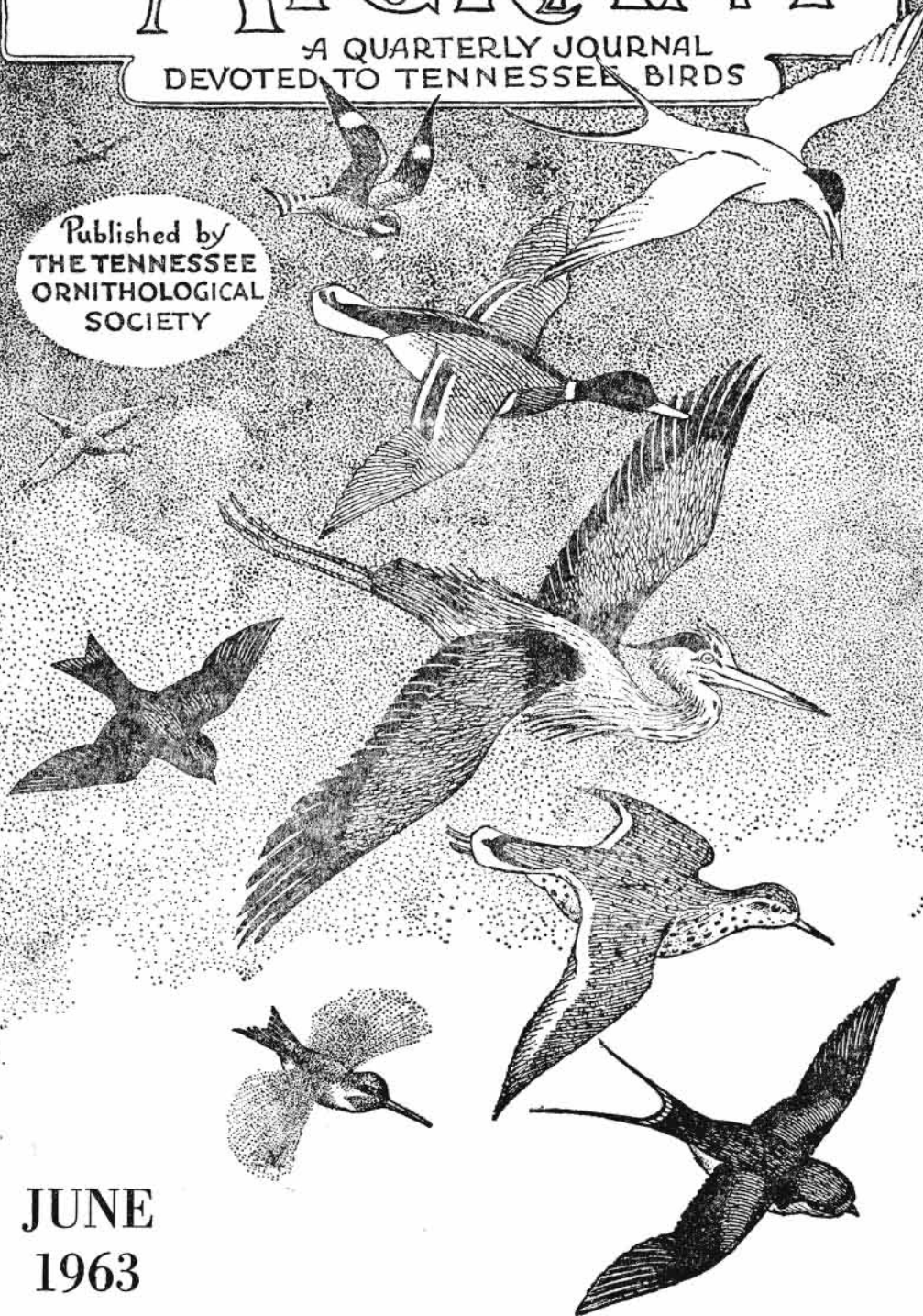


THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
THE TENNESSEE
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NO. 2

FIRST NESTING RECORD OF BOBOLINK IN TENNESSEE

By KENNETH H. DUBKE

On 10 June 1962, the author recorded the first known nesting record of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx orivorus*), at approximately 2800 feet elevation in Shady Valley, Johnson County, Tennessee. This article will be an attempt to summarize and give some background to this new nesting species.

According to the AOU checklist, 5th edition, 1957, the southern breeding limits of the Bobolink for our eastern area is from ". . . northern Missouri, central Illinois (Peoria, Urbana), south-central Indiana (Worthington, Columbus), southwestern and central eastern Ohio (Hillsboro, Scio), northern West Virginia (south in the mountains to Greenbrier County), western Maryland (Red House), Pennsylvania, and central New Jersey;".

Summer records of our East Tennessee area consist of one male observed on 24 June 1953, near the Franklin Club in Elizabethton, by Lee R. Herndon. Also, on 28 June 1961, the writer, accompanied by Ralph T. Bullard Jr. identified one male in Shady Valley. And during the preliminary field work for the 1961 Foray, the author and Albert F. Ganier located a pair on 16 June near the 1962 nest site. For this pair, the area was searched diligently the next two days by many parties, but no nest or evidence of young being fed out of the nest was noted. A follow up on these birds the following weekend failed to find them. Arthur Stupka in his book NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK mentioned the finding of a lone male on 21-22 June 1950 "in a hayfield along Deep Creek, approximately one-fourth mile south of the park boundary."

The first records of 1962 begin on 2 June when the writer identified a male singing in the meadow across from the Jess Jenkins' store. On 9 June two males were observed in the area, and it should also be noted no female was yet observed. On 10 June the author returned to the locale to patiently sit and watch for nesting evidence. After a period of a couple of hours both a male and a female were observed carrying food, at fifteen minute intervals, to a specific place. The area was searched and soon a typical nest was located with three young birds and one unhatched egg. H. W. Nunley, Bluff City, accompanied the writer on 16 June and assisted in banding the nestlings. At this time, much to our surprise, we found the two males and only one female in the immediate vicinity. Whether both males were feeding the young could not be determined, but they certainly didn't exhibit any hostility to one another. On a follow up 17 June the three nestlings had left the nest and were being fed in the grass by the parents. It was also noted on this date the two males and one female scolding us, but again showing no hostility to one another. The weekend of 23 June produced

only one male.

This year an intense follow up on the species was pursued by the author to determine, among other things, their survival and reproduction and also to add other basic knowledge on our small breeding population. Search of the known nesting area was commenced on 21 April and continued each weekend through 16 June, with the exception of 27 April and 5 May. The first Bobolink observed in the valley this year was a small mixed migrating flock of about twenty-five birds in a grassy field on the date of 19 May. Regular and diligent search of the 1961-62 areas did not pay off till 5:55 AM, 26 May when one male was observed singing in his selected territory. At about 6:30 AM, the same day, another male joined the one under observation and appeared to feed with it about a minute before flying off in the distance. According to notes taken at the time, the territorial male then chased off his returning rival twice in the next hour and thirty-five minutes. In fact, the male on territory flew up and appeared to challenge and drive off his rival both times before the author was aware there was company in the area. During this same period of time a female appeared twice in the territory and was vigorously pursued by the male. This was the only time a female was observed during the breeding season. At 8:45 AM the rival male appeared again, only to be again challenged and repelled from the territory. After this encounter, the territorial male spent most of his time feeding in the grass and performing flight songs till the author left the area at 9:05 AM.

Charlie Smith, Milligan College, accompanied the author on 2 June and on our arrival at 5:25 AM the single male was observed on his territory feeding and regularly performing his flight song. While Charlie watched the single male, the author for the next two hours searched diligently and widely in the surrounding appropriate habitat for other nesting Bobolink, but none were found.

