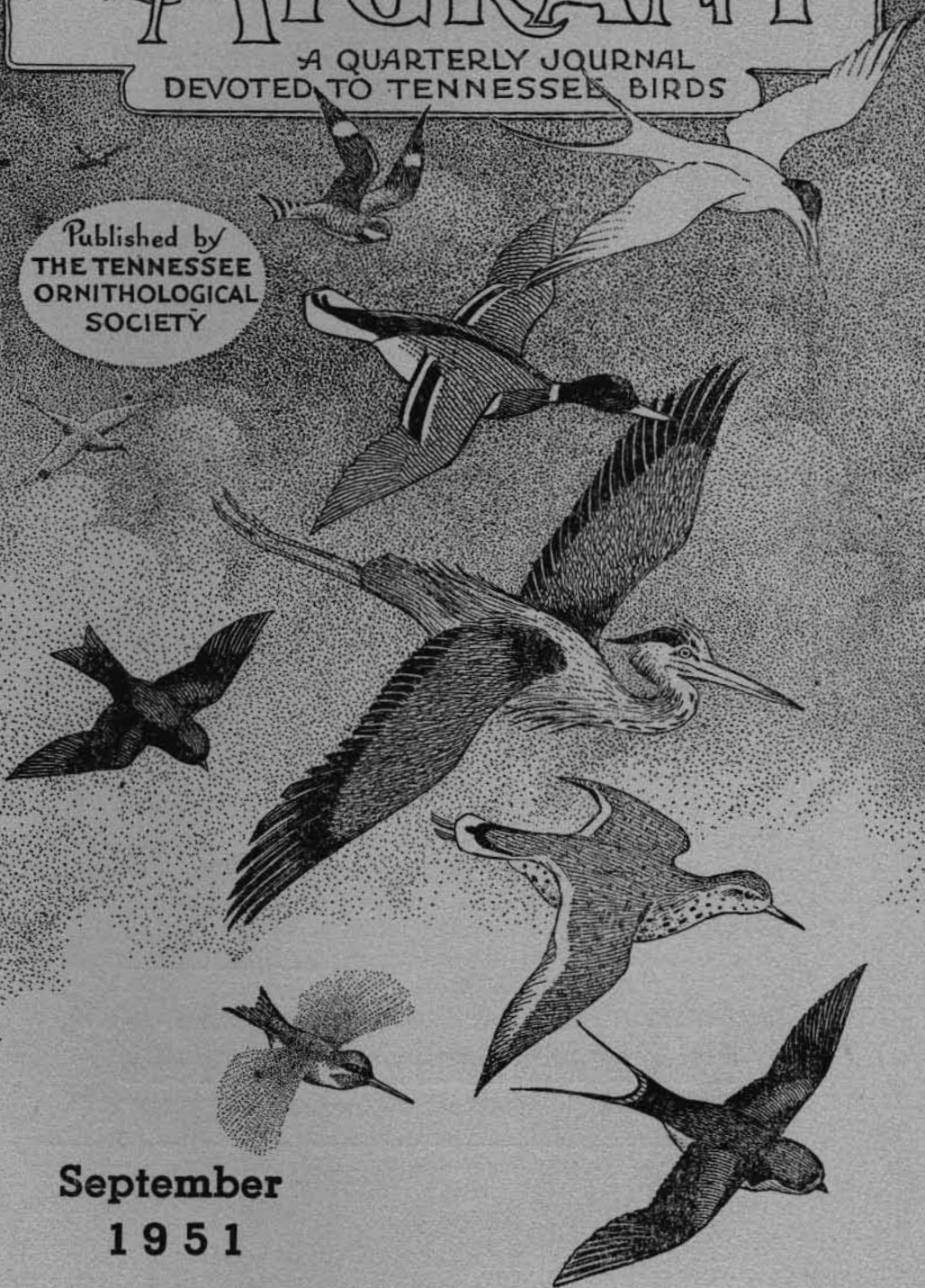


THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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SOME NOTES ON BALD EAGLES

By ALBERT F. GANIER

The recent capture, described below, of a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) recalls a number of notes I have made on this species and some of these are recorded in what follows.

On the new Center Hill lake, covering what was the Caney Fork valley, at a point about ten miles northeast of Smithville, Mr. Lucien H. Stanton of McMinnville, on July 20, 1951, sighted an eagle flying low above the water and heavily laden with prey. Two crows were flying above or trailing, making raucous cries all the while. Stanton's motorboat had just rapidly rounded the point of a peninsula when he came in sight of the eagle, and the bird on seeing the approaching boat banked sharply to change its course. The maneuver resulted in the prey striking the water, causing the big raptor to dive in head first. The crows circled above for a few seconds, doubtless feeling that all credit for the victory was theirs, then flew away as the boat approached.

I interviewed Stanton a week later at his office and he told me that the eagle attempted to rise from the water but was unable to do so. The prey floated to the surface and proved to be a small, red jersey pig. He did not look to see if it had been freshly killed but presumed it had because pigs and stock were grazing in the hillside pasture from the direction of which it had come. The eagle was finally lassoed and towed up to and out on the bank. Its regal feelings having by this time become fully aroused by such unaccustomed indignities, it immediately became belligerent. "It flew into me and at my companion," Stanton said. "It tore my pants to shreds and chased my companion twenty feet up the bank." It was finally secured by throwing a life preserver about it and was then transferred to a wire coop. Believing it to be a Golden Eagle, he left it there, at the Hurricane dock, for others to see. The bird would not eat so it was released the following night by a dock attendant.

