

THE MIGRANT

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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THE MIGRANT

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ANNUAL AUTUMN HAWK COUNT 1964

Compiled by THOMAS W. FINUCANE

The fifteenth consecutive annual count by the Tennessee Ornithological Society of the September hawk migration gave the lowest total, 3166, since 1958. There were 2954 Broad-winged Hawks, 93% of the total. The peak day was 21 Sept., one day before our cumulative peak date, but the largest number recorded, 650 hawks, was on Tuesday, 22 Sept. The weather was generally cloudy on weekends and exceptionally clear between weekends.

An outstanding feature of the 1964 fall migration was the early dates of flights of Broad-winged Hawks, in our area and other areas. In our area, the most remarkable observation was made by Roger Stone and Wallace Coffey, who counted 22 hawks in 5 hrs. spent at the Mendota Fire Tower lookout on 13 Aug. Holmes Rolston had 36 Broad-wings, 7 Sept., and Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Rogers had 37 on 8 Sept. These figures and the count of 48 Broad-wings, 8 Sept., 1963, represent very early migration. In other areas, Maurice Broun (Hawk Mt. Sanctuary Assn., News Letter, March 1965) observed: "A sharp cold front on Sept. 11 triggered the earliest mass movement of Broad-wings on record." Their count for 12, 13, and 14 Sept. added to 7921, including "a very early Goshawk." (Of these, 1172 were seen 14 Sept., listed as 4 Sept. in the AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, 19:22). On 15 Aug. Alan Brady saw 200 Broad-wings at Cape May, N. J. (Montclair Bird Club Operation Hawk Watch, 1964). A count of 500 was made at Houston, Texas, Sept. 12. (AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, 19:58).

Although lowest since 1958, the 1964 T.O.S. Count was higher than all but one (1951) of the eight counts made before 1959. The 6-yr. average, 1959-1964, is 6884 Broad-wings. For the same period, Hawk Mt., Pa., averaged 9040, which is 36% above the 1935-1948 average for this species at the same lookout. All other species lost numbers in the same interval. In the earlier period the average count of Sharp-shinned hawks was 3682, which fell to 2018 in the later average, 1959-64. The Hawk Mt. project is particularly interesting because it has accumulated data, all day every day (weather permitting) for three months every fall since 1934, except for three years when Dr. Broun was overseas in military service. Other lookouts get higher counts, up to 70,000 Broad-wings in one day at one station on the shores of the Great Lakes.

The 1964 hawk-migration was the first for the T.O.S. with no eagles recorded. In 1961 we had 10 Bald Eagles, in 1962, one Golden and 3 Bald, and in 1963, three Bald and one unidentified eagle. Our count of Sharp-shinned Hawks has never been more than a few percent of the total, because our territory is too far south, too far west, and we spend very little

time in the field after the first week in October. In 1958 we had 63 Sharp-shins, 52 of them in October, and 22 on 11 Oct., which is in our peak period for Sharp-shin migration, as projected from Hawk Mt. data.

Maurice Broun attributes the decline of accipiters to wide-spread use of insecticides: "Enormous numbers of Accipiterine hawks were formerly killed along the hawk flyways; yet the birds held up impressively until a decade ago. The aerial use of pesticides, the dousing of millions of acres of Canadian sprucelands especially, has reduced the former vast numbers of tree-top birds to a trickle, and the natural predators of these birds, the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, have become scarce.

"Peregrine Falcons rank with both species of eagles: high on the danger list of vanishing species. The birds that we see are members of an Arctic population. The Peregrine has become extinct as a breeding bird in the eastern United States, probably since 1954."

There were no Peregrines in the T.O.S. hawk-migration reports, 1964, but there were five unidentified falcons, and one Peregrine was seen in Knoxville; 9 Sept., by Joe Howell (AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, 19:35). Special mention of this report in AFN emphasizes the scarcity of this species. The Appalachian Region editor of AFN, Geo. Hall, stated that the increasing banding activity in the region shows marked differences in estimates of populations between banders and field-glass reporters and that differences were greater than ever in the fall of 1964, when banders reported heavy migration while the average birder felt that the season was a poor one. The fall hawk-migration study is an exception, of course; furthermore, it provides a better, quantitative account of trends and fluctuations. Our project is mainly a study of Broad-winged Hawk migration. It is difficult to follow the Peregrine trend, because falcons usually pass the lookout too fast or too far away for positive identification by our hawk watchers, including the writer, who recorded two unidentified falcons in 1964. Almost any bird can be identified in silhouette in flight, but too few Peregrines fly by for us to acquire sufficient skill in identification.

NOTES

1. Roger Stone and Wallace Coffey made this new early record observation shortly after the passage of a cold front of the type we believe stimulates hawk migration in the T.O.S. area. From 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the counts for ½-hr. intervals were: 0,0,3,5,2,4,1,0,3 Broad-wings, and observation was stopped at 1:45 p.m. The wind was mild, and the sky had high, scattered clouds. Dark rain clouds were in the area. At 1:00 p.m. the "sun is remaining bright but it is still very cold" (13 Aug.). Cliff Swallows were in the air, and one struck a passing Broad-wing several times.

9. The two Marsh Hawks were clearly seen, with white at the base of the tail. They spent some time darting at a vulture. At lunch I went round on the east side of the ranger's bunkhouse to eat. When I got up to return to the tower, two Black Vultures had perched on the tower. One left when I moved, but the other remained 20 min. Vultures were in the air all day, as many as 20 at a time.

13. The 2nd Marsh Hawk was soaring with a Turkey Vulture on the north side of the ridge and was then chased across the ridge by a Broad-wing. The Broad-wings were having to crab 90 deg. into the north wind and were passing the tower sideways, but the Osprey was having much

less trouble with the wind. The 2nd Sharp-shin and the Sparrow Hawk were being chased by swallows.

22. Dr. Geo. R. Mayfield, Jr., while flying his Cessna, about 3:00 p.m., 16 Sept., at about 2000 ft. above sea level just west of McMinnville, Tenn., saw more than 200 hawks flying south, mostly above the airplane, at varying altitudes. Some of these could be identified, even in flight, as Broad-wings, by the banded tail.

23. The 219 Broad-wings in this report were also seen on 16 Sept., 10:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Mendota Fire Tower area: 130 at the lookout, 29 from the trail up the mountain, and 60 from the trail down the mountain. Combined with the Mendota Fire Tower report, 15 Sept. and the Elder Mt. report, 17 Sept., No. 21 & 24, the 16 Sept. reports suggest a major movement of Broad-wings through our area, corresponding to the large flights centering on 13 Sept. in Pennsylvania and 11 Sept. at Duluth, Minn.

26. A combination of flights seen by Maxie Swindell, 19, 20, 21 Sept., was from her home at the center of the Knoxville Christmas Count circle.

30. This was the best day of the 1964 migration at Elder Mt., 20 Sept., 312 Broad-wings in spite of poor weather, but not a high count compared to high counts at this station 1958-1963.

36. The highest day's count in 1964 was made at the Mendota Fire Tower lookout, 11:10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The major migration ended before 1:30 p.m. Mr. Rolston remained at the lookout until 5:00 p.m. and counted only 4 more hawks. Heavy flight was already in progress when the first observers arrived, a group from Kingsport. It is difficult to get a full day's observation on week-days, but enough data were obtained here to show that there was substantial migration 22 Sept. and 16 Sept.

37. At the Meadow Creek Fire Tower lookout, near Greeneville, Fred Behrend had only 2 Broad-wings, 23 Sept., compared to 21 Sept., when his count was 62. The poor count 23 Sept. and the 1:30 p.m. ending of the large migration over the Mendota Fire Tower the day before may be related. 21 Sept. is a day when more lookouts should have been active.

38. Hump and Little Hump Mt., from Upper Shell Creek, 3875-5600'.

41. Friday, 25 Sept., was a beautiful, clear day. Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Darnell counted 41 hawks and Mr. Behrend had 34. Weekend hawk-watchers were encouraged by Friday's weather.

42. Eight lookouts were active, 26 Sept. Gene and Adele West reported 116 Broad-wings, and the Mendota Fire Tower lookout had 234. The other six combined to make the total 432 for the day. Seven of our best lookouts were involved, with best single-day counts in past years of 4985, 3000, 2379, 1091, 912, 700, 650.

48. Wallace Coffey kept watch at the Mendota Fire Tower lookout 8:45 to 5:30. Also Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Nunley and Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Murray participated, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Dr. Murray had never before participated in a mountain hawk-watch. While he was there, 61 Broad-wings and an Osprey passed the lookout. They were flying low and in groups of 15 and smaller. "He was very pleased with what he saw," according to Wallace. Hawk migration past the Mendota Fire Tower lookout is an impressive sight. The count was 65 up to 11:00 a.m., and then no hawks were seen for the next 3 hrs. From 2:00 until after 5:00 the flight was strong and steady.

