

THE MIGRANT

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THE MIGRANT

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No. 1

ANNUAL AUTUMN HAWK COUNT 1957

By THOMAS W. FINUCANE

This year the T. O. S. undertook its eighth consecutive annual count of the southward flight of hawks across our State. The number of hawks reported, more than 3000, was greater than in any previous year except 1951, when it exceeded 4000. Broad-winged Hawks constituted more than 95% of the individuals identified and continued to be of paramount interest. A flight of 17 was seen by Fred Behrend on September 2, and a flight of the same number was reported by J. E. Lawson on October 17. Paul Pardue observed a flight of 150 on October 12, and, close to the center of what we consider the peak of the migration in this area, Richard Nevins reported a flight of 1000. Thus, we observed a very large number of Broad-winged Hawks at the center of the flight schedule and a surprising extension of both extremes. Furthermore, nine Ospreys were reported, compared to one last year and one the year before. The number of Sharp-skinned Hawks jumped from three last year to 64 this year. This can be explained in part by the fact that more people participated and spent more than twice as much time in the field this year.

The two observers who reported the Golden Eagle had never seen this species before. The observers, near the foot of the Mendota fire tower, watched the eagle approach from the northeast. For a while it flew directly toward the tower, but it changed course abruptly and passed the tower on the south side, at eye level, at a distance of about 200 ft. One of the observers compared the size of the eagle with that of some Turkey Vultures it passed as it rounded a knob before heading for the fire tower. The same observer noted the white band on the tail. The other observer saw white markings on the upper surfaces of the wings and the golden glint of the nape. These two features appeared and reappeared several times in the late afternoon sun. Strong, steady, flapping flight and articulation of primaries were also noted. Both observers used high-quality binoculars. The Mendota fire tower is about eight miles north of the Tennessee border near Kingsport.

Reports on wind and weather and other interesting details which are condensed before insertion into the chart included in this summary are given in more expanded form below. These comments are numbered to correspond with the numerals in the top row of the chart, labeled "Item". The many details not included in this summary are available in the original reports, which are kept on file.

2. On Sept. 2, seventeen Broad-winged Hawks were spotted spiraling in one flock, semi-high, over Elizabethton, from the front yard of 607 Range St. "After getting binoculars, found flock spiraling somewhat to the south, in vicinity of Lynn Mt., and watched the birds soaring in straight flight northeastward over town, toward Watauga River. Date of observation unusually early." (Behrend)

5, 6, 7. On Sept. 15, there were observers at three stations situated in the Clinch Mountain system and separated by distances of about 40 and 60 miles along a line running a little south of west. At the eastern end of this series, the Mendota fire tower, 58 Broad-Winged Hawks were recorded. Nine were recorded at the middle station, the fire tower north of Rogersville. At the western end, Black Oak Ridge, only two were seen by Pardue, who wrote:

"Birds, flying S-SW, into wind, were not visible with the naked eye, even with bright cumulus clouds as background."

"Wind velocity: 0-3 mph, N-NE, on the ground, cumulus clouds moving at high speed."

At the Mendota fire tower, 100 miles to the east, all hawks observed were easily visible to the unaided eye. The wind velocity was estimated at 15 mph S-SE, the clouds were moving fairly slowly, and no hawks were found near the limit of vision, in spite of frequent general surveys of the sky with binoculars. The fact that the Mendota fire tower is more than 1500 ft. higher than Black Oak Ridge could account for the differences in the two reports. The 69 hawks seen at the Mendota fire tower flew by, separately or a few at a time, during a period of seven hours. They crossed the ridge northeast of the fire tower, which they then passed on the south side, and they flew away considerably south of the direction of the Rogersville fire tower.

8. The 1084 Broad-winged Hawks reported by Nevius were slightly more than one-third the total count for this species. Three-quarters of the total count was made on this day and the next, Sept. 21 & 22. Nevius had already recorded 84 when the huge flock which he estimated at 1000 made its appearance, at about 2:15 p. m., just ahead of a hard rain storm, which the hawks surmounted successfully, but not without a struggle.

12. The 625 Broad-winged Hawks in this item summarize two reports forwarded by Behrend. One was from Ernest S. Seeman, who lives at the foot of Big Bald, near Erwin. He said:

"Late in the afternoon there was a big storm cloud above, and looking up I saw 25 of the migrating hawks. They circled and then went on to the Bald—which lies almost due south of us. They were flying very high." (5500 ft.)

The other report was 500-700 hawks which dropped into the woods at about 4:30 p. m., on the N-NE slope of Hump Mt., Avery Co., N. C., which borders Carter Co., Tenn. At the time, a thunderstorm was approaching from the SW. William Cable, Elk Park, N. C., who reported this to Behrend, had had a similar experience in the same locality two or three years before.

17. "The preceding day had been hot, with temperatures ranging from 75 to 87. About 2:00 p. m., thunderheads began in the west, and by 3:30 it was storming, with hard rains scattered over the valley between Knoxville and the Great Smokies. The temperature dropped to about 60 deg. Monday, the day of this sighting, began cloudy, with a slow, gentle rain falling at intervals. Temperature at 7:00 a. m. was 66 and by noon had fallen to 65. At 3:30 p. m. the overcast began to break, and by 4:00 p. m. the sky was clear, with the exception of a few large cumulus clouds and a few cirrus clouds."

