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RECOVERY OF A CHICKADEE POPULATION FROM THE 1951 ICE STORM

By KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE

It is rare and fortunate when observations in natural history are recorded in such a way that they afford a means for measuring the effects of unpredictable meteorological phenomena on biological populations. Such was the case when bird population records kept before January 28, 1951, served as a control by which to interpret the effects on birds of the terrific ice storm which began on that date and covered Middle Tennessee.

Beginning in November 1950 I had been recording, at two or three week intervals, counts of species and individuals of all birds identified by sight or sound along a five mile country road approaching Basin Spring and in the woodland and pastures of this area. My own attention to a count varied somewhat from trip to trip, but the route and regularity were constant. For example, if I went for a "farming day", I kept a record of all individual birds that came to my attention within the territory without intensive search for them. On the other hand if I went for a "bird day", often with a companion interested in birds, frequent stops were made along the road, close attention was given to birds, and the result of a concentrated search for individuals and species was recorded. Other days' counts might represent a combination of a casual count along the road and two or three hours of intensive observation at the farm. My most frequent companion on "bird days" was Mrs. Amelia Laskey.

The cataclysmic ice storm of 1951 fell between January 28 and February 1. Descriptions of this terrific episode are recorded elsewhere. Suffice it to say that by February 1 every twig, limb, and tree trunk were encased in thick ice. Hard ice and deep snow covered the ground for a number of days and extreme temperatures of from 13 to 20 degrees below zero were recorded. Bird counts over the territory were continued immediately on the heels of the storm and afterward. When counts made before and after the storm were plotted, a number of things related to the effect of the storm on the bird population became evident. One species adversely affected was the Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*).

Records for sixteen trips from November 15, 1950, thru January 27, 1951, showed Chickadees present on each trip. The highest daily

counts were 13, 18, and 31; the usual count was 6 or 8. The sum of the counts was 150 giving an average of 9.37 Chickadees per trip.

For eighteen trips during five weeks immediately following the blizzard, February 2 thru March 8, not a single Chickadee was observed. On the nineteenth trip, March 11, one Chickadee was recorded and on March 25 there were two. These single birds were found at different locations and were not recorded in those same localities later. They seemed to be wanderers.

From July 1, 1951, thru January 12, 1952, during which fifty trips were made to the area, not a single Chickadee was recorded. One Chickadee appeared on January 13 and after that none was observed until June 10 when another one was seen. There were 1 on July 4, 4 on July 8, and 1 on August 9; and 8 individuals were seen on five trips during September. Ten trips during November and December 1952 gave one Chickadee on each of two days and two on one day. These eighteen records of Chickadees from July 1 thru December of 1952 as against no record at all for the same period of 1951 indicate a gradually increasing but still drifting population.

Thru the spring and summer of 1953 records occurred with increasing frequency. From July 1 thru December of 1953, 38 records of Chickadees indicate further slow increase in the population. Appearance of the species was still irregular and unpredictable. There was no location where it seemed definitely re-established.

To recapitulate for the July-December interval, records of the appearance of Chickadees were: 1951, 0; 1952, 18; 1953, 38. Using the interval of November 15 thru January 27 allows a comparison with counts made before the storm; the data are in the following table.

RECORDS OF CHICKADEES BETWEEN NOV. 15 AND JAN. 27

Year	Total No. Chickadees	Number Trips	Average Count per Trip
1950-51	150	16	9.37
1951-52	1	18	.05
1952-53	8	15	.53
1953-54	18	9	2.00

This report has been delayed until after the fall of 1954, awaiting some evidence for the re-establishment of the Chickadee as a breeding species. The first concrete evidence of Chickadees having bred in the Basin Spring area since the 1951 blizzard came on July 6, 1954, when an adult male and two or three fledgings were observed feeding along Shale Path at Basin Spring. The adult searched vigorously for food and the begging young birds followed.

During September, October, November, and December of 1954 Chickadees again became regularly present on every bird count, and I knew several locations where I could expect to find two or three. The void of three and a half years seemed to be occupied at last by a resident population. On January 2, 1955, January 5 (with Mrs. Laskey), and February 22 (with Miss Riggs), careful counts of Chickadees along the usual route yielded 9 on each of two days and 10 on the other, the

highest daily counts since the ice storm.