In my talk with Stanton it developed that the bird had unfeathered tarsus ("legs like a chicken") which proved it to be a Bald Eagle. From the description of the plumage it seems probable that the bird was in its second or possibly third year, with head and tail mostly brown. Since these eagles do not breed until three or four years old—by which time the head and tail have turned white—this individual was probably an unmated wanderer.

While one might think that lack of experience caused this eagle to strike the water, yet a similar instance occurred on Lake Watauga, near Hampton in northeast Tennessee, which involved a mature, white-headed bird. A clipping which was sent to me by Fred W. Behrend included a photo of the bird

and an account of its having been rescued by men in a boat who saw it struggling in the water to keep itself afloat. This was at 8 a. m. in mid-October, 1950. The report said the bird had a wingspread of seven feet and weighed eight pounds.

Eagles along the seacoast often become quite dependent upon Ospreys to catch their food since they habitually rob these birds of the fish they so expertly catch. In Tennessee, however, no Ospreys are known to remain for nesting so visiting Bald Eagles must catch their own prey, the most of which is probably rabbits. That it has been known to catch its own fish and arise with them from the water is attested by several competent observers quoted by A. C. Bent (1937) in the chapter on this species included in his life histories of birds. The several pair which nest at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, live chiefly during the hunting season on ducks that have been crippled by the numerous hunters there and at other seasons on "rough" or dead fish discarded by commercial fishermen and on the little musk ("stink box") turtles which are found drowned in their nets.

At Horseshoe Lake, Arkansas, 25 miles southwest of Memphis, the writer in company with Ben B. Coffey and other Memphis T. O. S. members, found three nests on the wooded island in the lake on March 9, 1930. The island was also a refuge for deer and while walking about, we found several carcasses of does and fawns partly eaten, probably by the eagles. One of the nests to which I climbed, 103 feet up in a large white oak tree, held two young nearly as large as the adults. A more detailed account may be found in an article by me at that time (1931) entitled "Facts about Eagles in Tennessee."

At least two nests of the Bald Eagle have existed during the past few years on the Tennessee River, one in Alabama and one in Tennessee. The first mentioned is located on an island in the river a few miles upstream from Decatur and was reported to me in the spring of 1948 by Paul Bryan who is connected with the Wildlife Division of the T. V. A. with headquarters at Decatur. Mr. Bryan found the bird incubating on January 16 and on May 6 noted that the young in the nest appeared nearly grown. In 1949 the eagles were again reported using the nest by personnel of the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, and this pair is probably still resident there. Further downstream, in Hardin county, Tennessee, there is an island which from early days has borne the name of Eagle's Nest Island and reputed to have formerly been a regular nesting site.

Of greater interest is a nest in Stewart county, Tennessee, which has been in use during the past few years and is believed to be in current use. This was described (1949) by John DeLime, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for that area, as follows: "The nest of the Bald Eagle in Tennessee about one-half mile over the (Kentucky) State line on the east bank of the lake—Apparently the eagles have been here for at least three years and I have observed them for two. The nest used last year (1948) was in a large red oak on a sharp little hill about 150 yards from the water. Another nest, not being used, is located about one-quarter mile north of this point. Last year only one bird was raised and again this year there is only one bird in the nest." The writer plans to check on this nest during the coming spring.

It is quite probable that another pair are nesting near the confluence of Duck River with the Tennessee, at which point Kentucky Lake has submerged thousands of acres of river bottom, and the area has been set aside as a wildlife refuge. The most tangible evidence is the recording there of a Bald Eagle in adult plumage during May 1949, by Miss Kathleen Key who was with a nature study group from Murray State College. An adult bird at this date and in such environment would be pretty certain to have a nest not far away.

The tailwaters of the great Tennessee river dams are regular hangouts for these eagles in winter where they join the gulls in gleaning dead or injured fish. In the Nashville area, one or two of the birds are reported nearly every year. Those in the fall may be either adults or young while those in the spring are generally immatures, i. e., wanderers. The numerous power-dam lakes that have been formed on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers and their tributaries may cause additional pairs to establish themselves, especially if Ospreys move in too, to help out with their food problem.

For those who would care to learn more of the life history of the Bald Eagle, it is suggested that they read Francis H. Herrick's (1924) careful study of this species in northern Ohio and referred to in the literature cited below.

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- 2112 WOODLAWN DRIVE, NASHVILLE 12 TENNESSEE.

HELP WANTED

The following two requests for cooperation have been received and are hereby passed on to T. O. S. members. A research fellowship has been established at Ohio State University for the study of bird migration as related to weather phenonema. Cooperation is needed in obtaining data on the most common migrants, day-by-day counts made thruout the migration season in a certain locality at about the same time each day. Anyone wishing to collaborate should write for blanks and further information to Mildred Miskimen, Research Fellow, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio. Special help is needed also this fall by the Fish and Wildlife Service to obtain information on the fall migration of Mourning Doves. Counts or notes may be sent to, or more information obtained from, Chandler S. Robbins, Biologist, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

WARBLERS ALONG SHORT CREEK, JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

By THOMAS A. IMHOF

West and north of Birmingham is a rugged area of 3200 square miles of shaly soil where Alabama mines most of its coal. This region is similar in many respects to the coal-mining areas near the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee and Kentucky. This land in Alabama is a plateau of 700 to 750 feet in elevation that has been eroded very deeply into many narrow ravines. As a result farming is largely confined to the hill-tops. It was estimated by Harper (1943) that in 1940 76% of the area was forested.

