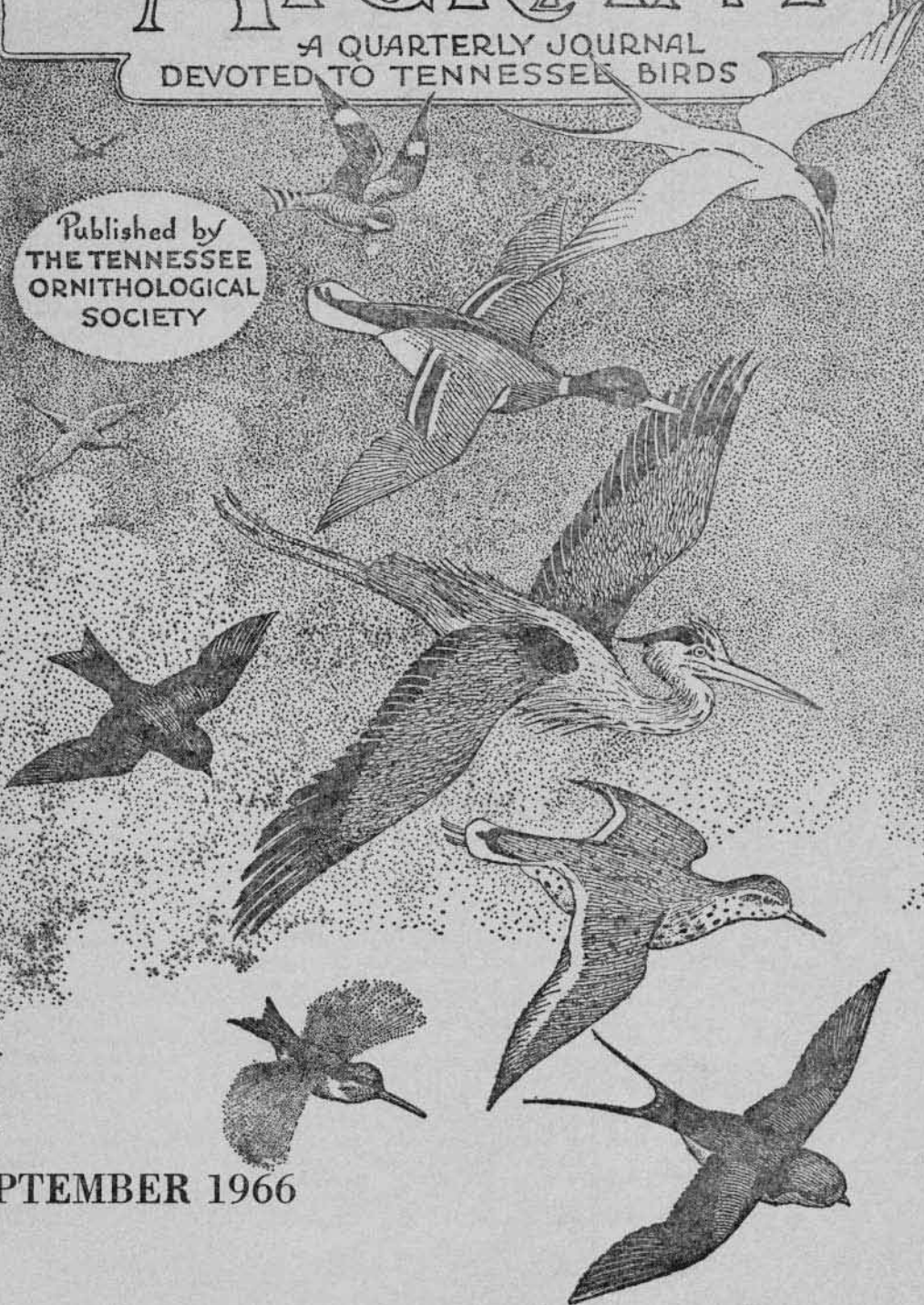


THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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SEPTEMBER 1966

THE MIGRANT

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LEE R. HERNDON, Editor,

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See suggestions at the bottom of this page.

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Most articles published in THE MIGRANT are written by T. O. S. members and comprise their major contribution toward carrying out the Society's purposes. The Editor, like other officers, receives no remuneration for the considerable work he does so the proper preparation of copy will help toward reducing his work. All manuscript should be typed on one side of 8½x11 paper, double spaced, and with good margins. Provide a concise, meaningful title and, where needed, subtitles within the text. Footnotes are not used. Bibliography, when used, should be brief. Examine past issues of THE MIGRANT and follow the style there used, noting that "main articles" and Round Table items are set up differently. Acceptable for inclusion are articles describing the habits of birds as noted from original observations in Tennessee or adjacent areas. Reports on occurrence of unusual species should give full data on the observation so that the record may be evaluated. The value of this publication depends upon the correctness of what it presents so accuracy of statement and identification are obvious requirements. In addition to such articles, are reports on our regularly scheduled projects, such as Spring Migration, Spring Field Counts, Breeding Bird Counts, Hawk Migration, and the Christmas Census. Each of these are reported upon by duly appointed leaders and it is their duty to see that questionable records are eliminated.

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NO. 3

FALL BANDING AT TWO JAYS SANCTUARY, 1965 KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE

Concentrated fall banding at Two Jays Sanctuary, 1965, compared with two previous years, gave a wider span of observation and an increased number of records.

Nets were set in the narrow floodplain between the South Harpeth River and a corn field at the approach to the Sanctuary. Johnson grass, ragweed, various tall composites, low floodplain growth of maple, sycamore, box elder, elm, sumac and willow offered attractive food and cover for a good but not spectacular flow of fall migrants. Quick heavy showers fell on three occasions but weather fronts did not move so as to build up heavy flights and banding records tend to reflect a rather even movement through the area.

Thirteen nets were in operation on a part or all of 30 days from 27 August through 17 October. Banding days were concentrated about the weekends but active intervals sometimes consisted of 3, 4, or 5 successive days.*

Thirteen hundred forty-seven (1347) birds of 75 species were banded; sixty-two of these repeated in the nets and 27 additional birds yielded return records of previous banding operations at the Two Jays station. Review of details of 1965 banding is of some interest but reveals no startling or unexpected record and few distinctive ones.

Following are summary comments on several families and species. All records presented are banding records. The number in parentheses after a named species indicates the total number of that species banded during the entire operation.

