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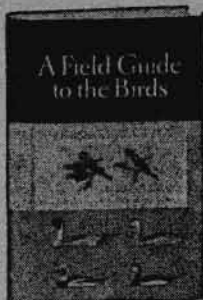
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THE MIGRANT

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SOME BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, BIRDS

By MERRITT G. VAIDEN

From time to time during the past 10 years I have published articles on the different birds collected by me which I thought might be of interest to the general ornithological public and more especially to those interested in migration and ranges of different species and subspecies. The greater number of articles have been published in 'The Migrant,' official organ of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, and 'The Oologist,' published privately by the late Judge R. M. Barnes of Lacon, Illinois. A few notes have been published in 'The Wilson Bulletin' and 'The Auk.'

This paper includes additional records based on specimens collected by the writer during recent years. All specimens mentioned in this paper are in my private collection.

Without the unfailing assistance of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C., and Dr. John W. Aldrich and Dr. Allen Duvall, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C., this paper would not have been possible. These scientists have been very patient with me and have identified all of the forms listed in this paper. Where necessary they have confirmed my specific identifications. I owe them a special debt of gratitude.

LIST OF SPECIES

American Golden-eye, *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. A female of this species, now in my collection, was taken on December 1, 1946, by Wally Welshans, Jr., while hunting at Lake Concordia.

Little Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius paulus*. Dr. Allen Duvall identified a specimen taken on October 13, 1945, a male, as this form. It was taken at Black's Cypress Brake. Additional collecting may prove this form to be the breeding one at this locality.

Interior Bob-white, *Colinus virginianus mexicanus*. Dr. John W. Aldrich in his recent paper ("The United States Races of the Bob-white," *The Auk*, Vol. 63: 493-508, 1946) has called our subspecies *mexicanus*. A specimen was taken on January 18, 1946.

Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola limicola*. My collection contains a male that had been injured against a telephone wire along a country road where it was captured by C. W. Sosebee on May 8, 1947. A Sora was found dead at the same time. Nine rails were seen during the morning by Mr. Sosebee.

Red-backed Sandpiper, *Erolia alpina pacifica*. On November 14, 1945, a

male of this species was taken from a barrow pit near Lake Beulah. It is my only record of this species.

Black-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. This species became common on April 25, 1945, and before the end of May they were more plentiful than the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The last one was observed on June 2, 1945. Six specimens were taken during May. On September 30 (1945), they again became common when I found them feeding high in the native pecan trees. One, a male, was collected.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*. I have five specimens taken at different localities in western Bolivar County on September 24 (1944); August 7, 11, and September 7, and 15 (1945). Additional collecting should prove this not a rare bird in its migration through this territory. The specimen taken on August 7, 1945, was in association with a Bay-breasted Warbler. Both were immature birds.

Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii traillii*. Considerable collecting should find this species a fairly common fall and late summer migrant. I have no spring collected birds. I have specimens taken August 25, September 7, 15 (two), and 16, 1945.

Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*. During May and in August and September this small flycatcher is common. I have ten specimens in my collection.

Northern Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota pyrrhonota*. On August 31, 1940, thousands of these birds migrated through here. Again on August 29, 1946, at Welshans Slough, many hundreds mingled with other swallows. Four specimens were secured, three males and one female. Occasionally a spring sight record is available. These birds seemingly do not regularly migrate thru this territory, or they are overlooked unless appearing in great numbers.

Florida White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*. Birds secured on April 2, 1944, and October 1, 1945, were identified as this form. Both specimens were females.

Eastern Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris americana*. I have twelve identified specimens of the creeper; it is interesting to note that six are assigned to the nominate race and six to the southern race, *nigrescens*.

Southern Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris nigrescens*. See comments given for *americana*.

Eastern Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes hiemalis*. I have six specimens identified as this form, all taken during winter months.

Southern Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes pullus*. A bird taken on November 4, 1944, a male, was identified by Dr. Duvall as this form.

Southern Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*. The birds I have had identified from this locality form an interesting picture.

The specimens are about equally divided between **ludovicianus** and **migrans**. Specimens identified as **ludovicianus** were taken on November 12, and December 6, 1943; February 13, 1944; and January 7, 1945.

Migrant Loggerhead Shrike, **Lanius ludovicianus migrans**. A specimen taken on December 22, 1938, was named **migrans** with the notation as "not typical." A male specimen taken on June 14, 1944, was also called **migrans** and again noted as "not typical." A bird of July 31, 1945, a male, was called **migrans** but closely approaching **ludovicianus**. Specimens taken July 18, 1944, and July 22 and 31, 1945, were called **migrans**.

