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Upper.—Young Peregrine Falcons on nest ledge of cliff. Photo by Walter Spofford.

Lower.—The cabin on Siler's Bald; Albert Ganier at left. June 1920.

THE MIGRANT

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SOME NESTING RECORDS FROM THE SMOKIES

By ALBERT F. GANIER

The high altitudes and coniferous forests of the mountain chain which we call the Great Smoky Mountains present an environment of unusual ornithological interest. Many of the summits in this chain rise to more than 5,500 feet above sea level, including Mt. Guyot 6,621', Laurel Top 5,900', Clingman's Dome 6,642', Siler's Bald 5,620', Thunder Head 5,530', etc. The southern limit of the balsam-spruce forest ends only a little southwest of Clingman's and with it terminates the southern range of several species of birds belonging to the Canadian zone fauna. The possibilities for ornithological work in this unique Tennessee area led to my making a series of investigations beginning in 1920 and continuing nearly every year until 1933. Again, in 1938, the writer organized a foray, composed of 17 T.O.S. members, which spent the time from 13 to 20 June, working the summits chiefly to determine the altitudinal distribution of the various species. The results of this expedition were published in THE MIGRANT for September 1938. Some of the results of earlier field work has been published elsewhere, as cited in the appended bibliography. The inaccessibility of some of these publications, together with availability of new observations and breeding records, make it desirable that those covering the more unusual species be brought together in this paper for more convenient reference. I might add that during these years I gave particular attention to finding nests of each species in order to establish definite breeding records for the State. At least one set of eggs was collected of each for the purpose of adding to my comprehensive collection of birds of Tennessee and to definitely authenticate my records.

Prior to the establishment of the National Park in 1930, the summits were practically inaccessible. In my first stay, 27 May to 3 June, 1920, I was unaccompanied and made headquarters at Elkmont. From there, early each morning I rode the logging train of the Little River Lumber Co., up the forested valley of the Rough Creek prong some 5 or 6 miles to where the timber cutters were felling the primeval forest. From this point to the summit of Siler's Bald was a four mile hike along a dim and very steep trail. From there I could follow the State line westward or as far east as Clingman's Dome. No ornithological work had ever been done here before and the experience, with new birds in an entirely different environment, was exhilarating. In 1924, I organized a party to camp on top of Siler's Bald for further study and from 29 May to 5 June, our party of five made ourselves quite comfortable in a little one room, windowless log cabin, with stone chimney and dirt floor, owned by the lumber company. The members of this party beside myself were G. R. Mayfield and Edgar McNish of Nashville, Harry P. Ijams of Knoxville and Andy Gregory of Elkmont. Andy was the surveyor for the lumber company and

knew every inch of the wild area, regaling us with mountain lore and woodsman's knowledge. As the new park blazed and blasted its road to New Found Gap, it became possible to do the summits from Clingman's Dome to Mt. LeConte and on to Laurel Top. Prior to that, LeConte had only been accessible by a long, tortuous trail from Gatlinburg. Because of the ban against collecting specimens in the Park area, even for scientific purposes, the writer transferred his high altitude activities to Roan Mountain on the north and to the Unicois to the south, both of which have been reported on in this journal.

Localities referred to are as shown on the U.S.G.S. topographic map of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The dates of egg laying varies with the altitude and since the foliage on top is not well developed before 1 June, egg deposition there for most species is after that date.

The following nesting records are here submitted.

Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura*. These picturesque additions to the mountain landscape find safe nesting places among the rocks forming the occasional escarpments. In such a location, I found a nest containing a young bird, nearly as large as its parents, on 3 June, 1925. This was at the Cat-stairs cliff, 4,700', just north of the Greenbrier valley.

Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk). *Falco peregrinus*. The finding of a nesting pair of this famous bird in the Smokies was one of my earliest and most keenly anticipated objectives. Because of their very early nesting habits the birds are usually gone from their nesting eyries at the time most observers elect to visit the high altitudes. On 7 June, 1928 however, I observed two of the falcons soaring about over the Devil's Backbone cliff across the canyon from Alum Cave bluff. Making my way around and to the top of the Backbone and peering over with the aid of a safety rope, I discerned a ledge 20 feet below the summit that showed from recent usage it had been the nesting site. The following spring I enlisted the help of my good and able friend Brockway Crouch of Knoxville to help me get to the eyrie in order to collect my first set of eggs of this species. We had a three mile hike from the road's end and were heavily laden with pack-sacks containing ropes, rope ladder, cameras, lunch, etc., arriving at the site, mid-day, 7 April. We flushed the incubating female from a ledge different from last year's site but about the same distance from the top. Tying our rope ladder to kalmia bushes, we descended and found three reddish brown eggs laid in a depression of soft shale and decayed vegetation. On preparation later, the eggs were found to have been incubated from 14 to 17 days, meaning that 20 March would have been the approximate date for laying of the first egg. Both birds made defense demonstrations in the air, particularly the female which was very demonstrative. We took photos of the bird diving toward us as well as of the cliff and these were reproduced later in **The Wilson Bulletin** of March, 1931, together with a more detailed description, as well as of a similar eyrie I had found in an escarpment of the Cumberland plateau. Crouch visited the Devil's Backbone eyrie again on 17 May, 1931 and found it still in use with three young ready for flight. On descending to the ledge the young flew off but one returned and was captured. Bones and feathers of two American Bitterns and a Red-breasted Merganser were on the ledge. I have seen Peregrines at other likely nesting cliffs in the Park and believe several pair nest there. During the incubation period they are not apt to be seen near the eyrie.

Ruffed Grouse. *Bonasa umbellus*. Regularly distributed and found at all altitudes, especially about the balds. My first nest was found 1 June 1920, in the recently cleared right-of-way for the logging railroad at elev. 4,000'. The bird flushed just ahead of me and flew noiselessly away at a low height. The nest contained eight eggs incubated about twenty days. The nest was built in a depression spanned by a four inch, fern-covered birch root. On 1 June 1924, I found a nest with seven fresh eggs on Siler's Bald at elev. 5,500'. This was in an open wooded area, grown up in dwarf beech. It was placed against a small tree and the nest was made entirely of beech leaves. The sitting bird flushed at fifteen feet. On top of Mt. LeConte, at 6,500', I found a nest in the one-acre clearing there containing several addled eggs. Parent birds with young were encountered a number of times in June along the trail and they put on a fearless demonstration in order to distract attention from their brood.

Chimney Swift. *Chaetura pelagica*. On 30 May 1925, one of a pair was seen flying in and out of a hollow tree near the top of Siler's Bald and it is logical to assume that it was prospecting for a nest site in the absence of chimneys. Quite a number of these birds may be seen feeding over the balds in summer, even on top of LeConte, and it is probable that some revert to their prehistoric nesting sites.

Belted Kingfisher. *Megasceryle alcyon*. It seemed a bit out of place to find these birds following and living along the wild, overgrown mountain streams, miles from open country. Pairs were found on Jake's creek at 2,700' and on Rough creek at 3,000', deep in the forest. The latter pair had excavated a nest hole in the recently made railroad cut and one was seen entering it on 2 June 1920.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. *Sphyrapicus varius*. Pairs were seen on Siler's Bald, 5,200', and others on Chestnut Ridge and Miry Ridge at 4,700'. At the latter location, 31 May 1920, one of a pair entered and remained in a newly made nest hole, 50' up in a limbless dead hemlock. The male was collected and its l-w-t measurements of 205, 120 and 63 mm proved it to be the new race *S. v. appalachiensis* which I described later (Ganier - 1954).