Flycatchers. E. Kingbird, 17 Sept., and Gr. Crested, 28 Aug., were represented by one bird each. Acadians (15) were banded from 28 Aug. - 24 Sept.; Traill's (11) from 28 Aug. - 18 September. Wood Pewees (15) were banded fairly regularly through 5 October. It was somewhat unexpected to get Least Flycatchers (9) from the first week in September into the first week in October. There seemed to be a movement of Phoebes in mid-October and six Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded between the third and the twenty-fifth of September.

Wrens. Single Bewick's, House and Winter Wrens were banded between 4 and 9 October. Three Carolinas were banded earlier.

Mimics. Five of 24 Catbirds were banded on 16 Sept., 8 on 24 Sept., 1 on 16 October. No movement of Brown Thrashers was evident.

Thrushes. Veeries (8) came early in September, the first two, 3 Sept., set an early date for the area. Swainson's (11) were banded 4 Sept. - 6 Oct.

* Help by the following persons during this operation is gratefully acknowledged: Mike Bierly, Ruth Castles, A. F. Ganiier, Virginia Hagan, Louise Jackson, Amelia R. Laskey, Fannie Murphy, John Ogden, Henry Parmer, and Jennie Riggs.

Three Hermits, 16 Oct. were the first for the season.

Vireos. Twenty-three White-eyed and 3 Red-eyed Vireos were banded. The only species missing from the 1965 list, but banded in 1964 were Solitary, Yellowthroated, and Philadelphia Vireos.

Warblers. Two hundred sixty-five (265) warblers of 23 species were banded.

A surprising movement of Northern Waterthrushes was underway when the operation was begun. A total of 49 of the species was banded 28 Aug. - 8 Oct. with peak numbers occurring the last week of September and the first week of October.

Twenty-four of 41 Ovenbirds were banded the first week of October. Two Orange-crowned and 3 Nashville Warblers were taken after 3 October.

Seven Mourning Warblers were banded between 5 Sept. and 5 October. These records are of especial interest since this species is rarely observed in the field.

Fringillids. An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak (52) was banded 5 Sept. with peak incidence during the first week of October.

Five hundred eighty-six (586) Indigo Buntings represented 43% of all birds banded. This was the only species banded every day nets were operated. A peak of 50 was set 5 October.

Except for a single Field Sparrow, 18 Sept., this family did not appear on the list until 4 October. Of interest was a total of 51 Swamp Sparrows with 15 banded 16 October. A Fox Sparrow banded 4 October appears to establish a new early record for the species in the Nashville area. (1)

Twenty-seven birds banded previously at Two Jays were recaptured 1965. Thirteen individuals were of 6 species considered present in the area the year around: 1 Cardinal banded 4 years previously; 1 Downy, 1 Goldfinch, 1 Carolina Wren, 1 Chickadee banded 2 years before; 3 Cardinals, 1 Downy, 1 Carolina Wren, 1 Chickadee, 2 Titmice banded 1 year before.

Thirteen individuals of 3 species we may consider to have made either 1 or 2 migratory flights entirely out of the area and back again: 2 Indigos banded in the fall of 1963 returned in the fall of 1965; 1 Acadian, 1 White-eyed Vireo, 9 Indigos banded in the fall of 1964 were recaptured in the fall of 1965. One Prothonotary banded in the spring of 1965 was retaken in the fall of the same year.

Eleven species yielding the high banding scores were: Indigo Bunting, 586; Cardinal, 57; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 52; Swamp Sparrow, 51; Goldfinch, 51; Northern Waterthrush, 49; Ovenbird, 41; Yellowthroat, 37; Magnolia Warbler, 36; White-throated Sparrow, 35; Tennessee Warbler, 31.

Eliminating the above 11 species, following is a complete list of species banded with the total number of each: Bobwhite 1, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 3, Black-billed Cuckoo 1, Screech Owl 3, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 17, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, Downy Woodpecker 5, E. Kingbird 1, Gr.-crested Flycatcher 1, E. Phoebe 7, Yellow-bellied Flyc. 6, Acadian Flyc. 15, Traill's Flyc. 11, Least Flyc. 9, Wood Pewee 15, Blue Jay 2, Carolina Chickadee 15, Tufted Titmouse 6, Brown Creeper 1, House Wren 1, Winter Wren 1, Bewick's Wren 1, Carolina Wren 3, Mockingbird 2, Catbird 24, Brown Thrasher 4, Wood Thrush 3, Hermit Thr. 3, Swainson's Thr. 11, Gray-cheeked Thr. 6, Veery 8, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Loggerhead Shrike 2, White-eyed Vireo 23, Red-eyed Vireo 3, Black-and-white Warbler 7, Prothonotary W. 3, Worm-eating W. 1, Golden-winged W. 1, Blue-winged W. 1, Orange-crowned W. 2, Nashville W. 3, Myrtle W. 2, Black-throated-Green W. 2, Chestnut-sided W. 4, Bay-breasted W. 2, W.

Palm W. 1, Kentucky W. 8, Mourning W. 7, Y-br. Chat 15, Wilson's W. 4, Canada W. 6, Am. Redstart 2, Baltimore Oriole 1, Br-headed Cowbird 1, Summer Tanager 5, Rufous-sided Towhee 2, Slate-col. Junco 3, Chipping Sparrow 1, Field Sp. 2, Fox Sp. 2, Lincoln's Sp. 5, Song Sp. 9.

DISCUSSION

Some comparison of records presented above and those established in 1964 may be made. In 1964 nets were operated on 14 days between 3 September and 11 October. For comparison only those 1965 records falling on the 23 days of operation within the same calendar period will be considered.

In 1965 the first Tennessee Warbler was banded 12 days later than in 1964; the first Magnolia 5 days later than in 1964. Peak date for Tennessee was a week later in 1965. Peak dates for Magnolia were about the same for both years. At least 1 Tennessee was banded every day the nets were operated in 1964. In 1965 Tennessees were banded on only 11 out of 23 banding days in the same calendar span. More Tennessee and Magnolia Warblers were banded during 14 days in 1964 than during 23 banding days, 1965. Peak day for Magnolias, 3 October, 1964, yielded 20 banded; peak day, 1965, 2 October, yielded 7.

In 1964, except for a single bird banded 3 October, passage of Northern Waterthrushes appeared to terminate about 20 September, with peak banding day on 6 September. In 1965 more Northern Waterthrushes were banded than any other warbler with peak day 24 September.