49. With Wallace on the Mendota Fire Tower lookout, the compiler

HAWK OBSERVATIONS FALL OF 1964

No.	Date	Obs.	h.	Lookout	Alt.	Wind	Temp.	Sky	Ssn	Cps	Rfl	Rsh	Bdwb	Msh	Osp	SpH	Acp	But	Fal	?
1	8/13	CoS	5	Mendota FT	3018	0-3 N-NE	50	3	...	...	2	...	19	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
2	19	S	3½	Mendota FT	3018	0	60-65	0	...	...	1	...	9	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
3	25	M	—	Oak Ridge	—	0-2 WSW	65-86	0	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	26	M	—	Knox Co.	900	0-2	64-83	3	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	31	M	—	Knox Co.	900	3 N	70-91	0	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	9/5	O	8	Hemlock Kb	4032	3-4 NW-N	66-76	2	...	3	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	6	R	3	Elder Mtn	1880	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	7	R	1½	Elder Mtn	1880	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	7	H	6	Mendota	3018	1-3 S	70-85	0	...	1	...	...	36	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
10	8	R	—	Elder Mtn	1880	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	12	ED	6	Rogrsvl FT	3000	1-2 NE	70-74	2	...	...	4	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
12	12	NA	6	Elder Mtn	1880	NE	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	1	3	...	...	...
13	12	TO	8½	Chimney Top	3100	3-7 NE-E	64-74	1	2	...	2	...	6	2	1	1	1	...	...	...
14	12	PF	7	Mendota FT	3018	6-9 NE	70-80	2	3	2	1	...	23	...	4	1	1	2	1	...
15	13	Chf	5½	Elder Mt.	1880	NE	...	3	...	...	...	...	81	...	...	2	2	...	2	...
16	13	M	—	Knox Co.	900	5 NE	50-73	2	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
17	13	JF	6	Mendota FT	3018	0-6 N	50-75	4	...	...	...	...	54	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	14	G	7	Elder Mt.	1880	0-2 NE	50-	0	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	14	H	5	Mendota FT	3009	0-2 SE	warm	1	...	1	...	...	17	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	15	G	4	Elder Mt.	1880	0-2 N	50-80	...	...	...	2	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	15	C	5	Mendota FT	3018	0-4 SE	...	1	3	3	...	...	158	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	16	May	—	Airplane	2000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	16	CDn	5	Mendota FT	3018	3-4 SSE	70	1	...	...	...	...	219	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
24	17	G	5½	Elder Mt.	1880	0-5 SE	50	3	...	...	...	...	149	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	17	B	8½	Buck Ridge	4300	2-3 E-S	59-65	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
26	19	M	—	Knox Co.	900	1-7 var	65-78	4	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	19	ECl	2	Meadow Ck	2875	1-2 NW	72-74	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
28	19	B	8	Holston HKb	4200	1-3	55-65	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

29	19	DnF	6	Mendota FT	3018	6-3 SE	70-80	5	1	1	1	..	15	...	...	...	1	...	..	...
30	20	AG	6	Elder Mt.	1880	0-1 var	.....	5	..	..	...	...	312	1	...	...	...	2	1	...
31	20	TF	6	Mendota	3018	4 N	65-80	4	2	1	1	1	48	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
32	21	B	7½	Meadow Ck	2875	2-3 SE-NW	61-71	4	1	1	3	...	62	...	...	3	...	...	...	1
33	22	R	1½	Elder Mt.	1880		.....	...	..	..	...	...	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	22	BZ	5	Mt. Sterling	5835	1-4 W	55	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	22	ECl	4½	Meadow Ck	2875	2-3 N	68-74	1	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
36	22	HCW	6	Mendota FT	3018	0-3 S	70-80	4	1	2	...	...	628	..	1	...	...	...	1	...
37	23	B	6	Meadow Ck	2875	2-4 SW-NW	61-71	4	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
38	24	B	9½	Hump Mts.	*	2-6 NW-NE	45-52	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	..	...
39	24	CoQ	—	White Top	5520	9 NW		2	1	...	..	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	25	B	9	Roan Mt.	6250	2-5 NW-W	35-43	0	1	...	1	..	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	25	ECl	5	Rich Tower	3720	2-3 N	68-72	1	...	...	3	2	36	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	26	AG	4	Elder Mt.	1880	4-5 SE	.....	3	..	...	...	...	116	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	26	M	—	Knox Co.	900	0-2 NW	50-78	2	...	...	...	...	..	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
44	26	E	5½	Meadow Ck	2875	4-5 NE	60-70	4	1	...	2	5	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	26	CPK	5	Rogrsvl FT	3000	3-5 SE	70-75	1	...	...	3	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
46	26	B	7	White Rock	4100	3-4 S-SW	56-	1	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
47	26	DnY	5	Chimney Top	3100	5-6 SW	..	3	1	...	1	..	14	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
48	26	CoV	9	Mendota FT	3018	4-5 E-S	.....	2	...	...	6	...	234	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
49	26	FWm	8	Haytors Kb	4500	9 SE	60-75	3	...	...	1	2	14	..	...	...	3	...	...	...
50	27	B	7	Haytors Kb	4500	2-3 S-SW	60-62	3	3	...	...	..	3	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
51	27	O	8	Chimney Top	3100	3-4 SE	63-73	3	5	...	4	1	19	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
52	27	FDk	6	Mendota FT	3018	3-5 S-W	70-80	4	..	1	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
53	10/2	M	—	Oak Ridge	—	3 W	69-84	4	...	...	...	2	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
54	3	FDk	7	Mendota	3018	0-5 S	60-	3	1	1	...	...	19	1	1	...	1	...	...	1
55	4	Ts	—	Mendota	—		.....	..	...	...	...	...	125	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
56	5	S	2½	Brist. area	1750		70-80	5	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
57	19	OIM	5	Cove Lake	—		50-56	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...
TOTALS			267						32	17	42	13	2954	12	13	20	10	41	4	12

was free to try Haytor's Knob, a lookout on the Clinch, north of Abingdon. In the early days of the T.O.S. Hawk Count, Steve Russell had had good counts on Haytor's Knob. We started before sunrise; a long drive and a long hike were required. When the sun rose, it was bright yellow; the air was perfectly clear. At the lookout, however, the wind was high, and the sun was already dimmed by high cirrus when we reached the fire tower at 9:20, after a 3-hr. trip. By 10:45 the wind was down enough for 3 Black Vultures to navigate, and 2 Ravens appeared. The number of Blacks gradually increased to 20 by 3:30 p.m., when the wind had slackened to about 30 m.p.h. About 2:00 p.m. we spotted what looked like a bright metal sphere, diameter about 0.1 deg. and about 15 deg. south of the zenith. It seemed to stay in the same spot about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr., and then it disappeared. Conditions were poor for hawk flight, but we had an interesting day.

50. Pasture above Lake Phillip Nelson, Carter Co., 3800 ft.; Belview Mt., Avery Co., near Cranberry, 4400 ft.

54. Besides the hawks, we counted 500 Monarch Butterflies, 9 Flickers, 5 Red-headed Woodpeckers, and 6 unidentified woodpeckers evidently in migration; all were in flight down range.

55. Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Barr saw these Broad-wings going to roost in Powell Valley, near Chattanooga. This is only the second report we have had of large flights going to roost since 1957 (THE MIGRANT, 29:2).

56. "These (30) hawks were spotted quite by accident. While watching for small warblers I noticed three or four Turkey Vultures, and above them were the hawks. In less than a minute they disappeared into a large rain cloud."

KEY TO REPORTERS

A—Adele West, Chattanooga; B—Fred Behrend, Elizabethton; C—Charlotte Finucane, Kingsport; Cht—Mr. & Mrs. Howard Meadors, Wm. Carson, Ray Claridy, Mr. & Mrs. E. M. West, Chattanooga; Cl—Edith Clark, Greeneville; Co—Wallace Coffey, Bristol; D—Chester B. Darnell, Greeneville; Dk—Dick Finucane; Dn—Dan Finucane; E—Elva Darnell; F—Thomas Finucane; G—E. M. West; H—Holmes Rolston, Bristol; J—Joseph Finucane; K—Grace Finucane; M—Maxie Swindell, Knoxville; N—Mabel Norma, Chattanooga; O—T. A. Odom, Kingsport; Ol—Frances Olson, Knoxville; P—Patric Finucane; Q—Robert Quillen, Bristol; R—Mr. & Mrs. T. L. Rogers, Chattanooga; S—Roger Stone, Bristol; T—Tommy Finucane; Ts—Mr. & Mrs. T. S. Barr, Chattanooga; V—Dr. & Mrs. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va., Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Nunley, Bristol; W—Louise Weber, Kingsport; Wm—Wm. Finucane; Y—John Moran, Kingsport; Z—Don DeFoe, Lloyd Foster, Big Creek Ranger Station, Waterville Star Rt., Newport.