The data would seem to support these general conclusions: that the population of Carolina Chickadees in the Basin Spring area disappeared completely during the ice blizzard of January-February 1951; that there was very little wandering into the area during the first year following; that irregular appearances which still seemed to be those of wandering birds occurred with slowly increasing frequency during the next two years; and that there was a small breeding population in the area during the fourth breeding season after the blizzard. Since then the population has seemed to be thinly distributed but regularly and predictably present. On the basis of three days of concentrated counting, compared with similar counts taken before the storm, it would seem that the population has climbed from zero immediately after the storm to about one-half its pre-storm level during three and a half years.

Other species of birds in the area suffered to varying degrees and recovered with different degrees of rapidity. My records indicate that the Chickadee population was the most drastically reduced and the slowest by far to recover even one-half its previous density.

408 FAIRFAX AVENUE — NASHVILLE 12, TENNESSEE.

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COOPERATIVE MIGRATION STUDY — SPRING 1955

Three years ago a cooperative migration study was begun by which it was hoped that the arrival or departure dates of certain common migrants would be plotted for each migration season for every county east of the Rockies. The response by observers tripled in 1954 over the previous year, but more cooperators everywhere are needed, especially in the South.

The data needed are the arrival dates, peak migration dates, and dates of departure or dates last noted, together with the numbers seen on each of these dates, for the species listed below. The ideal cooperator is one who daily notes the birds in the same area, in a garden, on his way to work, etc. The migrants being studied are: Canada Goose, Marsh Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Ovenbird, Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow.

Observers having data can send them in to the individual in their area who prepares notes for "The Season", or can send them directly to Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

THE SHORT-EARED OWL IN THE MID-SOUTH

By BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

When R. Demett Smith, Jr., accompanied by Gill and Bonner, found five Short-eared Owls in Memphis at the President's Island blackbird roost on Dec. 21, 1952, it was our first record for some years. Therefore a number of bird students visited the roost not only to watch the blackbirds but to see the owls, from one to four being seen thru Jan. 24. Actually it was a forecast of other occurrences of this species.

There have been a number of records from Clarksville and Nashville and a few from Mt. Pleasant in Middle Tennessee, but not many from West Tennessee. The only previous record in Memphis was by the late Austin Burdick, Jr., of one on March 25, 1941, at Jackson and Warford (Migrant, 12:35, 1941). A local taxidermist had one that had been killed Dec. 23, 1930, at Trezevant, Tenn., and in January 1932 our Zoo had one brought in from a locality not recorded. On Feb. 18, 1941, Eugene Wallace and George H. Lowery, Jr., saw one near Shelby Forest and three at the Memphis Municipal Airport (Migrant 12:15, 1941). Burt Monroe kindly writes me that during the winters of 1943 and 1943-44 he found the species regularly at the Dyersburg Army Air Base at Halls, seeing from two to four.

The first seen by local students was one on Jan. 1, 1934, at Lakeview, Miss., a mile south of Tennessee (Migrant 5:10, 1934). On the Moon Lake count, Dec. 29, 1940, two were seen in a Hwy. 61 field near Clayton. On Jan. 12, 1941, at this spot we flushed one and found one freshly shot (Migrant 12:16, 1941). M. G. Vaiden (Migrant 14:51, 1943) collected a male near Rosedale, Miss., Mar. 18, 1940, while he reports (Migrant 24:9, 1953) not less than 50 on Nov. 9 and 10, 1952, and flocks that winter. Brooke Meanley advises (1953-54) that these owls were common at the blackbird roosts in the Stuttgart, Ark., area. We expected it to be common in the Lonoke rice field area but for three trips each of three winter seasons we have only two records—one on Jan. 27, 1952, and one on Dec. 26, 1953. On Nov. 15, 1953, hunters saw five or six near Clarkedale, Ark., shooting two which were later identified by J. E. Jolly. At another Crittenden County locality, south of Crawfordville, George Peyton, Jr. saw one in rice stubble on Mar. 13, 1954.