"The flight of 125 Broadwings was first sighted just as it was approaching a thermal; the hawks were about 800 yds. away and very low. Some 15 min. elapsed from the time the last birds entered the thermal until they disappeared in the blue sky above." (Pardue)

18. "These hawks were at approximately 1000 ft. elevation above the ground and appeared to be coming down, but even at this late hour of the day they found a thermal and rose steadily as they moved off to the south-east." (Pardue, 5:15 p. m., Sept. 23)

19. On Sept. 24, 9:00 a. m., Mrs. Finucane saw eight Broad-winged Hawks circling above a residential area which is situated on a ridge in Kingsport. After a while the hawks flew toward Bay's Mt., several miles distant, but they interrupted their flight to circle above a group of large, industrial-power-house smoke stacks. It was a beautiful, clear day, with no wind, but there was a thick fog in the early morning. The fog had just started breaking up when the hawks were first noticed.

20. This is a condensed item:

9/25, 9:30 a. m. 175; 9/26, 9:15 a. m. 14; 9/27, 9:15 a. m. 13.

These reports from Lawson were submitted by Mrs. West. She stated also that she had spent Sept. 29 at the Elder Mt. fire tower, but thick, soupy clouds remained all day; it was cold and no hawks appeared. She wrote further: "We had so much rain during the period that I don't see how the hawks managed to get through this year. Mr. Lawson was not in the tower much, because of plenty of rain, but saw most of the birds he reported while he was on the ground working at something else for the Forestry Dept."

23. A trip to Bay's Mt. had been planned for Sept. 28 but cancelled because of the weather. The overcast was too dense to permit location of the sun's position. Now and then, very light rains fell. At 1:00 p. m. it thinned a little, but after 2:30 p. m. a steady drizzle began and continued all afternoon. Nevertheless, Mrs. Finucane, looking out the window, saw three accipiters flying toward the FM tower on Bay's Mt., about 9:00 a. m.; so we decided to go, after all (Finucane, James, and Tommy). The tower, which we reached at 12:30 p. m., after a two-hour hike, is difficult to climb and provides no perch where the observer can use both hands for binoculars. The view at the base of the tower is cut off by foliage, but a good look, though a brief one, was afforded by the hawks, which circled two or three times, just above the tree tops.

26. Sept. 27, 28, 29.

27. Oct. 1 and 2.

30. Oct. 12—150 Broad-winged Hawks—"These hawks were about 500 ft. off the ground and a very poor thermal at the junction of Central Ave. Pike and Emory Rd. (two second-grade paved roads). They arose about 1000 ft. and left in a south-east direction. The sky had been overcast for 24 hr. No rain had fallen and none forecasted. A cold front was supposed to have moved over the area during the night, but at dawn the overcast was still heavy and did not begin to move away until some hours after noon. (Pardue)

34. Mrs. West lists these 17 and the previous day's 37 as Broad-winged Hawks, reported by Lawson for 1:00 p. m. and 3:30 p. m., respectively, and suggests that the birds might have been delayed by poor flying weather.

36. Tanner made two trips up Clinch Mt. and made the following comment:

"On Oct. 10, the weather was too warm and pleasant, and I saw only one Redtail, apparently not migrating. On Nov. 9, the weather conditions were good for a hawk flight, with a cold front having passed and a cold steady wind, and I went up Clinch Mt. to see if there would be any hawk flight this late in the season. Apparently there is not any of consequence, for I saw only two Redtails, one Red-shoulder, and one Sharp-shin."

KEY TO REPORTERS

B—Fred Behrend, Elizabethton; A—Mary Fern and Fred Behrend; N—Richard Nevius, Greeneville; C—James and Thomas Finucane, Kingsport, and Behrend; P—Paul Pardue, Knoxville; R—Ruth, Virginia, and Richard Nevius, Greeneville; D—Ruth and Richard Nevius; W—Adele and Eugene West, Chattanooga; G—Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Mengel, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Garlinghouse, Holly Overton, and Pardue, Knoxville; F—Charlotte Finucane; L—J. E. Lawson, Chattanooga; T—Charlotte, James, Tommy, and Thomas Finucane; V—Mrs. Chester Darnell and Ruth and Richard Nevius; E—Mrs. Earl Olson and Mrs. Robert Dunbar, Oak Ridge; O—Mrs. Olson and Mrs. T. C. Swindell; K—Amelia Laskey, Ruth Castles, Jennie Riggs, Mrs. W. F. Bell, and A. F. Ganier, Nashville; X—Fall Field Day, Knoxville; Y—Mrs. Laskey, Mrs. Bell, and H. E. Parmer; M—Amy Manous, Concord; H—D. Highbaugh and Pardue; Z—C. and T. Finucane; J—James Tanner, Knoxville.

KEY TO LOCALITIES

a—Big Yellow Bald, Avery Co., N. C.	5000 ft.
b—Elizabethton	1550 ft.
c—Chimney Top, Greene Co.	3076 ft.
f—Roan Mt.	5500-6200 ft.
g—Mendota Fire Tower, S. W. Va.	3000 ft.
h—Black Oak Ridge, near Knoxville	1250 ft.
k—Clinch Mt. Fire Tower, Hawkins Co.	
l—Elder Mt. Fire Tower, near Chattanooga	1880 ft.
m—Hump Mt., N. C. Border	5000-5600 ft.
n—Beech Mt., N. C. Border	5500 ft.
p—Douglas Dam Overlook	1050 ft.
q—Dupont Point (east end of Chilhowee Mt.)	2700 ft.
r—near Sevierville	1000 ft.
s—near Knoxville	950 ft.
t—Kingsport	1200 ft.
u—FM Tower, Bay's Mt.	2280 ft.
v—Rich Mt. Gap	4800 ft.
w—Between Clinton and Oak Ridge	
x—Cove Lake, Campbell Co.	
y—Bon Air	2000 ft.
z—Murry Lane, beyond Radnor Hills, Nashville	
aa—House Mt.	2000 ft.
bb—Powell Mt., 10 miles north of Knox.	1000 ft.
cc—Hiwassee Island, near Dayton	738 ft.
dd—Clinch Mt.	

