

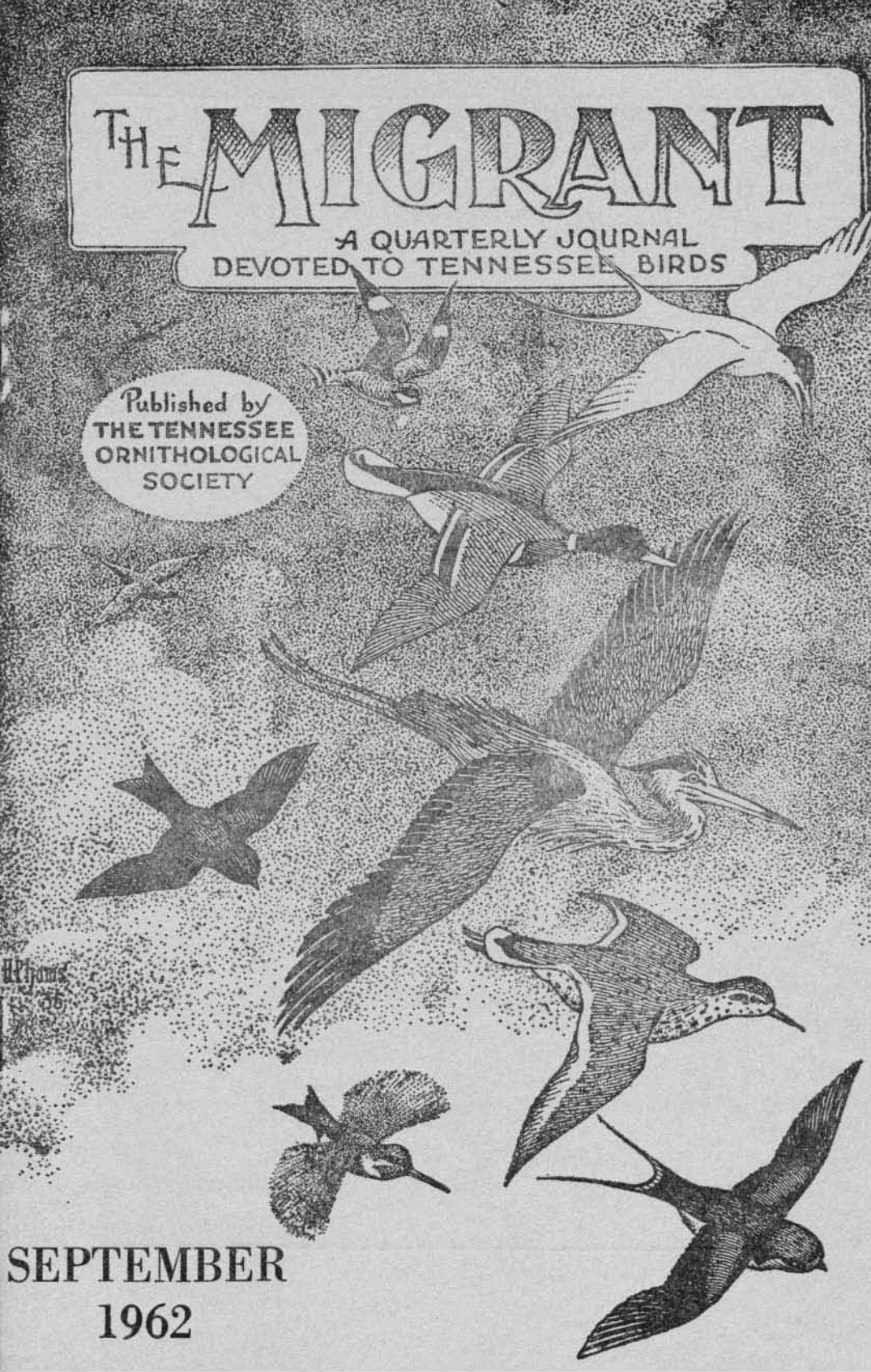
THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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R. J. Jones
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Red-cockaded Woodpecker at its Nest

Photo by Samuel A. Grimes

THE MIGRANT

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THE RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER IN TENNESSEE

By ALBERT F. GANIER

Recent observations on this woodpecker (*Dryobates borealis*) on the Cumberland Plateau near Crossville, by members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, make it desirable that they be given in some detail. Since the bird is a rare resident in our State, I will also give all former records that are known to me. The species is distinctly a southern bird, being found chiefly in the pine-woods areas of the Carolinas and the Gulf states, ranging sparsely northwards into Tennessee, southeastern Kentucky, southern Missouri and eastern Oklahoma. Observers in the Gulf states report that these birds have greatly decreased in recent years, due to the cutting away of old stands of pine. Almost invariably the birds dig their nesting holes into the trunk of a living pine, usually an old one, the center of which has a decaying heart.

The site of the 1962 T. O. S. annual meeting was chosen partly because of the probability of finding this woodpecker on its nesting grounds and thus giving most members a chance to add a new bird to their life lists. Some also added for the first time the Ruffed Grouse and the Wild Turkey. On scouting the area in June, 1961, I was accompanied by Mr. Ralph Plumb, forester for the State-owned Catoosa Wildlife Area. This Area lies northeast of Crossville, comprises 80,000 acres of almost unbroken timber land and is threaded by the deep gorges of Obed River and Daddy's Creek. There are many deer and the Area is used chiefly by the State for regulated hunting. An old farmhouse and its clearing, called the Potter Farm, has been retained for the occasional use of management personnel. It was between this place and the Daddy's Creek bridge, some 5 miles eastward, that I found a fresh appearing nest-hole on June 9, 1961 and where in 1962, our T. O. S. group found at least three pair of the woodpeckers between 2 to 6 May, 1962.

The 1961 nest was in a live pine just 30 feet south of the roadside and the hole was 25 feet above the ground. Presumably the young had left for the old birds did not show up during a half hours wait. A description of this nest is here given for it will fit each of the others found later. During or on completion of the nest-hole in the live pine, the bird scales off the loose outer bark about halfway around the trunk and for as much as two feet above and below. It then pecks many holes thru this inner bark so as to cause the resin to run out and spread upon the previously prepared area. The tree then appears grayish white and glazed so that it can be distinguished at a distance from neighboring pines. Very few who have written about these birds have ventured to give a reason for the habit, but to me it is a clear case of seeking to prevent or discourage entry of other cavity-nesting birds, flying squirrels, deer mice, wood ants,

beetles, bees and snakes. (A number of times, I have found snakes in trees from 20 to 30 feet up). The holes are said to be used over again for years, as long as the tree lives and can be induced to exude fresh resin or until one of the above mentioned tenants have moved in prior to the nesting season.

Our T. O. S. group of about a hundred observers spent Saturday, May 5, 1962, in the Catoosa Area, making headquarters at the Potter Farm and observing at many points along the road to beyond Daddy's Creek. Here were the most extensive stands of pines, some mixed with hardwoods and others pure stands. These were Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*) mostly under 30 years but some old ones still remained. Hemlocks grew along the streams.

