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CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW NESTINGS

DESOTO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. — Near our home, which is about five miles southeast of Walls, Miss., and about five miles south of the Tennessee line, I have located two nestings of the Chuck-will's-widow. At the request of Ben Coffey I am submitting information from records kept at the time. On April 27, 1946, I found a "nest" with one egg; the second egg was laid that day. On May 17 one egg had hatched when I visited the spot. The second had hatched when I returned May 18, — it may have hatched on the 17th, after my visit. I could not find the birds at the nest site on May 19.

At 1 p. m., May 8, 1959, I found two eggs which had been laid on dead leaves on a slight slope in woods. There was no nest whatsoever, not even a depression. Neither egg had hatched by 10 a. m., May 27, but by the morning of May 28, both had hatched. The two babies were covered with tan or light brown down, hardly dry. On May 29 I found the female and the two little ones had moved to a spot about 7 feet away from the original site. The young could run well and held their little wings up as if they wanted to fly. By the next day the adult had moved them across a six-inch log to a spot 3 feet away. On May 31 the birds were found about 8 feet from the last place. When the female flew off, she flitted along about a foot above the ground, stopping here and there in an apparent effort to lead a person away from the young. On June 1 they were 7 feet from the last site while on June 3 I searched quite a while before locating the birds about 20 feet from the spot of the previous day. They had moved under a barbed wire fence to the edge of the woods. On June 4 they were 15 feet south of the previous position.

The next day I visited the site at 11 a. m. and again at 4 p. m. to see if they remained in the same spot all day and found them unchanged at the second visit. If they do remain thus during the day, normally, they apparently move about at dusk or during the night. On the morning visit I noticed that the little birds had their heads stuck out from under the mother's feathers. On June 6 she flew off the spot where she was resting and I decided to move the young a few feet out into the sun so that I could photograph them. They began to run about so fast that I abandoned the idea. When I tried to pick up one of the little birds it would spread out its wings, rear back, and open its large mouth. On June 8 I killed a 3-foot blue racer only four feet from the young. They were feathering out rapidly by then and really spread their wings when approached.

It rained June 9 but on June 10 I returned and found the parent sitting on only one bird. I'm afraid that something caught the other. It rained a great deal on June 11 and I looked all over the woods without finding them. I found them, June 12, and again, after much searching, on the thirteenth. The remaining juvenal could then fly about 50 feet. It also ran along the ground with wings extended, and gave a series of alarm notes. Its wing spread was now fairly large. I saw no point in further observation and did not return after this date.

Based on the 1946 observations, incubation period was about 21 days. For this summer's nest, the period was at least 19 days and possibly 20 or more. Mr. Coffey advises that Alexander Sprunt, Jr., writing in A. C. Bent's Life Histories (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 176, 1940), does not give the incubation period but, in South Carolina Bird Life (1949) he quotes the late J. S. Y. Hoyt, "about twenty days." In Bent, observations on young are given up to thirteen days after hatching, by Herbert L. Stoddard. During the time I was observing the young, I saw only the female, which experience agrees with that of other observers. However, the male could be, and probably is, active at night.

LAWRENCE P. WILSON, Rt. 1, Box 93, Walls, Miss.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

BRANT IN CHATTANOOGA. — On October 20, 1959, Jack W. Thompson, Gene West and I were leaving Fehn's Restaurant when I saw two geoselike birds a few yards away on the lawn. I supposed they would be Canada Geese and immediately turned and started walking toward them but at an angle that would take me past rather than in a direct line, my objective being to see how close I could get without causing them to flush. As I approached, moving very slowly, I became aware that no white patch could be seen on the face.

Finally, they became disturbed and started walking away, taking flight in a leisurely, unhurried fashion. The small size was noticeable. The white barred neck patch could not be seen at all. The top surface of the lower rump and tail showed as a large whitish patch in flight. Even in the poor light conditions at 6:00 p. m. and lacking binoculars, it was obvious that the two birds were not Canada Geese, but because of their otherwise superficial resemblance, it seems just as obvious that they were Brant (*Branta bernicla*).

Fehn's Restaurant is a new structure located on several acres of open lawn with only a half dozen trees, at the edge of the Tennessee river about two blocks upstream of the Market street bridge in downtown Chattanooga. Two sides of the property are bordered by weedy fields. The fourth side faces a heavily traveled street with a buffer zone of weeds, shrubs, and trees.

Considering its downtown location, the area is actually quite thickly populated with birds, particularly during the breeding season, including at least two coveys of Bobwhite, the Cliff Swallow colony under the bridge, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warblers, and numerous species associated with residential areas.

A search of THE MIGRANT reveals only one previous record — that of 19 Brant seen by Thomas B. Dickerson at Kentucky Lake (THE MIGRANT 26: 9, 1955).