HAWK OBSERVATIONS FALL OF 1957

ITEM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	Total		
Date	B/31	9/1	B	14	15	15	15	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	22	23	23	24		24	26	28	28	29		29	10/5	12	12	13	15	16	11/3	9					
Reporter	B	A	N	B	C	P	R	D	W	B	B		W	G	G	C	P	P	P	L	E	O	T	B	V	X	I	Y	M	H	Z	Z	L	L	P	J			
Locality	a	b	c	f	g	h	k	k	l	m	n		l	p	q	r	s	h	t	l	w	x	u	v	w	y		z	aa	bb	g	g	l	l	oo	dd			
Duration - Hr.	0	0	6	7	7	4	4	6	5	9	9		3	2	1		0	0	0		4	5	4	7	4				3	5	3	6				6			
Wind Direction			SW	S	SE	NE		SW	SE	W	V		SW	W	W	W	W	W		NW					E		NW	N	V						W				
Miles Per Hr.		L		11	15			30	10	8	10		7	9	17	15	2	3							10	17	22			W	7					2			
Temperature °F		89			69	75		85	78	63	83		82	80	65	85	69	75	60		67	76	53	35	55		60		65	59					60				
Sky (weather)		FC	Cd	Cd	Cd	FC		V	V	V	V		V	F	Tb	V	V	V	P		F	FC	R	R	R		R		F	Cd					F				
Sharp-shinned Hawk				2	1					9	7			4										1			19	3		16		1				1	64		
Cooper's Hawk	1						2	2	2	1			3															6		2							19		
Red-tailed Hawk				1	2				2	4	2										1			1		2			2	6						1	2	26	
Red-shouldered Hawk													2																	1	1						1	5	
Broad-winged Hawk		17		2	58	2	9	108	77	22	225	625	3	9	6	1	125	9	8	202	2	7	16	7	2	99	44	20		150			37	17		2885			
Golden Eagle																																		1			1		
Bald Eagle	1							2																													3		
Marsh Hawk									1	1			1	1										1			3	1		2					2		13		
Osprey								1	1	2														1				1		2						1		9	
Duck Hawk									1																													1	
Sparrow Hawk			5		2		1		1		1																	13										23	
Unidentified				2	6		2	2	19	2			10																223	5	1		16			3	3	2	296
GRAND TOTAL																																						3345	

1958

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ROUND TABLE

A MISSISSIPPI HAWK MIGRATION.—In view of the scarcity of such records for the Mississippi valley, the following should be of interest. While on a visit to Hollandale, Miss. (150 miles s. of Memphis), in November 1957, I was told by Eugene Ganier that two of his friends had witnessed a large hawk migration early in October. We later talked to the young men, George Stack and Hampton Collier, and they stated that they had observed the hawks passing over from about 10 a. m. to about 2 p. m. on the occasion mentioned. They estimated there must have been several thousand in all. They said the birds came along in flocks of several hundred and that on soaring about from low to high altitudes, would then coast off in a southwesterly direction. Some of them came close enough to the ground to make shooting possible and one was killed. They identified it as a hawk but did not know what species. They further stated that they had never witnessed a hawk migration previously.

In this connection, it will be recalled that a smaller migration was reported from Memphis on Sept. 22 and 27, 1951 (MIGRANT 22:55 and 71). It is quite probable that these hawks are among those that migrate southward thru the land-bridge between lakes Erie and Huron, just north of Detroit.

ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville 12, Tenn.

WINTER RECORD OF BALTIMORE ORIOLE—On February 22, 1958, the second day in a row of moderate temperature following a week of extremely cold weather—(Temperatures ranging from 7 degrees above zero to 15 degrees above)—a male Baltimore Oriole was seen one and one-half miles southeast of Covington, Tenn., which is about thirty-nine miles northeast of Memphis.

The oriole was perched in a Maple tree about five feet above my head, too close to use binoculars. He flew from the tree to a vegetable garden about a hundred yards away and lit on a dead beanstalk about a foot off the ground and appeared to be searching for food. Although his plumage was somewhat shabby and not nearly so brilliant as in the spring, he seemed to be in good health. This is the only winter record I know of for the State of Tennessee.

ALICE SMITH, Memphis 4, Tenn.

Note: See THE MIGRANT 27:71, 1956. Editor.

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS—We are fortunate in having an area which affords a variety of habitats and birders who visit all of these habitats regularly. Thus a seasonal report is never lacking for records. Fall records of note are: Mississippi Kite, at Overton Park, Aug. 8 (Ellen Stringer); Osprey, Sept. 7; Semipalmated Plover, Aug. 5, Sept 10, and remaining until Oct. 6; Caspian Tern, Small flocks on Aug. 24, Sept. 8 and 15; Ring-billed Gull, Oct. 8; all on President's Island by Oliver Irwin. Marsh Hawk, at Crawfordsville, Ark., Sept. 29, (OI); House Wren, at Crawfordsville, on Oct. 13 (Lula Coffey) and Ashland, Miss. on Nov. 24 (RDS); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, at Germantown, Tenn., (Mrs. Charles Seahorn) and Ashland, Miss.