The most conspicuous tree is Virginia pine, and there are no lack of cliffs for it. Harper (1943) estimated that 34% of the forest in this region is evergreen. In the bottoms the most abundant trees are about in this order: Tulip Poplar, Beech, Hickory (various species), Elm, Box Elder, Loblolly Pine, Red Maple, Ash, White Oak, Sweet Gum, and Black Gum, with occasional Cucumber Trees. On the slopes where there is deciduous forest are found Red and Black Oaks, Hickory, Chestnut Oak, Dogwood, Sweet Gum, small amounts of Loblolly and Shortleaf Pine, and rarely Hemlock. On the drier and more barren slopes and the crests there are Virginia Pine, Shortleaf Pine, Blackjack Oak, Post Oak, and Longleaf Pine.

The valley of Short Creek, seven miles west of Birmingham, conforms in all respects including breeding birds with many other shale ravines in the region explored by the writer, except for the railroad which makes it easy to explore. In the late spring of 1950 the writer covered eight miles of this valley and two miles of an adjoining one and counted all warblers seen and heard along this ten-mile stretch of railroad. Five trips were taken, each covering about two miles of the route; the resulting counts are presented in the Table.

The area proved to have a large and varied warbler population. Four of the species are not generally known to nest in Alabama; these are Worm-eating, Blue-winged, and Black-throated Green Warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Of seventeen species of warblers known to breed in Jefferson County, all but the Prothonotary, Parula, and Yellow Warblers are represented. More than 90% of the birds recorded were singing males on territory. Note that except for the Blue-winged Warbler, all species were fairly evenly distributed along the hollow. The Pine Warbler figure is misleadingly low, because courtship and song begins in January and young are out of the nest the first week in April; in the area covered June 3 the writer found 20 Pine Warblers on March 20 and 25 on April 18. With the exception of this species, I believe that the totals in the Table are a very good indication of these warblers' relative abundance in the valley and region as a whole.

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- HARPER, ROLAND M. 1943. Forests of Alabama. Monograph 10, Geological Survey of Alabama. University, Alabama.
307 38th STREET, FAIRFIELD, ALABAMA

TABLE OF WARBLERS ALONG SHORT CREEK

	May 10	May 22	May 29	June 3	June 21	Total	HABITAT PREFERENCES
Black and White _____	5	5	6	4	..	20	Deciduous slopes
Worm-eating _____	1	..	2	2	3	8	Steep shrubby slopes
Blue-winged _____	2	2	One pair in a brushy field with deciduous saplings. The male sang from a pine.
Black-throated Green _____	5	10	..	8	1	24	Virginia Pine on the bluffs, often entering hardwoods.
Cerulean _____	8	4	17	4	6	39	Tall hardwoods close to water.
Yellow-throated _____	12	8	7	5	1	33	Loblolly, Virginia, and Shortleaf Pine, in marked contrast to the Sycamore-inhabiting birds of western Tennessee.
Pine _____	14	22	4	2	3	45	Pines, rarely in hardwoods.
Prairie _____	8	14	14	5	4	45	Dry slopes with saplings.
Louisiana Water Thrush _____	2	2	6	1	2	13	Always observed within five yards of the stream.
Kentucky _____	9	13	5	5	5	37	Slightly thicker and drier spots than the Hooded, which is often found nearby.
Yellow-throat _____	2	4	4	1	..	11	Sunny thickets near stream.
Yellow-breasted Chat _____	10	17	25	8	18	78	Any kind of thicket except the driest.
Hooded _____	10	16	3	6	8	43	Deciduous shrubby woodland near water.
American Redstart _____	10	10	16	9	7	52	Prefers beeches in bottoms

THE ROUND TABLE

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE AT LAKEVIEW, MISS.—Recently Alan Zeigler, enroute from Scott Field, Ill., to Bainbridge, Ga., where he will be an Air Cadet, stopped off at home and birded some at Camp Currier, Lonoke and Lakeview. On Aug. 17, 1951, while driving on the Lakeview levee alongside Horn Lake, he was able to observe a Swallow-tailed Kite flying low about 100 yards distant. The location was east of Mud Lake and in Mississippi about a mile south of Tennessee. Alan being an experienced and conscientious observer, this is offered as the first record of this kite for the Memphis area. The writer had covered this levee on the 18th and, in company with Alan and others, revisited it on the 19th without any success at finding this beautiful species.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

EFFECT OF THE 1951 ICE STORM ON BLUEBIRD NESTING.—The 1951 Bluebird population in Warner Parks was drastically reduced after the unprecedented ice storm which gripped Nashville from January 29 through February 12, 1951. Sleet and snow fell for four days, followed by a drop in temperature to 13 degrees, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau (still colder in some locations). Ice did not melt from the trees until February 4 and covered the ground completely for an additional eight days. With no natural food available, doubtless great numbers of birds perished in the wild and were eaten by predators. From the afternoon of February 12, when roads were partially cleared of fallen trees, I started making trips to Warner Park and found the remains of two Bluebirds in nest boxes, only feathers of one were left and the headless body of another.

During February and early March, the number of Bluebirds counted on my trips through the park did not exceed seven. On March 23, I found several boxes with varying amounts of nest material, but no eggs. Usually by that date egg laying and incubation are well started in Warner Parks. On my next inspection April 3, there were two complete sets of six eggs each. On April 12 a peak for the 1951 season was reached with 15 occupied boxes.

It is impossible to know how many adults survived the storm, but of nine incubating females trapped on the nest, only two had been banded in some previous year.