At first glance these notes may seem to indicate a generally later movement of warblers in 1965, and in some cases a lighter movement. I must confess to the "feel" of such a generality but one must be cautious in drawing this conclusion. Quirks of wind and weather may have resulted in a more even flow or in an overflight, in low concentrations of moving birds or an hiatus.

In 1964, 1477 net-hours yielded 211 Indigo Buntings or one Indigo every 7 net-hours; in 1965, 2902 net-hours yielded 542 or 1 Indigo every 5 net-hours. Peak days were 26 September, 1964 and 5 October, 1965. Since the same calendar span during both years is considered the movement of Indigos through Two Jays area appears to have been slightly heavier and slightly later in 1965 but the differential does not seem great enough to characterize the whole fall movement.

One cannot separate resident individuals from non-resident ones during migration except by banding. The only Prothonotary Warbler banded was taken 29 August; a resident one banded 4 April, repeated 3 September. Blue-winged and Worm-eating Warblers were banded only on August dates. Conspicuous by its absence from September and October banding lists in 1933, 1964, and 1965 was the Louisiana Waterthrush. This species was neither heard, seen, nor banded 27 August through 17 October. My latest overall banding date for Louisiana Waterthrush is 21 August at Basin Spring which is in the same general area as Two Jays. In both 1964 and 1965 Northern Waterthrushes were migrating significantly through the area when fall banding was begun. These notes may be straws in the autumn wind to indicate that local Louisiana Waterthrushes migrate out of the area late in August and they make one suspect that the fall migratory movement for the species through this area may be largely completed quite early. These records also indicate that the Northern Waterthrush is an earlier fall migrant than most field observers record and that it moves through in greater numbers than we are usually aware.

In 1965 of 1347 banded birds, only 3 were Red-eyed Vireos; in 1964

only 5 of a total of 702 birds were that species. This is surprising since the Red-eyed Vireo is a widely spread, populous breeding species. In fall banding at Two Jays there has been no reflection of the heavy migratory flight of Red-eyed Vireos that passes through Middle Tennessee as evidenced by occasional tower casualty lists.⁽²⁾ I have no explanation for this. Some day we may have a Red-eyed Vireo banding day and who knows but that its pattern may fit perfectly over a very particular ESSA satellite weather picture.

These banding records stand as hard core facts but never alone. When the Two Jays area is viewed as but a pinpoint in the Atlantic Flyway we see this report as a small, small piece of a vast and unfinished mosaic that will some day become a picture of migration through that flyway. In the meantime we can combine records obtained by this technique with those of field observers and television tower casualty studies in an attempt to better see and understand the movement and distribution of bird life within and across Middle Tennessee.

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3407 Hopkins Lane, Nashville, 37215.

FALL MIGRATION OF THE ORCHARD ORIOLE

By KENNETH H. DUBKE

The Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) along with the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) and the Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) among other species would be unanimously considered common summer species across the breadth of Tennessee at lower elevations by the average field worker, but when you ask these same observers what happens to these birds at the termination of the nesting season the reply in unison appears to be the simple answer they tend to disappear. Oberholser (1923) was one of the first to alert us to the oriole's early departure. Lincoln (1935) also calls attention to the fact this species migrates early.

During the fall of 1965, while engaged in consistent field work for shore-birds with Jon DeVore, Chattanooga, it was our privilege to observe a migration of Orchard Orioles. As the author has been rather active in East Tennessee since 1957 it was a surprise to note what appeared to be a small movement of ten birds on 15 July. With the thought in mind of recording the last individual of the year particular attention was given to numbers, sex and dates to ascertain correct data. Then, for more background, Bent (1958) was consulted and with this fragmentary information it appeared that their fall movement was somewhat known. Reference was also made of other standard works in the southeast and it was noted they presented very meager or no detail on their fall migration. Next, THE MIGRANT was combed and only one comment was located where Warriner (1935) asked the question: "What becomes, more particularly, of the Orchard Orioles in late summer? This bird arrives in the Mid-South in April, and nests here. During the month of June it is common along the roadsides, in yards, and orchards almost everywhere. Suddenly, say the last of July or sooner, the bird disappears. Where does he go?" The next step then was to follow up my search with a series of letters and numerous conversations, but with no one able to offer much detailed information. This

article then is an attempt to reply to Mr. Warriner's question thirty years later with a brief summary of what we know of the fall migration of the Orchard Oriole.

CHATTANOOGA DATA

The Savannah Bay (or Savannah Flats) area would best be described as a broad, flat, plain where the fluctuating level of TVA's Chickamauga Lake makes a favorable feeding area in late summer for wading birds. It is surrounded by some sections of woods, some open well grazed pasture and old overgrown fields with blackberries, weeds and small trees. The area where the orioles were located most regularly consisted of second growth trees along the fence rows, clumps of sassafras, cedars, blackberries, and between these clumps grass very closely grazed by cattle. Other areas were checked for the birds, but this last named area is where they were most often located. Field work in the area commenced in early July and continued at short intervals into October with observations usually being made in the afternoons.

Fall Movement of Orchard Orioles at Chattanooga 1965

Date	Individuals	Date	Individuals
15 July	—10 includes 1 ad. male	14 August	—none noted
18 July	— 1	15 August	— 7 includes 1 ad. male
1 August	—11	19 August	—22
4 August	—none noted	22 August	—none noted
13 August	— 4	25 August	— 9

All the above records refer to females or immature birds unless otherwise noted. No orioles were found after 25 August.

This appears to be the only recorded fall movement of the Orchard Oriole in the Chattanooga area.

OTHER TENNESSEE DATA

The only other information available that appears to reflect a known movement of the species in the state is that recorded by Howell and Monroe (1957) for Knox County. Here by showing number of trips in July (33) and August (22); birds per trip in July (4.8) and August (1.6); number of trips contacted in July (27) and August (10); and finally percent of trips contacted in July (82) and August (45) we have a fair picture of the orioles movements from 1947 through 1953 when these data were assembled.

In contrast with this rather well documented information it's interesting to note the apparently negative results we glean from other sections of the state. From the Tri-cities area of Bristol, Kingsport and Johnson City (including Elizabethton) the most we find are a few references to late dates and Greeneville doesn't seem to offer much more. Traveling westward our next point of reference is Murfreesboro where Henry J. Todd, Jr., lives and who had been very active in the field for over forty years commenting that he doesn't recall witnessing a fall movement (verbal comm.) In Nashville Henry E. Parmer has recently completed a comprehensive survey of their bird distribution and states (pers. comm.) they have no known records of a mass movement. When the question was put to veteran Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Memphis, he replied "I don't remember any late summer or fall migration of Orchard Orioles. They just seem to fade away, early." (letter 28 Oct. 1965).

