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TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER NESTS AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE AND FRED J. ALSOP, III

This note is to report an active breeding pair of Traill's Flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii*) at Buena Vista Marsh in Nashville, Tennessee in 1971. Though this is the first nesting record of *Empidonax traillii* here, expansion of the breeding range of this flycatcher into Middle Tennessee is not unexpected since there are previously reported records for the eastern portions of the state as well as for Kentucky north and east of Nashville (Herndon, 1958: "The Season", 1959; Croft, 1964; Alsop, 1971).

On 19 May, Fred Alsop, accompanied by Michael Bierly, heard the "fitz-bew" song of Traill's Flycatcher in Buena Vista Marsh. They saw two flycatchers in willows bordering the edges of standing water in the clay pits and ditches. They alerted Katherine Goodpasture to the presence of the birds and it became her lot to follow the breeding cycle as related below. She was accompanied by various T.O.S. members on numerous and frequent trips to the area for observation.

One bird set up a pattern of singing its "fitz-bew" song from the tops of willows, elms or sumacs in what appeared to be a patrolling maneuver. It sometimes moved through low shrubs, aromatic rhus, wild rose, low boxelder, elm sprouts, blackberry and false grape, giving its single-note call, "fit" or "whit". A second bird often responded with the same "whit" in an unobtrusive tone.

On the morning of 17 June one of the birds, by a darting flight, led my (KAG) eye to the nest holding four warm eggs. The bird did not readily return while being watched. It was necessary to conceal oneself before the flycatcher came to perch for an instant on the edge of the nest and then flit away quickly. John Riggins was present on this date. On subsequent days the incubating bird would always slip from the nest before one could get a glimpse of her on it.

The six foot elm sprout supporting the nest grew from the steep bank of a dry clay ditch. The nest was saddled on top of a lateral limb less than half an inch in diameter at a point where small twigs grew upright at a wide angle. The nest was compactly constructed mostly of stripped plant fibers and cottony fluff from cattails, all matted together with some web. It appeared light around

the molded, relatively thick rim. The lining was of fine straws. The rim of the nest was six feet above the ground. A small twig with three terminal leaves curved close over the top of the nest and eight green leaves were bound to the outside by web. Outside diameter of the top of the nest was 89 mm, outside depth 59 mm; inside diameter was 54 mm, inside depth 38 mm. The eggs were creamy white with bright dark brown, medium sized spots in a wreath around their widest circumference. A few tiny brown dots marked the blunt end.

One bird, assumed to be the male, sang regularly early in the morning and with diminished frequency during mid-day and afternoon. The song and the "whit" notes were always of a quiet quality.

On 26 May, Ben and Lula Coffey visited the area from 03:00 to 05:30 (CDT) to record the pre-dawn song of this "fitz-bew" Traill's. The bird sang distinctly and sustainedly from a clump of willows near the nest.

By mid-afternoon, 24 June, three birds had hatched. By noon the next day there were four nestlings. On neither date was the "fitz-bew" song heard and only one or two calls were noted. The young birds uttered tiny cheeping notes on 25 June. On 28 June the nest was empty. The adult birds were neither seen or heard on 28 June or 1 July. The nest seemed in perfect repair giving no hint of the source of predation.

"Whit" calls were heard 6 July by Michael Bierly. On 8 July the birds seemed to be in the same pattern of behavior as during June indicating they were again in a nesting cycle. On 10 July the second nest was spotted by Mel Garland about 25 feet from the first in the same kind of elm sapling. The same kind of compact, molded nest was lodged this time in an upright four-pronged fork. It contained three warm eggs.

On 21 July the nest contained two recently hatched birds and one egg. The third egg hatched before 10:00 a.m., 22 July. Three nestlings were banded 28 July. They were bulging over the rim of the nest on 3 August. The following day the nest was empty, but one young bird was observed making a short flight and an adult gave "whit" calls nearby. On 6 August at least one short-tailed juvenile and an adult were still in the area. An active Traill's that behaved like an adult was in the area 17 August, but there was no evidence of flycatchers on 24 August or later.

To our knowledge the first recorded specimen of Traill's Flycatcher from Tennessee was that collected by Samuel N. Rhoads about 10 miles west of Nashville near Bellevue, 23 May 1895 (Rhoads, 1895). This specimen was deposited at the Museum of The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Other significant spring records for Middle Tennessee are those of Weise and Ogden ("The Season", 1955). Charles Weise and John Ogden heard a "fitz-bew" Traill's singing in the Ashland City Marsh, 31 May 1955. Dr. Weise has written me (KAG) that he subsequently heard another "fitz-bew" Traill's singing in Buena Vista Marsh, 30 May 1956, not more than half a mile from the present nest-site. He returned to the area 3 June but failed to relocate the flycatcher. These records might be said to have predicted an eventual breeding record for Traill's Flycatcher at Buena Vista or Ashland City Marsh.

Two years later, on 22 June 1958, Lee Herndon first observed a nest of Traill's Flycatcher in Tennessee at Elizabethton (Herndon, 1958). Dr. Hern-

don and his companions found three nests there on the same day. The birds sang "fitz-bew" songs. Subsequently two active nests were reported by Ralph Bullard and Ken Dubke in the Hiwassee River area in 1969 ("The Season", 1969), and Fred Alsop and James Tanner found an active nest in Knox County, 18 June 1970 (Alsop, 1971).

Subspeciation within *Empidonax traillii* has been the subject of analysis and debate for a long time. Roger Tory Peterson pointed out as long ago as 1934 that there were two song-forms of Traill's (then called Alder) Flycatcher (Peterson, 1934). When John W. Aldrich reviewed the subspecies of Traill's Flycatcher in 1951 he recognized two morphologically distinct populations one of which he called the plains population recommending the trinomial *Empidonax t. campestris* (Aldrich, 1951). The other was described as the northern or boreal, *E.t. traillii*. Later, in 1953, Dr. Aldrich related the "fitz-bew" song, the compact nest and a "dry" marsh habitat with the plains population; the "fee-be-o" song, loosely constructed nest and an alder-swamp habitat were related to the northern or boreal population (Aldrich, 1953). Stein (1958) strengthened the idea that where the two forms come in contact they remain reproductively isolated. Studies continue and the question of whether these populations should remain subspecies or be given full species status has not yet been resolved by taxonomists of the American Ornithologists' Union. In turn nomenclature differentiating the "fitz-bew" and the "fee-be-o" birds is still unsolved.

In light of the above a further note on Rhoads' 1895 Traill's is of interest. Through the courtesy of Mr. R. M. Schauensee of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Dr. Aldrich was able to examine Rhoads' specimen and very kindly expressed the opinion by personal communication that Rhoads' bird was of the northern breeding form and "not of the more southern population" which he has called *campestris*.

What does all this have to do with a pair of Traill's Flycatchers nesting at Buena Vista Marsh in 1971? The Buena Vista birds were "fitz-bew" birds. They are part of a continued, an almost dramatic expansion of that form's population (*American Birds*, 1971). They are distinct morphologically from the first Traill's known to us from this area which Rhoads evidently correctly concluded "was undoubtedly a migrant". Whatever resolution taxonomists make of the question of full speciation versus subspeciation; whatever trinomials, in the end, are affixed to the two forms the present description of the Buena Vista flycatchers of 1971 will allow them to drop into their designated place—into the man-made scheme relating them to other *Empidonaces*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37916.

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MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND
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For additional information contact Dr. Fred J. Alsop, III, Mt. Carmel Apt. #3, Concord Ave., Mt. Carmel, Tenn. 37642 or Mr. and Mrs. Don Manning, 103 Stonewall Circle, McKenzie 38201.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In our October meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park more emphasis than usual was placed on the conservation of birds and habitats. David Pitts surveyed the recent history and present status of colonies of nesting herons, which have decreased in almost all parts of the state. James Burbank described the plans of the Tennessee Valley Authority for saving the rookery of Great Blue Herons at Duck River; once the largest in the state for this species, it has suffered a marked decline. A member of the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission described and illustrated what is possibly the most disturbing change, the destruction of bottom land swamps in west Tennessee with the ensuing loss of a fertile forest habitat for many birds and mammals—as well as the loss of many stream fish, all for the gain of agricultural land of dubious value. On the bright side, Dennis Jordan described how management practices in the Hatchie Refuge have benefited both Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergancers.