In the 1951 season with 46 available nest boxes, 17 were not used at all and 29 were occupied at least once by Bluebirds at various times. For the three nesting periods, 21, 26 and 10 nesting attempts were made, totaling 57. Eight sets of six eggs were laid, with an average number per clutch of 4.7 (about the same average per nest as in the three previous seasons.) But the average number of eggs per available nest box for the entire season of 1951 was only 5.7 eggs. This is the lowest of any season since the project was started in 1936. After the severe winters of 1940 and 1947, the average number of eggs per available nest box for the season was 9.7 and 7 eggs respectively. The average for "normal" years ranged from 9.6 to 12.3 eggs per available box. (MIGRANT 19 (1) :9-11 1948).

For comparison, the following table shows the drop in egg production this year:

Year	Number nesting attempts.	Number eggs laid
1948	93	441
1949	100	456
1950	109	506
1951	57	264

From the 264 eggs laid this year, 174 young were hatched and 122 survived to leave the nest (53.8% of the number laid). Twenty six clutches were entirely unsuccessful due mainly to predation.

Usually each season two or more nest boxes are occupied by Crested Flycatchers, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Bewick's Wrens or Carolina Wrens. This year none of these nested in the boxes. Carolina Wrens and Chickadees have been very scarce in Warner Parks since the ice storm.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, 1521 Greybar Lane, Nashville, Tennessee.

STARLINGS DRIVE RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS FROM NESTS.—

Each spring since 1947 my nature study classes and I have observed a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers in the same vicinity of Cumberland University campus. Usually several pairs of Starlings perch nearby as the Woodpeckers make a hole and nest in a dead snag. Then the Starlings take possession of the nest. Two to four nests were taken each year before the Red-heads retained one.

On May 9, 1948, we observed the maneuvers by which this was done. Several Starlings noisily closed in on the hole until a Red-head gave chase to one. While the chase was on, one of the other Starlings flew at the Red-head within the hole repeatedly until it also gave chase. Then a nearby Starling hopped in the hole. The returning Red-heads scolded and chased the Starlings, but made no attempt to retake the nest. Within an hour they were drilling at another site.

This year the male was seen first in the early morning of April 26, and the female later that afternoon. The first nest was completed in two days. For a week no Starlings were seen perching nearby. On May 7 a pair of Starlings were possessors of it, and the Red-heads were excavating a second nest. Between 1 and 11 a. m. on May 10 a pair of Starlings had moved into this nest. Tho the Red-heads are still seen in the area, their latest nesting sites have not been found during the following two days.—JAMES W. SHAW, Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee.

CERULEAN WARBLERS AND REDSTARTS REMOVE THEIR NESTS—

On May 12 and 13, 1951, members of the T. O. S., while attending the annual meeting at Standing Stone State Park, found a number of nests including two of the rarely found Cerulean warbler and one of the American Redstart. The latter was placed 18 feet up in an ironwood tree at the edge of a hillside woods and contained one fresh egg. The writer climbed to investigate the contents but did not touch the nest. The female flew about protesting and a group of members viewed the nest from below. Five day later, I returned to the Park for some further observations and on stopping at the Redstart's nest-tree, found that every vestige of the nest had been removed from the crotch. It is probable that a Blue Jay took the egg and that the parent birds then recovered the material to construct a new nest nearby.

Both Cerulean Warbler nests were under construction on May 12. The first was about 65 feet up, saddled well out on a horizontal limb that sprung from a large basswood tree that grew near the base of a steep wooded hillside. On May 17, the nest was found to have been completed but no attempt was made to examine it. The second nest was located on top of the ridge in a whiteoak tree that grew beside the Group Cabin near headquarters. It was near the top of the tree, about 60 feet up, and 10 feet out on a horizontal limb. Construction was actively under way on May 12 and the nest was well advanced. Several groups of members gathered to watch but no one attempted to climb the tree. On my visit of May 17, this nest too was found to have been completely removed and no material whatever

was left on the limb. It is my belief that the Warblers had removed it, bit by bit, to a new location. Here again is a possibility that a Blue Jay had caused dissatisfaction by visiting the nest. At Nashville, I have record of a Sycamore Warbler removing its nest after I had climbed and found it unfinished. Blue Jays frequently rob this species of their eggs. Dr. H. S. Vaughn tells me that he knew of a Red-eyed Vireo that removed its partly finished nest to a new location.—ALBERT F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Dr., Nashville, Tennessee.

NEST OF THE BLUE GROSBEAK (*GUIRACA CAERULEA*) IN KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE.—As reported earlier (1951 *Migrant*, p. 33) this species is being observed with increasing frequency in the Knoxville region. During a field trip taken with a class in Ornithology on August 18, 1951, a male Blue Grosbeak was observed as it sang from a telephone wire beside a hard-surfaced road. Soon a female carrying food in its bill joined the male and began to scold. In the hope that the female would fly to the nest we retreated until we were about 150 feet from the pair of grosbeaks. In a few minutes Mr. Paul Dunaway observed the female fly to a particular spot in a large mass of Kudza vine (*Pueraria lobata*) which covered a fence and nearby areas. A brief search resulted in locating the nest. It was three feet above the ground on a horizontal vine beside a Great Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*). In the nest were three young estimated to be about five to seven days old. During the 15 minutes we remained at the nest the female fed the young frequently. The nest was 1.75 miles southwest of Bearden.—J. C. HOWELL, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn.