(RDS) both on Sept. 29; Orange-crowned Warbler, at Raleigh on Oct. 19 (BC) and Overton Park Oct. 24, (RDS); Lincoln's Sparrow, at Lakeview, Miss. Nov. 2 (BC); Short-eared Owl—one at Penal Farm, Nov. 9 (BC); Black-billed Cuckoo, Shelby Forest, Oct. 27 (BC, RDS); American Woodcock—3 at Ashland, Miss. (swampy Alder thicket), Oct. 20 (RDS) and on north run of Christmas Census at Memphis, Dec. 22 (BC); and Philadelphia Vireo—2 at Ashland, Miss. on Sept. 29 (RDS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch, usually found on occasion only, has been abundant in pinewoods. Seldom has a flock of calling Titmice and Chickadees been checked without finding from one to three Red-breasteds. Records (BC) are from Nov. 10 until present at various Miss. and Tenn. localities with a high count of 55 at Chickasaw State Park on Jan. 5. Also at Chickasaw are Pine Siskin—111 on Jan. 5 (BC); Brewer's Blackbird, has been regular throughout area from Oct. 27 at Penal Farm until present with an unusually large flock of 400 at Lakeview, Miss. on Mar. 8 (BC); Smith's Longspur has not been found in Shelby County or Miss. at previous years sites. Lapland Longspur, very uncommon this season, missed on Christmas census and not found since. Western Meadowlark, continues to be found with regularity, returning to same fields yearly. Harris' Sparrow, has been listed only at Mrs. Seahorn's on Dec. 5, and 3 at site 7 miles south of Tenn. line at Highway 51 S. Nov. 3 (BC); fifth season here. Sprague's Pipit, usually regular, has been hard to find and only listed twice (BC).

Winter records continued with Least Sandpiper—2 at Penal Farm on Dec. 14 (BC) and again on Dec. 22 (LC). Also Spotted Sandpiper, first winter record, at Penal Farm on Dec. 22, (LC); Catbird, at Germantown on Dec. 22 (LC); Rough-legged Hawk, at President's Island on Dec. 22, (RDS, H. Wilcox). The Coffeys, rained out Dec. 25 on attempted Moon Lake, Miss. Christmas census, recorded Vesper Sparrow—10, before turning back. Chipping Sparrow—20 at Ashland, Miss. on Jan. 19 (RDS); Dickcissel. Germantown, at Seahorn's on Feb. 26; Horned Grebe at Red Sulphur Springs, Tenn. Y. M. C. A. camp on Pickwick Lake, Jan. 12 (BC) and Bald Eagle, near same place for combination Tenn., Miss., Ala. record. (BC). Barn Owl, over home on Jan. 7 and Mar. 10 (OI).

Spring arrivals are: Greater Yellowlegs, at Penal Farm on Mar. 2 (BC); Lesser Yellowlegs, at Lakeview on Mar. 8 (BC); Golden Plover—6 at Penal Farm with Pectoral Sandpiper—26, on Mar. 9 (BC) and Golden Plover, also on Mar. 9 at Crawfordsville, Ark. (BC); Purple Martin at home of Jim Lancaster on Feb. 28.

R. DEMETT SMITH, Memphis.

NASHVILLE.—The winter of 1957-58 has brought the Nashville area the coldest weather it has had in many years. In spite of the fact that November was about normal and December was 3.2° above normal, January's 4.5° below normal and February 11.3° below normal tipped the scale in the opposite direction considerably. Nashville members of T.O.S. have eagerly awaited some unusual visitor from the Bird World, but none has made his appearance. Our winter bird population has been about as usual. There was one distressing result of the continued cold in February: Mrs. Laskey reported finding 25 dead Bluebirds in six boxes—12 in one box, 5 in another and 2 in each of four boxes. The emaciated condition of the birds left no doubt that the cause of death was lack of food (ARL).

Our Christmas Count totaled 70 species—6 less than in 1956. We had fewer species of ducks by six than in '56 and no Brown Thrasher as last year. However, we had a Le Conte's Sparrow, the first in at least four years. Purple Finches have been welcome visitors this winter after absence last year. No Pine Siskins were reported on our Christmas Count, although we have had a couple of winter records. One Snow Goose, rare in this area, was reported at Bush's Lake 12-13 (HEP). One Pied-billed Grebe is reported to have wintered on Centennial Lake (HCM). Fox Sparrows have been unusually abundant again this year as in the winter of 1956-57, though the Hermit Thrush has seemed more scarce than last year.

From signs in the Nashville area so far, spring migration is late. Our first reports of Canada Geese going north were 3-5 (ARL) and 3-11 (HCM). Spring arrivals have been very scarce with first dates as follows: Brown Thrasher (1) 3-1 (HCM); Chipping Sparrow (1) 3-2 (RGM); Pectoral Sandpiper (1) 3-8 (HEP); Purple Martin (1) 3-15 (T.O.S. Group); Pine Warbler (1) 3-19 (HEP); and Golden Plover (1) 3-20 (HEP).

SUE M. BELL, 210 Carden Ave., Nashville.

CHATTANOOGA.—Some noteworthy observations during the winter season were: up to 6 Double-crested Cormorants from Nov. 25 to Dec. 28 were observed at various times perched on stumps and stakes in the middle of Chickamauga Lake. Frequent trips to Harrison Bay State Park has shown a wintering population of up to 18 Great Blue Herons. Seventeen species of ducks have been recorded during the winter. The most unusual of these were: Redheads (25) Feb. 10; Common Goldeneye (1) male Dec. 21 and (4) (1 male and 3 females) Jan. 25. The latter was new to the area list.

MRS. E. M. WEST, 2914 Haywood Ave., Chattanooga 5.