Common Raven. *Corvus corax*. Although I had sought for a nest of this species on each of my trips it was not until 4 May 1960 that I first viewed an occupied nest. The Raven habitually chooses an inaccessible ledge on the face of a high vertical cliff and such sites are few and far between in the Smokies. In the Pennsylvania mountains it has often been found to nest in spruce forests, constructing a bulky nest far up in the tree. Since there are at least several pairs resident along the summits of the Smokies, it may be that some do likewise here. On the above date, which was the day before the convening of the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting at Gatlinburg, I took several members up the LeConte trail to Alum Cave bluff. At an overlook just short of our destination we were directly across the canyon from the Devil's Backbone cliff in which I had previously found the Peregrine eyrie. Scanning the cliff with binoculars, I soon saw a Raven fly in from a low level and alight on a ledge by a nest. In the nest were at least three well feathered young and as soon as these were fed the parent left. Realizing our good fortune, we watched the nest for nearly an hour, at a distance of about 500 yards and saw adults come in twice more. On one trip, when a Raven came in from above the cliff, it was attacked by a Peregrine Falcon which we had not seen up to this point. (When eggs are in the Falcon's nest earlier in the season the Ravens

would doubtless eat them if left unguarded.) The nest was built about half-way up the 150' sheer cliff. A dead hemlock a hundred feet away, served as a lighting point for one of the young that was seen to leave the nest the following day. Some years ago, Brockway Crouch showed me a photograph of a Raven's nest built on a ledge of another cliff but this one was unoccupied at the time. Rigorous weather conditions on the snow-clad summits in winter doubtless shortens the life of these rare and spectacular birds and it would seem wise for park rangers to supply food for them at such times.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. *Sitta canadensis*. On 2 June 1925, two pair were found excavating nest holes in dead spruce trees on the western slope of Clingman's Dome, altitude 6,100'. Since this was the first nesting record for the Southeast, I made a special trip from Nashville 12 days later to collect the eggs and to reexamine unfinished nests of other birds. On climbing to the nest, with spurs and safety belt, I found the bird incubating and as I opened the cavity I had to toss her away. She immediately returned and insisted on trying to reenter. I put her in my coat pocket but she was soon out again and interfering with my packing up the six fresh eggs. The specimen's were carefully preserved for further reference. The bird had smeared sticky pitch all around the lower half of the entrance hole, presumably for the purpose of keeping out ants and perhaps other predators. This is a customary habit of this species. The other nest cavity was not occupied and had probably been abandoned. These Nuthatches are regularly found along the summits where the fir and spruce make dense stands and where the ecological complex is that of the Canadian zone.

I had laid out too much to do on this one day and night with drizzling rain overtook me before I could come upon the dim trail from Siler's down to the lumber camp. I was fortunate however to be able to locate the little log cabin among the trees of the north slope and to gain a cold night's lodging, not thru the padlocked door but down the rude stone chimney.

Brown Creeper. *Certhia familiaris*. The Creepers were found to use the same habitats as that of the preceding species and it was not until our 1938 foray that I found a nest. This one was found 14 June, just six feet above the trail north of New Found Gap. It was tucked behind the loose bark of a large dead spruce tree. One of the birds was seen upon the tree trunk above the nest and suddenly disappeared behind the bark where it had buckled two inches out from the trunk. Tell-tale shreds of nest material projected and on examination, a small nest composed of dead spruce-wood fibres was found. The nest was nearly completed and we watched the bird bringing in additional material. Another nest, also under construction and similarly located was found the same day. A third nest, found 19 June, was located on the Skyline Drive west of New Found Gap. This one was forty feet above the ground in a tall dead spruce that had been killed by blasting. The bark was intact except at the nest site, where it had cracked and sprung away from the trunk. The Creeper was seen to fly to this tree, to enter the crack and to remain some time. Securing a permit from Park authorities to investigate further, I climbed to the nest and found it to contain five eggs, nearly fresh. This nest was built of small dead spruce twigs, fibres of dead spruce-wood and lined with soft shreds from inside spruce bark.

Winter Wren. *Troglodytes troglodytes*. The subspecies present in the Smokies is a dark plumaged form described by Thos. H. Burleigh in 1935. It was found present in breeding season at altitudes from 3,500' to the summits. The nest is difficult to find because of being built on the ground or between tree roots where it is covered over by the everpresent green moss. On 21 June 1933, I was fortunate enough to find a nest with five young, 75 feet above the trail from the Gap to LeConte, altitude 5,500'. Attracted by calls from the parent birds, I began to look closely in all probable sites along the banks of the little ravine. Presently I noticed a small black hole in the green moss and opening it slightly, out flew a young one on its initial flight. It was at once followed by its nest-mates until five had emerged and flown from twenty to thirty feet to join their vociferous parents. The nest, which I collected, is a round ball of soft materials five inches in diameter and included in its soft lining are small feathers of the Ruffed Grouse. It had been tucked among the roots of a tree behind the moss. This was the first nest to be recorded from our southern mountains.

Robin. *Turdus migratorius*. To those of us who associate this bird with city lawns, villages and farmsteads, it comes somewhat as a surprise to find them well distributed along the mountain tops. These birds are of a wild and elusive strain and most often located by their garrulous song. Many nests were found among the stunted beech trees near the summits or else saddled on fairly low horizontal limbs of spruce and hemlock. From some of the latter nests hung long, trailing strands of usnea moss, making them both conspicuous and attractive. Most of the nests examined held but three eggs or young.

Veery. *Hylocichla fuscescens*. This species, formerly known as the Wilson's Thrush, would be rated rare but for its penetrating call-notes which may frequently be heard in the forests from 3,000' upward. I have found it shy, elusive and difficult to approach for close inspection. I have examined many of their nests but have rarely gotten a view of the birds as they slipped away. The nests are most often saddled on the low horizontal limb of a conifer or else in sprouts from some broken tree or bush. They are well and compactly made like those of the Wood Thrush. Along the summits, the three or four eggs are laid the first week in June.

Solitary Vireo. *Vireo solitarius*. The wild "screechy" song of this vireo may be heard at all altitudes for it is a fairly common species. It nests earlier than most of its neighbors, constructing a well formed pouch suspended in the fork of a low, pendant limb. The nest is ornamented prettily on the exterior with small blue-green lichens tied on with white spider silk. While on their nests, they are nearly fearless and sometimes may be stroked with a pencil before they leave. My first nest of this species was on Miry Ridge, 4,500' alt., on 31 May 1920. It held 3 eggs, incubated about one week and was near the top of a small hemlock in the forest. The nest lining was of fine grasses.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. *Dendroica caerulescens*. This is one of the most characteristic birds of the Park and a rewarding species to become acquainted with because it is easily found at all altitudes above 3,000'. Their nests however are not often found because they are most often built in the "jungles" of rhododendron or leucothea (dog hobble), from two to five feet above the ground. All of about a dozen nests found were near a brook or spring. My first nest was found on Blanket Mountain at 4,000' 1 June 1920, and contained three nearly fresh eggs. This one was unusual

in that it was above the laurel belt in rather thin woods and was built, a foot up, in one of the many little hemlock trees that had sprung up. Their nests are closely woven little cup-shaped affairs tied to three or more upright twigs. When the birds are sitting, only the upright beak and tail show above the rim. The white spot on the folded wing of the demurely clad female affords a quick means for her identification.

Ovenbird. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. A nest of this ground dwelling warbler was found 1 June 1920, on Miry ridge at alt. 4,800'. It contained four young about three days old and was built on the ground as usual.

Canada Warbler. *Wilsonia canadensis*. Of the twenty-two summer resident warblers of the Park area, the nest of this species is one of the most difficult to locate. This is because of the fact that they are built on the ground and well hidden by growing plants and forest litter. On 15 June 1938, our party enroute to Andrews Bald heard one of the birds just off the trail and found them disturbed when we vainly sought to find their nest. Miss Mabel Slack and the writer decided to watch the birds from chosen lookouts in hopes they would reveal the location. This tactic proved successful after nearly half an hour. The nest with its three fresh eggs were then found, well hidden on the steep slope among litter and plant growth.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. *Phencticus ludovicianus*. The high altitude associations of the southern Appalachians here finds this species at nearly the southern limit of its breeding range and its song, much like that of the Robin but more spirited, can often be heard. Several nests were found in bushes and small trees at an average height of eight feet. My first nest was on 1 June 1920, on Chestnut Ridge, alt., 4,300'. This nest contained three eggs with incubation advanced and was nine feet up on small branch of a hydrangia bush on wooded slope. The nest was like that of a Cardinal except that it had no leaves in it and the eggs could be seen from below thru the lining of black rootlets.

Many more species of lesser interest could be included but these would be beyond the scope of the present paper. Also, the nests of a number of the rarer species have not as yet been found. Compared with lower altitudes, birdlife of the summits is relatively scarce and it takes a great deal of field work to accumulate information. I would like to express my appreciation to the many T.O.S. members with whom I have been associated in this field work and for whom lack of space prevents personal listing.