TOWHEE IS SHRIKE'S PREY.—At about 10:30 a. m. of December 27, 1950, the many birds feeding around our yard began loud scolding. I hurried out in time to see something flutter behind the hedge fifty feet away. I could see with my glasses that it was a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) which had caught a bird. I approached, and the Shrike moved its prey across our narrow street, but it did not fly over two feet above the road. I inspected the bird, which was left on the ground, and found it to be a Towhee. Twenty minutes later the Towhee's head was gone; I then took the tail feathers.

At 12:00 the Towhee was gone from the ground. I found the lower body and feet hanging a few inches from the water on the bank of a stream. This was about ten feet from the spot beside the road, and it was lower. I took the feet and stuck the remainder of the body more firmly on the stick, as it was almost ready to drop. The Shrike did not come near while I stayed there. The Shrike seemed to have eaten over half of the entire Towhee in one day.

No Shrike had been seen near our home by me at any time before, and one has not been seen since.—FAIRMAN CUMMING, 824 Sutton Hill Road, Nashville 4, Tennessee.

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA.—Early June continued dry but the next four weeks had above normal rain, followed by a record hot, dry spell of six weeks up to Labor Day. For the first time in twelve years Pied-billed Grebes nested in our local area, at Lakeview, Miss. Four nests, two with eggs, were found five miles southwest of the previous site (1932-39) on the Spring Field Day, May 6. Adults with young were seen at the Lonoke, Ark., Fish Hatchery on July 29 (Coffeys) and Aug. 14 (Ziegler). A new heronry, second season, reported by Merrill Schwartz on Redmond Bar, a Mississippi River towhead six miles north of Memphis, too late for a visit by writer, is in willows and apparently of Little Blue Herons. Two Double-crested Cormorants were seen Aug. 14 at Lonoke, Ark., (Alan Ziegler), and Wood Duck were common there July 29 (Coffeys, R. D. Smith) when a female Shoveller, possibly injured, was seen at the hatchery. Purple and Florida Gallinules were at the latter place June 18 and July 29 (Coffeys) and Aug. 14 (Ziegler). A pair of purple Gallinules flushed at a recently used nest (eggshell fragments) and a new nest without eggs at the hatchery, July 29, while young Floridas were seen July 29 and Aug. 14 in the hatchery and the rice fields. Least Bitterns were also present there, while at Lakeview, Miss., a nest of this species with two eggs was found on May 6 (T.O.S.), later abandoned. Two Purple Gallinules were found at the Tupelo, Miss., Fish Hatchery, July 7.

High water, within two feet of flood stage, lasted into late July and Mud Lake was too high for herons until mid-September. On July 22 fifteen Wood Ibis were seen near there. Sandbars in the river started showing about Aug. 3, but Merrill Schwartz reported some high portions remained dry and Least Terns were using such areas for their nests in July. This species arrived unusually late and escaped T.O.S. eyes until June 1. First shorebirds noted were at Hazen and Lonoke, July 22, when Lesser Yellowlegs, 1, Least, 30, Semi-palmated, 3, Western, 2, Solitary, 1, and Pectoral Sandpipers, 10, were seen. A Spotted Sandpiper was seen July 28 at Lakeview, Miss., and 7 Pectoral Aug. 5 at the Navy Base, Millington, Tenn. (both near Memphis). An Upland Plover appeared July 22 at the Penal Farm with a few others later, while a Golden Plover, our first fall record, was seen Sept. 9 at the Navy Hospital. The latter species has been reported in eastern Arkansas in recent falls, **Audubon Field Notes**).

On Aug. 18 J. E. Jolly saw 15 Mississippi Kites over Riverside Park where a pair or more nest each year; six was the highest number seen previously. A few hours later, at about dusk, Oliver Irwin saw 16 moving southeast, at Levi School, three miles south-southeast. On Aug. 26, Capt. Bill Simpson, late of Nashville, Memphis, and Honolulu, now of the 11th Airborne Division, noticed a Kite feeding young on a nest about 90 feet high in a southern red oak. We watched the two adults at this site, in a woods about a mile southeast of Overton Park where the species was not reported this season. On Aug. 27 and 29 the birds were heard at the site but not subsequently. This is a late date for their nesting. At Mud Lake Demett

Smith saw an Osprey, Sept. 9, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, and Pigeon Hawk (rare) on Sept. 15.

Bank Swallows appeared in numbers, 200 on July 28 at Mud Lake and 500 on the pavement at Field 21, Aug. 5. Rough-wingeds appeared in small flocks in mid-July only. Barn Swallows again had a good season and nests were found on Apr. 29 at old bridges west of Coldwater, Miss. The first reported nest (for the common or northern race) for the state was at Walls, Miss., last May, 1950, by Harold Clark and Mount. The Tennessee River and Snake Creek colonies of Cliff Swallows changed little. Since 1935 two or three pairs of Brown Thrashers have always nested on Coffey Grounds but none this year and very few wanderers appeared at the traps. Robins are again below normal and Bluebirds in the county did not recover from the severe winter. Our first summer record for Mississippi of the Scarlet Tanager was a singing (and apparently nesting) male, south of Greenwood Springs, on July 8. Because of a late May record at Eastport, near Iuka, we have searched there unsuccessfully the last three Junes. On July 15 one was seen at the fire tower northeast of Parsons, Tenn. Orchard Orioles and the less common Baltimore appeared much less common than normal. Lark Sparrows at Hardy, Ark., returned to a 1929 site and were seen June 30 between Pocahontas and Ravenden, as was the Blue Grosbeak. Two pairs of the latter were at Grand Junction, Tenn., July 14 (A. Smith and Barefield); here a pair with young flying were seen July 6, 1947 (Coffeys), and the male collected (Tucker); none were found there 1949-50. On Aug. 12 Demett Smith observed an Eastern Meadowlark feeding young in a nest at the Penal Farm.