MRS. E. M. WEST, 2914 Haywood Ave., Apt. 1-D, Chattanooga, Tenn.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE AT NASHVILLE. — On Wednesday, October 21, while home for lunch, I received a telephone call from Mr. H. E. Parmer about several new species of birds that had arrived at Bush Lake. That morning he had found several Blue Geese, Spotted and Semipalmated Sandpipers and a Lesser Yellowlegs.

I decided to go out to the lake that afternoon after my classes were finished to see the geese and look for any other shore birds that might have come into the fields around that area. It was 3:30 p. m. before I arrived at the lake and I started to walk around it. The geese were feeding in fairly short grass near the edge of the lake. After watching them for a while, I started around toward the western side of the lake when I saw two birds on the water close to the far (west) shore. The light was bad, as I was looking into the setting sun, but I could see that they were predominately white and much too small to be gulls or ducks. I retreated from the shore, making a wide circle around the lake, to approach from the western side with the light behind me. Going the last thirty yards, almost on my hands and knees, I was able to reach the lake's edge before the birds could see me. They were only about forty feet from the edge and did not fly when they saw me, but started swimming away. I immediately recognized them as a species of phalarope other than the Wilson's. They were small, delicate appearing birds, constantly spinning in the water and bobbing their heads. Several times they made short flights, never going over a few yards before re-alighting in the water. The phalaropes quickly lost their fear of me as they never went more than one hundred and fifty feet away and twice they swam to within fifty feet of me. I had the use of both 7 x 35 binoculars and a water bird field guide to aid me in my identification. The distinguishing marking of the Northern Phalarope, (*Lobipes lobatus*) which I was able to see on these birds, were the thin black bill, dark wings with distinctive white wing strip, marked back, black eye patch, and a white forehead with the top of the head and back of neck dark gray.

After watching the birds for about thirty minutes and making quite sure that they were Northern Phalaropes I left. They were not found the next morning or any time since then.

This appears to be the first record of this species for Tennessee, as there are no records in THE MIGRANT.

JOHN OGDEN, 515 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville 12, Tennessee.

PHALAROPE (Spec?) NEAR CHATTANOOGA. — On November 1, 1959 a phalarope was seen at Long Savannah mud flats. At first sight the bird resembled a Sanderling, but soon it went into shallow water nearby and its behavior immediately identified it as a phalarope. After considerable study and reference to "Peterson," I concluded it was a Northern.

However, after returning home and looking at the illustrations in several other books, it seemed possible the bird was a Red. Mr. West felt that it was a Red, and I had to agree that he could be correct even though I still favored the choice of a Northern. I know it had a dark area through the top of the head, but I did not pay sufficient attention to the bill.

Two days later he returned to the site with camera and blind, but the bird did not appear during several hours of waiting. Since we cannot agree on the species name, the identification of this particular bird will remain a mystery.

MRS. E. M. WEST, 2914 Haywood Ave., Apt. 1-D, Chattanooga 5, Tenn.

RED PHALAROPE. — On November 29, I received a call from Dr. Frank Lovingood of Maryville (son-in-law of the late H. P. Ijams) that he had picked up a bird, apparently just killed, and which he identified as a phalarope! He brought it to me the next day and I took it to the University where it was examined and measured by Dr. Joseph C. Howell and Dr. James T. Tanner, who agreed that it was a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). Dr. Tanner made a skin of it.

The bird was found Sunday, November 29, 1959 about 10:00 a. m., below high tension power lines leading into the Aluminum Company at the junction of 411 By-pass Highway and Middlesettlement Road, which is located approximately two miles west of Maryville and two miles south of McGhee Tyson Airport.

There are two other records of a Red Phalarope in the Tennessee-North Carolina area, which Mr. Arthur Stupka has kindly looked up for me. The first was found (dead) Dec. 17, 1944 at National Park Headquarters near Gatlinburg and was reported in THE MIGRANT 15, 69-71, 73, 1944 and in the Auk for January, 1946, pg. 102 by W. M. Walker. The second was observed (alive) on Fontana Reservoir near the boat dock October 1, 1949 by Mr. Stupka, B. R. Chamberlain and members of the Carolina Bird Club, and is reported in the Chat for November 1949, pg. 72.

MURIEL B. MONROE, 1424 Tugaloo Drive, Knoxville 19.

WHISTLING SWAN. — On October 25, 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Crownover and friends drove to Hiwassee Bridge, a few miles north of Chattanooga on Highway 58, which forms one boundary of Hiwassee Refuge. Mrs. Crownover was studying a group of sandpipers when someone called her attention to two birds flying with a flock of 20 Snow Geese. She noticed the complete whiteness of the two as they flew over, and when they came to rest on the water nearby, she saw that the necks were longer than those of the geese. Identification of the two birds as Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) was made rather easily under favorable conditions.

A search of THE MIGRANT reveals a few records in former years, mostly of birds that were shot and came to the attention of interested persons. These include sightings or wounded birds as follows: two shot near Knoxville on Dec. 8, 1926, on the Little Tennessee River (6, 27, 1935); one shot near Reelfoot Lake Nov. 24, 1932 (5, 41, 1934); an immature Whistling Swan was shot Nov. 19, 1938 near Russellville, Ky. (9, 97, 1938); during the third week of November 1943 a bird of this species was wounded on Norris Lake (14, 80, 1943).