We first examined the 1961 nest and found the bark fresh picked and resin running. No bird was seen here but one may have been sitting though pounding the tree with a rock failed to make a possible occupant show itself. A few days before, Plumb and I had found two holes along the road as it descended the hill into Daddy's Creek and these our group stopped to inspect. One of these holes had not been worked on this year and bees were observed going in and out of it. The other, appeared to have been worked on and some fresh resin was running. Vigorous pounding with a rock caused a flying squirrel to show his head but he did not leave. We then began an intensive search of the slope and succeeded during the day in finding three new nest holes nearby. While observing one of these, a Red-cockaded Woodpecker appeared and gave us opportunity to observe him at leisure. He kept chiefly in the pines but spent a couple of minutes in a post oak overhead. We noted that it resembled but was somewhat smaller than a Hairy Woodpecker, that it appeared slimmer and that the white cheek-patch was conspicuous, this mark affording a quick and sure means of identification.

One of the new nest holes was in a tall old pine which leaned over an abandoned road. This nest was about 50 feet above the ground and one of the woodpeckers was observed to go into the hole, remain a bit and then leave. After some further observation, we judged that incubation had not as yet begun. At one time or another, the birds were heard calling near the other two nests and there may have been two pairs in the vicinity for they are said to be not averse to nesting near each other. During the late afternoon, several of us drove back for more observations and to take photos. Dr. Herndon's camera was equipped with a 400 millimeter lens and he secured a picture of one of the birds on the tall pine about 5 feet above the nest hole. This photo is of special interest since it shows how the birds hold their bodies well out from the resin coated bark, using their stiff tails as a prop. Unfortunately, the photo was not sharp enough for reproduction. I have therefore secured as an illustration for this article, a photo of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker at its nest taken by Samuel A. Grimes of Jacksonville, Florida. We are indebted to Mr. Grimes, one of the Country's greatest bird photographers, for the use of this splendid picture.

During the day, two more locations were found by members. The first of these was of two birds observed along the road at a point 3.9 miles east of the Potter Farm gate. The other location was at the west side of the Potter clearing where one or more birds were heard in a grove of tall

pinus near the gate. We were by no means able to search all of the pine woods available and assume there were other pairs present. Pending further search, we do not know but that this is only a small and relatively isolated population.

I spent the week of 7-13 June at Harrison's lake near Crossville and on 9 June drove into the Catoosa Area to check on the above mentioned woodpeckers. I found that the 1961 nest had been taken over by Flickers. They had enlarged the entrance hole and had cleaned off all resin within six inches of the hole. I next visited the nest in "the tall old pine", where Dr. Herndon had photographed one of the birds at a new hole. Here, another Flicker had usurped the quarters and protruded his head from the hole for a moment before flying away. One of the other new holes, noted 5 May and 200 feet distant, was visited and from it flew a Red-cockaded Woodpecker. I watched this nest tree for the next forty minutes without seeing the owner return. This was a new nest and the birds had not taken time to peck the bark above or about the nest hole. It was only eighteen feet up. I am now inclined to think that there is only one pair on the Daddy's Creek slope.

Except for two western Tennessee localities, all records of these woodpeckers for the State are from the Cumberland Plateau and southeastward. These are briefly described below.

1.—The earliest record is from Rockwood, 20 miles S-E of the Catoosa locality, where W. H. Fox (**Auk**, 3:315-320) records it, "Rare. Three seen April 10, 1884, two of which, a male and female, I collected. It was not met with again until April 22, 1885, when I shot a solitary male about six miles from where I had found the former ones." His specimens are in the U. S. National Museum. Incidentally, Fox's locality list of 114 species is the first such list ever published from Tennessee.

2.—S. N. Rhoads, who did miscellaneous collecting across the State in 1895, found them present at a location 25 miles N. of the Catoosa site (**Proc. Phila. Acad. Sci.**, 1895, pp463-501) and says, "This bird was found breeding on the Cumberland Plateau at Allardt and on the route from Allardt to Rugby, in Morgan and Scott counties. Two specimens were secured; I did not see it elsewhere. At Allardt, the nests were excavated at a height of 30 to 40 feet, in living pines. By June 8, the young were nearly fledged."

3.—In June, 1935, a group of T. O. S. members spent a week studying the birdlife of Pickett Forest Park and found these woodpeckers there. This site is 38 miles north of the Catoosa locality and just south of the Kentucky line. My annotated list (**MIGRANT**, 8:24-29) says, "This woodpecker of the pine woods, rare as far north as Tennessee, was found at three points, in pine groves. There were several birds in each group and they usually made their presence known by their chattering conversation." One bird was also seen in the grove of large pines at York Institute, 2 miles north of Jamestown. On previous trips, the writer had searched for them without success about Jamestown and Allardt. In 1942, G. R. Mayfield visited Pickett and reported the birds still there. W. R. Spofford visited this park, the first week in June, 1946, and reported four nest holes near together, on one of which the resin was fresh. The following year, he found that an additional fresh nest hole had been added. He saw no birds during either year.

4.—Thirty-five miles N-E of Pickett Forest Park, on the Plateau and in Laurel county, Ky., R. M. Mengel found two groups of these birds near Rockcastle river in early July, 1939 (*Auk*, 57:424). He states that a loose flock of 6 or 7 was found in a small pine grove on 2 July and in another pine grove, 4 more were found 5 July. A specimen was collected and no more were found during a weeks stay. He writes, "On each occasion, the woodpeckers announced their presence by continually chattering as they foraged thru the pines."

5.—Sixty miles S-W of Catoosa, at Beersheba Springs in Grundy county which is also on the Plateau, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found by H. C. Fortner in 1921. Prof. Fortner wrote to me at that time that he had collected one there in December of that year but had not recorded it there during his summer visits. This is the only winter record for the State but it is believed to be a permanent resident. I spent a week at Beersheba, 21-25 May, 1922, assisted by Edgar McNish, and although we sought the species we did not find it.

6.—At the extreme S-W end of the Great Smokies National Park and along the highway 5 miles S-E of Calderwood, R. J. Fleetwood (*MIGRANT*, 7:103) recorded two of these birds together, 17 April, 1935. He mentions their often recorded habit of feeding among the higher branches of the pines. During his year as Asst. Park Naturalist, he mentions finding another, several miles away at Cane Gap on 19 April and still another on 29 April on Andy McCully Ridge. Respective altitudes of these were 1700 and 2210 ft. S.L.; those on the Plateau are from 1800 to 2100. From these same pine-clad foothills of the Smokies, James E. Liles reported (*Stupka*, letter), three on 17 March, 1953.

