

# THE MIGRANT

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## SUMMER OCCURRENCE OF BLUE GROSBEAKS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

BY KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE

During the past ten or more years field workers in the Nashville area have been watching with interest the increasing occurrence of Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca caerulea*) during the summer. Participation in the Breeding-Bird Survey, 1966 and 1967, has stimulated observation over a wider radius and the records deriving from these Surveys begin to fill blank spots in our knowledge of this bird as a breeding species in Middle Tennessee.

I am not aware of an earlier nesting record of Blue Grosbeaks for Tennessee than that of Warriner for McNairy County, 11 June 1945.<sup>1</sup> This location was a few miles north of the Mississippi state line and just west of the Tennessee River. Howell reported the first nest of the species in Knox County in 1951.<sup>2</sup> Especially pertinent to the present discussion is the record of a Blue Grosbeak observed by Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 28 June 1958 near Waynesboro (personal communication).

In the Nashville area of Middle Tennessee Mr. Jim Robbins verbally reported having seen a Blue Grosbeak at Richland Creek near the city limit during mid-summer 1950 and 1951. On 2 July 1952 a male Blue Grosbeak was reported from the South Harpeth Valley at Bedford Creek 20 miles southwest of the city.<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Faitoute watched a singing Blue Grosbeak inside the city, June and July 1962.<sup>4</sup> First evidence of the species breeding in the Nashville area was found 21 July 1962 when adults fed a young bird out of the nest in the same Bedford Creek area as cited above.<sup>5</sup> A year later, 30 June 1963, a nest with 3 eggs was found in the same area.<sup>6</sup> Between 1963 and 1967 no additional local nest has come to light but Mike Bierly observed adults feeding a young bird out of the nest at Radnor Lake, 31 July 1967 (see P. 15). Blue Grosbeaks are reported regularly in spring and irregularly during the summer within 20 miles of Nashville (Castles, Creech, Palmer, Wood, *et al.*). Today, reports of a Blue Grosbeak are no longer a surprise or "automatically questionable" in what is loosely called the Nashville area but the spotty pattern of our field work has led us to assume an equally irregular distribution of grosbeaks.

The Breeding-Bird Survey instituted by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1966 extended our observations systematically over Middle Tennessee from the Tennessee River to the foothills of the Cumberland Plateau and from Alabama to the Kentucky state line. One survey route ran from Dover in Stewart County eastward; others ran through White House and Bethpage; two in the

east ran southward from Bradyville and from Tullahoma; in the western section one route ran through Lewis County; others extended eastward from Collinwood in Wayne County, southward in Giles from Campbellsville; and one through Marshall County; all these in addition to three closer to Nashville in Williamson, Cheatham, and Hickman Counties. The bird population on these 12 routes was surveyed during June 1966 and 1967 by methods conforming to the nation-wide program and it is anticipated they will be surveyed similarly in the future.

Of 11 routes surveyed in Middle Tennessee in 1966 a total of eleven Blue Grosbeaks was reported on three routes (KAG). Five were found on a route running from Collinwood eastward toward Lawrenceburg; five were on a route in Giles County running from Campbellsville almost to the Alabama line and one was reported from near Bethpage northeast of Nashville. Mary Wood has communicated that she saw five grosbeaks on her scouting trip of the Bradyville route, 1966, but did not see any on the day of the survey.

In 1967 Blue Grosbeaks were reported on three of 12 routes. The species was added to two routes in 1967: one bird was reported from Lewis County by George Mayfield, Jr., another from Williamson County by Annella Creech. For the second year five grosbeaks were reported on the Collinwood route (KAG). In addition two grosbeaks were observed on this route that could not be reported on the survey. On the Campbellsville route likewise five grosbeaks were again observed but not a single one was reportable and three Blue Grosbeaks were observed but not reportable in the Bethpage area (KAG). In summary in 1966 eleven Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Middle Tennessee on the Breeding-Bird Survey; five non-reportable birds were observed on one route. In 1967 seven grosbeaks were reported on three Mid-State surveys and 10 additional individuals observed on the routes were not reportable.

## DISCUSSION

The above summer records of Blue Grosbeaks in Middle Tennessee deriving from the Breeding-Bird Surveys through two breeding seasons indicate a stable breeding population southwest of Nashville to the Tennessee River and the Alabama line. There also appears to be an established breeding population northeast of Nashville. It is not surprising to find Blue Grosbeaks in Wayne, Lawrence and Giles Counties but to find five grosbeaks on each of two routes in this area on the first Survey was surprising. It is a satisfaction to begin to establish a pattern for this species as a breeding bird as well as to confirm what was reasonable.

By statistical analysis of reports from all over eastern United States, Robins and Van Velzen projected a map in "The Breeding Bird Survey 1966" which shows Tennessee to be on a critical line along which change in the range and abundance of Blue Grosbeaks may be taking place.<sup>7</sup> Production of this map is an exquisite example of what can be done with a vast volume of data when modern methods of analysis can be applied. For the next few years it will be of interest to watch Middle Tennessee as an area where the Blue Grosbeak is probably not at the present time stabilized as a breeding species.

Mr. Coffey's record of a singing Blue Grosbeak near Waynesboro on 28 June 1958 helps significantly to bridge the gap between Warriner's first nest in McNairy County, 1945, and the Surveys of 1966-1967 which indicate an established breeding population in Wayne, Lawrence and Giles Counties. The Breeding-Bird Surveys cannot look backward to comment on the rate at which

the species has moved northward from the Mississippi and Alabama lines but the 1966 and 1967 surveys do set a scale by which change in the range and abundance of Blue Grosbeaks as a breeding species can be measured in 1970, in 1975 or in the year 2000.

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#### NEW STAFF MEMBER

The Editorial Staff is pleased to introduce a new member, Mr. Jon E. DeVore. He has been an active member of the Chattanooga Chapter of T.O.S. in recent years and will assume the duties of State Count Compiler. Mr. DeVore will organize the state "Christmas Season Bird Counts" and the "Spring Field Days." His responsibilities will include the editing and compiling of individual chapter counts.

Send your "Spring Field Days" counts for 1968 to:

MR. JON DEVORE, 4922 Sarasota Drive,  
Hixson, Tennessee 37343.

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## THE 1967 BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

WEST TENNESSEE — BY LULA C. COFFEY

Twelve surveys were made in West Tennessee. They are designated as: Tiptonville, Pawpaw, Moscow, Brownsville, Tibbs, Whiteville, Big Sandy, Mansfield, Sweet Lips, Silerton, Trenton, and Humboldt. A total of 77 species were listed. 18 species were found on all routes. These, with total numbers, were: Bobwhite, 586; Mourning Dove, 679; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 73; Barn Swallow, 262; Blue Jay, 305; Common Crow, 201; Mockingbird, 462; Brown Thrasher, 69; Loggerhead Shrike, 38; Starling, 336; Yellowthroat, 234; Yellow-breasted Chat, 122; House Sparrow, 1261 (563 on one route); Eastern Meadowlark, 491; Red-winged Blackbird, 700; Orchard Oriole, 65; Common Grackle, 781; Cardinal, 566; Indigo Bunting, 333.

The following was seen on one survey only: Common Egret, 1 (Humboldt); Mallard, 6 (Tiptonville); Wood Duck, 1 (Tiptonville); Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 (Moscow); Sparrow Hawk, 1 (Tibbs); Least Tern, 1 (Pawpaw); Nighthawk, 3 (Humboldt); Warbling Vireo, 1 (Tiptonville); Swainson's Warbler, 1 (Whiteville).

The White-eyed Vireo was found on 11 surveys, a total of 38. Red-eyed Vireo on 5 routes, total 9. Yellow-throated Vireo was found on only two routes, total 4.

In addition to Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat and Swainson's Warbler, the only other warbler listed was Prothonotary Warbler, 8 (5 routes).

Blue Grosbeaks were of special interest. A total of 10 were seen: Whiteville, 2 (1 stop); Big Sandy, 2 (2 stops); Mansfield, 1, and Humboldt, 5 (5 stops).