It is especially interesting to note the replies from both Nashville and Memphis because these two chapters have both been diligently recording observations longer than any others in the state.

DATA FROM MISCELLANEOUS STATES

Mengel (1965) in his excellent summary on this species in Kentucky gives a good account of what is known there and I quote him:

Fall.—The Orchard Oriole seems to become rare or very rare by the end of August. This apparent disappearance of the species in late summer is something of a mystery, and the actual time of departure is not certain. Some birds surely migrate early, since I have found them in numbers in Veracruz, Mexico, in mid-July. Careful watch should be kept in August to determine when the species can truly no longer be found.

Little information is to be found published regarding flock size and movements in the states of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. From Virginia, Dr. J. J. Murray writes (letter 17 May 1966) "... we have very little definite data." Francis M. Weston after compiling 48 years of records in Northwestern Florida (1965; letter 20 May 1966) has nothing more to contribute in addition to what Bent (1958) had quoted from him. When the question was put to long time Carolina observer B. Rhett Chamberlain for details he had nothing more to add (verbal comm.). Imhof (1962) for Alabama gives a little more information: "... fall, 100, July 15 to 17, 1931 . . .". Whether this has to do with one flock for a couple of days or several he doesn't elaborate.

Thomas L. Burleigh lived for eight years at Gulfport, Mississippi, collecting and preparing many birds from Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and wrote a report (1944) on all species found in the area. He collected only one fall specimen (10 Sept. 1937) and said "... Departure in the fall is rather early, for by early in August only an occasional bird is seen; Sept. records few. . . . the latest Sept. 10, 1937.". Stewart and Robbins (1958) do mention small movements recorded in the Maryland and Washington, D. C., area with a normal period from 1-10 July to 20-30 August.

A good source of information has been migration summaries in recent issues of **Audubon Field Notes**. Elaborating on the 1964 season Goodwin (1965) refers to "... a flock of 150 seen at Point Pelee (Ontario) on July 16 . . ." and Webster (1965) mentions first transients noted at Houston, Texas, on 10 July and Bayton, Texas, on 13 July and a peak migration date in the Nueces, Texas area on 28 July. Also referring to 1964 Baumgartner (1965) mentioned "... a definite migratory wave of Orchard and Baltimore Orioles . . . at Oklahoma City on Sept. 5 . . .". It's interesting to note in addition to this tendency to flock and migrate early in the season the record of a "... flock of 12 Orchard Orioles on the Tamiami Loop Road (Florida) . . . on Oct. 17 . . ." cited by Cunningham (1965) for this same year.

There didn't appear to be as much comment on the 1965 season, however, Webster (1966) refers us again to the Nueces River and the excellent results obtained there by Gene W. Blacklock on his 25 acre census plot. By watching consistently this small area very closely Blacklock is demonstrating that migration is indeed under way early in the season.

DISCUSSION

It is apparent from the foregoing that the Orchard Oriole appears to flock and migrate soon upon the completion of the nesting season. Also, it should be noted this is not a completely exhaustive search of all the material on the subject or a comprehensive questioning of all field workers who could contribute on a project of this scope. What has been presented shows in a general way our present knowledge and stresses the apparent

tremendous gaps as to what we can learn. It seems that very few migrating flocks are observed. This can possibly be accounted for by the fact that many amateur observers decrease their fieldwork after the big spring migration passes through and with a further let up when the birds become more sedentary while nesting and recording still less observations after the middle of July when singing tends to cease. With the weather usually hot and varying dry or humid, the birds molting, less active, and less conspicuous with many drab young about it certainly takes a much higher degree of motivation to "follow the birds". However, the results are most enlightening for those that do by revealing many little known facts pertaining to their lives that are yet to be discovered. This is the case with the common nesting Orchard Oriole, as well as many other species, and where the amateur can continue to add immensely to the knowledge of birds.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Appreciation is here expressed to Mr. Albert F. Ganier and Mrs. James C. Robinson for furnishing help with some of the references. Also, the correspondents mentioned in the text who answered my inquiries for assistance.

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BLACKBIRD - STARLING SURVEY

by EUGENE LEGLER, JR.

Tennessee Game and Fish Commission, Nashville

A Blackbird - Starling Questionnaire was mailed on 5 November, 1965, to all Game and Fish Commission officers. Information was received for 81 of the 95 counties. The purpose of the study was to provide background material for the Blackbird Research Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia.

The objectives of the Tennessee Blackbird - Starling survey were to determine:

1. Population status
2. Roost locations
3. Urban and rural roost problems
4. Crop and feed lot damage complaints

A total of 155 roosts were reported with a "guesstimated" population of 30,125,000 blackbirds and Starlings. Breakdowns by region and county are as follows:

Region and County	Roosts		Region and County	Roosts	
	No.	Size		No.	Size
EAST					
Anderson	3	500	Cumberland	10	11,000
Blount	4	5,000	Grundy	1	50,000
Bradley	2	20,000	Marion	2	6,000
Carter	4	15,000	Sequatchie	4	85,000
Cocke	1	5,000	Van Buren	1	10,000
Grainger	5	10,000			
Hamblen	1	2,300,000	TOTAL	18	162,000
Hamilton	2	15,000	MIDDLE		
Jefferson	5	25,000	Bedford	4	1,000,000
Knox	1	1,500	Cheatham	1	60,000
Loudon	4	16,000	Clay	5	8,000
McMinn	14	20,000	Coffee	1	10,000
Monroe	3	6,000	DeKalb	2	3,000
Polk	2	10,000	Dickson	2	3,000
Rhea	5	25,000	Franklin	3	150,000
Washington	2	200,000	Giles	1	4,000
			Houston	1	2,000
TOTAL	58	2,673,500	Jackson	5	2,000
			Lawrence	1	5,000
WEST					
Benton	4	800,000	Lincoln	2	10,000
Dyer	6	100,000	Marshall	1	275,000
Fayette	5	10,000,000	Maury	1	10,000
Hardeman	1	50,000	Mongomery	5	18,000
Henderson	1	50,000	Perry	2	1,000
Lake	2	1,500,000	Pickett	1	5,000
McNairy	1	1,000,000	Putnam	1	1,000
Madison	1	5,000	Rutherford	4	?
Shelby	6	12,000,000	Sumner	1	100,000
Tipton	1	75,000	Warren	2	20,000
			White	1	500
TOTAL	28	25,580,000	Williamson	2	12,000
			Wilson	2	10,000
STATE-WIDE					
TOTAL	155	30,125,000	TOTAL	51	1,709,500

Twenty-seven roosts (17.4 per cent) were located in urban areas and 128 (82.6 per cent) were reported in rural areas. A total of 18 Game and Fish Officers reported urban roosts. Twelve (12), or 66.7 per cent, indicated that the roosts created a problem; however, control measures were reported by only three of the officers. The control in two cases was reported as "shooting into the roosts and noise making" in the third case. The latter control was considered a success after two years of effort. The other two reports indicated no noticeable effect on the blackbird - Starling population. In all three reports, the property owner was responsible for the control work.