An unofficial report has come to the writer's attention that one of two birds was killed by a hunter who thought it was a goose at Woods Hole Reservoir near Tullahoma during the 1958 hunting season.

In addition, a recent newspaper story originating with the Fish and Game Commission reports that this species was seen at Paint Rock Refuge near Kingston, Tenn., on November 8, 1953, while 59 Whistling Swans were counted there on November 15, 1959. Investigation might produce even more records the past year or two. Apparently, this bird is not as rare in Tennessee as imagined, or is becoming less so.

MRS. E. M. WEST, 2914 Haywood Ave., Apt. 1-D, Chattanooga 5, Tenn.

GOLDEN EAGLE AT CHATTANOOGA. — On January 2, 1960 at about 4:00 p. m., our party of six were checking a spot along the Tennessee River on the North West side of Chattanooga. We were near the base of Elder Mountain. As we finished checking the area we were about ready to leave when one of the group spotted a large bird flying toward us. It was soaring on motionless wings and was very low. The cloud ceiling was also very low, and the bird was below that.

At first one of the more inexperienced called out "Vulture" because it was so dark beneath and it truly was almost black beneath except for a faint bit of white at the base of the tail. The primaries were somewhat lighter than the secondaries much as it would be in a vulture. We noticed however that it glided with wings almost exactly horizontal and also we agreed almost simultaneously that it might be an Eagle. Visibility wasn't too good and we weren't positive. We knew that Bald Eagles were seen regularly in the area but this still didn't satisfy us. The bird flew very low and directly over where we were standing. There wasn't a spot of white anywhere on the underside of the wings. We could see that it was definitely an Eagle. It went on and finally out of sight. We started to read in all of the different books we had and discovered every point we should have looked for.

We thought perhaps it might come back so we waited, and in about 15 minutes we saw it flying toward us again. Once more we saw the same distinguishing characteristics we had noted before, but we still needed a look at the upper side. Then as though it knew what we wanted, it banked showing much white in the tail with a black edge around the back. This confirmed our opinion and with no question we wrote down Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

The bird then flew across the river and came to rest on top of a telephone pole where it stayed until we left. (We left at 5:15 p. m.).

At about 5:00 p. m., we were very thrilled and excited to see another large bird sail low over our heads. After careful observation this bird proved to be a second Golden Eagle. Altogether we studied these birds for over an hour and we were very much excited with the report we had to present to the other club members.

JAMES A. TUCKER.

MIST NETTING. — Beginning the latter part of August the Elizabethton Chapter of T.O.S., using five mist nets, netted and banded birds every week-end except Oct. 24 and 25 until Nov. 22. Netting was carried out on the property of Howard Langridge and Mrs. Ruth D. Hughes, T.O.S. Members and at the County Farm. The nets were located in woodland, old weed fields and along stream borders. The stream beds were entirely void of water during the entire period although there was intermittent light rainfall from time to time.

Fourteen members and guests attended the nets and assisted with the operation. The nets were visited at short intervals to avoid injury to the birds and to reduce predation to a minimum.

This period covered the greater portion of the fall migration of most of the passerine birds. Many species were missed because the habitats were not suitable for all species; nets were in operation only 2/7 of the daylight hours; some species migrate largely at night and only a very limited area was covered by the nets used.

A total of 59 species and about 856 individuals were netted and banded. Repeats (individuals which had already been banded) consisted mostly of permanent, summer or winter residents of the area and amounted to only 17% of the total. Some of the rarer species netted were: Philadelphia Vireo, Nashville and Orange-crowned Warblers and Lincoln's Sparrow. Largest numbers banded by species in descending numbers were: American Goldfinch, 196 (7); Song Sparrow, 101 (14); Cardinal, 74 (57); Swainson's Thrush, 70 (1); Field Sparrow, 54 (6); Indigo Bunting, 46 (5) and White-throated Sparrow, 43 (20). Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of repeats.

During most of September we were cooperating with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in what was called "Operation Recovery" where other banders along the Appalachian Mountain Chain were banding during the same period and with the hope that some banded birds might be intercepted somewhere along the migration route.

LEE R. HERNDON, 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton.

WATERFOWL BANDING PROJECTS: — In addition to regular waterfowl banding, the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission is participating in two special banding projects in cooperation with the Mississippi Flyway Council to learn more about some species of waterfowl in the flyway. The first of these projects which began in August and continued through November was a concentrated effort to band wood ducks, especially young birds which hadn't yet developed their flight feathers. The program is designed to get more information about the migration routes, breeding and wintering territories, and life span of these beautiful and secretive birds, and to evaluate the effects of hunting pressure and various management techniques on their numbers. A total of 659 wood ducks were banded in trapping operations on Kentucky, Old Hickory, Chickamauga, and Watts Bar Lakes for the special study.