On Aug. 24 a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (rare) appeared at home where Mrs. Coffey could study it at ten feet and listen to it call for 30 minutes.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

NASHVILLE—In spite of a late spring drought, a hot humid mid-summer, and an August drought of impressive force Middle Tennessee's metrologically dry season is brightened by a number of interesting nesting records and by notes on summer bird movements.

June 26, Mrs. Amelia Laskey banded 6 young Shrikes in a nest she watched through incubation to successful fledging. Aug. 17 two of the banded young were back at the nest site in Warner Park. A. F. Ganier reports the Black-crowned Night Herons continued their nesting colony north of Nashville on White's Creek. Harvey Scurlock found a Cooper's Hawk nest on Woodlawn Drive at the city limit in a small thicket well surrounded for some years by dwellings. H. C. Monk reports that although the Mourning Dove population of Centennial Park area is only 50% of recent peak populations, one pair reared five broods from two nest sites the last of which fledged Sept. 2. Four Dove nests were still in progress Sept. 6. A late brood of three Robins left their nest Aug. 22 and a Cardinal nest still contained young Sept. 6. (H.C.M.) Observations on a nesting pair of Redstarts during several weeks led to the establishment of a breeding record for Basin Spring when the female was observed to feed a short-tailed fledgling very near the suspected location of the nest June 6

(ARL, KAG). Effects of the February Blizzard are still reflected in the total absence of evidence of resident Chickadees, Mockingbirds, and White-breasted Nuthatches along the South Harpeth River to Basin Spring, a territory previously supporting numerous pairs of each species. Carolina wrens have been reestablished during the summer.

An Orange-crowned Warbler on April 22 and 25 reported by Mr. Monk is a notable record. On July 10 a silent adult male Blue Grosbeak was observed feeding in a lespeziza field in the South Harpeth Valley by Mrs. Laskey, Juna Moore of Oak Ridge, and the writer. The bird fed leisurely and gave ample time for deliberate observation. A Little Blue Heron in white plumage was recorded on the South Harpeth April 27 by Mrs. Laskey. Mr. Camer records a mature Yellow-crowned Night Heron, July 16, north-west of McMinnville on Sink Creek at Blue Spring. A Great Blue Heron was over Centennial Park June 24 (H.C.M.).

A late record for three Dickcissels in a nesting territory is Aug. 19 (A.R.L.). Aug. 23 seems early for a flock of 19 fall-plumaged Bobolinks. Among them was a singing Short-billed Marsh Wren (A.R.L. and K.A.G.). Dr. Mayfield reports the season's first Magnolia Warblers: two on Stones river on Aug. 26. The Upland Plover's call in pre-dawn flight Aug. 13 and others on Sept. 1 and 4 were heard by H. C. Monk. H. O. Todd near the same Plover in flight over Murfreesboro Sept. 1. A rare record of Purple Martins in flight Sept. 3 comes from Mr. Monk. In addition to a migrating flock of about 1000 Nighthawks proceeding up the South Harpeth valley late afternoon Aug. 28, the writer reports a Canada warbler and a red-breasted Nuthatch on Aug. 31, the latter being an extraordinary date for an infrequent visitor.—KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE.

KNOXVILLE—The summer heat came here during July, when there were some spells of unusually hot weather. August was one of the driest Augusts on record. Altho there have been some rare bird records made this summer, it does not appear that the unusual weather had much influence on birds' activities.

There were two new species added to the list of birds nesting in Knox County, both by J. C. Howell. On July 1 he found two adults and one young Worm-eating Warbler near House Mountain. The second addition was the Blue Grosbeak, which record is noted in "The Round Table" of this issue. Other unusual nesting records were of House Wrens, which apparently nested again in the Lonsdale section of Knoxville, and of Cedar Waxwings, when one adult and two young were seen on July 21. The following are unusually late nesting records: Summer Tanager, young leaving the nest on Aug. 1; Towhee, nest with two eggs and one young on July 29; Grasshopper Sparrow, nest with four eggs on July 31; Chipping Sparrow, young out of nest Sept. 2.

Summer herons have been few except for a group of fifty American Egrets seen on Aug. 31 by Bob Scott. The only other herons seen, except for Great Blues, have been a Little Blue Heron on July 22 and a Black-crowned Night Heron on June 3.

The following records represent either wandering birds or early fall migrants. Two Cerulean Warblers were seen on July 28; it is possible that these nested in this area; one was seen on Aug. 18. A Lark Sparrow, a very rare bird in East Tennessee, was found by J. C. Howell on Aug. 11 about seventeen miles west of Knoxville. A Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared at my home on Sept. 4, and has remained in the pines around there since that date. The first dates for several fall migrants are: Canada Warbler, Aug. 27 and 30; Tennessee Warbler, Sept. 1; Bobolink, 21 on Sept. 2; Pectoral Sandpiper, one on Sept. 2; Olive-backed Thrush, Sept. 18.—JAMES T. TANNER.

GREENEVILLE—Greene County had an unusual rainfall distribution the past summer. The northeastern section received ample moisture while the southwestern area was quite dry. This condition may have affected few of the birds but it appears to have been responsible for a very noticeable increase of Bobwhites in the dry section. Mr. Richard Nevius has observed unusual numbers in the Lick Creek valley.

Without explanation is a scarcity of Mourning Doves as compared with past years. Flocks of young birds are noticeably few.