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## MIDDLE TENNESSEE — BY KATHERINE GOODPASTURE

Between 4 June and 23 June 1967 Middle Tennessee Breeding-Bird Surveyors enthusiastically tackled their routes for the second year. Sue Bell, Mike Bierly, Annella Creech, John Ellis, George Mayfield, Mary Wood and Katherine Goodpasture assisted by William Bell, Jr., Ruth Castles, Larry Copes, Milbry Dugger, Adele Elam, Evelyn Ellis, Erlene Elmore, William and Mary L. Fuqua, Henrietta McCrary, Harry Monk, Fannie Murphy, and David Patterson worked diligently to record a statistically significant sample of the breeding bird population in Middle Tennessee from Alabama to the Kentucky state line between 86°-88° longitude. Routes are established in Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, Marshall, Williamson, Davidson and Cheatham Counties; in Hickam, Lewis, Stewart, Sumner, Robertson, Cannon and Coffee Counties. This scatter of routes is well distributed over Middle Tennessee. The routes are run on roads and in directions designated by chance so that the survey represents as nearly as possible an unbiased sample of the breeding bird population.

In general the weather was open and favorable. One survey was hindered somewhat by heavy fog in the early morning and by intermittent light showers during the last part of the survey period. One pocket of terrain on this route which gave records of 3 Whip-poor-wills and 2 Chuck-will's-widows in 1966

did not yield a single cluck from a single goatsucker under the weight of heavy fog, 1967.

A total of 11,363 individuals of 89 species was reported. This was an increase of 2,374 individuals and 8 species over the 1966 surveys. In 1967 twelve species were reported from only one route: 3 Wood Ducks, 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Turkey, 1 Cooper's Hawk and 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 Chuck-will's-widows, 1 House Wren, 1 Worm-eating Warbler, 1 Ovenbird, 1 American Redstart, 1 Bachman's Sparrow and 1 Lark Sparrow.

The twenty-five species reported on each of the 12 routes may be considered well distributed over Middle Tennessee as are 11 species found on all save one. Species found on all routes are: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow and Field Sparrow. Species found on all routes except one are: Mourning Dove, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Carolina Wren, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, House Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

Species often showing a somewhat spotty distribution are Whip-poor-will found on 6 routes, Blue Grosbeak on 3, Dickcissel on 6 and Grasshopper Sparrow on 4 routes. It is interesting that only 1 House Wren was reported (Marshall County); Bewick's Wrens were reported on 9 routes and Carolina Wrens on eleven.

Sixteen species of warblers were reported from Middle Tennessee: Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler and American Redstart. Incidentally all these Warblers have been reported breeding in the small Basin Spring area through the past years.

It is not at the present time significant that 7 species, Great Blue Heron, Cooper's Hawk and Broad-winged Hawks, House Wren, Ovenbird and Baltimore Oriole, were reported in 1967 but not in 1966, or conversely that Black-crowned Night Heron, Barred Owl, Horned Lark and White-breasted Nuthatch were reported in 1966 and not in 1967. The foregoing paragraphs in general treat distribution of various species but not their abundance. One chief objective of the whole program is to watch for any change in the abundance of any species that may appear as years go by.

A review such as this is more of interest than significance at the present time but it indicates in small measure the volume of information being gathered and stored for meaningful analysis in the future. I would also point out that this information from Middle Tennessee fits into a mosaic of data from all over the United States. I want to express appreciation not only for the work done by the surveying crew in Middle Tennessee but also to the groups in East and West Tennessee who have contributed to this fascinating program of bird study so well organized by Mr. Chandler Robbins and Mr. W. T. Van Velzen of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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## EAST TENNESSEE — By J. C. HOWELL

In 1966, the Migratory Bird Population Station, a unit of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, organized and administered The Breeding Bird Survey. The chief aim of this survey was to gather information which would make it possible to measure population changes of breeding birds. Students of birds in 26 eastern states and four Canadian provinces participated in this project.

Tennessee ornithologists took part in the bird counts made during this first year and were asked to conduct counts on 42 routes. Eighteen of these 42 routes lie in the eastern section of the state. In 1966, counts were completed along 15 of the 18 routes. In 1967, counts were taken on all of the 18 routes. The data gathered during the counts made in these two years can be used to measure population levels in this part of the state and also to compare this region with other regions of the state and continent.

This article is concerned with the 18 routes lying in eastern Tennessee. It was written to present some of the information obtained during these counts. The counts are used to indicate differences in population level between the two years, the routes, the observers and some of the species.

Differences in observers were often accompanied by pronounced differences in the number of individuals counted from the same route. Counts were made over five routes by different observers in 1966 and 1967. On one route the difference between the totals of individuals counted by the two observers was 55 per cent. The percentage differences between the totals counted by the two observers on each of the five routes ranged from five to fifty-five and the median was twenty-two. These differences seem not to have been due to differences between the two years as is indicated below in the comparison between the two years.

Differences in the number of individuals counted in the years 1966 and 1967 seem to have been less pronounced than those due to differences between observers. Counts were made from ten of the 18 eastern routes in Tennessee by the same observer in both years. The highest per cent of difference between the two counts in these ten instances was 16. The range in the per cents of difference was from less than one to sixteen and the median was seven-and-a-half.

Different routes had special characteristics which resulted in counts that were unlike those of any other route even when the same observer made the counts. The 18 counts provide only limited information on the effect of different routes on the size of the counts obtained. To compare differences between routes it is desirable to have counts from different routes made by the same observer. J. M. Campbell counted individuals from routes T32 and T34 in both years. In 1966, route T34 had 24 per cent more individuals than T32 and in 1967, T34 had 18 per cent more. In both years I counted individuals from routes T37 and T39. In 1966, T37 had seven per cent more than T39 and in 1967, T37 had 21 per cent more.

Differences in the number of individuals counted vary between species as well as between routes, observers, and years. Analyzing these differences requires that the counts from which the data are derived be as similar as possible. In 1967, there were 18 counts available for comparison. Not all of these counts were suitable for comparison with those of 1966. Three of the 1967 counts were made from routes for which no counts were obtained in 1966, and the



counts from five routes were made by different observers in 1966 and 1967. These eight routes were considered unsuited to a study of the variations in numbers in individuals between the two years. All 18 counts can be used in comparisons of counts from larger areas where differences between observers will tend to balance one another.

Counts from 10 of the 18 routes in eastern Tennessee were conducted by the same observer in 1966 and 1967, and they form the basis for the comparisons which follow. The numbers of these 10 routes are T25, T27, T28, T32, T33, T34, T37, T41, and T42. In 1966, a total of 8,069 individuals belonging to 91 species was counted from these 10 routes. In 1967, the totals were 8,062 individuals and 99 species. The difference in the number of individuals counted between the two years seems too small to be significant. The increase in the number of species recorded in 1967 is probably the result of an increase in the ability of the observers to recognize the unusual species by their songs.

Table I compares the 20 species for which the highest number of individuals was counted in 1966 and 1967. The total numbers of individuals counted of these 20 species during each year is virtually identical. This seems to indicate that the capacity to support bird populations was the same in both years in the areas where counts were made. Despite the similarity between the two years when all or a group of species are considered, an examination of particular species shows that most of them differed in the numbers observed in the two years. Two of the 20 species included in the 1966 list, the Red-eyed Vireo and the Yellowthroat, were counted less often in 1967 than two other species, the Chipping Sparrow and the Rufous-sided Towhee.

In 1966, more Starlings were counted than any other species, although Common Grackles were reported almost as often. In 1967, the number of Starlings counted dropped by 28 per cent, while the number of Common Grackles increased by seven per cent. In 1967, fewer Starlings were observed on eight of the ten routes indicating that the decrease was general over the region as well as being pronounced in extent. The underlying factors responsible for this decline are perhaps numerous and are unstudied. Should the Starling continue to decline in this region it is reasonable to suppose that an increase in competing native species might result. Certain species which are frequently associated with Starlings and might be influenced by its decrease showed population increases in 1967. These include the Common Grackle, Eastern Meadowlark, House Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird and Yellow-shafted Flicker.

Another species in which there occurred a marked decline in the number of individuals counted in 1967 was the Chimney Swift. In this species the counts were lower on eight of the ten routes.