A total of 1,359 other species of ducks have been banded in Tennessee as of January 21, about 350 of which were for a nationwide flyway coordinated project to tag as many wintering mallards and wood ducks as possible. The band return information will be used to pinpoint migration patterns to the breeding areas and back to the wintering grounds. The majority of the birds banded were mallards and black ducks with a few other species being taken. This general banding program was concentrated on Old Hickory and Chickamauga. The low population of birds this year resulted in a 40% decline in banding success in spite of additional effort.

TENNESSEE STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION.

COTURNIX QUAIL fail as game. The introduction of this species of Asiatic origin has been given up in Tennessee by the State Dept. of Fish and Game. Beginning three years ago, nearly 29,000 of the birds were banded and released in various parts of the State and of this number, only 147 birds were returned by Tennessee hunters. The problem with Coturnix is mainly due to their tendency to wander and migrate. 34 bands were returned from other states, mostly southward, some from as far as 775 miles. The state of Indiana released about the same number as Tennessee during the past three years with equally poor results.

TENNESSEE STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION.

A FIELD GUIDE TO BIRD SONGS. Two 12 inch long-playing (33 1/3 rpm) records. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. \$10.00

The recorded song and calls of 302 species of birds are arranged to parallel Roger Tory Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America, 2nd edition". The original recordings were made in the field by the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, whose Dr. Paul Kellogg did most of the selection and editing. The records begin with an introduction spoken by Roger Peterson. The voice of each species is preceded by the voice of Dr. Arthur A. Allen, of the Laboratory of Ornithology, announcing the bird's name and the page number of the "Field Guide" on which the species is described. The songs are grouped into from six to eight bands on each of the four sides of the records to facilitate location of a particular species. The handsome jacket, decorated by Peterson, contains an alphabetical index and a table of contents with notes on the locality where that particular bird was recorded, since there is much geographic variation in the songs of some birds.

So much for the organization of this "Guide to Bird Songs". Now, how useful will it be to the average birder?

The quality of the recordings is, on the whole, very good. The songs and calls sound real, and the illusion of reality is often enhanced by the voices of other birds in the background; almost every marsh bird is accompanied by the songs of Red-wings. Some of the high-pitched warbler songs are almost too realistic in that they tax the ability of the record player to reproduce high frequencies.

The coverage, at least of the birds found in Tennessee, is good. Of all the birds found regularly in this state, excepting waterfowl, the only species omitted from the series are Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Water (or American) Pipit, and Red Crossbill. Birds as rare as the Whooping Crane and Ivory-billed Woodpecker are included. Thirty-nine species of warblers are recorded here, and certainly one use of these records will be to play them over before spring migration to refresh one's memory on the warbler songs (Who has not had to relearn many of these each year?). It is interesting to compare the voices within many other families, for example, the owls, the wrens, and the vireos. Some species were recorded in more than one locality — for the Red-wing there are records from six areas from Florida to Manitoba — illustrating the variation of bird song with geography.

Some of the voices, such as the Spoonbill's and the Puffin's, will be listened to only out of curiosity, for they have no beauty and probably will never be useful in identification. A very few, such as those from a flock of Cedar Waxwings, are too confused to be good. For many species only songs are included where I would like to be able to compare their calls, alarm notes, and scoldings; the Thrushes are an example of this.

On the whole, bird students will find these records to provide enjoyable listening and to be a great aid in learning bird songs and in identifying some of the more difficult ones. They can be ordered through bookstores, from the National Audubon Society, or from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

JAMES T. TANNER.

THE 1959 CHRISTMAS SEASON BIRD COUNT

By T.O.S. Members

This was the third largest species list (118) of the twenty-nine counts tabulated in THE MIGRANT. Only two counts have exceeded this one, 1954 and 1955 when 122 species were listed on both counts. Reports covered 12 areas in 1954, 10 in 1955 and 13 in 1959. The list from the Cosby area is omitted from the table for lack of space but the species and numbers are given in the paragraph under the heading COSBY.

Two species are new to the list. The Kreider's Hawk from the Nashville area and the Red-shafted Flicker from Memphis.

Only 20 species were reported from all 12 of the locations tabulated. Twenty-three species occur in only one list while only 5 species were represented by a single individual in the composite list. Areas reporting species occurring in no other list and the number of species so reported were: Memphis, 5; Reelfoot Lake, 5; Chattanooga, 4; Nashville, 3; Lebanon, 2; Great Smokies, 2; Greeneville, 1 and Elizabethton, 1.

In the table and the descriptions that follow, the localities are listed from west to east. Under the heading "Information on the Counts" are described the areas covered and prevailing conditions under which the counts were made and other pertinent information. The species and number of individuals observed at each locality are listed in the table. For additional information or comments on the records marked with an asterisk(*), see the paragraph pertaining to that particular locality.

INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

MEMPHIS. — 1953 areas generally; wooded bottomlands 30%, deciduous woods, city parks, cemeteries 22%, pastures, airfields, farms 20%, suburban roadsides 25%, river edge 3%. Dec. 27. 7 a. m. to 5 p. m., light drizzle, occasional heavy rain. temp. 59-63, wind SSW, 12 to 25, up to W 30 m.p.h.; very muddy. 28 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 80 (60 on foot, 20 by car); total party miles, 195 (55 on foot, 140 by car).

Despite weather, numbers compare reasonably with last year. Lows on certain species may not be representative (Shrike, Swamp Sparrow). Bluebird (2 seen Dec. 25), first time missed on Count (1928 -); Turkey Vulture, missed only in 1944, previously, not noted during holiday period. The Red-shafted Flicker, seen also Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 (BC), was a hybrid, apparently, — entirely red in wing but with black malar stripe. Spotted Sandpiper seen by Jim and Barbara Lovell, also on Dec. 17 and 20; (one on 1957 count here also). House Sparrow count, 1,752, includes a flock, area of spilled grain end railway yard; none counted in main city. White-throated Sparrow, 1519. Estimates at Elmwood Cemetery roost (Gragg School roost unused this year): Starling 100,000, Redwinged Blackbird 250,000, Common Grackle 150,000, Brown-headed Cowbird 200,000. John T. Bigham, Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Mary Davant, Mrs. Henry Dinkelspiel, John H. Embury, Jr., Bruce Embury, Earl Fuller, Oliver F. Irwin, Mrs. Burt Johnson, Luther F. Keeton, Edward M. King, Prof. and Mrs. J. H. Lovell, Mrs. J. H. McWhorter, Nelle Moore, Maria Osorio, Kathryn Paulus, S. J. Rini, Glynn Roehr, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Seahorn, Mrs. Henry A. Schiller, Alice Smith, Mrs. Arlo I. Smith, Lynn Smith, R. Demett Smith, Jr., Steve Smith, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wilmeth.

REELFOOT—All points within a 15-mile diameter circle; lake 20%; marsh 5%; deciduous woods 45%; field and farm 18%; roadside 12%. Jan. 2, 7:30 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.; temp. 39 to 42 degrees, wind SE, 5-10 m.p.h., weather very unfavorable for identification and count; overcast and rain. 5 observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 17 (7 on foot, 2 by car, 8 by boat): total party-miles, 85 (12 on foot, 58 by car, 15 by boat). John R. Conder (compiler), Hunter M. Hancock, Preston Lane, Clell T. Peterson and James Wilke.

NASHVILLE. — (Approx. the same area as in past 9 years; a 15 mile diameter circle centering at Harding, 7 miles W. of Nashville). Dec. 27; 6:30 a. m. to 4 p. m. Continuous light rain after 9:30 prevented adequate coverage of territory. Temp. range 56-60 degrees. Little wind. Ground bare; no snow to date. 35 observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 63 (27 on foot; 36 in car). Total party-miles 160 (22 on foot; 138 in car). Total 70 species; about 9,596 individuals. — Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bell, Earl Bishop, Mrs. Mark Bradford, Jr., Ruth Castles, Mrs. W. Ovid Collins, Mrs. Leon DeBrohun, John O. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lynn Farrar, Louis Farrell, Jr., and Louis III, Mary W. Frazer, Albert F. Ganier (compiler), Charles Hunt, J. P. Jones, Will T. Hon, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Mayfield, Sr., Alan Monroe, John Ogden, Henry Parmer, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Puryear, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ruhr, Jennie Riggs, Paul Stumpf, L. O. and Anne Trabue and Michael Tine.

LEBANON. — The area we covered is the same as for the past several years. All of the large numbers come mainly from the refuge area of Old Hickory lake — doves, Starlings and the like being somewhat augmented from all over the area. Duck population on the refuge is somewhat below last year, I think.

COOKEVILLE. — While the area under observation was essentially the same as that of 1958, there was an extension to the overcup-oak swamp about 8 miles south along Tenn. 42 (Sparta Road). The territory studied, in terms of miles, was: north 15 mi.; east 8 miles; south 8-9 miles. (None to west of Cookeville). The area includes two small lakes, a few ponds, and some 400 acres of swamp, in addition the usual habitats. Distribution was approximately: field and fence rows 60%, deciduous and mixed forest 34%, vacant lots and streets 2%, stream-lakes-ponds 2%, swamps 2%.

Dec. 31; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.; cloudy early, clearing most of day; temp. 22-42 degrees F.; wind NW, 2-6 m.p.h. Party hours — 100 in nine parties; party miles — (car) 230, (foot) 20.

Three features of note: 1) absence of water fowl (Ducks were seen that week, but not on 12/31) 2) the unusually large number of **two** species — Grackles and Starlings. (The Starlings had been numerous for some time, but in flocks of 20-50). Apparently the big count (RTH) came as birds were leaving their roost. Grackles, more than 500 (PLH), were feeding on seed waste left in a sorghum cane field. Killdeer and Black Vultures were seen in the area, but not on count day.