On 9 June there was a heavy fog in the valley when the author arrived at 5:30 AM. Two minutes later the singing male arrived through the thick pea soup fog. Upon landing he commenced feeding in his favorite grass clumps but after three minutes he departed. He returned singing through the fog six minutes later but stayed for only five minutes before departing again for seventeen minutes. The next time he arrived he stayed twenty-one minutes but only performed three or four flight songs and departed when two other similar sized birds flew over his territory. The light conditions were still bad at this time and identification was not possible to name these other birds. At 6:42 AM he returned singing to his favorite clump of grass and stayed for only twelve minutes. During this stay he performed only three flight songs. This action of leaving and returning to the territory for extended periods of time continued till the author left at 8:30 AM. It should also be noted the sky had cleared considerably by 7:50 AM when it was observed two additional males appeared overhead singing and our territorial bird flew up and joined them in departing in the distance. No hostility was noted among the three.

A follow up on the lone territorial male was made 16 June when the author arrived at 5:15 AM and stayed through a light rain and fog for a hour and a half. Our lone male was not present, nor were other Bobolink found after searching the area.

Of especial area interest are also the personal records of Wendell P. Smith, North Wilkesboro, N. C. To quote from a letter dated 16 November

1962: ". . . On May 21, 1959, I saw a male and female Bobolink (pair) in the field by the airport. On June 3 of the same year, I saw a female with two young. I feel sure that this pair nested. On May 25, 1960, I saw five Bobolink in the plumage of the female in the same field. As I did not see them again, I think it probable that they were migrants although it was two weeks later than I have seen migrants. On June 5, 1958 I saw one male at Deep Gap, N. C. That is the extent of my summer records." In a recent letter dated 15 June 1963 Mr. Smith stated that he had no more nesting Bobolink this year and knew of no other people with North Carolina records of their nesting.

Sprunt and Chamberland in their book *SOUTH CAROLINA BIRD LIFE* mention that straggler Bobolink in South Carolina have been noted in June with the latest record 23 June.

This writer knows of no nesting records of the Bobolink in Virginia, but with our present knowledge they should be expected to breed there.

SUMMARY

In the foregoing paper we have attempted to summarize various records and observations of what is known of the Bobolink in the area. There have been scattered June records with a good possibility of the birds breeding in Shady Valley in 1961 when a pair was noted on the late date of 16 June. In 1962 a definite nest with young was located. The year 1963 produced a total of three males and one female during the breeding season, but it is not known if there was any mating or production of young. The habitat for nesting Bobolink is too extensive in Shady Valley for any one person to check thoroughly during the short nesting season. The male under observation this year offered a good example of the defended territory and pointed out the fact there could have been other birds mated in the valley but overlooked. With what is now known it will be interesting to see the results of extensive field work in 1964.

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FIRST BREEDING RECORD OF VIRGINIA RAIL IN TENNESSEE

By MRS. E. M. WEST

On Sunday, 5 May, 1963, E. M. West found a nest containing 6 eggs in a marsh beside Amnicola Hwy. about 1 mile from the city limits of Chattanooga. He was leader of a field party attending the Annual Meeting, and several of the group saw the nest which appeared to have been abandoned. No one positively identified the nest, and it was assumed by some that it belonged to a King Rail which was flushed nearby. At least one of the eggs was damaged and all were cold. It was felt that the nest had been abandoned as a result of rising water level caused by a rainfall totaling 4.27 inches between 28 and 30 April, inclusive. The site was marked so it could be found again.

Returning to the spot on 7 May, the status of the nest had not changed and once again a King Rail was flushed nearby. However, another nest was found containing much larger eggs.

That night Albert Ganier telephoned to ask that an egg be collected, or that the nest and eggs be collected if abandoned, and sent to him for identification. Henry Parmer of Nashville, who was with the field party of 5 May, had alerted Mr. Ganier to the possibility of its being a Virginia Rail nest. Mr. Parmer's curiosity was aroused when he saw the nest. Although he did not know offhand just what it was, he had some familiarity with what it might be. Upon his return to Nashville, he visited the several collections there and came to the conclusion that the Chattanooga nest must be that of a Virginia Rail, unlikely as that might be.

The nest and eggs were collected on 11 May. Also, an egg was taken from the nest nearby, suspected of being a King Rail's. All were sent to Mr. Ganier who identified the nest and eggs as belonging to a Virginia Rail, and the single, larger egg as that of a King Rail. For verification of his identification, Mr. Ganier mailed the set of eggs to the U. S. National Museum in Washington, D. C. A reply, dated 18 June (ref. No. 248321) from Alexander Wetmore, Research Associate, indicated that he had no hesitation in marking them as Virginia Rail eggs.

Efforts were made by a group of local chapter members on both 7 and 14 May to locate a second nest and to flush the adult birds. Members formed a line and systematically inspected each clump in a large portion of the marsh. Although this did not meet with success, many other nests were found, including the King Rail's already mentioned, a Least Bittern's nest, and many of Red-winged Blackbirds. The Wests have returned on other May week ends for the same purpose, without success.

Search of **The Migrant** between mid 1950 and mid 1961 shows reference to 28 Virginia Rails (counting 1 for each reference when exact number was not given). Of these 28 birds, 11 were found dead and 17 were seen alive. Five were seen in April and five (incl. 3 dead) in May. None of the observers commented on the possibility of a nest or expressed the intention to look for one. Apparently, all were aware that the Virginia Rail was not supposed to nest in Tennessee and that such a search would probably be a waste of time.

It now appears it is no longer safe to assume that a spring or early summer bird is a migrant. To return to the skimpy data available on the 28 birds, the earliest spring record is 2 on 22 April in Knox County.

Assuming it was abandoned no later than 30 April (last day of 4.27"

rain), simple calculations on the Chattanooga nest indicate the first egg was probably laid not later than 25 April and may have been laid several days earlier. This breeding pair may, therefore, have reached the marsh in the first half of April. It follows that we should start searching for this species soon after 1 April, and should continue to look for nests through May.

T. A. Imhof reports in *The Migrant* of September 1949 that at least 2 wintered at Bayview Lake, Birmingham, Alabama, in 1948-49, being seen at intervals until 5 June. The proximity of Birmingham makes it likely that Tennessee would have early spring arrivals. The Birmingham dates even raise the question of whether the Virginia Rail may have nested there.

There is an Alabama breeding record that slightly reduces the importance of the Chattanooga record since the former occurred at a more southerly location. It was in June 1945 that a brood of young were seen trailing an adult Virginia Rail at Wheeler Refuge, Decatur. This rare observation was made by L. S. Givens, now with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Atlanta.

For local convenience, the marsh has been named for the Amnicola Hwy. which borders it. It is situated on a private farm and comprises about half of a large field contained by a fence. Acreage is estimated to be 8 to 10. Cattle are watered there, but ordinarily use the edge nearest the barn. The nests of both the Virginia and King Rails were placed at the opposite end of the marsh in clumps of Common Rush (*Juncus effusus*), the dominant plant.

The Virginia Rail is described as a small bird about the size of the Sora Rail, but with the general pattern of the King Rail. However, it is much too small to be confused with the King Rail and has a long, slender bill that readily distinguishes it from the Sora.

According to Forbush in "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States," it builds a nest of weeds, grasses, dead stalks, etc. in a tussock or on a pile of broken down reeds or driftwood. It lays 5 to 12 eggs, colored somewhat like those of the King Rail but near the size of the Sora's eggs. When flushed, it is quite likely to escape by running through the cover rather than flying weakly over it. Possibly, its reluctance to fly and show itself is the reason we have not found the owner of the Chattanooga nest.

At least one other Virginia Rail was in our neighborhood this spring. On 3 May, Benton Basham found a dead one at the base of the rear wall of Jubilee City, a large one-story department store in the Brainerd section. Less than 100 feet from the spot is a small cattail marsh that contained a nesting King Rail at that time.

The only live Virginia Rail reported in this area was also found by Mr. Basham on 30 April, 1961, spring census day. This small marsh on Shallowford Road has since been bulldozed out of existence.

5511 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga 15, Tennessee.

TWO DAYS AT REELFOOT LAKE

By JOHN O. ELLIS

As Cranetown goes, so goes a very large portion of the spine-tingling enjoyment of that by-product of one of Nature's rebellious moods in 1811-1812, Reelfoot Lake. This is true for us members of the T.O.S., at least.