KNOXVILLE.—This past winter has been almost steadily colder than average, and the cold culminated in a period beginning about February 15 when for several days the temperature dropped below or nearly to zero every night and did not rise above freezing during the day. There was a thin covering of snow on the ground. It is certain that many birds died during this cold wave. One man reported that his dog brought in several dead birds, Cardinals among them. Several people reported that the number of birds visiting their feeding stations, very high at first, gradually diminished during the cold weather.

The unusual visitors and irregular numbers of birds seen this winter do not appear to be a direct result of the cold, at least in most cases, because they appeared before any really unusual weather. They are summarized below beginning with the Fall season.

Ring-billed Gulls appeared unusually early; one was seen on October 19, 1957, by J. T. Mengel, and 20 on October 27. A very late migrant, over a month later than usual, was a Black-throated Blue Warbler seen at my house on November 17 and 19; it was feeding on dogwood berries. Pine Siskins appeared in good numbers at a comparatively early date, 35 on October 25, and have been relatively abundant all winter. A total of 152 Siskins were seen on the Knox County Christmas Count, and they were still present on March 4. After being absent last winter, Purple Finches appeared on November 2, at about their usual time, and have been fairly common all winter. Evening Grosbeaks have been relatively common in Gatlinburg, seen occasionally in Sevierville, but none have so far been reported from Knox County.

Three records of single Green-winged Teal between January 19 and February 3 are the first records in Knox County for these months. On March 2 R. B. Hamilton saw 2 White-winged Scoters on Loudon Lake near Concord, the third record for the county. On February 15 Paul Pardue, following a hunch that the city dump might provide some good birding, had a good look at a Barred Owl, which is reported rather rarely from this area.

Three species of water birds have been reported in greater numbers than usual this winter, but this may be a result of more attention given to good areas by some bird students. Pied-billed Grebes have been seen in good numbers. High counts of Great Blue Herons have been obtained, 25 on February 2, along Loudon Lake. The same is true for Common Snipe, 56 on December 29, 70 on February 2, and 40 on February 23.

The usual winter visitors like White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, and Kinglets seem to be in average numbers. There were several scattered records of Red-breasted Nuthatches in December, none in January, but they re-appeared in small numbers in February. Fox Sparrows, considered to be absent or very rare in past winters, are slightly commoner; a total of between five and eight appear regularly as singles or pairs at different feeding stations. Practically absent are White-crowned Sparrows, which usually winter around Knoxville in small to moderate numbers.

Despite the cold weather, most bird activities betokening spring, such as song by permanent residents, the breaking up of winter flocks of blackbirds, and the chasing of each other by Crows, have begun at their usual time. But we have had no early migrants, and we do not expect them with the present cold weather. The newspaper has carried but one report of an early Purple Martin, one seen on March 1 at Jefferson City; usually there are several reports by this date. No Chipping Sparrows have as yet been reported, altho they are overdue.

JAMES T. TANNER, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

GREENEVILLE.—During the severe cold of late February, three Evening Grosbeaks, a male and two females, stayed in the yard at the Alfred Irvines.

At the same time several birds were found dead near our house: a Mockingbird, six Robins, a House Sparrow, two Myrtle Warblers and two Purple Finches. Harry Roberts noted that five pairs of Bluebirds in the vicinity of his home were not to be found following the cold and were presumably lost.

With usual food sources snow-covered, some birds located new supplies. Meadowlarks fed with livestock or in barn door yards. Horned Larks fed among the sheep on hay placed on top of the snow. Starlings mobbed yard feeders ordinarily unmolested by them, depriving smaller birds of feeding opportunities at a critical time. A Myrtle Warbler began feeding at the Darnells' feeding table during the unusual weather.

RUTH REED NEVIUS, Rt. 1, Greeneville.

KINGSPORT.—The past season was marked by long periods of cold weather. There were many weeks below freezing, and one, during February, when the ground was covered with snow, large areas of water were frozen over, and the temperature varied from five degrees above zero to five degrees below at night. The water birds were noticeably absent. The

Kingsport club records show only three species of ducks during the winter, Mallard in the last week of January, Black Ducks and Common Goldeneye in the first and second weeks of March. We have seen Red-throated Loons and Horned Grebe perhaps more often than in previous years.

Also more frequently recorded were Purple Finches and small flocks of Cedar Waxwings. Every week of the winter has entries of Robins seen on lawns in flocks. In other winters Robins were recorded occasionally in the area of Bays Mountain.

A flock of twelve Pine Siskins seen by Thomas W. Finucane on February 2 is an unusual record of this species in this area. Our only other winter record is a flock of ten seen the first week of January 1949. On October 12 and 13 Mr. Finucane saw Siskins at the Mendota Fire Tower in Virginia about eight miles north of the Tennessee line. Our club has no other fall record of Siskins.

ANN HARNEY SWITZER, 1620 Fairidge Dr., Kingsport.

ELIZABETHTON.—Late October and early November brought the first severe freeze of the season. Most of November and all of December were about normal. Very cold weather began with January and reached the climax about the middle of February, when we had a solid week of snow and temperatures dipped to the vicinity of zero for several successive mornings. The very cold weather and snow covering food supplies caused considerable destruction to bird life. Near the end of this cold spell I found a dead Bluebird, a Starling and a Myrtle Warbler. Numerous reports of dead Bluebirds and Robins came to my attention.