Sixteen individuals in 9 parties: Bill Brown, Ralph and Mrs. Duncel, Mrs. James Haile, Roy Hines, P. L. Hollister, Mrs. Amy Johnson, Mrs. Charon Loftis, Mrs. Dave Maddux, Sidney and Mrs. McGee, J. T. Moore and Mrs. Moore, Maurice Morehead, Miser Richmond (compiler), Sue and Mrs. C. P. Snelgrove.

CHATTANOOGA. — Area moved slightly to include a useful portion of Signal Mt., Tenn. However, heavy fog offset the expected benefits. Jan. 2; 7:45 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; completely overcast, rainy in afternoon, temp. 38 to 45 degrees F. Wind SSW, 5-12 m.p.h.; 23 observers in 8 parties. Total party hours, 61.

The Golden Eagles and Redwinged Blackbirds were added to Christmas Census list, making a total of 91 species that have been recorded on our 7 Christmas censuses.

The Golden Eagles were observed for about an hour, frequently at close range, by a party of 6 led by James Tucker.

Both the number of observers and the party hours were more than doubled that of last year, thanks to several new members and greater cooperation from old members, resulting in an increase from the previous high of 69 to 73 species — all this in spite of very unfavorable weather.

Leo Acuff, Mrs. Naomi Banks, Mrs. J. R. Barnwell, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Barr, Benton Basham, Dr. W. K. Butts, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Comstock, Jr., Miss Gladys Conner, Mrs. Leon F. Cross, Mrs. Hugh Crownover, John Freeman, Billy Griffith, Nat Halverson, Mrs. H. L. Sliger, John Stiles, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Tucker, Mrs. D. L. Tunsberg, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. West, and Miss Sara Whitworth. R. L. Comstock was compiler, and Mrs. E. M. West was reporter.

KNOXVILLE. — (7½ mile radius centered at junction of Oak Ridge Highway and Ball Camp Pike; this is about three miles further west than the area worked in previous years; it includes Powell Station, Fountain City, Island Home, mouth of Little River, and Andrew Jackson Lake); open farmland and old fields 35%, deciduous and pine woodlots 15%, river and lakes 15%, roadsides 35%. December 27, 7 a. m. to 6 p. m. Partly cloudy to overcast; temp. 55 to 67 degrees F; little wind; 17 observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, about 62. John Elson, Bill Gallagher, Mary Enloe, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Garlinghouse, Q. Gorman, David Highbaugh, Tony Koella, J. Loveday, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Monroe, Mrs. E. E. Overton, J. B. Owen, Paul Pardue, Mrs. Kenneth Sanders, David Tanner, James T. Tanner (compiler).

The Blue Goose has been staying at a small lake for some time. The Palm Warbler and Vesper Sparrows are rarely seen here in the winter. A Hermit Thrush, not seen on the day of the count, was seen on December 30 in the area.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK. — Tennessee-North Carolina (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of Laurel Creek and Bote Mountain truck trail, including Abrams Falls, Laurel Lake, Elkmont, and junction of Hazel Creek with Bone Valley Creek; open farm land 15%, old fields 25%, forests 30%, roadsides 20%, stream courses and reservoir 10%.) Jan. 3; 7:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m.; partly cloudy; temp. 35 to 50 degrees; wind W, 10-15 m.p.h.; ground bare and well saturated. 36 observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 83 (69 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 298 (87 on foot, 211 by car). Jane Briscoe, Brockway Crouch, William Downy, John Elson, Mary Enloe, Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Garlinghouse, Robert B. Hamilton, David B. Highbaugh, Phillip Huff, Mrs. Elsie S. Janson, Tony Koella, Beth Lacy, Charles Loveday, Dorothy MacLean, Richard P. Martin, Wm. T. Martin, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Stanleigh R. Meeker, J. T. Mengel, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, Fred

Moses, Miss Anne Moyer, Mrs. E. E. Overton, Paul S. Pardue, Richard W. Russell, Robert R. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Smith, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stupka, Mrs. Thomas C. Swindell, David Tanner, Dr. James T. Tanner, James Wardley. (Tennessee Ornithological Society, National Park Service, and guests).

COSBY. — Recreation area to Low Gap along trail to Black Mt. and return by Rock Creek trail to Recreation area. Eastern end of Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Dec. 27; 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Mild, cloudy, cloud to well below top of Mt. Guyot (6,000'), overcast; temp. 54 degrees; wind 0 at bottom to 40 m.p.h. at top; 13 mi. all on foot. Ruffed Grouse, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Common Crow, 5; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Carolina Chickadee, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Robin, 104 (roost); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 10. Total 13 species, 164 individuals. Ruth and Richard Nevius.