Red-headed Woodpeckers "conspicuously absent" last winter on the Tusculum College campus, returned in usual numbers last spring. However, no young were observed during the summer and it is problematical whether they were successful in nesting. During most of the summer large droves of starlings used the oak grove where the Red-heads usually nest.

On September 2 five Pileated Woodpeckers were observed by Mrs. Willis Clemens in flight near her home at Tusculum. Three of the group were smaller indicating successful nesting of these birds, probably in a near by woodland. Pileated woodpeckers seem definitely on the increase in this county.

The following is quoted from a report by Mrs. Richard Nevius: "From his appearance on April 30, a Dickcissel sang daily and often until June 4, when the red clover field, beneath his electric wire perch, was mowed. Thereafter through June 19, the last date song was heard from his area, his song was sporadic. Two pairs of Dickcissels in the Roaring Fork bottoms may have nested successfully, as song from the two males persisted almost steadily through August 4. The location of the latter two pairs was more favorable to successful nesting, being a permanent pasture area with bushy edges and a central wet, densely grown area."

"Late summer wandering was noted in a female Prothonotary Warbler which paused July 10-13 in lawn mimosa trees. On June 29 a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appeared in a roadside and lawn area where the species had not occurred throughout the nesting season."

On the afternoon of September 15, Mrs. Willis Clemens, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. White, and C. M. Shanks made a trip to Camp Creek Bald to observe hawk flights. Weather conditions were ideal but no evidence of large flights occurred. However, fourteen hawks were observed and identified as follows: Cooper's, 1; Red-shouldered, 1; Broad-wing, 1; Marsh, 4; Sparrow, 1; and unidentified, 6.

Today, September 16, 9 unidentified hawks were observed by Dr. Bing Barnes flying over Tusculum at a very great height. The flight was very swift and in a southwesterly direction indicating migration.

Six young Ruffed Grouse were observed along the road leading to Camp Creek Bald by the party mentioned above.—C. M. SHANKS.

KINGSFORT—The following comments on summer birds in Sullivan County are based upon the observations of only a few people. The area has not been covered well enough for accurate estimation of trends. Nevertheless we have a few local items of general interest.

Bewick's Wrens seem to be declining in numbers, at least in and around the city of Kingsport. This is in line with the hypothesis that Bewick's Wrens tend to disappear in areas invaded by the House Wren. For example, Mrs. Switzer reports that three pairs of House Wrens nested this summer in an area of about three acres in her neighborhood. Last year one pair of Bewick's Wrens and one pair of House Wrens nested in this same area. The Bewick's Wren appeared in April, but did not remain after the arrival of the House Wrens in May. Carolina Wrens also nest in this area, and Mrs. Switzer said that she has heard all three singing at the same time.

The House Wren is primarily a city bird. More specifically, he is a bird of residential districts where there are gardens and shrubbery, and of course, wren houses. In Sullivan County there are very few House Wrens outside of Bristol and Kingsport, and probably a hundred in each of these cities. I have lived in Blountville nearly six years and have seen only one and heard only one other House Wren there. Besides these two transients I have seen or heard no others outside of the cities of Kingsport and Bristol. On the other hand, Bewick's Wrens are distributed generally over the country.

Our rarest summer resident, the Vesper Sparrow, did not return to the area where he has been observed thruout the summer during three of the past five years.

Bachman's Sparrow seemed less numerous this summer, continuing a trend toward fewer numbers. The high hill behind the house in which I live with my family has been the summer residence of this sparrow during four of the past five seasons. This year the male arrived late, but sang for long periods during June and the first half of July, as much at noon as in the morning or evening. I made several unsuccessful attempts to locate the nest. Perhaps there was no female.

This was a poor year for Brown Thrashers, but a very good one for Bob-white, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, and summer warblers in general. A few Ruffed Grouse were seen on Bay's Mountain in June.

Mrs. Switzer reported a Canada Warbler on Aug. 26. Her fall record for Magnolia, Bay-breasted, and Blackburnian Warblers was Sept. 12. This is the same date for first fall appearance of these three warblers last fall and the fall before.—THOMAS W. FINUCANE.

BOOK REVIEWS

A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING, East of the Mississippi, by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Oxford University Press, N. Y. \$5.00.

This book, "A Guide to Bird Finding", tells you where to go to find birds in the States lying entirely east of the Mississippi River. Its author had the assistance of over 300 collaborators, local experts who furnished the necessary detailed descriptions of what birds are found in each locality and the route to the best places. The reviewer "tested it out" by reading the descriptions pertaining to several spots in the eastern States with which he was familiar, and it tested "good to excellent". He also found that if he had had the book on a trip made this past summer, he would have found better birding spots than he did.

The material is arranged by States, and for each State there is a brief description of its geography, vegetation, and other points pertinent to bird study, and a list of the typical birds found in the most important habitats. Following this come the descriptions of the localities, in alphabetical order, fifteen to twenty or so for each State. The real meat of the book lies in the descriptions and information for each locality. A typical description begins with the vegetation or habitats, a list of the typical or more interesting birds that can be found, and then most useful and detailed directions on how to reach the best birding spots. These directions are given in terms of route numbers, names of roads and streets, mileages from landmarks, directions for walking, where to rent boats, etc.; no one should have trouble finding their way.

There is a large index, including not only the localities but also the species of birds mentioned. You can sit down with this book and figure out the best places to go to find the birds you want to see. Bird finding made easy!

The book is decorated handsomely by many excellent pen and ink drawings of birds done by George Miksch Sutton. These, and a good job of printing, made it an attractive book.