The interest of T.O.S. members in these matters was shown by the active and sometimes heated discussion of these topics in the sessions and at other times. The question "What can we do?" was implied by many of the speakers. We must take an active part in conservation matters both as a society and as individuals. Right now we are being called upon for help. A letter to me from the Tennessee Department of Conservation includes the following sentences. "To help us correct any possibly faulty practices the constructive criticisms of organizations such as the one that you represent is most welcome. I would appreciate your informing the officers and members of the T.O.S. of this Department's interest in working with them and in including their comments in the formulation of our policies and procedures." This letter was signed by Joe Gaines, Project Administrator (Tennessee Department of Conservation, 2611 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37203). Another letter which I read at one of our meetings is from the chief of the Nashville district of the Army Corps of Engineers. This letter says, in part, "We are developing a wildlife enhancement program for J. Percy Priest Project, located in Middle Tennessee, and as an integral aspect of this program, we wish to develop guidelines toward endangered species. We will appreciate receiving any information you may provide regarding the distribution, numbers, etc., of endangered species in the area of J. Percy Priest Reservoir." This letter is signed by F. P. Gaines, Chief, Engineering Division (Nashville District Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202).

I urge all chapters and members of our Society to send to these and other agencies any information or criticisms which will aid them in forming and carrying out good conservation policies. If you feel that the whole Society should be involved in any particular move, please communicate with me. We want to help in conservation, and we have been asked to help in conservation. Both the duty and the opportunity are ours.

—JAMES T. TANNER, President, T.O.S.

NEW RECORDS FOR TENNESSEE

FIRST KNOWN RECORD OF A RUFF IN TENNESSEE—On 6 April 1972 my wife Mary, son David, and I (WLS) were making a check for shorebirds at a farm field along the Sequatchie River approximately six miles south of Dunlap, Sequatchie County, Tennessee. The 10 acre field regularly floods during the spring rains forming a temporary pond at one end with a drainage ditch from it dividing the field. Marsh grass grows here and attracts early migrant ducks and some shorebirds (mostly yellowlegs and snipe).

At approximately 17:00 we were counting Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) and Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*) with the aid of a 20 x 50 spotting scope when we first discovered a different bird. It was feeding with a group of 25 Greater Yellowlegs and its size difference became quite apparent as being slightly shorter legged and stockier in appearance. Its general coloration was very dark, mottled black on the head, back, wings, and breast, with whitish underparts. The bill was blackish, and shorter and thicker than those of the yellowlegs, and had what at first appeared to be a white ring at its base. (The next day, observing in better light conditions, this ring proved to be yellow in color). Its legs were dull yellow in color.

We observed the bird on the ground for approximately 20 minutes. During this time it lifted its wings twice revealing a black stripe through the midline of the upper surface of the tail bordered with a white oval patch on either side. We flushed the bird and observed it in flight with 7 x 35 binoculars. The tail pattern as described above was now more clearly seen. The bird's flight was sharp and of a rolling or twisting nature which could be described as being more "aggressive" than that of the accompanying yellowlegs.

We were sure we had never seen this bird before and after checking Peterson (1947) *A Field Guide to the Birds*, Robbins, et al (1966) *A Guide to Field Identification Birds of North America*, and Pough (1951) *Audubon Water Bird Guide*, we concluded we were observing the Eurasian Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

The following morning, 7 April, at daybreak Benton Basham and his son Jeff met me at the field. Benton was experienced with the suspected species having seen a Ruff in Florida. The bird was again observed and Benton concurred with our earlier identification of the bird as a Ruff.

The Ruff stayed in the field through 7 and 8 April during which time over 20 birders from across the state came and observed it and agreed with our identification. Among these were Don and Gina Manning, Mike Bierly, Morris Williams, and Fred Alsop.

I last saw it at 05:45 on 9 April, 1972. This sighting is the first known record of the Ruff in the state of Tennessee.

W. LEE SHAFER, RR #1, Whitewell 37397.

HOUSE FINCHES AT GREENEVILLE—On 24 March 1972, at about 16:00 I observed an unusual finch-like bird at the feeders in my back yard in Greeneville. In general the bird resembled the female Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) that were at the feeders, but its coloration and markings were distinctly different.

The main marking that distinguished this bird from the Purple Finch was the absence of any head markings. The bird was also more slender. It had a grayish-brown coloration in contrast with the brown of the Purple Finch. The bird had breast streaking and through 7 x 35 binoculars it could be seen that the streaks were finer and more dusky than the Purple Finch's. After referring to my Robbins field guide and making a close comparison of the bird with the Purple Finches, I decided that the bird was a female House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). The House Finch was last seen at about 16:00, 26 March 1972. On this occasion no other experienced birders confirmed my observation.

On 24 November 1972, at about 10:00 I observed another House Finch at the feeders in my back yard. When observed closely some faint reddish markings could be seen on the cheeks and rump of the bird. Otherwise, it showed the same coloration and markings as the House Finch seen in March 1972. I immediately called Dr. Gary O. Wallace who came and observed the House Finch confirming the observation. On 2 December 1972, Dr. Wallace returned with Fred J. Alsop III and photographed the bird.

From 24 November to 13 December, only one female House Finch was observed at the feeders each day, but on 14 December, four females were observed. On 15 December, one male House Finch returned with the females. The male was in adult plumage with bright red markings restricted to the forehead, cheeks, and throat down to the upper portion of the breast, and on its rump. It had distinct grayish-brown streaks on its lower breast and on its sides. On its back and on the back of its head were faint red markings. The shade of red was different from the wine-colored male Purple Finch which is more uniformly colored. There were several male Purple Finches at the feeders which enabled a close comparison of the two species.

On 16 December, three male House Finches were seen and on 20 December, six females were seen with the males indicating a total of nine individuals in the area. All nine were seen together only a few times, with usually 4 or 5 being at the feeders at any one time. On 31 December, two males and four females were recorded on the Greeneville Christmas count.

It is believed that these normally western birds are part of a population which has grown from a small flock of House Finches that was released in New York in 1948. The number of these finches has increased each year with breeding records as far south as Ocean City, Maryland for the summer of 1972. On the Christmas counts in December 1971, the finches were recorded at nine different localities in Virginia and at several locations in North Carolina.

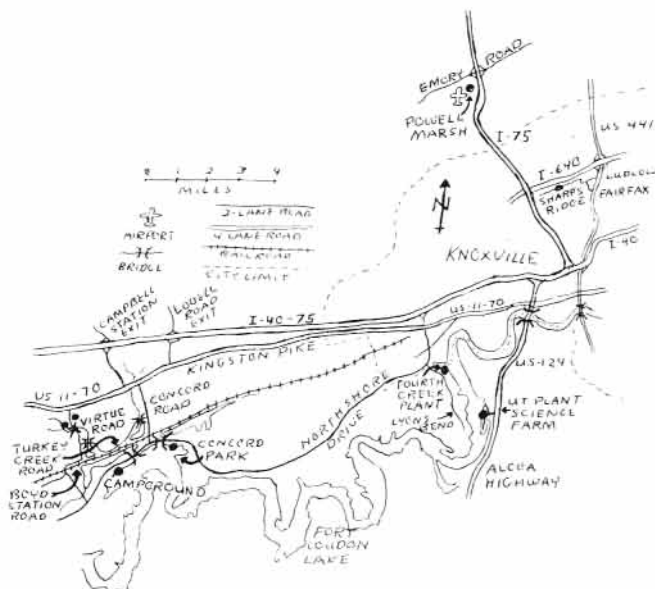
This is the first confirmed record of the House Finch in Tennessee.

JAMES G. HOLT, 312 N. Main St., Greeneville 37743.

BIRD FINDING IN TENNESSEE

KNOX COUNTY

CHARLES P. NICHOLSON



Knoxville and Knox County have been extensively birded for many years. As the third most populous county in the state and home of the University of Tennessee, there have been many competent birders in the area for several years. Over 260 species have been identified in the county. Knox County has an average elevation of 1100 feet and a maximum relief of 1440 feet. It offers farmland, oak-hickory and pine forests, and several lakes and rivers to the amateur or professional ornithologist. Some of the better birding areas are described in this article.

POWELL MARSH: This small marsh, at the east end of the Powell Airport runway, is located at the Emory Road—I-75 interchange, approximately five and a half miles north of the I-75 and I-640 interchange. A small cattail marsh is on the north side of the runway and a larger area, with cattails, bullrushes, willows and sycamores, is on the south side of the runway. This area is one of few in Knox County where nesting King Rails have been found. Red-winged Blackbirds also nest in the marsh and migrating Virginia and Sora Rails and Long- and Short-billed Marsh Wrens have been observed in the marsh. Some of the winter residents of the marsh are Common Snipe and Wood Duck.

FOURTH CREEK SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT: This area is located on Lyons Bend Road, about half a mile from the intersection of Lyons Bend and Northshore Drive (see map). The area consists of sewage treatment facilities, a grassy area, and several sludge piles. It is open to the public seven days a week until 18:00. During much of the year water stands in puddles among the

sludge piles and in the grassy area and this attracts shorebirds during spring and fall migrations. Some of the frequently observed shorebirds are: Semipalmated Plover, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Among the occasional or accidental shorebirds which have been observed at the plant are Piping Plover and Ruddy Turnstone. Killdeer are present all year and nest in the grassy area. The lake around the plant attracts Kingfishers year round and Barn Swallows nest under the access bridge. Great Blue Herons, gulls, and waterfowl are occasionally observed on the lake during the fall, winter, and spring months.