The first one noted during the second season off the President's Island blackbird roost was one on Nov. 11, 1953, by George Peyton, Jr. One to two were seen subsequently but the Count party saw at least nine on Dec. 27. No further check had been reported when the roost was unexpectedly deserted about mid-February, part of the black birds evidently moving to wooded Elmwood Cemetery. But in walking airfields looking for longspurs and pipits we began to find this species wherever there was some weedy cover: Dec. 13, 1953, at Halls, 3 (BC, LC, AS); Feb. 6, 1954, at Field 21 near Memphis, 1 (BC); Feb. 14, 1954, (BC, LC, KR), Westover, 2, and Union City, 5; Kilian Roever returned to his "home" field, Westover, and saw 5 there Feb. 21. Some fields

where we found no owls did not appear to be suitable. The last record was a first for the Penal Farm—one, Apr. 17, 1954, when the Lee R. Herndons went with us to our much frequented Smith's-Sprague's hill.

In summary, this owl may be present from about Oct. 30 to Apr. 17. Except for the early part of 1941, the species did not become widespread here until 1952-53 and 1953-54. Some localities have been worked repeatedly before recording it. As we enter a new season, one at the small Sanders Field near Walls, Miss., on Oct. 30, 1954 (BC), gives us our earliest date while seven were seen Nov. 21 (LC, AS, BC) on our first visit to the Jonesboro, Ark. Airfield.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

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THE 1955 SPRING FIELD DAYS

By T.O.S. MEMBERS

Some unusual birds for our Spring Field Days were the Ruddy Ducks at Nashville, the Golden Eagles seen on Mt. Rogers by a member of the Bristol Chapter, Golden Plovers at Lakeview, a Laughing Gull at Duck River, and Bonaparte's Gulls at Knoxville. The Evening Grosbeaks seen at Knoxville, plus one bird picked up at Elizabethton two days before their Field Day, were the tail end of our rare winter visitors. Other species which were a sign of the unusual winter just past are the Red-breasted Nuthatch, rarely seen on Spring Field Days, and the relatively high numbers of Myrtle Warblers and Pine Siskins. The total number of species reported is 191, the second highest on record.

The birds reported from each locality are listed in the "Tabular Record" which follows. The localities are arranged from west to east across the State. The general information from each locality is in the paragraphs below, and these paragraphs also contain additional information on the birds marked with an asterisk (*). The abbreviations used are: "a"—abundant, "c"—common, "fc"—fairly common.

LAKEVIEW, MISS.-TENN., and MEMPHIS. May 1, 1955. 60 members of the Memphis Chapter; Ben B. Coffey, Jr., compiler. The Veery and Swamp Sparrows were reported by R. D. Smith. The other birds marked were seen at Memphis rather than Lakeview.

REELFOOT—South end of lake around to Walnut Log, about two hours by boat, four by foot, and three by auto. May 14, 1955; 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy and overcast, slight rain, temp. 64 to 75. 5 observers; Howard Barbig, compiler. The heronry near Ridgely was visited where an estimated 1000 nests were seen, in the ratio of one Snowy Egret to 20 Little Blue Heron nests; there were a few nests of Black-crowned Night Herons. An estimated 2000 Little Blue Herons were seen.

HUMPHREYS COUNTY — Waverly, Johnsonville, the Duck River Dewatering Area of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Richland Harbor. May 7-8, 1955. Annual meeting of the T.O.S. (see report in this issue). The Laughing Gull was seen on May 8 in the Duck River

bottom by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cypert. Northern Waterthrushes were identified by Howard Barbig and James T. Tanner. Nests were found for all the other species marked in the list. An estimated 1000 nests were in the Duck River rookery, the abundant species being in the ratio of 5 Great Blue Herons to 1 American Egret to one Double-crested Cormorant. About 200 Cliff Swallow nests were on one of the bridges crossing the Tennessee River.