SKY CODE

0. Clear; very clear.
1. Scattered clouds; haze; mostly clear; clear to cloudy; clear to partly cloudy.
2. Partly cloudy; partly cloudy to clearing; hazy fair to increasingly cloudy.
3. Cloudy to partly cloudy; partly overcast; scattered clouds, cloudy; high, thin overcast.
4. Very cloudy high and low, later low clouds only; partly cloudy, clear, cloudy.
5. Fog, to heavy clouds; overcast; partly cloudy, fog, rain; light and heavy rain before 9:00 a.m., with clouds beginning to lift at 11:20 a.m., inter-

mittenly sunny and cloudy, thundershowers west side of Tennessee Valley.

BEAUFORT WIND SCALE

0—Less than 1 knot; 1—1 to 3; 2—4 to 6; 3—7 to 10; 4—11 to 16; 5—17 to 21; 6—22 to 27; 7—28 to 33; 8—34 to 40; 9—41 to 47 knots. (A knot is 1.15 m.p.h.)

1434 Watauga Street, Kingsport.

THE SEASON

STATEWIDE WEATHER SUMMARY FOR 1 DECEMBER TO 1 MARCH, 1964-1965

West Tennessee—Data unavailable.

Middle Tennessee—The season was punctuated by one severe cold snap, lots of rain, one 5-inch snow, one near blizzard with light snow fall, (Based on data offered by Hollister without dates).

East Tennessee—Upper portions of this area experienced heavier snow-fall and possibly colder temperatures during this season. During the closing days of December there was much rainfall over the area with temperatures about 55°F. By 10 January temperatures remained high with flooding of streams in some areas. 16 January was the most severe snow fall of the season with accumulations of about 7 to 8 inches in the upper areas to 1.6 inches at Chattanooga. Upper East Tennessee temperatures were as low as 8°F the following day. The snow cover remained until 21 Jan. in northern portion of area and until 17 Jan. in southern. The upper area experienced an additional 7 inches on 1 & 2 Feb. with Chattanooga recording only 0.6 of an inch. The snow remained through 5 Feb. when temperatures reached 0°F at Greeneville. Greeneville again recorded 2 inches on 6 Feb. but after that date, it was warm and nice reaching as high as 76°F. during the closing days of the month. (Based on reports of: Coffey, Smith, Nevius, Tanner, Dubke).

COLUMBIA.—Grebes—Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: 5 and 31 Dec.; Great Blue Heron: 27 and 31 Dec.; Canada Goose: 14 and 31 Jan.; Mallard: 5 and 31 Dec.; 14 and 31 Jan.; 14 Feb.; Gadwall: 14 and 31 Jan.; maximum 4; Pintail: 31 Jan. and 28 Feb.; maximum 40; Green-winged Teal: 7 Dec.; American Widgeon: 31 Dec. and 14 Jan.; 31 Jan.; 14 Feb.; maximum 50; Shoveler: 20 March (8); Wood Duck: 31 Dec.; Redhead: 14 and 31 Jan.; 14 Feb.; maximum 250; Canvasback: 7 Dec.; 14 and 31 Jan.; 14 Feb.; maximum 30; Bufflehead: 5 Dec. (2); Old Squaw: 31 Dec. (2); Ruddy Duck: 14 and 31 Jan. (2).

Rails—Shorebirds: American Coot (300-400) all season at MP.

Woodpeckers—Chickadees: All six common winter species present. Uncommon Red-headed Woodpecker (1) Feb.-March (FF); Hairy Woodpecker: rare; Carolina Chickadee: (GF), all season.

Blackbirds: Roost at LB, about one million, half Starlings, remaining components: grackles, Redwinged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, Cowbirds, few; Robins and Brewer's Blackbirds.

Sparrows: Harris' Sparrow: since 26 Dec. (GRM)RR until 1 March; banded 20 Feb. (KAG); present entire season: Savannah Sparrow; Field Sparrow; White-crowned Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; Fox Sparrow;

Swamp Sparrow; Song Sparrow; Vesper Sparrow: 27 Dec. (12) (FF).

Locations: LB—Lewisburg, Tenn., MP—Monsanto Pond, RR—Ridley residence.

Observers: FF—Fuqua family, KAG—Mrs. K. A. Goodpasture, GF—Gray family, GRM—George R. Mayfield, Jr.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, JR., Maury County Hospital, Columbia, Tenn.

NASHVILLE.—Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: One on OHL 6 Feb. (HEP); Horned Grebe: wintered, peak: (100) 6 Feb. OHL (HEP). Great Blue Heron: a few all winter, peak (8) OHL 17 Feb. (MCW). Canada Goose: 2 Jan. (107) near CD (JSH); 21 Feb. (56) (HEP); (20), (KAG), both SHV; (80 plus) over home (HCM). American Widgeon: (46) CL 21 Feb. (MCW) an unusually large number for here. Shoveler: a female, BL 20 Jan. to 30 March, very rare here in winter; (17) BL 25 March, both (HEP); Redhead: (5) 10 March OHL (LOT); Canvasback: (18) BL 9 March (HEP); Greater Scaup: one with 49 Lesser, BL 12 Dec. (HEP); Lesser Scaup: (200) 20 Jan. to (400) late March BL (HEP); Common Goldeneye: (18) RL 18 Feb. (MCW) an unusual number for here; Bufflehead: three OHL Jan. and Feb. (LOT); (26) RL (MCW) 17 Feb. is most unusual; Old Squaw: 30 Dec., one, OHL (LOT); one RL 22 March (MCW); Ruddy Duck: rare winter record, one BL 14 Jan. that stayed until two joined it 18 Feb. (HEP). These stayed through 30 March. Hooded Merganser: one wintered OHL (LOT). Common Merganser: wintered OHL, (40) there 6 Feb. (HEP).

Hawks — Gulls: Goshawk; a dead immature male picked up 4 Jan. (HEP). It was internally sexed and made into a study skin by ARM for the Children's Museum. Apparently it was killed by flying into a wire fence. Woodcock: 25 Feb. one in yard all day (HCM). Common Snipe: rare all winter; Ring-billed Gull. Almost absent on BL all winter; wintered in usual numbers OHL; peak: (800) 8 Jan. (LOT). Bonaparte's Gull: wintered OHL; peak: (350) 19 Feb. (LOT).

Dove — Swallows: Mourning Dove: on nest 2 March (HCM), nest unsuccessful; Tree Swallow: 21 March (2) CL (MCW); Rough-winged Swallow: 25 March (5) RL (MCW); Barn Swallow: 21 March (2) CL (MCW). Purple Martin: (2) Goodlettsville 9 March by Mr. Stevens (fide ARL).

Nuthatch — Blackbirds: Red-breasted Nuthatch absent all winter. Water Pipits: (50) SHV 20 March (KAG); White-eyed Vireo: a very early one 28 March (HCM); Myrtle Warbler: scarce, and most seen were singles; Rusty Blackbirds: (250) Old Hickory Blvd. and Hillsboro Road by SB 30 Jan., very large number for area.

Finches: Dickcissel; male (banded) Ellington Center 23 Feb. (JR, ARL); Purple Finch: scarce, but present at some feeders in small numbers. Pine Siskin: no reports; Vesper Sparrow: (10) 20 March SHV (KAG); Tree Sparrow: Present from the Christmas Count through 25 Feb. (HPM). Chipping Sparrow: first, 12 March (1) (HPM); White-crowned Sparrow: large flock wintered BV and regular elsewhere. White-throated Sparrow: scarcer than usual.

Locations: BV—Buena Vista, BL—Bush Lake, CD—Cheatham Dam, CL—Coleman's Lake, OHL—Old Hickory Lake, RL—Radnor Lake, SHV—South Harpeth Valley.

Observers: SB—Sue Bell, KAG—Katherine A. Goodpasture, JSH—John S. Herbert, ARL—Amelia R. Laskey, HPM—Mrs. H. P. McClanahan,

HCM—Harry C. Monk, HEP—Henry E. Parmer, LOT—Laurence O. Trabue, MCW—Mary C. Wood.

HENRY E. PARMER, 3800 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn. 37205

COOKEVILLE.—Plovers: Killdeer: 3 to 5 entire season TT (PLH); Common Snipe: 4 to 16 entire season TT (PLH).

Doves — Owls: Mourning Dove: entire season maximum 10.

Flycatchers — Larks: Eastern Phoebe: 22 Jan. (3) R (RH); 3 Feb. (3) R (RH); Horned Lark: most of season at R (RH); maximum 18.

Thrasher — Shrikes: Brown Thrasher: observed on four days 1 Jan. to 2 Feb. (1 bird); Robins: present (0 to 150) Jan. to March; Hermit Thrush: 2 and 3 Feb. (3) (RH); Cedar Waxwing: (8 flocks, 130 maximum) 5 Jan. to 8 Feb. R (RH); Bluebird and Loggerhead Shrikes observed 1 Jan. to 2 Feb.; Bluebird: 33 maximum R (RH); Loggerhead Shrike: 5 maximum R (RH).