Black and White Warbler, **Mniotilta varia**. A bird of this species was taken on June 4, 1944. It was a female in molting plumage; the skull was ossified and the sex organs dormant. One was seen by G. A. Thompson, Jr., at Legion Lake on June 27, 1946. A specimen taken on July 14, 1945, a male, was in good plumage. It is probable that in suitable localities the species is breeding here. However, no nest has been located.

Golden-winged Warbler, **Vermivora chrysoptera**. A beautiful male specimen was collected August 29, 1945, near Old River Lake. It is my first record.

Eastern Yellow Warbler, **Dendroica petechia aestiva**. This form is the common migrant through here as thirteen of eighteen specimens in my collection identified to date, taken in spring and fall, proved to be **aestiva**.

Alaska Yellow Warbler, **Dendroica petechia rubiginosa**. An immature female collected at Willow Slough on September 10, 1945, was identified as this form.

Newfoundland Yellow Warbler, **Dendroica petechia annicola**. A female taken May 20, 1934, and males collected August 28 and September 15, 1945, were identified as this subspecies. A bird taken September 10, 1945, was assigned to **aestiva** but with notation that it approached **annicola**.

Cape May Warbler, **Dendroica tigrina**. A male collected May 9, 1945, at Willow Slough, proved to be my only record.

Myrtle Warbler, **Dendroica coronata coronata**. A specimen of unusual interest is an immature male taken on October 13, 1945, one mile north of Rosedale near Welshans Slough. A comment by Dr. Allen Duvall on the label "white in 4 outer tail feathers suggests hybridization with **D. auduboni**."

Western Palm Warbler, **Dendroica palmarum palmarum**. Two birds taken on February 18 and 22, 1945, at Thompson's Woods were assigned to this race. Both were immature birds, one a male and the other a female. These are my only winter records.

Yellow Palm Warbler, **Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea**. An immature male taken on February 18, and an adult female collected on February 22, 1945, proved to this race wintering here with the Western Palm Warbler.

Eastern Oven-bird, **Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus**. This is the usual

race to be found in migration here. The Oven-bird is a much more plentiful spring than fall migrant. Of eleven specimens identified eight proved to be the nominate race.

Newfoundland Oven-bird, *Seiurus aurocapillus furvoir*. I have two specimens taken on May 13, and September 15, 1945, that proved to be this recently described race.

Gray Oven-bird, *Seiurus aurocapillus cinereus*. A bird taken May 14, 1944, a female, nine miles south of Rosedale, was identified by Dr. John Aldrich as this race.

British Columbia Water-thrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis limnaeus*. Three birds taken on August 19 and September 8 and 10, 1944, were called this recently described race. It is a race described by McCabe & Miller (Condor, 35 (5): 192-196. 1933).

Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*. During migration among small, dense-growth willows bordering a heavy woodland area these birds proved very common from September 1 to 14, 1946. The locality was just west of the levee and near Old River Lake. Specimens were taken on September 1, 4, 6, 7, and 14. Prior to this concentration only one record was available from Bolivar County, a male taken on May 19, 1945, at G. A. Thompson's yard in the town of Rosedale.

Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*. My first collected specimen was a male taken at Black's Cypress Brake on September 10, 1944. Since that date many have been found and a few birds have been collected.

Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*. May and September are the favored months of migration for this pretty warbler. It is a much more abundant fall than spring migrant.

Pine Siskin, *Spinus pinus pinus*. I have many sight records for this species. Some years this bird is common in migration with the 'waves' of Goldfinches that pass through. Beginning with April 23 and ending with May 5, 1947, the Goldfinches moved through in ever increasing numbers, and daily a few Pine Siskins were noted. The opportunity for gun, bird, and man to meet was the objective for several days. On May 3, 1947, sixty-one Pine Siskins were counted and from this number six were secured. These birds were feeding in my yard with Goldfinches on the seeds of the American Elm, *Ulmus americana*. There is only one other record of a specimen taken in Mississippi, that of M. L. Miles, Vicksburg, Mississippi, on January 23, 1942, (The Auk, vol. 60, pages 606-607).

Red-eyed Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*. I have found the towhee in suitable habitat throughout the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta and in the hills of central Mississippi, wherever I have spent a few hours in search for this bird in spring and in summer. See comment on the form inhabiting Bolivar County under *canaster*.

Alabama Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster*. A most interesting

condition occurs at Rosedale. Two birds, females, taken at Legion Lake on April 10, 1947, and donated to Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the United States National Museum, were identified as intermediates with this comment, "I have withheld acknowledgement for a few days until I had opportunity to compare these birds with some other specimens. As Dr. Aldrich has written you earlier the towhees of your section seem exactly intermediate between typical **erythrophthalmus** and **canaster**. In fact we are inclined to believe that the line of intergradation must pass directly through Rosedale." The reproductive organs were 100 per cent developed in the two specimens. I give here data (Table 1) for ten specimens identified by Dr. Allen Duvall during 1946, which will give certain critical information on the forms.