NASHVILLE—West, north, and south environs, Franklin, and the Cumberland River bottoms of north Nashville; also west of Ashland City were two extensive lagoons added greatly to the unusual number of water birds. May 14, 1955; 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Weather cool and partly cloudy. 16 observers; A. F. Ganier, compiler. 80 of the Black-crowned Night Herons were in a nesting colony. The Wood Ducks had young. The Ruddy Ducks were seen on Franklin Reservoir.

CHATTANOOGA — Same area as Christmas Count. May 1, 1955. Weather clear, light wind. 17 observers; Adele H. West, compiler. The female Wood Duck was carrying 4 young on her back. The Florida Gallinules were observed on a private pond in Georgia. The Rusty Black-bird was identified by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene West.

KNOXVILLE—The usual area within 7½ miles of Sharp's Gap. May 1, 1955; dawn to 1 p.m., with a few observers in the afternoon. Clear and warm, wind variable. 30 observers in about 20 parties; James T. Tanner, compiler. The Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at close range from a boat on the river by Don Hurley, who also reported the Barred Owl. This was the last record of Evening Grosbeaks in Knox County this season. Arthur Stupka reported that the last record for Gatlinburg was of three birds on May 3, and Mrs. Earl F. Olson at Norris saw 5 Grosbeaks on May 4 and one on May 6, the last record. The Swamp Sparrow was identified by Joseph C. Howell, the Junco by Mrs. E. E. Overton.

GREENEVILLE—Usual area about Greeneville, Tusculum, White's Mill, Nolichucky River, Camp Creek Bald, Roaring Fork, Bluff Mountain. May 1, 1955; 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Clear, temp. 42 to 80. 12 observers; Ruth Nevius, compiler. Mr. and Mrs. Nevius observed the Long-billed Marsh Wren and the Lincoln's Sparrow. The Dickcissels, seen by Mr. and Mrs. J. B. White, were three days earlier than the previous earliest record. The Whites also saw the Swamp Sparrow.

KINGSPORT—Within a triangle with points 2 miles west, 15 miles east, and 12 miles south of Kingsport. May 15, 1955; 4 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cloudy with showers in a.m., temp. 56 to 80. 14 observers; Thomas W. Finucane, compiler. The Red-breasted Merganser and Sora were identified by Mrs. R. M. Switzer, the Bank Swallow and Vesper Sparrow by T. W. Finucane, Grey-cheeked Thrushes by Finucane and W. E. Gift, the Veery and Savannah Sparrows by Gift, and the Prothonotary Warbler by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hincke.

ELIZABETHTON—Elizabethton to top of Roan Mtn. May 1, 1955. Clear and warm. L. R. Herndon, compiler. The Little Blue Herons were reported by John Luker, who had recently returned from Florida where he had photographed this species. An injured Evening Grosbeak was

picked up on Stony Creek on April 28. The other birds marked in the table were observed only above 5000 feet on Roan Mountain.

BRISTOL—Washington County, including Mt. Rogers, Va., and Sullivan County, Tenn. April 17, 1955; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Clear, wind 0 to 10 m.p.h., temp. 70 to 80. Miss Angie Loyless, compiler. The Golden Eagles were seen by Randolph Shields on Mt. Rogers; also seen there were the Ruffed Grouse.

TABULAR RECORD OF SPRING FIELD DAYS

	Lakeview May 1	Reelfoot May 14	Humphreys Co. May 7-8	Nashville May 14	Chattanooga May 3	Knoxville May 1	Greeneville May 1	Kingsport May 15	Elizabethton May 1	Bristol April 17
Pied-billed Grebe	.....	5	6	1	1	1	.....	2	.....	6
Dbl.-cr.										
Cormorant	.....	15	*c	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Water-turkey	3	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Great Blue Heron	1	25	*c	1	.....	5	1	.....	.....	.....
American Egret	1	15	*c	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Snowy Egret	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Little Blue Heron	.....	*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	*2	.....
Green Heron	4	3	4	12	1	7	3	5	2	.....
Blk.-cr.										
Night Heron	.....	*3	6	*85	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yel.-cr.										
Night Heron	.....	.....	2	6	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
American Bittern	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Least Bittern	.....	3	*3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mallard	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Gadwall	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Green-winged										
Teal	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blue-winged Teal	1	6	10	22	7	1	8	6	2	4
Baldpate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shoveller	.....	.....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wood Duck	.....	4	2	*4	*1	.....	.....	.....	14	.....
Ring-necked										
Duck	*2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lesser Scaup										
Duck	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....
Ruddy Duck	.....	.....	.....	*2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Amer. Merganser	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Red-br.										
Merganser	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	*1	.....	.....
Turkey Vulture	1	1	25	18	.....	3	16	14	17	6