7.—At Athens, Tenn., about 30 miles west of Fleetwoods locale, Richard Gettys found a nest in 1901 (*MIGRANT*, 5:1-4). This record states that, "One nest was found of this species, May 3, 1901, containing young. Cavity pecked in branch of a living oak, 40 feet up." Although there was plenty of pine woods about Athens, it will be noted that this nest was not in a pine. Gettys specialized in birds nesting from 1897 until a year before his death in 1910. He made record of hundreds of nests and the fact that only one nest of this species was found shows that it was rare there.

8.—Next, we take up the elusive trail and go 50 miles S-W to the fine old stand of pines in the Chickamauga National Military Park. This is in Georgia, adjoining the Tennessee line just below Chattanooga. Here, way back in 1894, Bradford Torrey (*MIGRANT*, 7:35) records having found them on Snodgrass Hill, but only 2 or 3 birds. The writer searched for it there in the 1920s without success. When Eugene and Adele West took up residence in Chattanooga they renewed the search and finally were enabled to announce (*MIGRANT*, 26:19) that on 30 June, 1954, Mrs. West had found a family of 4 in Chickamauga and 3 in the same place on 2 December. Rock Comstock reported 3 there on 20 June, 1960; the Chattanooga spring census included 2 on 30 April, 1961 and the Christmas census listed 2 on 31 Dec. 1961. So far, none of these Georgia birds have been found to stray over the line into Tennessee.

9.—There is an isolated West Tennessee record mentioned by Dr. Alex. Wetmore (*U. S. N. M. Pub.* 3050, p 198) of which he says "Perrygo recorded one of these birds near the Cumberland river, 7 miles north of Dover, on Oct. 20, 1937, but did not collect it." There is little or no pine near Dover

so this was probably a wandering individual from further south. Perrygo was one of a museum collecting expedition and the fact that they spent 22 weeks within the State, during the spring and fall, and saw only this one individual, attests the rarity of the species. The party did not visit any of the exact localities mentioned in this paper.

10.—We finally go southward to the Tennessee line where it borders northeast Mississippi, an area where there still exists some remnants of the former heavy stands of pine. Andrew Allison had found these birds near the Tennessee river and a few miles south of the Tennessee line in 1904 (**Auk**, 24:12-25) and rated them "Fairly common; very noisy and not likely to be overlooked when present." Hoping to find these woodpeckers on our side of the State line, G. R. Mayfield and the writer in 1931, spent 6 and 7 September there. We searched over many tracts of pine but were unsuccessful. In 1939 and 1940, Ben B. Coffey sought to find it in Allison's localities and after considerable search, found one several miles south of the line (**MIGRANT**, 18:8). Finally, Dr. Cynthia C. Counce succeeded in finding one a few miles within Tennessee (**MIGRANT**, 17:13), "on March 31, 1946, in a mixed stand of pines and hardwoods, on the hill at the rear of old Red Sulphur Springs."

11.—Thirty miles west of the last mentioned locality, John B. Calhoun found a few Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in 1939, in a stand of old pines about 5 miles N-E of Pocahontas, in McNairy county, Tenn. (**Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.**, 16:293-309). This site is 7 miles north of the State line. Calhoun was ornithologist of a party sent out by the State Game and Fish Dept., to make a wildlife survey of the area and the party was afield from 17 June to 9 September. His notes are illuminating and are here quoted in full. "The writer searched in vain for nearly a month and a half, thru several thousand acres of short-leaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) without being able to find a Red-cockaded Woodpecker in McNairy county where it might be expected to be found. Finally, on July 31, the writer's efforts were rewarded as two called noisily and flew past him as he approached a patch of pines on one of the highest ridges in West Tenn., a ridge which lies five miles northeast of Pocahontas and just north of a power line. The region inhabited by these birds is a strip of virgin pine about a mile and a half long and a quarter mile wide at its widest point. It was in this large timber that two nest holes were found in live trees; the opening to each appeared rectangular. One of the trees was heavily gummed up with resin for several feet above and below the hole. One pair of these birds, that were heard calling softly in the top of a large pine tree, moved around so little that it took the writer fifteen minutes to locate them. At one spot adjoining the virgin pine forest there was a small patch of young pines killed by fire which was a favorite feeding spot for them. Here, on July 31, two adults and two immature birds were seen noisily chasing each other. John Pond (of our party) described their call as that of the Crested Flycatcher, without the nasal twang. Two were again seen in this patch on August 10. They fed indiscriminately in the beetle ridden dead pines and in the adjoining oak woods. The only other locality where Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found was at Pine Top in adjoining Hardeman county where Pond saw one on August 6. Dates of recording were, July 31 (6); August 6(1); 10(2); 11(2); total 11 (some may have been seen on two different dates)." Four specimens were collected by Calhoun and these

are now in my collection. On 17 and 18 June, 1942, Alfred Clebsch and I visited the site, hoping to find some of these easily overlooked birds but failed to find them (MIGRANT, 13:32-35). Mr. Coffey writes me that in later years, he and others with him stopped off at this pine woods area 16 or more times to search for the woodpeckers, finding them on 5 dates as follows: July 6, 1947 (4); March 12, 1950 (4); March 8, 1953 (1); March 14, 1954 (4) and March 30, 1958 (1). His birds were in the Ben Carr pines along highway No. 57, this location being about 3 miles south of Calhoun's site.

This brings to a close about all we know of the past and present occurrence of these attractive little woodpeckers in Tennessee. We have kept in mind its possible occurrence elsewhere with but little success. Hope of finding them in other likely places has served as a lure to draw us into arduous trips and excursions to many "wild and woolly" places. The comments I have quoted from the several observers mentioned should assist and encourage others to search in new as well as old locations. If it were possible to make an exhaustive search thru all of the limited pine woods areas in the State, no doubt more individuals would be found; on the other hand, there are many who believe the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is destined to become a vanishing species, to be gone along with the former vast southern pine forests which filled their special requirements.

2112 Woodlawn Dr., Nashville 12, Tenn. May 25, 1962.

OBSERVATIONS OF AN UNUSUAL NESTING AT NASHVILLE

By HENRY E. PARMER

While visiting Bush farm on 1 Nov. 1961 the writer saw a large white goose fly in from the river to the lake. On succeeding days he was able to get quite close to it by car. A vague guess by him was that it might be a cross between a Snow Goose and some barn yard goose. She (as later proved) was a large goose and snow white, with the following exceptions. There was a medium gray spot on the cheek over the ear and a small gray spot on the side. When forced to fly the rump showed gray, and there was no black on the wing-tips. The upper mandible was reddish orange and the legs and feet were orange.

On 10 Nov. an immature Blue Goose came to the lake. According to plumage, by Kortright, it had to be a bird of that summer, 1961. It was much smaller than the white, probably half the weight of the female. Within a day or two they "took up" with each other and were rarely seen over 2 to 6 ft. apart. Generally they were on the lake with other waterfowl, but occasionally were seen browsing in the fields where corn had been harvested. Even when the lake was frozen over they stayed, sitting on the ice with a few ducks and coots. When bitter cold weather came Joe Bush started shelling corn for them. Within a very few days they learned to come to the office yard when Joe called "Here-er White-ey".