TABLE I

Collection Date	Sex	Percent Enlargement of Sex Organs	Assigned to:	Year Assigned
11/16/1938	M	erythrophthalmus > canaster	1946
11/16/1938	M	erythrophthalmus	1946
2/18/1945	F	erythrophthalmus > canaster	1946
7/ 5/1939	M	80	erythrophthalmus > canaster	1946
4/30/1944	F	100	erythrophthalmus	1946
6/28/1945	M	100	erythrophthalmus > canaster	1946
3/ 4/1945	F	60-70	erythrophthalmus > canaster	1946
7/29/1945	M	90-100	erythrophthalmus > canaster	1946
7/29/1945	M	100	erythrophthalmus > canaster	1946

The birds taken on July 29, 1945, were in full song and perched at the top of tall trees some 300 yards apart.

(A male specimen taken in dry heavy-growth woods growing along a steep hillside two miles west of Winona, Montgomery County, had on July 9, 1945, sex organs fully developed. The bird was in full song. It was also called erythrophthalmus > canaster.)

Eastern Savannah Sparrow, **Passerculus sandwichensis savanna**. I have 4 specimens of this subspecies. Of sixty-two identified species of the Savannah parrow only 4 were of this race. They were taken in March and April.

Labrador Savannah Sparrow, **Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius**. This form, the breeding race of Newfoundland and Labrador, is also occasionally a visitor to our area. Eight specimens taken here prove a reasonable amount of migration to the southwest of the breeding territory.

Nevada Savannah Sparrow, **Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis**. Birds taken on April 18, 1944, and March 11, and 25, 1945, were identified as this form. It seems to be a rare migrant here.

Churchill Savannah Sparrow, **Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus**. Indications are that this form is mainly a migrant through this area; probably wintering in Southern Louisiana and the coast of Texas.

Southeastern Savannah Sparrow, **Passerculus sandwichensis mediogrisus**. This form is the recently described one by Dr. John W. Aldrich, (Ohio

Journal of Science, Vol. 40, No. 1, 1940), and seems to be a fairly common subspecies during migration in March and April when fourteen of my twenty-two identified specimens were taken. A summary of the forms taken here is given in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Form	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
savannah			3	1				4
labradorius	1		2	4		1		8
nevadensis			2	1				3
oblitus		1	11	12	1			25
mediogriseus	2		9	5		4	2	22
	3	1	27	23	1	5	2	62

The preceding list of species and subspecies shows that many migrating birds have come to Bolivar County from widely separated areas; even birds belonging to the same species do so. Yellow Warblers came from Newfoundland and Alaska, both Palm Warblers and Ovenbirds from the northeastern and north central regions, and a Water Thrush from the northwest. Specimens of five subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow have been collected here, indicating that these birds come to this spot from a great area.

ROSEDALE, BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. June 12, 1947.

THE HOUSE SPARROW AT OAK RIDGE

By R. J. DUNBAR

As a general rule bird watchers in this country look upon the English or House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) as a nuisance rather than an interesting species; nor is this attitude without reason, for the House Sparrow is gregarious, noisy, pugnacious, aggressive, and it often drives some of our more desirable native birds from their nesting sites. Its ability to adapt itself quickly to new and changing conditions together with its high reproduction rate are factors that have enabled it to spread its range to practically all of the acceptable habitats in the United States and Canada. Although it is not a native bird, it is thoroughly naturalized, and its presence or habits can not easily be ignored or overlooked.

While the House Sparrow favors the environment around farm buildings, especially those where livestock is being reared, it is at home in towns and cities, or around almost any group of buildings within easy access of an adequate food supply. For food it probably prefers seeds or grain, but it will accept a large variety of natural as well as artificial foods.

The House Sparrow is non-migratory in the general meaning of the term, and if left undisturbed will live out its life in a relatively small area. Imagine, then, the effect that the sudden birth and rapid growth of the Atomic City, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, had upon the House Sparrow population in that section. Oak Ridge starting from scratch reached its peak pop-

ulation (75,000) in a period of less than three years. The town proper is located on the southern slope of Black Oak Ridge, which lies in the Northeast section of the Clinton Engineer Works in Anderson County between the L & N Railroad tracks on the East and the Roane-Anderson County Line on the West. The area covered is approximately seven miles long by an average of one and a quarter miles wide.