T. O. S. members will be especially interested in the chapter on Tennessee. The list of contributors to this contains many familiar names.

Potential readers and users of this book should be cautioned about one thing: anyone reading the various descriptions will get an almost irresistible desire to start off immediately on a long birding trip.—JAMES T. TANNER

BIRDS OF ARKANSAS, by W. J. Baerg, Dept. of Entomology, University of Arkansas, Bulletin 258 (rev.), Agricultural Experiment Station, Fayetteville. Obtainable for \$1.50 from the University Book Store, Fayetteville, Ark. 188 pp., paper, 3 species in color on covers, 47 photographs.

This is a revision of the bulletin issued January, 1931, long out of print, and Dr. Baerg and the station are to be heartily commended for making this edition available. Previously there were two other works, by Arthur H. Howell, 1911, and H. E. Wheeler, 1924, making, in effect, four books or editions on the birds of the State. Some of Arkansas's neighbors

could well take note. The present bulletin presents information that will aid teachers and others interested in Arkansas out-of-doors. A brief description, notes on range, and miscellaneous gleanings on habits are given for each species, following a general introduction. It is intended to supplement a modern field guide and other standard works. 354 species and subspecies are listed.

Under range, specific references to some localities included in the 1931 edition and based on Howell's publication, have been dropped and more recent records added. A student of distribution will thus need the previous works and more especially will he need "An Annotated Bibliography of Arkansas Ornithology" by the late Wm. H. Deaderick (*The American Midland Naturalist*, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 490-496, Sept., 1940) to assist in evaluation of some records. The Garland County records of Dr. Deaderick and those of several other capable, amateur ornithologists add greatly to the present book. Here at Memphis we are interested in the Mississippi River area and are glad to note many recent records for eastern Arkansas, chiefly from U. S. Fish and Wildlife personnel. While Dr. Baerg refers to and takes into consideration publications on the bird life of adjacent states on three sides of Arkansas, the eastern border is completely overlooked and with it Ganier's Tennessee list, Westmore's Tennessee notes, Ganier's and Whittemore's Reelfoot lists, Vaiden's Rosedale, Mississippi, lists and the various notes on the immediate Memphis area. While Memphis students, possibly because of poor roads and the recent bridge traffic jams, have worked Tennessee and Mississippi areas much more than across the river, still such localities as Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County) and the summer camp region of Hardy and Mammoth Spring have been visited for many years. *The Migrant* contains several Arkansas records of special interest, including the first state records for the Purple Gallinule and Franklin's Gull. In addition, many unpublished records are available; these would chiefly affect the status of certain water birds. Ganier is quoted directly and indirectly on the Bald Eagle but no mention is made of the Horseshoe Lake nesting colony he describes and which is probably the oldest, away from the coasts, in continuous existence. The reviewer is mistakenly credited with two records, one jointly. The latter should have been credited to R. Demett Smith, Jr., who recorded the first Fulvous Tree Ducks for the State on Sept. 16, 1950, a flock of 51 which were seen thru the following October 4. The other record was for the Avocet, a species seen by the reviewer only in California.

Anything is possible but here at Memphis we have about given up trying to emulate New England bird students who turn up "impossible" rarities. Arkansas, because of its location, should have its share, particularly from the western plains. Dr. Baerg's list includes some species of special interest and we present those below which, from our viewpoint, might be grouped in two categories: unusual and very unusual. Some of the latter might be said to be doubtful but, details lacking, we hesitate to stick out our reviewing neck. By referring to Dr. Deaderick's bibliography we learn some are based on specimens and we have indicated

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The simple truth about birds is interesting enough;

it is not necessary to go beyond it.

these by an asterisk. Some others are probably also based on specimens.

Unusual: Holboell's Grebe, Trumpeter Swan, Greater Snow Goose*, Greater Scaup Duck, Swainson's Hawk (eastern Arkansas), Prairie Falcon*, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Say's Phoebe, Bohemian Waxwing, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill (fed from the hand), Oregon Junco, and Smith's Longspur. Also unusual: summer records of Herring Gull, Forster's Tern and Savannah Sparrow; no summer records of the Double-crested Cormorant; the Mississippi Kite termed rare; no evidence of the nesting of the Least Tern (regularly nests along the Mississippi River along the eastern boundary); Orange-crowned Warbler and Grinnell's Water-thrush as only rare transients; and the Grass-hopper Sparrow in winter in northwestern Arkansas.

Very unusual: American Brant, Mountain Plover, American Knot, Royal Tern, White-throated Swift*, Violet-green Swallow ("abundant over prairie" Nov., 1949), Clark's Nutcracker*, White-rumped Shrike, the status currently given the Bachman's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Bob-tailed Grackle, also the nesting of the Alder and Least Flycatchers.

It might be mentioned that an old (but probable) record of a Bank Swallow colony at Helena is now termed unverified while the other two records presented could, under detached consideration, be thought to be of Rough-winged Swallows. The treatment of subspecies follows general practice for a list of this nature but some deviations were noted. Among them were the absence of the race, the Loggerhead Shrike, and the inclusion of Ward's Heron only because Deaderick had referred his Great Blue Herons to that race; all other records of the latter were referred to the northern race which, apparently, doesn't nest in West Tennessee and, correspondingly, in most of Arkansas.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

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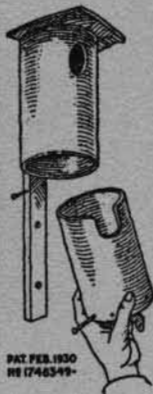
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