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MIGRATION DATA FROM TELEVISION TOWER CASUALTIES AT NASHVILLE

By AMELIA R. LASKEY

In autumn 1961, the first casualty found at WSIX television tower was a Yellow-breasted Chat on the morning of Sept. 13. As in previous years, a daily search under towers and cables was made, with the excellent cooperation of Clara W. Fentress, until the morning of Nov. 8 when migration appeared to have ended. A total of 228 birds of 52 species was collected from Sept. 13 to Nov. 7 at WSIX. One collection at WSM television tower on the morning of Oct. 3 by H. E. Parmer, which we examined together, yielded 183 birds of 27 species. The combined totals are 411 birds of 58 species.

There were few periods of unfavorable weather during the 1961 autumn migration period. There was one nine-day period (Sept. 19 to 28) when no casualties were found.

The heaviest disasters occurred on the nights of Oct. 2-3 (59 at WSIX; 183 at WSM) and Oct. 13-14 (46 at WSIX; no visit to WSM). The Oct. 2-3 kill followed a day of overcast skies, low ceiling, north wind, evening rainfall and a passage of a cold front in the night (mean temperature 56, normal 68). The following morning, Oct. 4, north winds prevailed with mean temperature below normal. A heavy migration must have continued, as we gathered 25 dead birds that bright morning. The next few days were free of casualties, then only a minimum until the night of Oct. 13-14 when another cold front, north wind and some very light precipitation resulted in 46 casualties at WSIX. The number dwindled on Oct. 15 to 5 birds. After that the daily collections dwindled to 0 to 6 to the end of migration.

The casualty list, as usual, added some new extremes to our Nashville area records; new early arrival, Fox Sparrow Oct. 14; new late departure dates, Sora Nov. 5; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Oct. 14; Worm-eating Warbler Oct. 3.

Other late departures noted (not extremes) were: White-eyed Vireo, Oct. 14; Tennessee Warbler, Nov. 6; Orange-crowned Warbler, Nov. 5; Parula, Mourning, Wilson's, Canada Warblers, and Bobolink (2), Oct. 3; Grasshopper Sparrow, Oct. 27.

Several pertinent records were obscured because the birds fell on roofs, thus collections were unavoidably delayed and exact date of passage undeterminable. The following birds were among them in late October: Yellow, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Baltimore Oriole and Scarlet Tanager.

Migratory dates for our permanent resident species, such as the Field Sparrow, are not easy to determine, but this year as in previous years Field Sparrow casualties indicate there is a peak of arrivals of this species from the north in the first week of November.

The complete list of casualties collected for 1961 follows with an asterisk (*) preceding those from WSM: American Bittern, 1; Sora, 3; American Coot, 2; Mourning Dove, 1; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3; Chimney Swift, 1; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Catbird 8, *6; Wood Thrush 3, *2; Hermit Thrush 2; Swainson's Thrush 4, *7; Gray-checked Thrush, 2; Veery, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; White-eyed Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo 6, *23; Philadelphia Vireo 1, *6; Black-and-white Warbler 3, *10; Worm-eating

Warbler, *1; Tennessee Warbler 25, *24; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1; Nashville Warbler 1, *1; Parula Warbler, *1; Yellow Warbler, 1; Magnolia Warbler, 13, *15; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 3; Black-throated Green Warbler, 7, *3; Blackburnian Warbler, 1, *2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 7, *11; Bay-breasted Warbler, 13, *5; Palm Warbler, 4, *2; Ovenbird, 38, *40; Northern Waterthrush, 1, *5; Kentucky Warbler, *1; Mourning Warbler, *1; Yellowthroat, 9, *7; Yellow-breasted Chat, 3; Wilson's Warbler, *1; Canada Warbler, *1; American Redstart, 2, *3; Bobolink, 1, *1; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 1, *2; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Indigo Bunting, 10, *2; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 2; Field Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Fox Sparrow, 1; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 2.

An attempt has been made each year to utilize this material that would have otherwise gone to waste. Many of the birds are preserved (under my U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service collecting permit) for studies of fall plumages. Among them is a Tennessee Warbler in a typical plumage (verified by Dr. John W. Aldrich, U. S. Nat. Mus.). The throat of this bird is yellow but across the breast is a band 16 mm. wide of a dark color similar to the crown in fall, a grayish olive-green.

This year, 175 specimens were placed in individual plastic bags, sealed, labeled, frozen then packed in dry ice and sent in an insulated container by air freight to the University of Nebraska for a study of feather parasites. The remaining birds (unless in bad condition during warm weather) are frozen and rationed to the aged Red-tailed Hawk, and Great Horned Owls in captivity at my home since injured, 14, 10 and 17 years ago, respectively.

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FURTHER OBSERVATIONS AT BUSH LAKE

By HENRY E. PARMER

This report covers the period from May 14, 1960 to May 12, 1961 (MIGRANTS 29:52-54, 1958; 30:33-34, 1959 and 31:67-70, 1960.) Dec. was -8 and Jan. -7, degrees colder than normal, giving us our coldest winter in 20 years. Cold weather killed greens in the fields, leaving almost no cover for sparrows. The lake was kept at a high level all year, so that it was not very attractive to shore birds. Records were kept for 182 trips, these usually being less than 30 minutes and the writer seldom left his car. 97 species were seen on the farm during the period. 7 X 35 binoculars were used.

Common Loon: Nov. 7 (1) to Nov. 25 (3) to Nov. 28 (2), then Apr. 3 (1) and May 9 (1). Horned Grebe: Dec. 12 (1), from Mar. 1 (2) to Mar. 23 (3). Pied-billed Grebe: Aug. 2 (1), a new early record for Nashville. Sept. 10 (5) to Sept. 28 (12). Oct. 3 to 4, last Nov. 9 (1). Mar. 13 (1), Apr. 16 (4), then May 3 and 12 (1). Double-cr. Cormorant: May 8 and 11 (1). Common Egret: June 1, Aug. 25, Oct. 10, and Apr. 13 (1). Black-crowned Night Heron: Only a few in May. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: One flying over on May 8. Canada Goose: Oct. 3 to 7 (22). Blue Goose: An immature bird from Oct. 22 to Dec. 8. Mallard: A female Aug. 2 through Aug. 17. This bird is believed to have nested in nearby Buena Vista marsh as one did the spring a year ago. Then 2 in Oct. and up to 14 in Nov. to 25 in Dec. up to 16 in Jan. The last were Feb. 28 (6). Black Duck: May 17 and 19 (3).