When I first visited the town site in late October, 1942, it was a quiet countryside, not unlike other rural communities in East Tennessee. A few weeks later, however, significant changes were beginning to take place. By the end of Spring, 1943, practically all the farm buildings had been razed. High ground was leveled off, low places were filled, new roads were built; thousands of men and machines were kept busy day and night until nothing familiar to the former residents remained.

The effect of these changes upon the home life of the sedentary House Sparrow must have been terrific for almost simultaneously its nesting sites and normal food supply were destroyed. Throughout the construction period, however, a new supply of food, in limited quantities and at irregular locations, became available to the House Sparrow in the form of crumbs and scraps from the lunches of many of the thousands of workmen in the area. Even so, it was only a few of the more hardy individuals that were able to survive. What became of the others is hard to say. Some may have moved to the adjoining farms, but here too, changes had taken place. All the farms within the 56,000 acres comprising the Clinton Engineer Works had been abandoned. The planting of crops had been stopped. Apparently these abandoned farms had difficulty in maintaining their normal year to year Sparrow population, for visits made to several such farms in 1944 and 1945 disclosed a very sparse House Sparrow population.

If we may assume that the areas outside the Clinton Engineer Works had all the House Sparrows they could accommodate, then we may logically ask: What became of the large number of these birds that originally inhabited the area on which Oak Ridge was constructed? Unfortunately, the stress of war did not permit making detailed observations in this direction. However, from casual observations, it is reasonably certain that only a small percentage of the original number remained active within the area. Those that did remain quickly made themselves at home around the first commercial buildings to be erected. Descendants of these hardy individuals as well as descendants of those that remained in the areas adjacent to the town began to infiltrate into the newly occupied residential section of Oak Ridge.

Our dwelling on Glendale Lane is located in the natural woods about one-third the way up the slope to the ridge. We picked the site before the construction commenced and moved into the new house before it was completely finished. Shortly thereafter we fastened a small feeding board to an oak tree about twelve feet from our dining room window. Almost immediately we were successful in attracting many native birds. We congratulated

ourselves upon the absence of the House Sparrow! For nearly three years we were not bothered by them, but during that time we watched them moving closer and closer to our house. They arrived in 1946 and are now well established in the vicinity. To my knowledge, there is not a single regular feeding station left in Oak Ridge that does not have the patronage of the House Sparrows.

The effects of the ever increasing House Sparrow population upon the other bird life in Oak Ridge is becoming evident. This spring (1947) there was a lively contest between the House Sparrows and a pair of Bluebirds for a bird house that we had erected. The Bluebirds won the round with the Sparrows, but their possession was not complete until they had driven a rival pair of Bluebirds from their area. The successful defenders have made good use of their ownership in that they have raised three broods, one of five, and two of four young birds each. The last brood of four birds left the nest on August 23.

Although the larger birds such as the Blue Jays, woodpeckers and tanagers have little difficulty in chasing the House Sparrows from our feeding board, the smaller birds are not so successful. On several occasions a White-breasted Nuthatch became very indignant when he found one or two House Sparrows on the feeding board ahead of him. On each such occasion the Nuthatch would walk down the tree toward the feeding Sparrows with his wings and tail feathers spread, his body swaying from side to side like a boxer sparring for an opening. For all of his beautiful display of feathers and belligerent attitude he would not approach closer than ten or twelve inches to the Sparrows. Consequently, they paid little or no attention to his efforts, nor did they leave until they were ready.

It is not unusual to see several House Sparrows using our bird bath at the same time, however, on Saturday, August 16, I was surprised to see a Chipping Sparrow enter the bath then occupied by four House Sparrows. The House Sparrows moved over to make room; the Chipping Sparrow moved in and splashed two or three times, after which all five birds left the bath. They all bathed so nonchalantly that I probably would not have noticed the incident had I not been watching the Chipping Sparrow before it flew to the bath. On the following Saturday, while watching four House Sparrows perched on the rim of the bird bath, an immature male Cardinal flew in and took up his position between two of the Sparrows. None of these birds made any attempt to bathe and after what seemed to be a long minute they all took flight.

Since the total number of House Sparrows occupying a given community will be influenced to a considerable degree by the number of regular feeding stations maintained within the community, it would be difficult to predict the future year when the House Sparrow population in Oak Ridge will reach its normal maximum. At this writing the House Sparrow population is definitely on the increase.

OBSERVATION OF HAWK MIGRATION

By LEE ROY HERNDON

During the past several years great concentrations of hawks have been observed in their southward migration along mountain ridges five hundred or more miles northeast of Tennessee. The two principal observation points are Hawk Mountain in eastern Pennsylvania and another mountain in the same chain in northwestern New Jersey.