Fifty Game and Fish Officers reported rural roosts. Sixteen (16), or 32 per cent, indicated that the roosts created a problem. Control measures were reported by six of the officers. Four (4) of the control measures involved shooting, one firecracker ropes and one shellcrackers. Success of the control methods was considered temporary in three cases and no noticeable effect on the other three reports. Landowners were responsible for four of the control attempts and Federal authorities in two cases. The State assisted one landowner.

A total of 73 Game and Fish Officers answered the crop damage complaint question with 31, or 42.5 per cent, indicating some degree of damage. Corn was the number one crop damaged, appearing on 21, or 67.7 per cent, of the crop damage complaints. Eight, or 25.8 per cent, of the officers listed milo while one complaint each was recorded for rice, gardens, fruit trees, peas, beans, peanuts and lespedeza. Of the 68 responses to the feed lot damage question, 16, or 23.5 per cent, indicated some type of damage in their area.

SUMMARY

The data presented is admittedly rather crude; however, it does point out that a blackbird-Starling problem does exist to some degree in Tennessee. Whether this problem is new and on the increase or is an old stagnant situation being stimulated by surveys and publicity is unknown. Of the 28 urban - rural roost problems cited, 9, or 27.3 per cent, were involved with control measures. All controls were classified as "scare devices". Little or no help was given by the State or Federal agencies. Crop and feed lot damage reports appear to be numerous as evidence by the 42.5 per cent and 23.5 per cent positive responses.

TENNESSEE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION, 706 Church St.,
Nashville.

THE SEASON

NASHVILLE. — Grebes-Hawks: Pied-billed Grebe: 30 July (1) PWP pond (LOT). Great Blue Heron: scarce. Little Blue Heron: 6 Aug. (22) ACM (MB). Common Egret: no reports. Blue-winged Teal: 13 June (1) male BL (HEP), 15 July (4) RL (LOT). Wood Duck: again raised young RL (MCW) and TJ's (HEP). Broad-winged Hawk: (2) PWP all summer (AV) and (2) adults with flying young over BS during July (KAG).

Plover-Terns: Upland Plover: 17 Aug. (2) calling over home (HCM). Spotted Sandpiper: 11 Aug. (1) HR (LOT). Solitary Sandpiper: 19 Aug. (1) BL (HEP). Least Sandpiper: 12 Aug. (2) BL (HEP, HCM). Wilson's Phalarope: 12 Aug. (1) BL (HEP). Terns: no reports.

Nighthawks-Larks: Common Nighthawk: 31 Aug. (150) SHV (KAG), only a few seen in the TJ's area during the late Aug. migration. Red-head-

ed Woodpecker: two successful nests in CP, plus a second brood for one of these that left the nest on 1 Sept. (HCM). A successful July nesting WM (AV). Eastern Kingbird: nest reported in EWP (AV) and BL (HEP). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 24 Aug. (1) home (KAG). Traill's Flycatcher: 25 Aug. (1) TJ's (KAG), 3 days earliest ever. Least Flycatcher: 25 Aug. (1) TJ's (KAG), 5 days earliest ever. Horned Lark: 11-18 June, (2) EWP (AV, LOT).

Swallows-Sparrows: Tree Swallow: 14 Aug. (15) TJ's (HEP). Rough-winged Swallow: 21 July (25) BL (HEP). Cliff Swallows: many nest under the bridges on RR, as usual. Purple Martin: many nests reported, but numbers still down. Golden-winged Warbler: 26 Aug. (1) TJ's (KAG). Northern Waterthrush: 27 Aug. (1) TJ's (KAG). Louisiana Waterthrush: 14 Aug. (1) BS (KAG). Connecticut Warbler: late (1) 14 May WM (AV). Wilson's Warbler: 27 Aug. (1) TJ's (KAG). Canada Warbler: 20 Aug. (3) EWP (AV). Orchard Oriole: 24 Aug. (3) home (AV). Blue Grosbeak: 20 Aug. (2) adult feeding (3) young EWP (AV). 29 Aug. (13) scattered in Cannon County (MCW). Lark Sparrow: 8 Aug. (1) home (KAG).

Locations: ACM—Ashland City Marsh, BL—Bush Lake, BS—Basin Springs, CP—Centennial Park, EWP—Edwin Warner Park, HR—Harpeth River near Interstate 40, PWP—Percy Warner Park, RL—Radnor Lake, RR—River Road, SHV—South Harpeth Valley, TJ's—Two Jays Sanctuary, WM—West Meade.

Observers: MB—Mike Bierly, KAG—Katherine A. Goodpasture, HCM—Harry C. Monk, HEP—Henry E. Parmer, LOT—Lawrence O. Trabue, AV—Alvin Vincent, MCW—Mary C. Wood.