CONCORD AREA: This is a large area in west Knox County which offers several different habitats and a large variety of birds, especially during the winter. Several birding spots are indicated by small circles on the map. Concord Park covers a large area and the spot indicated on the map is a picnic area with a public boat ramp. At this area, scan the lake for Double-crested Cormorant, ducks, Pied-billed and Horned Grebe, coots, loons, and Great Blue Heron during the fall, winter, and spring. At the two bridges shown along Northshore Drive, scan the lake for wintering waterfowl. The large woods to the west of the west bridge is a good place for songbirds and Great Horned Owls have been heard there. At Concord Campground, on the south side of Northshore and just west of the yacht club, look for waterfowl and gulls. Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, uncommon Bonaparte's Gulls and an occasional Laughing Gull are observed here.

Virtue Road, which runs south from Kingston Pike—US-11-70, has two birding areas marked on the map. On the east side of the road, about half a mile from Kingston Pike, is a farm with a couple of buildings and a silo. White-crowned Sparrows can usually be found here from November or December through April. Across the road and slightly to the south is the other circle indicated on the map. This area is a low, wet woods with a stream running through it. Several species of passerines and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds can be attracted by playing a tape recording of a Screech Owl call or by whistling the call, during the spring and fall. Around the bridge look for phoebes.

Boyd Station and Turkey Creek Roads, which are both shown on the map, run adjacent to large pastures. During late spring and early summer listen for Grasshopper Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, and Dickcissels in these areas. Watch the sky for hawks and vultures and check power wires for Sparrow Hawks and Loggerhead Shrikes. At the two bridges shown on the map of Turkey Creek Road, check for nesting Cliff and Barn Swallows.

These are just a few of the birding spots in the Knox County Area. For more information, see Howell, J. C. and Muriel Monroe, 1957, "The Birds of Knox County, Tennessee", *J. Tenn. Acad. Sciences* 32 (4), 247-322; Howell, J. C. and Muriel Monroe, 1958, "The Birds of Knox County, Tennessee," *The Migrant* 29 (2): 17-27; Alsop, F. J. III and G. O. Wallace, 1970, "Addendum: The Birds of Knox County, Tennessee," *The Migrant* 41 (1): 1-4; and Alsop, F. J. III, 1971, *A Checklist of Birds of Knox County*. If personnel help or other information is desired, contact a member of the Knoxville Chapter of TOS or the author.

6806 Haverhill Drive, Knoxville 37919.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

PIPING PLOVERS AND BAIRD'S SANDPIPER IN SUMNER COUNTY—On 18 September 1971, the observers went to TVA's Gallatin Steam Plant to check the ash disposal ponds for shore birds, wading birds, and waterfowl. This ash disposal area has been very attractive to shore birds and we check it an average of two or three times per week. There are two ponds, or settling basins, in the area. The older, smaller pond was described in *The Migrant* 41:76 and is virtually unchanged except that there is now much more exposed ash and less open water than there was at that time. Also, a few cat-tails and grasses are beginning to grow in the ash. Very little ash is being pumped into this pond at the present time. The second, newer pond is much larger. Here, the Sinking Creek embayment of Old Hickory Lake has been dyked off from the main reservoir, skimmer devices installed at the outflow area designed to raise the water level approximately 12 ft. and the shore line cleared to the higher elevation. The embayment is roughly Y-shaped with the base of the Y pointing south. The greatest length of the pond is approximately 6000 ft. and the width varies from a few feet to a maximum of about 900 ft. Ash is continuously pumped into the south-east corner of the base of the Y and at the present time, an ash delta extends approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up the base of the Y.

The old pond was checked first and 11 Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) were found. We then proceeded on to the "new" pond and immediately spotted a large white bird near the edge of the ash delta approximately 150 yds. away. A quick check with 7 x 50 binoculars proved this to be a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) so we set up our 20 to 45X Bushnell spotting scope to have a closer look since this was only the second time we had seen this bird in this area. While we were watching the tern, a small, very pale shore bird was noticed some 75 yds. past the tern and feeding along the edge of the ash. The distance was too great to see details clearly even with the scope. However, the bird was working its way toward us, alternately feeding and flying short distances. The bird approached to within approximately 60 yds. from us and by this time, we had made notes of the following field marks: short, black beak; front and belly white; a dusky, incomplete neck ring; gray back that blended almost perfectly with the ash; legs, yellowish; large, black eyes; and its movements on the ground were very fast. From Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" and the Golden Field Guide "Birds of North America", we identified the bird as a Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*).

The bird was first seen at 17:30 and was kept under observation until 18:20. At one time, one observer was able to approach to within 27 measured steps of the bird with 7 x 50 binoculars. The light was very good with the sun behind the observers.

Mike Bierly was contacted and, accompanied by Roger Harshaw, met us at the steam plant at dawn on 19 September. The plover was found in the same area as the day before.

On 20 September, accompanied by Ann Tarbell and Margaret Mann, we checked the area in the afternoon and found that the plover had moved from the "new" pond to the "old" pond. At this time there were Killdeer (4), Lesser

Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*) (3), and another shore bird that was not immediately identified, feeding in this area. Our notes on the unidentified bird were: neck and breast buff; legs, short and dark; about the same length as the Piping Plover but much slimmer; wings noticeably longer than the tail; body more horizontal than most shore birds; scale pattern on back; beak, slender and straight; pecked more than probed for food. Ann Tarbell was the first to correctly identify this bird as a Baird's Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*). We first saw the Baird's at 17:15 and watched the group of birds until 18:30. We were able to walk to within not more than 20 yds. of the Piping Plover and the Baird's Sandpiper and observe them with three spotting scopes ranging from 9 to 30 power. Light was excellent with the sun behind us. At one time, we had a Killdeer, a Lesser Yellowlegs, the Piping Plover and the Baird's Sandpiper in the fields of our scopes at the same time.

On 21 September, we checked the area and found the Piping Plover, Killdeer (43), Lesser yellowlegs (2), Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) (1), and Least Sandpiper (*Erolia minutilla*) (1) but no Baird's.

On 22 September we checked again, accompanied by Doris Thomas, Nancy Banks and Betty Moore. The count was Piping Plover (1), Killdeer (14), Lesser Yellowlegs (1), Semi-palmated Sandpiper (2), Least Sandpiper (1), and Baird's Sandpiper (1).

On 23 and 24 September, we saw the Baird's Sandpiper and on both dates we were fortunate to have the Baird's, a Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*) and a Semi-palmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*) in the field of our scope at the same time at approximately 30 yds. distance. The comparison made identification of the Baird's much easier. It was noticeably larger than the Semi-palmated and noticeably smaller than the Pectoral. The breast was buffier than that of the Pectoral and the bottom edge of the buffy area was much less sharply defined than that of the Pectoral. And the long wings were always noticeable on the Baird's.

The area was carefully checked on 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 September and 2 October without seeing another Piping Plover or another Baird's Sandpiper.

On 4 October at 17:20, Mrs. Crawford found another Piping Plover in the same area where the first one was found on 18 September. We watched this bird from 17:20 until 18:05 with 7 x 50 binoculars and our 20 to 45X spotting scope at ranges varying from approximately 40 yds. to approximately 100 yds. Light was excellent as before.

This bird was not seen again although the area has been checked almost every day to the present date, 21 October.

Research by Mr. Michael L. Bierly indicates that the sightings of the Piping Plovers are the second and third Nashville area records and the seventh and eighth known state records.

Page 13 of Henry E. Parmer's "*Birds of the Nashville Area*", Second Edition, lists the Baird's Sandpiper—"Very rare. Three records."

PAUL AND DOT CRAWFORD, Route 4, Gallatin, 37066

SECOND STATE RECORD OF WHIMBREL—On the morning of 24 July 1971, the observers were birding in the Ashland City Marsh area in Cheatham County. This short trip had been made to look for shorebirds and had been fairly successful as the following birds were noted: 6 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), 5 Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), 6 Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), 1 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*), 14 Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*), 3 Least Sandpiper (*Erolia minutilla*), 15 Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*), and 2 Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*). While the observers were preparing to leave, they heard a several-note call of a bird arising from the marsh. When first sighted, the bird was in flight, rising and approaching the observers flying southward toward Nashville. As the bird approached it was observed with 7 x 35 and 10 x 40 binoculars. The bird appeared to be approximately the same size or slightly smaller than a crow and had a long, slim bill with a pronounced downward curve. Our first impression was that the bird was a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), which both observers have seen in California, but we postponed definite identification until we compared call notes with those on Peterson's record: *A Field Guide to Bird Songs* and found them to be identical.