In late Feb. the Blue goose seemed to decide it was time to leave. On two trips he (as it was later assumed to be) was seen to fly wide circles around the lake, then dive low over the female, calling loudly. She seemed entirely indifferent, so they stayed through the spring.

There is an island in the lake, about 30 feet in diameter, that has some small trees and low weeds. On 22 April a fisherman found a nest there

containing two large white eggs. These he removed and carried to the lake office. The writer saw them the next day and thought it best not to attempt to replace them. For the next few days she was seen on the nest for a while each morning. On 27 April a visit showed 4 more eggs in the nest and that afternoon she began to set.

As the writer knows almost nothing of geese, many questions began to arise. Some crosses are fertile, some not. Could this pair be? Was the Blue old enough to breed? Seemed highly doubtful as he couldn't have been over 10 or 11 months old. Kortright says "geese usually breed in their third year" and other accounts vary in saying they must be either two or three years old to breed. Did copulation take place? Would he remain and help raise the goslings if they hatched? This question was answered shortly as five days after she started setting he took off late in the afternoon, circled the lake several times while calling, then flew straight into the setting sun. In March and April his plumage had changed considerably. When he left he seemed about halfway between juvenile and adult plumage. It is presumed that geese mate for life. What does his leaving mean? That they were not mated? Or could it be that he was a she? The next question that arose was how long would it take the eggs to hatch if fertile? A little digging into books dug up only a lot of confusion. Estimates found ran all the way from 22 to 40 days.

For about 25 days she was completely in the open under a very hot sun. Then weeds began to grow, giving her some shade. On the 40th day, 6 June, we were ready to give up, but not her!

On that morning a most interesting thing happened. Mrs. Grace Englert was fishing at the lake and heard the story of the nesting. She thought such devoted effort should be rewarded, and decided to find some very young goslings for her. The writer believed this impossible as geese are scarce in our area, and what were the odds on finding very young goslings on any one particular day? To his amazement Mrs. Englert returned a few hours later with three tiny balls of yellow, just three days old. They were taken out to the island and the goose allowed them to be placed under her. Instantly they popped out like corks from a champagne bottle and took off down a musk rat hole. And what a job it was to get them out again! This was finally accomplished and the goose and young were taken by boat to the yard behind the lake office and placed in a poultry cage. Once caged they soon accepted each other. The goose was as proud of them as could be and would put up a terrific defensive show if one approached too close to the cage. She wasn't too happy about it though, as she constantly paced back and forth like a caged animal. A trip was made back to the island and the eggs collected. When broken they showed that they had been infertile.

After 48 hours the family was released. She immediately waddled to the lake, three in file behind, and swam back to the island. Two hours later she had them out in a field of two foot corn. Within about two days she brought them back to the office no doubt for her meal of shelled corn. And of course some joker had to run one of the young down and catch it. When released she took them off into the high corn fields and very little was seen of the family for about six weeks. About 23 July she brought them again to the office. They seemed about the size of the Blue and were snow white, with orange bills and legs. They were quite a devoted family, often actually brushing against each other, both in the water and as they fed.

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA.—Benj. R. Warriner reports Evening Grosbeaks present in Corinth, Miss., about ten days when he verified identification of 8 near his home, Mar. 15.

Following our first Golden Plovers (135, Booker, Ark., Mar. 11), we found flocks totaling 514 in the Booker area and 12 near Crawfordsville, Mar. 18, and 40 near Jericho and 50 near Booker, Mar. 25. On Mar. 17 we saw 25 at our Penal Farm. On Apr. 1, we saw 50, 40, and 6 just north of Covington, Tenn., and 100 on the old air base at Halls. Mrs. Frank T. Markham and Mrs. Mike Sumara had large groups (to over 400) on 8 dates from Apr. 3 to Apr. 18 with a few on Apr. 22, in the Tiptonville area (to Cate Landing, N & S of the ferry, and W of Ridgely). Meanwhile they recorded 8 Dowitchers (sp?), Apr. 16, W of Ridgely, and 5 more, Apr. 17, N of Tiptonville. The plover areas were not visited after Apr. 22. Flocks of 40 and 50 Golden Plovers were below Lakeview, Miss., Mar. 31, and on the levee nearby were 16 Upland Plovers, now uncommonly seen in our area.

A Barn Swallow was seen at Halls airbase, Apr. 1. Records of Oliver Irwin for Memphis parks show migration about as usual; of an uncommon transient species, the Lark Sparrow, he reported two in Overton Park, Apr. 12 & 14. The Pine Siskins remained there until mid-May (01).

At the Dyersburg heronry, June 30, the trees were full of immatures; many adults were still feeding young. An estimate: 3,000 Little Blue Herons, over 20 Common Egrets and over 20 Snowy Egrets (latter difficult to pick up).

On July 1 (BCs, Alice Smith, Jean Markham, Betty Sumara), a Black Tern and 50 Bank Swallows were seen at Cate Landing; no swallow holes found nearby. Two newly noted Cliff Swallow colonies were: US 72 highway, Bear Creek bridge, Ala., 10 birds, May 12 (25 near Colbert Steam plant—an old site); and (Dinkelspiels), June 12, 100 birds at Moccasin Creek bridge (old nests present), Ark. 5 highway (Baxter-Izzard County Line). The Broad-winged Hawk was not seen as often as expected and the Yellow-throated Warbler was rarely heard. The House Wren was again found 1½ miles N of Tiptonville ferry (2 singing) plus a third singer 5 miles north, July 1, Bewick's Wrens were singing in and near Kosciusko (3) and Goodman (1), Miss., June 3 (BCs) A male Blue Grosbeak was seen in Whitehaven, June 9 (Lydel Sims et al) and Germantown Rd. and Wolf River, June 17 (BCs). On June 27 a Lark Sparrow was seen at the levee, north of the Helena highway, Coahoma County, Miss. (LC, HD).

Late August evening flights of Nighthawks (to 50) seen near Coffey Grounds (LC) and Sear's (AS); also E of Henderson, Tenn., 57 in 15 minutes, Aug. 26 (Mrs. Ed Carpenter).

BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

NASHVILLE.—For most observers in the Nashville area, 1962 Spring Migration was one of the most disappointing in memory. Those who happened to get out April 22 were well rewarded but that was the best day. Although 135 species were tallied on our Spring Big Day, 28 April, (which is more than we have some years, last year we had 159) there were fewer birds. For instance only 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found as compared with 40 on 4-29-61, 20 Orchard Orioles, last year 74, 1 Baltimore, last year 12. Most migrating warblers were seen, but also in fewer num-

bers. First dates on warblers were from one to three weeks later than normal arrival dates. Not one Golden-winged, Orange-crowned, Canada or Wilson's, was reported for the season.