Starlings — Finches: Starlings: very few TT since fall; Myrtle Warbler: 4 to 10 Feb. (maximum 3); Redwinged Blackbird: 15 Feb. (1) (PLH); Common Grackle: first 13 March (5 to 30 afterwards) TT; Brown-headed Cowbird 20 Feb. (2) TT (PLH); Purple Finch: 1 Feb. (10) TT (PLH); 3 to 10 during seven day period of early Jan. R (RH); Slate-colored Junco 7 Jan. (1) possible albino at R (RH).

Locations: R—Rickman (Tenn. Hwy. 42), TT—Tennessee Tech campus.

Observers: MH—Morris Haile, CH—Caprice Haile, BF—Mrs. Bevo Ford, HC—Mrs. Howard Copeland, PLH—P. L. Hollister, RH—Roy Hinds.
P. L. HOLLISTER, Tennessee Polytechnical Institute, Cookeville, Tenn. 38501

CHATTANOOGA.—Loons — Mergansers: Common Loon: CL 24 Jan. (1). Horned Grebe: CL 3 Jan. (3), WHR 4 Jan. (25), CL 31 Jan. (2), and 28 Feb. (1). Pied-billed Grebe: WHR 4 Jan. (8), CL 31 Jan. (1) and 28 Feb. (1). Great Blue Heron: CL 6 Dec. (2), WHR 4 Jan. (1); CL 17 (4) and 24 Jan. (4), 7 Feb. (6) and 14 Feb. (14). Canada Goose: WHR 4 Jan. (160); CL 17 Jan. (2) and 21 Feb. (3). Mallard: About 200 semi-wild ones are being regularly fed in the vicinity of the Hamilton County Park so it is difficult to ascertain numbers. WHR 4 Jan. (350). Black Duck: CL 6 Dec. (150) with varying numbers downward on CL thru the period. WHR 4 Jan. (350). Gadwall: WHR 4 Jan. (6); CL 17 Jan. (3), 31 Jan. (5), 14 Feb. (16) and 28 Feb. (2). Pintail: WHR 4 Jan. (25); CL 21 Feb. (2). Green-winged Teal: WHR 4 Jan. (8). American Widgeon: WHR 21 Jan. (25); CL 31 Jan. (5), 14 Feb. (8). Wood Duck: MP 18 Feb. (1). Redhead: CL from 10 Jan. (10) to high count 17 and 24 Jan. (25). Ring-necked Duck: CL 3 Jan. (21), 21 Feb. (13) and 28 Feb. (1). Canvasback: WHR 4 Jan. (5). Lesser Scaup: CL 6 Dec. (35), 13 Dec. (5) with maximum numbers on 31 Jan. (120) and 21 Feb. (133). Common Goldeneye: 21 Feb. (1) and 28 Feb. (2). Bufflehead: 3 Jan. (4), 4 Jan. (2), 24 Jan. (3) and 28 Feb. (1). Hooded Merganser: Observed during most trips afield. Maximum numbers: 24 Jan. (57).

Vultures — Hawks: Turkey Vulture: 24 Jan. (3), 28 Feb. (1). Cooper's Hawk: Singles 6 Dec. and 13 Feb. Red-tailed Hawk: Regular. Maximum number: 14 Feb. (5). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 to 2 sporadically. Bald Eagle: 3 Jan. (1 immature). Marsh Hawk: Single birds noted evenly thru period.

Rails — Gulls: American Coot: CL, one to four during period. WHR

4 Jan. (67). Common Snipe: maximum numbers: 6 Dec. (25). Least Sandpiper: SF 13 Dec. (11) 10 Jan. (9) and 28 Feb. (2). Herring Gull: Maximum numbers 14 Feb. (4). Ring-billed Gull: maximum numbers 28 Feb. (125).

Flycatchers — Waxwings: Eastern Phoebe: Singles 6 Dec., 13 and 28 Feb. Common Crow: Maximum numbers 6 Dec. (400). Golden-crowned Kinglet: One to three most trips afield. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One found most trips. Water Pipit: SF 17 Jan. (10), 31 Jan. (2) and 28 Feb. (8).

Warblers — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler: 6 Dec. (1) then none till 13 Feb. Maximum number 28 Feb. (20). Redwinged Blackbird: Maximum number 13 Dec. (100), with one to two in Jan. and up to twenty in Feb. Rusty Blackbirds: 13 Dec. (500 in one flock). Common Grackle: Virtually moved out of area. WHR 4 Jan. (10000 estimated in one flock). Purple Finch: 17 Jan. (1). Very few this season. Savannah Sparrow: Present in varying numbers. Maximum numbers 7 Feb. (100). Vesper Sparrows: 7 Feb. (10). Fox Sparrow: Regular thru season.

Locations: CL—Chickamauga Lake, MP—Morse's Pond, SF—Savannah Flats, WHR—Woods Hole Reservoir.

Observers: Ralph and Carol Bullard, Maxine Crownover, Kenneth Dubke, Adele West.

KENNETH H. DUBKE, 3302 Navajo Drive, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37411

KNOXVILLE—Ducks — Jays: Redhead: 8 to 14 birds, 18 Jan. thru February. Woodcock: more common than normal, 22 Jan. into March; Blue Jay: practically absent all winter.

Blackbirds: Baltimore Oriole: 2 Feb. thru March (JBO) one bird; Rusty Blackbird: 22 Feb. (50) with several records thru March.

Finches: Purple Finch: comparatively scarce; Oregon Junco: (2) during all of Jan. (PP); 17 Jan. (1) (JC); 3 Feb. (1) (ME); Tree Sparrow: 2-3 Feb. (1) (MS); 28 Feb. (1) CL (BL and ME); Lincoln's Sparrow: 3-6 Feb. (1) (ME), second winter record for Knox County.

Locations: CL—Cove Lake.

Observers: JC—James Campbell, ME—Mary Enloe, BL—Beth Lacy, JBO—J. B. Owens, PP—Paul Pardue, MS—Maxie Swindell.

JAMES T. TANNER, Route 10, Knoxville, Tenn.

GREENEVILLE.—Herons: Great Blue Heron: one, 1 Feb., one, 22 Feb.; Green Heron: one, 27 Feb., A (RN).

Ducks: Mallard: 13 Feb. (32) RF (RN).

Hawks: Sparrow Hawk: two, 22 Jan.; two, 28 Feb., made nest in cornice of house, A (RN).

Grouse — Bobwhite: Ruffed Grouse: present through the season; BM (RN); Bobwhite: present through the season; A and M (RN).

Snipe: Common Snipe: one, 27 Feb. and 28 Feb., RF (RN).

Doves: Mourning Dove: present through the season, D (ED); cooing, 27 Dec., A (RN).

Kingfishers — Phoebes: Belted Kingfisher: one, RF (RN); Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker: all present through the season, D (ED); Eastern Phoebe: one, 11 Feb., one 23 Feb., two 24 Feb., one singing, 28 Feb., RF (RN).

Larks: Horned Lark: flocks present 1 Dec. to 28 Feb., A (RN).

Chickadee — Wrens: Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, 1 Dec. through 28 Feb., D (ED); Bewick's Wren, one 24 Feb., G (TC).

Mockingbirds — Bluebirds: Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher: one, Robin

Dec. through Feb., D (ED); Robin: flocks, 15 Feb., A (RN); Eastern Bluebird: 15 Feb., G (TC); through the season, D (ED); 12 Feb., A (RN).

Starlings: Present through the season, D, G, A.

Warblers: Myrtle Warbler: two, Dec. through Feb., D (ED); one, 16 Feb., G (TC); one, 20 Feb., 26 Feb., A (RN).

Blackbirds: Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle: very large flocks passing over, 1 Feb., A; large roost at L; Common Grackle: Dec. through Feb., D (ED).

Finches — Cardinal: present through the season; Purple Finch: 4 Feb., A (RN); 8-10 Feb., D (ED); 25 Feb., G (HS); American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee: Dec. through Feb.; Slate-colored Junco: small flocks, 8-10 Feb., D (ED); Oregon Junco: one, 10 Dec. through Feb., G (DC); Chipping Sparrow: two singing, 17 Feb., Field Sparrow: 8-10 Feb., D (ED); Fox Sparrow: one, 22 Jan., WM (WE); Song Sparrow: 8-10 Feb., D (ED).

Locations: A—Albany, D—DeBusk, G—Greenville, WM—White's Mill, RF—Roaring Fork, BM—Bluff Mountain, M—Marvin, L—Lowlands.

Observers: ED—Elva Darnell, TC—Turner Clinard, DC—Dot Clinard, HS—Helen Spees, WE—Wilwa Ervine, RN—Ruth or Richard Nevius.

RICHARD NEVIUS, Route 3, Greenville, 37743

BRISTOL.—**Loons — Grebes:** Common Loon: 6 Dec. (2) BL; 26 Dec. (1) SHL; Horned Grebe: 6 Dec. (1) BL; 26 Dec. (11) SHL; Pied-billed Grebe: 6 Dec. (1) BL; 26 Dec. (1) SHL.