The number of Red-eyed Vireos counted dropped by 23 per cent and lower counts were made on eight of the nine routes on which the species was present.

In the following species listed in Table I the number of individuals counted increased in 1967 by more than 10 per cent and increases were noted on at least two-thirds of the routes on which they were present: Eastern Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Field Sparrow, Barn Swallow and Robin.

A few species not appearing in Table I and one group of species underwent changes during these two years which seem to merit comment. Yellow-shafted Flicker numbers increased from 36 to 65 and on seven of the eight routes on which a change occurred. Rough-winged Swallows increased from 12 to 35

TABLE 1

TWENTY MOST FREQUENTLY COUNTED BIRD SPECIES IN 1966 AND 1967 RANKED BY TOTALS OBTAINED ON TEN ROUTES IN EASTERN TENNESSEE.

1966				1967		
Rank	Name	Total	% of Change <sup>a</sup>	Rank	Name	Total
1	Starling	894	-28	1	C. Grackle	923
2	C. Grackle	866	+7	2	Starling	640
3	I. Bunting	362	+11	3	E. Meadowlark	404
4	E. Meadowlark	353	+14	4	I. Bunting	401
5	Cardinal	333	+12	5	Cardinal	373
6	C. Crow	329	-1	6	House Sparrow	332
7	House Sparrow	285	+16	7	C. Crow	326
8	C. Swift	267	-40	8	Mockingbird	276
9	Bobwhite	261	-1	9	Bobwhite	259
10	Mockingbird	248	+11	10	Field Sparrow	247
11	Field Sparrow	209	+18	11	Barn Swallow	239
12	Y.-b. Chat	196	-12	12	M. Dove	218
13	R.-w. Blackbird	195	-18	13	Blue Jay	181
14	Barn Swallow	192	+24	14	Y.-b. Chat	173
15	M. Dove	183	+19	15	Robin	171
16	Blue Jay	167	+8	16	C. Swift	161
17	Wood Thrush	144	+2	17	R.-w. Blackbird	159
18	R.-e. Vireo	137	-23	18	Wood Thrush	147
19	Robin	132	+30	19	Chipping Sparrow	132
20	Yellowthroat	131	-9	20	R.-s. Towhee	121
		<u>5,884</u>				<u>5,883</u>

<sup>a</sup>The per cent of change column refers to the species in the order of the 1966 list and indicates the gain or loss in per cent of the 1966 total which occurred in 1967.

and on four of six routes. Orchard Orioles increased from 53 to 76 and on five of seven routes. A striking decrease occurred in the group of warbler species among which 16 of the 21 species permitting comparisons between the two years showed a decrease. Among the warblers only the Kentucky Warbler showed an increase that might be significant. Its number increased from 28 to 40 and increases occurred on five of seven routes.

This report could not have been prepared without the cooperation of the observers responsible for making the counts in this area. Also, I am indebted to the Tennessee Breeding Bird Survey Coordinator, Dr. Katherine Goodpasture, and to C. S. Robbins and W. T. Van Velzen of the U. S. D. I. Migratory Bird Population Station for making information available to me. The 1967 cooperators and the routes from which they made counts are as follows: F. J. Alsop, T26; J. K. Burbank, T31; J. M. Campbell, T32 and T34; K. H. Dubke, T29, T35, and T36; Mrs. W. L. Fenn, T27; T. W. Finucane, T42; M. Grigsby, T38; J. C. Howell, T37, T39, and T40; W. J. Jones, T25; Mrs. W. R. Nevius, T41; Mrs. M. Swindell, T33; and Mrs. A. H. West, T28 and T30.

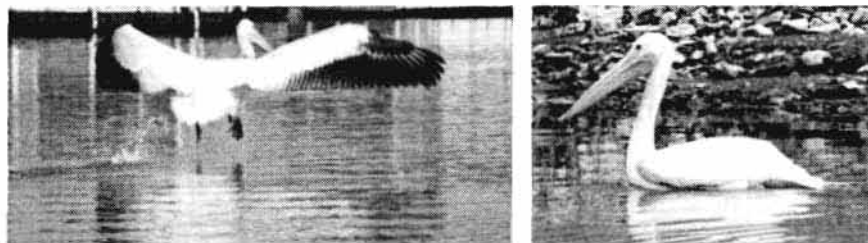
An excellent report summarizing much of the information obtained in the counts made during the first year entitled "*The Breeding Bird Survey 1966*," Special Scientific Report—Wildlife No. 102, U. S. D. I., was prepared by C. S. Robbins and W. T. Van Velzen. It is based on counts made from 585 routes located in 26 eastern states and four Canadian provinces. This report provides remarkably detailed information on the distribution and relative abundance of many species of birds. For certain species maps indicate its relative abundance in the area included in the 1966 survey. Future plans include an extension of area covered to include all of the contiguous states.

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## ROUND TABLE NOTES

WHITE PELICAN IN EAST TENNESSEE—At the Knoxville Chapter, TOS meeting on 4 Oct. 1967, Mr. Bill Williams of Maryville reported a White Pelican (*Pelicanus erythrorhynchos*) had appeared on a farm pond belonging to a Dr. Ramsey in Blount County, Tennessee, between Friendsville and Louisville. Several members of Knoxville Chapter, TOS made visits to see the bird.



On Friday, 20 October, at 4:30 p.m. a call was received by this writer from Mrs. James DuBose, owner of Andersonville Boat Dock which is just over the Anderson-Union County line in Union County on State Highway No. 61 north of Norris; she called to say a very large white bird had arrived in the harbor there at 2:30 p.m. and they could not identify it. We went immediately to the boat dock and discovered a White Pelican standing on the shoreline across the harbor preening. Gordon Hall and Dr. Frank Holland (game biologists with TVA's Fish and Game Section) arrived shortly and had with them a B&L 60-power scope. It permitted me to approach within three hundred yards then without any show of alarm, stepped into the water and slowly swam away. It swam to a point closer to the boat dock and again got out of the water. The next day Mr. Hall and another TVA employee returned to the boat dock and by boat approached the bird close enough to secure excellent pictures and a few colored slides. The pelican never exhibited any alarm or fright of people—permitting boats and people to approach quite close.

The bird remained in their area until Sunday, 5 November, when it left at 8:30 a.m. and has not been seen since. Saturday, 4 November, had been quite cold in this area and some sections near Norris had snow flurries and gale winds early that morning.

MRS. EARL F. OLSON, Norris 37828.

LAUGHING GULL AT CHATTANOOGA—While in the course of regular field work on the morning of 25 March 1967 the writer identified what is believed to have been a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). Location of the sighting was approximately one mile above Chickamauga Dam, on a sandbar adjacent to the south shore of Lake Chickamauga. Due to the water level being down, an area approximately twenty-five feet long by twelve feet wide was exposed. This spot has in the past been frequented not only by gulls, but also ducks and occasionally shorebirds. The small island is about forty yards from the shore and accessible only by boat. On the morning of the sighting the weather was clear, with widely scattered clouds to the west. The temperature was 49°F and there was a slight breeze coming from the west. Light conditions all morning were excellent.

The bird itself was first noted, through 7x35 binoculars, resting among nine Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). At first it was thought the bird was a Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), which occurs here frequently in the winter and spring months. But the bird's size, being equal to that of the Ring-billed Gulls, gave rise to question that assumption. The bird was then brought under observation with 20x and 30x spotting scope. It was immediately noted that the legs were a deep crimson red in color. The bill color was also a distinct crimson red color, but somewhat lighter than the legs. The bill color, being red, eliminated the possibility of the bird being a Bonaparte's Gull as that species has a black bill in all plumages. By this time the bird had been under observation for fifteen minutes and had not moved except to raise its head. It was decided at this time to try to "flush" the bird so a view could be had of its back. After throwing several rocks into the water three of the Ring-billed Gulls flew away and the remaining birds became restless, moving around and raising their wings as if ready to fly. On two occasions the bird under observation extended its wings outward and above its body. It was noted that the mantle was a slate gray color, being continuous to the black wing tips. This color pattern is distinctly that of the Laughing Gull and is different from the nearly identical Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) which has a white bar separating the gray mantle from the black wing tips.