All species of hawks common to northeastern United States, including both Bald and Golden Eagles pass over these points in appreciable numbers from late August to November. Elevated locations with abrupt descent affording an unobstructed view towards the northeast provide the most suitable locations for observing hawks in their fall migration. At these points favorable air currents—cool air drifting down from the northwest and rising along the mountain sides—make flight almost effortless; the birds sail southwestward supported by these air currents. No important concentrations have been reported south of the locations mentioned above. It is not known whether the migrating hawks continue in numbers along the mountains, or if they fan out and take individual courses from these points on southward.

It is known that several species of hawks winter in the eastern United States while other species winter in South America. The exact migration routes are not known.

In the fall of 1944 the Elizabethton Chapter of T. O. S. began a search for suitable places to observe hawk flights in this vicinity. Due to travel restrictions and a paucity of experienced observers for the first two years, only a few localities were investigated. The most promising location found was Hump Mountain just south of Elk Park, North Carolina. Also investigated were Beech Mountain near Banner Elk, and Grandfather Mountain near Linville, North Carolina. All three of these groups were covered by different groups of observers on October 13, 1946. As on previous occasions Hump Mountain proved far superior to the other mountains for hawk flights. Too few observations have been made from this location to warrant the drawing of any conclusions regarding the species which may be observed or the numbers of hawks passing over this point during a fall migration. The most hawks observed in any one day to date on a day's trip to Hump Mountain was fourteen on October 15, 1944.

The Elizabethton Chapter of T. O. S. proposes to find out something about the hawk migrations thru this area. A program has been planned for taking a hawk census on Hump Mountain at least once each week beginning with the first week in September and continuing until the middle of November or even later if the weather is favorable and hawks are still to be seen. This will be a group project as no one member will be able to make all of the trips. We realize that this program will give very meager coverage and that the chances are six to one that we will miss the best flights. We hope, however, to gain some idea of hawk migrations in this area. If the results are encouraging, as we hope they may be, better coverage at a later date may be planned.

There are other favorable spots for hawk observations, but we have not had an opportunity to investigate them. We expect to continue looking for likely locations, but our number is so small that it is impossible to investigate all the possible localities at once. We should like to enlist the cooperation of all of our T. O. S. chapters and members who possibly can be on the lookout for suitable locations for hawk flights. This should make a good cooperative project for the entire state, as we have two mountain ranges traversing the state and the plains area in the western part of the state.

Some data have been collected during the past several years on the wintering of Golden Eagles in Middle Tennessee. These may be the birds which pass over Hawk Mountain in the fall; however, I know of no authentic records of Golden Eagle migrations between these two widely separated points.

Any unusual observation of this nature should be recorded and reported for future publication.

1533 BURGIE STREET, ELIZABETHTON, TENNESSEE.

EDITOR'S NOTE—We hope that other chapters of T. O. S. may be able to cooperate in watching for evidence of hawk migrations. It took several years to reveal to bird students the value of Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania as a place to observe migrating hawks and other birds. Now it is a mecca for that purpose. Something of the same thing might happen here in Tennessee. The places to look for hawk flights are long ridges which present a steep face to the wind; this creates upcurrents of air which give the hawks a free and easy ride on their way south. It will help if all observations bearing on hawk migrations will be reported to the Editor of THE MIGRANT.—J. T. T.

A MEMORIAL TO WILLIAM F. PEARSON

On July 29, 1947, William F. Pearson, well known bird enthusiast of East Tennessee, met an untimely death in Kingsport, Tennessee. Two days before, at the plant of the Tennessee Eastman Corporation where he was employed, he was helping to inspect the way in which rolls of pulp were secured inside box cars. One roll came loose just as the party started to enter the car and struck Mr. Pearson on the right shoulder, breaking several ribs and dislocating some vertebrae. He was conscious until a short time before his death and apparently was doing well.

Mr. Pearson was a native of Bristol, Tennessee, and a graduate of Emory and Henry College, Virginia. He went to work for the Tennessee Eastman Corporation on October 8, 1920, during the early days of the company's existence. He spent several years in various units of the Accounting Department, and then was transferred in 1942 to the Purchasing Department. He had never married. Survivors include a step-mother, Mrs. Ruby Pearson of Bristol, and a sister, Mrs. Lucy P. Malone of Dothan, Alabama.

All his life Pearson was intensely interested in the study of birds, and

he deeply regretted the fact that he had not taken his academic training in that field. The writer became acquainted with him in 1940 when Pearson became a member of the Johnson City Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, and since then has spent many happy hours with him on Roan Mountain in East Tennessee, White Top Mountain in Virginia, and in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Roan Mountain was perhaps his favorite of all of the mountains of East Tennessee, which he so dearly loved in which he spent every available moment.