Then Nov. 3 and 28 (1), Dec. 21 (18), then none until Feb. 9 (58) to Feb. 28 (46). The lake is not a good feeding place for puddle ducks. Gadwall: Nov. 5 (1), then up to 6 on Jan. 4, then down to the last, Feb. 14 (2). Pintail: Nov. 30 (5) down to Dec. 26 (1). The last were Feb. 10 (3). Green-winged Teal: Oct. 4 (2), Nov. 7 and 20 (1), then Mar. 17 (2). Blue-winged Teal: Sept. 10 (11) and Oct. 3 (36). Then Mar. 13 (1) to Mar. 25 (20). These were up to Apr. 9 (50), and down to May 1 (5). American Widgeon: From Nov. 7 (5) to Apr. 14 (6). A peak of (11) in Jan., Feb. (16) and Mar. (4). Shoveler: Oct. 21 (3) then Nov. 10 (1) to Dec. 8 through 20 (3). Then Feb. 28 (1) until Mar. 29 and 31 (2). Apr. peak (24 on 11, down to the last on May 1, 14). Redhead: Oct. 21 (1) to (3) during Nov. and Dec. Then Jan 4 (2) and Jan. 6 (1), then (1) during Feb., to Feb. 28 (46). That is a lot of Redheads for Nashville. Ring-necked Duck: Oct. 27 (4), Nov. 5 (67), and down through Dec. to around (40). Then up to (80) during Jan. From early Feb. (20) to Feb. 28 (85). From Mar. 1 (135) to Mar. 20 (13). Then from Apr. 4 (55) to the last Apr. 19 (2). Canvasback: Nov. 7 (4) to Nov. 28 (6). Dec. 3 (19) to Dec. 27 (32). Jan. 4 (20) to a peak on Jan. 18 (35). Feb. ran from (19) on the 9 to Feb. 28 (1). Then Mar. 2 (6) to Mar. 14 (1). Greater Scaup: This rare duck wintered here. Dec. 27 (8), then Jan. 4 (5) to a peak on Jan. 9 (18). Feb. 16 and 28 (2). Mar. had from (4) to a peak of (9) on the 10, to the last on Mar. 29 (4). (The lake was frozen solid from Jan. 23 to 95% covered Feb. 6). Lesser Scaup: May 16 to 19 (3), then June 15 and 16 (8). This is a most unusual record. They had bright white face-patches, so must have been non-breeding females. Nov. 10 (15) was the only fall record. Unusual, as this is a very common duck here Jan. 9 (1), then none until Mar. 2 (4). The peak for Mar. (28) on the 24. Apr. 3 (86) was the largest, then down to the last May 3 (8). Goldeneye: Nov. 30 (1) and Dec. 20 (1). A peak Jan. 4 (12). Feb. (2) to (12) on 16. Mar. had up to (8) on the 8, and the last Mar. 20 (5). Bufflehead: None in fall. Mar 22 (5) down to Apr. 6 (2). Oldsquaw: Usually a rare duck here. Dec. 27 (3). Jan. 4, 6, 9 and 11 (6). None in Feb. Mar. 1 (6) to a peak Mar. 25 (12). Then down on Apr. 11 (4). Surf Scoter: Our first record since the 1930's. (MIGRANT: 32, 17, 1961). Oct. 31 (1), Nov. 1 (1) and Nov. 10 (1). Ruddy Duck: Nov. 10 (1) to Dec. 4 (4), then none until Mar. 1 (1). Then a peak on Mar. 27 (22). A few in Apr. until Apr. 20 (24). This is a lot of Ruddy for Nashville. May 3 (3) and the last May 8 (1). Hooded Merganser: A very late female on May 30, then Feb. 16 (1) and Apr. 18 (1). Common Merganser: Feb. 28 (7). Red-breasted Merganser: Nov. 14 (2), Dec. 8 (8), then Mar. 23 and May 11 (1). Red-tailed Hawk: A few winter records. On Dec. 3, a Krider's subspecies was seen. Red-shouldered Hawk: An immature bird wintered in the area. Marsh Hawk: Aug. 22 (1), an unusual record. Bobwhite: Apparently a pair raised two successful broods on the farm. American Coot: Oct. 20 (7), then until Jan. 6 (4), Mar. 8 (2) to a peak Apr. 10 (45), then down to May 12 (4). Semi-palmated Plover: Sept. 17 (1), then Apr. 26 (1) and May 8 (4). American Golden Plover: Sept. 14 and 15 (2), Sept. 17 and 19 (13), then Sept. 28 (1). Black-bellied Plover: Sept. 17 (1). This bird was still in almost complete breeding plumage. Common Snipe: Sept. 10 and 17 (1), Oct. 21 (2) and Nov. 9 (1). Spotted Sandpiper: July 22 (2) to (5) until Oct. 24 (1). The first of spring was a single Apr. 13. Solitary Sandpiper: May 12 (1). Lesser Yellowlegs: Sept. 10 (2) and May 12 (1). Knot: This is an accidental and our first middle Tennessee record. It was collected on Sept. 20 and is in the collection of

Albert Ganier. (THE MIGRANT 32:19, 1961). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Sept. 11 (2). Sanderling: Aug. 22 (3) and Sept. 13 (1) Herring Gull: Oct. 3 (1), then none until a single Nov. 25. This built up to a peak Dec. 27 (30). Again a peak Jan. 6, (30) and down Jan. 23 (1). Feb. had only (1) from 10 to 23. Then Mar. 17 (6), a few in Apr., and the last immatures May 1 (12). Ring-billed Gull: Oct. 21 (5), then Nov. 21 (2). This built up rapidly to Dec. 8 (158) and continued to another peak on Dec. 26 (420). Then down Jan. 6 (80) and Jan. 23 (1). Then Feb. 23 (1) and Feb. 28 (110). A few through Mar. with a peak Mar. 22 (39). The last Apr. 13 (3). Franklin's Gull: Dec. 20 (1). This is a remarkable record. The bird was observed on the ground at 100 feet through 7 X 35 binoculars for 20 minutes. It was a bitter cold day with a high wind and it did not fly. The author feels that the record is as positive as a sight record under these conditions can be. Bonaparte's Gull: Apr. 3, 11, 13 and 18 (1). Forster's Tern: June 24 (2), Apr. 21 (5) and Apr. 25 (1), then May 1 (18). Common Tern: July 27 (3). Caspian Tern: Very rare here. Sept. 11 (3) and 17 (1). Sept. 14 a banded bird was found floating in the lake that had been killed by a dove hunter. It had been banded in July as a nestling in upper Lake Michigan. Black Tern: May 16 (5) and 17 (10). June 23 (1) already in fall plumage, and June 25 (1). Then Aug. 9 (1) and Sept. 9 (5). The last of the fall Sept. 17 (2). Eastern Kingbird: A pair nested and spent the summer. Tree Swallow: Aug. 29 (3), then Oct. 20 (10), then Mar. 29 (12), Apr. 17 (3), and the last, May 8 (2). Bank Swallow: July 28 (5), then from Aug. 29 to Sept. 17 (1). Next spring they were late with May 8 (60). Barn Swallow: Oct. 20 (4), were the last of fall. Then Mar. 23 (12) and up to Apr. 13 (50). They nest there. Purple Martin: Mar. 14 (1), a new early record for Nashville. Up to Apr. 13 (50). About 13 pairs nest near the lake. Water Pipet: Oct. 31 (45) and Nov. 1 (150). A few all winter. Myrtle Warbler: Oct. 5 (20). All winter along the river. Bobolink: Apr. 27 (3) were early. A peak May 1 (18) and the last May 3 (3).

Birds seen on the farm, but not listed above: Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow (nest), Blue Jay, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Starling, Loggerhead Shrike, Palm Warbler, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Grackle, Cardinal, Savannah and Vesper Sparrows, Slate-colored Junco, Field and Song Sparrows.

3800 Richland Ave., Nashville 5.

IN MEMORIAM — DR. JESSE M. SHAVER

By HARRY C. MONK

Dr. Jesse Milton Shaver, an Honorary Life Member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, died in Nashville July 7, 1961. He was born in Gerber, Walker county, Georgia, on November 29, 1888. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, in 1915; later the Masters degree was obtained at Vanderbilt, and the Ph. D. from the University of Chicago. In September, 1915, he was married to Miss Daisy Rule, of Concord, Tenn. Dr. and Mrs. Shaver reared six children, two boys and four girls; all married and there are 13 grandchildren.

Dr. Shaver achieved success in several endeavors. He taught biology at Peabody College for 39 years, being head of the department 26 years. He edited the Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science over 25 years, publishing more than 8,700 pages in this period. He made a detailed and extensive study of "The Ferns of Tennessee" which became a volume of over 500 pages. In this space we wish to record his membership in our society, and his studies of birds.

He became a member of our society on Oct. 20, 1916, and took an active part in its work for many years. Moreover, he encouraged students and faculty of his department to do the same. He was elected Vice-President on Nov. 12, 1926, and President on Feb. 4, 1927, serving until Oct. 15, 1928.

Dr. Shaver's first bird publication was the Christmas census made Dec. 24, 1921. In a span of 22 years he took part in 16 Christmas counts, including four made in Montgomery Bell State Park, which he planned and led. He was strongly attracted to ecology, and his doctoral dissertation was in this field. Much study in this subject was carried on at Peabody's Knapp farm property, and on the campus. A series of papers on birds' relation to their environment, and on life history was published in *The Auk*, 1930, *The Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, and in the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*, 1931-1936. National recognition came as a result of his studies, and the American Ornithologists Union elected Dr. Shaver to the restricted class of "Members" in 1932; he was the first Tennessean so honored. In "Bird Study at Peabody College" (*The Migrant* 6 (4) 80-82, 1935) he gave a list of 19 theses in ornithology which his students had completed up to that time.

Dr. Shaver was elected Secretary of the Wilson Ornithological Club on Dec. 1, 1928, serving three years, and was elected their President Dec. 28, 1931, again serving three years. He has been described as being "for many years a bulwark of the Wilson Ornithological Society" (*The Wilson Bulletin* 73 (3) 282, 1961).