Due to the importance of this record, Mr. Kenneth Dubke and Mr. Roy Evenson were contacted so they might confirm the record. Due to intervening circumstances they were unable to go to the area until the morning of the 27th. By some form of luck the bird was still there. They too noted the red color of the bill, the deeper red color of the legs, and the size in comparison with the Ring-billed Gulls. They were, however, unable to flush the bird and observe the color of the mantle and the wing tips. They could note, though, that the back was a slate gray, even with the wings folded in.

This sighting represents the first Chattanooga area record for this species. The bird was observed for approximately one hour by the writer on the morning of the 25th and approximately one hour by Mr. Dubke and Mr. Evenson on the morning of the 27th.

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

CHICKADEES HATCH AND RAISE A BLUEBIRD—At my place near Brentwood, Tenn., I have two bluebird boxes. One on a fence post near the house, the other on a post at the garden. On 4 March 1967, I noticed a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) going in and out of the box at the garden. By 17 March there was nesting material in this box. However, on 30 March I was surprised to find two bluebird eggs in the other box that is near the house. When checking this box later I thought that the eggs had disappeared, but, on close inspection, found them under newer nesting material. Further observations showed a pair of Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) both going in and out of the box and chasing the pair of bluebirds away! By 11 April there were the two bluebird eggs, plus three chickadee eggs in a nicely made nest in the box. Brooding must have started immediately because on 22 April one bluebird and the three chickadee eggs hatched. Later, the second bluebird egg proved to be addled. The chickadees faithfully fed their three babies and the much larger bluebird youngster. All four thrived, and I last saw them in the nest on 5 May. On 7 May I returned after a weekend away

and found the box empty. Afterward, I saw parent chickadees feeding a family of three youngsters many times, but never saw a young bluebird with them. The adult bluebirds nested in the other box and raised four young that left the nest 12 May.

FANNY MURPHY, Route 2, Brentwood 37027.

**UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR OF A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**  
—On 11 July 1967, the writer saw an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) catch a five-inch Israeli Carp in water that he knew to be fully 10 feet in depth (by previous drainings) and fly with it about 400 feet to a perch.

For the past three summers Joe Bush has both sold and used the Israeli Carp at Bush Lake, as they seem to eat only aquatic plants they have proved highly beneficial in keeping fishing lakes clean. During late June and early July, the writer several times saw odd schools of these fish in the large lake. The schools seemed to be compact surface masses of 5 to 6 inch fish, slowly swimming as a unit 18 to 24 inches wide and 5 to 7 feet in length. The fish are so tightly packed that many would be pushed far enough above the surface for an inch of their backs and sides to show. It seems logical that the caught fish must have been from such a school.

About 10:30 a.m. the writer was watching a Black Tern through 7 x 50 binoculars as it flew about the lake. As it neared the center his attention was attracted to a large brown bird that seemed to be hovering for an instant just over the surface, then a small splash. The bird flew just above the water directly toward the car. When nearly 40 feet away, it perched about four feet above the water on a fallen willow tree. It held an Israeli Carp (that seemed about five inches long) crossways in its bill. It remained in a frozen position for a couple of minutes as the writer studied the bright markings of the fish and the plumage of an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

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

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER AT REELFOOT**—27 December 1967, Clarence McCollum and I saw a Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) at the Long Point boat house on Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge.

After studying the picture and description in Peterson's Field Guide, I am certain of the identification. The bird was an adult male. The flaming red head and underparts and the dark wings were identical to those shown in the field guide.

The flycatcher would perch upon the rudder rod of one of the boats and then fly and hover over the water just inside the boathouse and pick insects off the water surface. The water surface outside the boat house was frozen. The bird was quite unwary, allowing me to approach to within about 10 feet, so I was able to get a good look at it. We were in and around the boat house for about half an hour and the flycatcher was still there when we left.

The Vermilion Flycatcher has been observed before at Reelfoot Lake. Arlo Smith reported an observation 15 October 1961 (THE MIGRANT 36-1, 1965). John DeLime and Walden Fickle also observed one near the south end of Reelfoot Lake that same fall.

GUY E. HOGG, Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Samburg.

RED PHALAROPE NEAR CHATTANOOGA—On 12 December 1967 at the Savannah Bay area of Chickmauga Lake I observed two Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in definitive basic plumage. When first located at 1:00 p.m. the sky was overcast, but before leaving at 2:15 p.m. it had broken somewhat allowing the sun to shine. The winter sun was to the rear and low in the sky with the viewing distance generally 100 to 150 yards through the 35x scope.

Shortly after being found, one of the birds stretched its wings revealing a white stripe and lack of a white rump. This ruled out a Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). The remainder of the time was occupied in an attempt to separate them between the Red and Northern (*Lobipes lobatus*) species. They were exceedingly active as they would spin and feed. The bills appeared black and more blunt than needle-like. Once, when the sun broke through, one of the birds was feeding out of the water and on the mud. Its legs appeared similar in color to a nearby Least Sandpiper's (*Erolia minutilla*). During the entire time under observation there was nothing to hint these birds had a streaked back as one would expect from a Northern Phalarope.

That night a thorough search was made in all available books to ascertain the identification. The plates by Robert Verity Clem and species accounts by Ralph S. Palmer in *The Shorebirds of North America* (The Viking Press, Inc., New York, 1967) further confirmed my observation of Red Phalaropes.

Jon DeVore was notified and found the birds the following day. They were in the same general area and at a much more convenient location for viewing. He was able to approach them to only 15-20 feet and leisurely study their plumage for forty-five minutes with good light through his 20x scope. DeVore concurred with my observations, however, he was never able to view the legs or extended wings.

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

WHISTLING SWANS IN KNOX COUNTY—On 9 December 1967, 10:15 A.M. I was walking down a road at the University of Tennessee Plant Science Farm toward Fort Loudon Lake, which was about 150 yards from me, when I saw four large white birds coming in low on the near side of the lake.

I approached within 100 yards of the shore where I could clearly see the birds, which were 50 yards out on the lake. I identified the four birds with a 50X telescope. They were adult Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*). The bill was not knobbed or orange as that of the Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), but black. I could not see a yellow spot on the lores, as the Whistling Swan sometimes has. The Whistling Swans were in shallow water near stumps by a sandbar (the river was low). They were not active, but stayed in the same place, preening their feathers and resting.

I watched the swans for one hour and a half until noon. Returning home, I called Paul Pardue, who left for the Plant Science Farm immediately and saw the swans. Dr. J. C. Howell and Mrs. E. E. Overton also saw the birds and verified my identification. The birds were not observed further in Knoxville, but Kenneth Dubke of Chattanooga observed four Whistling Swans on

the Hiwassee River at Candies Creek on 12-13 Dec. and Bill Allen, Game and Fish Commission waterfowl biologist, saw four swans fly over Hiwassee Island Waterfowl Refuge on 16 Dec.

Between 1911 and 1959 there have been ten reported sightings of the Whistling Swan in Tennessee (THE MIGRANT, 30:56, 1959 and *Wilson Bulletin*, 41:97, 1929), including two birds shot near Knoxville on the Little Tennessee River on 8 Dec. 1926. Normally Whistling Swans migrate along the coastal states and winter from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

CHRIS Mc MILLAN, 2761 Lindsay Place, Knoxville 37919.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Basham-Halverson party observed six birds at Wood's Hole near Tullahoma on 3 January 1964, THE MIGRANT 35:16, 1964.)

TWO ALBINO ICTERIDS COLLECTED FROM NORTHEASTERN ARKANSAS—Plumage aberrations are fairly common among icterids and have attracted the attention of several previous observers. Detailed studies have been made by Mueller and Hutt (1941), Nero (1954), and Whitaker (1960). Deane (1876) wrote that the most interesting and striking cases of albinism are found among the *Icteridae* and *Corvidae*. Edson (1928) records an unusual flock of Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) with a high incidence of plumage aberrations of which perhaps more than 40 per cent of the flock showed incomplete albinism. Albinism in the Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) was reported by Wilson (1930) and there is one record reported in the literature of an albino Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) (Robinson, 1888). Numerous records of icterids with various feather aberrations have been reported from sight records and some specimens with various feather aberrations occur in various museums in this country.