Common Tern				7						
Black Tern		2		2						
Mourning Dove	19	40	fc	125	44	130	93	38	62	29
Yel.-bil. Cuckoo	3	1	4	33		4	1	5	2	
Blk.-bil. Cuckoo						1	1		2	
Screech Owl				1			1			
Barred Owl		3	2			*1	1			1
Chuck-will's-wid.			8		1	12	6	1		
Whip-poor-will			10	1		1	1		2	1
Nighthawk	*1		3	5	2	1	5	11	2	
Chimney Swift	6	12	fc	fc	31	175	304	41	61	22
R. thr.										
Hummingbird	4	4	9	4	4	8	3	5	5	
Belted Kingfisher	1	5	5	8		5	2	11	9	2
Flicker	3	2	5	7	16	32	30	27	40	21
Pileated										
Woodpecker	2	3	2	3	2	12	6	2	3	2
Red-bel.										
Woodpecker	10	7	5	9	7	15	4	2		10
Red-head.										
Woodpecker	7	2	2	5	11	9	11	2		2
Yel.-bel.										
Sapsucker	2						6			
Hairy										
Woodpecker	1	1	3	6			3		1	
Downy										
Woodpecker	5	4	6	19	8	14	10	4	12	11
E. Kingbird	8	15	fc	35	7	20	28	13	11	
Crested										
Flycatcher	7	10	8	14	5	25	39	14		
Phoebe	1	3	*15	22	6	36	44	16	35	7
Acadian										
Flycatcher	5	7	6	7	1	1	1	10		
Least Flycatcher				3					3	
Wood Pewee	9	10	c	45	4	9	15	25	4	
Horned Lark	2		*4	2		1		4		
Tree Swallow	4	2	3	1	2					
Bank Swallow			45					*3		
Rough-w.										
Swallow	4	1	12	32	8	65	24	26	52	12
Barn Swallow	5	1	15	40	4	21	70	4	5	2
Cliff Swallow			*400		42				48	
Purple Martin	3	10	25	2	7	40	49	11	8	
Blue Jay	22	6	fc	46	64	90	87	58	57	71
Amer. Crow	3	10	25	fc	26	82	74	35	109	61
Fish Crow	1									
Carolina										
Chickadee	11	12	30	28	25	75	38	18	32	41
Tufted Titmouse	8	8	fc	fc	29	46	38	22	33	32
Wh.-br. Nuthatch			8		5	8	2			6
Red-br. Nuthatch						2			*4	

	Lakeview May 1	Reelfoot May 14	Humphreys Co. May 7-8	Nashville May 14	Chattanooga May 3	Knoxville May 1	Greenville May 1	Kingsport May 15	Elizabethton May 1	Bristol April 17
Brown Creeper										1
House Wren				1		3	6	19	4	6
Winter Wren									*4	1
Bewick's Wren		1	12	28	1	6	7	2		
Carolina Wren	16	6	16	c	10	110	48	33	48	19
Long-bil. Marsh Wren				8			*1			
Mockingbird	2	4	8	fc	29	150	88	54	51	31
Catbird	5	3	10	29	15	30	29	28	26	5
Brn. Thrasher	6	5	10	40	19	65	54	37	38	31
Robin	6	5	10	c	33	160	102	77	95	99
Wood Thrush	16	3	*12	20	31	85	34	59	23	26
Olive-backed Thrush	2	5	4	24	1	5		22		
Grey-checked Thrush	3	1		4				*3		
Veery	*2	1			1			*1		
Bluebird	6	12	fc	6	17	95	70	11	40	19
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher	11	6	*c	34	15	70	28	16	13	2
Gold.-cr. Kinglet									*1	
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	3		1			5	1			2
Cedar Waxwing	14	80	40	41	1	51		20	17	
Loggerh. Shrike	2	5	10	8	2	4	1		3	3
Starling	22	c	8	c	105	200	325	48	179	220
White-eyed Vireo	17	6	c	fc	7	47	18	17	21	
Yel.-thro. Vireo	3		12	7	7	16	3	8	4	
Blue-head. Vireo	2					4	2		5	2
Red-eyed Vireo	10	6	c	c	25	120	18	25	31	
Warbling Vireo	3	10	7	8		6	1	5	1	
Blk. and white Warbler			15	4	8	35	8	10	10	
Prothonotary Warbler	23	15	12	11		1		*1		
Swainson's Warbler	3									
Worm-eating Warbler						3	1	1	1	
Blue-winged Warbler	1		5	6						
Tenn. Warbler	5	15	15	2	4	9		10		
Nash. Warbler			1						1	
Parula Warbler	6	3	2	1				5	6	1