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

CHATTANOOGA—Grebes-Hawks: Pied-billed Grebe: 4 Aug. (1) CD, 21 Aug. (1) SB. Great Blue Heron: 17 July (1) SB, 28 Aug. (1) SB, 29 Aug. (1) SB. Little Blue Heron: 30 July (3) SB, 6 Aug. (11) SB, 7 Aug. (7) SB, 15 Aug. (5) SB, 20 Aug. (6) SB, 21 Aug. (9) SB, 28 Aug. (3) SB, 20 Aug. (2) SB. Common Egret: 17 July (3) SB, 24 July (4) SB, 30 July (1) SB, 6 Aug. (3) SB, 7 Aug. (3) SB, 15 Aug. (1) SB, 20 Aug. (2) SB, 28 Aug. (1) SB, 29 Aug. (1) SB, 31 Aug. (1) D. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 17 July (1) AM. Mallard: 1 July (8) HCP, 29 Aug. (1) VOW. Black Duck: 28 Aug. (2) SB. Blue-winged Teal: 20 Aug. (1) SB, 21 Aug. (5) SB. Wood Duck: 3 July (7) MP, 4 July (1) CG, 17 July (2) SB, 24 July (3) VOW, 6 Aug. (3) SB, 7 Aug. (2) SB, 21 Aug. (5) VOW, 28 Aug. (4) SB, 29 Aug. (4) SB. Turkey Vulture: 4 July (2) CG, 10 July (1) H, 7 Aug. (1) SB, 15 Aug. (1) SB, 20 Aug. (3) SB. Black Vulture: 4 July (2) CG. Cooper's Hawk: 4 July (2) CG. Red-tailed Hawk: sporadic in small numbers, high count 15 Aug. (2) SB and 20 Aug. (2) SB. Red-shouldered Hawk: 23 July (1) CD, 31 Aug. (1) D. Broad-winged Hawk: 25 July (1) SM.

Plovers-Terns: Semipalmated Plover: 20 Aug. (3) SB, 28 Aug. (10) SB (JD). Common Snipe: 15 Aug. (1) SB, 21 Aug. (1) SB, 28 Aug. (1) SB. Spotted Sandpiper: 24 July (1) SB, 7 Aug. (2) SB, 15 Aug. (10) SB, 20 Aug. (1) SB, 21 Aug. (1) SB, 28 Aug. (3) SB, 29 Aug. (1) SB. Solitary Sandpiper: 10 July (3) AM, 11 July (4) AM, 16 July (1) AM, 17 July (5) SB, 23 July (3) AM, 24 July (8) SB, 7 Aug. (2) SB, 20 Aug. (2) SB, 28 Aug. (2) SB. Willet: 20 Aug. (1) SB (JD, JG, DWKB). Greater Yellowlegs: 20 Aug. (1) SB. Lesser Yellowlegs: 20 Aug. (5) SB, 21 Aug. (5) SB. Pectoral Sandpiper: 17 July (1) AM, 23 July (1) AM, 24 July (2) SB, 7 Aug. (4) SB, 15 Aug. (6)

SB, 20 Aug. (39) SB (JD), 21 Aug. (17) SB, 28 Aug. (14) SB. Least Sandpiper: 24 July (2) SB, 7 Aug. (2) SB, 20 Aug. (2) SB, 2 Aug. (5) SB, 28 Aug. (11) SB, 29 Aug. (9) SB. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 20 Aug. (5) SB, 21 Aug. (6) SB, 28 Aug. (3) SB. Western Sandpiper: 20 Aug. (2) SB, 21 Aug. (1) SB, 28 Aug. (2) SB. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: (See Round Table Notes). Common Tern: 30 July (1) SB. Least Tern: 1 July (2) CD. Black Tern: 8 Aug. (4) CL, 15 Aug. (21) SB, 20 Aug. (63) SB, 21 Aug. (47) SB.

Owls-Wrens: Great Horned Owl: 31 July (1) NCCG. Barred Owl: 16 July (1) ECS. Bank Swallow: 3 July (2) AM, 7 Aug. (1) SB, 21 Aug. (3) SB, 31 Aug. (723) D (JD). Rough-winged Swallow: 16 July (1) AM. Barn Swallow: regular in varying numbers, high count 17 July (45) AM. Cliff Swallow: regular at CD, high count 1 July (35) CD. Short-billed Marsh Wren: 3 July (1) AM, 15 Aug. (1) SB.

Locations: AM—Annicola Marsh, CD—Chickamauga Dam, CG—Cohutta, Georgia, CL—Chickamauga Lake (Wolftower Area), D—Dayton, Tennessee, ECS—Elsie Chapin Sanctuary, H—Hixson, Tennessee, HCP—Hamilton County Park, MP—Minnow Ponds, NCCG—North Chickamauga Creek Gorge, SB—Savannah Bay, SM—Signal Mountain, Tennessee, VOW—Volunteer Ordinance Works Pond.

Observers: DWKB—Dr. W. K. Butts, JD—Jon DeVore, JG—James Garrett.

JON E. DeVORE, 4922 Sarasota Drive, Hixson 37343.

BRISTOL—Hérons-Owls: Green Heron: 3 June (1) SV; Broad-winged Hawk: 22 June (1) HM; 27 June (1) HM; Sparrow Hawk: 16 June (nesting pair) FB (WC); 22 June (1) BCC; Killdeer: 20 June (1) SHL; Barn Owl: 20 June (1) SHD (WC-CR); 21 June (1) WP (WC-TH-CS); 27 July (1 - freshly killed) I - Va. (BQ).

Goatsuckers-Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: 9 June (9) SHL; Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 3 Aug. (nest - 2 eggs) SV (JS, WC); Horned Lark: 17 July (15) BCC; White-breasted Nuthatch: 27 June (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 22 June (2) HM (WC); Cedar Waxwing: 3 June (6) SV; Loggerhead Shrike: 5 June (1) CC, Va. (WC); 15 June (1) SHL; 3 Aug. (1) SHL.

Vireos-Sparrows: Solitary Vireo: 19 June (3) HM (CS); Warbling Vireo: 5 June (1) CC, Va. (WC); Worm-eating Warbler: 15 June (1); 22 June (3); Parula Warbler: 3 June (1) SV; 19 June (3) HM; 22 June (5) HM; 27 June (4) HM; Black-throated Blue Warbler: 19 June (15) HM (CS); Chestnut-sided Warbler: 19 June (4) HM (CS); Canada Warbler: 19 June (2) HM (CS); Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 June (1) SV (WC); Vesper Sparrow: 3 June (nest - 3 eggs) SV (WC, LRH, JS).

Locations: BCC—Bristol Country Club area; CC, Va.—Clear Creek Lake, Washington County, Virginia; FB—Fairmount area Bristol; HM—Holston Mountain, Sullivan Co.; I-Va.—Interstate Hwy. 81, Washington Co., Va.; SHD—just below South Holston Dam; SHL—South Holston Lake, Tenn.; SV—Shady Valley, Johnson County; WP—Weaver Pike area.

Observers: WC—Wallace Coffey; LRH—Lee R. Herndon; TH—Tim Hawk; BQ—Bob Quillen; CR—Carolyn Randall; CS—Charles Smith; JS—John Shumate; BW—Bob Wagner.