John Riggins later that same afternoon checked the Buena Vista Marsh area in Nashville, hoping if not to find the Whimbrel, possibly to find interesting transients. At Buena Vista Marsh in a large puddle of standing water near the city dump, the observer found among various shorebirds two Whimbrels. Since the puddle was very near the road, they were approached within 30 feet by car and observed with 10 x 40 binoculars. The same characteristics as earlier noted were readily visible, as well as the black and white distinct streaking on the crown of the head.

These sightings are either the second and third state records of this bird (since the sightings were about 23 miles apart and involved different numbers of birds) or if combined, would be the second state record of a Whimbrel.

JOHN AND HEATHER RIGGINS, 5615 Brookwood Place, Nashville 37205.

WHIMBREL RECORDED AT NASHVILLE—As I was about to leave Buena Vista Bottoms in Nashville on 20 September 1971 I was attracted to a big bird flying over one of three ponds in the area that I had just finished observing. It was making wide circles over the rectangular pond and from its overall brown coloration, black and white crown stripes and decurved bill it was identified as a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). Other notes taken while observing the bird showed light streaks of brown on the neck to the top of the breast and down the sides, neck lighter brown than back, whitish belly, dark legs and black bill. In flight there were dark brown tips on the wing coverts being lighter in the middle of the wing.

The bird landed three times before settling down. On each occasion it landed 10-20 feet from the water and immediately began to walk toward the shoreline. On the first two times it took off before reaching it. This was primarily due to the agitation of Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*). As soon as the bird made its appearance over the pond the Lesser Yellowlegs began a constant piercing calling. When the bird took off after the first landing it gave loud quick series of 5-6 notes until after it landed again. On the second landing, which was at the opposite end of the pond from the first one, nine

out of sixteen Lesser Yellowlegs present flew over to it and scolded continuously. The bird then flew back across the pond and landed some 100 feet from the first spot. It walked down to the water and began feeding. Feeding was by picking and cautiously walking in the water. One time an object was dragged up on the shore and partly consumed. After feeding for about five minutes, it bathed and preened several times.

No other bird present would stay close to the species. Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*) left the shoreline as it landed and after a few minutes of moving away from the feeding bird the Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) also left. One Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*) did try to stay and as the Whimbrel fed close to it the snipe stood up and raised its long bill in defense. On the second defensive move the snipe flew to another part of the pond leaving the Whimbrel alone at one end.

Observations were from 18:30-19:15 CDT. The bird was left sitting on the shoreline at dusk, but was not present on the 21st. A cold front passed through on the morning of the 20th and temperatures fell from 73 F near midnight to 62 F at 18:00 and to 59 F by 24:00, a departure of 6 degrees from normal. Skies were overcast all day.

Optics used were 7 x 35 Binolux binoculars and a 15-60X Bausch and Lomb spotting scope. The bird was seen as close as 25 yards when making circles over the pond to about 150 yards as it worked on the shore.

There had been one other sighting of this species in the bottoms this season, *The Migrant* 42:69. Due to the time lag between observations and since these bottoms were birded about every two days, it would seem safe to assume that two different birds were involved. This record is one of a very few for the state.

MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 3826 Bedford Ave., Nashville 37215.

LAUGHING GULL IN MAURY COUNTY—On 24 April 1970 at 09:10 I observed a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) over Interstate 65, 26 highway miles south of the Nashville Harding Place exit and one highway mile south into Maury County. The bird was first observed flying low over the interstate and circling over a partially flooded field immediately adjacent to it. From notes taken in the field the bird had a white tail, dark head, gray back, gray wings with black at the tips and a white border along the base of the flight feathers. Underneath, the wings were white turning dusky toward the ends and darkish at the tips with the belly and throat white. The gull was separated from the confusing Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) and (*Larus philadelphia*), respectively, due to the absence of white on the wing tips and along the bend of the wing.

After this initial observation the bird began to fly in a zigzag pattern just over the tree tops and the straight interstate on a due south course. I would proceed a half-mile ahead of the bird and wait for it. Dependently, it would come right over my head and continue southward. I followed this procedure for two miles and four stops. Each time the bird would come directly overhead in unbroken wing beats. Laurence Trabue (personal contact) reports that his Laughing Gull, *The Migrant* 32:51, acted in much the same manner. His bird began a flight down river (west) and Mr. Trabue went into several lookouts along the route and observed it.

The weather was cloudy at the initial observation point and partly cloudy five miles ahead. Precipitation totaling 3.80 inches (55.8% of the month's total) and strong winds from the south were recorded in Nashville on 19, 22 and 24 April (Nashville Climatological Data, April 1970). The Laughing Gull may have been caught up in the storms and pushed inland. Whatever the reason, it was making a steady retreat to the south when I left it.

This marks the fourth Middle Tennessee record. The others are listed in *The Migrant* 26:25, 32:51 and 38:48. The gull was observed for twenty minutes with 7 x 35 Binolux binoculars. I have seen the species many times on the coast and was enroute there when I observed the bird described herein.

MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 3826 Bedford Avenue, Nashville 37215.

SUMMER BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO IN KNOXVILLE—On 24 June 1972, my wife and I noticed a cuckoo in plain sight on a dead limb of a small elm in our front yard. Through binoculars we saw the black bill and small white tail markings plainly, identifying the bird as a Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*).

According to *The Birds of Knox County*, compiled by Joseph C. Howell and Muriel B. Monroe (1957), the Black-billed Cuckoo is a spring and fall migrant in Knox County. The latest spring record given is 26 May 1954.

The bird we saw appeared sluggish in its movements. We thought it might have strayed to Knox County after Tropical Storm Agnes, which had blown across the Carolinas a few days earlier.

JOHN ELSON, 300 Hermitage Road, Knoxville 37920.

WINTER CAPE MAY WARBLER IN BRISTOL—On 17 January 1972 my parents, Dot and Paul Crawford of Gallatin, were preparing to leave for home after visiting with us for several days. At about 10:15 Daddy went out through the garage to their car and discovered a small bird that had evidently died as a result of flying into the garage door. It must have flown into the door sometime between 07:30 and 10:15 as it was not there when my husband left for work at the earlier time. Daddy brought the bird in and we began questioning its identity. Mother and I immediately said warbler but we could not get much further than that.

Dorsally, the bird had an olive-gray appearance with faint washes of yellow. Yellow ran in a streak around the head almost like a high collar, being most noticeable behind the eye and ear areas. The crown was gray with a scally appearance. There was definite yellow on the rump and breast, the breast being streaked with black. It had one definite wing bar. There were thin lines of yellow along the outer edges of the tail feathers and the tail was notched.

Mother and Daddy were anxious to get started home but were equally anxious to have the bird identified. We decided the quickest way to get a positive identification was to see Dr. Lee Herndon. We called him and he wanted to see the bird so Mother and Daddy took it to his home in Elizabethton.

While I stayed at home baby-sitting, I studied my *A Field Guide to the Birds*, R. T. Peterson again and decided perhaps the bird was a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) but was still uncertain. I was thrilled when my folks returned with the news that Dr. Herndon had immediately identified the bird as a Cape May Warbler, probably an immature male. This is believed to be a new late date for this bird in Tennessee.

We were sorry the identification was of a dead bird but were glad he happened to hit the garage of a T.O.S. member so he could be properly recorded.

DIANE WILSON, 205 Robin Road, Bristol 37620.

RED CROSSBILLS IN TIPTONVILLE—Three juvenile or female Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) were observed feeding on sunflower seed in my yard between 18:00 and 19:50 on 27 July 1972. These birds were viewed from four feet for ten minutes and were not distracted by my presence. Their manner in extracting the seed, in climbing the stalk and moving around the flower was parrot like. The olive gray-green body had a hint of yellow about the underside of the wings. There was an absence of wing bars. The cross bill was visible in silhouette.

Helen Lindamood and I observed the birds from 75 feet with 7 power binoculars until a summer storm forced us indoors. At 06:45 28 July two Red Crossbill were again feeding on the sunflower seeds. The birds were gone by 08:15 to return once again during the morning and were observed by Jean Markham. The temperature on 27 July was 85°-95°. A thunderstorm and gusty wind occurred during the night. There was a light rain on 28 July with the temperature in the 80's.

References used in identification were Peterson, Roger Tory, (1947) *A Field Guide To The Birds*, Houghton Mifflin Co. Brunn, Robbins and Zim (1966) *Birds Of North America*, Golden Press.

BETTIE SUMARA, 1011 Church Street, Tiptonville 38079.

SNOW BUNTINGS WINTER AT NASHVILLE—Two Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) were found by Jack Carusos at 12:00 29 November 1969 on the small gravel peninsular at Old Hickory Beach, a quarter of a mile from the dam. The birds were feeding along the gravel shoreline and perched often on nearby driftwood. The day was sunny with a maximum temperature of 47 F. For the past ten days precipitation totaled .06 of an inch and temperatures ranged from +13 F to -11 F from normal (Nashville Climatological Data, November 1969).