A Common Loon in immature plumage has spent the winter on Wilbur Lake. It was first reported on November 23 and is still there. Other years they have been absent between January 1 and April 1. Mallard (35), Black Ducks (125), Greater Scaup (5), Ring-necked Ducks (6), Canvasback (6) and a male Common Goldeneye were observed on the Roan Creek prong of Watauga Lake. A White-winged Scoter remained on Wilbur Lake from November 12 to 28 and one was on Boone Lake January 25. The first Wood Ducks (5) of the season were observed at Wagner's Island in the Watauga River on March 1.

The first mid-winter record of an adult Bald Eagle for the area was at Watauga Lake overlook on January 25. The first Common Snipe (2) of the season were observed on March 1. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches have been present this winter after having been absent last winter. Cedar Waxwings have been scarce since early January and none reported since the extremely cold weather in mid-February. A single Grackle put in an appearance on February 11 and then none until after the snow melted near the end of the month. The first Redwinged Blackbird appeared after the February cold spell, on February 28.

Evening Grosbeaks appeared in the area early in January and have been reported from numerous places in upper east Tennessee. They have been present in Elizabethton since early February, 19 being the largest number reported at one time.

On March 8 a large flock (approximately 100) Savannah Sparrows at the county farm, was the first evidence of their migration through this area. The first Chipping Sparrow of the season was noted at Wilbur Lake during a snow storm on March 15—a rather late date.

LEE R. HERNDON, 153 Burgie Place, Elizabethton.

IN MEMORIAM LAWRENCE C. KENT

On Thursday, February 27, 1958, the Memphis Chapter of the T.O.S. lost one of its most loyal and faithful members with the untimely death of Lawrence C. Kent, 1896 Cowden Avenue, Memphis. He had been in delicate health for several months, and spent the last month before the end at Baptist Memorial Hospital.

The services were from Cosmopolitan Funeral Home, Memphis with final interment at Stanton, Tennessee. He leaves his mother, Mrs. L. C. Kent, Sr., an only daughter, Miss Allen Kent, and an aunt, Miss Lydia Foster, all of Memphis.

For 36 years since January 1922 the writer had known him as a close friend, and constant companion in a diversity of activities. His patience, always pleasant disposition, keen interest in meeting and talking with people, and ready willingness to serve beyond the call of duty were attributes of character which won permanent friends wherever he would go.

Lawrence C. Kent was born August 27, 1908, the son of Mary Foster and Lawrence C. Kent. His maternal grandparents were Ann Black and William H. Foster of Stanton, Tennessee. He completed his elementary schooling at Idlewild Grammar School, and graduated from Central High School at Memphis.

Scouting was one of the important influences on his life, having joined Troop No. 20 of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Boy Scouts of America in December 1921. In March of 1923 he was awarded the First Class Badge. With a strong determination to be a leader, the scoutmaster, Russell Wilkerson, was told Lawrence Kent intended to complete all the merit badges necessary for the distinctive Eagle Scout award within a very limited period. On September 14, 1923 he received the Eagle Scout Badge and thus became the first member of Troop 20 to achieve such an honor. The year 1928 brought him the further award of the Silver Palm.

Our frequent birding companion not only received scouting benefits, but for over twenty years from 1926 to 1946 served as Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster at Idlewild; later as District Commissioner for Chickasaw Council. The past twelve years saw him as a competent, qualified Merit Badge Counselor having taken many specialized courses during this period in: Troop Camping, First Aid, Health and Safety, District Commissioner Course and Red Cross Life Saving.

In business he was for about twenty years with the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division in the meter repair department. For several years in the early 1930's he was affiliated with the Farm Credit Administration.

At this same time in the 1930's his hobbies embraced stamp collecting, and listening to short-wave radio. Thru the years quite a sizeable collection of stamps had been made, and his daughter, Allen, shared this interest. It was not infrequent for him to call a friend in the wee hours of the morning that the *Fiji Islands* or *Melbourne, Australia* could be heard on a certain wave-length on the short-wave set. The collection of verification cards were from stations all over the world.

Al Chymia Shrine Temple included him as an active member. He also belonged to Idlewild Presbyterian Church,

The records of the Tennessee Ornithological Society show Lawrence C. Kent a state member since 1937, altho he had been participating with the Memphis group several years earlier. His life was devoted and wrapped up in birding and his host of friends who made ornithological history in this area for more than 25 years. The state treasurer's position was most ably and faithfully filled by him for almost ten years, at which time the T.O.S. elected him president for two years (1955-1957). His frequent attendance at state T.O.S. meetings at Nashville was indicative of the deep concern he held for the success of our group.

At the Memphis Chapter level his service for two years as president, and also terms as treasurer will long be remembered. The noon-day meal for the Spring Field Day at Lake View, Mississippi had for many years been completely in his charge.

Since 1946 he had been a member of the A.O.U. Quite a nice collection of important bird books had been placed in his library thru the years.

This sudden loss of Lawrence C. Kent, saddens us all, but as we ponder over the pleasant years that have been spent afield with him at Lake View, Mud Lake, Shelby Forest, river bottoms, forest land, grassy fields and gravel pits, we realize what a wonderful, unselfish contribution he has made to the T.O.S. and his host of friends.

LUTHER F. KEETON, 80 Eastland Drive, Memphis, Tenn.

BRUCE P. TYLER

Bruce P. Tyler, a staunch member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society since April, 1932, passed away at his home in Johnson City, on September 1, 1957, aged nearly 83. Mr. Tyler was born in Brooklyn, Penna., Sept. 17, 1784 and graduated as a Chemical Engineer from Lafayette College. After long experience in various phases of his profession, chiefly with corporations engaged in coal mining, he located at Johnson City and became land agent for the Clinchfield Coal Corporation, with offices at Bristol.