WALLACE COFFEY, 508 Spruce Street, Bristol 37620.

ELIZABETHTON—Grebes-Sandpipers: Pied-billed Grebe: 12 June (3) on WL. Great Blue Heron: 8 June (1) (LRH). Green Heron: 31 Aug.

(7) at VA (WAB). Mallard: 5 Aug. (20) on WL (LRH). Blue-winged Teal: 24 Aug. (3). Wood Duck: 19 June (2). Lesser Scaup: 12 June, 12 July, 5 Aug. (2) on WL. Common Goldeneye: 5 Aug. (1) on WL. Bufflehead: 12 June, 5 Aug. (2) on WL. Broad-winged Hawk: 19 June (1); 9 Aug. (2); 15 Aug. (1). Ring-necked Pheasant: 18 June (1) SV. American Woodcock: 11 July (1) (RDM). Spotted Sandpiper: 24 Aug. (1). Solitary Sandpiper: 24 Aug. (1).

Owls-Finches: Barred Owl: 5 June (1) at LN (FWB). Chuck-will's-widow: last on 28 July (1) at MC (CRS). Hairy Woodpecker: 18 June (1) SV. Traill's Flycatcher: 10, 12 June (1), and 18 June (5) SV. Horned Lark: 12, 18 June (1) SV. White-breasted Nuthatch: 26 June (1); 11 July (1). Bewick's Wren: thru 17 July (1). Cedar Waxwing: 18 June (5). Golden-winged Warbler: 5 June (1) at LN (FWB); 18 June (2) in SV (LRH, CRS). American Redstart: 10 June (1); 18 June (5). Pine Siskin: 5 June (1) on RM (FWB). White-winged Crossbill: 5 June (15) on RM (FWB). Vesper Sparrow: 10 June (1) and 18 June (21) in SV.

Locations: LN—Lake Phillip Nelson, MC—Milligan College, RM—Roan Mountain, SV—Shady Valley, VA—Veterans' Administration, Johnson City, WL—Wilbur Lake.

Observers: FWB—Fred W. Behrend, WAB—W. A. Bridgforth, Jr., LRH—Lee R. Herndon, RDM—Roby D. May, CRS—Charles R. Smith.

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

ROUND TABLE NOTES

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER AT CHATTANOOGA — The first southeast Tennessee record of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) was recorded by the writer on 28 August, 1966 at Long Savannah Bay, northeast of Chattanooga. (see **MIGRANT**, 34, 57-60)

The area where the bird was recorded is low land, with short cropped grass extending to the waters edge during high water. On the morning of observation, the water was down, exposing fifty to seventy-five feet of mudflat around the shore. This area has, during low water, always proved to be an excellent area for shore-birds and is the area where Least Sandpipers have wintered in previous years. At 8:10 a.m. visibility was near excellent, with the sun at my back as I approached the mudflat.

Upon reaching the edge of the short grass several shore-birds were observed feeding along the flat near the waters edge. The birds were checked with 7x35 binoculars. A small brownish sandpiper emerged from the grass and moved quickly toward the other birds. The birds' actions were erratic; first it would dart from one place to another along the shore, sometimes going right through a group of feeding birds, then it would stop and extend its head to full length as if searching for something lost. It would proceed along the shore line a distance and dart back into the short grass, only seconds later to appear with neck once again outstretched. (the reader is referred to the habits description in Richard H. Pough's **Audubon Water Bird Guide** and **A Natural History of American Birds of Eastern and Central North America**, by E. H. Forbush, as Revised and Abridged by J. B. May).

Feeding along the shore near the Buff-breasted Sandpiper were: Semipalmated Plover (10), Killdeer (17), Common Snipe (1), Spotted Sandpiper (3), Solitary Sandpiper (2), Pectoral Sandpiper (14), Least Sandpiper (11), Semipalmated Sandpiper (3), and Western Sandpiper (3). By comparison

with these birds, a good description of both size and color was easily obtainable. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper and the other birds were driven slowly along the mudflat to a small peninsula where they could be observed in close proximity to one another. All observations were then made with a spotting scope using both 20x and 30x. The bird was smaller than a Pectoral Sandpiper, being more nearly the size of a Spotted Sandpiper. Its underparts were light buff extending to the undertail. The breast was very slightly darker buff. The feathers of the back were dark, edged with light buff. There was a definite light ring around the eyes. The legs were a dull yellow. The bill was of medium length, dark, and resembled that of a plover. (The reader is referred to the color and pattern descriptions in Frank M. Chapman (1901) *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America*, and Roger T. Peterson *A Field Guide to the Birds*). The birds were observed for about thirty minutes.

JON E. DeVORE, 4922 Sarasota Drive, Hixson 37343.

RUDDY TURNSTONE IN LAKE COUNTY — A Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) was observed by me 11 May, 1965 about 10:00 a.m. a few yards north of the Tiptonville Ferry in Lake County, Tennessee. The bird, which was in full spring plumage, spent the day quietly feeding along the shore line of a pond in a plowed field. It made no attempt to fly away as I observed it but did keep a distance of about 20 to 30 feet from me.

Mrs. Mary Louise Cypert and Mrs. Jean Markham returned with me later and confirmed the identification. When we returned, at about 2:00 p.m., the bird was still feeding along the shoreline of the same pond. It was at this time that Mrs. Cypert and I watched a flight of 27 dowitchers (*Genus: Limnodromus*) settle down across the road from the turnstone. They immediately tucked their heads to rest and were not observed feeding.

The day was clear and cool with light variable winds.

The turnstone could not be found the next day.

MRS. C. K. G. SUMARA, Tiptonville.

WINTERING OF NORTHERN BIRDS ON ROAN MOUNTAIN—Rarely has winter bird study on Roan Mountain, that is, in the coniferous forest above 5,500 ft., situated partly in Tennessee, partly in North Carolina, been more exciting than during the 1965-66 season.

From the spring of 1965 on, when it became apparent that there would be a tremendous crop of balsam seeds, this writer speculated that it would result in an influx of northern birds.

The expectation materialized. Pine Siskins began to move in as early as the middle of October, Evening Grosbeaks showed up in substantial numbers early in November, Purple Finches and Red Crossbills were observed in smaller numbers not long thereafter.

It remained, however, for the White-winged Crossbill, discovered for the first time in November 1963 on Roan Mountain, again to furnish the most interesting experiences.