"We certainly do want to spend some time at Cranetown. We also want to find this Osprey's nest in the Upper Blue Basin," pointing to the spot on a map of the Lake furnished us by our friend and counselor, Mr. Albert Ganier, we said to Buddy Hoffman, our young native guide. This nest, incidentally, proved to be at the exact spot the typically prepared Ganier map indicated.

"You can't get to Cranetown and the Cranes are not there anymore anyway. About this Osprey's nest, it is a day's trip to Walnut Log and the Upper Blue Basin but we will make it," he replied.

We had to see for ourselves why the place Cranetown, long-time nesting site for Egrets, Herons, Cormorants and Water-Turkeys (Cranes to the natives) was suddenly off-limits and out of business. The weather was changeable for 15-16 May, 1963. 15 May was rainy and bitter cold all day, with the temperature in the 40's to the 50's, the wind at five to ten miles. 16 May was marked with full sun and temperature reaching the high 60's. The general condition of the Lake was unfavorable to the outboard motor. The moss or algae was blocking our path at every turn. The date for uninterrupted boat travel was past. A boat pushed with a pole at the rear is to be preferred at this time of year by Birders. While passing through the Samburg ditch, a Least Bittern, 1; Coot, 5; Florida Gallinule, 3; Lesser Scaup, 1; numerous Red-wing Blackbirds were observed along the bank, while overhead were Least Tern, Wood Duck and Common Egret. The Osprey nest in Forked Pond which, according to the statement of a member of Game and Fish Commission at Samburg, had been used for thirty to forty years was abandoned. The gossip had it that the eggs had been taken on two successive nestings and a young bird thrown from the nest by a careless passerby (a young boy who was not necessarily in sympathy with Ornithological studies) on another occasion.

Wood Duck appeared to be nesting in this area but no nests observed.

A similar experience was ours on visiting a Bald Eagle nest in the Grassy Bend area. It was obviously an old nest from the standpoint of usage, but a forty-minute stay, using a 30 power telescope and binoculars, revealed no activity. A visit to another known nesting area for the Bald Eagle in Starve Pond produced nests but no activity. (Editor's Note: At this date young eagles would have left the nest.) Crows were observed giving chase to a Barred Owl. No eagles seen. The only Bald Eagle observed was an adult bird as we re-entered the Forked Pond area. It was observed at a distance of fifty to sixty yards and flew several times.

Sure enough, the remains of a bridge, used by loggers, lay across the mouth of the Big Ronaldson Ditch and was like a sign "out of business" as far as Cranetown was concerned. It seems, or at least rumor had it so, that a movie was made in and around Cranetown and for some unconfirmed reason dynamite had been exploded. This may or may not be a fact and if so, may or may not account for the absence of water birds in the general area.

On the trip to the north end of the Lake, one (1) immature Green Heron, one hundred (100) plus American or Common Egrets, twenty-five (25) plus Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, and Prothonotary Warblers were singing from every live cypress. Also found were a female Wood Duck with sixteen ducklings which were caught in the moss and struggled to get away, one (1) Mallard drake, numerous Least Tern and only one (1) Water-Turkey.

The Osprey nest was located on top of a limbless and lone cypress stump at approximately thirty to thirty-five feet in the air. It was active. No feeding was observed. Both male and female birds were observed for an hour at a range of approximately thirty yards. A stop-off at Grassy Island on the way back to Samburg boat dock produced a pair of nesting Summer Tanagers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blackpoll Warblers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Indigo Buntings, Wood Thrush, White-eyed Vireos, Cardinals, Grackles, Cowbirds, Wood Peewee, Phoebe, Crested Flycatchers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, and Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers.

The area around the Game and Fish Commission headquarters at the south end of the lake was teeming with birds. Among those observed was a pair of Redheaded Woodpeckers which were feeding young and in a constant battle with Starlings. The Starling and the Woodpecker would flutter all the way to the ground from the top of the sycamore locked in battle. This was observed for thirty minutes. A Pewee was nesting at an approximate height of thirty-five feet in a large cypress on a big limb about fifteen feet from the trunk. A pair of Baltimore Orioles was nesting in a large oak at a height of approximately seventy-five or eighty feet. Warbling Vireos were observed and heard singing all over the place. An unusual nesting site for a Prothonotary Warbler was a tin can under the eave of the little utility house. This do-it-yourself nesting box was made for the Wrens. The bird was feeding young and could be observed at a distance of ten feet. Orchard Orioles were heard and seen all around Samburg.

Spotted Sandpiper played around the boat dock at all hours. All in all it was a refreshing two days in the true wilds, and we hope to see the T.O.S. members here next year at the convention.

4004 Overbrook Dr., Nashville 5, Tennessee.

JOE (OR JOSEPHINE). THE CROW

By LYNN R. SPEES

The source of some of my small problems, but the most enjoyed of all the many pets my family has had is Joe the Crow. About four years ago he was found by two crow hunters on the ground where he had fallen from the nest. One of them kept the young crow, but later gave it to my family when it became too great a burden for him.

During his early life Joe's ravenous appetite was satisfied by Purina Dog Chow, pre-moistened and fed by hand. Water, of course, was given, along with fruit, berries, insects, some meat, and a little gravel. When I stopped feeding him by hand, I was amazed to see the crow dip the chow in the water himself, as he still does. Another part of the little care he needs is a shelter in the cage, covered on the top and one side, where he stays in bad weather and at night. For my own peace of mind, I kept him in the basement on a few of the coldest winter nights.

Joe's physical characteristics need little description. His wingspread is over two feet, and he is about seventeen inches long. This latter measurement gives the hint that "he" may be Josephine, for, compared to other crows, "he" is somewhat small.

One of his most enjoyable characteristics is his apparent intelligence. Joe either understands things, or pretends to, or at least tries to find out

about them. One of his most momentous achievements was to come into the house of his own accord. Being very wary, he is always cautious about closed places, but after he gained enough courage to come in, Joe tried to take over by hopping onto the kitchen table, which promptly curtailed future admittances. Another indication of a large brain are his quick reflexes, having never been stepped on even while running between people's legs to steal a badminton birdie. Likewise, it is difficult for me to catch him and almost impossible for a stranger.

Joe is a neighborhood pet. He often "calls on" the neighbors and receives a biscuit or other food morsel. One time he went beyond his usual limits by following our car to the site, a mile distant, where we are building a house. When we returned, he returned. Usually if he isn't near, he can be brought in by a few loud calls of his name, "Joe!" However, people are not always on the noisy end. Joe has learned the words, "hello," "Karl," and "HI!" He always seems to say "HI" at the right time, incidentally. Countless are his other noises, ranging from crow-like to sheep-like sounds.

His antics are usually funny and sometimes irritating. They include: the unorthodox act of lying on his back and playing with his toys; stealing keys, knives, papers, etc.; hiding various articles; removing clothes from the clothesline; and his recent bath in a spilled Coca-Cola.

Joe is both antagonist and antagonized. I think that a crow dislikes, or is disliked by, all other animals. He delights in annoying our dog and pet snakes by cautiously pecking them when he has an advantage. On the other hand, all other birds hate Joe, and it is demonstrated especially by Blue Jays, for they constantly dive at him when he is away from people and the house.

Along this same line are his reactions toward people. They are usually amusing but sometimes are tear-producing. First is his habit of diving at certain strangers, sometimes resulting in slight lacerations to the scalp of the unsuspecting victim. Another antic is his pecking of some people's socks, especially red ones. Nevertheless, it is possible for him to be agreeable. Often he will let people pet him. This seems to hypnotize him for a short while but this docility can be deceiving except for his "intimate" friends. For after strangers or not-so-close friends stop stroking him, he turns and pecks their hand.

My family and I highly recommend a crow as a fascinating pet.
1230 Robin Hood Road, Greeneville, Tenn.

T. O. S. ANNUAL MEETING, 1963

The annual meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society was held on May 4, 5 and 6 in Chattanooga and vicinity, with the Chattanooga Chapter as hosts. Rolyat Motel in the Brainerd community served as headquarters. Members began arriving there and at nearby motels early Friday afternoon.

An informal reception at the Brainerd Community Center that evening provided opportunity for registering, renewing of old friendships, and meeting new members of the various chapters. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene M. West showed and narrated a color film of their recent trip to Big Bend National Park.