GREENEVILLE. — Usual territory covered as in previous years. Jan. 1, 1960 8:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 27 to 40 degrees F.; wind 1 to 5 m.p.h. Seven observers in 5 parties; total party-hours 18; total party-miles 125 (120 by car, 5 on foot). Observers — Mrs. Willis Clemens, Dr. and Mrs. Turner Clinard, Mrs. Chester Darnell (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nevius and Mrs. J. B. White.

KINGSPORT. — Usual area centering on Pactolus, including southeastern slope of Bays Mountain and reservoir, borders of Boone Lake around dam. Dec. 27 7:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; overcast; 50 to 67 degrees F.; no wind; nine observers in six parties; total party hours 32; total party miles 16. Thomas W., Dan and Tommy Finucane, W. E. Gift, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hincke, Mrs. W. C. McHorris, Mrs. J. Winston Smith, Mrs. R. M. Switzer (compiler).

BRISTOL. — The usual area in the vicinity of Bristol including part of South Holston Lake. Dec. 26, 7 a. m. to 6 p. m. Sunny, 40 to 50 degrees F.; wind 8 to 10 m.p.h. 8 observers. Mrs. J. Abbott, Wallace Coffey, Mrs. Earl Francisco, Miss T. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Miller, H. W. Nunley (compiler), and Hank Woodward.

The Osprey was sighted by Mrs. J. Abbott, at South Holston Dam Dec. 26, 1959. It was observed through a pair of 7 X 30 binoculars also a telescope, however it was on the opposite side of the lake. The exact location was at the Sullins College Camp. The caretaker of the camp told them it had been there for several days and that he had watched it catch fish then fly to the opposite side of the lake and he would watch the bird eat the fish. As I understand this is the second time the Osprey has been seen there at Christmas time.

ELIZABETHTON. — Same area as for the past 15 years, with center at Valley Forge. Jan. 3, 6 a. m. to 6 p. m.; mostly cloudy with occasional sunshine; temp. 46 to 52 degrees; wind 25 to 40 m.p.h. Nine observers in 7 parties. Mrs. Earl Bashor, J. C. Browning, Ralph Bullard, Ed Davidson, Kenneth Dubke, Mr. and Mrs. Lee R. Herndon, Roby D. May, Jr. and Frank Ward.

THE 1959 CHRISTMAS SEASON BIRD COUNT

	Memphis	Reelfoot Lake	Nashville	Lebanon	Cookeville	Chattanooga	Knoxville	Great Smokies	Greeneville	Kingsport	Bristol	Elizabethton
Horned Grebe						3						
Pied-billed Grebe				4		1	1	6		2		
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant		3										
Grt. Bl. Heron	1	2	4	15		3	19	2	3	2		
Little Bl. Heron				8								
Bl.-cr. N. Heron			23									
Canada Goose		9,675				5			14		2	
Blue Goose	2			4			1					
Mallard	28	38,850	39	4,500		6	4	60		10	4	4
Black Duck		1,000		1,200		40		17		6		6
Gadwall		9,800				6						
Pintail		2,000		25								
Grn.-wg. Teal		100										
Bl.-wg. Teal									1			
Am. Widgeon		6,500				1						
Shoveler		1,000							1			
Wood Duck		100		50			2					
Redhead		5										
Ring-necked Duck		8,500		100		5		60		4		1
Canvasback		400	5									
Lesser Scaup	56	600	51	25						7	5	
Com. Goldeneye		100								2		
Bufflehead		250							3			17
Ruddy Duck		250	1					9				
Hd. Merganser		40				4	3	1				

Barred Owl		1	2				1					
Blt. Kingfisher	4	1	21	1	2	8	20	15	1	3	3	7
Yel.-sh. Flicker	129	10	80	2	19	38	23	6	5	4	9	6
Red-sh. Flicker	1*											
Pil. Woodpecker	3	3	11	2	15	8	18	34	6	3		2
Red-bel. Woodpecker	58	5	41	6	8	21	23		14	5		1
Red-hd. Woodpecker	1		4		7	8			1			
Yel.-bel. Sapsucker	16		5	3	9	10	12	2	2	4		4
Hairy Woodpecker	11	1	11	7	12	5	3	7	3	1	4	5
Downy Woodpecker	55		68	12	20	40	43	49	20	13	9	21
E. Phoebe	1	1	1	2	2	3	5	14	1	1		3
Horned Lark	208		16	35	17		6		5			4
Blue Jay	312	14	100	11	131	210	300	93	63	43	61	58
Com. Crow	76	500	800	1,675	133	282	557	564	3,000	52	290	490
Bl.-cp. Chickadee								{ 293				
Carolina Chickadee	126	18	195	15	50	107	284		44	65	49	65
Tufted Titmouse	48	6	130	20	75	148	173	115	31	29	23	41
White-br. Nuthatch	2	1	2	1	8	35	6	9	2	1	9	1
Red-br. Nuthatch			1					7		1	1	
Brown Creeper	6	1	5		1	6	8	19		3		3
House Wren					2							1
Winter Wren	9		1	1	1	8	1	23	2	3		
Bewick's Wren	2	1	8	5	7	6	1		7			
Carolina Wren	124	6	74	8	21	65	220	63	38	27	10	33
Mockingbird	164	2	188	24	60	117	350	9	31	24	28	40
Brown Thrasher	6		1		3	16	4				1	
Robin	860	8	37	3	27	154	206	166	34	48		56
Hermit Thrush	13					1		4		1		
E. Bluebird			148	18	39	37	55	54	16	12		11
Gold-cr. Kinglet	33	20	7	2		5	16	106		2		3
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	23	2	1	24		10		2		1		
Water Pipit	4											