Some ducks stayed around later than usual: 1 Gr-winged Teal 5-8, 1 Canvasback 4-28, 1 Greater Scaup 4-13, 4 Bufflehead 4-23, 1 Old-squaw 3-23, all at Bush Lake by HEP. and 1 Common Merganser 4-18 at Coleman's Lake, LOT. 4-17 is a late date for the Brown Creeper HCM.

One interesting fact of the summer is that we had more reports of Blue Grosbeaks than ever before. Some of these reports will be printed in more detail in THE MIGRANT in this or later issue. Casual reports of nesting Bluebirds seem to indicate some improvement in the breeding of this specie.

A Black-billed Cuckoo on 21 July is an unusual record KAG; KAG also reports 1 Canada Warbler 8-26; 1 Upland Plover was heard in migration the night of 8-27. HCM.

The beginning of fall migration was heralded as usual by a few shore birds: 8-28 & 8-30, 1 Golden Plover, HEP; first Aug. record); 7-12, 1 Spotted Sandpiper (earliest since 1926) HEP; 7-26, 1 Solitary Sandpiper HCM; 8-23, 2 Greater Yellowlegs and 1 Lesser, LOT; 7-28, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper HCM, HEP; 8-17, 3 Least Sandpipers LOT; 9-5, 3 Stilt Sandpipers, 1 Dowitcher, 1 Semi-palmated Plover, 2 Semi-palmated Sandpipers, 6 Least Sandpipers, 1 Baird's Sandpiper (third Middle Tenn. record) all by HEP & WH.

The first sign of substantial migration of warblers was accompanied by tragedy on the night of 6 September, when a cold front with heavy clouds was ushered in, causing conditions which mean possible destruction for migrating birds. 135 birds of 21 varieties were picked up beneath WSM TV tower, including 15 species of warblers. This incident will probably be reported in more detail in a later issue of THE MIGRANT.

As we write this Seasonal Report, Sept. 13, very few records of live migrating warblers have been received, and not any of particular note. Recent rains have improved conditions generally, so we are hoping for a good fall count September 22.

MRS. WILLIAM BELL, 1617 Harding Place, Nashville 12.

COLUMBIA.—On the morning of our Spring Field Day, May 3, 1962, at about 9:00 a. m. Mrs. William Fuqua spotted three small egrets with flesh colored feathers and head. These were in a field inhabited by cattle more than 100 yards from a large pond, about 3 mi. SW of Columbia. Mrs. Fuqua subsequently identified the birds in my Peterson's "Birds of Europe" and better still, about a month later saw large numbers of Cattle Egrets in Florida for comparison. She feels quite positive about their identification, but the birds were gone before others of us could share her unusual find.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (one pair) raised two young to maturity in the swamp above Arrow Lake near Mt. Pleasant and the American Bittern was seen regularly there from mid-April until early May. A Virginia Rail was found there by me March 24 and a Sora on our field day May 2-3. For about one week until May 3 up to eight Evening Grosbeaks were occasionally seen in a shady farmyard just north of Mt. Pleasant. Horned Larks were occasionally found in June and July on the airports at Mt. Pleasant and even Pulaski near the Alabama line at low elevation (about 500 ft.).

On August 26 about 1,000 Bank Swallows mixed with a few Barn Swallows were observed on wires over large fields overlooking south shores of Old Hickory Lake.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, JR., Columbia.

COOKEVILLE.—Weatherwise we claim no great distinctions or differences. Drouth has been with us through most of August and the first half of September.

It may be that Red-headed Woodpeckers are coming back into this area. Twice they have been sighted on the Tech campus since July. During the first half of the summer the calls of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were quite common in our part of Cookeville. Any one who gets more than a fleeting glance of them here is lucky.

L. P. HOLLISTER, Cookeville.

KNOXVILLE.—Thousands of Purple Martins congregated to roost in the Cherokee Boulevard section of Knoxville in early August, where they were watched by Mrs. R. A. Monroe. This happens every summer but this year they were more numerous than in the past few years. The greatest numbers were present during the first two weeks in August and by the 19th most of them had gone.

An adult Little Blue Heron was seen by J. C. Howell on Norris Lake on July 26. Such herons and egrets have been very scarce here this summer, as they have been in the past few summers compared with longer ago. Also on Norris Lake and seen by J. C. Howell were one or more adult Bald Eagles seen on the following dates: July 22, August 17 and 24.

The usually early warbler migrants have been seen, altho a Chestnut-sided Warbler seen by Mrs. Monroe on July 31 was very early. The early warblers are all species that nest in the Great Smoky Mountains, which suggests that the birds are coming from there rather than from the north.

Some unidentified terns, very early, were seen in late July on Loudon Lake. Other tern reports, which came from Norris Lake are: 2 Black Terns on August 17, 20 of the same on August 26, and 10 Common Terns on Sept. 8.

Birds which probably are regular migrants but which are usually overlooked are a singing Whip-poor-will on Sept. 8, and a few Solitary Vireos and Baltimore Orioles on Sept. 10.

JAMES T. TANNER.

KINGSPORT.—Our last report was written the middle of March when the Canada Geese were belatedly flying north. The next week brought increased observations of water birds including Coot, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvasback and a pair of Shovelers, our third record. The winter had not been notable for water birds; we had no records of Red-throated Loons or Black Ducks and a scarcity of American Golden-eye. But by the end of March we had seen at least a few of all the other usual ducks, including Pintail and Hooded Mergansers. The temperature warmed to 73°, and by April 1 all ducks were gone from the lakes. After a snow and heavy frost we again had a few stragglers.

During the winter we saw no hawks but recorded some by the third week in April. April was cool with heavy rainfall. Migration proceeded

in a fairly normal pattern. The third week in April brought all the swallows: Tree, Barn, Rough-winged and Bank; as well as Osprey and Common Loons not usually seen so late. But the bird that attracted the most local attention during April was the Evening Grosbeak. Mrs. W. C. McHarris reported these on April 24; on April 25 and the following week the Finucanes saw several. The last date Grosbeaks were seen in town was May 1, but Thomas Finucane saw ten on Bays Mountain May 3.

May proved humid and hot with record high temperatures of over 90 and little rain. Noticeably scarce or absent during the summer were Black Vultures, Bewick's Wrens, Vesper Sparrows and Bachman's Sparrows.

We begin to hope the Red-headed Woodpecker is increasing. Observations indicate several areas where they are now nesting. Perhaps also Ruffed Grouse are more numerous. Two species of warblers not usual with us in the summer appeared frequently in the records after spring migration was over. During June and early July Thomas Finucane reported Redstarts from five locations on Bays Mountain and Prothonotary Warblers along Holston River. The latest date for Prothonotaries was July 15, seen by the Arthur Smiths.

The only unusual record for deep summer was a Woodcock (last recorded June 10, 1958) seen by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith on July 15 along the Holston River.