Hérons — Mergansers: Great Blue Heron: regular in Dec. SHL; Black Duck: 26 Dec. (1) SHL; American Widgeon: 15 Jan. (3) SHR; Redhead: 28 Feb. (1) SHR; Lesser Scaup: 26 Dec. (11) SHL; 31 Jan. (1) SHL; Common Goldeneye: 26 Dec. (33) SHL; 15 Jan. (1) SHR; Bufflehead: 5 Dec. (15) SHL; 22 Dec. (2) SHL; 29 Dec. (3) SHL; Hooded Merganser: 6 Dec. (2) BL.

Vultures — Falcons: Turkey Vultures: common Dec. to Feb.; 29 Dec. (23); Black Vulture: 21 Dec. (3); 22 Feb. (1); Red-tailed Hawk: 21 Dec. (1); 29 Dec. (1); Red-shouldered Hawk: 29 Dec. (1) SHL; 11 Feb. (1) SV; Marsh Hawk: 21 Dec. (1); Sparrow Hawk: regular and common.

Killdeer — Owl: Killdeer: scarce Dec. to March; 15 Dec. (10); 18 Jan. (6); 22 Feb. (15); other scattered records; Common Snipe: 26 Dec. (2) SMM; 22 Feb. (1); 28 Feb. (8); Ring-billed Gulls: common, exceptional numbers: 26 Dec. (92) SHL; 13 Feb. (100) SHL; Screech Owl: six records 18 Dec. to 8 Feb.

Woodpeckers — Flycatcher: Yellow-shafted Flicker: scarce, four Dec. records, two since; Red-bellied Woodpecker: scarce, five records 20 Dec. to 28 Feb.; Red-headed Woodpecker unrecorded for first time in several years; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: unusually scarce; 6 Dec. (1); 19 Jan. (1); Hairy Woodpecker: 26 Dec. (2); 28 Dec. (1); Phoebe: 22 Feb. (1) Va.

Nuthatches — Bluebirds: White-breasted Nuthatch: more common than in summer; Red-breasted Nuthatch: unrecorded; Bewick's Wren: 26 Dec. (2); Brown Creeper: only report 31 Jan. (2); Robin: scarce 31 Jan. or before; 26 Dec. (27) Va.; common after 22 Feb.; Bluebirds: good numbers and regular.

Kinglet — Warbler: Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 13 Feb. (1); 25 Feb. (1); Cedar Waxwing: unreported until Feb.; maximum 24 Feb. (200); Loggerhead Shrike: common and regular; Myrtle Warbler: somewhat scarce; 26

Dec. (2); 18 Jan. (1); 7 Feb. (6).

Blackbirds—Finches: Redwinged Blackbirds: unreported in winter first time in several years; early transients 22 Feb. (200) Va.; Baltimore Oriole: one wintered from late Dec. to 1 March (WC) Va.; Common Grackle: recorded late until 26 Dec. (35); maximum 21 Dec. (150) Va.; increasing 21 Feb. and common 28 Feb.; Brown-headed Cowbird: status parallels that of Redwinged Blackbird in past years and this season being unrecorded first time in several winters; transient 22 Feb. (400) Va.; Evening Grosbeak: 19 Dec. (1) (HCE); 20 Dec. (1) (HCE); 1 Feb. (1) (HCE); Purple Finch: 21 Jan. (6) (HCE); 1-2-3 Feb. (3) (FRB); 26 Feb. (12) (HCE); Rufous-sided Towhee: scarce 22 Dec. (1); 25 Feb. (1); White-crowned Sparrow: scarce, one record 22 Feb. (1) Va.; White-throated Sparrow: fairly common, less abundant than in fall; Fox Sparrow: unrecorded.

Locations: BL—Boone Lake, SHL—South Holston Lake, SHR—South Holston River near Bristol, Tenn., SMM—Stone Mill Marsh, Abingdon, Va., SV—Shady Valley, Va.—Virginia record near Bristol.

Observers: FRB—Fletcher R. Bingham, WC—Wallace Coffey, HCE—H. C. Epperson, TH—Tim Hawk, BQ—Bob Quillen, CS—Charles Smith, RS—Roger Stone.

WALLACE COFFEY, 508 Spruce Street, Bristol, Tennessee 37622

ELIZABETHTON.—Grebes—Mergansers: Pied-billed Grebe: 23 Jan. (1), BL. Great Blue Heron: 23 Jan. (2), BL. Mallard: 23 Jan. (9); 27 Feb. (16). Black Duck: 23 Jan. (115); 27 Feb. (52). Gadwall: 27 Feb. (18). American Widgeon: 27 Feb. (24). Redhead: 26 Jan. (4), BL (HD); 27 Feb. (25), BL. Ring-necked Duck: 23 Jan. (10); 27 Feb. (2). Canvasback: 23 Jan. (23), BL (LRH, CRS). Lesser Scaup: maximum, 23 Jan. (101), on BL and PHL, with one bird remaining on WiL (JCB, RDM). Common Goldeneye: maximum, 23 Jan. (58), with one bird remaining on WiL (JCB, RDM). Bufflehead: 23 Jan. (2); 26 Jan. (1). Common Merganser: 27 Feb. (1).

Hawks—Chickadees: Sparrow Hawk: 23 Jan. (1), near BL. American Woodcock: 12, 21, 28 Feb. (1). Common Snipe: 1 Feb. (2); 28 Feb. (3), near MC (CRS). Herring Gull: 23 Jan. (2), BL; 27 Feb. (3), PHL (LRH). Ring-billed Gull: 23 Jan. (87); 27 Feb. (69), BL. Barred Owl: 26 Feb. (2), (FWB). Hairy Woodpecker: 30 Jan. (1), near MC (CRS). Horned Lark: 11 Feb. (4); 20 Feb. (2). Raven: 28 Feb. (2), BM (FWB). Black-capped Chickadee: 28 Feb. (1), BM (FWB).

Nuthatches—Finches: White-breasted Nuthatch: 28 Feb. (1). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 14 Feb. (3), RM (FWB). Hermit Thrush: 23 Jan. (1). Cedar Waxwing: 6 Feb. (15). Loggerhead Shrike: 27 Feb. (1). Purple Finch: 16 Jan. (3); 11 Feb. (1); 27 Feb. (6). Savannah Sparrow: 27 Feb. (5). Fox Sparrow: 6 Feb. (2); 11 Feb. (2). Swamp Sparrow: 6 Feb. (3); 11 Feb. (2).

Locations: BL—Boone Lake, BM—Beech Mountain, MC—Milligan College, PHL—Patrick Henry Lake, RM—Roan Mountain, WiL—Wilbur Lake.

Observers: FWB—Fred W. Behrend, JCB—J. C. Browning, HD—Mrs. Harold Dillenbeck, LRH—Lee R. Herndon, RDM—Roby D. May, CRS—Charles R. Smith.

CHARLES R. SMITH, Route 2, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601.

Errata: The photo in the December issue, page 98, depicting an adult Chuck-wills-widow, was copied from a painting made by John J. Audubon.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

SANDHILL CRANES IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY

By JAMES C. LEWIS

On 14 March 1961, I was driving a country road near the Hebbertsburg Community in northeastern Cumberland County. It was at daybreak, but my headlights were still on due to a heavy fog. A Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) was standing in the road and was momentarily confused by my headlight beams. I stopped the car about 30 feet from the crane and the red forehead was readily visible. After about 20 seconds it flew off in the fog.

On 4 March 1965, I observed another Sandhill Crane on the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, northern Cumberland County, Tennessee. It flew from the center of a field at about 11:00 a. m. It was observed for two minutes circling and attempting to fly against a strong southerly wind before finally flying in an easterly direction. Intermittent snow flurries had characterized the morning's weather and although 75 percent of the ground had a light snowcover, I was unable to find tracks that would indicate the bird had moved about to feed. The vegetation was short and sparse due to a fire the previous spring and mowing the previous fall.

Under the circumstances I assume that both birds were resting from the exertions of flight and in the case of the crane observed on the road it may have chosen the first open place found in the dense fog. Both observations were made 10 to 15 miles north or northeast of Crossville, Tennessee.

I had previously observed the Sandhill Crane on the southern Michigan nesting grounds. I was, therefore, familiar with the appearance of the crane although unacquainted with the eastern migration route. This route follows a straight line from southeastern Georgia to northwestern Indiana (Walkinshaw, L. H., 1960. Migration of the Sandhill Crane east of the Mississippi River. *Wilson Bulletin* 72(4):358-384).

The spring migration begins in March and early April from south Florida. Cranes have been observed in southern Michigan as early as late February. The peak of arrivals in northwestern Indiana is mid-March to early April (Walkinshaw, 1960).