Mr. Pearson's interests were varied, and he was surprisingly well versed in the fields of botany, geology, and astronomy as well as ornithology. Modest though he was, those close to him gained much valuable knowledge through exchange of ideas with him.

He had traveled extensively, having toured Europe, the Caribbean, parts of South America, all of continental United States, and parts of Canada. His long-planned tour of Alaska never materialized.

His almost Thoreau-like aloofness had always separated him from the crowd, but to have known him well was to have loved him. His presence and quiet humor will be missed by many friends on annual bird census trips in Knoxville, the Smokies, Nashville, and upper East Tennessee.—ALBERT E. HYDER, Roosevelt Game Preserve, Friendship, Ohio.

The last time I saw Bill Pearson a crowd of us had gone to the Buzzard's Roost. Bill was there when we got there. We sat among the river rocks and watched the buzzards float in. Bill's tragic death leaves a big gap in our bird club in Johnson City. He always came over from Kingsport regardless of weather or circumstances. His knowledge of birds gained thru the years was something he liked to share, but not in a boasting way. He always listened to your bird story, and you had more or less to pick his out of him. When we left him at Buzzard's Roost a few weeks ago, he told us that he would be over for our August meeting. He has gone on now, but when we meet again we will talk about him and count ourselves richer for having been with him on earth.—SARAH HUNTER JACKSON, Johnson City, Tennessee.

In the spring of 1944 after the organization of the Elizabethton Chapter of the T. O. S. in February of that year, some of our members met Bill Pearson at Knoxville on the occasion of their spring census. He was invited to participate in the Elizabethton Chapter's Census the following Sunday. Since the Johnson City Chapter was inactive at the time, he was a frequent guest of our chapter and took an active part in our field trips and all important occasions. He participated in most of our mountain trips for hawk investigations and contributed of his knowledge of outdoor life and nature in general. He participated in T. O. S. affairs over the state, attending the annual meetings in Nashville and was Vice President for East Tennessee in 1945 and 1946. The annual spring field day in Knoxville and the Christmas Bird Count at Gatlinburg were routine with him.

He was instrumental in the reorganization of the Johnson City Chapter

of T. O. S. of which he had been a member and of which chapter he was a director at the time of his death. Through him many people of upper East Tennessee have become interested in the birds of our area. He was a keen and competent observer and a genial scholarly companion.

He will be greatly missed by a host of friends and nature lovers throughout this area.—LEE ROY HERNDON, Elizabethton, Tenn.

THE ROUND TABLE

CLIFF SWALLOWS NESTING IN CARTER COUNTY, TENNESSEE—Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) were reported to have nested on a bridge across the Nolichucky River in Unicoi County. A search was made for nesting birds at several possible sites along the river in this area during the summer of 1945 but none was found. Cliff Swallows have been reported on all four of the spring censuses of the Elizabethton Chapter, but only one additional summer observation was reported through 1945. In 1946 they were recorded on five occasions from May 5 to September 1st. The largest flock consisted of more than 500 individuals in Shady Valley on August 25. A flock of more than 80 birds were observed migrating early on the morning of September 1st.

On the morning of our spring census, May 4, 1947, Mrs. Herndon and the writer observed several pairs of this species carrying mud from the roadside as if building nests in a near-by barn. The location was about five miles due east of Elizabethton, near Siam, and about a mile down stream from Horse Shoe Dam on the Watauga River. We did not investigate further at this time. On May 17 several members of the chapter observed several birds about three-fourths of a mile farther down the Watauga River than the first observation, or near the point where the Siam Bridge crosses the Watauga River. On May 25 the birds were again observed in this area. On June 4, William Sutherland and the writer investigated the area and in the location first mentioned, after securing permission from the owner, Mr. Robert Collins, we found fifteen nests plastered to the joists inside the hall-way of a barn. All nests appeared to be occupied. They were lined with straw and some chicken feathers. Mr. Sutherland attempted a photograph of one group of the nests, but it did not turn out well. The other location, three-fourths of a mile down stream, was also investigated, and in the hall-way of the barn near the Siam Bridge fourteen occupied nests were found. The nests were plastered to the joists about nine feet above the ground. We built up a platform from which a Kodachrome photograph of five nests was taken at a distance of about six feet. This gave an excellent picture of the nests; the birds, however, were away from the nests at the time. There were approximately thirty birds in the vicinity which indicated that the young had not yet left the nests. We were told by the occupants of the near-by house that these birds had been there every summer since 1941. This is likely the case as there was evidence of nests for previous years on the joists where the current nests were attached. This

is the first concrete evidence we have had of Cliff Swallows nesting in this vicinity.