By the first of August population shifts were again apparent. Purple Martins left the second week with Aug. 10 the last date. On August 11 Blue-winged Teal were back; by the eighteenth Semi-palmated Plover and Semi-palmated Sandpipers appeared at the fish hatchery.

Two observations of local interest were made by my son and me August 18th and 19th. At the new local fish hatchery we saw a pair of Blue Grosbeaks feeding young nestlings. Since Aug. 17, 1958, when the Arthur Smiths saw a pair of Blue Grosbeaks with an immature at the old fish hatchery we have wondered about the possibility of this species nesting here. Now it is definitely established. On the 19th we saw a Barn Owl. It flew into beech trees on a steep hillside above a riding stable where there is a plentiful supply of rats and mice. Later in the week I heard the peculiar cry of this owl as it moved up and down the valley around the stable. Our last observation of a Barn Owl was the third week of Sept., 1954 by Thomas Finucane.

The fall migration dates for warblers and vireos seem about as usual, but greater numbers and a greater number of species have been reported. Arthur and Elizabeth Smith furnished the following calendar: Aug. 20, Canada, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided Warblers; Aug. 26, Yellow-throated Vireo; Aug. 27, Magnolia, Cape May, Pine Warbler; Sept. 2, Bay-breasted, Blue-winged and Sycamore; Sept. 3, Philadelphia Vireo; Sept. 4, Prairie Warbler and Baltimore Oriole; Sept. 6, Golden-winged and Tennessee Warblers.

As usual, observations of hawks will occupy most of our time during September. Tommy Finucane saw three Broadwings over Bays Mountain the second week in August. Occasional hawks have been spotted here in September, but no flights by the tenth.

ANN SWITZER, 1620 Fairidge Place, Kingsport.

ELIZABETHTON.—Spring arrived rather abruptly and without the usual cold snap early in May. This gave us a rather poor migration with almost no real concentration of migrants. The summer was about average which should have afforded favorable breeding conditions for most species. The late summer was perhaps warmer than normal although the maximum official temperature for the area was 93° and the late summer was very dry with practically no rainfall for almost a month during late August and early September.

Some rather unusual summer records for the area will be evident from the following notes. The late summer heron flight was very poor with only two Little Blue Herons reported from the Roan Creek area 8-4. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron (ED) remained in the shoal below the "Morrell Hole" in the Watauga River several days and was last reported 8-26. White Ibis (4) 7-29 at a small lake on the Veterans' Administration grounds in Johnson City were soon reduced to one which was seen by several observers and last reported 9-12 (RLJ). A Mallard at Wagner's Island in the Watauga River 8-18 (CS, LRH) was very early. Blue-winged Teal (5) 9-3 (CS, KD) were late. Spotted Sandpipers were absent from the area between 5-17 and 8-13. Other shore bird observations at Roan Creek were: Pectoral Sandpiper (1) 9-8; Least Sandpiper (4) 8-25 to 9-8; Semipalmated Sandpiper 8-25, (12) 9-1 and (5) 9-8 and Dowitcher (1) 8-19 to 8-25 (KD et al). Common Tern (1) 8-5; Barn Owl 6-5 (WC) and 9-2 (KC, LRH) in Shady Valley. The Chuck-will's-widow (see THE MIGRANT 33, 35-36, 1962) continued to sing on the shore of Watauga Lake well into June (CW). A Whip-poor-will sang several times during the evening of 9-11 near the foot of Holston Mountain (LRH). A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared at the feeder 4-29 (Mrs. BK) in the vicinity of the Elizabethton golf course. On July 26 they were observed eating sunflower seed. On August 1 an adult was seen feeding an immature sunflower seed. On August 12 an immature was seen eating cracked corn. On August 20 an adult was accompanied by two immatures and three immatures were present on August 23. They were still patronizing the feeder at the end of the period. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 9-3 (N&B). Traill's Flycatchers were present at the county farm 5-9 to 9-15. It is not known if they nested there this year as no nest was found and the usual breeding area was restricted by industrial construction in progress in the area. They were present in Shady Valley during the breeding season although no nest was found. Least Flycatcher 9-8 (N&B). Bank Swallows (10) 8-5; Barn Swallow (4) 9-2 Shady Valley (KC, LRH); Cliff Swallows 8-19. Swainson's Thrush (6) 9-8 and Gray-cheeked Thrush (1) 9-9 (N&B). Bluebirds are still scarce but can be found in certain areas regularly. Shrike (1) 9-9; Worm-eating and Golden-winged Warbler 9-8 (N&B). Tennessee Warbler (1) 8-26 at 5,700 ft. (FWB), none reported at lower elevation, 1,500 ft. to 9-15. Bay-breasted Warbler 9-15 (N&B). Northern Waterthrush (1) 8-8 and (7) 9-15 (N&B) appear to be more numerous than previously. Wilson's Warbler 9-15 (N&B). Bobolinks found nesting in Shady Valley in June (KD). First migrants 9-3. Rose-breasted Grosbeak 9-8 (N&B).

Contributors: Kenneth Clark, Wallace Coffey, Ed Davidson, R. L. James, Kenneth Dubke, Lee R. Herndon, Mrs. Basil King, Clarence Raulston and Charley Smith. N&B—netted and banded.

LEE R. HERNDON.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

BLUE GROSBEAK IN NASHVILLE.—During the morning of May 26, I heard an unusual bird song in our yard — one which sounded somewhat like an Indigo Bunting, but so different that I investigated. I saw the bird, but not as well as I did that afternoon when it returned and spent about twenty minutes in a locust tree fifteen feet from my window. It was observed in full sunlight, and I was able to study the heavy bill and rusty wingbars. I was convinced it was a male Blue Grosbeak.

For the following two weeks the bird could be heard every morning from about six until ten-thirty and at intervals during the day. My neighbors, Dr. and Mrs. O. C. Ault watched it with me several times, as it sang or hopped around in the locusts, picking insects from the leaves. Sometimes it would spend as long as fifteen minutes in each tree.

It followed quite a definite pattern as to territory, for after leaving the thicket between our houses, it would fly across the road where there are fields and hedgerows. We followed it twice, but were unable to locate a nest. We never saw a female.

June 14 to 16 the Blue Grosbeak appeared briefly during the early hours of the morning, following the same route but spending only a few minutes in each tree, and keeping constantly on the move. Through field glasses we watched it catching insects and wiping its bill on branches, but did not see it carrying food away. On 18 June after two days absence, it returned for a short visit, and I heard it over toward the field occasionally during the day. The song and visits grew less frequent, and we have neither seen or heard it since 25 June.