Dr. Walkinshaw (1960) reported only five recent records of Sandhill Cranes observed in their spring migration thru Tennessee. These observations were from Hamilton, Cumberland, Knox, Anderson and Shelby Counties and varied from 1 February to 1 June. The previous Cumberland County record was by T.O.S. member, Paul Adams, who observed 13 cranes on 13 March 1939, on the ground at 7:30 a. m. (Adams, 1939, *THE MIGRANT*). Walkinshaw also reported four fall records for Tennessee.

The paucity of observations is probably due to several factors. Cranes migrate at high altitudes and would not normally be recognized from the ground. Walkinshaw felt that the cranes migrate from the Okefenokee Swamp to the Jasper-Pulaski State Game Preserve, Indiana, in a 24 hour flight without stopping except for short rests or inclement weather. If they left the Okefenokee at dawn, most of the flight over Tennessee and Kentucky would be at night.

TENNESSEE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION, Nashville.

VERMILLION FLYCATCHERS AT REELFOOT LAKE.—Two male Vermillion Flycatchers (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*, Boddaert) were sighted at Reelfoot Lake, Obion County, Tennessee on 15 October, 1961. These birds were feeding around the cypress trees in the west side of Upper Blue Basin at the north end of Reelfoot Lake. It was about 11:00 a. m., gusty, and about 50° F. Observers were four of the Arlo Smith family of Memphis and five guests who were boating on the lake. Dr. Smith had his camera with him and obtained several color pictures with his 180 m.m. telephoto lens. These pictures have been shown at meetings of the T. O. S.

The Smiths saw the flycatchers in a small flock with eight or ten Myrtle Warblers and paid little attention to the latter. It was not until later, while reading up on the flycatcher in Imhof's "Alabama Birds," that the sad fact was realized that further opportunity might have been missed in assuming that all were Myrtles. Imhof states, "Although female and immature birds strikingly resemble the Myrtle Warblers in color, they act very much like a small phoebe." It is very likely that there were more Vermillions present but, in the excitement of photographing the males, the "Myrtle Warblers" escaped closer observation.

The Myrtles and one male Vermillion moved off as they darted after insects, but one male remained in a tree where he was observed for a period of about fifteen minutes. He would perch on the tip of a dead branch and then suddenly fly out after an insect and return to watch for more. He apparently paid no attention to the observing party below as they were deployed in three boats at a distance of twenty to thirty feet. The photography was quite successful despite the problems of a drifting boat in the gusty wind and a bird that would dart after an insect just when he was at last in focus.

There are apparently no previous reports of the Vermillion Flycatcher having been seen in Tennessee. After the pictures were shown at the Annual Meeting of the T. O. S. at Reelfoot in May 1964 however, a U. S. Wildlife worker reported also having seen a Vermillion at the south end of the 12-mile long lake that same fall. Lowery, in his "Louisiana Birds" reports a few scattered Vermillions are regularly present in Louisiana, arriving in October and leaving in March. The birds are usually seen in the City Park in New Orleans, mostly near a small pond edged by willow trees.

The Vermillion is a bird of the Southwestern states and Mexico, reportedly breeding from southern Nevada, New Mexico and south Texas, south to Chile and Argentina. Imhof reports "In winter North American birds fly irregularly west to San Diego and east to Tallahassee." Alabama reports indicate the Vermillion as occasional visitor along the Gulf coast during the fall to winter of 1943, 1948, 1954, 1956, 1958, and 1960, particularly preferring to perch low over water, especially in live oaks. It is not known to nest either in Louisiana or Alabama. Reelfoot Lake is about 450 miles from the Alabama coast and 900 miles from the lower Rio Grande of south Texas.

ARLO I. SMITH, 3724 Oakley Ave., Memphis.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER IN KNOX COUNTY—A male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*) in first winter plumage was observed for two days, 21 and 22 October, 1964 by Mr. and Mrs. Tom

Walton, 102 Smoky View Road, Knoxville.

I watched the bird late in the afternoon of the second day for about an hour. It spent the time in or near the Walton's yard and used perches such as a telephone wire, a clothes line and leafless branches from which it caught insects in typical flycatcher manner. Several times I was no more than 25 feet from the bird and studied it through 8 x 40 binoculars. Its underparts were bright red except for a white throat with faint dark streaks. The red on its head was confined to the back of the crown but a sprinkling of red specks could be seen on the blackish brown front part of the crown and the forehead. The remainder of the plumage was the normal blackish brown, including the characteristic eye streak. I have seen Vermilion Flycatchers only in fully adult plumage and none of my reference books, which include Bent, have any details on in-between plumages, so I wrote the Smithsonian Institution in the hopes of getting some definite information. Dr. Philip S. Humphrey, Curator, Division of Birds, replied:

"The male vermilion flycatcher which you saw on October 22 just outside the city of Knoxville is almost certainly a bird of the year, that is to say, a bird which is less than one year old. Such males characteristically have a white throat bordered by faint brown streaks; the white area is variable in size. The crown of first year males is actually brown with a red area in its center. The red area is usually partly obscured by the brown feathers bordering it."

A second bird often associated with the Flycatcher and behaved in the same manner. Mr. and Mrs. Walton strongly believe it was a female. But due to its less conspicuous markings and shyer behavior during my visit, I can only say with certainty that it could have been a female Vermilion Flycatcher.

The temperature, which had been fairly warm, dropped that night and neither bird was seen again although TOS members made searches for several days.

J. B. OWEN, 2930 North Hills Blvd., Knoxville, Tennessee

RECENT OBSERVATIONS ON THE SAW-WHET OWL IN C.S.M.N.P. —". . . The Saw-whet Owl is regarded as an uncommon permanent resident in the spruce-fir forests of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. So far (1962), no nest, eggs or young birds have been observed here." (Stupka, 1963, Notes on the Birds . . .). This status has not substantially changed. However, with the hope that someone will be encouraged to systematically attack this problem, I present some of my own experiences.

To begin with, I have been able to add to the number of known calling stations:

While conducting hikes to Charlie's Bunion, I've twice heard an owl calling from the slope below Ice Water Springs Shelter. Both observations were made in June in the early afternoon (1-2 p.m.).

At approximately 8 p.m. on 19 May, 1962, I heard an owl calling from the woods just below Walker Prong, on Rt. 441, 4600'. A few days later an owl was heard to call from between Newfound Gap and Walker Prong. I

suspect this was a different owl whose calling territory is adjacent to that of the one at Walker Prong.

On 22 May, 1963, at 11:30 p.m., I stopped at Newfound Gap and imitated the call of the owl. Almost immediately an owl called from the evergreens near the Rockefeller Memorial. I approached and saw a small owl fly further into the woods. I was able to get within 25 feet of the owl by starting up the Appalachian Trail. The owl did not appear frightened by the light and afforded a good view.

While driving up Rt. 441 on 27 July, 1964, I saw an owl sitting beside the road. It did not fly up on my approach and I was able to capture it. It snapped its bill upon being picked up but struggled very little. It showed signs of being weak and having trouble balancing. I kept it for two days and on the third morning it had died. The bird was a male whose gonads measured 4mm. long and 2mm. wide. No broken bones nor brain hemorrhage was found and the gizzard was empty. The bird may not have been hit or stunned by a car but this seems most likely. The bird was prepared as a museum skin and has been deposited in the Park collection.

On numerous occasions I have visited a particular area wherein I have had good success in locating an owl. This area is located on the Clingmans Dome road, between Indian Gap and the Spruce-fir Nature Trail. By walking from the pull-off through a pole-stand to the Appalachian Trail one approaches the perimeter of the territory of the owl. Approximately 75 yards on the other side of the trail is the center of its calling area. It is in this area that the owl starts its calling each evening. Nearby the trees from which it calls there is a small stream. The immediate area is grown over with rhododendron. One evening I made my way to this spot before sunset and waited. The owl soon began to call from one of the trees but quickly left this perch for one up the slope. I followed it for about an hour up the slope, along a ridge and back to the Trail at a point about 150 yds. above where I had entered. I strongly suspect a pair of owls nest within this area each year. Further, a systematic survey of all the trees with holes would reveal the nesting site.

The Saw-whet is known to move (migrate?) considerable distances outside of the breeding season. Further, low elevation observations have been made only in February and March. Thus, it seems likely that the Saw-whet performs a vertical migration in the Smokies, nesting at or near the main crest in the spring or summer.

The calling season extends from April through June. There are two types of call notes which I have heard: They are both repeated numerous times and can be heard for considerable distances; one is a clear, somewhat double-noted whistle, the other has the same basic pattern but with a more ringing quality. The latter type suggests the quality of the introductory notes of the tropical Bell-bird. I would assume that these notes are functional during the nesting season.

There are eight known calling stations along a transect from Clingmans Dome to Ice Water Springs with a side spur down to Walker Prong. Assuming the owls maintain a relatively restricted nesting territory (with its associated calling stations), it would appear that this species is well represented along the main crest in the spring and summer.