Two albino icterids were collected southwest of Jonesboro near Gibson Switch of Craighead County, Arkansas. The first specimen, a Common Grackle, was taken from a flock of Common Grackles in November of 1963. A second albino Common Grackle occurred. This specimen was collected by Robert Lowery 11 December 1966. A third Common Grackle with one white feather in the rectrices was observed by the writer near Cash, Arkansas in the fall of 1964. The cowbird specimen is an incomplete albino whereas the Common Grackle collected is a complete albino. Incomplete albinism was defined by Nero (1954) as a condition in which the eyes, skin, or feathers are affected, but not all three.

The measurements of the first year Brown-headed Cowbird are total length 19 cm; bill (chord of culmen from base) measured 2 cm; tail length 6.3 cm; tarsus length 2.5 cm; and the length from the bend of the wing to the tip 10 centimeters. The head and neck are light orange-buff. Wing coverts, secondaries, and primaries are edged with buff. The remaining feathers of the body are white. The eyes, bill and tarsus are pigmented. This specimen has been placed in the Arkansas State University Museum as No. 225.

The Common Grackle measurements are as follows: total length 29 cm; bill (chord of culmen from base) 2.8 cm; tail 11 cm; tarsus length 4 cm; and the length from the bend of the wing to the tip is 13.7 centimeters. This bird is a complete albino and has been mounted and placed in the albino case in the Arkansas State University museum.



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EARL L. HANEBRINK, Arkansas State University, State University, Arkansas.

BLUE GROSBEEK WITH YOUNG IN NASHVILLE—At dusk on 31 July 1967, I saw a silhouette of what I suspected was a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) sitting on a wire. The location was on Otter Creek Road between Radnor Lake and Granny White Pike. Soon, another bird of the same size came and joined the one on the wire and then they flew off. The next day I confirmed my suspicions and saw in good light a singing male and a female grosbeak. On 2 August Amelia Laskey, Katherine Goodpasture, and I found the pair of grosbeaks feeding a partially grown, begging young grosbeak. These facts represent the closest nesting of the Blue Grosbeak to the Nashville area. Goodpasture had two previous nesting records in the South Harpeth Valley (THE MIGRANT 33: 72, 1962 and 35: 21, 1964).

Erline Elmore on 17 August saw four birds, three of them brown and one blue. When the young grosbeak was first observed on 2 August it was thought that there were two young birds involved. This observation by Elmore might verify our suspicions. The birds were last seen by Mary Wood on 29 August at which time she saw three birds.

MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 3826 Bedford Avenue, Nashville 37215.

LOUISIANA HERON AND GLOSSY IBIS AT CHATTANOOGA—On 8 May 1967, I closely observed a single Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) and two Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) as they casually fed and preened their feathers at Amnicola Marsh. Three days of hard rain and southerly winds of 14 to 24 mph probably blew them in. Very leisurely views were made under broken clouds with both 7x50 binoculars and a 35x telescope. Apparently they were tired when first found in the morning as approaches of fifty yards and much less were easy to make. They were still present in the evening when I returned with Jack Wagner and his son Mark. The Louisiana Heron appeared to be in good plumage with its white belly very conspicuous. This is the same individual reported in THE MIGRANT, 38: 50, 1967.

During the following two days Jon DeVore could only locate the ibis.

With the excellent opportunities afforded there was no reason to believe they possessed the white face patch of the White-faced Ibis (*P. c. c. bibi*). However, it was noted they had a very slight trace of whitish around the base of the bill.

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

**FULVOUS TREE DUCK NEAR DOVER**—A single bird of this southerly species (*Dendrocygna bicolor helva*) was trapped in 1965 along with other waterfowl during our banding activities at the Cross Creek National Wildlife Refuge. It was first trapped 4 April and re-trapped several times until the week of 20-26 June, after which it was not seen again. This is the fourth State record; the previous occurrences were two in east Tennessee and recorded in THE MIGRANT for June and December 1965 and the third at Kentucky Lake recorded in THE MIGRANT for September 1967. This duck was brought in to the office for photographic verification and several photos were made. They were shown to Mr. A. F. Ganier and other members of the T. O. S. during a visit to the Refuge on 2 December 1967. The Cross Creek Refuge begins two miles east of Dover and extends upstream along the south side of the Cumberland river for about 12 miles. These bottom lands are partially flooded by water backed up from the Barkley dam near the mouth of the river.

Another waterfowl of interest that visited the Refuge during 1966 and 1967 was a Whistling Swan. According to our records it was first seen on 18 December 1966 and remained to 18 March 1967. For waterfowl banding, we operate two large nylon-mesh traps, each of which at times may hold several hundred birds. During the waterfowl visitation season of 1966-1967, we banded 17,706 ducks. Thus far (2 Dec.) during the 1967 fall banding, we have banded 7,216 ducks and 77 geese. As of this date, about 1,200 Canada Geese and a few Blue Geese have come in, also we estimate about 35,000 ducks are here. Of the latter about 30,000 are Mallards.

CARROLL RYAN, Managr, Cross Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Dover 37058.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK IN KNOX COUNTY**—On 20 January 1968, a Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) was identified in the western portion of Knox County on Virtue Road. Dr. Joseph C. Howell sighted the hawk perched in a nearby deciduous tree. The bird was observed with 60x and 20x telescopes, by Dr. Howell, Fred Alsop, Jim Campbell, and myself.

The Rough-legged Hawk, which winters from Southern Canada to south North Carolina, north Louisiana, and north Texas, was one of the few records of this species for Knox County. The light phased buteo revealed all diagnostic characteristics with the white tail having a broad black band at the end, black belly, and the black patch at the wrist of the wing while in flight. The bird was observed again later in the day perching on a telephone pole.

The following day, 21 January 1968, the bird was observed in the same locality by the Knoxville Chapter of the T.O.S. All members present had an excellent view of the Rough-legged Hawk hovering. This characteristic had not been observed the previous day. The bird was last reported in the locality later in the day.

DANNY ELLIS, #1 Hedgewood Dr., Knoxville 37918.

AN ACCOUNT OF A RUFFED GROUSE WITH A TRACTOR—Our first encounter with our Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) was in the Spring of 1963. My husband came in from the fields on the farm tractor and the grouse came flying over from behind and lit on the ground in front of the tractor where he sat and apparently waited for my husband to catch up and pass him. He repeated this procedure twice but was finally frightened away by our dog who came to investigate.



RUFFED GROUSE AND TRACTOR

His second visit came 21 and 22 April 1965. We were working around the barn lot when again he came, strutting and "chortling" with tail fanned and neck outstretched. The next day he appeared while two tractors were in the field discing—flying so close as to almost knock the hat from the head of the driver, landing in front of the tractor and running between the front wheels, although we could never get close to him when we were walking.

By now we were almost sure that this being the mating season, he confused the "thump, thump" of this type of tractor with that of a male rival and we felt we had his "tractor psychosis" diagnosed. Others supposed he had been a hatchery chick and associated the sound of the tractor with feeding time. We were apparently all wrong for in early April 1966 he appeared one morning after the tractor had been quiet and idle for days (a different year model but the same color) to guard, admire, inspect or challenge—whichever—quite docile until I approached slowly in the car with my camera when once again he assumed the stance of a fighter and reluctantly gave ground.

We have never heard his Spring drumming and have never known of any other Ruffed Grouse staying very long in this immediate vicinity. There are open fields, brush or woodlands here.

ROBBIE HASSLER, Box 1, Byrdstown 38549.

## NOTES ON INFORMAL SYMPOSIUM

On 28 October 1967 fourteen members of various chapters of Tennessee Ornithological Society met at Pete Smith's Watts Bar Dam Resort for a symposium on various research projects under way in our state.

Chaired by Kenneth Dubke of Chattanooga, first speaker introduced was Charles R. Smith who elaborated on his recently published article (THE MIGRANT, 38:25) covering his study of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). One item brought out in the discussion was highest mortality rate was among those birds nesting in a wet area. No conclusion reached.

