in Peru, by Ben B. Coffey.....	32
More About the Chimney Swifts found in Peru, by Albert F. Ganier.....	39
Winter Recovery of a Nashville Chimney Swift, by Amelia R. Laskey.....	42
Maps Showing Chimney Swift Migration, prepared by the Editor.....	44 and 47-50
Some Habits of the Chimney Swift, by W. M. Walker.....	45
 THE ROUND TABLE. —Bird banding terminology, 38; Swift banding in Canada, 41; Swifts roost upon bark of large tree, 52; Swifts banded at Southern stations, 53; Swifts banded at Clarksville, Tenn., 53; Swift banding at Knoxville, Tenn., 54; Swift banding at Macon, Ga., 54; Fall migration at Memphis, 55; Field notes from Memphis, 55; Miss. Kites south of Memphis, 56; Sparrow Hawk and Martins, 57; Notes from Elizabethton, 57; Observations on Prothonotary Warblers, 58; Notes, Here and There; Editorials; etc., 59-60.	
 DECEMBER, No. 4	
Summer Birds of the Unicoi Mountains, by Albert F. Ganier and Alfred Clebsch.....	61
Further Notes on Peregrine Falcons, by Walter R. Spofford.....	66
Notes on Transient Brewer's Blackbirds, by Austin W. Burdick.....	67
Annual Midwinter Bird Census (16th Statewide), by T.O.S. Members.....	69
 THE ROUND TABLE: A Red Phalarope in Tenn., 73; Hawk migration over Hump Mountain, 73; Migration of young Barn Owls, 74; An albino Great Horned Owl, 75; Leconte's Sparrow in Lauderdale Co., 75; Notes from West Tenn., 76; Bob-white protects her offspring, 76; Notes on the Tennessee Warbler, 77; Memphis fall bird census, 77; Notes, Here and There; Editorials, etc., 78-79.	
Topical Index for 1944 (Volume 15).....	80

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