The buntings could be told apart by the degree of brown and white in the plumage. A. C. Bent, *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towbees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*, United States National Museum Bulletin 237, Part 3, states that after the postjuvinal molt, "The resulting plumage strongly resembles that of adults . . . (1664)." Also: "The fresh adult fall plumage is essentially the breeding dress heavily overlaid with brown above and, to a lesser degree, below (pectoral band more or less prominent). The plumage is immediately sensitive to abrasion, which produces a great

variation of plumages both individually and seasonally (1665)." Due to our inexperience with plumage types of this species and since they were not handled, the age and sex could not be determined conclusively. Therefore, they will be referred to as the browner bunting and the whiter bunting.

The browner bird had a small white wing patch, a prominent side stripe and a neck band that connected. In comparison, the whiter bunting was darker brown on the back and wings, with a large white wing patch, suggestive side stripe and a small nonconnecting neck band. Both showed streakings on the upper part of the back and both had yellow bills with dusky at the tips. In flight the birds could be told apart by the amount of white in the wings.

The buntings were usually observed on the peninsular feeding along the shoreline in short grass. Several times they were observed in the white sandy beach area and several times sitting about twenty feet high in a tree. A flock of from 22 to 45 Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) wintered in the area and the buntings were seen with or close to them occasionally. The Snow Buntings were heard to make a noise on 26 January when both birds were sitting in a tree in the peninsular. The sound was an accending "dtert" and was given repeatedly for about a minute.

Both birds were present from 29 November 1969 through 26 January 1969. Then only the browner bunting was seen from 30 January through 18 February. Additional trips to the area on 22, 27, 28 February had negative results. The weather for the 82 days showed the temperature to be -5.5 F from normal with three periods of extreme cold and a maximum temperature of 71 F on 28 January and a minimum of -4 F on 10 January (Nashville Climatological Data, November 1969, December 1969, January 1970, February 1970). The browner bunting was seen 20 days longer than the whiter bunting. Upon disappearance of the whiter bunting the other one associated almost exclusively with the Horned Larks in their feeding area. The Horned Larks were also not seen after 18 February.

Twenty people observed the species and several secured identifiable photographs, some in color. The other record for Middle Tennessee was 19 and 20 November 1954 at Bush Lake, Nashville by Katherine Goodpasture. *The Migrant* 26:12. Mrs. Goodpasture (personal contact) states that her bird was much browner with very little white than either bird of this report.

MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 3826 Bedford Avenue, Nashville 37215.

JACK N. CARUSOS, 3101 D Colonial Way, Chamblee, Georgia 30005.



THE SEASON

DR. FRED J. ALSOP, III, *Editor*

FALL MIGRATION: 1 AUGUST - 31 OCTOBER

If one word could be used to reflect the fall migration as it was reported from across the state that word would be "shorebirds". Shorebirds. The term does not accurately describe the southward passage of birds through Tennessee. Because of the spacial limitations of this journal all the birds observed and reported cannot be listed to illustrate the movements across, arrivals in, and departures from our area, but the variety of shorebirds reported from all regions seems especially noteworthy for a landlocked state with only one recognized major flyway. Two major tower kills were recorded in upper East Tennessee on the night of 30 Sept.-1 Oct. on Holston Mountain. A *BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER* was collected from one of the tower kills (*The Migrant* 43: 67-68). This was the first Tennessee record for that species.

No heavy concentrations of migrating warblers were reported. Early arrivals of White-throated Sparrows across the state, reports of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins in East Tennessee, and the *RED CROSSBILLS* in Middle Tennessee (third area record) perhaps indicate the approach of a good northern finch winter in Tennessee.

Some of the most unusual observations reported by you and your fellow birders this season included: Buff-breasted Sandpipers, a Marbled Godwit, and a Western Kingbird in the Western Coastal Plain, as well as Ruddy Turnstones, both there, and in the Eastern Mountain Region. Peregrine Falcons and Piping Plovers were observed in the Central Plateau and Basin and Eastern Ridge and Valley Regions. The introduction to the Central Plateau and Basin report gives the reader a most informative view of the season there and the listings following include an American Avocet, Blackpoll Warbler, and an Oregon Junco. Nesting Barn Owls were reported from the Eastern Ridge and Valley Region. The Eastern Mountain Region lists a most extraordinary eagle flight at Roan Mountain which included two *late* migrating Bald Eagles. These are but a few of the many interesting species reported in this fall migration edition of "The Season".

Have you seen any good birds lately? Is the birding noticeably different in your favorite birding spot this season? Look up the name and address of your compiler and send him the information now on a postcard.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION—A wide variety of shorebirds appeared throughout the season and at widespread locations in the region.

Cormorant-Turkey: DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: 28 Oct. (2) R. Great Blue Heron: 12 Aug. to 28 Oct. (9 to 13) DR and R. Little Blue Heron: 12 Aug. (54) DR, 2 Sept. (25) R. Snowy Egret: 12 Aug. (3) DR. CATTLE EGRET: 12 Aug. (5) DR, 4 Sept. (33) DR, 9 Sept. (150) M (BBC, LC), 24 Oct. ("Flock") Ripley (Nina Smith). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 4 Sept. (1 adult) DR (GM). Wood Duck: 26 Aug. (108) DR. Shoveler: 26 Aug. (2) LEA (MB). Ruddy Duck: 28 Oct. (3,000) R. Mississippi Kite: 16 Sept. (1) M (Jim and Gloria Maender). Cooper's Hawk: 4 Sept. (1) BF. Turkey: 6 Aug. (12) BS.

Plover-Turnstone: Semipalmated Plover: 12 Aug. to 4 Sept. (1 to 4) BF, BS, DR, R. American Golden Plover: 26 Aug. (1) DR, 2 Sept. (1) R. Black-bellied Plover: 13 Aug. (3) BS (Bert and Frances Dowdy), 26 Aug. (2) BS. Greater Yellowlegs: 12 Aug. (3) DR, 4 Sept. (1) BS, 28 Oct. (10) R. Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Sept. (2) R. Stilt Sandpiper: 2 Sept. (30) R, 4 Sept. (2) DR. WESTERN SANDPIPER: 26 Aug. (2) BS, 2 Sept. (7) R, 4 Sept. (1) DR. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: 26 Aug. and 4 Sept. (1) BS. Sanderling: 12 Aug. (12) BS, 26 Aug. (4) BS, 4 Sept. (2) BS. MARBLED GODWIT: 26 Aug. (1) BS (MB, DM, GM). RUDDY TURNSTONE: 26 Aug. (3) BS, 4 Sept. (4) BS.

Tern-Sparrow: Forster's Tern: 26 Aug. (20) BS, Common Tern: 4 Sept. (16) BS. Least Tern: 26 Aug. (3) BS, 2 Sept. (34) R. Caspian Tern: 2 Sept. (2) BS. Black Tern: 12 Aug. (106) BF, 26 Aug. (15) BS, 2 Sept. (12) BS. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 28 Oct. (1) (FD, QD). WESTERN KINGBIRD: 24 Aug. (1) R (David Pitts). Tree Swallow: 28 Oct. (2,000) R. Bank Swallow: 12 Aug. (42) DR. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 30 Sept. and after (up to 10 at one location) S (DP). Swainson's Warbler: 24 Sept. (1) M (LC). Dickcissel: 5 Oct. (1, male) M, and 3 Nov. (1 female or immature) M (FD, QD). Pine Siskin: 9 Oct. (1) S (DP), 21 Oct. (9) M (BBC, LC). White-throated Sparrow: 30 Sept. (1) M (BBC, LC).

Locations: BF—Britton Ford (Henry County), BS—Big Sandy Refuge (Henry County), DR—Duck River Refuge (Humphries County), LEA—Little Eagle Access, U. S. 79, M—Memphis area, R—Reelfoot Lake and area, S—Savannah.

Observers: Benton Basham, Jeff Basham, MB—Mike Bierly (where no observer is designated read "MB and party"), BBC—Ben B. Coffey, Jr., LC—Lula Coffey, FD—Frances Dowdy, QD—Quentin Dowdy, Larry Gates, Betty King, Carol Knauth, Margaret Mann, DM—Don Manning, GM—Gina Manning, DP—David Patterson, Virginia Price, Betty Riddle, Ann Tarbell.

DAVID E. PATTERSON, Harbert Hills Academy, Savannah 38372.

CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION—Most waterfowl arrived in Nashville mid to late October with few numbers at end of period. Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge arrivals similar to Nashville with numbers building late October. The best areas for shorebirds were Buena Vista in Nashville, and the Gallatin Steam Plant and Lewis Pond in Gallatin. Too much rain did hurt the productivity of these and other areas, but 22 species were reported including a few rarities. Five transient warblers were recorded in August:

Canada, Blackburnian, Wilson's, Chestnut-sided and Magnolia, but warbler movements and populations were hard to determine. Frances Bryson, Cannon County, stated that warblers were fewer than usual with some missing entirely, namely, Black-throated Green, Hooded, Golden-winged and Blackburnian. The last named also seemed sparse in Nashville.