MRS. RALPH FAITOUTE, 4310 Scenic Drive, Nashville

RARE SHOREBIRDS AT NASHVILLE.—Coleman's lake is something like 10 acres in area, and is near the west bank of the Cumberland river approximately one mile below Old Hickory dam. On 6 Sept. 1962 Will Hon and the writer visited the lake in search of shorebirds. Twelve species were found, three being rare to the Nashville area. Species there were: Semipalmated Plover, one; Killdeer, 20; Spotted Sandpiper, two; Solitary Sandpiper, two; Greater Yellowlegs, two; Lesser Yellowlegs, four; Pectoral Sandpiper, six; Baird's Sandpiper, one. This is our third Middle Tenn. record. Least Sandpiper, six; Dowitcher, one (species unknown). We have only 8 to 10 records since 1954 and these birds were almost unknown here before that time. Stilt Sandpiper, three. Our fifth record here. Semipalmated Sandpiper two. All these birds were actively feeding and often passed within a few inches of each other. This gave the writer a wonderful opportunity to compare sizes of well known birds to those that were rare to him.

HENRY E. PARMER, 3800 Richland Ave., Nashville 5.

SNAKES AS CLIMBERS.—The ability of snakes to climb is difficult to understand until it is explained that the belly scales are hinged to the body on the side next to the reptile's head and that the rear side can be moved outward to grip (like a claw) the bark or other rough surface. To climb a smooth sapling of small diameter, or post supporting a Bluebird box, the snake needs only to constrict an upper coil about the sapling while pulling up a lower section to hold, thus enabling a "push-up" of its upper coil.

An interesting incident of a 5 foot Grey Rat Snake climbing a Martin pole and capturing young Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) from suspended gourds, is described by Milton Hopkins, Jr., in Georgia's **The Oriole** for June, 1962. The pole was 3 inches in diameter, of cypress with the bark removed, and the gourds were suspended from cross-arms 20 feet up. The snake was found to have draped himself on a cross-arm when first perceived but entered a gourd when disturbed. Being a good ornithologist, Hopkins took a seat to let nature take its course and 35 minutes later, observed the predator to emerge and descend the pole. It was captured for confinement and observation. One of two large lumps in its belly was later regurgitated and proved to be a young Martin, nearly ready to fly.

In **THE MIGRANT** for June, 1936, (7:29-30, illust. 41), I described a group of nests of Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), affixed to the flat underside of a limestone ledge that projected outward over the Tennessee river, 10 feet below. As my companion, S. A. Weakley, and I watched from a boat below, we were surprised to see a small dark colored snake protrude a foot of its body from one of the mud nests. The parent swallows were feeding young meanwhile in adjacent nests. I pushed off the nest, snake and all and it was swept on by the current. We then scanned the possible approaches the snake could have used to reach the nest and found none that seemed usable. Evidently, here was a case where the belly scales were made use of in a manner that seemed hardly possible.

ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville 12, Tenn.

A SNAKE AFTER YOUNG SWIFT.—Each year one or more pair of Chimney Swift build their nest in the chimney of the authors summer camp that is 20 miles west of Nashville. In the late spring of 1960 one nest was built.

The previous spring he had put up a bird box on a large Hackberry tree that was 10 feet from the front porch door. Starlings soon built in it, but one disappeared and the other soon left. Almost immediately a Gray Rat Snake over four feet long accepted the box as its home. Often it could be seen with a small loop out the entrance hole and its head resting on the loop. His wife wanted the snake disposed of, but his children said "you can't kill it. You have always told us that non poisonous snakes are beneficial, so leave it alone". So there it stayed during the summer of 1959 and part of the summer of 1960. An important point the author hadn't noticed was that one limb of the tree arched over the roof with a small branch that dropped to within a foot of the chimney.

On a beautiful afternoon in early June, 1960, the women folk called excitedly "there's something in the chimney after your birds". He came immediately and looked up the chimney. There was a large snake pressing against all four sides of the chimney. Its body was across the nest so that the head extended six inches past. He quickly loaded a .22 target pistol and poked it up the chimney. It was too dark to see the sights but he fired anyway, and instantly jumped out of the fireplace, having expected the snake to fall across his shoulders. Nothing happened. Next he called for a bright spot light. With the aid of this a well aimed shot was gotten off and the snake flinched. As the authors involuntary muscles were faster than his thinking, once again he was out of the fire place in a fraction of a second. Again the snake did not fall. Within two or three seconds

he put the light back in the chimney and examined it thoroughly. There was no sign of the snake. Immediately he ran out in the yard, placed a ladder against the porch roof and climbed. Nothing could be found on the roof. Then he placed the ladder against the chimney, climbed to the top and examined the inside with the light. No snake. One young swift nearly old enough to fly was on the nest with two adults flying nearby. He assumed that the snake had found a brick joint missing and had escaped into the attic. The snake was not seen again for nearly a month.

On the following July 4th, a visiting nephew called from the river, about 100 feet from the cabin. "Uncle H. E., come see the big snake I've killed". The writer ran down the steps and there, being held up by a boat paddle, was a Gray Rat Snake 54 inches long. Examination showed a neatly healed wound about midway of its body. The bullet had just missed the spine.

In May young birds were missing prematurely from the nest of two pairs of Bluebirds and from Cardinal's and Prothonotary Warblers nest, all nearby. Maybe non poisonous snakes are not so innocent.

HENRY E. PARMER, 3800 Richland Ave., Nashville 5.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS AT COVE LAKE STATE PARK.—Mrs. Earl Olson, Mrs. Al Foster and the writer spent February 13, 1962, at Cove Lake observing wintering ducks and geese. Sack lunches and thermos bottles were the order of the day so that every precious minute could be spent at lakeside. In addition to the waterfowl, the watchers saw four birds, which, at first sighting, were thought to be Red-tailed Hawks. However, as the hawks soared and wheeled they showed distinctive black "thumb prints" at the base of the primaries, and fully feathered tarsi.

Field marks were studied while the birds were in the air and while they were perched in trees. In addition, the "song" was matched with the Field Guide recording immediately upon returning home. The hawks were seen first at twelve o'clock and were still present at two-thirty when the observers had to leave the lake to resume less-exciting activities.

MAXIE SWINDELL.

HYBRID PHEASANT RELEASE LAWRENCEBURG.—Seven hundred hybrid pheasant were released in Lawrence County on the morning of September 6th.

The release site was selected by Joe Hardy, Biologist for the State Game and Fish Commission, and Dr. Gardiner Bump with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

These pheasant were developed at the Buffalo Springs Game Farm from brood stock selected by Doctor Bump, who is in charge of the introduction of foreign game birds for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The doctor personally selected the brood stock in Asia for the project. This hybrid is an attempt to find and develop a new breed of pheasant adaptable to the conditions existing in the Southern United States.

These birds are not being released to be hunted or killed in any manner.

TENNESSEE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION.