His last bird publication was "Bird Notes from a Sick Room" (*The Migrant* 10 (4) 80-82, 1939). In two paragraphs on page 80 the food and feeding habits of Blue Jays are described; these are typical of his detailed observations of birds, and of his care in recording such data. He contributed some notes to a symposium on "The Wrens of Tennessee" (*The Migrant* 13 (1) 1-13, 1942), and took part in the Christmas Count that year. Further publications were in botany, tho he never lost his interest in birds.

A number of biographical and memorial notices, some with portraits, have appeared in the publications of the organizations to which he belonged, especially the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*. A snapshot reproduced on page 58 of the September, 1935 issue of *The Migrant* is really a good character study, showing the companion with whom we shared so many field trips.

Dr. Shaver was an unusually tall man, standing six feet six inches in height; by contrast his voice was soft and low, the very expression of a gentle nature. He was invariably courteous, friendly and sympathetic to everyone, and he possessed a delightful sense of humor. He was a man of unquestioned integrity. Every human being possesses some desirable traits; in Dr. Shaver a considerable number of such traits were happily blended to produce a fine and effective individual.

406 Avoca Street, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS.—Few reports have been received and the writer's own season was "snake-bit." The 4-day Thanksgiving trip, the 3-day New Year's trip, and several week-end or Sunday trips were called off. Bad weather gave poor results at other times. The Moon Lake Count was called off while the Grenada, Miss. Count, Dec. 31, was stopped, then abandoned since there was no hope of a representative list, in a downpour. Among fall transients at Lonoke, Ark., Oct. 14, was a Piping Plover (rare), Dunlin 20, and Dowitcher 60 (some Short-billed heard). Other Dowitchers: 6 Short-billed, Oct. 7, E of Weiner, Ark. and 2 (sp ?), Sept. 30, NE of Marion, Ark.; at the latter pond also, 3 Semipalmated Plover, Sept. 30, and 3 Dunlin, Oct. 14. Late stragglers were: American Bittern to Nov. 18; a Pectoral Sandpiper, Nov. 18; 3 Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dec. 2, all near Booker; and 3 Greater Yellowlegs, Dec. 23, SE of Lonoke. Two single Booming Nighthawks over town, evening of Oct. 25 (Alice Smith) were our latest by a week while a Barn Swallow at the Miss.-Tenn. line, Lakeview levee, Nov. 19, was our latest by almost a month. Tree Swallows not as late as usual — small flocks, Nov. 4, Booker.

A Catbird was seen, Jan 28, at Grenada (AS, BC, LC), a House Wren, Dec. 3, near Jonesboro, Ark., an Orange-crowned Warbler at Grenada, Dec. 31 (BC), and a Dickcissel in her Memphis yard, Feb. 22, (Mrs. Bernice Johnson).

The rarer visitants were not found. Brewer's Blackbirds were at the Penal Farm, Nov. 11 (total 33) but uncommon singles, other dates. The Lapland Longspurs were singles or few except George Peyton, Jr., found about 500 at the Penal Farm, Dec. 24, and I found about 900, Dec. 30, near US 61 and just S of the Tunica-DeSoto County line, Miss.; no repeats on the flocks. Dec. 3, we had at least 12 Smith's Longspurs on the Jonesboro airport and on Jan. 28 (LC, AS, BC) 8 were found on the Grenada airport. None found at the Penal Farm nor on airfields near Walls and Clarkdale, Miss. This looked like a Red-breasted Nuthatch year when we totaled 21, two areas of Chickasaw S.P., Tenn. on a poor Nov. 26 (BC, LC, AS) but the bitter weather of early January must have moved them out. None was found in pines along Tenn. 57 highway, Saulsbury east, including the Ben Carr pines, Feb. 4; finally 2 that day near YMCA Camp, S of Pickwick (Dinkelspiels, John Morrow, BC). Four at Natchez Trace S.P., Dec. 10 (BC, LC) but stormy and late; one at Grenada, Dec. 31 and 4 there, Jan. 28. Casuals (non-pine areas) were: 4, Shelby Forest S.P., Oct. 8, (TOS); Stuttgart, Ark., Oct. 14-15; Lonoke, 1 (BC), Dec. 23; Memphis singles, Count period (Earl Fuller) and Feb. 2 (Oliver Irwin). Pine Siskins were in Overton Park, 2 to 10 being found, from Dec. 2 (BC, B. F. McCamey, Jr., Helen D.). In West Tennessee, 3 at Ames Plantation, Nov. 12 (TOS); 6, Lake Placid, Chickasaw S.P., Nov. 26; and 1, Natchez Trace S.P., Dec. 10.

At Booker, Ark., Mar. 11, we found 135 Golden Plovers (none earlier at Penal Farm or Lakeview); 450 Blue Geese, a few Canada and Snow Geese, and many ducks. NE of Marion, same date, one Greater Yellowlegs.

BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

NASHVILLE.—Several species were recorded in the Nashville area earlier than usual during the fall of 1961. A Pintail and three Widgeon on Bush lake on 9-28 (Henry E. Parmer) were considerably early. Also in this category can be included a Loon on 10-14 at Bush lake (HEP); a Long-

billed Marsh Wren on 9-14 at Ashland City marsh (John C. Ogden); a Black-throated Blue Warbler on 9-23 (George R. Mayfield, Jr.); one Rusty Blackbird on 10-27 (HEP); and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Mrs. William Bell's home on 9-1.

Three species of empidonix flycatchers which are not usually reported here in the fall (Yellow-bellied, Traill's, and Least) were all banded on 9-23 by Mrs. Katherine A. Goodpasture on WSM-TV hill. Other fall varieties were: Golden Plover, one on 10-3 and another on 11-4 at Bush Lake (HEP); three Dunlin on 11-3 at Coleman's lake (Lawrence C. Trabue); three Dowitchers on 9-23 at the same lake (LOT); Sanderlings, 5 on 10-21 at the same lake (LOT) and one on 11-6 at Bush lake (HEP); one Mourning Warbler on 10-3 picked up dead at WSM-TV tower (HEP); and a Lincoln's Sparrow, also dead at WSIX-TV tower on 10-26 (ARL).

There were numerous late records for the fall. They included a Common Egret on 11-16 at Bush lake (HEP); Broad-winged Hawk on 10-7 at Basin Spring (KAG); a new late date for Spotted Sandpiper was one which remained until 11-26 at Bush Lake (HEP); a Catbird on 11-18 (Clara W. Fentress); and a Wood Thrush on 10-22 (Harry C. Monk). Four species of warblers were reported later than usual; Prothonotary, 8 on 9-23 (TOS); one Golden-winged on 10-7 (CWF); and a Blue-winged on 9-29 (Mrs. WFB).

This winter Robins, Grackles, Blackbirds and Cowbirds were very scarce until they began to return in February. There was no large roost in the area. Probably related to the movement of these species farther south than usual was the increased number of records in this area of more northerly wintering species. Common Merganser were considerably more numerous, the largest flock being a group of approximately 100 birds on 2-17 at Old Hickory lake (TOS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded more often, the first being one on 9-16 (HCM). The apparent first Davidson County record for an Evening Grosbeak was one on 1-4 by Jesse Wills. This species was also recorded just across the County line in Williamson County when two were seen on 11-17 by E. G. Tompkins on Union Bridge road. Another species in this group was the Pine Siskin which was seen on 10-28 & 29 at Basin Spring (KAG). Purple Finches were also more numerous.

Other interesting wintering species were a Blue Goose on Bush lake from 11-8 throughout the rest of the winter (HEP); Greater Scaup reported irregularly from 11-29 to 1-31 at Bush (HEP); and Bonaparte's Gulls on Old Hickory lake only for the second winter.

The beginning of spring migration was highlighted by an Oldsquaw male in a flooded field at Buena Vista bottoms on 3-9 and 10 (HEP-HCM) and an early Purple Martin on 3-13 at Coleman's lake (LOT).

JOHN C. OGDEN, 2813 White Oak Drive, Nashville, 12.

LEBANON.—As of March 15, 18,000 ducks are feeding on Lock 5 Refuge, Old Hickory Lake. This is by far the largest number ever found on the refuge at this time of year—this despite the fact that the duck population was less than 75 per cent of normal during the hunting season.

With the plethora of ducks, there is dearth of Coots. Less than 100 are now on the refuge.