	Lakeview May 1	Reelfoot May 14	Humphreys Co. May 7-8	Nashville May 14	Chattanooga May 3	Knoxville May 1	Greeneville May 1	Kingsport May 15	Elizabethton May 1	Bristol April 17
Dickcissel	120	25	c	70	—	—	*3	—	—	—
Eve. Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	*2	—	—	*	—
Purple Finch	2	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	8
Pine Siskin	—	—	—	—	13	—	2	—	1	4
Goldfinch	22	8	fc	42	25	325	103	44	125	140
Red-eyed Towhee	2	1	12	fc	60	140	63	53	44	35
Savannah Spar.	10	—	9	9	—	4	2	*2	3	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	—	—	2	4	5	14	5	23	8	—
Vesper Spar.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	*1	2	1
Bachman's Spar.	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—
Slate-col. Junco	—	—	—	—	—	*1	3	—	*30	2
Chipping Sparw.	—	3	10	fc	2	110	55	8	27	8
Field Spar.	4	10	fc	fc	19	110	85	53	52	10
Wht.-cr. Spar.	3	—	—	2	—	9	33	1	11	5
Wht.-thr. Spar.	20	1	6	6	70	165	84	5	54	23
Lincoln's Spar.	—	—	1	—	—	—	*1	—	—	—
Swamp Spar.	*3	—	—	—	1	*1	*1	—	—	—
Song Spar.	—	—	—	—	1	146	81	58	92	42
Total Species	112	108	130	129	100	124	106	110	111	69

THE ROUND TABLE

GOLDEN PLOVER NEAR CHATTANOOGA—On November 7, 1954, while making a circuit of sloughs where a few shore and water birds had been previously found, my husband and I observed a Golden Plover for thirty minutes. It was feeding on a mud flat on Long Savannah Creek. We were able to get fairly close and a 20x telescope made identification certain. Later the same day at a slough near Hixson, Tennessee, another Golden Plover was seen under similar circumstances. The two locations are about seven miles apart. There appears to be only one earlier record for this species in East Tennessee.—MRS. EUGENE M. WEST, 1625 S. Clayton Ave., S.E., Chattanooga 11, Tenn.

THE KNOT RECORDED IN MEMPHIS—Inasmuch as Mud Lake had been dry since June, the only shorebirds found near by last fall were at the river's edge, on the northeast corner of President's Island. Yet even the handful found present each week-end yielded interesting birds, among which was a Knot (*Calidris canutus*). On September 11, 1954, Harry Landis, Jr., George Peyton, Jr., and the writer found it feeding there and studied it leisurely thru a 20 x 60 Baiscope. However, the

Knot acted unafraid and a mutual approach had us too close to use 7 x 50 glasses. The plumage was identical with that of the juvenal pictured in "Portraits of New England Birds." Apparently this is the first record of the species for Tennessee.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

LONG-EARED OWL IN MEMPHIS.—On March 26, 1955, due to the fine cooperation of some Blue Jays, I was able to discover a Long-Eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*) roosting in a magnolia tree in Overton Park, Memphis. I almost passed it up, thinking the Jays might be scolding a snake, then realized it had turned much too cold for a snake, so I hunted the source of the annoyance. The owl was very cooperative and remained there for George Peyton, Jr., who joined me, and Ben B. Coffey, Jr., who came on call. A group of other local members were also able to add it to their life list, but the next morning we failed to find it. Last year, on April 3, I also found a Long-eared Owl in the park but in deciduous trees. Mrs. Coffey joined me that evening but we couldn't find it again.