Nashville's fall count 30 Sept., 1 Oct. recorded 137 species, a high number, inflated by seven species of winter sparrows and other winter species that usually may not be present this early. The passage of a cold front on 29 Sept. and early morning 30 Sept. in Nashville dropped temperatures 13 degrees from normal and most likely brought some of these winter species with it. Similar results were obtained on these same dates on the fall count by Hoyte and Frances Bryson in Cannon County.

An early Sept. Red-breasted Nuthatch and subsequent sightings in Cannon, Davidson, Lawrence and Pickett Counties could indicate a Red-breasted year. Presence of Purple Finches earlier than in 1971 which was a finch year, a record of Pine Siskins in the Basin and the occurrence of *RED CROSSBILLS* on the Plateau might indicate movements of these species into the area. The sighting of White-winged Scoters also may mean a scoter year as in 1969-70.

There was a poor hackberry crop this year in Nashville.

Data was received on 170 species and mostly partial reports follow on 51 of them.

Loon-Merganser: Common Loon: 30 Sept. (1) PPL (MLB), second Sept. date NA. Pied-billed Grebe: Numbers, 30 Sept. (99) NA of these 76 OHL (Nash. TOS). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Late, 13 Sept. (1) CC (FB). Blue Goose: 18 Oct. (210) "peak" CCNWR (SB, RS). Black Duck: Early, 27 Sept. (5) CCNWR (SB, RS). Blue-winged Teal: First major flight NA 23, 24 Aug. 23 Aug. (45) BV (MLB), (10) Gallatin (PDC). 24 Aug. (75) Gallatin (PDC), (35) BV (MLB), (50) RL (MLB). Last numbers, 30 Sept. (131) NA (Nash. TOS). American Widgeon: Early, 27 Sept. (1) CCNWR (SB, RS). Shoveler: 26 Aug. (1) GSP (PDC), 18 days earliest NA. Lesser Scaup: 24 Oct. (325) "peak" CCNWR (SB, RS). *WHITE-WINGED SCOTER*: 30, 31 Oct. (6, i) RL (MLB, PDC), 2 days earliest NA for limited records.

Hawks: Migration noted 9, 23, 30 Sept., 8 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: Numbers: 23 Sept. (200) Center Hill (John Brevard *vide* MLB), (200) SM (Lebanon TOS). Late, 28 Oct. (1) PSP (RH). *ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK*: 26 Oct. (2, one light, one dark phase) FV (JOE). Bald Eagle: 22 Aug. to end period (1, i) CCNWR (SB, RS), earliest refuge. Osprey: All reports include, 4 Sept. (1) OHL (PDC), 17 Sept. (1) PPL (MLB), 22 Sept. (2) CCNWR (SB, RS), 23 Sept. (1) SHV (Mel Garland), (2) SM (Lebanon TOS), 27 Sept. (1) Buffalo River, Lewis Co. (George Mayfield), 30 Sept. (1) OHL (MLM, PDC), (2) PPL (ROH, MLB), (1) SM (Lebanon TOS), 10 Oct. (1) CCNWR (SB, RS). *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 4 Aug., 9 Sept. (1) PPL (MLM), near April sighting, 23 Sept. (1) SM (Lebanon TOS).

Plover-Gnatcatcher: *PIPING PLOVER*: 22-26 Aug. (1) GSP (PDC), fourth NA record. Semipalmated Plover: 13 Oct. (1) GSP (PDC), ties latest NA. *WILLET*: 23 Aug. (1) Gallatin (DC, MLB), second NA fall record. *BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: 16, 19 Sept. (1) Coleman Lake (MLM, MLB). Dun-

lin: Early, 10 Sept. (2) GSP (PDC). Numbers, 18 Oct. (24) OHL, about three times previous NA high. Stilt Sandpiper: 5 Aug. (17) BV (LJG), a large number Nashville. Sanderling: More than usual Nash, 20 Aug. (2) BV (PDC), 23 Aug.-10 Sept. (3-1) off and on GSP (PDC), 17 Sept. (1) PPL (MLB). *AMERICAN AVOCET*: 24 Sept.-1 Oct. (1) CCNWR (SB, RS). *WILSON'S PHALAROPE*: 8 Aug. (1) BV (LJG, *et. al.*), third consecutive fall and 4 days earliest NA of limited records. Bonaparte's Gull: 22 Oct. (2) OHL (MLB), 5 days earliest NA. Forster's Tern: 29 Oct. (1) OHL (MLB), 19 days latest NA. Common Tern: 30 Sept. (20) PPL (ROH, MLB), 6 days latest NA. Caspian Tern: 18 Oct. (1) OHL (MLB), 7 days latest NA. Barn Owl: 1, 15 Oct. (1) WB (FB), believed to be pair. Individual gone Gallatin (PDC). Common Nighthawk: Large flocks, 24 Aug. (500) h, NA (MLM), 23 Sept. (300) Clarksville (Francis Abernathy), 26 Sept. (300) near h, NA (MLM). Yellow-shafted Flicker: Migration evidence, 30 Sept. (several flocks of 8 birds) FV (JOE, *et. al.*). Acadian Flycatcher: 18 Oct. (1, X) WSM (KAG), 3 days latest NA. Blue Jay: Migration evidence, 30 Sept. (24) by 14 flocks, largest 51 birds) PPL (ROH, MLB). Winter Wren: 14 Sept. (1) h. NA (Sue Bell), ties earliest NA. Long-billed Marsh Wren: Numbers, 30 Sept. (7) 1 PPL, 6 Smyrna Airport (ROH, MLB), 1 Oct. (6) BV (MLB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: Numbers, 20 Aug. (9) 3 River Road, 6 Ashland City Marsh area (LJG, MLB). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Late, Oct. 14 (1) CC (FB).

Vireo-Sparrows: White-eyed Vireo: 28 Oct. (1) TJ (JHR), 4 days latest fall NA. Worm-eating Warbler: 18 Oct. (1, X) WSM (KAG), 12 days NA latest. *BLACKPOLL WARBLER*: 15 Sept. (1, banded) BS (KAG), 16 Sept. (1, banded) TJ (JHR), first positive live birds fall NA. *CONNECTICUT WARBLER*: 5 Sept. (1, X) WSIX-TV tower (MLB). *MOURNING WARBLER*: Recorded, 10 Sept. (1) BS (KAG), 7 Oct. (1) TJ (JHR). Hooded Warbler: late, 29 Oct. (1, male) Lawrence County (Lloyd Clayton). Wilson's Warbler: Early, 24 Aug. (1) CC (FB). Bobolink: 30 Sept. (1) Smyrna Airport (ROH, MLB). 1 Oct. (1) SHV (KAG). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Numbers, 5 Oct. (117) Wilmouth Creek, N. of WB and (134) Hog Foot Branch, N.E. of WB (Mary C. Wood, Violet W. Hite). *RED CROSSBILL*: 28 Oct. (18) PSP (RH), third "Middle Tennessee" record. Lark Sparrow: Late, 20 Oct. (4) Wilson County (Jon DeVore, William Senter). Slate-colored Junco: 30 Sept. (2) FV (JOE, *et. al.*), first Sept. NA record. *OREGON JUNCO*: 24 Sept. (1) CCNWR (RS).

Symbols: i = immature; X = casualty.

Locations: BS—Basin Spring, Nash. area; BV—Buena Vista, Nash.; CC—Cannon County; CCNWR—Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge; FV—Fernvale, Nash. area; GSP—Gallatin Steam Plant, Gallatin; h—home of observer; NA—Nash. area; OHL—Old Hickory Lake; PPL—Percy Priest Lake; PSP—Pickett State Park; RL—Radnor Lake, Nash.; SHV—South Harpeth Valley, Nash. area; SM—Short Mountain; TJ—Two Jays, Nash. area; WB—Woodbury; WSM—WSM television tower, Nash.

Observers: SB—Sam Barton; MLB—Mike Bierly; FB—Frances Bryson; DC—Dot Crawford; PDC—Paul and Dot Crawford; JOE—John Ellis; LJG—Larry Gats; ROH—Roger Harshaw; RH—Robbie Hassler; Lebanon TOS—Lebanon Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society; MLM—Margaret Mann;

Nash. TOS—Nashville Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society; JHR—John and Heather Riggs; RS—Ronnie Shell.

MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 3826 Bedford Avenue, Nashville 37215.

EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION—Despite the maintaining of summer water levels of most TVA lakes, a large shorebird migration was recorded in several areas. Warbler migration was average with no heavy concentrations or unusual species recorded. Early reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins suggest a good northern finch year.