Saturday morning field trips in Chickamauga National Military Park

were led by Mr. Rock L. Comstock Jr. and Mr. Ralph Bullard of the Park Service, Dr. Wilbur Butts and Mr. Stanley Barr. Weather was clear and cool, and many bird species were observed. Seeing the historic battleground with its monuments, markers and beautiful trees was a new experience for many. Bluebirds nesting in cannon barrels were an unusual sight.

In the afternoon, officers and directors met in Park Headquarters library while others had a choice of birding in the Park, a tour of Chickamauga Battlefield, or sight-seeing on Lookout Mountain.

The annual banquet, at 6:30 P.M. in Stagmaier Gymnasium, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, was attended by eighty seven members and visitors. After the banquet Mr. Edward M. King, President, presided while business of the Society was conducted.

The following recommendations of the Board of Directors were presented to and approved by the Membership:

1. That the present Committee on Birds on Protected List be continued another year.
2. That the present and past editors of **The Migrant** be given Life Memberships.
3. That uniform membership cards be made available to the chapters, the cost to be borne by the Society.

Officers elected for the year 1963-1964 were:

President	Mrs. William F. Bell
Vice-President for East Tennessee	Mr. Eugene M. West
Vice-President for Middle Tennessee	Mr. Lawrence O. Trabue
Vice-President for West Tennessee	Mrs. Rose Newton Wooldridge
Secretary	Miss Marguerite McKinney
Treasurer	Mr. Henry E. Parmer
Curator	Mr. Albert F. Ganier
Editor	Dr. Lee R. Herndon
Directors-at-Large, East Tennessee—	Mr. John Elson, Knoxville; Middle
Tennessee—	Mrs. James Haile, Cookeville; West Tennessee—
Thompson, Paris.	Mr. L. D.

Speaker for the evening was Mr. Thomas A. Imhof, of Birmingham. He was introduced by Mr. E. O. Grundset, vice-president of the Chattanooga Chapter. Mr. Imhof, author of the book, **Alabama Birds**, published for the Alabama Department of Conservation, Game and Fish Division, traced the preparation of the book. He told of interesting ornithological phases encountered during the period.

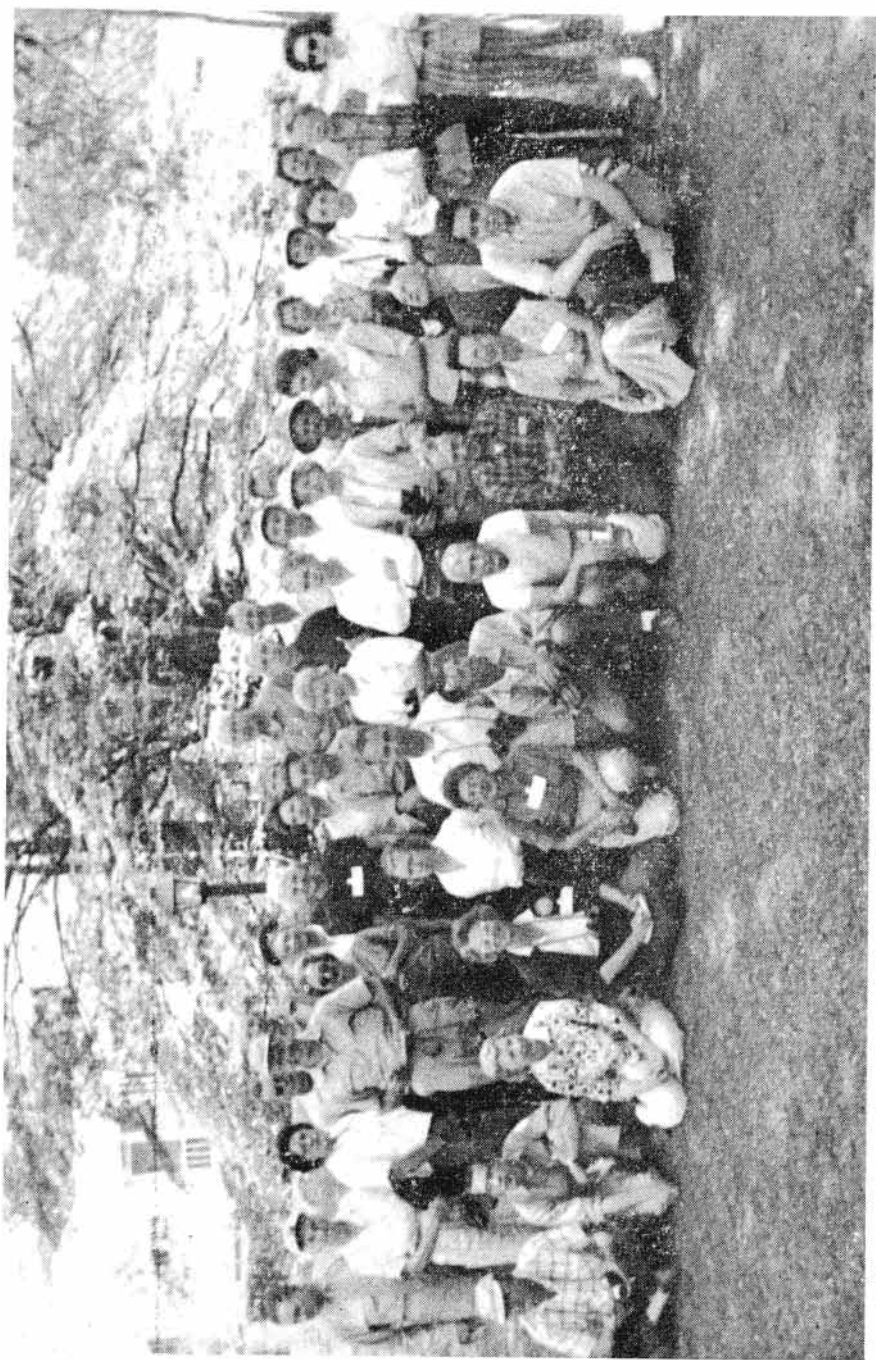
Activities Sunday morning included a mist netting demonstration at Mr. Bullard's netting site in St. Elmo with a hike around a nearby lake in mid-morning; visits to Chickamauga Dam and beautiful Elise Chapin Wildlife Sanctuary, and a hike at Amnicola Highway marsh.

Members met at the tree-shaded Rolyat patio at 11:30 A.M. for the tally, with Mr. Parmer as compiler. One hundred and thirty four species were listed for the three days of the meeting. A Red-cockaded Woodpecker was seen in Chickamauga Park, also a Bachman's Sparrow.

The Society adopted the following Resolution:

"Whereas, the Tennessee Ornithological Society, assembled at its Annual Meeting, May 4, 5 and 6, 1963, at Chattanooga, and

Resolved, that the Society express its sincere appreciation to the entire Chattanooga Chapter of TOS, and especially to the following committee



Some of the members who attended the annual T.O.S. meeting at Chattanooga, 4-6 May 1963. Photo by Wm. A. Puryear.

chairmen and their committees for the efficient planning of the entire meeting: Mrs. Adele West, General Chairman; Mrs. Carroll Barr, Hospitality; Mrs. Virginia Thompson, Decorations; Miss Roberta Doub, Identification and Maps; Mrs. Veta Sliger, Registration; Mr. Stanley Barr, Dr. Wilbur Butts, Mr. Ralph Bullard and Mr. Rock Comstock, Field Trips; and

Resolved, that those attending the Friday evening reception especially enjoyed and thank Adele and Eugene West for their film presentation and narration of their trip to Big Bend National Park, and

Resolved, that the Society express its thanks to the Chickamauga National Military Park for their invaluable contribution to the success of this meeting, and

Resolved, that the Society express appreciation to Dr. Lee R. Herndon and Mr. Eugene M. Ruhr, Editors of **The Migrant** and **Newsletter**, respectively, and to Mr. Henry E. Parmer, Treasurer, for their efforts in behalf of the Society."

Mrs. Henry E. Schiller, as president of the Memphis Chapter, invited the TOS to West Tennessee for the 1964 meeting.