Mr. Tyler began writing articles for THE MIGRANT in 1933 and, often with his colleague Robert Lyle, sent in many worthwhile contributions to its pages thru the years that followed. He was an accomplished amateur photographer and a group of his pictures of birds was reproduced in the December 1935 issue. In 1934, the writer invited Mr. Tyler to join him in making an ornithological survey of Shady Valley, a high mountain cove in Johnson county that had interesting possibilities. We arrived in early June, put up at a farm house, worked the area thoroughly for a week and published our annotated list of the birds in the June MIGRANT of that year. I can truly say that he was a most affable companion and an enthusiastic observer. In June 1936, he became a member of a party of twelve T. O. S. members who made the first comprehensive survey of the summer birds of Roan Mountain. He had arranged accommodations for us on the summit and the results of this week's work was published in the December MIGRANT of that year.

Mr. Tyler liked to share his interest in birds with his friends in all walks of life and for a time, wrote a nature column for his local paper. Because of this he was often referred to as "the birdman" by his local townsmen. He leaves a wife, Mrs. Alice Windler Tyler, a son Edmund Tyler and two grandchildren, as well as a host of friends.

ALBERT F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville 12.

DR. HARRY S. VAUGHN

In the passing of Dr. Vaughn, on February 14, 1958, the Tennessee Ornithological Society and the entire community suffers a real and genuine loss. During his eighty-eight years of activity, he made a lasting impression on many facets of Nashville. His consistent service to the Methodist church included many years as an effective Sunday School teacher of young men. To a remarkable degree he shared his lifelong interest in nature and of the out-of-doors with the many young people who were drawn to him by his effervescent personality. A rich heritage indeed has been passed on to his three sons and his daughter, the former having assumed positions of outstanding leadership in their chosen professions.

Dr. Vaughn was truly one of the "Old Guard" of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, having been an active member for forty-two years and president during 1924-25. On the numerous Field Days held by the Society he always volunteered to make the coffee for the group at lunch-time and many a member will happily recall him standing by a tripod set over a campfire, pouring coffee from his big copper pot. Perhaps his most lasting contribution consisted of the major part he played in the founding of the dynamic Children's Museum which Nashville has today. The establishment and early support of this vital influence on tens of thousands of young people is a tribute to his enthusiasm for and belief in this organization. To the Museum he has left one of the finest private collections of the nests and eggs of North American birds.

We pay tribute to Dr. Harry S. Vaughn as a churchman, father, ornithologist, builder of fine homes and influence for good in the development of young people.

VERNON SHARP, JR., Wilson Pike, Franklin.

MARIA HOLMAN LISTON

The death in October of Mrs. R. T. L. Liston, beloved member of the Bristol Group, was a great loss to the Bristol Branch of the T. O. S., of which she had been a valuable and enthusiastic member since its organization.

Mrs. Liston, wife of Dr. R. T. L. Liston, President of King College, was outstanding among the women of Bristol. She is being greatly missed by her church, by her many friends in the city, and above all by the students and faculty members of King College.

The hospitable Liston home on the King College campus was a veritable bird sanctuary. Bristol bird lovers often gathered there to observe the many birds which flocked around the well-stocked feeding stations. Mrs. Liston kept an accurate record of the birds seen around her home and of the dates on which the various species were observed each spring.

The Bristol Branch of the T. O. S. is placing Griscom and Sprunt's "The Warblers of North America" in the King College Library in memory of Mrs. Liston.

MARGUERITE PFLUG, King College, Bristol, Tenn.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE BIRD WATCHER'S ANTHOLOGY. By Roger Tory Peterson. 401 pp. Illustrated. Harcourt, Brace and Company, 383 Madison Ave., New York 17, N. Y. \$7.50.

Short excerpts, usually a few pages, from the writings of 85 of our most eminent naturalists have been assembled by Dr. Peterson. These writings have been arranged in seven sections—"The Spark," "The Lure of the List," "Migration," "Glamour Birds," "Birds in Far Places," "There Is Often Adventure," and "The Full-Fledged Watcher"—progressively from the introduction to bird watching to the methodical study of the professional ornithologist. Excerpts have been taken from the best writings of such well known authors as Audubon, Beebe, Burroughs, Chapman, Darwin, Fisher, Fuertes, Huxley, Kieran, Peattie, Sutton, Teale, Wilson and many others. Many amusing, fascinating yet true experiences have been related by these authors.

Each section has been prefaced by Dr. Peterson in his own pleasing characteristic style. More than 100 black and white drawings by the editor, grace the pages of this book. It is a book in which every reader is sure to find many sections which appeal to him and one which he would be proud to own.—LEE R. HERNDON.

ON THE TRAIL OF VANISHING BIRDS, by Robert Porter Allen. McGraw-Hill, \$4.50.

The nesting site of the 29 Whooping Cranes still living in 1945 was literally as difficult to find as the needle in the haystack.

This species along with Roseate Spoonbill and the Flamingo, was rapidly joining the ranks of species now extinct. Mr. Allen, Director of the National Audubon Society, was authorized to study the remnants of the once huge flocks in their natural habitats and report his findings.

Thanks to Mr. Allen's studies and efforts, the co-operation of various clubs, organizations, newspapers and individuals, these species are slowly making their "long flight back from the dismal shores of oblivion."

With all the excitement of a great adventure, Mr. Allen tells of his search for these vanishing birds and his discovery of their survival secrets. His work has taken him to the far corners of the Western Hemisphere, from remote mangrove keys of Florida Bay to stretches of tundra along the Arctic Coast and to dry, desert-like islands in the West Indies where the American Flamingo is making a last stand.