Cormorant-Falcon: DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: 4 Oct. (1), 22 Oct. (2) HRA (WiC, KLD). Little Blue Heron: through 1 Sept. (1-4) HRA, SB (KLD); 10 Aug. (1), 18 Sept. (2) JC (TK). *CATTLE EGRET*: 31 Aug. (1) SB (KLD). Common Egret: through 10 Oct. (1-25) HRA, SB (KLD); 12 Aug. (1) AS (GE, GW). Black-crowned Night Heron: through 30 Sept. (1-4) AS (GW, GE, DL, LRH); 20 Aug. (20), 18 Sept. (8) JC (TK). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 30 Aug. (1) AM (RW). Canada Goose: 26 Aug. (2), regular after 27 Sept. HRA (WiC). Snow Goose: 22, 24, 29 Oct. (1) HRA (KLD). Blue Goose: 22, 24, 29 Oct. (16) HRA (KLD). Black Duck: first 6 Aug. (1) SB (CH). Pintail: 19 Oct. (2) PHL (LRH). Gadwall: 28 Aug. (10) KSP (FJA). Shoveler: 18 Sept. (3) SB (KLD). Wood Duck: max. 5 Sept. (150) HRA (KLD). Ring-necked Duck: 22 Oct. (26) K (CN). Lesser Scaup: 19 Oct. (6) AS (LRH). Black Vultures: 6 Oct. (1) SC (GW); through period (5-20) Mt. Carmel (FJA). Cooper's Hawk: 9, 16, 24, Oct. (1) Da (DJ). Bald Eagle: 2 Aug. (2 Adults, 4 Immature) AS (PR). Osprey: from 15 Aug. to 20 Oct. (1-2) HRA (WiC); 24 Sept. (1) KC (TOS). *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 2 Oct. (1 Immature) SB (KLD).

Crane-Tern: Sandhill Crane: 23 Oct. (6 flying S.) HRA (WiC). King Rail: 5 Sept. (1) AM (KLD). Virginia Rail: 15-30 Sept. (1-3) AS (GE, LRH, PR). Sora Rail: 5-15 Sept. (3-4) AS (GE, LRH, PR); 11 Sept. (1) AM (RW). Semipalmated Plover: 1 Aug. (2) HRA (KLD); 22 Aug. (1) SB (KLD); 20 Aug. (4) and 18 Sept. (8) JC (TK). *PIPING PLOVER*: 19 Aug. (1) SB (CH). American Golden Plover: 18 Sept. (6) JC (TK). Black-bellied Plover: 9-24 Oct. (1) SB (KLD, CH). American Woodcock; 11 Sept. (1) Da (D. Ellis *vide* DJ); 29 Sept. (1) AS (GE, DJL, GW). Common Snipe: 21 Aug. (1) SB (KLD); 17 Sept. (1) Carter Co. (MD, HD). Upland Plover: 2-16 Aug. (1-8) T-CA (MD, HD, GE, PR); 5 Oct. (1) SB (CH). Spotted Sandpiper: regular 14 Aug.-10 Sept. (1-4) HRA, AM, SB (KLD); 22 Oct. (1) K (CN). Solitary Sandpiper: 7 Aug. (3) HRA (KLD); 30 Sept.-11 Oct. (1) AS (GE, LRH, DJL, GW); 24 Sept. (1) KC (FJA, JMC, CN). *WILLET*: 20 Aug. (5) Cocks Co. (TK). Greater Yellowlegs: 14 Aug. (1) through 24 Oct. (2) SB, HRA (KLD). Lesser Yellowlegs: 22 Oct. (8) AS (GE, LRH, GW). Pectoral Sandpiper: regular (1-22) HRA, SB (KLD); 24 Sept. to 17 Oct. (1-6) AS (GE, DJL, PR, GW). White-rumped Sandpiper: 18 Sept. (2) JC (TK). *BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: 16 Sept. (1) AM (KLD, RW, JHP); 19 Oct. (4), 22 Oct. (2) AS (MD, HD, SG, LRH). Least Sandpiper: 1-19 regular through period, HRA, SB (KLD). Dunlin: first 10 Oct. (10) HRA (KLD); 11 Oct. (2) and 22 Oct. (14) AS (TOS).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 28 Aug. (1) KSP (FJA). Short-billed Dowitcher: 7-27 Aug. (max. 32) HRA, SB (KLD); 15 Aug. (3) JC (TK). Stilt Sandpiper: 28 Aug. (1) KSP (FJA); 16 Sept. (1) AM (JHP, RW); 9 Oct. (1) HRA (KLD). Semipalmated Sandpiper: through 29 Oct. (max. 10) SB, HRA (KLD, TOS). WESTERN SANDPIPER: 25 Aug. to 26 Sept. (max. 11) SB, HRA, AM (KLD, RW). Sanderling: 9 Oct. (1) SB (KLD); 17 Sept. (1) AM (LSF). Herring Gull: 29 Sept. (1) AS (GE). Ring-billed Gull: first 26 Aug. (9) NL (DJ). Forster's Tern: 28 Aug. (2) KSP (FJA); 24 Sept. (14) WR (PR); 30 Sept. (22) AS (GE, GW, DL). Common Tern: 21 Aug. (1) HRA (KLD); 24 Sept. (5) KC (FJA, JMC, CN, DP). Least Tern: 7 Aug. (2) HRA (KLD). Caspian Tern: 26 Aug. (2) NL (DJ, LSF); 28 Aug. (4) KSP (FJA). Black Tern: 2 Aug. (8) and 20 Aug. (6) HRA (WiC); 24 Aug. (9) and 26 Aug. (4) SB (KLD); 10 Aug. (6) DL (TK); 12 Aug. (3) BL (PR, GE).

Cuckoo-Wren: Black-billed Cuckoo: 29 Aug. (1) Da (M. Tudor *vide* DJ). Barn Owl: 4 broods hatched in Elizabethton area (PR); 5 Sept. (1) AM (KLD). Whip-poor-will: last 12 Sept. (1) RS (RW). Common Nighthawk: last 10 Oct. (1) AS (GE); max. 5 Sept. (400 plus) AM (Lil D). Chimney Swift: last 31 Oct. (1) K (JCH). Eastern Kingbird: last 22 Oct. (1) AS (SG); 18 Sept. (3) SB, HRA (KLD). Eastern Wood Pewee: last 22 Oct. (1) Da (DJ). Tree Swallow: through 22 Oct. (1-3) SB (KLD); 29 Oct. (1) HRA (TOS). Bank Swallow: max. 10 Aug. (300 plus) JC (TK). Rough-winged Swallow: 24 Sept. (75) KC (FJA, JMC, CN). Barn Swallow: last 10 Oct. (6) HRA (KLD). Purple Martin: last 1 Sept. (1000 plus) HRA (KLD). Red-breasted Nuthatch: first 16 Sept. (1) Da (LSF). Brown-headed Nuthatch: 15 Oct. (2) Collegedale (CH). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 16 Sept. (1) HRA (JHP). Short-billed Marsh Wren: through 1 Sept. (1) SB (KLD).

Vireo-Sparrow: White-eyed Vireo: last 31 Oct. (1—killed in migration, specimen examined by Dr's. Howell and Tanner) K (EG). PHILADELPHIA VIREO: 28 Aug. (1) HRA (Lil D); 17 Oct. (1) Da (DJ). Tennessee Warbler: last 24 Oct. (2) BWP (KLD). Orange-crowned Warbler: 26 Sept. (2) AS (PR). Bobolink: 24 Sept. (25) KC (FJA, JMC, CN, DP); 11 Oct. and 22 Oct. (12) AS (GE). Orchard Oriole: through 25 Aug. (1-6) SB (KLD). Baltimore Oriole: 12 Sept. (1) HRA (KLD). Blue Grosbeak: last 2 Oct. (2) HRA (KLD). Purple Finch: first 22 Oct. (1) AS (VC); 24 Oct. (1) BWP (KLD). Pine Siskin: first 25 Sept. (1) Unaka Mtn. (PR); 2 Oct. (1) Ooltewah (CH). BACHMAN'S SPARROW: 3 Oct. (1) RS (RW). White-crowned Sparrow: first 5 Oct. (1) John. C (SG). White-throated Sparrow: first 8 Oct. (2) K (CN). Lincoln's Sparrow: 26 Sept. (8) John C. (PR).

Locations: AM—Amnicola Marsh, AS—Austin Springs, BWP—Booker T. Wash. State Pk., BL—Boone Lake, Da—Daus, Tenn., DL—Douglas Lake, HRA—Hiwassee River Area, JC—Jefferson Co., John. C.—Johnson City, K—Knoxville, KC—Knox Co., KSP—Kingston Steam Plant, NL—Nickajack Lake, PHL—Patrick Henry Lake, RS—Rock Spring, Ga., SB—Savannah Bay, SC—Sullivan Co., T-CA—Tri-cities Airport, WR—Watauga River.