Kenneth Dubke discussed reports—mostly anecdotal and over a period of years—of Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nesting in East Tennessee. Plans an all-out effort in the coming year to find an active Osprey nest. Welcomes help.

Tom Finucane spoke on Hawk Migration. Reported migration early this year with peak day being 17 September. Asked the opinion of the assembled group on the continuation of the project—the vote was unanimous for the continuance of the Hawk Migration project.

Dr. Joe Howell talked on the "mechanics" of the National Audubon Society's nesting records. Explicit instructions may be obtained from the National Audubon Society. This project has been under way some years but only forty such participants have been found.

Wallace Coffey next gave an enthusiastic talk on improvements planned in THE MIGRANT. Also gave some details of work involved in publishing an issue. Cited some steps already taken to ease the burden of the Editor.

Last speaker of the afternoon session was Jon DeVore on his study of Amnicola Marsh near Chattanooga. Displayed charts, records, notes and pictures on five nests of King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) and eighteen Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) nests.

Evening session was given over entirely to Mr. Albert Ganier who urged all to participate in the Cornell University Nesting Card Record. He reminisced on records he had kept over the years and gave information on incubation periods of various species; also on locations of nests of various species—that is, on the ground, low or high in shrubs or trees. Just record cards kept on nests in your own yard can be valuable.

Those present voted unanimously to make the symposium an annual autumn affair and stated Pete Smith's Watts Bar Dam Resort is ideal for the occasion.

MRS. EARL F. OLSON, Norris 37828.

## THE SEASON

CHARLES R. SMITH, *Editor*

Those reports which follow include data from the months of December and January only. Throughout the state, the weather for December was decidedly warmer and wetter than average. Temperatures for that month averaged from two to three degrees above the normal temperatures for all report areas. Total precipitation was from two to four inches above normal precipitation levels. On 28 December, all report areas with data available recorded snow, with the middle portion of the state receiving the heaviest snowfall (six inches near Cookeville, four inches at Nashville). With the exception of 28 December, other snowfall for that month was negligible. From all available information, the month of January appeared to be colder and slightly drier than usual. Snow was the prevalent form of precipitation for January, with Upper East Tennessee recording a total of approximately ten inches for that month. Savannah reported a period of "exceptionally long and deep snow" from 13 to 17 January. Chattanooga recorded three inches of snow on 14 January. One to two inches of snow fell in the Elizabethton area from 9 to 13 January with a heavy snowfall of 4.5 inches on 24 January.

The unusually warm weather in December could possibly have influenced the early courtship flights of the American Woodcock which were noted in some areas. In Nashville, Mourning Doves were also calling as early as December. The presence of many species, which are normally considered summer residents or migrants, during the winter months might also be attributed to the unusually mild weather during the early part of the period. Some notable winter records of species of this nature follow: Spotted Sandpiper at Savannah; Least Sandpiper and Dunlin at Chattanooga; Brown Thrasher at Knoxville and Elizabethton; Palm Warbler at Chattanooga and Knoxville; Baltimore Oriole at Nashville and Knoxville; Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Knoxville; Dickcissel at Nashville and Greeneville; Chipping Sparrow at Savannah, Chattanooga, and Elizabethton. There was also a winter influx of Tree Sparrows, with four out of seven areas across the state reporting them. Other notable observations follow: Whistling Swan at Chattanooga and Knoxville; Greater Scaup at Chattanooga and Knoxville; White-winged Scoter at Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Elizabethton; Oldsquaw at Knoxville and Bristol; Rough-legged Hawk at Chattanooga and Knoxville; Red Phalarope and Long-eared Owl at Chattanooga; Pigeon Hawk and Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Knoxville. Reports of Northern Finches (including the Purple Finch) were still few and scattered for this report period.

SAVANNAH—*Loons-Sparrows*: Common Loon: 20 Dec. (10) P. American Woodcock: courtship flights every clear evening throughout Dec. and Jan.; maximum 17 Dec. (16) H. Spotted Sandpiper: 20 Dec. (1) P. Horned Lark: 14 Jan. (50) H.; we have never previously counted more than about ten. Brown Thrasher: none seen; regular all season previous years. Tree Sparrow: at feeder 14-15 Jan. (2) H. Chipping Sparrow: our first Jan. record, 24 Jan. (1) H.

*Locations*: H—Harbert Hills, P—Pickwick Dam.

DAVID E. PATTERSON, Harbert Hills Academy, Olive Hill 38475.

NASHVILLE—*Loons-Gulls*: Common Loon: 10 Dec. (5) OHL (HCM, HEP). Horned Grebe: a peak of (2) 10 Dec. OHL (HCM, HEP). Ring-necked and Lesser Scaup Duck, almost absent, although usually our most abundant species. Herring Gull: a peak of (9) 21 Dec. BL (HEP). Ring-billed Gull: 8 Dec. (69) BL (HEP), the peak for period; their numbers far down on OHL. Bonaparte's Gull: no reports this winter.

*Doves-Sparrows*: Mourning Dove: heard cooing on 9 days during 9-25 Dec., a period of unseasonably warm weather; 18 Jan. (70) at feeder (MLL); otherwise, very scarce. Baltimore Oriole: 19 Jan. (1) immature female found dead WA (MH), identified by (ARL) and skin in (AFG) collection; this is the first specimen and the third state record for a winter bird. Dickcissel: late Nov. thru 1 Feb. (1) home of (MLL). Purple Finch: a few small flocks reported. Tree Sparrow: 16-22 Jan. (2) each at homes of (ABH) and (FM) with (1) banded at the latter 22 Jan. by (KAG); 16-18 Jan. (1) home (MLL). Field Sparrow: only winter sparrow normal in numbers; 30 Jan. (1) in song (HCM), about 3 weeks earlier than average.

*Locations*: BL—Bush Lake, OHL—Old Hickory Lake, WA—Westview Avenue.

*Observers*: AFG—Albert F. Ganier, KAG—Katherine A. Goodpasture, MH—Martha Herbert, ABH—Mrs. A. B. Herron, ARL—Amelia R. Laskey, MLL—Mary Lou Lorange, HCM—Harry C. Monk, FM—Fanny Murphy, HEP—Henry E. Parmer.

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

COOKEVILLE—*Mallard-Shrike*: Mallard: 20, 26 Dec. (1-2), 9, 28 Jan. (4-8). Pintail: 24, 26 Dec. (3). Black Vulture: 30 Jan. (5). Red-tailed Hawk: throughout Dec., Jan. (1-4). Bald Eagle: 1, 7, 15 Dec. (1), 22 Dec. (4). American Coot: throughout Dec., Jan. (30-175). Horned Lark: max. 8 Jan. (12). Eastern Bluebird: throughout Dec., Jan. (1-16). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 12 Dec. (2). Loggerhead Shrike: throughout Dec., Jan. (1-3)

*Location*: Willow Grove Area.

*Observer*: Roy Hinds.

MARIE WHITE, 1218 Byrne Ave., Cookeville 38501.

CHATTANOOGA—*Loons-Ducks*: Common Loon: max. 12 Dec. (4) BWP. Horned Grebe: max. 22 Jan. (19) CL. Pied-billed Grebe: max. 26 Dec. (28) MC. Double-crested Cormorant: 12 Dec. (1) VR. Great Blue Heron: max. 15 Jan. (21) HRA. American Bittern: 6 Dec. (1) AM (found dead, JD). Whistling Swan: 12, 13 Dec. (4) HRA (JD, KD). Canada Goose: wintering population max. (3800) HRA. Snow Goose: 12 Dec. (1) HRA. Blue Goose: 12 Dec. (2), 19 Dec. (1) HRA. Gadwall: max. 13 Dec. (290) VR. Pintail: max. 8 Jan. (42) HRA. American Widgeon: max. 19 Dec. (250) HRA. Shoveler: max. 22 Jan. (16) WR. Redhead: max. 28 Jan. (11) NL. Ring-necked Duck: 28 Jan. (350) NL. Canvasback: max. 22 Jan. (30) WR. Greater Scaup: max. 4 Jan. (77) BWP. Lesser Scaup: max. 28 Jan. (150) NL. Common Goldeneye: max. 3 Jan. (15) BWP). Bufflehead: max. 19 Dec. (80) HRA. White-winged Scoter: 15 Jan. (1) WB (JD, KD).