A few individuals heard and seen initially with the beginning of the last third of November last year, soon it became apparent that large-size flocks inhabited the balsam and spruce-clad top of Roan Mountain.

A relatively open winter made weekly trips for checking possible throughout December. Deep snow and icy conditions prevented reaching the Roan at high elevation from the Tennessee as well as Carolina side on

weekends throughout January.

The writer ventured up the Carolina side the first weekend in February and, encountering frozen snow to a depth of two feet on the highway, found in about seven hours of hiking only enough time for an unsuccessful search for Snow Buntings on Round Bald above Carvers Gap. A flock of Evening Grosbeaks was heard calling on this trip, but no other northern birds, or any at all for that matter, were in evidence in the coniferous forest directly above Carvers Gap.

It was possible, however, to resume regular checks subsequently throughout February and continue them uninterruptedly.

For unexplainable reasons — there was no scarcity of food — the number of Evening Grosbeaks heard or seen on Roan Mountain became progressively smaller and none was observed after the relatively early date for departure of 29 March.

Purple Finches which during intensely cold weather the end of January and in following weeks flocked to yards, where fed, in the valleys of Upper East Tennessee, were also entirely absent from Roan Mountain by late winter, likewise the Red Crossbill.

On the other hand, Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills remained in large numbers. It was amazing to find them week after week, as spring advanced. There was not a weekend in May on which Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills were not heard and seen in flocks, although their number gradually diminished.

The final observation date of the last flock of White-winged Crossbills was, unbelievably late, 5 June. Pine Siskins apparently had departed during the preceding week.

It seems doubtful that the experience will repeat itself the coming winter. This year's crop of balsam seeds is practically nil. Spruce has been developing a fair to good seed crop. Unless there is another failure of the coniferous seed crop this season, the presence of northern species of birds in this neck of the woods is unlikely.

FRED W. BEHREND, 607 Range Street, Elizabethton.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE AT NASHVILLE—On 12 August 1966, the writer observed a Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) on the lake at Bush Farm in Davidson County, at Nashville, Tenn.

The Phalarope was observed as it fed in one-inch deep water at the southwest corner of the lake. It appeared to sink its bill into the mud bottom and shake its head sharply from side to side. The head action created circular ripples on the surface of the lake.

The bird was observed to wade to the bank and feed on the mud flat in a typical shore-bird manner. It moved out of range for good observation but later returned to the same spot to repeat the feeding procedure described above.

The bird flew a distance of about fifty feet presenting an excellent view of the wings and tail. No stripes could be seen on the wings and the tail also was without stripes as in the yellowlegs. The bird had long yellow legs and was remarkably whitish.

The only other Nashville area record appears in THE MIGRANT 25:23. HENRY E. PARMER, 3800 Richland Avenue, Nashville 37205.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER OBSERVED IN LAKE COUNTY—

In the late morning of 13 June 1966, the writer saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) perched on a power line along state highway 78 one-half mile north of Phillippy in Lake County, Tennessee. This is about midway between the Mississippi River and the northern part of Reelfoot Lake. The bird was observed with 7-power binoculars. It was quite unwary, allowing approach to within about twenty yards before it would fly a short distance and alight again. The writer had seen this species many times in Texas.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr., reported a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Phillippy on 7 August 1965 (THE MIGRANT 36:59). Another of this species was reported near Memphis along the levee at Lakeview and Mud Lake on 26 April 1964 by Mrs. Edw. L. Carpenter, et al. (THE MIGRANT 35:55).

Since the August 1965 observation and the recent observation were in the same locality, one wonders if the same bird could have returned in succeeding years. There is also the interesting possibility that this species may find the wide open Mississippi River farm country to be enough like the western prairies that they may extend their range to this area.

EUGENE CYPERT, 813 Foster Street, Tiptonville.

HARRIS' SPARROW WINTERS IN BRENTWOOD—In November 1964, I noticed a "different" sparrow feeding with other birds in my yard at my home in Brentwood, Tennessee. At first I thought it might be a female Purple Finch, but, with the help of other T. O. S. members, it was identified as an immature Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). It is unusual for this bird to be seen in the Nashville area, there being only twelve records of it. It came to the feeders daily until 27 April, 1965. A day or two after Thanksgiving, 1965, the Harris' Sparrow appeared again in a flock of White-throated and Field Sparrows. His plumage was that of a mature bird with black crown, face and bib, and a pink bill. Twenty-two members of the Nashville T. O. S. saw and identified the bird at various times. Henry Parmer made a good photograph of it. It continued to eat finely crushed corn placed on the ground several times a day all winter. In the small flock which accompanied the Harris' Sparrow, there was a Field Sparrow with white on head and wings (partially albino) both winters. The last few days before they left, a White-crowned Sparrow joined the flock. The last day the Harris' Sparrow was seen here was 6 May, 1966.

MRS. CHARLES MURPHY, Route 2, Brentwood 37027

HERONS AT MT. PLEASANT—In June and early July 1965 several reports of moderate-sized white herons in numbers up to about 10 came in from farmers in the Mt. Pleasant area. On 25 July I was flying over the marshes east of Mt. Pleasant and spotted a group of about 40 white herons in a very inaccessible marsh surrounded by willows. This area was subsequently checked on foot and it was found that all of the birds were Little Blue Herons without any of them showing the darker blue feathers of mature birds. The highest actual count was 39 birds at this time and most, if not all, the birds remained during the entire month of August. In early September, the marsh dried up and about 8 of the birds were found in a nearby similar area. Nests were not observed, but it is felt that a number of the birds were here during the early part of the summer when nesting would normally occur.

Yellow-crowned Night Herons (one pair?) did raise young in the Arrow

Lake area where three immature birds have been seen on several occasions. This has occurred in years past along with nesting Great Blue Herons and Little Green Herons in the area. The presence of large numbers of Little Blue Herons, however, has not been previously observed during the summer in this area.

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

NESTING RECORDS

Now that the nesting season is over all those who have participated in the Cornell University Nesting-Record Program are urged to forward their completed cards as soon as possible. For the 1965 breeding season more than 25,000 cards were completed and turned in. Judging by the response so far the 1966 season will exceed that figure. Data from these nesting record cards have been used in papers presented at the Wilson Society meeting at Pennsylvania State University. It is hoped that more extensive use will be made of these records by research workers. The completed cards would be addressed to Mrs. Sally H. Spofford, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N. Y. 14850.

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