MRS. J. H. McWHORTER, Secretary, 817 Goodwyn, Memphis 11, Tennessee

THE 1963 SPRING FIELD DAYS

By T.O.S. MEMBERS

Counts were submitted from a total of ten areas this year. In reading some of the details under the Chapter headings it will be noted that some groups were altering their 24 hour count periods from the traditional midnight to midnight to other more desirable hours in order to attain maximum coverage of their areas. For instance, the small group at Columbia commenced at noon one day and finished at noon the following day. They located 124 species in their area.

A total of 199 species were recorded this year. This number has only been exceeded by the 1961 Count when 210 species were identified across the State. The earliest Count was held at Cookeville on 20 April while the latest was conducted at Kingsport on 11 May.

As usual, the tabulations run progressively from east to west and the number of individual birds recorded are given in figures at the end of the list.

REELFOOT LAKE. — May 4 (112 species) and 5; total 122. Some species were so common that no attempt was made to count them, but were assigned to these categories: FC, Fairly common; C, Common. One party: Mrs. Frank T. Markham (Tiptonville), Mrs. John S. Lamb and Mike Underwood (Dyersburg), May 4; Mitch Ganier (Dyersburg) and Earl Fuller (Memphis), 5 May; Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., compilers.

COLUMBIA—The area in the vicinity of Columbia was covered in the period from noon 1 May to noon 2 May. These hours were chosen to coincide with the work schedules of the various observers. The weather was clear and cool with the temperature ranging from 40 to 70 degrees. Ten observers participated; George R. Mayfield, Jr., compiler.

COOKEVILLE—The Spring Bird Count by the Upper Cumberland Chapter of the TOS was held 20 April 1963. Area covered as in previous counts. Hours: 5:30 AM to 5:00 PM, with little observations during mid-day hours. Weather: fair; Temperature: 55 to 82 degrees; Wind: light and variable. Observers: Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Cummins, Roy Hines, P. L. Hollister (compiler), Dr. and Mrs. E. B. Knight, Dr. and Mrs. S. L. McGee, Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Moore, Mrs. Connie Peterson, Miser Richmond, Miss Marie White, Mrs. Milo Williams, Miss Chrissa Wendt.

NASHVILLE—The day of our Spring Field Day was not a propitious one, because of weather conditions.

Thirty workers in twelve teams, were out from early dawn, but the day was cloudy and cool, so that wraps were a necessity. A drizzling rain began to fall about eleven o'clock, so some groups were forced to do their afternoon work from their cars, while some of the hardier ones continued all day on foot.

One hundred and thirty species were recorded, and this was neither the highest nor the lowest number for the Spring Count in the last ten years. In 1961, one hundred fifty-nine species were found, in 1955 only one hundred and twelve; the average over the ten-year period being one hundred and twenty-two.

The LeConte's Sparrow was seen by Ganier and Groce with binoculars at 25 feet, feeding with Savannah Sparrows in the Cumberland River Bottoms in the Cheatham Dam area. We have had several records of the LeConte's Sparrow in the Nashville area previously, but this is the first known to this reporter since December 1957. Sue Bell, compiler.

CHATTANOOGA—Although the tally stood at 125 species as the annual meeting came to an end, several local members continued working throughout the rest of the day, producing 9 additional species. Mrs. Hugh Crownover found 2 Greater Yellowlegs. Rock L. Comstock, Jr. saw a Connecticut Warbler in Chickamauga Park.

Chapter members working in the Collegedale area added 1 each of the Broad-winged Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Nashville Warbler.

Benton Basham went to the Amnicola marsh that was visited Sunday morning by a field party who were not dressed to wade in water up to 3 feet deep. His efforts resulted in 1 King Rail and 1 Sora Rail to be added to those already listed, and additions to the weekend list; namely, 1 Purple Gallinule, 2 Least Bitterns, and 1 Wilson's Phalarope.

Tuesday, 7 May, 8 chapter members returned to the marsh at 6 p. m. and were able to find the King Rail, Sora Rails, Least Bitterns, and the Wilson's Phalarope. A mystery bird seen by Basham on Sunday was again flushed on Tuesday. It appeared to be either a coot or a Common Gallinule.

These observations, unreported at the closing of the annual meeting, bring the weekend total to 134.

The Purple Gallinule is an addition to the Chattanooga area list.

MRS. E. M. WEST, 5511 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga 15, Tenn.

KNOXVILLE—Sunday, 28 April. As for the past several years, the count area included all of Knox County with 31 observers in 14 parties covering selected areas. An all-day rain accounted for no Vultures and almost no hawks being seen. Several days of cool weather apparently delayed late April arrivals since no Blackpoll Warblers were reported and only one Canada and one Magnolia. The 135 species is the smallest total list since 1957 and compares with 147 last year. The 38 Bluebirds were two more than a year ago. The Common Loon was found by David Highbaugh and George Wood, and the Sora Rail by Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Mengel. J. B. Owen, compiler.

GREENEVILLE—Usual area about Greeneville, Tusculum, Nolichucky River, Camp Creek Bald, Roaring Fork and Bluff Mountain. 28 Apr. 1963; 5:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. Cloudy with rain and a mild temperature. 18 observers. Mr. and Mrs. Clemens observed the Red Phalaropes; Mr. and Mrs. Darnell the Terns and Gull; Mrs. Nevius identified the Florida Gallinule. Richard Nevius, compiler.

KINGSPORT—The Spring Count was held 11 May 1963, two weeks later than many of the counts made by other chapters. The late date accounts for the absence of wintering species and some early migrants. The scarcity of Killdeer is a condition continuing from last fall and winter. Bluebirds also continue to be scarce. The Bachman's Sparrows appeared first on 19 April near the property of Arthur and Elizabeth Smith in open rocky, pasture land with low bushes, brambles, and young trees. Bachman's Sparrows have been heard and observed in this area every April since 1958. The weekend after our count Tom Finucane heard them singing. The Smith's believe the birds are nesting.

Members taking part in the Count were: Dan and Thomas Finucane; W. E. Gift; W. B. Hincke; Mrs. W. C. McHarris; George Rodgers; Mrs. Winston Smith and Mrs. Robert M. Switzer, (compiler).

ELIZABETHTON—A total of seven parties participated in the Spring Count held from 6:00 PM 27 April to 6:00 PM 28 April. A total of 117 species were recorded with the most unusual being the 27 Willet on Watauga Lake. The Willet, King and Sora Rail were observed by Ken Dubke. The weather was partly cloudy with the temperature between 49 and 64 degrees and slight, intermittent rain (.04 inches), especially in the mountains.

Those participating included the following: Ed Davidson, Mrs. Betty King, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Browning, Roby May, Charlie Smith, Fred Behrend, and Kenneth Dubke, compiler.

TABULAR RECORD OF SPRING FIELD DAYS

	Reelfoot Lake 5-4 & 5	Columbia 5-1 & 2	Cookeville 4-20	Nashville 4-26 & 27	Chattanooga 5-3, 4 & 5	Knoxville 4-28	Greeneville 4-28	Kingsport 5-11	Bristol 5-5	Elizabethton 4-27 & 28
Common Loon						1				
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1		4	1			1		1
Great Blue Heron	4	2		2		3	1	1		
Common Egret	48			1						
Green Heron	2	6		11	2	11	3	3		3
Bl.-cr. Night Heron						2				
Yel.-cr. Night Heron		1		5		2	2			
Least Bittern					2					
American Bittern		1								
Canada Goose							8			
Mallard				4	1	4			6	7
Black Duck							3			
Bluewinged Teal	25	11		39	3	4				6
American Widgeon	5									
Shoveler	2			1						
Wood Duck	8	16		17	2	2	2	10		6
Redhead	1									
Ring-necked Duck	2				21					
Lesser Scaup	2		5	3		1	4			
Ruddy Duck		2								
Hooded Merganser					1				6	
Red-brst. Merganser	2									
Turkey Vulture		34	3	12	3		2	6	7	1
Black Vulture	1	14		3	2		12	3		
Mississippi Kite	3									
Cooper's Hawk	2			1	1	2				
Red-tailed Hawk		2	1	6	2	1				
Red-shldr. Hawk	2	2			2			2		1
Broad-winged Hawk		2		1	1		1	1		
Osprey				4		1	1			2
Sparrow Hawk	1	5	2	9	4	1	3	4	3	1
Ruffed Grouse						1	7		3	2
Bobwhite	10	14		15	37	64	23	20	38	22
Ring-necked Pheasant										5
King Rail					4					1
Virginia Rail					1					