THOMAS SAVAGE, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

A GREAT HORNED OWL HUNTING IN FULL DAYLIGHT.—The 55 acre Bush Lake is in an open area and is an excellent place for observing water birds. It is ringed by trees, but these average over 50 feet apart and are some 6 inches in diameter and about 20 feet in height. On 29 Dec. the writer drove most of the way around the lake and while near the middle of the west side saw what appeared to be a very large hawk perched on a small limb only about five feet above the water. He stopped, focused his binoculars, and was surprised to see the large rounded head of an owl. The bird was constantly turning its head back and forth in about an 180 degree arc and seemed to be scanning an area from the bank on one side, across perhaps a radius of 30 to 50 ft. of water to the bank on the other side, then back again. Immediately the large "horns" of the Great Horned Owl were apparent. The time was 3:00 p. m. and the sky was clear and the sun bright. Three times the writer drove forward and flushed the owl and each time it would fly about 200 feet and find a new perch similar to the one above and go through the same hunting procedure. It is the belief of the writer that it spent more time searching the waters surface than on the edges of the bank. The short grass of the bank must have been full of mice and, as we had enjoyed several days of unusually warm weather, there were many turtle heads just above the waters surface. What was it really after? Time did not permit a stay to find out. Such actions by a Barred Owl would not have seemed unusual except for the time of day, but if this Great Horned really was looking for food from the water it would seem a most unusual occurrence. The last time the owl flushed it flew directly across the lake at only a few inches above the water as a kingfisher sometimes does. As there were some 200 ducks and coots on the lake why didn't it attempt to take one of these?

HENRY E. PARMER, 3800 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn. 37205.

FIND YOURSELF A SMALL LAKE—When spring migration is over and the summer birding doldrums begin, find yourself a small lake or a large pond and brush up on your shorebirds. You may be starting a new phase of year round birding, which will give you a lot of pleasure and could easily add some new data to your local bird lore. Shorebird spring migration continues up into early Summer, and by the time the last have left for the far north, some of the earlier birds have completed their nesting chores on the arctic tundra and have returned on their long southward journey.

I stumbled upon Coleman's Lake in the Fall of 1960 and was surprised to find on this small lake American Widgeon, Shovelers, Lesser Scaup, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Pectoral Sandpipers and Dunlin. This first jackpot was enough to bring me back almost weekly since then. There is nothing very unusual about Coleman's Lake. In fact there must be hundreds like it. It is only about ten or twelve acres in area, formed by an earth dam with a gravel road across it. It is in the middle of a subdivision on the north edge of Davidson County, about a quarter of a mile west of the Cumberland River, and two miles down stream from Old Hickory Dam. Residential lawns extend down to the water on one side, and the rest is mostly wooded. It is a favorite place for bank fishermen. For parts of each winter it is frozen over. The water level will vary four or five feet during the year, which during the dry summer and fall months will expose mud flats

Occasionally some small special event will occur which will add a little extra pleasure, like watching a Solitary Sandpiper and a Lesser Yellowlegs, with their necks extended and their needle bills just a fraction of an inch apart, have a disagreement — or Canada Geese peacefully grazing in the early morning on a lawn — or a Long-billed Dowitcher shouting defiance with a loud "keek" — or an unusually large number of species, as the twelve reported by Henry Parmer in the September 1962 Migrant — or finding a bird enough out of season, like a Horned Grebe in late May or a Dunlin in late December, to warrant mention in THE MIGRANT and the Audubon Field Notes.

For those of you who are not too familiar with shorebirds, the study of them has many advantages. They are of fair size, and they generally prefer open shores or mud flats, where they can readily be seen. Since they are relatively tame, with a little caution they can be approached to within good binocular range. As with other bird families, identification is a problem, but familiarity tends in some measure to solve this. Unfortunately just about the time you begin to think that you can tell a Least Sandpiper from a Semipalmated, you encounter a peep, or a flight of peeps, and you can not decide whether they are lighter or buffier, larger or smaller, or are their bills thicker or thinner than the ones you saw before. Then there is the problem of the legs. Are they black, or are they just covered with mud? Then there is the one that is just somehow a little different. Could it possibly be a wandering Western or a Baird's? If it is and you are alone, how would you ever convince anyone that it was? Oh for a shotgun! Then back to your guide books, and a few days later you will be fighting that urge to go see what that cold front the night before brought to your favorite mud flat. So for year round interesting birding, especially in July and August, find yourself a small lake.

LAURENCE TRABUE, 3819 Harding Place, Nashville, 37215.

OSPREY NEST ON WATTS BAR LAKE—This is follow up on the nesting attempt of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) on Watts Bar Lake at Ten Mile, Tennessee. This nest was written about earlier, in detail, by J. B. Owen (MIGRANT 1963, 64, 60-62). On 2 June 1964, this writer climbed up and inspected the nest of the incubating bird and found only one egg.

In a recent letter from Mr. Owen on the status of this nest he referred me to a Mr. and Mrs. Woodford Spencer, 111 Albany Road, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who often spend weekends on the lake camping and boating with their children. They have also taken a keen interest in this pair of Osprey and have checked on them whenever they were in the area. In correspondence with Mrs. Spencer she stated the Osprey have been present every year since 1958. They may have been present earlier but this is when the Spencer's purchased a lake front lot thus placing them in the area regularly.

This year the Spencer's had planned more detailed observations, but because of other commitments were not present during most of the prime fledgling period. Mrs. Spencer noted they saw an Osprey on the nest 31 May and then they were not in the area again till 14 June. On this date, writes Mrs. Spencer, they were checking on a report of an eagle near the entrance of White's Creek. They didn't find any eagle but . . . "did see what appeared to be an Osprey nest on the channel marker at White's Creek entrance, but no Osprey were around. On the way back to our place

(their lot) we saw two Osprey flying toward White's Creek. We hoped to find that there were two pairs, so we hurried back to Euchee marker, but it was deserted. We waited 35 minutes for them to return, but they did not. We never saw them again, although in July and August we looked for them often." On 26 July they let their two sons climb up to see what had happened to the egg. It was not there and they could not find any remains of the shell.

It should be noted with this very limited amount of data, and especially since no one looked in the nest from 2 June to 26 July, it is very difficult to ascertain whether this nesting was successful and most certainly a great deal more information is desired. Perhaps, with permission from the U. S. Coast Guard, the Spencer's could climb both navigational markers and inspect regularly the nests during the breeding season and report their findings to us.

KENNETH H. DUBKE, 3302 Navajo Dr., Chattanooga 11.

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER AT COLUMBIA.—A Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid: *Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V. pinus*) was clearly seen by George R. Mayfield, Jr. at the upper pond on the Jewell farm about 5 miles southwest of Columbia. The warbler was seen about 15 feet high in a group of willow trees on the edge of open land from at first 50 yards and later as close as 20 yards. It was first identified as a Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*) by the obvious face pattern until suddenly the completely yellow breast was noted. There were no deviations from the typical form illustrated in A Field Guide to the Birds (Peterson, 1947). The bird was found at 5:30 p. m. on 21 Sept., 1964. In the last four years, two additional Lawrence's Warblers and one Brewster's Warbler (hybrid: *V. chrysoptera* x *pinus*) have been seen in the area by members of the Gray family.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, Jr., Maury County Hospital, Columbia.

OPERATION BLUEBIRD.—Girl Scouts of the Cumberland Valley Council (Middle Tennessee, and adjoining Kentucky Counties) own a 700 acre campsite in Cheatham County, four miles north of Ashland City. It is operated as a wildlife refuge. The area consists of 200 acres of pasture, 50 acres of cutover land, and 450 acres of heavy deciduous growth. Sycamore Creek and several smaller streams run through the tract.

In 1959, 1960 and 1961, there was a stable resident population of 6 or 8 Eastern Bluebirds. In the late winter of 1961-62 (February, 1962), a number of troops built Bluebird houses, and put them up on poles in the pastured area. Ten houses were placed, but the placement was much too close together in some cases.

Five of the nests were used. One nest hatched out three broods successfully. It contained five 12-day old birds on 12 May, four, week old birds on 18 June, and four two-day old birds on 28 July. These last left the nest 13 August. This is a total of 13 birds from this nest. Two other nests hatched at least two broods each (whether there was a third brood is not certain in either case). Two nests hatched one brood each.

Population of Bluebirds in the box areas has, of course, gone up phenomenally. With so many Bluebirds in what is essentially a small part of the campsite (all nests are within a 70 acre area), an accurate count is

difficult. Several counts of birds observed along a stretch of dirt road running 0.5 miles through the area range from 9 to 12 birds, mostly immature. Best estimate of population as of 15 August, based on counts, is 35-40.

The number of boxes will be increased for 1963, and their area of placement expanded.

LOUIS FARRELL, Nashville TOS.

LONG-EARED OWL AT CHATTANOOGA.—Gene Mills, Waldens Ridge Taxidermist, reported a Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) as having been prepared in his shop during February 1962 for a boy, Ron Nixon of Chattanooga. It was not until February 1965 that the information was uncovered by the writer. To confirm the species a visit to the Nixon's home was scheduled by the author and Kenneth Dubke. The fine specimen was found as a dining table centerpiece.