Mr. Coffey told me he found one of these owls in the Ensley bottoms in early spring, about 1931, but he is unable to readily locate the record in his files. The second West Tennessee record and first published record was by Capt. Burt L. Monroe (Migrant, 15:15, 1944) of one found freshly dead, January 21, 1944, at the Dyersburg Air Base (at Halls) and brought to him.—HARRY LANDIS, JR., 22 N. Century, Memphis, Tenn.

BLUE GROSBEAK IN GREENE COUNTY, TENN.—The first reported Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) in Greene County was seen by Mrs. Chester Darnell on May 1, 1954. Five individuals seen the following day by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Irvine were listed in "The 1954 Spring Field Days" (Migrant, 25: 32, 1954).

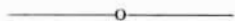
A summer record of a singing male was first made on June 15, 1954, on our farm north of Greeneville. He sang daily thru the remainder of June, intermittently thereafter until August 18 when he was last heard. He was seen alone except twice, July 4 and August 16, when he was accompanied by an individual we thought to be a female Blue Grosbeak. Considering two records of this species nesting in Knox County—by J. C. Howell (Migrant, 22: 44, 1951) and J. T. Tanner (Migrant, 23: 53, 1952), there seems future possibility of Blue Grosbeaks found nesting in upper East Tennessee.—RUTH REED NEVIUS, Greeneville, Tenn.

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRD RECOGNITION, III. Rails, Game-Birds and Larger Perching and Singing Birds. By James Fisher. 158 p. Penguin Books, Inc., 3300 Clipper Mill Road, Baltimore 11, Maryland. 85c.

Volumes I and II of this series on birds of the British Isles have been reviewed in earlier issues of *THE MIGRANT* (June 1952 and June 1954). This, the third volume, is similar in plan to the others and maintains the same high standards. The larger groups of birds treated, with their relatives are the rails, game-birds, kingfisher and relatives, woodpeckers, crows, larks, thrushes, and swallows. Each species is illustrated and described on two facing pages. With maps, an ingenious chart, and skillful economy of words, a multitude of topics are covered: field characters, breeding habits, seasonal activities, movements, distribution.

Since the appearance of "A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe" by Peterson, Mountfort, and Hollom, one may well question the usefulness of the "Bird Recognition" series. The latter has two advantages: lower price and more information on each species. This series might be subtitled "The Little Encyclopedia of British Birds."—JAMES T. TANNER.



NEWS AND NOTES

REPORT OF THE T.O.S. ANNUAL MEETING, 1955

The Tennessee Ornithological Society held its annual meeting on May 7 and 8, 1955, at Waverly, Tennessee, and vicinity. The meetings and field trips were very successful, and much of the credit for this is due to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cypert.

The first scheduled event was a field trip on Saturday morning to the Duck Rivery Rookery, led by Eugene Cypert. Members were able to reach the interior of the rookery by boats and by a boardwalk built by the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge; it was a fine experience and a novel one. The birds seen here and at other places during the two day meeting are reported in the account of Spring Field Days in this issue.

The business meeting of the Directors was held Saturday afternoon in the auditorium of the Johnsonville Steam Plant, by courtesy of the TVA officials. The business transacted here and at the membership meeting is summarized below. Those members not involved in the director's meeting made field trips in the vicinity.

Saturday night a dinner was held at the Waverly School Cafeteria, with 77 members attending. Brief talks were given by Mr. Frank Langford, Waverly, and Mr. V. L. Childs, Manager of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, with Mrs. R. A. Monroe, President, presiding. Mr. John R. Beck, University of Tennessee at Martin, reported on some of his research in a talk entitled "Some Aspects of the Life History of the Wild Turkey."