Hooded Merganser: max. 16 Dec. (48) HCP. Common Merganser: 16 Dec. (4) CL. Red-breasted Merganser: max. 13 Dec. (4) VR.

*Hawks-Sparrows:* Sharp-shinned Hawk: 16 Jan. (1) TRG. Cooper's Hawk: 19 Jan. (1) HRA. Red-tailed Hawk: max. 28 Jan. (20) BC. Rough-legged Hawk: 16 Jan. (1) BC (light phase, JD, KD). Golden Eagle: 15 Jan. (1) immature HRA (JD, KD). Bald Eagle: 19 Dec. (2) HRA, 4 Jan. (1) WA, 16 Jan. (2) TRG. Marsh Hawk: max. 16 Jan. (3) NL. Ruffed Grouse: 24 Dec. (1) FW. American Coot: wintering population at MC, max. 26 Dec. (6450). American Woodcock: 1-4 singing birds in warm weather since 31 Dec. Common Snipe: max. 15 Jan. (53) SB. Least Sandpiper: wintering at SB, HRA; max. 15 Jan. (22). Dunlin: wintering at SB, HRA; max. 4 Dec. (71). Red Phalarope: 12, 13 Dec. (2) SB (JD, KD). Ring-billed Gull: max. 3 Jan. (81) BWP. Barn Owl: 1-2 birds regularly at AM. Long-eared Owl: 31 Dec. (1) TMP (JD). Water Pipit: max. 13 Dec., 23 Jan. (35) SB. Pine Warbler: max. 26 Dec. (3) TRG. Palm Warbler: 26 Dec. (2) AM (JD, KD). Purple Finch: regular, max. 15 Jan. (25) HRA. Savannah Sparrow: max. 22 Jan. (12) WR. Vesper Sparrow: 15 Jan. (3) SB. Chipping Sparrow: 4 Dec. (2) BWP (KD). White-crowned Sparrow: max. 4 Dec. (6) HRA. Fox Sparrow: max. 22 Jan. (4) WR.

*Locations:* AM—Amnicola Marsh, BWP—Booker T. Washington Park, BC—Battle Creek area, CL—Chickamauga Lake, FW—Falling Water, HCP—Hamilton County Park, HRA—Hiwassee River Area, MC—Mullins Cove, NL—Nickajack Lake, SB—Savannah Bay, TMP—Tyner Minnow Ponds, TRG—Tennessee River Gorge, VR—Vincent Road, WA—Wolftever Creek, WB—Waconda Bay, WR—Woods Reservoir.

*Observers:* JD—Jon DeVore, KD—Ken Dubke, JG—James Garrett, AW—Adele West, GW—Gene West.

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KNOXVILLE—*Loons-Mergansers:* Common Loon: 20 Dec. (2) FL (PP). Horned Grebe: 15 Dec. (1) LL (FA, DE, ES, JMC), 1 Jan. (1) C (MS), 1 Jan. (1) AL (PP). Whistling Swan: 9 Dec. (4) UTF (CM). Canada Goose: (200-390) throughout period at CL (FO). Snow Goose: (4) throughout period at CL (FO). Blue Goose: (1) throughout period at BL (JE). Mallard: max. 12 Dec. (40) CL (FA). Black Duck: max. 8 Jan. (30) CL (PP). Gadwall: max. 2 Jan (35) TB (CM). Green-winged Teal: 8 Jan. (5) CL (PP). American Widgeon: max. 19 Dec. (20) CL (FA). Shoveler: 20, 21 Jan. (3) C (FA, PP). Redhead: 15 Dec. (15) C (JMC *et al.*), 3 Jan. (1) FL (PP), 20 Jan. (7) C (JCH, FA, DE, CM, JMC). Ringed-necked Duck: max. 10 Jan. (50) FL (PP). Canvasback: 12 Dec. (5) CL (FA), 8 Jan. (5) CL (PP), 20 Jan. (3) C (JCL, *et al.*). Lesser Scaup: max. 15 Dec. (20) C (FA). Greater Scaup: 20 Jan. (5) C (JCH *et al.*). Common Goldeneye: from 15 Dec. max. 24 Jan. (63) UTF (CM). Bufflehead: 15 Dec. (2) C (JMC *et al.*), 20 Dec. (7) FL (PP). Oldsquaw: 13 Jan. thru 27 Jan. (1) C (SH, JCH), 27 Jan. through period (2) UTF (TK, CM). White-winged Scoter: 20-28 Jan. (5) C (CM, JCH, FA, DE, JMC). Ruddy Duck: 20 Jan. (2) C (FA, JCH). Hooded Merganser: 20 Dec. (5) FL (PP), 20 Jan. (9) C (JCH, *et al.*). Common Merganser: 16 Dec. (1) UTF (CM), 2

Jan. (1) TB (CM). Red-breasted Merganser: 15 Dec. (3) C (JMC *et al.*), 28 Dec. (1) UTF (CM).

*Vultures-Woodpeckers:* Turkey Vulture: roost 1, 2 Jan. (150) K (JE). Black Vulture: 22 Dec. (1) K (PP). Red-tailed Hawk: throughout period in small numbers, max. 21 Jan. (4) C (KOS). Rough-legged Hawk: 20, 21 Jan. (1) VR (JCH, FA, DE, JMC). Bald Eagle: 9 Dec. (2), 17 Dec. (3), 8 Jan. (1), 21 Jan. (1) all at ND by (FO). Marsh Hawk: 28 Jan. (1) N (MG, CM, JMC). Pigeon Hawk: 25 Jan. (1) M (PP). Herring Gull: throughout period in small numbers, max. 15 Dec. (20) C (FA, DE, ES, JMC). Ring-billed Gull: max. 15 Dec. (250) FL (JMC *et al.*). Bonaparte's Gull: 15 Dec. (75) C (JMC *et al.*). Red-cockaded Woodpecker: 25 Jan. (1) S (BC).

*Thrashers-Sparrows:* Brown Thrasher: 10 Jan. (1) NH (JBO). Palm Warbler: 17 Jan. (2) C (MS). Baltimore Oriole: throughout period SK at feeder of (EM). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 26 Jan. through rest of period (1) G (JD). Evening Grosbeak: 10 Dec. (2) G (AM), 12 Dec. (6) G (HB), 21 Dec. (1) G (AS), 16 Jan. (5) G (JM). Purple Finch: throughout period in small numbers, max. 4 Dec. (50) CL (PP). Pine Siskin: 12 Jan. (8) C (MS). Tree Sparrow: 25 Jan. (10) HM (PP). Fox Sparrow: 27 Jan. (1) HM (FA).

*Locations:* A—Alcoa Lake, BL—Butterfly Lake, C—Concord, CL—Cove Lake, G—Gatlinburg, HM—House Mountain, K—Kodak, LL—Kaurel Lake, FL—Fort Loudon Lake, M—Mascot, N—Norris, ND—Norris Dam, NH—North Hills, S—Seymour, SK—South Knoxville, UTF—Univ. Tennessee Plant Sciences Farm, TB—Toole's Bend, VR—Virtue Road.

*Observers:* FA—Fred Alsop, HB—Hubert Bebb, JMC—James M. Campbell, BC—Brockway Crouch, JD—Mrs. James Dingwall, DE—Danny Ellis, JE—John Elson, MG—Maurice Grigsby, JCH—Dr. Joseph C. Howell, SH—Susan Hoyle, TK—Tony Koella, KOS—Knoxville Chapter TOS, JM—Joseph Manley, CM—Chris McMillan, EM—Mrs. Elliott McNutt, AM—A. Mueller, FO—Frances Olson, JBO—J. O. Owen, PP—Paul Pardue.