Young Nixon stated that on 30 January 1962 he was rabbit hunting in a pine thicket about 100 feet behind Brown's Grocery on Taft Highway, Signal Mountain, when he found the bird. Ron related that the owl was sitting close to the trunk of a pine tree when it made a noise before it flew. He then shot it. Elevation of the site is between 1800 and 2000 feet.

Even though there are other Tennessee records of the Long-eared Owl, this is the Chattanooga area's first.

RALPH T. BULLARD, JR., 324 Lafayette Road, Chickamauga, Georgia

AN ERYTHRISTIC SONG SPARROW.—On 15 November, 1964, Mabel and Kenneth Sanders showed me an erythristic (abnormally red) Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) on a farm southeast of Knoxville. The upperparts were a rich reddish-brown with black markings in the usual places. The underparts were almost the same color except for a small gray area on the belly. Breast streaking and spots were absent or inconspicuous. The bird associated with normal Song Sparrows and called and acted like one. 29 November was the last date the Sanders could find the bird.

JAMES T. TANNER, Route 10, Knoxville, Tenn.

FIELD TRIP TO DUCK RIVER SANCTUARY NEAR WAVERLY.—On 21 Nov. Doctors Mayfield, Gray, Fuqua, and Dan Gray III were joined by Miss Wood and Mrs. Elmore of the Nashville Chapter for a trip thru the Duck River Sanctuary. A total of 59 species of birds were seen including 3 eagles, two of which were Bald Eagles, about 2000 Canada Geese, 50 Blue Geese, and 5 Snow Geese. Among a number of species of ducks, there were about 1000 Mallards and 15 Hooded Mergansers. Eight species of sparrow including Savannah, Vesper, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Fox, Swamp, and Song were found. 200 gulls were noted but were too far away for absolute identification. It is interesting that one Bald Eagle seen from the ground had both white head and tail, whereas two additional eagles were seen only from the airplane flying over the refuge. One of these had some white where the other had none. The Snow Geese and Blue Geese were only found with the use of the airplane.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, JR., Maury County Hospital, Columbia.

Errata: In the table headings Vol 35:45 the last two column headings, Elizabethton and Bristol should be reversed to correspond to the correct counts.

BOOK REVIEWS

A NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS.—Edited by Sir A. Landsborough Thompson with prefaces by Dr. Austin L. Rand, president of the American Ornithologists' Union and R. E. Moreau, president of the British Ornithologists' Union. 928 pages, illustrated with 16 pages of color plates, 32 pages of black-and-white photographs and more than 300 line drawings. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 330 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y. 1964. \$17.50.

The publication of this book was the result of one of three projects undertaken by the British Ornithologists' Union in celebration of their centenary in 1959. It was designed for those who have a general interest in birds but containing much material of special interest to professional ornithologists and biologists. It is world wide in scope and although every species is not covered in detail representative families are discussed in their various phases from the viewpoint of structure, evolution, distribution, classification, life histories, behavior, adaptations and their relations with mankind.

Many entries are composed of articles of considerable length and some are subdivided according to the requirements of the subject. As an example the subject of Feather Maintenance is divided into Bathing, Drying, Preening, Head scratching, Dusting, Anting, Comfort Movements, Care of Skin and Soft Parts and Smoke Bathing. Lists of major articles on general subjects and bird groups follow immediately the Contents. This provides the reader with ready information on any desired subject for a beginning. The articles are cross-referenced for further pursuit of several phases of the subject under alphabetical headings.

To further illustrate the diversity of related subject matter, a major article is entitled Meteorology with the following sub-headings: Pressure and Wind Systems, Wind Force, Local Winds, Thermal Effects and Convection Phenomena, Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation, Visibility, The Freezing over of Water Bodies and Samples of Weather Maps. The weather symbols are illustrated for easy interpretation. Statistical Significance is another subject discussed with explanations relative to its applicability to bird study.

More than 200 specialists in various fields, from all continents and 22 countries have contributed to this work to make it the outstanding book of its kind.

This is a book to which you should have access. If you cannot purchase it for your own library it is suggested that your club or chapter purchase one or that your local librarian be persuaded to secure one for reference.

LEE R. HERNDON, Route 6, Elizabethton, Tenn.

BIRDS OVER AMERICA.—By Roger Tory Peterson. New and Revised Edition. Dodd, Mead and Co., New York, N. Y. 1964. 342 pages, 105 photographs (80 pages) by the author. \$7.50.

This book was first published in 1948, winning for the author the John Borroughs Award. With few exceptions it is a reprint of the original, however, the material applies today as well as then. The author has birded in all fifty states and for a period of forty-five years. He has selected the most exciting of his experiences, as well as some of those of other prominent ornithologists, and related them in his most interesting manner. He tells of "The Lure of the List," "The Big Day" and "Census at Christmas" as a

few of the outstanding experiences which all of us can and do enjoy, whether amateur or professional.

He points out some of the drastic changes which have taken place and are still taking place in our country since the time of Columbus to the present day; population densities; the status of some of our rarer and vanishing species, in a manner which should make us more conservation minded so that we should take action before some more of our species become extinct.

A few of our most famous birding spots are described in detail. Such places as Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, where thousands of hawks are seen in a single day; Cape May, New Jersey, where fabulous numbers of birds funnel down the peninsula between Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, during fall migration and Rockport, Texas where thousands of spring migrants from across the Gulf of Mexico drop in when unfavorable weather conditions are encountered and are thus pinned down temporarily until conditions become more favorable for continuing their northward journey.

The book is enlivened by many amusing incidents which happened to him or others, as for example the identification "decoy" duck or the "bark" silhouette of Long-eared Owl.

The photographs presented are from the best of the many thousands he has taken. Some photographic "tips" are given for those who are interested in bird photography.

This is a book which will bear reading a second time, if you have already read it. If you have not read it, you should. It is a book which non-birders would enjoy and one which should convince those who are mildly interested in birds that they should consider bird study more seriously.

LEE R. HERNDON, Route 6, Elizabethton, Tenn.

ARGEN THE GULL.—by Franklin Russell. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N. Y. 1964, nine photographs and 239 pp. \$4.95.

The author portrays the events during the life history of a Herring Gull. The setting for the story is an island off the coast of Newfoundland where the climate is severe and many additional hazards demand constant alertness for survival. The gullery which Argen shared with many of his own kind as well as with other predatory species necessitated constant guard by his parents until he had matured sufficiently to fend for himself and be ever alert for any catastrophe which might befall him. The sphere of his existence is clearly depicted, particularly, around the gullery, the shoreline around which most of his food was secured, his wanderings over water as well as the land, competition for food and a nesting site in a choice location. Many encounters with natural phenomena and near disaster beset him. Once a wing was broken when buffeted by a storm, for a time he was unable to fly and was forced to avoid land predators as well as those on the wing.

The intricacies in the life of a gull are related in an interesting manner which reveals many facets which would not be obvious to those who have not had the opportunity of visiting a gullery or of observing the conduct of a scavenger in securing a livelihood.

LEE R. HERNDON, Route 6, Elizabethton, Tenn.

THE MIGRANT

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IT'S FOR THE BIRDS.—by S. Vance Cagley. Vantage Press, Ins., 120 West 31st Street, New York, N. Y. 1964. 146 pp. \$2.75.

After almost thirty years of inseparable companionship it became eminent that disaster was about to befall the wife of the couple in the form of blindness. The husband conceived a plan of softening the shock of conveying the doctor's diagnosis to her. Without her knowledge, he procured a parakeet which she resented temporarily. However, she soon sensed the situation and it was not necessary to relate to her the impending blindness and the probable operations. The companionship and providing the necessities were so time consuming and enjoyable that little time was left for self-pity.

The bird had a close brush with death but recovered and after several years of affectionate companionship it was accidentally suffocated. Its loss was grieved as a member of the family. It had been such a comfort and so much appreciated that another baby parakeet was secured. Its care, training, including learning to talk, disappearing a few times in which the neighbors were involved brought the couple to their senses.

This book would make an excellent gift or could be used for loan to some friend or acquaintance who might be incapacitated or hospitalized for a few days. In addition to relieving the mind of their ills and making time pass more quickly, it might serve in the same manner as the couple about whom the story is written.

LEE R. HERNDON, Route 6, Elizabethton, Tenn.

BACK ISSUES OF THE MIGRANT.—Appropriate to the completion of another "block" of three volumes with appended index, is a reminder that this is a proper time to check your files for missing numbers. A file of a publication of this kind that is not complete is not only a source of vexation to the owner but depreciates its money value should a sale become desirable in future. Incidentally, a complete set of THE MIGRANT has a value of around \$70.00. Members no longer desiring to keep their back issues would confer a favor on the T. O. S. by mailing them to the Curator for adding to his stock. Most back numbers are still available, ranging in price from 36 cts. upward. These are stocked and sold for the benefit of our publication fund by the Curator, Albert F. Ganier, 2112 Woodlawn Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37212.

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