Least Flycatcher	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
E. Wood Pewee	21	9	.....	4	27	4	.....	8	3	1
Horned Lark	5	2	4	1	5	7	6	6	.....	3
Tree Swallow	1938	9	.....	3	.....	13	.....	.....	.....	8
Bank Swallow	64	8	8	.....	.....	21	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rough-w. Swallow	46	14	.....	17	27	71	.....	8	25	20
Barn Swallow	65	177	15	137	6	93	65	13	53	31
Cliff Swallow	.....	.....	.....	57	50	3	.....	.....	.....	11
Purple Martin	7	1	4	30	41	218	4	30	.....	.....
Blue Jay	33	32	80	97	95	303	19	69	103	55
Common Raven	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Common Crow	39	42	62	62	37	207	28	47	73	62
Fish Crow	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carolina Chickadee	18	11	25	43	24	87	33	26	22	15
Tufted Titmouse	12	15	32	50	53	94	12	43	34	32
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	4	3	12	3	10	2	.....	.....	3	1
Red-br. Nuthatch	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Brown Creeper	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
House Wren	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	8	8	3
Winter Wren	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Bewick's Wren	.....	1	.....	3	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Carolina Wren	13	3	14	14	35	110	9	31	4	28
Long-bil. Marsh Wren	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Short-bil. Marsh Wren	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mockingbird	9	14	13	82	45	181	18	43	89	30
Catbird	3	9	10	26	26	32	6	25	28	18
Brown Thrasher	5	10	20	35	35	105	19	33	54	46
Robin	3	26	50	69	75	348	31	44	134	119
Wood Thrush	16	6	9	26	52	96	14	39	39	25
Swainson's Thrush	4	6	.....	6	20	20	.....	6	.....	.....
Gray-cheeked Thush	4	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Veery	1	6	.....	.....	10	1	.....	.....	.....	6
E. Bluebird	.....	7	17	35	36	38	14	1	.....	8
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	21	30	7	67	37	14	12	6	.....	10
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cedar Waxwing	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	30	25	22	2	.....
Loggerhead Shrike	5	8	4	22	8	5	.....	.....	.....	.....
Starling	FC	1250	86	622	296	1358	95	24	616	200
White-eyed Vireo	16	6	2	34	34	26	1	9	2	13
Yel.-th. Vireo	11	3	.....	5	9	9	.....	2	.....	2
Solitary Vireo	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	8	.....	.....	4
Red-eyed Vireo	20	18	12	38	100	98	.....	52	10	19
Warbling Vireo	23	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	3
Bl. & Wh. Warbler	1	11	1	6	21	17	3	9	.....	21
Prothonotary Warbler	27	6	.....	16	5	2	.....	.....	.....	1
Swainson's Warbler	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Worm-eating Warbler	.....	9	.....	.....	.....	7	1	6	.....	2
Golden-wing. Warbler	.....	2	.....	2	4	2	.....	.....	.....	4
Blue-wing. Warbler	.....	6	.....	7	11	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tennessee Warbler	40	6	.....	23	9	8	.....	4	.....	.....
Nashville Warbler	.....	.....	.....	4	1	4	.....	.....	.....	.....
Parula Warbler	8	1	.....	8	3	6	.....	10	.....	7

Yellow Warbler	10	8	2	9	10	29	8	31	4	29
Magnolia Warbler		1		2	4	1				3
Cape May Warbler					27	1		2		
Bl.-th. Blue Warbler						2				13
Myrtle Warbler	9	3		40	24	89	7	4		10
Bl.-th. Green Warbler	5	1		2	3	9		4		4
Cerulean Warbler	13	18		20		2	1	10		2
Blackb. Warbler		1	1	1	3	8	1	2		
Yellowth. Warbler	5	4	10	14	13	2		3		
Chestnut-sided Warbler		1		1	15	9				18
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	1			8	3		2		
Blackpoll Warbler	48	1		1	27			11		
Pine Warbler				1	4	3	1	1		
Prairie Warbler		6		19	33	37	2	6		4
Palm Warbler	22	6		17	30	17	2			
Ovenbird					22	3	2	6		20
No. Water Thrush	3	2		2	2					
La. Water Thrush	5	7		24	7	6	5	5		3
Ky. Warbler	10	14		35	24	13	1	10		1
Conn. Warbler					1					
Mourning Warbler							1			
Yellowthroat	56	18		41	21	54	18	18	2	29
Yel.-br. Chat	18	15		46	41	69	9	45	1	22
Hooded Warbler	2	8			9	7		5	2	8
Wilson's Warbler								1		
Canada Warbler					3	1		1		3
Am. Redstart	23	11		9	1	12	1	13		8
House Sparrows	FC	50	78	55	90	280	23	56	275	74
Bobolink	21	1		16	155	28	5			6
E. Meadowlark	25	65	49	211	73	558	200	33	154	77
Redwing Blackbird	C	40	30	121	82	403	46	38	60	76
Orchard Oriole	32	20	15	29	26	34	12	18	10	5
Baltimore Oriole	34	8		3	11	5	2	5	15	2
Rusty Blackbird			2			3				5
Common Grackle	C	400	54	487	67	658	75	94	868	224
Brown-hd. Cowbird	24	70	30	91	60	146	3	70	6	21
Scarlet Tanager	2	7	3	12	16	11	3	5	5	5
Summer Tanager	14	6	13	27	27	27	4	19	7	
Cardinal	C	34	96	145	93	431	54	102	135	66
Rose-br. Grosbeak	14	22	2	8	26	10	6			8
Blue Grosbeak					14	4		2		
Indigo Bunting	129	40	20	95	77	90	16	71	36	3
Dickcissel	124	16		11	4	2	1			
Purple Finch										1
Pine Siskin										2
Am. Goldfinch	15	18	27	81	96	320	42	23	24	61
Rufus-sd. Towhee	3	15	52	76	51	244	39	36	32	62
Savannah Sparrow	1	14		22	2	29	20			16
Grasshopper Sparrow		6		2	30	8	10	7		12
LeCount's Sparrow				1						
Vesper Sparrow										2
Bachman's Sparrow					3			2		

Slate-cd. Junco	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	50	.....	4	57
Chipping Sparrow	3	14	18	117	33	116	13	4	4	25
Field Sparrow	27	28	40	39	39	97	38	35	20	36
White-cr. Sparrow	.....	8	2	10	.....	11	10	.....	1	24
White-th. Sparrow	4	16	46	130	60	328	45	.....	21	56
Swamp Sparrow	.....	7	.....	4	4	1	4	.....	.....	10
Song Sparrow	1	.....	7	.....	16	216	28	55	55	87
Total Individuals	3981+	3145	1312	4723	3328	9215	1580	1520	3337	2482
Total Species	124	124	71	130	134	135	107	108	69	117
	Total Species: 199			Total Individuals: 34,623						

ROUND TABLE NOTES

A KENTUCKY BIRD-FALL IN 1962.—The last two issues of THE MIGRANT contain accounts of migrating birds being killed by collision with television towers at Nashville. Most of these "bird-falls" occurred on the nights of 5-6 September, 5-6 October and 16-17-18 October, 1962; the kills being 160, 243 and 100 respectively. To these reports, I wish to add that of another that occurred at Magnolia, Kv., 100 miles NNE of Nashville, on the night of 25-26 of September, 1962. The kill there that night numbered 270 birds of 30 species, while at Nashville the fatalities on that and the following nights amounted to 8 and 6 respectively. A detailed account of this has just been published in the KENTUCKY WARBLER for May, 1963 (39:19-21), by Floyd Carpenter and Harvey B. Lovell. This "wave," which barely reached Nashville, was of particular interest in that it was caused neither by television towers or ceilometer beams, but by the lights within buildings. These buildings were those of the Tennessee Gas Transmission Co., and comprised their gas compressor station. The walls had large glazed areas and the buildings were brightly illuminated. A similar station is located at Portland, Tenn., 80 miles SW but my inquiry to them brought a reply that no such casualties had happened there.