On August 9 the barns were visited but no birds were present. About one mile down the river more than two thousand birds were observed perched on four telephone wires. The birds occupied more than 100 feet of each of the four wires; I estimated there were five birds per foot as they were so close together that when another bird came in to alight at least one bird was forced to move over or leave to make room for the new arrival. Early on the morning of August 16 a big migration of swallows passed through Elizabethton. A search of the area on August 18 proved the area destitute of this species.—L. R. HERNDON, 1533 Burgie St., Elizabethton, Tenn.

UNUSUAL FEEDING HABIT OF CAROLINA CHICKADEE—For the past four winters we have maintained feeding stations on the kitchen window sill and in a basket about six feet from the window. The basket feeder was continually supplied with suet. Carolina Chickadees had occasionally been observed in our yard, but in March, 1947, a pair began to patronize the feed basket. Almost immediately pecan nut meats were added to the feed, and the Chickadees became daily visitors. Later on the ends of pecan shells were removed and the opened nuts were suspended about ten inches below branches by tying twine around the center of the nut and then to the branches. The Chickadees would alight on these nuts and feed on the nut meats while in an up-side-down position and while the nut and bird swung and rotated on the twine. After a few days one of the Chickadees perched on the branch just above a nut, reached down and grasped the twine with its bill, and then pulled the twine and nut up and puts its foot on the twine to hold it; it repeated the process three or four times until the nut could be grasped with the bill or feet, after which the nut was held against the perch by the bird's feet while the bird ate the meat at its leisure. Both birds were observed to perform this feat many times and regularly for a period of almost six weeks. This performance was very fascinating to observe and almost incredible unless observed.

One of the birds was captured and banded. About the middle of April they disappeared abruptly altho an abundant supply of food was maintained.—MRS. LOIS M. HERNDON, 1533 Burgie St., Elizabethton, Tenn.

EVENING GROSBEAKS IN VAN BUREN COUNTY, TENN.—On February 20, 1936, I was examining some property near the western boundary of Van Buren County along Rocky River, when I observed a flock of large finches. I had no field glasses, but did have a copy of Peterson's Guide in my pocket for reference. The yellow, black and white markings of the Evening Grosbeak were easily noted as the birds were comparatively tame and permitted close approach. The locality mentioned is a narrow valley which cuts deeply into the western face of the Cumberland Plateau. The weather was abnormally cold, the thermometer a few miles away at the Sedberry hotel at McMinnville having read two degrees above zero that morning and the previous day it had registered two below. This is only a

sight record and should receive that attention which sight records of rare birds deserve.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut St. Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW IN SULLIVAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE—There is reason to believe that Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) is fairly common in East Tennessee. A pair of these birds has been observed at various intervals during the past eight months behind the writer's house in Blountville, Sullivan County, where five to ten acres of unused fields slope steeply upward to a patch of woodland densely packed with brush and vines. I have often listened to their singing, which Chapman says not even the Hermit Thrush can equal. I know the song well enough now to recognize it from short phrases, and have heard it in eight other places in Sullivan County. In two of these other places I have also seen the birds at close range. On May 4, 1947, at least six Bachman's Sparrows were seen by the writer and presumably were to have become a part of the Elizabethton Chapter's Spring Field Day report, altho none were listed from Elizabethton in the "Tabular Record of Spring Field Days" (MIGRANT, v. 18:25).

On August 12, Dr. Herndon and Mr. Behrend of Elizabethton came to Blountville and saw and heard the Bachman's Sparrows. Both agreed with the writer's identification altho neither had studied the species before.

I was unfamiliar with the Bachman's Sparrow's song before last summer. In April 1944, I observed a group of sparrows on the Kingsport-Knoxville highway near the Hawkins County line. I was unable to identify them. Their song suggested the White-crowned, Vesper, or perhaps Tree Sparrow, and the Field Sparrow not at all. I have long realized that the Bachman's Sparrow might occur in Sullivan County, but due to the general opinion that the song resembled that of the Field Sparrow, I felt it was hopelessly difficult to separate the two songs. One evening, however, I was entertaining a friend by playing recordings from Cornell University's Albert Brand Foundation "American Bird Songs." When the sing of the Pine-woods Sparrow was rendered (record 3A), I realized that we had Bachman's Sparrow (a subspecies or variety of the Pine-woods Sparrow) on our hill, and that I had also heard it elsewhere.

Mr. Bruce P. Tyler of Johnson City, who has studied the bird life of that region for many years, says that Bachman's Sparrow was once fairly common in Washington County, and that even at present he could always find one for anyone who wanted to observe the species.