Farmers who share-crop the refuge feeding ground to corn were unable to gather the crop last fall, due to high water. Thus the refuge got the benefit of the entire crop instead of the one-half that normally would

have been left. There is still plenty of feed on the range and this has brought in ducks from other feeding grounds of the area. However, by the time the ducks leave—usually early in April—there will have been almost complete utilization of the corn crop.

The chapter has been almost in a state of suspended animation through the winter. Death or desperate illness or both came to the family of nearly every active member of the chapter during the past few months. We expect to resume normal activity with the April meeting.

DIXON MERRITT, Route 6.

COOKEVILLE.—The Upper-Cumberland Chapter has experienced the usual and the unusual for the season—the unusual (Jan. and Feb.) twice the usual quota of rain. Snows have been numerous, but only two worthy of note: 1) one week of it early in the year (1962) with 4 inches on the ground and a night or two at zero levels; 2) a day or two of icy roads and an inch of snow as March came in. Thus far in March, there's more of the "usual" for the month.

Bird-life reports have centered around feeders since the Christmas count. The usual run of Titmice, Purple Finches, Chickadees, Sparrows, and Cardinals, with an occasional invasion by a Mockingbird, and many invasions by Starlings and Grackles are prominent in our notes. The suet pieces have attracted Downys as usual, and, near wooded areas, some Red-bellies (S. & M. McG.). In addition, during the colder days in January, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet made a daily visit (PLH).

Robins were almost out of the picture until a few strays appeared in town on and after Feb. 12. By the end of the month these were seen in flocks of several hundreds (CH. Dr. J. M.). Some thirty developed rather unusual roosting habits about the same time. Almost in the heart of the residential area Dr. Morehead found them several nights in an evergreen tree growing against the side of the house.

Our count (Xmas) showed hundreds of Starlings in town, but not so many outside where the Grackles were so numerous feeding on waste in grain fields. This ratio, noticed in previous years too, is now being reversed—fewer Starlings in town and more Grackles. (Apparently thousands of both species have been roosting in pine thickets five miles north of Cookeville during the hardest part of the winter. See Migrant's Season of last year.)

Doves appearing sparingly to most of us, have fed steadily as many as 30 at a time in the yards of two of our group (McG. and Dr. C. Bruce). There are now indications that these and the Cardinals are looking for nesting sites at this writing.

The often-looked-for-but-rarely-found Pied-billed Grebe, ie, in bird-count days, was seen in numbers close to a hundred several times (M. W.) in the locally famous "Booger Swamp". Local flooding, beyond the usual area of the swamp, seems to have been very inviting to these usually rare in our vicinity. Another, still unusual hereabout, the gull's, gave us a surprise (PLH) when one flew over Tech campus on Feb. 28 at the 200-foot level. Without preparations for such an observation of 10 seconds, the best guess is a Ring-billed Gull.

P. L. HOLLISTER, Biol. Tenn. Tech.

CHATTANOOGA.—Following the rumors came the birds. Beginning on January 4, with a report of a flock of 20 Evening Grosbeaks in the woods of Chickamauga Park, we have had almost continuous reports from nearby Signal Mountain of the presence of this welcome wanderer. The Grosbeak has appeared regularly at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Prestridge with as many as 40 counted at one time. Their latest record was February 26, the day Benton Basham dropped in and banded four members of that species. Other than the Chickamauga flock, Jim Tucker's report of the Grosbeak at Collegedale, Tenn., was the only valley record.

Mrs. Adele West and Miss Gladys Conner had a stroke of good fortune which brought another first for Chattanooga—the Rough-legged Hawk. The Moccasin Bend area where they identified this rare bird under excellent conditions, is a fairly level open peninsula of land nearly isolated from civilization by the meanders of the Tennessee River. It seems to be a good spot for soaring birds—the Golden Eagle sighted over the Bend three years ago is just one example—and fortunately part of this land is slated to be preserved as another of the Chattanooga area's new public recreation parks.

Last year, on the basis of correspondence with a Tennessee Game and Fish Commission biologist, the Woodcock was established in the local counties as a migrating species. But that was before the Woodcock took up residence with the Nat Halversons at McDonald, Tenn. Starting in November, his reports show this species to be a wintering bird in Hamilton County.

Some dates worth noting: a late fall record by Gene and Adele West on the Dunlin, 12-3, reported from the new Hamilton County Park on Chickamauga Lake; a very late Catbird, 11-26, turned in by Ralph Bullard; and on two club field trips to Chickamauga Lake on March 10-11, the Shoveler was seen both days (an early record) and the Blue-winged Teal seen on 3-11 tied our earliest previous Spring arrival date. The two trips in two days incidentally were a little experiment by Field Trip Chairman Benton Basham in having a competition between groups. Nearly 70 species were tallied in the two days.

Although outside our Chapter study circle, a February 2 field trip to Woods Reservoir Refuge near Tullahoma produced the Oldsquaw for the second winter in a row.

Twice since the first of the year, the Bald Eagle has been seen on Chickamauga Lake in the vicinity of Chattanooga. The dates were 1-13 and 3-10.

ROCK L. COMSTOCK, JR.

KNOXVILLE.—Red-breasted Nuthatches were unusually common in this area during the fall season. Their numbers decreased noticeably in late November, but some individuals remained all winter. In January there was a short spell of very cold weather, which was followed in February by some weeks which were much warmer than average. Purple Finches were present all winter in moderate numbers. Several Brown Thrashers remained in scattered locations. A large roost of Starlings formed west of Knoxville near Rocky Hill School at the same location as last year, and with them were about 1,500 Redwings and a small number of Rusty Blackbirds as well as some Grackles.

The most unusual birds in this area were Evening Grosbeaks, which appeared at Gatlinburg, Maryville and Knoxville. From January 27 to February 2 a few of these birds were reported from various spots around Knoxville, and on March 5 a small flock was seen on the city's edge. A flock of 100 birds has been present in Maryville through the first week in March.

Woodcock have been seen and heard performing from February 3 through March 7 in numbers and places not known in previous years. Up to five individuals have been present between these dates in the vicinity of the Kenneth Sanders home, and others have been performing around Mary Enloe's home.

On February 13 a Pigeon Hawk was seen in Knox County by John Ogden; this is a rare migrant here.

The warm weather in February stimulated early song and signs of nesting activity in Doves, Starlings, and Carolina Wrens. A Mourning Dove built a nest in a tree on the University campus and was observed incubating first on February 13, a very early date. Incubation continued through many warm but rainy days through March 1, when the weather turned colder. On the 2nd the nest was empty except for two eggs, but both adults were seen in the vicinity of the nest. No more activity was observed until March 7 when they were again incubating in the same nest; at this writing there is no way to know whether they are on the same eggs or whether others have been laid.

JAMES T. TANNER.

GREENEVILLE.—The season from October to March has been very dull. During the fall there was very little rain and therefore no puddles for shore birds. Despite the almost twelve inches of rain during January and February ducks have been very scarce. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of Bluebirds this year; in October five were seen together, in November ten in one day, two and three were seen and heard through December and January, in February from six to eight were seen almost every day, in March it appears that we will have three or four pairs nesting this year.

During the winter Dr. Spees was in possession of a Great Horned Owl which was taken to a locality known to be inhabited by Horned Owls and turned loose in a barn. The owl left the barn the second day and was joined by two of the local owls about one hour before dark, they all hooted for about two hours the first night. The two local owls returned to the vicinity of the barn for two more nights to hoot to the stranger, then all three left to return to a nearby woods. They could still be heard on March 14 but we have not located a nest.

There have been unusual numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches this winter; Red-breasted Nuthatches have also been present all winter; a large flock of Cedar Waxwings was seen several times during the winter whereas only a few Purple Finches were seen all winter. A few Robins have been seen all winter but not until January 14 in any large numbers. Evening Grosbeaks were not seen until late in February.

RICHARD NEVIUS, Greeneville.

KINGSPORT.—If like the Chinese we recorded years by names instead of numbers the winter of '61-'62 would be called the year of the nuthatches. All of our members have commented on our frequent observa-

tions of nuthatches. I have seen two White-breasted together at my feeders every week and almost every day. The Arthur Smiths have seen Red-breasted throughout the winter. Also the Smiths have seen Bluebirds all winter. White-crowned Sparrows have been very scarce. Otherwise, our observations are without pattern and full of surprises.