Observations and studies of the crippled pair Flo and Pete and their offspring Rusty, the first Whooping Crane to be born in captivity makes interesting reading. Mr. Allen located a Cuban nesting site of 2,000 Flamingoes one year too late — natives using nets had caught all of the young birds to sell on the market — a heart-breaking discovery.

The final chapter reviews the record of extinct North American birds and discusses the causes of extinction and the situation that is faced by our threatened birds of today.

—LAWRENCE KENT, Memphis.

A SCIENTIFIC VOCABULARY. By Mary J. Brown. Pageant Press, Inc. 101 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 3, N. Y. \$3.00.

Over fourteen hundred zoological terms and their correct pronunciations will be found in Dr. Brown's new book **A SCIENTIFIC VOCABULARY** for beginning Zoology and Non-scientific students.

The book provides a concise, convenient list of all zoology terms commonly occurring in a beginning zoology course together with some of more general significance.

Dr. Brown, the author of *Introduction To Eugenics*, is chairman of the biology department of Bethel College, McKenzie, Tennessee. A graduate of Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind.; M. A. in zoology from Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. she was awarded a Ph. D. by Oklahoma University.

Pronunciations and definitions are based on standard dictionaries, Dorland's Medical Dictionary and college textbooks.

LEE R. HERNDON, 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton.

ANNUAL MEETING — TOS — 1958

A delightful and unusual experience awaits all T. O. S. members and guests who attend our 43rd Annual Meeting at Reelfoot Lake on May 10 and 11. It is quite unique that we should go from Gatlinburg and its high altitudes to Reelfoot Lake and its cypress swamps in 1958. It promises to be a most profitable field experience for all those who are not intimately acquainted with the earthquake lake. A 4-5 hour boat trip is planned for each day, leaving Bluebank, headquarters of the State Game and Fish Commission, which will also serve as registration headquarters, for "Crantown". Boats will be provided by the State Game and Fish Commission and they will need to know how many are going on the boat trips.

The directors lunch will be at Walnut Log at 1:00 p. m. on Saturday, May 10, followed by the directors meeting at 2:00 p. m. at Walnut Log or nearby Biological Station. The dinner and program will be at Boyette's Dining Room at 7:00 p. m. — price \$2.00.

Opportunity will be provided for all who wish to visit the "innards" of the swamp and other interesting spots in the vicinity. Your committee has done a superb job in arranging for your convenience and a pleasant experience for the two days.

For accommodations and a detailed schedule write to Mrs. Arlo I. Smith, 3724 Oakley, Memphis 11. Reservations for the dinner should be made with her by May 6. Come armed with a good insect repellent—but come.

C. E. RUHR, President; RUTH CASTLES, Secretary.

REICHERT LECTURES ON BINOCULARS

The Reicherts are visiting upper east Tennessee this spring and will lecture and demonstrate binoculars at the S. D. A. Welfare Center on Moore St. in Greeneville, May 6, 1958 and in Elizabethton, May 9, 1958. The time and place of the latter meeting will be announced at a later date. Those interested in binoculars, telescopes and Bino-Fotography will be welcome at either of these meetings. For further details of the lecture, see (THE MIGRANT 27: 61-62, 1956).

THE MIGRANT

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All items for Publication should be sent to

LEE R. HERNDON, Editor, 1533 Burgie Place ELIZABETHTON, TENN.

EDITORIAL

MANUSCRIPTS: For every issue of THE MIGRANT it is desirable to have one or two lead articles of rather general appeal. Usually such articles are written by members of long standing, who have amassed a wealth of information through long study and persistent observation. This editorial is not intended for them but rather for the less experienced who will, in the future, assume these duties. We are in need of the longer type articles, however, it is the shorter articles contributed which may eventually lead to the longer articles. It is the short notes or Round Table variety which the beginner contributes which frequently leads to the writing of longer articles.

Permit me to prevail upon you to send in your Round Table notes of observations or noteworthy happenings. If something is of interest to you the chances are that it will be of interest to others. Resolve to send in a short article at least once each year. It is not essential that it be perfectly written and presented in the best form to be acceptable.

Some suggestions which might be of help to you and certainly would be of great assistance to your editor would be: Entitle your article as briefly and descriptively as you can; if possible use typewriter, double spacing, to permit corrections or making of notes for typesetter, also for legibility; use 8½" x 11" paper; make the article brief and concise, yet omitting no essential details. Notes which are submitted along with or included in correspondence are frequently not lifted out of the context and are therefore left unpublished. Likewise, notes which are sent in piecemeal and on non-standard paper get lost or your editor does not know what is intended. Your editor would much prefer that the author devote sufficient time and thought to the article to have it acceptable for publication as he receives it than to have to rework and rewrite the entire article. Even to the manner in which the author's name occurs at the end of the article is important when it comes to setting the type.

By referring to recent issues of THE MIGRANT you can very likely find articles typical of the one you wish to write. By following the details as best you can, the work of your editor would be greatly simplified.

May I call your attention to the notes on the Christmas Census for the various chapters? Which chapter notes do you like best? If insufficient detail is submitted, your editor cannot supply the missing information. Often there is not time for correspondence, therefore, it is omitted. Let us standardize a little more by the time of the next Christmas Census.

If you are unable to comply with these suggestions please send in your manuscripts as nearly as possible, in accordance with them and your editor will attempt to make the most of the situation.

LEE R. HERNDON.

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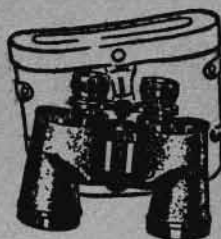
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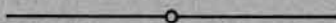
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