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GREENEVILLE—*Hérons-Gulls:* Great Blue Heron: throughout the period GC. Mallard: 27 Dec. (5) RF (RN). Black Vulture: 27 Dec. (12). Cooper's Hawk: 27 Dec. (1). Red-tailed Hawk: 27 Dec. (3). Common Snipe: 27 Dec. (2) RF (RN). Ring-billed Gull: 27 Dec. (20) DC (EJ).

*Larks-Warblers:* Horned Lark: 27 Dec. (5). Brown Creeper: 27 Dec. (2) RF (RN). Brown Thrasher: 27 Dec. (1) TC (EJ). Eastern Bluebird: 27 Dec. (1). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 27 Dec. (2). Palm Warbler: 27 Dec. (1) RF (RN).

*Blackbirds-Sparrows:* Red-winged Blackbird: 27 Dec. (20) DC(RS). Common Grackle: 27 Dec. (495). Dickcissel: 16 Jan. (1) throughout rest of the period (HR). Purple Finch: 27 Dec. (23).

*Locations:* DC—Davy Crockett Lake, GC—Grassy Creek, RF—Roaring Fork, TC—Tusculum College.

*Observers:* EJ—E. Jeffers, RM—Roger Miller, RN—Ruth or Richard Nevius, HR—Helen Reed, RS—Royal Spees.

RICHARD NEVIUS, Route 3, Greeneville 37743.



ELIZABETHTON—*Loons-Gulls*: Common Loon: max. 27 Jan. (2) WaL. Horned Grebe: max. 22 Jan. (13) BL. Pied-billed Grebe: max. 22 Jan. (14) BL. Great Blue Heron: max. 19 Jan. (10) BL, PHL. Mallard: max. 27 Jan. (6). Black Duck: max. 27 Jan. (76) WaL. American Widgeon: 22 Jan. (3) BL. Redhead: 26 Jan. (1) BL (LRH, GW). Ring-necked Duck: max. 27 Jan. (89) WaL, WiL. Canvasback: 19 Jan. (28), 26 Jan. (36), both BL. Lesser Scaup: (6-12) throughout Jan. Common Goldeneye: max. 26 Jan. (155) BL (LRH, GW). Bufflehead: max. 27 Jan. (76) WaL, WiL. White-winged Scoter: 22 Jan. (2) BL (LRH), 26 Jan. (3) BL (LRH, GW). Hooded Merganser: 27 Jan. (9) WaL (LRH, CRS). Common Merganser: 27 Jan. (6) WaL (LRH, CRS). Turkey Vulture: 2 Dec. (1). Bald Eagle: 19 Jan. (1) immature, BL (LRH). American Coot: 13, 19 Jan. (9) BL. American Woodcock: 31 Jan. (1) singing, WaR (LRH). Herring Gull: max. 26 Jan. (20) BL. Ring-billed Gull: max. 22 Jan. (200) BL.

*Owls-Sparrows*: Barn Owl: 19 Jan. (1) (MER, CRS). Great Horned Owl: 13 Jan. (1) BL (WAB, MER, CRS), 28 Jan. (1) MC (CRS). Red-headed Woodpecker: 27 Jan. (1). Horned Lark: 21 Jan. (1), 27 Jan. (11). Common Raven: 28 Jan. (2) UM (CRS). Brown Creeper: 26 Dec. (1) (HD). Winter Wren: 13 Jan. (1). Brown Thrasher: throughout Dec., Jan. JC (WAB). Red-winged Blackbird: first flock, 27 Jan. (18). Purple Finch: 17 Dec. (1) RM (FWB), 16-27 Jan. (1-2) JC (WAB, HD). Red Crossbill: 27 Jan. (1) B (LRH, CRS). Chipping Sparrow: 20 Jan. (2) BL (HD, JD). Swamp Sparrow: 28 Jan. (1).

*Locations*: BL—Boone Lake, B—Butler, Johnson County, JC—Johnson City, MC—Milligan College, PHL—Patrick Henry Lake, RM—Roan Mountain, UM—Unaka Mountain, WaL—Watauga Lake, WaR—Watauga River, WiL—Wilbur Lake.

*Observers*: FWB—Fred W. Behrend, WAB—W. A. Bridgforth, Jr., HD—Mrs. Harold Dillenbeck, JD—Joy Dillenbeck, LRH—Lee R. Herndon, MER—M. E. Richmond, CRS—Charles R. Smith, GW—Gary Wallace.

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

BRISTOL—*Loons-Ducks*: Common Loon: max. 30 Dec. (10) SHL (WC, DM, DGD). Horned Grebe: max. 30 Dec. (12) SHL (WC, DM, DGD). Pied-billed Grebe: 8 Dec. (12) SHL (WC, DGD). Great Blue Heron: max. 30 Dec. (7) SHL (WC, DM, DGD). Mallard: max. 30 Dec. (93) SHL (WC, DM, DGD). Black Duck: max. 30 Dec. (139) SHL (WC, DM). Gadwall: 30 Dec. (1) SHL (WC, DM). Redhead: 30 Dec. (1) SHL (WC). Bufflehead: 4 Dec. (2) SHL (WC, DGD), 30 Dec. (6) SHL (WC, DGD). Oldsquaw: 7 Jan. (13) SHL (JSS) one of group shot and identified (JSS, WC). Ruddy Duck: 30 Dec. (3) SHL (WC).

*Vultures-Owls*: Turkey Vulture: max. 30 Dec. (26) SHL. Black Vulture: max. 30 Dec. (48). Cooper's Hawk: 3 Dec. (1) SV (WC). Red-tailed Hawk: several records Dec., Jan. Sparrow Hawk: 4 Dec. (1) SV (WC, DGD). Common Snipe: 12 Dec. (1) BT (WC, DGD). Herring Gull: max. 30 Dec. (7) SHL (WC, DM, DGD). Ring-billed Gull: max. 30 Dec. (15) SHL (WC, DM, DGD). Great Horned Owl: 16 Jan. (1) BL (WC, DGD); a single bird regularly during Jan. SHL (WC, BS, DGD).

*Thrush-Sparrows:* Hermit Thrush: 30 Dec. (1) BV (EV, RV). Eastern Bluebird: 6 Dec. (7) SHL, 13 Dec. (2) SHL, 27 Jan. (1) Golden-crowned Kinglet: max. 30 Dec. (23). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 4 Dec. (1), 30 Dec. (5), only records. Loggerhead Shrike: 4 Dec. (1) SV (WC, DGD). Brown-headed Cowbird: only record 30 Dec. (39) SHL (WC, DGD). Purple Finch: 15 Jan. (5) BT (WC, DGD). Pine Siskin: 19 Jan. (1) BT (BS). Tree Sparrow: 15 Jan. (1) BT (BS), 16 Jan. (1) BT (BS, WC), 17 Jan. (1) BT (BS, WC), 18 Jan. (2) BT (BS, WC, DGD), 19 Jan. (2) BT (BS), all records for observations at a single feeding station; our only known local record ever. Fox Sparrow: 30 Dec. (2), 13 Jan. (1).

*Locations:* BT—Bristol, Tennessee, BL—Boone Lake, Sullivan Co., BV—near Bristol, Virginia, SHL—South Holston Lake, Tenn., SV—Shady Valley, Johnson County.

*Observers:* WC—Wallace Coffey, DGD—Gerry Delantonas, DM—David McPeak, BS—Bill Senter, JSS—Joe S. Slagle, EV—Enno vanGelder, RV—Roger vanGelder.

WALLACE COFFEY, 508 Spruce Street, Bristol 37620.

## NORTH AMERICAN NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM

As many readers are aware, the Nest Record Card Program is now completing its third year on a continent-wide basis. We appreciate the assistance of the hundreds of persons and Bird Clubs whose enthusiasm and patience make this program possible. We are anxious to solicit help from as many clubs and cooperators as possible. If you are interested in helping in this research, please get in touch with the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University for instructions and nest-record cards. We urge all present contributors to return any completed cards. We also request that participating clubs and birders order additional cards, if necessary.

MRS. EDITH EDGERTON

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**IDENTIFICATION:** Rare or unusual species identification to be acceptable must be accompanied by verifying evidence. This should include: date, time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying observation and reference works consulted.

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