As in 1960 September was very dry; October, dry and warm. Again, for the fourth fall, we failed to observe shore birds. On November 9 we had our first hard killing frost with a low of 26°. The next week on November 17 I saw Common Loon, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup and one Ruddy as well as the first Western Grebe seen in this area. Ed Gift reported a flock of 20 Red-breasted Nuthatches on Chimney Top the next day. November 22 I again saw Western Grebe as well as Horned and Pied-billed Grebe. The numbers of Great Blue Heron were low although we saw a few regularly.

Two species stayed unusually late on through the winter. Arthur and Elizabeth Smith have daily records of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher until December 23 and on January 13 after three days of severe cold and 4 inches of snow I saw a Brown Thrasher. The Smiths observed a Thrasher February 26.

On January 25 Mrs. E. M. McMahon saw 12 Evening Grosbeaks at her feeder, the only record we have for this year. January 14 brought the first record of Red Crossbills for this area; the flock was seen on Bays Mountain by Arthur and Elizabeth Smith.

In February there were three unusual observations. On February 6 I saw the only flock of Pine Siskins reported during the year. They were on an open grassy slope above boxelders along a stream back of my house where I have seen them on one other occasion in recent years. The next day February 7 brought the most incongruous sight of the year. I was just sitting down to my breakfast and morning paper when I saw what appeared to be a chicken in a willow oak on the front lawn about 40 feet outside the window. Continuing observations forced me to conclude it was a partridge in an oak tree. It was in greyish-brown plumage puffed out in the 20° cold and looked ungainly and unlikely balancing on the twiggy branches. I called my near neighbor and got my field glasses. The Ruffed Grouse continued to eat the buds of the oak for a full five minutes before it flew off to the wooded ravine behind our house. On February 24, Thomas Finucane saw a Solitary Vireo on Bays Mountain at least two weeks ahead of previous first dates.

So far in March we have continued to see and hear Purple Finches which have been observed fairly regularly during the winter. On March 10 the Arthur Smiths saw Wood Ducks examining nesting boxes and holes. As yet no Purple Martins have been reported from owners of boxes. On March 11 the Smiths saw our final unexpected visitor, a Black-crowned Night Heron. They were walking along the bank of the Holston under the bluff opposite Tennessee Eastman. They had 8 and 10 power field glasses and clear light as well as several opportunities to observe the markings on the chunky bird at different angles at close range. It was feeding and flying along the river bank opposite them giving ample opportunity for observation. Although our records have not shown Black-crowned Night Heron for eight years and never so early we note that both the Peterson and Audubon guides mention their wintering even farther north than Tennessee.

ANN SWITZER, 1620 Fairidge Place.

ELIZABETHTON.—The fall was somewhat deficient in rainfall but part of it was made up during Dec., Jan. and Feb. which gave us 6.8", 4.55" and 4.47" respectively.

Mist netting and banding were carried on intensively during the fall migration season until mid-Nov. when the weather became too severe. Total individuals banded during the calendar year by all of our area co-operators was 3,074, only 70 individuals more than the 1960 bandings but ten more or 97 species were banded. Species of which more than 100 individuals were banded were: Catbird, 173; Swainson's Thrush, 123; Cardinal, 163; Indigo Bunting, 394; American Goldfinch, 184; Field Sparrow, 138; White-throated Sparrow, 209 and Song Sparrow, 416. The Myrtle Warbler was the only species in this list last year which did not make it this year. The Indigo Bunting yielded first place to the Song Sparrow this year.

As the weather became more severe waterfowl moved into the area in appreciable numbers, for an area which is out of the main fly way. The first real influx occurred about the end of the first week in Nov. Common Loon, 11-10 through the month and 1-14 (1); Horned Grebe, 11-19 all winter except the end of Jan. and first two weeks of Feb.; Pied-billed Grebe, 10-12 throughout winter; Double-crested Cormorant, 11-19 (rare); Great Blue Heron, all winter; Green Heron, 11-19 (Brownings); Black-crowned Night Heron, 2-23 (1) (Ed Davidson); Canada Goose, 11-19 (20); Mallards, Black Duck, Gadwall and American Widgeon were present all winter; Pintail, 3-10 (Kenneth Dubke); Green-winged Teal, 3-4 (1); Shoveler, 3-10 (6); Wood Duck, 2-17 (1); Redhead, Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead were present all winter reaching maximum numbers early in March. Canvasback, 1-21 and 3-10 (2); Oldsquaw, 2-24 (1) (Lee R. Herndon); Hooded Merganser, all winter; Common Merganser, 1-14 (2) and 3-4 (4); Red-breasted Merganser, 3-10 (2); Bald Eagle, 3-4 (1 Im.), South Holston Lake, 3-10 (1 adult) Watauga Lake (C. B. Malone by LRH); Marsh Hawk, 2-4 (1); American Woodcock, 2-11 (1) (KD), 3-12 (4) (LRH); Ring-billed Gull, 25 to 40 have wintered on Boone, South Holston and Watauga Lakes, each; White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches were present all winter in greater numbers than usual; House Wren, 2-27 (1) (ED); Robins returned 2-28 (2); Hermit Thrush, 1-14 (2); Bluebirds slightly more numerous than in past few winters; Redwinged Blackbirds 2-24 (1) flocks after 3-1; Rusty Blackbirds after 2-25; Common Grackles 1-14 (20), 1-20 (5,000) (LRH), tremendous flocks thereafter; Brown-headed Cowbirds, present all winter; Evening Grosbeak, 11-9 (LRH), numerous reports of flocks up to 30 individuals; Purple Finch, present in small numbers from 10-1; Pine Siskin, 3-11 (10) (KD, LRH).

LEE R. HERNDON, Elizabethton.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

EVENING GROSBEAK SEEN AT NASHVILLE.—On the morning of January 4, 1962, I had a surprise when I discovered an Evening Grosbeak on one of my feeders. This is a flat, open tray on a pole about fifteen feet behind my bath and bedroom windows. I make a habit of keeping an eye on it while dressing.

This particular morning when I glanced out there were three or four Starlings feeding, but also a fluffy, gray bird about the same size which I felt immediately was something unusual. It was silvery gray with black and white on its folded wings and tail. Its most distinctive feature, however, was a very heavy whitish bill, more massive even than that of a

Cardinal. This made me think at once of an Evening Grosbeak, but I was puzzled because I would have expected such a bird to be more yellow. When I studied it more carefully through glasses, however, I could detect some traces of yellow. It was either a female or an immature bird. It would stay on the feeder a minute to several minutes, leave, and then return for another short visit. This occurred over a period of from twenty minutes to half an hour. Twice it was in a tree as close to the window as the feeder was, where I had a good opportunity to observe it from another angle. It fed with Cardinals as well as Starlings, but never fed steadily. It seemed to be somewhat wary, and spent part of its time looking around. My wife and son both looked at it and compared it with the pictures and descriptions in Peterson and Pough.

I called Mrs. Goodpasture to report it. She told me that if it came back or showed any pattern of regularity in coming back to let her know. It has been a disappointment that I did not see it again after that morning, though before I left I replenished the tray with sunflower seed. I have had more Starlings than usual lately, and several times a day I am deluged with a large flock of Sparrows, so that the tray is hard to keep filled and is often too crowded for any shy strangers. I presume that this particular bird was a solitary stray which moved on somewhere else after that morning.

JESSE E. WILLS, National Building, Nashville 3.

EVENING GROSBEAKS AT WAYNESBORO.—In THE MIGRANT for Sept. 1960, I reported that Mrs. James L. Hardin had watched a flock of these birds at Waynesboro from early March into April, 1960. This point is 80 miles southwest of Nashville. She has again written me, under date of 11 January, 1962, that a flock of these birds were again observed by her there, first on 7 Jan. She comments: "They are all about in large numbers and feed in the trees up and down a small stream near the center of town. Their chief food seems to be seed hanging from the box elder trees. They are beautiful, large, showy birds, particularly the males with their vivid yellow markings." The flock remained only about a week, the last seen were 2 females on the public square, 13 Jan. The extremely cold and snowy weather of early January may bring in some further reports of this species.

ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville 12.

THE FIRST RECORD OF STARLINGS IN THE KNOXVILLE AREA.—At the suggestion of Arthur Stupka, I am summarizing here my journal notes describing my collection of two Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), apparently the first time these birds had been seen in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area. The date was October 24, 1923.