The flight was brought on by a cold front which at 1 a.m. on 25 Sept., extended from Ft. Wayne, Ind., to just south of St. Louis "preceded and accompanied by wide-spread low ceilings, rain, and fog," according to a letter from the Louisville weather bureau. By 1 a.m. on 26 Sept., this front had moved south of both Kentucky and Tennessee. The passage across Kentucky was accompanied with winds from 7 to 10 m.p.h. and night temperatures of about 60 degrees. As described by employees at the plant, "The night of 25 Sept. was foggy, and between dark and midnight the men on watch heard birds pecking at the windows and some flew into the buildings. On going outdoors, they saw a great many birds flying around, so thick they looked like a cloud. It was also said that there was a noise high up that sounded like a strong wind."

The list of birds picked up and identified was as follows: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 7; Catbird, 7; Wood Thrush, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 39; Grey-checked Thrush, 26; Veery, 2; Black-and-White Warbler, 2; Tennessee Warbler, 6; Magnolia Warbler, 3; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Blackburnian Warbler, 4; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2; Bay-breasted Warbler, 34; Prairie Warbler, 1; Palm Warbler, 6; Ovenbird, 30; Northern Waterthrush, 21; Mourning Warbler, 1; Yellow-throat, 7; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; American Redstart, 2; Bobolink, 21; Scarlet Tanager, 23; Summer Tanager, 7; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 7; Indigo

Bunting, 3, and Song Sparrow, 1. Two specimens were identified as immature Blackpoll Warblers but were in such bad condition, their identification was not certain.

The tallest of the Nashville television towers (W. S. M.) is 1369 feet and the tallest, until recently, is the 1676 foot tower at Cape Girardeau, Mo. One was built at Columbus, Ga., in 1962, which soared to 1749 and current news reports say that a 1750 footer is being built at Knoxville, Tenn. Here's hoping that our Knoxville T.O.S. chapter will keep watch on this one.

ALBERT F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Dr., Nashville 12, Tenn.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW NESTING IN AREA AGAIN.—During the months of May and June for several years we have listened to the song of the Chuck-will's-widow. Only twice have we been able to find their nest. The first one was found 23 June, 1960. For the next two years a diligent search was made for another nest but to no avail. 9 June, 1963 another one was found with two eggs. It was in a poplar grove with a few oaks and second growth timber. Under a red oak the nest was placed among some tree lops on the leaves just as they had fallen from the tree. The Chuck is not a builder but depends on nature to provide the requirements for a place to raise their young.

The nest was at an elevation of approximately 1550 feet on the south side of Holston River and about 200 yards from the river and approximately 50 feet above it, four miles east of Bluff City, in Sullivan County, Tennessee. There was no great concentration of foliage so the sunlight falls on the nest at various times during the day.

18 June the eggs hatched. The young were a rich honey brown color covered with down and about the size of a field sparrow with a mouth very large for a bird of this size. 25 June the young birds were able to walk away from the nest still covered with down except for their wings. They had a wing spread of approximately 10 inches. The birds were caught and banded. It takes a number three band for the Chuck and these young, had grown sufficiently to fill the band. The band number used was 643-56-305 and 643-56-306.

H. W. NUNLEY, Route 3, Bluff City, Tennessee

CANADA GEESE BREEDING IN GREENE COUNTY—In 1952 a flock of Canada Geese came to the farm pond of Mr. W. D. Guinn in Greene County. For some reason one of the Geese stayed at the pond with a Toulouse Goose when the rest of the flock left. Later a Canada Goose was shot and crippled on the Nolichucky River near Warrensburg. This crippled Goose was taken to Mr. Guinn's pond and in the spring of 1953 it mated with the Goose which had stayed at the pond the previous winter. A successful nest was made and goslings were raised.

The offspring of the Canada Geese mate with the Toulouse Geese and raise young. The cross-bred geese are easily distinguished from either the Canada or Toulouse Geese. The original pair never mate with either the Toulouse or the younger Canada Geese, but the younger Canada Geese and Toulouse do mate and raise cross-bred geese.

The flock now averages from 16 to 20. They are free to come and go and their wings are not clipped but there are always some present. Mr.



Canada Geese, Toulouse Geese and cross-bred Canada-Toulouse Geese at farm pond of W. D. Guinn, Greeneville, Tenn. Photo by C. H. Richards, Soil Conservation Service, 1961.

Guinn says that when they leave they always go to the south, he has never seen them leave in a northerly direction. The Nolichucky River is about 12 miles south of the Guinn farm. In an attempt to photograph this present nesting (1963) the photographer was put to flight by the gander. Later all of the 1963 nests were destroyed by dogs.

RICHARD NEVIUS, Route 3, Greeneville, Tennessee

UNUSUALLY LATE SPRING WATERFOWL, SHOREBIRD, GULL, AND TERN RECORDS—1963. — Through correspondence and speaking with various TOS members during the month of June, 1963, some very highly unusual records have been independently brought to my attention. Most of these records will no doubt be listed in **The Season** reports from the various localities, but it was thought it would be more vividly presented in this manner. The various species are noted in AOU check-list order.

To begin, it was of interest when I read a letter from Henry Parmer, of Nashville, stating he had an unusual looking Common Loon on Bush's Lake—two thirds winter and one third summer plumage—5 June. Also, one day, in the course of conversation with Wallace Coffey, Bristol, he mentioned finding on 1 June a dead Common Loon washing among bushes along the eastern shore of South Holston Lake, about one mile northeast of Observation Knob Park, Tennessee. Wallace's bird appeared to be dead from 2-5 days because when he returned at 4:30 PM, 2 June, it had decomposed considerably in comparison to the day before.

Other interesting records are of the late ducks. For instance, Mallards have been known to breed sparingly this far south, but Jim Campbell, Knoxville, Charlie Smith, Milligan College, and the writer were certainly surprised to come upon a pair and a single female at the Roan Creek area of Watauga Lake, 8 June. The single female was noted on Doe Creek, near the log bridge, and appeared to have young or eggs near by because she was very difficult to flush. When she did fly it was only to circle the area a bit returning to the same spot. To add to our astonishment this same day, a female Widgeon was also found feeding with the pair of Mallards.

Henry Parmer in his same above mentioned letter stated he also had a female Lesser Scaup present on Bush's Lake, 3, 5, & 6 June. The interest created by all of these birds present in June prompted the curiosity of the writer to check on Wilbur Lake which in the winter is a popular place for ducks and guess what was found on 12 June? A female Common Goldeneye!

The birds that initiated all of this checking were two Hooded Mergansers found in the Roan Creek area, 4 June. They appeared to be one year old birds because their crests were not fully developed and they were in the female plumage. In a letter received from Paul J. Adams, Crab Orchard, he mentioned identifying a male Hooded Merganser there 31 May.

There have been several records of Coot. Henry Parmer recorded one at Bush's Lake, 3, 5, & 6 June, and also L. O. Trabue had Coot on Old Hickory Lake 3 June (2 birds) and 8 June (3 birds). H. W. Nunley, Bluff City, reported he had three Coot spend the winter behind his home on the South Holston River with the last bird leaving 2 June.

Spotted Sandpipers have been known in the past to nest in our Upper East Tennessee area (THE MIGRANT 5: 51, 1934), but the writer wasn't very optimistic of ever finding a summer bird, let alone a nest. That attitude has been changed since finding three adults in the Roan Creek area each weekend 16 and 23 June and one on 30 June. The birds present were apparently not breeding, but the flight song was noted and will most certainly lead to more optimism on our part.

A single Greater Yellowlegs was present in the Roan Creek area on 4 June and word was also received that L. O. Trabue had on Old Hickory Lake Least Sandpipers, 3 June (1 bird) and 10 June (3 birds).