Observers: FJA—Fred J. Alsop, JMC—James M. Campbell, WiC—Wilford Carroway, VC—Virginia Curtis, HD—Helenhill Dove, MD—Martha Dillenberg, KLD—Ken and Lil Dubke, GE—Glenn Eller, EG—E. Griffith, SG—

Sally Goodin, CH—Chris Haney, LRH—Lee R. Herndon, DJ—Daniel Jacobson, TK—Tony Koella, DL—Dick Lura, DJL—Dick and Joyce Lura, CN—Chuck Nicholson, JHP—J. Hunter Patterson, DP—David Pitts, PR—Pete Range, LSF—Lee Shafer Family, TOS—Tenn. Ornith. Soc. (Knoxville and Chattanooga Cpts.), GW—Gary O. Wallace, RW—Roger Woodruff.

CHARLES P. NICHOLSON, 6806 Haverhill Dr., Knoxville 37919.

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION—A male Black-throated Grey Warbler, the first recorded in the state, was found along with other unusual species at the Holston Mtn. Radar tower kill on 30 Sept. The region reports good warbler and shorebird migrations for the period. Shorebirds seldom encountered in the region, including a Ruddy Turnstone, were observed at the Roan Creek area on Watauga Lake. Golden and Bald Eagles were observed on Roan Mtn. on 17 Oct. in most unusual numbers.

Loon-Osprey: Common Loon: 17 Oct. (1) WL (LRH). Horned Grebe: 29 Oct. (9) RC (GE). American Bittern: 30 Sept. (1) IBL (CH). Black Duck: 12 Sept. (1) RC (MD, HD). Blue-winged Teal: 30 Sept. (100+) E Eliz. Chapter TOS); 30 Sept. (45) IBL (CH). American Widgeon: 17 Oct. (1) WiL (LRH). Shoveler: 30 Sept. (2) E (DL, GE, GW). Wood Duck: 9 Sept. (21) RC (KD, LD). Ring-necked Duck: 15 Oct. (19) WiL (GE, DL). Bufflehead: 22 Oct. (2) and 31 Oct. (10) WiL (GE). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 20 Sept. (2) RM (MS, TS). Cooper's Hawk: 20 Sept. and 17 Oct. (1) RM (MS, TS). Red-tailed Hawk: 15-22 Sept. (tot. 22) RM (MS, TS); 10 Sept. (1) RC (KD, LD). Broad-winged Hawk: 15-22 Sept. (tot. 19) RM (MS, TS). Marsh Hawk: 15-22 Sept. (tot. 4) RM (MS, TS). **GOLDEN EAGLE**: 17 Oct. (5) RM (MS, TS). **BALD EAGLE**: 17 Oct. (2) RM (MS, TS). Osprey: 10 Sept. (1) RC (KD, LD); 30 Sept. (1) HS (DL).

Coot-Flycatcher: American Coot: 19 Aug. (1) RC (LRH, GE). Semi-palmated Plover: 9 Sept. (1) RC (KD, LD); 12 Sept. (max. 4) RC (LRH, GE, GW). Upland Plover: 10 Sept. (1) TP (Lee Shafer). **RUDDY TURNSTONE**: 9 and 10 Sept. (1) RC (KD, LD). Spotted Sandpiper: 19 Aug. (4) RC (LRH, GW). Solitary Sandpiper: 30 Sept. (1) IBL (CH). Greater Yellowlegs: 17 Oct. (5) RC (LRH). Lesser Yellowlegs: 9 Sept. (1) RC (KD, LD). Pectoral Sandpiper: 19 Aug. (1) RC (GE, LRH). White-rumped Sandpiper: 9 Sept. (1) RC (LD). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 10 Sept. (1) RC (KD, LD); 14 Sept. (max. 4) RC (LRH, GE, GW). **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: 9 Sept. (2) RC (KD, LD); 12 Sept. (2) RC (LRH, GE, GW). Sanderling: 9 Sept. (2) RC (KD, LD); 30 Sept. (2) RC (LRH, JM). Ring-billed Gull: 17 Oct. (1) WL (LRH). Forester's Tern: 30 Sept. (7) RC (LRH, JM). Common Tern: 30 Sept. (1) IBL (CH). **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER**: 12 Sept. (2) RC (GE). Acadian Flycatcher: singing on 14 Sept. (1) RC (LRH, GE, GW).

Wren-Sparrow: Short-billed Marsh Wren: 30 Sept. (2) HM (LRH, GW). Yellow-throated Vireo: 30 Sept. (13) HM (WC, DM). **PHILADELPHIA VIREO**: 16 Sept. (1) RM (GW); 30 Sept. (3) HM (LRH, GW, WC, DM). Swainson's Warbler: 30 Sept. (93) HM (LRH, GW, WC, DM). Golden-winged Warbler: 30 Sept. (1) HM (WC, DM). Blue-winged Warbler: 30 Sept. (1) HM (WC, DM). Nashville Warbler: 30 Sept. (1) HM (WC, DM). **BLACK-**

THROATED GREY WARBLER: 30 Sept. (1 tower killed male) HM (LRH, GW). Black-throated Green Warbler: 30 Sept. (1) HM (LRH, GW). Yellow-throated Warbler: 30 Sept. (2) HM (LRH, GW, WC, DM). Northern Waterthrush: 30 Sept. (3) HM (LRH, GW). *MOURNING WARBLER*: 30 Sept. (1) RM (MS, TS). Pine Siskin: first 20 Sept. (1) RM (MS, TS). Lincoln's Sparrow: banded 4 Oct. (1) E (LRH, GE).

Locations: E—Elizabethton, HM—Holston Mtn., Sullivan/Carter Co. line (tower casualties). HS—Hunter Swamp, near Elizabethton, IBL—Indian Boundary Lake, Tellico Management Area, RC—Roan Creek, RM—Roan Mtn., TP—Tellico Plains, Monroe Co., WL—Watauga Lake, WiL—Wilber Lake.

Observers: WC—Wallace Coffey, HD—Helenhill Dove, MD—Martha Dillenbeck, KD—Ken Dubke, LD—Lil Dubke, GE—Glen Eller, CH—Chris Haney, LRH—Lee R. Herndon, DL—Dick Lura, JM—John Martin, DM—David McPeak, MS—Maxine Swindell, TS—Tommy Swindell, GW—Gary O. Wallace.

BRENT ROWELL, 2227 Edgemont Ave., Bristol 37620.



BOOK REVIEW

THERE'S A SEAL IN MY SLEEPING BAG by Lyn Hancock. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. New York, N. Y. 1972. 292 pp. illus. \$6.95

The author and her husband, David Hancock, acquired Sam, a fur seal (sea lion) as a starving baby. Sam was successfully raised to become a mischievous pet for many years. He actually did climb into a sleeping bag from which the book takes its title. *There's a Seal in My Sleeping Bag* deals with much more than the author's experience with seals. The Hancocks operate a Wildlife Conservation Center in Saanichton, British Columbia. In addition, they produce wildlife films and lectures.

Lyn Hancock writes interestingly about some of the wildlife she and her husband have observed and photographed. Many interesting and informative facts are given about the various wildlife. Some of the wildlife that the author writes about includes Peregrine Falcons, Elephant Seals, Killer Whales, Bald Eagles, puffins, bears, gulls, murrets, Ancient and Marbled Murrelets, and Rhinoceros Auklets. The tragic effects of oil pollution off the California coast are also discussed.

The author has succeeded in writing about her experience with wildlife with enthusiasm and authenticity. This book will be a welcome addition to any home library.

GARY O. WALLACE

PREPARATION OF COPY FOR PUBLICATION

The purpose of THE MIGRANT is the recording of observations and original information derived from the study of birds, primarily in the state of Tennessee or the area immediately adjacent to its borders. Articles for publication originate almost exclusively from T.O.S. members.

Contributors should prepare manuscripts and submit them in a form acceptable to the printer, after editorial approval. Both articles and short notes are solicited but their format should be somewhat different.

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MATERIAL: The subject matter should relate to some phase of Tennessee Ornithology. It should be original, factual, concise, scientifically accurate, and not submitted for publication elsewhere.

TITLE: The title should be concise, specific, and descriptive.

STYLE: Recent issues of THE MIGRANT should be used as a guide in the preparation of manuscripts. Where more detail is needed reference should be made to the *Style Manual for Biological Journals* available from the American Institute of Biological Sciences, 3900 Wisconsin Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C. 20016.

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NOMENCLATURE: Common names should be capitalized followed by binomial scientific name in italics only after the first occurrence in the text for both regular articles and ROUND TABLE NOTES, and should conform to the A.O.U. Check-list 5th edition, 1957. Trinomial should be used only after the specimen has been measured or compared with typical specimens.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: When there are more than five references in an article, they should be placed at the end of the article, otherwise they should be appropriately included in the text.

SUMMARY: Articles of five or more pages in length should be summarized briefly, drawing attention to the main conclusions resulting from the work performed.

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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Books for review and articles for publication should be submitted to the editor. Seasonal reports and items should be forwarded to the appropriate departmental editor whose name and address will be found on the inside front cover.

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