I had left Mr. Jones's farm about 6:30 a. m. and walked toward Powell, starting down the pike and then turning off on a shortcut. When I reached the flat woods about a half mile from Powell, I met a flock of at least 5,000 Common Grackles which were moving southward. I noticed among them a speckled bird which did not have exactly the flight pattern of a Grackle. I shot at it, but instead of one, got two. When I picked up the first one, I thought it was a Starling, the first I had ever seen here; this identification was confirmed that afternoon by Harry P. Ijams.

The two Starling specimens were mounted by Mr. Arthur Ogden and presented to the University of Tennessee. They were lost when Morrill Hall burned several years later.

PAUL J. ADAMS, Crab Orchard, Tennessee.

LIMPKIN AT CORINTH, MISS.—On 2 May 1956, the late Elgin Wright, who shared my birding interest, and I were fishing at Waukomis Lake just east of Corinth. We were about 100 feet from a swampy area when three very strange marsh birds emerged from it. Unlike anything we had seen before, we studied their markings well. They then flew across the lake and perched in the top of a tall tree. There we left them. Returning home I found a fine article on the Limpkin, with a large illustration in color which corresponded exactly with what we had seen. About sunset the next evening I was in the same spot with another fishing companion, Joe Phillips, when from the swamp, some 50 feet from the shore, came a loud scream, an unearthly cry, described in my rough notes as "fighting wildcats". Then the bird arose and flew north rather slowly, giving me a splendid view of it.

I described this occurrence in a letter to Ben Coffey at the time. He has suggested that in view of the finding of a Limpkin at Nashville, 10 and 11, June 1961 (THE MIGRANT 32 48-49, 1961) that the Corinth occurrence be put on record. Likewise, to record his belief in the validity of the record.

BENJ. R. WARRINER, 407 Waldron St., Corinth, Miss.

GOLDEN EAGLE IN KNOX COUNTY.—The apparent first Knox County record of a Golden Eagle was made on 29 October, 1961 on a trip taken by Bill Gallagher and John Ogden to House Mountain in the north-eastern part of the county. The adult eagle was seen by Gallagher and Ogden from near the top of the mountain as it was rising in a circular gliding manner on the air currents moving up the sides of the mountain. The first view of the bird was from above, then it circled slowly and climbed above the point of observation until it reached the top of the mountain where it turned and sailed off to the northwest in a straight flight and out of sight. The flat winged flight distinguished it as an eagle, and the very dark brown plumage combined with the golden brown feathers on the back of the head and white at the base of the tail distinguished the bird as a Golden Eagle were all easily seen.

JOHN C. OGDEN, 2813 White Oak Drive, Nashville, 12.

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE NEAR WAVERLY.—On the morning of February 17, 1962, a group of birders visited the Duck River section of the Tennessee Wildlife Refuge south of Waverly, Tenn. While routinely checking a group of Canada Geese with 20x scope, I came across a small flock of (6-8) White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*). Having studied hundreds of these birds on their Texas wintering grounds, I was acquainted with the various field marks, (pink bill, white face patch and other characteristic markings). All of the members of the group studied these birds and there was no doubt as to what they were.

At first, they were off to the side of the flock somewhat to themselves, but as we watched them, they swam in among the large flock of Canada Geese and we could see the difference in size very plainly. It was a very interesting and exciting find and we felt very pleased to have seen them.

THE MIGRANT lists only two previous records for the state.

JAMES A. TUCKER, General Delivery, Collegedale.

RUFFED GROUSE—House Mountain in northeast Knox County rises to an elevation of just over 2,100' and stands about 1,150' higher than the rolling terrain around it. Being the highest and most rugged area inside the county, and since a goodly portion of the east end is owned by a member of Knoxville T.O.S., Mr. J. T. Mengel, it has long been a favorite place to go in search of the more wild species. The mountain slopes gradually at the base with numerous freshets and a few year-round brooklets finding their way out of the dense tangle of buckeye, poplar and hickory, strangulated by an over-abundance of saw-briars and honeysuckle.

On one of these western slopes, in mid-afternoon, 30 September, 1961, while watching a Northern Waterthrush hunt food among the mosses of a tiny stream, I became aware that I was hearing a Ruffed Grouse drumming. Although it is considered a permanent resident of Knox County, only two records are shown in *BIRDS OF KNOX COUNTY*, (Dr. Joseph C. Howell - Muriel B. Monroe), one by Sumner Dow at Roaring Springs, January 1950, and a specimen brought to Dr. J. C. Howell by a hunter, November 1949. This record also came from Roaring Springs, in north Knox County, approximately 18 miles from House Mountain.

Successive week-end trips to the area during October revealed two "singing" males. Previous experience with this bird indicates to me that there may be several hens around. This, coupled with the excellent cover and abundant food supply should aid in the propagation of this species.

PAUL S. PARDUE, 1516 Cliffside Lane, Knoxville 14.

UNUSUAL PECTORAL SANDPIPER AT NASHVILLE—On 31 Oct. 1961 the author visited Bush Lake on a dark rainy day. On the floor of the newly drained small lake he found a Pectoral Sandpiper, and a few inches away a strange dark shorebird. It appeared so dark brown all over that it seemed almost black. He flushed the bird to get a look at the tail pattern and to see if there was a wing stripe. There was no white around the rump or the tail, and no wing stripe. Its size seemed exactly that of the Pectoral.

The following day both were found again, and in the bright sun it was still a strange bird. The eye stripe, head and bill were like the Pectoral. The throat and breast were dark brown and heavily streaked, the belly dark tan and streaked, the under tail covets dark tan, the legs green to gray. As we have no such bird he decided it should be collected. The next morning he and Mr. Albert Ganier found the bird once more. Mr. Ganier made a long and careful stalk, raised up, and—no bird. It was finally collected on another trip late that afternoon. In hand it appeared much the same. Not a sign of a break across the breast. However, the breast feathers appeared to be long and stringy, and not fully formed, and seemed to be wet.

A skin was made of the bird, then it was cleaned with carbon-tet. The under side proved to be white, and it gradually turned into a Pectoral Sandpiper. However, it is the melonistic phase, and a most unusual specimen. The bird must have waded into a puddle containing oil, gotten it on his underside, then picked up brown and black mud to stain the feathers. The oiled feathers had parted in many places, allowing very dark skin to show. These places seemed, at a distance, to be streaks. So the point of this observation is to show one of the many things that can give us strange plumaged birds that can not be identified afield.

HENRY E. PARMER, 3800 Richland Ave.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE BIRD WATCHING QUIZ BOOK.—by Henry Hill Collins, Jr.
Illustrated by Russell Francis Peterson. 116 pages, Harper and Brothers,
Publishers, N. Y. \$2.95.

A wide variety of quiz materials of grades ranging from the beginner through the professional ornithologist are covered in this small volume. Much of the material is thought provoking and designed to stimulate extensive reading to find the answers to specific questions. The quizzes are presented in a variety of forms and designed to sharpen ones identification of birds, by song, flight pattern, habitat, range, nest, eggs and a variety of means. The book can be used for games at home, while on trips in a car, for bird club programs as well as a variety of other occasions.

The more than 1,700 questions are divided into 74 sections with 70 bird drawings and range maps. It would be a valuable addition to any bird students library.

LEE R. HERNDON.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION—MIGRATION OF BUFFLEHEADS

A study of the Bufflehead is under way, and information on the migration of that species is needed. Data required include first arrival dates, peak date of migration and peak numbers, and departure dates. Only birds actually believed to be migrants should be listed, but, where pertinent, other data on wintering or summering numbers should be included. If only infrequent visits are made to areas frequented by Bufflehead, the statement "present by (date)" is preferable to "arrival (date)", and "last seen (date)" to "departure (date)". Information is solicited particularly for the spring migration of 1962, but it is hoped that interested observers will report any data they may have obtained in the past; requests for fall migration data will be made later. It is planned to colour-mark some Buffleheads in Maryland, New York, and Oregon during the winter of 1961-62, and observers should take particular note of any Buffleheads bearing bright patches of red, yellow, or orange. Please send information on the Bufflehead to:

A. J. ERSKINE, Canadian Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 180, Sackville,
New Brunswick, Canada.

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