Mr. Trabue also had on Old Hickory Lake the following Ring-billed Gull records: 3 June (4 birds); 8 June (4 birds); and 16 June (2 birds). In addition, Mr. Trabue also identified on the lake three Caspian Terns, 16 June.

In summary, let us hope these are only a few of the unusual records noted throughout the state. This writer, for one, will certainly be looking forward with happy anticipation to all **The Season** reports when they are published in the September issue.

KENNETH H. DUBKE, 918 State Line Road, Elizabethton, Tennessee

LATE WARBLERS AT NASHVILLE. — On the rainy Sunday morning of 26 May, 1963 the writer walked down his front steps and noticed a warbler in one of the two sugar maples. After getting thoroughly wet he identified it as a male Bay-breasted, Nashville's latest spring record. He then noticed more birds in the trees, so spent the biggest part of his time from 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. under the roof of his porch watching for birds.

The Bay-breasted was in and out of view for about 3 hours and at one time a female was seen for a while.

Around 9:15 a female Canada appeared. It would feed for a long time, then leave the yard and apparently return. A male came later and for about three hours there seemed to have been three different birds about. This is our second latest spring record for the species. About 9:30 a brilliant male Magnolia put in his appearance. He seemed to have stayed in the yard for nearly five hours, feeding all the time. Around 11:00 a Blackpoll came. It stayed but a short time. About that time Will Hon came by and reported he had just seen four of these warblers on Love hill, which is about a mile east.

About 11:30 a beautiful Blackburnian Warbler was seen. This male did not stay long. This is our second latest spring record for Nashville. About the same time a Black-throated Green appeared and stayed until 2:30. It fed constantly. It is also a second latest spring record. Around 12:30 a mature Chestnut-sided Warbler came, but stayed only for about a minute.

This gives a total of seven species of migrating warblers seen in just two trees on a very late date. As most of us here usually think of our migrating warblers as passing through between mid-March and the first few days of May the writer contacted Harry Monk as to late records. Mr. Monk furnished the following data on very late transients in the Nashville area.

- May 26 Bay-breasted Warbler. 1963 by HEP
Cape May Warbler. 1929 by Albert F. Ganier
Connecticut Warbler. 1955 by Amelia R. Laskey
- May 27 Palm Warbler. 1950 by Harry C. Monk
Wilson's Warbler. 1946 by HCM
- May 28 Canada Warbler. 1963 by Fairman Cumming
- May 29 Black-throated Green Warbler. 1919 by HCM
- May 30 Blackburnian Warbler. 1946 by HCM
- May 31 Magnolia Warbler. 1958 by HCM
Chestnut-sided Warbler. 1949 by HCM
- June 1 Blackpoll Warbler. 1917 by George R. Mayfield
- June 2 Blackpoll Warbler. 1942 by GRM at home
- June 3 Mourning Warbler. 1956 by ARL (also at home on June 1&2)
- June 4 Mourning Warbler. 1936 by HCM at Centennial Park
(also there on June 3)

Above are twelve species of warblers, a third of our 36 species. They are listed in 12 years, a fourth of our 47 years of record keeping. Since most of these records are from just a few city yards that are but a minute part of our area it seems that many more "stragglers" must occur. Perhaps they are not as rare as they seem, but a normal part of migration, bringing up the rear of our spring migrations that begin here in mid-March, or earlier, and continuing perhaps until late May or even into early June.

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

NORTHERN BIRDS REPEAT THEIR SUMMER STAY ON ROAN MOUNTAIN. — My favorite birding territory in the area of the Elizabethton Chapter of T.O.S. is on Roan Mountain at an elevation of from 5,800 to 6,000 feet.

It consists of an extensive sloping rhododendron - alder - briar patch, interspersed with balsam, spruce, mountain ash, hawthorn and service berry trees.

Systematic coverage over the last eight years has proven this habitat very interesting in the observation of northern birds.

Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin and Purple Finch, whenever they drifted this far south, made this territory and surrounding balsam and spruce forest their winter home.

During the winter of 1955-56, small numbers of Fox and White-throated sparrows were observed regularly among the alder and rhododendron or briars from 2 January to the end of April under at times rigorous weather conditions.

A year ago, the surprising presence of Purple Finch and Pine Siskin was noted in the area in summer. Small numbers of Purple Finches were heard singing and seen from 1 to 15 July, Pine Siskins calling and seen from 30 May to 15 July.

On regular checks this year, at least one Purple Finch was heard singing and/or seen on 12 and 19 May, 2, 9 and 23 June, and 4 and 7 July. One male each was seen on three of these dates including the latest. It could have in each instance been one and the same bird.

Two Pine Siskins were heard and seen together at close range on 6 and 9 June. A single bird each was heard and/or seen on 23 June and 7 July.

No evidence of nesting or breeding of the two species on Roan Mountain has been found. The habitat described lies entirely in North Carolina. The Purple Finch has not been observed on the Tennessee side of Roan Mountain during summer.

Year-around birds in the area under review are Slate-colored Junco, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Abundant during the summer season are Robin, Winter Wren, Veery, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue and Canada Warblers.

Encountered in lesser numbers are Cedar Waxwing and Solitary Vireo.

The Indigo Bunting, fairly numerous a year ago at elevations from 5,500 to above 6,000 ft. has not been in evidence there this late spring and summer, neither the Red Crossbill observed in the area for the first time 15 July and subsequently into early winter last year.

FRED W. BEHREND, 607 Range Street, Elizabethton, Tenn.

WILLET ON WATAUGA LAKE. — While driving down the south side of Watauga Lake, toward Hampton, on 28 April 1963, a flock of 27 Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* was observed by this writer. The birds were all resting—non feeding—and were either standing motionless or leisurely stretching and preening their feathers affording particularly good views with both 10x50 binoculars and a 35 power Bausch & Lomb Telescope at 50 to 100 yards. At the time of observation, about 5:00 PM, the sky was overcast. No attempt was made to make the birds fly, however, their black and white wing patterns were very much in evidence when they stretched their wings and legs.

A search through THE MIGRANT reveals this to be the largest number of Willet seen at any one time, spring or fall, within the state of Tennessee. There are a total of ten records listed in THE MIGRANT, five in the spring and five in the fall. The spring records are as follows: one bird

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by Weise at Nashville, 25 Apr. 54, (25: 23, 1954); four at Sewanee, 24 Apr. 1956, (27: 40, 1956); seven on the Spring Count from Nashville, 27 Apr. 1957, (28: 23, 1957); one from Sandburg, 10 May 1958, (29: 28, 1958); and one individual by Parmer at Bush's Lake, Nashville, 28 Apr. 1958; (29: 53, 1958).

KENNETH H. DUBKE, 918 State Line Road, Elizabethton, Tennessee

ANOTHER GOSHAWK RECORD FOR MIDDLE TENNESSEE. — On March 14th, 1963 a mature male Goshawk was shot on the John Deck farm 2 miles from McEwen, Tenn. in Humphreys County. The bird was shot by a tenant who reported "it had been killing a chicken every day." The next day the bird was brought to the Children's Museum by our Game and Fish department. There it was sexed and made into a beautiful study skin by the museum's preparator, Alan Munro.

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

BOOK REVIEW

PUFFINS. By R. M. Lockley. A Doubleday Anchor Book. The American Museum of Natural History. Doubleday and Company, Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York 22, New York. Publication date May 21, 1962. 222 pps. 12 plates. \$1.25.

R. M. Lockley is a British ornithologist who with an associate has watched a "Puffinry" continuously day and night to observe first hand the habits of this North Atlantic Ocean bird. The Puffin is a black and white, web-footed fish-eating bird which resembles a miniature Penguin except the bill which gives the bird a somewhat clownish appearance. A rather complete life history is presented which includes courtship, nesting, incubation, feeding, migrations, life expectancy, distribution, numbers, arrival and departure dates, bandings, weights, measurements and moults.

The Puffin has many enemies and is in need of protection lest the remaining colonies be eradicated as some have already. Man has played an important role in their destruction by using them as food and by the introduction of predators to their nesting colonies.

Although the book summarizes very nicely the information available on the species and it is presented in an interesting and informative manner a great many stimulating questions have been raised but left unanswered.

LEE R. HERNDON.

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