On Sunday morning field trips were held in the vicinity of Richland Harbor. Towards noon the annual business meeting was held on a wooded knoll at Richland Harbor, the bird list for the two days was checked by Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

Mrs. R. A. Monroe presided at the meeting of the Board of Directors held at 2 p.m., May 7. Twenty directors were present, all chapters being represented except Bristol and Greeneville. Reports were given by various officers. The Treasurer, Lawrence C. Kent, reported that 1954 receipts were \$723.49 and expenses were \$726.86, but that the \$3.37 loss has been more than offset by a gift of \$50.00 to the Society from the Memphis Chapter.

Dr. Lee R. Herndon, chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee had concluded that the most satisfactory way of increasing the income of the Society would be to increase the membership. To this end a leaflet describing the T.O.S. to prospective members had been prepared by Mr. A. F. Ganier, using on the cover a drawing of a Mockingbird by A. C. Webb, the first president of TOS. The Knoxville Chapter had printed 2500 copies of this leaflet, and they were presented to the Society by Mrs. E. E. Overton, President of the Knoxville Chapter. These will be distributed by the presidents of the chapters and by the Membership Committee which consists of three Vice-Presidents.

The President commended Mr. Fred Behrend for his leadership in the hawk migration studies for the past several years, and stated that he should be relieved of this responsibility. Mr. Thomas Finucane, Route 1, Blountville, volunteered to assemble the reports for THE MIGRANT if the observers would send their reports to him.

The directors recommended to the members that Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution, which reads in part "The Society shall hold an annual meeting, each spring, at or near Nashville.", be amended by deleting the words "at or near Nashville". The purpose of the amendment is to allow greater latitude in the choice of a meeting place. The amendment passed in the business meeting on the following day.

The following officers were elected:

President: Lawrence C. Kent, Memphis. Vice President from West Tennessee: Eugene Cypert, Paris. Vice President from Middle Tennessee: Eugene Ruhr, Nashville. Vice President from East Tennessee: J. B. Owen, Knoxville. Treasurer: Rev. W. A. Hearn, Memphis. Secretary: Mrs. E. M. West, Chattanooga. Editor: James T. Tanner, Knoxville. Curator: Albert F. Ganier, Nashville. Director from West Tennessee: L. D. Thompson, Paris. Director from Middle Tennessee: Dixon Merritt, Lebanon. Director from East Tennessee: Mrs. E. E. Overton, Knoxville.

The next annual meeting will be held in the Nashville area on May 5-6, 1956.

OFFICERS OF THE T.O.S. CHAPTERS

The Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers of the chapters of the Tennessee Ornithological Society are listed below. Mrs. Robert J. Dunbar, Secretary of T.O.S., has prepared this list.

Bristol—Mr. R. T. Krepela, Pres.; Mrs. H. C. Epperson, Sec.-Treas.

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Nashville—Mr. Eugene Ruhr, Pres.; Mr. Johnnie Ogden, Sec.-Treas.

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KNOXVILLE'S SUCCESSFUL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Knoxville Chapter of the T.O.S. made a special effort and planned programs this past year to interest more people in becoming members of T.O.S. The effort was rewarded by an increase in the membership of the chapter from 30 to about 50.

The first step was the preparation and printing of a leaflet entitled "A Bird's-Eye View of Knoxville's Bird Club"; this was all done by Mr. J. B. Owen. The leaflet described the T.O.S., activities of the Knoxville Chapter, membership dues and privileges, and useful equipment for bird study.

The 1954-55 program was centered around "Birds for Amateurs," and was planned largely by Mrs. S. R. Tipton. Some of the monthly meetings were: "How to Look at a Bird", "Bird Families", "Bird Banding and Migration", "Attracting Birds to Your Garden", "Bird Songs". Each month two kinds of field trips were held. Beginner's bird walks lasting about two hours were held in three different sections on different week days; their leaders were Mrs. R. A. Monroe, Mr. W. M. Johnson, and Mr. J. B. Owen. The regular field trips were usually held on the third Sunday of each month and went to some area of special interest near Knoxville.

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