FURTHER NOTES FROM CROSSVILLE.—The spring count from the Crossville area made during our annual meeting there 4-6 May and published in June issue, included three pairs of Spotted Sandpipers on Harrison's lake. We wondered at the time as to the possibility that these birds might remain to breed. There were other possibilities about the lake so I made it convenient to spend a week there 7-13 June, to investigate. I found that the only stretch of the lake's 15 mile shoreline that was sufficiently grass-free to be acceptable to the Sandpipers was a mile stretch around the golf course and a short stretch near the dam. These stretches were gone over carefully on two occasions and no Sandpipers were found. To investigate the possibility that Coots and Blue-winged Teal might have remained to nest, I followed the long shoreline one day with a boat equipped with out-board motor and found neither species. At a small creek emptying into the south side, I flushed a Wood Duck which made calls indicating that young were nearby. One of the most gratifying observations made was of the large number of breeding pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers. There were 8 or 10 pairs nesting among the trees in and around the golf course and many others were to be seen in the surrounding woods.

ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville 12, Tenn.

MID-SOUTH WHIP-POOR-WILL DISTRIBUTION RUNS - 1962.—Several Whip-poor-will runs revealed no increase, — New Albany to Tishomingo SP (none), Miss., May 11-12, S of Paris and later W of McKenzie (one each area), Tenn., May 12-13. A decided increase Ravenden to Ravenden Springs to the Eleven Point River, Ark., a. m. June 24. Several on ridge highway (newly worked) S of Heber Springs, Ark., June 22-23 (BCs) but none SW and SE. One, June 8, elevation 350 feet and down, E of Macon, Tenn. and only 24 miles E of Memphis city limits. Reports for Shelby County by B. B. Cooper, a very competent observer, last summer and this, not yet verified. Always on most ridges (500 feet) near Hickory Flat, Miss., one in town (400 feet) last summer (Cleo Yancey, BBC) and this summer plus a 2d (BC). After running most of the fire tower roads in the Ouachitas (1200-2800 feet) the last 6 years, only two pockets of Whips and a single were located; incidental thereto, previously, a single at Jessieville, 700 feet, and another at Lonsdale, 450 feet elevation and the farthest south. It came as a surprise, May 25-26, to find 3 singles W of Perryville (380 feet) and two E of Fourche Jct. (500 feet); in between, clouds may have stopped the Whips calling (but not the Chucks). A re-check June 9-10 (one Whip near dusk, SW escarpment of Petit Jean S.P. Mtn.) gave inclusive negative data E from Casa and W from Perryville. On a second of two re-runs before dawn, June 10, the one was heard at Fourche Jct., and W on Ark. 7 in Yell County, two singles, slightly higher. Thus further runs are indicated, along valley roads. Also, this shows that at certain periods, one species present may not call even tho the other calls. Time had not permitted me a chance to run several times over the same route to check this.

BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

CORRECTION: Greater Scaup in table under Columbia on p 28 June 1962 should have read Lesser Scaup — 1.

NORTHERN FINCHES SUMMERING ON ROAN MOUNTAIN.—In an analogous occurrence, Pine Siskins and Purple Finches, appearing more often than not during the winter on Roan Mountain, but were not present last winter, were observed in mid-summer in the coniferous forest of Roan at 5,700 - 6,000 feet elevation.

Observing a flock of Pine Siskins May 11 at the entrance to Laurel Fork some eight miles southeast of Elizabethton was thought by the writer to be the last of these birds for the season before he heard and saw one or two birds of this species on May 30 on Roan Mountain. Next, a single bird was observed in the same locality on June 7. Again on July 1 a few were heard and seen.

A bird song unfamiliar to the writer was traced on the latter date to a female or immature Purple Finch sitting in the top of a spruce in the Rhododendron Gardens on Roan Mountain at about 5,900 ft. Ken Dubke accompanied me to the locality for a follow-up on July 4. We did not hear or see the Purple Finch in the Gardens, but heard its song in three places along the Balsam Road at 5,700 ft. On the return, Ken spotted an adult male Purple Finch in a tree in the Gardens after we had heard it singing. We also heard and saw the female or immature and in addition Pine Siskins.

On subsequent trips Dubke and I saw both species on July 8 and 15 in the same general vicinity on Roan Mountain, with the Purple Finches singing vigorously. On the latter date we heard three of them singing simultaneously. While watching one of these birds in the top of a balsam, to our surprise a male Red Crossbill alit some 75 feet from us in the top of a dead balsam. A total of 7 were listed by us on that day. The species has been noted continuously since in small numbers, mostly by its call note, if not seen. About two or three were heard on September 9. No crossbills have ever been observed by me on Roan previously despite many trips to the locality.

No trace of Pine Siskins or Purple Finches could be found after July 15. They had quit singing and were no longer seen. There is a possibility they did not stay and moved north. These birds probably had been wintering farther south and, finding an ample crop of fresh seed cones on balsam and spruce when passing over Roan Mountain on their migration flight north, likely lingered. On no occasion were any birds of the species seen carrying food to give rise to the thought they might have been breeding here.

FRED W. BEHREND, Elizabethton.

YOUR DUES are due January 1st, 1963, which will be before the December issue reaches you. For amounts, see last page of this issue. Chapter members should pay dues to their local treasurers as promptly as possible. Those who are not chapter members, or those who are out-of-State members, or subscribers, will please remit direct to your State Treasurer. The job of billing is costly and time-consuming so your cooperation will be appreciated. Since the amount involved is small, you may wish to consider letting your remittance cover both 1963 and 1964, or even longer.

HENRY E. PARMER, State Treasurer, 3800 Richland Ave., Nashville 5.

THE MIGRANT

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BOOK REVIEW

CARE AND BREEDING OF BUDGERIGARS, CANARIES AND FOREIGN FINCHES by R. B. Bennett, F.Z.S. Arco Publishing Company, Inc., 480 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. 320 pps. 6" x 9", \$10.00.

The author has drawn from long personal experience a wealth of vivid details relating particularly to Budgerigars and Canaries. Every phase of this interesting hobby has been presented. The origin and history of development of these and more than 200 other foreign finches are given. For the beginner he has related the characteristics for which to look in selecting stock, whether for personal pleasure derived from song, talking ability or breeding for show purposes or the development of special color characteristics. Essential equipment and instructions for the care, feeding, housing, training, mating, care of young, diseases and preparations for exhibition are presented. Many pointers are given which would be of value to the experienced or professional bird fancier. Fair warning is given to those who might consider entering the cage bird breeding business for profit.

Many of the color combinations are beautifully illustrated on 12 full-color plates and eight monotone plated with color background showing 139 birds. Also there are eight pages of photographs and 100 line drawings distributed throughout the book.

The author is well known to aviculturists as a breeder, exhibitor, judge, writer and artist. He has exported and imported birds for many years from all parts of the world and contributes to many publications on the subject of cage birds.

The volume is comprehensive in scope and a desirable addition to the library of the amateur or professional breeder or exhibitor and for anyone interested in birds whether tame or wild.

LEE R. HERNDON.

Beginning this year, the major ornithological journals have adopted a new method of printing dates; for example, 2 May instead of May 2. In the interest of standardizing the literature, we are falling in line and request that our contributors follow this pattern in writing up articles for publication in THE MIGRANT.

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