At Dr. Herndon's suggestion, I am taking this bird for a nature study project.—THOMAS W. FINUCANE, Route 1, Blountville, Tennessee.

NOTES HERE AND THERE

THE ENDOWMENT FUND—The T. O. S. Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that the endowment fund has now reached the four hundred and fifty dollar mark. Several years ago the Tennessee Audubon Society agreed to turn over to the T. O. S. endowment fund a sum of four

hundred and fifty dollars, the gift of a wealthy New York lady, if the T. O. S. would raise an equal amount.

At the annual spring field day last May the progress of the campaign was discussed, and a number of those present generously responded with donations totaling over eighty dollars. Since that time a silent campaign has been going on, and the goal has been reached. We wish here to express our thanks and appreciation to all the individual members and chapters for their generosity in helping to raise this fund. We hope that the campaign will continue until the amount reaches a thousand dollars and beyond.

This money is to be invested, the proceeds from which will help meet the cost of getting out our publication, **THE MIGRANT**—B. H. ABERNATHY, Chairman Endowment Committee.

W. R. GETTYS EGG COLLECTION—For a number of years Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tennessee, has been the owner of an exceptional collection of bird eggs. This collection is a gift of the W. R. Gettys Estate and now bears the name of W. R. Gettys Egg Collection.

The collector assembled 743 sets of eggs, then exchanged 112 sets which leaves in the present collection 631 sets of eggs. These eggs represent most of the birds in this section of the United States, with several sets from foreign countries including Canada, Mexico, England, Scotland, Iceland, and Brazil. Mr. Gettys started his collection in the spring of 1897 and continued it until 1906 when his health failed. The records with the collection show that he was very accurate with his collecting and cataloging. Each egg set has its regular catalog number, the common and technical name of the birds, the place and time the collection was made. In many instances a short description of the nest is included. A careful record of exchanges with other collectors is a part of the records on file.

If the Tennessee Ornithological Society desires to do so, I shall be happy to have you meet at Tennessee Wesleyan College sometime during the year to study the W. R. Gettys Egg Collection.—**MISER R. RICHMOND**, Dean, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tenn.

FIELD DAYS—On a recent visit to Knoxville, Dr. L. R. Herndon, president of T. O. S., suggested to several members of the Knoxville chapter that a fall field day similar to those held in the month of May might prove just as interesting and worthwhile. Fall migrants are not as conspicuous nor as numerous at any one time as are spring migrants, but for those reasons we know less about them. The Editor joins Dr. Herndon in urging chapters to plan a Fall Field Day sometime soon.

Before the next issue of **THE MIGRANT** appears, chapters will also have planned and accomplished the annual Christmas-time bird count. As has been done regularly, the December **MIGRANT** will be delayed to print the results of these counts.

The members of T. O. S. extend their sympathy to Dr. and Mrs. L. R. Herndon for the loss of their youngest son, Roger Herndon.

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

EDITORIAL

The activities of birds, and of bird students, will soon change, as autumn is fast approaching with winter on its heels. Fall migrants (and autumn colors) will keep the scene changing for the next several weeks, and then the out-of-doors will settle down for the winter. Observations of birds in late fall and winter usually center around either the activities of birds at feeding stations or the winter roosting flocks.

The really successful feeding stations are those that are started as early as possible, for they have the best chance of being discovered by wandering birds. The reason usually given for making a feeding station is that it helps the birds thru the winter, but the human beings probably gain just as much as the birds. An individual person's interest in birds is usually first aroused by the attractiveness of their songs or plumage, or by a love for "all things both great and small", and then the interest frequently progresses to a great curiosity about the habits and lives of birds. A feeding station can both arouse the interest and help to satisfy the curiosity.

One of the spectacular sights of the bird world is the flocking of immense numbers of some kinds of birds to a winter roost. The blackbirds, starlings, or crows frequently converge from wide areas to roost in some dense patch of woods. Their lines of flight are traced in silhouette against a gray or orange sky, and at the roost, the rustle of wings and babble of voices continue well into dusk. In strong contrast to these birds are the Cardinal and Song Sparrow that disappear individually and usually quietly into a thicket at the close of day. For accounts of studies of these roosting habits, read in THE MIGRANT for March 1943 (v. 14, no. 1) pages 1 thru 5, for March 1944 (v. 15, no. 1) pages 9 thru 14, and for December 1945 (v. 16, no. 4) pages 62 thru 64.

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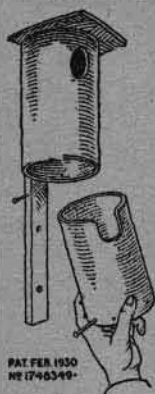
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