Cedar Waxwing	17	26	626	30	224	30	13	54				
Lgr.-hd. Shrike	13	5	21	7	9	15	10	5	5	1	3	
Starling	100,000	900,000	5,000	8,620	17,700	1,659	3,350	251	2,000	200	1,325	514
Myrtle Warbler	35	1	111	4	56	78	38	10	29	14	260	
Pine Warbler						4						
Palm Warbler			4				1					
House Sparrow	1,752	1	275	75	125	403	113	96	90	98	627	244
E. Meadowlark	425	70	272	90	145	386	225	177	36	138	4	52
W. Meadowlark	5											
Redwinged Blackbird	250,000	1,800,000	27	50	6	384	1		1			
Rusty Blackbird	14			450		419	10					
Brewer's Blackbird	25		4									
Com. Grackle	150,000	90,000		1,000	814	2	154		9	200	1	1
Br.-hd. Cowbird	200,000	210,000			3	4	12					
Cardinal	658	148	466	87	116	269	270	148	107	31	39	90
Evening Grosbeak												14
Purple Finch	44		46	28	22	52	60	47	14	10		23
Pine Siskin			1					15				
Am. Goldfinch	206	25	128	1	51	260	174	135	28	14	24	89
Ruf.-sd. Towhee	73		70	7	74	147	146	31	10	22	1	30
Savannah Sparrow	35		2		1	6	10	1				
Vesper Sparrow					49	10	4	1			2	
Slate-col. Junco	860	140	320	20	90	389	235	545	72	45	30	134
Field Sparrow	210		137		137	187	226	268	85	23		71
Wh.-cr. Sparrow	27		59	2		9	7		40	3	10	13
Wh.-th. Sparrow	1,519		178	2	80	343	307	280	108	63	46	132
Fox Sparrow	107		6		7	8	1	12				1
Swamp Sparrow	83	1	17		18	11	11	41	8		3	2
Song Sparrow	217	2	131	1	70	172	262	274	18	10	20	73
Lapl. Longspur	25											
TOTAL SPECIES	69	66	69	59	53	73	67	61	56	56	40	50
Total Individuals	709,195	3,080,764	9,679	19,032	20,439	7,594	8,783	4,574	6,528	1,356	2,715	2,829

Grand total species, 118; individuals, 3,874,008.

1959

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GUEST EDITORIAL

A recent news item has prompted me to consider the possibility that T.O.S. members should probably expend more effort in making their interests generally known and understood, not only to persons with similar interests but to those whose hobbies and vocations put them in a position to be useful to us. Among these classifications are fishermen, hunters, forestry personnel, conservation and game officers.

Information of interest and value is going to waste because T.O.S. members are not hearing about some of these matters until it is too late. Four weeks after the birds were seen, a local community newspaper printed a news release of the Fish and Game Commission about 50 Whistling Swans at Paint Rock Refuge near Kingston, Tennessee. About two weeks later, it got a mention in the Chattanooga Times. Undoubtedly, numerous members would have gone to see the swans had they known about it soon enough.

Do you know all the conservation officers in your area? Do they know that you welcome prompt reports of unusual observations? Should we appeal to the Fish and Game Commission for their cooperation? Could the "rare bird alert" be adapted for use on a regional basis?

Something is amiss when the important bird events of our state must be read in the newspapers instead of in THE MIGRANT, and when publication in THE MIGRANT is undesirable because the event has not been confirmed by the personal experience of a member.

Let's see if we can't do something about it!

ADELE H. WEST, Chattanooga.

FELLOW SPORTSMEN. — Tennessee's 1959-60 waterfowl season has ended. Game and Fish Commission records show that hunter success was far below that of last year, and revenue from duck stamp sales is lower this year because of a lack of hunting interest. This money, used exclusively for the purchase of wetlands, is urgently needed to prevent recurrence of this year's bad situation. A water shortage in natural breeding areas cut production drastically. Better conditions are in prospect for this year's nesting season, but nature's duck factory still needs all the help we can give it.

Even though the season is over, I strongly urge all persons who have not yet purchased a water fowl stamp to get one **now**. I suggest that we waterfowl hunters who are really interested in preserving the sport go down to the post office and purchase a **second** duck stamp. Let's all buy a share in America's waterfowl. Sincerely,

BUFORD ELLINGTON, Governor.

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